

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport's war on potholes programme
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The Public Servants Association of South Africa (PSA) welcomes the launch of a programme by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport on 25 April 2025 in Pietermaritzburg, to address the backlog of 3.12 million potholes across the province.

The programme was officially opened in Pietermaritzburg by the KwaZulu-Natal Premier, the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, and the Mayor of uMgungundlovu District Municipality. A budget R216 million has been allocated, and 55 trucks have been deployed to do the work. The Department has also appointed more than 100 roadworker aids and supervisors to be on the frontline in the battle against potholes in KwaZulu-Natal. The Department has also promised to deploy a further 25 trucks for the programme.

Potholes are a widespread problem on roads and can be caused by several factors. These include water infiltration, where water seep into the soil beneath the road surface owing to a lack of drainage systems, causing the road to crack. Extreme weather, such as high temperatures caused by climate change, may cause roads to expand and be damaged. Roads that were meant for small vehicles are used by heavy trucks and constant traffic, which also cause damage to roads. A lack of maintenance and construction companies that are awarded tenders to construct roads use cheap material cause roads to deteriorate quicker and result in potholes.

Potholes have significant consequences, such as punctures and costly wheel damage. Potholes can cause traffic congestion and accidents with a loss of life. In addition, potholes make it difficult for emergency workers to arrive at destinations in good time. Potholes impact on the economy as these are expensive to repair, impair road safety, and increase fuel consumption.

The PSA welcomes this programme as it will improve the lives of citizens. The PSA calls on the Department to ensure that this programme is managed correctly to prevent corruption and ensure accountability on the use of the allocated budget. Many programmes similar programmes were launched previously with little impact. The PSA also urges the Department to ensure that the construction company uses genuine materials to prevent roads from deteriorating.

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