

SPEECH BY MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS (NORTH WEST PROVINCE), HON.H.D.YAWA, MPL DURING DEBATE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND ROADS ANNUAL REPORT 2003/2004 -15 November 2004

NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Honourable Madame Speaker

Honourable Premier

Colleagues- Members of the Executive Council

Honourable Chairperson and Members of the Public Works Portfolio Committee

Honourable Members

Winston Churchill once defined success as "Moving from failure to failure without any loss of enthusiasm " .

Honourable Madame Speaker I wish to reiterate that although the realities of inherited infrastructure backlog and inequalities in the provision of service still confront us, as a department we are convinced that the tide has turned. In the year under review, we have made great strides and registered progress towards achievement of the objectives we had set for ourselves.

Whilst we are critical of the department of certain shortcomings we should as honest representatives of the people recognise that during the year under review, all levels of financial management in the department improved in line with the department's strategic objectives, i.e.

- Financial management and expenditure
- Expenditure patterns
- Levels of financial control
- Development of procedure manuals and policies as per Treasury Regulation

- Implementation of the Public Financial Management Act
- Debt management and revenue collection
- Reconciliation and clearance of suspense accounts
- Improved management of the Departmental tender committee

As a department we are convinced that with the support of honourable members of this august house and in particular honourable members of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works in the exercise of their oversight duties and functions, and working in partnership with the construction industry, our strategy to achieve an enabling environment for the industry through the development of capacity, the removal of obstacles and the creation of new opportunities and relationships, which expand the potential to more development objectives, is achievable.

That the Department managed to spend 98% of its allocated budget in the financial year under review and received its first ever-unqualified audit report reinforces our assertion that indeed the tide has turned at Public Works. There is no turning back.

The People's Contract and our flagship the Expanded Public Works programme requires us as a coordinating department for the programme to fight poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment within an integrated and co-ordinated approach with vigour and determination. To us failure is not an option.

As President Mbeki and Premier Mme Molewa said, There is no room for failure because the masses of our people deserve better services, nothing but improved and better services and as a department we have no intention to fail them because we have understood the message that-

failure is not an option. As the African genius and Poet, Ben Okri said;

“They are only the exhausted who think
That they have arrived
At the final destination
The end of their road
With all of their dreams achieved
And no new dreams to hold”

We thank Honourable members for their contributions and wish to assure this assembly of the people that as a department we are not exhausted.

Ke a leboga.