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**Public Works and Roads**  
North West Provincial Government  
Republic of South Africa

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## COMMUNICATION

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### Investigations to establish facts kick-in...

**Date:** Tuesday, August 26, 2014

On Tuesday, August, 20 I tabled the department's 2014/2015 Budget Speech that was subsequently adopted by the Honourable members present. In the speech I noted that the department has made strides in improving on its performance. Whilst the Department has been dogged by disclaimers for the past years, we are proud of the interventions and strides made by the department through a Turn-Around Strategy.

As a result interventions brought by the Turn-Around-Strategy, the department has moved from a disclaimer to a qualified audit opinion. This is a drastic departure from lack of internal control measures towards efficiency and effectiveness. We also we recorded 98% expenditure in the past financial year as compared to the previous years of under-spending, which accounted for poor delivery and severely dented the image of the provincial government. The major hurdles towards clean audit are internal control problems originating from the previous years. We are working tirelessly to address those.

The lack of capacity in critical technical positions such as engineers, artisans, architects and quantity surveyors have impacted negatively in the past on the Department's ability to undertake and manage construction and maintenance functions. In conjunction with Provincial Treasury and the Department of Public Service and Administration a process of addressing this challenge has already started.

There has been improvement in the reduction of litigation cases against the Department and this was as a result of bringing required capacity in the legal unit.

In our continued efforts to recoup state property and ensure it is well managed, we have successfully managed to transfer Oberon back to the ownership of the provincial government and have also terminated the contact with Celsius Hospitality Services for the management of the Mmabatho Convention Centre. We have committed to build at least one (1) road in each of municipality as a minimum in each financial year. In this financial year we will hand over 35 completed road projects, seventeen of which are Capex projects whilst the remaining eighteen are fog spray and reseal (maintenance)

As the lead coordinator of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) the department has created 40 154 work opportunities throughout the province and we are expected to create 26 282 job opportunities from social, environment and infrastructure sectors projects. We are going to train 2000 EPWP beneficiaries on infrastructure related skills programmes.

We will ensure that youth, women and people with disabilities from the province benefit from various road maintenance and other infrastructure projects to be undertaken by the department .

The South African Broadcasting Corporation on 20 August 2014 brought to my attention an internal confidential document on supply chain processes in the department. The documents in question are related to the construction of roads from Bona-Bona to Morokgweng and Morokgweng to Vosterhoop. These roads are in Dr Ruth Segomotso Mompati District Municipality of the North West province.

In my response I indicated that I will institute an internal investigation into the matter to verify facts. I also indicated that I will table a report in 30 days. I must also state that the investigation process will not affect the work that is currently ongoing at the affected roads. Appointed contractors will continue.

Issued by **Communication Directorate**

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