

**LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND
INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET SPEECH 2019/2020, VOTE 09, TABLED BY MEC
MONICCA MOCHADI AT THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**

25 July 2019

Honourable Speaker

Deputy Speaker

Honourable Premier

Chief whip of the ruling party

Deputy Chief whip

Colleagues in the Executive

Chairpersons of the Portfolio Committees

Leaders of the Opposition

Honourable Members of the House

Executive Mayors, Mayors, Speakers, Councillors

Representatives of South African Local Government Association (SALGA)

Director- General of the Province

Chairperson and Board members of Roads Agency Limpopo

Heads of Department

CEO's of State-Owned Entities

Leadership of the ANC and of the alliance partners

Veterans of our Liberation Movement

Traditional Leaders

Leadership of religious Community

Leadership of organised business and labour;

Youth, women, community leaders;

Members of the media

Comrades and Friends

People of Limpopo

Ladies and Gentlemen

Avuxeni, Ndi Matsheloni, Good Day, Goeie Dag, Thobela, Lotšhani!

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Madam Speaker, it is a great privilege and honour for me to address this august house not long after the 8th of May 2019 general elections, during which the people of Limpopo affirmed in their majority that they would like the African National Congress to govern.

Madame Speaker, we present this budget vote during the month of the celebration of our struggle icon, Tata Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela. Last week Thursday, on 18 July, the whole world took a break to celebrate the annual international day in honour of Nelson Mandela to heed the call to action, that celebrates the idea that each individual has the power to transform the world, the ability to make an impact.

Madam Speaker

It is a touching moment to present this speech a few weeks after we lost one of the disciplined, committed and gallant members of the Luthuli detachment- comrade Lesiba, who was affectionately known as “Bra Ike” Maphoto.

May his Soul rest in peace!!!

This son of the soil, made an impact in his struggle for the liberation of South Africans, he has left a long-lasting legacy.

Madam Speaker

It will be befitting to honour comrade Bra Ike by committing ourselves to the programme of transformation and renewal- A new dawn, that focuses on action that has impact.

Comrade Ike’s commitment to the struggle gives us a renewed vigour to implement government programmes with great speed in the spirit of Khauleza/Phakisa. We who are still alive, should follow in his steps and strive to implement the freedom charter to the end. We commit not to fail the people of Limpopo who have shown so much confidence in us.

Cde. Bra Ike Maphoto, as we speak, has joined the departed stalwarts of the liberation movement, who would like us, if they were still alive, to implement the freedom charter to the latter. We commit to our departed leaders, Oliver Tambo, President Nelson Mandela, comrades Nchabeleng, Phokanoka, Collins Chabane,

Sparks Ramagoma, George Phadagi and many others, that we shall not fail the people of this Province.

Madame Speaker, Chairman Mao Tse Tung said “ Changes in society are due chiefly to the development of internal contradictions in society, that is the contradiction between the productive forces and the relations of production, the contradiction between classes and the contradiction between the old and the new, it is the development of these contradictions that pushes society forward and gives the impetus for the super-sessions of the old society by the new.”

Our President Cde. Matamela Ramaphosa said. This is a New Dawn. Indeed, a New Dawn has come, the beginning of a new chapter. A chapter that requires us to impact positively on the lives of the people of Limpopo through the implementation of programmes and projects of government.

Honourable Premier,

Mahlatji a-Hlabirwa! Re go kwele ge o re ke a le roma ditšhabeng

Madam Speaker

Mmago ngwana o swara thipa ka bogaleng!

Baswana ba rile bjalo, mohlang ba bona go hlafile!

Ke ka fao ke rego nkadimeng ditsebe ke le soleleng tša leeto la kgoro ye ya Mediro ya Setshaba, Ditsela le Mafarahlahla. (Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure

Madam Speaker

Allow me to call all the peace-loving people across the length and breadth of the province in our Departmental journey of Thuma mina, in the new dawn!

Under the leadership of this organisation, government has delivered infrastructure projects and introduced programmes to intervene in the lives of our people in a manner we can say indeed today is better than yesterday.

Over the years, the Department of Public Works Roads and infrastructure has played an integral role in ensuring the delivery of socio-economic infrastructure projects.

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This, madam speaker, we will provide detail when we report on the achievements over the period 2014/15 to 2018/19 financial years.

During the 5th administration, the Department had set itself priorities for the 5 years. These priorities were to focus on the infrastructure strategic planning hub, artisan Development programme; Limpopo Contractor Development programme, contribution to the creation of decent work and sustainable livelihoods through increasing the labour intensity of government infrastructure funded projects as well as improvement of provincial roads infrastructure through maintenance and upgrading to ensure easy access and mobility.

Madame Speaker, this 5-year journey we started in the financial year 2014/15 has been long, it had its challenges, however in terms of performance against the priorities we had set, I am able to stand before this house and say, we have made huge strides in delivering on what we had committed. Our business is infrastructure delivery and our mission has always been to utilise resources optimally in the provision and management of provincial government land and buildings.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2014/15 to 2018/19 FINANCIAL YEAR

Madame Speaker,

As infrastructure implementing agent of government, we managed and implemented projects from client departments.

On behalf the **Education portfolio, the Department set a target to implement 128 school projects in the past 5 years**, of which 6 were construction of new schools and 122 school upgrade projects. All 128 projects were completed.

For the **Health portfolio, there was a target of nineteen (19) projects** for clinics, upgrading of hospitals, construction of Emergency Medical services (EMS), and of the mortuary. **Fourteen (14) of these projects were completed**, while multi- year projects in Letaba and Maphutha-Malatjie hospitals are at construction stage. Later in the speech, we will speak on the project in detail.

Madame Speaker,

In support of the initiative to encourage reading and writing in communities, the department delivered **Thirty (30) libraries, of which two were new and twenty-eight (28) were upgrades.**

Governments' commitment to the work done by traditional leaders is evident in the **completion of 13 traditional council offices by the Departments in-house teams.** In the 5-years under review, the department completed 13 traditional council offices for the following traditional Leaders:

- Three (3) Office in Vhembe District
- Two (2) offices in Mopani District
- One (1) in Waterberg District
- Four (4) in Capricorn District and
- Three (3) In Sekhukhune District

Men and woman employed in the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure did Madame Speaker, the planning, designing and construction of these offices. This was to display the capacity within as we reclaim our space to be governments' agent of choice for infrastructure delivery.

Madame Speaker, during the term under review, the Department of Public Works, underwent a reconfiguration where it was mandated to be responsible for provision and management of roads infrastructure. This led to the Department being known as the Department of Public Works Roads and Infrastructure.

Although this came with its own change management challenges, the department through the implementing agency, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) managed to deliver the 74 projects under the following categories:

- Twelve (12) Flood damaged projects
- Forty-five (45) Maintenance projects
- Seventeen (17) Upgrade projects (gravel to tar)

Through the projects I speak about, we have been able to empower the people of our province. A total of **Three Hundred and fifty-five Million Rands** (R355 million)

was spent on local labour for the road infrastructure projects, A total of **Five-hundred and Twenty-seven Million Rands** (R527m) was spent on SMMEs and a total of 5 264 full time job equivalents were created.

Madame Speaker, a total of 2408 workers/labourer were trained as part of the implementation of these projects

Speaking of Job creation madame Speaker, over the 5 - year term, Limpopo Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) created 493 937 work opportunities in the four sectors, the infrastructure, Social, Non-State and Environment and culture.

Thank you to the implementing agents for the work done so far, however we need not rest as the battle against alleviation of poverty, unemployment and skilling our people is not yet won.

PLANS FOR 2019/2020 FINANCIAL YEAR

Madame Speaker,

We are now in the 2019/2020 financial year and I believe the people of Limpopo have been waiting patiently to hear the plans of this Department and programmes already underway.

Madame Speaker,

Infrastructure delivery is imperative for economic growth, which is high up on the agenda of government and the sixth Administration has committed to focus on. To date the Infrastructure Development Working Committee is established to deal specifically with the infrastructure programmes. When these programmes are implemented effectively, they provide potential economic benefits to Black Economic Empowerment (BEE), Small, Medium & Micro Enterprise (SMME) Businesses and local labour.

Our business is infrastructure delivery and indeed, we have been hard at work.

Over the years, the Department of Public Works Roads and infrastructure has played an integral role in ensuring that socio-economic infrastructure projects are delivered and are fit-for purpose for client Departments to render service to the people.

Madame Speaker,

To strengthen the mandate of Public Works Roads and Infrastructure, EXCO approved the establishment of Limpopo infrastructure Strategic Planning HUB (LISPH) through resolution 1 of 2014. The ISPH is institutionalized in the department.

The infrastructure Hub was established to position the department to effectively deliver on its mandate. The objective of the Infrastructure HUB is to maximize on existing built - environment professionals in the province. The infrastructure HUB will also enhance the management and delivery of Infrastructure Delivery Management System (IDMS) and Limpopo Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan (LIIMP)

There are currently eighty-seven (87) various built-environment officials working under the infrastructure HUB comprising of registered professionals and candidates.

Twelve (12) Cuban Technical Advisors (CTAs) that are qualified in the built environment professionals also augment the department. The CTA assist the department in transferring technical skills to candidates in the infrastructure HUB.

The Department also assigned infrastructure HUB personnel to client departments to provide technical assistance on infrastructure planning and delivery. The department through the HUB is now implementing projects internally without outsourcing to external consultants.

The Department envisage to establish a research - unit within the infrastructure HUB that will look at the alternative building technology as infrastructure funding is getting limited over the years and this requires the department to be innovative.

Madame Speaker,

On its drive to professionalize its technical personnel, the department entered into an agreement with the Council for the Built Environment (CBE) and National Department of Public Works for their registration with the respective built environment councils.

To date the department enrolled Ten (10) matured permanent candidates on the Construction Education Training Authority (CETA)/ the South African Council for the

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Project and Construction Management Professions (SACPCMP) in order to register them as professional project managers within 3 years. The project is funded by the Construction Education and Training Authority.

Sixteen (16) Project Managers have been identified for qualification recognition Prior Learning to register them as candidate construction project Managers with the South African Council for project and Construction Managers professionals. The budget is **One-point-One million Rands** (R1.1m)

The Department has in its employment Twenty-five (25) registered professionals on various fields.

The Artisan Development Programme is in the final year with 246 artisans. Hundred and eight (108) have already qualified as artisans. Hundred and fourteen (114) are waiting to be tested for their final qualifications as artisans. Twenty-four (24) Artisans have been appointed on permanent basis.

As part of the skills development initiatives to further build capacity for infrastructure delivery and to professionalise the infrastructure operations unit, the Department is implementing the Candidacy Programme.

Fifty-three (53) Young professionals are recruited for a period of five years contract to skill them to register as professional engineers with a budget of **Nine -hundred Thousand Rands** (R900 000.00)

Madame Speaker,

The Department is in partnership with the following stakeholders for the delivery of infrastructure: Independent Development Trust (IDT), Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), Mvula Trust; Construction Industrial Development Board (CIDB), the Council for the Built Environment (CBE). This is a collaboration that further strengthens governments' ability to deliver infrastructure.

Madame Speaker, through the efforts of infrastructure HUB and our partners in construction, the Department implemented **strategic infrastructure projects** as follows:

EDUCATION

For the Education Portfolio, the Department currently has Fifty-nine (59) school projects at an advanced planning stage and construction is to commence during the third quarter of this financial year. Of the fifty-nine (59) schools, I am proud to announce that Seven (7) of the projects are being done internally through the infrastructure strategic planning Hub. This is part of the departments initiative to reclaim its mandate.

Madame Speaker, Seven (7) projects, might seem like a small number, however, it is a step in the right direction. **Nine –hundred and Twelve Million Rands** (R912-million) is budgeted for these projects planned as follows:

- Twenty-three (23) Projects are schools in Sekhukhune District;
- Sixteen (16) in Mopani;
- Fifteen (15) in Capricorn;
- Two (2) in Vhembe and
- Three (3) in Waterberg.

The projects will be completed during the MediumTerm Expenditure Framework starting from 2021/2022 financial year.

The Department is pleased to announce that upgrading of the Lemana College is back on course and the project completion will be in the 2020/2021 financial year.

HEALTH

Madame Speaker, according to a report by *Statistics SA* on a survey done in 2011, on the utilisation of health facilities, statistics show that nationally 81.3% of households from the black African population mostly used health facilities in the public Sector, compared to the 10.5% of the white population group that used the same facility.

In Limpopo Province, 86% of our people are dependent on public sector health facilities.

Madame Speaker, this simply says the majority of our people are fully dependent on government facilities for their wellbeing and protection of dignity. They deserve better hospitals, better clinics and better Emergency Medical Services (EMS) facilities.

Through the implementation of these projects by the department, this government is committed to ensure delivery of decent health infrastructure.

Madame Speaker, to this end, the Department has completed the construction of medical records and admission block at Letaba Hospital in May 2019. The renovation of the Theatre Block and of the burnt Ward, is expected to be completed by September 2019.

The Department is continuing with the revitalisation of Maphutha Malatjie and Letaba Hospitals that are at construction stage and to be completed in 2020/21. The budget for Maphutha- Malatji is **Three- hundred and fifty-three Million Rands** (R353m) and Letaba Hospital is **One- hundred and seventy –three million Rands** (R173m).

Madame Speaker,

Allow me to talk more on this Maphutha- Malatjie hospital project as the province need to know the kind of socio-economic infrastructure being delivered by this government. The project is part of the hospital revitalisation initiative to improve hospital infrastructure and enable the rendering of quality health care service in the province.

Honourable Members, the Cuban Technical Advisors received through the National Department of Public Works' memorandum of understanding signed with the Cuban government are actively leading in the delivery of this multi-million-rand project. The technical advisors are managing the construction of the new Out- Patient Department (OPD); x-ray building and many other amenities required in a state-of-the-art hospital facility. One hundred and one EPWP beneficiaries are on site,

sourced from the community to gain skills and deliver a structure they can call their own. This facility will serve the population of around 158 222 people under the Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality. The Cubans are participating in the implementation of all infrastructure projects where they are mentoring and transferring skills to candidate engineering professionals within the infrastructure strategic Planning Hub (ISPH) to date the Cubans have transferred engineering and project management skills to Fifty (50) candidates.

The Department is also managing delivery of two (2) EMS projects in Lebowakgomo and Bosele and Two (2) laundry upgrade projects at Pietersburg and St. Ritas hospital. These projects are at planning stage with a total budget of **One- hundred and Twelve million Rands** (R112m).

Constructions works will commence during the third quarter of this 2019/20 financial year. Laundry upgrades in Tshilidzini and Mankweng hospitals are under construction and to be completed this financial year.

We are proud of this progress as completion of this work will ensure that our workforce perform their duties in conditions that assist them to deliver quality services to the people.

CoGHSTA

Madame Speaker, governments' commitment to the work done by traditional leaders is evident in the completion of 13 traditional council offices by the Departments in-house teams to date.

The success of this initiative led the **Department of Cooperative Governance; Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA)** to mandate Public Works Roads and Infrastructure to implement Seven (7) Traditional Council Office project with a budget of **Sixty-two-point-two million Rands** (R62.2m.) Six projects are at construction stage and to be completed in 2019/20 financial year. One project is at procurement stage and construction works will commence during September 2019/20. The Six (6) offices also being done without outsourcing for consultants, they are:

- Three (4) in Vhembe District

- One (1) in Capricorn District and
- One (1) in Sekhukhune District

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

In support of the work done by the Department of Transport and Community Safety, we are constructing Limpopo Traffic College in Dzanani, Makhado Local Municipality Vhembe District, in phases over the MTEF.

Phase 1 is the construction of accommodation block and is currently being implemented at a budget of **Twenty-Million Rands** (R20m). The college will be completed in 2020/21 Financial Year.

Phase 2 is the construction of the second accommodation block, which is currently at planning stage. Construction is expected to commence in October 2019 with a budget of **Twenty-three Million Rands** (R23m). The people of Thohoyandou in Thulamela Local Municipality will soon receive a brand-new Driving License testing centre, costed at **Fifteen Million Rands** (R15m). The project is at planning stage and expected to commence with construction works in December 2019.

Madame Speaker,

LIMPOPO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Four (4) nature reserves will soon get a *face- lift* as government's initiative to enhance revenue collection. The Nylsvlei, Wolkberg, Blouberg and Letaba Ranch nature reserves projects under LEDET are currently at planning stage and construction will be in October 2019, done through the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) at a value of **Thirty Million Rands** (R30m).

Madame Speaker,

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development have also mandated this Department to deliver the Agricultural Office project in Molemole local municipality, on its behalf. The Project is already at construction stage with a budget of **Twenty-**

Seven-point- two million Rands (R27.2m). The project is expected to be completed in 2020/2021 financial year.

Honourable Members, we further commit to ensure that maintenance of these immovable infrastructures we provide, is done regularly. This is to ensure that immovable assets owned and/ or utilized for delivery of government's services yield functional, economic and social benefits to the province.

The Department through its Infrastructure HUB has embarked on an aggressive condition assessment programme on the existing Government buildings; both leased and owned assets, to ensure that Government buildings are compliant with Health and Safety regulations.

A budget amounting to R52 million, has been set aside in the current financial year to address the backlog. The three main Government complexes in Giyani, Thohoyandou and Lebowakgomo have been subject to major refurbishments, and these projects will be completed in the current MTEF cycle.

Madame Speaker, through the Properties and Facilities management, the Department has been successful in acquiring pieces of land for the establishment of the Limpopo Legislature facility in Polokwane, and the establishment of the Sekhukhune District Government offices in Jane Furse.

Honourable members,

As you can see, our business is infrastructure delivery!

One infrastructure need that our people have raised countless times and made me hit the ground running is the need for roads infrastructure. The Departments social Media platforms are inundated with calls for better roads on a daily basis. Almost every protest that erupts is about roads or has an impact on roads infrastructure. When communities go on the streets to protest against what they term "non -service delivery", they burn our surfaced roads and other social infrastructure, this should not be allowed to continue and we call upon all civil structures to assist us in communicating this message. Destroying existing government infrastructure of any form to register a grievance is a criminal act and a non-progressive move. These acts costs government money it doesn't have, it sets back the infrastructure development agenda, it steals from the strides we have made as a province, it

disadvantages the users of such existing infrastructure, who are the same community members. We cannot afford to move three steps forward and take five steps backwards, we will never make it as a Province. As a custodian of provincial government infrastructure, I humbly plead with all citizens of the province to protect government property and take pride in it.

Madame Speaker, I'm making this plea fully aware of the continued demand for surfaced roads by our people and fully aware of the financial limitation faced by government related to these projects. I call upon the people of Limpopo to appreciate the work done in the past 25 years of democracy in relation to delivering surfaced road network in the province.

In light of the demands that come thick and fast, the Department through its implementing agency, Road Agency Limpopo (RAL) commenced with a process of consulting each District and local Municipalities on their respective roads' infrastructure needs. This exercise is expected to inform development of a comprehensive provincial priority list, which will guide how and when roads infrastructure projects will be implemented.

The process of consultations with municipalities has been concluded. Local Municipalities have submitted to their district Municipalities for consolidation and soon we will have a provincial priority list that will be shared with members of the public.

Madame Speaker

Amidst the challenges we are facing, it is not all doom and gloom as we are making serious strides in implementing road infrastructure projects. The Department through the agency RAL will be completing upgrades of the following roads in this financial year:

WATERBERG DISTRICT

- The 33km being done on roads D3114, D3117, D3102 in Ga-Seleka is at 99% practical completion stage. The project is valued at **One -Hundred and Forty- Eight million Rands (R148M)**

CAPRICORN DISTRICT

- In Capricorn District, construction works of the 9.5km has started on road D4168, Senwabarwana to Indermark to Vivo. It is valued at **Ninety-Six Million Rands** (R96m) Completion is expected at the end of September 2019.

SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT

- In Sekhukhune district, Fetakgomo Local Municipality, RAL has started construction of Road D4190, which is the 13,8km from Apel to Mmabulele to R37. It is at 82% completion stage and work is progressing well. The Project is valued **One-Hundred and Seventy-one million Rands** (R171M).
- The 13km Stretch on roads D4311, D4310, D4328 Legolaneng to Monsterlus, is at 75% completion stage the value of **One -Hundred and Fifty-Nine million Rands** (R159M)

MOPANI

- The D3820, D3205 roads from Babangu to Ndhengeza to Noblehoek to Maphalle for 26km is at 99% practical completion stage. It is valued at **Two-Hundred and Seventy-four million Rands** (R274M)

We are committed to providing quality and sustainable provincial road infrastructure network for the economic development of Limpopo Province. Roads infrastructure connects people, businesses and is key to unlocking Limpopo Tourism potential.

As Premier Chupu Mathabatha said in his State of the Province address, I quote "Development is indeed a process. Where we have not constructed a road, we are definitely going to construct one. We are working much harder to secure more funds so that we can significantly reduce the backlog of road infrastructure in the Province." Therefore, fellow Limpopo Citizens let's be patient, the road will come.

Madame Speaker,

The Department also has 22 three-year term contracts for household routine roads maintenance projects for each local municipality to a total amount of **Eight -hundred and Seventy -Five million Rands** (R875 239 416.83.) The household project is expected to create 7 660 work opportunities in this financial year. Already in the first quarter, 3 410 work opportunities were created.

Our maintenance teams within roads infrastructure programmes will continue to ensure that the gravel and upgraded roads are continuously maintained.

Madame Speaker,

EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

The Expanded Public Works Programme remains a key government programme with an objective to intervene in the lives of people by providing work opportunities focused on ensuring we push back the frontiers of poverty, unemployment and skills development. This programme is critical as it speaks to the bread and butter issues of the majority of our people.

Maya Angelou, an American poet once said “People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, BUT people will never forget how you made them feel.”

Honourable members, through coordination and implementation of this programme, government should seek to ensure it speaks fondly to the heart of the beneficiaries and citizens at large.

Madame speaker,

The Department has just concluded coordination of the EPWP phase 3 that began in the financial year 2014/15 until 2018/19.

Madame Speaker,

In the 5th administration the Expanded Public Works programme has achieved 493,962 work opportunities.

In April 2019, EPWP Phase 4 kick started and its implementation will end in March 2024.

The objective of the EPWP Phase 4 is to continue to put in motion efforts to reduce the scourge of poverty as it is still prevalent, to reduce unemployment by providing work opportunities through the labour-intensive delivery of public and community assets and services, thereby contributing to development.

Limpopo Province has set targets for over the 5-year period at a minimum of 475,358 work opportunities for the EPWP phase 4.

The provincial EPWP Phase 4 will be launched during the 2019/20 financial year.

BUDGET ALLOCATION 2019/20 FINANCIAL YEAR

Madame Speaker in the 2019/20 financial year, the MEC for Provincial treasury announced that the Department is allocated R3.6 billion to deliver on its mandate which is to provide and manage sustainable social and economic infrastructure and in the implementation of the Expanded Public Works programme.

The budget is broken down as follows:

- **Administration:** R400 Million
- **Infrastructure operations:** R849 Million
- **Expanded Public Works Programme:** R 45 Million
- **Roads Infrastructure** R2.3 Billion

An allocation of **R1.2 billion has been made for conditional grants** to be shared between the Department and the entity. **R1.4 billion is transferred to the Roads Agency Limpopo** an entity of the Department that is tasked with the responsibility of providing much needed roads infrastructure.

This budget is to serve the people of Limpopo and further ensure that we surpass the 95.48% average of paying service providers within 30 days, which has been recorded in the past 5 years. In the same breath, we call upon these service providers to honour their contractual obligations and deliver quality infrastructure, goods and services within the agreed period.

CONCLUSION

Madame Speaker,

I thank the Premier of the Province Stanley Chupu Mathabatha not only for entrusting me with the responsibility to lead the Department of Public Works Roads and Infrastructure, but also for his guidance and support. I would like to thank the portfolio committee on Public Works Roads and infrastructure.

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With the few months I've spend in the Department, it has been a pleasure to serve the people of Limpopo in this capacity. I thank Mr. Dikgole Timothy Seroka, the HOD who together we have been navigating our way trying to know the Department. I Thank the management and staff of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and management of Roads Agency Limpopo who welcomed us with warm hands and assured us that all hands are on deck, ready to push back the frontiers of poverty by being committed public servants, ready to serve.

I would like to thank my family and friends for their support and prayers which continue to give me strength.

I look forward to the guidance that will be provided by all oversight bodies.

Madame Speaker,

Allow me to conclude with this scripture found in the book of **Mathews 25 verse 41-46**, it says "Then he will say to those in his left, Depart from Me, you are cursed, into the internal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,

I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.

They also will answer, Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?

He will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me. Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.

Honourable members, we are indeed called upon to serve by the People of Limpopo, even the word of God tells us to take care and be of service to those who need our help.

This is a year of action, lets walk the talk, lets practice what we preach.

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I commit as a servant of God to use the projects and programmes of this Department to make a difference in people's lives, lest I be cursed into eternal fire along with the devil and his angels.

Setshaba a re rateng, re babaleleng thoto le diphahlo tše tša setšaba, Ke bohwa bja rena le bana ba rena.

Baswana ba rile Mphiri o tee ga o lle!

Ga ebe mathomo momayo!

A re šomišaneng!

Mmogo re ka kgona!

Together we can make

Ri rothe ri nga kona u ita zwinzhi

Let's grow South Africa. Together. Let's make it happen.

Inkomu

Ndi a Livhuwa

Baie dankie

Re a Leboga

I Thank you