

**REMARKS BY FINANCE MEC, MS NOMUSA DUBE-NCUBE DURING
A MEETING WITH KZN LEGISLATURE'S FINANCE PORTFOLIO
COMMITTEE.**

26 JULY 2022

Chairperson of the Finance Portfolio Committee, Honourable KK Nkosi
Honourable Members
Head of Department, Ms Carol Coetzee
Colleagues

Good Morning

Today's meeting takes place after a series of events nationally and provincially which include budget cuts in our fiscal space, slow growth of the economy, recent devastating floods as well as the outbreak of covid-19, all of which are still having a ripple effect in our spending patterns as government.

However, the Provincial Government has a legislated mandate of service delivery and of ensuring improvement of lives of our communities. We exist for a purpose of ensuring services to our communities, irrespective of the sometimes unfriendly operating environment due to natural disasters and the state of the economy.

Honourable Chair, our expenditure patterns as different government departments display varying trends owing to various circumstances characterizing unique environments within which each department operates.

Honourable Members, you will notice in our presentation that there are different reasons associated with each under-spending by individual departments on specific expenditure items and the causal factors are detailed in the presentation.

Be that as it may, our commitment is to ensure that the public finances are spent fully on the budgeted-for service delivery commitments across all portfolios in the provincial administration.

Honourable Chair, when we drew up the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Budget, we had in mind ordinary members of our communities whose aspirations are to see their lives improving in a variety of ways, and this can only happen when departments handle and spend their budgets in accordance with their service delivery plans in line with their mandates.

We said we want this budget to translate into improved socio-economic conditions for the majority of our communities.

We also said we want each cent allocated from the Provincial Budget to touch the life of a mother in a remote rural village whose children walk more than 20 kilometers to school. Each rand allocated from it must change the lives of an aspiring group of women who have formed co-operatives and various types of business ventures.

Honourable Chair, we have not moved from this undertaking. We are happy that among a string of explained under-expenditure, there are departments that have spent their budgets in full. We can only improve from that.

It is now common knowledge that our fiscal environment has many unpredictable, and sometimes, unforeseen eventualities. When we say we need to do things differently, it really means we have no choices, we have to continue to be innovative and improve on our ability to manage the shrinking resources that we have.

We also need to continue to find innovative ways to augment and sustain our fiscus as a Province.

But we want to encourage those that are projecting under expenditure to really do all they can to carry out their constitutional mandate with the resources allocated to them.

Honourable Chair, it is our duty as KZN Treasury to remind this Committee that under-expenditure is as undesirable as over-expenditure. As KZN Treasury, we will continue to provide regular monitoring, support and advice to departments so that budgets can eventually be spent wisely and efficiently and this will ensure that our communities do not only see, but also to experience change and improvement in their lives.

In conclusion **Honourable Chair**, we can confirm that the net monthly bank balance of the province remains positive.

I thank you.