

Perspectives

on KwaZulu-Natal

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The KwaZulu-Natal budget: Facts, figures and promises

Giving their budget speeches in the KwaZulu-Natal legislature in Pietermaritzburg in March, many of the provincial ministers released important information about the work of their departments and made promises about action to be carried out in the new financial year. *Perspectives on KwaZulu-Natal* outlines the facts, figures and promises regarding each department.

Department of the Premier: Lionel Mtshali
Budget for 2000/2001: R104.933 million
Budget for 2001/2002: R117.804 million

Facts and Figures

1. The department is considering taking over the airline service used by the Premier and members of the legislature. The Finance Portfolio Committee stated that no sufficient motivation had been given as to why the service should be located in the Premier's Department rather than the Transport Department.
2. R5.5 million of the R6.5 million allocated to youth is to be consumed by the Emandleni/Matleng Youth Camp at Ulundi. (The camp was used in the height of the political violence in KwaZulu-Natal for the training of the Inkatha Freedom Party's self-protection units).
3. R37.7 million was collected in betting tax in 2000; R11.2 million was collected by bookmakers and R26.5 million by totalisers. Betting tax for the 2001/2002 financial year is expected to be about R35 million, together with the anticipated gaming tax of R45.3 million (excluding the Durban casinos).
4. The total paid to the top 21 officials in the department is R8.607 million or an average of R409 885 per annum or R34 157 per month.

Promises

1. The most critical objective for 2001 is the development of a single strategy for reducing poverty in KwaZulu-Natal.
2. The Premier will introduce legislation to ensure that the racing and betting industry is stimulated to compete with the gaming industry.
3. The Premier's office will finalise terms of reference for a provincial gender equality programme plan of action and assist district municipalities to develop gender equality programmes in terms of provincial priorities.

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4. There will be an Office on the Status of Women within the gender equality programme.
5. The premier's office will reflect gender equality in the senior management cadre.
6. A disabled person will be appointed to the disability desk in the Premier's office.

Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs:

Minister Narend Singh

Budget for 2000/2001: R565.814 million

Budget for 2001/2002: R671.594 million

Facts and Figures

1. KwaZulu-Natal was the first of South Africa's provinces to produce a business plan for land redistribution.
2. The department will fund the mentoring of new farmers.
3. Backlogs of environmental impact assessments go back as far as one year hindering development in the province.
4. The department encourages sustainable land use based on land capabilities and is making available related information to tribal authorities, district councils and other decision-makers.
5. The department has set up the KwaZulu-Natal Agricultural Development Trust to enhance agricultural development in partnership with private enterprise to boost agricultural growth in the province.

Promises

1. About 15 projects involving the settlement of formerly disadvantaged farmers could be completed this year. The department has identified four pilot projects for which business plans have already been submitted to the national Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs Thoko Didiza.

Department of Economic Development and Tourism:

Minister Mike Mabuyakhulu

Budget for 2000/2001: R117.408 million

Budget for 2001/2002: R148.448 million

Facts and Figures

1. The unemployment rate in KwaZulu-Natal, according to figures for 1996, was 39.1%. Unemployment amongst youth was 52.6%.
2. The department has charged six officials with misconduct relating to subsistence allowance claims; five have been charged with the abuse of state owned vehicles and six officials have been charged with misconduct for submitting fraudulent subsistence and transport allowance claims.
3. The department envisages that the La Mercy proposed airport site north of Durban will be finalised by about 2010. The implementation dates of the project are dependent on when the national Cabinet makes a decision about whether or not to approve the project.
4. Through the department 1 281 liquor licences were granted in 2000 which resulted in the creation of almost 4000 jobs.

Promises

1. A new restructured Provincial Investment Promotion Agency that is representative of all the major stakeholders in the area of economic activity through KwaZulu-Natal,

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including private industry, chambers of commerce and local authorities, will start operating from June 2001.

2. A facilitation process is to begin in July 2001 for a tourism resort development in Umgababa on the South Coast. This joint partnership with the KwaZulu-Natal Tourism Authority and Ithala Development Corporation should be finalised by the end of the 2002/2003 financial year.

3. In the first six months of the financial year, the department plans to complete a programme aimed at easing the movement of goods between manufacturing centres and their market destinations. This will include a focus on the movement of goods by rail and road between Durban, the container depot at City Deep in Gauteng and the port of Richards Bay in KwaZulu-Natal.

4. The department plans to hold a workshop on the Code of Good Practices that prescribes the manner in which sexual harassment should be dealt with in the workplace.

5. The KwaZulu-Natal Tourism Authority has set targets to increase domestic tourism arrival from eight million adults in 1998 to 8.16 million in 2003 and increase foreign tourist arrivals from 459 000 in 1998 to 615 000 in 2003.

Department of Education: Minister Faith Gasa

Budget for 2000/2001: R7.840 billion

Budget for 2001/2002: R9.177 billion

Facts and Figures

1. The department has the largest budget of any provincial department in South Africa but the allocation per learner is the lowest in the country at R2 943. (The national average is R3 511 and Gauteng's allocation is R4 355 per learner). The learner to educator ratio of 1:38 is the highest in the country.

2. In the 2001/2002 financial year personnel and related costs are expected to consume 90.14 % of the budget.

3. Over the next nine years the department will have to engage the services of up to 71 000 new educators, roughly equal to the total number now in service. The current rate of attrition is around 7% in the educator workforce, but is certain to rise as a direct result of HIV/Aids.

4. Almost 40 %, if not 55 %, of the learner population is victim of the violence that besieged this country from 1989 when political violence was at its peak.

5. The department houses three departments within itself: Education; Arts and Culture; and Sports and Recreation.

Promises

1. To make a major contribution to the effective management of the HIV/Aids pandemic following the establishment of a Strategic Planning Committee on the Impact of HIV/Aids.

2. The supply of stationery to schools will improve markedly in 2002.

3. To utilise the limited budget in addressing the issue of crime and violence.

Department of Health: Minister Zweli Mkhize

Budget for 2000/2001: R5.556 billion

Budget for 2001/2002: R6.380 billion

Facts and Figures

1. KwaZulu-Natal has the highest HIV/Aids infection rate in the country.

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2. R2.4 billion is needed to repair hospital buildings in the province. At least 30% of the buildings are in need of major repairs at present. More than R325 million will be needed over the next eight years to address infrastructure deficiencies.
3. Departments responsible for workman's compensation, including the department of correctional services, do not take the patients for treatment at government hospitals, impacting negatively on revenue that could be generated by hospitals.
4. The department spent more than R40 million on controlling cholera between October and March.
5. More than 370 000 malaria cases were reported in 2000 and over 200 people died. More than 46 000 people were infected with tuberculosis and more than 200 died.
6. The department has a combined workforce of more than 4 000 primary health care workers.

Promises

1. To build 11 community health centres in 10 districts this year.
2. The department will build between 90 and 120 new and replacement clinics in the next five years.
3. 60 clinics have been identified for major renovations and maintenance at a cost of R12 million.
4. A priority of the department is to provide electricity to all clinics, which will reduce generator costs.

Department of Housing: Minister Dumisani Makhaye

Budget for 2000/2001: R721.184 million

Budget for 2001/2002: R794.898 million

Facts and Figures

1. The department has recovered more than R44 million lost through contractor fraud in the past financial year and more than 30 criminal charges have been made against perpetrators.
2. R17.2 million has been allocated to the reconstruction of KwaMashu's L-section which was one of the province's most violent townships.
3. The department is dealing with 500 fraudulent housing subsidy cases.
4. The department is introducing a rural housing policy to change the focus of attention in terms of housing delivery from an urban bias to an even development spread between urban and rural housing development.
5. The department has developed a policy to cope with the effect of HIV/Aids on housing.

Promises

1. To accelerate urban housing development by finalising all existing housing projects, clearing up slums in towns and cities and develop new housing projects.
2. To forge strategic partnerships with stakeholders by promoting public-private partnerships in housing delivery, developing capacity building programmes for municipalities and communities and interacting and consulting regularly with all key role players in the housing sector.

Department of Safety and Security: Minister Nyanga Ngubane

Budget for 2000/2001: R5.765 million

Budget for 2001/2002: R6.145 million

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Facts and Figures

1. The contract of former police officer, General Wynand van der Merwe, who was acting head of the Department of Safety and Security (which is better known as the Safety and Security Secretariat), expired on January 2, 2001 and was not renewed. Advocate Robin Raubenheimer, who is also head of the Department of Traditional and Local Government Affairs, was appointed acting head.
2. A recent evaluation found that the secretariat needed 41 employees. It currently has nine.
3. The department gives a grant-in-aid of R3,315 million to the KwaZulu-Natal Peace Secretariat or Committee. This body has had no head since the previous director Dennis Nkosi was arrested on charges of fraud in January 1997 for which he was subsequently found guilty. KwaZulu-Natal is the only province where the peace structure still exists.
4. More than 25% of the firearms recovered in South Africa are found in KwaZulu-Natal.
5. Several policing operations have been conducted in KwaMashu and Inanda, in the northern parts of Durban. More than 300 gangsters have been arrested and connected to 181 cases.
6. The department has produced a booklet on the basics of community policing that is written in isiZulu, the most widely spoken language in KwaZulu-Natal.

Promises

1. Labour consultants employed to investigate the possible closure of the peace committee will complete their investigation, report and make their recommendations in about five months.
2. Workshops on community based crime prevention will be held in Umzimkulu in April and will be followed by others in Durban North and South regions and in Umfolozi. Local government will be required to accept ownership of the strategy.

The Budget of the Zulu Royal Household

Budget for 2000/2001: R15.359 million

Budget for 2001/2002: R20.684 million

Facts and Figures

1. R1.618 million from the budget is used to fund the upkeep of the King's farms.

Promises

1. The staff establishment will be reduced by retrenching over 100 domestic workers and 48 farm workers and an administrative support component in the form of registry personnel and messengers will be created.

Department of Traditional and Local Government Affairs:

Minister Nyanga Ngubane

Budget for 2000/2001: R407.981 million

Budget for 2001/2002: R356.294 million

Facts and Figures

1. 17 of the 81 local government structures in KwaZulu-Natal (14 municipalities and three district councils) are not viable in their present form. They have not had a financial base since the local government elections in December. R35 million has been given to these municipalities.
2. 554 members of staff, costing R24 million a year, have not been absorbed into the new municipalities. They are being paid, but most do no work for the department while

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the issue is being resolved. Almost 3000 staff members have been transferred.

3. Groups of amakhosi (traditional leaders) are being trained at a course at the University of Zululand. Special attention has been given to women amakhosi.
4. In the 2000 local government elections, the province contributed R1 million to the KwaZulu-Natal Local Government Association (KwaNaloga) to run a voter registration campaign.
5. The changes that were introduced to local government after the elections in December have resulted in the number of councillors dropping from 2 668 to 1 780. However, new salary packages have increased the amount needed to fund councillors by an average of 61%.
6. The department has almost completed a survey of most of the traditional authority boundaries and is continuing to address outstanding land related disputes between traditional authorities or between individuals within communities.

Promises

1. To finalise in the coming financial year a discussion document on the succession system of the ubukhosi (the traditional leadership institution).
2. A course for traditional support structures or izinduna is being designed and will be implemented at the University of Zululand from June. About 140 traditional court secretaries will also receive training.
3. Legislation impacting on the institution of traditional leaders should be submitted to the house this year and a review of the Code of Zulu Law will also be initiated.
4. The new members of the Town and Regional Planning Commission will be broadly representative of the demographics of the province. The current members term of office expire in June. However, the new commission should be short-lived because new planning legislation is being considered nationally.
5. A programme for the funding and facilitation of electricity and telecommunication services to traditional authorities (182 do not have access) will be initiated this year and should be completed by March 2002.
6. All courts administered by traditional authorities will have computers, printers, fax machines and photocopiers by March 2002.

Department of Transport: Minister S'bu Ndebele

Budget for 2000/2001: R855.875 million

Budget for 2001/2002: R1.083 billion

Facts and Figures

1. More than R1 billion per year over the next 10 years is needed to upgrade KwaZulu-Natal's roads.
2. A needs assessment study conducted in August 2000 found that 57% of blacktop (tarred) roads and 60% of gravel roads in the province were in a poor condition.
3. Rural women in KwaZulu-Natal will be the first to benefit from a national programme to supply "cargo tricycles" for transporting heavy loads of goods.
4. The staff complement of provincial law enforcement officers has increased from 350 in 1994 to 515.
5. White males commanded almost 80% of the top salaried positions in the department in 1997 and now occupy about 54%.
6. In the 2000/2001 financial year, 911 contracts were awarded to emerging contractors with a value of more than R160 million.
7. Road accident fatalities in South Africa peaked at 11 157 in 1990, but had decreased

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by 15.2% to 9 068 in 1998.

Promises

1. We will begin to see an end to taxi violence once the recommendations of KwaZulu-Natal's Taxi Commission of Inquiry (see [Perspectives on KwaZulu-Natal Volume One Number One](#)) have been implemented.
2. Recommendations from a pilot scholar bicycle project will be available in June 2001.
3. The department will assist emerging contractors to form associations to more effectively facilitate access to training, support services, bulk buying and finance and the ability to lobby government and other interest groups.
4. Investigations are being carried out into how cargo tricycles located at key points such as general dealers, bus and taxi drop-off points, pension pay points, water sources and markets can be introduced, where they are most needed and how community organisations can become equity partners in the business venture.
5. The department intends to introduce a comprehensive programme of Zero Tolerance with community road safety awareness and education campaigns, including pedestrian education, to communities that fall within areas that have been identified as most at risk in terms of road safety.

Department of Welfare and Population Development:

Minister Gideon Zulu

Budget for 2000/2001: R4.060 billion

Budget for 2001/2002: R4.583 billion

Facts and Figures

1. An impact assessment conducted during August 1999 found that of 389 projects funded in the 1998/1999 financial year, 87% were located in rural areas, 12% in urban areas and 1% in informal settlements.
2. The number of children receiving child support grants from the department rose by 160 540 within seven months last year bringing the number of children receiving grants to 234 155 by the end of November.
3. The department is investigating about 192 Swazi pensioners and 27 000 cases of fraud at a value of about R57 million.
4. 94% of the department's budget was being spent on social grants.

Promises

1. Problems at pension pay out points have been addressed and largely resolved. These included payments starting late, equipment breakdown, inadequately trained staff, late night payments and overcrowding at pay points.
2. The department is engaged in launches and campaigns to promote grants, such as the Child Support Grant, Foster Care Grant and Care Dependency Grant, which are designed to assist children in need.
3. The department will encourage community members to foster orphaned children since the number of children admitted to places of safety and children's homes is increasing.

Department of Works: Celani Mtetwa

Budget for 2000/2001: R368.860 million

Budget for 2001/2002: R303.157 million

Facts and Figures

1. This department is concerned with the official accommodation needs of all

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departments in the province.

2. There is no uniformity in the letting of houses under the department's control to provincial officials.

Promises

1. To introduce a programme and project management system throughout the department to ensure that target dates and budget constraints are met.

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