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Department:
Community Safety and Transport Management
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Hon MEC J.S. Lehari

Tabling of Budget Vote 2022/2023

North West Provincial Legislature
19 May 2022
09H00



"Let's Grow North West Together"

BUDGET SPEECH 2022-2023



BUDGET SPEECH 2022-2023

Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition &
AND A BETTER
AFRICA  **WORLD** **2022**
THE YEAR OF NUTRITION
BUILDING A BETTER
Food Security on the African continent



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA
TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT
BUDGET VOTE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/2023**

**MEC JONAS SELLO LEHARI
NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE; MAHIKENG
19 MAY 2022**

**Honourable Speaker: Mme Basetsana Susanna Dantjie
Deputy Speaker: Mme Viola Motsumi
Honourable Premier of the Province, Rre Kaobitsa Bushy Maape
Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders; Kgosi Moshe Mabe
Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Hon. Paul Sebege
Chair of Chairs: Hon. Priscilla Williams
Fellow Members of the Executive Council
Members of the Provincial Legislature
Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads, Transport
and Community Safety: Hon. Kim Medupe
Members of the Mayoral Committee from different municipalities
Section 100 (1b) Administrator, Ntate Mathabatha Mokonyama
Acting Head of the Department, Rre Molefi Morule
Senior managers of the Department of Community Safety and Transport
Management
SAPS North West Provincial Commissioner: Lieutenant General Sello Kwena
and SAPS Senior Managers
CPF (Community Policing Forum) PEC (Provincial Executive Committee)
Community Safety Forums (CSF)
NTI
POPCRU
SANTACO
SANSBOC
SATAWU,
NEHAWU
Provincial Regulatory Entity
PSA**

Members of the media

Fellow compatriots

Bagaetsho thobela ke re ya lotšha

Madam Speaker, times are tough and we find ourselves still navigating in unchartered waters. Standing here last year, I indicated that the transport sector like many others suffered greatly. We had hoped that the challenges we faced in the recent past, caused mainly by factors beyond our control would have eased by now. Unfortunately, not only has the *status quo* with regard to the dreaded pandemic and the subsequent economic slowdown remained, together with the recent floods, our lives continue to be constrained.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to start with the famous quotations of hope from an ancient Chinese philosopher, Confucius, whose words still resonate today. He said and I quote: ***“Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it”***; close quote.

He went on to say and I quote again; ***“It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop”***; close quote. Furthermore, *Confucius said and I quote him yet again; “When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don’t adjust the goals; adjust the action steps”*; close quote.

We are therefore optimistic that with the resilience that South Africans are known for, we shall overcome. Former President Nelson Mandela reminded us of this resilience when he says and I quote; ***“I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear”***; close quote.

The elements both internal and external stretched our resources. Covid-19 and the world economic meltdown affected our resources greatly but with that resilience we have been able to do more with the little we had.

Honourable Speaker, still on this issue of Covid 19, allow me pay a special tribute to the officials of the Department and the law enforcement whom we lost as a result of COVID-19. For the year under review, as a Department we have lost ten (10)

employees as a result of pandemic. We continue to remember them and continue to pray for their families.

We also lost a young traffic officer in December who died while in line of duty. Provincial Inspector Matlhako Vuka, from Lichtenburg was stationed at Zeerust Provincial Traffic Station and was doing duty on N4 in Zeerust when she met her untimely death. Our thoughts also go to the families of the nineteen (19) people who perished in an accident between Bloemhof to Schweizer Reneke earlier this year. May their souls continue to rest in eternal peace.

We know that our fortitude is resolute; our strength always outweighs our weakness. The challenges that we have had, have revealed qualities that have helped us to forge the nation we are. We are conscious Madam Speaker that conditions are not what they can be; our economy is pressured and is unable to meet demands. But as foretold many years ago by some ancient Chinese philosopher, Confucius, whose words still resonate today, this is not the end. He said and I quote; **“Roads were made for journeys, not destinations,”** close quote. That is why we are hopeful challenges we have will not last long but our fortitude will.

Madam Speaker, given the challenges we are facing, we are not praying for easy walk but rather for strength to walk the steep. We are not praying for solutions but rather for wisdom to solve problems.

A week ago, on the tenth (10th) of May, we remembered with elation that twenty eighth 28th anniversary of the inauguration of Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela as the first democratically elected President of the Republic. The immortal words he uttered at the time were that as South Africans we owe it to ourselves to ensure every day becomes historical. He said, and I quote; **“Our daily deeds as ordinary South Africans must produce an actual South African reality that will reinforce humanity's belief in justice, strengthen its confidence in the nobility of the human soul and sustain all our hopes for glorious life for all,”** closed quote.

Those words are true today as they were twenty-eight (28) years ago. We should remind ourselves of these words at all times that this is the time to serve communities.

Honourable Speaker, standing here today, I am proud to announce that we have successfully implemented commitments we made during the budget speech last year. The National Development Plan (NDP) guides us of what we must do now to ensure the lives of the people are better.

Part of the NDP read thus and I quote, ***“In 2030, people living in South Africa must feel safe at home, at school and at work, and they enjoy a community life free of fear. Women walk freely in the street and children play safely outside. As a result of substantially reduced levels of serious and violent crime, businesses are thriving and local and foreign investors are establishing new businesses. This in turn leads to the creation of new job opportunities and the reduction of poverty and inequality.”***

We have risen to the occasion and responded well to the service delivery expectations and the needs of our communities, despite all challenges that we’ve gone through, especially with emergence of COVID-19.

Honourable Speaker, in the year under review:

We committed to mobilise our stakeholders and communities in general to fight crime on an integrated approach. With the challenges of COVID-19, this was never a walk in the park. However, we managed to implement programmes such as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), with the involvement of communities and all relevant Departments.

We have intensified prevention of Gender Based Violence (GBV), against Vulnerable Groups programmes, supported and funded Community Police Forums (CPF’s) to encourage, strengthen their fight against crime and created employment by appointing Community Safety Patrollers across the four (04) Districts of the Province through the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP).

We have further, mobilised communities and stakeholders by raising awareness on GBV and how impacted the livelihood of community members. We have also encouraged community members to participate in making schools safe and fighting Gangsterism.

Despite inadequate budget allocated for the crime prevention programme and through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), the Department has managed to appoint a total of four hundred and nine (409) community safety patrollers in all districts, with the aim of enhancing police efforts against crime and ensuring visibility. The Department is further aimed at empowering women and youth to reduce the level of vulnerability, which makes them susceptible to crime.

Honourable Members, with the objective to encourage and strengthen the fight against crime, the Department supported and funded Community Police Forums (CPF's) at thirty (30) prioritised Police Stations and ten (10) Non-Profit Organisations (NPO's) that renders crime prevention programmes.

This was for the NPO's to carry out activities that supported efforts taken by the South African Police Service (SAPS) in combating crime. SAPS had conducted the induction workshops to all the new elected members in order to capacitate them in performing their mandate.

Honourable Speaker, even though there is a challenge in establishing and resuscitating Community Safety Forums (CSFs), the MUNIMEC engagement sessions and municipalities are part of an on-going effort to resolve the matter and assisting in the establishment thereof and the Department will continue to monitor municipalities were they have been successfully established.

Madam Speaker, our police are working hard to ensure that criminals are being pursued and locked up where they belong. Under the leadership of Provincial Commissioner Lieutenant General Sello Kwena, the South African Police Service has achieved notable success in the last financial year.

The Provincial Police suffered terribly last year in July when Constable Simon Ngakaemang Ntsekeletsa, and Sergeant Mojalefa Horatius Molete, who were

stationed at Mareetsane Police Station, were brutally murdered. It didn't take long for the suspects to be apprehended and sadly they included a minor who is a son to one of those arrested.

We also welcome the two life sentences handed down to a thirty eight (38) year old man for two counts of murder. We also appreciate the work of the police that led to the sentencing of another man from Mogwase for the murder of twenty five year old Khumontle Mokgosi. He was arrested after the long arm of the law caught up with him in 2020, at Goo-Mokgatle Section in Dinokana village outside Zeerust during a crime intelligence driven operation by a multi-disciplinary team comprising of Bojanala District and Zeerust Task Teams as well as Provincial Traffic.

During the arrest, the suspect was found in possession of the deceased's bank card, clothes, car battery and liquor. The investigation team further recovered Mokgosi's two cell phones.

Madam Speaker, three months ago, five life sentences were handed down to a forty two (42) year old male by the Rustenburg Regional Court. He was convicted for rape he committed between April and June 2013 at Boitekong and Lethabong village outside Rustenburg. The suspect who is from Lethabong village, targeted young girls aged between 5 and 15.

We report these cases to demonstrate the work done by our policemen and women but mindful of the fact that they were decided by Courts of first instance and like all of us, the convicts also have a right to appeal their sentences, should they wish to do so.

All these successes are as a result of patience and skillful police work by our men and women in blue. For the year under review, we have achieved a decrease in Serious Crimes in the following:

- Burglary in business has decreased by 5%
- Theft in Motor Vehicles has decreased with 4%
- Robbery has decreased with 3%
- Sexual Assault has decreased with 3%

Madam Speaker we are happy to announce that two police stations; the Moeka-Vuma in Moretele and Mabeskraal in Moses Kotane have begun operations though they are still to be officially opened later this year.

Madam Speaker, on transport operations, true to our mandate we are continuing to provide effective and efficient transport services, with subsidized public transport to reduce costs and improve access to work and other needed services.

The travel patterns have changed as settlement evolves due to migration of communities from farms to both rural and urban areas across the Province. This often leads to school children moving away from their schools and as a Department we do all we can to ensure we provide them with transport.

The challenge we face on the routes abandoned by the operators is a result of their fault in that they make wrong claims which are in conflict with the verified routes. We are eagerly working at addressing them.

Honourable Members, the Department is continuing with the route designs process to enable it to transform the sector by appointing new operators. It is envisaged that the new system will bring about integration of public transport modes and empowerment for the previously disadvantaged in the form of an agenda for transformation. This will be done either through competitive bidding or negotiations as prescribed by the National Land Transport Act 5 of 2009.

The new contracts will seek to service new settlements and rural areas which are still struggling to access public transport. However, this will depend on affordability as we experience a decrease in the Provincial allocation year by year. Communities will continue to access subsidized public transport through the current system until new contracts come into effect.

Honourable Speaker, in ensuring that our learners have access to schools in farms and deep rural areas, the learner transport service was identified as key to improving travel times and safety.

Learners benefiting from the programme are those who travel five (05) kilometers or more to access school. The process of appointing new operators is well underway and it is anticipated that they will start rendering service when schools reopens after winter recess.

The Department has in the financial year 2020/21 realized a huge saving as a result of the implementation of verified kilometers and revised rate, and also the application of COVID-19 directives which led to rotational schooling. This was however short lived as the Department started experiencing extreme overloading at the beginning of the new school calendar year of 2022. The budget allocation was unfortunately reduced drastically from four hundred and sixty million Rand (460m) to three hundred million Rand (R300m) (adjusted allocation) as a result of the saving and reduced capacity due to lockdown. The R300 million for 2021/22 has proved to be insufficient to pay for the service for the entire year to ensure continuous provision of the service. This led to serious shortages where in some instances payments had to be delayed.

Honourable Members, the performance of transport functions by our Municipalities is still a concerning challenge. Most of Municipalities are moving at a very slow pace in building capacity to plan and implement transport related projects. There is insufficient capacity to improve public transport infrastructure and facilities required by the communities. Thus, the Department has continued to support municipalities in ensuring that transport plans are in place to guide the provision of transport services. Honourable Speaker, the Department managed to acquire the adoption and approval of the Integrated Transport Plans (ITPs) for Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Bojanala Platinum District Municipalities. The Moses Kotane Local Municipality has similarly approved its Local Integrated Transport Plans. The process to update the plans for the other District Municipalities will be carried out during the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years.

This process has negatively impacted on the finalisation of the Provincial Land Transport Framework (PLTF) which should incorporate all plans.

Honourable Members, the Department has in the financial year 2021/2022 managed to procure four (4) vehicles to deal with learner transport in all the District Municipalities.

The vehicles have thus far contributed positively on intervention of the Department towards improvement on monitoring and verification of kilometers travelled by learner transport operators. It is also now easy to identify challenges that calls for immediate response and attention since officials are on the ground on weekly basis.

Madam Speaker, we have recently noticed a number of incidents where service providers appointed to transport learners in the rural areas are continuing to experience vandalism of their buses, allegedly by the communities or learners. These criminal acts are continuously disadvantaging our learners. Just recently, learners from Willow Park in the Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality have been frustrated by the results of these unfortunate criminal acts. This as a result of a number of incidents where buses of the newly appointed service provider were vandalised, diesel stolen and the driver held hostage at gun point. The service provider was recently appointed by the Department as a means of intervention after the initial service provider had abandoned the route

Another unfortunate incident took place in Lodirile High School in Delareyville. The learners broke windows and removed chairs when the other service provider's bus got stuck.

Madam Speaker we are pleading with communities and learners across the Province to work with us as the Department, the sister Department of Education, School Governing Bodies (SGB's), and principals to ensure these criminal activities do not disrupt the transportation of learners to and from school. It is the right of our learners to receive the best education and it is therefore our combined responsibility to protect and ensure that learners are being transported to school without any disruption. Madam Speaker, we continue to intervene in every challenge that we encounter at different schools and dealing with these challenges as and when they come. We commit to resolve every challenge that our schools and service providers are experiencing, and we plead with communities to work with us.

In order to involve all Transport Stakeholders in the planning and reporting of progress, the Department has managed to convene three (03) Provincial Transport Forum meetings in the 3 quarters of the 2021/22 Financial Year.

The Department has assisted the JB Marks and Kgetleng Revier Local Municipalities to launch Local Transport Forums. These Transport Forums are meant to ensure that the three spheres of government plans together, discuss and resolve all transport related matters under one roof.

Honorable Speaker, with support from National Department of Transport, we have donated over one thousand bicycles (1000) to learners in Bojanala Platinum, Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Ngaka Modiri Molema Districts Municipalities to assist learners who walk between two kilometres and five kilometres to school. This is part of ensuring implementation of the Rural Transport Strategy.

Honourable Speaker, despite the establishment of autonomous authorities such as Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) to operate airports as business entities, all spheres of government still own, and to a lesser extent, operate the vast majority of airports. The North West Provincial Government equally owns and operates the two airports, which are the George Dick Montshioa Airport in Mahikeng and the Pilanesberg International Airport near Sun City.

The Airport systems is one of the key elements of the transport infrastructure in South Africa, historically, government has invested significantly in airport infrastructure. The two airports therefore remain key strategic assets that may serve as catalysts to stimulate economic growth and development of the Province. Therefore, if our airports are efficiently, effectively and optimally operated, they will play a key role in stimulating the economy of the province, thereby creating both direct and indirect job opportunities.

Honourable Speaker, it is unfortunate that currently the two airports are downgraded to category two (2) licensed aerodromes. These downgrades were informed by the non-compliance issues raised by the Airport Regulator, the South African Civil Aviation Authority, (SACAA) which was compromising the safety and security at the two airports.

The department has therefore established a committee to assess and monitor the situation at hand and futuristically ensuring the compliance to SACAA prescripts.

Honourable Members, the department cannot work alone to address these non-compliance issues. It requires all of us to make resources available and this includes making additional budget available. We need to pull all our resources to make our airports compliant to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) prescript and upgrade them back to higher categories where they were before.

The current allocation of twenty one point six million Rand (R21,6m) for the Pilanesberg International Airport infrastructure upgrade or renovation is insufficient considering the fact that the runway needs to be rehabilitated at an estimation cost of seventy million Rand (R70m). Over and above that, Pilanesberg Airport is designated as a port of entry, therefore requires night flights.

At the moment, the airport ground lighting systems is unserviceable and requires replacement, which is estimated at twenty five million Rand (R25m). Unfortunately, as we all know, these are the figures we do not have and therefore this calls for the involvement of private sector.

The fact that the Department is mandated to procure and own the Provincial fleet whilst client Departments controls and manages their own fleet has for years led to serious weaknesses in the system. Departments are allocated sufficient budget to procure their own fleet without allocation for fuel, repairs and maintenance that matches the required service for the entire fleet. The Executive Council has approved the decentralization of white fleet management for Departments to take full control of the entire cycle while we come up with a more permanent solution to this problem of misuse of state vehicles.

The Department will introduce a system that will provide a total package with more efficiencies than the current one. The only challenge is that user Departments are not moving to implement the resolution and this impact on our progress to improve the system.

Honourable Speaker, Road Safety still remains our biggest challenge as we continue to lose the lives on roads. We are still faced with a mammoth task of changing and improving our people's behaviour on the road, which seem to be the root cause of so many incidents and fatalities. It seems like we still have a long road to go for the success of changing mindset and that road safety is everyone's responsibility.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the declaration of the State of Disaster which imposed lockdown restrictions had negatively interrupted our implementation of Road Safety Education programmes and projects at schools. As a result, the Department had to temporarily suspend all Road Safety school programmes since it was difficult for Road Safety Officers to have access to schools.

In this programme, we have contributed towards job creation, poverty alleviation and reduction in number of road crashes involving stray animals. We have successfully employed one hundred and twenty one (121) community members across the Province as Road Safety Rangers to assist in patrolling high accident zones that involve stray animals. This is a way to respect Premier's call of job creation.

In partnership with Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC), we have also planned to identify and engage youth structures, community based organisations, Faith Based Organisations and Taxi Associations in activities which were related to the promotion of road safety.

We have arranged Advance Driver training workshops in all four Districts within the Province by enhancing driver skills with the intention of reducing of road crashes on public roads. This is another way of service delivery as said by the Premier.

In heightening the promotion of Road Safety to the community we have conducted two hundred and forty four (244) Road Safety awareness activities as planned during the 2021/22 financial year. The focus was on Pedestrian safety, Driver-Passenger safety, Stray animals and Cyclist safety awareness activities.

Honourable Members, on transport regulations, the conflicts and violence remain a challenge for the taxi industry in South Africa including the North West Province.

Government, through various strategies has had minimal successes in resolving these conflicts. Strategies implemented have resulted in the transformation, formalization and deregulation of the taxi industry in the country.

Despite this, a new pattern of conflict among taxi operators, taxi associations, contracted bus services and taxi service providers in the North West Province have resulted in violent and often fatal confrontations.

These conflicts are often in lucrative taxi routes, fight over control of rank facilities and the growing illegal operators. We then instituted a legal and public participatory process to establish the North West Public Transport Intervention Team (NWPTIT) in terms of the National Land Transport Act 5 of 2009 appointed effective from the 1st of September 2021 for a period of two years whose Chairperson is Mr Phenye Vilakazi.

In the small space of time the NWPTIT has engaged SANTACO, the National Taxi Alliance (NTA) affected Local and District Municipalities, the South African Police Service as well as Traffic Agencies. The NWPTIT has engaged with over twenty 21 Primary Taxi Associations and though there is still a lot to be done, we can justly be proud of their achievement.

We are also faced with a long-standing challenge of hiking spots, whereby hikers are busy defrauding the taxi industry indirectly. As a Department, making use of our law enforcement agencies, we are busy trying by all to reduce if not eliminate all the hiking spots.

Honourable Speaker and the House, our traffic officers continue to go beyond their call of duty to serve our motorists and road users in general. **Provincial Inspector Methane** from the N12 Freeway Patrol Unit, who is amongst us here today, was thanked publicly via social media by a female motorist after he assisted her to change her vehicles tyre when she was alone in the vehicle and with no one in sight to assist her.

Without deviating from the mandate of transport, it is vital to promote safety of all the road users. It is also imperative to highlight that, most of the traffic offices go beyond

the call of duty to assist the road users. The department will exert more effort in cracking down on illegal trucks or trucks without proper documentation.

Honourable Members, our road traffic management has registered tremendous successes in collaboration with various stakeholders including the South African Police Service, the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) as well as Law Enforcement agencies like SARS and Home Affairs throughout the Province.

During the year under review just below a million vehicles were stopped and checked for driver and vehicle fitness. During these law enforcement activities, more than one hundred and twenty thousand summonses were issued for various traffic offenses. Of these more than thirty thousand were for moving violations and of the fines issued, more than seventy percent (70%) remain unpaid for which warrants of arrests were issued for failure to appear in court. Over five thousand motorists were apprehended for outstanding warrants. These violations include drunken driving.

Madam Speaker, **We are the servants of communities.**

In showing this, we have continued to accelerate services at our different Registering Authorities across the Province. By so doing, we have extended the operational hours of all provincial and some agencies registering authorities to over the weekend in responding to the backlog created since the hard lockdown.

Just recently we have implemented the open border system to allow all motorists within the North West Province to renew their vehicle licenses anywhere in the Province without having to change their addresses.

We have also identified areas within the Moretele and Mahikeng Local Municipalities for the establishment of new or satellite registering authorities to alleviate pressures and long queues especially at the Mahikeng licensing office.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to present to this House the budget vote for twenty two/twenty three (2022/2023) for the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management as follows:

ALLOCATED BUDGET FOR 2022/2023 PER PROGRAMME:

PROGRAMME	AMOUNT	AMOUNT IN WORDS
PROGRAMME 1 ADMINISTRATION	349 526 000	Three Hundred and Forty Nine Million, Five Hundred and Twenty Six Thousand Rand
PROGRAMME 2 PROVINCIAL SECRETARIAT FOR POLICE SERVICES	52 795 000	Fifty Two Million, Seven hundred and Ninety Five Thousand Rand
PROGRAMME 3 TRANSPORT OPERATIONS	1 161 939 000	One Billion, One Hundred and Sixty One Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty Nine Thousand Rand
PROGRAMME 4 TRANSPORT REGULATIONS	683 815 000	Six Hundred and Eighty Three Million, Eight Hundred and Fifteen Thousand Rand
TOTAL	2 248 075 000	Two Billion, Two Hundred and Forty Eight Million and Seventy Five Thousand Rand

COMMITMENTS FOR THE NEW FINANCIAL YEAR PER PROGRAMME**Programme 1 - Administration**

The current Departmental staff compliment is 1491 as compared to 1478 of 2020/2021 financial year. The Department has a total of 21 Senior Management Service Members as compared to 25 of 2020/2021 with the reduction resulting from natural causes such as deaths and resignations, 08 of which are Women and 13 Men, which represents 38% women and 62% men respectively.

The 50% target of women at Senior Management Service level has not yet been achieved and the Department is committed to, where possible, fill some of the vacant and funded SMS posts by women in line with the Employment Equity Plan 2020 - 2023.

Madam Speaker, we continue to invest in capacitating both our officials and unemployed youth in order to deliver services with the necessary urgency and passion required.

As we speak here today, a group of seven (07) unemployed Youth is currently undergoing training as Examiners of Driving License and Examiner of Motor Vehicle at Limpopo Traffic Training College. Their appointment will alleviate the pressure facing the Province with regard to shortage of Examiners.

Honourable Speaker, I am pleased to announce that we have managed to complete the recruitment of fifty three (53) traffic learners that left for college earlier this year. They comprise thirty two (32) women and twenty one (21) young men. They are undergoing a twelve month (12) training programme in Mpumalanga Traffic Training College in Mkhuhlu in the Bushbuckridge Municipality. It was not an easy process given the COVID-19 pandemic; however we managed, and they come from all the four (04) Districts in the Province. Upon completion of the course, they will be appointed as Provincial Inspectors and this will increase visibility of Traffic Officers on our roads and contribute to road safety.

May I remind the House Madam Speaker, that just before the pandemic at the beginning of 2020, we had ninety seven (97) Learners graduating from the same programme and are currently appointed permanently and posted at various Traffic Stations across the Province.

We are the servants of communities.

To add to our continuous commitment of youth development, education and skills transfer, we have forged partnership with TVET Colleges in the Province and

successfully implementing the Work Integrated Learning Programme. There are currently twenty (20) Student Interns placed in the Department to gain workplace experience which will enable them to finally acquire their qualification. There are twenty one (21) Graduates Interns appointed on a 24 months Internship Programme to assist them in obtaining work exposure in relation to their areas of study.

Madam Speaker, we are striving to continuously maintain labour peace and grievances are finalized within a stipulated timeframe. There are currently no precautionary suspensions and reported cases are at various stages of investigation. Once investigations are concluded the necessary consequence management will be effected as would be advised on recommendations in the reports.

Programme 2 – Provincial Secretariat for Police

The Provincial Secretariat for Police Service will continue to strengthen oversight on the SAPS, promote relations between the police and communities and mobilising communities in the fight against crime, as per the provisions of the Civilian Secretariat Act no 2 of 2011.

Oversight Work

The Department will continue to monitor and oversee the SAPS by conducting Announced and Unannounced Police Station Visits to assess frontline service delivery at all the eighty three (83) Police Stations, including the Stock Theft Unit and Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences. The Department will further monitor SAPS compliance of issues of Domestic Violence Act, in ensuring that victims of Domestic Violence are not subjected to secondary victimisation.

The Court Watching Brief programme will be carried out and intensified at all identified Magistrate Courts and following up on all cases withdrawn by the courts due to SAPS inefficiency. This will assist in reducing the number of service delivery related complaints against the police such as poor investigations, missing criminal case dockets, poor statements taking and poor statement taking.

This will ensure compliance to regulations by the SAPS and improved service delivery. For the financial year, the following crime prevention social programmes

aimed at mobilising communities and contributing towards ensuring safety in communities will be implemented:

- Crime prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED):
- Prevention of Gender Based Violence and Femicide against Vulnerable Groups:
- Campaigns against Gangsterism
- School Safety Programme
- Rural Safety – Anti Property Theft and Anti-Dangerous Weapons Programmes
- Campaigns against Substance Abuse

Creation of jobs through EPWP - Voluntarism

The Department will continue to appoint community safety patrollers across the four (4) Districts in crime infested areas, where there is a need to enhance police efforts and visibility. A total of 400 will be targeted as per available budget from the Public Works Incentive Grant and Equitable Share. Focus will be more on the Youth, women and other identified vulnerable groups. The Incentive Grant allocated by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure is one million six hundred and thirty eight thousand Rands (R1 638 000.00).

Prevention of Gender Based Violence against Vulnerable Groups

The scourge of Gender Based Violence continues to ravage our communities, specifically the vulnerable that cannot defend themselves. In ensuring the implementation of the National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide, the Department will continue to mobilise key stakeholders in the PJCPS Cluster, Civil Society, Community based structures, Faith Based Organizations and all relevant role players in fighting this scourge. Programmes will be implemented in a form of dialogues, engagements, awareness campaigns, peaceful marches, school safety programmes and media campaign across Municipalities, as per the SAPS crime trends and patterns.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) is one of the pillars of the National Crime Prevention Strategy focusing on designing systems to reduce the opportunity for crime and increase the ease of detection and identification of criminals. The Department is implementing this through Letsema activities which call for cooperation and involvement of the affected communities and various stakeholders. Hotspots will be identified by all stakeholders including community police forums and police stations concerned. Activities will include debushing, crime information boards, house numbering, etc.

Strengthening Community Structures

In promoting relations between the police and communities, the Department will provide support to community structures in ensuring their participation in crime prevention initiatives. In partnership with the SAPS, support will be given to CPFs in relation to monitoring, capacity building and funding of initiatives.

Municipalities will be supported to establish Community Safety Forums to strengthen safety at local level. Partnerships with NGOs and NPOs providing crime prevention services will be strengthened to ensure their effective participation in the fight against crime.

Programme 3 – Transport Operations

Commuter Bus Subsidies

As indicated above, the Department will be continuing with route designs process to enable it to transform the sector by appointing new operators. It is envisaged that the new system will bring about integration of public transport modes and empowerment for the previously disadvantaged.

Learner Transport Service

The process of appointing operators is underway and the budget allocation for this service for 2022/23 financial year is three hundred million Rand this will provide service to about three hundred and fourteen (314) schools. The department will have to settle the accruals for January, February and March 2022 amounting to about one

hundred million Rand (R100m) therefore having a significant negative impact in the allocation for the 2022/23.

Transport Planning

The process to update the plans for the other district municipalities will be carried out during the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years. This process has negatively impacted on the finalisation of the Provincial Land Transport Framework which should incorporate all plans.

The department will also be developing the Provincial Land Transport Policy in the coming financial year 2022/23. About two point four million Rand (R2.4m) has been allocated to enable the department to achieve the planned targets.

Non-Motorised Transport

Through partnership with Department of Transport, the department has received a donation of one thousand, seven hundred and fifty (1750) bicycles as implementation of the Shova Kalula project for Rural Transport Strategy. These bicycles have been distributed to learners in farm and rural areas who walk between two and five kilometers to and from school. The department has also distributed about nine hundred and seventy two (972) bicycles since the process was affected by COVID-19 restrictions during the 2020/21 financial year. We are expecting another donation of one thousand one hundred and fifty (1050) bicycles as a continuation of the project in the financial year 2022/23.

Programme 4 – Transport Regulations

Transport Safety Compliance

Honourable Speaker, we are committed to continue contributing towards job creation in the Province. In this financial year the Department is going to implement Road Safety Rangers programme and plans to appoint one hundred and thirty (130) Rangers to continue assisting the Department reducing road crashes involving stray animals.

I must hasten to indicate that there had been a national decrease from forty one

percent (41%) to thirty one percent (31%) on pedestrian fatalities and an increase from thirty two percent (32%) to thirty eight percent (38%) on passenger fatalities during the 2021 Festive Season. The Department has conducted two hundred and thirty four (234) road safety awareness activities in all categories of road users on road safety matters.

For this financial year 2022/23 the Department has planned to conduct two hundred and thirty six (236) Road Safety awareness activities with specific focus on Pedestrian safety, Driver/Passenger safety and Cyclist safety across the Province. The Department will further embark on intensifying road safety awareness activities through various media platforms such as electronic, print and social media.

Road Traffic Management

Madam Speaker, an allocated budget of twenty million Rand (R20m) has been set aside for procurement of traffic uniform, law enforcement equipments like speed machines, breath alcohol testers, blue lights, firearm and safes. The allocated budget is not sufficient as there is a huge backlog on these items. The department will however try to cover these needs with little that has been allocated.

Madam Speaker, we continue to intervene and improve services at the North West Transport Investment (NTI). We have managed to bring stability between management, labour and other stakeholders.

The following activities were conducted by NTI post the discharge of the provisional liquidation order of 05 May 2020:

We have implemented different measures with a view to save the Company. These include, amongst others;-

Meeting with Management and Labour for over 20 meetings within this financial year.

These meetings resulted in deployment of the Administrator (Mr Mathabatha Mokonyama) and later on, the Chairperson of PRE (Mr Peter Moholo) as the Acting Group CEO. Both Officials have managed to put the Company in recovery path post liquidation.

To this extend we would also wish to applaud the continued support of our counterpart in Treasury Honourable Rhosho as well as the guidance of the Premier Honourable Bushy Maape.

Over and above this the Premier has appointed a Special Task Team to make a comprehensive assessment of the Company. This Team has presented a comprehensive report about the Entity which enlisted 4 viable options for NTI.

We have also met with our counterpart at Gauteng (Hon Jacob Mamabolo) to discuss challenges facing the Company.

Despite these achievements, the following issues constitute immediate challenges which requires undivided attention:

- Acute shortage of buses
- Budget cuts
- The stoppage of standing kilometres
- Stabilization of the Company

All these gains may be reversed if timeous decision are not taken by the Shareholder Committee

In their new Strategic plan Management of NTI intends to achieve the following tasks:-

- Increase footprints in the North West Province,
- Repair and refurbishment of buses through Durabuild.
- Convert Dana Viljoen building into a residential/Office park.
- Diversify into the retail sector.
- Diversify into road freight sector.
- Implement performance management system,
- Update ICT application and network systems,

Achievements

- Established good relationship between management, labour and other Stakeholders.
- Minimized accidents and fatalities

- Discharge of Provisional liquidation on the 05th May 2021.
- Today, NTI has managed to submit the Strategic Plan, Annual Performance Plan, Shareholders Compact and other reports as required by the law.
- The Entity is implementing a vigorous process of consequence management which has seen termination of over hundred employees who were found guilty of different offences.

As a shareholder representative, may I paraphrase the words of the late Ms Helen Suzman; I quote: “I did what I can with what I have, where I was”. In essence Honourable Speaker, as a Department we brought about stability in entity and have established a firm foundation for the company’s turnaround; close quote

In Conclusion

Honourable Speaker, former President Nelson Mandela reminded us that the first right of a citizen in a democratic state is safety. He said and I quote; **“Our Freedom is also incomplete as long as we are denied our security by the criminals who prey upon our communities, who rob our businesses and undermine our economy, who ply their destructive trades in drugs in our schools, who do violence against our women and children”**; close quote.

We commit to increase our visibility across the Province to ensure that people are and feel safe and ensure compliance of the Road Traffic Act.

May I express profound thanks to former HOD, Ms Botlhale Mofokeng whose contract with the Department has ended in April. This brought to an end her long career spanning four decades in the public service. In the same breath may I wish former Chief Director for Civilian Secretariat Ms Nikiwe Num well in her new responsibilities as the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality Executive Mayor. Their contribution in the Department is highly appreciated.

Lastly Madam Speaker, let me thank the following:

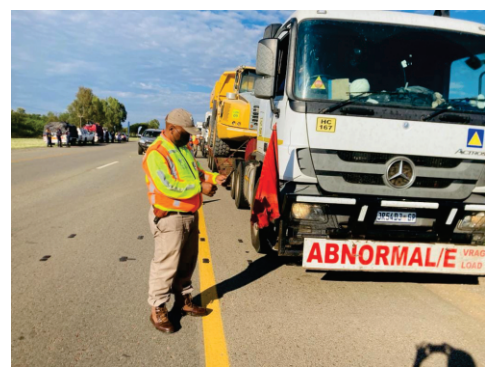
- ❖ Our movement, the African National Congress (ANC) for showing confidence on me.
- ❖ Honourable Premier, Kaobitsa Bushy Maape for his continuous stewardship
- ❖ The EXCO for working as a team,
- ❖ Members of the Provincial Legislature
- ❖ The Portfolio committee for the continued oversight and robust engagements
- ❖ Section 100 (1) (B) Administrator, Mr M Mokonyama and his team
- ❖ The Acting Head of Department, Mr M Morule, senior management and the entire team COSATMA
- ❖ MEC's support staff
- ❖ The South African Police Service led by Lieutenant General Sello Kwena
- ❖ Labour movements

Finally allow me to thank my family for their continuous support.

Dennis P Kimbro once said, and I quote, "***Life is ten percent what happens to us and ninety percent how we react to it***"; close quote.

I THANK YOU

KE A LEBOGA!!!!



Let's Grow North West together



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