



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TREASURY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

OFFICE OF THE MEC

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Saturday, 28 March 2026

MEDIA STATEMENT

KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Treasury Responds to Baseless Allegations Regarding Newcastle Local Municipality

KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Treasury has noted the contents of a social media post containing allegations directed at the MEC for Finance, Mr Francois Rodgers, and the Provincial Treasury.

The allegations are unsubstantiated, misleading and devoid of factual basis. They amount to political vitriol intended to undermine the integrity of the MEC and the institution, rather than contributing constructively to addressing the governance and service delivery challenges facing Newcastle Local Municipality.

MEC Rodgers has, on numerous occasions, formally engaged Newcastle Local Municipality on matters of financial governance, compliance with the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA), budget funding, expenditure control and fiscal sustainability. These engagements are well documented and constitute a lawful and responsible exercise of the MEC's constitutional and statutory oversight responsibilities.

At all times, the MEC has acted strictly within the prescripts of the Constitution, the MFMA and relevant Treasury Regulations. Provincial Treasury's interventions have consistently focused on restoring financial discipline, strengthening compliance and protecting public funds in the interest of residents and service delivery.

In furtherance of this mandate, KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Treasury has deployed its Supply Chain Management specialists to provide technical support to the municipality. The Department has also formally engaged with, and responded to, correspondence from the local ratepayers' association, reflecting ongoing and structured engagement with key stakeholders on issues of financial governance and accountability.

It is also necessary to correct a material misrepresentation contained in the circulating post. The Provincial Financial Recovery Plan is a statutory programme currently applicable to provincial government departments, and not municipalities. Any suggestion to the contrary is inaccurate and misleading.

Furthermore, the distinct mandates of Provincial Treasury and the Provincial Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) must not be conflated. Treasury's role is limited to financial oversight and fiscal sustainability, while COGTA is responsible for broader governance and institutional support. Mischaracterisation of these roles serves only to confuse the public.

Claims of inaction or impropriety are disingenuous in light of the clear record of sustained oversight, written correspondence and structured engagement with the municipality and relevant stakeholders.

KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Treasury reiterates that allegations do not substitute for evidence.

MEC Rodgers remains committed to working constructively with Newcastle Local Municipality and other spheres of government to strengthen financial management and improve service delivery outcomes.

Provincial Treasury will continue to discharge its mandate without fear, favour or prejudice, in pursuit of accountability, transparency and good governance.

ENDS

Issued by KZN Treasury. For clarity, contact Spokesperson and Media Liaison Officer, Nkosikhona Duma on 071 383 0388.