



## public works & roads

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

### REMARKS BY THE MEC OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ROADS, GAOAGE OAGENG MOLAPISI AT THE OCCASION OF THE ORDINARY MUNICIPAL AND MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (MUNMEC) MEETING HELD AT THE PEARL, KLERKSDORP

DATE: 19 MAY 2023

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Programme Director, Chief Director for Community Based Programme, Mr Gill

Chairperson of SALGA, Mr Khumalo Molefe

Executive Mayors of District Municipalities

Executive Mayors and Mayors of Local Municipalities

Members of Mayoral Committees (MMCs) for Infrastructure & Technical Services

Head of Department (HOD),

Members of the Technical MUNMEC

Dear Colleagues,

Today we meet for the first time since the launch and establishment of the infrastructure Municipalities and Member of the Executive Council (MUNMEC).

I am hopeful that failure to officially host a meeting in the previous quarter does not in any way translate to no work done on the ground. We do not have time in our hands, as President Ramaphosa alluded during the State of the Nation Address (SONA) when he said that “The people of South Africa want action, they want solutions and they want government to work for them”. As we fast approach end of term for the 6<sup>th</sup> Administration; we must dirty our hands and ensure that boots on the ground. We have capable men and women whom moving from the inaugural meeting, looked determined to see objectives of the MUNMEC are achieved.



Ladies and Gentlemen, by way of reminder; our MUMEC forum is centred around the following keys objectives:

- To promote and facilitate intergovernmental relations and cooperative governance between sector departments, SALGA, District Municipalities and Local Municipalities;
- Seek unity of purpose and coordination of effort around the Province’s development priorities; and
- Ensure effective and efficient service delivery.

The Department of Public Works and Roads Head of Department (HOD), and officials from municipality are vital players for the success of this forum. It is my view that unlike the political arm of the MUNMEC; the technical arm has been working tirelessly. Reports that we will receive will indicate how far they have gone in implementing decisions of the inaugural meeting.

A few days ago I attended the Department of Transport Budget Speech delivered by Minister Chikunga. The highlight being the “commitment to ensure that building of capacity of our municipalities through support interventions to achieve efficiencies in road maintenance”. As the Province we welcome this commitment especially the establishment of the Roads War Room to address all road challenges. Whilst we appreciate the efforts by the Department, it would be great to have a properly functioning MUNMEC to feed onto the work that the war room will be doing. Another important matter uplifted by the Ministry of Transport, is the realisation that floods have negatively impacted our infrastructure.

The deliberations today should reflect on this matter and also challenge our capacity to response to the effect of the la-lina effect where the province received above normal rainfalls. Our municipality must share their plans to respond to these challenges and we too as the department must not punch above our weight and make commitments we cannot fulfil. I also attended the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure MINMEC meeting yesterday. The meeting also discussed ways to resolve infrastructure challenges in the sector. Both these meeting came ahead of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure Budget Speech taking place next week and thereafter we will also deliver our Budget Speech on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2023.

I felt it prudent to convene the MUNMEC to report to this forum how far we have gone in terms of our mandate since the last time we met. When we met one of the issues that came out sharply was the role of SANRAL in as far as roads and other infrastructure is concerned. I am glad to report that



we have met with SANRAL a few ago and agreed to have a healthy working relationship moving forward.

Executive Mayors, Mayors and MMCs; our immediate task is to bring about job opportunities for our people. The dignity of our people is in shambles because of lack of jobs due to slow economic growth. We are leading a department that boosts on the ability to create work opportunities for SMMEs. Ours must be to strive for meaningful jobs. The unemployment rate is alarming with the North West Province being the worst at fifty-four percent (54%).

It is my view that we need to move in tandem to achieve and register progress. I have called this meeting to engage your good self about the plans we have as a department for the 2023/2024 financial year. I have assembled all directorates to come advice on available avenues for your communities to benefit on the work that we do. Most important I want us to have been the ones the inform the service delivery agenda for when the tyre starts burning, it does not really matter which sphere of government is most affected, we all are. In this way, we must consider that we cannot achieve all the we have planned. We need to enter into debates about the longevity of the pothole patching programme, and also advice each other in the growing market for alternative road construction material. There has never been a better time to work together like the present.

Thank you.

Issued by **Communication Directorate**

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