



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Media Statement

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THE KZN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WELCOMES THE BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FOR THE LEARNER TRANSPORT PROGRAMME

The Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal welcomes a budget adjustment of the Learner Transport Programme.

This adjustment follows the Learner Transport Programme budget cut to the tune of R193 441 000, which meant that the programme was not going to be able to continue beyond August 2023.

Following numerous meetings and persuasions between both the MECs for Education, Finance and the KZN Provincial Treasury, including both HoDs, the agreement was finally reached that an amount of R263 837 873 will be added to the Department of Education to ensure that the Learner Transport Programme continues for the 2023/2024 Financial Year.

“As a Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal, we are extremely relieved and happy that our learners who currently benefit from the Learner Transport Programme are not going to be affected, as it would have been the case had we not engaged KZN Provincial Treasury to alleviate the plight of the Learner Transport Programme,” said MEC Mbali Frazer.

“We want to thank Treasury for understanding the need, significance and urgency of this adjustment. This issue of Learner Transport budget cuts gave myself and the HOD sleepless nights because we knew that it had dire and unenviable consequences, not only to our learners, but to our spirited drive and commitment to provide quality and accessible education to our people,” asserted the MEC.

There are 74 000 learners from over 400 schools who are currently being transported to school through the dedicated Learner Transport Programme on a daily basis at no cost to the their parents and guardians.

The MEC said that despite the current fiscal situation in the country, the Department is going to continue to engage with all stakeholders to ensure that all deserving learners benefit from the programme.

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