

**REMARKS BY THE MEC FOR FINANCE MS NP NKONYENI (MPL),
ON THE OCCASION OF THE FINANCE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE
MEETING: 2022/23 FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL AND NON-
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORTS**

TUESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2022

Chairperson Honourable K.K Nkosi;

Honourable members;

Head of Department, Ms Coetzee

Senior Management;

Legislature support staff;

Honourable Chairperson and esteemed members, it is my greatest honor to be afforded this opportunity to engage Honourable Members of this portfolio committee - which plays an important oversight over our function as the executive.

We greet you in this auspicious occasion with a very deep understanding of the role that we must play as KZN Treasury in advancing clean governance, accountability and implementing our programmes during the first quarter.

Our presence here today is a clear demonstration of our commitments to always subject ourselves to scrutiny and seek wisdom of this august committee and the legislature.

Since I joined this department I have been briefed and pay a critical observation of the work that is being done and the financial performance by this department, and I must say Honourable Chairperson and Honourable Members that I am satisfied.

I am however, mindful that as government we cannot be content when our people are still languishing in dire poverty. The true reflection of our work would be a total and complete elimination of poverty and drastic improvements in the creation of job opportunities especially for young people.

It is simply because of these reasons that the ANC deployed all of us to these public offices to speed up processes of improving the lives of the people of KwaZulu-Natal and South Africa as a whole.

I know that a lot has been done by this ANC led government but it is, however, true that a lot could be done that is why when I came in here I was very clear to all the officials of this department led by the HoD that we need to tighten our bolts in the management financial by all provincial government departments, entities and municipalities.

We appreciate and welcome the oversight by this committee and all other bodies, and we invite all Honourable Members of this committee on our journey of promoting clean and efficient governance throughout KwaZulu-Natal. The train of ensuring equitable allocation of resources and instilling the culture of good and clean governance and prudent financial management “has just departed” and we welcome all of you onboard. We welcome all public servants to join us on this train provided you carry your train tickets being clean governance.

In the period under-review, we draw your attention to our five sub-programmes that forms part of our pillars. These sub-programmes encapsulate the entire functioning of the KZN Department of Treasury. Over and above that, we briefly touch on the Office of the MEC in order to paint a clearer picture of what is being done there.

These sub-programmes briefly include; programme 1 on administration, programme 2 on sustainable resource management, programme 3 on financial governance, programme 4 on internal audit, and programme 5 on municipal finance management. These programmes mainly speak to Over and/or under expenditure. Programmes vary in that some have under expenditure whilst others have over expenditure, However, the explanations are provided as why this is the case.

Although the HOD will go into further details on these points but Honourable Chairperson please allow me to give you some synopses that you and your Honourable Members can indulge on.

1. Programme one which is on administration and particularly the MEC office projected over expenditure, we provide an account for this over expenditure and the way forward. In this programme; we also provide an explicit account of

what has been done in management services, financial management and corporate services.

2. Programme two is based on sustainable resource management. Here we mainly provide an account for public private partnership, economic analysis and public finance. This programme has been negatively affected by the limited travelling which largely accounted for under-expenditure.
3. In programme three, we focus on financial governance. We provide an account of asset and liability management, Supply Chain Management, accounting services, norms and standards, and support and internal finance systems. Here we further highlight the under expenditure which is due to the vacant posts. Therefore, the filling of vacant posts will bring us closer to our envisaged spending.
4. Programme four speaks on internal audit and we mainly provide an account for assurance services and risk management services. Here we also believe that the main contributor to under expenditure is the vacant DDG post.
5. Lastly, programme five, the municipal finance management. This is where we provide an account for municipal budget, municipal accounting and reporting, municipal support programme, municipal revenue and debt management. The over expenditure which is accounted for here, is due to the funding of certain administrative post by other sub-programmes. This is being corrected moving forward.

I commit Honourable Chairperson, to be actively involved in the accomplishment of the success of the department's programmes, and that my arrival here will be part of assisting the management of the department in improving areas of weaknesses and strengthening some areas where necessary and improving our support given to other institutions.

With these few words Chairperson, allow me to pause so that I can allow the HOD and the team to do the official presentation.

I am looking forward to working with you and getting the guidance and wisdom of the committee while championing service delivery and changing the lives of the people of KwaZulu-Natal.

I thank you!