



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS & INFRASTRUCTURE

BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE (VOTE 09), DELIVERED BY MEC ERNEST SEBATAOLO RACHOENE AT THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

12 MAY 2026

Honourable Speaker, Dr. Makoma Makhurupetje;
Honourable Premier, Dr. Phophi Ramathuba;
Honourable Deputy Speaker, Mme. Tebogo Mbokodo Mamorobela;
Provincial Secretary of the African National Congress, the Governing Party, Vhamusanda Rueben Madazhe;
Colleagues in the Executive Council;
Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Honourable Essob Mokgonyana, and
All members of the Provincial Legislature;
Distinguished Guests and the People of Limpopo.
Ke re kgotsong.

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When devastating floods swept across parts of our province during the previous financial year, they did not only damage roads and bridges. They disrupted livelihoods, isolated communities, interrupted economic activity, and reminded us of the critical role infrastructure plays in the daily lives of our people. In many villages and towns, access to schools, clinics, workplaces, and places of economic activity became difficult. Yet amid these challenges, the resilience of the people of Limpopo stood firm.

Today, as we table the 2026/2027 Budget Vote for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, we do so with a clear mandate: to rebuild, restore, maintain, and modernise the infrastructure network of our province.

This budget is a commitment to stronger roads infrastructure, improved maintenance systems, enhanced technical capacity, and infrastructure delivery that supports economic development and social progress.

We must appreciate the swift response by the Provincial Government under the stewardship of the Honourable Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba, whom I believe deserves a round of applause. The Honourable Premier reached out and appealed for assistance, and President Cyril Ramaphosa responded to the call by cancelling his busy schedule to visit the Vhembe and Mopani Districts in support of the victims of the disaster.

This action by our leaders is a clear demonstration that the ANC cares deeply about its people, unlike others who only visit communities for electioneering purposes. We say to Honourable Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba, continue working tirelessly in the service of the people of Limpopo.



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Honourable Speaker

The provincial government ensured that it responds promptly by allocating R4.2 billion toward roads infrastructure for the 2026/27 financial year as pronounced by the Treasury MEC Ntate Kgabo Mahoi.

MEC Mahoi has further pronounced that the fiscal allocation includes a once-off conditional grant of R803.940 million from the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC) and the National Department of Transport.

This is in addition to an amount of R500 million allocated through the reprioritization of the budget in March 2026 to deal with flood damaged roads. It is important to note that there are still backlogs in terms of rebuilding infrastructure that was damaged by the previous floods.

The province has further made budget available for the procurement and maintenance of yellow fleet and further allocated funding for upgrades of new roads from gravel to tar, which I will go into details.

Honourable Speaker,

Despite the formidable challenges of the preceding year, our mission to reconnect communities with economic opportunities remains undeterred. Through the #DikgerekgereWednesdays Service Delivery Acceleration Programme, the Household Maintenance Programme, and the technical expertise of Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), we have achieved critical milestones.

Our post-flood recovery efforts have resulted in the patching of 386,798m² of potholes, the re-gravelling of 218km, and the blading of 70,572km of the provincial network. These achievements were driven by our #DikgerekgereWednesday Service Delivery Acceleration Programme initiative, utilizing the yellow fleet procured from 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years respectively. This is where we demonstrated internal capacity.





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The Household contractors were also on the ground as seen through the successful rehabilitation of the Tarentaal and Bindzulani-Nkowankowa road in Tzaneen, Mopani District. With an allocation of R348 million for the current financial year, 22 contractors appointed through the household programme have been deployed across local municipalities to intensify roads infrastructure maintenance in high-priority regions.

We have appointed the Household contractors to maintain road R25 in Moutse in Sekhukhune, the D21 from Trichardtsdal to Metz in Mopani as well as D4032 from Laastehoop to Ga-Mothapo in Capricorn District. We are confident that these contractors under the household programme will do a sterling job as they have done in Tarentaal and Nkowankowa.

Honourable speaker,

Three contractors have also been appointed for the rehabilitation of the Georges Valley Road in Tzaneen local municipality and construction work will start once consultative processes with the farming and tourism sectors are completed.

The Department has further prioritised Fifty-four (54) roads for access restoration and emergency repairs in response to damage caused by floods. Ten (10) contractors have been appointed, Fifteen (15) projects are on advert, and Twenty-nine (29) other projects are at adjudication stage.

The ten (10) contractors already appointed will be working on the following roads across the Province, Mapangula, Mashite, Malehlagé to Lesetsi in Capricorn, Uitzicht to Mushuka in Thabazimbi; D1909 to P194/1 in Maruleng; Mawa block 9 to Taulume in Tzaneen; Mmotwaneng to Seriting in Ephraim Mogale; Atok to Masehlaneng in Fetakgomo- Tubatse; P194/1 to Avoca in Maruleng and Khalavha road in Thulamela. R110- million has been allocated for these projects. This shows government's commitment to restoring damaged roads.



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Allow me at this juncture to thank the men and women in orange who are rising to the occasion as we are dealing with the devastation caused by the floods. Through the #OperationTsogaMoshomi we have been able to provide support to our foot soldiers at cost centres, and the public now sees the department as being accountable and alive to the work that needs to be done.

To sustain the progress already demonstrated by our teams, the Department will allocate R100 million over the 2026 MTEF period to strengthen and maintain the yellow fleet. This investment will enable the procurement of additional jet patchers for pothole repairs, lowbeds for the transportation of heavy equipment as we respond to communities.

These interventions will significantly enhance the capacity of the #DikgerekgereWednesdays service delivery initiative, which is aimed at improving road conditions and ensuring that our roads remain safe and drivable for all road users.

Honourable speaker,

One of the key focus areas of the 7th Administration is to strengthen government capacity and, in the Department, we are strategically aligned to this. In a period of a year and six months we appointed 590 new permanent personnel in the Department and 42 personnel at RAL including interns, to accelerate service delivery programmes both in the offices and on projects, including road infrastructure.

Honourable Speaker, by end of July 2026, we will be welcoming an additional 238 to our staff complement. The Executive Council has further approved our 2026/27 financial year recruitment plan, which gives us the green light to proceed with recruitment processes to fill 143 vacant posts.





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These, Honourable Members, are not merely jobs, but opportunities for our people to actively participate in the provincial economy while contributing meaningfully to infrastructure development, particularly in the roads infrastructure sector, where the majority of these positions are concentrated.

Our continued stakeholder engagement enables us to accomplish major milestones on road infrastructure through Public- Private Partnership, particularly with mining companies.

In the 2025/26 financial year, the Department, through its entity RAL, successfully completed the double-lane Steelpoort Bridge in the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality within the Sekhukhune District. This new bridge has stimulated development in the area by significantly reducing the travel distance between Lydenburg and Sekhukhune.

Most importantly, it has enhanced safety and improved ease of movement for thousands of motorists and pedestrians. Just on Friday, the 8th of May we have witnessed the Honourable Premier Dr. Ramathuba and Minister Gwede Mantashe cutting the ribbon. A milestone worth celebrating.

Furthermore, the recent approval by Cabinet of the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone licence further positions the district as an emerging hub for investment and business development, which is expected to drive job creation and economic growth.

Indeed, road infrastructure investment is not merely about roads; it is the backbone of economic growth and development.

With this understanding, forging public-private partnerships have become a strategic priority for Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) and with the delivery of the Steelpoort bridge we have witnessed fruitful outcomes from this strategic approach. We again thank Dwarsrivier Chrome Mine, Glencore, Rustenburg Platinum, Samancor Chrome Mine, Booyendal Platinum Tiate Platinum, Two Rivers Platinum and Rakhoma Mining Resources.



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We also want to take this opportunity and extend our gratitude to the De Beers Group for their sustained investment in upgrades and maintenance of roads in the Blouberg and Musina areas in the 2025/26 financial year. Construction work to upgrade a five-kilometre stretch of the road is well underway on the D1589 from DeVreede and Taaibosch in the Blouberg Municipality, Capricorn District.

Once again, I must pause to appreciate the sterling work and dedication by Honourable Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba, for having led the provincial government to the African Mining Indaba which was held in Cape Town early this year. This provided an opportunity for the province to again robustly engage with the mining sector on roads infrastructure development.

As a result of these engagements RAL signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with six mining companies through the conference, pledging to collaborate on road maintenance and upgrades around the province, especially where these mines operate from. This new agreement will see RAL receiving R105 million to augment its coffers to upgrade roads.

Honourable Speaker,

Still on roads infrastructure, in the 2025/2026 financial year we pronounced that we were going to implement 21 new road upgrades and 22 road rehabilitation projects in the five districts.

We are pleased to announce that work has started, and all these 43 projects are at different stages in terms of progress that is being made. We are particularly grateful that together with the contractors and the support from the communities, progress in implementing these projects is going exceptionally well to mention but few; Makweng to Madisha Ditoro in Sekhukhune, Haakdoring to Segole in Waterberg and Selwane towards Eiland in Mopani.



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We have been hard at work in addressing the challenges experienced on projects, and interventions have been successfully implemented on the Mavhunga Bypass D3669 Road in the Vhembe District.

As we speak today, the project is practically 95% complete. We also made interventions at project T866 which includes Roads D4182, D4185 and D4180 in Sekhukhune, and as I speak today, the project is progressing well at 32% within three months of work. Still in Sekhukhune, we are taking the same approach as we work towards unlocking the Ga-Motodi project in the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality.

We have also successfully unlocked the D3150 Road project from Morebeng to Segosese in the Mopani District, which is currently 50% complete. However, it should be noted that severe flooding has negatively affected further progress on the project particularly on the construction of bridges on the stretch of the road. On this one, the Honourable Premier is very clear and concise as she wants to see this project completed.

We will continue with efforts to unlock projects, including, among others, the Settlers to Witlaagte P20/2 route towards D1234 Koedoeskop to Northam to Dwaalboom in the Waterberg District.

The reality is that stalled projects pose a serious inconvenience to our communities and amount to a waste of taxpayers' money. As such, we are not only focused on unblocking stalled projects, but also on ensuring that consequence management is meted out against non-performing contractors.

Following thorough investigations and due processes into the circumstances that led to projects being halted, we do not hesitate to terminate contracts and, where necessary, blacklist such entities.



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Honourable Speaker

Allow me to reiterate the Honourable Premier's sentiments when she said and I quote:

"We shall fix roads, one-village at a time, we are not going to stop, even with the budgets constraints we have, we shall make strides, like we have done with the 21 projects where we have committed five (5) kilometres on each road. This is to enable progress whilst we mobilise resources to tar the rest of our province."

The Honourable Premier's Statement gives hope to our people that eventually we will be able to deal with all strategic roads in the province. We are pleading for patience from communities that are eagerly waiting for this basic service and further call upon community members to engage with us and refrain from disrupting implementation of projects.

The Department has launched the #StakeholderTuesdays engagement sessions as part of our commitment to transparency, accountability, and active community participation.

These sessions are aimed at opening our books to communities, providing regular service delivery updates, and working together to address challenges relating to roads infrastructure and other service delivery grey areas.

We also wish to emphasise that re-gravelling is not a substitute for tarred roads, but rather a temporary intervention aimed at improving access and connectivity for our communities. The reality, however, is that both the Department and RAL continue to face significant budgetary constraints in addressing the backlog of approximately 13 000 kilometres of gravel roads across the province.

Honourable Members

In the new financial year, we were able to prioritise 17 new projects to be allocated a stretch of five kilometres each, to the tune of R1.3 billion. These roads are prioritised due to their strategic nature in terms of them leading to key economic hubs such as Central Business Districts, schools, clinics, farming community, tourism attraction points and other service centres.





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There are still many other gravel roads that meet these criteria, but we are unable to upgrade them due to budgetary constraints, as I have already alluded to.

These 17 new projects are as follows:

Road D4260 from Malope towards Mashwanyaneng, road D4285 from Maserumulepark towards Leeuwkraal, road D3135 from Botlokwa Old Clinic towards Sekakene Village, road D3617 from the R518 towards Ga-Ledwaba, road D3371 and D1231 from Matlapa towards Mokopane, road D3641 from Mininginisi towards Altein and Shangoni Gate of the Kruger National Park, road D3717 from Hollywood towards Dididi, road D3746 from Vyeboom towards Davhana Cross, the bridge over Olifants river on road D5021 and D5010 connecting Apel to Nkotokwane, the bridge over D3718 near Tswinga and road D3753 from D4 at Global garage to Tshimbupfe, road D3164 from Mamaila towards Olifantshoek, road D3695 from Ha-Khakhu towards Tshiwavhadza, road D4180 from Atok towards Ga-Selepe, road D3734 from Tshatshama towards Sereni, road D3333 and D3370 from D19 towards Mapangula via Newlands, road D3640 from Mphambo towards Mdabula and Macheke, and road D3248 from Thapane access towards Nwamitwa.

Honourable Speaker, the department has also noted that there were no designed roads in the Waterberg District, except for Mogalakwena municipality. We have taken a decision to allocate four new designs to the other three local municipalities in Waterberg, while we are continuing with the upgrade of five projects in Mogalakwena, and these are part of the 21 projects that are already underway.

The Department is therefore advancing planning and design work across the Waterberg District and once the designs are completed, we will be able to upgrade roads that connect our communities.



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The new five kilometres designs are as follows: D178 Mohlaka Mothala School to Alma and the D924 leading to Nylsvlei Nature Reserve, Modimolle-Mookgopong local municipality, in the Bela-Bela local municipality RAL will design the D536 Vingerkraal Road and D1660 Pienaars River, moving to the Thabazimbi Municipality our planning and design will touch the D928 Thabazimbi to Rooiberg and also the P110/1 Regorogile road, and lastly still in the Waterberg District we will also design the D1347 to Bangalong, D3106 Hlagala Kwena Village in Lephalale, and D3578 junction from Setupolane towards Ga-Mathapo.

RAL will further design the Windhoek to Gideon, which is the D3275, D1200, D3287 and D3278 in the Capricorn District.

The recent economic development activities that are underway in the Moletjie cluster have prompted the need to design the D3332 from the D19 Matlala Road to R567, the D3413 from Ramakgaphola to Madikgorong through Manamela. Lastly in the Capricorn District we will be designing the D5010 which is the road from Maijane to Nkotokwane and the D4068 Seleteng to Bolopa, both in Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality.

In the **Vhembe District**, the department is targeting to design the D3829 Mahatlane road and the D3150 from Nkanyani village towards Xihimu in the Collins Chabane Municipality as well as the D3731 from Mashamba to Mufeba villages in Makhado Local Municipality.

In the **Mopani District** we will consider the Dr. CN Phatudi-Pharare, Pharare to Mogapeng which is D3893 in the Greater Tzaneen and D3203 to Lekgwareng, Rabohale Road in Greater Letaba Local Municipality.

In **Sekhukhune District** we will be designing the D2664 Matlelerekeng road in Ephraim Mogale and the D4225 Madibong to Manganeng road in Makhuduthamaga Municipality.

Honourable Speaker

Our communities will breathe a sigh of relief as the ANC-led government is delivering on its commitments, under the stewardship of the Honourable Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba.



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The department has also developed an effective maintenance strategy to ensure that our existing roads infrastructure is maintained regularly. All of us can agree that well-maintained infrastructure supports economic growth by facilitating the movement of goods and services, which in turn stimulates business activities and boosts productivity.

Furthermore, this brings about longevity and cost effectiveness as this helps extend the lifespan of infrastructure assets, reducing the need for costly repairs and replacements.

Honourable Speaker,

R600 million has been allocated in the 2026/27 financial year for the preventative maintenance of 44 roads across all five districts, ensuring the preservation of our existing road assets. This is in addition to the 22 preventative maintenance that are currently being implemented.

The 44 roads are as follows:

In **Mopani District**, this includes Roads D3260 -P112/1 (Letaba Ranch road in Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality) , D86- D726 (Phalaborwa in Ba-Phalaborwa), D3812 (Masingita to Vuxakeni in Giyani), D3211(Sekiming to D9 in Giyani), D1034 (Modjadjiskloof-Jachpad in Mopani in Greater Letaba), D3180(Mamphakati to Kgapane in Greater Letaba),D1656 - P181/1(Mica in Mopani in Maruleng), D548 (Tzaneen – Haenertzburg in Greater Tzaneen), D1350 (Tarentaalrand - Deerpark-Matswi in Greater Tzaneen)

In **Capricorn District** we will focus on roads D1589 (Makgato in Blouberg),D1200(Senwabarwana to Windhook in Molemole), D4098(Kgwelereng, in Lepelle- Nkumpi), D3600 (Moletane tp Kliphievel in Lepelle – Nkumpi), D1200 (Mohodi, Molemole in Blouberg), D688 (Blysteel road in Molemole), P18/2 (from R101 to R518 in Polokwane), D4037 (Thabakgone/Viking, Polokwane in Polokwane)

In **the Vhembe District** we included Roads D4 (1,4km from Muchipisi to Matsakali in Collins Chabane), D3748 (4,7km from Basani to Thenga in Collins Chabane), D723 (N1 To Airforce in Makhado) D2814 in Makhado, D777 in Musina ,D1174 (Musina to Tshipise),D3709 (7,3km from Tshivhilwi to Muraga in Thulamela), D5020 (from Makonde to Luvhimbi to Tshivhilwi in Thulamela)



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In **Sekhukhune District** we will focus on Roads (R25) Dennilton- in Moutse, D1399 in Elias Motsoaledi, D2919 Matlelerenkeng RDP in Ephraim Mogale, D2535 (N11 towards Groblersdal in Ephraim Mogale), D4239 (Ga-Maepa in Fetakgomo-Tubatse), D4209 (Ga Seroka in Fetakgomo- Tubatse), D4100 (Malope-Setlaboswane in Makhuduthamaga), D4280 Ngwaritsi in Makhuduthamaga

Finally in **Waterberg District** we will focus on Roads:- D1179 (Zanzibar in Lephallale), D2649 Afgans in Lephallale, D885 (Immerpan in Modimolle-Mokgopong), D190 (Lushof in Modimolle-Mokgopong), D579 (Melkrivier in Mogalakwena), D3521 (Mabula to Basterpad in Mogalakwena), D2460(Sentrum to Derdepoort in Thabazimbi), D1235 (Northam in Thabazimbi), D1897 (Radium in Bela-Bela), D935 (Codrington in Bela- Bela).

Honourable Speaker,

In 2026/27 financial year under the Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant (PRMG), a total of R2.6 billion has been allocated, including R331 million specifically dedicated to restoring connectivity on 39 flood-damaged roads as follows:

In **Capricorn District** Roads: D3370 in Polokwane, D4070 in Lepelle- Nkumpi, D2656 in Molemole, D4098 in Lepelle Nkumpi, D3294 in Blouberg, D1597 in Polokwane, D3403 in Polokwane

In **Waterberg District** Roads: D925 in Lephallale, D3571 in Lephallale, D873 in Lephallale, D3515 in Mogalakwena, D1660 in Bela-Bela

In **Mopani District** Roads: D2119 and D19 in Maruleng, D3249 in Tzaneen, D1771 in Maruleng, D3198 in Greater Giyani, D3842 in greater Giyani, D3203 in Greater Letaba, D3220 in Greater Letaba, D3221 in Greater Letaba, D2119 in Maruleng, D1771 in Maruleng, P43/3 in Phalaborwa, D3229 in Tzaneen.

In **Sekhukhune District** Roads: D4328 in Tsimanyane, D4180 in Hoeraroep, D1848 in Elias Motsoaledi, D4196 in Fetakgomo- Tubatse, D4353 in Makhuduthamakga



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In Vhembe District Roads: D3709 in Thulamela, D3648 in Collins Chabane, D3639 in Collins Chabane, D3731 in Makhado, D3817 in Makhado, D3729 in Makhado, D3675 in Musina, D1173 in Thabazimbi, D3685 in Thulamela, D3690 in Thulamela.

Honourable Speaker,

The provision and maintenance of road infrastructure require collective efforts. The Department together with the Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) are working closely with municipalities on the devolution of certain D-roads for upgrading and maintenance.

We have already made encouraging progress with the City of Polokwane, Makhuduthamaga, Lepelle-Nkumpi, Elias Motsoaledi, Ephraim Mogale, Makhado, and Maruleng municipalities. These partnerships cover approximately 243 km of road network earmarked for consideration.

In the Polokwane Municipality alone, **39 roads** have been identified, including those already upgraded, those currently under design, and those under active construction. This process will continue into the 2026/27 financial year as we strengthen intergovernmental coordination and district development model aimed at realizing improved service delivery for our communities.

Furthermore, with a dedicated budget of **R447 million**, the Department will undertake reconstruction on more than **10 bridges** throughout the province during the 2026/27 financial year. These projects will be implemented across all local municipalities.

Build Infrastructure Support

Honourable Speaker

To strengthen our technical capacity and ensure the seamless delivery of infrastructure projects, the Department will establish and operationalize the Infrastructure Technical Resource Unit (ITRU) within the current 2026/2027 financial year. The ITRU is a strategic intervention designed to systematically integrate infrastructure planning with delivery by leveraging real-time data analysis. The unit will ensure that our infrastructure programming is both responsive and sustainable.



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The ITRU's deliverables is to provide specialized planning, management, and delivery of infrastructure programmes and projects delivery support on an "as-and-when the need arises" basis, effectively supplementing our current technical capacity with high-level personnel tailored to specific infrastructure project requirements.

The scale of this intervention is necessitated by the magnitude of our responsibility as the provincial custodian of immovable assets. The total provincial infrastructure budget for the 2026/2027 financial year stands at approximately R8.8 billion, with the Department providing essential technical coordination for over 824 infrastructure projects across Limpopo.

The Department is directly expected to plan and deliver approximately 500 of the 824 infrastructure projects over the MTEF period. Our specific departmental infrastructure budget is R6.6 billion for the current year 2026/27, representing 75% of the total Provincial infrastructure investment.

The ITRU will operate over a three-year period, from 2026/2027 to 2028/2029. This unit serves as a critical short-to-medium-term plan, allowing us to maintain delivery momentum while we simultaneously build permanent internal capacity through our revised organizational structure. The ITRU is an important strategic engine that will ensure we execute our mandate, safeguard public funds, and fulfill our obligations to the people of this province.

Honourable Speaker

The establishment of the ITRU further creates a fertile environment for the Department to strengthen its internal technical capacity and revitalize our skills development initiatives. For too long, our **Candidacy Development Programme** has been constrained by a lack of high-level mentorship. We are now, through the ITRU going to break those constraints. Our young professionals will have access to a **Structured Training Programme** that will offer them deep, hands-on technical exposure to every critical stage of the infrastructure lifecycle and ensure registration by the end of the learning contract.



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We are not merely checking boxes; we are building an improved monitoring system to ensure that every candidate who is part of the Department emerges as a **fully registered professional**. The Programme also targets candidates that are already part of the Department who possess significant experience but lack that final professional seal. The Department is rolling out an **accelerated professionalization programme** designed specifically to fast-track accreditation.

Furthermore, we are broadening our horizons through the rigorous implementation of the CIDB Skills Development Standard, we are leveraging our outsourced projects to create new opportunities for growth. This marks a significant shift in our policy, moving beyond our departmental bursary holders to embrace other talented graduates who have been waiting at the periphery of opportunity.

The pilot phase of the CIDB Skills Development Standard for the Candidacy Development Programme will specifically target the 35-plus graduates currently serving as interns within the Department.

These are individuals who have already demonstrated their commitment and now require the professional bridge to reach their full potential. It is a tested premise of this Department that candidates with mid-to-advanced industry exposure are best positioned to meet the stringent requirements of professional councils. We are giving them the tools to succeed, not in the distant future, but within the prescribed period.

Beyond initial qualification, we are institutionalizing a culture of lifelong learning through enhanced **Continuous Professional Development (CPD)** training. By ensuring our technical teams, both candidates and seasoned professionals are constantly equipped with the latest industry-relevant intelligence to guarantee the delivery of Quality Infrastructure.

We are minimizing negligence, eradicating technical faults, and ensuring that Limpopo's infrastructure stands as a testament to professional excellence.



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Honourable Speaker,

As an infrastructure department, we are fully aware that we sit at the very heart of this province's economic engine. Our work is the bedrock of inclusive growth and job creation. Every project we plan, every road we pave, and every professional we train is a direct contribution to the **Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) 2024-2029**. We are not just building structures; we are building a capable state, a resilient economy, and a future that belongs to all the people of Limpopo.

Honourable Speaker,

The Department has pioneered the development of the **Limpopo Infrastructure Maintenance Strategy (LIMS)**. We are moving beyond the era of reactive, emergency interventions and transitioning toward a sophisticated model of planned preventative maintenance. We are shifting the culture of this Department from "fixing what is broken" to "preserving what is valuable."

The refurbishment works will continue in the 2026/27 financial year with renewed vigor across various offices of government such as the **Giyani Chamber Block F, the Thohoyandou Government Complex, Waterberg offices, and the Mookopane Koshuis building**. Furthermore, we have also appointed contractors for the refurbishment of the **Giyani Banquet Hall in Mopani District, Lebowakgomo Government Complex Block H, the Mookgopong Cost Centre, and the vital renovation of the 15 Grobler Street offices.**

Honourable Speaker,

For the Prestige Portfolio, the Department has completed the security upgrades and landscaping projects at the Parliamentary Village and has appointed a contractor for the refurbishments of the Clubhouse.

There are two projects on procurement stages meant to refurbish the offices at Lebowakgomo and one to upgrade the access road in compliance with the requirement of the National key points as the Legislature falls within that category.



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The department is also in the process of constructing the fifteen (15) new houses at the Parliamentary Village through the services of the Independent Development Trust (IDT). This project is clustered into two phases. The first phase is civil works which comprise of bulk services provision that include water reticulation, sewer reticulation, electricity and an access road, as well stormwater control and a contractor has been appointed.

The Second phase speaks to the actual construction of the 15 additional houses for the members, and the IDT tells us that by July this year construction work will start. In fact, IDT must note that I have committed on their behalf and they dare not fail.

In our strategic drive to extend the lifespan of our built environment, we have made significant strides within the **Agriculture Portfolio**. I am pleased to announce the successful completion of renovations at the **Tompi Seleka College (Phases 1 and 2)**.

Furthermore, we are in the final stages of implementing critical security upgrades and the installation of high-capacity generators at **Madzivhandila Agriculture College** to be completed by **May 2026**.

The **five (5) Mopani Redline House projects** are currently at the completion stage, and we have commenced with the procurement of the **Vhembe Redline Houses for implementation within 2026/2027 financial year**.

The Department completed Phase 1 of the rehabilitation works of the three (3) **Veterinary Laboratories in Mokopane, Lephalele, and Makhado**. **Phase 2 will commence in the current financial year 2026/27**.

The Department has concluded the appointment of Professional Service Providers (PSPs) for the construction of the two Agro-Ecological Zone (AEZ) for Mopani West and Mopani North for implementation in the 2026/27 financial year.

For LEDET the department is in the process of refurbishing the D’Nyala, Masebe and Schuinsdraai nature reserves. We are currently busy with the planning phase to enable the refurbishment of Nwanedi nature reserve, to be completed in the 2026/27 financial year.

This is to support tourism initiative driven by the client department. The refurbishment of the LEDET offices at Suid Street in Polokwane is at the final stages of implementation.





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Honourable Speaker,

Roads infrastructure is the vital component of the provincial transport ecosystem. It is the foundation upon which the mobility of our people and the efficiency of our economy rest. To this end, the Department is moving with precision to deliver key infrastructure projects that support the mandate of the Provincial **Department of Transport**.

I am pleased to report that we have reached the final stages of construction for the **Thohoyandou and Seshego K53 Testing Stations**. Furthermore, the **Thohoyandou Taxi Rank** is on course for completion within the second quarter of the 2026/27 financial year and it is implemented through our partnership with the Independent Development Trust (IDT).

Construction continues at the Lephalale Traffic Station and will be completed in the current financial year.

Honourable Speaker

The **Seshego Government Garage** has entered its second phase of refurbishment following the successful completion of Phase 1. The contractor for the second phase will be appointed within the first quarter of the 2026/27 financial year, and construction work will proceed for 12 months.

The Department is still on site at the **Limpopo Traffic Training Centre in the Vhembe District**. We are currently in the procurement process for the construction of a new classroom block, with a targeted completion in the 2027/28 financial year.

Honourable Speaker,

For the **Department of Education**, we are pleased to announce that in the 2025/26 financial year, we successfully completed the construction of six schools across our province: **Makgopele Secondary** in Mopani; **Moleshatlou, Rebone, and Makhwese Secondary schools** in Sekhukhune District; **Vutivi Primary** in Vhembe District; and **Dikoloi Secondary** in the Capricorn District.



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Since the inception of our school infrastructure rollout in **2021/2022 to 2025/26**, this Department has delivered a staggering **twenty-eight (28) new schools** on behalf of the Department of Education across the province.

There have been delays with some projects we committed to commence work on in 2025/26 financial year which are Hututu Secondary school in Sekhukhune District, Rethusheng, Thabakgone and Piet Hugo in Capricorn District. Construction is to commence this financial year.

As I stand before you today, construction is in full swing at the **twenty-three (23) school infrastructure sites** in various Districts, with completions strategically planned in 2026/27 and 2027/28 financial years respectively.

On Early Childhood Development (ECD) support, the Department successfully completed a total of **twenty-eight (28) ECD centres** in the previous financial year 2025/26, with four (4) additional centres planned for completion in the current financial year.

Honourable Speaker,

It is again with great pleasure that I announce that the **Department of Social Development (DSD)** now has its own buildings. The Department managed to secure two buildings through Public Works, and these are its Headquarters at the Old ABSA building on Hans Van Rensburg Street in Polokwane, as well as their District Office in the Old Mutual Building.

In the past, Social Development used to share office spaces with another department. Ka Sepedi ba re mphemphe ya lapisa motho o kgona ke sa gage. Congratulations to you MEC Vho-Fulufhelo Florence Radzilani.

Still on Social Development matters, the department has also completed the Polokwane welfare complex project and has appointed a contractor for the completion of the Sekutupu Old Age Home.



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In the 2026/27 Financial year, the Department will also refurbish Mavambe Secure Care Centre in Collins Chabane Local Municipality and will be planning for the construction of the new frail centre to be implemented in 2027/28 financial year. All this will assist this important department to continue to render services to the vulnerable people of society.

Honourable Speaker,

The Department managed to change the skyline on the R36 just outside Polokwane, and today motorists are greeted by a raised building which ones completed will be the centre of the Arts for the people of Limpopo. This is the Provincial State Theatre implemented on behalf of the **Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture (DSAC)**.

This landmark project is scheduled for completion in 2027. It will serve as the first provincial theatre. All this is being brought to the people of Limpopo by the ANC-led government. We are indeed saying **Mintirho ya Vulavula**.

The Department has also completed the **Botshabelo and Vleifontein Libraries**, and the Mampane Library is at the 98% percent completion. While we have noted slower progress by the contractors at the Bungeni, Makhuvha, Tshaulu, and Matlekereng libraries due to inclement weather, we have intensified our monitoring to ensure completion in the current financial year 2026/27.

In this current financial year, we will begin planning for the construction of the **Ga-Masemola, Mamaila, and Khubvi libraries** on behalf of DSAC for implementation in the 2027/28 financial year.

Honourable Speaker

The Provincial Government continues to acknowledge the developmental role which is being played by the Royal Leadership as an institution. In support of this institution, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure will construct and refurbish eight (8) Traditional Council offices on behalf of the **Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA)** as led by Tatana Basikopo Makamu Hosi ya Mina. These offices are for Matlala Ramoshebo, Tau Nkadimeng, Mamaila Kolobetona, Mashau, Mankweng, Mabunda, Masakona, and Mashamba **Traditional Councils**.



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Honourable Speaker,

During implementation of some of these projects, we had to take tough decisions to fastrack project implementation, to safeguard the integrity of this government and the ruling party, the ANC. In the 2025/26 financial year, we terminated a total of thirteen (13) contracts for both the department and RAL, due to poor performance. The Department further facilitated the restriction of these contractors. We are serious about provision of quality infrastructure, within time and within costs. This is the very message we communicate to emerging contractors we have taken under our wing.

Limpopo Contractor Development Programme

For the 2026/27 financial year, we have integrated 36 Learner Contractors into the 22 household contractors' initiative within Roads Infrastructure programme to provide them with practical experience in managing and implementing projects through to completion. In addition, we have identified infrastructure projects within Building Maintenance to create opportunities for them to participate in the renovation and maintenance of government facilities. The buildings earmarked for maintenance include the Limpopo Tourism Agency, departmental Cost Centres, and Mechanical Workshops. This practical exposure is intended to strengthen their technical competencies while also improving their CIDB gradings, enabling them to transition from the margins of the industry into meaningful mainstream economic participation.

Honourable Premier

In line with the Executive Council (EXCO) resolution for the Provincial Government to own buildings that accommodate government departments, we successfully concluded the procurement of the **Works Towers building on 43 Church Street in Polokwane** during the 2025/26 financial year. This building now serves as the permanent home of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

Simply put, **Honourable Speaker: the landlord is now truly the landlord.**

Furthermore, we have finalised the procurement of the **56 and 58 Paul Kruger Street buildings in Polokwane** for the Provincial Treasury. This initiative will contribute significantly to reducing government expenditure, thereby ensuring that more resources are redirected towards essential service delivery for our people.



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Honourable Speaker:

As part of our commitment to improve access to services and supporting regional development, we are making steady, strategic progress in the relocation of the Sekhukhune District government offices from Lebowakgomo to Jane Furse. This move is about bringing the heartbeat of government to the doorstep of the people it serves.

In the 2025/26 financial year, we established inter-ministerial task teams to ensure effective coordination, funding alignment and successful implementation of the project. **Under the dedicated Infrastructure Workstream**, critical technical studies including traffic, hydrogeological, and geotechnical investigations are currently underway to form the planning and development of the new District complex

Through the Department the process to appoint a multidisciplinary professional team for the planning and design phase is currently underway with **R21 million allocated in the 2026/27 financial year**. Our objective is to finalize the designs and have this project **construction ready by 2027**.

Given the massive scale of this development, our **Finance Workstream** is actively engaging potential funding partners and exploring sustainable financing mechanisms. This progress is a testament to our government's determination to plan strategically, invest boldly in infrastructure, and ensure that the people of Sekhukhune are served by a government that is both present and accessible.

Honourable Speaker,

In our firm commitment to protecting state assets, I must highlight the resounding success of **#OperationVhuyisaThunduYaMuvhuso**. On the 13th of February 2026, the Polokwane High Court granted a forfeiture order in terms of section (53) of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act 121 of 1998). This ended a long-standing legal battle to reclaim land and properties in Giyani that were unlawfully occupied by unscrupulous individuals in Giyani, Mopani District.



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The High court found reasonable grounds that four state-owned properties were sold through fraudulent deeds. These properties were never transferred and remained registered to the state. Where government houses once stood, there is now a hotel and other developments valued at **R22 million**, all of which now rightfully belong to the state.

These forfeited properties are currently under the control of a court appointed curator who will manage them on behalf of the state. This victory was made possible by the exceptional work of the Hawks and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) Asset Forfeiture Unit, led by Advocate Sithe. We thank these partners for their tireless efforts in recovering what belongs to our citizens.

However, our work is far from over. The Department has already submitted a list of 105 additional **hijacked properties** to the NPA for intervention. We are sending a clear message to those who think they can steal from the public: **We will find you, we will take our property back, and we will restore the integrity of the provincial fiscus.**

On Expanded Public Works Programme

Honourable Speaker, this is a very important initiative which we support as government. The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) remains an effective tool for immediate economic relief, poverty alleviation and skills development for our people.

For the 2025/26 financial year, Limpopo was allocated a target of 69,045 work opportunities. By the end of the third quarter, we had already achieved **93% of the annual target** and had created a **total of 64,313 opportunities**. These work opportunities are accompanied by various training programmes. The work opportunities are created by various Departments, Municipalities and entities of government across all sectors of EPWP namely Infrastructure, Social, Environment and Culture as well as the None-State led by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure as a provincial programme coordinator.



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In a strategic partnership with **MERSETA and CETA**, we have officially rolled out specialized apprenticeship and learnership programmes as part of EPWP exit strategy. I am pleased to announce that beneficiaries were enrolled on these programmes during the 2025/26 financial year. The programmes will formally be launched by the Department during the 2026/27 Financial year.

This initiative when completed would have equipped **210 young people** with critical skills and practical training across Electrical, Diesel Mechanical, Mechanical Fitting, Welding, Plumbing, Carpentry as well as Bricklaying trades to improve their employability and open doors to future opportunities including entrepreneurship.

The department has **recruited 100 young people in the apprenticeship programme and 110 in the learnership programme**. The candidates will be exposed to workplace experience in the departmental projects during their practical training.

The Department, as Provincial Coordinator for EPWP will be hosting the following key provincial events in the 2026/27:

- Induction of new Councillors through the EPWP Seminar post the local government elections in 2026; and
- The Launch of the EPWP Disability Framework, which was launched nationally by the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure in November 2025, and subsequently, provinces are expected to launch the provincial chapters.
- The Department leads by example to facilitate participation of persons with disabilities in its poverty alleviations programmes.

To that end the Department has partnered with the South **African Council for the Blind, DEAFSA, Disable People of South Africa (DPSA) as well as Fulufhelo Special School.**

Honourable speaker,

The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure indeed has a massive load of work ahead. This work of infrastructure provision, management and maintenance, heavily relies on the capacity and commitment of the support programmes. Just like the human body, we can only function and win if every part is doing its work. I am confident that we will rise to the occasion.



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Honourable speaker,

Therefore, I stand here to table the budget for the department, vote 09 as follows:

BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEAR

In the 2026/27 financial year, the Department is allocated **R6. 474 billion**. This allocation is inclusive of Roads Agency Limpopo.

Programme 1: Administration: R633 886 million

Programme 2: infrastructure Operations R1 529 885 billion (R1.5 billion)

Programme 3: Expanded Public Works Programme R88 281 million

Programme 4: Roads Infrastructure R 4 222 248 billion (4.2 billion)

Conclusion

As I gravitate towards closure, I am reminded of the enduring words of the former President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency President Thabo Mbeki, during his famous speech “I am an African” and I quote “**Whatever the setbacks of the moment, nothing can stop us now.**”

These words ring especially true today. Indeed, nothing can stop our momentum when we work as a collective, united by a purpose to serve the people of Limpopo, even as we navigate this testing period of devastating floods. Our resolve is not dampened by the rain; rather, it is forged in the recovery.

I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to the **Honourable Premier, Dr. Phophi Ramathuba**, for her steadfast and visionary leadership. I also thank the Honourable members of the Portfolio Committee for their continuous oversight and guidance, led by **Chairperson Honourable Khathutshelo Netshifhefhe**; the Chairperson of SCOPA, **Honourable Esther Mokwele**; and the dedicated team from the Office of the Auditor General in our province.

To the administrative captains of this ship, for both the Department and the Entity, Mr. **Motlhanke Phukuntsi**, Mr. **Makhitha Chesane**, and the **RAL Board of Directors led by Mr. Moses Tseli**. It is time to roll up our sleeves and return to the front lines.



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The people of Limpopo are waiting, and we must deliver. To my dear wife Mmago Masogana, Nogana a Phakana, my mother Hlapjadi a Hlabirwa and to our guardian angel Papa Hlabirwa a Phakana my special appreciation to all of you.

Finally, to all our staff members, including the brave men and women of the Dikgerekgere road maintenance teams, and our Labour Unions, we see your sacrifice.

As we look at the task ahead, we do so filled with hope and determination, as we diligently serve our people. Thank you for always rising to the occasion. Together, we are building a Limpopo that works, Ndaa!

I thank you.



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