

## **BUDGET VOTE OF THE OFFICE OF THE PREMIER DELIVERED BY THE HONOURABLE PREMIER MR SIHLE ZIKALALA PREMIER OF THE PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL 05 MAY 2022**

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Honourable Speaker;

Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Sanibonani! Good Day! Namaste! A Salaam Wailikum!

### **Approaching the end of three decades of our Freedom**

**Hon. Speaker**, we deliver this Budget Policy Speech for Vote 1, Office of the Premier, to this esteemed house after marking 28 years since South Africa entered democratic rule, and severed ties with the racist apartheid regime, setting our country firmly on the path to true non-racism, non-sexism and an equal and prosperous society. We commemorated Freedom Month under the theme of “*Consolidating Our Democratic Gains*”, in recognition of the giant steps we have taken, but also the road yet to be travelled. We commit to strive daily to honour the contributions and heroic sacrifices of those who laid the foundation on which we continue to build.

### **Marking End of the Holy Month of Ramadan**

Our Muslim compatriots have marked the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan and the beginning of the new season has particular significance for all the people of KwaZulu-Natal who are beginning a new journey of recovery, restoration and lasting peace in the aftermath of a season of storms, diseases, and floods that devastated the province of KwaZulu-Natal. We say Eid Mubarak to all our fellow citizens of the Islamic Faith.

### **Celebration of Founder of Ibandla LamaNazaretha**

On Monday, 02 May 2022, Ibandla lama Nazaretha commemorated its founder, Inkosi Isaiah Shembe who founded the Church more than a century ago, in 1910. We cherish the rich spiritual heritage of the Shembe Church and take immense pride in it as the people of KwaZulu-Natal and South Africa.

## **After the devastating floods: Recovery and Resilience**

**Hon. Members**, we stand here still reeling from an extraordinary act of nature that has produced the most catastrophic human tragedy in the history of our province and country. We are still nursing our wounds, recovering from the tragic loss of life and human suffering on a massive scale. The Provincial Government and the people of KwaZulu-Natal pay tribute to South Africans from all walks of life, political parties, civil society, and the international community for standing with our province during South Africa's worst floods in recent history.

As of today, more than 435 people lost their lives, about 63 people are reported to be still missing, over 6000 people were left homeless, over 630 schools were affected, and over 100 of which were inaccessible. While the floods had a disproportionate and more severe impact on the poorest of the poor in our province, it was indiscriminate – it brought misery to all, black and white, rich and poor, urban and rural, young and old.

## **Dedicating May Day to Support Flood Victims**

We once again convey our deepest sympathies to the families who lost their loved ones and we pray that those who are yet to locate their family members will ultimately find closure as search and rescue efforts continue.

Together with our social partners we have been hard at work healing the wounds and providing support to the bereaved and affected families ensuring that they bury their loved ones with dignity.

**Honourable Speaker**, we applaud the decision by COSATU to use International Workers' Day or May Day to contribute towards flood relief efforts in KwaZulu-Natal and donated R500 000, worth of goods to help, the flood victims. Indeed, COSATU has lived up to its founding motto that an "injury to one, is an injury to all". We have no doubt that as we continue with the rebuilding of KwaZulu-Natal and assisting survivors, many more individuals, businesses, organisations, unions and labour federations will offer a helping hand.

Allow us also to acknowledge among others, the help our province has received from the Motsepe Family Foundation, AVBOB, Gift of the Givers, ABSA, Rivers Church, Hillgrove Hindu Temple, Revival and Mission Centre, the Catholic Church, the Salvation Army and the Covenant Fellowship Church International. We note with gratitude that the Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation also donated R1million to the Solidarity Fund towards flood relief efforts.

Hon Speaker, in the coming days various MECs and departments will expand in detail about specific plans to respond and recover from what is the worst natural disaster in our country's living memory. Guided by the three-phase intervention approach which was announced by His Excellency President Ramaphosa, the focus will be on:

- (i) Continuing with immediate humanitarian relief.
- (ii) Recovery, Rehousing people and Restoration of services.
- (iii) Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of the province.

We can confirm that commendable work in the execution of all these pillars is forging ahead as you will hear from the presentations from other departments. The Office of The Premier will continue to update the nation and this Legislature on progress being made.

### **The Zulu Royal Family Remains our Lodestar**

**Honourable Speaker**, while we waded through the valley of sadness in our province, the leadership of His Majesty, King Misuzulu ka Zwelithini continues to comfort and inspire us. There can be no doubt that the sun has risen. Given the magnitude of the flood disaster and the Royal family losing no less than five family members, ISilo decided to postpone His coronation to give full attention to the disaster. Our King did not only console his people in distress but has been leading from the front in mobilising resources to meet the needs of our deprived communities. Sithi Bayede! Wena weNdlovu!

### **Epoch Changing Developments in our Province**

We deliver this address still fully aware of the epoch-changing developments in our province which are the Covid-19 outbreak, the floods, and the passing of His Majesty King Goodwill and Regent Queen Mantfombi Dlamini-Zulu in the same year. In the coming days we will join the Royal Family as we commemorate the passing of our Queen Regent. The Provincial Government will support the Royal Family as we remember Her Majesty and pray for the healing of our nation following the pain we are going through as a province. Last year, the province also underwent another baptism of fire when we suffered the July civil unrest. These setbacks must be recorded as defining moments in the history of our province after which KwaZulu-Natal can never remain the same.

We again wish to convey our deepest sympathies to the Royal family on the passing of Princess Thembi Zulu-Ndlovu, sister to the late Umdlokombane, uBhejane uPhuma esiqiwini. Kunina nonke bo Phunga no Mageba nemindeni yonke elahlekelwe, sithi lalani ngenxeba, kwangathi umdali unganibopha amanxeba, aniqinise, aniduduze.

As a resilient and resourceful people, we refuse to let the flood catastrophe thwart our efforts towards economic recovery and transformation in the midst of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic. We commend the decision by His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa and his Cabinet to accede to our request to declare this a national disaster after it was initially classified as a Provincial State of Disaster. The reclassification provides for more resources for rebuilding initiatives and enables all three spheres of government to work together through the District Development Model to accelerate the recovery and rebuilding of KwaZulu-Natal and fast-track relief efforts.

The coronavirus nearly decimated economies globally as it forced unprecedented closure of normal business and trade. We continue to monitor the trajectory of the disease and the reported upsurge in Covid-19 cases. We emerge from these and the July unrest more determined, aware that to attain a new and better KwaZulu-Natal for all, we must work even harder to achieve our goal of a truly free society.

### **Addressing the unemployment and the economy**

Through our Economic Reconstruction and Transformation Plan, we seek to restore growth to pre-Covid-19 levels, and to create jobs as we totally transform our society.

To achieve these goals, we are cognisant that it will take every sector and member of our community through deliberate social compacts with our social partners, to drive collaboration with government at local, provincial and national level towards the single objective of rebuilding KwaZulu-Natal.

We are not fazed by our setbacks and disasters. We remain committed to the theme of “*Turning the corner in KwaZulu-Natal: Building on our Resilience, Forging Lasting Peace, Creating Job Opportunities and Ushering in Sustainable Growth*” which we announced on 24 February 2024 during the State of the Province Address.

In this regard, we can report that KwaZulu-Natal continues to lead in the implementation of the Expanded Public Works Programme with the Sixth Administration to date having created 446 283 work opportunities against a 5-year target of 643 268 work opportunities to be created by 2024. In the current financial year, the province created 137 337 Work Opportunities against a target of 128 699 and for the next two years, the province will increase our EPWP targets to 300 000 beneficiaries with the aim to respond to the increased urgency of job creation.

Even as we make this remarkable progress, according to the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey by Statistics South Africa, the unemployment rate currently stands at 35.3 per cent. We ascribe this primarily to the structure of our economy which lacks industrial capacity, high input costs, embedded corporate corruption, failure of companies to reinvest, lack of sustainable energy generation, the instability created by criminal activities of some business forums, and later, the lockdown due to Covid-19. Instead of allowing the floods to exacerbate our challenges, we must use the tragedy wisely to advance inclusive growth, transformation, and economic redistribution.

As a defining feature of the challenging economic times in which we live, our budget as OTP will however still decline from R 802,240 million last year, to R767,551million for this financial year.

### **Key tasks facing the 6<sup>th</sup> Administration**

**Hon. Speaker**, it is time for the people of KwaZulu-Natal to rise again to become the architects of peace, security and prosperity by focusing together with government on the following priorities:

- Economic Recovery and Creating Jobs.
- Improving Access to Water and Sanitation.
- Fighting Crime and Building Safer Communities.
- Social Protection and Human Development.
- Building the Capacity of the State.
- Building a Better Africa and a Better World.

### **Rebuilding the KwaZulu-Natal Economy**

KZN is forging ahead with the implementation of the Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan to accelerate economic recovery and to speed up social and economic change. This plan prioritises Agriculture, Industrial Development; Health Innovation and Manufacturing; Clothing and Textiles; Creative Industries; Informal sector; Investment and Trade; Infrastructure Development; Tourism, Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR); ICT and Innovation and Finance.

We are pleased among others, by the recent launch by His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa of the **Eastern Seaboard Development** project which is in line with the vision of Spatial Transformation and inclusion, and involves groundbreaking collaboration with the Eastern Cape province, National government and three district municipalities to reimagine our coastal and inland settlement areas into the country's first greenfield African Smart city.

The provincial government will work with national entities in the roads, ports, roads and aviation sectors to invest in infrastructure development. Investment in this infrastructure is important for the creation of jobs, but also as key economic enablers to drive investment into our province. While major projects on national corridors such as the N2 and N3 will ease trade and doing business, the Office of The Premier is pleased that the completion of Welisizwe bridges will dramatically change lives enabling communities to cross in safety to access important services even when there are floods and storms.

### **Supporting Black Enterprise Development**

**Hon. Speaker** to foster radical socio-economic transformation (RET), our province has **adopted the Black Industrialist Programme and rolled out Operation Vula as an overarching policy intervention in support** of our SMMEs. The Radical Agrarian and Socio-Economic Transformation (RASET) initiative remains a far-reaching programme that seeks to transform the structure of the agricultural value chains. Through **RASET** we are transforming the agricultural sector and bringing black farmers into the value-adding segments of the agriculture sector.

The introduction of the **KZN Youth Fund has** enabled young people to play a meaningful role in the economy of the province. We also seek to address the skewed ownership in the **property sector** with radical plans to provide financial backing for African entrants and current players.

### **Enhancing Energy Generation Capacity**

**Hon Speaker**, one area that has been hindering our economic prospects is persistent energy shortage resulting in load-shedding. We are taking various steps to ensure energy security. One of these is the launch of a feasibility study on Green Hydrogen Electricity and using the abundance of sugarcane to drive our competitiveness as leader in biofuel and ethanol for blended energy solutions. This is critical considering the escalation of fossil prices and a demand for low carbon sources of energy. We are pleased that Transnet has already issued the first call for Expression of Interest for companies to generate gas in Richards Bay. A few projects should be explored as the initial agreement was to host 2000 Gas Megawatts in Richards Bay.

We are proceeding with our province-wide **Digital Transformation Strategy** that will see the scaling up of development and the deployment of KZN Broadband, Fourth Industrial Revolution services and related ICT services to help us build a Smart Province.

### **Fighting Against Social Ills, Addressing the plight of Farm Workers and Dwellers**

**Hon Speaker**, the Office of The Premier remains focused on turning the tide against the shameful scourge of Gender- Based Violence and Femicide. We will at the same time support all organic initiatives by communities themselves to stand up against GBV and Femicide, and to implement the 365-Day GBV and Femicide Strategy. In this regard, we also wish to convey our deepest sympathies to Adv. Godrich Gardee's family for losing their 28-year-old daughter, Hillary Gardee, in what looks like another case of violence perpetrated against women.

In the year ahead, we will continue to address tensions on our farms, strive for peace and a return to dignity for farm workers and tenants who are still subjected to appalling living conditions and abuse. At the same time, we will act decisively to end the killing of farmers which has the potential to destabilise our food security and cause social discord.

### **Social Cohesion and Nation Building**

**Hon Speaker**, the murder of people in Phoenix and other areas of KwaZulu-Natal is a stain on the road we travelled towards racial tolerance since 1994. We are determined to use this unfortunate development to build even stronger communities across racial and class boundaries of our cities and rural areas. Our healing campaigns will focus on repairing relations between Indians and Africans but if we are to find true redemption and peace, we must also create bridges between Africans and White people, Africans and Coloureds, and between locals and foreign nationals.

The fight against violence and crime will intensify as we strengthen the implementation of the Provincial Social Cohesion and Moral Regeneration Programme with practical projects promoting Ubuntu to address racial intolerance, Afrophobia, and all social ills. This programme will be complemented by multi-stakeholder outreach seeking to resuscitate community leadership to take charge of the promotion of peace, safety and cultural development in their respective areas.

### **The Budget Vote 1 of 2022/23**

**Honourable Speaker** departmental Budget Votes are meant to respond concretely to the commitments made during the State of the Province Address. Budgetary allocations must reflect the priorities identified during SOPA and mirror our commitment to a stronger, transformed and inclusive province for all.

The OTP is responsible for the transversal functioning of government by coordinating, monitoring and evaluating our provincial delivery programme. We take the cue from the National Development Plan 2030, the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy and Plan (PGDS/P) and the MTSF Implementation Plan which customizes the NDP to our local conditions.

## **Programmes**

**Hon Speaker**, the programme structure of the Office of the Premier is as follows:

- **Administration**
- **Institutional Development**
- **Policy and Governance**

**The key** strategic interventions driven by OTP include the following:

- The **Siyahlola programme** involves unannounced visits to service delivery centres and provides feedback to communities on progress and development initiatives;
- The **Poverty Eradication Master Plan (PEMP)** targets poor households in the poorest wards and supports the coordination of game-changing interventions in the Poverty Master Plan;
- **Through the Inkululeko Development programme** government moves as one into an area, engages local stakeholders and capacitates them to take over once the project is delivered;
- The **Provincial Implementation Plan (PIP) 2017-2022 on HIV and AIDS, TB and STIs** which is driven through the Provincial Council on HIV and AIDS (PCA) is responsible for coordinating the multi-sectoral HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Tuberculosis (TB) response in the province;
- **The Provincial Communication Strategy** which enhances the reputation and recognition of the province improves stakeholder relations and the sharing of technical and financial resources across all spheres of communication;
- Strategies **supporting vulnerable groups such as women, people with disability, the elderly, children and LGBTQI+ with the Democracy Support**. This includes fighting gender-based violence, another pandemic in KZN;
- The provincial **Human Resource Development Strategy (HRD)** which aims to develop the capacity of citizens to unlock their economic potential and the utilisation of all available human capital;



- The **Youth Development Strategy** which fosters the economic participation of youth in the mainstream economy. This is done through employment or business opportunities, skills development and offering second chances for **matriculants to rewrite**;
- **The Provincial Stakeholder Coordination Strategy and Provincial International Relations and the Social Cohesion and Moral Regeneration Strategy**;
- Implementing the **Digital Transformation Strategy** which guides KZN's digital transformation and draws citizens into the new world of technology and the 4th Industrial Revolution, e-learning and the digitisation of government services.

### **The District Development Model and Operation Sukuma Sakhe - Siyalandelela**

The Sixth Administration has introduced the District Development Plan (DDM) which seeks to improve the performance of local government by bringing the capabilities and resources of all three spheres of government.

To reaffirm Vision 2030 of KwaZulu-Natal, the Mission Statement was revised and encapsulated to drive a KwaZulu-Natal that strived to be a Province that:

- Maximises its position as a gateway to South and Southern Africa;
- Radically transforms its socio-economic landscape, eradicates abject poverty, inequality, unemployment and the burden of disease;
- Delivers an environment where people have healthy and sustainable options on where and how to live, work and play.

### **PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION (R 193,426 million)**

**Hon. Speaker**, as we indicated, the total budget for the Office of the Premier for the 2022/23 financial year is **R767,551 million**.

At the head is Programme 1 which provides administrative support to the Premier, Executive Council and the Director-General in promoting cooperative governance and ensuring sound financial management, support and advisory services within the Office of The Premier.

There are five sub-programmes supporting this programme, namely: **Premier Support, Executive Council Support, Director-General Support, Financial Management and Inter-Governmental Relations**.

**The sub-programme: Premier Support has been allocated a budget of R 31,024 million.**

**Executive Council Support has been allocated a budget of R 9,325 million.**

**The sub-programme: Director-General Support has been allocated a budget of R 21,815 million.**

These provide support to the Premier, the Director-General and the Provincial Executive Council.

**The Financial Management sub-programme has been allocated a budget of R 109,772 million** to provide sound financial management support and advisory services as well as auxiliary services for the entire department. **The Inter-Governmental Relations (IGR) sub-programme has been allocated a budget of R 21,490 million** to strengthen IGR in the province through collaboration and integrated planning for improved service delivery.

Provincial inter-governmental relations were strengthened through the integration of IGR structures and the closer collaboration with the Department of International Relations and Co-operation (DIRCO), embassies and consulates represented abroad. Currently, the province has twinning agreements with several provinces in the world such as the following:

- **Maryland Twinning Agreement;**
- **Fujian Twinning Agreement;**
- **Review of Kinshasa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo) Twinning Agreement;**

The province maintains very close relations with all the Embassies and Consular offices with a view to building relations with the rest of the world as a basis for trade and investment. Recently the Provincial Executive Council approved the International Relations and Official Development Assistance (ODA) Strategy which will contribute to enhanced understanding of KZN's international relations.

## **PROGRAMME 2: INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (R 398,490 million)**

Institutional Development is allocated **R 398,490 million**. The purpose of this programme is to improve service delivery through institutional capacity building and pursuing the transformation agenda in the province. This programme comprises the following sub-programmes: **Strategic Human Resources, Legal Services, Information Communications Technology, Communication Services, Special Programmes, Forensic Investigations and Integrity Management.**

### **Sub-Programme: Strategic Human Resources (R 103,873 million)**

The Strategic Human Resource Management function is to co-ordinate and monitor the customisation, development and implementation of human resource policies, systems, programmes and plans for the Province of KwaZulu-Natal. The Employee Health and Wellness unit was at the centre of coordinating provincial interface as we confronted the scourge of coronavirus as part of the Employee Health and

Wellness Strategy, which was approved by the Executive Council in February 2021. The sub-programme is allocated **R 103,873 million**.

**Sub-Programme: Information Communication Technology (ICT) (R 88,097 million)**

The advent of the coronavirus has forced the government to come up with new and unique interventions in order to enable continued communication with the citizens and stakeholders. This was made possible largely through the Digital Transformation and IT Service Improvement as part of the Recovery Plan working with Microsoft.

OTP supports the development of digitisation in the province and will be implementing this partnership based on the following foundational pillars:

- **Platforms and Systems Investment Consolidation;**
- **Capacity Development Partnership;**
- **One Smart Provincial Platform - “Open Development Platform”.**

In addition to repositioning the Nerve Centre as well as implementing the KZN Digital Transformation Strategy, the Office of The Premier launched the following systems:

Migration to a capable Cloud with Artificial Intelligence, Business Intelligence, Internet of Things (4IR Capable);

- Automation of e-Leave, e-Submission, e-Submission Compliance, DG Tracking, War room app and Bursary Management;
- Implementation of Phase 2 of the Premier Hotline;
- E-Submissions;
- Digital Skills.

In 2022, the Office of The Premier will review the Government-Wide Enterprise Architecture (GWEA) strategy to expedite the automation of departmental systems including initiatives such as the E-Leave system, E-submission, the War Room functionality tool and Digital Skills. **Information Communication Technology (ICT) is allocated (R 88,097 million)**

**Sub-Programme: Legal Services (R12, 371 million)**

The sub-programme of Legal Services is allocated **R12, 371 million**. It coordinates the continuous review and

amendment of legislation to give effect to changing circumstances and to correctly reflect shifts in or fine-tuning of policies.

### **Sub-Programme: Communication Services (R 73,053 million)**

Communication Services has been allocated a budget of **R73, 053 million**. Communication is responsible for sustaining and enhancing the three principal elements of governance responsiveness, effectiveness and accountability. It assists in the creation of an empowered citizenry by providing a timely two-way communication channel between the government and the citizens it serves.

The programme was at the forefront of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic by providing timeous, health and safety information to the people of KwaZulu-Natal. It supported government's response to the unprecedented civil unrest in South African History – the July unrest and intensified communication efforts in rebuilding the image of the KZN province. It continues to play a pivotal role in updating the people of KwaZulu-Natal on the state of national disaster brought up by the floods. An informed and empowered public remains key to obtaining a responsive and accountable government. In the year ahead, capacity-building programmes for government communicators at the provincial and district levels will be prioritized while rolling out the Provincial Communication Strategy.

### **Sub-Programme: Special Programmes (R 85,926 million)**

**Hon Speaker**, Special Programmes are allocated a budget totaling **R85, 926-million**. Under Special Programmes we can report that the human rights awareness programme was rolled out in 80 per cent of the district and local municipalities including Amajuba, uThukela, uMzinyathi, Ugu, eThekweni, iLembe, King Cetshwayo, uMkhanyakude, and Zululand. Capacity-building or awareness sessions were successfully coordinated in these districts. Community dialogues and inter-generational programmes were implemented in the province. The disability access audit was successfully implemented in five district municipalities.

The **Centenarian programme** was realized in six districts. The coordination of the programme through Operation Sukuma Sakhe (OSS) yielded more results where the MEC champions honoured the centenarians in various districts. Awareness programmes on abuse and rights were undertaken in nine districts, with a special focus on **abduction and killing of people with albinism, older persons with Alzheimer/Dementia** who are falsely accused of practicing witchcraft, parents of children with disabilities, human rights violations of the farming communities, and sexual assault cases on disabled children and older persons.

The sub-programme partnered with the National Department of Social Development in implementing the **Golden Games for older persons** in the Amajuba District. The commemoration of significant calendar dates continued, such as the International Day for People with Disabilities in the King Cetshwayo District and the International Day for Senior Citizens in the Zululand District. These events were held virtually, but with a limited number of people attending physically.

The **KZN Youth Empowerment Fund** was established in 2018/19 to support youth businesses. The second tranche of R50 million was allocated, originally in 2020/21, but suspended to 2021/22 due to the impact of the national lockdown. The total number of applications received is 3 675 and the team is currently screening the process based on the requirements. Apart from the initial budget of R50 million provided by the Office of the Premier, a further R20 million was committed from EDTEA. In the 2022 SOPA, we announced that we are increasing the value of the KZN Youth Empowerment Fund commitment from the initial R50 million in 2019 to R100 million in 2022.

#### **Sub-Programme: Forensic Investigations and Integrity Management (R 35,170 million)**

The Forensic Investigations and Integrity Management sub-programme is responsible for undertaking Forensic Investigation Services as well as Integrity Management Services for all departments. As you are aware, on 1 August 2020, the Forensic Investigation Services unit was transferred to the Office of the Premier from Provincial Treasury and placed in the Institutional Development and Integrity Management Branch. The unit completed fifteen (15) investigations and conducted twenty-eight (28) follow-ups to track the status of implementation of recommendations arising from forensic investigation reports.

Through the forensic audit unit, OTP has intensified the fight against fraud and corruption and undertook the following initiatives during the year, among others:

- Worked closely with the Anti-Corruption Task Team (ACTT), National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), South African Police Services (SAPS), Fusion Centre, Specialised Commercial Crime Unit (SCCU) and Asset Forfeiture Unit to assist criminal investigations and prosecution of the top priority cases in the province.
- OTP continues to monitor the implementation by Accounting Officers of recommendations contained in forensic reports.

More attention will be paid to dealing with fraud, corruption, irregularities and maladministration occurring in municipalities and state-owned entities in the province.

In the current financial year, the sub-programme is allocated **R 35,170 million**.

### **PROGRAMME 3: POLICY AND GOVERNANCE (R 175,635 million)**

The purpose of the Policy and Governance programme is to initiate the province-wide development and implementation of strategies and policies to achieve a coordinated approach towards sustainable provincial growth and development. It is allocated **R 175, 635-million**.

Three sub-programmes support this programme, namely: **Provincial Policy Management, Premier's Priority Programmes and Royal Household**.

#### **Sub-Programme: Provincial Policy Management (R 36,974 million)**

The purpose of this sub-programme is to initiate, facilitate, provide support to, coordinate implementation of, as well as monitor and evaluate provincial policies and plans to ensure sustainable provincial growth and development. The functions of the PPC (Provincial Planning Commission) are similar to those of the National Planning Commission (NPC) which is to advise and make recommendations to the Premier and the Provincial Executive on a long-term strategic development perspective and vision of the province.

The Executive Council adopted the KZN Medium Term Strategic Framework Implementation Plan for 2021-22, as amended through Cluster contributions and COVID-19 Recovery Plans for each cluster.

The Provincial Growth and Development Strategy remains our compass to achieving inclusive growth, through our KZN Vision 2030. Working with the Provincial Planning Commission (PPC), we will continue to monitor and facilitate alignment of provincial plans, policies and policy implementation instruments to the national and provincial priorities. The PPC will continue to monitor implementation strategies, plans and projects, and will guide the revisions to the Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF) in partnership with COGTA.

#### **Sub-Programme: Premier's Priority Programmes (R 71,345 million)**

The Premier's Priority Programmes is allocated **R71, 345-million**. This sub-programme includes Operation Sukuma Sakhe (OSS) our ward-based programme to mobilise government and non-governmental resources to address social problems afflicting various households, vulnerable groups and communities. We are in the process of integrating OSS with the District Development Model (DDM). We can report on a revitalized strategy including the OSS Handbook, OSS Strategy, capacity and Covid-19 Safety Plan of OSS war-rooms.

In addition, standardisation and re-orientation of the field workers stationed in all OSS war rooms are being revised and aligned to the new OSS/DDM approach.

OTP will continue to monitor the functionality of the OSS war rooms in the 870 wards in the province. The department will focus on the vigorous implementation of the revitalised OSS which seeks to inculcate administrative responsibility and accountability, immediate resource coordination and allocation, as well as programmatic alignment to the DDM.

**Hon Speaker**, through the **Inkululeko Development Project**, OTP is leading the implementation of integrated multi-purpose and multi-sectoral development projects in strategic nodes of Ndumo. This rural development strategy is targeted towards the improvement in the quality of education, health, sustainable livelihoods, job creation, and quality of life, as well as facilitating the creation of dignified communities. It further aims to deliver safe, secure, high-quality service delivery. The focus for 2022/23 will be to ensure that projects that are not complete are being successfully implemented.

#### **Sub-Programme: Royal Household (R 67,316 million)**

**Hon Speaker**, the Office of the Premier is responsible for the Royal Household Trust and will provide the necessary support to His Majesty. The King's activities include the hosting of annual traditional and cultural events to preserve and restore Zulu culture, as well as heritage events such as the King's Prayer days and other cultural events.

In 2022/23 the King will partake in various important ceremonies and traditional functions of the province. We were honoured by His Majesty's presence during the State of the Province Address. We look forward to His Majesty's opening of the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders, and hosting various annual traditional events, the King Dinuzulu Prayer Day, the Royal Reed Dance, the First Fruits ceremony (Umkhosi Woselwa), Amaganu ceremonies, Umkhosi weSivivane, Ukukhonza (Homage) by the Makhanya Clan. The King will also perform His role of installing Amakhosi statutorily and in terms of traditional customs.

The OTP is forging ahead with major maintenance projects which include the erection of new security fences and providing adequate security at all Royal Palaces.

One of the most important projects is the support to the Zulu Royal Household Trust (ZRHT) as we explore revenue generation strategies with a view to supporting greater financial independence in the near future. As such, the ZRHT is in the process of appointing a service provider to conduct a feasibility study to identify

viable farming options that the entity should focus on. In line with its fundraising and revenue generation strategy, several quick-win projects are planned, including the acquisition of retail outlets. Through the ZRHT, OTP will continue to provide for the Queens' well-being and other Royal Family expenses while supporting the drive towards financial self-sustainability.

In the current financial year, an amount of **R 67,316 million** is budgeted for the Royal Household programme.

### **Revenue (R 1,462 million)**

**Hon. Speaker** finally, our Revenue which mainly comprises revenue from commission on PERSAL deductions such as insurance premiums and garnishee orders and tender fees, is budgeted at R1.462 million.

### **Building a Capable, Ethical, Developmental State**

**Hon. Speaker**, this budget, and indeed those of other departments, support our approach of a developmental state that intervenes decisively in sectors of our economy and society to effect fundamental socio-economic transformation while mobilizing society behind key developmental objectives.

For the state to play this leading role, it must be adequately capacitated financially and in terms of human resources. Even more importantly, this must be driven by an ethical, committed and appropriately skilled army of public servants who are constantly innovating, and learning better and more effective ways of changing the lives of the people of KwaZulu-Natal.

This exercise of budgeting is not only merely to allocate the resources for government programmes but is to build a culture of monitoring and evaluation which ensures every cent is used properly and responsibly. As we lead in fighting underdevelopment, poverty, inequality and unemployment and violence directed at women, public servants should subject themselves to constant learning and be driven not by self-interest, but by the dedication to service for the good of all. Such public servants must themselves be model and upstanding citizens who are free from the temptations of corruption, and who are prepared to roll up their sleeves and dirty their hands leading campaigns for the repair of streetlights, fixing potholes, the payment for municipal services and keeping our cities, townships and villages clean, and free of crime and grime.

### **Conclusion**



In this regard, may I take this opportunity to thank the Director-General Dr Nonhlanhla Mkhize, Advisors to the Premier, and the staff of the Office of The Premier for their continuous commitment and dedication.

A word of appreciation also goes to Members of the Executive Council and all Members of this Legislature for your support, guidance, constructive criticism, and above all, for putting the interests of the people of KwaZulu-Natal ahead of narrow, short-term sectional interests. Let us together continue to serve selflessly and to grow KwaZulu-Natal for a better life for all.

The recent storms and floods provide a unique opportunity for all of us to make ubuntu, human solidarity, and collaboration the new spirit and culture of our province. Let us seize the day as the province and unite behind the goal of building safer, dignified, and prosperous communities that are more adaptable and resilient to future storms and natural disasters.

**Hon. Speaker**, I hereby formally table before this august house, **Vote 1 Office of the Premier with a budget of R 767,551 million** for the 2022/2023 financial year.

I thank you!