



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
TRANSPORT



POLICY SPEECH

2021



2022

Policy Speech 2021/22

Madam Speaker,

Deputy Speaker,

Honourable Premier,

Colleagues in the Executive Council,

Honourable Members,

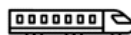
Senior Managers of the provincial government,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon,

Allow me to appreciate the opportunity I have been afforded to continue to be of service to the people of the province and in so doing, present to this august house our plan to improve the quality of life for all Eastern Cape people from rural to urban areas. In so doing, make our contribution to increase the productivity and competitiveness of Eastern Cape communities and businesses.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is no secret that government's investment on transport systems goes beyond the transport sector and enables us to Build the Eastern Cape We Want. This assertion has further been confirmed through the National Household Travel Survey (NHTS) released by Stats SA recently. The report revealed that South Africans take an average of 45 million trips, mostly by foot to access their workplaces, educational institutions and other social amenities.



This report not only re-affirms the importance of the transport sector in the broader development of our Province and a country, it also indicates that as a sector we have a lot of work ahead of us.

Safe, reliable and affordable transport boosts the movement of people and enables an efficient supply chain thereby fuelling economic growth. It allows for ease of travel, wider access to health care, and faster response during emergencies.

For us to improve safety, increase economic growth and enhance quality of life, we are focused on rebuilding and refurbishing our transport infrastructure.

This administration is committed to do even more, because while we have registered many successes, it is also important to note that we also face significant challenges.

Amongst those, is the under-investment in transport which has led to a plethora of challenges in the transport system. Currently, the provincial transport infrastructure backlog is estimated at R 64 billion for both paved and unpaved roads.

We face complex decisions to make, we know that the philosophy of preserving an asset is through investment on the existing assets, meaning we should be focusing on maintenance of our infrastructure instead of building new ones. Delays in the implementation of current projects due to various issues including administrative



issues between the department and its partners further exacerbates the matter.

Secondly, far too many fatalities and injuries continue to occur on our roads and pedestrian deaths are on the rise. We are beginning though in a smaller scale to explore the use of Transport Intelligent Systems to improve safety on our roads. We would like to ensure that all people using our roads make it home safely.

Building on the work done in the previous financial years, the department will in the coming months, use its allocation of **R5,1 billion** to take steps to build our capacity, deliver on transport infrastructure, improve operating systems, ensure the enforcement of regulations and implement community development programmes.

Administration

Honourable Members, if there is one lesson we have to take from the era we have been leaving with a pandemic is to innovate, be agile and adapt. Failure to do so will render us not only ineffective but will make us extinct.

With this in mind and with a view to not only remain relevant but improve our service offering to stakeholders – we will in the next coming months launch an Electronic Document Management System that will assist the department in its digitisation process as we move towards digital transformation.



We pride ourselves for being the first in the provincial government to take the plunge and implement e-recruitment enabled by systems developed through the Office of the Premier. The process has moved swiftly and we are beginning to perfect it.

On the **Training and development** space, **Honourable Speaker**, in the midst of the challenges in the higher education sector, we have been able to support 95 young people through our bursary scheme. They are pursuing studies in the transport sector.

Plans to establish a Provincial Traffic College are also beginning to take shape. The Road Traffic Management Corporation has given the identified building, in Chris Hani, a thumbs up. Recently. We identified and trained 25 of our traffic officers as facilitators and assessors. Training for **nine** moderators has also been implemented. We now patiently await the last step which includes the accreditation of all training programmes by SASSETA which is a line function SETA for Traffic Training.

Madam Speaker, President Cyril Ramaphosa has been consistent with his message around Covid-19, this includes his call on us to look at the “silver lining” that the crisis has brought unto us. For the department, the restrictions that were brought on by the pandemic forced us to innovate and adapt. In addition to implementing advocacy programmes in support of rights of the vulnerable groups in our society, we used the resources allocated to implement legacy projects

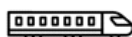


which benefitted Youth, Women and People living with disabilities.

About 215 young people are beneficiaries of a variety of projects including **Carwash, Tyre Repair, Upholstery** and Learner Driver projects which we supported. The R1,6 million projects (in total) are implemented across the province with each district having received support for the carwash while the Tyre Repair Center and the Upholstery projects are implemented in O.R. Tambo (Mthatha) and Amathole (Stutterheim).

The learner driver project benefitted students at Ikhala TVET in Aliwal North and Ezibeleni, Ingwe TVET in Mt. Frere, PE College in Gqeberha (formerly known as Port Elizabeth), East Cape Midlands TVET in Makana, Buffalo City Metro Municipality TVET in East London and King Hintsa TVET in the O.R. Tambo. We are creating a pool of future drivers who will not only be concerned about moving a vehicle forward but who will be alert and apply all road safety principles on the road. In the same breath, we want our young people to get out of these institutions with valuable skills that can assist them as they seek economic opportunities.

In addition to this, we have contracted 20 women as part of our support to the management of Covid-19. They assist with disinfecting taxi-ranks in Chris Hani, O.R. Tambo, Nelson Mandela Bay and Buffalo City Metros. We also distributed learner support material to promote road safety to 600 learners as part of the Back to School Campaign.



These reached learners in Lingeletu High, Archie Velile High, Guata Primary, Mthethuvumile Senior Secondary School, Vusukhanyo Senior Primary, Horizon Primary and Thembelihle Senior Secondary Schools.

Honourable Members, we recognise that this is a drop in the ocean compared to the magnitude of work that government in general and the department in particular must do to address the imbalances that continue to wreak havoc in our society.

We will soon be launching a mobility project for people leaving with disabilities and 50 wheelchairs customised for the needs of the specific users will be handed over in Joe Gqabi.

Going forward, we will implement other developmental projects aimed at empowering vulnerable groups and creating sustainable lives through transport sector interventions.

Transport Infrastructure

Madam Speaker, we recognise the role infrastructure investment plays in economic development and job creation, especially at the time when Covid-19 has set the country back on its employment creation targets putting many of our people in distress.

As we work to recover and emerge from this devastating pandemic stronger than before, it is time to make lasting investments in our provincial transport infrastructure, creating an opportunity for further development. It is our



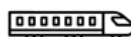
commitment to not just build infrastructure but to preserve livelihoods.

As such, our budget of R2, 3 billion on transport infrastructure will be allocated to ensure that we deliver and maintain transport infrastructure that is sustainable, integrated and environmentally sensitive.

Work is underway for the construction of various sections of our provincial roads and progress has been registered on the following:

- The R296, 3 million T125 N2 Siphethu which constitutes 14km is now at 12 percent, which is the last section of construction;
- 47 percent of the work has been completed on Phase 2 of the Willowvale to Dwesa road which ends at Msengeni Junction. The project valued at R280, 4 million includes the upgrade from gravel to surface and construction of two bridges;
- Phase 1 of the R205, 2 million Hluleka Nature Reserve project is currently at 53 percent;
- Site has been established for the construction of 12 km of Mlamli Hospital Road project that will cost R225,9 million;
- SLA with Enoch Mgijima – Phase 4 which is DR12733 Thornhill and Tsolwana Reserve (12km).

We will also roll-out new construction projects and administrative processes leading to the resumption of work on various sections of our road network are at various stages.



These include,

- The last 10 km of the Centane to Qholorha;
- Phase 3 of R61 from Magusheni to Mzamba which constitutes 8.5km;
- 20km of the Clarkbury road, which is the first phase;
- 14km of DR08017 from Cedarville to Mvenyane;
- 12km of the Milani Link Road – Lower Nxaxa Access Road,
- 4.5 km of the Ugie Location Road and Butterworth inner by-pass which will be a paved road.

Honourable Members, I must admit that our work in the in-house space has at times experienced delays owing to the shortage of material. We recently appointed of 65 companies on a three-year panel contract to supply the department with construction material, these includes 14 for surfacing, 26 for concrete works and 25 for fencing. The projected expenditure on these contracts for 2021/22 is estimated at R160 million.

This move will enable our in-house construction teams to move with speed as they continue with construction on the **Canzibe Hospital Road, Cofimvaba to Askeaton, R72 to Hamburg, Coffee Bay to Zithulele** which is part of the Wild Coast Meander and the completion of the **Madwaleni Hospital Road**. The paving of 6km of **DR08131** in **Qumbu** as well as T167 (Shawburry road) will also benefit on the use of these contract panels.

We remain resolute to ensure that our roads are trafficable and as such we will continue with the



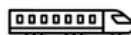
maintenance of transport infrastructure. The reseal of 10km of **DR08012** from **Matatiele to Maluti** which includes widening of the road, stabilizing existing layers and surfacing seal is now at 50 percent. The department's total investment on the project is valued at R93 million.

In January, we awarded a R146 million contract for the reseal of **DR08048, 31km** from **Butterworth to Centane**.

Two new reseal projects will be added in our portfolio for the 2021/22 FY and these include; **DR08004, 30,5km from Flagstaff to Magusheni** and **53, 5km of TR04601 from Grahamstown to Port Alfred**.

Major regravelling projects to be undertaken include the following:

- DR08043 from Butterworth to Ngqamakhwe: Mnquma in Amathole District for a period of 08 months;
- DR08316 to Noxova in Nyandeni LMA OR Tambo District (08 Months) – this includes attending to stormwater structures;
- DR08094 to Mtsila in the Alfred Nzo District (10 Months) – including stormwater structures;
- DR08015 at Umzimvubu and Matatiele in the Alfred Nzo District (12 Months) – Phase 1 – including stormwater structures;
- DR02481 in Cookhouse at Blue Crane LMA in Sarah Baartman district including the **construction of a bridge**.



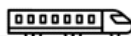
- DR08232 from R61 to Engcobo in Engcobo LMA Chris Hani District and construction of **a new concrete bridge**.
- DR03230 in Tiffendel at Senqu LMA in Joe Gqabi District and construction of **new concrete bridge** at.

Overall, we will implement regravelling projects covering 645km, blading 23 451, rehabilitation of 257 400 square meters, reseal 13 720 square meters, blacktop patching on 54 236 square meters.

Honourable members, it is important to report that our plant recapitalisation project has assisted a great deal in ensuring that we keep our roads trafficable. These have been allocated to support our work as follows; Alfred Nzo – 70, Amathole -180, Chris Hani – 85, Joe Gqabi-58, OR Tambo – 108 and Sarah Baartman with 84 plant items. Similarly, our in-house team has an allocation of 95 plant items which is spread across the five projects they are currently working on.

With these, each district is able to re-gravel an average of 4km and blade 120 km per month. It is also critical to note that while we have recapitalised our plant, we also face the challenge of our aging human capital specifically in this space, a fact that have been further complicated by the advent of Covid-19. In the interim, we have had to enter into agreements with local municipalities to get support in this area.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to report to the house that, our transport infrastructure project received a



financial injection of R86, 1 million from the recently launched Presidential Stimulus Package Programme. Projects that benefited from this include:

- 6km interlocking blockpaving Project on D08563 at Macubeni in Cacadu;
- 8km interlocking blockpaving project in Healdtown, Fort Beaufort and
- Upgrading of the road to Tsolwana Nature Reserve.

Further to this, we are expecting an additional R231 million from the Presidential Stimulus Package Programme during the course of the financial year.

The envisaged allocation will support in the main our decision to assist municipalities in dealing with transport infrastructure backlogs. In this regard the department has identified the following interventions to be implemented:

- In Sarah Baartman District Municipality we will assist the Makana Municipality with inner taxi routes;
- In Chris Hani District Municipality, the Fikile Gwadana road will be prioritised as well as the rehabilitation of Engcobo to R56 (Elliot/Cala junction);
- Rehabilitation of Mqanduli to Coffee Bay road in the O.R. Tambo District Municipality;
- In Amathole District Municipality we will pave about 8,6km of the Butterworth inner bypass and support the Great Kei Municipality with the



upgrading of the Haga-Haga road an intervention which will enable Abalone Farm in the area to realize its full potential.

In support of the agriculture industry, using alternative surfacing technology, the focus will be on the Cala to Ncorha and the R61 to Majola Tea Plantation roads

The agreement between DOT and the National Department of Public Works led to the construction and completion of three Bailey bridges in 2020/21 financial year; Bilatye, Fini and Jozana. We are now at final stages of constructing Ndofela Bridge in Sterkspruit.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are finally seeing a resolution of a long legal battle with regards to the implementation of the RAMS Project. Administrative processes are underway to award this project which will enable us to have more accurate data with respect to the conditions of our roads.

Honourable Members, we cannot talk about the construction of roads in our province, without mentioning the sterling working being done by SANRAL.

Somlomo, masivume sithi, uyancomeka umsebenzi, kwaye sinethemba lokuba xa sele ugqityiwe, sizakubona zijikile izint'o kwiphondo lethu.

Key highlights of the work to be done by SANRAL during the 2021/22 financial year includes construction of new facilities, special maintenance and improvements on various sections of the national network in the province. N2 Toleni to Ndabakazi, Ndabakazi interchange; Pikoli



Gravel road, R390 from Cradock to Hofmeyer; R63 from Bhisho to the N6 bridge; Viedgesville to Mthatha; N2 from KwaBhaca to Ngcweleni River; N10/R63 to Bedford; N2 from Gamtoos to van Stadens; R61/2: N9 to km 13 (Wapad); Motherwell to Addo Phase 2 as well as Indwe to Maclear.

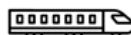
The Mthatha to Baziya as well as the Matatiele to the KZN Border are in the award stage and contractors are expected to be on site during the first quarter of the new financial year. New investments in infrastructure help to improve the quality of life and build the Eastern Cape We Want.

Transport Operations

On Scholar Transport, the department will from April 2021 transport 103 000 learners from across the province compared to the 124 000 learners ferried during the first quarter of the academic year. This is against a target of 87 000 learners for the 2020/21 financial year an increase from 84 000 targeted in the previous year.

I must emphasise, Speaker that savings accrued as a result of the school breaks created by the advent of Covid-19 enabled us to exceed our expectations in the provision of learner transport. The allocation for the Scholar Transport Programme for 2021/22 is at R159 Million.

The NHTS which I referred to earlier on reveals that 14, 6% of our total learner population in the province access education institutions by foot. This further confirms that in

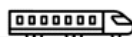


addition to the Scholar Transport Programme, there is still a need for implementation of the Shovakalula Project spearheaded by the National Department of Transport. Thus far, the province has been allocated a total 1400 bicycles to learners who do not qualify for the scholar transport while they walk a bit of a distance to school.

Ladies and gentlemen, part of our work is to ensure that we create access to transport systems and we continue to provide support to various bus companies to lessen the cost of transportation for our communities. With a total budget of **six hundred, seven sixty-two million rands**, our Public Transport subsidies will cover over 16 million kilometres (round trips) in 2275 routes with a total of 531 187 trips. These will benefit, Algoa Bus Company, Africa Best 350 (AB350) and Mayibuye Transport Corporation.

The department is exploring to review how we use the Public Transport Operation Grant with a view to expand its use to other entities. Learning from the 2019/20 Audit report, we are engaging Provincial Treasury and the Nelson Mandela Bay to firstly regularise the contract and secondly to set in motion the process of designing and conducting surveys in preparation for a tender process for the bus subsidy.

Following on the steps of the National Taxi Lekgotla, the department will continue to participate in the national structure leading the implementation of the Lekgotla resolutions which include the transformation and professionalization of the Taxi Industry. Participate in the



Taxi Recapitalization Programme to ensure that the interests of our operators are well taken care of.

We will further strengthen our road safety education and awareness initiatives with a special focus on the identified hazardous locations while attending to emerging challenges on our network.

Madam Speaker, I am glad to announce that we started the year 2021 on a better footing with respect to Mthatha Airport. The South African Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) approved our application to upgrade the facility to Category 5. Our immediate task is to ensure that we attract more airlines to use this facility and as air traffic improves post the lockdown, we are convinced that our engagements will come to fruition to the benefit of communities on the Eastern side of the province.

Further to this, we are awaiting CAA approval for the construction of a new Fire station for the airport. Thereafter, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, as our implementing agent will resume processes of appointing a contractor for the project.

Bulembu Airport remains a strategic asset of government which we must ensure that it is fully utilised. Currently, we are in negotiations with the SANDF on their proposal to use the facility. The presence of the SANDF in the region has potential economic spin-off for the community of Noncampa and the broader Qonce (formerly known as King William's Town) through job creation and increased economic activity in the area.



Transport Regulations

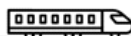
Madam Speaker, the vehicle population in the Province is increasing drastically and the existing number of Traffic Officers are unable to respond effectively to issues on the road. The rate of accidents and fatalities is also increasing at an alarming rate.

Drinking and driving, speeding, stray animal, reckless and negligent driving are contributing immensely to road fatalities. We need now more than ever to work collectively to reduce the carnage we see on our roads.

For the 2020/21 Festive Season and based on the resources available to us at our 26 traffic stations, we implemented Law Enforcement 24/7 Flexi shift system (24/2). Through the system and based on available data, our teams worked around the clock on the most critical days focusing on identified critical roads and times.

Drunk driving is still a challenge as it is one of the contributory factors in most accidents, we are in discussion with partners such as the Department of Health to support our operations. Due to COVID 19 Regulations we had to put in abeyance the use of Alcohol Screeners and we had to rely on the drawing of blood to check blood alcohol content which requires a close working relationship with the health practitioners.

In addition to this, we are currently in talks with our partners in the private sector to support our initiative of



establishing Evidential Alcohol testing centres in Chris Hani and OR Tambo.

The province is gearing up for the roll out of AARTO on 1 July 2021 in line with the pronouncement by the Minister of Transport to commence. Awareness sessions have been conducted with key stakeholders such as Municipalities, SAPS and Provincial Traffic. Preparations are at an advanced stage at the Buffalo City and the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro which will serve as our pilot sites.

Ladies and gentlemen, the spread of the Covid-19 has pushed us to move some of our services to the online environment and thus far digitisation is being piloted for the booking of Learners and Drivers licenses in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro. Once we have dealt with any teething problems, we plan to expand this service to the rest of the province. There is no turning back. The new normal is upon us.

We will also be 'opening borders' to enable motorists to licence vehicles at any registering authority in the Eastern Cape.

Community Based Programme

Madam Speaker, the NHTS also tells us that commuters using bus and mini-bus taxis are "particularly dissatisfied with the facilities at taxi ranks and bus stop." As a department, we are responding to this through the construction of public transport facilities (taxi ranks) in various local municipalities.



We have just completed the refurbishment of the Jubilee Taxi Rank in Mthatha and work is underway for the restoration of ablution facilities at Jubilee Taxi Rank and upgrading of Cala and Khowa Taxi Ranks in Sakhisizwe local municipality.

In the Sunday's River Valley Municipality, we allocated over R600 000 for the paving of the perimeter road at the Moses Mabhida Taxi Rank. This project has been allocated to local SMME's and it has created jobs for local labourers.

Ladies and gentlemen, we recognise that more municipalities need to be assisted with the upgrading of their public transport facilities and roads. We are therefore establishing a Labour Intensive Project Adjudication Committee (LIPAC) that will consider the projects for funding in local municipalities, ensuring not only equitable distribution of resources but also strengthening the monitoring of service level agreements with the municipalities supported.

Nine interventions to reduce fatalities on our roads will be implemented creating **2 802** work opportunities and these also include COVID19 projects. We will during the next financial year also create **47 000** work opportunities through EPWP projects which include Household Contractors, Supervisors, fencing, paving, gabion construction and data capturers. While R4 million will be used towards the implementation of the National Youth Service and the Artisan Development Projects.



A focused and targeted approach to attract more youth will be undertaken this year, with jobs opportunities to maximise the use of labour intensive methods in our infrastructure projects as well as appointing local micro to medium enterprises. Some of these projects include the following:

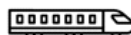
- Rehabilitation and Construction of Animal Pounds in Cala and Khowa to the value of 6.5 million over two years.
- Paving of Ring Road in Ntabankulu valued at R6.8 million.
- Paving Hillcrest in Raymond Mhlaba amounting to R4.9m.

Honourable members, fencing projects are being implemented in Buffalo City Metro on the Ndevana to Zwelitsha route and the project will cost the department R4, 5 million. In the coming weeks, we will resume with a similar project valued at R6,5 million in Mnquma Municipality, covering the road from Butterworth to Centane.

Government Fleet Management Services

GFMS is responsible of providing fleet management services and solutions to the provincial government. To date, the entity manages a fleet of 3223 vehicles valued at R766, 3 million.

In its work during the next financial year, the entity will be paying much focus in unlocking opportunities for SMMEs to partner with local merchants. We will also roll-out a

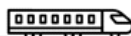


programme for the development and capacitation of SMMEs such that they can comply with registration on the RT46 which we use to source services.

Our plans to explore the expansion our service offering to all spheres of government in the province delayed due to Covid-19. We will use our energies to explore this as we work to ensure the sustainability of the entity.

Madam Speaker, I hereby present the Department's Policy Speech, Annual Performance Plan, Operational Plan, the 5 Year Strategic Plan for Government Fleet Management Services and Corporation plans for Mayibuye Bus Corporation.

Enkosi





Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
TRANSPORT

Customer Care Centre: 0800 644 644

Office of the Head of Department
Department of Transport
Private Bag X0023, BHISHO, 5605

Tel: 043 - 604 7400/72 Fax: 086 646 6602
E-mail: sonwabo.cibi@ectransport.gov.za
f@doteasterncape
Eastern Cape Department of Transport

Website: www.ectransport.gov.za

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