



KWAZULU-NATAL

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



KZN Provincial Government



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MS NOMUSA DUBE-NCUBE
PREMIER OF KWAZULU-NATAL



#LeaveNoOneBehind



**GROWING
KWAZULU-NATAL
TOGETHER**



Contents:

PAGE	
03	Overview from the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal
04	Message from the Leader of Government Business
05	Message from the Director General
DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS	
06	Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs
07	Department of Health
08	Department of Transport
09	Department of Community Safety and Liaison
10	Department of Sports Arts and Culture
11	Department of Social Development
12	Department of Education
13	Provincial Treasury
14	Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
15	Department of Public Works
16	Department of Human Settlements
17	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development



REFLECTIONS BY THE PREMIER OF KWAZULU-NATAL ON THE DEMOCRATIC GAINS OF FREEDOM IN THE PAST 30 YEARS

HONOURABLE NOMUSA DUBE-NCUBE
PREMIER OF KWAZULU-NATAL

In the life of every nation, every milestone affords it an opportunity to reflect on the gains that have been amassed, while also plotting for the future ahead.

It is against this backdrop that as KwaZulu-Natal, in particular, and the country in general, we take stock of the journey that has been travelled as we celebrate the 30 years of democracy in our province. One of the traits that has made KwaZulu-Natal unique is its ability to rise above all challenges and to overcome what seem like insurmountable odds.

It is a matter of historical record, that in the lead up to the democratic breakthrough in the early 90s, KwaZulu-Natal was consumed by a wave of internecine violence which swept the length and breadth of this province, resulting in thousands of people being killed. However, due to visionary leadership from all the political parties, led by the ruling party, the African National Congress, the province was able to silence the drums of violence.

The political tolerance and peace that this province enjoys especially as we approach the 2024 elections, is one of the biggest achievements that the people of KwaZulu-Natal have amassed in the past 30 years. We say this because political stability and peace are a prerequisite for development and for the attraction of investment to our province.

The fact that the KwaZulu-Natal economy is today valued close to a trillion rand testifies to the journey that we have travelled over the past 30 years to create a province premised on peace, political stability and shared and inclusive economic growth.

The fact that today the province of KwaZulu-Natal is a globally competitive province which is regarded as the gateway to the African continent is because of the strides that has been notched to bring peace and development to the province. The fact that the province is today known as a model of service delivery excellence is because the people of KwaZulu-Natal have resolved that it is only through harnessing their collective strength that they can create a province of their dreams.

Such has been the strides that have been made by our government that it difficult to imagine how the province looked like before 1994. As we celebrate 30 years of freedom, we reflect on the past while our eyes are firmly gazed on the future. We, therefore, have a duty to use the development gains that have been registered to create a better KwaZulu-Natal for posterity.



MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MR SIBONISO DUMA
LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

As we commemorate the most fulfilling 30 years of freedom and democracy, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the people of KwaZulu-Natal for their unwavering support and guidance during this pivotal period. We acknowledge the crucial role played by big business in driving the provincial economy, and we recognize the enduring partnership between the government and the private sector that has transformed KZN into a land of endless opportunities.

Over the past 25 years, there has been a significant surge in investment across the province, facilitated by sound investor confidence and collaborative efforts between the private sector and the ANC-led government. The Department of Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs, under the leadership of MECs deployed by the ANC, has spearheaded initiatives to position KZN as a serious economic player on the global stage.

Key catalytic projects such as the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre, King Shaka International Airport, Dube Trade Port, and Moses Mabhida Stadium have not only changed the landscape of the province but also attracted substantial foreign direct investment. Our marketing efforts have generated interest from various countries, leading to the hosting of numerous business delegations and fact-finding missions aimed at driving socio-economic development in KZN, South Africa, and Africa as a whole.

Through Tourism KZN, successful international events have put KZN on the global map, while initiatives by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and the KZN Film Commission have stimulated tourism and job creation. The KZN Gaming & Betting sector has played a significant role in tourism stimulation, and regulatory bodies such as the Liquor Authority have contributed to the growth of the hospitality and tourism industries.

The Ithala Development Finance Corporation has led developmental programs aimed at poverty alleviation through the empowerment of SMMEs and cooperatives, injecting billions of rands into previously marginalized communities. Additionally, the KZN Growth Fund has supported the black industrialist program, facilitating entry into various sectors of the economy.

As we reflect on the achievements of the past 30 years, we celebrate the rollout of digital infrastructure, innovation, and skills development through the Moses Kotane Institute. Inspired by the testimonies of ordinary citizens who have gained access to economic opportunities, we remain committed to further progress and prosperity over the next 30 years. Let us continue to work together, hand in hand, to build a brighter future for all in KwaZulu-Natal.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

DR NONHLANHLA MKHIZE

DIRECTOR GENERAL: KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

It is with great excitement that we reach 2024, a seminal moment in the life of our democracy as we reach 30 years of existence.

During the past three decades we have endeavoured as the Office of the Premier to lead the province to a better future.

The Office of the Premier plays a central role in coordinating government, leading the implementation of systems and the roll out of programmes which lead to a more effective and efficient government.

Among others, the Sixth Administration emphasized the institution of consequence management and in this regard the Consequence Management Framework was approved by the KwaZulu- Natal Executive Council in 2021.

The implementation of the framework has seen the conclusion of 508 investigations since 2019, of which 482 are now concluded.

We can say with certainty that our fight against fraud and corruption has been intensified and our project of a clean and accountable administration is already yielding possible results.

We have embarked on Operation Clean Audit Campaign, which resulted to improved audit outcomes seen across the two spheres of local government and provincial departments.

More of our departments, municipalities and agencies are receiving clean audits which is encouraging, but this also means that once we have set the highest standard, there is no reason to lower it.

We have confronted every year the reality of dwindling budgets while equally implemented tight and prudent management of allocated resources which will continue to be the hallmark of our administration in the coming years.

Following a provincial skills audit, capacity building programmes have been developed that are appropriate for all public servants in KwaZulu-Natal.

As we enter the next 30 years of government, as the Director General of the province may I wish all our fellow public servants all the best and thank them for their contribution and dedication thus far.

More work remains ahead and let us continue to do a lot more together!



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

The narrative of 30 years of democracy in our government is a testament to resilience, unity, and collective determination. It's a story that resonates with the triumph of the human spirit over adversity, the unwavering pursuit of justice and equality, and the tireless endeavor to build a brighter future for all citizens.

Central to our journey of progress are Special Economic Zones (SEZs), the Dube TradePort, and the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone. The two SEZs are geographically designated areas within our country that have been strategically set aside for targeted economic activities.

Throughout these three decades, we have faced challenges head-on, navigating through turbulent times, and celebrated significant milestones that highlight the power of democracy to foster positive change, promote inclusivity, and drive sustainable economic development.

These zones are supported by special arrangements and systems, often distinct from those applicable in other parts of the country. SEZs serve as engines of economic growth, innovation, and prosperity, catalyzing investment, job creation, and technological advancement.

Investments into our Special Economic Zones of Dube Trade Port and Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone exceed R20 billion. We have seen inward investments and the flow of goods, services, knowledge and a variety of skills in various sectors of the economy.

As we reflect on our journey of 30 years of democracy, the SEZs have served as laboratories for experimentation and innovation, fostering collaboration between government, industry, and academia to drive research and development initiatives, technological innovation, and skills development.

By harnessing the potential of SEZs, we have been able to harness new opportunities, bridge developmental gaps, and unlock the full economic potential of our nation.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

In the past three decades of our hard-earned democracy, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health has been at the forefront of implementing numerous programmes aimed at realizing the vision of ***“Optimal Health for all people of KwaZulu-Natal.”***

The Department has made commendable progress towards this goal, focusing on a single Impact area: “Improved Life Expectancy,” with three key outcomes: Universal Health Coverage, Improved Patient Experience of Care, and Reduced Morbidity and Mortality.

Through these efforts, we have made significant strides in combating the burden of disease by:

- Establishing hospitals, community health centres, and clinics, particularly in rural areas, to enhance access to healthcare services.
- Investing in human resource development through various staff training initiatives, including bursary programs, to ensure a skilled workforce.
- Promoting disease prevention and early screening programs to facilitate timely detection and intervention.
- Mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS through comprehensive strategies such as Treatment, prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission, scaling up of Test and Treat campaigns, and the rollout of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PreP).

These concerted efforts have not only improved health outcomes but also contributed significantly to enhancing the overall well-being of the people of KwaZulu-Natal. We remain committed to advancing our mission of ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare services for all residents of the province.



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport has remained at the forefront of championing service delivery, ensuring efficient, reliable, and safe transport services for the people of the province over the past 30 years of freedom and democracy.

Through various initiatives, the department has transformed the transport landscape, particularly in rural communities, providing citizens with improved access to socio-economic amenities and facilitating smooth movement to towns and cities.

Here are some key achievements and initiatives undertaken by the department:

- **Construction of new road networks:** Over the past three decades, the department has built new roads and upgraded existing infrastructure, covering more than 2000 kilometers. This has greatly enhanced connectivity and accessibility for residents, allowing them to access schools, hospitals, and business centers more easily.
- **Maintenance of existing roads:** In addition to building new roads, the department has prioritized the maintenance of existing infrastructure, currently maintaining over 8,500 kilometers of paved road networks. This includes rehabilitation, re-gravelling, and patching potholes to ensure road safety and longevity.
- **Bridge construction:** More than 3,800 vehicle and pedestrian bridges have been built to connect communities in rural areas, improving access to essential services and economic facilities.
- **Transformation of the transport industry:** The department has actively promoted the participation of black and women contractors in the transport sector, empowering them through various programs and initiatives. This has led to job creation and skills development, contributing to poverty alleviation.
- **Job creation initiatives:** Programs such as Sthesha Waya Waya and the Vukayibambe Routine Road Maintenance Programme have created employment opportunities for thousands of

young people, particularly in road maintenance. The Zibambele Maintenance Programme has also provided employment to more than 41,000 women-headed households.

- **Subsidized public transport:** The department has invested over R20 billion in subsidizing public transport operations, reducing costs for commuters and ensuring affordable access to transportation. This includes free transport for more than 79,000 learners daily and the distribution of bicycles to over 16,000 learners traveling long distances to school.
- **Regulatory oversight:** The department has issued more than 26,000 operating licenses and established five new Public Regulatory Entity Offices to ensure compliance and stability within the transport industry, particularly in taxi associations.

Overall, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport's efforts have significantly improved transportation infrastructure and services, positively impacting the lives of residents and contributing to socio-economic development in the province.



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON

In response to cases that have been struck off the court roll, the Department of Community Safety and Liaison has implemented a turnaround strategy through its Court Watching Brief (CWB) Unit. This unit, comprising six appointed officials, is tasked with monitoring criminal cases affected by administrative lapses. Their responsibilities include reviewing charge sheets, court records, and case dockets to familiarize themselves with case details. Additionally, they engage with Investigating Officers, Prosecutors, Court Clerks, Magistrates, and crime survivors to gather insights and ensure comprehensive oversight.

Furthermore, the Department's primary initiative aimed at job creation is the Social Crime Prevention Programme (VSCPP). This program has facilitated employment and training opportunities for over 5,142 young individuals, with an additional 1,279 volunteers currently serving as security specialists across all districts in the province. Additionally, the Department has successfully recruited 15 law graduates on two-year contracts, seven of whom are attached to private law firms, while the remaining eight are serving at the Office of the State Attorney. Moreover, the Department has onboarded 10 researchers, providing them with valuable work experience as part of their professional development.



DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS ARTS AND CULTURE

The sports, arts and culture sectors have played a crucial role in the creation of a democratic society and continue to be a significant cog in efforts to build the nation, achieve social cohesion as well as creating healthy, peaceful, and prosperous communities.

The potential of the sector as a driver of economic growth has taken center stage through the hosting of major sports and arts events. Some of these include the hosting of the Rugby World Cup matches in 1995 and the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Over the past 30 years, the democratic government has been at the center of driving the transformation agenda to ensure that children from disadvantaged communities are given equal opportunities to participate and perform at the highest level.

Some of the interventions include the revival of school sports, the provision of marketing opportunities for artists, talent identification, nurturing, and progression as well as the provision of infrastructure in previously disadvantaged areas.

Construction of public libraries with access to internet services, sports facilities, and arts centres has been prioritised in rural and township areas, with 11 libraries and 13 sports facilities delivered over the past five years. The construction of the iconic Moses Mabhida Stadium ahead of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup is one of the major achievements, with the venue becoming a remarkable landmark for Durban.

Venues in different townships have been upgraded to international standards, and now host weekly professional football matches for KZN teams playing in the Premiership division. The Department continues to provide opportunities for athletes and artists to showcase and progress their talent.



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The advent of democracy has brought about a renewed sense of community, accompanied by a set of new challenges. In response to these challenges, the Department of Social Development (DSD) has undertaken initiatives to empower youth and address issues such as drug and substance abuse.

Through programs like the Esicabazini Youth Development Academy (UMkhanyakude), Vuma Youth Development Academy (King Cetshwayo), and others, DSD has equipped 15,273 young individuals with skills necessary for sustainable livelihoods and integration into the mainstream economy. An investment of R195,226,000 has been made in these endeavors, reflecting the department's commitment to youth development.

Furthermore, recognizing the escalating issue of drug and substance abuse, DSD has enhanced its services by establishing five treatment centres offering inpatient services. Among these, three centres are managed directly by DSD, including Newlands Park Centre (eThekweni), Madadeni Rehabilitation Centre (Amajuba), and Khanyani Treatment Centre (Amajuba). Additionally, two treatment centres are operated by non-profit organizations (NPOs), namely Sitholimpilo Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Centre (Ugu) and the South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (eThekweni). Moreover, DSD funds 22 outpatient treatment centres owned by NPOs. The number of service users receiving treatment annually has increased to 3,319, underscoring the growing demand for such services. An investment of R520,800,000 has been allocated to support these programs.

Through these initiatives, DSD remains steadfast in its commitment to address the evolving needs of communities, ensuring that vulnerable individuals receive the necessary support to lead healthier, more fulfilling lives.



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Over the past 30 years of democracy, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education has been committed to improving education outcomes in alignment with the National Development Plan and Millennium Goals, with the aim of enhancing the capacity of our schools and children to compete internationally, as benchmarked by UNESCO. The department has achieved significant milestones, including:

Introduction of Information Communication Technology (ICT): A total of 260 schools across six districts have been selected to pilot Coding and Robotics programs, as announced by the President. This initiative aims to equip students with essential digital skills for the future.

Construction of schools to promote access to education: Several schools have been built to fulfill the principles enshrined in The Freedom Charter. Examples include Bhevu High School in the Uthukela District, which was constructed at a cost of R50.5 million.

Additionally, Bright Future Special School, catering to students with disabilities such as autism and communication issues, was built at a cost of R140 million and currently serves over 400 learners. Xoloxolo Primary School, a state-of-the-art smart school constructed by the department for R56 million, is another notable achievement.

Establishment of specialized academies: The Anton Lembede Mathematics, Sciences & Technology (MST) Academy stands as an institution of excellence in Maths, Science, and Technology. It focuses on leadership and innovation, providing students with specialized training and resources to excel in these fields.

These initiatives underscore the department's dedication to providing quality education and opportunities for all students, regardless of background or ability. By investing in infrastructure, technology, and specialized programs, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education is shaping a brighter future for the province's youth and ensuring they are prepared to succeed in an increasingly competitive global landscape.



PROVINCIAL TREASURY

The past 30 years of Democracy marked a crucial period for the KwaZulu-Natal Administration to assess existing shortcomings in financial governance and how the management of public finances directly impacts uninterrupted service delivery for communities.

During this time, the Provincial Government has identified significant skill deficits within the public sector concerning financial management and overall financial governance. This recognition has prompted the introduction of corrective and developmental programs aimed at addressing these gaps.

Initiatives such as the Provincial Operation Clean Audit, Chartered Accountancy Programme, and Provincial Operation Pay on Time are not only commemorative of the democratic dispensation but also strategic efforts to enhance financial governance and empower disadvantaged individuals to contribute positively to public service.

These programs underscore a concerted effort to strengthen financial accountability and transparency within the government. Moreover, there has been a concerted focus on improving financial sustainability, exemplified by the efforts to transition the Provincial Administration out of overdraft in 2009. Subsequent measures have ensured that the Provincial Administration maintains a positive cash position year after year, demonstrating a commitment to responsible fiscal management and long-term financial stability.



DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

The past three decades have marked a transformative journey for both the Local Sphere of Government and the Institution of Traditional Leadership. For far too long, many of our people lived as strangers in their own land, enduring indignities that extended even to our respected Traditional Leaders. However, over the past thirty years, concerted efforts have been made to restore the dignity of our people and our leaders.

One significant aspect of this journey has been the overhaul of the local government system, which saw the elimination of boroughs that predominantly served the interests of the minority. In their place, inclusive wall-to-wall local municipalities were established to ensure equitable service delivery across the board.

This transition required profound shifts in societal mindsets and was by no means a simple task. However, despite ongoing challenges, substantial progress has been made. Today, democratically elected municipal councils lead the charge in service delivery, consulting with and representing the communities they serve. Efforts are ongoing to develop small rural towns into economic hubs that benefit their communities.

In parallel, considerable strides have been made in supporting the institution of traditional leadership as catalysts for development, particularly in rural areas. Steps have been taken to restore Ubukhosi to traditional communities that were previously deprived of their leaders. Additionally, former tribal courts have been enhanced into Traditional Administrative Centres equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, empowering Traditional Leaders to effectively guide their communities. As we reflect on the journey of the past three decades, it is evident that while challenges remain, significant progress has been achieved in restoring dignity, promoting inclusivity, and advancing development at both the local and traditional levels of governance.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Over the last three decades of democracy, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Public Works has played a pivotal role in enhancing the quality of life for the province's residents through the construction of critical infrastructure projects.

Through large-scale development efforts and strategic investments, significant improvements have been made to the province's public services, agriculture, economic, health, and education infrastructure. The creation and execution of vital catalytic projects have facilitated increased connectivity and accessibility throughout the province, thereby fostering economic development and improving access to government services, healthcare facilities, agricultural resources, service centers, and educational institutions.

With the successful completion of over 10,000 projects, including the construction of government buildings, schools, clinics, hospitals, and sanitation infrastructure, the Department of Public Works has firmly established itself as the premier implementing agency in the province.

These endeavors underscore the pivotal role of government in shaping the infrastructure landscape and its profound impact on the well-being of the general public.

Furthermore, as the custodian of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), the Department of Public Works has been a key driver behind the province's leading poverty alleviation initiative and temporary employment program. Through the EPWP, over a million individuals have benefited, further demonstrating the department's commitment to uplifting communities and fostering socio-economic development across KwaZulu-Natal.



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENT

This year marks the significant milestone of the 30th anniversary of South Africa's first democratic elections. It presents us with a valuable opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the country's anti-apartheid movement and to spotlight the ongoing innovative efforts aimed at advancing democracy.

While we celebrate numerous achievements and success stories, it's essential to acknowledge that there are still communities enduring inhumane and undignified conditions. For some, the basic necessity of a proper roof over their heads remains unfulfilled, while others continue to face the harsh reality of hunger. Despite these challenges, our journey within the Human Settlements environment has seen progress, evolving from the initial 20-square meter dwellings to the current standard of 40-square meters.

In the face of such adversity, we remain resolute in our commitment to the core principle encapsulated in our Department's slogan: "Umntu uNgumuntu Ngekhaya" - a person is a person through other persons. This ethos underscores our unwavering dedication to uplifting and empowering every individual, ensuring that the dignity and well-being of all South Africans are upheld.

As we commemorate this significant anniversary, let us not only celebrate our past achievements but also recommit ourselves to the ongoing journey of building a more inclusive, equitable, and prosperous society for all. Together, let us strive to create a future where every person has access to the basic necessities of life, and where the values of democracy, dignity, and compassion guide our collective endeavors.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Remarkable progress has been made in addressing the triple threat challenge of poverty, unemployment, and inequality through the agricultural sector.

In response to the pressing issue of food insecurity, the Department has remained resolute in narrowing existing economic disparities through a range of interventions. These include initiatives such as Household Food Security programs, Township Agriculture projects, Livestock Genetic Improvement schemes, Seed Multiplication initiatives, the Mushroom Programme, and the implementation of Multi-planting Seasons.

In a groundbreaking development, 644 farmers have been granted permits for the cultivation, storage, and transportation of Hemp & Cannabis plants. This move is projected to unlock a significant value of at least R107 billion within the Province's local industry.

Recognizing the challenges hindering the progression of smallholder farmers to emerging and ultimately large commercial farming enterprises, the past three decades have witnessed the adoption of a holistic approach to support communities and small-scale farmers.

This approach has resulted in the establishment of successful businesses that alleviate unemployment burdens and provide sustainable incomes. Moreover, these ventures have been effectively connected to markets, ensuring their viability and longevity. Through persistent and collaborative efforts, rural communities are on the path to owning agricultural enterprises, thereby reclaiming economic control and prosperity.



This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is a small grey rectangular area in the top-left corner, which appears to be a shadow or a piece of tape. The rest of the page is white and contains no text or other markings.

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KWAZULU-NATAL
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
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