

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE
BUDGET SPEECH VOTE 09 DELIVERED BY THE MEMBER OF THE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AZWINDINI JEREMIAH DINGAAN NDOU IN
THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE, LEBOWAKGOMO
LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS ON THE 2nd APRIL 2015.**

Thank you, Honourable Madame Speaker;

Deputy Speaker;

Premier of Limpopo Province, Honourable Chupu Stanley Mathabatha;

Chief Whip of the ruling party;

Deputy Chief Whip;

Colleagues in the Provincial Executive Council;

Chairperson of Chairpersons;

Chairpersons of Portfolio Committees;

Leaders of the opposition parties;

Honourable Members of this distinguished House;

Executive Mayors, Mayors, Speakers, Chief Whips, Councillors and
representatives from SALGA;

Acting Head of Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure;

Chairperson and Board members of Road Agency Limpopo (RAL);

Heads of Department;

CEO's of State Owned Entities;

Leadership of the ANC and alliance partners;

Veterans of our liberation movement;

Traditional Leaders;
Distinguished guests;
Members of the media;
Comrades and friends;
People of Limpopo Province;
Ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you Honourable Speaker for affording us this opportunity to deliver our second Budget Speech (Vote 09) for the 2015/16 Financial Year to the people of Limpopo. It gives me a great sense of joy and pride to be standing on this podium to report back to the people of our province and also to make announcement about what we have in store for them in this “Year of the Freedom Charter and Unity in Action to Advance Economic Freedom”.

We dip our revolutionary banner in honour and memory of our fore bearer in the department, the Commissar field marshal in the army of liberation that gave us our freedom, the late Honourable Minister Ohm Collins Chabane, who laid a firm foundation of the Re a šoma Department of Public Works as far back as 1998. His vision of a vibrant Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), a catalyst for economic growth and development will be earnestly pursued in our quest for equality and social justice. Let’s also pay tribute to Thembi Nwendamutswu, veteran Nelson Diale, Malome Moses Kotane and John Beaver Marks. We salute them for their sacrifices and contribution towards a free and a democratic South Africa.

We stand before you today after the Administration Team (Section 100 (1) (b) left the department at the end of January 2015. We thank the team for the sterling job that they did in stabilizing the Department.

Madame Speaker;

This Budget Speech takes place in a very historic year when Africa's oldest liberation movement, the African National Congress celebrates 60 years of the founding of the Freedom Charter in Kliptown, Soweto 26th June 1955. Our people then declared that 'these freedoms we will fight for, side by side throughout our lives, until we have won our liberty'. Also declaring that 'South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white'.

We of the liberation movement recall those days in Angola, Zambia, Tanzania and other Frontline states when the militant youth of South Africa were receiving training as soldiers of Umkhonto we Sizwe, singing a song "***Emazweni bakhala ngayo iFreedom Charter***". Today the world over, people still marvel at this historic document drafted by revolutionary intellectuals such as Prof. Z K Matthews and Beata Lipman and many others.

The Freedom Charter provided the inspiration and a vision around which the oppressed rallied. It acted as a beacon of hope to chart the direction to a brighter future.

The Freedom Charter has been the rallying song for the ANC, paving the way and playing a crucial role in the formulation of policies that move South Africa forward. Even the country's National Development Plan, and by extension the Limpopo Development Plan whose seamless implementation of its objectives will see us defeating the triple challenges of poverty

through the creation of sustainable work and providing skills to the youth and people with disabilities, derives most of its content from this celebrated document. It is because of the Freedom Charter that the ANC has been able to retain the pole position even under serious threats from the right.

According to the survey by the global market research company IPSOS, half the adult population approve of the job the President Honourable Jacob Zuma and his cabinet is doing. This could not have happened had it not been for the ANC's tried and tested policies and the long standing truce we have with the people of South Africa.

The ANC retains the upper hand precisely because this movement is prepared to listen to the people in order to be able to provide for their needs.

Madame Speaker;

The global financial crisis wreaked havoc in many economies of the global North. Continental Europe was hardest hit by the financial meltdown and major bickering continues about how the Euro zone can extricate itself from a position where a second collapse seems eminent.

In the midst of this, the ANC government consolidated an effective fiscal package that halted a windfall shedding of jobs and managed to place the manufacturing sector on the path of positive growth.

Public spending in infrastructure and other social assets has progressively sustained industries and created employment opportunities.

This administration has achieved greater economic stability in the face of the global economic volatility of the past seven years. Despite the

hardships the global economy has experienced, South Africa has sidestepped a possible rollback of the progressive safety net interventions and managed to roll out more delivery in crucial areas of social capital.

The ANC government has over the years rolled out progressive reforms in the social sector, with indications of stability and coherence in planning. Given our successes, we are always first to admit that more still needs to be done at great speed to build a South Africa that can be able to give the rest of the developed world a run for its money.

Despite all the positive stories, the liberation movement is faced with a challenge of leading a society that is muddied by anti-progressive forces, forces whose only intentions are to lead the people of South Africa astray, forces whose aim is to cause havoc and make those who paid the highest price for democracy to turn in their graves, forces that have no idea of how to progressively move this country forward to a world class society. To us they are peace time heroes parading as freedom fighters and modern day liberals who want to bleed hard during peace time but were never there during liberation struggle when some of us were fighting against the strongest hand of the oppressive regime.

True to our character, we shall overcome like we overcame many hurdles in the past as the father of the democratic South Africa, President Nelson Mandela once said that “after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more mountains to climb”.

We shall overcome this through our global reputation as the leading force for peaceful resolution of conflicts and our moral high ground towards our people.

We shall never lose focus of the task of delivering the second phase of the national democratic revolution which continues to be the guiding light in our quest for a society we intend to build.

We have a carefully planned execution of projects lined up for our province's infrastructure development, because we are a government that is serious about radical economic development and empowerment of our people across all spheres and levels of government.

HUMAN RESOUCE DEVELOPMENT

Guided by the National Development Plan's vision of developing skills and empowering our people in order for them to make a meaningful contribution towards the socio economic development of our country, the department has entered into partnerships with large private construction companies (i.e. Stefanutti Stocks and WBHO).

WBHO is currently assisting the existing infrastructure officials to register with various professional bodies. The partnership includes skills development through on the job training, mentoring and professional registration assistance where candidates are to be paired with highly experienced Mentors.

The partnership between LDPWRI and Stefanutti Stocks looks at three areas of focus as follows:

- Student Internship Programme (SIP);
- Artisan Development Programme (ADP) and;
- Limpopo Contractor Development Programme (LCDP).

The department can announce that through the partnership with Stefanutti Stocks 12 Student Interns (8 Civil Engineering and 4 Electrical Engineering) were placed at Kusile Power Station and Sasol Power Plant in Secunda to enable them to acquire practical experience towards attainment of their qualifications from their respective institutions. The department is happy to report that their training is progressing very well and that they are indeed gaining invaluable experience.

The department values and appreciates the contributions of the two private construction companies.

The Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI) launched the Limpopo Contractor Development Program (LCDP) at the end of August 2014. The Programme is aimed at improving the performance of the Contractors in terms of quality and grading status in targeted categories such as:

- 20 grade 2-3 contractors and 20 supervisors under emerging contractor Development,
- 15 grade 4-5 under incubator and
- 10 grade 6-7 under the contractor improvement Programme

All three Programmes and/categories have started theoretical training and it is progressing well. Grades 2-5 are being trained in Limpopo by the Service Provider appointed by the National Department of Public Works. They will break with the theoretical training and commence with practical training (i.e. working on actual projects) in April 2015. The CIDB Grades 6-7 contractors are being trained in Gauteng by the Service providers

appointed by Stefanutti Stocks. They are ready to commence with practical training.

This current administration has identified education as one of its priorities, and as the Department we are proud to make our due contribution towards the education of our youth. It is through education that we can defeat the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

We have awarded in the 2014/15 Financial Year 21 bursaries to the academically deserving and financially needy students to study in the field of Build Environment. Upon completion, they are expected to work for the department for the same period that the department funded their studies, as we work out the plan to absorb them on permanent basis.

Madame Speaker and Honourable members;

QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE PROVINCE

Infrastructure is a catalyst for growth and social justice and a game changer in the economic fortunes of our province, for it facilitates seamless movement of goods and people.

Our infrastructure development, rehabilitation, upgrading and maintenance strategies are designed to be vehicles for stimulating economic growth in the provincial, district and local economic zones. This is aligned to the State of the Province Address (SOPA), as delivered by the Premier of Limpopo Province, the Honourable Chupu Stanley Mathabatha.

ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE

As the province we are faced with a huge backlog of tarring our roads, but true to our character we shall overcome because we have a plan to deal with this challenge.

STABILISING AND STRENGTHENING RAL

The Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) is a provincial public entity and listed in schedule 3c of the Public Finance Management Act, no.1 of 1999 (as amended and established in terms of the Northern (now Limpopo) Province Roads Agency Limited and Provincial Roads Act, 1998 (Act no. 7 of 1998). It is registered under the Companies Act 61 of 1973 as amended.

The mandate of RAL is to manage and administer the provincial roads infrastructure network. This includes both the construction of new and maintenance of existing roads and related infrastructure.

We shall strengthen and support Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) to ensure that it is capable of reaching out and provide quality roads infrastructure and turn the tide against poor roads conditions in the our province. It is against this backdrop that the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) position has been filled as of the beginning of March 2015. The process of appointing the Chief Financial Officer has been completed and the position will be filled on the 15th April 2015.

In order to reposition the organization and achieve success, we will conduct skills assessment organizational wide, restructuring, strengthening internal audit, put procurement controls in place and enhance good governance as outlined in the King III Report on Corporate Governance and the Protocol for Corporate Governance in the Public Sector (1997).

ACHIEVEMENTS ON ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

From 2009 to date, the Department through its implementing agent, RAL managed to construct about 21 bridges, upgrade to tar about 407 km of gravel roads and rehabilitated about 173 km of tarred roads.

In April 2014 the maintenance function of roads was integrated to RAL by the former Department of Roads and Transport, with nineteen running projects (construction phase) and thirty five projects in planning phase.

To date designs have been completed for thirty five projects. Twenty seven projects went out on tender and are currently under evaluation. It has to be noted that all these processes are planned for completion by the end of the financial year, carrying a total financial commitment of R 127 450 762.85 Million.

Three major paved roads rehabilitation were implemented in 2014/15 financial year. Two of the projects were multi-year projects which were completed in 2014/15 financial year. The other project started during the previous financial year (2013/14) and is planned for completion in May 2015. The total commitment amounts to R 860 198 183.56 Million.

During 2014/15 financial year RAL received funding, amounting to R 166 507 307.38 Million, for flood damaged structures.

Five projects were then designed and went out on tender. Of these, four were awarded and for the other project no suitable contractor was found. Our plan going forward is to have this project re-tendered.

Of the four projects awarded, three have been completed by the end of the previous financial year and the other project will be completed in September 2015.

Eleven multi-year upgrading projects, with a total value of R553 645 Million, were implemented in 2014/15 financial year. To date five of the projects have been completed and the rest will be continued in this financial year.

We implemented 33 maintenance projects to the value of R384 453 Million and reconstructed 3 flood damaged bridges to the total amount of R86 563 Million. This is the government of the people hard at work.

Honourable Speaker;

PLANS FOR 2015/16 FINANCIAL YEAR

A total allocation of R177 007 Million has been made available to address nine (10) "Bermuda" roads over the next three (3) years. The breakdown in terms of priorities is:

- Ga Malekane to Mampuru/Phasha/Tukakgomo to Malokela (D1392) in the Greater Tubatse Local Municipality of the Sekhukhune District.
- Matsakale to Altein to Shangoni Kruger National Park Gate (D4 and D3745) in Vhembe District Municipality.
- Rita/Tickeyline to Burgersdorp to Julesburg/Rhulani to Hoveni to Balloon to Sekororo (D3770, D3771, D2009, D3878, D3898) Mopani District Municipality.
- Makuya to Masisi (P277/1) in Mutale Local Municipality within Vhembe District Municipality.

Tenders for new projects have been advertised for the following roads which will start early in this financial year:

- Moletji (D3332) to Magodi (R521);
- Babangu to Ndlengeza to Noblehoek to Maphalle;
- And the reconstruction of two flood damaged bridges in Kga Ntata (D3213 and D3212), while the Giyani to Nkuri to Malonga and Bokisi (P99/1) to Mashamba to Tshitale to Morebeng (P54/1) are well in progress.

As we move with speed into action of changing the complexion of our roads for the better, we will procure 25 graders, 7 TLB Tractors and 2 Wheel Dozers to assist in the rebuilding of rain damaged roads and bridges. We will also explore the plant hire method to augment our current capacity in the blading and grading of our roads.

Madame Speaker and Honourable members;

As part of the routine road maintenance, we will implement 25 household projects as part of the general maintenance programme linked to 25 Local Municipalities to the total cost of R278 Million.

We will as well implement 12 low volume access road projects as part of improving access to public amenities such as schools, health and social facilities to value of R196 Million.

Honourable Speaker;

In our endeavour to seek private partnership, our engagements through RAL and Anglo American and other mining companies is at an advanced stage where we seek to consolidate resources for funding roads in the province.

We will also resuscitate the service level agreement with ABSA on contractor development programme aimed at supporting small and emerging contractors in Limpopo.

We are in the process of entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with Centre for Industrial and Scientific Research (CSIR) in a strategic partnership of ensuring transfer of skills, further research, development and innovation technologies, and systems for supporting infrastructure delivery. Our plan is to have this MOU signed this month.

Our commitment to road infrastructure development is cemented by a five year roads Master Plan which will be updated on an annual basis.

Madam Speaker and Honourable Members;

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS IN ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY

We will also explore strategic partnerships with private sector players such as mines, industries and agricultural sectors to speed up road infrastructure delivery in the Province.

This approach will include strategic partnerships with all state institutions, government departments (National and Provincial Departments) and financing institutions.

INTER PROVINCIAL ROADS NETWORKS

Honourable Madame Speaker, the Premier of Limpopo Province, Honourable Stanley Chupu Mathabatha last year during October 2014, signed the MOU with the Premier of North West Province, Honourable Supra Mahumapelo. The purpose of the MOU was to lay a framework for cooperation between the Limpopo Province and the North West province with regards to:

- The construction of the Mokgalwaneng road in Moses Kotane Local Municipality,
- The construction of Road D2720 from Limpopo Province border to North West Province border and
- The enlargement of the R510 road between Rustenburg and Thabazimbi, as well as Road D869 from Limpopo Province in Northam.

This MOU further seeks to promote good governance and development.

INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING

Within the framework of the law, we will engage development finance institutions to explore the use of our investment as a catalyst to infrastructure development in the province.

Madame Speaker;

On the occasion of the State of the Nation Address, President Jacob Zuma said that “National Department of Transport will spend about R9 Billion on the Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant or the **“Sihamba Sonke”**”

Programme and R11 Billion on upgrading and maintaining roads which are not tolled”.

To us as the provincial department responsible for roads, this is a welcome relief, and we will ensure that we raise our hand and be counted in this programme for the benefit of all road users in Limpopo.

The Province will benefit from the upgrade of the Moloto Road through the employment of local people and the development of skills for the local SMME's as well as the smooth flow of traffic between the two provinces and Gauteng. Moloto road overlaps into our province at both Elias Motswaledi and Ephraim Mogale Local Municipalities.

The Moloto road has been declared as a national road. The scope of work will include upgrading for which Limpopo's portions of Roads P207/1 and D1695 combined are approximately 60 km long.

We will ensure that we implement proper control measures to address routine maintenance activities within our Departmental Cost Centres. This will include but not limited to ensuring that we have term contractors in place for all routine maintenance related material.

Madame Speaker;

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES, TRADITIONAL OFFICES, LIBRARIES AND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES.

The Department as an infrastructure department is mandated with the delivery of provincial infrastructure. The department is also responsible for the construction of social infrastructure such as schools, functional

hospitals, primary health care facilities, offices, agricultural colleges, market stalls and libraries.

In 2014, the Department entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with both the Independent Development Trust (IDT) and the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA). The objective of these MOU's is to collaborate on and promote an effective and efficient delivery of infrastructure. These partnerships delivered positive results as the department delivered the following infrastructure projects on behalf of client departments in the 2014/15 Financial Year:

Completed the upgrading and maintenance of 17 libraries for Department of Sport Arts and Culture;

Completed the construction of Tzaneen and Giyani Market stalls for Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) Department;

Completed the construction of five (5) new schools and completed the upgrading of eight (08) existing schools for Department of Education.

We would like to extend our word of appreciation to our client departments for entrusting us with the responsibility to provide infrastructure that drives service delivery to new trajectory. We will continue to commit ourselves to improving relations with our stakeholders and also contribute towards the good performance of our client departments.

Madam Speaker;

Our plans for 2015/16 Financial Year are to implement 67 projects as follows:

Department of Sport, Arts and Culture

- Completion of 2 new libraries in Nzhelele and Phokwane villages and renovations on 13 others;

Department of Health

- Construction of 3 new EMS stations at Grace Magodini, Old Nkhensani and Masisi Clinics and new mortuary in Thabazimbi Hospital;
- Upgrading of 3 clinics at Tshikundamalema, Humulani and Nkomo B;
- Completion of work several projects at Letaba, old Nkhensani and Thabamooopo hospitals.

Department of Education

- Implementation of 39 school projects for Education where 38 will be upgrades and one renovation;

Madame Speaker;

The process of the implementation of the Infrastructure Strategic Planning Hub is well under way with the establishment of the Infrastructure Programme Support Office expected to be done by the beginning of May 2015. The selection process of 47 Phase 11 professionals is in progress and appointments are to be made before the end of May 2015. These appointments will increase the capacity of the Infrastructure Planning Directorate to service client departments effectively and efficiently fast track infrastructure delivery in the province.

Furthermore, the capacity of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to efficiently deliver projects will be enhanced by the arrival of the 13 Cuban Professionals as part of the Phase II of the Cuban Technical Assistance Programme. They will form part of the Infrastructure Strategic Planning Hub.

A task team comprising of the Heads of Department of our Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, the Hub Business Manager, Senior General Manager from the Provincial Treasury and other Senior Managers has been established to monitor progress on the implementation of the HUB.

Madame Speaker;

The Department embarked on the process of auditing space for office accommodation, and to date space audit has been completed on four buildings in Polokwane. This process will assist in determining the utilization of office space both in government owned and leased buildings and where possible, Departments will have to share the space. Subsequent to this, we are waiting additional manpower from the Professional Hub to finalise this process

Following the reconfiguration of the provincial departments, the Department moved with speed to accommodate the newly reconfigured Departments. All the provincial departments have been accommodated with the Department of Social Development sharing office space with Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

Cost benefit analysis has been done to make decisions on leased buildings that can be purchased by government and based on this, the department has appointed a service provider to conduct Lease Review on all leased buildings.

The National Department of Public Works has been granted a special dispensation by National Treasury to regularize and extend expired leases by not more than 3 years. This approval has been extended to Provinces including our province.

The National Department of Public Works will in this regard coordinate the process and report back to National Treasury. The Provincial Treasury has since been notified about these developments.

Madame Speaker;

The Department is busy putting new furniture at the Parliamentary Village and this project is envisaged to be completed by 2015/16 financial year. We have also completed with the refurbishment of the Education Block at the Lebowakgomo Government Complex.

Installation of lift at Namakgale government offices is on construction progress under the management of our implementing agent, the IDT and the project will be completed during this Financial Year.

The renovations of the Parliamentary village and the refurbishment of the Legislature block at Lebowakgomo Government Complex were committed in 2014/15 and will be rolled over to this (2015/16) financial year.

The construction work at the three Traditional Council Offices at Moletjie under Kgosi Moloto, Sekororo under Kgosi Sekororo and Roka Malepe is

almost complete. We are waiting for Eskom to connect the buildings with electricity, and then they will be handed over, possibly early in this financial year. The Kwa-Litho traditional council in Rapotokwane was completed in the previous financial year and was handed over in November 2014.

Government has committed itself to construct 12 more offices at Ga-Kibi; Ha-Kutama; Mukumbani; Sekgopo; Zebediela; Mokopane; Mafefe; Mukhoni; Ga- Mogashoa; Ga-Mampana and Nkuri villages. This will continue throughout the MTEF 2014-2019.

The construction of these offices will be done by our in-house teams stationed at district offices across the province, and will be supported by Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) beneficiaries who will be sourced from the communities. The in-house capacity approach has proven to be an effective cost saving strategy for the department.

The Department managed to provide outsourced security services at Giyani, Thohoyandou and Makwarela Government Complexes.

Future plan is to upgrade the electronic access control system at Parliamentary village, of which the contractor is appointed and already on site.

The department is responsible for the management of provincial land, and to date 778 immovable assets are vested in the name of the province. 1058 are at an advance stage of confirmation of vesting for the issuing of Item 28(1) Certificates by the Minister of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform.

760 state domestic facilities (SDF's) have been surveyed, and subjected to the registration process, while 1291 have already been commissioned for surveying by the Chief Surveyor General's office.

The Department is on course in the facilitation of the implementation of Government Immovable Asset Management Act (GIAMA). All thirteen (13) user departments have been able to submit their User Asset Management Plans (U-AMP) in 2014/15 for 2015/16 in line with the Treasury note. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure has compiled the Custodian Asset Management Plan (C-AMP), which resulted from the consolidation of the thirteen U-AMPs.

A total of 11 406 immovable assets used for execution of provincial functions have been captured in the minor immovable asset register referred to as the Database, out of which 3 460 immovable assets are registered in the name of the Province, and have completed fields meeting the Treasury minimum requirements. The 3 460 immovable assets constitute the major asset register accompanying the departmental Annual Financial Statement (AFS).

Madame Speaker;

Our plan is to complete the vesting process, and the surveying and registration of State Domestic Facilities during the 2015/16 and 2016/17 Financial Years respectively.

We also plan for 2015/16 Financial Year to ensure that all user departments are compliant towards both Government Immovable Asset Management Act (GIAMA) and the PFMA with regards to superfluous, newly purchased, and newly constructed buildings in the first quarter of

2015/16. We also plan to complete all outstanding transfer and swapping of immovable assets to and with municipalities in the 2015/16 Financial Year.

The Department plans to ensure that appropriate ad hoc structures are established within the province between the custodian and user departments on immovable assets, and between the custodian and its service providers for monitoring and evaluation of progress made at activity, project and programme levels.

OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE (e.g. WATER, WASTEWATER AND ELECTRICITY etc.)

Our province, like the rest of the country is faced with energy shortage, which is the result of poor planning by the previous regime, which never thought of the growing population and the surge in industrial growth.

As government we have a duty to ensure as the province, we make do with what we have by making sure that we adhere to the measures by Eskom. This includes amongst others government officials switching off all the lights and plugs when they leave office. At home we must all ensure that we do the same, boil as much water as we would like to use and switch off all the electrical appliances at certain times, including the geyser during the day.

Water is a scarce resource. We are faced with the shortage of water both for household and industrial use. Everyone must play their part to preserve this precious resource because indeed there is no substitute for water. Let us all do simple things that will go a long way in saving water, such as ensuring that there is no leakage on our taps and stop prioritizing watering our lawns. Every drop counts and it is upon everyone to preserve the little

we have as we work on the long term plan to deliver quality water infrastructure for the province.

In partnership with other state departments, agencies, South African Local Government Association (SALGA), private companies and non-governmental organizations, we will consolidate all infrastructure related initiatives implemented in the province to achieve efficiency and effectiveness. This will include infrastructure work funded and implemented by the Department of Science and Technology, Water and Sanitation, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Water Research Commission (WRC), mining companies, Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, Agricultural Research Council and other relevant institutions.

We plan to host Infrastructure Summit in the province where all role players and stakeholders in the infrastructure sector will gather under one roof to deliberate on strategies, options and also pave the way forward on what needs to be done to ensure seamless provision of quality infrastructure in Limpopo.

Madame Speaker and Honourable members;

EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is one of the government's short to medium term programmes aimed at alleviating and reducing unemployment. For the Department to achieve this aim, it provided for work opportunities coupled with training through the introduction of labour intensive construction methods. The Department reorientated its routine maintenance functions to involve the use of an

appropriate mix of community based labour, with preference for labour over machinery where technically and economically feasible utilizing female headed households, particularly poor and vulnerable families, youth, women and people with disabilities.

In the 2014/15 Financial Year, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure created 88 560 work opportunities in the province across all sectors, against the annual target of 115, 651 which represents 771% performance, and 38, 196 full time equivalents.

This programme will continue during the 2015/16 MTEF linked to each local municipality and appointing 600 beneficiaries per project, per local municipality. Our plan is to create 128 531 work opportunities in the province.

It is evident that the EPWP performance in the previous financial years was tangible proof that the Department is the leading contributor in the Province, and as such won several Kamoso Awards since the inception of the Programme.

We remain committed to implementing our plans through a high performance, disciplined and sustained approach. In this regard, we shall spare no effort, mindful of the fact that our people look up to us to realize their aspirations. This we will do through working together with our municipalities to ensure that they (municipalities) adhere to EPWP prescripts in the implementation of the projects. In this regard we have signed Protocol Agreements with all mayors to ensure the proper functioning of the EPWP District Forums.

Allow me Madam Speaker to congratulate the EPWP Chief Directorate on winning the Best Non State Sector Province for two consecutive years, and the Best Municipality (Polokwane), both in the National Kamoso Awards. The Chief Directorate also won the Platinum for EPWP Data Centre in the Best Support Category during the Premier Excellence Awards.

AS WE CONCLUDE

Honourable Madame Speaker, a word of appreciation goes to the Premier of Limpopo Province, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, my colleagues in the Provincial Executive Council, Honourable members of this august house for providing support, strength and advices during our first year in office.

Special accolades go to the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Honourable Snowy Kennedy Monyemoratho and the entire committee for their exemplary leadership, guidance and insight.

As we move forward we will ensure that indeed we “Do More With Less” without sacrificing the provision of services to the people.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the acting Head of Department, Ms. Kate Machaba, her executive management and the entire staff for their contribution towards this Budget Speech and for keeping the Department afloat.

We bow our heads in honour of men and women, heroes and heroines of our struggle, past and present who gave up their lives towards the attainment of freedom in South Africa. Their sacrifices paid off for today we

wake up in a constitutional democracy which is envy to the age old democracies of the world.

In our long standing effort to bring about social cohesion, united, democratic, non-racial, and non-sexist society, we shall always commit ourselves never to stray from the course of lifting humanity to greater trajectory.

The overall allocation for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for the 2015/16 Financial Year is R2 749 756 Billion, broken down as follows:

Programme 1: Administration R301 734 Million

Programme 2: Infrastructure Operations R647 601 Million

Programme 3: Expanded Public Works Programme R38 094 Million

Programme 4: Roads R1 762 327 billion.

I hereby table before this esteemed House the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure's Budget for appropriation.

Re a šoma

Ndi a Livhuwa

Inkomu

Re a Leboga

Baie Dankie

Thank you

Ndaa!