

Purpose of the day by MEC for Public Works and Roads, Gaoage Oageng Molapisi delivered during the Official of Completed Phase 1 Road P175/1 held at Road P175/1, Potchefstroom, JB Marks Local Municipality, on Wednesday, October 21st, 2020.

Mayor of JB Marks Local Municipality, Cllr Kgotso Khumalo

MMC of Infrastructure, Cllr Kasela

Councilors,

Department of Public Works and Roads Senior Managers

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning,

The Department of Public Works and Roads together with the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management have a Joint Transport Month Program. We are focusing our actions on four activities namely:

- Launching of District Roads Forums
- Official Opening of complemented Roads Projects in all 4 Districts
- Sod Turning and Introduction of Newly appointed Contractors and
- Taxi Lekgtola

We have been plagued by the COID 19 Virus because of it our economy suffered the most and the poor are the most affected as we see in the recent statistics of unemployment ballooning. In responding to the opening of the economy under the Risk Adjusted Strategy the President has called Government and us as

implementers of policy; to focus on the following objectives of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan:

1. To create jobs, primarily through aggressive infrastructure investment and mass employment programmes;
2. To reindustrialize our economy, focusing on growing small businesses;
3. To accelerate economic reforms to unlock investment and growth;
4. To fight crime and corruption; and
5. To improve the capability of the state.

This will help us achieve the objectives of National Development Plan.

Our Province's network infrastructure comprises of 70% unpaved roads and 30% tarred roads. The majority of these unpaved roads are in Dr RSM District.

This is not only the situation for the North West Province but other Provinces in South Africa. I must say I was impressed by the President when he aligned the objective of infrastructure investment through mass employment with what I had said as the focus of the Department in the 2019/20 Budget Speech as focusing on rural roads. This will be done through alternate building material and other labour intensive methods.

The Province with the help of the National Department Transport based on what the President pronounced on the 15th of October will be allocated at least R80 million to realise this objective through the Infrastructure Maintenance Grant for the next three financial years as the Department also commit its budget to complete planned projects.

In this financial year the Department will be completing 4 projects in the Dr KK District starting with the completion of phase 2 of this road that we are here to experience its successful completion of Phase 1. The other 3 projects are as follow:

- The rehabilitation of Road P117/1 from Ottosdal to P13/2 to Hartebeespontein
- Rehabilitation of Section of Road P20/4 (R53) Potchefstroom and
- NWPG repair a sectional reseal, Vaal River of bridges D80, D36, D642 and P89/2 these are bridges across the Vaal River with a total investment to the District at R268 240 million.

The completed Phase 1 of this Road P175-1 started in 8 January 2018 and was completed in 7 July August 2019. This project created 78 local work opportunities of comprising youth and women. Local Economic Development through sub-contracting opportunities by awarding work to 11 North West companies was also created.

We recently officially launched the Dr. KK District Roads Forum. We are planning to implement the District Development through this Forum. The forum will assist in planning of developmental initiatives in an integrated manner in line with the Intergovernmental Governmental Framework. I will also sit with Mayors through the MunMec structure.

Let us continue to take the necessary precautions in preventing the spread of COVID 19.

I want to thank you