



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

OFFICE OF THE MEC

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MEDIA STATEMENT

ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR THE DELIVERY OF KZN PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE'S MOST DISRUPTIVE BUDGET DURING THE 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEAR

It is all systems go for the delivery of the 2026/27 R2.4 billion budget by KZN Public Works and Infrastructure MEC Martin Meyer this week.

Unlike other previous budgets this year's budget is entirely unique in that it focuses only on 6 key aspects which have been identified as material concerns for the people of KwaZulu-Natal. These are areas where, through in-depth impact assessments, KZN Public Works and Infrastructure realized it has the potential to make a positive impact.

By doing so the department no longer sees itself as a department that simply builds projects because under the NEW KZN Public Works and Infrastructure all project initiatives are aimed at improving the lives of local communities.

For MEC Meyer the budget is KZN Public Works and Infrastructure's commitment to pay it's part of stimulating the provincial economy and creating inclusion which prioritizes the people who pay taxes and want to see a return in value.

It is for this reason that the 2026/27 KZN Public Works and Infrastructure budget allocation will prioritize the following crucial areas:

Jobs

The construction sector has been among the most resilient as supported by Stats SA figures which reveal that during Quarter 1 of 2026, employment in the construction sector was 75 000 jobs higher when compared to the same period last year. In the same period, 6 000 more jobs were created in KZN. As a custodian of the sector MEC Meyer will announce on how the department plans to further inject more workers into the sector. Jobs are priority number 1 and as such the department has positioned itself to urgently intervene in creating work opportunities for residents of KZN.

women empowerment

The marginalization of the women, youth, people with disabilities is an ongoing issue in the province. It is further compounded in a male-dominated sector like construction. The MEC will shed light into the inroads of new and existing initiatives like She Builds, a dedicated women-only advisory body and prioritization through programmes like EPWP and how it is being evolved to become a sustainable career entry portal programme.

Digitalization

KZN Public Works and Infrastructure leading other departments in the innovation migration. The department has won the Best Innovative Department In Government Award at the Premier's Excellence Awards and hosted a Tech Day and Innovation Day. However, this was just the start and during his Budget delivery MEC Meyer will make a groundbreaking announcement into the resources that KZN Public Works and Infrastructure is putting in to fast track this migration of innovation.

Rates

KZN Public Works and Infrastructure rates have ballooned to R2 billion. Municipalities are taking the department to court for unpaid rates of properties across 54 municipalities. Hundreds of unused buildings are drain the department's rate purse while schools continue to be subjected to paying rates. KZN Public Works and Infrastructure, as led by MEC Meyer, has a plan to cut away at this historical bill. During his budget the MEC will deliver the department's blueprint that will reduce a debt going back several decades to something that is more manageable as the department continues to be committed to paying what it owes.

Construction Mafia

The MEC will update on the milestone by KZN Public Works and Infrastructure to reduce project disruptions brought on by extortionists including the threats of non-payment which have stalled several projects. The issue of non-payment continues to be a stumbling block to the department achieving its first full clean audit in over a decade

More cranes/projects

KZN Public Works and Infrastructure has a plan that will see more cranes and active construction sites across the province from the North Coast to the Midlands and the South Coast. MEC Meyer will outline on the initiatives to partner with private sector players and creating an environment that is inviting for more investment to come into the province because this will feed back to the first main priority of job creation.

The budget which will be delivered this week contains inputs from several engagements between the department and communities, stakeholders, contractors, investors and developers. It is therefore considered the most balanced and responsive budget that the department is yet to present.

KZN Public Works and Infrastructure sees this as a budget put together by the people of KZN and is a direct response to their needs. Under the NEW KZN Public Works and Infrastructure community empowerment is the foundation for all interventions.

Details of budget event as follows:

Date: 17 July 2026

Time: 12.45pm

Venue: KZN Provincial Legislature, Pietermaritzburg

END.

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