

BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, VOTE 09, DELIVERED BY MEC AJD NDOU, AT THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE ON THE 24TH MARCH 2017, AT THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Madame Speaker and Deputy Speaker

Premier Mr. Chupu Mathabatha

Colleagues in the Executive Council

Members of the Provincial Legislature

Chief Whip of the Majority Party

Director General

Heads of Departments

Management and Staff of the Department

Chairperson of the Roads Agency Limpopo (SOC) Board and Board members

Chief Executive Officer and Management of Roads Agency Limpopo (SOC)

Regional Director and Management of Independent Development Trust

Members of the Media

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

A re lotsheng

Lotshani

Ndaa!

Goeie more

Good morning

Avuxeni

First and foremost, Honourable Speaker, let me on this august occasion, seize the moment and read this letter, dated April, 04th, 1984, from the State House, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

President OR Tambo (ANC) SA

President's Office

Lusaka

Zambia

Dear Oliver

On behalf of the people, the party and Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, and my own behalf, I wish to thank you for the messages of condolences and sympathy on the tragic death of our Prime Minister and Comrade, the late Edward Mwaringe Sokoine, which you conveyed to us on behalf of the liberation movement.

At the same time, I would like to say how much we appreciate your action in coming personally to represent the liberation movement at the funeral ceremonies at Monduli. This demonstration of solidarity and shared grief encourages us as we struggle to adjust to our great loss and reorganize ourselves for the many tasks involved in overcoming the present economic difficulties in developing our country.

Yours sincerely

Julius K. Nyerere

I have read this important piece of history, which I would like to pause on for now, and dwell on another important theme that characterizes the importance of the year 2017 – The year of Oliver Reginald Tambo: Unity in action. Together moving South Africa forward. This is the year of the murals of Oliver Reginald Tambo – Larger than life.

Madame Speaker, the year 2017, marks a very important milestone in our lives. This year is an important year in the history of this country. We mark a century since one of the greatest diplomats and symbol of hope for a better South Africa, Africa and the world, was born. Therefore, through remembering one of the greatest diplomats of our time, we can safely and proudly say this year symbolizes unity, diplomacy, hope and freedom. These are key and important embodiment of South Africa, told by the painful past the people, particularly the African masses endured under the white supremacy and discriminatory rule.

Indeed, this year symbolizes freedom as we mark the 27/27 History-in-motion, for the youth to understand that, our history is not blank – it was written. This is the year we commemorate, remember and celebrate the life of Oliver Reginald Tambo, under whom we preach the principles of unity, non-sexism, non-racialism and democratic dispensation.

It is therefore correct, to agree with the towering descripts of President Nelson Mandela on the occasion of the funeral of the ANC President, Isithwalandwe, OR Tambo, when he said;

“A great giant that strode the globe like a colossus, has fallen.

A mind whose thoughts have opened the doors of liberty has ceased to function. A heart whose dreams gave hope to the despised has forever lost its beat. A gentle voice whose measured words of wisdom shook the thrones of tyranny has been silenced”

He continued by saying;

“... Oliver lived not because he could breathe. He lived not because blood flowed from his veins. Oliver lived not because he did all things that all of us as ordinary men and women do. Oliver lived because he had surrendered his very being to the people. He lived because his very being embodied, love, an idea, an aspiration, a vision...”

A century of love, an idea, an aspiration, a vision as beautifully crafted under the descripts of 27/27 History-in-Motion is a basic tool that exposes with pride that our history doesn't have blank pages – it was written. Honourable Speaker, what is this 27/27 History-in-Motion? And what does it entail? It is on this century of a life embodiment of love, an idea, an aspiration, a vision that 2017 signifies the 27 years since Nelson Mandela walked to freedom through the gates of Victor Verster Prison. It signifies, the 27 years of hardship that President Nelson Mandela endured in Robbin Island, Pollsmoor Prison and the Victor Verster Prison. The twenty seven years of hardship under the white supremacy and discriminatory rule, that tried harder to silence the African leaders, including Nelson Mandela, in their quest to build a united, non-sexist, non-racial and democratic South Africa. That's how we characterized the difficult moments in the life of President Nelson Mandela. Indeed twenty seven is a significant number to the world today.

Indeed, twenty seven years, after Nelson Mandela was released, as scholars of OR Tambo, we knew we are beginning a new road to improve on the quality of lives of our people. And OR Tambo warned us that it would not be easy, as more work had to be done, for our people to get work, be safe, have housing, get education, be in good health and access other basic necessities. We said it before, and we are saying it again, to our people to rise up and seize the opportunities of democracy.

Madame Speaker, OR Tambo was an internationalist. He lived in a global village. He found home in Zambia, Tanzania, Nigeria, Lesotho, Botswana, Sierra Leone, Cote D'Ivoire, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Mozambique, Kenya, Libya, Liberia and other countries. He was an African.

On this occasion, Madame Speaker, I would like to highlight an incident that happened in 1984, in Arusha, Tanzania, which brings me back to the letter I read in my opening remarks by the late Prime Minister of Tanzania, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere on the occasion of the passing away of the Prime Minister of Tanzania, who had died of heart attack. I quote the response from isithwalandwe OR Tambo: “It was a sad occasion. The liberation movement loved and adored him. Yet, *“the liberation movement was involved, although accidents occur, if we were not on the road on that day, there would have been no accident. The Prime Minister would still be alive. But we happened to be on the road, and that determined the end of his life.”*

Madame Speaker, it was further alluded in his response “This was the worst of tragedies in the fight for liberation of South Africa. Mwalimu Julius Nyerere and his people of Tanzania, *‘didn’t jump up and blame the liberation movement. They kept quiet about the liberation movement very deliberately. Although they had lost so much, they were still protecting the liberation movement. I would like you to understand this level of support, this depth of support’*

Madame Speaker, the letter by Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, was written by an African brother to another. It was written by an African to an African. It is true, indeed, that, from the views of the two giants that strode the globe like a colossus, we can see the vision for the renaissance of Africa.

Tambo said *“The assurances are that the people inside South Africa have recognized that victory will come as a result of their struggle, their own efforts; as a result of their reliance in themselves. What they see across the borders tells them that this victory, of course is unescapable; that it is not going to be done by **Mozambicans**, EVEN IF MOZAMBICANS HAD ALLOWED US TO STAY THERE, it would be wrong to think they are going to liberate us. EVEN IF THE PEOPLE OF SWAZILAND, the government of **Swaziland** defied Pretoria and said ‘these are our people, they are going to stay here whether you like it or not’*

This picture-perfect has been designed to ink the pages of African History characterized by solidarity with one another. The people of **Tanzania** never blamed us for the road

accident that took a life of their beloved Prime Minister, because they knew our big African heartbeats pumping the same blood that is hollowed in our veins.

Madame Speaker, it was in the 1970s under the Federal Military Government of **Nigeria** led by General Murtala Mohammed that the Nigerian scholars and students contributed their cash, voluntarily, every Friday, to the Anti-Discriminatory Fund, to aid the victims of discrimination in the Southern African region, particularly South Africa, the then Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and Angola. It was in Nigerian Universities, that a certain percentage of enrolment of students was reserved for Southern African students. These students were given accommodation on campus, to stay the whole year, including on holidays, for their safety and wellbeing. A lot can be said and written about the role this country played in ensuring Africa is united, and South Africa is part.

After that fateful day of June 16, 1976, we must remind our people that a large number of young South Africans flocked into **Lesotho**. Lesotho government made provision for all young South African exiles to receive an education and 25% of its state scholarships were offered to exiled South Africans. It was **Botswana** that gave our struggle heroes a preferred conduit for an in and out of the country clandestinely. The route was established with the efforts of Fish Keitsing, a Botswana citizen, who later set up safe houses around Lobatse. This is the route Nelson Mandela used under the name David Motsamai.

Madame Speaker, we will not be oblivious to history. It was in 1989, in **Zimbabwe** that we appealed to the people of goodwill throughout the world to support the Programme of Action as a necessary measure to secure the earliest liquidation of the apartheid system and transformation of South Africa into a united, democratic and non-racial country. Indeed this is in the heart of the Harare Declaration, in which the current ruling party, articulated its proposals for a political settlement and for negotiations aimed at resolving the inhumane and discriminatory apartheid shame in South Africa.

The **Harare Declaration**, received international acceptance by the Ad-Hoc Committee on Southern Africa of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and the Frontline States and with some modifications of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Indeed, with the growing domestic acceptance too, this was indeed a milestone in the recent history of South Africa, Southern Africa and Africa. This was our transition to democracy.

Madame Speaker, that is why today, we are Nigerians, and Nigerians are us.

That is why today, we are Batswana, and Batswana are us.

That is why today, we are Zimbabweans, and Zimbabweans are us.

Indeed, that is why today, we are Tanzanians, and Tanzanians are us.

We are, today, Zambians, and Zambians are us.

We are, today, Angolans, and Angolans are us.

We are Ghanaians, Liberians, Sudanese, Mozambicans, Kenyans, Congolese, Libyans, Ethiopians and they are us.

We must therefore agree in principle that this so-called Black on Black Violence has no history nor a foundation to it. It is pure criminality. It is the real and genuine economic issues, raised by our people that were and are being hijacked by criminals with ulterior motives and hide behind and brand it Xenophobic. South Africans found refuge for decades in other African countries. Therefore, allow me Honourable Speaker to say “I am an African” and these scenes we saw and keep seeing are stark naked criminal activities, which do not represent anyone of us.

We will have to bow our heads in shame for the looting of foreign owned shops, which is pure criminality. Our youth should take a stand and lead. Our youth should organize Dialogues with their fellow African youth in the continent and the diaspora to bravely say

we are part of the solution in the construction of the Africa I am proud of. I am part of the **African Renaissance**. Our youth need a dialogue. Soliloquies might lead us to Damascus.

Madame Speaker, when all is said and done, in our quest to build a solid, yet radical Economic emancipation of our people, in a united prosperous Africa, we therefore have to pick a leaf from Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare, when Brutus, realized, their tactical moves, as conspirators, were good but not calculated and had reached a cul-de-sac, he died on his sword and, Mark Anthony said;

“This was the noblest Roman of them all.

All the conspirators save only he.

Did that they did in envy of great Caesar;

He only, in a general honest thought

And common good to all, made one of them.

His life was gentle, and the elements so mixed in him, that nature might stand up and say to all the world,

“This was a man”

So, Madame Speaker, our people therefore should understand how life was lived by Brutus in this play. We are all Africans and should not be fooled by these artificial borders, which are administrative tools, than a divide of humankind as we are all people of the world. We all, as Africans, sang a song in unison, as the children and grandchildren of OR Tambo, Seretse Khama, Julius Nyerere, Nelson Mandela, Robert Mugabe, Kenneth Kaunda, Samora Machel, Sam Nuyoma, Modibo Keita and Augustino Neto. We sang a song in unison as scholars and students of Patrice Lumumba, Kwame Nkrumah, Sékou Touré, Thomas Sankara, Jomo Kenyatta, Emperor Haile Sellaise and many more of our forebears who struggled for peace and economic prosperity of our continent.

The demise of the apartheid rule was an African collective effort. The help from African brothers and sisters was decisive in the struggle against the system. From the bases in **Angola** to military help in **Zambia**, they all played a critical and significant role in the emancipation of the African child. And we should be cautious and careful, as Africans, that if we can't vacuum our carpet properly, someone else might end up doing it for us. Africa shall be free! We shall continue with its renaissance.

This is part of the history book, which will enhance the vocabulary of our youth and broader society to monuments of these pieces that would build a future that we as South Africans and as part of an Africa that is developing and a world that cherished our course, they worked and looked after us when it was challenging for them to do so and hard for us to survive, we are humbled by the reception we were given and therefore appreciate eternally.

As part of the pathway to socio-economic development, we shall pause and reflect on the month of March, which William Shakespeare in his book Julius Caesar spoke of the Ides of March. It was a warning given to the great Caesar at the marketplace by the soothsayer about his death. Indeed the people of Limpopo felt the impact of the Ides of March, when one of their greatest sons, the Animal, as Collins Chabane, was known to his comrades and friends, together with his two protectors were swallowed by the road. He was one of us, he believed in a One Africa. His blood was African, his blood was hollowed in his African veins. March will remain an important month for us and the world as it also reminds us it is the time President Nelson Mandela met his best friend Oliver Reginald Tambo for the first time in Sweden after his release. We remember these three great sons of Africa as we work together to build a pathway to African Renaissance. We know Cde Collins Chabane was instrumental in his positions in all the tiers of government advocating socio-economic development programmes injected by the manifestos of the liberation movement and the governing party to improve on the quality of life for all. Indeed in Collins we see ourselves and Africa will rise. Let there be light!

THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW – 2016/7

Madame Speaker the key factors within the organizational environment that have informed our Performance Planning are that the Department is focusing its operation model to place greater emphasis on the transformation and regulation of the Construction and Property Sectors, consideration of the need to ensure that coordinated and integrated delivery of the concurrent functions are implemented with regard to determining Legislative and Regulatory Prescripts, Policy formulation, setting Norms and Standards, Monitoring and Evaluation and overseeing the implementation of these responsibilities.

We have approved measures as part of the MEC Turnaround Plan and Section 100 (1) (a) recovery plan. As a result, these are incorporated into the Annual Performance Plan and the Risk Assessment Plan to mitigate on repeated audit findings and matters of emphasis and issues not concluded during Section 100(1) (a), that is :-

- Increased revenue collection,
- Technical skills to deliver on mandate and capacity building,
- Improved contract and project management, organisational redesign and alignment,
- Implement energy efficiency measures and greening projects,
- Capacity building in the office of the Chief Financial Officer which involves alignment of CFO structure to National Treasury to move towards achievement of high impact service delivery and clean audit.

The Department has implemented the above mentioned projects to completion in exception of improved contract and project management and greening projects which are still to be pursued over the MTEF period.

Madame Speaker, it has been a long **98 531 km** Strategic Economic Routes we traversed during the 2016/17 Financial Year, with the main objective of emancipating our people and communities both socially and economically. It was, indeed that 98 531km, which is the classified total road network of our province, which when we shape

and size it, gives us this picture of **20 274km** belonging to the Provincial Government, **74 757km** under the Municipalities and **3500 km** managed by the National Government, that makes us, to believe that indeed through the workings and dictates of the Limpopo Development Plan **Outcome 6: Competitive Economic Infrastructure**, we need to invest in a network of economic infrastructure designed for a medium – and long term economic and social objectives. This is a precondition for providing basic services such as electricity, water, sanitation, telecommunications and public transport, and it needs to be robust and extensive enough to meet industrial, commercial and household needs.

I must therefore in this regards, paint the **District Road Network** picture for the benefit of our people, and appreciate the efforts undertaken by the Roads Agency Limpopo in performing the Visual Assessment process, in the year under review, for our benefit;

1. **Capricorn**, we have a backlog of 3 388km, out of the **4 702km**.
2. **Waterberg**, the backlog is at 5 080km, from the total of **7 050km**
3. **Vhembe** backlog is at 2 485km, from **3 953km**
4. **Sekhukhune** has a backlog of 1 589km, out of the total road network of **2 942km**
5. And lastly, **Mopani** has a backlog of 1 790km, out of the total **3 241km**.

This picture, clearly shows that indeed, the province backlog of **14 332km**, is a grave concern for both government and her people. This is why we have to instill a sense of hope and responsibility for a better life for all, through working with our communities and their representatives to understand where we are and where we are going with the roads network.

In the year under review, we can report that **41.9km** of upgrading the major roads in the province has been achieved. **122.51 lane km** has been rehabilitated, **254 971m²** were resealed and **13km** of upgrading access roads to public amenities such as clinics, schools and other public service stations has also been completed. To improve riding mobility in the Province, **73km** of road has been regavelled and **91 164m²** of black top patching through pothole repairs completed.

- We have been able, amongst other Strategic Economic Routes in the province, to upgrade **17.8km** of the road D4 and D3745, from Matsakale – Alten – Shangoni Kruger National Park, in the **Vhembe District**.
- We upgraded **22.8kms** of the Route D3634, D3778, D3753 and D3758 from Giyani to Nkuri, in the **Mopani District**.
- We have been able to rehabilitate **15.2 lane km** and reseal 48 100m² of the road D19, from Westernburg to Kalkspruit in the **Capricorn District**.
- In the **Sekhukhune District**, we have completed Phase 1 of Route D2534, where we rehabilitated **19.4 lane km** and resealed **26 655m²** of the surfaced road.
- In the **Waterberg District**, a total of **22.8km** of the D887, from Tombourke to Alldays was rehabilitated.

Madame Speaker, we have said during the year under review that **our strength is in the numbers** but sometimes it gets so creepy and spooky, with opportunistic and wedge driving poisonous tongues creating waves of discomfort amongst our people, thus trying hard to make it a dog day afternoon in Limpopo whilst hiding behind demands for roads. But we are vigilant, because the enemy is the wedge driver in our midst trying to annihilate the hopes, wishes, and dreams of our people, for their own selfish interest. It gets deeper than rap, whilst we acknowledge and take cognizance of the cries of our people on issues of road infrastructure, government will not condone criminal acts, such as burning of schools, damaging existing roads and vandalizing other social infrastructure. There are plans in place to address issues concerning major upgrades of provincial roads, which I will elaborate on later in the speech.

The Department acknowledges and recognises that central to its plan is to deliver on the mandate to improve roads infrastructure and road safety. That is why we went all out to lobby for more funding from Private Sector in order to ease pressure on the provincial fiscus. Through these Private sector partners, we raised **R302 million**. Allow me to recognise and appreciate **Marula Platinum Mine, Anglo American, PPC/North West and EXXARO coal Ltd**. Thank you for partnering with us and proving that in

working together we can achieve a lot more. Through this partnership we are happy to announce that progress has been made to upgrade the following roads;

- In **Sekhukhune District**, the partnership between RAL/Marula Platinum is upgrading from gravel to bituminous surface on a **17.5km** road stretch of D4170, from Melao to Maapea and from D4170 to Marula Platinum Mine.
- Again in **Sekhukhune District**, the partnership between RAL/Anglo American is upgrading, from gravel to bituminous surface of route D4182, D4185, D4432, and D4180 from R37/Makgakala to Makgake and the intersection with D4180, D4220 from Manyaka to the end.
- In the **Waterberg District**, the partnership between RAL/PPC/North-West is upgrading road P20/2, D1234, D1309 and D2702 from Koedoeskop to Northam to Dwaalboom in Waterberg District.
- And still in **Waterberg District**, the partnership between RAL/EXXARO resources is upgrading **33.5km** of the northern links and **14.1km** of the southern links, from gravel to bituminous surface, 4 roads; D3114; D3117; D3102 and D3109, covering villages from Abortspoot to Dipongpong and to Kiti, creating 200 FTEs.

These achievements, Madame Speaker, were made possible in an environment where we had to reconstitute one of the critical RAL Board Committees, the Audit and Risk committee, to comprise of qualified and skilled Chartered Accountants to monitor and oversee the overall performance of the Agency in terms of financial and risk management.

Kha tshumelo ya u fhata, nahone ro Lima ndima i vhonehalo.

The Department **completed construction** of Emergency Medical Services at Grace Mugodeni in Tzaneen and Old Nkhensani Hospital. Clinics at Tshikundamalema, Humulani and Nkomo B were also completed. Work is continuing at Thabazimbi Mortuary and Letaba contract B4 which will be completed during the first quarter of the next financial year.

Construction work is continuing at the following clinics: Schoongezicht, Sterkspruit Makeepsvlei and Mamushi.

The Department commenced with construction works at **Maphutha-Malatjie Hospital** for the construction of the Outpatient Department (OPD), we are busy with the completion of Maphutha Malatjie Hospital Linen Building section and other related facilities.

The Department has commenced with the work on two projects at **Letaba Hospital** for the upgrading of various facilities within the hospital.

Madame Speaker, through the establishment of the **Infrastructure Strategic Planning Hub (ISPH)** we began to realize result of a streamlined and timeous service delivery. A total of **222 built environment professionals** are required for ISPH (Infrastructure Strategic Planning Hub), and this was to be implemented in phases. The department has made great strides in ensuring that the Hub is capacitated. In the year under review the Department has **appointed 25 Professionals**; with **16 professionals appointed through DBSA** and **09 appointed through departmental HR recruitment processes**.

We are glad to announce that the Department has partnered with the National Department of Public Works in recruiting international expertise to ensure delivery of infrastructure and to this end, we have brought into the Department, **12 Cuban Technical Advisors** skilled in Mechanical, Electrical, Civil, Hydraulic Engineering and 3 Architects.

The Cuban compatriots are here not only to assist in building infrastructure but more importantly will be involved in skills transfer to our officials.

Madame Speaker, allow me to mention that the ground is already fertile and the seed that will be planted by the Cuban Technical Advisors is sure to germinate. I say this because officials at the Department have shown the extent of their capacity when they constructed the Traditional Council Offices by themselves and **have completed 6**

Traditional Council Offices for the year under review. These are Nkuri; Mukhomi; Kutama; Tshivhase; Mampane and Mogashoa Tribal Council Offices.

Madame Speaker, the Department further **established the Professional Capacitation Development and Mentoring Initiative (PCDMI)**. The objective of this initiative is to bring together Construction Management and Human Resource Development units to collaborate in the capacitation, development and mentoring of professionals within the Department.

PCDMI is working with two (2) private companies, Wilson Bailey Holmes – Ovcon (WBHO) and Stefanutti Stocks to capacitate and develop professionals.

The agreement with WBHO looks at assisting professionals within the Department to register with professional bodies such as the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA), South African Council for Architects (SACA), South African Council for Quantity Surveyors (SACQS) as well as South African Council for Project and Construction Managers Professions (SACPCMP).

To date the department assisted **54 officials** with registration with SACPCMP by paying their application fees. The agreement with WBHO for the registration of technical officials is coming to an end this month. From April 2017, the department will continue with the program for the registration of technical officials with the respective councils.

Currently the department is **facilitating signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Council of Built Environment (CBE)** to assist the department with the registration of Construction Project Managers and Engineers with the various professional bodies. The Department is also looking at other opportunities to partner with consulting engineering firms especially to assist technical officials in design

experience ahead of professional registration for current professionals in the Department.

The **agreement with Stefanutti Stocks has since been implemented in full** and all learners who had been placed in various Stefanutti Stocks sites have since completed their programmes and the initiative has been concluded at the end of September 2016. The initiative covered the Artisan Development Programme for Brick layers and Electrical Artisans, wherein Stefanutti Stocks provided practical exposure for learners enrolled on the ADP programme that is funded by the Construction CETA.

The Limpopo Contractor Development Programme was also part of this initiative. Ten (10) CIDB grade 6-7 contractors were put on a twelve (12) months Enterprise Development Programme funded entirely by Stefanutti Stocks. This initiative has also been implemented in full with **all ten contractors receiving certificates** of completion.

Madame Speaker, one of the flagship programmes of the Department, the **Limpopo Contractor Development**, has seen these learner contractors, moving from Grade 1CE to Grade 4CE in the CIDB grading. This is a tremendous achievement for us as a department. This is an SMS the department received from one of the beneficiaries, **Ms. Suzan Managa** of Luhura Trading and General Supplier;

“Morning my leader. I have just received a CIDB alert that I have been upgraded from 1CE to 4CE. This is a big thing for me. Please send my gratitude to all your colleagues who made this possible”

We have also secured projects for the continuation of our intake in the **Limpopo Contractor Development Programme** wherein **35 emerging contractors** are partaking, **27 of which are youths**. We will continue to seek partnerships with companies like Stefanutti Stocks to provide practical exposure for learners studying

disciplines in the built environment. This is the justice league of thought for a better construction industry.

Madame Speaker, **Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Phase 3 created 251 222 work opportunities** in the province as processed on the National EPWP system. In pursuit of objectives of the MTSF in terms of outcome 4 the department is leading and coordinating a Limpopo Public Sector Wide EPWP provincial chapter towards the creation of **84,842 work opportunities** in the 2017/18 financial year, as a result of an engagement between provinces and the minister of Public Works on attainment of the National MTSF target amid macro-economic challenges and change in context in the implementation of the programme.

Madame Speaker, can I on behalf of the coordinating department indicate that there is a need for the Province to improve on the number of work opportunities created through projects funded primarily from **Division of Revenue Act (DORA)** in respect of Infrastructure Grant for Provinces. The same effort is required in relation to the Municipal Infrastructure Grants including discretionary funding from equitable share of implementing bodies in order to maximize on the incentive grant.

Madame Speaker, our strength is in numbers, let me update this august House on how we fared in the implementation of the National Youth Service rendered in the Built environment. **2000 youth participated** in the programme and **974** have been certificated under different programmes (**582** - Built Environment trades, **300** - Horticulture and **81** - Welding). There are **138 youths** who have participated under the built environment trades and are currently at the final stage sitting for the Artisan Development test and certification.

Madame Speaker I'm glad to announce that as part of the national effort, we and our colleagues in the Public Works MIN-MEC as part of the Transformation of the Construction Industry have finally adopted the **Green Building Policy**. This policy mainly contributes towards energy efficiency and water conservation and to the creation

of work opportunities in line with EPWP principles to ensure attainment of Outcomes 4 & 6 in tandem with infrastructure development and grow skills of emerging contractors to meet objectives of transformation of the construction industry and further build capacity of the state to deliver the infrastructure mandate by enhancing industry professional skills.

On the **Management of Immoveable Assets Programme**, we prioritised working towards a comprehensive and complete state immovable asset repository to ensure better land development.

In executing the function of a landlord for government property portfolio, we committed to **review leases of government buildings** as a cost saving mechanism. The Department in consultation with the infrastructure cluster, completed cost-benefit analysis to determine the viability of out rightly purchasing the leased buildings instead of continuing to rent, a proposal has been completed on ten (10) buildings and seven (7) were found to be providing value for money to the provincial government if they were to be purchased. The lease review project has been completed and recommendations made for implementation.

While the Department is implementing the recommendations of the **Lease Review project**, the National Treasury is developing Standard for Leasing and Letting of Immoveable Property for the Public Sector to ensure uniform standards in the country.

The Department is now able to account for **15 982 assets** and are classified in various categories from the vested and registered assets to State Domestic Facilities (SDFs) on communal land. To date **1440 assets** are vested or registered in the name of the province, **1468 are at different stages** of the vesting process and **3955 SDFs must still be surveyed** for the purpose of vesting. The project will continue until all provincial assets are vested.

The Department has highlighted key priorities in line with the National Development agenda. These areas include amongst others:

Integrated planning in the Public Works sector, to cascaded National Priorities into Provincial policy objectives and Programmes of Action. This is done in sustaining the transformation programme of the Public Works sector nationally as adopted by MIN-MEC. To recap, this involves **finalisation of immovable asset register**, lease review, professional capacity building, settling municipal debt in terms of rates and taxes, clean audit for the sector, compliance to GIAMA and particularly condition assessments in terms of section 13 of GIAMA, disposal of redundant and obsolete immovable state properties.

The priorities further include construction development, financial management capacity in the sector, thirty (30) days payment of accounts, green building policy towards energy efficiency and water conservation. Though not conclusive as research is continuing into areas on improving the sector improved planning and design of Infrastructure projects compliance to laws and regulations, project management of infrastructure projects.

Through this we are talking of improved management of asset register, accelerate the vesting process and issuing of **Item 28 (i)** certificate by the Department of Rural Development and Land Affairs, improved lease management, improved facilities management, improved supply chain management and its support structure as per Construction Procurement Strategy, implement austerity and cost saving measures, stakeholder relation management, district development, capacity enhancement to deliver good services, improved IT infrastructure and governance framework and effective risk management.

As alluded earlier on in this context my emphasis is to secure the net investment on the provincial built heritage and the net asset value.

Madame Speaker, it was during the year under review that we welcomed the Head of Department, **Mr. Obakeng Eden Mongale**, into our fold to take and move this African train into another gear for a prosperous Limpopo. We, believe that with his experience in both governance and administration, will face off all the challenges we have been encountering. Allow me on this occasion to wish him well in this transformative role of placing the Department on a growth and renewal path. Let me also in the same breath, take this opportunity to thank the contribution made by **Mr. Thonias Ray Malele**, who steered the ship during the year under review. We really appreciate his immense contribution in this built environment.

2017/18 Programme of Action

Madame Speaker, on **Property and immovable asset management** we will reinforce inter-governmental structures to deliberate on policy and strategic issues on the sector, particularly on maintenance of government buildings in our custody. Additional to our effort in strengthening the property management portfolio is to finalize matters around the accommodation of government, which will happen within time and cost. We will also ensure the strong liaison between ourselves and CoGHSTA in addressing the problem of debt owed to municipalities on Property rates, taxes and municipal services.

We further commit on the EXCO resolution on infrastructure development that the **Infrastructure Strategic Planning Hub will assist municipalities** with their property and immovable asset management particularly on the matter that relate to valuation on state owned properties. This will be accelerated once the Hub has improved its capacity in terms of the number of professionals appointed.

Madame Speaker, the following are some of the **Strategic Economic Routes**, which the Department through Roads Agency Limpopo will implement and those that will be assessed through our growth path strategy and SEZ of the Province for the period 2017/18 amongst others are:

In Capricorn District;

- The upgrading from gravel to tar of **Route D3370**, from D19 in Chebeng to Newlands to Doornspruit to gaMapangula to gaMadiba.
- The upgrading from gravel to tar of **Route D3332**, from Chebeng to Koloti to Kolopo to Kanana to Senwabarwana.
- The upgrading from gravel to tar of **Route D4070**, from Malope to Phokwane.
- The upgrading from gravel to tar of **Route D4055**, from Mafefe to Moroke.
- The upgrading from gravel to tar of **Route D1468**, from Senwabarwana to Endermark to Vivo.
- And, upgrading from gravel to tar of **Route D15, D3232 and D D3150**, from Morebeng (Soekmekaar) to Senwamokgope (Sekgosese). This is an inter-District route for both Capricorn and Mopani Districts.

In the Mopani District;

- The upgrading from gravel to tar of **Route D3771, D2009, D3878 and D3898** from Rita/Tickeyline to Burgersfort, Julesburg/Rhulani to Balloon to Sekororo.
- The upgrading from gravel to tar of **Route D3810**, from Thomo/Altein (Shangoni Kruger National Park Gate) to Khakhala to Gawula to Mahlali to Ndindani to Hlomela to Palaubeni to Mbaula to Phalaborwa.
- The repairing of flood damaged of **Route D4424** in BaPhalaborwa.
- And the repairing of the flood damaged road infrastructure of **Route D3187**, in Greater Giyani.
- The construction of the bridge and repairing of the flood damaged **Route D3195** at Polaseng.

Vhembe District

- We are upgrading from gravel to tar of **Route P135/1**, from Mutale to Sagole to Muswadi to Folovhodwe to Nwanedi Nature Reserve to Tshipise.
- The upgrading from gravel to tar of **Route D2016, D3678, D3673, D3679, D3656, D3685 and D3688**, from Musekwa to Doli Doli to Ndounhada to Khomela to Smokey.
- The upgrading from gravel to tar of **Route D3688**, from Khubvi to Tshidzevhe to Tshatshingwe Potholes to Sendedza
- The upgrading from gravel to tar of **Route D3695**, from Siloam to Tshixwada to Tshandama
- The repairing of flood damaged road infrastructure of **Route D1483**, from Musina to Mapungubwe to Pontdrift.
- The repairing of flood damaged road infrastructure of **Route D3724, from P98/1** to Mapate to Phiphidi.
- The construction of a bridge on the **Route D3817** over the Klein Letaba River from Bungeni to Wayeni

In the Sekhukhune District

- RAL / Tubatse Chrome partnership will rehabilitate **Route D2484** from P169/2 (R555) to Ga-Mapodile.
- The upgrading of **Route D4190** from gravel to tar, from Apel to Mabulela to R37.
- The upgrading from gravel to tar of **Route D4166**, from River Cross to Ga-Riba Village
- The upgrading from gravel to tar of **Route D4200**, from Marulaneng to Maila to Mphanama to Nchabeleng.
- The upgrading from gravel to tar of **Route D4220**, from Modimolle to Masehleng.
- The upgrading from gravel to tar of **Route D4283**, from Glencowie to Ga-Malaka.
- The upgrading from gravel to tar of **Route D2664, D2919, D2922**, from Tshikanoshi to Malebitsa.
- The upgrading from gravel to tar of **Route D4252**, from Ga-Talane to Mphanama.

- The upgrading of from gravel to tar of Route **D2405** from Alverton to Rietfontein to Kgautswane.

In the Waterberg District

- RAL/Ledjadja Coal partnership will upgrade **Route D1675** from Steenbokpan to Stockpoort Border Post.
- Repairing of road infrastructure of **Route D1679** in Modimolle.
- The upgrading from gravel to tar of **Route D2922, D2919**, from Keerom to Doornlaagte to Tshikanoshi.
- The upgrading from gravel to tar of **Route D3356, N11**, from Gilead to Pudiyakgopa.

Madame Speaker, I must re-emphasize this point of the process leading to the upgrading of the road for the benefit of our people. More often than not, when we say we will start with the implementation of the road infrastructure, our people already have a picture that TLBs and workmanship will be breaking the ground and laying the black top. There are stages for the upgrading of the road; the Prelim, Design and Procurement stages.

- **PRELIM STAGE** - We must first do the **High Level Feasibility** of the road, which will assist in determining what is needed to be done; soil testing, kilometers and other related factors. This process, can take at least 3 months to complete.
- **DESIGN STAGE** - We then have to appoint Consultants to do the Engineering work; **Designs and Drawings**, which have to go through the authorities or bodies responsible for the approval of those plans, this process on its own can take at least 3 to 6 months to complete, depending on the complexity.
- **PROCUREMENT STAGE** - Then appoint the **Contractor** through all the necessary Supply Chain Management process; Advertisements, Bid Evaluation, Bid Adjudication and Appointment, which takes 3 months to complete.
- All in all, the process takes 9 to 12 months to complete.

Unfortunately, Madame Speaker, this process has to be honored to produce necessary results. Our people must understand this. And for this to be well understood we will hit the road through our Strategic Economic Routes at the beginning of the 2017/18 Financial Year and engage in **District Roadshows** where we will unpack the whole Programme of Action of the department, specifically on Roads elements; upgrading, preventative and routine maintenance and other important functions of the department to equip them with knowledge and be able to share the information with our constituencies. We will meet with Traditional Leadership, Mayors, Ward Councillors, Civic Organisations and other strategic and relevant structures.

As a department beset with the provision of roads infrastructure and our understanding of the link between infrastructure provision and economic empowerment, we are planning around intertwining the accelerated roads infrastructure programme with job creation along the lines of the previous flagship programme of the Department, referred to as "**Gundolashu**". The Department will this year put a framework to revitalize community involvement in roads infrastructure implementation with a sole view to massify work opportunities.

Madame Speaker, we can further announce that our Department has partnered with the National Department of Public Works, Department of Defence and Military Veterans, Department of CoGHSTA and all five Districts Municipalities to access areas that are mostly cut off during the heavy floods in our Province. Out of requested **23 Bailey Bridges, 12 were prioritized for assessment** in the five Districts and the Department is awaiting estimates before implementation can take place. These bridges will bring hope to our people, as it will link villages that might have been cut off from having access to social amenities.

RAL will spend R25million of its allocation to **employ local labour** during project implementation and also has set aside R115 million to **support SMME's** and further **train 480 local workers**. *Re a šoma!*

This work will be done with the **R962, 151 million allocated to the Agency** for the 2017/18 financial year.

Through the provision of these and many other infrastructures, we have an added responsibility to respond to the **Limpopo Development Plan** on job creation, because in essence the plan seeks to improve the standard of living, reduce poverty, unemployment and unacceptable levels of inequality.

The Department shall continue to liaise with organizations of **People living with Disabilities** to explore ways of increasing their participation in the various projects being implemented. We shall also continue to encourage women participation in EPWP across all its sectors. Our efforts to ensure the improvement of skills in the participants of the programme shall be intensified and we shall also ensure the enforcement of Basic Conditions of Employment thus fostering Decent Work.

Let's zoom into the *Youth – lens*, we have been warned before by luminaries like Former Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan who had this to say;

“Unfortunately, very few governments think about

Youth unemployment when they are drawing up their national plans”.

And the great OR Tambo taught us indeed that, any nation that does not invest in its youth, its future is doomed forever. We are not going to doom our future and the future of this country, hence in our efforts to assist youths to be skilled and to increase their employability, each Department and Districts shall be expected to engage a stipulated minimum number on **National Youth Service Cadets** in their EPWP projects under mentorship arrangements where necessary and feasible. This initiative is anticipated to create opportunities for at least **500 youths** per department in the province. As such we urge all Departments in the province to devote part of their budget towards NYS. The Department has partnered with MerSeta and Waterberg TVET to further train the **81 NYS Learners** who graduated with N2 Level on Welding to Artisanhip.

Madame Speaker, on social and economic infrastructure, the scenario alluded to in the **National Development Plan** on infrastructure development and provision, has left us with a mammoth task in that we need to take charge of this key important development in our country's future. The Social problems of inadequate health care, education gaps, slow economic growth and many other ills can arguably be linked to the quality and pace in the provision of social and economic infrastructure in the Province.

As we are tasked with this mandate we wish to make a commitment that in 2017/18 the department will continue with the implementation of multi-year projects at the **Maphutha- Malatjie Hospital** contracted at R353 Million and two projects at **Letaba Hospital** contracted at R48 million and R74 Million respectively.

The Department will manage the implementation of **120 storm damaged school projects** in support of the Education Department to facilitate learning. **Sixty-Eight (68)** of these projects are being implemented by the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and completion on the scope of work is envisaged to happen by the 4th quarter of 2017/18 financial year. **R511 million** is set aside for these projects. The Department will be finalizing the award of tenders to appoint consultants for the remaining **Fifty-two (52)** projects.

Madame Speaker, having seen the quality of work done in the construction of the **Traditional Council Offices**, of which **five (5)** will be completed in the 2017/18 Financial Year the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA) mandated the department to manage the renovation of **Eighteen (18)** Traditional Council Offices at a tune of **R22.5 million**.

I also need to take this opportunity to commit the department to refresh the erstwhile **Sakhasonke Development Programme** which the late former MEC of the Department

and Minister Collins Chabane had also championed in the transformation of the construction sector towards black economic empowerment. We will revisit some of these international acclaimed programmes, as part of the refreshing the brand process.

Madame Speaker, on the issue of **land provision for economic development** we alluded to in 2016/17 Financial Year that the Department is interacting with various stakeholders to avail land for economic development. This will be achieved by engaging municipalities through their Spatial Development Plans to coordinate the process of identifying all existing unutilized pieces of land or unutilized immovable assets that belongs to both the public and private sector. When this has been done we will develop a joint plan in terms of how such assets could be used to support earmarked development initiatives proactively within the municipal Spatial Development Plans, Provincial and National Development Plans. Discussions in this regard took place with the following municipalities; Musina, Lephalale, LIM368, Modimolle & Mookgopong, Ephraim Mogale, Greater Tubatse and Greater Tzaneen.

The Department will launch two programmes in strengthening Inter-Governmental Relations. We will launch the **Protection and Preservation of the Provincial Built Heritage** and re-launch the **Operation Bring Back** campaign to reclaim misappropriate and unlawfully occupied State properties. Over the Mid-Term, Phase 2 of the OBB Project will mainly focus on conducting investigations in respect of anomalies identified during the first phase and addressing identified properties that have been illegally occupied. This will be done through various means including: entering into lease agreements, donations, disposals, evictions, partnerships, sales and further deal with the matter of debt owed to municipalities on rates and taxes.

The projects and programmes outlined for 2017/18 Financial Year are in response to the **NDP Vision 2030** that highlights the need to provide social infrastructure that focuses on creating the conditions for quality services to be rendered and further ensure

that more people, black in particular are given opportunities to participate in the economy of the country.

Appreciation

Let me take this opportunity to appreciate the leadership of **Premier Chupu Mathabatha** and the colleagues in the Provincial Executive Council for their continued support in making sure that the triple threats of poverty, unemployment and inequality are dealt with accordingly for the benefit of our province, country and indeed ensuring that Africa rises.

I would also like to thank the **Chairperson and the Portfolio Committee** on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for keeping us on check throughout the Financial Year, to ensure accountability to our actions and plans.

I must thank my **children and family** for allowing me to always be available to serve the people of Limpopo, South Africa and Africa. I am proud that they have accepted that I should serve and continue serve the people of the motherland to attain full freedom in all aspects. I thank them for their understanding that I have a role to play in injecting the dosage of the future in the systems of a united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa. I thank them, indeed, for their understanding that together we will make, **Africa Rise!**

Words of gratitude also go to the **Management and staff** of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for their commitment to serve the people of Limpopo with aplomb.

Madame Speaker, former **President Thabo Mbeki** on the occasion of the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa had this to say;

“... Whatever the setbacks of the moment, nothing can stop us!

Whatever the difficulties,

Africa shall rise!

However improbable it may sound to the sceptics, Africa shall prosper!”

BUDGET ALLOCATION 2017/18

Madame Speaker, the department is allocated an amount of **R3.1 billion** in 2017/18 financial year. The budget increases by **8.1 percent in 2017/18** and **3.9 percent** over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). The 2017/18 allocation is funded by **R2.0 billion equitable share** and **R1.1 billion conditional grants**. Included in the allocation for **2017/18 financial year** is **R30.0 million** which is a provision for **infrastructure capacitation**, **R60.0 million** for **procurement of new office space** and **R962.1 million** to be transferred to the Department's Public Entity, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), for upgrading and maintenance of the provincial roads infrastructure.

The allocations per Programmes of the Department are as follows:

Programme 1 Administration is allocated **R357 486 million**;

Programme 2 Infrastructure Operations is allocated **R837 139 million**;

Programme 3 Expanded Public Works Programme is allocated **R48 896 million**;

Programme 4 Roads infrastructure is allocated **R1 892 226 billion**

Madame Speaker I hereby present the Budget Policy and Vote 09 of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

A re šomeng!

Re a šoma

I thank you