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Address by MEC for Public Works and Roads, Oageng Gaoage Molapisi during the roads colloquium for Bojanala District, held at Casa Grande Guest Lodge, Brits, on Friday, August 30, 2019.

- Director of the programme and member of the “*Intervention Team*”: Ntate Molete

Moremi.

- The Administrator of Madibeng Local Municipality: Ntate Johnny Motlogelwa
- Executive Mayor Madibeng Local Municipality: Cllr Jostine Mothibe
- Executive Mayor of Bojanala District Municipality: Cllr Fetsang Molosiwa
- Leadership and representatives from Traditional Authorities in our villages
- Representatives from business and other stake-holders
- Senior managers and staff from the Department Of Public Works and Roads present.

Good morning, *Goeie More*, Dumelang

Today, unofficially marks the end of what can be best described as a very intense, consultative and interactive outreach programme I have commanded passionately so, in the past 100 days.

If we were to find ourselves in the space of performing arts, theatre goers and enthusiasts of stage performances would often describe that moment by saying:

The curtain falls, meaning the end of play.

It is therefore a privilege indeed that the curtain on my designed programme for the `` *100 Days in Office*'' falls here in the Madibeng Local Municipality in Bojanala District.

But take my word, this is not the end, it is only the beginning of the end. You will find the relevance of this later in my speech when I deal with the latest **Cabinet decision on district-based service delivery model tailor-made** for better coordination and integration priorities, between the three spheres of government.

There is no district we have not visited before coming here. It is a crusade, which began in Mafikeng with a two-day meeting on July 1 and 02 culminating with this gathering today.

Our message has been consistent all along, and will not be different today.

Programme Director:

We are meeting at the time when our country continues its gradual decline into a dire economic situation. Over 10 million South African- men and women are currently unemployed.

These are the most talked-about issues wherever we go. Difficult times are here with us. But be that as it may, we are by no means powerless.

This is the time, the province needs you most and this is the time you need to be seen to be walking hand-in-hand with your Government and us as the Department of Public Works and Roads to help deal with our infrastructure challenges in order to help improve the economy and contribute to job creation.

Roads, whether tarred or gravel, will forever remain the backbone of our economy.

Our province is largely rural and this is so evident in this municipality too.

Jericho, Maboloka, Kgabalatsane, Fafung, Madidi, Legonyane and I can go on and on. Moretele Local Municipality, towards the east is 100 percent rural.

Bojanala, as in Rustenburg area, cannot be said to be an exception either if one considers more than a dozen villages that form part of our respective municipalities in that area.

What I can confirm is, road users including those in very deep rural areas of our province want trafficable roads.

That is a responsibility of government and a responsibility of my department to provide trafficable roads to all communities of this province irrespective of whether they reside in a village, township or in town.

I am pleased to have in the audience, the leadership of our rural communities in this district.

Your wish, and my wish is to see rural access roads maintained regularly to enable stress-free movement and connection from one village to the other inspite of the mode of transport communities prefer using.

It cannot therefore be correct, for us as politicians, to suddenly find it easy to have access to these roads in our villages during election campaigns but find it difficult once we have secured you vote.

That is why today's discussion is so important. It needs you most to suggest to us how best we can work together to address such challenges for the good of the province and its people.

The Sixth Administration's focus on road infrastructure going forward is to ensure that the majority of our economic routes are trafficable to facilitate economic growth and development in the province.

This also include gravel roads as a priority area in our rural communities.

We are also committed to improve the speed, consistency and in attending to maintenance and upgrade needs of our roads as expected by our communities who have renewed our mandate through the votes during the national and provincial elections.

We want to also explore more efficient, effective and economic methods of delivering quality roads infrastructure cutting down on rehabilitation and upgrade with costs per kilometer.

All these are achievable if and only if we work together and with a common understanding that government require space to reprioritize which roads to rehabilitate, upgrade and or re-gravelling the available budget.

We need to work together, agree and weigh several options to create work opportunities through labour intensive methods of construction, especially on access roads in rural areas.

Our people demand and need jobs more than a tar road. A tar road going through a village of 5 000 unemployed people- the majority of them youth- does not feed a hungry stomach.

But 5 000 job opportunities for local people can be created if we agree to use labour intensive method to use paving bricks instead on such projects for people to earn a wage for the duration of the project.

This is just but an idea you seriously have to consider. We want projects that can instinctively change the lives of our people especially in this tough economic conditions.

We can only do this much, but we can and will do much more if the Cabinet decision of August 20 I mentioned earlier is followed though by all of us with the necessary speed and energy.

I used the phrase, the beginning of the end.

Programme Director:

I said the new District Based Service Delivery Model, is an important innovation in the implementation of service-delivery programmes. The model which currently focuses on 44 districts and eight metros, is expected to ensure coherence and integration in the planning, budgeting and implementation of service delivery projects in all districts by all three spheres of government – national, provincial and local.

The model is anchored on the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, 2005 (Act 13 of 2005), which provides for a framework for a coordinated and integrated alignment of developmental priorities, and objectives between the three spheres of government.

It is also meant to enhance other alignment initiatives like integrated development plans with a clear focus of implementing one plan in each district across all spheres of government.

President Cyril Ramaphosa will champion the model, supported by Deputy President David Mabuza and the entire executive.

Critical for all of us here in the province is:

Provincial Premiers and their MECs, local and district Mayors, together with their EXCOs, will be part of the implementation of the district-based service delivery model.

The District Based Service Delivery Model has already been presented to the President's Coordinating (PCC) and accepted by all Provincial Premiers.

I am so pleased, that when Cabinet announced this, we as a department were already out of the starting blocks trying to achieve precisely that through our crusade by engaging with stakeholders on the issue of road infrastructure.

If we then agree and support our Cabinet decision, as leaders deployed by the ruling party to lead different portfolios in any any of the three spheres of our government:

These is absolutely no reason why we should question other decisions and resolution by the same Cabinet.

We must support, embrace also and respect decision like the current intervention in my department and several others, through the invocation of Section 100 (1) (b) of the Constitution of South Africa.

We must also as leaders deployed, in the case of the host municipality here, support and embrace the intervention whether through the invocation Sections 137 or 139.

None of these well thought interventions by our Government are designed to stop or delay service delivery.

In fact they are meant to achieve the opposite which is create stability and fast-track delivery of service.

For example in this district of Bojanala since July 2018:

Eight (8) eight sectional rehabilitation projects, six special road maintenance, two (2) re-gravelling projects, all combined contract value of R180.5 million have been implemented and some completed to date while the department is still under administration..

Therefore, no one can hide and use the intervention or and administration as an excuse for non-performance and lack of service delivery.

In conclusion **Programme Director:**

We continue to do more with less as a department to address the needs and expectation of our communities, even here in Bojanala Districts.

Recently, we have completed Phase I of the 10km of road between Dwarsberg and Molatedi and for Phase II of 11km, the tender will be advertised soon.

We have just completed the Madidi Bridge and are now finalizing the approaches and doing some remedial work on the road from Madidi village to Klipgat.

In Lebotlwane, 5km is now completed and Phase II of 10km is about to start soonest when we finish the procurement process.

We are on the verge of finalizing the procurement process in respect of the road between Swartdam and Labalangwe in Moretele Local Municipality.

In Moses Kotane Local Municipality, are plan to regravell roads on the Magong area.

With regards to Madibeng, we plan to rehabilitate and reseal the road from the Hebron border with Gauteng province up where it interacts with the Mabopane to Garankuwa road. This will also include sections of the road between Brits and Letlhabile. These two roads are critical economic routes in his area.

As I said earlier, all this is doable even while still under administration or intervention under Section 100 (1) (b) for that matter.

As President Cyril Ramaphosa remarked in his recent visit to our province in Vryburg on August 9 during the *Women's Month Celebration*:

“Our economy has not been growing and public finances are severely constrained. Yet while our economy is in crisis we are by no means powerless.”

“Working together as partners in business and labour, in communities and across civil society we are taking measures to restore our economy and create economic opportunities especially for women and youth”

I thank you...Ke a leboga...*Baie Dankie*