



**KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**

**TREASURY**  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**HON. FRANCOIS RODGERS**  
**MEC FOR FINANCE**

# **KWAZULU-NATAL**

## **2024/25 PROVINCIAL**

### **BUDGET SPEECH: 25 JULY 2024**

SEVENTH ADMINISTRATION



**ISBN No.: 978-1-991251-07-7**

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# **BUDGET SPEECH 2024/25 THE 7TH DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION**



**FRANCOIS RODGERS, MPL  
MEC FOR FINANCE**

# **PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL**

## **Budget Address by Mr Francois Rodgers (MPL) MEC for Finance**

### **On re-tabling of the 2024/25 MTEF Budget in the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature 25 July 2024**

Honourable Speaker, Ms Nontembeko Boyce;  
Honourable Deputy Speaker, Ms Mmabatho Tembe;  
Honourable Premier, Mr Thami Ntuli;  
Members of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Executive Council;  
Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature;  
Members of the diplomatic corps;  
Chairperson of the KZN Provincial House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders, Inkosi Shinga;  
All traditional leaders;  
Director General, Dr Nonhlanhla Mkhize;  
Head of Department, Ms Carol Coetzee;  
All Heads of Departments and Senior Management:  
CEOs of Public Entities;  
People of KwaZulu-Natal;  
Members of the media;  
Business leaders;  
Distinguished guests;  
**Manene namaNenekazi!**  
**Ngiyabonga ukuthola ithuba lokwethula isabelomali phambili kwalendlu!**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

**Honourable Members**, the re-tabling of this provincial budget is a watershed moment for the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Administration as it takes place at the back of a significant political whirlwind that resulted in a multi-party government whose sole objective is to bring about substantial change in the lives of communities.

As we table this budget today, our thoughts are with the families in various towns and villages of KwaZulu-Natal that have suffered in various ways during the devastating veldfires. **Kubuhlungu kakhulu ukuthi** these veldfires have resulted in the loss of lives, houses and livestock and ravaged the livelihood of many families.  
**I call on families to be cautious when lighting fires.**

**Honourable Members**, this government is the only hope that these families have of rebuilding their lives. Under the leadership of the Premier, Honourable Thami Ntuli, this government has visited the communities that have been affected, and all efforts have been directed to alleviate the plight of those affected.

This is a clear indication that the Seventh Administration will be the type of government that knows our communities, that visits communities, that prioritises community needs and, of course, an administration that budgets for and spends effectively on the services that communities desperately require.

**Honourable Speaker**, in the previous financial year, the last term of the Sixth Administration in our country and in KwaZulu-Natal, was a year in which the commitment to accelerate the delivery of services to the people of KwaZulu-Natal was made.

A significant part of this commitment was to intensify the fight against the triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequality, as well as to ensure that every Rand from the public purse makes a difference in each and every person's life in a manner that is sustainable and inclusive.

However, while we are still severely hamstrung by restrained economic growth that has an impact on employment and service delivery, our focus on improving livelihoods is unwavering. Our determination to budget and spend for change is deeply embedded in our hearts and minds as is our resolve to ensure compliance with all the regulations that govern the management of public finances. Things have to change for our provincial administration to stay cash positive and attract foreign direct investment through providing critical building blocks such as consistent energy supply and effective logistics.

**Honourable Members**, we have a task to ensure enhanced transparency of our decision-making in resource allocation and utilization thereof. We must review our service delivery programmes and based on the outcomes and impact achieved, consider the appropriateness of resource allocations. Working with the Premier and Members of the Executive Council, we have to be prepared to make tough decisions if we are to demonstrate that we mean business when we say we will stabilise the finances in the province with prudent fiscal management.

In trying to avoid compromising service delivery, we have to stabilise spending, eliminate irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure in departments, municipalities and public entities, as well as ensure accountability and transparency.

Our ultimate resolve, however, is that we need to continue to contribute to the achievement of two of the Provincial Priorities which are **“Inclusive economic growth and job creation as well as “Building a capable, ethical and developmental state”**.



Our mandate to deliver quality services to the people of this province remains sacrosanct and cannot be compromised at any cost.

**Honourable Speaker**, when expressing the will of the people during his Inauguration on 19 June 2024, the President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, said “They want a transformed, growing and inclusive economy that creates jobs for millions of job seekers and offer business opportunities to all entrepreneurs in our nation – women and men, young and old”.

It is for this reason that we need to forge strong relations with the business sector and other strategic professional bodies in order to quickly address these pressing issues which include a sharp focus on youth employment and the creation of an enabling environment for the establishment of sustainable youth owned businesses.

As I often say, **Honourable Members**, building a capable and ethical state is not a choice, but a journey we have to espouse and demonstrate that it is achievable with a clear road-map, directions and tracking tool.

**Honourable Speaker**, given the fiscal outlook of South Africa, fiscal consolidation is here to stay for the long run. We have to reduce our deficit as a country and we must circumvent any decision that will result in the province going into debt. We have to prioritise and commit to good financial governance and we have to be firm in eliminating fraud and corruption, as well as the addressing the mismanagement of funds. **Lokhu kuzokwenzeka noma kanjani!**

Financial governance is the backbone of any organization and will ensure financial stability, compliance with laws, as well as ethical management of finances.

Honourable Members, if we practice this principle, we will lay a strong foundation for growth and prosperity for KwaZulu-Natal.

We operate within a legislated fiscal framework that is informed by the national socio-economic outlook. As MEC for Finance, Umsebenzi wami ukuba iphoyisa lezimali. I am the financial governance ambassador and will lead by example in all decisions taken by the Treasury which in some instances may not be popular but with the collective support of the Provincial Executive Council, we will be able to steer this cargo ship in the right direction. We have agreed that fiscal discipline is the primary focus in order to create a healthy financial position that would enhance our capabilities of servicing the people of KwaZulu-Natal. All members of the Provincial Executive, led by the Premier have committed to working as a collective in stabilising and growing our financial resource envelop in order to meet the needs of our people whom we serve.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to re-table the following documents which aim to revive the Appropriation Bill that was tabled in this House earlier this year:

- **Appropriation Bill, 2024**
- **2024/25 Provincial Budget Speech**
- **2024/25 Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure (Green book)**
- **2024/25 Estimates of Capital Expenditure (ECE).**

Madam Speaker, when appropriated, this Bill will give the legal basis for departments and public entities to spend their 2024/25 budgets.

## **2. ECONOMIC OUTLOOK**

Madam Speaker, as I table this provincial budget, the global economic prospects remain relatively unchanged from when the budget was initially tabled in March this year, with growth expected to be steady at 3.1% this year. The global outlook remains fragile due to several factors, including geopolitical tensions, as well as natural disasters related to climate change and is projected to expand marginally by 3.2% in 2025.

Following global trends, the national economy is forecast to improve marginally to 0.9% this year compared to a revised 0.7% in 2023, supported mainly by a more reliable electricity supply and improving logistics. This growth rate is projected to expand moderately to 1.2% in 2025. We anticipate interest rates to decrease in the next few quarters as inflation continues to drop, mainly due to fuel and food prices. Improving economic conditions will support government revenue collection and the effort to stabilise public finances. As stated by the honourable State President, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, the country's public finances must be carefully managed to stabilise debt and reduce the debt service costs so that we can redirect funds towards other critical socio-economic needs.

Similarly, economic performance in KZN is expected to regain momentum this year and reach 1.5% in 2025 as the structural constraints gradually dissipate. At this growth rate, the provincial economy cannot create enough employment opportunities to reduce unemployment. Honourable Members, we must work tirelessly to continue the rehabilitation phase of our provincial economy.

The provincial budget is being re-tabled against this backdrop.

## **3. THE PROVINCIAL BUDGET FOR THE 2024/25 MTEF**

### **3.1 Provincial fiscal framework for 2024/25**

Table 1: Provincial fiscal framework shows the Provincial Equitable Share and conditional grants received from National Treasury in aggregate, as well as the amount we anticipate to collect from our Provincial own revenue sources and funds allocated in this budget from our Provincial cash resources (which emanate from funds held in our Provincial Revenue Fund for a specific purpose or where funds were paid into Provincial Own Revenue in the prior year and are being allocated for spending in this budget).

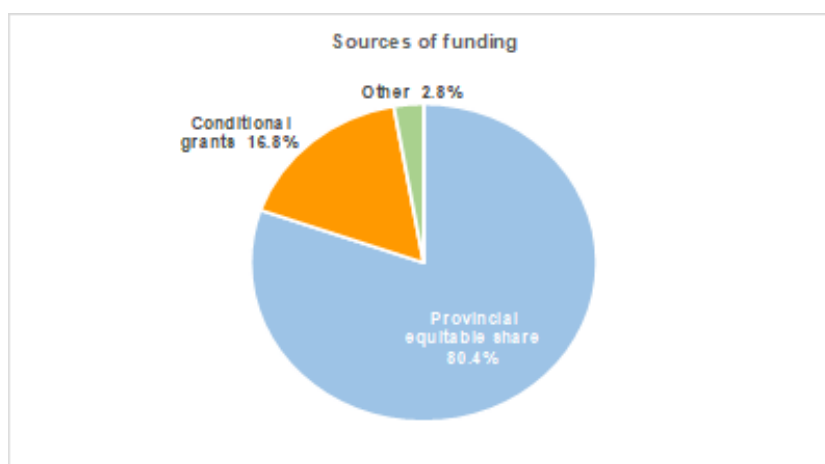
**Table 1 : Provincial fiscal framework**

R thousand	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
<b>1. Revised allocation</b>	<b>150 724 520</b>	<b>155 772 947</b>	<b>161 964 873</b>
Transfer receipts from national	146 541 000	151 410 642	157 418 604
Provincial Equitable Share	121 145 053	126 359 814	131 972 012
Conditional grants	25 395 947	25 050 828	25 446 592
Provincial own revenue	4 176 860	4 359 745	4 543 709
Provincial cash resources	6 660	2 560	2 560
<b>2. Planned spending by departments</b>	<b>150 488 101</b>	<b>155 545 832</b>	<b>161 739 387</b>
<b>3. Contingency Reserve</b>	<b>236 419</b>	<b>227 115</b>	<b>225 486</b>

In 2024/25, the Provincial Equitable Share amounts to R121.1 billion, with the amounts allocated over the MTEF as shown in Table 1. The conditional grant allocation amounts to R25.4 billion. The total amount we receive from National Treasury is thus R146.5 billion. When adding the Provincial own revenue and Provincial cash resources to this amount, the total revenue that the province has to finance the budget is R150.7 billion, as shown in Line 1 of the table.

Line 2 shows that the provincial departments are planning to spend R150.5 billion in 2024/25 and the final line in the table shows that our Contingency Reserve is set at around R225 million to R236 million per annum over the MTEF.

The bulk of our funding is received from National Treasury in the form of the Provincial Equitable Share (80.4%) and the conditional grant allocation (16.8%), with the balance made up by provincial own revenue and provincial cash resources at 2.8% of the total resource envelope.



### 3.2 Amendments to the Provincial Equitable Share by National Treasury

As indicated, the largest share of our funding is received in the form of the Provincial Equitable Share and National Treasury advised provinces of various amendments being made to the Provincial Equitable Share in this budget, and these are incorporated in the fiscal framework. We are very grateful for significant additions being made to the province towards the carry-through costs of the 2023 wage agreement.



These additions fully cover the costs of the 2023 wage agreement for the social sector departments, namely for the Departments of Education, Health, and Social Development. The amounts received in this regard are R6.6 billion, R6.8 billion and R7 billion over the MTEF. We are very grateful for these additions as the 2023 wage agreement exerted considerable pressure on these labour-intensive departments and we raised this matter at a number of national forums. We are very pleased that our concerns were listened to and that these critical funds were provided to the province.

The other departments have had to absorb this cost from within their existing baselines over the MTEF.

On the other hand, as indicated by Honourable Minister Godongwana in his budget speech in February this year, we are not out of the woods yet and thus the fiscal consolidation stance that started a few years ago is set to continue in this budget. As a result, there are budget cuts made against our equitable share budget over the MTEF.

The annual data updates of the Provincial Equitable Share formula have not worked in our favour and, as a result, our allocation has been reduced proportionately.

With regard to the fiscal consolidation budget cuts implemented by National Treasury, the province loses R4 billion, R4.2 billion and R4.3 billion over the MTEF. We also lose R334.5 million, R109.2 million and R189.5 million over the MTEF as a result of the data updates of the Provincial Equitable Share formula.

In aggregate, though, there is a net increase in the funds allocated to KwaZulu-Natal's Provincial Equitable Share of R2.3 billion to R2.5 billion per annum, taking into account the additional funding received for the costs of the 2023 wage agreement in the social sector. The province has taken a decision to effect reductions across the board in order to increase our Contingency Reserve to around the R225 million to R236 million per annum mark over the MTEF. This Contingency Reserve allows us to respond in-year when unforeseen circumstances arise. In this regard, we have cut back spending by R132.5 million, R103.5 million and R105.4 million over the MTEF to fund this increase in the reserve.

This means that the provincial budget reduces by between R4.4 billion and R4.7 billion in aggregate over the 2024/25 MTEF, but this cut then is offset by the additions referred to earlier. With respect to the additions made to our Provincial Equitable Share for the carry-through costs of the 2023 wage agreement, the funds were allocated to the social sector proportionately, as follows:

- Education receives between R4.1 billion and R4.4 billion per annum over the MTEF.
- Health receives between R2.6 billion and R2.8 billion per annum over the MTEF.
- Social Development receives between R134 million and R144 million per annum over the MTEF.

With regard to the Provincial Equitable Share budget cuts, it was decided to effect these budget cuts proportionately against all Votes, with the exception of Vote 2: Provincial Legislature, who were exempted from the budget cuts. In determining the proportionate cut, we excluded certain cost items from the proportionate calculation. In this regard, given the under-funded property rates and the significant impact as a result thereof on service delivery, and municipalities, this line item was excluded when calculating the proportionate budget cuts for Public Works.

The budget cuts are significant, and departments were required to review the targets that they have set for themselves in the 2024/25 Annual Performance Plans to fall in line with their amended budget. All departments had to re-visit their budgets and prioritise the programmes and projects they will be rolling out over the MTEF, taking into account their reduced budgets. For some, it has meant that various posts will not be filled, additional cost-cutting measures must be implemented, and programmes to address operational inefficiencies must be concluded, while others have noted that some projects will have to be rolled out over a longer period of time. Departments will also, as far as possible, hold meetings virtually so as to reduce the costs of traveling, while others indicated that they will place greater emphasis on efficiency savings, or will reduce internal training programmes. Departments will place more emphasis on implementing efficient business processes to ensure that quality services continue to be rendered to our communities.

### **3.3 Amendments to the conditional grant allocation by National Treasury**

The second highest portion of our funding is allocated to us by National Treasury in the form of conditional grants. These funds are allocated to us to fund specific government programmes, and the allocations are made in line with the Division of Revenue Act.

National Treasury advised that fiscal consolidation budget cuts are also being made against the conditional grant allocations, mainly towards addressing the country's debt burden and towards ensuring fiscal sustainability. National Treasury also revised some of the conditional grant allocations downward to free up funding in order to be able to fund the carry-through costs of the 2023 wage agreement, allocated to the social sector, as explained. Some reductions are also made against the conditional grant allocations to support a national decision to continue with the Presidential Employment Stimulus.

KwaZulu-Natal's conditional grant allocation increases by R501.3 million in 2024/25, and then reduces by R989.3 million in 2025/26 and by R593.5 million in 2026/27.

Quite a number of conditional grants show marginal adjustments to their budgets, with only the more pertinent amendments discussed here.

**The Ilima/ Letsema Projects grant** under the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is cut by R24.7 million in 2024/25 due to National Treasury reprioritising these funds towards the Presidential Employment Stimulus. The grant amounts to R55.4 million, after taking this amendment into account.

In aggregate, the province receives R141.4 million through two EPWP conditional grants aimed at increasing job creation in the province. **The EPWP Integrated Grant**

for **Provinces** and the **Social Sector EPWP Incentive Grant for Provinces** are reduced in 2024/25 due to National Treasury reprioritising these funds towards the Presidential Employment Stimulus. These grants were cut by R42 million and R29 million, respectively, against various Votes.

The **Education Infrastructure grant** increases by R58.1 million in 2024/25. This grant is incentive based and the increase is partly due to the incentive allocation where the department scored really well, achieving 98% in terms of submitting planning documentation and showing capacity to spend and thus received an incentive allocation of R89 million. This was offset by fiscal consolidation budget cuts. The budget for this grant is R2.4 billion after these amendments.

The **National School Nutrition Programme grant** receives an increase of R19 million in 2024/25 to continue with the provision of nutritious meals. The budget for 2024/25 after the increase is R2.2 billion.

The **Health Facility Revitalisation grant** is increased by R31.1 million in 2024/25. The addition is because this grant is incentive based and because the department scored really well, at 99%, in terms of submitting planning documentation and showing capacity to spend and was allocated R72.9 million. This is offset by fiscal consolidation budget cuts. The budget for this grant is R1.5 billion in 2024/25.

The **Provincial Roads Maintenance grant** sees a significant increase of R691.8 million in 2024/25 and is used for the maintenance and rehabilitation of the provincial road network, as well as repairs to infrastructure damaged by floods. The budget for this grant is R3.2 billion after this increase and shows our commitment to improving the provincial road network.

The **Human Settlements Development grant** decreases significantly by R268.7 million in 2024/25. As indicated, National Treasury reduced the budget against this grant in order to be able to provide funds to the social sector for the 2023 wage agreement carry-through costs. This budget cut is carried through over the MTEF. The budget for this grant in 2024/25 is R2.5 billion after the budget cut.

Similarly, the **Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership grant** also had a large budget cut of R228.6 million in 2024/25, in line with National Treasury's decision to source funds through reprioritisation to provide funds to the social sector for the 2023 wage agreement carry-through costs. This budget cut is carried through over the MTEF and the budget for 2024/25, after the budget cut, is R597.1 million.

### **3.4 Funding from provincial cash resources and suspension of funds**

A few allocations are also made in this budget from provincial cash resources, as well as through the movement of funds between Votes. These are as follows:

- **Vote 6: Provincial Treasury** receives R7.7 million over the MTEF (R2.6 million per annum) towards the costs of upgrading the Biometrics Access Control System to strengthen its security and ransomware features. This control system is used by all departments when accessing BAS, and the improvements will lower the risk of unauthorised access of the system.

KwaZulu-Natal is the only province who has this additional layer of control and has therefore obliterated the opportunity for unauthorised access to our systems.

- **Vote 10: Sport, Arts and Culture** receives R4.1 million in 2024/25 for the construction of a monument in honour of the 1860 arrival of the Indian indentured labourers. These funds were recalled into the Provincial Revenue Fund a number of years ago when this project was showing little progress. The department reports that they anticipate that this project will be completed in 2024/25 after gaining significant momentum in 2023/24. The department has indicated that the monument is in the process of being erected alongside the uShaka Marine promenade in Durban. The project commenced in 2023/24 and is anticipated to take seven to eight months to complete.
- **Vote 12: Transport** requested that R3 million be suspended from their Vote in 2024/25 for allocation to Vote 4: Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs with respect to sourcing an airport emergency fire and rescue vehicle for the Margate Airport. This relates to the ongoing collaboration between these two departments to ensure the successful operation of the provincial regional airports.

#### 4 UNPACKING THE PROVINCIAL BUDGET

The provincial budget is allocated to 14 Votes for spending, as shown in Table 2, and the Votes use these funds in rolling out various national and provincial priorities. This table shows the amounts allocated to each Vote for spending in 2024/25 and each Vote's share of the total provincial budget. The various MECs will expand on their service delivery priorities when they table their Votes' budget speeches.

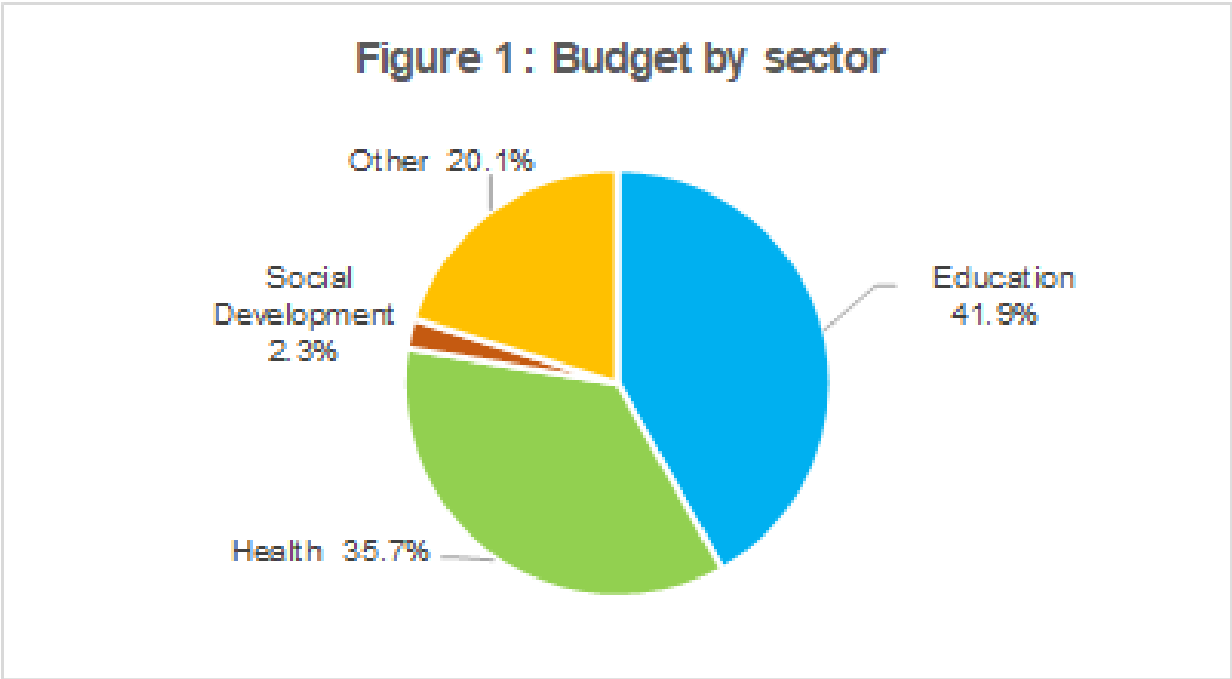
Table 2 : Budgets per Vote

Vote	2024/25 (R000)	% of Total Budget
Vote 1: Office of the Premier	784 153	0.5%
Vote 2: Provincial Legislature	782 115	0.5%
Vote 3: Agriculture and Rural Development	2 608 385	1.7%
Vote 4: Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs	3 459 828	2.3%
Vote 5: Education	62 988 588	41.9%
Vote 6: Provincial Treasury	680 901	0.5%
Vote 7: Health	53 796 892	35.7%
Vote 8: Human Settlements	3 529 676	2.3%
Vote 9: Community Safety and Liaison	243 343	0.2%
Vote 10: Sport, Arts and Culture	1 537 422	1.0%
Vote 11: Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs	1 850 066	1.2%
Vote 12: Transport	13 023 631	8.7%
Vote 13: Social Development	3 411 555	2.3%
Vote 14: Public Works	1 791 546	1.2%
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>150 488 101</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

##### 4.1 Analysis of budget by sector

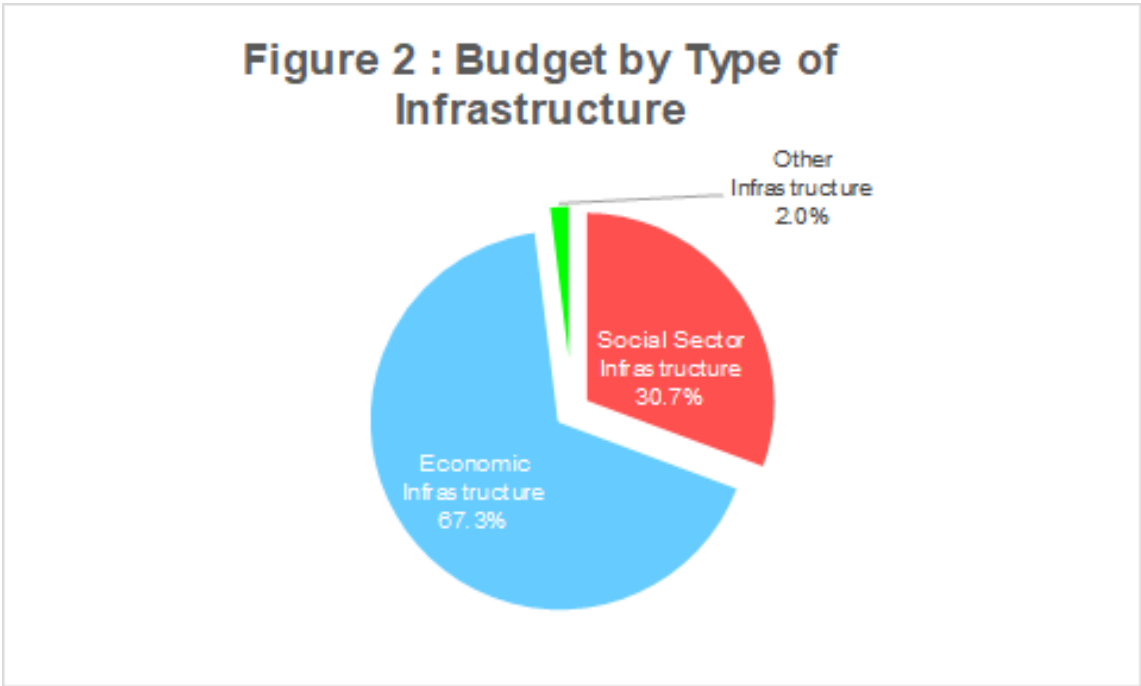
Figure 1 shows that the bulk of the provincial budget is allocated to the social sector departments, namely the Department of Education, the Department of Health and the Department of Social Development.

These departments receive around 80% of the provincial budget, while the balance of 20% goes towards funding all the other Votes.



**4.2 KwaZulu-Natal’s infrastructure budget**

The total infrastructure budget over the MTEF is R17.1 billion, R17.3 billion and R17.4 billion, showing our ongoing commitment to prioritising infrastructure development. A detailed list of all infrastructure projects that will be implemented is contained in the Estimates of Capital Expenditure. This publication provides detail of each project planned to be implemented, the project value, the location of the project, and so much more. It is a very useful tool which helps to assist meaningful oversight, while data from this publication is used to map the infrastructure projects to ensure that the infrastructure budget reaches all areas of our province. This is also critical data for the regular reviews of the DDM One Plans.





As can be seen in Figure 2, the bulk of our infrastructure budget at 67.3% is allocated towards economic infrastructure, implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, the Department of Human Settlements, as well as the Department of Transport. The types of infrastructure projects rolled out by these departments include maintenance and upgrades to the provincial road network, as well as the construction of access roads (to schools and clinics, and so forth) and bridges. The budget also provides for capital developments at the Special Economic Zones, as well as the rehabilitation and development of agricultural infrastructure such as animal handling facilities, irrigation schemes, fencing projects, boreholes and stock watering dams. The economic infrastructure category also provides for housing development projects, including upgrading of informal settlements, rural interventions and community residential units, among others.

The social sector departments are the next highest in terms of infrastructure spending and this makes up 30.7% of the aggregate infrastructure spend. In this regard, the Departments of Education, Health and Social Development spend their budgets on infrastructure projects such as the maintenance and rehabilitation of schools, including repairs caused by storms and flooding, while there is also provision made for new schools' infrastructure. Funds are also spent on maintaining, upgrading and constructing community health centres, clinics, district hospitals, emergency medical facilities, provincial hospitals, central and tertiary hospitals, among others. The social economic infrastructure category also provides for upgrades and additions to places of safety, residential facilities, youth academies, secure care centres and child and youth care centres, among others.

## 5. CONCLUSION

**Honourable Members**, the Provincial Government understands the current socio-economic outlook and the direct impact that it has on the province and its citizens. There is no miracle or overnight cure for the diagnosis/position we find ourselves in, however this administration has already begun to take the necessary tough decisions to turn the tide. **Awukho umlingo (magic) kuzomele sisebenze kanzima.**

All government departments and public entities must follow the principles of good governance, good financial management; take a zero-tolerance stance against corruption, fruitless and wasteful expenditure. With tight financial controls, this will allow government to direct more funds towards service delivery. **Noma kanjani!**

It is on this score that we implore the Heads of Departments, CEOs of public entities, CFOs, and senior management officials to share notes on good practice and experiences to improve the public service. Government departments, public entities and municipalities must strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of programmes to assess the measurable impact of the programmes over the MTEF, and to make the necessary adjustments to improve service delivery.

**Honourable Speaker**, the budget proposals we are tabling today ignites hope in that resources are being allocated to bring about direct change to the lives of our people. It is evident that the Provincial Government is allocating financial resources to facilitate

the journey towards achieving a capable and ethical developmental state. The journey will be a long bumpy road with detours and speed humps but with the commitment of all politicians and public officials to utilise public funds wisely and effectively in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act, we will not only reach our end destination but we will arrive with petrol in our tanks.

**Honourable Speaker**, the Provincial Government is working hard to create an enabling environment to facilitate the growth of the economy through practical plans that focus on creating employment with a dedicated focus on vulnerable groups (women, youth and persons with disabilities). This Government will also provide various support interventions to encourage entrepreneurship amongst our young people as innovation is a critical aspect in inclusive sustainable growth.

**Honourable Speaker**, the recent veldfire tragedies that befell various parts of this province left immense destruction. Human lives were lost, leaving households without income. Properties were gutted and livestock burnt, leaving owners with no form of income. Businesses were closed down. This destruction impacted people financially and psychologically – it will take time for those who were affected to recover.

This setback will not stand in the way of this government to grow the KZN economy. As a caring government, we will walk hand-in-hand with the victims in their journey to recovery. Government is still assessing the full extent of the damage and the national government will make a determination on whether to declare the incidents as a provincial disaster.

Provincial Government has allocated resources to rebuild the lives of the victims and reinstate hope in their lives. We are extremely encouraged to see that social partners have come closer to partner with government in extending a helping hand to the affected communities. We implore more businesses and social partners to get on board and assist in any way that they are able.

As I conclude, **Honourable Speaker**, allow me to take the opportunity to thank the Honourable Premier, Mr T.A. Ntuli, and Members of the Executive Council for providing guidance in the allocation of funds based on the provincial priorities. I would like to thank the Finance Portfolio Committee for their oversight and scrutiny of the budget proposals in order to confirm that they meet the priorities of this province.

Thank you to Provincial Treasury HoD, Ms Carol Coetzee, for leading the department's budget team who ensured that the budget proposals met the legislative and technical requirements.

**Ngibonga uNkosikazi wami uRita nabantwana bami ababili (Natalie and Hayley)** and the rest of my family for your unwavering support in me taking up this responsibility which I consider a critical service to the province. I appreciate their unwavering support and love.

I thank you.

**Ndiyabulela!**

**KWAZULU-NATAL**  
2024/25 PROVINCIAL  
**BUDGET SPEECH**

SEVENTH ADMINISTRATION