

Purpose of the day by MEC for Public Works and Roads, Gaoage Oageng Molapisi delivered during the Official Opening of Madidi Bridge held at the Madidi Bridge, Madibeng Local Municipality, on Tuesday, October 13th , 2020.

Minister of Transport, Mr Fikile Mbalula, Member of the Executive Council for the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management; Mr. Sello Lehari, Mayor of Madibeng Local Municipality, Cllr Jostine Mothibe

Councilors,

Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders in the Bojanala District, Kgosi Matlapeng

DG of the Department of Transport, Administrator of the Department of Public Works and Roads and Senior Managers

Members of the Media,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning,

North West Province in celebrating October Transport Month 2020 lead Departments led by myself and MEC Lehari have decided on a Joint Transport Month Programme as the Department of Public Works and Roads and the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management work together in shaping the future of transport. We are excited that the President opened up the economy under the Risk Adjusted Strategy Level 1.

The Department of Public Works and Roads in responding to the aggressive infrastructure investment and delivery, and mass employment as we address the issue of the role of transport in the re-opening of the economy, under the Risk

Adjusted Strategy, will be engaging in celebratory activities that bore economic spin offs for the different communities within the Province.

We are gathered today to witness the official opening of the Madidi Bridge. This project started in 2017 and was supposed to be completed in January 2019; however an extension of 10 months was given due to reasons ranging from technical and manmade as usually experienced in projects of this magnitude. The project benefited 19 local labourers through work opportunities offered and at least 25 local sub-contracting opportunities were awarded to locals with a total project investment of R 48.2 million.

There are always challenges in roads projects ranging from, subcontracting opportunities, be it the 30% local economic development content or work opportunities. In addressing this challenge that causes unnecessary and unwanted delays as in the case of this project. I have initiated that we resuscitate the District Roads Forums. This is premised by the Inter-Governmental Relations (IGR) Framework as we tap into the limited financial resources of government through the District Development Model (DDM).

This IGR Structure will assist with integrated planning by the three spheres of government and most importantly promoting stakeholder participation and consultation. That is ensuring that stakeholders have ownership of projects implemented in their localities. What is important is that stakeholders participate in order to influence the prioritization of roads so that once implementation takes place there will be no come back later about the prioritized roads in a form of complains

and sometimes community unrests. The structure will also act as a communication platform for ease of flow of information between the Department and intended beneficiaries. Communication in most instances is inadequate therefore unnecessary misunderstandings occur.

Today, we are here to officially hand over this Bridge as your asset to you. I would like to encourage all stakeholders present to be jealous of this infrastructure by guarding it against vandalism. We must work together to stop this new sporadic tendency of vandalism of infrastructure. Our economic situation in the country will not allow us to have the ability to recover and repair the deliberately vandalized infrastructure which government has already invested millions on. “together, shaping the future of transport”.

I would like to take this opportunity to call to the podium and welcome the Minister of Transport, Minister Fikile Mbalula to our Province.