

**BUDGET SPEECH FOR DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS
AND INFRASTRUCTURE VOTE 09 DELIVERED BY MEC AZWINNDINI
JEREMIAH DINGAAN NDOU AT THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL
LEGISLATURE ON 12 APRIL 2016**

Madam Speaker

Deputy Speaker

Honourable Premier

Colleagues in the Executive Council

Members of the Provincial Legislature

Executive Mayors, Mayors, Councilors

Members of the House of Traditional leaders

Leadership of the ANC and of Alliance Partners

Veterans of our Liberation Movement

Leadership of Opposition Parties

Director General

Heads of Departments

Invited guests

Members of the media

Ladies and gentlemen

Thobela

Good day;

Ndimatsheloni;

Avuxeni;

Goeie dag

One of the greatest philosophers of history Karl Marx once said:

“... if we have chosen the position in life in which we can most of all work for mankind, no burdens can bow us down, because they are sacrifices for the benefit of all; then we shall experience no petty, limited, selfish joy, but our happiness will belong to millions, our deeds will live on quietly but perpetually at work, and over our ashes will be shed the hot tears of noble people.”

This quote is befitting as we mark the 22nd year since the democratic breakthrough on 27th April 1994. We all know that freedom did not come free like mana from Heaven. Many have consciously sacrificed their lives for the freedom and the future of this country. That is why it is important at this current conjuncture, seated here today, that we understand and acknowledge history as we move on into the future together guided by the norms and values of a united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa. These are the principles enshrined in our constitution and they remain the guiding tools to a prosperous South Africa.

We are presenting on the Freedom Month, on this testing time of our lives as we remember the son of the soil who perished through the barrel of an apartheid gun that tried hard, on the eve of a democratic breakthrough of 1994, to derail a progressive course for Freedom in this country. We are talking of the sun that set before dawn, the life a Chris Hani, whose life embodied the struggle for freedom and democracy for this country. We remember him and believe those who assassinated him can, on his 23rd Anniversary since his assassination, from the bottom of their hearts show remorse and reveal all to help the family to have closure.

Who are we, honorable members that on this day, within the Freedom Month, forget the man whose blood is nourishing the tree that bears the fruits of freedom and democracy? Who are we to ignore Solomon Mahlangu on this important calendar day? Our freedom did not come free and it is upon ourselves to remind and educate our children and instill the sense of patriotism and work hard for the protection of a constitutional democracy that defines the South African political and social landscape.

It is indeed, within this 22nd year Anniversary that we will mark Freedom Day with the remembrance of the life of Chris Hani, Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu, Elias Motsoaledi, Nelson Diale, Nelson Mandela and many more of our freedom fighters for social order beneficial to all South Africans in general, and blacks in particular. These gallant heroes and heroines of our struggle for emancipation from colonialism and apartheid, emerged to be amongst the giants that strode our globe like colossus in pursued of a

better life for all. The giants who became architects for the soul of a democratic South Africa. They indeed became the umbilical cord that cannot be broken in the advancement of a democratic dispensation. We say in unison that the fighting spirit of these heroes and heroines did not die, as is manifested in the efforts of the new generation of cadres of our struggle in making sure South Africa remains an integral part in the fight against wars, poverty, unemployment and their concomitant social maladies such as diseases and crime in the continent and world at large.

Whilst we mark the 22nd year of freedom, with growth and prosperity being firmly entrenched within our policies and programmes, we witnessed the worst start of the year for financial markets – mostly down to China's growth slowdown. The International Monetary Fund forecasted that the global economy will grow modestly in 2016, noting the following four risks; The triple transition of Chinese economy (*moving from industry to service, export to domestic market and investment to consumption*), Commodity prices trending lower in the past year, a synchronous monetary policies and lastly the flow of capital from low-income economies to advanced ones. As the Nation we are encouraged by the establishment of the BRICS Development Bank in Shanghai as indicative of changing relations in the international economic and governance order. We also welcome the establishment of the Regional Centre of the BRICS Development Bank in Johannesburg, which is going to be an instrument for financing development on the African continent.

Honourable members we are noting with concern the developments in terms of the attacks against the BRICS family in general and the Republic of South Africa in particular, and we are refusing to acknowledge this as mere coincidences in the global political economic order, but we perceive this as a deliberate effort to perpetuate economic dependency of our country on other markets. How therefore, do we explain the continuous amplified accusations and actions happening against Brazil, Russia and South Africa? All these countries beside being members of BRICS, were allocated slots as hosts of Fifa World Cup tournaments, with South Africa and Brazil having hosted the tournament in 2010 and 2014 respectively, and Russia in 2018. There is a dictum attributed to both Lenin and Joseph Goebbels that 'a lie told often enough becomes the truth'. Our economic development and governance path should and would not be derailed.

Honorable Members, perhaps it is also befitting, within this 22 years of democracy, that we note and welcome the Cuba/US global stand and acknowledge, even though, that we are still awaiting the lifting of the US/Cuba trade embargo which requires the US congressional approval for its rescinding, the role of the African National Congress *Isithwalandwe/Seaparankwe*, Nelson Mandela's death that was able to inject its magic to the age-old impasse that sees the gates of Guantanamo Bay opening. This embargo has been in force since 1960 and it had come at a terrible cost to the Cuban people, and caused untold misery and hardship for millions. The uplifting of the economic blockade is of paramount importance towards enhancing the Cuban economic development and wellbeing.

The Cubans played a critical role in the advancement of our people's struggle for liberation, and continue to contribute immensely towards our social and economic development after 1994, particularly in infrastructure development by sending their engineers to South Africa. This gesture contributes and finds expression in the Provincial Growth and Development Strategies as outlined in the Limpopo Development Plan and the Mid-Term Strategic Framework thus ensuring that we have an efficient, competitive and responsive economic infrastructure network, decent employment through inclusive economic growth, skilled and capable workforce; and contributing to a better world through a better South Africa amongst other strategic pillars.

We are presenting this budget today, in line with the budget statement of being creative and innovative in approach in our mandate for a provincial infrastructural development and property and land development and management needs, thus creating confidence in the economy by placing the National Development Plan Vision 2030 on a credible, sustainable and viable inclusive economic growth path.

This current challenge requires us to work differently, to be innovative in the way we discharge our mandate of delivering social and economic infrastructure including Job creation. That is why it is important that BRICS family focus their energies in ensuring their programmes become a success. The Limpopo government will finalize the Industrialization

Strategy which is one of the key instruments for the province to prosper, and which in line with the National Development Plan, will assist us in injecting some dose of the future. It therefore encourages as the department to think out-side the box and come up with creative and innovative ways and means of ensuring that our people are able to utilize all that is on offer, especially in making sure that BRICS family is able to develop themselves without relying on other capitalist markets.

In his State of the Province Address 2016, Premier Chupu Mathabatha said:

“... in view of the current era of Knowledge Economy, our government will commit more resources towards skills development and job creation. More emphasis will be on technology, integration of digital systems and zero wastage in line with this much-talked about fourth industrial revolution”

With these in mind, we have as the department started to creatively investigate how best we can utilize the unused state-owned facilities like warehouses for private business usage. This will not only assist us with the job creation at local level, but will also assist in revenue collection for the department and government as a whole. The success of our inventions, innovations and creativity will have a positive spin-off economically and will strategically position us as a force to be reckoned with in the global markets. We are encouraged and welcome all those locally-based economic development structures that have approached the department

with business plans on how to utilize these un-used state facilities for social and economic upliftment of our people. Our response for this is in line with the view to expand the productive capacity of our local economy, and more importantly, position the economy along a sustainable growth path.

Madame Speaker

Last year we came to this August house to present and inform policy and propose prospects for governance in the Provincial administration on the mandate entrusted to reconfigure the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure with improvements or change in portfolio, programmes design would enhance the impact of a Public Works, Roads and Expanded Public Works Programme coordination.

We presented to this August house, how we will translate policy and our pre-determined objectives into programmes of action that will create value added offerings to residents in order to create their value.

The primary objective was to use Multi level techniques, inputs, processes, analytical tools and robust policy instruments to control contextual factors to reach and achieve our purpose, which we collectively agreed is the end or result of that intent.

We modelled our intent around objectives and purpose of freedom as we celebrated the 51st anniversary of the Freedom Charter and the 21st anniversary of our Freedom year as the journey to achieve full political emancipation and economic empowerment continues.

We considered a number of indicator based approaches towards goal realization.

Honourable Members, We conducted scenario analysis through various projects and different ways to deal with and unlock the log jam of providing an enabling environment for the delivery of social and economic infrastructure in tandem to the MTSF and outcomes assigned to us.

We grappled with a context that has increasingly become technical and complex in the quest to link how the different pieces of the machinery of government fit, struggled to create a strategic and perfect fit of Public Works, Roads, and EPWP fit to the overall governance. There were both subjective and objective factors that characterized our journey in the year under review. As a consequence we have begun, as reasonable, to conclude that the turbulence the Department found it in, is being overcome as an activity and we are on a path for renewal.

We indicated that the spirit that would characterize us as outlined in our APP is still that of providing character leadership over services we offer. Let me come nearer home and give a brief account on what we did in terms of our pre-determined objectives for 2015/16 and concomitant budgetary allocations.

2015/16 Financial Year results are;

Expenditure Management

97% spent on the budget, which is 7% more than what was spent in the 2014/15 financial year. There were both subjective and objective factors that characterized our journey during the financial year and reasons will be provided in detail in the Annual report that is currently being prepared for the House.

Roads Infrastructure Delivery

The department is fully aware of the importance of roads infrastructure in the province. Everyday community members, individuals and formalized groups visit the office demanding black-top roads in their areas. These are genuine needs and at this point it is important to highlight the roads infrastructure backlog and the infrastructure budget constraints due to the economic environment the country finds itself in.

With the allocated budget the department through Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) was able to fund certain projects committed to, in order to facilitate easy movement between villages, communities and the economic centres.

Last year we committed we will deliver the so-called Bermuda roads. Department committed to complete nine (09) Bermuda roads over the 3 years. During the first year of this initiative, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL)

commenced with projects on roads D4; D3745. Work is at 25- percent (25%) completion stage on these roads which comprises of the road from Matsakale to Altein to Shangoni Kruger National Park Gate, in the Vhembe District Municipality. Work started on August 2015 and currently the road bed preparation is above 80-percent.

On the D1392 work commenced in July 2015 and currently work is at 12% due to the delays caused by protests in the area. The Mutale Municipality project is on track. The P277/1 road from Masisi to Makuya work is at 8% having started the project in October 2015. Currently the excavation on the bridge is complete.

Today we can report that work is to commence on projects listed hereunder:

- Mmotwaneng/ Lekgolaneng to Mohlalotoane to Moeding to Seriting to Ramokgwerane in Elias Motsoaledi Municipality.
- Apel to Mabuela in Fetakgomo Municipality
- Marobeng to Molemole /Letaba
- Marken to Segole to Gilead
- Settlers to Witlaagte in Bela Bela Municipality.

Our work is to ensure that we get quality and whenever a decision to terminate contracts in the early stages of implementation of projects, we are set to ensure that the people get quality products.

We urge communities to be patient and know that black-top surfaced roads will eventually reach their respective areas, just not at the same time. We commit to ensure that roads are maintained and re-gravelled regularly to ease travelling complications caused by bad roads as a result of high volume usage and adverse weather conditions over the years.

To this end, procurement processes have been completed to acquire plant and equipment for roads maintenance.

Public Private Partnership on Roads Infrastructure:

Madame Speaker

The Department has embarked on establishing partnerships with various private entities in the construction of the road network in the province. We have explored several creative and innovative solutions to upgrade and rehabilitate roads as an initiative to improve delivery. The initiative includes collaboration between the Provincial Administration and EXXARO Coal (Pty) Ltd to upgrade portions of the extend of 47.6km of roads D3012, D3114 and D3109 in Lephalale Municipality in the Waterberg District which is located in the Lephalale Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

We have also signed an agreement with Platinum Mines (Anglo American Platinum) to upgrade 20km of road D4180 in the Tubatse Municipality, Sekhukhune District, which is located within the Tubatse Special Economic Zone. RAL has managed to raise Two-hundred and four million Rands (R204m) from the private sector partners in co-funding roads that are

aligned to SEZ. This initiative was explored as part of the road infrastructure strategic partnership programme established in 2014.

Social Infrastructure Delivery

As per mandate the department delivered social infrastructure in order to ensure client departments offer services to the people through functional infrastructure. In 2015/16 support from implementing agents, the department delivered Infrastructure projects for Education; Health, Sport, Arts and Culture portfolios.

We are pleased to report to the house that 100 - percent completion was achieved on eleven (11) projects and the remaining projects are at 75% completion stage.

For the Education Portfolio, learners in eight (8) schools are currently learning in a school where upgrading works have been completed. Other thirty-one (31) projects are at 68-percent completion stage.

For the Department of Sport Arts and Culture, the new library in Nzhelele is complete and the contractor is currently working on the snag list at Phokwane Library.

The Department completed three (3) traditional council offices of Roka-Malepe in Sekhukhune District which was handed over on 18 December 2015; Offices of Moletjie in Capricorn District and Sekororo in Mopani District are to be handed over this year. Eleven (11) more traditional council offices are at an average 52%.

Madame Speaker,

Since our country and the Province experience the problem of young people experimenting with illegal substance abuse and adults struggling from excessive substance abuse, we are pleased to announce in support of the department of Health that a substance abuse ward at Thabamooopo Hospital has been completed. The department also completed construction of Masisi Emergency Medical Services and work continues at Grace Mugodeni Emergency Medical Services and the Emergency Medical Services at old Nkhensani Hospital, including progress in the construction of a new mortuary at Thabazimbi. The Department will complete the construction of Tshikundamalema Clinic, Humulani clinic and Nkomo B Clinic.

The enactment of the Infrastructure Strategic Planning Hub (ISPH) assisted in getting several projects to be at the level they are. The Hub was established to deal with the challenges of slow infrastructure delivery in the province and it is performing as planned.

There are currently sixty-two (62) professionals working under the framework of the Hub which has been allocated Eighty-Million Rands (R80-million) for its operations in the 2016/17 financial year to ensure proper sound infrastructure development planning and delivery.

The Infrastructure Strategic Planning Hub is made of two distinct components; Contract management and technical professionals. These

distinct components are comprised of qualified, registered and relevantly skilled build environment professionals.

While we have added capacity to deliver infrastructure projects, we have also put in place PROMAN, an online system that assist the Department to improve records management of infrastructure projects; Correctness and accuracy of reporting; uploading, retrieval and storage is made easy as well as communicating project information.

All project managers are registered on the system and upload all their work including minutes from site meetings. We believe, this system will assist the department with achieving clean Audit requirements on infrastructure delivery.

The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure has indeed been able to support the realization of the priorities of government through the provision of social infrastructure on behalf of Client Departments. In addition to the projects we able to implement, there are additional projects being implemented as part of the transformation agenda of the department. The transformation projects underway are the following, but not limited to; Clearing Debt Owed to municipalities, Presidential Infrastructure Coordination Commission (PICC), The Maintenance plan and strategy for state building, Condition Assessment (GIANMA 2007), Immovable Asset Register (IAR), Sector clean Audit strategy, Lease review and Real Estate management and The Yellow Fleet Management.

PROPERTIES AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Madame Speaker,

In line with the mandate to manage the immovable property and infrastructure assets of the province, the department through its properties and facilities chief directorate commenced with the space audit in government offices, in a surge to maximally utilize the available space by having departments sharing. The move is to ensure cost containment and optimization of office space.

It is important to note that prior to the exercise a cost benefit analysis was conducted, which will inform procurement of government buildings. The intention is to move to a point where government own its own buildings and do away with long term leases.

The Province is closer today than before, in knowing its immovable assets. The asset register update is at 99-percent, to date 1209 provincial immovable assets were recorded in the register in line with GIAMA minimum requirements and 107 applications have been submitted for vesting in the name of the province.

The Department will continue with the vesting process, surveying and registration of land during this financial year.

The Department has transferred three (3) R293 towns to municipalities and Mayors will be receiving their title deeds of additional towns as a sign of ownership transfer. There are twelve (12) title deeds to be handed over to

Vhembe District; three (3) to Capricorn District; nine (9) in Mopani District and six (6) to Waterberg District.

Green Building Initiative

Energy saving in our buildings has been part and parcel of our advocacy with other government building users as key strategic matter located in the transformation agenda of the Department. Strides made in the energy saving initiative and as the landlord of the province, we will be piloting energy and water saving mechanisms in buildings under the green building initiative led by the National Department of Public Works.

In 2015/16 financial year, the Department embarked on an energy saving exercise by installing solar geysers and energy efficient lights at the Parliamentary village, Provincial Legislature and the Department of Safety, Security and Liaison. These are the buildings used for piloting the project. In 2016/17 Financial year, the Department further intends to appoint shared Energy saving contractors to implement energy saving measures in line with the approved business plans.

Madame Speaker,

We cannot only talk energy saving without talking about using water efficiently as this is also a problem the country is faced with and government should lead by example.

The Department is committed to implementing strategies to achieve a reduction in the use of water in the operation of the Department's buildings and in construction activities. The green Building Policy is being distributed

to all government users and wider society as part of this campaign and effort.

Attainment of the Department's water reduction targets will be achieved through the implementation of shared water saving contracts; development and implementation of water performance Certificates for buildings; implementation of Green building norms and standards for the design of new buildings and the operation of existing buildings and implementation of water management plans. Several projects have commenced.

Furthermore there is an intention to strategize around waste management and ensure that there is recycling of waste in tonnes for the building portfolio.

The Department has identified seven (7) more buildings to pilot the green building initiative, and they are:

- Giyani Government Complex offices
- Thohoyandou Government Complex offices
- Department of Health – Head office
- Waterberg District Public Works offices
- Ladanna offices
- Premiers office- Mowaneng building
- Capricorn District offices

We believe that this intervention will bring about a positive culture change in the way we use our water and our energy. At this juncture we call upon citizens of Limpopo to join us in saving our natural resources.

Cleanliness of government buildings:

In keeping up with the drive for aesthetics of the property portfolio, a cleanliness drive at government buildings is being pursued and strategies will be shared with all government users and wider society.

EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

One of the Departments responsibility is to ensure that the Department coordinates the creation of work opportunities through the Expanded Public Works Programme. The Phase 3 of the EPWP was launched in September 2015 and with it 1331 number of projects are being implemented and to date coordinated the creation of 49 377 work opportunities.

SKILLS AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Madame Speaker and Honourable Members, the Department is committed to supporting emerging contractors and ensure that they also get to a level where they are able to handle massive infrastructure projects and deliver quality, within time and cost.

In partnership with the National Department of Public works; CIDB; Construction CETA, and Nedbank, the Department is driving the Limpopo Contractor Development Programme (LCDP) targeting grade 2 to grade 5 contractors. There are twenty (20) learner contractors in grade 2 and 3 and twenty (20) learner supervisors in the same grades who are currently

receiving training. In the grades 4 to 5 there are fifteen (15) contractors in training.

The Department allocated the first project to 35 learner contractors enrolled on this programme. Each contractor was given the construction of sidewalks for the practical training in line with the requirement of the programme.

In order to sustain this program during the 2016/2017 financial year, the Department is planning for projects for further practical experience, within fiscal constraints and monetary consideration.

Furthermore the Department partnered with Stefanutti Stocks, the partnership successfully trained and developed ten (10) CIDB grade 6 & 7 contractors who are based in Limpopo in order to empower local contractors to undertake big contracts.

This partnership clearly shows what can be achieved when government and the private sector come together with a common purpose to develop the industry.

The MOU also covered collaboration on Artisan Development Programme. The Department has an MOU with Construction CETA to develop over 300 Artisans over 3 years.

The challenge of the Department was to find suitable placements for the learner artisans in order for them to gain practical experience. Stefanutti Stocks has further placed 5 building construction interns at Kusile Power Station from July 2015 on a 12 months programme.

The practical experience that Stefanutti Stocks is providing learner artisans will enable them to sit for their trade tests once they have completed practical training.

Madame Speaker,

With regards to the partnership with WBHO we were able to assist officials to register with the different build environment councils to ensure that all our technical officials are registered as professionals with professional bodies within the Built Environment Councils. We are happy to announce that twenty nine (29) officials submitted their application to the South African Council for Project and Construction Management professions (SACPCMP) and the council is busy reviewing the applications on the road to registration programme.

PRONOUNCEMENTS FOR 2016/17 FINANCIAL YEAR

Madame Speaker

Honourable members

Allow me to present to this August house and the people of Limpopo Departmental plans for 2016/17 financial year.

The Department has been allocated R2.9 billion to deliver on its mandate of implementing Provincial Capital Works infrastructure, Roads Infrastructure; Provincial Property and Facilities Management, Expanded Public Works Programme and overall administration of departmental affairs.

The baseline allocation for 2016/17 has been reduced by R94, 8 million. The Department implemented the Provincial Treasury's directive on budget reduction by reducing program 1 by R6 million on the ICT business plan. Program 2 was reduced by R15 million, on the infrastructure allocation. Program 4 was reduced by R74 million which was on the RAL equitable share allocation. A further R31 Million was cut on instruction of Provincial Treasury to effect efficiencies on Provincial Votes.

ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE

Madame Speaker

Whilst we acknowledge a huge backlog in maintenance of roads infrastructure and the allocation cuts on the budget, the department will work not only on new infrastructure, but also on both preventative and routine maintenance.

The Department takes its responsibility to facilitate transportation very seriously. In 2016/17 by enhancing maintenance programme to heed the call to focus on maintenance and not only on new road infrastructure.

Through RAL, seventy-three (73) kilometres of gravel roads will be upgraded to surfaced roads and furthermore twenty (20) kilometres of gravel access roads will be upgraded to surface roads. A hundred and seventy-five (175) kilometers of surfaced roads will be rehabilitated and a hundred (100) kilometre of gravel roads be regavelled including resealing of four hundred and forty-four thousand five hundred meters squared (444, 500m²) of surfaced roads.

The Department will also ensure that this financial year at least 75-thousand square metres of blacktop patching including pothole repairs is done.

The programme will create nine thousand eight –hundred work opportunities through implementing twenty-five (25) house hold based projects, contributing towards the achievement of the provincial target of job creation coordinated through the EPWP.

As budgets become scarce to fund new roads construction and maintenance of existing network, we will engage with Treasury to explore how we address the problem, go to communities to and engage with them this matter, continue the partnership on co-funding with big business in the initiative we reported, streamline operations of the roads function and of RAL. We will also look at improving communication with stakeholders and communities on road matters, thus informing them of the operational plans, progress, challenges and their input on how best we can deal with this matter in the face of declining budget allocations. We will further look at the RAL Act for possible review to see how we can improve on management of the function into the future.

A total of R1.7 billion has been allocated for roads infrastructure function.

Madame Speaker

Roads Agency of Limpopo allocation declines by 11.9% or R100 million in 2016/17 and across the MTEF based on Provincial Treasury performance baseline reduction in 2016/17 Financial Year, it will receive R737 million.

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Construction Management Programme will implement projects in the Health and Education Portfolios during the 2016/17 financial year.

There are 17 projects in the Health portfolio of multi- year projects that will be implemented in the 2016/17 financial year. Construction works will continue in four projects at the Letaba hospital and continuation of one in Thabamopo Hospital and Maphutha Malatjie Hospital. An IPMP is being revised by the Department of Health which will see the portfolio of the Department of Health increase, this will be submitted to Provincial Treasury for ratification.

Construction works will also be completed in seven (7) clinics. Upgrading works in two (2) clinics of Tshikundamalema and Humulani is currently on.

In the Education Portfolio, seven (7) projects will be implemented. The Department will upgrade six (6) schools and renovate one (1). The six projects are: Lemana College; Mathews Phosa Secondary School; Moleketla Primary School; Driekop Secondary School; Lesailane Secondary School and Mphari School. The green building concept will be implemented in the construction and upgrading of these projects. The Construction programme will further oversee creation of jobs in the implementation of these projects and further support the Contractor and Artisan Development programmes.

We will vigorously engage with client Departments to all planning, consultations and advise to them on how best to deploy resources in line

with the spatial development framework and national policy and improvement plans on social infrastructure delivery.

PROPERTIES AND FACILITIES

The 2016/17 financial year, it is a year of focusing energies and innovative ideas in the management of government Properties and Facilities. This programme is central to the implementation of the build environment transformation projects that have been identified as well as in obtaining a clean audit in line with the Clean Audit Strategy of the sector.

This financial year the programme will continue with implementing the Green Building Policy and Projects, maintenance of State buildings and develop a comprehensive maintenance strategy, updating the Immoveable Asset Register, Review Leases of government buildings and ensuring compliance to the GIAMA in its day to day operations, do condition assessment, facilitate disposal of State redundant properties and management of the non-core assets.

We will be championing the Provincial Chapter of leading comprehension of the Expropriation Bill as part of our MINMEC transformation programmes on land matters. We will further look at ways of releasing land for other development objectives in line with legislation.

I would like to emphasise the centrality of government building maintenance that it hinges on continuity of government service delivery. I will be submitting to the Executive Council, a proposal that all major maintenance of government buildings be done centrally with a dedicated a budget this will translate into full implementation of GIAMA.

The Department is in the process to revamp management of the legislature portfolio for both offices and the Parliamentary Village, that they be managed correctly as National key points.

Through our Property Portfolio we will lead the project of consolidated government offices in Polokwane in which we will also look at ways to relocate the legislature from Lepelle-Nkumpi to Polokwane. The Department will do this in liaison with the Legislature and the Provincial Treasury who will indicate availability of budget.

The Department will ensure that User Asset Management Plans and Custodian Asset Management Plan are compiled and submitted to Provincial Treasury on time. The Department will make land available for economic development in liaison with LEDET.

Renovations will continue at all three government complexes, Giyani, Thohoyandou and Lebowakgomo.

The overall infrastructure Programme, which consists of Planning; construction Management and Properties and Facilities Management has been allocated Seven-hundred and Sixty million Rands (R760 Million).

Infrastructure Strategic Planning Hub:

Madame Speaker

The Department will institutionalize the Infrastructure Strategic Planning Hub (ISPH) in order to improve and ensure better planning and

management of infrastructure projects in the province and also assist municipalities and SOE's.

The ISPH will form an integral part of the plan, design Construction and property Management output.

The component has been allocated R80- million which will be made available by Treasury over the MTEF. It will execute mandates given on the Limpopo Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan once Treasury makes funds available for all infrastructure plans as pronounced by the Provincial Administration on new infrastructure buildings and entire provincial Build Heritage projects in line with the Limpopo Development Plan.

EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

Madame Speaker

We will as part of the Expanded Public Works Programme, which as a government of Limpopo, have committed within this electoral cycle to create seven hundred and Twenty-three thousand four hundred and ninety-eight (723 498) work opportunities.

A strategy to enhance EPWP phase 3 for the period 2014/15 to 2018/19 is in place. This financial year, 158 638 thousand work opportunities to be created through the projects implemented by municipalities and Departments.

These are the targets for the Phase 3 as launched in 2015 at the Tompi Seleka Agricultural College by the Premier.

Four- hundred (400) young people will be enrolled on a build environment learnership as part of the National Youth Service. These projects will translate into R925 million being injected into local communities as paid wages to workers to boost local economic development.

We recognize the challenges the programme has experienced in creating the work opportunities and reporting on time that the Province will host an EPWP summit were implementing agents will be expected to have frank discussions on the underlying problems and possible solutions in order for the provincial performance to improve.

To mitigate the problems already identified, four (4) municipalities have recruited additional data capturers to ensure that the data uploaded on to the EPWP reporting system is credible. An improved system is in place to validate data submitted by the Department and Municipalities to ensure that work opportunities are not excluded as non-compliant to EPWP. We will continue to engage with Executive Mayors of Districts to ensure that the EPWP Forums are functional. An EPWP Provincial workshop is planned in consultation with Office of the Premier during the first quarter of 2016/17, to work out strategies to improve delivery of the Provincial Chapter. Details will be communicated in due course.

CONCLUSION

Madame Speaker and honourable members, this is the year in which the Department is refreshing its brand and return back to its purpose as the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, mandated to deliver

and manage provincial infrastructure as an agile arm of delivery for the administration.

We believe this is possible because the culture of platinum awards is not new to the Department. The Department started with the prestigious Impumelelo Platinum Award in 2003 and other Golden awards of excellence. Refreshing the Brand initiative has started and we are pleased to have been recognized at the recent 2016 Premiers Excellence Awards for the innovative and excellent work done by the Departmental Finance team in improving rental collection and increasing provincial revenue. The team won Gold award in the best support team category for the “*Operation Hakela*” strategy employed in rental collection.

We are proud to mention that the Department was again recognized for excellent work done by the Sekhukhune Re-gravelling team, which scooped the Platinum Award in the Best Delivery team category during the same Premiers Excellence Awards. 2016, we glad to announce that road to recovery had begun and that that Provincial Departments should support our recovery plan and encourage our renewal as we are also in the process of finalizing and implementation of a new organizational framework.

The awards madam speaker are confirmation of our purpose and we believe this is just the beginning of a journey to our predetermined objectives.

The Department has been re-structured for value. There are two Sub-Committees in place which are for Governance and for Infrastructure delivery which report to the Executive Management. This is an attempt to

come with a persuasive arrest to deal with poor performance, non-compliance to laws, fraud and corruption, maladministration and inept in the delivery of the mandate.

These committees serve as internal controls mechanism and tools for day to day operations of infrastructure delivery, corporate governance and compliance.

These are just some of the innovations we alluded to earlier and they are starting to bear results.

Madame Speaker

Allow me to thank the Executive Management and Staff of the department for the role they continue to play in ensuring that the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure remains a Department of choice for government infrastructure implementation and management.

Again we salute and pay special tribute to the courageous oversight leadership from both the former and current Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Honourable Snowy Kennedy-Monyemoratho and Honourable Alfred Phala respectively and Members of the Provincial Legislature. Your resilience and dedication to your work motivated us to work harder and further thank the Audit Committee for the sterling work done on oversight and interface.

Above all these, note and acknowledge that we are raising the bar under this administration, therefore thank Premier Chupu Mathabatha and the

colleagues in the Provincial Executive Council for the continued support in making sure we work hard for the people of this province, for making sure the province is a heave of infrastructural activity for a broader development agenda.

I hereby table to this Esteemed House the Department of Public Works Roads and Infrastructure Budget for appropriation as contained below as follows:

| PROGRAMME | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 |
|--|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Administration | 325 954 | 365 735 | 386 947 |
| Infrastructure Operations | 760 068 | 791 131 | 817 017 |
| Expanded Public Works Programme | 39 230 | 36 399 | 38 510 |
| Roads Infrastructure | 1 776 119 | 1 805 950 | 1 915 133 |
| TOTAL | 2 902 371 | 2 999 215 | 3 157 607 |

I thank you.

Nnda

Hon. AJD NDOU (MPL)

MEC PUBLIC WORKS ROAD AND INFRASTRUCTURE