

Blueprint for a DA-led KwaZulu-Natal

The following Blueprint is a strategy which outlines how the Democratic Alliance would lead the province of KwaZulu-Natal.

It is a Blueprint which addresses the current challenges within each provincial government department with feasible solutions on how to address them.

It is a Blueprint which puts the needs of KZN's citizens first. It is a Blueprint which – amongst others - prioritizes the safety of our people, allows our province to prosper economically, creates sustainable jobs and delivers affordable and sustainable services.

It is a workable Blueprint that, with the right political will, can be implemented and which will benefit our entire province and all its people, rather than just a select few.

Premier and Royal Household

- Ensure provincial government departments achieve targets in line with PPA's and reduce irregular expenditure
- Ensure that forensic investigations are conducted within all departments, with recommendations implemented
- Finalise the review of the province's E-procurement tool and implement
- Finalize all outstanding disciplinary cases within all departments in order to address the issue of suspended senior officials who are being paid while sitting at home for months
- Ensure that lifestyle audits finally take place
- Implement the recommendations of the Moerane Commission in order to curb the high number of political killings in the province, including Amakhosi and Izinduna
- Ensure that the Royal Household Trust finalizes its revenue strategy to allow the Zulu monarchy to be financially independent and;
- Deal with the unfunded mandate of Izinduna remuneration and back pay.

Treasury

- Appoint treasury officials to monitor the constant problem of departmental Supply Chain management
- Allow Treasury more power – in line with the new powers given to the Auditor-General (AG) - when it comes to contraventions of the PFMA and Treasury regulations and;
- Ensure that all capital projects undertaken by departments are monitored by Treasury, as is done with the Infrastructure Crack Team of Treasury.

Education

- Implement the 'triangle' of quality education of good leadership, sound infrastructure and proper parental involvement
- Ensure that leadership includes, but is not limited to, the National Department of Basic Education (DBE), KZN's Department of Education (DoE), school senior management and school governing bodies
- Through a Schools Evaluation authority – see below - get rid of school principals and SGB's that have become a law unto themselves and implement consequence management in this regard
- Through a Schools Collaboration – see below - introduce money-saving measures so that the focus is on teaching and learning
- Ensure that all learners in the province are placed at the beginning of the academic year and that they all have textbooks
- Deal with KZN's massive shortage of staff which currently includes more than 1 400 senior school managers, an estimated 6 114 teacher vacancies through urgent consultation with both provincial and national Treasuries
- Deal with the almost 1 000 schools which still have pit latrines. This after funding to eliminate them - through the SAFE initiative - launched in 2018 by President Ramaphosa - has turned into yet another unfunded mandate. Ensure engagement with the Presidency on this matter and ensure that there is compliance in terms of the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) in this regard
- Deal with the Department's inability to transport some 75 000 learners as part of its Learner Transport programme. This would be done through additional funding obtained through prudent expenditure and a no-nonsense approach to corruption
- Deal with the issue of the KZN Department of Transport (DoT) currently illegally transporting 9 673 learners as 'overloads' on busses. This would be done by facilitating greater access to home and online schooling and ensuring faster accreditation of these processes. In the long-term this will allow for more space, less transport and more access to schooling for those who need these services.
- Follow the Western Cape lead after the province achieved an increase in the real pass mark and highest number of Bachelor passes in the country. This by ensuring proper accountability, no corruption, swift action and interventions, greater oversight and proper spending of resources within schools. The WC has also piloted cost-saving measures which have led to textbooks for all children and a conducive classroom environment in that province
- Urgently establish a lawfully mandated authority to deal with the highly unionised and beleaguered school environment. This authority is already operating within the WC as the Schools Evaluation Authority and is backed by provincial legislation to ensure greater accountability and consequence management, decreased loss of teaching and learning and faster interventions that place teaching and learning as the apex priority

- Establish a pilot project of Collaboration Schools. The DA in KZN has already established a working relationship with the organisation that can facilitate this. This model of public private partnerships has resulted in WC schools that were falling apart to improve massively, not only in terms of infrastructure but also in quality results being produced
- Cut red-tape and corruption and bring NGO's on board to facilitate the teaching of Maths, Science and Physics to learners across the province and;
- Ensure that all KZN learners are placed at the start of the academic year. Ensure that KZN's textbook shortage of five million is dealt with by placing the DoE under urgent administration and ending corruption.

CoGTA

- Ensure that service delivery remains at the centre of all municipalities focus.
- Ensure that all municipalities – regardless of which party is in government – are treated equally and offer the same support and capacity building
- Engage independent auditors to conduct full skills and lifestyle audits of all municipal senior managers
- Engage in capacity building, using independent experts, to assist municipalities to build stable coalitions
- Turn around municipalities under administration with clear measurable time-frame linked targets for administrators
- Measure these targets on a monthly basis along with the KZN CoGTA portfolio committee and make changes swiftly where they are not met and;
- Ensure that administrators report to the portfolio committee on a quarterly basis to ensure proper oversight

Human Settlements

- Ensure that the provision of Title Deeds is sped up, particularly delays within the courts
- Create an independently audited, transparent easily accessible housing list with the use of technology so that there is no longer confusion and corruption around housing allocations
- Ensure that this list is independently audited on an annual basis
- Address bulk infrastructure problems - which have led to many projects coming to a standstill – by requesting that local municipalities absorb some of the cost to speed up delivery and;
- Negotiate with CoGTA and districts to share costs of implementing bulk infrastructure and work towards these costs being included in project costs.

Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA)

- Provide detailed feedback on the outcomes of projects in response to low economic growth and loss of jobs created by both Covid-19 and the July unrest
- Drive job creation by ensuring that key economic development budgets are no longer slashed
- Realign the Operation Vula Fund, and simplify application processes for emerging small businesses. Move Ithala Development away from capital infrastructure projects – the majority of which are burnt or vandalised – and instead assist more emerging businesses
- Address the current budgetary issues, which see just an 0.8% increase during the next financial year, in order to stimulate growth. Cut all non-essential expenditure and realign budgets to support KZN's biggest job creating sector – tourism.
- Implement changes in terms of budget structure and proportions across programmes so that they are realistic and aligned to strategic focus areas
- Ensure an environment conducive to investment in terms of industry and tourism for real growth
- Ensure co-operation between various national and provincial stakeholders such as SAPS, Transport and Local Government when it comes to water and sanitation. This infrastructure is key to job creation and growth
- Work with so-called 'sister' Departments to foster an environment that leads to investment and job creation
- Revitalise the Provincial Tourism Forum - an entity designed to support and aid Community Tourism Organisations which has been left out in the cold, with little support from province. Set up and provide a link between CTO's, provincial, regional and municipal tourism organisations
- Protect, increase and bolster Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW) finances by writing off unsustainable community projects that are vandalised and threatened by community conflict and use this money to reprioritise simple maintenance to bolster visitor numbers
- Establish better relations with NGO's and the private sector that are willing to assist Ezemvelo gratis
- Ensure consequence management, disciplinary enquiries and dismissal of EKZNW officials who are guilty of dereliction of duty including managing failed projects such as gas systems that blow up, sub-standard fencing and others which lead to wasteful expenditure
- Cut the number of EKZNW board members from proposed a 15 to 10 to allow for a saving of R6 million.
- Fast-track the long awaited EKZNW hospitality commercialisation strategy through target setting programmes for administrative staff
- Cut the currently ineffective Alien Invasive Species control budget by R2.4 million in divert funds to Ezemvelo in order employ more rangers to protect preserve our biodiversity and Big 5

- Scrap the R400 000 grant for KZN's "Greenest Municipality" -with funding to be redirected to compliance and enforcement units for a concerted crack down on air and water polluters
- Re- establish the multi-party Hunting and Conservation Advisory Committee aimed at discussing pertinent hunting and conservation ordinances, supporting ecotourism and the sustainable use of natural resources
- Encourage private sector assistance for EKZNW with its array of specialists and through capital investment in various collaborative projects and;
- Implement a Transformation Plan to revitalize the economy in sectors that have higher economic linkages and greater employment creation potential.

Health

- Ensure that costs are contained through proper oversight in order to avoid devastating effects on service delivery and patient care.
- Lift the hard moratorium on the filling of all posts, including critical posts - except interns and community service posts and all maintenance except life-saving maintenance and the procurement of new equipment. This is possible by formalising security, cleaning and catering contracts and changing them from month-to-month to 3-year contracts and by eradicating irregular expenditure - R2.8 billion during the 2020/21 financial year.
- Address the fundamental causes for the DoH's financial crisis which includes failure to follow the PFMA which has led to increased irregular expenditure
- Address the issue of spiralling medico-legal claims by ensuring experienced staff, particularly within labour wards, a problem highlighted by the AG
- Fast-track the launch of the e-filing system in hospitals to ensure that files are not lost when claims are filed, leaving the DoH unable to defend itself and being forced to settle even when there is no wrongdoing
- Eliminate the current paper-based reporting system which often results in documents being lost or misfiled
- Address the issue of unfilled administrative posts which are leading to clinical staff having to move away from treating patients to completing paperwork
- Utilise savings – an estimated R2.8billion - through reduced irregular expenditure and recouping lost funds for the filling of critical posts, urgent infrastructure maintenance, the long-awaited opening of Dr Pixley ka Seme Hospital, and the procurement of vital medical equipment
- Provide proper information and paperwork to the AG in order to facilitate smooth-running of the DoH by launching a skills audit
- Request that Treasury publish its register of maximum pricing for common goods and services to reduce tender corruption within SCM and;
- Ensure proper consequence management for PFMA infringements and PPE corruption

Agriculture

- Establish a task team to deal with rural crime and find solutions to defuse any tensions between farmers and farm workers
- Utilise the budget for filling of critical posts to ensure the proper functioning of the Department
- Ensure that outstanding forensic audits and disciplinary matters are dealt with by releasing reports and firing corrupt officials
- Urgently rectify the issue of non-payment to service providers within the 30 days as stipulated
- Strengthen internal controls in order to control irregular expenditure of R52.12million as reported by the AG in his 2020/21 report
- Conduct a full departmental skills audit
- Deal with the current underspend of R17.15million as a result of incomplete projects and;
- Deal with capacity issues and set up proper monitoring systems so that the Department is able to meet its own targets and stop receiving unqualified audits.

Social Development

- Ensure a full and transparent NGO funding master list to allow for accountability by the Department in terms of funding allocations and locations
- Ensure full accountability in terms of the criteria used to select facilities to ensure absolute fairness based on needs analysis
- Ensure reports or close out reports on such facilities
- Fill the many social worker posts and other posts that remain vacant. While the Compensation of Employees budget is stretched, funding could potentially come from reducing non-essential events and catering
- Spend the full budget to avoid funding being returned
- Ensure ongoing oversight of all facilities
- Introduce a proper infrastructure upgrade and maintenance plan for facilities and annual plans for upgrades and;
- Introduce and maintain a proper register of older persons in order to intensify care and support

Community Safety and Liaison

- Ensure proper management and oversight of SAPS
- Increase the budget so that all KZN SAPS stations have proper infrastructure and are fully equipped within the next three years

- Ensure that key posts are filled within three months and address the issue of other current vacant posts
- Redirect key resources to stations based on needs and crime category
- Increase KZN's police presence by recruiting an additional 2 000 officer annually for deployment to crime-ridden communities including Umlazi, Inanda, Chatsworth, Phoenix and Westville, amongst others
- Introduce monthly training and capacitation programmes for officers in all areas including visible policing, public order policing, and gender-based violence initiatives
- Increase the number of specialised units and review the installation of satellite station in hot spots areas, particularly where crimes against women and children are dominant and;
- Increase, empower and resource Community Policing Forums (CPF'S)

Transport

- Conduct an updated on the ground study (within three months) of where bridges are most needed and prioritize their construction so that children no longer drown while crossing rivers to attend school. An amount of R1million needs to be allocated to cover expenses and travel of officials involved in this study
- Increase budgets for bridges and complete targets within three years utilising savings from compensation of employees. The DoT still has 232 vacant posts as reported in the last financial year which remain unfilled. These funds would be better spent on service delivery
- Address the issue of incomplete Bailey bridges through grant funding provided by Public Works, as a project under the SANDF
- Fix road networks to allow communities access to key services such as ambulances, hospitals, schools and jobs with the allocation of R10billion over the next three years. The DoT currently allocates R3.5 billion for capital infrastructure and R2.5 billion for current infrastructure. Funds from the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) would also be included here
- Address issues relating to public transport. KZN has succumbed to the violent protests by taxi and bus operators and has closed the gap to introduce more safe and convenient options for its commuters. The DA will open up the market to give commuters the opportunity to choose their type of transport, be it Uber, Taxify, public taxi or bus system, in turn forcing

these industries to tighten operations and ensure roadworthy vehicles, well trained and well-mannered drivers on our roads

- Address the budgetary issues related to Learner Transport Programme (LTP) which is failing and still leaving children without access to public transport
- Stop the subsidized LTP learner transport system which has proved to be a money-making scheme and introduce a system where, with every permit allocated within the private and public transport industry it becomes compulsory to transport children in uniform at no charge to and from school
- Open up the LTP to private and public transport operators to ensure a broader spectrum of opportunities available to transport learners safely to school
- Review the incentives for LTP drivers creating more opportunities to transport learners anywhere in KZN
- Review the Learner Transport Policy and introduce strict guidelines on non-compliance of safety measures when transporting learners including licences being revoked
- Allocate a non-negotiable 10% of the Department's budget to road maintenance and provide turn-around times on various road repairs
- Introduce private service providers such as banks, post offices and supermarket kiosks for the issuing and renewal of drivers licences
- Introduce the online licence renewal service and delivery to your door
- Fill all vacant posts within the Road Traffic Inspectorate (RTI), train all officers and advertise senior positions.
- Take drastic action and increase the RTI budget by R1billion per year for the next three years in order to address ongoing concerns the concerns as this Department stands on the brink of collapse
- Introduce a full-time 24-hour shift system
- Ensure proper staff oversight so that staff who do not attend work are not paid a full salary by filling vacant posts and stopping the seconding of officers. The DoT is already short-staffed which has caused the problem of lack of oversight and monitoring
- Eradicate irregular expenditure incurred through fruitless and wasteful expenditure by ensuring strict consequence management
- Conduct full skills and lifestyle audits

- Provide regular compulsory training for staff, implement exams on modules, retrain staff and re-advertise key positions adopting the fit for purpose rule and;
- Ensure proper planning so that all projects are completed to prevent funds from being returned to Treasury

Arts and Culture

- Ensure that long-held promises for the completion of library projects are upheld by budgeting properly
- Deliver on promises of modular libraries and restore the mobile library project again through proper budgeting.
- Support emerging artists in the province, beginning with the resurrection of the KZN Music House. The DoAC is currently spending R1m annually on utility bills while the facility is not being made use of.
- Get multi-million Rand Arts Centres – such as the uThungulu Arts Centre - back on track after years of neglect by ensuring that municipalities have proper maintenance plans in place so that the public can finally benefit from them
- Deal with infrastructure issues and the procurement of furniture and library materials which are riddled with fraud and corruption
- Ensure that books and other materials are procured from correct suppliers, cutting out the middlemen who then hold contractors accountable for delays
- Overhaul Supply Chain Management (SCM) and employ competent staff to ensure that the Department is not monopolized, interfered with and corrupted by a few officials
- Conduct a skills audit of all SCM officials and;
- Ensure that critical vacancies are filled utilising the allocated budget and the correct policies are implemented to get things done.

Sports and Recreation

- Increase the small budget allocated for the Elite Athletes Program and procuring top coaches so that our athletes can compete nationally and internationally
- Ensure that the budget for Kombi Courts and Play Gyms is used properly and that more of these facilities are introduced by making sure that contracts are implemented
- Eliminate the use of costly and unnecessary external consultants
- Ensure the building of swimming pools within the next three financial years, in the three districts that are without, by utilising grant funding

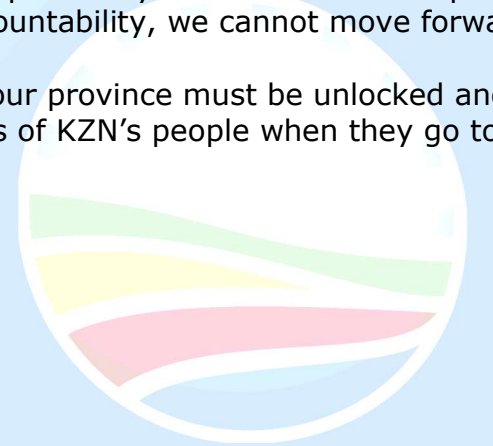
- Address the issue of huge sums of money being given to soccer teams that already have other funding secured and;
- Ensure a focus on all sporting codes

Public Works

- Decentralize operations to allow municipalities and Departments to take control of their own infrastructure and other issues
- Decentralize operations to allow district officials to deal with the staggering backlog of urgent school infrastructure issues
- Decentralize operations to that clinics, buildings and other spaces which currently fall under Public Works can be repaired more timeously
- Conduct an overall assessment of provincially owned properties, their purpose, need, utilization and dispose of under-utilised properties
- Ensure that information on who owns or is responsible for public buildings and sites is more accessible so that the public are able to submit complaints and so that matters are easier to handle
- Ensure that derelict buildings in residential areas, high dense areas and business areas are efficiently revamped by the responsible parties – whether national, provincial or municipal.
- Eliminate the issue of opportunities, in the form of wasted business and other space, being left to rot
- Eliminate the decay and health hazards as a result of wasted infrastructure and;
- Where possible, utilise this public space for the people.

This Blueprint is underpinned by the creation of a capable state in KZN. Without transparency and accountability, we cannot move forward.

The true potential of our province must be unlocked and restored. The power to do so lies in the hands of KZN's people when they go to the polls in 2024.



DA