



# Premier Job Mokgoro on state of the province

North West Premier, Prof. Tebogo Job Mokgoro, has expressed the provincial government's satisfaction in the progress made in the prevention of corruption related crimes and violent protests following interventions relating to the invocation of Section 100 of the Constitution in the province in 2018.

Delivering the 2020 State of the Province Address (SOPA) at the Provincial Legislature, Mokgoro said the placement of five provincial departments under Section 100 (1)(b) and the issuing of directives to five others placed under Section 100 (1)(a), had yielded positive results in an effort to stabilise the province, address governance and service delivery failures, as well as rooting out corruption.

The Premier said a review of statistics from the South African Police Service (SAPS) had revealed a steady decline in violent protests in the province since the start of the intervention.

"This compares favourably with statistics for January 2019 in which 26 unrest incidents were recorded and reflects a 15 fold decrease since the violence of April 2018 when police recorded 91 unrest incidents. The data shows that we are making significant progress towards becoming a stable and peaceful province.

"We owe a debt of gratitude to the many policemen and women who have responded to the call of duty, often under difficult circumstances, whenever violence flared up," said the Premier.

With regard to governance and financial management, Premier Mokgoro said achievements had been realised since the start of the intervention as seen by improvements noted by the Auditor-General in the control environments in several departments under administration. The Auditor-General has commended the intervention on "encouraging trend", noting an "indication of turnaround."



## Section 100 Intervention Progress in Brief

- ▶ Provincial departments have been reconfigured to align with national norms
- ▶ Irregular project management unit contracts across departments and entities have been terminated, investigated and processes underway to recover losses to the State.
- ▶ Health system improvements: critical

vacancies filled, accruals cleared allowing procurement of medicines and equipment, key triggers of the strikes addressed.

- ▶ Investigations into scholar transport contract completed and SIU and the AFU have commenced with loss recovery processes in relation to scholar transport contracts.

- ▶ Interventions to improve financial management and oversight of school infrastructure projects, including the appointment of new bid committees and training on contract management. 12 investigations relating to infrastructure procurement have been instituted
- ▶ Thirteen (13) new capital road construction

projects worth R900m are being implemented.  
▶ Eight (8) investigations relating to infrastructure procurement were instituted resulting in seven schools, including three that had been under construction for more than five years being completed.

## Provincial Growth and Development Strategy

Regarding the ailing economy, Premier Mokgoro said the province would finalise the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy which would be anchored on four Provincial Strategic Development Corridors to drive the province's participation in and contribution to the national effort to grow the economy.

In a concerted effort to make a significant impact on the growth acceleration of a cohort of high growth potential Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), the North West Provincial Government has adopted a new type of SMME support and development programme called the North West Growth Acceleration Programme (NW-GAP).

A total of 60 SMMEs with a turnover of between

R250 000 and R1 million have been placed in an intense incubation programme for a period of 12 months, ending in November 2020.

About job creation, Premier Mokgoro says a provincial framework would be adopted to ensure that designated rural roads would be deliberately set aside for job creation, small contractor development and local participation through development of specifications and tender requirements that protect identified projects from dominance by empowered contractors.

"This approach will be implemented on all projects for which contractors have not yet been appointed, and the list of such projects will be made public to avoid gate keeping," said the Premier.

Furthermore, implementation of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), will be

intensified so as to maximise labour intensive measures to create jobs, and about 200 000 job opportunities will be created over the next five years, with Provincial Government Departments creating almost 126 000 work opportunities and Municipalities creating the remaining over 72 000 work opportunities.

"We intend to create a further 1300 EPWP jobs through refurbishing of Community Arts Centres, the revitalised Provincial Cultural Festivals, Library programmes, 40 Learnership and Internship programmes in the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation".

Premier Mokgoro said in the next financial year, the province will provide housing units and

prioritise the upgrading of informal settlements as agreed with municipalities, highlighting that 89 housing projects across the province amounting to 5 026 units costing R 661 million, will be delivered.

