

**OPENING ADDRESS BY MEC AZWINNDINI DINGAAN
JEREMIAH NDOU, MPL, DURING THE DEPARTMENTAL
STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION HELD IN BELA BELA ON
THE 24TH TO 25TH JULY 2014.**

Thank you Program Director

Acting Head of Department, Walter Mothapo

General Managers and Senior Managers of the Department

Entire staff members

Ladies and gentlemen

Matsheloni, Avuxeni, Thobela, Good Morning

We gather here today at the first strategic planning session of the 2014/15 financial year and the MTSF 2014 – 2019 for the newly reconfigured Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

As we move into the second phase of our transition from apartheid to the creation of a new democratic society, which is characterised by the radical socio economic transformation, our people are looking at us with expectations of a better life. Let us all ensure that in everything that we do, we do it in their best interest.

In our engagement with our business of the next two days here, we must take into account the ruling ANC's manifesto that was crafted during the run up to the recently held peaceful elections. The manifesto lays the foundation of what is expected of us in the coming five years, and it is upon all of us here to ensure that it is implemented for the creation of a society that we envisage to build.

We must also be driven by the country's National Development Programme, which is aimed at creating a South Africa that is habitable to all her citizens. There are critical challenges identified in the NDP which amongst others states that:

- Too few people work;
- Infrastructure is poorly located, inadequate and undermaintained;
- Corruption levels are high;
- Public services are uneven and often of poor quality.

The National Development Plan must find residence in our department for we are strategically positioned to address these challenges. This we can achieve in this Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) through the implementation of the four sector outcomes of the NDP which are:

- Outcome 4: Decent employment through inclusive economic growth;
- Outcome 6: Efficient, competitive and responsive economic infrastructure network;
- Outcome 7: comprehensive rural development;
- Outcome 12: efficient, effective and development orientated public service.

As we move Limpopo forward, we must always reflect on the above outcomes for they give us the clear direction on which areas we need to focus on as we march forward with our infrastructure roll out plan.

We will be working with the national government through the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission to plan and coordinate the national infrastructure plan. Government is investing R827 Billion in building new and upgrading existing infrastructures. This investments will improve access by South Africans to healthcare facilities, schools, water, sanitation, electrification and housing.

On the other hand, investment in the construction and upgrading of ports, roads, railway systems, electricity plants and dams will contribute to faster economic growth.

All these interventions calls for a dedicated public servants who will ensure that they see the light of the day. As politicians we are here to provide leadership, but it is you who are the conveyer belt of all these programmes that government put in place.

The current Medium Term Strategic Framework 2014-2019 builds on the success of the past twenty years of democracy and is the first five year building block of the NDP. The basic thrust of MTSF is to improve the living conditions of all South Africans and to build a better Africa and a better world.

Our department is faced with the huge task of ensuring that the province's infrastructure matches the best there is in the developed world. It is through our department that Limpopo should make due contribution towards moving our beautiful country from the developing country to the developed one. It is through our department that Limpopo could take the lead in coordinating South Africa's strategic response to global economic trends. It is through the collective efforts of all of us here to work hard and make this province a better province and the province we can all be proud to call our home. It is upon every one of us, from those working in the district office, cost centres and those doing the real work of building our schools, traditional council

offices, roads, crèches, clinics, etc. to work with commitment and dedication for the beauty of our infrastructure. We can achieve this only if we take our jobs very serious and do it to the best of our abilities. We have to change the way we do things and align our performances with the demands of this fast changing world.

Our province has in the past made the headlines for all the wrong reasons, because of corruption that had found residence in this once proud province. Corruption has dented our image to an extent that when we are outside the province we are shameful to say that we are from Limpopo.

Sitting here we are the only who can return this province to its former glory. We must say enough is enough with corruption and give it the red card. Let us expose those who are hell bent in looting what is left of our coffers. As government our stance on corruption is clear, and that is we will show no mercy on anyone found with hands in government coffers.

My clarion call to you is that let us join hands and work for the betterment of the lives of the people of Limpopo. As the MEC I cannot do everything on my own, but will always be banking on your support to move Limpopo forward.

As government employees we must change the way we work, by showing commitment to our work so that the people we are

employed to serve are taken care of. There has to be a paradigm shift in the way we approach your work so that you assist government to achieve its goal of delivering a better life for all. It cannot be business as usual when there are some among our people who are still trapped in the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment while we who are given the responsibility to deliver fail in our duties.

Let us work together to move this department and the province of Limpopo forward. It is in our hands that the service delivery machinery moves with speed to turn the living conditions of the people of Limpopo around.

I wish you everything of the best in your commissions and encourage everyone to participate fully. Raise issues that you cannot raise with me in the office, and report back on them so that we can build on them and become a better department.

It is time that we have to move out of the negative audit opinions we have found ourselves in the past few years, and become the beacon of hope. We can achieve this if we commit ourselves to do our jobs diligently to the best of our being.

Thank you and let's move Limpopo forward