



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE



2025 / 2026 BUDGET SPEECH

The heartland of southern Africa - development is about people!

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

15 April 2025

Honourable Speaker, Dr. Makoma Makhurupetje

**Honourable Deputy Speaker, Mme. Tebogo
Mamorobela**

**Honourable Premier, Mme. Dr. Phophi
Ramathuba**

Colleagues in the Executive Council

**Provincial Secretary of the ANC Vhamusanda
Vho Madazhe**

**Chief Whip of the African National Congress
Honourable Essob Mokgonyana and Deputy
Chief Whip**

**Our Royal Leaders who have joined us today as
guests**

Leaders of the Opposition Parties

Chair of Chairs

Chairperson of our Portfolio Committee

Honourable Khathutshelo Netshifhefhe

Members of the Provincial Legislature

Ke re Kgotsong setšhaba sa Limpopo

Honourable speaker

It is an honour to present the Budget Vote for the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for the **2025/2026** financial year. The budget vote responds directly to some of the priorities of the Seventh Administration of the ANC led Provincial Government of Limpopo, under the stewardship of the first female Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba. The mandate of the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure remains clear; to plan, construct, maintain, and manage provincial public

infrastructure and roads that are safe, functional, and accessible to all communities of Limpopo.

As the province continues to grow and develop, our role becomes ever more critical in enabling service delivery, driving economic development, and creating much-needed job opportunities.

We stand here as the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, which is an integral contributor to the achievement of the priorities of this administration. This we say with full understanding of the magnitude of work that is required to be done.

Honourable speaker,

Allow me to take this opportunity and indicate that the Dikgerekgere Wednesdays service delivery initiative which is aimed at re-graveling, blading and

roads side de-bushing is yielding positive results in communities. Many of our communities are now easily accessible. To further capacitate our internal Roads and Infrastructure Directorate we have set aside R2.055 billion for Roads Maintenance Grant (PRMG).

Through the internal roads and infrastructure programme, we were able to birth the **#DikgerekgereWednesday** to make sure that our gravel roads are drivable.

Since the launch of the programme, at least **117 kilometres** of roads have been re-gravelled, while **43 324 kilometres** have been bladed, furthermore, **352 867 square metres** of potholes were patched through the **Operation Thiba Mekoti** programme. There is no denying that **#DikgerekgereWednesday** concept is a success as more and more people expressed gratitude for

the intervention on the roads. At this juncture, allow me to salute the men and women who for the past 10 months have been working tirelessly even during weekends, sacrificing time with their families, stretching their mental and physical capacity to the limit, to ensure we cover much needed ground.

It is unfortunate that flooding and adverse weather conditions that resulted in Limpopo being declared a disaster-stricken province impacted our gains as far as our #DikgerekgereWednesday programme was concerned.

In the wake of the massive damage to infrastructure I have again implored the internal roads maintenance team to put shoulder to the wheel and attend to the huge task ahead.

Honourable Speaker,

The success of the **#DikgerekgereWednesday** programme gave birth to the concept of **#StakeholdersTuesdays**. This is an engagement session with the public, in their different formations, to discuss service delivery matters requiring intervention, especially road infrastructure related. The engagement sessions have also served as reliable feedback mechanism to our people on the work we are doing, and challenges being faced. Thus, rebuilding confidence and strengthening relations. This also assist us to avert protests by genuine communities who take to the streets, simply because they do not have updates or information in terms of the department's plans to deliver services.

We have managed, through **#StakeholdersTuesdays** to bring on board

members of the public on the work we are doing on issues concerning RAL and how we intend to move forward. These sessions have been beneficial to both the department and communities. We are appealing to our communities to make use of this platform so we can together attend to the challenges on the ground.

We can confirm that we have taken a decision to allow RAL space to solely focus on upgrading of roads from gravel to tar. This decision seeks to ensure that all maintenance efforts are coordinated and managed from the department and all upgrades are coordinated accordingly at RAL. To this end, **R958.617 million** is set aside for transfer to RAL to improve the provincial roads network.

Honourable members, RAL continues to play a pivotal role in improving roads infrastructure across the province and it is important to acknowledge the

challenges it faced in delivering on its mandate, however, we also need to acknowledge the progress registered during the difficult period. We also managed to appoint a new Board of Directors which started doing work from the 1st April 2025. This is a positive step towards bringing Roads Agency Limpopo to its former glory. It is my strong conviction that RAL, as led by the Board Chairperson Mr. Moses Tseli and the entire board members will be able to take the entity to greater heights.

Today we are pleased to report that:

The Segole 1 and Segole 2 road from N11 to Masebe Nature Reserve

The project, which focused on 7km of the road, is complete. This road will enhance links to the Nature Reserve, spurring both tourism and local commerce in Waterberg.

The Thapane Access to Nwamitwa

A 6km stretch is fully completed. This has bolstered transport efficiency for communities in Mopani District.

The Atok Mine to Ga-Selepe road: The design phase for this critical road has been successfully completed. While challenges were encountered in sourcing high-quality construction materials, these issues are being addressed.

Malope to Phokwane Road: Construction of the first phase of 2.5km has been completed. This upgrade is set to improve transportation efficiency in the area. However, the province is still in the process of securing additional funds to complete the next phase of the project. We urge the people to be patient as we work towards securing additional funding.

The Malemati Roads: A contractor has been appointed for the first phase of 3km, and construction activities are at 71%.

Apel to Ga-Nkoana and D4190: Scope of works and preliminary design reports have been approved. The consulting engineer is progressing with the detailed designs.

The Blouberg Hospital to Buffelshoek: Construction of the second phase, which is 5km is progressing well ensuring improved access to healthcare and surrounding communities. Progress is currently at 78%.

Tshatshama Road: A 3km of the road is currently under construction with progress at 97% progress

in the Mopani District. This road will support economic activities in the area.

Ga-Ramoshwana, Ga-Rammetlwana, and Ga-Ramotlokwana roads: Construction of Phase 1 of 12.9km is at 86% in the Capricorn District and is progressing as planned.

The Glencowie to Malaka: Construction of 7km is underway at 74% in the Sekhukhune District, enhancing regional connectivity.

The Musekwa to Maranikwe: Work is advancing on the 6 km upgrade and is presently at 58% in construction in the Vhembe District.

The Mamatonya Road: Construction of 10km of upgrade complete.

Honourable speaker, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, through its entity RAL, exercises zero-tolerance of non-performing contractors. We have made good progress in identifying and reprimanding contractors that record unsatisfactory performance. One such incident is that of **Mavhunga Access Road**, where we terminated the initial contractor due underperformance, and a new contractor was appointed. Currently, about 38% of the 3.7 km upgrade is complete and the works are progressing well. This road connects Phadzima, Mavhunga, and Rabali in Vhembe District, improving rural mobility.

After a series of engagement with various stakeholders, through the **Stakeholders Tuesdays**

we managed to listen to the dire situation of service delivery particularly in the space of roads and infrastructure. Our people are in dire need of roads, and reality is that we are faced with a serious backlog where of the **21 thousand** total kilometres of the provincial road network, thirteen thousand kilometres is still gravel. We need about 350 billion rand to get these gravel roads tarred. This paints a gory picture in that regard. The stakeholder's engagement sessions also assist us to identify immediate areas of need and interventions through our Dikgerekgere Wednesdays service delivery initiative, which I will later talk to.

Honourable Speaker

In terms of new projects to be implemented by Roads Agency Limpopo, we are going to deal with the following projects:

In the **Capricorn District** we have the Madisha road in Zebediela, Nobody to Laastehoop to Ga-Mothapo, Matlala to Limburg; Ga- Mothapo, Ga-Molele to Shcoongezicht to Ga-Dikgale to Uitkyk.

In the **Mopani District** we will pay special attention on the Ga-Moroka to Mawa, the Letaba Ranch to Eiland, Mhanghweni-Mafarana road and Xikukwane to Mbatlo.

In the **Waterberg District**, we have the Rauuele-Phafola, the Bridge along on the road to Segole, Marolaneng (Haakdoring) to Segole, the Monte Christo road, the Tiberius road and Ham Number One to Mokobe.

In the **Vhembe District**, the D3754 and D3719 in Bungeni, the Rambuda Road, the Tshikonelo road, the Mulima and Magona Roads.

In the Sekhukhune District, we are planning to upgrade the Leolo access road in Makhudothamaga local municipality and the Mohlaotoane to Motwaneng road in the Ephraim Mogale local municipality.

Honourable Speaker

I must pause here and clearly indicate that these roads are not going to be tarred in their entirety, but to be done in different phases or to be delivered through multi-year projects. **Rere bana ba motho ba ngathelana hlogo ya txie.**

We humbly appeal to other communities for cooperation given the reality confronting us regarding financial constraints to implement other projects. RAL and LDPWRI are engaging National Treasury and Infrastructure South Africa (ISA) to support the province in securing funding to

implement new other projects that have not been mentioned today. We are also looking into alternative material sources like platinum slag and coal ash as new technologies to reduce cost of construction in implementing these projects.

Honourable Speaker

There are also about 69 roads scheduled for maintenance for example, the road from the N1 intersection to Elim in Makhado Municipality, Melkrivier, Viking Thabakgone, the R25 Dennilton to Moutse, The Jane Furse to Ga-Malekane, the Bismark Road, Dr CN Phatudi to Shiluvane Road and Burgersdorp to Callais road. The department will further engage the communities that are affected by the 69 maintenance projects to be rolled out across the five districts.

These are examples of roads that are beyond routine maintenance. It must be noted that this list is not exhaustive, it is but an indication that we have heard the voices of our people and we are ready to intervene.

Honourable Members

We have taken up opportunities at our disposal to strengthen inter-governmental relations and to rebuild strategic partnerships that are aligned to our course. In terms of the **Public Private Partnerships** with the mining sector we are also making significant strides in that regard.

The **Steelpoort Bridge in Ga-Malekane** is a shining example of the power of public-private partnerships. With 82% of the funding provided by the private sector, this critical link in the Sekhukhune District is now 91% complete and is on track for completion by April 2025. Once operational, this bridge will strengthen the mining value chain and enhance regional connectivity and support economic growth as well as the improved infrastructure towards the **Fetakgomo- Tubatse SEZ**.

In the same breath in the Waterberg District, the Northam Platinum mine has committed investment of **R41 million** in partnership with government through our entity of Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) towards Road D2357 in the district. The 3 km stretch, plus a vital bridge on R511 is important for the mobility of goods and our people in that particular locality.

In the Mopani District, a vital partnership is that of Palabora Mining Company to work on two roads in the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipal area.

The projects are valued at R205 million, jointly contributed by RAL (**R105m**) and Palabora Mining Company (**R100m**). Both roads of Mashishimale and Lulekani are under active construction with completion planned for December 2025.

Honourable Speaker

Our efforts to stabilise and restore normalcy at RAL have started to yield positive results. Just last week we managed to add more collaborations with the De Beers Mining Company. The mining company has committed to inject a total of **R184 million** to assist us in the upgrades and maintenance of our roads infrastructure in the Musina and Blouberg local Municipalities, in Vhembe and Capricorn District Municipalities respectively. This is where the Venetia Mine is operating from. **Team De Beers Group** has also joined in the sitting as my guests and I am humbly requesting them to take a bow.

As the MEC responsible for Dikgerekgere and on behalf of the Provincial Government as led by Dr. Ramathuba our Honourable Premier, we really appreciate this good gesture from the private sector. Our professionals will be availed to ensure

that work is fast-tracked as we upgrade the Eldorado, Ga-Dankie, Ga-Kibi and Taaibosch roads, the maintenance of the Venetia-Musina road and some internal streets in the Musina Municipality. To all the businesses in different sectors your contributions are welcomed and appreciated.

Honourable Speaker,

On the National investment and collaborations in the Limpopo Roads Infrastructure.

The South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) has also been brought on board to invest on the road network of Limpopo. Sixteen roads have been gazetted for SANRAL maintenance on behalf of the province. This strategic move will ease provincial budget pressures.

It is also my pleasure to update this august house and the people of Limpopo on the positive strides that have been made in relation to the much talked about **St Engenas Zion Christian Church** Interchange. The designs are now complete. A contractor will be appointed by the end of April 2025 and construction work will start in earnest. The Honourable Premier Dr. Ramathuba will then lead a sort-turning ceremony marking the start of the construction work for this important milestone, by the end of May 2025. The interchange will ease congestion and improve safety, especially during pilgrimage periods. An earmarked funding of **R125-million** is allocated to that effect.

The Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone (MMSEZ) link roads project is in its detail design stage. Implementation will begin once budget provisions are allocated.

These nationally driven projects underscore strong intergovernmental cooperation aimed at expanding our provincial infrastructure network.

On the Bailey Bridges of the Welisizwe Programme

Through a collaboration of the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), and the Department, ultimately 30 “Welisizwe” bridges are planned for our province. Four are already under construction in Waterberg, each employing around 40 local workers. Completion percentages vary—Goodhope Bridge is at 85%, Lesodi Mootlana Bridge at 75%, Segole Bridge at 25%, and Preezburg Bridge at 80%. Additional bridge structures will commence in due course once SANDF completes these 4 bridges.

The essential starting point in the pipeline of road construction is to have professional designs in accordance with road construction standards. The roads that are earmarked for construction or maintenance need to have designs and some of these are in progress while others are awaiting the availability of budgets.

Honourable Speaker

With the agricultural sector being one of the major economic contributors in Limpopo, the department is continuing to work jointly with the sector. Through a long-standing partnership between Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) and **ZZ2**, key agricultural roads such as the Politsi Road (D1801) and Selokwe Road (D2674) have been identified for maintenance to support the transportation of high-value crops like tomatoes and avocados.

This partnership, driven by private sector funding, ensures that agricultural goods reach markets efficiently and without road-induced damage. Plans are also underway to engage with farmers in the **Letsitele Valley** for the improvement of **Road P43/3**, a critical route for transporting agricultural produce. These discussions aim to prioritise road upgrades that directly support economic activity in this vital agricultural hub.

The department is also putting efforts in supporting the Tourism Sector.

The Shangani Gate to the Kruger National Park project is under detailed designs stage. Once the project is complete it will directly benefit the tourism sector and create jobs for our people.

At the **Tshatshingo Pothole Waterfall and Recreational Area**, a catalytic project will soon

make access easier to the tourism attraction point in Thulamela Municipality. The completion of a **block paving project** will go a long way in supporting the sector as well. Furthermore, we have also re-gravelled the roads leading to the Lupepe-Nwanedi nature reserve in Musina in the Vhembe District, the Marekele National Park and Vaalwater in the Waterberg District, as well as Lekgalametse Nature Reserve in Maruleng, Mopani District. This has been done through the **Dikgerekgere Wednesdays** service delivery initiative as already alluded to. These interventions not only improve accessibility but also aligns with our vision for sustainable tourism development by providing high-quality infrastructure that supports increased numbers of tourists, while preserving the natural environment.

Honourable members

The remarkable achievements alluded to above, are supported by the 2 604 work opportunities that were created through RAL projects, in the three quarters of 2024/2025 financial year. These include 1 466 work opportunities for youth, 1 246 for women and 57 persons with disabilities. Fulltime equivalent jobs created are 397. These strides will be maintained in the financial year 2025/2026 with the relevant projections aligned to the resources as part of the key priorities of the 7th Administration, especially that of reducing poverty and tackling the high cost of living.

Our road infrastructure projects at RAL alone have empowered **395 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMMEs)** in the three quarters of 2024/2025. Further empowerment was through **accredited training to 860 local labourers** as part of project

legacies that equip the workers with the necessary skills. The impact of the training is that the workers are better equipped to secure jobs in other construction projects in future. The Departmental roads infrastructure projects yielded **4999 work opportunities**.

The Department is also responding positively to the creation of jobs as directed by the priorities of the Seventh Administration. In December 2024, we unveiled at least **174** newly appointed officials to bolster human resource and assist in the roads infrastructure space. Just two weeks ago, on the 1st of April 2025, we welcomed **168** new officials appointed on a permanent basis, joining the Public Service to serve the people of Limpopo.

We can proudly say in a space of five (5) months, we welcomed a total of **342** permanent officials. When we talk about contributing to the reduction of

unemployment and addressing capacity challenges, we are not just paying lip service, we have a human resource department that works around the clock to ensure we get more people to actively participate in the economy of the country. We are committed to building a department fully reliant on itself for services we can render without outsourcing. Some of our challenges as government, require practical solutions.

Furthermore, we have been able to stabilise the Department's Infrastructure Directorates to ensure that we reclaim our mandate to implement infrastructure on behalf of all departments, including Education and Health. Special attention was given to Roads Agency Limpopo to reshape it and ensure that it responds to the needs of our communities. The hiring of these warm bodies, including the RAL Board of Directors will indeed strengthen internal capacity.

On CAPACITY BUILDING

In the 2024/25 financial year, we procured through the earmarked allocation of R100-million, new yellow fleet and related machinery, as part of building internal capacity as far as tools of trade is concerned. Today we welcome another earmarked funding of R100-million pronounced by MEC for Provincial Treasury, Honourable Mahoai for the 2025/26 financial year, for the same course.

Honourable members

The Executive Council has approved the Limpopo Infrastructure Maintenance Strategy (LIMS) for implementation in the 2025/26 FY. This is an important milestone as the strategy provides guidelines on all infrastructure maintenance activities across the province.

In line with the strategy, the department will in the 2025/26 financial year continue with the refurbishment works at the Lebowakgomo Legislature, Thohoyandou government complex **Block-H** and Giyani government complex respectively, with a combined allocation of R23-million. This is the prestige portfolio we commit to continuously maintain in order to keep it in proper condition. The Premiers Guest house and the Parliamentary Village are part of this prestige portfolio we commit to bring to a standard where they meet national key-point requirements as well. We have appointed a service provider to commence work at the two sites.

We are also working with the Independent Development Trust (IDT) in the construction of fifteen (15) additional houses at the village with an earmarked allocation of R89-million.

Honourable Speaker

On Education and Infrastructure, we will continue implementing the long-term infrastructure plans in line with 131 school infrastructure programme. The Department has prioritized and commenced with the implementation of 55 school projects out of the 131 school infrastructure programme in 2021/2022 to date.

The Department has been hard at work delivering quality school infrastructure in the 2024/25 FY. We are working with the Department of Education to build schools across the five districts in our Province. The Department has successfully achieved the following milestones:

- Out of the fifty-five (55) school projects **seventeen (17)** have successfully reached

practical completion stage in the 2024/2025 financial year and they are:-

- Chameti secondary (Mopani District)
- Diphuti secondary (Mopani District)
- Napsadi secondary (Mopani District)
- Ramatima secondary (Mopani District)
- Sehonwe primary (Mopani District)
- Mphakani primary (Mopani District)
- Ngwana Makhutswe Secondary schools (Mopani District)
- Dikgalaopeng Primary (Sekhukhune District)
- Seboeng primary (Sekhukhune District)
- Masikwha primary (Vhembe District)
- Matsibe secondary (Waterberg District)
- Suswe Secondary (Waterberg District)
- Matsuokwane secondary (Capricorn District)
- Rasema Secondary (Capricorn District)
- Seale secondary (Capricorn District)
- Sekete Secondary (Capricorn District)
- Kgarahara secondary (Capricorn District)

- **Five (5) projects reached various stages of completion** in the previous years and are at completion stages, they are:
 - Alldays Primary School (Capricorn District) at final completion
 - Marude Secondary School (Vhembe District) at practical completion
 - Mahlagaume Primary School (Sekhukhune District) at final completion
 - Leduma Mahume Secondary School (Sekhukhune District) at final completion
 - Gidela Secondary school – practical completion

- **Twenty-nine (29) projects are currently under construction** in various Districts across the province;
 - Makgopele Secondary School (Mopani District)
 - Matimu Secondary School (Mopani District)
 - Ooghoek Primary school (Mopani District)

- Runnymede Primary School (Mopani District)
- Ukuthula Primary School (Mopani District)
- Vallabrosa Primary School (Mopani District)
- Kopa Secondary School (Sekhukhune District)
- Kopanong Primary School (Sekhukhune District)
- Lekoko Secondary School (Sekhukhune District)
- Moleshatlou Secondary School (Sekhukhune District)
- Nkgonyeletse Secondary School (Sekhukhune District)
- Phaphamani Primary School (Sekhukhune District)
- Thabane Primary School (Sekhukhune District)
- Naledi Ya Meso Secondary School (Sekhukhune District)
- Rebone Secondary School (Sekhukhune District)

- St. Paul Secondary School (Sekhukhune District)
- Makhwese Secondary School (Sekhukhune District)
- David Scara Primary School (Waterberg District)
- Maphuthi Manamela Secondary School (Waterberg District)
- Mokhari Combined Secondary School (Waterberg District)
- Nkatini Secondary School (Vhembe District)
- Pfumbada Primary School (Vhembe District)
- Vutivi Primary School (Vhembe District)
- Mayeke Primary School (Vhembe District)
- Dikoloi Secondary School (Capricorn District)
- Matsobane Primary School (Capricorn District)
- Potokela Primary School (Capricorn District)
- Rakgoatha Primary School (Capricorn District)
- Chita Kekana Secondary School (Capricorn District)

- **Four (4) projects are at various stages of pre-planning and are ear-marked to start with construction in 2025/2026 financial year. They are:**

- Hututu Secondary School (Sekhukhune District)
- Thabakgone Primary School (Capricorn District)
- Piet Hugo Primary School (Capricorn District)
- Rethusheng Special School (Capricorn District)

Thirty-two **(32) ECD`s** were implemented across the province in the 2024/25 financial year, with the remaining two ECD's to be completed in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2025/2026. An additional 34 infrastructure maintenance projects for Early Child Development (ECD`s) Programme are planned for implementation and completion in 2025/2026 financial year.

This is part of the forward planning we introduced, to manage risk of delayed completion of projects. Part of this is the **forty-nine (49)** infrastructure maintenance projects planned for implementation and completion in 2025/2026 financial year, **forty-two (42)** infrastructure school projects planned for implementation in 2025/2026 and to be completed over Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

Honourable Speaker,

We are also implementing infrastructure on behalf of the **Cooperative Governance, Human settlements and Traditional Affairs**. This is a department which is very close to my heart as it services **Makgoshi a rena, ma apara nkwe**. In providing support to traditional councils across the province, we have provided infrastructure for council offices on behalf of CoGHSTA.

In the 2024/25 financial year, we completed the construction of three council offices that are Raphahlelo in Mopani District, Mphaphuli in Vhembe District and the Matlala -a-Thaba council office in Capricorn District.

In the 2024/25 financial year, we commenced the construction and refurbishment of seven traditional council offices, that are Bakone, Litho-Ndzundza and Mapela in the Waterberg district, Makuya in Vhembe district, Bashayi-Ditlou in Mopani District, Mampane in Sekhukhune district and the Ditlou-Manchidi in Capricorn district. These projects will continue into 2025/26 financial year and will be completed in the second and fourth quarters respectively.

Transport

For the Transport portfolio, we have appointed a professional service provider for the long outstanding completion of the Thohoyandou taxi rank. The project will be ready for tender in the 1st quarter of the 2025/26 financial year. We can confirm that the construction of the Thohoyandou and Seshego K53 Testing Station is on course, scheduled for completion during the first and third quarters for 2025/26 financial year, respectively. In the same breath a contractor has commenced with renovation work at the Lephalale Traffic Station. We expect to complete that project in the fourth quarter of 2025/26 financial year.

Upgrading work has also just commenced at the Groblersbrug weighbridge and completion is expected in the 2nd quarter.

Honourable speaker, with the Limpopo Traffic Training College in Vhembe, we encountered challenges with the service provider concerning the construction of the Kitchen and Canteen.

We are in the process of termination after the poor performance of the service provider. The project is scheduled to be up and running by June 2025 when we have concluded processes to appoint a new service provider. At the same precinct, Block B projects are at practical completion and waiting for final accounts.

Department of Sport Arts and Culture

As far as projects for Sport, Arts and culture are concerned, we can report that the Provincial Theatre is progressing well with physical progress at 35% as of the end of February 2025.

We have also reached practical completion for the Vleifontein library and are approaching completion for the Botshabelo library, standing at 99% completion stage. We are continuing to implement the outstanding Tshaulu and Mampane libraries, in Vhembe and Sekhukhune districts respectively.

Sites were handed over to contractors in March 2025 for the construction of the new libraries in Bungeni, Makhuvha and Matlekereng. A budget of R2-million has been set aside.

The department is also gearing up to do maintenance in eight (8) libraries in different parts of the province.

Honourable speaker, we have been tasked to implement two heritage projects in the 2025/26 financial year for Tshitangadzimeni and the

University of Limpopo in the Vhembe and Capricorn Districts respectively. To date, we have allocated these projects to an in-house Architect and Quantity Surveyor. We plan to appoint a contractor by June 2025.

Agriculture

For the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Renovations and repairs at Tompi Seleka Mzana building are at final completion stage. At the same site, we are also providing support to DBSA who are implementing the renovation of the 6-storey building, which is currently sitting at 50 % completion stage. We are also busy with the refurbishment of three (3) Veterinary laboratories in Mokopane, Lephalale and Makhado as well as the Madzivhandila Security Upgrade which includes a Fence & Guardhouse. Work of refurbishment of five (5) Mopani Redline

Houses, building renovations, plumbing windows, water storage and septic tanks through DBSA is also well underway.

There are also two projects where we are concluding the appointments of Professional Service Providers (PSP's) for the construction of 2x Agro-ecological office buildings in Mopani District North and West.

Limpopo Economic Development Environment and Tourism

For the Department for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, we currently renovating the office building on Suid-Street in Polokwane. We are also fastracking the work on the ground, which currently stands at 51% completion stage. We are also in the process of planning for the refurbishment of their nature reserves.

Department of Social Development

For the Department of Social Development, we have three (3) refurbishments of existing facilities where sites were handed over in the fourth quarter of 2024/25 financial year. The projects are Sekutupu Old Age Home, Polokwane Welfare Complex and DSD Capricorn District office. The projects are to be completed in the first quarter of 2025/26 financial year.

We further are in the process of looking for a suitable office accommodation for the Department of Social Development in order for the Department to have a respective domicilium.

Honourable speaker,

This is the work we implement on behalf of the provincial government in order to fulfil infrastructure

needs of the province. We acknowledge our responsibility to strengthen the provinces professional pool as far as the build environment is concerned. We are to this end as part of the Limpopo Contractor Development Programme (LCDP), have enrolled **36 learner contractors**, who already have started their training from the 7th April 2025. The objective is to develop and skill emerging contractors who are at lower **Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB)** grading of level 2 and 3 and within 36 months, these contractors will be thoroughly developed to a competitive level of grade 4 and 5.

Of the 36 emerging contractors that we enrolled, 67% are young people and 53% of these learners are women. During the period of this development, their economic status will be uplifted, poverty levels will be reduced, and the Department shall have produced skilful men and women contractors who

will be capable of delivering quality and sustainable infrastructure projects and create job opportunities for the people of Limpopo.

Our engagement with TVET colleges to partner with us as far as skills development is concerned has also reached the highest point. We have opened the doors to create opportunities for TVET College students to acquire their practical and work-place based learning experience. We have prepared our mechanical workshops in all our Districts for this purpose. This follows our vision of resuscitating all our **thirteen (13) mechanical workshops and all the thirty-six (36) Cost Centres in our Province.** Our Cost Centres are the strategic points for service delivery, and they must rise and get back to serve our people, maintaining our road network as well as government building. Having appointed personnel to strengthen these centres and having purchased machinery and equipment to support all programme

at our cost centres, this partnership with TVET colleges, will also adding to our objective of resuscitating all our centres and workshops and get Public Works to be at work.

On Property Management

One of our core mandates is to ensure that we secure and manage office space to enable government service to be rendered from. In the 2025/26 financial year, we will be procuring a building which we are currently leasing for office accommodation. The Provincial Treasury has made available a budget of **R100-million** towards this initiative.

On the much-awaited relocation of government offices from Lebowakgomo in Capricorn District to the Sekhukhune District, the wheels have started turning. I have been appointed to chair the inter-

ministerial committee which has been established at the level of the Office of the Premier to help deal with all the matters pertaining to the relocation. We also appreciate the Honourable Premier for the confidence she has shown in us. Constant engagements and updates will be shared with all the relevant and affected stakeholders.

The department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure receives **R3.203 billion for overall infrastructure development.**

Expanded Public Works Programme

In the previous phase, phase IV the province was allocated **475 358** work opportunity targets over a period of five years, thereby contributing **10%** to the national target of **5-million** work opportunities at the time.

The province was able to create **510 166** EPWP work opportunities which is an over-achievement of **107%** of that five-year target.

Honourable speaker

The Premier of Limpopo Hon Dr. Phophi Ramathuba successfully launched EPWP Phase V and the Celebration of 20years of the programme's existence in Limpopo on the 11th October 2024 at the Old Peter Mokaba Stadium. The Limpopo Provincial Government is implementing EPWP, based on work opportunities targets for 5 years aligned to the term of the seventh administration and Phase V of the programme as approved. EPWP Phase V aims to create Four-hundred and ninety- four, four-hundred and fifty- two work opportunities **(494,452)** in the province over a period of five years. This is the total number of work

opportunities to be created by departments, municipalities through all the four sectors namely Infrastructure, Social, Environment and Culture and the Non-State Sector.

In the previous financial year 2024/2025 which is the first year of phase V, as we concluded Quarter 3, the work opportunities achieved was **91 807** against the annual target of **96 361** which translate to **(72%)**. As the Department we are confident that once we audit the fourth quarter performance, we will achieve the target at the end of the financial year 2024/25.

As part of maintenance and cleaning of facilities and public buildings the Department has taken a decision to increase the number of EPWP participants allocated to the national key points in the province to ensure that these important facilities

are kept in good condition, the Government Complex and Parliamentary Village.

The department will continue advocating for incorporation of labour-intensive construction methods and other EPWP prescripts into the procurement documents of all infrastructure projects across all spheres of government in the province to ensure massification of work opportunities in the sector.

Honourable Speaker

As part of Exit Strategies in the programme over **400** EPWP participants in the Roads Infrastructure have been trained in accredited Renewable Energy Workshop Assistant- NQF4 in partnership with National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. This is to enable them to be

employable or start their own businesses when they exit the programme.

EPWP is exploring partnerships with TVET Colleges, SETAS, NPOs, Private Sectors and other entities of government focusing on training and enterprise development as part of exit strategies from the programme. Construction Education & Training Authority (CETA) through a partnership with the Department has made available **R6million** to train **110** young people in various trades namely bricklaying, plumbing and electricians as part of the Artisan Development Programme. These are some of the critical skills that the country needs as it deals with the challenge of youth unemployment.

To this end we are proud to announce that discussions with **Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services (MERSETA)** have been

concluded and have agreed on a partnership Value of R20-million. This is to assist in getting more participants to benefit from the programme.

The Department also has a memorandum of agreement with the Transport and Education and Training Authority (TETA), discussions are still underway to conclude on programmes and number of EPWP participants who will be benefitting from the training and enterprise development programmes committed by these partners. Other SETAs are being approached for similar partnerships working closely with the Office of the Premier. The SETAs are also invited to come forward and partner with the Department.

On Administration

Honourable speaker, we recognise our position as the centre of service delivery, be it through

management of government land and buildings as well as the conveyor belt of goods and services, through the road network we manage. All these are enablers of economic growth in the province.

BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR

In 2025/26 an allocation of **R5.627 billion** is made available, which includes conditional grant funding of R2.055 billion for provincial roads maintenance.

Programme 1: Administration: Provides support to the departmental operations, is allocated **R638.852 million**

Programme 2: Infrastructure operations: Has mandate that includes the determination of accommodation requirements, rendering expert-built environment services to client departments as

well as the acquisition, management, maintenance and disposal of provincial government land and buildings is allocated **R1.2 billion**.

Programme 3: Expanded Public Works

Programme: Responsible for the coordination and implementation of EPWP across sectors is allocated **R 91.010 million**

Programme 4: Roads Infrastructure:

Responsible for road infrastructure maintenance is allocated **R3.632 billion**

Entity: Roads Agency Limpopo: Responsible for road infrastructure upgrade will receive **R958.617 million**

Conclusion

As I conclude, allow me to thank the Honourable Premier of this Province, Dr. Phophi Ramathuba for her leadership and support she is always providing. I also thank the honourable members of the Portfolio Committee on this department as led by the Chairperson, Honourable Khathutshelo Netshifhefhe, your guidance is valued. The same goes to the members of SCOPA led by Chairperson, Honourable Esther Mokwele.

The Staff of Public Works Roads and Infrastructure, led by the Head of Department, Mr. Motlhanke Phukuntsi, let us tie our boots again and go to the ground.

Staff at the entity, led by the Acting CEO, Mr. Makhitha Chesane, the RAL Board of Directors just to mention a few.

Lastly and most importantly I would like to take this opportunity and express my special appreciation to **Mmago Rachoene, Nogana a Phakana, Mma Gobashemane and the entire Rachoene family** for all the support you are giving me as I work diligently to carry out my responsibilities. Coming home from hectic long hours, you are always there to give me all the necessary support I need.

Honourable Members

I therefore table the **2025/2026** Budget Vote of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for consideration and approval by this House.

Ke a leboga. I thank you. Ndza khensa.

Kgotso ya Modimo a ebe le lena!

I thank you.