

SPEECH BY NORTH WEST MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS
HONOURABLE MR. H.D.YAWA ON THE OCCASION OF THE
PUBLIC WORKS BUDGET DEBATE IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
PROVINCES

CAPE TOWN-17 MAY 2005

Honourable Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces-

Honourable Mr. M. J. Mahlangu, MP

Honourable Minister Nkosazana Stella Sicgau, MP

Honourable Deputy Minister-Mr.Ntopile Kganyago, MP

Chairperson of the Select Committee on Public Services-

Honourable Mr. R Tau, MP

Honourable Members

Honourable Provincial Delegates

Senior Managers from the Department

Ladies and Gentlemen

In 1980, the then President of the African National Congress
Comrade Oliver Reginald Tambo declaring that year the 'year of
the Charter' said:

"The Freedom Charter contains the fundamental perspective of
the vast majority of the people of South Africa of the kind of
liberation that we all of us are fighting for. Hence it is not
merely the Freedom Charter of the African National Congress and
its allies. Rather it is the Charter of the people of South Africa
for liberation. It was drawn up on the basis of the demands of the
vast masses of our country and adopted at an elected Congress of
the people. Because it came from the people, it remains still a

people's Charter, the one basic political statement of our goals to which all genuinely democratic and patriotic forces of South Africa adhere."

Honourable Chairperson this point remains valid today. As we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Freedom Charter this year, we need to take stock of our achievements towards the realisation of the vision of the Freedom Charter.

Honourable Chairperson, the pace of delivery is gaining momentum in the Platinum Province. In support of this budget vote, allow me to share with your august house some of the achievements of the department I have the honour to lead.

ASSET REGISTER

According to our Asset Register completed and installed in five workstations in the last financial year, the total portfolio of our fixed assets as per asset register is estimated at R11billion.

INFRASTRUCTURE:

Honourable Chairperson, as you are aware, providing integrated, sustainable public infrastructure is one of the core functions of the Department of Public Works. This mandate covers, in the main, the implementation of the Capital Development Programmes for the Departments of Health and Education. In addition we are also responsible for major renovations, day-to-day maintenance, and preventative maintenance of public buildings.

The co-operation and communication with our main client departments, e.g. Department of Education and the Department of Health is of paramount importance. This critical success factor is further influenced by the location of the budgets for these programmes in the client departments.

HEALTH FACILITIES:

In the last financial year, my department completed five major hospital renovation projects to the combined contract value of R428 million on behalf of the Department of Health.

We have also completed twenty-nine (29) clinics in historically marginalized rural communities in the last financial year.

As the pace of delivery gains momentum, we will execute seven (7) clinic-building projects for the department of health in this financial year. All of these Projects are to commence by the end of next month.

HOSPITAL REVITALIZATION PROGRAMME

Under this programme we have completed and delivered the R 39 million Swartruggens Hospital. The 30- bed facility also includes a housing project for staff. As a department we are proud to have delivered to the Department of Health and communities in the Kgetleng River Municipality a technologically advanced public hospital that is second to none.

As the pace of delivery gains momentum, the Construction of the R200 million Moses Kotane Hospital will commence by the end of next month. Construction of the R190 million Vryburg Hospital will also commence by the end of October this year.

Honourable Chairperson I should indicate that All three new hospitals under this programme represent a total paradigm shift in public health infrastructure design and construction and competitive public infrastructure alternative to private health facilities.

SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME

On behalf of the Department of Education my department completed thirteen school building projects in the last financial year.

For the current financial year thirteen schools building projects at a combined contract value of R82, 1 million are to be undertaken on behalf of the Department of Education.

Honourable Chairperson, We are taking practical steps to achieve better results today and tomorrow than we did yesterday therefore Contractors will be on site at all thirteen schools as from next month.

IMPROVING RELATIONSHIP WITH CLIENT DEPARTMENTS

To improve service delivery and to govern interdepartmental relationships and expectations, we have entered into Service

Level Agreements with the Department of Education and the Department of Health.

We have established a joint departmental task teams with the Department of Education to develop a five years Provincial Infrastructure Maintenance and Developmental Plan by July of this year. We are confident that this forward planning will see us overcome maintenance and developmental challenges facing the Department of Education and us.

OFFICE ACCOMODATION

To reduce costs on rented accommodation we will embark on a Renovation Project to change “office space” into “workspace” at the Ga-Rona Provincial Administration Building at a cost of R48.4 million with expenditure of R23 million in the current financial year.

The project will run over two financial years and will create accommodation for an additional 1264 public servants in the circle of Ga-Rona which presently accommodates 792 public servants.

On completion of the Project, Ga-Rona will accommodate 2056 public servant. This will alleviate office shortage experienced by most government departments.

EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

Honourable Chairperson, Creating work and fighting poverty are central in our programme as government for the creation of a South Africa that truly belongs to All.

According to our fourth quarterly report we managed to create 18 450-job opportunities through the Expanded Public Works Programme across all spheres of government in the last financial year.

For the current financial year, all departments have registered EPWP projects with the Project Management Unit in the Office of the Premier. This will enable us to monitor compliance with EPWP National Guidelines.

We hope that our representation on the Provincial Municipal Infrastructure Grant Committee will ensure alignment of Municipal Infrastructure Grant Projects to the Expanded Public Works Programme and improve on coordination and reporting.

For the current financial year we have identified Modimong Village in the Bophirima Region as the next village for major intervention after the Modimola EPWP Pilot Project, which was launched last year on the 16 September.

The second phase of the Modimola Pilot Project, which is to commence by end of next month, involves labour intensive road maintenance, construction of village roads and provision of

farming infrastructure. Fifteen Learnership contracts are to be awarded to beneficiaries trained in the first phase of the project. Thirty(30) potential farmers identified through the food security project in the first phase are to be trained in farming and food production.

We have also identified thirty -eight (38) projects in the various regions of the Province for the roll out of the Expanded Public Works Programme. Through this projects, close to two thousand jobs are to be created by the department of Public works alone.

We have jointly with the department of education identified fifty (50) schools for minor and major renovations through labour intensive construction methods. The selection of beneficiaries will have a stronger bias towards women, i.e.60% women, 20% youth and 1% disabled persons.

LEARNERSHIPS

In the last financial year the department offered internships to forty (44) unemployed youth who are graduates and diplomats in communications, financial accounting, legal services, supply chain management and human resources.

In partnership with the Office of the Premier, and the Public Sector Education and Training Authority, the department is currently implementing sixty six (66) learnerships in Project Management, Public Sector Accounting, Human Resource Management and Construction Contractor.

In Conclusion allow me to quote what the African genius, Poet and writer Ben Okri in his Poem titled the Awakening Age says,

“O ye who travel the median line
May the vision of the new world within you shine
May eyes that lived with poverty’s rage
See through the glory of the awakening age

For we are all richly linked in hope
Woven in history, like a mountain rope.
Together we can ascend to a new height,
Guided by our hearts’ clearest light

When perceptions are changed
There’s much to gain,
A flowering of truth instead of pain.

There’s more to a people than their poverty;
There’s their work, wisdom and creativity
Along the line our lives rhyme,
To make a loving harvest of space and time.”

As a department we have resolved to denounce business as usual and to change perceptions about ourselves because indeed we believe that when perceptions are changed there is much to be gained.

Ke a leboga.