

Mr Cyril Ramaphosa
President: African National Congress
BY EMAIL: presidentRSA@presidency.org.za

23 October 2023

Dear Mr Ramaphosa,

I am writing to you to bring to your attention the planned expenditure by the KZN Department of Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) and the eThekweni Municipality in relation to the South African Music Awards (SAMAs).

ActionSA is deeply concerned about EDTEA's planned splurge of R28 million on the SAMAs and we have reached out to you with a sense of urgency, seeking your immediate intervention in this matter. We firmly believe that this allocation of funds is not only a clear case of misuse but may also have potentially sinister implications, considering the absence of an itemized budget with accurate and substantiated figures.

Our primary objection to EDTEA's plan to allocate R28 million for the SAMAs stems from the fact that this decision to divert funds from other crucial programs lacks fiscal justification and does not adhere to the necessary approval process required by the Provincial Legislature.

To further underscore the gravity of the situation, the eThekweni Municipality Mayor, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, has unilaterally committed an additional R25 million for hosting the SAMAs without obtaining prior Council approval.

We are particularly alarmed that, despite facing significant financial constraints, both the KZN Provincial Government and the eThekweni Municipality have chosen to allocate a staggering R53 million towards a vanity project rather than prioritising investments in the recovery efforts of a Province still reeling from the devastating aftermath of the July 2021 Riots and the April 2022 Floods.

It is our firm belief that this situation presents an opportunity for you, as the ANC President, to demonstrate your commitment to the "renewal" agenda within the ruling party. We implore you to act swiftly and decisively to intercept this irrational expenditure, especially when the people of KZN and eThekweni are faced with dilapidated infrastructure and limited economic opportunities, which should rightfully be the department's primary focus.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Zwakele Mncwango

Provincial Chairperson: KwaZulu-Natal