

MEDIA STATEMENT

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KZN MEC FOR FINANCE RECOMMITTS KZN TREASURY TO IMPROVED PERFORMANCE AND PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO DEPARTMENTS

The MEC for Finance in KwaZulu-Natal, Nomusa Dube-Ncube, who is also Leader of Government Business, has today given Finance Portfolio Committee a renewed undertaking of ensuring more improvement of the department in respect of the management of public finances and provision of support to other departments.

KZN Treasury appeared before Finance Portfolio Committee to report its quarter four performance. KZN Treasury received an overall 83 percent of its targets, just short of 17 percent for it to achieve the 100 percent target.

Underspending comes from compensation of employees which, in effect, is due to vacancies, with others newly-created in the department and staff movement which has to be accommodated in the budget. These posts are still being filled. Another element leading to the reported under expenditure was the limited use of travel and subsistence (S&T) funds due to less travelling as a result of covid-19, among other reasons. Part of the commitments during our recruitment plan is to ensure that there is a proper representation of women and disabled people.

Speaking before the Finance Portfolio Committee, Dube-Ncube said, “We are committed to realizing our measurable outputs as indicated in our Annual Performance Plan. We are also committed to assisting departments to ensure they use their budgets wisely so that they all get to achieve their mandates while ensuring on-budget expenditure. Our performance is something that we are constantly working on wherein we plan to improve on a number of areas. Improved performance is a requirement, not just for KZN Treasury, but for all government institutions in order to serve our communities better”.

She emphasized that the KwaZulu-Natal government is communicating with the national government on matters that involve securing funding to repair our infrastructure after the floods.

“Unfortunately, this state of disaster will have a huge impact on the finances of the province as we can expect. However, we are poised to carry on with our work of carefully managing our finances. Our focus is to ensure that we do the reprioritisation from our baseline budgets. This means departments have to look at their planned projects and decide which projects can be delayed and make those funds available for infrastructure rehabilitation,” said Dube-Ncube.

Chairperson of the Finance Portfolio Committee, Honourable Siphon Nkosi said the Committee is noting progress on the recruitment as reported by KZN Treasury.

“We are aware that we have a very strong Treasury in KwaZulu-Natal. It is our interest to ensure that this department remains strong and well capacitated so that the province can continue to realise some improvement by other departments in the management of finances,” said Nkosi.

Issued by KZN Treasury. For clarity, call Musa Cebisa on 071 6878 777 or Nathi Olifant on 060 970 5113.