

public works & roads

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

BUDGET SPEECH 2025/2026

LEAVE **NO**
ONE BEHIND





2025/26 BUDGET POLICY SPEECH BY THE 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, 24 JULY 2025

- Speaker of the Provincial Legislature
- Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Legislature
- Premier of the North West Province: Honourable Kagiso Lazarus 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.
- 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

It is with great humility and a deep sense of responsibility that I rise before this august House to table the 2025/26 Budget Vote for the Department of Public Works and Roads. This occasion also marks my second budget speech as the appointed Member of the Executive Council for this portfolio, following the 2024 general elections.

I am deeply honoured by the trust placed in me to lead this critical portfolio in the seventh administration, and I reaffirm my unwavering commitment to serve the people of the North West Province with integrity, transparency, and a resolute focus on delivery.

Honourable speaker, members of the House, this tabling is informed by the Department's newly adopted Strategic Plan 2025–2030 and the Annual Performance Plan for the 2025/26 to 2027/28 Medium Term Expenditure Framework. These documents articulate our roadmap for inclusive growth through infrastructure-led development.



MEC Sempe Elizabeth Mokua during Thuntsha-Lerole Accelerated Service Delivery Programme in Biesiesvlei in Ditsobotla Local Municipality. The departmental roads maintenance team patching potholes on several internal roads in the community. MEC Mokua is seen operating a Hydrostatic Drive Roller Hand Roller Compactor



It is worth noting that I table this budget during the Mandela Month, a time when South Africans and the global community are reminded of the enduring legacy of President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela; a legacy rooted in justice, service, and the building of a better life for all.

To quote Madiba: *"As long as many of our people still live in utter poverty, as long as children still live under plastic covers, as long as many of our people are still without jobs, no South African should rest and wallow in the joy of freedom."*

This could not be more relevant to our department which has been mandated with the creation of jobs and sustainable office accommodation and service delivery facilities (clinics, schools, and the tribal offices).

The Department of Public Works and Roads is at the coalface of realising these ideals through infrastructure. It is through the roads we construct, the community libraries we build, the government offices we maintain, and the public spaces we refurbish that the dignity and well-being of our citizens are either upheld or undermined.

I table this budget at a time when the province is emerging from an intense rainy season, during which floods caused substantial damage to roads and bridges. Preliminary assessments estimate the cost of recovery at R2.098 billion.

These figures underscore the scale of our task and the urgency with which we must act. The Department cannot shoulder this burden alone. A coordinated, multi-sectoral response is required to restore critical infrastructure and safeguard livelihoods.

As we chart the course for the next five years, the Department's central focus is clear: we are stimulating inclusive economic growth through the delivery and maintenance of public infrastructure. We are acutely aware that our mandate is not merely administrative; it is developmental.

The Department of Public Works and Roads is the infrastructure delivery arm of the provincial government, and as such, we cannot afford to drop the ball and forget the aspirations and hopes of the people of the North West, which are in our hands.

We acknowledge the commitments made in previous years in relation to road infrastructure dating back to the period between 2009 and 2013. A review was undertaken of these commitments to determine our readiness for the implementation.



Works progressing well on the Koster Road in Kgetleng Revier Local Municipality in Bojanala .

The project which also includes Jameson Street in Koster town.

The scope of works includes the reconstruction of streets in Koster town of 2,5km and resurfacing of 5km in each directions from Koster to Lichtenburg; Koster to Magaliesburg and Koster to Swartruggens.



To this end, the Department has conducted a rigorous review of legacy project designs and cost models to determine their relevance and feasibility in the current socio-economic and fiscal climate.

This review has enabled us to align our priorities more closely with available resources and emerging community needs.

I wish to state, Honourable speaker, that one of the fundamental findings is that the delivery and maintenance of public infrastructure remains historically underfunded, and is increasingly vulnerable to economic, climatic, and social shocks.

Thus the maintenance of the existing infrastructure remains largely neglected, in particular office accommodation amongst others. However, Honourable Speaker, I wish to comfort this House that plans to improve this challenge are in place.

Following this review, the Department is pursuing the establishment of the North West Road Agency.

This is a special-purpose vehicle that will assist the Department to leverage funds and capacity for road infrastructure, and to forge strategic partnerships with the private sector such as the mining sector, which is the major contributor of the deterioration of our surfaced road infrastructure.

This critical institutional reform and the establishment of the Road Agency is aimed at improving the planning, delivery and maintenance of road infrastructure across the province.

This Road Agency, Honourable Members will also assist the Department in acquiring your scarcest and critical technical skills required to deliver the mandate.

Following the approval by the Executive Council for the Department and the subsequent pronouncement by the Honourable Premier in this august House during his State of the Province Address, the formation of the Agency has gained momentum, which include the finalisation of the Draft Bill.

Another initiative and innovative way we introduced as our key priority in the new financial



Premier Kagiso Lazarus Mokgosi accompanied by MEC Sempe Elizabeth Mokua with the pothole patching team on Road D414 near Tshidilamolomo. This is part of the #ThuntshaLerole Accelerated Service Delivery Programme taking place in Matloding Village, Ratlou Local Municipality.

year, is to enter into caretaker arrangements in so far as unused or under-utilised Government buildings are concerned. This strategy will mitigate the widespread vandalism and illegal occupation of vacant Government-owned buildings, a trend that has escalated over the past few years which continues to undermine asset value and service delivery potential.

We continue to improve our efforts towards accelerating a capacitated Department through the Candidacy Development Programme. With this Programme, the Department envisages developing and sixteen candidates over the MTEF period.

However, Honourable Speaker, the retention of these candidates has been a challenge over the past years, and the Department reviewed its organisational structure and related policies to enhance the absorption and/or retention of these candidates.

Mmusakgotla ke ka moo re semeletseng ebile re simolotse dipuisano le Council for the Built Environment ka maikaelelo a go netefatsa fa lefapha la Ditirelo tsa Setshaba le Ditsela e nna masupatsela mo go diragatseng maikarabelo a dikago tsa puso.

We are also in the process of filling critical vacancies within the Department, a process that was slowed down after the introduction of financial austerity measures.



Deputy Minister of Transport, Mkhuleko Hlengwa and MEC Sempe Elizabeth Mokuu during the oversight visit on Hartbeespoort Dam to Pelindaba Road during October Transport Month last year.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ROADS MAIN VOTE

Without any further ado Honourable Speaker, allow me now to delve to the Department's budget allocation for the 2025-2026 financial year.

Our allocation is: Four billion, two hundred and seven million, four hundred and ninety thousand rands. **(R4 207 490 000).**

PROGRAMME	ALLOCATED BUDGET	AMOUNT IN WORDS
PROGRAMME1: ADMINISTRATION	360 838 000	Three hundred and sixty million, eight hundred and thirty-eight thousand rands
PROGRAMME: 2 PUBLIC WORKS INFRASTRUCTURE	1 073 323 000	One billion, seventy-three million, three hundred and twenty-three thousand rands
PROGRAMME 3: TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE	2 527 422 000	Two billion, five hundred and twenty-seven million, four hundred and twenty-two thousand rands
PROGRAMME 4: COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAMME	245 907 000	Two hundred and forty-five million, nine hundred and seven thousand rands
TOTAL	4 207 490 000	Four billion, two hundred and seven million, four hundred and ninety thousand rands.

The budget allocation consists of both the Equitable share and Conditional grants.

Equitable Share

Equitable share allocation for 2025/26 is R2,467 billion. Cumulatively, the 2025/26 baseline allocation has been reduced by R121,6 million.

This has had negative impact on our plans and service delivery objectives such as upgrading of roads from gravel to tar.

Conditional Grant

1. Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant (PRMG)

The allocation for Provincial Road Maintenance Grant is determined by the National Department of Transport, and the allocation for the 2025/26 financial year is R1,679 billion.

2. Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Integrated Grant for Provinces

The EPWP grant allocation for the 2025/26 financial year is R14,9 million compared to the R20,6 million allocated in the 2024/25.



MEC for Public Works and Roads, Sempe Elizabeth Mokua, together with the Head of Department, Moses Kgantsi, participated in the road marking of the speed humps on Road P183/1 from Deelpan to Sannieshof in Tswaing Local Municipality.

The markings will be visible from as distance to assist motorist to reduce speed on this busy road near Gelukspan Hospital.

PROGRAMME ONE: ADMINISTRATION

Honourable Speaker, we remain steadfast in our commitment to building a capable and well-resourced administration that can deliver on its mandate efficiently and professionally.

The key priority is the filling of critical vacancies, particularly within the technical disciplines essential for infrastructure delivery. The Department continues to contend with the national challenges of recruiting and retaining suitably qualified engineers and technical staff.

Another growing concern is an ageing workforce, the emigration of skilled persons and the public sector's limited ability to match private sector remuneration packages.

To address this capacity shortfall, the Department is implementing a Candidacy Development Programme designed to produce home-grown engineering professionals through internship and mentorship programmes. We do this in partnership working with the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure in this regard.

This collaboration will speed up placement and the completion of this programme within the seven-year prescribed period of completion. This observation does not downplay the appreciated training initiatives offered by institutions such as the South African Institution of Civil Engineering (SAICE), amongst others.

Honourable Members, a capable state is also one that upholds the principles of good governance. Therefore, I am pleased to apprise this House we have shown improvements in our recent audit outcomes, an indicator that our glass to clean governance is half full and our goal is obtain an unqualified audit outcome as we continue to fight against the irregular procurement processes.

Recently, a judgement was granted in favour of the Department, setting aside the irregular extension of contracts, and even went as far as ordering that all profits must be paid back to the Department and a criminal case must be opened.

PROGRAMME TWO: PUBLIC WORKS INFRASTRUCTURE (BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE)

Before outlining allocations for the 2025/26 financial year, Honourable Members and Distinguished Guests, allow me to reflect on progress made on the 2024/25 financial year budget.



Our road maintenance team hard at work on the road between Tlaskgameng and Ganyesa in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District.

Before outlining allocations for this programme for the 2025/26 Financial Year, Honourable Members and Distinguished Guests, allow me to reflect on progress made on the 2024/25 financial year budget. This will enable the Honourable Members to monitor the performance of the Department.

In the 2024/25 financial year, an amount of nine hundred and twenty-one million, eight hundred and eighty-three thousand (R921,883m) was allocated to this Programme to support the management of the life cycle of our government-owned buildings and land parcels.

The financial austerity measures that were introduced by the National Treasury in 2023, relating to curbing of the public sector wage bill, and the in-year budget cuts have resulted in the Department not being able to undertake all infrastructure projects that were planned. The Department thus had to reprioritise its projects over the MTEF to ensure that only funded projects are initiated.

Honourable Speaker, the following projects were announced in 2024/2025 financial year budget speech and progress on these projects is as follows:

- Refurbishment of Theresa House, which is a heritage site. The Department is in the process of rebuilding and restoring it to its original form and shape.
- Security upgrade at the Old Parliament Complex in Mahikeng. This project is ready to invite contractors to tender for the construction stage.
- Renovations of the Traditional Council Chamber at Old Parliament Complex in Mahikeng. This project is ready to invite contractors to tender for the renovation stage.
- Construction of a new office complex in Vryburg in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District. This facility will be a multi-tenant office park that will accommodate both the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management as well as the Department of Public Works and Roads. This project is ready to invite contractors to tender for the construction stage.

Furthermore, in an attempt to reduce dependency on rental office units, progress has advanced for occupation of a suitable multi-tenancy office complex in Mahikeng. This office complex will accommodate various Departments that are currently housed in different buildings and/or privately-owned leased accommodation, which are more often than not, uninhabitable.



MEC Sempe Elizabeth Mokua led the opening of Road P117/1 between Hartebeesfontein and Ottosdal that borders the City of Matlosana and Tswaing Local Municipalities in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District.

The expansion of office space through additional acquisitions or building of more complexes will be informed by the budgetary allocations made to the Department over the MTEF, but it remains a strategic priority.

Honourable Members, as part of our Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) on behalf of Client Departments, I am pleased to report on several projects targeted for completion in the 2025/26 financial year:

- Tigane Secondary School in Tigane, which comprises of 13 building blocks to the value of R62 million.
- Monchusi Secondary School in Morokweng Village in the Kagisano Molopo Municipality. The project cost is R67 million. The project is at 87% completion.
- Coligny Secondary School with total value of R268 million.
- As much as there are continued community disruptions and contractual disputes, the Dirang Ka Natla Primary School in Khuma in the City of Matlosana is also targeted for completion in the 2025/26 financial year at a cost of R64 million.

Honourable Members, we are indeed humbled, that our Province was considered as one of the beneficiaries to reap the fruits of the massive intervention from People's Republic of China, to receive a donation of eight (8) industrial generators and twelve (12) solar systems.

I am pleased to report that all generators have been commissioned at various identified schools and health facilities across the province. The location of these installations was guided by the areas in most need. I must also say that the feedback I received is that the beneficiaries are very happy and commended the Department for considering them.

The twelve solar systems are at an advanced stage with assessment of special requirements at the identified sites completed. This truly marked a significant step forward in our collective efforts to enhance the energy infrastructure of the North West Province.

The challenges we face in ensuring a reliable and consistent power supply are well-known, and the support we receive from our international partners plays a crucial role in overcoming these obstacles.



MEC Sempe Elizabeth Mokua accompanied by Kgosi Pontsho Phopolo Maubane of Bakgatla-Ba-Maubane and Mayor of Moretele Local Municipality Cllr Masango George Manyike led the opening of Road 625 and 626 in Moretele Local Municipality



IMMOVABLE ASSET MANAGEMENT

Immovable Asset Register

Honourable Speaker, the effective management of the province's immovable assets is integral to our broader infrastructure mandate. The Department continues to refine and professionalise its assets to unlock state value.

As such, the Provincial Immovable Asset Register is currently aligned with the minimum requirements of an Immovable Asset Register as well as with the Accounting and Reporting prescripts as published by the National Treasury.

The Immovable Asset Register has a total portfolio of 4,305 land parcels of which 1,350 is disclosed in the Annual Financial Statements (AFS) at a value of R4 769 776 353 (R4.7 billion).

To effectively manage the provincial asset portfolio, **Honourable Speaker**, the Department is in the process of acquiring a comprehensive asset register management system in order to effectively manage the proper life cycle.

Payment of Rates and Taxes

The Department of Public Works and Roads is responsible for the payment of rates and taxes to our local municipalities who also rely on this revenue for the provision of services to communities. During 2024/25 financial year, the Department processed payments amounting to R289 million paid to all 18 local municipalities across the province.

Disposal of non-core assets

The Executive Council in 2021 approved the disposal of non-core residential houses as part of the province's revenue enhancement strategy. To date, a total of 37 houses have been transferred, and the revenue collected amount to over R17 million.

In 2024, EXCO further approved the disposal of 78 vacant non-core residential stands throughout the North West Province. These properties will be sold through public auction.

The Department also intends to dispose of houses that were built on tribal land that are under our custodianship. A total of 280 houses have been identified thus far, and the targeted beneficiaries for these disposals are the current tenants.



MEC Sempe Elizabeth Mokua and Head of Department, Moses Kgantsi, continued with pre-activities for Thuntsha Lerole for Moses Kotane Local Municipality by joining the departmental road maintenance team in the pothole patching of one of the streets in Mabele-a-Podi near Mogwase, Moses Kotane Local Municipality.

Honourable members, the Department is committed to the release of land parcels to other organs of state for socio-economic objectives such as land reform, integrated human settlements and alternative energy initiatives.

The disposal of these non-core assets also contributes to the reduction in the rates and taxes expenditure incurred annually.

Commercial properties (farms and buildings)

The Department is in the process of physical verification of farms that are owned by the Provincial Government. The plan is to advertise these farms strictly for agricultural purposes with the intention to lease them out to emerging farmers on a long-term basis. This will be part of the revenue enhancement strategy to strengthen the Department's revenue collection.

Furthermore, the Department has identified 20 unutilised and dilapidated government-owned buildings, which it intends to advertise for requests for proposals (RFPs) from the public. The proposals must indicate how the properties can be used to ensure that they contribute to the public good, job creation and generate revenue for the Provincial Government.

This is a direct response to the growing threat of illegal occupation and vandalism of our assets.

Technical Condition Assessment

Honourable Members, since 2022, the Department has conducted condition assessments on 105 government facilities to determine suitability, condition rating, operating performance and functional performance of such facilities.

These condition assessments inform maintenance and budgetary requirements needed to bring the facilities to a habitable and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) compliant state.

The Department intends to have an integrated building maintenance plan in place, but due to the fact that other Provincial Departments have their own infrastructure budgets, we need to reflect as an executive for a centralised infrastructure maintenance mandate to the Department of Public Works and Roads, to ensure consistency, quality, and compliance across the board.



MEC for Public Works and Roads, Sempe Elizabeth Mokua, accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati, Cllr Motseokae Maje and Mayor of Mamusa Local Municipality officially opened the R190m second phase of Road P34/5 (R506) from Schweitzer-Reneke to Christiana following the special maintenance of the road.

The scope of work for the project on the road which borders the Mamusa and Lekwa Teemaneng Local Municipalities, involved construction of 30km of the road; installation of new culverts; construction of pavement layer and erecting new fencing along some sections of the road.

Provision of Office Accommodation

Honourable Speaker, the Department of Public Works and Roads is mandated with the provision of office accommodation to all provincial departments. Currently, the department has a total of 225 offices comprising 117 state-owned and 108 privately leased buildings.

There is a serious shortage of habitable and OHS-compliant office buildings across the province, thereby compelling the government to rely on private leases. This has resulted in high government spending due to exorbitant rentals.

To this end, the Department has resuscitated the process of acquiring a multi-tenancy office building in Mahikeng to address the current office accommodation challenges experienced by various provincial departments.

The Department plans to acquire over 20,000 square metres of office space on a lease-to-buy option to accommodate the Departments of Human Settlements, Social Development and Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA).

Prestige Property Portfolio

Currently the department is managing a total portfolio of 34 Prestige residences comprising of eighteen (18) single residential dwellings and sixteen (16) residences within Lowe parliamentary village. We have further sourced additional six (6) residences from private landlord as temporary accommodation, to address shortage of houses for Members of Provincial Legislature (MPLs).

To address the shortage of residences, the Department is currently in the process of constructing seven (7) additional residences within the Lowe complex. The contractor has been appointed for the project, and work has commenced.

PROGRAMME THREE (TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE)

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Distinguished Guests, and Fellow Citizens,

Budget constraints have impacted all spheres of government, including infrastructure development. Yet, the imperative to maintain and upgrade our transport infrastructure, particularly our road networks remain non-negotiable.



During her oversight visit to the rehabilitation and reseal of Road R505 from Wolmaransstad to Wesselsbron as part of the #ThuntshaLerole programme for Maquassi Hills Local Municipality, MEC Sempe Elizabeth Mokua was impressed to meet a female sub-contractor on site.

Ms Kenalemang Bamphitile is responsible for the installation of culverts on the road project.



Admittedly, our province is faced with a challenge of roads that are deteriorating rapidly, thus impacting economic activities, service delivery, and the daily lives of our people.

In response, the Department prioritised maintenance and rehabilitation projects, with a special focus on socio-economic strategic roads, inclusive of those roads serving rural communities and the agricultural sector.

As I mentioned earlier, Honourable Members, an assessment was undertaken of the damage to road and bridge infrastructure that resulted from excessive flooding, and the costs are prohibitive.

These have been declared disasters and we are in discussion with the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) to take the matter forward in the interest of securing funding to fix the roads and bridge infrastructure.

Budget Allocations for Transport Infrastructure (Roads)

Honourable Speaker, the total budget allocation for upgrading, maintenance, resealing, rehabilitation, and bridge projects amounts to R1.938 billion for this financial year. This includes:

- R258.7 million from the Provincial Equitable Share, dedicated to upgrading roads from gravel to tar (CAPEX projects). However, this amount remains insufficient, as it allows us to upgrade less than 42 km of roads, whereas the North West Province still has 14,700 km of gravel roads requiring intervention.
- R1.679 billion from the Provincial Road Maintenance Grant (PRMG), earmarked for road resealing, rehabilitation, blading, pothole patching and re-gravelling. This allocation also includes a special allocation of R201 million for the Welisizwe Rural Bridges Programme, which is a collaborative effort between the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure and the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

This programme facilitates the repair and construction of rural bridges, ensuring that communities can safely cross rivers to access schools, healthcare facilities, and other essential services.



MEC Sempe Elizabeth Mokua during pothole patching at Phuthadichaba Street in Tshing (Ventersdorp), JB Marks Local Municipality.

The team of 30 road workers, comprised of 21 officials and 9 EPWP beneficiaries.

This took place during the Provincial World TB Day 2025 Commemoration and Accelerated Service Delivery Thunsa Lerole Reloaded Programme.

Furthermore, the PRMG also includes a special allocation of R476 million which amongst others, focuses at rehabilitation, upgrading and utilization of block paving where appropriate.

This funding is used to augment the allocation from the provincial fiscus, which is inadequate. In terms of the Division of Revenue Act (DORA) conditions, the province is expected to match the PRMG allocation rand for rand. In this Province, we have never been able to fulfil this obligation.

We need as a collective to reimagine how provincial infrastructure delivery is going to be planned and budgeted for, within the context of the contribution of all our service delivery partners, inclusive of other Provincial Departments.

If the current trends in relation to budget allocations are not reviewed, the Department of Public Works and Roads will not be able to address all new needs and ever-growing backlogs holistically. This is worsened by the damage caused by the excessive flooding over the past five years.

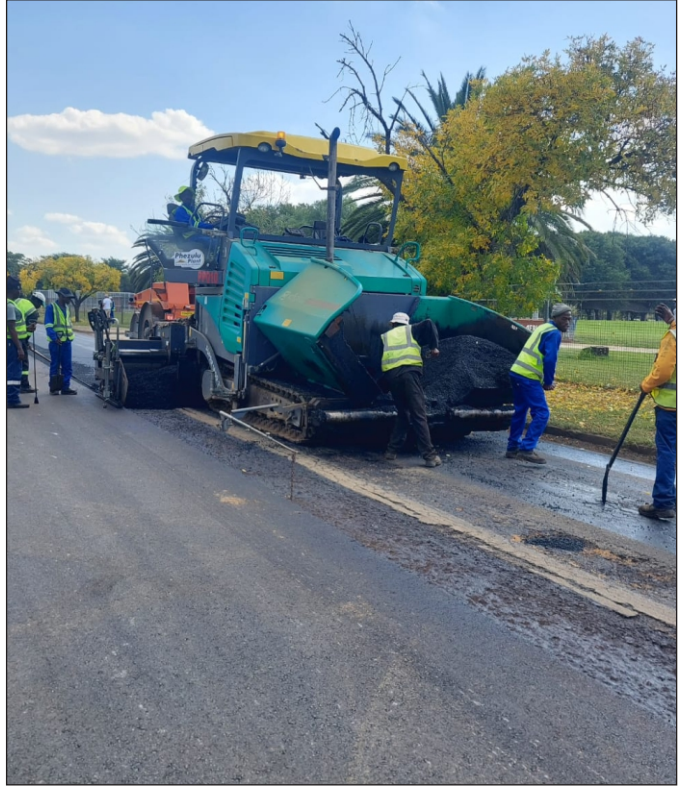
The Department hereby expresses its appreciation to the National Department of Transport for an upward trend in the budget allocation to address the severe conditions of the roads.

Investment in Maintenance Equipment

Upon assuming office, I was briefed on the enormity of the demand for improved road infrastructure particularly leading to social amenities (schools, clinics, graveyards etc.) across the North West Province. Amid severe resource constraints to effectively respond to road maintenance needs, the challenges around the ageing (and ailing) yellow fleet were outlined.

In response, the Department prioritized the mobilisation of additional resources, particularly for the procurement of yellow plant and equipment essential for maintenance activities such as re-gravelling, blading, pothole patching and fog spray operations.

Following our request for additional resources, the Honourable Premier, during the 2025 State of the Province Address (SOPA), announced an additional allocation of R80 million to the Department of Public Works and Roads for the acquisition of the yellow fleet.



Works is progressing well on the Visser Road in Mahikeng town together with other adjacent roads to give Mahikeng the status befitting of a provincial seat of government.

The Department is pleased to report that this allocation has been received. Tractors, tractor loader backhoes and construction rollers have already arrived, and the remaining plant and machinery are expected to be delivered in phases during September and October 2025, with the final units arriving in November 2025.

As mentioned, the obsolete plant will be auctioned off and the proceeds will be used to augment the budget.

As part of our continued commitment to revitalising Mahikeng and enhancing its role as the provincial legislative and administrative seat, the Department intensified its focus on improving key transport infrastructure within the town and surroundings.

This includes the ongoing rehabilitation, special maintenance and storm water management projects covering major routes such as Nelson Mandela Drive, Visser Street and other roads serving public facilities including schools, clinics, and government offices.

The revitalisation of Mahikeng through integrated transport infrastructure is a cornerstone of our strategy to create a more liveable, connected and economically vibrant provincial capital.

To this end, the Department has also commenced planning for the proposed Mahikeng Ring Road: an ambitious infrastructure initiative aimed at improving mobility and easing congestion within and around Mahikeng.

The Ring Road will include the expansion of key arterial routes e.g. the Zeerust Overpass Bridge, Lonely Park Road, University Road and the road to Bray.

To realise the full scope of this transformative initiative, the Department will seek strategic partnerships and additional investments from both public and private partners.

About the commitments made in the previous financial year, I am pleased to announce that the following major capital projects were completed in the 2024/25 financial year:

- Rehabilitation of Road P117/1 from Ottosdal (P13/2) to Hartbeesfontein and Special Maintenance of Road P117/1 from Ottosdal to Delareyville - the project has reached practical completion (98% complete) with only few snags remaining.
- Upgrading of Road Z431 from end of tar to Kgora Entrance and upgrading of Kgora Training Centre Internal Road – the project reached practical completion (98% complete) with only few snags remaining.



MEC Sempe Elizabeth Mokuu, Kgosi Motheo Mamogale of Bakwena Ba Mogopa and Head of Department, Moses Kgantsi turning the sod to mark the beginning of the repair works on Road D109 (Bethanie) and Road P51/1 (Barseba) to Road R511 (Brits).

- Completion of the Special Maintenance of Road P34/5 (R506) from Schweizer-Reneke to Christiana (Phase 2).
- Completion of the upgrading of Road D639 from Moretele to Ga – Habedi (Phase 3).

The progress registered in relation to other/ongoing commitments of the 2024/25 financial year is as follows:

- Rehabilitation and reseal of Road P13/4 from Wolmaransstad to Wesselsbron (Free State Border) – the contract value is R301 million and to this date 37% progress registered.
- Special Maintenance of Road D109 (Bethanie) and Road D519 from Road P51/1 (Berseba) to Road R511 (Brits). The contract value is R106 million and contractor is in the process of establishing site.
- Special Maintenance of Road P53/1 between Road R510 and Mogwase – the contract value is R89 Million and contractor has mobilized site establishment.
- Special Maintenance of Road P23/1 from Schweizer-Reneke to Wolmaransstad (Phase 1). The contract value is R204 million and the contractor is currently mobilizing site.
- Special Maintenance of Road P34/4 (R506) from Delareyville to Schweizer-Reneke (Phase 1). The contract value is R175 million and the contractor is currently mobilizing site.
- Special Maintenance of Road P2/4 (R104) from Majakaneng to Hartebeespoort. The contract value is R99 million and to this date 28% progress is registered with 41 work opportunities created.

Progress in relation to upgrading projects announced in the previous financial year is as follows:

- Upgrading of Road D2279: from Dinokana to Lekubung (Phase 1b) – there was no successful bidder and the procurement processes for re-advertisement are underway.
- As for the following projects, contractors have been appointed and are currently busy with site mobilisation and establishment:
- Block paving of road Z473 from D3545 to road D41 in Dithakong.
- Upgrading with (Paving block) of D39 from Mooifontein to Lombaardslaagte (Phase 1).
- Upgrading (paving block) and special maintenance of Road D210 from Modimong to Taung.



Premier of the North West, Kagiso Lazarus Mkgosi handing over 150kva diesel generator to Botoka High School in Ikageng, JB Marks Local Municipality as part of a consignment received as a donation from the People's Republic of China. Premier is accompanied by representatives of JB Marks Local Municipality, HoD for Public Works and Roads, Moses Kgantsi, the school principal and officials from the department.



To reseal programmes, the following projects were awarded:

In the Bojanala District:

- Patch, Fogspray Reseal of Road P51/1 from Berseba to intersection of Road R510.
- Patch, Fogspray and Light Rehabilitation of Road D681 from Brits (Oukasie) to the intersection of Road D2341.

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).
- Patch, Fogspray, Reseal of Road P68/2 from Tosca to Jakkalskop.

In the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District:

- Patch and Reseal of Road P23/2 from Orkney towards Leeudoringstad.
- Patch and Reseal of Road P89/1 in Potchefstroom from Meyer Street towards Oudedorp and Road D1208 from Road P89/1 to the N12.

In the Ngaka Modiri-Molema District:

- Patch, Fogspray, Light Rehabilitation of Road P40/1 in Mafikeng from N18 to Road R49 (Zeerust).
- Patch, Fogspray, Reseal of Road P71/10 from Mafikeng CBD to Lotlhakane river crossing and Road D420 from Intersection of P71/10 to the railway line.

The Department would also like to 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 (including bridge construction and bridge repairs– physical progress is 60% with 175 work opportunities created.
- The upgrading from gravel to surface standard of Road D514, Z561, D503 and D501 from Ramokokastad to Mmorogong Via Pylkop `Access (including two water crossing bridges) – physical progress is 55% with 81 work opportunities created.
- The rehabilitation of Road D933 and Road D2095 from Lichtenburg to Gelukspan and special maintenance of deviation roads – physical progress is 92% with 214 work opportunities created.

As pronounced in the previous financial years, the Department has successfully appointed civil engineering consultants for the planning and design of the upgrading of strategic gravel roads, and the Department can report that the designs are underway and are at different stages.



Three offices in Klerksdorp and Potchefstroom are amongst those that the department can pride itself with due to their constant state of cleanliness and landscaping that pleases the eye.

The upkeep of these premises can go a long way in enhancing the image of the department and ensure the confidence of our community members who often visit these premises to seek services.



The responsibility to these premises in a good state is the responsibility of our very own groundsmen assisted by our Expanded Public Works Programme beneficiaries

In addition to the above, the Department, through the appointed consultant, is busy finalising the last stage of the design for Nelson Mandela Drive in Mahikeng (phase 2).

This will include the extension of the bridge at Molopo River and extension of the stormwater system to connect with newly installed storm water infrastructure.

Furthermore, **Honourable Members**, we are pleased to announce that the design of Road D506, Z559 and D332 from Dwarsberg to the Pachsdraai end of tar is completed, and procurement processes of the contractor are underway for the upgrading of approximately 33 kilometres from gravel to surface standard over multiple financial years.

Commitment to a Culture of Maintenance

Honourable Speaker, we have been called upon to establish a culture of maintenance, and we are taking decisive steps in this regard. The Department remains committed to ensuring the continuous grading, re-gravelling, reserve maintenance, culvert repairs, and cleaning activities that will sustain and improve our unpaved road network.

Through these initiatives, we reaffirm our dedication to infrastructure sustainability and improved service delivery. We urge our communities and stakeholders to work with us in protecting and maintaining our road infrastructure, as this is a shared responsibility for the benefit of all.

PROGRAMME 4 (COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMME)

This programme is aimed at alleviating poverty and reducing unemployment by providing temporary, labour-intensive work opportunities and training for poor and unskilled people, while contributing to the delivery of public and community services.

To this end, the Department coordinates the process of ensuring that all Provincial Departments and local municipalities contribute towards the alleviation of poverty by creating work opportunities.

Honourable Madame Speaker, Members of the House, allow me to reflect on the pronouncements I made last year.

In 2024/25, the Department undertook a review of the recruitment methodology in use for EPWP to enhance the operational efficiency not only in recruitment but also in monitoring and



New Welisizwe vehicular bridge for the community of Masutlhe 1 in Mahikeng Local Municipality. In the distance on the far right is the old culverts bridge which used to flood frequently during rainy seasons, leaving the villagers disconnected from essential services and affect schooling.

Community of Masutlhe 1 came in their numbers to witness the official opening of the bridge by the Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Sihle Sikalala and MEC Sempe Elizabeth Mokua.

Also present at the occassion with Kgosi Jeff Montshioa of Barolong Boo Ratshidi.

reporting of the EPWP performance.

The improvement in on-site monitoring is intended to enhance the effective utilisation of the EPWP participants, creating value for money and to ensure that credible performance information is available to identify areas that require interventions and to inform our planning processes.

EPWP Phase V was launched in the province in the 2024/25 financial year. The overall targets set for the province are as follows:

PROVINCIAL						
SPHERE	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	TOTAL PHASE V TARGETS
Departments	19 079	20 216	20 859	21 532	22 235	103 921
Municipalities	7 541	7 851	8 161	8 471	8 782	40 806
TOTAL	26 620	28 067	29 020	30 003	31 017	144 727

Of the target of 144,727 for the next five years, the Department of Public Works and Roads is the biggest contributor with a target of 84,229 work opportunities to be created. This is a daunting task, but one that the Department is committed to achieving in addressing the scourge of unemployment, especially among the youth.

The target for Year 1 of Phase V was set at 15,800 direct work opportunities for the Department (2024/25 FY). However, the introduction of austerity measures in the 2023/24 financial year had serious implications for the Department. The budget reductions that followed the introduction of the austerity measures required the Department to review the targets to ensure that the programme is funded.

Thus, the targets for EPWP were reduced in the current financial year. However, to achieve the 5-year target, the reduction of 2025/26 will have to be addressed in the outer years, but it can only be done if the budget allows us to do so.



The upgrading and rehabilitation of Road Z43 from N18 towards Kgora Training Centre passing through Ramatlabama village in Mahikeng Local Municipality is a shot in the arm to once ailing farming community. The 9km road completed at the cost of R68m was intended to provide accessibility of farmers and villagers alike, particular during rainy seasons when it is impossible to drive on due to the type of soil.



Despite the budgetary challenges, the Department managed to create just under 10,000 direct work opportunities in the 2024/25 financial year. The Department also undertook a physical verification of all our beneficiaries to resolve the shortcomings in the credible and complete reporting of our statistics. This is part of our programme around the re-imagination of the EPWP.

Honourable Speaker, the Department hereby takes the opportunity to urge all Departments and municipalities to honour the commitments made in the Memoranda of Agreement towards the achievement of the provincial targets.

Honourable Speaker, we had said we will ensure beneficiaries exit the EPWP Programme after the twenty-four (24) months period with acquired skills, as it is a priority of the recently launched EPWP Phase V.

To that end, the Department ensured that 580 participants who fall within the youth age cohort received accredited training through the Construction Education and Training Authority (CETA) in various disciplines.

We have further done a comprehensive verification and condition assessment of the 16 Brickmaking Plants that the Province had invested in with the view of resuscitating them. The Department is exploring options in this regard, which include entering into caretaker ship agreements with interested parties.

This will address the efficient use of these assets, create jobs in communities and generate revenue for the Department. These SMMEs will not only take care of these assets for us but simultaneously pay for the utilisation of the sites whilst generating material for use by internal state infrastructure streams to improve the aesthetic of our towns and cities; its walkways, rural access roads and other avenues that Local Government wish to introduce.

The budget for this programme will be spent towards creating 10,000 work opportunities by leading and coordinating the Expanded Public Works Programme in the province.

Furthermore, the EPWP programme seeks to impact lives and livelihoods by empowering five thousand four hundred (5 400) women in the transport infrastructure sector, out of the total of 9 000 work opportunities. Six hundred (600) women will be targeted in the public works infrastructure sector out of the total of 1 000 work opportunities.



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Two hundred and eighty (280) people with disabilities will be targeted in the transport infrastructure sector, and thirty-six (36) in the public works infrastructure sector. Young people will comprise four thousand, nine hundred and fifty (4,950) and five hundred and fifty (550) of those recruited in the transport and public works infrastructure sectors, respectively.

Due to challenges in accommodating persons with disabilities in infrastructure projects, the Department is planning innovative workstreams for service delivery, such as a Call Centre reporting service delivery needs. This will be introduced towards the third quarter of the financial year and is specifically designed for job creation for persons with disabilities.

Honourable Speaker, as mentioned earlier, the number of 10,000 is a reduction of what the Department is expected to achieve. The Department, however, will endeavour to maximise labour-intensive work opportunities created.

Insofar as the Contractor Incubation Programme (Vukhupile Contractor Development Programme) is concerned, the Department is committed to investing in creating a pool of contractors for the Province in various disciplines ranging from general building to civil engineering, fencing and road marking.

The Department will work hard at ensuring these learner contractors also create indirect work opportunities for our people and thereby contribute to us realising our ultimate target towards changing the lives of the destitute. These contractors will further enable proper supervision of our EPWP Beneficiaries and enhance skills transfer on the job.

We have included 9 specific training interventions in 2025/26 to further ensure that the skills transferred enable beneficiaries to be marketable or industrious to reduce the dependency on the temporary poverty alleviation programme. These training endeavours will further be pursued through funding from CETA and the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

CONCLUSION

Madam Speaker, Esteemed Colleagues, and Fellow Citizens,

As I conclude this budget presentation, I reaffirm the Department's unwavering commitment to developing and maintaining the critical infrastructure that drives economic growth, improves service delivery, and enhances the quality of life for our people.



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The investments outlined in this budget are not just figures on paper; they represent roads that will connect communities, bridges that will ensure safe travel, and public facilities that will support our collective progress.

We acknowledge the challenges we face, including budgetary constraints and rising costs, but we remain resolute in our mission. Through strategic planning, responsible spending and a focus on accountability, we will maximise every rand to ensure value for money. We will also work closely with stakeholders, including the private sector and local communities, to enhance efficiency and promote sustainable infrastructure development.

Let us all commit to working together across departments, sectors, and communities to build a network of roads and public facilities that serve as the backbone of our economy and society. The success of this budget lies not only in its approval but in its effective implementation.

With the continued support of this house and the dedication of our workforce, I am confident that we will deliver on our mandate and pave the way for a more connected and prosperous future.

None of what we plan to achieve would be possible without the confidence placed in me by my political home, the African National Congress. I am deeply honoured to lead this Department on behalf of a movement that has long championed the cause of the poor and marginalised. To the ANC, thank you for entrusting me with the responsibility to serve our people at this critical time.

I am equally grateful to our Premier, the Honourable Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi, for his decisive leadership and unwavering support. Your guidance, Honourable Premier, continues to be an inspiration.

To the Head of Department, Mr Moses Kgantsi, your leadership has anchored the Department with divine wisdom since the first day I assumed office. To you and the entire Senior and Middle Management team, along with all dedicated staff members, you are the winning team behind the vision we carry.

To my office staff, thank you for your tireless dedication behind the scenes. The late nights, early mornings, and weekends spent planning and pushing through have not gone unnoticed.



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Lastly, special thanks to my husband, Mogomotsi Moku, my children and my entire family, thank you for being my backbone.

I am eternally grateful.

Now, to the Members of this House, we have a mandate to fulfil to the communities we serve, and I appeal for the effective implementation of this budget to build and maintain the infrastructure that becomes the foundation of inclusive growth, service delivery, and dignity for all.

We have no time to lose! We endeavour to change the face of Public Works and Roads.

I thank you! Kea leboga!



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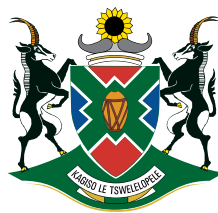


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