

**RESPONSE TO THE DEBATE ON THE STATE OF THE PROVINCE  
ADDRESS BY PREMIER TEBOGO JOB MOKGORO ON THURSDAY,  
21 FEBRUARY 2019, IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL  
LEGISLATURE**

The Speaker of the North West Provincial Legislature, Honourable  
Susanna Dantjie

The Deputy Speaker of the North West Provincial Legislature,  
Honourable Jane Manganye

Honourable Members of the Executive Council

Honourable Members of this house

Fellow Citizens,

Members of the media,

Good morning.

I would like to welcome the inputs made by members during the Debate by all members and out of that, I am encouraged to invite you, especially members on the opposition benches, to a further interactive session over a cup of tea.

Madam Speaker, with regards to the ongoing **Roads Recovery Plan**, we were very clear in our approach to having a world class road infrastructure in the province – we have put a plan in place to improve road infrastructure as well as reduce the road maintenance backlog during the 2019/2020 financial year.

Funds have been made available for the completion of the projects and in addition, we have a standing, progressive partnership with SANRAL aimed at exactly improving the road infrastructure in the North West with

a total budget spent of over R4,54 billion and an additional allocated R732 million for the next financial year; and there is no doubt in my mind that the quality of those roads will last long after our living days.

We have, in addition, come out very clear that there will be no department which will be allowed to underspend their allocation under my watch, and the same applies to road infrastructure.

The **road to Bhurmansdrift** will be inspected soon, and the necessary repairs will be conducted on that stretch of road, budget permitting; just like all other roads that need our attention throughout the province.

**Honourable Schutte**, we will be putting in place a default register to deal specifically with contractors who perform shoddy work on infrastructure-related projects, with immediate effect.

We were serious when we said the properties that were damaged by the 2014 earth quake are going to receive priority attention; for we have no time for sloganeering and grandstanding but timeous service delivery, the repairs to those properties will be undertaken

In response to the **EFF**, Honourable members, simple logic would dictate that the reason that the land question regarding the proposed changes to **Section 25 of the Constitution** did not find expression in the SOPA last week was primarily because that is currently at an advanced stage led by the National Assembly; only after that process has been undertaken will it find expression in our programmes.

We are doing a lot in terms of ensuring the provision of **clean drinking water** and as part of normalising our municipalities; we are also working closely with SANRAL on the provision of **bulk water services** to avail clean drinking water to the masses of our people; irrespective of race, colour or creed.

We agree with members on the **sewer** problem but this may be a design problem as new settlements grow and townships expand. We need to relook at our sewer systems based on the nature of growth in our various settlements and their necessary bulk infrastructure.

In addition, **R157 million** has been put aside to attend to **water problems in the villages and township** all over the province – including all villages in the Mahikeng Local, Ratlou, Ramotshere Moiloa – this is an urgent intervention measure to ensure the availability of clean drinking water.

Madam Speaker, progress has been made regarding our intervention in the 22 Municipalities in the province – we were very clear and sober when we announced that the nuts and bolts of that intervention will be tabled before this august house by the MEC for Local Government and Human Settlement in her departmental vote.

In terms of the **VBS** matter, we have indicated in the past that action has been taken against implicated officials – the Municipal Managers for both the Mahikeng and Moretele Local Municipalities are already facing disciplinary action for those illegal investments of municipal funds – and more heads are still to roll; we call on Municipalities to take appropriate action against implicated Council Members.

Since I took over as Premier, I have made changes with regards to key government areas to better service delivery, and this includes effecting changes to some portfolios in the Executive Council in December last year.

Honourable Babuile, investigations are ongoing with respect to the **theft and misuse of public funds** over the last three years, totalling more than **R2,497 billion**, by various law enforcement agencies – some cases

are at an advanced stage, some are ready to be put on to the court roll, and they are beyond our capacity as the Provincial Government – and we welcome the input on how to tackle corruption, however, let us allow the law enforcement agencies to do their work without any form of hindrance or interference on our part.

We shall continue to act in the best interest of the public in the handling of these cases – internal investigations are ongoing and at an advanced stage against various officials in the different government departments; we shall make the outcomes of all those investigations public as and when concluded.

We also welcome the input regarding possible acts of corruption in both the **Rustenburg and Ditsobotla Local Municipalities** and steps are being taken to institute investigation; and where there is preliminary evidence that there has been wrong doing, appropriate action will be taken.

Our infrastructure improvement programme is aimed at ensuring the safety and health of both learners and teachers at schools across the province; we will achieve our goal of eradicating pit latrines in the **104 remaining schools** in the province as well as ensuring schools with structural defects are given priority attention with immediate effect.

Madam Speaker, I and the MEC for Health, the Honourable Madoda Sambatha, visited the **Bophelong Psychiatric Hospital** yesterday as part of my announcement last week that we will embark on an inspection drive of all incomplete, and unused but completed, facilities.

The purpose was to get first hand as to why the facility was not functioning at 100 percent.

Honourable members, what I found there left much to be desired.

The facility is faced with the following challenges;

- Non compliance to norms and standards for mental health facilities
- Water shortage to non-availability of water
- Sewerage blockage
- Sewerage pump at the pump house being non-functional and an uncleaned fat trap chamber
- No hot water due to collapsed solar and heating water system affected by water shortage
- Laundry not operational due to lack of infrastructure
- non-procurement of patient mattress (sponges)
- non-functional air-conditioning systems
- Leaking roofs affecting the condition of the ceiling

As a result, we are embarking on the following interventions and solutions;

- The contractor - ENM/Group 5 - has been called back to address the Latent defects-related items as per contract conditions, and they are currently on site attending to those defects at no cost to government
- The items affected due to lack of maintenance will be addressed, especially geyser and pump installation once the temporary borehole is drilled and there is adequate water supply.
- The underground water tank and sewer line's reticulations design have been finalized and in the meantime we will be manually emptying the sewerage tank with a 'honey-sucker'.
- The facility has been provided with a JOJO tank and is being filled up by Sedibeng Waters on weekly basis.

We are working closely to ensure that all operational requirements at primary health care centres are met, and we are appreciative of the President's support in strengthening the capacity of our health services.

With regards to the safety of our people, policing is not a provincial competency; however, we are working day and night with the South African Police Service to ensure that all citizens of the North West are and feel safe at all times – not only people in the rural areas but all areas of the province.

We have recently resolved with SAPS to intensify our collaborative efforts to safety, and included in this **integrated approach, is the rural and farm safety strategy.**

Madam Speaker, **job creation** remains top of our food chain and the economy is being stimulated to create a variety of jobs – from bricklayers, artisans, accountants, etc – that is why we have put in motion the creation and licensing of the **Platinum Special Economic Zone** with an aim to attract Foreign Direct Investment estimated at over R4 billion, and with a potential of creating over 6000 sustainable, long term jobs amongst other initiatives.

As a way to illustrate our commitment to growing the economy aimed at job creation, we will be hosting a **Trade and Investment Conference** in the Bojanala District on 14 March 2019; informed by the outcomes of the Presidential Investment Summit that was held recently.

Honourable members, we are well aware of the need to be more aggressive in our efforts towards job creation and we call on the private sector to work with government, while we create an enabling environment for job creation.

Honourable Chief Whip of the Majority Party, we will be taking the entire EXCO to **Itsoseng, in Ditsobotla on 27 February 2018**; therefore the challenge you posted is in line with this standing resolution between us and the community of Itsoseng.

This is in response to the challenges that the community of Itsoseng have been facing and raised with the Office of the Premier, in a meeting held with community leaders at the end of last year.

We need to find lasting solutions to the problems in **the Itsoseng, Bodibe** as well as the **surrounding villages, and to an extent, Boikhutso and Blydeville** areas; notwithstanding the fact that significant progress has been made since we appointed an Administrator to turn the fortunes of the Ditsobotla Local Municipality around.

This is the approach that we have undertaken since I assumed office and we are committed to solving the problems affecting citizens of the North West.

Madam Speaker, we are very appreciate the **Section 100 (1)(a) and Section 100 (1)(b)** interventions as well as the lessons learnt in assisting us to take this government in the right direction; **to improve service delivery as well as ensuring financial prudence; especially in the critical area of Supply Chain Management.**

We will also intensify our anticipated engagement with the National Department of Transport with regards to the exorbitant tolls fees at the **Swartruggens N4 Toll Plaza.**

Madam Speaker, we are disturbed by the recent media reports of a **9 year old boy learner who is alleged to have been raped in a bathroom of the Curro Private School in Mahikeng.**

We believe the police probing the matter will be able to resolve this matter and ensure the safety of learners on school grounds.

Honourable members, this is a government at work and we will grow this province and South Africa; we have a mandate to do that.

I thank you Madam Speaker.

ENDS