



## public works & roads

Department:  
Public Works and Roads  
North West Provincial Government  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# THE 2024/25 BUDGET POLICY SPEECH BY MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (MEC) FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND ROADS (NORTH WEST PROVINCE) HONOURABLE SEMPE ELIZABETH MOKUA, TABLED IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE ON FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2024.

- Speaker of the Provincial Legislature
- Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Legislature
- Premier of the North West Province: Honourable Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi
- The Chief Whip
- Honourable Members of the North West Provincial Legislature
- Members of the Executive Council (MECs)
- Representative of the North West House of Traditional and Khoi-San leaders. The Chief Whip
- Leaders of Political Parties
- Leaders of the Labour Movements
- Head of the Department (HoD) of Public Works and Roads
- Leadership of our client Departments in the province
- Senior and Middle Managers of the Department present in the house.
- External/Secondary Stakeholders present



- People of the North West province following us on various media platforms
- Distinguished Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

**Honourable Members**, distinguished guests and people of the North West province, the marching orders for the Seventh Administration have been pronounced by the President and subsequently by the Premier of North West, Honourable Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi yesterday.

There is absolutely no doubt, these have placed the National Departments of Public Works and Infrastructure as well as Transport and equally so, the provincial Department of Public Works and Roads at the nerve centre, to catapult the ideals of the new administration to even greater heights.

Our Constitutional mandate, as an infrastructure delivery arm of government, has never been so further enhanced. It resembles the pillars of strength upon which the new dispensation anchors for the next five years.



Infrastructure serves as the foundation of a nation's economy, as it provides the necessary physical and social systems for sustained growth and development.

Through the infrastructure networks, **Honourable Speaker:**

We can improve productivity, attract investment and enhance the overall well-being of the people of this province. Critical in these areas, is the provincial road network (surfaced and gravel roads) which remain our responsibility to construct and maintain.

For the benefit of this **August House**, the new marching orders- which are strategic priorities for our National Government of Unity (GNU) are:

- To drive inclusive economic growth and job creation which is at the centre of the work on the new government and at the top of the national agenda.
- To reduce poverty and tackle the high cost of living and
- To build a capable, ethical and developmental state

These three strategic priorities, as elevated by the President Cyril Ramaphosa (Republic of South Africa) during the opening of Parliament on Thursday (July18) find expression in the National Development Plan Vision 2030.



**Honourable Members:**

May I say this up-front!

I have, and will continue to commit every possible working second, to make this Department work towards fulfilling, and realising the priorities of the 7<sup>th</sup> Administration.

But above all, to make this Department one which people of the North West can be proud of, and which delivers the services that the Constitution demands of it.

**Honourable Speaker:**

I have had formal engagements with Senior and Middle managers of the Department, with more still planned in the coming weeks. The consensus from these engagements was that: Transparency and commitment will be central henceforth to guide our daily operations.

This is critical, so that we can build the public trust that holds us accountable to deliver on the marching orders during this incredible five-year journey ahead. A journey that Public Works and Roads will embark on is to turn the North West province into a construction site.



*Ka mafoko a mangwe re tlile go thuntsha lerole mo dingwageng tse tlhano tse di tlang.*

And also, to drive the infrastructure led economic growth that will stimulate job creation through our various departmental core businesses.

That includes without fail, even the deepest rural areas where more often than not: Communities often feel forgotten, forsaken and are made to believe, government only cares or remembers them during the election season for votes, and nothing else other than votes.

That has to be corrected, and as the President said in his address:

***“We will support the growth of rural enterprises and must invest in public infrastructure in under serviced areas.***

***“...we will take economic activity to where most of our people live so that more jobs can be created.”***

**Provincial EXCO resolved back in 2023 already, after the matter was tabled in the year 2020, that infrastructure related activities and programmes in the province, reside with Public Works including the human capital.**



**To this end I will be engaging my counterparts in this August House to ensure that all infrastructure related functions residing in their respective departments, migrate back to Public Works. This will be done to ensure Public Works and Roads becomes the preferred implementing agent of all infrastructure in the province.**

In assisting us to reclaim our full mandate:

This province can leverage on that to deliver integrated infrastructure more efficiently, effectively and with better coordination with a vast impactful and visible footprint.

There can be no other infrastructure delivery arm of government other than Public Works and Roads.

Therefore, it is in perfect order for us to make a clarion call in this House to reclaim our full mandate in line with the Constitution of the Republic.

### **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ROADS MAIN VOTE**

Before I proceed further may I delve into our allocation for the current financial year which is:

Four billion, thirty two million, and one hundred and ninety eight thousand rand. **(R4 032 198 000).**



<b>PROGRAMME</b>	<b>BUDGET ALLOCATION</b>
Programme 1: Administration	Two hundred and eighty three million - eight hundred and thirty eight thousand  <b>R283 838 000</b>
Programme 2: Public Works Infrastructure	One billion - seventy four million – nine hundred and nineteen thousand  <b>R1 074 919 000</b>
Programme 3: Transport Infrastructure	Two billion – three hundred and eighty six million - four hundred and four thousand  <b>R2 386 404 000</b>
Programme 4: Community Based Programme	Two hundred and eighty seven million and thirty seven thousand  <b>R287 037 000</b>



<b>TOTAL</b>	<p>Four billion, thirty two million, and one hundred and ninety eight thousand rand</p> <p><b>R4 032 198 000</b></p>
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**Honourable Speaker:**

Austerity measures across all government departments are bound to affect our job creation targets and implementation of projects across all programmes. Subsequent to that, the Department experienced a budget cut of **R154** million across various programmes.

This was made up of **R100 million** of Equitable Share and **R54.5 million** of the Conditional Grant.

This was further exacerbated by a budget reduction of **R79 million** for this 2024/25 financial year.

However, despite all these cuts, we are still determined to put all hands on deck, and do more with less to deliver on our mandate and the three key priorities in the coming five years.



While we are determined to turn the province into a construction site, **Honourable Members:**

We must also address the emerging challenge that impedes the implementation of our goals.

This includes:

The emerging trend in the country and our province of the Construction Mafia that is hell-bent on extortion, disruption and hijacking of construction sites and projects.

They often come under the guise of community stakeholders, demanding the 30 percent stake of value of the project awarded to a contractor.

This has result in some of projects we have awarded either being stopped, delayed or not being completed on time and within the allocated budget.

Some of the projects had to be abandoned by contractors fearing for the lives.

The department is working very closely with law enforcement to bring an end to the scourge of disruptions at construction sites including also, opening criminal cases against such groups of people who often march on government offices during working hours, intimidating officials and demanding tenders.



Lawlessness will not be tolerated and we must seize the moment to end violence, intimidation and extortion in the construction sector.

**Madam Chair:**

Indeed, this for us is going to be a challenging journey, but rest assured, we will not compromise service delivery to our people.

The allocated budget to us, will be spent towards:

- Implementing new, and improving our existing public infrastructure- as in roads and buildings;
- Creating work opportunities by leading and coordinating Phase V of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)
- Building our capacity to facilitate skills development and, building a capable and ethical developmental state.

**PROGRAMME ONE: ADMINISTRATION (FILLING OF CRITICAL VACANT POSTS)**

The need to build a capable ethical and developmental state cannot be over emphasised.

I am pleased to announce that the department will ensure that we attract into our state machinery, skilled human capital required for the job. For this *Seventh Administration* to achieve its priorities for the



people of our province, and the country as a whole, the moment has indeed arrived:

To reinforce the Public Service with people of integrity to turn the tide on corruption and dishonesty in the administration of the state.

**Honourable Members:**

Eighty (80) critical vacant posts were filled during the 2023/24 financial year, focusing mainly on the technical sector of the Department.

We are now in the process to fill five (5) vacant key strategic management posts which have been vacated recently.

Subject to budget availability, and in view also of the massive budget cuts I mentioned earlier above, the Department finalised plans to fill 221 reprioritised critical vacant positions to further strengthen the technical skills of our department to deliver on our core mandate.

We do however, **Honourable Members**, have a very successful *Candidacy Programme* running in the various fields of the Built Environment.



Of the 22 candidates currently on this programme, nine (9) are female. The challenge remains our ability to retain these candidates once they attain their professional registration.

This is due to structural and financial constraints as government struggles to compete with the private sector. The department is working on reviewing its retention strategy.

**Honourable Speaker**, it remains our quest to attract more women to this programme in order to reduce male dominance in the sector.

## **PROGRAMME TWO: PUBLIC WORKS INFRASTRUCTURE (BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE)**

**Honourable Members** and **Distinguished Guests**:

The budget allocated for this programme for the current financial year 2024/2025 will contribute towards fulfilling government's priorities mentioned earlier.

The priorities that resonate with the people of our province also. We are therefore called upon to put shoulder to wheel, put our differences aside, and unite to turn our province and the country into a construction site during the *Seventh Administration*



The Department will in this financial year focus our efforts in ensuring that we finalise the process of appointing contractors for the following projects, as we hit the ground running:

- Refurbishment of Theresa House – which is a heritage site
- Security upgrade at the Old Parliament Complex in Mahikeng
- Renovations of the Traditional Council Chamber at Old Parliament Complex in Mahikeng
- Construction of a New Offices for Vryburg Sub-District in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati. This facility will be a multi-tenants office park that will accommodate both the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management, as well as the Department of Public Works and Roads.

Furthermore, in an attempt to reduce our lease portfolio and dependency on rental units for office use, the Department has also advertised for procurement of consultants for the design of Mmabatho Office Park.

This is aimed at accommodating various departments scattered in other office accommodation space in and around our capital city. This will further address the challenge of congestion of government employees at Garona Building and those housed in inhabitable leased buildings.



We will also be finalising the procurement of the design and build of the EXCO Conference Centre at Embassy in Mahikeng. The purpose of this facility is to ensure uninterrupted governance and oversight functions of the provincial government.

With reference to major (CAPEX) projects for client departments, the department in turning the province into a construction site, will be focusing our efforts in completing the following projects in the 2024/2025 financial year:

- Six (6) schools with the combined contract value of R450m. These are projects planned in all our districts.
- Two (2) libraries to the combined contract value of R29m.
- Bahurutshe-Baga-Shuping Traditional Office to the contract value of more than R25m.

## **IMMOVABLE ASSET MANAGEMENT**

### **Immovable Asset Register**

The Department has registered a significant progress in creating and maintaining a credible immovable asset register for the Provincial Government.

That explains why, **Honourable Speaker:**

This key function has constantly received unqualified audit opinion. That is on immovable assets (land and buildings).



We want to digitise this register so that we can enhance our verification and be fully accountable.

### **Rates and taxes**

In the 2023/24 financial year, the Department was able to pay in total, R374 million to 18 local municipalities for provincial owned properties. For the 2024/24 Financial Year, we have been allocated R400 million.

### **Honourable Speaker:**

The urgent need to ramp-up maintenance and utilisation of the state property portfolio cannot be over emphasised. The leasing portfolio has grown over the years in the past due to a lack of available suitable government owned properties.

This has resulted in client departments increasingly opting for leased properties for office accommodation often at exorbitant rental and in inhabitable space.

This is one area, the new Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Mr Dean Macpherson, cautioned us about during his Budget Policy speech on the leasing portfolio.



***‘‘I want to see government departments leasing government buildings not those in nice areas with sea views. We must use our buildings to lead inner city regeneration.’’***

That is an ideal situation yes, which we also will strive to achieve, mindful however of the unique challenges with our province being largely rural.

To this end, with regards to **Provision of Office Accommodation** across the province the Department is working towards the acquisition of more office space to address the pressure borne by client departments due to lack of quality office accommodation.

To this end, we have issued more than 30 letters of intent to recommended bidders (for leased accommodation in all districts of the province) to comply with Occupational Health Safety (OHS) issues prior to final awarding of tenders.

As we are all aware, the current seats at Provincial Legislature increased from 33 to 38 members. As a result of this increase, the department had to move swiftly and provide additional residential accommodation to all members. Currently, the department has sourced external accommodation for a period of twelve months.



However, plans are in place to construct seven (7) additional residences within the Lowe Parliamentary Village here in Mahikeng. Planning for the construction is underway.

### **Disposal of non-core assets (Houses)**

EXCO approved the disposal of 476 properties in 2021. At least 113 Sale Agreements were signed, and 26 have been transferred.

The disposal target for 2024/2025 is 20 properties to be transferred. The slow pace of the disposal is attributed largely to amongst others high rental arrears owed to government by some of the occupants.

To this end, the Department has appointed a firm of attorneys to attend to applications of eviction court orders against identified tenants who were previously given 90 days in writing to settle their accounts but still failed to comply.

In addition to these 476 properties, the department has also 143 confirmed **Vacant Residential** stands identified for disposal through open market in the four district of the province.

This is meant to maximise our revenue collection, derive value for the effective management of this portfolios and empowerment of previously disadvantaged individuals.



## **Honourable Members:**

We have rationalised schools, decommissioned health facilities, dilapidated buildings and vacant stands across the province. We are considering giving caretaker ship agreements for some of these assets to non-profit organisation who can put them to better use.

This will also provide an opportunity for members of the public to express interest in terms of the proposed disposal of buildings which do not contribute to service delivery.

The disposal of these non-core assets will alleviate the burden from the Department of property rates, maintenance and unwarranted ownership challenges.

## **PROGRAMME THREE (TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE)**

We have been called upon to work to engender a culture of maintenance of public infrastructure and dedicate resources and establish systems to ensure this.

As mentioned earlier, the entire government has been affected by budget cuts.

Given these constraints and the speed at which our road infrastructure is deteriorating, the department has decided to put



more focus on maintenance projects, including farming and rural roads with added priority for intervention in the Moses Kotane Local Municipality (Bojanala District).

To this end, **Honourable Speaker:**

For Transport Infrastructure (Roads) the budget allocation for maintenance, reseal rehabilitation and bridges projects is **R1, 962 Billion** for the current financial year.

**R305 million** is allocated from the Provincial Equitable Share for road upgrades of road from gravel to tar (CAPEX) projects.

This amount insufficient, as only between 42km and 45km can be done with this amount yet the province still has a 14 700km to deal with.

An additional amount of **R70 million** has been allocated and set aside specifically for the reseal and pothole patching of provincial and municipal roads as well as the resuscitation of existing laboratories across our districts.

In his address yesterday, the Premier lamented the state of the road infrastructure in our parks yet these roads are our key economic drivers in of tourism.



We have set aside R20 million from its Equitable Share Budget to develop a Road Master Plan for all the parks in the province. The plan will address road leading to and within the parks.

Once the Road Master Plan is finalised, it is expected to assist the leadership parks and tourism sector to raise funds for the construction of the said road network road.

A consultant has been appointed and we are pleased with the progress registered in this regard to date.

For the Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Provincial Roads, the Department was allocated an amount of **R1.567 Billion** from the Provincial Road Maintenance Grant (PRMG) with A R20,6 million integrated grant allocated to EPWP for routine road maintenance.

This allocation includes a Special Distribution of **R181 Million** designated for the *Welisizwe Rural Bridge Programme*. This programme is championed jointly by the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure and fully executed by the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

This programme seeks to address and repair dilapidated bridge structures across our province which pose a threat to communities



crossing rivers to access State Domestic Facilities such as schools and health facilities.

### **Honourable Members:**

In the 2024/25 Financial Year, we have prioritised the resealing of eight key critical roads, strategically selected across our districts with two roads per district.

This initiative is crucial in not only maintaining but also enhancing the durability and safety of our surfaced roads, ensuring they meet the needs of our communities and support economic growth.

In the Bojanala District:

- Patch, Fog spray and Reseal of Road P51/1 from Berseba to intersection of Road R510 (17.5km)
- Patch, Fogspray and Light Rehabilitation of Road D681 from Brits (Oukasie) to Intersection of D2341 (10km),

In the Dr Ruth Segomotsi-Mompoti District:

- Patch, Fogspray, Reseal, Light Rehabilitation of Road 25/1 from Tlapeng to Intersection of Road R506 (P34/5) (14.7km)
- Patch, Fog spray and Reseal of Road P68/2 from Tosca to Jakkalskop (11.5km)

In the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District:



- Patch and Reseal of Road P23/2 from Orkney towards Leeudoringstad (15km)
- Patch and Reseal of Road P89/1 in Potchefstroom from Meyer Street towards Oudedorp and Road D1208 from Road P89/1 to N12 (7.8km)

In the Ngaka Modiri-Molema District:

- Patch, Fogspray, Light Rehabilitation of Road P40/1 in Mafikeng from N18 to Road R49 (Zeerust) (6.1km)
- Patch, Fog spray and Reseal of Road P71/10 from Mafikeng CBD to Lotlhakane River Crossing and Road D420 from Intersection of P71/10 to Railway Line (8.3km)

An additional amount of **R40 million** is set aside for the procurement of cold asphalt to be supplied to local municipalities in aid of the war on potholes in order to provide support in the spirit of the District Development Model and the *Thuntsha Lerole Accelerated Service Delivery Programme*.

The Department has made major strides in the procurement for infrastructure projects in the past financial year.

The Department advertised and awarded 14 Capital Road Infrastructure Projects with a total value of One Billion, Three Hundred and Ninety-Five Million Rand (**R1.395 Billion**).



This is comprised of One (1) Major Rehabilitation and Thirteen (13) Special Maintenance Projects.

These include amongst others these key strategic linking roads:

- Rehabilitation and reseal of Road P13/4 from Wolmaransstad to Wesselbron (Free State Border) – **R301 million**
- Special Maintenance of Road D109 (Bethanie) and Road D519 from Road P51/1 (Berseba) to Road R511 (Brits) approximately 23km – **R106 million**
- Special Maintenance of Road P53/1 between Road R510 and Mogwase approximately 19km – **R89 million**
- Special Maintenance of Road P23/1 from Schweizer-Reneke to Wolmaransstad, approximately 20km (Phase 1) – **R204 million**
- Special Maintenance of Road P34/4 (R506) from Delareyville to Schweizer-Reneke, approximately 15km (Phase 1) – **R175 million**
- Special Maintenance of Road P2/4 (R104) from Majakaneng to Hartebeespoort Approximately 15km – **R99 million**

In the 2024/25 Financial Year, the Department will focus on the following Four (4) Upgrading from gravel to surface.

Three (3) of the above-mentioned projects will be implemented through labour intensive methods by including block paving in order to maximise our job creations efforts.



The project are:

- Upgrading of Road D2279 from Dinokana to Intersection of Road P48/1 towards Lekubung – 13km.
- Upgrading (utilising Block Paving) of Road Z473 from D3545 to road D41 in Dithakong (4.4km)
- Upgrading (utilising Block Paving) of Road D39 from Mooifontein to Lombaardslaagte 6.5km (Phase 1)
- Upgrading and Special Maintenance of Road D210 From Taung through Cokonyane to Modimong (14.7km)

The Department is pleased to announce that Nelson Mandela Drive in Mahikeng has been officially been handed over and opened for traffic.

What is only remaining in the project is the auxiliary works that are meant to beautify the town and increase mobility on the road.

The Department is currently working on the designs of Phase 2 of the project to the tune of approximately R100 million and will include the widening of the Danville bridge.

We can further announce that the following major capital projects will be completed in the current 2024/25 Financial Year:



- Rehabilitation of Road P117/1 from Ottosdal (P13/2) to Hartbeesfontein (16km) and Special Maintenance of Road P117/1 from Ottosdal to Delareyville (Phase 2) (17km)
- Rehabilitation and Upgrading of Road Z431 from end of tar to Kgora Entrance and Upgrading of Kgora Training Centre Internal Road
- Special Maintenance of Road P34/5 (R506) from Schweizer Reneke To Christiana, (Phase 2) - 30km
- Upgrading of Road D201 as well as Appurtenant Works, From Pampierstad To Matlapeng (Phase 1) - 24km
- Upgrading of Road D639 from Moretele to Ga-Habedi (Phase 3) - 8km

The Department would like to also report on the satisfactory performance of our ongoing multi-year capital projects:

- The Rehabilitation Of Road P31/1 From Gauteng Border To Road P123/1 Approximately 22km (Sections 1,2&3) As Well As Appurtenant Works (Including Bridge Construction And Bridge Repairs – Physical Progress is 42%
- The Upgrading From Gravel To Surface Standard Of Road D514, Z561, D503 And D501 From Ramokokastad To Mmorogong Via Pylkop Access Approximately 21km (Including 2 Water Crossing Bridges) – Physical Progress is 24%



- The Rehabilitation Of Road D933 And Road D2095 from Lichtenburg To Gelukspan, Phase 2 - Approximately 17.4 Km Of Road D933 And 8.4 Km Of Road D2095 And Special Maintenance Of Deviation Roads – Physical Progress is 25%

As pronounced in the past financial year, the Department has appointed consultants for the planning and design of the upgrading of strategic gravel roads and that work is at various stages,

These projects are:

- Upgrading from gravel to surface standard of Road D2215 and D2280 from D408 (Botsalano) through villages Madutle, Matlhase and Dinokana of approximately 20km
- Upgrading from gravel to surface standard of Road D506, Z559 and D332 from Dwarsberg to Pachsdraai end of tar of approximately 49km.
- Upgrading from gravel to surface standard of Road P23/3 (R504) from Amalia to Myra of approximately 32Km
- Upgrading from gravel to surface standard of Road Z454 from Lotlhakane (D41) to Mantsa (D433) for approximately 12km
- Upgrading from gravel to surface standard of Road Z546 from P48/1 in Borakalalo to Bergfontein P224/1
- Upgrading from gravel to surface standard of Road P51/2 and D56 between Sesobe and Brakkuil



- Upgrading from gravel to surface standard of road P51/2 from Makweleng to Road D56 through the villages of Kwa Masokalane and Siga approximately 23km
- Upgrading from gravel to surface standard of road D5111 from Lekotung P50/1 through the village of Mogong to Kameelboom (D531) approximately 27km
- Upgrading from gravel to surface standard of road Z546 from P48/1 in Borakalalo through Nyetse to Bergfontein P224/1 approximately 12km

In order to relieve the department of the burden of maintaining roads after currently experiencing budget and capacity constraints, EXCO through the Department of Public Works, has approved eight (8) priority roads in the province with a total length of 136.30km that have been handed over to the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL).

The roads are:

- Mahikeng: P71/10 - Mahikeng (Main Str) to Vryburg (7.08 km)
- Mahikeng: P2/1 - Mahikeng (Shippard Str) to Zeerust (4.52 km)
- Naledi: P4/2 and P71/8 - Vryburg (Moffat Str) to Mahikeng (2.14 km)



- Matlosana: P32/1 - Klerksdorp (Chris Hani Rd) to Ventersdorp / Klerksdorp (15.30 km)
- JB Marks: P20/4 and P20/5 - Potchefstroom (Louis Le Grange Str) to Ventersdorp / Potchefstroom (Parys Ave) to Parys (5.47 km)
- JB Marks: P89/1 and P89/2 - Potchefstroom (Thabo Mbeki Way) to Carletonville / Potchefstroom (Thabo Mbeki Way) to Parys (Parys Ave) (8.59 km)
- Ramotshere Moiloa: P48/1 - Welbedacht (N4) to Swartkopfontein (SA-Botswana) Border (75.08 KM)
- Rustenburg: P115/1 - Phokeng to Sun City Road (18.02 km)

Over and above this, given the rising costs of constructing new roads, the department has plans to investigate and pilot in alternative road construction methods Nano Technology in partnership with the National Department of Transport.

#### **PROGRAMME 4 - COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAMME (EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME)**

The budget for this programme will be spent towards creating work opportunities by leading and coordinating Expanded Public Works Programme in the province.



This will be done through providing policy and sector oversight, building state capacity to facilitate skills development and strengthen the skills pipeline as well as provide support to priority public infrastructure projects.

### **Honourable Speaker**

Government has developed recruitment guidelines for EPWP which we have always adhered to.

However, in my interactions with Senior Managers of the Department, I have already tasked them to seriously rethink the current recruitment methodology in use for EPWP.

Same applies also, to the monitoring of their performance and the mechanisms in place of these beneficiaries once deployed to various sites.

This may be opportune moment, to start to consider a reimagined EPWP that is skills outcomes based, and which will lead to this province climbing up the opportunity ladder, rather than beneficiaries being stuck in EPWP for years on end.

**That said Madam Speaker:**



The department will drive an inclusive growth and job creation through the Expanded Public Works Programme expecting to create at least fifteen thousand eight hundred (15 800) work opportunities by the end of the financial year.

Included in the above will be designated groups to push back the frontiers of poverty and tackle the high cost of living, especially among rural-based communities.

The programme seeks to impact lives and livelihoods by empowering eight thousand four hundred (8400) women in the transport infrastructure sector.

One thousand and eighty (1080) women will be targeted in the public works infrastructure sector and two hundred and a further eighty (80) people with disabilities in the transport infrastructure sector and thirty-six (36) in the public works infrastructure sector.

Young people will comprise of seven thousand, seven hundred (7700) and nine hundred and ninety (990) of those recruited in the transport and public works infrastructure sectors respectively.



We will ensure beneficiaries exit the EPWP Programme after the twenty-four (24) months period with acquired skills as is a priority of the recently launched EPWP Phase V.

The skills that will enable them to be marketable or industrious to reduce the dependency on the temporary poverty alleviation programme.

**Honourable Speaker:**

We are pleased to announce the exit from the *Vuk'phile Contractor Development Programme* of sixty-four (64) Vuk'phile contractors who have overstayed as a result of disputes dating back to 2014.

We have ensured that these contractors exit the programme at higher CIDB grading levels both on road and building construction.

The new intake of the one hundred and sixty (160) Vuk'phile contractors will comprise of sixty percent (60%) women, fifty five percent (55%) youth, two percent (2%) people with disabilities and, two percent (2%) Military Veterans.

We will incubate these emerging contractors, in the Public Works Infrastructure and Transport Infrastructure for the next three years.



We also plan to resuscitate all 16 brick-making plants on a phase-in approach to ensure that these plants are fully operational.

### **Honourable Members:**

We also want to turn the plants into manufacturing plants not only of bricks but use as sites to asphalt production and other products required in the construction sector. This will in turn ensure that beneficiaries gain the requisite skills in the sector.

### **CONCLUSION**

Honourable Members we are called upon to remain firmly committed to pursue the path of cooperation, growth and inclusion in spite of all the challenges and differences.

To commit to improving the wellbeing of our province through inclusive growth, creation of jobs and reduction of poverty. I view my considered appointment by my party, the African National Congress (ANC), to lead this Department in the *Seventh Administration*, not just as a mere privilege.

I take it as a calling, to serve all the people of our province, diligently, honestly, transparently and with integrity during this incredible journey in order to turn the province as the flag-bearer of the priorities of the new government.



We have no time to lose!

***Bagaetsho re tlile go dira ka natla go ka direla baagi ba rona ba Bokone Bophirina ka matsetseleko, botswa pelo, matlhagatlhaga le botshepegi***

I want to thank the Head of Department, Mr Moses Kgantsi, his Senior and Middle Management team and several staff members in the rank and file whom I have interacted with to date. Thanks you for the warm welcome, support and commitment to the vision of the *Seventh Administration*.

To the **Honourable Members**;

I look forward to continued guidance, and being transparent and accountable to the people of the province, through you!

**I thank you! Kea leboga!**

