

**BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE
NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BY MEC Hon. Mr. H. D. YAWA, MPL
12 APRIL 2005
VOTE 11-FINANCIAL YEAR 2005/06**

Honourable Madame Speaker and Deputy Speaker

Honourable Premier

Honourable Colleagues in the Executive Council

Honourable Members of the National Assembly

Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature

Honourable Mayors

Honourable Councillors

Members of the House of Traditional leaders, Batlotlegi Dikgosi
tsa rona

Stakeholders and Clients

Members of the Mass Media

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

1.INTRODUCTION

In 1925 George Bernard Shaw, an Irish dramatist, a literacy critic, a socialist spokesman and a leading figure in the 20th century theater was awarded the Nobel Price for Literature. Shaw accepted the honour but refused the money.

I am always challenged by his dedicatory letter from Man and Superman, in which he said,

“This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognised by yourself as a mighty one; the being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.

I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can.

I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no ‘brief candle’ to me. It is a sort of a splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.”

Madame Speaker, I am humbled by the privilege bestowed upon me by the honourable Premier, to lead a department tasked with the responsibility to provide sustainable integrated public infrastructure.

The late comrade Steve Tshwete on the occasion of the Thirty Years Celebration of the Freedom Charter in 1985 said,

“All People’s Programmes anywhere in the world spring from a given objective reality. Once it has been hatched the particular programme cannot be detached from its historical incubator. For the Charter was not meant only to project the ideal society, but

also-and this is extremely important-to influence the situation in favour of the accomplishment of the ideal. If you take any programme from the Communist Manifesto of 1848 to the Freedom Charter, one eye will always be focused on the present and the other on the future. The Freedom Charter, to be any relevance, had to influence the objective reality in South Africa."

Madame Speaker, The Freedom Charter was and continues to be a powerful and immensely relevant political programme to build a South Africa that truly belongs to all.

In pursuit of its objectives our third democratic government's goals for the implementation programme for Vision 2014 amongst others are:

- Contributing to the reduction unemployment through sustainable community livelihoods
- Providing skills, building capacity and providing resources to encourage self-employment
- Ensuring that all South Africans, especially the poor and those at risk-children, youth, women, the aged, and people with disabilities-are able fully to exercise their constitutional rights and enjoy the full dignity of freedom
- Ensuring compassionate public service to the people; that national, provincial and local officials are accessible and that citizens know their rights and insist on fair treatment and efficient services

- Contributing to building a South Africa that is growing, prospering and benefiting all Africans, especially the poor.

Our constitution, which is based on the Freedom Charter, requires us as government to priorities service delivery as it directs us to “improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person”.

For us as a department to deliver on this constitutional imperative, we have resolved to denounce business as usual and develop a winning culture.

After eleven months with the department I am pleased that the mist has cleared, the plains are clearer and the pace of delivery is gaining momentum.

2.ACHIEVEMENTS:

Honourable Madame Speaker, Although I would concur with George Bernard Shaw that, “We are not made wise by the recollection of our past, but by the responsibility for the future”, allow us to share with you some of our achievements for the past financial year.

2.1.CORPORATE SUPPORT SERVICES

FINANCIAL PLANNING AND ACCOUNTING

With the empowerment of the Regional Management at Directorate level, 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:

- Improved financial management and expenditure accountability
- 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
- Improved debt management and revenue collection
- Reconciliation and clearance of suspense accounts
- Improved management of the Departmental Tender Committee

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.

A total of eight (8) financial and supply chain management policies have been developed and or reviewed during this past financial year.

While the department prides itself that during the 2003/2004 financial year it was amongst those departments that got an unqualified auditor general's report, we can however not relax as

this poses a major challenge for us to maintain this status quo in the ensuing financial years.

Risk Identification and procedure manuals have been prepared to assist in the prevention of unauthorised, irregular, fruitless or wasteful expenditure and losses emanating from criminal conduct.

A Budget Advisory Committee comprising of all Programme Managers, Regional Managers and Regional Heads of finance units was established to ensure integrated corporate financial management.

To reconcile rental income, the department has installed a system-based approach, which will interface with Walker Financial System and Persal System. This will enable us to reduce the number of defaulters and increase our revenue collection.

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

Within the framework of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act and Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment Policy, we have given meaning to the clause in the Freedom Charter that declares, " The People shall share in the wealth of the country" by engaging one hundred and forty three (143) Affirmative business enterprises to the value of R176 million during the 2004/2005 financial year.

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Honourable Madame Speaker After attending this year's department's strategic planning management retreat I share Dr. Burt Nanus's assertion that, "Vision is where tomorrow begins, for it expresses what you and others who share the vision will be working hard to create. Since most people don't take time to think systematically about the future, those who do, and base their strategies and actions on their visions, have inordinate power to shape the future."

In the previous financial year we committed ourselves to finalise outstanding staff assessments under the personnel evaluation system. I am glad to report that most of the cases have been finalised. The less than 1% of isolated cases of what remained as unresolved cases are being finalised

During the financial year, the Provincial Administration finalised the revised Performance Management Development System (PMDS) policy for all Departments. This presented the need to align all the workplans of employees with the revised policy and implementation tools. To ensure that everybody has implementation tools aligned to the revised policy, the human resource management embarked on a training programme of staff. This has resulted in the preparedness for assessment of performance of staff for the ending year and compiling new workplans for the new financial year.

PMDS is the pillar of service delivery. Effective and efficient implementation of the strategic plan of the department is dependant on it. To ensure that PMDS is implemented effectively and efficiently an implementations strategy has been developed. To complement this strategy, the management of the department has introduced service improvement teams as a strategy that cuts across the service delivery of the department.

The department has embarked on a vigorous programme to resource its business units with personnel in key vacancies. This recruitment programme has resulted in filling of all key vacancies for Senior Management Service. The department operates with a full team at Senior Management level.

Most key vacancies at middle and operational levels have also been filled. The recruitment is currently wrapping up the filling of posts that had already been advertised.

The highlight of achievements around the human resources is in internships and skills development. In the last financial year, the department offered internships to forty (40) unemployed youth who are graduates and diplomats, i.e. twelve (12) in Communications, Six (6) in Financial Accounting, two (2) in Legal services, Six (6) in Supply Chain Management and fourteen (14) in Human Resource Management.

The duration of the learnerships was for six months at a stipend of R1300-00 per learner per month. Of the forty (40) interns, one has already been permanently employed.

In partnership with the Office of the Premier and the Public Sector Education and Training Authority, the department is as of the 1st April 2005 implementing sixty six (66) learnerships through a further intake of learners as follows: twenty four (24) in Project Management, twenty (20) in Public Sector Accounting, twelve (12) in Human Resource Management and ten (10) in Construction Contractor. The contract of the learners with the department commenced on the 1st April 2005 and will be implemented for a duration of twelve months, except for those in Construction Contractor, whose contracts are for a duration of twenty-four months.

As a caring organisation that values its employees, the department renders Employee Assistance Programme for employees who have both personal and work related problems. We have appointed a Gender Focal Person as well as a departmental representative to the Provincial Aids Council.

Extensive staff development was achieved through skills development across all fields of service delivery in the department.

We believe in the saying "Every job is a self-portrait of the person who does it. Autograph your work with Excellence"

LEGAL SERVICES

The Directorate has made significant progress with the finalisation of all internal Departmental policies aimed at excellent corporate governance and compliance with both national and provincial legislative prescripts.

We have also been successful in dealing with illegal occupants of state houses. The Department obtained a High Court order to evict one illegal occupant and the process is still unfolding regarding other illegal occupants in the province.

The delegations in terms of the North West Land Administration Act from the Premier to the MEC and the HOD are in place in line with the competency attached to the Department.

The department deals decisively with the management of discipline in the Department and almost all matters received during the financial year 2004/5 have been finalised.

There is a stable labour environment in the Department, which is mainly due to regular meetings with trade unions and all stakeholders involved.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The department has acquired a customised and web based software that is to contribute to the improved control and

reporting on rental revenue collection from state property. The Department has embarked on information collection and verification of all tenants occupying state property.

We were able to improve on our ability to communicate the strategic direction of the department through the recruitment of skilled personnel in communications and the acquisition of enabling resources. This has enabled us to produce an in-house bi-monthly internal newsletter (*Ditiro*) that publishes informative articles about the departmental activities. Coupled with this achievement, is the ability to produce small-scale publications publicising the activities of the department.

2.2 INFRASTRUCTURE

In the last financial year, the department renovated 6 institutional houses and 34 SMS houses in the Central Region at a cost of R 670 000.

At the Mafikeng Airport, the department upgraded auto mains power failure panels and constructed Fire escape staircases at a cost of R800 000

The Department renovated the Lichtenburg Traffic Office and the Montshioa Traffic Office at the combined cost of R156 000. The Social Security Office in Montshioa was renovated at a cost of R135 000.

The Department has completed Major Hospital Renovation Projects at the Witrand, Potchefstroom, Nic Bodenstein, Klerksdorp and Ventersdorp Hospitals in the Southern Region at a combined contract value of R428 million.

The pace of delivery is gaining momentum. We are taking detailed practical steps to achieve better results today and tomorrow than we did yesterday.

SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME 2001 AND 2003

As a department we have finally closed the curtain on the 2001 School Building Programme by delivering 5 completed schools to the Department of Education. This brought to 60 the number of schools completed under the Programme.

In the same stride we have completed and delivered eight school projects under the 2003 School Building Programme to the Department of Education. The remaining four schools under the programme will be completed by the end of May 2005.

We are taking detailed practical steps to achieve better results today and tomorrow than we did yesterday.

CLINICS BUILDING PROGRAMME 2001

Honourable Madame Speaker in the past financial year we executed 33 projects under the 2001/2002 Clinic Building Programme in historically marginalised rural communities.

Twenty five (25) clinics were completed. Four (4) clinics are due for completion by the end of this month and the last four (4) are to be completed within this financial year.

We are taking detailed practical steps to achieve better results today and tomorrow than we did yesterday.

HOSPITAL REVITALIZATION PROGRAMME

SWARTRUGGENS HOSPITAL

Under the Hospital Revitalization Programme, Swartruggens Hospital was completed in February 2005, i.e. a month later than scheduled due to delayed delivery of imported tiles and the connection of electricity by Eskom. I am happy to announce Madame Speaker that as announced by the honourable Premier in the State of the Province address, the hospital is now ready for us to handover to the client department in two weeks time.

MOSES KOTANE HOSPITAL

The R200 million project comprises a 200 bed district hospital and staff houses for doctors and nurses.

To maximise the participation of emerging contractors and fair distributions of wealth, the project was split in four parts, i.e. Bulk Earthworks, Bulk Water Supply, Staff Houses and the Main Contract for the construction of the hospital building.

Bulk Earthworks has been completed, bulk water supply is in progress and the staff housing project is at adjudication stage. The Contractor is expected to be on site at the end of May 2005.

The fourth phase, i.e. the construction of the main hospital structure is scheduled to commence by the end of June this year. Since the contract period is for 30 months; the contract overlaps into the 2006/2007 financial year.

VRYBURG HOSPITAL

The R190 million project comprises a 120 bed district hospital and staff houses for doctors and nurses.

To maximise participation of emerging contractors and fair distributions of wealth, the project was split in three parts, i.e. Bulk Earthworks, bulk water supply and fencing, Staff Houses and the Main Contract for the construction of the hospital building.

The First Phase of the Project involving bulk water supply water and bulk earthworks has commenced and is expected to be completed by Mid July 2005. The Second Phase, i.e. staff housing is at adjudication stage. The Third Phase i.e. the construction of the main hospital structure is scheduled to commence by the end of October 2005. Since the contract period is for 26 months; the contract overlaps into the 2006/2007 financial year.

PROJECTS FOR OTHER PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS

TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY OFFICES

The Department constructed and refurbished four Traditional Authority Offices located in Ga-Motlatla, Tlokweng, and Ramatlabama and Maubane villages.

ALTERATIONS AND EXTENSIONS TO LEGISLATURE BUILDING, MAFIKENG

The project started in November 2003 and is scheduled for completion in the current financial year.

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The construction of the New Head Office for the Department of Public Works is in progress and the first phase is planned to be completed before the end of the current financial year.

The Extension of the Rustenburg Offices is at adjudication stage.

MAJOR RENOVATIONS 2004/2005

Major renovation projects, which commenced during the past financial year and are expected to be completed in the 2006/2007 financial year are the following:

- Garona Building
- Gaabomotho Building
- Old Parliament Building

- Barnard Social Security Building
- Taung Mechanical Workshop
- Fire Fighting reticulation at the Mafikeng International Airport
- Geo-Science Building
- Mafikeng Civic Centre
- Ramosa Riekert - Southern Region
- Garona - Upgrading of 7 lifts at Garona Building
- Upgrading of Air-conditioning plant at Garona Building

PROPERTY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

In the previous financial year we reported that the Asset Register has been completed and installed in five workstations. The total portfolio of our fixed assets as per asset register is estimated at R11billion.

The Department has, during the testing phase of the Asset Register discovered discrepancies, which were addressed with Service Providers. We also realised that the system needed to be modified so as to be more user friendly.

The following can be reported on what we have covered in this regard:

The corrected system is to be commissioned shortly after installation in the server.

Some of the officials operating the system have been trained, and training of others is underway.

This being a new system and a live document, teething problems are continuously identified and addressed promptly with the cooperation of the Service Providers.

The disposal of redundant state housing has been on the card for some time now and the Department has covered some milestones in this regard despite some challenges, which have really retarded the process.

As reported in the previous financial year, one of our challenges was to locate title deeds, which were never transferred to the North West Province from the erstwhile Bophuthatswana, the Northern Cape and the Transvaal Administration. The Department has managed to locate some of these from the National Department of Public Works.

The decision on this process was that the houses should be sold in batches, in order not to upset the market.

So far two hundred and twenty seven (227) houses have been advertised for sale in accordance with Section 3(a) of the North West Land Administration Act 4 of 2001. Sixty nine (69) title deeds covering Mmabatho/Mafikeng have been retrieved from the National Department of Public Works. Lost title deeds are gradually being applied for through conveyancers. Five (5) houses have been lodged with Deeds Office for transfer of ownership.

Registration of Transfer of ownership for one house has been executed and relevant funds have been paid into the Provincial Revenue Account.

3.CHALLENGES

The challenge of attracting and retaining qualified and registered technical staff in the fields of registered quantity surveying, architecture and civil/structural engineers still remains. While these most sought after professionals are scarce in the market, the competition for them is also extremely high. The department is considering a targeted recruitment and retention strategy for this category of professionals.

The repeal of the Provincial Tender Board has placed huge responsibilities on our shoulders. However we wish to assure this august house that we are ready to discharge responsibilities bestowed upon us by the Public Finance Management Act. As a department we have prepared all respective areas to take over the functions and responsibilities, which were previously exercised by the Provincial Tender Board.

To this end all departmental procurement committee members have undergone training in supply chain management procedures. We can therefore with confidence say that the infrastructure has been prepared. The Secretariat is also trained in all added administrative functions.

The implementation of the Inventory Management System as a module of the Walker System, to be piloted in our Department, affords us another opportunity to prove our worth and earn our mantle as a department that has denounced business as usual. The system will provide us with wonderful opportunities to improve our resource management system.

Our biggest challenge currently is vesting of fixed properties provincially. A submission in this regard has been lodged with the Department of Land Affairs and we are just being held back by approval from their side. It should be noted however that only 20% of state properties Nationally have been properly vested and this poses a challenge throughout the country.

Honourable Madame Speaker, The Department is conscious of the need to reduce saving on rental of private properties. We are currently renting only two properties, which we intend to vacate on the completion of the New Head Office Building currently under construction.

In the past financial year we reported that the rental manual reconciliation system has been developed as an interim measure until the electronic system has been developed. To this end we wish to report that the electronic system has been developed and installed in the server. Automation of the system is to be commissioned shortly. It is envisaged that the system will

enhance our revenue collection, as it will allow early detection of defaulters.

The alignment of the information systems with the departmental goals and objectives also remains a challenge.

4.FUTURE PLANS:

Ironically it was an architect Buckminster Fuller who was also an engineer, a Poet and an Philosopher who said, "We are called upon to be architects of the future not its victims"

The finance component will prioritise the following aspects during this current financial year:

- The piecemeal change from the cash base accounting system to accrual accounting system.
- Reconciliation of revenue collection.
- Ensure that resources are utilised in the most economic manner according to the provincial priorities and budget allocation.
- Ensure prudent financial management.

In this financial year, the Department will draft and finalise Regulations in terms of the North West Land Administration Act. The regulations will give legislative effect and more meaning to the processes of disposal, rental and general administration of the immovable property vested in the province.

As part of our intended stakeholder relationship improvement, the department will embark on regional workshops for empowerment of employees on Labour Relations issues and the Employee Assistance Programme during May as part of celebrating workers rights.

The Departmental Programme for May includes visits to workstations by Executive Management Committee members. In addition the department will schedule meetings with all relevant stakeholders in labour relations to further strengthen the existing stability.

Programmes that are aimed at improving communication with our stakeholder network will also be implemented in this financial year, through the departmental communications strategy, which is in line with provincial priorities.

We are also exploring with Central IT options of updating our Strategic Information Systems Plan for the Department. This will assist us to establish possible areas for automation that will be aligned and customised to the processes, procedures, methods, and policies of the Department

Thirteen school projects as prioritised by the Department of Education have been advertised and contractors are expected to be on site as from Mid June 2005.

CLINIC BUILDING PROGRAMME 2005/2006

The Department of Health as a client department has prioritised the construction of seven (7) clinics, four hospitals, one health centre and extension of one clinic

Construction of the first three clinic projects that is Mabule, Setlagole and Vrischgewacht will commence by end May this year and the other four by mid June 2005.

The rest of the projects will commence in the second quarter.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

To reduce costs on rented accommodation the department will embark on a Renovation Project to change “office space” into “workspace” at Ga-Rona 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.

The scope for the project includes:

- New Heavy duty /industrial carpets as finishing for floors
- Servicing existing suspended ceiling
- High standard low maintenance partitioning
- Painting of existing walls and internal window frames
- Furnishing of workstations
- New electric reticulation, power skirting and servicing of all existing internal lights
- Air-conditioning of the entire cycle of Ga-Rona Building

On completion of the Project, Ga-Rona will accommodate 2056 public servants in a work environment conducive for performance. This will also alleviate office shortage experienced by most government departments.

The department will also buy the second half of Agricentre to consolidate the ownership of the building, as we presently own 50% of the building. The indicative price to be spend on the building is approximately R26 million but the final price is dependant on the updated valuation of the property and final negotiations in this regard.

To roll out the Exco Resolution on Mini-Ga-Ronas in the Regions so as to accelerate integrated service delivery, the department will within the R50 million budgeted for infrastructure also do the conceptual planning, detail planning and tender documentation for a Mini-Garona in the Bophirima Region.

The Department has in consultation with the SAPS VIP Protection Unit and the National Intelligence Agency been engaged in the review and upgrading of the security systems at residences of honourable Members of the Executive Council. The process is currently at an advanced stage as all procurement processes have been finalised.

In due course the Lowe Parliamentary village will also receive our attention.

5.EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

The Freedom Charter's critical commitment to create jobs and alleviate poverty is encapsulated in the clause that declares:

" There shall be work, security and comfort"

The test phase of the R22 million Modimola Pilot Project launched as a partnership between the Department of Public Works, Department of Transport and Roads, Department of Agriculture, Conservation, Environment and Tourism, Central District Municipality and the Department of Labour on the 16 September 2004 has come to a close.

The one hundred and ninety six (196) beneficiaries who were engaged in the first phase acquired skills in brickmaking, bricklaying, road construction and maintenance and lifeskills. Eighteen (18) of the beneficiaries most of whom are youth and

women are undergoing training in construction management and will on completion, at the end of this month, be engaged in road maintenance and repairs.

During the test Phase, the following components of the Pilot Project were implemented:

A three (3) kilometre labour intensive road maintenance project on a section of the Mafikeng-Vryburg Road at Lekoko village was completed over a 3 months period

The construction of a nine hundred (900) meter access road that leads to the farming irrigation project in Modimola village of was completed over a 3 months period

The construction of the agricultural equipment storage building of 200m² and concomitant infrastructure at the farming-irrigation site in Modimola village. The building was built using quality cement bricks manufactured on site by beneficiaries.

The implementation of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, Environment and Tourism's household food security project "Letsema La Mantsha-Tlala" in Modimola village. The project is to be used as a first selection step for prospective small farmers to be engaged in the farming - irrigation project.

The second phase of the project involves labour intensive road maintenance contract, construction of village roads, and provision of farming infrastructure.

Five (5) contracts are to be awarded to learnership contractors trained in the First Phase of the Project who will do road maintenance on a 70-kilometre section of the Mafikeng-Vryburg road between Mafikeng and Setlagole for a duration of 12 months. Three road patrol contracts will be awarded between Mafikeng and Vryburg.

A further five (5) contracts are to be awarded to learnership contractors trained in the First Phase of the Project to upgrade 8 kilometers of village roads identified for upgrading through labour intensive methods. Three (3) of the contractors will be responsible for the road works to be constructed and two (2) Contractors will be responsible for construction of the storm water culverts and drifts. This infrastructure will be developed in close co-operation with the Central District Municipality as well as the Mafikeng City Council.

Thirty (30) Plots identified for farming irrigation site within the Modimola village will be developed for potential farmers selected from among the beneficiaries currently engaged in the "Letsema la mantsha-tlala" household food security project. The Agriculture Division from Taletso College will assist in compiling the selection criteria that complies with Expanded Public Works Programme guidelines requirements. The successful applicants

will be trained towards an NQF level 1 qualification in farming and food production.

The first phase of the R4, 8 million Mmabatho Convention Centre Expanded Public Works Programme and CBD Paving Project and Landscaping and Gardens Upgrading Project created opportunities for eighty (80) youths, Forty (40) of whom are women and four disabled persons to acquire skills in paving, brickmaking and life skills. The project is a partnership between the department, Mafikeng Local Municipality and the Department of Labour.

The second phase of the Expanded Public Works Programme on Upgrading of the Mmabatho CBD area i.e. Landscaping and upgrading of Garona Building surroundings will be undertaken in the current financial year. Tenders in this regard will be advertised before the end of this month.

In addition to the 80 jobs created in the first phase, the second phase of the project will provide seventy (70) unemployed women, youth and the disabled with opportunities to acquire skills in electrical reticulation, steel palisade fencing, landscaping, paving, and bricklaying. The Project is scheduled for completion by end of September 2005. The objective of the project is to also transform the garden spaces in the CBD of Mmabatho and improve the streetscape in the area fronting the convention centre thereby improving the urban quality of the provincial capital.

ROLL OUT OF EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

We are committed to further duplicate to other parts of the Province the intervention and development of infrastructure to create work and fight poverty as we have done in Modimola.

As announced by the Honourable Premier in the State of the Province, we have identified Modimong village in the Bophirima Region as the next village to benefit.

The Modimong EPWP Project will be phased in, in three phases:

The First Phase includes the establishment of the necessary liaison structures with the local authority and traditional leaders in the area and the investigation, on site, possible actions and activities that are to be included in the project. This phase has already been completed.

The Second Phase is the development a business plan. This phase will be completed by the end of June this year.

The Third Phase of the Project i.e the project implementation phase should commence by the third quarter of this year and may take up to three years to implement.

CAPITAL PROJECTS IN EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS MODE

As mentioned earlier the department has called for tenders for Thirteen (13) schools projects for the Department of Education ranging in value from R3 million to R10 million, as well as seven (7) clinic projects for the Department of Health ranging in value from R2 million to R5 million.

The Department has specified that 20% of the labour on these contracts must be employed in the EPWP mode. This will make it possible to include EPWP into these projects while not putting undue pressure on delivery time due to an increased learning curve. This 20% of the labour force will be trained inter alia by the other 80%.

Formal training will be identified and implemented in conjunction with the Department of Labour, who will fund this training.

ROLL OUT TO REGIONS

The Department identified 38 projects in the regions, which will be done according to EPWP guidelines. Details of the projects are as follows:

- Bophirima region will spend R5, 4 million on 5 projects to create 558 jobs and skill training opportunities.
- Central Region will spend R4, 4 million on 5 projects to create 548 jobs and skill training opportunities.
- Bojanala Region will spend R1, 8 million on 9 projects to create 577 jobs and skills training opportunities.

- Southern Region will spend R 413 000 on 9 projects to create 133 jobs and skills training opportunities

In all these projects beneficiaries will be trained on both hard and soft skills. The hard skills include trade skills such as plastering, plumbing, brick making, bricklaying, electrification and roofing. Soft skills include HIV AIDS awareness, career guidance and basic personal finance management.

We have jointly with the Department of Education identified 50 schools that need minor and major renovations and we will execute all on EPWP mode.

The number of jobs created is likely to increase due to the 50 schools identified for minor and major renovations and the Capex programme. The selection of beneficiaries will have a stronger bias towards women, i.e. 60% women, 20% youth and 1% disabled.

PROVINCIAL CO-ORDINATION AND JOB CREATION

The Department as coordinator of the Expanded Public Works Programme mandated by the Executive Council established a steering committee comprising representatives from both provincial and local government at Head of Department level. This committee produces reports and monitors implementation of EPWP.

As announced by the Honourable Premier in the State of the Province Address, the Province in the last financial year created 16 608-job opportunities through the Expanded Public Works across all spheres of government.

On the 4th of March 2005 the Department together with the National Department of Public Works convened a workshop on EPWP for all Provincial Departments, Stated Owned Enterprises, District and Local Municipalities to ensure that teething problems encountered last year were addressed.

To monitor compliance with Expanded Public Works National Guidelines, the Provincial Steering Committee on the Expanded Public Works Programme has approved that all departments have to plan and register EPWP projects for 2005/06 financial year with the Project Management Unit in the Office of the Premier to enable us to monitor compliance with the National Guidelines latest by 15 April 2005.

To ensure alignment of Municipal Infrastructure Grant Projects to the Expanded Public Works Programme in the Province, the department is also represented on the Provincial Municipal Infrastructure Grant Committee. It is envisaged that through these efforts our coordination and reporting will improve considerably.

We have committed ourselves to implement the People's Contract and in this regard we have identified the need for

partnerships with the relevant stakeholders. In this regard I am proud to announce the following achievements:

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NORTH WEST CONSTRUCTION LIAISON COMMITTEE.

The liaison between the North West Provincial Administration and organised construction has deteriorated over the last 6 years. The liaison that existed between the Department and the North West Builders Federation (NWBF) has dwindled to nothing due to the demise of the NWBF.

The liaison between the government and organised construction is however very important to ensure that mutual initiatives such as Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment, targeted procurement, and EPWP are properly understood and implemented at all levels.

At the North West Growth and Development Summit some resolutions with respect to the construction industry were taken. These resolutions need to be implemented and a whole lot of lower level initiatives need to be developed and implemented.

The Department has had some meetings with NAFCOC and the need for a liaison committee between government and organised construction has been agreed upon.

During these meetings the Terms of Reference for such a committee was developed and drafted and these were approved by EXCO. The committee would have representation from the Departments of Public Works, Health, Education, Transport and Roads, and NAFCOC.

BROAD-BASED BLACK ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT CHARTER OF CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

This charter is being developed under the leadership of the National Department of Public Works. This Department is part of this exiting development. A workshop in this regard was facilitated by this Department and was held at Rustenburg Civic Centre on 17 February 2005.

There have been a lot of complaints about the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act and the Targeted Procurement specifications that are currently in use. This was very clear during discussions with contractors during my roadshows and also during discussion at the Provincial Growth and Development Summit. The charter will improve this situation.

DONATION BY PRETORIA PORTLAND CEMENT (PPC)

In support of the People's Contract to create work and fight poverty, PPC has donated R100 000 towards contractor development and training. We welcome this contribution and private sector involvement and support of our programmes to improve service delivery. The donation for this year will be used

to train emerging contractors in EPWP on a rand-for-rand basis.
This will enable us to train 100 emerging contractors.

Honourable Madame Speaker, We call on other construction industry players to support SMME development and invite them to engage us in this regard.

In his Poem titled The Awakening Age, the African genius, Poet and writer Ben Okri has this to say,

“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.”

6. BUDGET ALLOCATION PER PROGRAMME

This Department has been allocated a total overall budget of R 464,455 for this financial year. This is an increase of 20.8% from the outgoing financial year's adjusted budget of R 367,939. The said increase is for the upgrading/ renovation of building, which includes the upgrading of Garona.

AMOUNTS TO BE VOTED PER PROGRAMME

The following amounts per programme and sub-programme are requested

PROGRAMME 1 - ADMINISTRATION - R 71,412 MILLION

This programme is made up of the Office of the MEC, Office of the Head of the Department, Programme Support and Corporate Support. Its primary role is to provide administrative leadership, corporate governance and support to the Department. It ensures the implementation of government and Departmental policies.

Office of the MEC	- R 2,448million
Office of the Head of Department	- R 1,167million
Programme Support	- R 6,031million
Corporate Support	- R 61,766million

PROGRAMME 2 - PUBLIC WORKS - R 382,048 MILLION

This programme is made up of Building Services and Property Management as well as Regional Operations. The mandate of the Programme is to provide professional and technical services to the department and client departments. It is also responsible for the provision of office and residential accommodation to client departments and senior government officials. This includes the maintenance of existing building infrastructure through day-to-day maintenance, preventative maintenance and major renovations. It should not escape us that while it is important to build new facilities and infrastructure, it is perhaps more important to maintain, preserve and conserve what we already have. It is more expensive to lose and replace something than to retain and maintain it.

Programme Support:	R 19,910 million
Other Infrastructure:	R 265,264 million
Property Management:	R 96,874 million
Community Based Programme	R10, 995 million

7.CONCLUSION

We denounce business as usual and commit ourselves as conscious agents of change committed to deliver services with a sense of urgency. All of us at the Department of Public Works should strive to be proactive, ardent patriots, i.e. Batho Pele persons who are watchdogs against fraud, wastage and the abuse of resources.

In conclusion I wish to assure this august house that as a Department we are more than ready to deliver on our mandate to provide integrated public infrastructure.

To our partners in service delivery, i. e. contractors and consultants we wish to say, prepare yourselves to cope with our demand to deliver projects on time, on budget, to a higher standard of quality and within shorter time frames. Our commitment to deliver what is due to you as per budget and within the shortest possible time frame stands.

Henry David Thoreau in 'Where I live' wrote,

"It is something to be able to paint a particular picture, or carve a statue, and so to make a few objects beautiful; but it is far more glorious to carve and paint the very atmosphere and medium through which we look, which morally we can do. To affect the quality of the day, that is the highest of arts. Every man is tasked to make his life, even in its details, worthy of the contemplation of his most elevated and critical hour."

Honourable Madame Speaker, Indeed to affect the quality of the day is the highest of arts. The implementation of the People's Contract requires us to take detailed practical steps to achieve better results today and tomorrow than we did yesterday to ensure that South Africa truly belongs to all.

Ke a leboga.