

BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BY MEC H D YAWA

VOTE 11 - FINANCIAL YEAR 2006/07

Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker

Honourable Premier

Colleagues in the Executive Council

Members of the Provincial Legislature

Honourable Mayors

Members of Mayoral Committees

Councilors

Members of the House of Traditional Leaders, Dikgosi tsa rona

Stakeholders and Clients

Members of the Mass Media

Honoured Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Madam Speaker,

The Department of Public Works joins millions of South Africans in saying Farewell to Minister Stella Sigcau who is being laid to rest today .We salute Nkosazana Stella Sigcau as a courageous, remarkable leader and servant of our people. Her contribution towards the transformation of the

construction and properties sectors has laid the foundation for an economy that benefits all.

She championed rural development with commitment and passion and proved to be a true friend of the poor working class and the rural masses. Her visionary leadership, wisdom and guidance in the Public Works Portfolio will be missed. Hamba Kahle Faku, Nyawuza, thahla kandayeni, hlamba ngobende, dikili, matshobendlovu. Saku khumbula ndombi ka manzonlwandle Nkosazana ya se Qawukeni.

In the coming financial year my Department is set to go MAD. We want every employee of the Department to go MAD as far as possible. Nobody should be excluded in this drive to go MAD. This will include the junior, middle, senior and executive management, as well as my Head of Department, and above all myself.

Before this house is alarmed by the vision that my Department will be filled with insane people let me explain the meaning of MAD. MAD in our context stands for:

M = Make

A = a

D = Difference

During the 2005/06 financial year this Department's extended management attended a strategic retreat to draft the 3-year and 5-year Strategic Plan, and resolved to "Denounce Business As Usual". The

Department was successful in this approach and the attitude of the bulk of personnel has changed in a very positive manner. The spin-offs of this attitude change were that even some of our procedures and processes were amended / refined to be in line with the new spirit. What remains now is to merely do what we have planned to do in the manner in which we have planned to do it.

The new focus on productivity, economy, effectiveness and efficiency must now be used to make a positive difference in the lives of our clients. The delivery by this Department must be of such quality and speed that no one can miss to notice it. Our actions should speak louder than words! We have seen an era of growth and consolidated efforts as a Department to do good, and our performance in 2005/06 speaks for itself. Complaints about substandard delivery, which used to be legio when I took office, are now virtually nonexistent. This Department had a very good innings at the recent Premier's Excellence Awards. We won the gold award for the best project team and the silver award in the category for best department. We also won a silver award in the PMR awards for the most proactive department category.

Madam Speaker, we are aware of a major pitfall in this regard, which is the fact that we are doing OK at the moment. Jim Collins wrote in his book "Good To Great" that "Good Is the Enemy of Great". When you are complacent with your current performance you will never find the way to greatness. Greatness requires a hunger and resolve that is usually absent when things are going alright. To improve from Good to Great requires an

extensive growth pattern and needs a number of prerequisites to be in place. The process can however only start when one realizes that good is just not good enough.

In this regard I believe that the people of South Africa are entitled to the very best and that good is simply not good enough, i.e. they should be given Great service by all Departments in the Public Service. I am today placing the Department of Public Works on the road from Good to Great. Some time ago there was an advertisement on the radio and TV that had a punch line that said: "You can stay as you are for the rest of your life, or you can change to Mainstay". I want to say to public servants that you can stay as you are for the rest of your life, or you could join the Department of Public Works. The opposite is however also applicable to personnel in the Department of Public Works, namely that if you are not prepared to walk this road with me, you should resign or transfer somewhere else. We will have no place for people who do not want to go MAD.

Madame Speaker, this journey will require courageous men and women at all levels in the Department. It will require lateral thinking and innovation. This will inevitably result in some mistakes and some allowance should be made by management to allow honest mistakes. We will have to learn from these mistakes and grow stronger. No child can learn to walk, or run, or ride a bike without falling down a number of times. I do however believe that mistakes will be limited due to the preparatory work that has been done in the Department.

The one thing that will not be tolerated is dishonesty in all its forms and at all levels, be it fraud, theft, corruption, misappropriation, perjury, lying, or whatever. Personnel will be expected to adhere to the Code of Good Conduct at a minimum but are really required to exceed the requirements of the code. We need personnel that are honest, of high integrity, and virtuous. Benjamin Franklin said in "The Busy-Body": "I pronounce it as certain that there was never yet a truly great man that was not at the same time truly virtuous".

Madam Speaker, one could ask why we want to be better than good? It is because we are very much aware of our role and responsibility to ensure the Age of Hope. The people of South Africa have high hopes and expectations from their government, and rightfully so. We have been given the noble obligation, through the people's contract, to become a winning nation and to be a winning nation one needs to be the best there is. It is furthermore an answer to the directive of the President of South Africa, and of the ruling party, the ANC, his Excellency Mr Thabo Mbeki, in his 8 January 2006 speech that we have to carry out the implementation of the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa.

In his speech the President said that:

"We must carry out all these tasks within the context and bearing in mind the determination made by our 2005 2nd National General Council that 'we have now entered a new phase of our national democratic revolution

... (which has) created a new set of opportunities and challenges for the cause of social transformation' ".

and

"Strategically, and of direct relevance to our movement, this new phase of the national democratic revolution consists in the imperative that we should use our political power to accelerate the advance towards achieving the goal of a better life for all".

We as public servants are the ones who must implement this acceleration by using the new set of opportunities. We should appreciate these opportunities as a personal opportunity to make a contribution that will give meaning to our lives. The following quotation says something about this principle.

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time

"Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in A Psalm of Life"

So what remains to be done is a lot of hard work. I concur with Theodore Roosevelt who said: "No man needs sympathy because he has to work ... Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing".

1. ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2005/06

Madam Speaker I am proud to report some achievements of note, over and above the awards mentioned earlier, during the 2005/06 financial year.

First of all my Department received an unqualified audit report, for the second year in a row! Whilst we are not the only department to achieve this, it must nevertheless be recognized that this is a somewhat more difficult achievement in a Public Works department. We are involved in tenders and contracts from small to very big on a daily basis. The construction and property industries are notorious for the wheeling and dealing of opportunistic rogues and consequently improper offers and temptations are rife. To come out of this virtual minefield unscathed is a noteworthy achievement by any standard.

For clarity, I will deal with these achievements on a programme-to-programme basis as follows:

- Administration, which is made up of the office of the MEC and HoD support staff and Corporate Support Services
- Public Works, which comprises of the Buildings and Property Management directorates. The Regional Operations fall under this programme for report purposes.
- Community Based Programme, which is responsible for the co-ordination, implementation and monitoring of EPWP projects for the province as a whole.

Madam Speaker, I will now deal with the achievements of each

directorate as follows:

1.1 ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMME

1.1.1 Financial Management

With the empowerment of the Regions by appointing Deputy Directors for Financial Management, the Department has ensured that financial management and expenditure accountability have filtered down to regional level. All levels of financial management in the Department have been improved in line with the following Departmental strategic objectives:

- Prudent financial management
- Improved expenditure patterns
- Increased levels of financial control
- Development of procedure manuals and policies as per Treasury Regulations
- Implementation of the Public Finance Management Act & Treasury Regulations
- Improved debt management and revenue collection
- Reconciliation and optimization of revenue collection
- Gradual change from the cash base accounting system to accrual accounting system
- Ensuring that resources are utilized in the most economic manner according to the provincial priorities and budget allocation
- Timeous reconciliation and clearance of suspense accounts
- Improved management of the Departmental Procurement Committee

- Risk identification and internal control procedures and risk assessment

The verification of the payroll by paymasters and certification thereof by the accounting officer has been done on a monthly basis throughout the past financial year. This will continue to be done in the ensuing financial year.

The Department further performed a risk assessment, risk identification and internal control procedures to strengthen its control environment. This continues to assist in the prevention of unauthorized, irregular, fruitless expenditure and losses emanating from criminal conduct.

The Departmental Budget Advisory Committee Meetings are held on a monthly basis to ensure integrated corporate financial management and good governance.

We will endeavour to continue to improve on the reconciliation of rental income, i.e. Walker Financial System and Persal System monthly rental income reconciliation. This will enable us to detect defaulters and reduce their number as we continue to increase our revenue collection.

The matters of emphasis reported by the Auditor General have been attended to.

1.1.2 Supply Chain Management

The Department took over all functions related to the old Tender Board on the 1st April 2005. Since then until end of December 2005 we issued 293 bid numbers (DPW) for advertisement / close tenders.

During this period the Department advertised one hundred and fifty (150) bids. Four thousand two hundred and sixty four (4264) bid documents were sold. During opening of the different bids two thousand one hundred and ninety nine (2199) documents have been received. We received two hundred and fifty five (255) late bids, which could not be accepted and considered. Out of the two thousand one hundred and ninety nine (2199) bids received, thirty four (34) women contractors were successful. The total value of bids awarded was R500, 780m of which R95, 149m (19%) was for women and R460, 736m (92%) for HDI's.

The Department introduced an Inventory Management System during the year to ensure better control over all consumable stores. Due to the fact that all purchases and payments are directly linked to the Inventory Register, no consumables can be received unless it has been recorded.

The Asset Register for moveable assets has been updated with certain parameters e.g. serial number, model, condition and custodian of the asset. This is an improvement on the register and general management of movable assets. According to National Treasury this province and Department is far more advanced in this regard than any other province and even National.

1.1.3 Human Resource Management

The Performance Management Development System (PMDS) has been implemented fully throughout the Department. This means that each official in the Department has a personal work plan that is linked to the Operational Plan of her/his Directorate. These Operational Plans of each Directorate is linked to the 3-year Strategic Plan of the Department. The drafting of all these plans were very carefully executed to ensure that all activities in the Strategic Plan are allocated to a Directorate and are included in the Operational Plan of that Directorate. Likewise the activities in the Operational Plan are allocated to an individual or team and are included in the personal work plan. In this way we have ensured that nothing can fall through the cracks. This was a very elaborate exercise and was managed by the personal supervision of the Executive Management Committee who undertook roadshows to each region and district to oversee this process. The exercise was however worthwhile because the performance of each official can now be measured against set and agreed targets. This is in fact done on a quarterly basis. Deviations can be, and in fact are, easily identified and corrective action can be taken in good time.

The drafting and implementation of the PMDS had some other spin-offs namely:

- The lack of critical vacancies was accentuated. This gave cause to some innovative and lateral thinking by management. The idea of Talent Management was devised. This means that the existing

people with scarce skills must be nurtured and appreciated to their full market value. The recruitment of additional people with such scarce skills should also be done with full cognisance of the market forces in this regard.

- A Workplace Skills Plan (WSP) was developed for the Department. This is to address the Development part of the PMDS.

1.1.4 Legal Services

The Directorate has made significant progress with the finalisation of regulations in terms of the North- West Land Administration Act 4 of 2001, which provide for the acquisition and disposal of land by the North West Provincial Government, to be effective on date of publication in the Government Gazette.

The importance of the aforesaid regulations is that procedures applicable to the acquisition, exchange, disposal, donation and letting of provincial state land will be regulated.

The Department has dealt decisively with the management of discipline; all labour matters received during the financial year 2005/6 have been finalized.

1.1.5 Information Management

The Department started a records disposal project that will bring it up to speed with compliance with Records Management Legislation.

The Department succeeded in informing its clients and being visible (Internal and External) about its services by producing promotional material in the form of posters, fliers, exhibition material, Ditiro Internal Newsletter and departmental website. All these media products are assisting in creating a Public Works brand/image. Public Works brand will allow our clients to recognize, understand and clearly describe our services.

The Management Information Systems has contributed significantly to the operationalisation of the Asset Register. The Rental Administration Application is fully developed and in the final implementation stage.

The Department has successfully cabled District Offices at Molopo, Rustenburg, Mogwase, Taung, Ganyesa and Mothibistadt. Employees at District offices will be able to work on transversal systems as soon as Telkom installs data lines.

1.2 PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME (INFRASTRUCTURE)

The design, documentation, and tender process for the two Secure Care Centers, in Mafikeng and Klerksdorp, for the Department of Social Development was finalized in record time by the innovative use of a selected tender process. The construction of these highly specialized centers is on schedule.

The two Traditional Offices in Mabeskraal/Tlhakong and Maboloka are being constructed in a Community Based Public Works mode, which means that all skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour is sourced from

the community. These projects are pilot projects to test two modes of providing the managerial, funding and logistic resources for the projects. The Mabeskraal/Tlhakong Tribal Authority office was completed in February 2006, 2 months ahead of the anticipated completion date. The Maboloka Tribal Authority office was completed at the end of April 2006.

1.2.1 BUILDINGS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROJECTS

Hospital revitalization

The hospital revitalization programme is being undertaken at the following hospitals:

- Swartruggens Hospital, which was handed over to the Client Department on 20 June 2005. The quality of the structure of this hospital is of exceptional standard.
- Moses Kotane Hospital. All four phases of the project are in progress as follows:
 - Bulk earthworks was completed in February 2005.
 - Bulk water supply was completed in November 2005.
 - Staff housing foundations are complete with concrete floor slab.
 - The main hospital site was handed over on 23 July 2005. Superstructure/brickwork is in progress.
- Vryburg Hospital. All three phases of the project are in progress as follows:
 - Bulk earthworks, storage reservoir completed in October 2005.
 - Staff housing is at foundation level and 50% at ground floor level.

- Main hospital - The contractor has been appointed and has established on site and foundation excavations have started.
- Jubilee and Brits Hospitals. The scope for these hospitals have not been finalized and consultative meetings with all stakeholders are still in progress to ensure that an adequate structure is constructed for the communities.

Clinic Building Programme

This programme consists of 35 clinics. 10 out of the 35 have reached practical completion. Contractors are currently attending to the finishing touches. 22 Clinics have been awarded and they are under construction and one of the 22 clinics, Itsoseng Clinic is in fact completed. Three clinics are under planning stage to be constructed during the current financial year.

Contractors for the following projects were appointed during March and April Months 2006:

- Itsoseng Community Health Centre: sod turning was on the 24 April 2006 and construction has begun.
- Extension of Bloemhof hospital
- Extension to Mafikeng Nursing College
- Christiana Doctors Quarters: Site was handed over on 30 March 2006 and construction has begun
- Disaneng Nursing is already under construction

The Klerksdorp Nurses College is at the planning stage. The project was planned to commence by the end of May 2006 but due to the increased

scope of work the initial designed had to be revised. The project will therefore commence by the end of June 2006.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROJECTS

Out of the 13 projects of 2004/2005 programme that were given to the Department of Public Works for construction, 10 projects were handed over to contractors during July 2005. The roofs of 7 out of the 10 projects handed over to contractors have been completed, two projects out of the 10 have reached practical completion and only the finishing touches are to be attended to according to their program. The remaining one (1) out the 10, which is Thea Morafe, is behind by three (3) months. The contractor was given fourteen days to improve on the 30 March 2006. The contractor failed to improve and the contract is being terminated and a new contractor will be appointed to proceed with the project.

Three projects led by the departmental team as Project Managers /Principal Agents were handed over to the contractors in September 2005 and are also progressing well ahead of their programme. One, that is Adam Masebe, has reached practical completion and the other two Rakgotso and Ramabele are at roof level.

Six projects for the 2006/07 programme have been allocated to my Department on 9 September 2005. Consultants have been appointed and briefed on 28 September and 4 October 2005. Four tenders have been advertised on 30 January 2006 and contractors were appointed during the

first week of April 2006. The delay to appoint the contractors was due to non-CIDB registration by the contractors. These schools are now under construction. The remaining two tenders have been advertised on 21 February 2006 and contractors will be on site by the end of May 2006. The construction period of these schools has been reduced to nine months.

DEPARTMENT SOCIAL SERVICES

The Archive and Library project for the Department of Social Services was advertised on 5 February 2006 and the initial closing date was 7 March 2006 which was eventually extended to 17 March 2006 to accommodate contractors who allegedly claimed to have bought bid documents ten days later. The contractor will be on site by the end of May 2006

CAPEX PROJECTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Rustenburg Regional Office

The project has reached practical completion. This project was constructed by a Joint Venture (JV) of emerging contractors and despite initial delays due to problems between JV partners, the project was executed with due speed to good quality.

Public Works Head Office

The Contractor has completed the Gate House and the boardroom. The Contractor is currently busy with the partitioning of the North block. The Executive Block is currently being roofed.

Design of Mini Garona's

The Department has identified a dire need for Government offices at Vryburg and Rustenburg with the highest need in Vryburg. The design of the two Mini-Garona's are at an advanced stage. The original R85m for new buildings has been cut down by Treasury to R40m. This was a unilateral decision by Treasury and was not based on any underperformance on the part of my Department. This has put the planning of the Mini-Garonas in disarray and an amount of R18m has been set aside for the implementation of Vryburg offices. This means that only 4 to 5 months of expenditure is possible during the 2006/07 financial year and the project will thus be started late in the year. No funds are available to start the Rustenburg office in neither 2006/07 nor in 2007/08. This is based on the current MTEF figures.

Creation of Workspace at Garona

A contractor has been appointed and the project is progressing well. The movement of personnel in order to open up workspace that can be altered is very problematic. This is the most difficult part of the project. An accommodation committee has however now been established through the Office of the Premier and this should assist in opening up areas that can be worked in. The actual work is of good quality and the progress, once workspace has been obtained, is excellent. Some delays were experienced with the procurement of the telephone system and equipment. This has now been resolved and progress will accelerate.

Upgrading and renovation Projects

Upgrading and replacement of 7 lifts at Garona Buildings have been completed.

One lift at Gaabomotho has been replaced.

Revamping of air-conditioning plant at Garona has been completed.

Upgrading of Mafikeng Airport Fire Hydrants, renovations of Mmabatho Civic Centre, Taung Workshop, East Block of Old Parliament Building, Geosciences Building, water proofing of Convention Centre and the waterproofing of Lowe House number one have been completed.

Other renovation projects such as Ramosa Riekert, and Barnard Social Security in the Southern Region are progressing well and they will be completed during the current financial year. My department is unable to work with full speed to renovate Tirelo Building due to inadequate space that can be given to the contractor to work.

1.2.2 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Asset Register

Following the installation of the Asset Register on workstations during the previous financial year, I am now happy to report that the Asset Register has been loaded on the Provincial intranet and as a result can be accessed by all who have access to the intranet Province wide. The system is very user-friendly and requires just some very basic training, which my Department will provide on request.

Disposal of redundant state-owned houses

The Department has previously reported that one of the challenges that slowed down the process of disposing redundant state housing is the vesting of the properties provincially. We are glad to report that we made a breakthrough when we received vesting certificates from the Minister of Land Affairs confirming vesting of 128 properties. This brought about the finalization of the selling of 73 houses netting the North West Province revenue of R8, 544m.

Office Accommodation

The Department is committed to progressively reducing and eventually eliminating the high cost of renting private office accommodation, thus the roll out of the programme of erecting "Mini Garona's" throughout the Province.

My Department is currently only leasing office space for the Central Regional Office in Mafikeng. When the new Head Office complex at Old Parliament Building is completed, the Regional Office will also relocate to Old Parliament Building. The elimination of rental payments will bring about a huge saving to the State.

Upgrading of security system at the MEC residences

As reported in the previous year the Department jointly with SAPS VIP Protection Unit and National Intelligence Agency has been engaged in the review and upgrading of security system at residences of Honourable

Members of the Executive Council (MEC's). The process has now been completed, and we are currently engaged in handing over to the SAPS in order for them to manage the function further.

Lowe Complex

As the custodian of Provincial properties we have stretched our hands to ensure that Members of Parliament are residing at a healthy environment. The Department has refurbished all houses in the complex and the upgrading of the tennis court is at an advanced stage. Installation of kerbs along the tarred road as well as upgrading of gardens, which includes planting of lawn and shrubs, was done.

Using the Expanded Public Works Programme, paving of driveways and washing bays were completed.

In line with our commitment by the end of September 2005 Letsema "Mabogo Dinku" project was launched and all staff members participated in the process of cleaning the surroundings.

Landscaping and upgrading of Garona Building

In order to enhance physical and aesthetic environment of the main government building at Garona, a tender for landscaping was awarded to a contractor with effect from the first October 2005. This work will result in a prestigious park that will contribute to the prominence and status of the centre of government in the North West Province.

2. CHALLENGES

Madam Speaker, my Department faces a number of complicated and demanding challenges that I wish to report to the members of this important house. In fact, I might say that the running of a Department of Public Works is a challenge on its own because the problems that crop up on a daily basis are virtually all unique and their solving require unique and uncharted solutions.

The Department has encountered some difficulties in dealing with evictions of illegal occupants of state houses due to the legal processes to be followed and time frames to be adhered to as prescribed by the Prevention of Illegal Eviction Act (PIE).

Another major challenge is the recruitment and retention of professionals in the Build environment, i.e. Architects, Quantity Surveyors, and Engineers. This is being addressed by means of the talent management approach that I have mentioned earlier.

Fronting during the procurement stage of projects is a continuous problem and we remain vigilant to prevent this. The initiative, conspiring and plotting of the culprits are however mind-boggling and they come up with new schemes at an unbelievable pace.

The Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) has issued regulations that require contractors to be registered with the CIDB when

they do work for government. The contractors in the North West Province are very slow to register with the CIDB. The reason for this is not clear because it is in their own interest to register. Some opinions are that the registration cost is too high or that the process is too complicated and the requirements for registration too difficult to meet. This matter is however pursued through the North West Construction Liaison Committee.

3. AMOUNTS TO BE VOTED PER PROGRAMME

Madam Speaker, the Department has submitted the required 3-year and 5-year Business Plans to Treasury and the Office of the Premier. These plans are in line with the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy and have been scrutinized and accepted by the Project Adjudication Team (better known as PAT). I can state without any fear of contradiction that we know where we are going and what needs to be done to get us there. The funds requested in this budget will allow us to do exactly that. The total amount to be voted is R465, 293m, split as follows:

3.1 PROGRAMME 1 - ADMINISTRATION - R86, 055m

These funds are required to provide the management and support services to enable the core function of the Department to run smoothly.

3.2 PROGRAMME 2 - PUBLIC WORKS - R367, 175m

These funds are required for the core functions of the Department i.e. Buildings and Property Management.

In Buildings the main portion of the funds, R304, 175m, will be utilized for the day-to-day maintenance, preventative maintenance and renovations to provincial buildings. R162, 694m will go towards salaries of supervisors and workers of the Department. R141, 481m will go towards material, plant and contractor payments.

The balance, R63m, will go towards capital expenditure. This will be utilized to finish the new Head Office of Public Works at Old Parliament Building, the creation of workspace at Garona and the start of the Mini-Garona in Vryburg.

I am repeating myself and my predecessors when I say to you, Madame Speaker, that the funds available are totally insufficient for the gigantic needs for maintenance and capital work. We cannot however keep on underfunding the maintenance of our public infrastructure forever. This house will have to consider a change in approach in this regard and I want to caution that the time to do this is upon us. The day-to-day and emergency and breakdown maintenance needs are increasing due to the continuous underfunding of especially preventative maintenance. The problem is thus that we are forced to spend more and more on the type of maintenance that gives little or no added value. This situation can obviously not be sustained because we are currently going backwards.

3.3 PROGRAMME 3 - COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAMME (EPWP)

- R12, 063m

The funds for the Community Based Programme will be utilised to improve economic growth in disadvantaged areas by creating jobs and eradicating poverty. To attain this, government is using infrastructure expenditure to create employment opportunities. Poverty will be alleviated while at the same time ensuring that local infrastructure is developed and maintained. Skills development is a key factor of the programme and has the objective to free people from the poverty trap. Beneficiaries will undergo training that will equip them with the specific skills required to do the work on the project for which they have been employed. These skills will allow them to be in the running for future jobs with potential employers or to be self-employed.

4. EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME (EPWP)

Madam Speaker, my Department has the mandate to be the lead Department for EPWP in this province. In this regard the Head of Department chairs the Provincial EPWP Steering Committee, which has participation at Head of Department level from all participating departments.

My Department is also the project coordinator of two major EDI Cluster projects. The first is Modimola EPWP project, which is nearing completion. The Department trained contractors from scratch and these contractors are completing their projects as I speak. We had the following contracts:

- Two farm infrastructure contracts

- Five village road construction contracts
- Six road maintenance contracts
- Three route patrol contracts
- One small bridge construction

All work was done labour intensive and 491 job opportunities had been created. All these beneficiaries were trained in various technical skills depending on the jobs

Thirty new farmers have been given theoretical training and they have now started their practical training by doing vegetable farming and chicken farming on the thirty farm plots that have been developed. All these plots are under irrigation. These farmers will complete their learnerships and will obtain the National Certificate: Mixed Farming Systems.

The lessons learned at Modimola are being replicated at Modimong. The Modimong EPWP project was announced in the State of the Province address and in fact the project was launched by the Premier during a memorable ceremony on 17 February 2006. In implementing this project in the Greater Taung area the Department of Public Works would also be supporting the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa, commonly known as ASGI-SA.

Two projects were therefore identified for immediate implementation, namely:

- The implementation of a Household Food Security Project, or Letsema La Mantsha-Tlala, in Modimong and surrounding villages to provide food security for approximately 100 impoverished households. This project is presently in its implementation phase, and several households have already benefited from this intervention.
- The second project identified for immediate implementation was the labour intensive road-upgrading project of Road D210 between Taung and Modimong, through Cokonyane, over a distance of approximately 19.6km. This project is being implemented in three phases as a result of the cash flow requirements of such infrastructure projects. The first phase is presently under construction, and should be completed before the end of the financial year. The other two phases of the road-upgrading project are presently being designed. It is estimated that approximately 300 members of the community will be employed on the road-upgrading project.

Projects that will be implemented shortly will be:

- The establishment and /or improvement of small stone crushing, sand digging and brick making enterprises to service the needs of further projects and of the community in future;
- The construction of community halls in both Modimong and Cokonyane;
and
- The implementation of a land care or veldt improvement project at Modimong.

Further projects that are being considered for implementation, subject to the finalisation of feasibility studies and/or availability of sufficient funds are:

- The upgrading of village roads to gravel standard in both Modimong and Cokonyane through labour intensive methods;
- The expansion of the land care and food security projects to the Cokonyane community;
- The establishment of a suitable commercial agricultural product, which will probably be based on Olive production;
- The establishment of a People's Housing Programme to provide housing for appropriate members of the community in terms of the applicable housing policies;
- The establishment of a game farm / eco tourism enterprise;
- The establishment of Early Childhood Development centres;
- The establishment of vegetable gardens to support feeding schemes for the Early Childhood Development centres; and
- The performance of routine road maintenance activities.

The whole planning and implementation process includes extensive community consultation and liaison, in order to ensure that community buy-in and support is achieved and maintained throughout the implementation of all the projects.

It is also important to take cognisance of all other economic development activities that are being considered and implemented in the area to

ensure coordinated development of the Greater Taung area and so also ensure the success of ASGI-SA.

Further achievements were the completion of the Socio-Economic baseline study and needs assessment, including skills development needs, and the completion of a geohydrological survey to determine groundwater potential. This information has been used in the identification of further suitable projects that can be implemented in the area.

Over and above these two major projects, the following achievements or occurrences can further be reported:

An EPWP Skills Audit was done. It looked at individual departmental plans on EPWP for the current financial year and the next financial year. The main aim was to source information that will lead to better planning for skills development through EPWP in North West for 2006/07 financial year.

The National Council of Provinces visited greater Taung and were shown two grass cutting projects, a Paving Project in the CBD and visited the Community Health Worker in Taung.

Minister Stella Sigcau's Media Roadshow was done in order to showcase to the media a few projects in the North West. The following projects were identified and were showcased:

- Molopo Store (Brick Making and Construction - Infrastructure Sector)

- Naledi Life Skills (Community Health Worker - Social Sector)
- Railway Block (Land Care - Environmental Sector)
- Modimola Integrated Project (Infrastructure and Environmental Sector)
- Molopo Rehabilitation of Wetlands (Working for Water - Environmental Sector)

Minister Mdladlana's visit to EPWP projects. The Department of Labour is the main skills training provider for EPWP projects. The main reason for Minister Mdladlana's visit to EPWP projects was to allow him and his delegation to see for themselves the role that the Department of Labour plays in the skills transfer and training. The delegation visited the Mmabatho Convention Centre Paving and the Modimola Integrated Project.

Progress on the implementation of EPWP can be summarised as follows:

- By the end of the fourth quarter the North West Province had created 13 847 jobs of which 7 293 went to males and 6 554 went to females. The total number of youth who benefited throughout the province is 5 715.
- The social sector has created 4 452 jobs, the infrastructure sector has created 8 725 jobs and the environmental sector has created 670 jobs.
- Bojanala Region has created 5 242 jobs, Bophirima Region 2 788 jobs, Central Region 3 080 jobs and Southern Region 2 737 jobs.
- 38 Contractor learnerships are currently underway throughout the province as part of the SMME development component of the Expanded Public Works Programme.

PPC has made a contribution of R100 000 towards the training of emerging contractors. This is a very welcome development and a good example for other stakeholders in the Build environment to follow. Thirty (30) contractors have been trained in five modules.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge publicly the efforts and hard work by the personnel of my Department at all levels; from management, supervisory, to operation. The “denouncement of business as usual” was a major task and was only achieved due to the commitment and unrelenting efforts by the whole team.

I do however want to make special mention of the role of the Head of Department, or I should say the previous Head of Department, who drove this initiative with clear focus, tireless energy, and steadfast example. Dr Lydia Keneilwe Sebege is unfortunately no longer with my Department. In all fairness I must say that it surprised no one when she was called for higher duty and she is now the Superintendent General of the Department of Health. Her legacy however remains in the Department and she will be remembered for her exceptional strategic leadership and infectious drive. She left behind a Department that has direction, order, and committed employees; and for this I salute her.

Last but not least, I wish to thank my wife Linda, Nowethu u mama wa

bantwana, and my three children for their continued support.

Madam Speaker, as stated previously, I am convinced that the funds requested in the 2006/07 budget for the Department of Public Works are in line with the PGDS and these funds will be used to accelerate the level and standard of delivery by the Department.

It is in this context that I request this august house to approve the budget as submitted in order to allow this Department to meet the directives of the President and to enable us to go MAD.

I thank you.

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