

Address by MEC Oageng Gaoge Molapisi to external stake-holders of Dr Ruth

Segomotsi Mompoti assembled in Christiana on June 15, 2019 for the Roads

Colloquim

- Programme Director
- Administrator, Samuel Thobakgale
- Dikgosi Tsa Rona
- Executive Mayors and Mayors present
- Councillors
- Representatives of the Taxi and Bus operators
- Delegation from the Farmers Union
- Senior Managers present here today

Good Morning

Lately, when I am given an opportunity and privilege to address gathering of this nature, I have developed a habit of reflecting on the experiences of the past.

This I do, to ensure the context of what I say is very clear to everybody, and to minimise whatever confusion may arise after I have spoken.

In the month preceding the 2019 National and Provincial Elections, I was among a number of people deployed to do, and also lead the campaign for the governing party, the African National Congress, in our province.

It is not an exaggeration to mention to the collective, that I am one of those people who criss-crossed the province and all its the four districts by road, during the day and at night.

I stress, not by air, but by road, interacting with people from various walks of life

People with different economic and social standing. Engaging them on behalf of the governing party, and further more:

To hear first-hand, as to what their need and aspirations are in relation to what government has done for them in the past 25 years.

## Programme Director:

Our people are gradually getting tired of explanations and excuses as to why service delivery in their respective areas is not seen or felt.

They want to see action from government in terms the speed and quality service delivered.

That explain why, for example, government has included as priorities some of critical issues raised by our people during the election campaign.

For those who may not be aware, these are:

- Unemployment
- Water and Sanitation
- Rural Roads
- Housing
- Health Services
- Crime Corruption
- Education and Land

While these are equally important, I am mandated to talk road infrastructure, by virtue of that being my portfolio or responsibility as tasked by the Premier of the Province, Professor Job Mokgoro.

I have, during the election campaign been to villages which cannot be accessed by car yet there are community facilities like clinics and schools in the area.

You have to park the car a distance away and have to walk to your destination.

Our own people cannot even bury their dead with dignity in some villages, during rainy season because, the roads leading to cemeteries have become no go areas for vehicles.

Children cannot go to school during rainy days, because other infrastructure, like bridges and culverts have not been repaired and forever pose a lot a danger for communities.

The list goes on and on and examples just too many to mention.

What is it that we are doing currently as the Department of Public Works and Roads to address these challenges.

Frankly, very little! Depending where in the province you reside.

Yet in all fairness, work done on our road in the past 25 year might not be significant but:

Given the limited resources at our disposal, much has been done and more will be done.

It is therefore critical, Programme Director, that for more to be done, we need the support, cooperation and understanding of all stake-holders.

This cannot be underestimated, we have to pull together in one direction in order to the 6<sup>th</sup> Admiration to deliver.

And for government to deliver we need to correct perception, misunderstanding even correct mistakes about commitments in the past without budget allocations.

I am pleased to say, we started this process of engagement on a very high note in Mafikeng two weeks ago.

Those present over two days will confirm that. And we have sign a pledge to work together with all Municipalities on infrastructure relates matter to do more with less.

Road users want to see trafficable and well maintained roads. They seldom worry less whether road A belongs to national, road B to a municipality or province.

All they know is, it is government's responsibility to deliver quality roads.

And that explains why in the Department has been inundated with calls from various communities demanding tar roads because we have failed to maintain even gravel roads in question.

In conclusion Programme Director:

The Premier of the province, Professor Mokgoro has committed additional funding to our equitable share for the coming three years for upgrading road

But he has also given marching orders on what to prioritise which is very important for this collective to apply the mind on during engagement.

Our focus area on roads will be to ensure that the majority of our economic, eco-tourism. Agricultural and access routes are trafficable to facilitate economic growth and development in the province.

In addition, we have to explore more efficient, effective and economic methods of delivering quality roads infrastructure, cutting n rehabilitation and upgrade cost per kilometre.

In all this, we must create jobs and explore and implement labour intensive methods of construction especially in the rural areas for access roads.

Therefore, what today's discussion on roads is NOT about is:

To remind us about a road MEC so and so promised in a year, three year or four years ago.

The agenda of the 6<sup>th</sup> Administration on road going forward, is to consult and more and never to get tired to give feed-back to communities no matter how little.

People require information and that is a recipe for understanding and cooperation.

I wish you the best and very fruitful engagement

I thank you

Ke a leboga

DRAFT