

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

DIRECTORATE: COMMUNICATION

It's frightening rather than worrying...

Date: Wednesday, June 03, 2015

THE current administration of Bokone Bophirima- fifth administration- continues to grapple with unresolved issues inherited from former administrations particularly the third and fourth.

Premier Supra Mahumapelo confirmed in his department's budget speech that the cumulative total value of claims against departments in the province stood at R3billion, claims he said were yet to be realised.

He said three year leave cycles, calculated from January 01, 2008 to December 31, 2014 cost government more than R2.95billion in money spent on public servants taking incapacity leave.

R200million was spent on people cashing their leave days.

Mahumapelo attributed the larger portion of this expenditure to staff not fully utilising their respective leave days in order to be paid out in cash.

The remainder was leave credits being paid to employees to terminate service and get paid leave credits.

Out of a total of R1.298billion spent in overtime by government, R1.071billion was spent by one department (Health) on overtime alone.

For the period 2010 to 2014:

Out of a total expenditure of R101billion of the provincial budget, R56billion was spent on paying salaries of public servants.

R1.8billion was spent on public servants travelling and hotel accommodation reimbursements, the budget often overspent;

R409million was paid on performance bonuses;

Out of the provincial budget of R34billion, R26billion and other staff costs represented Equitable Share.

Out of this amount also, R19million is budgeted for costs of salaries and other staff costs for 2015/2016;

As of March 31, 2014 the cumulative unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure for the entire province stood at R9.5billion.

Health (R4.9billion); Public Works and Roads (R2.1billion) Education (879million) and the Office Of The Premier (R303million).

Mahumapelo said the choices his government was faced with was either to maintain or sustain the status quo or:

"...adopt a more difficult complex path to deal with the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality."

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