



Riona Gokool, MPL

rionagokool@gmail.com

DA KZN

0727862655

Portfolio Spokesperson: Premier, Community Safety and Liaison Portfolio Committee

29 September 2025

Hon. Thami Ntuli

Premier of Kwa-Zulu Natal

**Re: Request for urgent oversight inquiry and hearing into procurement irregularities in KZN
Department of Transport**

I write to you in my capacity as a Member of the KZN Legislature and member of the Premier, Community Safety and Liaison Committee requesting that your office immediately an investigation into allegations of serious procurement irregularities in the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport:

Recent media reports and internal documents (leaked to the press) suggest that:

- The Head of Department, Mr Siboniso Mbhele, allegedly ignored red flags raised by senior officials and overruled adjudication committee decisions to push through unauthorized contract variations.
- The department purportedly committed an additional R 250 million beyond the original R 600 million budget in a subsidised public transport tender without proper approval or disclosure.
- It is alleged that a company linked to a Mr Maphumulo was announced as the only bidder, despite evidence that at least four bidders existed.
- There is concern about the legality of fare collection under a supposedly subsidised transport scheme, with potential leakage of revenue.

These matters, if proven, suggest violations of the Public Finance Management Act, provincial SCM regulations, financial mismanagement, potential fraud, and breaches of public trust.

In view of the severity and urgency of these allegations, we respectfully request that your office:

1. Summon the Department and relevant officials to testify under oath and present documentation.
2. Obtain and scrutinise key documentation, including but not limited to:



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- Bid evaluation reports, scoring sheets, and correspondence from the public transport tender and road construction contracts.
 - Variation orders and change control documents.
 - Internal red flag/objection memos and any override instructions.
 - Financial records showing commitment of extra funds, reconciliations with provincial treasury, and internal approvals.
 - Contractor payment status, outstanding invoices, and settlement plans.
 - Carbon copy of internal audit, forensic audit or investigations (if already initiated).
 - Disclosure of shareholdings or beneficial ownership of companies receiving awards.
3. Invite forensic investigators to assist with technical oversight, verify findings, and supplement evidence where needed.
 4. Prepare a public report (with appropriate redactions for confidentiality or security) that your office will table in the legislature, and make accessible to the public, including recommendations for accountability, remedial action, and criminal referral (if warranted).
 5. Impose a moratorium on further payments or contract approvals relating to the implicated tenders until your inquiry is complete, to prevent further loss or misuse of public funds.
 6. Recommend appropriate sanctioning or legal action, if wrongdoing is confirmed, including referral to the provincial Public Protector, the Hawks/law enforcement, and debarment of implicated officials and companies from future procurement.

The citizens of KwaZulu-Natal deserve to know that public funds earmarked for transport services are being used appropriately, transparently, and in the public interest. The seriousness of the allegations demands a thorough, fearless, and independent oversight response.

We trust that your office will act swiftly and decisively.



**KWAZULU-NATAL
LEGISLATURE**
AN ACTIVIST PEOPLE-CENTRED LEGISLATURE

PRIVATE BAG X9112
PIETERMARITZBURG
3200

239 LANGALIBALELE STREET
PIETERMARITZBURG
3201
www.kznlegislature.gov.za

Kind Regards

Hon Riona Gokool, MPL

Member of the Provincial Legislature

DA Spokesperson for:

Premier, Community Safety and Liaison Committee