



## De Lille commits to help Public Works and Roads get out of the woods...

**Date:** Thursday, January 16, 2020

Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Patricia De Lille, has pledged her support and reassured senior management of the provincial department of Public Works and Roads of her readiness to assist in motivating for the lifting of the intervention should such an opportunity arise.

She cautioned however, that for that to happen, she would require a firm and unwavering support of all senior managers to rally around the ``Intervention team`` led by her appointed administrator, Mr. Samuel Thobakgale

The department, and several others in the province have to date been placed under administration following the invocation by Cabinet in May 2018, of Sections 100 (1) (a) and (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

``I am committed to help get the intervention out. Your cooperation therefore with the administrator is very important...I am prepared to work with you to even recommend to Cabinet...as this will be for the benefit of the North West and the people of this province to get out of administration,`` said De Lille.

But to get nearer to that point, De Lille outlined- as a *de facto* MEC of the department- some of the marching orders she considered important, including ``monitoring the department's quarterly reports``.

She called on the department to stream-line its budget and operations to address the six priorities of the 6th Administration, and to filter a plan in line with the District Service Delivery Model.

This Cabinet approved approach, seeks to enhance alignment initiatives like integrated development plans with a clear focus of implementing one plan in each district across all sparses of Government.

She said this approach was also expected to improve coordination of national, regional as well as public works' entities in all nine provinces.

On the fight against corruption, De Lille called for visible consequence management, development of systems that can detect and prevent potential acts of corruption from happening and improvement in areas of project and contract management.

She called on Mr Thobakgale to consider rotating members of the Bid Adjudicating Committees, reduce the over-reliance on consultants and for tenders to the value of above R10m be open for public scrutiny as a gesture of openness and transparency.

Verification of bids above R10m is done by provincial Treasury.

De Lille also recommended the appointment an independent firm- a development the department has actioned already on a need basis- to perform due diligence on awarded bids on behalf of the department to ensure those appointed had an impeccable track record to deliver quality and on time.

\*Meanwhile, De Lille officially handed over to the department, new road construction machinery (yellow fleet) to the value of R28 million during her two-day visit to the province and joined in the pothole patching activity on Nelson Mandela Drive in Mahikeng.

Ends

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