

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**LEGISLATURE OF THE
NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

TUESDAY 23 JUNE 2026

[UNEDITED]

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we will now observe a moment of silence, prayer or meditation.

HOUSE: Observing a moment of silence.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. You may be seated. Secretary, may you read the next order.

SECRETARY: ORDER NO. 2 PROCEEDINGS ON BILLS

North West Appropriation Bill, 2026: Departmental Budget Votes

2.1 Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation, Vote 4

2.2 Department of Social Development, Vote 12

2.3 Department of Education, Vote 8

2.4 Department of Health, Vote 3

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Secretary. Honourable Members, I will now call on the MEC of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation, Honourable Tlhapi, to present the departmental budget vote speech, Vote No. 04. Honourable Tlhapi, you have 40 minutes as per our Rules 64, Sub-section (5).

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Mme Desbo Mohono, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Ntate Collen Maine, Honourable Chief Whip of the House, Mme Motlalepule Rosho, Chair of Chairs, Mme Tebogo Modise, Honourable Members of the North West Provincial Legislature, Colleagues in the Executive Council. Okay thank you very much Madam Speaker.

Honourable Speaker, I've already greeted yourselves, Chief Whip, and the Premier and let me go to representatives of the House of Traditional and Khoi-san Leaders, Executive Mayors, and MMCs of sports across the province present here today, and all Councillors present here. The Head of the Department, Ntate Itumeleng Mogorosi and the Team, the acting CEO of Mmabana, Ntate Metsileng and the team. All Sector Stakeholders present here today. Our Distinguished Guests, all Dignitaries present here, in the gallery, Members of the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen, Baagi ba Bokone Bophirima, dumelang.

Honourable Speaker, I ascend to the podium to present the 2026/2027 Budget Vote 4 for the Department of Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation. The year 2026 stands as a pivotal moment in the history of this country. It is a year in which South Africa reflects on its significant milestones that had shaped our journey towards attaining freedom, towards attaining democracy, human dignity, and the constitutional governance.

This year marks 30 years since the adoption of the Democratic Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. It was adopted on 08 May 1996, by the country's first Democratic and Representative Parliament. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, which derives from the 1955

Freedom Charter, remains a living expression of the aspirations of our people and a firm commitment to constitutional democracy, human rights, equality, freedom, and the rule of law.

As citizens, we all carry the collective duty to protect our democracy, uphold social cohesion, and contribute meaningfully towards the development of our nation. The official theme for this year's Freedom Day is: "Freedom and the rule of law: Thirty Years of the Democratic Citizenship."

Honourable Speaker, as we reflect on the year 2026, we also recognize it, as a defining moment marked by significant national milestones. This year, South Africa also commemorates the 50th anniversary of the historic 1976 Uprisings, a pivotal turning point in the struggle against the oppression of the Apartheid system.

The resistance against Bantu Education and the forced use of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction ignited the courage and determination of young people across the country. They rose in defence of justice, in defence of dignity, and freedom, thereby demonstrating extraordinary bravery in the face of injustice. Their sacrifice and resilience continue to inspire generations of South Africans to strive for equality, to champion access to quality education, and advance meaningful social transformation.

Madam Speaker, in August this year, our nation will also commemorate the 70th anniversary of the 09 August 1956 march, when 20 000 women courageously gathered at the Union Buildings to protest the extension of the pass laws to women. Ene ba bangwe ba basadi ba ke ba ba tswang kwa Lehurutshe. Madam Speaker, the historic act of defiance stands as a powerful testament to the strength, to the unity, and resilience of the South African women in the struggle for justice and equality.

The theme for this year's National Women's Day, which directs us to "Build Resilient Economies for All," underscores the importance of advancing women's participation in leadership and strengthening their meaningful inclusion in the economy. These commemorations resonate deeply with the constitutional mandate of this Department.

Through programmes in the arts, heritage preservation, cultural promotion, sports development, and recreation, the Department continues to preserve the legacy of our liberation history, while empowering communities both socially and economically. Our programmes remain firmly

anchored in fostering nation building, social cohesion, youth empowerment, healthy lifestyles, and community development.

Despite prevailing economic pressures and fiscal constraints, Madam Speaker, we remain steadfast in our commitment to delivering services to the sectors we serve. Guided by the principles of accountability and service excellence, we continue to position arts, culture, sports, and recreation as powerful drivers of social transformation, economic growth, and community upliftment.

Today, Madam Speaker, we present a Budget Vote that seeks to invest in the future of our people. The budget allocation for the 2026/27 financial year is Eight hundred and sixty million, two hundred and forty-five thousand (R860 245 000) and is distributed as follows: On Programme 1 Madam Speaker, Administration: 188 189 000 Rand, on Cultural Affairs: 259 727 000 Rand, on Library and Archives Services: 220 105 000 Rand, on Sports and Recreation: 192 224 000 Rand. The total budget for this department will be 860 245 000 Rand e e sa kgoneng go thusa sector ya rona as we all know in your House Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, allow me to reflect on progress made against the 25/26 commitments. In the interest of time, Madam Speaker, please allow me not to go through each and every achievement for the past financial year. I will be presenting a synopsis of the work done to date and the record is in the speech for Members and the public to read and to note. In 2025/26 we:

- Committed to achieving a clean audit, and I am proud to report that we have attained clean audits for two consecutive financial years, in 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years respectively. Le jealous ha go na le matsogo.
- Further we achieved clean audits for Klein Marico and Donkervleit trading entities in the 2024/25. Madam Speaker, se ga se go ikoketsa magetla ka maje, re semeletse re le Lefapha ene re tlo phela re semelela re netefatsa Madam Speaker ga re krey a clean audit. We await the audit for the 2025/26 to be completed and I can assure you re tlo krey a clean audit.
- Mmabana received a qualified audit opinion, following three consecutive years of unqualified audit outcomes.
- Madam Speaker, Mmabana has adopted a turnaround strategy that focuses on the systematic capacity-building of the entity over a five-year period from 2025 to 2030. To ensure the effective

implementation of this strategy, the performance agreements of managers have been aligned with its defined outputs and outcomes. The implementation of the turnaround strategy is therefore important in addressing audit findings, while strengthening governance, accountability, and overall organizational performance.

- Mmabana has also strengthened its revenue management systems by implementing mechanisms to improve the collection of outstanding revenue, and to write-off all historical prescribed debt.
- Furthermore, the entity has ensured full compliance with accounting standards by declaring all services rendered in kind, in line with the applicable financial prescripts.
- Honourable Members, in order to address areas of non-compliance, Mmabana has strengthened its institutional capacity through the appointment of highly skilled and experienced managers. These appointments are aimed at enhancing governance, risk management, and compliance systems within the entity and all these positions were filled.
- Honourable Members, and the people of Bokone Bophirima, we are proud to inform this august House that Mmabana has continued to honour its obligations to municipalities for services and has recently cleared a long outstanding debt with Mahikeng Local Municipality and the Mayor can attest to that.
- We have also targeted to create two thousands (2000) job opportunities, and we attained two thousand and two hundred and six (2 206) jobs. This was achieved through the EPWP Programme and short-term contracts.
- We have also targeted to implement forty-five (45) interventions geared towards combating Gender Based Violence and Femicide, and we achieved forty-eight (48).
- We have also provided experiential learning opportunities to sixty-eight (68) young people across various units, contributing to efforts in addressing youth unemployment while building a pipeline of future public service professionals.
- We received one hundred and twenty-eight (128) proposals requesting financial support, of which only fifty-seven (57) were approved, with a total allocation of R 13 million.
- In addition, Mmabana also received Two Hundred and Thirty Three (233) proposals which amounted to Seventy Five Million Three Hundred and Thirteen Thousand Six Hundred and

Twenty Rands (R75 313 620). Due to the limited budget they only managed to fund Twenty Three (23) proposals at a value of Four Million Seventeen Thousand) R4 017 000.

- Therefore Madam Speaker, both the Department and Mmabana Foundation funded Eighty Proposals.
- This investment has strengthened the creative and cultural sector, and it enhanced cultural tourism, and contributed to the promotion of social cohesion in the province.
- We have also allocated R 15 million to support eight (8) film producers, who are currently engaged in productions that will showcase stories from the North West Province across various platforms, including the SABC, MultiChoice, and others. This investment is expected to stimulate job creation across multiple sectors within the industry, including fashion, photography, your make-up and so on.
- We have also partnered with the National Arts Council (NAC) to implement funding workshops across all four districts of the province. This collaboration resulted in a notable increase in the number of proposals from the North West funded by the National Arts Council compared to previous years.
- We have also conducted a range of capacity-building workshops in areas such as writing, manuscript editing, music business, arts administration, and so on. These initiatives have enabled emerging creatives to benefit from the Department's development programmes and enhance their professional skills.
- Further, we have capacitated ten film professionals in Artificial Intelligence, with the aim of positioning production companies to access global platforms such as Hulu and Apple TV, among others. This initiative is also intended to empower production companies to effectively monetise their content and expand their market reach.
- We have also placed twenty-nine (29) young creatives in Community Art Centres, we trained forty (40) managers in community development at NQF Level 4, and contracted one hundred and thirty-five (135) programme tutors as part of the job creation and skills development initiatives.
- We have also facilitated one hundred and twenty-seven (127) Community Conversations across the province tse re itseng rotlhe gore di deala ka dilo tse dintsi tse di farologaneng, your pregnancy,

bana ba ba bullying kwa sekolong, gender-based violence, di-gangster and crime, mental health, and segolobogolo the role of men in society, Honourable Sambatha.

- We have also supported fifteen (15) crafters to exhibit their artworks at the annual Aardklop National Arts Festival that was held in Potchefstroom kwa Dr Kenneth Kaunda District. The festival showcases a dynamic blend of Afrikaans theatre, music, cabaret, and visual arts, while celebrating culture, diversity, and innovation.
- As part of the community participation, we have also supported the following committees to strengthen the execution of their responsibilities in line with their mandate. Mo thoko ga tsone, ke beile madi a e leng gore re ba supporta ka one.

We have supported Provincial Languages Committee allocated. We have supported Provincial Heritage Resource Authority allocated. Also supported Provincial Geographic Names Council. We have also supported Bokone Bophirima Publishing House.

Madam Speakere, we also collaborated with various foundations in preserving of our cultural heritage. We have Onkgopotse Tiro Foundation in implementing the memorial lecture. We have also Dr Ruth Mompati Foundation in celebrating Mama Rutha's birthday through the pilgrimage.

- We have also work with different Traditional Authorities in implementing our arts, culture and heritage programmes. And to this effect, Madam Speaker, we have indeed worked with several Magosi in our province.
- We have also commemorated the key national days, including Freedom Day, and all those days that we all know. Di teng ke di kwadile mo speech, because of time Madam Speaker, like I have indicated I won't go through.
- We have also commemorated and celebrated the historic and cultural observances, including Nelson Mandela, your International and so on.
- We have also assisted twenty-five (25) budding writers in writing and publishing their books, poetry, short stories and novels.
- We have also supported local writers by purchasing locally produced books, including indigenous language material, for distribution to our community libraries.

- We have successfully implemented the Mahika Mahikeng Arts Festival, Madam Speaker, e e leng gore e kgonne go tlisa batho ba le 16,000 in our province ba e leng gore ba tswa kwa ntle. Madam Speaker, this festival created meaningful employment opportunities within the creative industries and contributed positively to the growth of the local economy.

Through partnership with the National Department, we have successfully also held the Hello First Festival in Dr Kenneth Kauda District. This collaboration will further continue in the new financial year gore re kgone go godisa ikonomi ya rona. Ke kopa fela Madam Speaker, ke se ka kopiwa dithekete, batho ba reke dithekete gore ikonomi ya rona e kgone go gola. Ga go na dithekete tsa mahala, багаetsho, ke a ikuela.

- In addition, Madam Speaker, Mmabana successfully hosted the Taung Cultural Calabash, Honourable Morweng, which created valuable opportunities for artists across the province, mainly in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati. The success of the event was largely driven by extensive stakeholder consultations and inclusive planning and implementation processes.

- The 2025 edition featured a refreshed and repackaged main event, with a stronger youth focus reflected in the programme line-up, as well as the introduction of a headline segment for the fashion showcase. In this regard, Mmabana has partnered with renowned international designer Mr David Tlale who conducted masterclasses and ultimately selected two emerging designers from our province to participate in his incubation programme. Both these projects continue to support our local creative sectors by providing platforms that enable our artists to showcase their talent.

- Officially we opened three community libraries to deliver services to the communities. We have opened Madibe a Makgabane re tshwaragane le Kgosi ya kwa Madibe a Makgabane.

- Re butse gape Tswelelang Community Library kwa Maquassi Hills Local Municipality ene le yone e butswa ka di 13 tsa March 2026 as part of the Provincial Human Rights Day celebrations.

- We also on the 6 March 2026, Madam Speaker, as part of the Provincial Accelerated Service Delivery Programme, the Department, in partnership with the Rustenburg Local Municipality, Rustenburg Chrome Mines, and the Royal Bafokeng Institute, we officially opened the Tshukudu Community Library in Thekwane, within the Rustenburg Local Municipality in the Bojanala District. The project was funded by Rustenburg Chrome Mines, while the Department has

committed to ensuring the sustainability of the facility through the provision of personnel, books, and internet services.

- We have also Madam Speaker completed Tseoge, Kudungwane and Matloding cultural villages tseo di dirisiwang ke baagi ba rona.

- Honourable Speaker, Mmabana Arts, Culture and Sports Foundation Taung Centre's Roof e e neng e wele ka 2023, re kgonne go e baakanya re dira le Department of Public Works, Madam Speaker. E ntse sentle e siame ga e sa tlhole e nela.

- A total of nineteen thousand eight hundred and fifty-six (19,856) library books were produced for community libraries at a cost of R7 million. This investment aims to replenish collections and enhance the range and quality of content available across various libraries.

- The Department remains committed to supporting and promoting local writers within the North West Province. In the 2025/2026 financial year, a total of Six Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty Two (6,742) books, valued at Two Million, and one hundred and eleven thousand, eight hundred and one rand and fifty-three cents (R2 111 801.53) were procured from our local authors.

Notably, Madam Speaker, nineteen (19) of the forty-six (46) supported writers e ne e le bomme. Re itumelela gore bomme le bone ba tsaya karolo go change seemo. This initiative underscores our commitment to developing and promoting local content while advancing inclusivity within the literary sector.

- The toys, learning aids, and games were also procured and distributed to all newly established libraries tse ke ntseng ke bua ka tsone as part of the toy library services aimed at supporting early childhood development, Mme Motsumi.

- Records management workshops and inspections were conducted across identified government bodies during the 2025/26 financial year, as part of efforts in strengthening compliance and improve governance practices.

- To ensure the preservation of archival records, the system are conducted and disposal authorities are issued to government bodies. The Department will further ensure that records of enduring value are transferred to all these.

- Madam Speaker, the department successfully hosted the 2026 National Archives Awareness Week in the Province from 8 to 15 May 2026, under the theme “Archives for Justice.” Furthermore, on the 9th of June 2026, we celebrated the International Archives Day, and the Department has unveiled a travelling exhibition titled "Mission Mzansi: German Missionary Roots in South Africa." The exhibition is open to the public at the Provincial Archives Building from di 9 to di 30 tsa June.

Madam Speaker, a total of ten productions, along with a videographer, were funded to participate in the National Arts Council e re e itseng rotlhe e e bidiwang Makhanda, ngwaga le ngwaga our artist tsa rona di ya kwa go yone. It is with great pride that we inform this august House that two of these productions received Ovation Awards at the National Arts Festival, reflecting the high quality and impact of talent emerging from the North West Province before larger and more diverse audiences.

The focus of Mmabana has moved from focusing on quantity of productions or artists supported to the quality supported. In order to improve on the quality of productions, Mmabana has introduced a selection criteria to ensure that productions supported to perform at the National Arts Festival are of high quality. E be e le gore ke batho ba e leng gore ba a itse, ba a tlhaloganya, ke di-professionals ba e leng gore fa ba tsena kwa ba tla emelelwa ba re fe seriti jaaka porofense.

Following the implementation of the 2025/2026 projects, the funding policy has been reviewed to better respond to the needs on the ground and to promote high-impact initiatives within the sector. In this regard, a new category of special projects has been introduced, which will receive funding over a three-year period, subject to their economic viability and long-term sustainability. The special projects should:

- Demonstrate potential to generate revenue and be sustainable beyond three years.
- It must also provide proof that they have been operational in the creative sector and arts sector for a period not below three years.
- And they must also provide financial statements to support their existence and performance.
- They must also demonstrate capability to create jobs for marginalized groups in our province.

In 2024, the Ultimate Talent Search was successfully hosted in the province. However, due to budget constraints experienced, Madam Speaker, in the 2025 financial year, no funding was allocated to this flagship programme. Despite this setback, Mmabana provided support to the winners of the 2024 Ultimate Talent Search by facilitating the recording of their artistic work, thereby ensuring continued development and exposure of their talents.

The following are the top three winners, ga ke sure Madam Speaker gore a ba teng mo letsatsing la kajeko, but these are the top three winners tsa telant search and Mmabana intervention e e expositeng talent ya bone jaana: of the 2024 Ultimate Talent:

Position 1. Ms. Gomotsang Seitumeng from Rustenburg o o rekotileng dipina di le lesome tsa gospel le music o le one. Ya bobedi ke Ntsikelelo Mathe from Taung o o rekotileng dipina di le four le music o le one. Position 3 ke Keaotshepa Morake from Mahikeng o o rekotileng a single and a one music video. Le tla di follow bagaetsho ba ba active mo social media. In recording all these artistic work, 100% local North West talent was utilized across the province.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the following production team that worked tirelessly with our winners: Ntate Thabiso (Tasman) Tsoetsi from Ngaka Modiri Molema district. Ke batla go leboga gape le Co-Producer Ntate Tumisang (Green Fingers) Mokate from Ngaka Modiri Molema District, the Co-Producer Mr. Omega Khunou from Bojanala district, the Sound Engineer Mr. Tshepo Vena from Ngaka Modiri Molema, Music Video Production Mr. Kopano Molokwane from Bojanala, o tswa kwa Madibeng, the Musical Director Orethusitse (Thusi) Mabula from Ngaka Modiri Molema District. Madam Speaker, e bontsha fa porofense e, e na le tshono tota e bontsha le gore ke rona re kgonang. Pilapila Madam Speaker, ke rona re dominate kwa Gauteng. It's just that Gauteng e ichaya ka batho ba rona mare ke phela ke ba bolelela gore North West ke mo talent e leng mo teng.

Madam Speaker, I also want to encourage our top three winners of the 2024 Ultimate Talent Search to draw some inspiration and be encouraged by the work of one of our own, from Bokone Bophirma, Kgethang Konese, whose massive single hit "Rea Ho Leboha" surpassed a million plays and reached number 1 hotspot on iTunes charts.

Madam Speaker:

- We have also successfully achieved the automation of Provincial Archives through the implementation of the national Automated Archival Information System (AToM) by SITA, in partnership with the National Archives and Records Services.
- We also ensured participation of four hundred and seventy-two (472) learners in the National School Sport Championships against a target of three hundred and thirty-six (336).
- We have also through the Sports Academy, provided support to five hundred and forty-two (542) high performance athletes, against a target of four hundred (400).
- We also successfully trained four hundred and fifty-seven (457) individuals in sports and recreation programmes, exceeding the initial target of four hundred and fifteen (415). This achievement was made possible through the strong collaboration with various sport federations, whose valuable contribution is greatly appreciated, Madam Speaker, re a leboga batho ba federation ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: MEC! MEC! You have 10 minutes.

HON. TLHAPI: I'm almost there darem. Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Let me go straight to what I'm going to do this financial year before 10 minutes e fela Madam Speaker. Let me go to 2026/2027.

Madam Speaker in the new financial year the department will continue to support the cultural and creative sector through the seventeen (17) clusters that were established by the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. We will soon be launching these sectors from the grassroots up until the province. We have listened to issues raised by the sector, and we will be embarking on a journey to minimize this.

In the 2026/27 financial year, the Department will provide financial support to various priorities as listed:

- We will transfer 136,1 million to be transferred to Mmabana Arts, Culture, Sports Foundation.

- We also going to transfer R5,3 million to be transferred to committees (PLC, PGNC, PHRA, Publishing House).
- We are also going to transfer R1.3 million to be transferred to Community Arts Centres. Re kopa lo di tlhokomeleng bagaetsho. We also going to give 1.1 million to support Museums, R6.7 million to implement Commemorative days, R2 million for implementation of the Provincial Creative awards.
- R12 million to support Artists in the Province,
- R5 million to support Film,
- R15 million to host di-SAMA. Di boile le tsone di-SAMA bagaetsho. Kopa le sa nkopa dithekete, lo reke dithekete. Di boetse mo porofenseng ya rona. Ga ken a dithekete. Di a rekisiwa bagaetsho.
- R2 million to develop the Moses Kotane statue.

Ke a leboga Madam Speaker, ne ke re ba reke dithekete. Ga ba tlhoke go bua thata. Madam Speaker, on the sports fraternity we will make sure that the four million to the procurement, on the library books, four million towards the procurement of library books, of which R2.3 it will be from our local authors.

- We will also give R7 million for procurement of library for furniture.
- R34.3 million for the implementation of Library capital projects,
- R21.7 million to support Local municipalities to implement services tsa library and re tlo netefatsa gore re thatafatsa monitoring.
- And R1.7 million to support the Library for the Blind project.

For the sport, Madam Speaker, because ke itlhaganetse. For the sport Madam Speaker, for the sport development:

- R11.8 million to support academies. E tla be re e isa kwa go bone.
- R4 million to support Provincial Sports Confederation.
- R2 million to support National Summer Olympics.

- R500 000 for the Provincial Hiking, le yone lo e joine.
- R1,7 million to support the Comrade Marathon.
- R2 million for support of the implementation, which is a new baby, ya the Rural Sport Development Games.
- R300 000 for Cycling.
- R1 000 000 for Bojanala Marathon.
- R2 000 000 for Maintenance of Stadia and recreation.
- R2 000 000 for hosting the Provincial Sports Awards. Le tsone ha ken a dithekete lo reke.
- R2 000 000 for hosting N 12 marathon.
- R2 000 000 for hosting National Championships.

Madam Speaker, ke tsone madinyana a re tla beng re le teng. Ha ka tswelela, Madam Speaker, I forget. Let me wish, Madam Speaker, before ke lebala, Bafana Bafana all of the best ga ne ba ile kwa world cup. Ke a ba tshepa Madam Speaker. Ke kopa gore re ba fe matsogo ke batho ba rona.

Honourable Speaker, let me also take this opportunity to thank the Honourable Premier, my colleagues in Executive Council, the Portfolio Committee and the sectors we serve. We value your contribution and support. I also want to thank my Chief of Staff Rre Mbulawa le team ya gagwe.

I also want to thank Ntate Mogorosi, acting CEO Ntate Metsileng, team ACSR and Mmabana management team and the entire staff for their hard work and I know it is not easy to work with me. I also want to thank my family for the support they provide in the execution of the responsibilities.

The African National Congress in the North West Province led by Provincial Chairperson Comrade Nono Maloyi and the Provincial Secretary Comrade Louis Diremelo, the appreciation the African National Congress e mphileng yone go ntshepa gore ke tla tsamaisa lefapha le sentle. Ke a leboga Honourable Chair.

Madam Speaker, I also want to thank my comrades, my visitors, my guests, ke lebogela go tla ga lona go tla go utlwelela budget vote e. With those words, I hereby table the budget vote for the

Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation for the 2026/2027 for the approval. Madam Speaker, ke a leboga. Ke lebogile багаetsho.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable MEC. Thank you very much. Ke tshepa ba go utlwile gore ba reke dithekete, ba se ka ba botsa gore tsa bone di kae. Thank you very much. Honourable Members, I have received an apology from the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee of Education, Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation, Honourable Williams.

She's not well and have requested Honourable Magagane to table and lead the debate on the committee report of Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation Annual Performance Plan 2026/2027. Honourable Magagane, you have seven minutes.

HON. MAGAGANE: Thank you very much Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Premier Kagiso Mkgosi, Honourable Members and the citizens of the North West. I rise today to table the report on the Portfolio Committee on Education, Culture, Sports, Arts and Recreation on Budget 4 for 2026/2027 financial year.

Honourable Speaker, let me be unequivocally clear from the onset. This committee's deliberations were not a rubber-stamping exercise. We approached this budget with a fine-tooth comb because public funds must yield public value.

The core deliberations focused on structural readiness, institutional transparency and non-negotiable protection of our cultural, creative and sporting assets. As we debate this budget, the committee would like to see the department shift from a posture of passive spending to one of aggressive, measurable execution.

We are here to safeguard the interests of our communities, our youth and our grassroots athletes. Honourable Speaker, our foremost deliberations centred on the department's internal governance and structural integrity. We raised sharply uncomfortable questions regarding the APP. The committee expressed serious concerns over the potential alignment between past underperformance and the current targets setting.

Honourable Speaker, this department has the smallest appropriation from our provincial coffers. Furthermore, we deliberated extensively on the uncoordinated protected shifting of library administration from local municipalities. Previously the department took the functions to the municipalities to run our libraries, and this has not yielded the right form of results for us.

And also, Honourable Speaker, the central archives unit is facing operational failure. Vital state documentation and cultural heritage data may be compromised and systematically lost due to primitive preservation systems and this needs to be attended to urgently. It is an indictment unfortunately for the department's publishing house where they are being accused of reprinting some books against the family of the author's wishes.

And we need to protect intellectual property and vet properly our local writers and our creators. Under a highly restricted operational ceiling, the department is suffering an acute shortage of resources, Honourable Speaker, and that what we stand to lose here Honourable Speaker is that our cultural assets are transforming into bleeding wounds of the provincial purse instead of leading and assisting the province economically.

The committee also looked at the dormancy of ... [INAUDIBLE] ... recreational centres and the indifference that is there and the infrastructure and compliance challenges at Grootkopie Tourism Centre in Klerksdorp that prove a pattern of neglect. We are sitting on a localised economic engines that are stalled due to lack of operational strategies.

Additionally, Honourable Speaker I'm happy that the MEC mentioned it here, but what we need to see now is that the long plan provincial stories in place of the unaffordable telenovela project. We need to see it coming in and stimulating our local creative economy. And we need to see the money must be accounted for and the project must come live.

Turning to sports and youth development, the committee flagged the persistent, unacceptable, disconnect between the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture and the Department of Basic Education. The MOU is still not signed in the province, and we need it signed so that there is actually grassroots talent in identification and we get rid on the sense of our children that are paying the price of bureaucratic silos.

We deliberated on the exclusive use of infrastructure such as the North West Soccer Institute, the Royal Marang Institute and what we need is better access to these exclusive infrastructure to open up to maximise return on investment for all our athletes across the province.

Honourable Speaker, I will then go into the recommendations and that what we need is that the department must actually be strict and put on a strict legislative leash and within the next 30 days, the department must table an archives digitisation plan, recreation action plan, a joint framework for schools sports with basic education, a SETA partnership performance register, an intellectual property author vetting protocol, an operational readiness brief for the Disability Olympics.

Within 45 days, a comprehensive report on the cultural village audit and the rationalisation report must be brought before this committee to cut funding to non-performing sites. Within 60 days, the department must submit a comprehensive library function, professionalisation blueprint, an access expansion framework for the elite infrastructure.

Unfortunately, Honourable Speaker, I'm saying it I think for the sixth time, the budget allocation for 2026/2027 financial year of 860 245 000 is simply not adequate to make a meaningful impact. In collaboration with Treasury and the private sector, the department urgently needs to seek alternative funding and also for the Provincial Treasury to look into possibilities of increasing the budget with at least 200 million to actually assist with the shortage.

And with that in closing, Honourable Speaker, I wish to extend our profound gratitude for all the members of the committee for their unwavering dedication and sharp oversight during this process. I would like to also thank Mokhuthuduthamaga wa rona Mme Tsotso Tlhapi, officials of the department led by the HOD and our exceptional committee staff whose hard work makes our oversight role empowering and effective.

In accordance with the Rule 153, the Portfolio Committee hereby recommends that this House adopts the committee report on Budget 4 for the financial year 2026 for the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture and Recreation. But Honourable Speaker, this is also in line with putting in collaborative efforts with Treasury and the private sector. I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Magagane. I will now call on Honourable Sonti. You have 10 minutes.

HON. SONTI: Ngibonge Honourable Speaker. The Economic Freedom Fighters rise to pronounce our position on the 2026/2027 budget vote of the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation. We have listened to the MEC's presentation and have studied the budget documents. We must state that as the EFF we reject this budget vote in its entirety.

This budget is a continuation of the African National Congress' failure to prioritise the development of our people, the empowerment of our youth and the preservation of our rich cultural heritage. It is a budget that throws money at problems without addressing the systematic rot and institutional dysfunction that has collapsed this department for years.

When we look at the 2026/27 budget and compare it with that of the 2025/26 financial year, to expose the empty promises addressed and increased numbers. In the 2025/2026 financial year, the department was allocated 776 million. For the 2026/2027 financial year, the allocation has been increased to 860.2 million. This represents an increase of approximately 84 million.

However, Honourable Speaker, an increase in budget without a risk corresponding increase in performance and service delivery is nothing but a fiscal illusion. The MEC and the department expect us to celebrate this marginal increase when the needs of our people are a lot. Our sporting fields remain dilapidated, our artists are starving, our cultural institutions are in decay and our libraries are understaffed and under resourced.

The 860 million allocated, it's a drop in the ocean compared to what is required to truly transform this sector and unlock the potential of our province's youth and recreative industries. The EFF has carefully examined where this additional funds are illegitimately being directed. And we find no evidence of the strategic shift that will address the poor performance of this department.

The department continues to bleed money in administration, and salaries for a bloated and inefficient administration while the actual programmes that are supposed to benefit the people remain underfunded. The mass participation and sport development conditional grant, which is

meant to drive grassroots sport development, it is not proportionate increase that would allow for the construction and refurbishment of sporting facilities in our townships and villages.

Instead, the bulk of the increase allocation appears to be swallowed by the department's own operational costs. Where is the money for the revival of the school sports? Where is the investment in our local football clubs, netball teams and athletics programmes? The ANC government continues to treat sports as an afterthought, a luxury for those who can afford rather than a fundamental tool for social cohesion for youth development and nation building.

Honourable Speaker, the challenges at Mmabana are a perfect example of how this department continues to waste public funds on entities that deliver nothing but failure. It has been reported that Mmabana Foundation will receive over 130 million in this financial year, yet it consumes almost 90% of this budget on salaries for its officials.

Nearly 70% of foundations budget is spent solely on salaries with minimal tangible outcomes in the fields of arts, culture or sports. The entity lacks a permanent CEO and is run entirely by acting officials creating an environment of toxicity and impunity.

Persistent governance issues need allocations of funds and a lack of progress have led to calls for the disillusion of this foundation. Yet instead of heeding these calls and reallocating these funds to directly support struggling artists, athletics and cultural initiatives, the ANC government continues to prop up this failing entity.

The issue of sporting fields in this province is another indictment of ANC's failure. Our communities particularly in the rural areas and townships are desperate for proper sporting infrastructure. The EFF has rightly called for the revitalisation of key stadiums such as iconic but neglected Mmabatho Stadium.

The portfolio committee of sports, arts and culture during its oversight visit to the North West Province identified a critical challenge in a significant number of municipalities regarding infrastructure utilization, accessibility and maintenance. Our sporting clubs face notable challenges in implementing and sustaining programmes likely due to a lack of policy support and resource allocation.

This is the reality of the ANC's government. They promise world class facilities but our children continue to play on dusty, unsafe fields. They promise to develop the land but our athletes have to leave the province to find proper training facilities. We can no longer accept these excuses while our youth is being denied an opportunity to excel in sports.

Honourable Speaker, the EFF proposes a fundamental shift in how this department operates. We propose a massive investment in sporting infrastructure with a focus on building and refurbishing facilities in previously disadvantaged communities.

The department must prioritise the appointment of qualified staff and provision of proper resources for our libraries and archives. The department should implement a transparent and accountability system for the allocation of funds to ensure that every Rand reaches its intended beneficiary. The EFF believes that the department should actively work to promote our indigenous languages, cultures and heritage rather than paying lip service of these issues.

We propose that department establishes a provincial arts and culture fund that directly supports emerging artists and creative entrepreneurs. These are not radical proposals, they are common sense solutions that any government committed to the wellbeing of its people would implement.

Honourable Speaker, the people of North West are tired of empty promises and wasteful expenditure. They are tired of seeing their taxes being used to pay salaries of officials who deliver nothing while their children have nowhere to play sports and their artists have no platform to showcase their talent.

The EFF will not be complicit in this ... [INAUDIBLE] ... We reject this budget vote because it does not address the fundamental challenges ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: As you wrap up.

HON. SONTI: Facing this department. It does not prioritise the needs of our people. It does not hold the failing entities accountable. We call on the MEC and ANC government to stop playing politics with the lives of our people and to start delivering on their promises.

The EFF will continue to fight for a North West where every child has access to quality sporting facilities, every artist has the opportunity to thrive and every community can celebrate its rich cultural heritage. We reject this budget and we will not rest until the people of this province receive the services they deserve. Ngibonge Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Sonti. I will now call Honourable Wallhorn. You have eight minutes. Eight minutes.

HON. WALLHORN: Honourable Speaker, thank you. I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to respond to the budget vote Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation. We do support this budget but with careful consideration. We will not oppose it without reason ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. MOEMA: Speaker?

HON. WALLHORN: We measure it ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. MOEMA: Speaker?

HON. WALLHORN: We measure ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Can you take you seat Honourable Wallhorn. Honourable Moema.

HON. MOEMA: Thank you very much Speaker. Is Honourable Wallhorn prepared to take a question? He's supporting the budget we ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Members!

HON. MOEMA: On whose class interest is he supporting the budget?

HON. SPEAKER: Order. Honourable Members! Honourable Members! Honourable Members!
Honourable Members!

HON. SONAKILE: Ao monna mogolo ha so a bue sepe. He, eh!

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Members! Can you be honourable! Honourable Wallhorn, are you ready to take a question?

HON. WALLHORN: No.

HON. SPEAKER: He can't. Continue.

HON. WALLHORN: No, your honour.

HON. SPEAKER: Continue Honourable Wallhorn.

HON. WALLHORN: Thank you. We will measure it against one simple question: Will it as executed by this department actually change lives in our communities and for our residents? The honest answer based on a track record is that it will only succeed if the old ways are abandoned

and strict controls are implemented on every Rand. The department's vision of active creative winning and socially cohesive communities is one we share.

The problem is not in a vision. It is in a machinery underneath a system that builds ghost stadiums, bankrupt small subcontractors and keeps feeding bloated entities that deliver next to nothing. Every Rand in this budget must be governed by controls you cannot bypass so that communities see something real and tangible.

Before I talk numbers, I need to talk about people. Behind every failed project, there is a human being. The construction worker in Tlhabane who helped build a sports facility three years ago and he is still waiting for his payment. The young visual artist in Taung was excluded from opportunities because she would not trade favours. The footballer in Mahikeng who trains on a patch of dirt because the promised pitch was never constructed. The librarian in a rural municipality holds things together with nothing while the province draws organograms.

We have listened to those voices and we have acted. The DA demanded a treasury probe into the 20 million Tlhabane West sports facility. We have raised the issues of the Mmabatho Stadium. The DA flagged that provincial infrastructure submission to Infrastructure South Africa failed basic requirements. We will keep pushing for answers regarding serious allegations of misconduct at the highest level of our public entities.

Honourable Speaker, you cannot discuss this budget without discussing Mmabana. Over a 122 million a year, salaries consume 67% of the budget totalling 71 million. The result? Negligible accredited outcomes. No permanent CEO, a chain of acting officials and a culture of toxicity and impunity. Let's be frank. Mmabana is not functioning as an arts development agency.

The DA has called for the disillusion of the Mmabana Foundation. However, we also proposed a constructive alternative. Redirect the 122 million into a new independent grant making body that operates independently of politics. Its job is to fund artists, cultural projects and community sport directly. It must be overseen by a panel of credible sector experts, and every grant must pass through an open, competitive process. That is how you build a creative economy by putting the money into the hands of creatives and athletes not into a broken institution.

People often ask what the DA would do differently. The DA would develop a lean department that enables not one that micromanages. Our model allocates arts and sports grants through an open,

competitive e-lottery system that eliminates political gatekeepers. We would call the private sector using targeted tax incentives to unlock corporate sponsorships for community sport and cultural festivals.

The department's core job then becomes building and maintaining public infrastructure, stadiums, libraries and theatres with ringfenced maintenance budgets while communities run programmes through clubs and non-profits. This is a true path to fostering socially cohesive communities. This budget could have taken a first step onto that road, but it is another lost opportunity.

Therefore, in simple terms, this is the DA's position: We will support this budget but our support rests on four non-negotiable conditions. These are not suggestions to be considered when convenient. They are our price for cooperation. (1) A live public project dashboard. Every infrastructure project ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: As you wrap up. As you wrap up.

HON. WALLHORN: Thank you. Above five million must be tracked in real time. Milestones spending, sub-contractor payments status and completion forecasts. The people deserve to see where the money goes. Provincial Treasury must evaluate and approve every tender before it is awarded. No tender leaves this department without Treasury's independent scrutiny.

That is the barrier we need against unauthorized, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure. On awarded tenders, payments must flow in trenches and be authorised by Provincial Treasury not by the department alone. A verified site report done jointly by the department's technical team and this legislature's Portfolio Committee.

The DA pushes for a centralised procurement mechanism for all sport infrastructure above 10 million, piloted to create bulk buying power and end the fragmentation that invites abuse. This approach is tested. It cuts costs and strengthens oversight. Beyond these four conditions, the DA will insist on a binding amendment for conditional grants. If a grant is projected to be under absorbed by more than 10% in the first two quarters, a public remediation plan must be tabled

before the Portfolio Committee. The plan must show a credible recovery path or a transparent reallocation to programmes that perform well.

Honourable Speaker, the DA is not here to block progress. We are here to make progress real. We will not let the perfect become the enemy of the possible, but we will never accept the unacceptable. Lift your eyes from this chamber and direct them to the unfinished stadium in Tlhabane, the unpaid worker in Taung and the young artist in Mahikeng. They are our shareholders.

The DA will use every oversight power we have to ensure accountability. We will be an unrelenting watchdog, scrutinising every risk. The DA believes in arts, culture, sport and recreation as the engines of social cohesion, job creation and youth development. We demand transparent outcome-driven programmes that deliver real community benefit. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Wallhorn. I will now call on Honourable Groenewald, three minutes.

HON. GROENEWALD: Thank you Honourable Speaker. This department speaks about active creative and social cohesive communities, but the question is not what the department says, the question is what communities can actually use. Can they use the library? Is the archives protected? Is the recreations centre open? Are cultural villages alive or are they just building on lists?

Are young athletes getting fair access to facilities? Are artists being developed into professionals or merely counted in reports? The committee report raises serious concerns. The transfer of library administration from municipalities back to the province remains slow and uncoordinated. Libraries are not a luxury.

For many learners and unemployed young people, this is their only access point to books, information, study space and digital opportunities. Yet the province still struggles with shortages of modern books, digital material and proper library support.

The central archives unit is another warning sign. If records are not protected and digitised, the state loses memory, evidence and accountability. A province that cannot preserve its records cannot honestly claim to preserve its heritage.

Honourable Speaker, the same pattern appears in assets. The non creation centre remains dormant. Cultural villages have received public money, yet many have failed to deliver on their mandate. These assets should serve communities, attract visitors and support local economic activity. Instead, too many become quiet monuments to poor planning.

Sports also needs honesty. Schools sport cannot grow when coordination with Basic Education is weak. Elite infrastructure such as Royal Marang cannot be treated as if it's worth the property of a single team or code. Publicly supported sporting facilities must serve the broader sporting community of the North West.

Then there is Mmabana. It has an important mandate, but the committee raised direct concerns about high compensation costs, limited maintenance capacity, reliance on a provincial grant, unresolved legal exposure and the lack of alternative revenue. This is not sustainable. An art institution cannot spend more of its energy sustaining itself while its core mandate becomes secondary.

The Freedom Front Plus supports arts, culture, sports, heritage, libraries and language rights but support does not mean silence. We need working libraries not library promises. We need digitised archives not excuses. We need open recreation centres not dormant assets. We need cultural villages that generate value rather than consume allocations. We need artists, learners and athletes to benefit directly not only administrators and entities.

As communities look at the government closest to them, they will not ask whether a programme has a beautiful name, they will ask whether the facility opened, whether the young person got an opportunity and whether public money changed anything. This vote does not give that assurance. Therefore, the Freedom Front Plus does not support it. Thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Groenewald. Honourable Matshe, you have seven minutes.

HON. MATSHE: Motlotlegi mmusakgotla, Tonakgolo, Maloko a fano a Kokoanopeomolao, багаetsho ba North West, ke a dumedisa. Re tla fa go tla go tsena mo dikganetsanong tsa tekanyetsokabo ya Lefapha le. Mme re tlhalose gore lefapha le ga la wa kwa moweng. Le tswa kwa se rona re neng re dumalana ka sone re le African National Congress.

E ne ya re fa puso ya tlhaolele e tshikinyega e le gaufi le go wa, ra tla ka tokomane e e bidiwang “Ready to Govern.” Tokomane eno e re tlama go dira dilo di le mmalwa. Mo teng e tlhalosa ga ke nopola fela, ya re: “A flourishing cultural life that is vital to the wellbeing of South Africans.” Mme tokomane e, e tswa mo se re reng ke tokomane ya ponelopele ya rona e leng Freedom Charter.

Freedom Charter, Honourable Sonakile, e a re the doors of learning and culture shall be open to all. Selo seo go thata go se ganetsa Motlotlegi Sonakile. Re tsaya gore le gompieko ba ba gaufi le wena a ba utlwe gore selo se se thata go se ganetsa. Ke utlwile Batlotlegi ba babedi ba bua fa mme go bonala gore ga ba a utlwa ga re ne re re the doors of learning and culture shall be open.

Ba tswala matlho fela ba bo ba re ga ba eme nokeng tekanyetsokabo e. Jaanong re ka ba kopa gore bulang matlho, reetsang gore ra reng ga re tsena mo dikganetsanong tse tsa tekanyetsokabo. Go ya kwa pele, Motlotlegi Mmusakgotla, lefapha le primarily it must focus on nation building, social cohesion, youth development, community empowerment, heritage preservation, language development and protection, recreation and sports transformation as well as local economic participation of our people.

Therefore, every programme must be judged as to whether it’s able to expand access, correct the historical exclusion, strengthen community empowerment and restores the dignity of the people as a whole. Madi a lefapha le le a boneng mo dingwageng tse di fetileng, re itumelela gore a dirisitswe sentle.

E bile lefapha le, le bone go ya ka morunikakaretso se re reng ke clean audit. Jaanong wena ga o sa fiwa maatla a go runa dibuka tsa mafapha, o ngongoregelang ka gore ga o itse sepe ka go runa? Ba ba filweng maatla a go runa dibuka ba re ke clean audit. Jaanong se se botlhokwa ke gore lefapha le, le re itsise gore le tlile go sustain jang this clean audit.

Se sengwe se se botlhokwa ke go netefatsa gore re tsosolosa setheo sa Mmabana e nne sengwe sa dilo tse re tla nnang motlotlo ka sone. Mantlonyane a a ntseng a diragala kwa ditheong dingwe tsa Mmabana a a fele Motlotlegi Mokhuduthamaga. A re bone Mmabana e e nang le seriti e tsweletsa pele mosebetsi o re dumalaneng ka one go matlafatsa setshaba sa gaetsho.

Puo ya rona, dipuo tsa rona tse di farologaneng, they are not just symbolic. They are about what defines us. So the protection and the development of our languages becomes very, very important. Re itumelela Motlotlegi Mokhuduthamaga gore the creative arts, ba simolotse go nna better organised and better coordinated. Ra re a e se ka ya nna puo fela. A re bone go diragala.

Mme re tlhagise gore bomme in the arts and culture sector ba tlhoka tshegetso, tshegetso e e tlhokagala segolo thata mo bathong ba ba nang le bogole e se ka ya re re ya kwa pele, ra ba tlogela kwa morago. Re ikuela mo lefapheng gore baatho ba ba nang le bogole a ba ungelwe mo mananeong a a farologaneng a lefapha le.

Mme re kope gape gore go na le mananeo a a bidiwang intergenerational programmes. Re kopa gore mananeo ao, a tsennngwe tirisong, bagolo ba rona ba se ka ba ya go ikhutsa ka tshedimosetso e e neng e ka aga setshaba se botoka.

HON. SPEAKER: As you wrap up.

HON. MATSHE: Mo boemong jwa African National Congress, re ema fa Motlotlegi Mmusakgotla re kopa gore Ntlo e ya gago e bule matlho e se ke ya gatsela mo megopolong ya yone mme e amogele tekanyetsokabo e. Re a leboga.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Matshe. I will now call Honourable Tsholo, three minutes.

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, the budget that has been proposed by the Honourable MEC responsible for the Department of Arts, Sports,

Culture and Recreation of the 860 245 000, it is just a drop in the ocean looking at the population of our province especially youth in this particular regard.

Can the Honourable MEC assure this particular province of the North West community that this particular 860 245 000 will sustain all the libraries in this particular province, the recreation centres as well as sports, arts and culture? For me Honourable Chair, as uMkhonto weSizwe Party, the department has just budgeted our children into idleness.

As the province we are battling substance abuse by our youth, gangsterism especially around the region or district of Bojanala as well as teenage pregnancy. Madam Speaker, uMkhonto weSizwe Party is of the view that the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation does not live up to the strategic goals of providing leadership to sports, arts and culture sector as well as the recreation to accelerate its transformation.

The department is having good plans, Honourable Speaker, and stories to tell on paper. But there is no visible convincing impact on the ground in the communities that they are serving. While acknowledging the little efforts that has been sighted by the Honourable MEC responsible for this particular department through her budget speech, it cannot be correct, Honourable Speaker, that the department does not do enough to preserve, develop, protect and promote the cultural heritage, linguistic diversity and legacy of our province.

The department also, Honourable Speaker, does not provide adequate oversight on sports participation, sports infrastructure and safety. As a result, the province's national ranking in sports is still down as compared to other provinces. Let these particular highly skilled, highly experienced recently employed managers that you have appointed in the department bring about a paradigm shift in the department with particular reference to Mmabana in this particular instance, Honourable Speaker.

When we talk about the issue that appeared last year, Honourable Speaker, where the department was supposed to transfer funds to local municipalities and we rejected that. The committee, Honourable Chairperson, raised critical concerns regarding the protracted, uncoordinated process of shifting the library administration ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: As you wrap up.

HON. TSHOLO: From the local municipalities back to the provincial department. Members questioned the structural readiness of the department to absorb this particular mandate and demanded proof of a dedicated, ringfenced budget allocation to manage the transition without disrupting local access.

We are requesting that the Honourable MEC respond to this particular pertinent question as it was raised by the Portfolio Committee under the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation Portfolio Committee Discussion Item 6.1. With that particular regard, Honourable Speaker, ke a leboga.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Chief Whip of the House, do you have any apology from Honourable Kodisang? Honourable Chief Whip of the House? I was saying do you have any apology from Honourable Kodisang? Okay. Thank you very much. I will now call on Honourable Sebegoe, nine minutes.

HON. SEBEGOE: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members of the Legislature, leaders of sports federations, coaches, athletes, recreation practitioners, youth formations, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Honourable Speaker, we rise today to engage the 2026/27 budget of the Department of Arts, Sports and Culture, Recreation with a clear political understanding that arts, culture, sports and recreation are not luxuries, they are instruments of social transformation, nation building, democratic breakthrough. The ANC understood that a flourishing cultural and sporting life is central to the dignity and unity of our people.

The budget vote must therefore be just by the extent to which it advances transformation especially in sports, recreation and youth empowerment. Sport is not merely about trophies, medals and score boards, it is about discipline, health, unity, patriotism, township and rural development, gender

equality, disability inclusion, social cohesion, and opening opportunities for young people who continue to carry the burden of unemployment, poverty and exclusion.

The department has quite well recorded achievements that deserve recognition. Major cultural and sporting events that are seen on a day-to-day basis, provincial tournaments that are dominant within various kasis of our province, school sports programmes, community recreation initiatives and support to local clubs, demonstrate that investment in this portfolio can place communities on the provincial and national map.

The Mahika Mahikeng Festival, for example, generated an economic impact of 40.3 million and created 260 jobs at that time confirming the role of cultural programming local economic development. And at the same time, delays affecting programmes such as Taung Cultural remind us that planning, legal compliance and contract management must be strengthened so that communities do not pay the price of administrative weaknesses.

We also acknowledge progress in the rollout of library infrastructure including community libraries as alluded by the MEC, of Madiba Makgabane, Dinokana and Wolmaransstad. However, infrastructure must be matched by the reliable access, maintenance, staffing and digital inclusion and archives services.

In sport development, support to initiatives such as Orbit College Football Club, the N12 Ultra Marathon and Comrades Marathon qualifiers, shows that the province can nurture excellence. The reported implementation of sports and recreation initiatives reaching 126% of the target is a significant indication that access can be expanded when programmes are properly driven.

The promotion of North West University Eagles to the second division of PSL, must also be supported as part of promoting sports while also rehabilitating the Mmabatho Stadium and other facilities for the province to host major sports events.

The department's clean audit history and implementation of the post-audit action plan are important to be recognised but oversight meetings reported far below targets raising a concern which must be attended to. A clean audit must translate into a clean delivery, credible oversight, consequence management. The good news must never make us complacent.

The figures also tell an important story. In 2025/26 financial year, the departmental budget allocation stood at 77 176 million with allocation including the 219 for library and archives services. This increase must not be treated as a mere accounting adjustment. It must be translated into stronger delivery in communities, better supported libraries, improved archives and information services.

The improvement in the budget must therefore be matched by improving in planning, spending, monitoring and visible outcomes. Former President Nelson Mandela and our global icon reminded us that sport has the power to change the world, to inspire and to unite people in a way that little else does. That power must be deliberately directed towards building communities that are healthy, active, non-racial, non-sexist, inclusive and proud.

We must acknowledge about the gaps. Many communities still lack safe, accessible and well maintained sports facilities but obviously we should not forget that this is purely because of the lack of funding that we really wish the province could get some funds especially from national government.

A properly used sports field can draw young people away from destructive activities. A recreation programme can improve mental and physical health. A club can become a place of discipline, mentorship and belonging. In communities confronting unemployment, substance abuse, violence and despair, sport and recreation must be part of a social response.

The ANC's approach to transformation requires that sport must reflect the demographics, dreams and diversity of our people. We must ask who plays? Who coaches? Who manages? Who serves on boards? Who receives sponsorships? Who gets media coverage? And, who benefits economically? Transformation must be visible in teams, federations, procurement, leadership and community access.

Youth empowerment must sit at the centre of this budget vote. As we mark the 50th year anniversary of 1976 youth uprisings, this budget vote must honour the courage of that generation by investing more deliberately in today's young people. Young people must be trained not only as athletes but also as coaches, referees, administrators, event managers, ground keepers, physiotherapists, sports journalists, digital content creators, fitness instructors and entrepreneurs in the sport economy. This is how sport becomes a pathway to livelihood not only medals.

This budget vote must treat sport and recreation as a contributor to inclusive local economic development. Events create demand for transport, accommodation, catering, security, creative services, informal trading and tourism. With proper planning, they can support small business and strengthen local economy.

The department must also use sport to promote national symbols, patriotism and social cohesion. When young people sing the national anthem, respect the flag, represent their communities with pride, they participate in nation building. We must build a sport culture that rejects the racism, xenophobia, sexism, violence, corruption, doping and exclusion.

The same principle applies to persons with disability. Inclusive sports must be mainstreamed not treated as a side programme. Facilities must be accessible, coaches must be trained, programmes must be planned inclusively and athletes with disabilities must receive recognition. We must not underestimate the value of the safe recreation space where families gather, young people play, elders participate and communities rebuild trust.

Indigenous games such as Diketo, Morabaraba and Kgati deserve stronger support as they connect generations and preserve cultural knowledge, affirm African identity and provide low-cost opportunities for participation in school and communities ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: As you wrap up.

HON. SEBEGOE: The ANC's political commitment is to build a better life for all in sports and recreation. This means that a child in a village must have the same right to dream like a child in a city. It means that talent must not be defeated by poverty.

As I conclude, Speaker, I just want to comment on one area that was raised by Honourable Sonti. Honourable Sonti you acknowledge, you acknowledge that in your opening statement that this budget is a continuation of what you forgot to say is that it is a continuation of the African National Congress to remain in power because it is credible, relevant and responsive. That's where you missed it when you started. So I thought I must just correct you ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. MOEMA: Speaker?

HON. SEBEGOE: As I conclude, we also appreciate Honourable Tsholo ... [INTERJECTION]
...

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Sebegoe!

HON. SEBEGOE: Your acknowledgement of the plans that has been developed ...
[INTERJECTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Sebegoe! Can you take your seat. Honourable Moema.

HON. MOEMA: Thank you Speaker. Is Honourable Sebegoe prepared to take a question because he is busy misleading the society here. Can you clarify what he is saying. Is he prepared to take a question so that we clarify these issues. Because he can't come here and present a budget ya Diketo le Morabaraba ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: No, no, no ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. MOEMA: And behave as if things are normal ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Moema!

HON. MOEMA: Is he prepared to take a question?

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, just sit down so that I help you. You don't have to debate. Honourable Sebegoe, are you ready to take a question?

HON. SEBEGOE: I would have loved to, unfortunately, Speaker, you did indicate that my time is about to be up.

HON. SPEAKER: He can't take a question.

HON. SEBEGOE: Just lastly, Honourable speaker, it's so unfortunate, we acknowledge plans here but we don't want to say it openly because we are afraid to lose the votes in the coming local government elections. Let us be realistic, deal with issues at hand. The people of North West will never be fooled forever. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Sebegoe. Honourable Members! Honourable Members! I will humbly request you to take out your rule books and ensure that you understand what are rules saying. I don't want to remind you of that. I will now call Honourable MEC, 10 minutes. Honourable MEC, you must wait for me to say your time is up. I've never removed you on the stage. Wait for me. I will just remind you that you have so many minutes left, wrap up but I will tell you when to leave the podium. Don't leave the podium before I tell you to leave the podium. Thank you very much.

HON. TLHAPI: Thank you very much. Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Mama Sonti, Mama Sonti, ke worried gore o simolola fela ka go reject budget. Jaanong ke ne ke re ke bolelele Ntlo ya gago Honourable Speaker gore ske be tota ba baiza ba mfounela ba re go na le ngwana o yang Ghana, go na le ngwana o yang Atlanta, go na le ngwana o yang ko kae, because

the same budget o o reng wa e reject o bo o batla go thusa ngwana o ko Magong, ngwana ko Manangoteng, ngawana o Rrakalenyana, ngwana o ko Taung.

So o bolelele batho ba Bokone Bophirima gore wena o reject budget, wa re re seka ra fiwa budget go ba thusa because wena o reject ka gore ba rile o reject kwa o tswang kwa teng. So the African National Congress e tlile go netefatsa gore yone, whether o reject, whether madi a mannye because madi a ga a re emise go service batho ba rona. Le fa a le mannye, rona re dumela mo Setswaneng, sejo sennye. Re dumela mo Setswaneng rona. So ne ke re ke go bolelele Mma gore bana ba motho ba kgaogana tlhogo ya tsie.

Ke a leboga Madam Speaker. So ska tlhola o reject for the sake of rejecting mother. Ke go rata thata wa itse. The issue ya rural sport. We have partnered, I have indicated even in my speech gore because the budget e nnyane, re kgonne gore re dirisane le ba bangwe ba Bokone Bophirima ba e leng gore ba itse sports.

Re partnerile le Moemedi Pika Matsepe, ba botlhe re a mo itse. O phela a trend re a mo itse, o rata sports. O phela a thusa bana ba rona kwa Dr Kenneth Kaunda including le mo porofenseng ya rona. Ke Mosimane wa rona wa kwa Klerksdorp. Re partnera gape le Mahero, Mahero o tswa kwa Tantanyane kwa Rustenburg.

Ha o ka bona Mama Sonti, sport tournament ya se tshwarang ngwaga le ngwaga ka December, o tla tlhaloganya gore o rejectile budget ka phoso. Ke batla gape go acknowledge Madam Speaker, Kgosi Motshegare le magosi a mangwe a rona bao nako le nako ba netefatsang ga ba tshegetsisa setso sa rona ka ditiro tse ba di dirang tseo di tshwaranngwang le rona ba Lefapha la Arts and Culture. Ngwaga le ngwana magosi a rona a tla kwa go rona.

Deputy Chief Whip, ke go utlwile and I have noted all the; because nka se responde to each and everyone of you. Ke itumelela gore Honourable Wallhorn. Thank you very much, go approve budget. Ke a leboga. Wena wa itse gore batho ba tlhoka thuso. Ke a leboga go approve budget ya rona.

Ne ke re ke tlhalose Madam Speaker, gore Deputy Chief Whip, issue ya telenovela and the MOU, re le lefapha re tlile go netefatsa gore re a e dira and a joint programme le Department of Education. We will indeed make sure that re e sala morago.

The 2025/2026 achievement, Madam Speaker, have indeed reflected that we have done more as department because ga ne le utlweletse sentle mo speech sa ka, ne re ipeetse 200, re fetile ka tse kana. Ne re ipeetse bokana, kore re achieve go feta with the little that we have. So e a go bontsha gore as much as re na le ledi le lennyane jaaka lefapha, mare re netefatsa ga re fa batho ba rona di-services tseo ba di tlhokang.

I know, thank you very much MEC wa Finance. The additional allocation has been allocated although e ise e fitlhe ko re fitlhang kwa teng. E santse e le nnyane because the department is very huge mo e leng gore ledi le re nang le lone, le re le kreyang le lennyane.

The renovations of recreational centres, I have said even in the last budget speech, re tlo go le dira in phases. Klein Marico as we speak ya bereka, re kopa le e dirise Honourable Tsholo. Re kopa le ye kwa go yone. We have renovated. Re busy ka yona, le e dirise Honourable Groenewald le lona, ga e le gore le nna le dikopanyana, ha e le gore le na le batho ba le kopanang le bone ka gore African National Congress ke yone fela e kgonang go kopana le batho ba bantsi.

Yes go a patelwa, Honourable Morweng. So Klein Marico can be used. It is functional, fully functional gone jaanong jaaka ke bua le lona. Our work also reflects the shortage of the resources. Our work reflects the shortage of resources and ha e tlo go re dira gore re sa kgona go bereka. We will make sure that ra bereka, re continue go bereka le lona. Ga e a re tshwara matsogo ka ledi le lennyane le.

And I'm happy that each and every Member o neng a ema fa o ne a bua ka gore Honourable Mosenogi, ledi la department e, le lennyane. Maybe e tla tsena so ke a leboga Honourable Members go dumalana le nna. I have in my budget speech on page 28, ke kopile gore North West Government le yone e dire funding available for Mmabatho Stadium because national department is assisting us. So North West government le yone must also do the same.

Mmabana entity, national department e a re thusa. We must also do the same as government, re bontshe gore re kgathalela batho ba rona. Morule Stadium and Olen Park, on page 28 le tlo go bona gore ke ne ke reng mo yone. As this department, we rely mainly on the grant. And that's to deliver our programmes and that's why year in, year out, re leka ka bojotle gore re kgomaganye whatever we have.

I have also requested that we work with municipalities to make sure that we fix sports facilities across the province because that's sports infrastructure. E dirisiwa ke lona at the local level. So we need to work together to make sure that we fix this sports infrastructure together le lona dimmasepala tsa rona.

I have noted Honourable Teme, your Item 6.1 and we will indeed make sure that we follow that up. We will also continue to work very hard to support our artists, our creative sector or sports development rather. Ke a itse gore lo a binela pina ya Botshelo ke Eng. We have supported those artists as this department. E le e binelang ya Botshelo ke Eng, ke bana ba rona ba mo Bokone Bophirima. Ke a itse le e binela fela, ga le itse gore artist e tsa kwa kae.

Botshelo ga bo sa le monate. That song ke ya rona ya mo porofenseng ya rona. Our own young girl Paige, ngwana wa rona, we're also supporting her mo porofenseng. O tswa hela mo Mahikeng. Abo Mzala, ke a itse ba Mapiano, Honourable Sonakile. The young amapiano o e leng gore kwa godimo totatota, ke ngwana wa rona wa Bokone Bophirima.

These artists re di-support jaaka lefapha ka ledi le re nang le lone. Madam Speaker, as I close, we will be introducing a new contractor together with the Department of Public Works ka di-30 tsa June kwa Mabiskraal for the new building of the library kwa Mabiskraal in Moses Kotane. And after that, Ganyesa will also follow. Re introduce the new contractor kwa Ganyesa go aga library ya rona ya kwa Ganyesa.

Honourable Sebegoe, thank you very much for the recommendations. I think as department and my officials are here, we will indeed make sure that we follow all those recommendations. Re netefatse ga re fa baagi ba rona, Honourable Groenewald, services tse ba di tlhokang. Lefapha le le tlhoka ledi. Ga ke rate ga ntse le tla fa e be le re le ka se ka la adopt budget, bagolo ba le lebeletse.

The African National Congress e tlile go continue go fa support to the creative sector, to the sport development hence re launchitse the rural sport development because province ya rona ya Bokone Bophirima, re a itse ba botlhe gore it's a rural of the ruralest. Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Ke a leboga.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much MEC. Thank you, Honourable Members. Does the House adopt the committee report?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Ha lo krea di-ticket. Does the House adopt the committee report?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Sonakile you are the first one. Honourable Members, I will now read the roll call in terms of Rule 245, Sub-section (1) of the North West Provincial Legislature Standing Rules to determine the quorum. Where is my register? Okay. Honourable Babuile? Honourable Bogatsu? Honourable Botswe? Honourable Dabampe? Honourable Dantjie?

HON. DANTJIE: Ke teng Mmusakgotla.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Dial? Honourable Groenewald?

HON. GROENEWALD: Present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Khonou?

HON. KHONOU: Present Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Groenewald? You must go on record.

HON. GROENEWALD: I was on record Speaker. I'm present.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Kodisang? Absent. Honourable Lehari?

HON. LEHARI: Present.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Lenkopane?

HON. LENKOPANE: Ke teng mo Ntlong ya gago.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Magagane?

HON. MAGAGANE: Ke teng Mmusakgotla.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Maine?

HON. MAINE: Present Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Makgokgowa? Absent. Honourable Matshe?

HON. MATSHE: Ke teng Motlotlegi Mmusakgotla.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Matuane?

HON. MATUANE: Bosele Mmusakgotla.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Modise?

HON. MODISE: Mme o teng Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Moema? Honourable Mohono, I'm present.

HON. TLHAPI: O a ntshaba.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Mokgosi?

HON. MOKGOSI: Present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Mokua?

HON. MOKUA: Present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Molapisi?

HON. MOLAPISI: Present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Morweng?

HON. MORWENG: Present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Mosenogi?

HON. MOSENOGI: Present.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Motsumi?

HON. MOTSUMI: Present Speaker. Ke fetsa go bona Rre Omega kwa godimo kwa Sonakile.

HON. SPEAKER: He will sing for us during lunch. Rre Omega you are warmly welcome my brother. No, he will sing at lunch. Don't worry. Honourable Oliphant?

HON. OLIPHANT: Present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Rosho?

HON. ROSHO: Present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Sambatha?

HON. SAMBATHA: Ndikhona Somlomo.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Sebegoe?

HON. SEBEGOE: Beskikbaar Agbare.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Sonakile?

HON. SONAKILE: Present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Sonti?

HON. SONTI: Ndikhona Somlomo.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Steenkamp?

HON. STEENKAMP: Present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Steyl? Absent. Honourable Tlhapi?

HON. TLHAPI: Ke nna oo Motlotlegi.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Tsholo?

HON. TSHOLO: Teenwordig Agbare Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable; dankbaar. Honourable Van Huyssteen? Absent. Honourable Wallhorn?

HON. WALLHORN: Teenwordig Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Williams? Absent. Honourable Members, don't correspond. Whips make sure that your Members, they don't come and go because when I call the register, they are not in the House. I mark them absent even though they are present because when I call the roll call, they were not here. So Whips make sure that when the time of the roll call comes, all your Members are in the House.

I have satisfied myself that the majority of Members are present in the House to adopt the budget programme by programme. Programme 1, Administration, 188 189 000. Does the House adopt this?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Programme 2, Cultural Affairs, 259 727 000 Rand. Does the House adopt the budget?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Programme 3, Library and Archives Services, 220 105 000 Rand. Does the House adopt the budget?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Programme 4, Sports and Recreation, 192 224 000 Rands?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Members. The budget for the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation, Vote 4 for 26/27 totalling 860 245 000 is now adopted. The MEC you can go and spend the budget.

HON. SONAKILE: O ka tlisa dithekete geh ngwanana.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable MEC ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. OLIPHANT: Re batla di-skipping rope yaanong ... [INAUDIBLE] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I will now call on the MEC for Social Development, Honourable Dantjie to present the Departmental Budget Vote 12. Honourable Dantjie, you have 40 minutes.

HON. DANTJIE: Madam Speaker, Honourable Dr. Desbo Mohono, Deputy Speaker, Re Mokone, Maine, Honourable Premier, Re Lazarus Makgosi, Honourable Members of the Executive Council, my colleagues, Honourable Members of the House, Executive Mayors, Mayors, Speakers of all Municipalities present, leaders of political parties, Honourable Sonakile, all heads of departments, Ke a le dumedisa, baagi ba rona ba Bakone Bophirima, all Comrades, Dumelang. Bosele bo sena mahube. Go tsididi letsatsi la kajeko.

Madam Speaker, in the book of Isaiah 1 verse 17, the Lord direct us to learn to do right, to seek justice, to defend the oppressed, to take up the cause of the fatherless, and plead the cause of the widow. This scripture, Honourable Members, provides a profound moral foundation for social development by emphasizing leadership, dignity, and the obligation to uplift the weak as our constitutional mandate. It frames the budget not just as numbers, but as a moral document that translates compassion into tangible actions. This scripture, Honourable Members, resonates very well with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. The Constitution provides for the Department of Social Development to enhance the right of citizens to social security and appropriate social assistance if they cannot support themselves. It mandates the department to protect the rights of children such as the right to care, nutrition, shelter, social services, and the protection from maltreatment, neglect, abuse, and degradation. It is therefore, Honourable Members, a great honour, Mme Tsholo, and a privilege for me to present the Social Development Budget 2026/27 with a shared aim of uplifting the lives and championing the rights of the vulnerable communities as mandated by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

This budget speech, Honourable Members, presents an opportunity for us to report back to you as public representatives and to the broader communities of the North West. We are mindful that the budget that we are presenting and the policy statement is a result of the budget that has been appropriated by this House.

Allow me, therefore, Madam Speaker, to take you through a journey of many good things the department has done in making the lives of our people better, despite many challenges that our country is going through, the future looks bright, and there's hope of a better life for all. Not all is gloom and doom as many would want us to believe.

Honourable Members, fellow stakeholders, and the citizens of our beloved Bokone Bophirima Province, every year in May, we join the United Nations Member States in observing Child

Protection Week. This year, we will observe this campaign for a period of a month under the theme, Working Together in Ending Violence Against Children. Child Protection Month remains a critical initiative that promotes awareness and action to prevent abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence against children. Every effort and strive we make, seeks to restore back to our future leaders, our children, the dignity and the rights, the protection they have which is the Constitution. Through partnerships and collaboration, we continue to raise awareness social concerns that children face in homes, in schools, in communities, and increasingly through digital spaces.

Motlotlegi Mmusu Kgotsa, e tsentswe tlhako kgamelong, motsetse o ja ka seatla, ntja e ja ntjanyana. Go mo maruding a rona rotlhe re le baago le mekgatlho e e farologaneng go ema kgatlhanong le tshotlakako ya bana, ntle le go itseela molao mo matsogong gonne ngwana ke sejo wa tlhakanelwa.

I am pleased to report to this House, Honourable Members, that we have made inroads in preventing and reducing incidents of abuse, neglect, exploitation, trafficking of children, including the statutory rape. Through collaboration with the Department of Education, the Department of Health, *ke a leboga my colleagues for tirisano mmogo e re dirisana ka yone*. Through that collaboration, 1,750 relevant officials, educators, and health professionals were capacitated on a mandatory reporting of incidents of child abuse. In addition, the department is implementing the Child Protection Register as enriched in the Children's Act by screening all referred individual applicants as the Department of Education to ensure that they hire applicants who have no record of child abuse.

As part of restoring children's dignity and improving the quality of life of dysfunctional families, the department in collaboration with funded NPOs conducted capacity-building workshops on integrated parenting programs. A total of 4,374 family members participated in this program. A further 3,491 family members participated in prevention services covering areas such as bereavement counselling, marital problems, family conflicts, prevention and advocacy programs.

Honourable Members, the department seeks to build a strong and well-resourced community through an integrated and comprehensive basket of care and support services. These services include family preservation, parenting, and reunification services.

In the year under review, we built strong partnership with certain NPOs providing family preservation services in the sum of R9,300,000.00 so that these NGOs can help our communities. And we have successfully launched the North West Social Workers Providers Learning Support Forum, which is the first of its kind, Honourable Sonakile, in the North West Province. The forum plays a central role in creating the necessary space for social workers/supervisors and practitioners to share knowledge, develop skills, and build professional networks, and receive mutual support to enhance the quality of social welfare services and their own professional well-being.

Honourable Members, the department, in collaboration with the Health and Welfare SETA, started a program to train community caregivers in a national certificate for child and youth care accredited at NQF level 4 through recognition of prior learning. We are encouraged to report to this House that all registered learners were assessed in October-November 2025-26, and 88 out of 89 successfully completed the course.

Honourable members, as part of our commitment to develop youth, the department coordinated and enrolled about 50 youth from Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati, and Ramotshere Moiloa to be trained as security officers, and a further 50 youth were taken through the driving school program to obtain their driver's licences. This is our effort to empower our youth to increase their opportunities to participate in the open labour market. About 176 youth from all the four districts were taken on a week-long training on patriotism and life skills. The training was conducted by the South African Military at Potchefstroom Artillery Base. Other programs as reported during the last budget vote could not be materialized, Honourable Chief Whip. I know this has always been your issue at the level of the portfolio committee in terms of the youth empowerment, but unfortunately, we could not do some of the things that we reported to do due to the unforeseen circumstances at the NDA and NEMISA as our partners. The scale of social needs exceeds governments' capacity Honourable Members. For this reason, the department relies heavily on non-profit organization partnerships to execute its mandate at the grassroots level. The NPOs are the primary boot-on-ground partners of the Department of Social Development. They serve as a vital service delivery agent that bridge the gap in public provision, directly executing and customizing social welfare, child protection, community empowerment programs to reach the vulnerable citizens.

The department struggled for years to ensure that all NPOs, specifically those from previously disadvantaged groups, are registered, are also funded, paid on time, and are fully operational and compliant.

Honourable Members, it pleases me to report that, after 10 years of struggle, the department has turned the corner. A record of 362 NPOs, serving 202,000 vulnerable members, were assessed, validated, and approved for funding in line with the sector funding model. A total budget of R239 million committed will fund the NPOs to lead economic spin-offs by creating approximately 3649 job opportunities across the province. Majority of these NPOs received their first funding tranches in April 2026, thus paving a way towards a smooth, seamless delivery of services. We applaud members of the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development under the stewardship of Honourable Karabo Magagane for pushing us very hard to realise this ground-breaking milestone after a decade.

Ga re batle go ikoketsa marago ka maje.

The portfolio committee was very hard on us. Now the onus is on the department to sustain this greatest achievement by putting proper systems in place to ensure a continued advancement. We have created an online system with the aim of enhancing efficient and effectiveness in the administration of the NPOs.

In this financial year, Honourable Members, the department will further capacitate 3,321 NPOs on resource mobilization, financial management, governance, project management, and conflict management to comply with legislation regulating the NPO sector.

Honourable Speaker, our flagship program, Re Thuse Re Go Thuse, continued to yield fruits of service delivery far beyond our expectations. Through this program, the department continued to provide comprehensive social services to the poor and vulnerable members of the society while creating an enabling environment for sustainable development. Working in collaboration with agencies like SASSA and NDA, as well as sister departments, we were able to mobilize a wide range of government resources to deliver on-site services, including social grant applications, assistance with birth and identity documents, health screening, social work intakes and referrals, banking services, information sharing, and more through SASSA integrated community outreach programs. All these programs were done through the Re Thuse Re Go Thuse program of the

department. Several serving children from poor backgrounds, were profiled, from schools across the province, and also benefited from the school uniform program. The provision of the school uniform is part of reinforcing government commitment to educational inclusion, learner dignity, and improved access to schooling for children from poor households. This also happened through the Re Thuse Re Go Thuse program, in collaboration with the SASSA and the NDA.

Motlotledi Mmusu Kgotla, Sechaba se se ikgatolosang boleng jwa bagodi se itebetsa medi ya sone.

Older persons are a precious hub of information and a necessary resource that we must all take care of and protect from any form of violence, in line with provisions of the Older Persons Act. This legislation seeks to deal effectively with the plight of older persons by establishing a framework aimed at the empowerment, protection of older persons, promotion, maintenance of their status, their well-being, safety, and security.

I'm pleased to report to this House the key achievements under this program. 238 jobs have been created through funded NPOs running old age homes. The department continued to promote healthy lifestyle through implementation of the Active Ageing Program, popularly known as the Golden Games, across all the service points in the province. For the financial year 2026/27, the department committed R47,749,000.00 to provide services to older persons in line with its core mandate. Currently, the department provides services to older persons at two state-run facilities, that is your Taung and Sonop Old Age Homes. Plans are afoot to put systems in place for registration of community-based care services, in which is inclusive of frail care services, train more caregivers on accredited programs to improve quality of care and access to services to our citizens. As part of preventing elderly abuse, awareness campaigns will be sustained at service point level to educate communities about the protection of older persons and services that are available for them.

Honourable Members, the department has committed to strengthen partnerships with NPOs providing day-care, residential, protective workshops, and social rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities within the four districts. A total of R16,980,000 has been set aside for fund NPOs to provide basket of services to persons with disabilities. This is also as a response to the call by the Premier in terms of the legislature directives, when they were dealing with the sectoral

parliament on disabilities. We are responding, Honourable Premier, as per your directive, and we are very much pleased to report that about R747,000.00 has been added to the previous budget of the disabilities.

Honourable Members, in the recent times we have observed a growing number of people with autism spectrum disorder. This is not a disease, but rather a lifelong neuro developmental condition. Autism in South Africa reflects local trends with the estimated of 1.2 million people living on the spectrum. Research has shown that autism awareness in South Africa is very low and we need to do something to improve this as a province. This is also as a call made by the chair of the portfolio committee during this House. We'll definitely work with that portfolio committee to ensure that we realize this call. The department, in partnership with Autism South Africa, has provided training for 65 officials, including NPOs, social workers in Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, Dr. RSM, Bojanala. In the current financial year, our focus will be on Ngaka Modiri Molema.

Honourable Members, women empowerment is one of our apex priorities. As part of our social investment, the department has on an annual basis procured equipment, machinery, and materials for unemployed women who have strategies to uplift the social economic level of their communities and generate income for their respective households. The support focuses on livelihood sectors like sewing, baking, hair and beauty services, and informal trading. During the period, 107 women benefited from material support for economic upliftment to reduce poverty and help them move beyond dependency on social grants towards self-reliance, and improved households. And we are mindful, Honourable members, as a department, that mainly as a department, our focus is more on the social part of the department. But we are not doing much in terms of the developmental part of the department, Honourable Tona-Kgolo. So we'll request more funding from Treasury to make sure that we change the way our status and the way we do our work, also to include the development part, because we are the Department of Social and Development. So our budget currently is only focusing on one part. So this women empowerment initiatives is mainly trying to deal with this other part of the development part of our mandate.

Honourable Members, in addition, the program coordinator created pop-up markets for cooperatives and SMMEs in partnership with SEDFA LEDs and the private sector, targeting 30 SMMEs and cooperatives in each district. These pop-up markets were held in Hebron. Boianala, Matlosana Mall in Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, and the Agricultural Museum in Ngaka Modiri Molema.

The intended outcome of the pop-up market, is to ensure that women-led, youth persons with disabilities, cooperatives and SMMEs showcase their products and services and are linked to the economic opportunities, and about 90 SMMEs and cooperatives participated in the program.

Motlotlegi-Mmusa Kgotla, koduo e wela motho mongwe le mongwe e sa lebelelwa. Ke ka moo, ka metlha re leng Malala-o-la-otswe le go baakanya ditlamelwana tsa pula go sa le gale.

Our social relief of distress program plays a very crucial role in responding to the emergency needs of the people who are affected by disasters, through the provision of financial and material assistance to individuals and families in partnership with the South African Social Security Agency and other key stakeholders. In the year under review, 18 359 households have benefited from social relief of distress programs. The department is providing thousands of needy people with their daily care meal through its community nutrition and development centres that are being established in most food insecure and socio-economically vulnerable communities. Through this program, we have without fail Honourable Members, ensured that we rid the needy from hunger and starvation year on year to date.

Honourable Members, we have committed R21.4 million to fund 24 NPOs daily nutrition meal to about 200 community nutrition centres in the current financial year.

Working together, working together we can defeat the sting of poverty. This program will in this current financial year accelerated the effort to link potential beneficiaries with sustainable economic initiatives, to move them from the social protection safety net into being independent.

Honourable members, the national strategic plan for HIV and AIDS, TB, and STIs aims to eliminate this disease as a public health threat by 2030 through comprehensive, people-centred interventions and multisectoral approaches. To this end, notwithstanding the impact of the withdrawal of the fund by the American government on our services, we managed to survive and provide the required services to the affected people. We will implement the following programs to tackle HIV and AIDS in the province in partnership with our sister departments of health and other key stakeholders. Through our social and behaviour change program, we will reach the target

population, ranging from children, youth, adolescents, and traditional leaders, to respond effectively to the reduction of HIV and AIDS infections in the province. The budget allocated to drive HIV and Aids prevention responses is R19 million and we are targeting 52 560 beneficiaries across the province. We will implement community-based prevention, early and intervention program called RIHISA, to reach out to vulnerable children to build resilience. RIHISA provides a core package of services, which include nutritional support, educational support, household economic strengthening, health support, child care protection services. The program is implemented through community-based organizations across the four districts, funded to a total of R21 million, targeting 4 185 beneficiaries. Provision of psychosocial support services to children and others affected and infected by HIV and AIDS through community-based organizations across the four districts. The budget allocated for the provision of social support services is R23 million, targeting 4 200 beneficiaries.

Honourable Members, the department, in collaboration with the National Department of Social Development, will train orphans, vulnerable children, and youth aged 18 to 24 on skills development, with the aim of preparing young people to transition from youth adulthood with decent skills and grant them the opportunity to be economically viable. The program will be implemented in the community care centres across the district, targeting 300 orphans, vulnerable children, and youths.

Motlotlegi-Mmusu Kgotla, tiriso e e botlhaswa ya diritibatsi ke tlhoba boroko ga jaana mo profenseng ya rona. Re mo mathateng, mme re dumela mo go reng, le ojwa le sa le metsi, bontsi bo bolaya noga. Fa re ka tshwaragana, re dire pharologanyo re thusa bana ba rona, re ka fedisa lerobo-robo le

To mitigate this program challenge, we established a provincial substance abuse forum, consisting of various government departments, FBOs and NPOs, to deal decisively substance abuse. Together, we can do more. We have established a local grant action community in all 18 municipalities. Taung inpatient centre and J.B. Marks treatment centres continue to provide substance use disorder treatment services in the province. Seven NPOs will be funded to the tune of R4,225,000.00 in all districts to provide aftercare services, prevention, advocacy programs, and early intervention services for this regard. With the above-mentioned resources, we will ensure

that more than 1 610 service users access our substance abuse prevention and rehabilitation services across the province.

Honourable members, it is a known fact that crime and violence delay our hard-earned democracy. It is for this reason that the department is implementing a social crime prevention program aimed at providing probation services targeting children, youth, adult offenders, and youth within criminal justice processes. In the year under review, the department strengthened access to services in partnership with funded NPOs at an amount of R2,091,000.00. 40 259 people were reached through community engagement programs, Re Thuse Re Go Thuse. 417 children in conflict with the law were properly assessed. 126 children accessed secure care services. 107 officials were capacitated on therapeutic programs and implementation of information management systems as per the directive of the Child Justice Act 75 of 2008. Teams are implementing information management systems as per the directive of Child Justice Act 75 of 2008.

Honourable members, we still view gender-based violence as a serious violation of human rights. Through our victim empowerment sub-program, the department provides services to support, care, and empower victims of violence and crime, in particular women and children. Special focus is on awareness and education, provision of psychosocial support to victims through NPAs Thuthuzela Care Centres, white door centres and funded NPOs.

In 2025/26 financial year, the department has recorded the following key milestones. Strengthening 23 shelters and NPOs for victims providing services to gender-based violence and feminist victims. Funded 22 NPOs providing services to gender-based violence and feminist victims. Victim empowerment programs such as Orange Day campaign were observed monthly in all districts as part of the implementation of the 365 days against gender-based violence.

We commemorate victims of gender-based violence, Honourable members, on the 25th of each month, this campaign was recently commemorated in Khuma, Stilfontein on the 25th May 2025. We want to appeal to also members of the community and members of this House, Madam Speaker, to make sure that every month on the 25th, we are making sure that we put something orange in honour of this program towards gender-based violence.

Our plans for 2026/27 financial year, among others, include the following. Strengthening consultation with key stakeholders for completion of a shelter for victims of gender-based violence in Dr. Kenneth Kaunda District; strengthening partnership with NPOs to improve access for victims of gender-based violence through funding; intensify the implementation of 365 days community programs to embrace positive alternative approaches within specific community groups inclusive of LGBTIQ+; Capacitate stakeholders and social services professionals on victim empowerment interventions; debriefing of social services professionals to relieve them from the stress resulting from gender-based violence and femicide cases. Our social workers, ba imetswe, le bone ba tlhoka gore in one way or the other, as a department, re ba ntshe maime.

We'll also strengthen the engagement of men and boys in the fight against gender-based violence across the province. We'll support the establishment of gender-based violence and femicide refuge response teams in the hotspot areas, responding to classification of gender-based violence and femicide as a national disaster. We have acknowledged, as a department, honourable members, that we have not done much also in terms of campaigns, while the rise of the LGBTIQ+ will definitely do something for this financial year in making sure that they are also part of our program and they also participate.

The department has considered a footprint, honourable members, in social infrastructure development, and shared the responsibility with other departments and spheres of government, communities, and business providers, to facilitate access to social services. This is also as a response to the portfolio committee directives in Moretele. The department appointed the Independent Development Trust as an implementing agent for the erection of prefabricated structures to serve as an office accommodation for the Moretele service point. This is intended to address the following challenges. Inadequate office space to enable the department to deliver on its mandate; limited community access to departmental offerings; unavailability of a conducive service point in the area to ensure effective and efficient service delivery.

Honourable members, re lebogela tirisano mmogo le bogosi bag a Bakgatlha ba Mosetlha tribal authority ka go neelana ka lefatshe. The project commenced on the 6th February 2026, with a duration of 10 months, and the contract amount is about R26,722,726.00. Progress at the end of April 2026 was at 32%, which is slightly above the percentage time lapse of 30%.

As I conclude, Honourable Members, I wish to point out that our social fabric continues to be stretched. As poverty, gender-based violence, substance abuse, mental health challenges, inadequate inclusion of women in economic decision-making and productive sectors, high youth unemployment persistence, our budget is allocated in such a way that it responds with urgency, resilience and sustainable investments in our people to enjoy beyond the cycle of economic hardships we live in.

Our budget for the financial year ahead is as follows, Honourable Members;

- Administration; R298,448,000.00
- Social welfare services, R745,099,000.00
- Children and families, R388,402,000.
- Restorative services, R329,910,000.00
- Development and research, R234,312,000.00
- Totalling R1,996,171,000.00 only.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, please allow me to borrow words from one of the stalwarts of our freedom, Tata Nelson Mandela;

“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others. That will determine the significance of the life we lead.”

This message is a clarion call to all of us, Honourable Members, who are serving the masses of our people to live in deliberate footprints in the sands of time. As the executing authority of the North West Department of Social Development, I am very much humbled by the responsibility that has been bestowed upon me to lead the department to greater heights of service delivery. I would like to thank all the employees of the department, led by the brand new HOD, Malibongwe Mosadi wa letlapa, a ka sekama nka wela, Mme Peggy Kgaboesele-Mhlongo, for putting their shoulders to the wheel in ensuring that the most vulnerable people receive services.

Honourable Members, it is through the staff led by this Mosadi wa letlapa, gore e be re ipone gore that after 10 years, we can say we have done it in terms of our NPOs. That is why I am very much grateful, and this officials from the department.

A special appreciation goes to my political home, the African National Congress, for entrusting me with this huge responsibility *go bereka ka batho bao ba tlhokang; go bereka ka batho bao ba naleng bogole; go bereka ka bo mme; go bereka ka tshokolo; go bona gore jaaka mme, ke e tshware ka fa bogaleng*. To this day I can say I'm still equal to the task and relevant, Mokone. Re a leka. Kgadi ee kgolo ya ko EXCO. My deepest gratitude and appreciation goes to the Premier, Honourable Ntate Kagiso Lazarus Mokgosi, for entrusting me with such a huge responsibility of heading this department. I express my profound thanks also to the chairperson and all members of the portfolio committee.

My friend from the DA is not here, I already wanted to say something, but because she is not here, I am not going to say it because I really wanted to appreciate all her, everything and everything, it made us to be where we are today. I would also like to thank the Honourable Chief Whip of this House. I know Chief Whip, you might be disappointed, or you're here. You might be disappointed that we did not perform at your heart beat of youth empowerment, because you always hard on us on that. Be rest assured, we were disappointed by the challenges by UNISA, but this time around, we won't disappoint you, Honourable Chief Whip. We are also very much thankful for your stewardship and leading us politically in this House.

My sincere appreciation to Social Development Family, the South African Social Security Agency, and National Development Agency. We are on course to serve the people of Bokone Bophirima.

The journey has just begun.

Soli deo Gloria.

Enkosi. Siyabulela.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable MEC. I will now call Honourable Magagane. Seven minutes.

HON MAGAGANE: Honourable Speaker, Dr Desbo Mohono; Honourable Premier, Kagiso Mokgosi, Honourable Members, esteemed guests, Magosi a rona a a tlotlegang.

I rise today to present the committee report with its deliberations and recommendations on the portfolio committee on health, on health and social development, specifically for the APP and budget for the Department of Social Development for 2026/27 financial year.

Honourable Speaker, before I proceed, please look on the right side and notice that this is one of a few departments where you have more female senior managers. The committee discussions were both robust and necessary, given the current socioeconomic climate. We are deeply concerned with the structural misalignment within the medium-term revenue and expenditure framework. The fiscal deficit continues to widen, driven by increased social economic distress and shrinking state revenue streams. Our annual performance plan has shifted from being needs-driven to supply constraint exercises with performance target limited by the budgetary constraints, rather than the real needs of our communities. The committee also notes with concern the department's current budget allocation is simply not enough to meet the minimum core service delivery requirements. The persistent structural deficit hinders the progressive delivery of essential social services, and operating under such constrained fiscal parameters leaves our most vulnerable even more exposed. Furthermore, we present the upward revision of certain performance targets in the current APP, there seems to be an increase too, but that there is a lack of solid empirical basis, especially with the department's history of constricted budgets and underperformance on some key performance indicators. It is imperative that any escalating targets be grounded in rigorous baseline analysis and audited outcomes.

Social development is inherently cross-cutting involving multiple departments, including the office of the Premier. The committee during the discussions sought clarity on whether the department's financial will receive funding from other departments that will be ring-fenced for collaborative initiatives. For instance, the work on older persons being ring-fenced from the office of the Premier. We recognize the complexity of social challenges demands coordinated and adequately financed responses. We are also concerned about the department's reliance on contact-based performance reporting, which focuses more on quantitative outputs than on meaningful, measurable impact within communities. Effective service delivery must be measured not just by numbers, but the positive changes experienced by our people. The committee therefore deliberated

extensively on the necessity of optimizing multi-sectoral collaboration to relieve fiscal pressure. We must move beyond traditional centric models and formalize partnerships with non-government organizations and the corporate sector, mostly the corporate sector, most notably the mining industry. Such collaborations can bring service delivery gaps and enhance our capacity to serve impoverished communities.

In light of these deliberations, Honourable Speaker, the committee recommends as follows;

The department must within 60 days submit a comprehensive socio-economic demand versus fiscal allocation impact report to the committee. This report should quantify the funding deficit required to meet the statutory services demands arising from increased poverty and unemployment in the North West Province. This demand cost budget must be formally used to engage with Provincial Treasury ahead of the MTEF committee process, lobbying for an upward adjustment for the department's fiscal baseline.

The department must submit an operational mitigation plan to ensure core legally mandated statutory services and social protection and care for vulnerable groups are not compromised by cost containment measures.

All current APP targets should be reviewed against the audited performance outcomes of the 202/26 fiscal year. Where targets were increased despite previous non-achievements, the department must provide written justification or initiate formal target amendment procedures to prevent artificial performance inflation. For every key performance indicator not achieved in the previous cycle, the department must present a detailed turnaround strategy within 14 days, demonstrating institutional capacity to meet these goals, before scaling them further.

In collaboration with the Office of the Premier and other social cluster departments, the department must design and centralize registry of cross-cutting social initiatives and submit a report to the committee within the current quarter, detailing which social development functions are co-funded, supplemented, or absorbed by partner departments.

The department must shift its reporting matrix from purely quantitative contact-based approach to measure social economic impact, ensuring that our interventions truly improve the lives of our people. To alleviate pressure of state resources and improved service delivery, the department must establish strategic partnerships with non-government entities, especially the mining industry, to

leverage additional resources, expertise, additional service gaps, and ensuring comprehensive support for those most in need. We are aware of the donations that have been made by the mining industry, especially for safe houses that we currently have, the new safe houses, but more should be done by the sector.

Mokhuduthamaga, we are really happy by the strides that you are making as a department in ensuring that we have an inclusive national democratic society that promotes and embraces neurodiversity. The work that you are doing on autism is really commended.

In closing, I'd like to also thank the members of the portfolio committee, Mokhuduthamaga wa rona, Basetsana Dantjie for social development, Mme Peggy Kgaboesele the HOD and the senior management of the department. And also, again, the members, your dedication that you put into this department is really commendable. And to all the support staff, your dedication and contribution on this oversized process does not go unnoticed, and we thank you.

Honourable members, I would like to present this report and its recommendation for consideration and adoption of Budget 12 of the legislature.

Thank you very much, I thank you, Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I will now call Honourable Matuane. You have ten minutes.

HON. MATUANE: Honourable Speaker, leaders and ground forces of the victorious of the Economic Freedom Fighters, members of the Executive, members of the Provincial Legislature, guests present in this august House, le baagi botlhe ba province ya Bokone Bophirima, bo sele.

The 2026/27 budget vote for the North West Department of Social Development befalls our province at a time when GBV and femicide are at a peak. It would therefore be amiss to start this debate without remembering Kedibone Mojalefa of Rustenburg, whose body was found naked and mutilated under a truck; Olebogeng Felicia Tagote, whose half-naked corpse was found near Boiteko bridge, with her school uniform torn; Rethabile Harriet Motsime, who was stabbed and

killed with three knives by her boyfriend in Tlhabane, Masego Moile Mosweu, who was trashed to death with a screwdriver and a hammer by her husband in Mahikeng, and Motlalepula Kau, whose violated body was found in a shallow grave in bushes, near Tlaakgameng village. May their souls continue to rest in peace.

Honourable Speaker, Mokhuduthamaga Susan Dantjie, verbally recognised GBVF as a pandemic that is dominating our province. However, the department's APP does not reflect a dedication in addressing this affliction. The targets set for supporting GBVF victims and families in the 2026/27 financial year are not matched to the number of cases being reported daily across the province. The North West Department of Social Development is a custodian of social challenges affecting the province. However, over the past year, the department has shown a lack of leadership in addressing these challenges. The 2025/26 and 2026/27 APPs both tell a story of a department whose aim is not to genuinely put an end to homelessness, substance abuse, and poverty. It shows a department whose validated by the number of compliance certificates and food parcels it is able to issue.

Honourable Speaker, there's a rising demand of elderly care facilities in the province to accommodate the aging population, who have little to no care at home. However, instead of providing tangible solutions, the department's response is to host workshops, encouraging the support of older persons. The winter season this year has been brutal so far. Yet, the department has made no effort to support homeless people across the province with a temporary shelter, food, warm clothes, or extra blankets. The department celebrated issuing 16 000 food parcels containing 2,5 kg of maize meal, rice, flour, and 2ltr oil, as a substantial effort towards alleviating hunger. Between the MEC and the Premier, neither one of them sees how undignified the food parcels are, or consider that happens to those families two weeks later, when that 2.5 kg maize meal is finished. In Taung, the department allocates hundreds food parcels to accommodate destitute families in all 24 wards.

Se se bontsha go palelwa ga puso ya ANC go sireletsa seriti sa baagi go lwantsha tlala le go tlhaloganya bogolo jwa tlala le lehuma tse di itemogelwang ke baagi tsatsi le letsatsi.

Honourable Speaker, the department stopped the funding of nine NPOs who provide child protection services in the province without any care of what happens to those children. It was the

High Court that instructed the department to reinstate funding after failing to provide substantial reasons for stopping such funding.

Go utlwisa botlhoko gore Lefapha le tshwanelwa ke go petelediwa ke kgotlhatshkelo-kgolo go busetsa ledi morago ga go palelwa le go retelelwa ke go neelana ka mabaka a a tsepameng go emisa dithuso tseo.

It is clear that the department that is meant to be a safe haven for the people of North West has no empathy or compassion. The department is a stone wall that strives to tick boxes rather than providing solutions.

Honourable Speaker, it pains the EFF that the R1.9 billion budget allocated to the department for the 2026/27 financial year will also be used for campaigns and workshops rather than identifying strategic locations like churches and recreational halls that can be used as temporary accommodation and food stations for homeless persons across the province. It pains the EFF that the R1.9 billion budget will give a child a school bag as part of a program claiming to improve the lives of our people instead of tracksuits, jackets, socks or tekkies. It pains us that in the next financial year, children will still go to school carrying the weight of their social circumstances on their shoulders, rather than having a proactive department using its R1.9 billion budget to deploy social workers, child and youth care workers to schools, creating a safe space for children to go through their psychological and emotional budget. It pains us that the department is sitting on the side-lines while our young people perish from illegal substances instead of using that R1.9 billion budget to build more rehabilitation facilities in order to meet the demand or establish government disciplinary and rehab programs for six-month period that will empower our young people with recovery and survival skills they require.

Honourable Speaker, instead of spending an entire year tormenting NPOs over compliance, the EFF urges the department to consider the children, the elderly, the disabled, and other vulnerable persons who rely on those facilities for a lifeline. We urge the department to consider restoring defunded facilities like Legae La Bana in Ward 30, Mahikeng, that used to provide food and safety for children in that community, but has left their children stranded since its defunding.

Honourable Speaker, Taung Inpatient Centre is facing challenges. The center has got one nurse, o o berekang motshegare. Ga gona mooki kgotsa nurse o o berekang bosigo, while the center is

operating 24/7. It has got one child and youth care worker, o o berekang shift, whereby o tlhokometse and service users. No running water for the service users, ba tlhatlhega metsi ka di urn Mokhuduthamaga. No cleaners during the weekend. *Bana ba kolomakelwa go tloga Mantaga go fitlhe Freitag. Satretaga le Sontaga ga gona ope yo o ba kolomakelang.*

Honourable Speaker, until the department is able to show a real effort towards addressing social challenges our people face every day and change their outlook on service delivery, the EFF cannot consciously approve this budget. *Ka puo ya Setswana e e antsweng letseleng, raa re, ga re ikamagane ebile ga re amogele tekanyetso kabo ee.* We therefore very boldly reject the budget.

I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Steenkamp, your eight minutes.

HON. STEENKAMP: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

When we debate social development, we are not debating numbers on a spreadsheet. We are debating hungry children. We are debating abused women looking for safety. We are debating elderly residents who depend on care. We are debating vulnerable families who have

have no where to turn. That is why this budget is so particularly disappointing because when we strip away the speeches, the slogans, and the glossy presentation, we are left with a budget that asks the people of the North West Trust Department that continues to fail many of the very people it was created to protect.

Speaker, perhaps the most disturbing aspect of this budget is the department's treatment of the very organizations doing the work government itself cannot do. Now this has been mentioned by my colleague previously, but it is worth mentioning again because that is how disturbing and shocking it was. It is actually. Because those nine NPOs who had their funding withdrawn in 2025/26 are not nine luxury projects. They are not nine optional kind of programs. It is nine organizations caring, listen carefully, Honourable Oliphant, they are caring for almost 26 000 vulnerable people,

and most of them are children. Children who need protection. Children who need counselling. Children who need somebody to stand between them and abuse. Between them and neglect. Between them and trauma. The North West High Court had to intervene because the department couldn't provide credible reasons for its decision to cut its funding. It has been said, but I'm repeating it because imagine that. Organizations protecting vulnerable children were forced to go to court simply to keep their own doors open. The court found that the department's reasons were vague, were generalized, and that there was no credible plan in place to ensure the continuity of these critical services. No backup plan. Yet instead of fixing the problem, the department chose to appeal the judgment.

Speaker, if government cannot protect the organizations protecting our children, then what exactly is government protecting? The reality is that every day of uncertainty places vulnerable children at risk. Every delay creates anxiety for families. Every funding dispute threatens services that people rely on for survival. That is not a caring government. That is a government creating instability where stability is needed most.

Speaker, the department also continues to struggle with basic performance. Targets are missed. Programs underperform. Residential care services fall short. Child reunification targets are not achieved. Youth skills development programs fail to reach their full potential. And yet every year we are asked to celebrate budgets instead of interrogating the outcomes. Money spent is not the same as lives changed. A budget is not successful because it is spent. A budget is successful when vulnerable people are better off because of those spending. The people of North West do not care how many reports are produced. They care whether their grandmother receives the proper care she deserves. They care whether a child finds a safe home. They care whether a young person gains the skills needed to build a future for themselves. Those are the outcomes that matter. The DA believes that every child deserves protection. Every elderly person deserves dignity. Every differently-abled person deserves support. And every taxpayer deserves to know that public money is reaching the people that it is intending to help. We do not measure success by how much money government spends. We measure success by whether people's lives are improved. And that is why the DA is calling for sustainable and predictable funding for trusted NPOs providing critical services. Greater accountability for program performance and measurable outcomes. Better

support for child protection services and residential care facilities. And a social development system that puts vulnerable people ahead of bureaucracy.

Speaker, the people of North West do not need another budget built on promises. They need a department that funds organizations that protect our children. They need a department that measures success through the results rather than reports. They need a department that places vulnerable people ahead of that bureaucracy. Until that happens, the budget remains an exercise in spending without sufficient accountability and planning without sufficient delivery. The DA cannot support a budget that asks the vulnerable to settle for less than they deserve. The people of this province deserve better. And we will continue fighting until they get it.

Thank you, Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Steenkamp. I will now call on Honourable Groenewald, three minutes.

HON. GROENEWALD:

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Groenewald, your three minutes.

HON. GROENEWALD: I'm trying to get my speech. Honourable speaker, just give me a second. It is Rustenburg by-election. All the complains the DA is laying... Still doesn't want to open.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Groenewald, is everything okay?

HON. GROENEWALD: Yeah. Speaker, the DA laid a charge against the Freedom Front in the Rustenburg Municipality And now all the messages are coming through.

Honourable Speaker, A child remains in danger's arms for one more night. And all the adult waits to help that never comes. A victim of abuse is referred again but not protected. An NPO keeps feeding people while wondering whether support will arrive in time. A family receives food parcel today but has no answer for tomorrow. That is the reality behind the vote. Social development is not a department of good intentions. It is the last safety net for people who have already run out of options. This is why the Freedom Plus cannot judge the budget by the number of programs, workshops. Eish, Let's try again.

We do not support the budget, Honourable Oliphant.

Honourable Speaker, let me then rather do it like this.

Honourable Speaker, the Department of Social Development is one of the most important partners for one of our most vulnerable peoples in this province.

Honourable Speaker, the department is responsible to help our NPOs to keep on feeding those people, to keep on protecting our youth.

HON. SPEAKER: Unfortunately, your time is up.

HON. GROENEWALD: Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Honourable Speaker, we do not support the budget. But please, do not play politics with our most vulnerable in this province. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable members, I will now call Honourable Rosho for seven minutes.

HON. ROSHO: Tla ke go lebogetse Mmuso-Kgotla, ke dumedise Mokhuduthamaga ka dipuisano le dingangiso tsa gompieno tsa tekanetsokabo ya lefapha la rona la katlalelo-loago, Social Development.

Honourable Speaker, I wish that we had that those powers to amend the rules so that when public representatives sent by the communities voting for them reject the budget, they must not participate actually in the portfolio committee. They must not hold members of the executive account. How I wish we could do that. Because we are just grand standing on this platform, while we know that people have voted for us, as different parties, we went with manifestos, and what we need to do is to hold the executive accountable. Nothing else. Rejecting the budget will unfortunately not change the price of bread. But it is an own right to do that.

Madam Speaker, one of Africa's greatest anti-colonial leader, Amílcar Cabral, correctly said:

“Always bear in mind that the people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in anyone head. They are fighting to win material gains, to live better and in peace, to see their lives move forward, and to guarantee the future of their children.”

This must remind us as elected leaders of society that your moral compass and leadership conduct directly reflect on the lives of the people who have entrusted you with their lives, their future, their success, and their prosperity. The Department of Social Development has a substantial role in contributing towards building a society that is self-reliant, equal, inclusive, abides by the rule of human rights, and shelters our historically marginalized and vulnerable communities. As we strive towards transforming the lives of our people through social security as well as economic inclusivity, we recommit ourselves to confront gender-based violence and femicide that recently robbed us to the lives of Masego Mosweu and Rethabile Mosime. We agree with you, Honourable Matuane, but we must commend the MEC for Social Development, your department has always ran to most of the families to ensure that they provide that support. And we must commend the department for the work that you are doing. This will never go unnoticed in the hands under the watch of the African National Congress. 2

We are encouraged to stand with our men during this month of June and commemorate Men's Mental Health Month, which seeks to destigmatize mental health and encourage our fellow brothers to speak out and help in time, to speak out and ask for help in times of distress and uncertainty. Post-COVID, we are all aware that mental health is one of the diseases or ailments that needs to really be supported. And we appreciate the organizations and NPOs through you Madam Speaker, Honourable MEC, that the department is trying to support.

Finding alternative ways to deal with pain or grief by developing and subjecting oneself to community building activities facilitated by the likes of Men's Dialogue, Men for Change, and Men for Real centres, that open room for our sons, our fathers, our brothers, to find space as well as to secure ventilation spaces for their better mental well-being. And I must say, Honourable Speaker, I had an interview during Masego's funeral, and I want to challenge all of us as public representatives on raising not just a girl child, raising equally a boy child and a girl child. At some point, Madam Speaker, I hope the Department of Social Development, Mme Daantje, you will really consider that program.

We welcome the allocation of R87.4 million to sustain the treatment for substance and use disorders to provide detoxification services to ensure that users receive comprehensive and quality services. We agree it's not enough. We do agree. We don't dispute that, but we appreciate that there is allocation that is been done. It is necessary that we acknowledge and understand the transformative impact of the department's program on the lives of our children, the elderly, and people with disabilities who are the most vulnerable members of our community.

Due to high poverty prevalence in the province, many children are homeless due to undesirable living conditions, while many are often contributing immensely to child-headed households, bridging social ills such as exploitation and abuse. And I think that also as society, as communities, *ngwana sejo oa tlhakanelwa*. We should not just leave this responsibility to the Department of Social Development. We must all off us to our, especially as public representatives, resolve problems. That social outreach programme, we must also carry it through.

While still combating the legacy of injustice, of racial and prejudice, that birthed exclusion, discrimination, and underdevelopment, it is essential that we commend the work done by the ANC-led government through its transformational agenda that laid the firm foundation to constitutionally moral imperatives and policy reforms. To date, people with disabilities access protective workshops and government institutions such as Mmabana for skills development and re leboga Mme Tlhapi Galerekwe, we really appreciate your selfless contribution in advocating for young people to be skilled, and your partnerships with other departments is also appreciated.

And also, in-care facilities such as your Lonely Park-Signal Hill disabled project that catered to their specialists, which must be understood instead of being ridiculed. Mme wa Letlapa, I saw you, you were talking saying mosadi wa letlapa, but mokwatla wa gago o o sephara, we really appreciate

MEC, but I think you can do more. The elderly are given a second chance at life post retirement to participate in social activities such as golden games that were last held in February 2025 in Rustenburg and forums such as the Mahikeng older persons committee who recently hosted the welfare program at Iketleng Older Persons Centre, promoting active aging and vibrant older persons community, ready to guide the development of the youth through their wisdom.

Through the Children's Act, transformative laws have been established in the best interest of our children by identifying their rights and ensuring that they access the necessary care and protection to safeguard their well-being. One must also appreciate the interfacing program that is being done between the Department of Health with the Department of Social Development.

Madam Speaker, as I conclude, at least I serve in this committee, actively so and we want to commend the work that has been done, but more still needs to be done. I'm happy that the MEC has acknowledged the issue of young people, youth development and as African National Congress, we will support this budget because we do take the interest of our people at heart. The Freedom Charter, we are not just ticking boxes. We are alive, it is live, and we are hard at work. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Chief Whip. Honourable Tsholo, three minutes.

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

While acknowledging the strides that has been made by this particular department and its shortcomings. Mkhonto Wesizwe Party is of the view that the current budget allocation for social development is very low and the budget is insufficient to meet the minimum core social service delivery requirements of this particular province of North West. MKP acknowledges that the social development department delivers its services in an environment marked by high levels of poverty, unemployment, and inequality, and therefore needs more funds. While also we acknowledge the support and support the department's programs that aim to ensure that no citizens goes hungry while addressing its issues of poverty, unemployment, and injustice, community development, nutrition centres, social relief of distress grants and programs, expanded public works programs

that create jobs, and non-profit organizations that give material support to women-owned SMMEs and cooperatives.

Honourable MEC, through you, Honourable Speaker, I would like to make a special plea nor a clarion call for the Department of Social Development to assist their Atamelang employees who are left without employment by COSTAMA and their thuggery cahoots with food parcels. In addition to that issue, Honourable Speaker, a further plea, it is with regard to the NTI employees who also they are struggling for the department to conduct an independent assessment so that they are also, be assisted with food parcels.

Ga mme motsadi a lela a be a bua gore o ja letswai a le tsentse ka fa tlase ga leleme, a gokololwa ke bana gore a nne le energy, e utlwise botlhoko e le ruri. Re ne re re le yone ee, le e lebelele ka leitlho le le ntshotsho ka gone le re reile la re kodue e wela mongwe le mongwe a sa e lebelele. NTI and Atamelang employees, ba wetswe ke kodue e e neng ba sa e lebela ebile gore lona jaaka Lefapha le Malala a laotswe ebile le itse sentle gore ditlamelwana tsa pula di baakanngwa go sale gale. Re solofela gore le ipaakantse.

Your page 18 ya nkgothatsa, ga o ne o nopola Rre Nelson Mandela, Mokhuduthamaga wa Lefapha, mo page 18 ya gago; “what counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.” *Ga le ka dira jalo la ba gopola, badiri ba babedi ba re buang ka bona, indeed o tla be o diragaditse jalo. Le ga e ka chaya, ke ya go ba supporta gore ba ye go thusa Atamelang employees and NTI employees. O mang wena?*

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Tsholo. I will now call Honourable Khunou. Your nine minutes.

HON. KHUNOU: Honourable Speaker, Dr. Desmond Mohono; the Deputy Speaker, Rre Collen Mokone Maine, Honourable Premier, Lazarus Makgosi, Members of the Executive Council, Members of the Provincial Legislature, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

The ANC government has presented a budget of R1.9 billion, which must go towards helping the most impoverished of our communities. And the question is, what has our opposition members presented to the people of North West? They presented absolutely nothing that will benefit the people of the North West. The suggestion that the budget is just numbers and there's no impact. The fact of the matter is that, Honourable Tsholo, the Auditor General has not found that there has been excessive wasteful expenditure in terms of the budgets of this department. So the notion that the budget is just numbers has got no impact is actually without any basis. What we would expect from you to come here is that, in view of the fact, it's a fact, it's a matter of fact, that the department, you are reminding me, Honourable Tsholo, of what my teacher told me of an empty vessel that makes the most noise. You are reminding me of that teacher, an empty vessel that makes the most noise. So instead of you coming here and acknowledging that the budget is grossly insufficient and proposing measures that we need to take as a legislature to allocate more funding, you come here with just the noise of an empty vessel. And it's quite clear to me that empty vessel, can you protect us against this empty vessel, Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Khunou, honourable members, I have reminded you of your rules. Read rules 53, 54, 56, 57. I don't want to use rule 58. And it will assist you on how you should behave in the House. Thank you, Honourable Khunou, you can continue.

HON. KHUNOU: So, Honourable Speaker, it's quite clear that they were deep in their slumber, they were not listening to the budget speech of the MEC. On page 18, there's a summary which will make it easy for you to follow, Honourable Umkhonto. So there's a summary, there's a summary which makes it easy, because maybe you lost concentration as the MEC was presenting the speech. There's a summary. Social welfare services, Honourable Matuane, R745million. Children and families, R388 million. Restorative services, R329 million; Development and Research, R234 million. R1.9 billion, which will assist most of our impoverished families. So, we really expect next time you come and present this debate, say to us how much more funding we need and how the legislature should fund, instead of enticing our people with empty platitudes.

It is our constitutional obligation to build a society that is ethical, equal, promotes human dignity, and improves the lives of our people. The department budget, Honourable MEC and your team, we need to commend this budget, because even under these difficult circumstances, you are doing well and you are making the necessary impact within our communities. The department's budget and targets reflect the ANC's steadfast and unwavering commitment to providing employment opportunities and social security for the underprivileged. It provides for the establishment of an ethical, capable, as well as a professional public service. We are mandated by the ANC policy pronouncements in our manifesto and the 55th national conference resolutions to root government of corrupt officials by holding leaders accountable, facilitate room for good governance, and promote ethical leadership.

As alluded by Honourable Chief Whip, the department has four service delivery output problems, which must cater for the needs of our communities and ensure that our most impoverished members of society access self-enhancing initiatives, as well as career-building opportunities. The senseless murder of Masego Mosweu, allegedly by her husband, the fatal stabbing of Rethabile Mosime in Tlhabane and Daniel Malebe of Ramosadi by their partners continue to highlight the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide crimes that persists in our communities. This calls for greater need for psychological services and empowerment initiatives to fight this national disaster, and assist these ones who make the most noise in the Legislature.

We welcome the allocation of R21.3 million towards the victim empowerment to be rolled out to community outreach, prevention programs, in partnership with 20 NPOs across all four districts. We applaud the allocation of R137 million for the behavioural rehabilitation intervention through provision of accredited, therapeutic, and developmental diversion through crime prevention programs. The opening of Crisis centres such as Dr RSM interim one-stop centre, Grace Help, Kitso le Lesedi and Thusego Safe Houses have been instrumental in providing victims of abuse with the necessary social support to recover shelters, and safe space for women and for women to seek help to restore their livelihoods after trauma, from life-threatening experiences.

We convey our deepest and most sincere condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones due to gender-based violence. Our offensive against high levels of teenage pregnancies and youth substance abuse must be our apex priority. We must intensify the rollout of child protection dialogues that bring awareness and social ills such as drug abuse, rape, bullying, and teenage

pregnancy, and provide children with an understanding of consequences of these challenges and how they can protect themselves as well as report incidents. We need more development programs such as the recently implemented youth empowerment commemorative event in Tswaing and Rustenburg that brought multi-sectoral stakeholders and this has opened a world of possibilities for young minds to access work opportunities, learnerships programs, and funding for youth-owned enterprises. We call on our women and persons living with disabilities to actively participate in community structures, utilize available resources, engage in meaningful economic as well as semi-opportunities amid available by a caring, Honourable Steenkamp, a caring and compassionate ANC government. The rollout of food parcels that recently took place shows that ANC-led government commitment to combating food hunger in our poverty-stricken communities. We also remain committed to creating sustainable and permanent solutions. These solutions will provide them with jobs and skills to attain self-independence and self-reliance.

As I conclude, Honourable Speaker, the allocated budget for the 2026/27 financial year should help transition the department towards a paperless electronic file and records system that will improve record-keeping and file archiving. It will also ensure that more social workers are hired as well as ensuring that they are properly compensated because they are the backbone of our communities. And if overworked and underpaid, essential services will be adversely affected. The continued rollout of Re Thuse Re Go Thuse capacity building and compliance programs for NPOs would mitigate again the closure of these organizations that provide essential services to our people by bridging the gap between what government can provide with a limited budget and the needs of our community.

We support engagement with SASSA to provide access to social grant collection points, especially in far-flung communities, needed by the elderly as well as persons with disabilities who can't travel far.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, there's an urgent need to reduce the high cost of space as well as impure building rentals, and limiting pollution orders which affect service delivery. As a caring and compassionate ANC-led government, we will continue building a society that has access to social security, promote inclusivity, offer the many neglected and marginalized members of our community hope and dignity. The ANC is proud to support and move for the adoption of the annual performance plan and the budget vote allocation to deepen the transformation and achieve social

protection for all. And once more, we want to really appreciate the budget speech of the MEC and the entire team, and keep up the good work, and we'll be behind you all the way.

Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Khunou. I will now call the MEC. MEC, your ten minutes.

HON. DANTJIE: *Ke a leboga Mmusu Kgotla. Ke lebogele di tsitsi tsotlhe tse di ntle lke tse di nyemisang moko mme rona ga re kitla re nyema moko ka gore dintša tsone do bogolo koloi e e tsamayang. Ga go sena koloi e e tsamayang, ga gona go bogola, mare ga e tsamaya, o tla utlwa ka go bogola. Now, ga dintša di bogolo, you must know that you are doing very well and our people are happy.*

I'm standing here, Madam Speaker, as the MEC of Social Development, who is on the ground, through Re Thuse Re Go Thuse. Our people are happy. And our people understand the plight of social development in terms of the budget. And we know that we are expected to do more. But what we are doing in terms of what this House have appropriated, we are doing our best. It might not be enough. We are the first to admit that it might not be enough. *But nna gotlhe ko ke tsamayang teng, batho ba rona baa bona gore Social Development e ba tsaya serious ebile y aba thusa ka puso e e eteletsweng pele ke African National Congress. Mme se sengwe gape Mmusu Kgotla se ke ratang go se tlhalosa ke gore, waitse to debate with people or Honourable Members* who are not members of the portfolio committee, it's very, very difficult. Because they are clueless, they don't have knowledge, they don't have information, you know, Honourable Steenkamp and Honourable Matuane, they've never participated in the portfolio. So all the issues that they have raised, I want to advise them, as Honourable as I am, to go back to the quarterly reports that were grilled quarterly by the portfolio committee, we have addressed those issues. So, Honourable Members, you don't know what you are just saying, because there's so substance on what we are saying. We are just playing to gallery.

For instance, Honourable Matuane, the work that we are doing, in terms of victims of gender-based violence, myself, Honourable Motsumi, and Honourable Wessels, those families, that you passed condolences today mo go bone, they will be surprised and embarrassed because thina we are always there with them.

We even know that what happened in Tlhabane towards Mapaputle, what happens? We are down on the ground. We can't play into the gallery *ka matlhoko a a tlhagetseng batho ba rona. Tona Kgolo o re rutile gore*, we must go to those families and assist those families, and be biblically so. when you assist, all that you are. Your assist by in the budgetal. But when I see, we have been assisting, *ga o pagame ko godimo ga ntlo o kue mokgosi*. You assist quietly as the African National Congress. Batho e be ba siamelwa, e be go siama. We have been assisting, they have received our condolences, not here, from the gallery because ke local government elections, no. Our people know that the ANC is always there for them through thick and thin. So we can't be told by you, for instance, o bua ka Court Order, that you don't even understand. That court order is still there. We are not paying back any NGO, Honourable member. You have been misled. We have challenged the court order, it's still there. And those NGOs, those NPOs, ke utlwa botlhoko because o motho o o montsho, I am not sure ke phoso Mmusi Kgotla, gore o lla le those NPOs. You are saying our rural community NPOs must suffer, whilst the white NPOs have been benefiting before 1994, they must continue to benefit. Is that what you are saying as the EFF? Nna, I'm not saying that. And let me tell you the other thing when I say you are clueless, you don't know what you are talking about. NPOs, Honourable Steenkamp, and Honourable EFF, it's not given that as an NGO every month you are given money. No, you must apply through proper processes.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable MEC, can you take your seat.

Honourable Moema.

HON. MOEMA: No, thank you very much, Speaker. I just wish to pose the question to the Honourable MEC that...

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Moema. Honorable MEC, wait. Honourable Moema, I've just reminded all of you to check on your rules. You can't rise and pose a question. The Member on the podium must accept to take your question. You are out of order, and you know very well you are out of order. Don't do that, please. Thank you. Honourable MEC, continue.

HON. DANTJIE: Thank you Madam Speaker. The other thing about those NPOs, there's a law governing NPOs. NPOs apply for funding annually. It's not given that every year NPOs will receive funding. You apply for funding. There are processes that are followed. Then, as the department, we'll be saying, the following NPOs will receive funding. And for your information again, in those NPOs in court, most of those NPOs, fortunately, as the department, *nnaga re tshabe go ya ko bathong*. We engage them. They accepted some of them, that they were not complying. That is why we did not fund them. As we speak in this financial year, we have funded them because they have corrected their things through the assistance of our officials. So that is why I am saying, little knowledge is too dangerous. When you come and debate on a portfolio committee, just get information *gore* what has been happening, because I've briefed the portfolio committee on these issues. And in terms of, and in terms of the Taung impatient treatment centre, *ga kere* little knowledge is dangerous. Child and youth care workers, are seven including a team leader. Nurses, they are two, and one auxiliary nurse. Professional nurse one, auxiliary one. *Ba bereka ka di* shift and if there are challenges, Honourable Member, like you were saying there's this kind of a challenge, we don't shy away from challenges. We will still go there and check what we are saying. If there's any way we can intervene, we will definitely, we will definitely intervene.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Matuane, hee bathong, can you contain yourself. Order. You are out of order. You are out of order.

HON. DANTJIE: Honourable Steenkamp, we were the first, acknowledging that budget is not just about number. *Ke go file le* Bible verse, *gore* budget is not just numbers. Indeed, we must work according to our mandate, just read that speech, I have responded to all that you have said, just start from the first introduction. I have responded that budget indeed is not just about numbers.

We care for our people and we must make sure that we realize the mandate of the department to ensure better life for all. I said that standing here before you. *Se o se batlang, ga ke itse gore ke eng se se kana kana.*

Honourable. Tsholo Indeed, *kodue e wela motho a sa e labella.* We will, definitely engage Honourable Morweng *gore* if there's any need for food parcels, we'll definitely help. But remember, we don't just distribute food parcels. We profile, for do they qualify or not? And Honourable Matuane, *ke boela gape ko go wena. Issue ya di food parcels, e fokotsa lehuma, ga e fedise lehuma.* Understand the mandate of social development. Batho b aba fedisang lehuma, ke the Department of Agriculture through Food Security, food parcels is an intervention ya nakwana. That is why I stood here today and said we are doing something to make sure that in addition to that, the vulnerable communities, in particular, men, raa ba thusa ka di sewing machines, raa ba thuisa ka go bula di spaza shop, gore di food parcel tseo ga di se enough, ba kgone go iphedisa because nobody can survive ka di food parcel and indeed, we cant give our people food parcels on daily basis. That is what I said I the meeting but maybe o ne o sampe o ithobaletse but I have tried to clarify that one.

Otherwise, Honourable Speaker, thank you very much, Honourable Chief Whip, Ntate Khunou, just to know, I just want to appreciate and to say to the chair of the portfolio committee, we'll definitely submit whatever that the department must submit and also in terms of the collaboration and partnership with the private sector as we briefed the portfolio committee in our last session, indeed, we are doing that. On the baseline part, ke nagana gore Tona Kgolo ya Bokone Bophirima, Rre Lazarus Mokgosi le Mme wa Treasury, Mme Keneetswe Mosenogi ba utlweletse tota ga go buiwa ka baseline, ga e mo maruding a rona re le lefapha, e mo maruding a Treasury. Gongwe Tona Kgolo a ka re me me, le rona re a dumalana gore baseline ya rona, 2021/22 go fitlha fa, ke mathat tota. Ka go rialo Mmusu Kgotla, re a leboga. Mafoko a kgotla a mantle otlhe.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Members. Does the House adopt the committee report?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Members. The committee report is now adopted. Honourable Members, I will now read the roll call in terms of Rule 245(1), to determine the quorum.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Babuile?

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Bogatsu?

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Botswe?

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Dabampe?

HON. DABAMPE: Present.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Dantjie?

HON. DANTJIE: Ke teng Mmusu Kgotla.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Dial?

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Groenewald?

HON. GROENEWALD: Present.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Khunou?

HON. KHUNOU: Present Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Kodisang?

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Lehari?

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Lenkopane?

HON. LENKOPANE: Ke teng Mma.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Magagane?

HON. MAGAGANE: Ke teng Mmusu Kgotla.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Maine?

HON. MAINE: Present.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Makgokgowa? Absent.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Matshe?

HON. MATSHE: Ke teng Mmusa Kgotla.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Matuane?

HON. MATUANE: Ke teng mo Ntlong Mmusa Kgotla.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Modise?

HON. MODISE: Mme o teng Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Moema?

HON. MOEMA: Ke teng Mmusa Kgotla.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Mohono?

HON. MOHONO: I am Present.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Mokgosi?

HON. MOKGOSI: Present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Mokua?

HON. MOKUA: Present, Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Molapisi?

HON. MOLAPISI: Present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Morweng?

HON. MORWENG: Ke teng Mmusa Kgotla.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Mosenogi?

HON. MOSENOGI: Present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honorable Motsumi?

HON. MOTSUMI: Ke teng Mmusa Kgotla.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Oliphant?

HON. OLIPHANT: Present, Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Rosho?

HON. ROSHO: Present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Sambatha?

HON. SAMBATHA: Ndi khona Somlomo.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Sebegoe?

HON. SEBEGOE: Ek is hier Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Sonakile?

HON. SONAKILE: Present.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Sonti?

HON. SONTI: Ndi khona Somlomo.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Steenkamp?

HON. STEENKAMP: Present, Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Steyl? Absent

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Tlhapi?

HON. TLHAPI: Ke mo Ntlong ya gago Mmusu Kgotla.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Tsholo?

HON. TSHOLO: Present.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Van Huyssteen? Absent.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Wallhorn?

HON. WOLHORN: Present.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Williams? Absent.

Honourable Members, I have satisfied myself that the majority of Members are present in the House to adopt the budget program by program. I will now adopt the budget program by program.

Honourable Members, let's start with Program 1, Administration: R298,448,000.00. Does the House adopt the budget?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Program 2, Social Welfare Services: R745,099,000.00. Does the House adopt the budget?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Program 3, Children and Families: R388,402,000.00. Does the House adopt the program?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Program 4, Restorative Services: R329,910,000.00. Does the House adopt the budget?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Program 5, Developmental and Research: R234,312,000.00. Does the House adopt the budget?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Members. The budget for the Department of Social Development budget Vote 12 for 2026/27, totalling to R1,996,171,000.00, is now adopted. Thank you, Honourable Members. Go and spend the budget.

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you very much colleagues. I rise before this House today with a deep sense of responsibility and commitment to present the 2026-2027 Education Budget Vote.

Honourable Members, *baagi ba rona, ke lo dumedisitse le lona, ke re gore kettle mo pel emo ke tsitsintswe ke mafoko a ga Presidente wa Botswana ebong Advocate Duma Boko, ha fetsa go winner dielections, ha adressa his cabinet, a iprepera* to take over governance. When he speaks of achieving the strategic service delivery target of government, in a way that resonates deeply with the goal that possesses itself as a challenge but gets easily overcome by the belief, focus, and discipline of the person aiming for it.

Utlwa President *a reng ha ba* encourage, "and so, sometimes I shudder when people say these targets are impossible to achieve. In the land of snipers, the target is never the problem. Yes, there are variables like a wing, the distance, the lightning, sometimes noise, distractions, everything is there, but the true sniper understands that there comes a moment of silence, of all distractions, to listen to the heartbeat, to lock in on the target, and to choose the precise moment to pull the trigger. Success is hitting the target, does not depend on the target and all these other variables. It always depends on the person behind the rifle. What does this person believe is possible? If you go behind that weapon and you say this target is impossible to hit, you have failed already".

So as the Department of Education we firmly believe that the target of building a North West Province that works for all is entirely achievable through collective effort, and its foundation is laid directly within our classrooms. *Ka jalo, tekanyetsokabo ya gompiano e tlhagisa maitlhommo a*

rona a go tiisa metheo ya thuto, tokafatso ya dipholo, le go netefatsa gore ga gona moithuti yo o salelang ko morago.

Building on the impressive 87.52% achieved by Class of 2024, the Class of 2025 continued the upward trajectory, attaining an 88.49% pass rate, placing the North West fourth nationally. All the districts performed above 85%.

But the most important thing *e re tshwanetseng re e celebrate re le Lefapha la Thuto ke gore* for the very first time *mo botshelong jwa Lefapha la Thuto re bona* in the last academic year, Honourable Tsholo, *go na le ngwana gate Temogo Matong* from Setswakgosing Secondary School in Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati, made history by prevailing as 2025 Matric National Top Achiever in quintal 2.

And *ha re bua ka quintal 2 baagi ba rona, re bua ka dikolo tse e leng gore bana ba tsena mahala, ba krea dijo mahala, mo eleng gore* in the past we have realised *gore ntse di daotiwa declass tse*, I mean these public schools *gore quality ya education e ko tlase*, but last year *re nnile le ngwana yo o tswang ko sekolong seo, yo o provetseng ba bantsi* *gore* we are closing a gap between public ordinary schools and the independent schools.

Our target for matric class of 2026 is 95% pass rate. *Ke ba reetse ke re ba gopole se* President Boko *a rileng* it is possible for us to reach that particular 95%.

In our pursuit to strengthen foundational learning, we are among others, enter our learners in various numeracy and reading competitions. Honourable Members, in this regard I am extremely excited to announce that a 12-year learner, Mbulelo Tolom from Dr. KK District obtained position 1 in the National Spelling Bee Competition and represented South Africa at the Continental Spelling Bee. As we speak, that learner will represent the country in China, *yo o tswileng mo* North West.

The North West province emerged as the overall best performing province in the 2025 National Teaching Award. Honourable speaker, allow me to applaud the following seven educators who in October 2025 prevailed at the national level of the National Teaching Awards. Re na le teacher, Mr Tshepiso Seshuani from Thuto Neo Primary School, *ba tlile ka di* awards, number 1, number 2, number 3. Reverend Dr. David Tlhowe from Tlhabane West Primary School in Bojanala, scooped position 1 in category of Excellence in Primary School Leadership.

And also, Reverend Dr. Tlhowe further made us proud by receiving a prestigious Fellowship Award from Africa Federation of Teaching Regulatory Authorities in Gaborone, Botswana on the 5th of May 2026. Mr. Bongumuso Mosa Mabusa from Dr. Kenneth Kaunda. Mr. Tlhalefang Zwane from Bolokang Secondary School in Ngaka Modiri Molema. Ms Magarreta Bonman from Laerskool Sannieshof in Ngaka Modiri Molema. Mr Ronny Chikudu from Noka ya Lorato Primary School in Bojanala. Ms Koketo Motaung from Temogo Special School.

We urge the next generation of the NTA participants to put up a very good fight and host the North West province's flag to majestic heights in the upcoming National Teachers Awards, which will be held in October 2026.

Ladies and gentlemen, we could not achieve all these alone as a department, our collaboration with the mining sectors continues to yield immense value of our communities. We commend East Plant, Harmony Gold, Sibanye Stillwater, Siyanda Bakgatla, Impala, Glencore, Pam Chrome, and Northam Platinum for their significant investment in our schools, their contributions span critically infrastructure delivery, classroom expansions, sanitation upgrades, and comprehensive learner support.

Beyond the mining houses our corporate partners which include but not limited to data-driven districts, Old Mutual, Avbob, Multichoice, Minopex, Telkom Foundation, MTN SA Foundation,

Shuter and Shooter, MacMillan Publishers, Lebone Litho, Altron, and Eskom, have stepped up significantly.

Based on the challenges that we continue to face as the Department of Education, the fact of the matter is that as the African National Congress, we are having policies that seek actually to address the issue of poverty among our learners. And we are trying our level best gore re le the African National Congress we must close that particular gap. That is why *gompieno re na le bana ba ja di* NSNP and so on, *and ba tsena sekolo mahala*.

But as much as we are closing that, we are still having a challenge in terms of infrastructure. And we have to acknowledge that most of our schools are not in good condition, but it does not mean necessarily that as government we are not doing anything about it. *Le tla ikutlwela ha re tsena mo* the infrastructure gore what are the things that we have done to address whatever challenges that are there in terms of the infrastructure.

In addition, the department appreciates the alumnus of Sekhing Primary School for their continued commitment to giving back to their former school through funding provided by Impala Mines, the facilitated the construction of a kitchen, dining hall, and school fencing. *E re ruta goreng, ha re le dileader re bona go na le di* challenges, we are not supposed to come here and grandstand, we must provide leadership. *Mo re kgonang go* donate *teng* let's donate because we are talking about the future of our learners *mo* North West province.

Honourable Speaker, this financial year the department will spend R24 173 016 000,00, which represent an increase of 5.58% compared to the last financial year. The priorities and services rendered by the Department of Education are categorized into 7 programs.

But one must indicate, Honourable Deputy Speaker, like I've already indicated gore there is an increase, I wish to table the Department of Education Budget Vote 8 for 2026-27 financial year for consideration and approval by our Honourable House as follows:

- In terms of Programme 1, remember we are having 7 programmes. Programme 1 that speaks to Administration, we are allocating - **R1 354 769 000,00.**
- And for Public Ordinary School Education, we allocate - **R18 169 557 000,00.**
- For the Independent School Subsidies, we are going to allocate them - **R66 929 000,00.**
- And Public Special Schools, because it's the public special schools, they are special to us, that is why we saw it fit that we must allocate them - **R1 093 762 000,00.**
- And Early Childhood Development, as we know that is our foundation phase, it comes from the social development, that is why we want to invest more in that particular foundation phase. That is why we decided that we are going to allocate - **R1 259 546 000,00.**
- And in terms of Infrastructure, where I know that the debates will dominate because the fact of the matter is that we are still lacking behind, and there are so many challenges. The infrastructure development, we are going to allocate - **R1 384 167 000,00.**
- And for Examination and Education-related Services, we're going to allocate **R850 342 000,00.**

So briefly, this budget will empower the department to sharpen its policy implementation and strengthen the systems needed to deliver on our mandate of providing quality basic education.

Honourable Members, I want you to pay attention to this paragraph that I'm going to emphasize. And I did put it deliberate so that when we leave this August House, all of us we do have a common understanding regarding the budget that is allocated to the Department of Education.

I must indicate that Honourable Deputy Speaker, before I divulge into the detailed allocation per program, I deemed it prudent to bring to the attention of this August House that R18 576 434

000,00 from the R24 billion that was allocated, I spoke about R18 billion already, I must indicate, which constitute 77% of the total 2026/2027 of the budget would be spent on compensation of employees.

So, those are the challenges that we are confronted with, but we have taken a decision, we took an oath that as government we'll try our level best to close gaps where they are, but we are recognizing the challenges that we are confronted with.

So, when it comes to Program 1 that deals with administration, this financial year administration has been allocated R1 354 769 000,00. And in terms of Program 2, public ordinary school education, for this financial year a budget of R18 169 557 000,00 has been allocated to public ordinary school education for a wide range of services such as goods and services, transfers to public ordinary schools institutions, households, machinery and equipment, learning and teaching support material, which is our LTSM, National School Nutrition Program, which is our NSNP, school enrichment, learner attainment improvement program, professional teacher development, curriculum implementation, and information and communication technology.

And then under learner teacher support material, I must indicate that we'll only be allocating R766 908 000,00 for LTSM, which encompasses a wide range of material including your textbooks, workbooks, stationery, and even digital resources.

And then under LAIP, R200 million has been put aside for LAIP. Our LAIP is your Learner Attainment Improvement Plan. That's where at the end of the year, even before the end of the year, that's where we are subjecting our learners to incubation programs so that *matitshere a rona a tswelele go ba rupelela gore ha ba kwala ditlhatlhobo tsa bona tsa bofelo e be e le gore* they are ready for their final examination.

So, there is money that is allocated for that, but we are having a lot of learners in North West province because *re realisitse gore* we have managed to deal with the issue of dropouts, why, because of the introduction of the NSNP, and because of schools are free, teachers are free, stationeries are free. That is why we are realizing that a huge number of learners, so this particular amount is not sufficient because remember our motto as the North West province, we are very clear that we are not going to leave any child behind. So, it means that each and every child must be incubated.

That is why in most instances when our SGB's are frustrated they are taking decisions to say that parents come in, by doing what, contribute something so that we are able to move forward to improve the results. That is why we'll forever encourage our parents and communities out there to continue to support us as the Department of Education because the little money that we are getting is not sufficient, we are having large numbers of the learners that must be subjected to the incubation.

In terms of Maths, Science, and Technology, the department will continue supporting 31 Technical Vocational Schools, 18 Agricultural Focus Schools, and 13 schools implement Technical Occupational Subjects, which has been extended to three more schools in the current academic year in our endeavour to strengthen implementation of the three-stream model.

Our learners must create jobs after completing their grade 12. They must not be reliant too much on government. That is why as the North West province we saw it fit that we must introduce this three-stream model where there are schools who are agric focus, others are technical schools, and so on. So, I'm proud to announce that we have increased those particular schools by extra three. A total of R44 833 000,00 for Maths, Science and Technology Conditional Grant is allocated to support schools identified.

National School Nutrition Program for 2026/2027 financial year. NSNP has been allocated R746 983 000,00 to feed, an estimated, estimated, it can be more, of 751 887 learners in 1 331 quintiles 1 to 3 public ordinary schools.

I'm saying we are estimating, it can be more than this because remember, we are not allowed, Honourable Nathan, gore if there is a learner without a birth certificate, we are forced, Honourable Premier, *go mo fa dijo ngwana yoo* and then *ha re dira budget re dira budget tlhogo ya ngwana ka ngwana*, and *tlhogo ya ngwana ka ngwana ke yone* birth certificate. Because we are a caring government, that is why *le bana bao ba ba senang* birth certificates we continue to provide them with NSNP because they belong to South Africa.

In terms of Professional Teacher Development, the department has allocated R26 million towards professional teacher development. This funding will support a range of training, programmes including numeracy and reading in the Foundation Phase as well as subjects beyond Foundation Phase such as Languages, Maths, Digital Skills Training for teachers and subject specialists.

We are pleased to announce that the department has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the North West University and TVET Colleges to enhance the quality and reach of our training skills.

In terms of filling of vacant posts, the North West Education Department is committed to filling all the teaching and management posts at the school level. In September 2025 we managed to convert 1 311 temporary teachers employed in substantive funded vacant posts were converted to permanent employees in line with Collective Agreement Number 2 of 2024.

Under Programme 3, the department has allocated R60 929 000,00 which would be transferred to 52 subsidised independent schools. By the way they took me to Court regarding this because

remember we had to increase and share whatever that we had with other independent schools that have been in a waiting list.

So, we had to take that particular decision to say that it can't be that after 20 years we have been assisting, only few schools have been subsidized, and those particular schools *ha o di sheba* they are well resourced Honourable Speaker.

That is why we had to take that particular critical decision to say that others must also benefit, the little thing, the little money that we are having let's share it among our independent schools. So that's where we are.

Then under public special school education, public school have allocated R1 093 762 000,00 of which R24 million is specifically earmarked for the learners with severe to profound intellectual disabilities for appointment of therapists, caregivers, personnel care, and procurement of assistive devices.

The department has set R266 247 000,00 for transfer to public special schools for day-to-day operation and school administration procurement of wheelchairs, walking aids, communication aids, LTSM provision of tool kits and tools of trade. I'm thrilled to announce that we are providing for this financial year, we'll be providing Reatlegile and Bophelong Special Sschools with two 22-seater passenger vehicles equipped with specialized assistive devices and adaptive mobility features this financial year.

Akere bana ba rona ba di special school ke rona re ba itseelang ka ditransport tse di complyang ka madi a government ya rona, re ba tsaya go tla ko magaeng, re ba tlisa ko sekolong because re a itse gore gona le batsadi ba eleng gore they cannot afford for transportation of those particular learners. So, go protecta dithuto tsa bone that is why we saw it fit that we must provide each and every special school with transportation without any fail.

Early childhood development for this financial year, the department has allocated R291 857 000,00 rand for ECD conditional grant. This allocation will be spent on expanding access to quality ECD services, supporting eligible ECD centres to improve the overall quality of their programs, as well as to meet their basic health and safety standards, and improving the skills and working conditions of ECD practitioners.

To enhance universal Grade R access curriculum delivery in public schools, R13 400 000,00 will be utilized to supply 400 schools offering Grade R with educational toys, fantasy furniture, and combination jungle gyms, all aimed at stimulating learning through play. To professionalize the ECD sector, R22 million is set aside to enrol practitioners in professional development programs with higher education institutions.

That will also create more jobs, as we all know that we are still lagging behind, we are still struggling in terms of unemployment in our province. But does not mean necessarily that we must rely only on other departments. It must also be our department also where we are creating jobs for our people.

Under infrastructure development, Honourable Deputy Speaker, the infrastructure development, the department has allocated R1 384 111 000,00. This allocation is made up of comprises of R1 369 441 000,00 for education infrastructure grant, which is our EIG. R14 670 000,00 for early childhood maintenance grant, and R7 657 000,00 for expanded public works programme, EPWP integrated grant.

Motlotlegi Motlatsa-Musakgotla le Maloko Kgotlapeomolao, Honourable Members, the department continues to expand and improve education infrastructure across the province during the 2025/26 financial year. Seven new and replacement schools were completed and are now fully operational, including your Richard Tumahole Lentsela Primary School, Tlhalefang Primary,

Kgosi Shope Secondary, Trotsville Primary, Batho Batho Primary, Monchusi Secondary School, Mphe-Bana II Secondary, Sarafina Primary, Tigane Primary and Sediko Primary School.

These projects have helped address infrastructure backlog and improve learning environment in our province. Infrastructure delivery includes improved water infrastructure at 30 schools, new sanitation facilities at 17 schools, and 115 maintenance projects. To address overcrowding, 492 classrooms and 20 specialized facilities, including laboratories, libraries, computer centres, were completed in the last financial year.

School safety and accessibility were enhanced through perimeter fencing at 37 schools, of 8 administration facilities, upgrade of 8 full-service schools, and construction of 36 support facilities. But one must capitalise on this particular platform, not to say that I am grandstanding.

We are having a challenge. We don't have money, we put safety of our learners and teachers first, we erect perimeter clearview fences in different schools, *ha re fetsa go di* erect our own communities *batla go di ntsha ba di utswa, so re boela ko morago* instead of moving forward.

So, *re ikuela mo baaging ba rona ra re "ngwana sejo o a tlhakanelwa". Re le goromente re buile gore ga rena tshelete, ke ledi le re nang le lone re ya go leka go tswala digaps mo di tlhagelelang teng, but ha le palelwa ke go re thusa ele nyena lo senyetsang future ya bana ba lona lo re busetsa ko morago re le Lefapha la Thuto.*

The department acknowledges the following blocked projects, that is why I am saying I am going to be transparent as much as possible because whether we like it or not reality is that as the Department of Education we are still struggling in terms of issues of infrastructure.

I must indicate that in terms of blocked projects, *re na le DP Kgotleng Primary School, e e leng gore sale e le blocked*, each and every day there are issues regarding that particular school, but *ha e reye gore ga re dire sepe re le Lefapha la Thuto because ke tiro ya rona gore re heleletse sekolo*

seo jaaka re ne re solofeditse baagi ba rona, and re tlile go tswelera go di heheletsa, ha re di heheletsa re kopa hela le re itshwarele le seke lar eke ka nako ya dielection because se agilwe even before dielection di tla.

Re na le your Dirang ka Natla, re na le bo Kagiso Barolong Secondary School, measures are underway to resolve the barriers to ensure their completion within this current financial year.

So Honourable Deputy Speaker, the department has allocated R1 384 000 000,00 to infrastructure development in the 2026/27 financial year to address backlogs, reduce overcrowding and provide safe, functional learning environment. Despite ongoing progress, the province still faces an infrastructure backlog estimated at R21 500 000 000,00 excluding Grade R and ECD requirements, reinforcing the need for partnering with the private sector in mine.

A total of R393 904 000,00 is allocated for new and replacement schools. During the year, the department will complete Mahube Primary School, Batlhalerwa Primary School, Tigane Primary, Dirang ka Natla Secondary, Morokweng Primary School, and boarding facilities at Coligny Special School, and Moedwil Hostel, Ennis Thabong Primary School has also been completed and will help elevate overcrowding, sekgoa se ile jaanong kgale ke bua.

And to strengthen special needs education, R84 170 000,00 has been allocated for projects at Tlamelang and Rekgonne Bapo Special Schools with planning continuing for Temoso and Kutlwanong Special Schools. Contractors have already been appointed for Loretlweng Primary School and Dinokana School for Autism.

A further R368 666 000,00 is allocated for upgrades, additions, including 350 classrooms, 35 Grade R classrooms, water services at 15 schools, electricity connections at 181 schools, and sanitation upgrades at 23 schools. Major upgrades continue at C.N. Lekalake Secondary School, Thutong Primary, Telesho Primary, Tlhale Primary, Niedverdiend Combined, and Micha Kgasi

Secondary School. To enhance school safety, 50 schools will receive high-security perimeter fence.

An amount of R459 871 000,00 is allocated for refurbishment and rehabilitation, focusing on storm-damaged water, structural repairs, infrastructure renewals, and the eradication of remaining asbestos structures. The department has also set aside R64 670,000 for maintenance and repairs, including 120 planned maintenance projects.

Through the Education Infrastructure Grant, these projects are expected to create approximately 1 012 job opportunities while improving access to quality education across the province. And then *jaanong EPWP ya rona bagolo ga e se EPWP ele ya rona ya go kolomaka, re tsaya bana ba rona reya go ba train for skill sa go kgona go penta le go aga jalo le jalo, gore ha fetsa gotswa mo programme e ya rona ya EPWP a kgone go ya go iperekela kontle. So, ne kere re kgone go differentiate багаetsho ba rona.*

Programme 7, the examination and education related services, programme 7 budget decreases by 21.3% from R1 080 933 000,00 in 2025/2026 to R850 342 000,00 in 2026/2027. Largely due to the pay point realigned to programme 1 and discontinuation of Basic Education Employment Initiative. The department has set aside a budget of R140 million for examination and assessment.

In conclusion, I must indicate that the funding will continue with the administration, conduct and marking of National Senior Certificates, Grade 12 examination, preparatory examination and the implementation of the School-Based Assessment.

The programme continues to create temporary job opportunities for 650 marking assistants, 250 security personnel and 250 invigilators during the marking processes. Special project sub-programme caters for the implementation of the Sanitary Dignity Program, targeting more than

100 000 of girl learners from Grade 4 upwards, in quintiles 1 to 3 public ordinary schools. The department allocated R21 150 000,00 for 2026/2027 financial year.

It would be a remiss of us to present this budget without knowing the profound losses we have suffered this academic year. We stand here today carrying the heavy memory of learners who tragically perished while wearing their school uniform. A painful reminder of the stark safety challenges our communities face daily.

In this regard, we remember with deep sorrow the following learners, Enica Nombela, Remofiloe Mtshengu, and Kitso Mathope from Hoërskool Vryburg, Olebogeng Tagote from Boikagong Secondary School, Thoriso Duncan from Mosikare Secondary School in Ngaka Modiri Molema.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, this budget speech is solemnly dedicated to their memory and to the many other learners who lost their lives while striving to change their lives for the better through education.

All those particular learners *ba tlhokafetse ba le mo* uniform, *ba ne ba palame koloi ba boela ko sekolong bangwe, o mongwe sale a ya diextra classing on Sunday le gompieno re kreile a tlhokafetse*, and the rest *le bone ba ne batswa ko di extra class, bangwe ba ne ba tswa ko sekolong, ya bontsha gore e ne e le bana ba ba neng ba na le maikaelelo a go bona e le bana ba ba ka chenchang selebego sa province ya rona*. But unfortunately, *ga ba krey*a that particular opportunity, and by the way two of them they were in grade 12.

I've managed to visit their families, it's bad there, you could see, one would understand *gore* why they were fighting for education. Because what they wanted was to change the lives of their parents, *maar go na le yo re mo lositseng* because somebody there is still out there, *yo a bolayang ngwana a apere* uniform, an innocent soul. So, *ke one mathata a re nang le one ao*.

So, we cannot offer mere words of comfort. Their dreams and cut-short aspiration will continue to inspire our work as we build a safer, better future for every child under our care.

Let me also take this moment to express my sincere gratitude to the Premier of the Northwest Province, Honourable Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi, for his guidance, support, and leadership in enabling me to effectively execute my responsibility. Again, I wish to take this opportunity to thank and appreciate my political home, the African National Congress, under the capable and visionary leadership of Dumile Nono Maloyi, and Chairperson you have been more than a leader, you have been a brother, a mentor, and a pillar of strength.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the educators, school management teams, support staff, governing body, labour unions, South African Principal Association, parents, and learners for their continued dedication and resilience. Indeed, *le dintša tsa game, he e ne e se lona nkabe re palehwa ke go ya ko re batlang go ya teng re le Lefapha la Thuto mo Bokone Bophirima*, your commitment remains the foundation upon which the success of our education system is built.

A special high five to all our social media followers for the continuous engagement with us by sharing a thought, feedback and ideas, your voices matters the most. I also extend my gratitude to the Superintendent General, Senior Managements Teams, officials of the North West Department of Education, for their hard work and commitment in advancing the mandate of the department.

Honourable Speaker, I would like to thank Honourable Members of this House for their oversight, guidance, and support as we continue working together to improve the lives of our people through education.

And lastly Honourable Members, I wish to extend my deepest appreciation to my family, Rre le Mme Jabanyane, my husband, Rainy Kgotso Motsumi, my precious children Amantle Aluta and Arona Asante Azania, thank you for being a constant source of love, hope, and motivation in my life. Your smile, dreams and future aspiration remind me every day why the work we do in government matters so deeply. You continue to give me strength and purpose in saving our people.

And lastly, *Maqabane ka Tambo*, comrades of the movement, *ha e ne e se ka lona re kabe re se fa mo re leng teng, re fa* because *e le lona le re agileng, le ba ba ka fa ba ne ba le ka mo* the organisation *mme ba feleletsa ba tswile batla ka fa* because of the democracy that we fought for. But because we are a movement, we are a movement, re leader *batho*, that is why *o bona re ba tsaya sentle, re sa ba omanyane, re sa ba kwatele* because at one particular point they are former members of the African National Congress in the North West Province. Nothing is impossible until it's done. Thank you very much colleagues.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Motsumi. I now call Honourable Rosho to table and leads the debate on Committee Report of the Department. Honourable Rosho, you have 7 Minutes.

HON. ROSHO: *Tla ke go leboge Motlatsa-Mmusakgotla, ke dumedise baagi ba rona*, all stakeholders who were invited by various departments.

Deputy Speaker, as a Portfolio Committee I am tabling this report on behalf of the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Honourable Williams, and of course I have interacted with the department as well, they have, the report was, the APP was tabled in the Legislature in line with the regulations and it was engaged on the 11th of June, and the Committee Report was adopted on the 17th of June.

And I must indicate that there have been engagements from the first draft up to the final draft. And we commend you MEC for your efforts, your commitment with the Superintendent General and the Senior Management Team.

Chair, I am going to quickly go to the deliberations as the APP has complied in line with regulations as expected from our side. The Portfolio Committee has raised the following issues or have asked the issues as they were engaging with the APP of the Department:

That the Portfolio Committee enquired with the department's plan to deal with the shortage of robotics gadgets at schools as it is a key concern. Ensuring access to modern educational technology, Superintendent General, is quite essential for fostering innovation and preparing learners for the future. MEC, I think she walks that language of educational technology, and we expect that, let's walk the talk.

There was an inquiry regarding whether MOU exists between the department and the Department of Social Development and Health. This relates specifically to the appointment of specialists such as social workers and psychologists at schools, which would provide holistic support for learners' well-being.

The committee further enquired on the strategic plan to improving matric performance as a critical objective for the department, but it must be noted the context. We appreciate the performance, the advancement that has been, the remarkable performance that has been registered by the Northwest Provincial Department of Education.

But we know that we can go beyond that. And with the energy and the zeal that you have Honourable MEC and your management team, I think that you have that energy to reposition again the Northwest, we were once position 2.

But we appreciate that the department is making strides to ensure that we improve the results, we harness our learners and they are able to unleash their potential.

We've requested for a clear plan in that support in terms of the outcomes to ensure the improved outcomes. There is interest in understanding how the department is addressing the underperformance in 2025/2026 financial year. I think MEC has spoken to that. We appreciate that.

The department was enquired on turnaround strategy and aims to strengthen its capacity by retaining employees, your retaining strategy thereby avoiding the need for resignations or transfers to other departments. We know that severance packages have been opened, most of our educators are leaving SG, and we are worried as a committee in terms of succession planning. It's quite important for us Honourable MEC. I think we need that.

Concerns have been expressed about the department's adherence to its procurement plan. Maintaining compliance is essential to promoting transparency and operational efficiency within departmental processes.

A concern was also raised Deputy Speaker, regarding the department's plan to continue with the initiative to provide breakfast to schools in the financial year, specifically seeking clarification on how many schools would benefit from this initiative. Honourable Premier, we have raised this, I have personally raised this matter. Because I think that we started well through *Thuntsha Lerole* in providing breakfast for our learners at school.

And we need to up the game on this need because our learners, some of them they come from impoverished families, and if they have not at least had supper, at least they have a guarantee to have breakfast in the morning.

And I think it is important that, *le tla utlwa le didoctor ba ka le bolelela gore* eating breakfast is very, *ya thusa*. So, I think it's one programme that we cannot afford not to reinforce it from government side.

We have raised a concern regarding whether contractors have been terminated due to underperformance, and if so, whether suitable consequence management measures have been applied to those contractors. These are the key, I think critical Deputy Speaker, questions that I think we have covered as a Portfolio Committee, other matters is just to reinsure that the department continues to reengineer but reposition yourself, intensify the excellent programmes that you are doing as a department.

In terms of our recommendations Deputy Speaker, I will quickly run, we have only eight recommendations. It is recommended that the department develop a comprehensive action plan to address shortage of robotics gadgets in schools. This plan should outline procurement strategies, timelines and potential partnerships to ensure equitable access to education technology, thereby supporting innovation and future readiness among learners.

We do appreciate the partnerships that the department is pursuing, Honourable MEC. And I think from our side, what we want we want to see, even on these recommendations, your strategy in moving forward in engaging with different private sectors to partner on this matter, we know that there is not enough budget, we can't expect miracles from you. But we thought that we must put it here as a recommendation as you engage with your different stakeholders in the private sectors, atleast prioritize this component as well.

The department should provide a report clarifying the existence and scope of the MOU with the Department of Social Development and Health. I think we appreciate the work that is being done there, but we would also want to have an understanding on key areas of partnership that are covered in the MOU.

The report should include steps to formalise collaboration for appointment of school social workers, in particular psychologists at schools, and ensuring holistic student support, learner support, not student support.

The strategic plan aimed at improving matric performance should be submitted to the Portfolio Committee. We commend you MEC, but we don't want you to lower the guard. We know that you can go beyond that, and we are actually happy with what you've registered in the last matric results. I think we must commend you for that.

The department to deliver a detailed account explaining initiatives to address underperformance. Also, the account should also confirm how the improvement plan is incorporated in the APP, how your shortcomings of the last financial year, your non-performance, they should be encapsulated and we expect on quarterly reporting system, Superintendent General, and the senior management, as the MEC comes to lead you, you must be able to demonstrate on how have you done your recovery plan.

The department should report on measures taken to ensure strict adherence to its procurement plan. Recommendations should include enhanced monitoring, compliance checks, a corrective measure, and ...[INAUDIBLE]... transparency and operational efficiency.

I think what is also important, the procurement plan MEC, I think we have raised this matter within the Portfolio Committee, the procurement plan must be followed through to the core, and it must also be, take us on board so that we, we work with you so that when there are challenges in the second or the third quarter, at least we understand how you have followed through your procurement plan. So, your procurement plan will assist you to meet your targets that you had your shortcomings on.

And the updated plan on breakfast initiatives, I think I don't want to lament on that. I think we know that there are budget constraints Honourable MEC. But we know we knew *Letsatsantsa la rona*, you can be able to run this in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, in partnership with the private sector.

The department is required to provide within a summary of actions taken regarding the termination of underperforming contractors. This summary must include details of consequence management measures, implemented to measure accountability, deter future underperformance.

In terms of the report Deputy Speaker, we said some of the reports we want them in 7 days, but I think some of the areas Honourable MEC will go, will take comfort if you give us quarterly updates, because some of the reports you can still submit them, some of them you can do them on quarterly basis.

Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Portfolio Committee, I want to table, put before this report, and also want to thank the Members of the Portfolio Committee, I indicated that I'm standing on behalf of the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee.

And I want to sincerely thank the Deputy Chief Whip, Honourable Magagane, you've held the candle, you've held the fire burning in this Portfolio Committee, and we must commend you while you're still here, appreciate your selfless contribution in making sure that we are able to hold the department accountable.

MEC I know that you've been a bit frustrated with the support of the Committee now and then but just know that we appreciate the work that you are doing together with the department. We therefore table this report in accordance with Rule 153, the Portfolio Committee, and also recommends that the House adopts Vote 8 of the Departmental Budget, Department of Education,

with its recommendations, so that they can go and advance and change the life of a child, boy and a girl child in the Northwest for the year 2026/2027 financial year. Deputy Speaker, I thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Rosho. I will now call on Honourable Dabampe, you have 10 minutes.

HON. DABAMPE: No thank you very much Deputy Speaker, leaders of the undefeated Economic Freedom Fighters, Members of the Executive Committee led by Premier Lazarus Mokgosi, Members of the Legislature, our guests present in the August House, *Baagi ba rona ba Bokone Bophirima, dumelang!*

You know, Deputy Speaker, before I start, you know, when you call people empty vessels, it means that you yourself you are empty, because only an empty vessel will know how it feels to be empty. So those who are saying people are empty vessels, they're the ones who are empty, and they need to accept that reality. There's nothing we can do to help them with their emptiness.

The 2026/2027 APP of the Northwest Department of Education, Department *ya ma* 2K, is by far one of the laziest APPs that we have seen in the history of this Legislature. And it bears no response to the challenges faced by learners and teachers equally. If you doubt this, just in the last quarter, the department was unable to achieve 40% of their set targets. On the committee report we said that the MEC must make sure that the improvement plan is aligned with the APP. So, this is just to show you that indeed this is one of the laziest APPs.

In the most recent *Funda Uphumelele* Report that has been released, it indicates that at least 70% of learners in Grade 1 to 3 cannot read at that grade level in their home language. The North West province is no exception to the overall literacy challenges faced by the country. In fact, our province has been reported to be on par with the national statistics for learners failing to read with

understanding at foundational phase. One would expect this to be one of the primary dilemmas the department *ya ma* 2K strives to curb and would be reflected in the APP. However, that is not the case.

The department has expressed that its target for Grade 3 learners to obtain more than 50% in home language and Mathematics in the 2026/2027 financial year ranges between 14% to 90%. Each target for Grade 12 learners to achieve 60% and above in Physical Science is only 21%. From these statistics alone, the attitude of the department towards academic excellence amongst black children in the province is visible. That is not the goal, that is the department of mediocrity.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the department has outrightly declared its engagement on critical issues ploughing the province, which it has an equal responsibility towards like the empowerment of youth and people with disabilities. In the procurement of services, the department has set a target of 15% for youth-owned enterprises and even a staggering 7% for enterprises owned by persons with disabilities, which in any way they failed to reach, Honourable Smuts.

The physical state of schools remains a massive concern in the province, especially during cold and rainy seasons. Schools like Leruntse Lesedi Secondary School, Honourable Magagane, who have been compelled to file a petition with Parliament after numerous failed attempts to receive assistance from the department.

As is usually the case, roofs have collapsed and are leaking, ablution facilities are unsafe for usage, windows and doors are broken. The state of this school is in line with the department's infrastructure report to Parliament that indicates that only 287 schools of the 1.471 public schools in the province are in good condition, while 252 schools require urgent repairs.

With this in mind, Department *ya ma* 2K has allocated a mere 1.3 billion to this cause. With the migration of ECDs into the department, not sufficient budget has been allocated to early childhood development for the 2026/2027 financial year, which is meant to include many of these schools that offer Grade R learners.

And we know that in order for your house and your roof to be strong, your foundations must first be strong. But in this department, you are doing the exact opposite of *leojwa le sale metsi*, and you can see through the allocation of money.

In a world that is rapidly integrating the use of artificial intelligence, coding and robotics programs are only being piloted at only 16 schools in the province. The vision and progress of these programmes are unclear and unaccounted for, leaving the children of North West province even further behind.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the department has no clear vision and strategy for providing relevant and meaningful education to learners in the province that will equip them for life socially and economically outside the school. The department is setting our children up for failure.

As the EFF, we find this unacceptable, even more so that this attitude of failure is the strategy adopted for the future. As a result, we submit that this department expand its vision for learners and teachers of North West and plans for a future wherein learning is not facilitated in a classroom with broken windows, doors, exposed ceiling on cold and rainy days, but that all schools are renovated and equipped with heating facilities.

We submit that the department's budget for ECDs be increased to include the fitting of suitable and safe play facilities on all premises, allowing children to safely improve their physical and motor skills while learning through play. We submit that coding and robotics programs be

prioritized and incorporated into the primary learning curriculum so as to place the learners of the North West province on par with the rest of the world.

We submit that the department revive the QLTCs because they are not working in order to ensure that SAPS curb the violence and carrying of weapons and illegal substances onto school premises, which will in turn reduce the frequent violent outcomes of bullying and intimidation in schools. We submit that the department takes ownership of its responsibilities relating to scholar transport and ensure that learners receive safe and reliable transport services.

In as much as you are saying you are catering for transport for learners at special schools we are seeing take ownership because of this youth *endala* has dismally failed when it comes to scholar transport.

It is not our responsibility that we must come and teach the Chief Whip about democracy, that she tells us that if she had powers then she would make sure that those that don't vote for, they will not receive services. That is the same attitude that is shown to our people who do not vote for the ANC, they are not given jobs, they are not given any form of income. And that is exactly what the Chief Whip has exposed the ANC into.

We are saying *baagi ba ko Christiana ba emetse dikolo, kgang ya gore* each and every financial year *go tlabe gotwe di tla, di tla*, must come to an end.

If you want us to support the budget, put the interests of our people in place, ensure that you are a real 2K, don't behave like all these MEC's who don't really understand what is it that the future wants.

And lastly Honourable Speaker, we are saying, Honourable Sambatha, we don't want this thing of funding independent schools, those people are independent, they must just stay independent with

their funding. No money, our taxpayer's money cannot go and fund the very same people that have oppressed us for many years. And I'm glad Honourable Oliphant clearly agrees with me.

And I want to submit that the department restores the compulsory involvement of learners in extramural activities across the schools in the province as a way of restoring discipline. And because some of the issues that we are raising are not reflected in the APP, MEC unfortunately, we'll have to reject this budget. We have to reject it, and the APP, we are rejecting everything that is here. Thank you very much.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Dabampe. Honourable Wallhorn, you have got 8 minutes.

HON. WALLHORN: Honourable Deputy Speaker, *ek reageer namens die Demokratiese Alliansie op die LUR se 26/27 Onderwysbegrotings Toespraak en om die huidige in die konteks van verlede jare begrotingsdebat te plaas. Ons doen dit nie om politieke punte te behaal nie, maar om kontinuïteit, verantwoordbaarheid en meetbare vordering vir leerders te verseker. Die DA sal ...[ONDERBREKING]...*

HON. MOEMA: Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Moema?

HON. MOEMA: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker, we are struggling with this facility, we don't get interpretation, some of us were not born in apartheid, we had no access in Afrikaans.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I think you are out of order, Afrikaans is one of the official languages, the point you must raise is that there is no interpretation, but the rest of the other things should not be said in this House because Afrikaans is one of the official languages in South Africa.

HON. WALLHORN: Deputy Speaker, if I may come in, I gave ...[INAUDIBLE]... a copy ...[INTERRUPTION]...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no I am presiding Honourable Wallhorn, so I am presiding over. So, Secretary, can you attend to the interpretation, but in the meantime Honourable Wallhorn, you have got 8 minutes to proceed, you can proceed.

HON. WALLHORN: Thank you Deputy Speaker. *Verantwoordbaarheid en meetbare vordering vir leerders te verseker. Die DA sal die Noordwes onderwysbegroting ondersteun, maar slegs op die duidelike, bewysgebaseerde voorwaardes wat ons vandag uiteensit. Ons steun is voorwaardelik omdat die rekord beide egte bestuurspogings en kommerwekkende teenstrydighede toon wat dringend opgelos moet word deur die LUR in die eerste keer.*

The warning from previous years. When we debated the 24/25 budget, the DA warned that headline allocations would count for little unless matched by transparent, targets, robust procurement, and verifiable delivery. That warning still remains valid.

The department's 26/27 APP and the Division of Revenue Schedule shows resources are available. Conditional grants for infrastructure, ECD, and nutrition is sizable. Yet, in contradiction, the APP also shows indicators being moved into internal operational plans, cuts to teacher training, and a collapse in some ECD targets. The money is there, but the plan to convert it into classroom realities is inconsistent.

Three contradictions that must be fixed. Inversely the DA's role is to hold the executive to account and to ensure that good intentions become measurable outcomes.

The APP reveals three contradictions that must be fixed immediately. One, teacher development. The APP shows Mathematics teacher training dropped from 930 to 650. That is a 30% cut. Language teacher training dropped from 1 210 to 800. That is a 34% cut.

We cannot expect improved literacy and numeracy outcomes while training fewer teachers. If the department has or is planning to reallocate training funds to more effective methods, publish the evidence. Give us course accreditation, completion rates, and demonstrable classroom impact. If not, restore the training targets and tie funding to verified outputs.

Two, ECD, early childhood development. Registered ECD Development Program targets fell from 1 700 to 500. That is a 70% reduction. Yet the National ECD Grant for the province increased from R306 million to R435 million. That is a 42% increase. How does the department explain the increase in the ECD grant while provincial targets have decreased.

The DA insists on a public, costed ECD rollout plan, how many registered sites will be supported, how many practitioners will be formalized, how will the extra funding expand access rather than just subsidize existing provision.

Three, transparency of delivery indicators. The APP moved critical indicators into the operational plan. Textbook delivery by January, target 100%. Mother tongue-based bilingual education monitoring, 50 schools. Reading monitoring, target 50 schools. The problem, the target of 50 schools is unacceptable given that we have 1 275 fee free schools that need monitoring.

Parents and Oversight Committees must be able to verify whether textbooks arrived, whether mother tongue-based bilingual education pilots are being monitored, and whether reading programmes are actually implemented.

The DA demands that these indicators be increased, also restored to the public APP, and reported quarterly with named officials and verifiable milestones. The word sheets reality. A further operational reality we must address is the increased use of quarterly worksheets.

Worksheets can help with catch-up, but they are not cost-free. Printing and distributing them requires printers, toner, paper, maintenance, teacher devices, data lines for digital distribution, and training. Schools and parents should not bear these expenses. The department must publish a costed learning and teaching support materials strategy, that is the LTSM the MEC was referring to that covers printing, distribution, digital readiness, for instance, computers, printers, ink, and data network capability.

Where private sector printing or digital distribution is more effective, use competitive outcome-based contracts, but only with full transparency. Accountability with capacity. On procurement and past failures, the DA remains firm. Accountability must be paired with capacity building.

The APP and public records show procurement and scholar transport failures in prior years. The AG found over R114 million paid to people who had resigned, retired, or even died. The SA Human Rights Commission found over R1 billion paid for scholar transport that was never rendered. Where wrongdoing is found, disciplinary and criminal referrals must follow.

But sanctions alone are not enough. We insist on capacity support, performance contracts for program managers, and binding project readiness computer programs. In other words, Northwest

Treasury only allows funds to flow when Northwest Education's feasibility and procurement plans are in place.

Therefore, the DA's conditional support is clear and practical. We require within defined timeframes, one, a public diagnostic and corrective action plan identifying root causes of irregular and unauthorized expenditure with named officials and milestones.

Two, the immediate restoration of delivery and financial integrity indicators to the public APP with quarterly public reporting against them. A costed worksheet and LTSM delivery plan covering printing, devices, data, and maintenance. Four, targeted departmental central procurement only for high-value, high-volume categories such as textbooks, LTSM, and major infrastructure, while preserving school autonomy for pedagogical purchases.

Five, publication of the list of infrastructure incentive projects, timelines, and procurement plans. Six, a report on the R114 million overpayments, how much has been recovered, who has been held accountable. Seven, the report on the SAHRC scholar transport deadlines. Name and take to task the officials responsible for the R1 billion ...[INTERRUPTION]...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As you conclude Honourable Wallhorn, your time is up.

HON. WALLHORN: Thank you, in irregular payments. Eight, launch a forensic investigation into the R100 million contract for printing matric papers. Publish the findings, lay charges if looting is found.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member, your time is up, thank you. The next speaker is Honourable Groenewald, you have got 3 minutes.

HON. GROENEWALD: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Education is the one department where failure does not remain for a single financial year. It follows a child, it follows a child from grade 3 reading into grade 6 Mathematics, from grade 9 subject choices into matric results, and from matric into unemployment, if the system has failed to prepare them properly.

This is why the Freedom Plus measures the education budget by what happens inside the classroom. The committee report raises exactly the right issue. Robotics and modern learning technologies are no longer optional extras. If learners in the Northwest are expected to compete in a modern economy, schools cannot be left without the basic tools needed for Mathematics, Science, Technology, and innovation.

But technology must also help teachers. Educators cannot be buried under administration while learners lose teaching time. Every unnecessary report, duplicated form, and manual process steals time from the classroom. The department must use digital systems to reduce paperwork, track procurement, monitor infrastructure, and prevent payroll and staff irregularities before they become scandals.

Honourable DS, the report also asks for support for social development and health, particularly social work and psychologists in schools. This is crucial. Teachers are being expected to carry the burden of poverty, trauma, violence, substance abuse, and family breakdown. A school cannot become a social work office by default. Learners need proper support and teachers need to be allowed to teach. Matric performance also cannot be addressed only by the end of grade 12. By then, many gaps are already too deep.

The department must show early measurable interventions from reading, numeracy, subject support, teacher stability, and consequent management where programmes fail. The same applies to procurement and infrastructure.

When contractors underperform, they must not simply disappear into another tender cycle, there must be consequences. Schools cannot wait year after year while projects stall, toilets remain unacceptable, classrooms deteriorate, and learners are told to be patient. The school breakfast initiative also deserves clear answers. Hungry learners cannot concentrate. But food programmes must be transparent, properly monitored, and protected from corruption.

Honourable DS, as communities move towards judging government where they live, parents will not judge education by APP language. They will judge by the school their child attends, whether there is a teacher in the classroom, whether the child is safe, whether food is provided, whether technology works, whether contractors finished the job, and whether results improve.

Education must not be managed as paperwork. It must be protected as the future of this province. The Freedom Plus is not convinced that this vote gives learners, parents, and teachers that assurance. And therefore, we cannot support the budget. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Groenewald. Honourable Matshe, you have got 7 minutes.

HON. MATSHE: *Motlotlegi Mmausakgotla, Motlotlegi Tonakgolo, Maloko a Kabinete ya gago le Maloko a Ntlo e, багаетшо бамо North West, re a dumedisa.*

Re tla fa re tla go tsena mo dipuisanong tsa tekanyetsokabo e ya Lefapha la Thuto. Jaanong ga re batle go ganetsana le ba ba kafa, setšhaba se tla re makalela se re re dira sono ka bana ba batho, ka gore go a bonagala gore ga ba utlwe, dilo tse re di bolelang mo ga ba utlwe gore rareng, jaanong setšhaba se tlare re setlhogo, re dira sono ka bana ba ba santseng baise ba tlhaloganye gore puso ya reng.

One of the great leaders on our continent, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, said something that is relevant today, and I quote, “education is not a way to escape poverty, it's a way of fighting it”. Now, education therefore plays a very important role in fighting poverty, inequality, and unemployment, which by their nature in South Africa perpetuated by race, class, and gender oppression.

It's on the basis of this assertion that the ANC has committed through our 2024 Manifesto to invest in the people by improving access to quality education. This budget therefore represents our revolutionary duty to place education at the centre of the struggle against poverty, inequality, and unemployment. *Bana ba re ba rutang ba wena Motlotlegi Dabampe, re ba lwela le dinokwane le magodu, re ba lwela le borradikgoka ba ba imperiale gore bana ba ba godisiwe ka tsamaiso e e tlhamaletseng.*

So, ha re tlhalosa mo re tlhalose re amogela gore re lwela bana le magodu, re lwela bana le maimperiale gore dikakanyo tsa bana e nne tse di fodileng. Re amogela re le ANC gore kgololosego ga e kitla a lekana go fitlhelela ngwana was modiri wa polasi, ngwana wa modiri wa mine, ngwana wa motsadi yo o sa direng, ngwana yo e leng gore ga gona batsadi mo ntlong, o bona thuto ya motheo.

Re itumelela attitude ya management wa gago Mokhuduthamaga, ba lefapha, gore le ha gona le dikgwetlho, but their attitude to audit is the most correct. Ene re itumelela pace e mo dikgweding tse di fetileng lo berekileng ka yone, go dealer even with the material irregularities, including that one on the ...[INAUDIBLE]..., we are happy with that pace.

Jaanong re ne re re re baakanye Motlotlegi Wallhorn fa gore selo se gaese selo se eleng gore se eme ga go diragale sepe ka sone, go a diragala rra, go a diragala, bula matlho, tla dikopanong o tla bona. Re itumelela tirisanommogo e e leng teng magareng ga batsadi, mekgatlho ya baithuti jaaka bo COSAS, mekgatlho ya badiri mo go netefatseng gore re sireletsa thuto.

Motlotlegi Motlatsa-Mmusakgotla, go tsweliswa pele ga setšhaba go ka seke ga diragala ntle fela le fa re baakanya tsamaiso ya thuto. Re itumelela gape gore ka nako ya pulo ya dikolo re etela mafelo a a farologaneng, ditlha tse re di tlhagisitseng tseo re itumelela gore lefapha le simolotse go di araba.

Sekai, ko Motaung Primary ko Boikhutso ko Ventersdorp re kopile gore go thusiwe SGB ya teng. e tlhaloganye pharologanyo magareng ga tsamaiso, management le taolo. Re itumelela gore lefapha le simolotse go dira sengwe ka selo seo.

Re itumelela gore ko Ventersdorp Combined, ko rrakontraka o senang tsebe a neng a tlogetse projeke ya go renovate hall Tonakgolo, lefapha le mo tsentsa dinala. Re itumelela gore ba dirile selo seo.

Re itumelela gape wena Motlotlegi Mokhuduthamaga, sekolo sa Science sa Tswelelopele, gore selelo se re neng re se lela maloba, sa gore selo se ga se sekolo se, ka dikago tse di ntseng jaana, re itumelela gore projeke eo e simolotse go diragatswa, re itumelela dilo tseo. Le gore bana ba rona ba simolotse go dira sentle mo school sports.

Jaanong re ikuela mo go wena Mokhuduthamaga, mabapi le School Nutrition Programme, se kopisi se se diriwang ke batho ba ba paletsweng ko diporofenseng tse dingwe, a batle ka kwano batle go ithuta gore rona re tsamaisa jang School Nutrition Programme.

Re batla go tlhagisa gore gona le bothata jwa bana ba ba senang di birth certificates le di ID, re ikuela mo lefapheng gore le dire mmogo le Lefapha la Home Affairs go netefatsa gore re rarabolola bothata bo.

Infrastructure becomes one of the challenges that we need to attend to, ensure that projects when they are started they are completed within the resources allocated, but also within the time.

Re itumelela dikolo tsa rona, di special school tsa rona, bo Reatlegile, Bophelong le Temoso, tse lefapha le di neelang the necessary support. Re are le ha le dira jalo ga goa lekana, more still needs to be done to support these special schools.

Bagaetsho ba ba thubakang dikolo a ko le tsibogeng lo boelwe ke botho, dikolo tse ke tsa rona, ga go reye gore ha matlole a sa tlhole a tswa mo dipokotong tsa rona directly, ga e sa tlhole e le dikolo tsa rona. Mokgwa ole wa maloba wa school fund o fedile, mme ga go reye gore jaanong re tshwanetse re palelwe ke go sireletsa dithoto tsa rona.

Ko bofelong, baie dankie Agbare Wallhorn, dat julle kant af vandag, julle wil nie klein politieke punt behaal maar julle ondersteun die departemente begroting en jaarlikse uitvoerende plan. Ons waardeur julle staan punt met die departemente se begroting.

Motlotlegi Motlatsa-Mmusakgotla, ko bofelong rona re le African National Congress, re ka kopa mo Malokong a Ntlo e ya gago gore ka bongwe jwa pelo fela re eme nokeng tekanyetsokabo e, botshelo bo ye ko pele ka bonako, dilo di diragale ka bonako, go diragale. Re a leboga.

HON. SONAKILE: *Tsamaya, tsamaya Mme Sarah, tsamaya.*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: *Baie danki Agbare, order Honourable Members, baie dankie Agbare Smuts. Re tla bitsa Motlotlegi Tsholo, o na le metsotso e le meraronyana fela.*

HON. TSHOLO: *Motlotlegi Motlatsa-Mmusakgotla, e re ke go reye ke re bao ba re kgokgontshang ba re kgokgontshetsa boammaruri. Motswana a re, “ngwana yo o tlhogokgolo o sira rraagwe”.*

Jaanong I want to state the fact that *Umkhondo weSizwe* party call for the urgent transformation of our education system in the North West province to turn the situation around and advance the goals of the national democratic revolution.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the late President Robert Mugabe transformed Zimbabwe's primary education to focus more on technical/vocational skills and entrepreneurship to support socioeconomic transformation. *Thuto ya bone e mo tirong ya matsogo*, hence the people of that particular country are well equipped in bricklaying, construction, electrical work, cooking, and so forth because they learned these skills at primary school.

In many developing countries Honourable Deputy Speaker, unemployment is a major challenge because their education systems are not aligned with the demands and expectations of the workplace.

I would like to say Honourable Speaker, like in Burkina Faso and Namibia, we are preparing ourselves to take over our mineral resources in this particular province. It therefore begins with education. Our province should find a way of offering engineering and manufacturing courses or learning areas so that raw materials can be processed inside this particular province and not outside.

Our universities Honourable Deputy Speaker, as well as FET's must teach mining law, and other mining courses like at Wits University. Mr Patrice Motsepe studied mining law at Wits University, and this knowledge helped him to penetrate this monopolized industry. These are the types of technical knowledge which we must give our youth in this particular platinum province of North West.

The North West province Honourable Deputy Speaker, further, it is very much rich in agricultural land. Therefore, it is very much important that agricultural science as a subject be taught across the board in our schools and therefore it be made compulsory in all schools so that at the end of the day, from grade R until secondary schools end, it should or include agro-processing courses or subjects in this particular regard.

The pertinent question that I would like to ask Honourable Deputy Speaker, is do we have institutions that offer a variety of agro processing in our province to empower our youth so that our raw materials can be processed inside our province.

It is only this particular Department of Education that will assist us so that our youth that are upcoming should assist us to create more jobs in our province. The North West province is the only province in the country where the unemployment is of the highest Honourable Deputy Speaker, where half of the population is unemployed.

Whilst taking that Honourable Deputy Speaker, we have noted the presentation by the Honourable MEC, we are therefore requesting that a consolidated assessment of our schools, especially where old ones are, be done in order for such schools to benefit from the R1,3 billion that we have indicated ...**[INTERRUPTION]**...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member, your time is up, thank you.

HON. TSHOLO: The 77 budget that goes to the COE Honourable Deputy Speaker, we are requesting that there be a critical skills audit so that when officials or employees are retiring, we must know that at the end of the day...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Tsholo, your time is up. Thank you, Honourable Tsholo. Order Honourable Tlhapi. We will now call Honourable Magagane, you have got 9 minutes.

HON. MAGAGANE: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. Honourable Deputy Speaker, Mokone Maine, Honourable Premier, *Rre* Kagiso Mokgosi, Members of the Executive Council, Honourable Members of this August House, distinguished guests.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we gather today under the ambitious mandate to move decisively from policy to practice, from commitments to implementation, and from promises to measurable change in the lives of our children.

As former President Thabo Mbeki wisely noted, “most important thing about education was that it taught us to question even those things we thought we knew, to be testing your knowledge all the time in order to be more effective”.

In the context of this R22,9 billion budget, that ability to inquire, innovate, and create must be placed firmly in the hands of every learner across every village, town, farm, and township in the North West. This budget is not merely a financial instrument; it is a practical tool to reclaim our province's portrait of excellence.

First, we would like to commend the Matric Class of 2025. Their success is a clear testimony of stabilizing system, ensuring that no learner from historical marginalized communities is left behind. It proves that the choices the ANC government continues to make towards universal quality, public education are working.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the African National Congress has declared 2026 a year of decisive action to fix local government, accelerate economic transformation, and deepen social justice, education is a form of social justice, education sits at the centre of this renewal that we want as the African National Congress.

And we must remember that schools do not exist in a vacuum. A municipality that works ensures water is in schools, safe roads for travel, and reliable refuse removal and dignified sanitation. Similarly, a transformed economy creates direct pathways Honourable Tsholo, for our learners beyond grade 12.

Therefore, this budget serves as that physical bridge between political manifesto and the learner's exercise book, translating national priorities into visible local delivery. Our total allocation of R22,9 billion carries heavy structural obligations, starting with the amount that goes into compensation of employees.

As the House, we must not just see it as a barrier but actually look at it as a strategic investment in the classroom stability, curriculum delivery, and learner achievement. When teachers are being paid, when we have teachers and educators, we can have learner achievement. We know that this is a strain in the department and is under due pressure. However, to protect remaining fiscal space, we welcome the targeted increase within the budget, starting with examination and education to safeguard assessment integrity, increased funding for human resource training bursaries, youth empowerment initiatives.

And Honourable Dabampe, the increase on independent school subsidies from R58 million to R61 million, it is a commitment that we have made as government for public-private educational partnerships, and to increase as we do need these initiatives.

We aggressively addressing the apartheid legacy of structural deprivation. Our infrastructure allocation prioritizes asbestos removal, the refurbishment of aging facilities, the rapid rollout of the strategic infrastructure projects to eliminate classroom overcrowding. What we need to realize is that overcrowding weakens discipline and dilutes individual attention of educators to our learners. The budget is not just about building classrooms as the MEC outlined earlier on, it's about building the future.

And for us to do this, what we need is to accelerate curriculum reforms by integrating coding, robotics, technical mathematics, agriculture, and vocational pathways. The North West must produce the innovators, artisans, coders, and engineers required for the fourth industrial revolution.

We have a young lady from Lobatla, Dr Gae Treasure Meko, who holds a Doctorate in 4IR, a small village in Ramotshere Moiloa, Ward 5. So, we need to produce more Dr Gae Treasure Meko, and we need to teach this curriculum, and also increase teacher professionalism, and deepen through targeted bursaries, mentorships, and responsible conversion of temporary posts to permanent positions.

We applaud the expanded access to registered Early Childhood Programmes. The budget funds improved practitioner training and monitoring to ensure ECD becomes a bulletproof foundation for literacy and numeracy. But what we need to also take into account is that most of our ECD's are not compliant, and which is why they were not even funded in the last financial year.

What we need Honourable Deputy Speaker, is that these ECDs must ensure that they are compliant to the requirements to actually get the funding. And this is because this non-compliance is the single most hindrance to ensuring the funding of ECDs.

Furthermore, we applaud the department on inclusive education to address the desperate needs of our public special schools. We need funding resources for learners with special education needs, school-based support teams, and remedial interventions. And the sod turning that happened in Dinokana yesterday, we applaud the department as it moves towards making sure that they build the autism school in Dinokana, Ramotshere Moiloa.

But let us also be brutally honest Deputy Speaker, the 2026 schools readiness report reminds us that our education system cannot succeed only on policy. What we need is that we need to deal with the serious operational backlogs, delayed filling of positions, weak school management, dysfunctional SGB's, late referrals of special needs learners, and gaps in security screening. And these are done by administrators. These failures directly compromise teaching time, financial integrity, and learner safety.

This budget does look at funding, the precise systems that make our posts effective and accountable. This financial year, we need to highlight and tighten recruitment timelines and district monitoring Ntate Bogatsu, governance training for SGB's to combat corruption, strict consequence management where public resources are misused. Accountability means doing the right thing at the right time for the sole benefit of our children and our learners.

We applaud the initiative to actually strengthening the Head of Department's capacity and centralized procurement oversight to protect every single cent. To mitigate the poverty that leads to school dropout, we support the expansion and scaling of the national school nutrition program.

However, monitoring needs to be intensified across the province to ensure food quality, reliable delivery, and fair procurement, no child must learn on an empty stomach.

And we are also happy that the department's plans to address psychosocial vulnerabilities of our youth, including teenage pregnancy and statutory rape by building multi-departmental

interventions with SAPS, Social Development, and Health. Education is a societal project, it does not exist in a vacuum. We also call upon all alumni forums, traditional leaders, civil society, and local industries to stand up and partner with our schools.

In conclusion Deputy Speaker, this budget is not just a collection of sterile numbers arranged in line items, it is a living breathing expression of the ANC-led government, a test of execution by the department, a sacred commitment to the children of the North West. Let us move with urgency, armed discipline and unity, let us support our educators, let us support our department while holding the system strictly accountable, let us protect our learners while empowering our communities.

I will close this Honourable Deputy Speaker, with another quote from former President Thabo Mbeki, and I hope that we realize that what he said is, “for the first time in human history, society has capacity, the knowledge, and the resources to eradicate poverty”.

Because of this Honourable Deputy Speaker, for these foundational reasons, the African National Congress supports for the adoption of Budget 8 for the Department of Education for 2026/27 financial year. I thank you,

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member. I will now call on Honourable Motsumi, you have got just 5 times 2 minutes. Honourable Motsumi, you have got 5 times 2 minutes.

HON. MOTSUMI: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. Let me start by acknowledging all the responses and the concerns raised by Honourable Members.

But I think it's time Honourable Deputy Speaker, because I believe that according to the Standing Rules, this is one of your responsibilities, if I'm not mistaken, to deal with issues of Members' interest.

It is your responsibility actually, to start now capacitating our Honourable Members, because we are struggling as Executive, in most instances we spend most of our time trying even to interpret what is APP, what does indicator says.

You are having Honourable Dabampe, *re tryile ko education bagolo, jaanong re tsaya gore re ise ko lo lona* because it can't be correct that public ordinary citizens are here, are being misled by the Honourable Member who is supposed to tell the truth before our community members. *O ka seke watla fa o be otl a o bua ka APP, o bua ka 60%*, whereas that particular APP, actually it meant for our annual performance plans, are just plans, we have not implemented.

So, *ha gote 60 mole ga go reye gore re perfomile 60, ke* what we are planning for this financial year. Now, *bagolo ba dutse mole* and Honourable Member *o a ba mislead gore re perfomile ka 60 ...*[INTERRUPTION]...

HON. DABAMPE: Deputy Speaker, Deputy speaker?

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Motsumi, can you please take your seat?

HON. DABAMPE: Deputy Speaker, I think the MEC is confused. Maybe I must assist her, I don't know. Can she take a question, can the MEC take a question?

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: MEC are you able to take a question?

HON. DABAMPE: Can you take a question that you are confused?

HON. MOTSUMI: *Ga ke tseye question, re na le dikolo, re batla go aga dikolo rona Dabampe ga re na nako, re batla go aga dikolo, please.*

HON. DABAMPE: O confused, *gakeitse gore o bua ka eng.*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Dabampe, the MEC is not taking your question, sit down because you are ...[INAUDIBLE]...

HON. MOTSUMI: *Utlwa Rre Dabampe a reng gape wena Honourable Deputy Speaker, e eleng gore tota Speaker intervene, ke one mathata a re a tshwereng, that is why we are unable to perform because we have to explain to Honourable Members gore what is meant by APP, and ha gote ditarget go tewa eng. Utlwa a reng, the speech is there with information, with everything.*

We are saying as the Department of Education already we have piloted, immediately *ha utlwa gote* ‘piloted’ in terms of robotics, *ya re santsane le testa*, it means that thing is not part of the cabs yet, that is why we were given the opportunity gore re pilot. *Utlwa gore re mo raya re reng, ra re rena le 126 schools tse re pilotileng mo go tsone, reya go tsenya extra more schools for robotics.*

Gape a re rena le 15 schools tsa robotics fela ga ra bereka, re na le mathata ko Department of Education a numeracy whereby our learners are struggling to read with understanding. At the same time, we are having our learners somewhere there listening to Honourable Member who can’t even, cannot even interpret the budget speech.

So, ke ne ke kopa gore dilo tsa go tshwana le tseo re deal ka tsone.

HON. DABAMPE: Speaker, Deputy Speaker?

HON. MOTSUMI: And then the issue *ya* reading with meaning ...[INTERRUPTION]...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Motsumi? Honourable Dabampe, what are you rising on?

HON. DABAMPE: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker, I was saying there is a difference between literacy and numeracy.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What are you rising on?

HON. DABAMPE: That she is misleading the House to say I said numeracy. What is numeracy? Numeracy *ke dipalo*, literacy.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Take your sit, sit down Honourable Dabampe.

HON. MOTSUMI: *Heee*, numeracy and literacy.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, can you please have order. Can you proceed, I understand that, Honourable Motsumi can you address the House and don't address Honourable Dabampe, can you proceed.

HON. MOTSUMI: I am not addressing Honourable Dabampe, but *ke lapile*, it's close to three years now re deal ka issue ya EFF go sa, actually go capacitate *dimember tsa bona* because *ba re busetsa ko morago*

Secondly Chair, we are here tabling a budget ya 2026/2025 *ka diplan tsa teng*, Rre Moema. Your Honourable Member who is representing you in Education *o santse a bua ka Leruntse, e e leng gore re buwa ka yone, e e leng gore e dirilwe ka 2024. Re bua ka sekolo se eleng gore* as we speak as Department of Education *re deliverile dimobile* classrooms. As we speak re busy ka renovation of that particular school.

So, *ke gore wa* lack in terms of oversight, so *re tle go bua ka 2024 re le mo go 2026*, that is torture really. And then you ask yourself *gore dimember tsa rona tsa baagi ba ba votelang EFF bagolo ka mathata a re nang le one a ra go ipereka jang, ne ke re lo iponeleng gompieno.*

Utlwa Rre Dabampe a reng, o santse a bua ka reading with meaning, with understanding. Mare ke Member wa Committee, *wa itse Premier gore re* introduce multilingual language, *re batla go* introduce *dilanguage tsa rona* because we have realized *gore bana ba ke bana ba ba itseng* Setswana.

The reason why they can't read with meaning is because *gona le* language barrier, *re tshwanetse gape re tle go mo ruta gape gore go na le, re tsentse dilo tse dintšha, re ko pele* in terms of capping that particular gap. *Hee la re* punish *bagolo ba EFF*

Utlwa a reng Rre Dabampe wena Honourable Deputy Speaker, *o bua ka QLTC, a re di* dysfunctional. We are having 1 453 schools across the province having functional QLTC. *Ga e reye gore ko sekolong ha gona le bullying ha gona QLTC, e teng* it means that *go na le* challenge ya behavioural ya *bana ba rona*, where it means that *rona* as community, as parents, *re tshwanetse re tshwaragane* because *bana ba ke ba rona.*

Ha o ka dira investigations, o ka botsa Honourable Dantjie there, bana ba e leng gore ba bullying they take these things from their respective homes. So, where are the community, where are their parents, then we can come here and quantify gore go na le problem ya di QLTC in 1 550.

So, a ke go fe example Deputy Speaker, go bontsha gore there is a functionality of QLTC in all our schools, and our teachers are doing good, our parents are doing good, and our communities, instead of ene a appreciate community ya rona e a yang go batla divote ko go yone, ke ene a e discrediting gape mo pele mo gore a ba appreciate.

HON. DABAMPE: Deputy Speaker?

HON, MOTSUMI: *Utlwa gore a reng, utlwa a reng ...[INTERRUPTION]...*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Motsumi, yes Honourable Dabampe what are you rising on?

HON. DABAMPE: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. I'm rising in terms of the rules that ...[INTERRUPTION]...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Which rule?

HON. DABAMPE: Rule 74, that the MEM is casting aspersions on a Member, and in terms of the Rules of the Legislature, the MEC cannot cast aspersions. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no, Honourable Dabampe you know you are just wasting our time. Rule 74 is not what you are talking about, please. Can you proceed Honourable Motsumi, you have got 1 minute remaining, 1 minute.

HON. MOTSUMI: 1 minute?

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

HON, MOTSUMI: *Uthwa Rre Dabampe a reng, o bua ka scholar transport, whereas scholar transport se wela ko COSATMA, but still o palelwa ke go acknowledge gore how many learners ba e leng gore the very same COSATMA ya ba thusa ka the very same scholar transport se se nang le dichallenges.*

And then problem ya rona Rre Wessels Morweng, ke lemogile gore why re ka seke ra solve issue ya scholar transport, ka June 16 ya ga Rre Malema ke ha di scholar transports di tladitse maEFF ko teng kwa instead of diservices and everything, ga di tshwanetse di ise bana di breakile and so on.

Utlwa a reng, a re independent schools, re seke ra fund di independent schools, those schools belong to the department, they are part of the programme. So, ke rona re dirang oversight ebile ba re thusa in building more schools and so on, gore re kgone go reducega in terms of pressures. Ke yo are re ba time tšhelete, ba e leng gore they are South Africans.

Lastly, let me appreciate, o bua ka di extramural activities, ke buile ka dilo tse dintsi, extramural activities ga e bue ka soccer le netball fela. Dilo tse fela ke neng ke di appreciate mo gore re kgone go ya go compete outside; they are part of extramural activity. So, ha oka tsenanyana mo departmenteng wa tlhaloganya gore ha gote extramural activities ke eng, then we will appreciate that.

Then lastly Chair, let me appreciate the comments done by Honourable Tsholo there, and also advise, o mputse le matlho le nna, akere re ka seke ra bonela dilo tse ka go tshwana. She just raised a very critical somethings *se e leng gore* I was not even going to consider, to say that MEC, please take advantage *ya* this early retirement, *tse tse di leng teng mo*.

What you have to do, check those particular posts, *o check gore amme o dira* research, *o check gore mme* are those particular posts some of them *a santse di needega*. So, prioritize those *tse e leng gore dia needega* for now so that you are able *gore o kgone go ka* control your compensation of employees, because if you don't do that you will end up even spending more than 77%, *o be o nna mo mathateng* whereby you are unable to do some work in terms of the departmental of *selo*.

Groenewald, you must ask your dad who is the Minister of Correctional Services, to say that they must bring that money *ya ba ba tshwerweng bale*, the uniform. If they can give us that particular budget from that Minister, Groenewald, we can do more in terms of issues of ICT in our department, because we still maintain *gore batshwarwa* they don't need that particular uniform whereas we are struggling ...[INTERRUPTION]...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Motsumi, thank you very much, your 10 minutes is up, you can remain there. MEC Motsumi we are not done with you. Thank you Honourable Members. Does the House adopt the Committee Report?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: *Ke a leboga*, the Committee Report is adopted.

I will now read the rollcall in terms of Rule 245 Subsection 1 to determine the quorum. Honourable Babuile? Honourable Bogatsu? Honourable Botswe? Honourable Dabampe?

HON. DABAMPE: No, leadership *e teng* Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oh, *ga waya go account ka gore ga la kreya*
15 ...[INAUDIBLE]... Honourable Dantjie?

HON. DANTJIE: *Ke teng Motlatsa-Mmusakgotla ya kgabane.*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Dial? Honourable Groenewald?

HON. GROENEWALD: Present Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Khunou?

HON. KGUNOU: Present Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Kodisang? Honourable Lehari?

HON. LEHARI: Present Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Lenkopane?

HON. LEKOPANE: *Ke teng Mmusakgotla.*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Magagane?

HON. MAGAGANE: *Ke teng Motlatsa-Mmusakgotla*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: *Ke teng.* Honourable Makgokgowa? Honourable Matshe?

HON. MATSHE: *Ke teng Motlatsa-Mmusakgotla.*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Matuane?

HON. MATUANE: *Ke teng Motlatsa-Mmusakgotla.*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Mme Modise?

HON. MODISE: *Mme o teng Motlatsa-Mmusakgotla.*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Moema?

HON. MOEMA: *Ke teng Mmusakgotla.*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Mohono?

HON. MOHONO: Present DS.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honnoorable Mokgosi?

HON. MOKGOSI: Present Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Mokua?

HON. MOKUA: Present Deputy speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Molapisi?

HON. MOLAPISI: Present Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Morweng?

HON. MORWENG: Present Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Mosenogi?

HON. MOSENOGI: *Boeteledipele bo gone Motlatsa-Mmusakgotla.*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honorable Motsumi?

HON. MOTSUMI: Present Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Oliphant?

HON. OLIPHANT: Present Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Rosho?

HON. ROSHO: Present Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Sambatha?

HON. SAMBATHA: *Ndikhona Sekela Somlomo,*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: *Motlotlegi* Sebegoe?

HON. SEBEGOE: Present Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: *Motlotlegi* Sonakile?

HON. SONAKILE: Ke teng Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: *Mhlonishwa* Sonti?

HON. SONTI: *Ndikhona Sekela Somlomo.*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: *Agbare Steenkam?*

HON. STEENKAMP: *Ek is teenwoordig Deputy Speaker.*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: *Agbare Steyl? Motlotlegi MmaTlhapi?*

HON. STEYL: *Ke teng mo ntlung ya gago Ntate Maine.*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: *Motlotlegi Tsholo?*

HON. TSHOLO: *Ndikhona Sekela Somlomo.*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Van Huyssteen? *Agbare Wallhorn?*

HON. WALLHORN: *Teenwoordig Adjunkspeaker*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Williams? Thank you Honourable Members, I have satisfied myself that the majority of Members are present in the House to adopt the budget. We will now adopt the budget programme by programme.

- Program 1, Administration - **R1 354 769 000,00**

Does the House adopt the budget for Programme 1?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The yes have it.

- Program 2, Public Ordinary School Education - R18 169 557 000,00.

Does the House adopt the budget for Programme 2?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The yes have it Honourable Dabampe,

- Programme 3, Independent School Subsidies - **R60 929 000,00.**

Does the House adopt the budget for Programme 3?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Programme 4, Public Special School Education -
R1 093 762 000,00.

Does the House adopt the budget for Programme 4?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Programme 5, Early Childhood Development - R1 259 526 000,00.

Does the House adopt the budget for Programme 5?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Programme 6, order Honourable Sonakile. Programme 6, Infrastructure Development - R1 384 111 000,00.

Does the House adopt the budget for Programme 6?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Programme 7, Examination and Education Related Services - R850 342 000,00.

Does the House adopt the budget for Programme 7?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: *Ke a leboga Motlotlegi.* The budget for the Department of Education Vote 8 for 2026/2027 totalling R24 173 016 000,00 is now adopted. Honourable MEC, you can go and spend.

Honourable Members, before I call on Honourable Lehari to lead the debate on the Budget Vote 3, I know that Members are hungry, but if we are to spend another one hour on a lunch break, it means you are going to be here until late. What we have done or decided after consultation with

the Chief Whip, is that leaders of political parties will manage Members who must go to the restaurant to have something, grab quickly, come back. Those who are represented by one Member per political party, they will talk to themselves and then come back to the House so that the House is not empty.

I will now Honourable members, call on the MEC for Health, Honourable Lehari, to present the Departmental Budget Speech, Vote 3. Honourable Lehari, you have 40 minutes as per Rule 64.5 Subsection 5.

HON. LEHARI: Okay thank you very much. Deputy Speaker, Honourable Collen Maine, Speaker, Honourable Desbo Mohono, Honourable Premier, Lazarus Mokgosi, Chief Whip, Honourable Motlalepule Rosho, Chair of Chairs Tebogo Modise.

Leader of Government Business, Honourable Viola Motsumi, Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature, Fellow Honourable Members of the Executive Council, Chairperson of Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development, Honourable Karabo Magagane.

Chairperson of the Provincial Portfolio Committee on Public Accounts, SCOPA, Honourable Smuts Matshe, Leaders of different Political Parties, Esteemed Members of the North West House of Traditional Leaders and Khoisan Leadership, under the Chairperson of Kgosi Ofentse Thari Maotwe II.

MMC's and Chairpersons of Health Portfolios from different Municipalities, The Superintendent-General, Dr. Thami Matshego and all Executive Managers of the Department of Health, Leaders of faith-based organisations, leaders of trade unions and civil society organizations.

Leaders of academic institutions, partner organisations and the private sector. Our traditional health practitioners, our governance structures, mental health review board, hospital boards, clinic committees and the Council for North West Nursing Colleges, distinguished guests, members of the media. Bagaetsho, dumelang. Thobela ke ralotsha.

This Budget Vote is presented at a defining moment in our province's health journey. Over the past three decades, the ANC-led government has expanded access to primary healthcare, built clinics

in rural villages, introduced life-saving anti-retroviral therapy, and strengthened maternal and child health services.

The African National Congress has always understood that healthcare is not a privilege but a right. As one of our stalwarts, Oliver Tambo, once reminded us: "A nation that does not care for its people cannot prosper." Today, we reaffirm that caring for our people, remains the moral compass of this Department.

The Book of Galatians reminds us: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." These words aptly capture the spirit with which we table this Budget Vote today. We do so under constrained fiscal conditions, shaped by global economic pressures, domestic revenue limitations, and reductions in certain international funding streams. Yet, despite these challenges, we remain resolute in our constitutional obligation to provide quality healthcare services to the people of the North West Province.

As former President Nelson Mandela reminded us, I quote: "A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination." We therefore approach this Budget Vote not as an accounting exercise, but as a commitment to improve the lives of our people. We extend appreciation to our social partners, including mining companies and private sector collaborators who continue to build clinics, donate medical equipment, and sponsor ambulances - strengthening our collective effort to deliver accessible healthcare.

We now go to Programmes. Programme 1 Administration.

Administration of health services remains a key pillar of the North West Department of Health as it provides strategic leadership, governance and administrative support necessary for the effective functioning of the entire health system. Through this programme, the Department continues to strengthen institutional capacity, improve accountability and ensure that the health sector in our province is supported by a capable and responsive administration.

Human Resources Management and Development.

During the period under review, the Department has successfully filled 238 health professional posts on a permanent basis in order to address shortages of nurses, doctors and other critical personnel across our health facilities.

In this financial year, the Department has stabilised the management of Mahikeng Provincial Hospital. To this effect we have appointed, the Nursing Manager, Quality Assurance Manager, Clinical Managers and we are finalising the appointment of the Hospital CEO. We are also finalising the appointment of CEOs of five other hospitals before the end of this year.

Senior Management Appointments.

The Department has made significant progress in stabilising leadership within the organisation through the appointment of key senior managers. These include the Superintendent General of the department, the Deputy Director General for District Health Services, the Chief Financial Officer, as well as key Directors for Infrastructure. These appointments strengthen governance and oversight within the Department.

On Appointment of Unemployed Medical Doctors.

Deputy Speaker, the Department has appointed 120 medical doctors this past financial year as part of strengthening of the healthcare system. We have also intensified efforts to absorb unemployed medical doctors. Vacant funded posts have been advertised and the process of appointing doctors on a full-time basis across various hospitals in the province is currently underway. Great appreciation to the Minister of Health Dr Aaron Motsoaledi to have facilitated additional allocation to fast-track appointment of medical officers.

Labour Relations Matters.

A stable and fair labour relations environment is essential for an effective health system. The Department has made progress in ensuring that disciplinary and labour-related matters are dealt with efficiently, with 31 cases successfully finalised within the regulated 60-day period.

On Security Management Services.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, this is one of our fundamental priorities, as Nelson Mandela profoundly put it, 'Freedom will be meaningless, without the security in the home and in the streets.' Therefore, the safety of patients, staff and infrastructure remains a priority. The Department has therefore taken steps to strengthen security services at health facilities. We will also be deploying roving armed guards across sub-districts to respond to security challenges at health facilities.

Special Programmes.

Community participation in the governance of health institutions remains an important pillar of our health system. I take this opportunity to thank the members of the clinic committees, hospital boards and other governance structures whose term of office came to the end in April 2026, for their contribution. The Department has appointed the new governance structures which are now ready to serve starting from this new 2026/27 financial year. We are launching these structures before the end of this month.

Medico-Legal Cases.

The Department is managing 391 active medico-legal cases and is implementing the National Litigation Strategy to strengthen clinical governance, patient safety, records management, and accountability. Investments in medical equipment, specialised services, and medico-legal support structures are improving healthcare quality, reducing litigation risks, safeguarding public resources, and ensuring appropriate management of both defended and legitimate claims.

Programme 2: District Health Services.

Deputy Speaker, District Health Services, remains the backbone of our healthcare system as it delivers essential health services directly to our communities through clinics, community outreach and district hospitals. Through this programme, the Department continues to strengthen prevention, early detection and treatment services while ensuring that quality healthcare reaches even the most remote parts of our province.

Honourable Premier, Tsheka ka Itekanelo. The Department has successfully launched the 1.1 million HIV Treatment Gap Campaign in all our districts to accelerate HIV treatment initiation and retention in care. The province is responsible for placing 53 146 people on HIV treatment as part of the national target, while also contributing to TB testing efforts aimed at supporting the National End TB Strategy.

The first 95 target of people living with HIV knowing their status has been exceeded at 96%, which is commendable. The second 95, which measures people on treatment, stands at 82%, which require attention for improvement. And the last 95% target of viral suppression stands at 96%, which is also above target.

In the fight against tuberculosis, the province has tested 162 244 people, achieving an 80% testing rate. The North West continues to perform strongly nationally, recording a drug-susceptible TB success rate of 87%, above the national target of 85%. The province is also among the best performers in reducing patients lost to follow-up at 4.8%, while maintaining the highest drug-resistant TB treatment success rate of 87%.

In the new financial year, the Department will continue with the campaign to achieve the 95-95-95 international targets, placing a lot of attention on the second 95% target, to improve from 82%. Honourable Premier, we are also thankful for having been part of a historic launch of the Lenacapavir HIV Prevention injection, a game changer - which we just launched this past Friday in Letlhabile CHC, in the Madibeng Local Municipality.

Appointment of community health workers.

Deputy Speaker, the North West Province has permanently appointed 2 400 Community Health Workers, with a further 2 480 on contract basis. This means that, the department has employed, a workforce of 4 931 Community Health Workers. To strengthen the effectiveness of Community Health Workers, this financial year we will prioritise transition from manual reporting to a fully automated patient level digital system and targeted capacity building through strategic partnership.

Maternal and Child Health.

Deputy Speaker, through the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality in Africa (CARMMA), the Department continues to strengthen maternal, child and women's health services. These campaigns are conducted at facility and district levels and are integrated with our broader health promotion activities. The results are encouraging, as maternal mortality in health facilities has declined from 81, per hundred thousand live-births in 2024/25 to 63.8, while antenatal booking before 20 weeks improved from 77.4% to 79.3%.

We have also recorded improvements in reproductive health services. The couple year protection rate increased from 63.5% to 65.4%, cervical cancer screening coverage improved from 54.6% to 56.7%, and teenage deliveries among girls decreased from 100 to 78 cases. We will continue to implement the CARMMA campaigns in the 2026/27 financial year.

Teenage Pregnancy.

Teenage pregnancy remains a critical public health and social challenge in South Africa. Statistics show that adolescent child-bearing is on the rise, particularly among girls between the ages of 10 and 19. There is a consistent decline in teenage pregnancy in the province. This decline is realized across all four districts. Delivery in facility for age group 10-14 years decreased from 201, in 2022/23 to 66 by end of December 2025/26 financial years, whilst the age group 15-19 years decreased from 8 463 to, 4 750 during the same period.

The department is implementing the following interventions:

Integrated School health program

Sexual and Reproductive health services

Collaboration with developmental partners.

And many other forms of collaborative interventions.

Mental Health.

Deputy Speaker, mental health remains an important priority within district health services. The Department integrated routine mental health screening across all primary healthcare facilities. As a result, 5 905 new patients were treated for various mental health conditions during the reporting period, with the treatment initiation rate exceeding the target of 0.1% against a target of 0.01%.

In 2026/27, the Department will intensify mental health screening across all primary healthcare facilities to ensure early identification and treatment of mental health conditions. We have also finalised appointment of the two Mental Review Boards, to strengthen our system.

Implementation of the NHI programme.

Deputy Speaker, in preparation for the NHI, the Department has commenced geospatial mapping of public and private health facilities and aligned this with Statistics South Africa population data. From 2026/27, we will strengthen NHI implementation through household profiling, optimisation of the Health Patient Registration System, introduction of Electronic Medical Records, and completion of geospatial mapping of service providers and communities in selected sub-districts.

From next year, the Department will implement household profiling to collect social, demographic and health data, enabling more targeted and responsive service delivery. This will be supported by the new Public Health and Clinical Unit currently being established.

On clinics operating 24 hours.

As part of advancing Universal Health Coverage, the Department will increase the number of clinics that are currently operating on a 24-hour basis, from 84 clinics to 95 in the province, which is an addition of 11 more clinics. Once budget allows, we will increase these numbers.

Now Thuthuzela Care Services. The Department provides Gender Based Violence management centres for sexual offences. These centres aim to:

Provide immediate medical care.

Provide emergency contraception.

Screen and treat sexually transmitted infections.

Offer trauma counselling and psychosocial support, amongst others.

Five Thuthuzela centres are currently operational at Klerksdorp, Potchefstroom, Job Shimankane Thabane, and Taung Hospitals.

Report on the North West Province Ex-Mineworkers Compensation Project. North West Department of Health in collaboration with Compensation Diseases, Minerals Council, Tshiamiso Trust, Rand Mutual Assurance, TEBA, Southern Africa Mineworkers Association, Office of the Premier, Provincial Departments of Agriculture & Rural Development and DEDECT continue to work together to advance this programme.

By the end of March 2026, more than 90 000 Ex-Mineworkers had been reached. The total number of claims settled were 5 290 and the value of claims paid was R247 412 000 Rands.

Programme 3: Emergency Medical Services And Forensic Pathology. Phokeng mortuary was operationalized in February 2025. Nine (9) Forensic vehicles were procured and are operational. Thirty-six (36) contract workers appointed and started in November 2025. Maintenance and refurbishment were made within Brits and Tshepong forensic mortuaries.

Emergency medical services.

Deputy Speaker, I can report that a total of 60 ambulances were procured in the last financial year, with a total of 45 already delivered and distributed across the province. The remaining ambulances are already distributed with a symbolic handover conducted by Honourable Premier, last Friday during Thuntsha Lerole in Madibeng Local Municipality. I can report that the province has now a total of 106 ambulances, from 64 from the year which is not enough. Budget is not there.

This current financial year, a further 50 ambulances and 15 Planned Patient Transporters have been procured. We have already placed an order for a total of 33 more this financial year. This will improve ambulance response time across the province.

EMS job creation:

A total of 95 drivers for the Planned Patient Transport have been appointed. In strengthening the EMS operations further, the Department recruited EMS staff including scarce skills of Advance Life Support who qualified in 2024/25. The process of recruiting another cohort that have just acquired scarce skill advanced EMS qualification through bursary, will be completed by end of the second quarter of 2026/27. Thirty-five (35) of the 89 newly recruited under the EMS work programme have started on the 2nd March 2026 and the remaining group are being prioritised.

Programme 4: Provincial Hospital Services.

Deputy Speaker, we planned to improve compliance with OHSC standards and prepare hospitals for NHI accreditation during the 2025/26 financial year. Progress in this regard is that 5 of the 7 regional/tertiary hospitals achieved excellent status for compliance on OHSC inspection. In the 2026/27 financial year we will assess specialized hospitals namely Witrand and Bophelong hospitals pending the finalization of the assessment tool by National Department of Health.

Specialist Appointments.

A total of 21 medical specialists and 24 nurse specialists have been appointed. We also have 71 medical officers, in training to become specialists.

Medical Equipment and Infrastructure.

We planned to procure and commission specialized medical equipment for the decentralized medical oncology and surgical services. I can report that procurement and installation of Lamina flow cabinet in Mafikeng Provincial Hospital is completed.

Surgical Backlog Reduction.

We undertook to deal with surgical backlog by implementing the surgical blitzes and extended operating hours to reduce backlogs in the 2025/26 financial year.

I am happy to report that all regional hospitals have conducted the weekend blitz to reduce surgical backlogs. The surgical backlog has been reduced from 7 502 at the beginning of the financial year to 3 544. We will partner with private sector to expedite the accelerated reduction of surgical backlogs in the 2026/27 financial year.

Dialysis Services.

As part of expanding access to dialysis services, the reverse osmosis system has been renewed at Mahikeng Provincial Hospital. Moreover, at Potchefstroom Hospital preparations are underway and Joe Morolong Memorial Hospital started a service under Klerksdorp/Tshepong hospital support. We will continue maintenance of the Reverse osmosis system to ensure efficient functionality of dialysis machines and autoclaves in the 2026/27 financial year.

Programme 5: Central Hospital Services.

We made a promise to strengthen tertiary and quaternary services including cardiac, oncology and specialized surgeries. Deputy Speaker, I am excited to report that we have established Cath Lab Theatre in Klerksdorp with immediate improvement of early diagnosis and treatment of patients with heart conditions. Preparations including planning for Job Shimankana has been finalized. We will initiate procurement by end of the second quarter.

Advanced Diagnostics and Treatment.

The Department is intentionally investing in improving diagnostic and treatment capacity for cancer. I am pleased to report that the Mammography X-ray machines for Job Shimanaka Tabane, Potch, Joe Morolong Hospitals, were received and now functional as from May this year, and June, August 2025. A total of 610 mammograms were conducted towards the department drive to detect cancer early. We will prioritize appointment of a Mammographer (Specialist Radiographer for breast x-ray) for JMMH that will reduce traveling of patients to Klerksdorp hospital.

The Magnetic Resonance Imaging for Job Shimankana Tabane Hospital were delivered and is now functional resulting in total of 130 diagnostic examinations being done. Furthermore, we will procure additional C-Arm and a digital X-ray machine for JST.

Academic Health Platform.

I am happy to report that a conditional approval has been received from Council of Higher Education for the MBChB course. The work of the medical school building is in progress and will be completed by the middle of 2027. Further accreditation processes will be concluded in 2027 and enrolment of students are expected to be on schedule and first cohort is to start as scheduled in January 2028.

The Department continues to strengthen the academic link between the Bojanala health system with Sefako Makgatho University inclusive of deployment of Registrars (Medical Doctor training to become a specialist). Furthermore, it is heart-warming to learn of the announcement of a long-term plan by Minister Aaron Motsoaledi that the National Department of Health will build the Academic Central Hospital in Mahikeng.

Programme 6: Health Sciences and Training.

Nursing Colleges. We planned to train and graduate nursing students to address skills shortages. I am happy to report that a total of 463 students enrolled in the college in 2025/26 for undergraduate programmes. A total of 335 students graduated in various nursing qualifications during in October 2025.

The college also managed to appoint the Campus Heads of both Mafikeng and Klerksdorp Campus. During the 2026/27 financial year, the college enrolled another 249 students for the undergraduate programmes. A total of 287 students will be graduating in the third quarter of this financial year.

Job creation. EMS College. For the Learnership Programme, I can report that targets for the Learnership Programme in 2026/27 is that:

The Department is planning to register ninety (90) unemployed youth on an internship programme during this financial year.

Sixty (65) unemployed youth will be registered on Higher Certificate in Auxiliary Nursing learnership during this financial year.

Fifteen (15) unemployed youth will be registered for Higher Certificate in Emergency Medical Care during the 2026/27 financial year.

Programme 7: Health Care Support Services.

I am pleased to report that medicine availability has remained above 80% with upward progression. Currently medicine availability in the province is reported at an overall average of 85%. Though these numbers are impressive, I must also inform this August House there are some medicines that are in short supply internationally and nationally and are affecting some facilities. We have placed measures in place to control the situation.

Programme 8: Health Facilities. On Infrastructure, Achievements.

Construction of Magogoe and Uitkyk Clinics using Alternative Building Material (ABT) have reached Practical Completion, along with Delareyville Bulk Pharmacy.

Maintenance of health facilities, including 34 clinics is ongoing. The completed facilities include Dithakong, Sannieshof, Delareyville, and Ratlou CHCs in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District. Khudutlou, Kgomotso and Bloemhof CHCs in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District

At JST Hospital, the Lift replacement and Refurbishment of the Medical Gas infrastructure at Neonatal Ward have been completed.

At Moses Kotane Hospital, Practical Completion has been achieved for the repairs of the leaking roof, damaged flooring and the seeping Sewer plant.

New generators have been procured for Witrand Psychiatric hospital, North West College of Nursing-Mmabatho Campus (MMACON), Setlopo Clinic, Masutlhe 1 Clinic and Tshunyane clinic.

The Health Technology, the C-arm X-ray machines have been supplied to Klerksdorp/Tshepong hospital, Mmabatho Provincial Hospital, Brits hospital and JST hospitals. Ultrasound equipment has also been procured and delivered to Moses Kotane and Leruhutse hospitals.

Underperformance of Contractors.

The department has terminated underperforming contractors for the following projects, Motswedi CHC, Rapulana clinic, and Welverdiend clinic.

Projects such as Bophelong Psychiatric Hospital, Refurbishment of Gelukspan Hospital, Christiana Hospital are progressing slowly but are receiving the necessary attention where intervention measures have been put in place to expedite progress.

Commitments/Plans for 2026/27. Park-Homes. Construction of following clinics will commence using Alternative Building Method: Kokoana Clinic, Phalane Clinic, Refentse Clinic Delikile Khoza Clinic, Goedgevonden Clinic, Fafung Clinic, Modimola Clinic, Colour Block Clinic, and Welverdiend Clinic.

Completion of Projects:

The department committed to start with Completion of Mathibestad CHC, Refurbishment of Koster Hospital Phase 1 and Tshepong Hospital-Stormwater drainage System.

The department will continue with completion of projects that contractors were terminated for Construction of Motswedi Clinic, Rapulana and Welverdiend Clinic.

The department plans to implement and complete the following maintenance projects:

Completion of the remaining 34 clinics, including 8 in Bojanala, 4 in Dr KK, 3 in Dr RSM, and 3 in Ngaka Modiri Molema.

Roll out of the boiler maintenance contract to provide hot water and steam across all hospitals.

Completion of repairs to leaking water pipes in Wards 3, 4 and implementation of replacement of water hot and cold-water reticulation at Schweizer Reneke Hospital, Joe Morolong Hospital, Tshepong Hospital and Mafikeng Provincial Hospital.

Completion of Water Augmentation projects at Job Shimankana Tabane Hospital and Ganyesa District Hospital.

Replacement of the perimeters fencing at Moses Kotane Hospital and General De Larey Hospital.

The department has allocated a portion of HFRG budget for the procurement of Health Technology equipment. In the 2026/27 financial year, procurement of equipment is planned for Klerksdorp, MPH, Ganyesa, Brits, Joe Morolong, and Potchefstroom hospitals.

Procurement of furniture and equipment are also planned for facilities currently at the construction stage.

Honourable Members, we commit to give IDTS the necessary attention and support to complete some of the outstanding projects.

Allocated Budget 2026/2027 per Programme.

Programme 1 Administration 1 211 877 000 Rands.

Programme 2 District Health Services 9 257 085 000 Rands.

Programme 3 Emergency Medical Services 556 799 000 Rands.

Provincial Hospital Services 2 442 389 000 Rands.

Central Hospital Services 2 811 525 000 Rands.

Health Science and Training 310 435 000 Rands.

Health Care Support Services, 7, 909 957 000 Rands.

The last one, Health Facilities Maintenance 727 001 000 Rands.

The total budget for the department is 18 227 068 000 Rands.

Deputy Speaker, the Department continues to face financial pressure due to accruals from previous financial years and baseline allocations that have not kept pace with growing healthcare demands. While the 2026/27 baseline budget has increased by 4%, it remains insufficient to meet all funding requirements.

As a result, the Goods and Services budget faces an estimated shortfall of R1.7 billion, reducing available funding by 34%. To address these challenges, the Department will implement a Financial Recovery Plan focused on cost containment, expenditure control, and improved financial management.

In appreciation, Deputy Minister, I would like to thank:

The ANC, Honourable Premier, Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature, Fellow EXCO Members, Chairpersons and Members of Portfolio Committees for their oversight role,

Auditor-General South Africa, Human Rights Commission and Public Service Commission, Our Organised Labour, and Social Partners, The entire Team Health from Level 1 until Level 6, Community-based and Faith based organizations, Traditional leaders, Traditional healers, The private sector including the mining houses, they are here. Academic partners, Media Houses, Baagi botlhe ba North West, my family, relatives, friends and comrades.

Conclusion. Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members, and the people of the North West Province, a wise man once said: "A commitment is what transforms a promise, into reality." Therefore, Deputy Speaker this Budget Vote demonstrates a department that is steadily building the capacity required to deliver quality healthcare services to every community.

As the great African writer Chinua Achebe reminded us, "A man who does not know where the rain began to beat him cannot say where he dried his body." We know the challenges our health system has faced, but we also know the progress we have made and the direction we must continue to pursue. We are ensuring that no village, township or town is left behind. In the words of Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, a renowned African writer: "The future of a society is in the hands of the people."

It is through partnership with communities, healthcare workers, traditional leaders, labour, academia, civil society and the private sector that we will continue to build a healthier North West. Through programmes such as Rebona Ka Matlho, Kopano Ke Matla, and E tlhokile Mosela and Tshela ka Itsekanelo, we have reinforced the principle that leadership must be present, where people are, where services are delivered and where challenges are experienced.

These interventions have strengthened oversight, accelerated problem-solving and deepened engagement with communities. As we move forward, we do so with confidence, determination and a shared sense of purpose. The road ahead will require hard work, innovation and discipline, but we are encouraged by the words of Barack Obama, who said: "The future rewards those who press on."

We therefore commit ourselves to expanding access to healthcare, improving patient experiences, strengthening quality of care and advancing the vision of Universal Health Coverage. Together, guided by the values of the African National Congress and inspired by the resilience of the people of the North West, we will continue building a health system that serves every citizen with excellence, compassion and dignity. Thank you very much Deputy Speaker.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Thank you very much Honourable MEC. Tsamaya Rre Lehari. Let me call Honourable Magagane, the Chairperson ya komiti. Honourable Member, you have seven minutes.

HON. MAGAGANE: Thank you very much Chair of Chairs, Mme Tebogo Modise. Honourable Premier Kagiso Mokgosi, Members of the Executive, my esteemed colleagues, our guests and the health professionals that have been invited. Today, the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development presents its report on the 2026/27 Annual Performance Plan and Budget Vote for the Department of Health.

But before we get into it, I would just like to quote something that Che Guevara once said: “For one to be a revolutionary doctor, or to be a revolutionary at all, there must first be a revolution. Isolated individual endeavours, for all its purity of ideals, is of no use and the desire to sacrifice an entire lifetime to the noblest of ideals serves no purpose if one works alone.”

Honourable Chair of Chairs, oversight is a constitutional imperative to protect our people and not something that can be done alone. Our review as the Portfolio Committee revealed weaknesses in infrastructure, in finances, human resources, and clinical service delivery in the department. Capital projects remain incomplete, such as at the one at Motswedi CHC, Bophelong Psychiatric Hospital, and Christiana Hospital, highlighting the urgent need for stronger project oversight in the department.

Financially, the department faces rising accruals and concerning non-compliance with the Public Finance Management Act, with goods and services often procured above market rates and contractors lacking capacity. This was raised by the Auditor General in the last two financial years.

Also, another challenge that was highlighted was teenage pregnancy, TB, although the department is leading in terms of TB treatment in the country, there are still some gaps in terms of treatment for TB. The baseline of the department has been standing was supposed to be corrected in the last administration and this still part of the problems that actually throttles the finances of the

department. In this instance, Honourable Chair of Chairs, to address these challenges, the committee makes the following recommendations, each with a clear timeline:

Within 14 days, the department must submit an Infrastructure Turnaround Status Report for all outstanding infrastructure projects. I also specifically for Motswedi CHC, Bophelong Psyciatric Hospital, and Christiana Hospital, including the revised schedules and legal actions where contractors were terminated.

Furthermore, within 7 days: Provide a Contractor Risk Management Framework to ensure only financially and operationally capable bidders are considered because it sits with some challenges Honourable Chair of Chairs.

Within 14 days: Table a Provincial Health Facility Maintenance Plan with detailed budgets for each facility. The MEC has been outlining and touching on some that will be done in this financial year.

Furthermore, it must within 14 days: Present an Accruals Management Plan showing how historical debt will be cleared without incurring new debt, and report progress quarterly on this one.

Within 45 days: Implement a market-related price indexing and submit a report on actions taken against officials who authorised overpriced procurement.

Within 14 days: Present a technical report on the causes of the 2025/2026 conditional grant under-expenditure and the reasons that were given for rollover requests.

Within 90 days: Submit a modernised Institutional Organogram, replacing the outdated 2007 structure to better align staff and current needs.

Within 60 days: Table a Nursing Education Quality Correction Strategy to ensure graduates possess essential clinical skills.

Within 30 days: Provide a Knowledge Retention Strategy to address the loss of clinical expertise from early retirements.

Within 30 days: Deliver an audited Bursary Holder Absorption Schedule and plan to employ all unabsorbed state-funded medical graduates.

Within 60 days: Revise EMS performance metrics, replacing blanket response targets with realistic, context-specific indicators.

Within 7 days: Submit a delivery schedule for the next batch of customised, fit for purpose 4x4 ambulances, including dates and allocations on when these will be distributed and how they will be distributed.

And furthermore, within the next 30 days: Table an HPRS Functionality Register, identifying clinics and hospitals with fully digitised registration systems. And where they are not going to be fully digitised, we need a list of those that they will not be able to actually adhere to.

Immediately after this meeting, they must amend the APP reporting framework to include clear quarterly targets for the Planned Patient Transport, to be reviewed in the next meeting with the committee.

Within the next 30 days: Submit a Medico-Legal Litigation Reduction Strategy outlining risk mitigation and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

Furthermore, CoC, what they need to do is that within the next 30 days provide an operational readiness report for the 12 transition to 24-hour services clinics that have been earmarked, covering staffing, security, and supplies. Honourable Morweng, this also includes Lekgopung.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: As you wrap up Honourable Member.

HON. MAGAGANE: Within 30 days: Finalise an MOU with Social Development for a joint nutritional and social protection programme for TB clients. Honourable Chair of Chairs, we extend our appreciation to Mokhuduthamaga Rre Lehari, the Head of Department, senior officials, and support staff for their cooperation. It remains our duty to support healthcare workers while holding leadership accountable for these timelines.

As the Chairperson I also want to extend my greatest gratitude to the commitment of the Portfolio Committee Members. You make an incredible team. We therefore recommend that the House

adopts the Annual Performance Plan and the 2026/2027 Budget, but contingent upon the full and uncompromised execution of these recommendations. I thank you CoC.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Thank you very much Honourable Magagane. Let me call Honourable Moema. You have 10 minutes.

HON. MOEMA: Thank you ever so much Chair of Chairs, Mme Tebogo Modise, Premier Lazarus Mokgosi, leadership collective of the EFF, Members of the Legislature, officials and support staff of the Legislature, cleaners, security guards, officials of the Department of Health, our guests, residents of the North West Province. Good afternoon.

Firstly, Chair of Chairs, let me commend the department for having appointed female leadership in their strategic positions in the department. For instance, your superintendent general, your chief financial officer, and your DDGs, they happen to be women. And as the EFF, we have long been vocal about appointment of women in strategic positions in our departments. We are tired of gentlemen's club in our departments. So this is a very strategic move.

Chair of Chairs, why are you howling? Honourable Chair of Chairs, I should wish to begin this debate by inspiring this House to learn from the life and teachings of a Marxist-Revolutionary intellectual, medical doctor by profession and architect of the Cuban Revolution, Ernesto "Che" Guevara, who neatly argued that isolated efforts by doctors in local clinics were ineffective if systematic issues like poverty, hunger, and poor housing persisted.

Honourable Chair of Chairs, and the residents of the North West Province, many of whom are sick and unable to afford private healthcare, many of whom have lost loved ones because an ambulance took three hours to arrive, many of whom are mothers who gave birth at the side of the road because the nearest clinic was closed at night. I rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to deliberate and put the views of the EFF into this budget.

The Annual Performance Plan and Budget tabled by the Department of Health for financial year 2026/2027 is nothing but a continuation of the same failed policies that have turned our public healthcare system into a death trap for the poor black working-class majority of this province.

The Department boasts of an increase of 4% in their total allocation, moving from R17.5 billion to R18.2 billion, yet the residents of the North West continue to die from preventable diseases, continue to wait for hours at understaffed clinics, continue to be told that essential medicines are out of stock, and continue to be turned away from facilities that close their doors at 4pm. This budget is a betrayal of the constitutional right to access healthcare as enshrined in Section 27 of the Constitution.

Honourable Chair of Chairs, the Portfolio Committee's report exposes the depth of the crisis in this department. The report confirms that the department continues to rely on an outdated 2007 organogram, creating artificial vacancy rates and leaving critical clinical and strategic leadership positions unfilled for prolonged periods. Of course, we still commend you for moving towards a right step of transformation.

How can a department in 2026 still be operating on an organizational structure designed almost two decades ago? The report further reveals that qualified and registered nurses are graduating from provincial institutions lacking basic foundational competencies such as phlebotomy drawing blood despite multiple years of training.

Motswedi Clinic, Bophelong Provincial Hospital, and Christiana Hospital stand as monuments to the department's incompetence, projects abandoned, contractors terminated, millions of rands wasted. The department has a systematic lack of robust project monitoring and consequence management within its Infrastructure Unit, which has institutionalized a culture of abandoned and unfinished healthcare facilities.

CoC, while the department plans to have only 4 infrastructure projects on which construction starts in the entire financial year, the people of this province are forced to seek healthcare in dilapidated, unsafe, and crumbling facilities. The department has low targets for infrastructure when health facilities in this province are in a dire state.

CoC, the Emergency Medical Services in this Province are a national disgrace. The department sets targets of 30 minutes for urban responses and 60 minutes for rural responses, yet in practice, rural communities routinely experience ambulance wait times exceeding two hours.

The province is supposed to have 400 ambulances but has fewer than 150 operating because of budget constraints. How can any government claim to be serious about saving lives when a patient

in a rural village must wait two hours or more for an ambulance that may never come because the fleet is broken down and there are no staff to operate the vehicles?

CoC, the people of this Province are suffering from chronic medicine shortages. Clinics in the North West Province are experiencing shortages of contraceptives, including oral pills and subdermal implants, for months. The Democratic Nursing Organization of South Africa has attributed these shortages to suppliers not being paid on time and poor planning between what is needed and what is ordered.

The Department of Health claims that official records show no shortage, yet commits to undertake another assessment to verify the accuracy of reports. CoC, the people do not need another assessment, they need medicine. They need the department to do its job and ensure that essential medications are available at every clinic in this province.

We will not vote for a budget that perpetuates the suffering of our people. We will not endorse a plan that has no intention of solving the crisis in our healthcare system. The call for 24-hour clinics is one that the Economic Freedom Fighters has championed since our formation in 2013. We have tabled legislation to make it mandatory for public sector clinics to remain open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

We have stated unequivocally that health service challenges are not limited to specific time periods and can afflict a person at any time or night. The residents of Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality have made heartfelt appeals for health clinics to operate 24 hours a day. They have told this government that when they are sick at night, they cannot get help because clinics close early, and what does the MEC say? The best excuse is that their challenge is budget, how do you even say that as an MEC of Health who comes from a party that has been governing for 32 years?

CoC, we want to tell the Chair of this House that even if she can deny Members of this Legislature to vote on the debate of opening all state-funded clinics for 24 hours as sponsored by the EFF, we will never stop advocating for 24-hour operation of state-funded clinics as long as we are represented in this House. We will not be silenced by procedural manoeuvres.

We will not be intimidated by those who would rather protect the budget than protect the lives of our people. The EFF will continue to fight for every clinic in this province to be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, because healthcare is not a nine-to-five privilege.

We reject this budget vote because it does not address the structural problems of our healthcare system. The EFF proposes a fundamentally different approach to healthcare in the North West Province. The department immediately scrap the outdated 2007 organogram and implement a modernized institutional structure that reflects the actual clinical demands of this province.

We demand that all state-funded medical bursary holders who have completed their studies be immediately absorbed into the public health system. It is a crime against humanity that qualified doctors and nurses are sitting at home unemployed while our clinics are understaffed.

CoC, we further propose that the provincial government redirect funds from wasteful expenditure and tenders towards building and maintaining healthcare infrastructure. We propose that the department be allowed to procure its own supplies directly rather than going through inefficient provincial systems.

Honourable CoC, we propose that the big companies be legally compelled to contribute to the building of the healthcare facilities. We propose that every hospital have its own taxi and bus terminal to ensure access for patients. We propose that all healthcare facilities have high speed internet to enable digital healthcare transformation.

CoC, we propose that the department establish 24 hour integrated post-sexual trauma centres in all district hospitals. We propose that each province have a health science campus inclusive of nursing school and medical school.

The people of the North West Province deserve better than this better. They deserve ambulances that arrive in time to save lives not ambulances that arrive after the patient has died. They deserve medicines that are available not medicines that are out of stock because suppliers were not paid.

They deserve nurses and doctors who are competent, qualified and adequately compensated. They deserve a department that is accountable, transparent and committed to serving the people. CoC, the struggle for quality healthcare is part of the broader struggle for economic freedom.

The EFF was founded on the principle of free quality education, healthcare, housing and sanitation for all. We remain committed to the total liberation of African people from economic exclusion and exploitation. Through revolutionary activism, legislative intervention and mass mobilisation, we will continue to fight for a South Africa and a North West Province ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: As you wrap up Honourable Member. Wrap up.

HON. MOEMA: I wrap up. In our last sitting, the ANC rejected our proposal for 24-hour clinic operation, advancing an argument that the budget is not enough. However, today it's the very same ANC that is expecting us to vote for their budget.

Madam Speaker, put differently, resources are needed for a proper healthcare system. As such, we are saying this budget is not enough and our question we are posing before you is that at whose class interest must we support this budget that is unable to meet the needs of our people on the ground. I thank you very much Honourable Speaker and good afternoon.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Sonakile. Thank you very much for reminding me. You have only eight minutes.

HON. SONAKILE: Eight minutes. Thank you very much CoC. Speaker, Premier, Honourable Members, I greet you all. Rre Lehari, thank you for the budget that you've presented. I'm not a member of the committee; however, I am representing the Democratic Alliance on this debate.

CoC, before I can start getting into the issues of the debate, earlier on in one of the budget speeches, there's something that's very disturbing that took place. It was said that when Members of the opposition are rejecting budgets, actually we must draft rules that will say that we must not participate.

I want to put it on record that that would be very unfortunate. It will actually be anti-democratic because it does not mean that as Members of the opposition our job is to rubberstamp. We are not here to rubberstamp. Where we feel that there are genuine issues that need to be raised, we will do so without any fear or favour.

Because if approving a budget automatically delivered services, then North West would a province of excellence because yet for years budget after budget has been passed by majorities while

residents have received less and less in return. So we will not shy away from raising issues when we have them especially when they are genuine.

CoC, healthcare is not a luxury but a Constitutional obligation that government provides. You know when a road is not repaired, people are inconvenienced. When a licence is delayed, people become frustrated. But when healthcare fails, people suffer, and sometimes they die.

Since 1994, we have repeatedly heard how government has transformed healthcare services in our province. But this claim leaves much to be desired. The government continues to say that they are going to be introducing National Health Insurance, but we are struggling with the basic of just fixing the healthcare system that currently exists. It makes even the NHI issue become more and more of a dream.

Today we are asked to support a budget and an APP that promises improved healthcare, modern facilities, digital transformation, more healthcare workers, better medicine availability, etc. But in reality, those are just written promises on paper that never translate into tangible service delivery.

The people of the North West do not live on a paper. They live in villages, townships and towns where they interact daily with the realities of our healthcare system. And the reality is that there remains a massive gap between what government promises and what the community of the North West experiences.

Madam CoC, we gather again in this August House to reiterate the Department's vision of accessible, equitable and quality healthcare for all. The strategic plan and APP further emphasise the importance of modernising and maintaining facilities, digitising patient files, improving ambulance services, reducing stock-outs, and filling vacant positions. But much remains to be desired.

Almost daily, we receive complaints regarding healthcare services in our province. During oversight visits we as Members witness first-hand how overwhelmed and strained the healthcare workers are in the small, dilapidating healthcare facilities.

As the DA, we recognise the difficult fiscal environment in which the Department of Health operates. We acknowledge the dedication of healthcare workers who continue to serve under extremely challenging conditions. However, we cannot ignore the fact that many of the challenges

facing healthcare in our province are not solely financial; they are failures of governance, planning and accountability.

In the past year 2025/26, the department spoke of the Financial Recovery Plan, which was expected to be tabled or presented to the Portfolio Committee by the end of May or the beginning of June 2026. To date, nothing came forth. This raises an important question: Are all the challenges experienced in this department a fiscal challenge or a planning failure?

Honourable CoC, there are numerous challenges that persist, but I want to emphasise the following: Firstly, the shortage of healthcare professionals. Across the province, hospitals, clinics and CHCs, we continue to see critical vacancies not being filled. Doctors, nurses, pharmacists and specialists are expected to carry overwhelming workloads while patients endure long waiting times and delayed treatment.

No healthcare system can function effectively when funded posts remain vacant while communities continue to suffer. The department must prioritise the filling of critical posts, review the 2007 organogram and ensure the new organogram translates to the now challenges and realities. To ensure that we retain our health professionals, the department must develop sustainable strategies to attract and retain healthcare professionals, particularly in rural communities.

Secondly, the condition of healthcare infrastructure remains deeply concerning. Many facilities continue to face maintenance backlogs, ageing infrastructure and equipment failures. While MEC you have spoken on a number of maintenance projects that you are going to be undertaking, as the DA we believe that it is still not enough and would therefore request that at least you table a comprehensive report that will detail maintenance budgets and planned infrastructure strategies that will at least cover the rural areas and the most affected ones. Healthcare workers cannot provide quality healthcare in environments where infrastructure is inadequate, overcrowded and continuously deteriorating.

Let's go to Programme 8 Health Facility Management. This is a critical programme that requires urgent attention. Contractors who receive tenders must ensure that they complete the work according to the specified scope and timeframe. But we continue to witness stalled projects. MEC spoke to some of them.

The Bophelong Psychiatric Hospital project, it is still in progress. At Christiana Hospital, it is very slow the progress that is there. The Sekhing CHC has no work being done on site following the contract termination. And at Mathibestad CHC for more than a decade now, residents have waited for a facility that should have been completed years ago. Construction began more than 13 years ago, yet the centre remains incomplete and non-operational, forcing residents to continue relying on inadequate alternatives.

What progress has been made so far despite the ongoing challenges? What intervention strategies are in place to address contractors experiencing cash flow problems that are stalling work? What measures has the department implemented to ensure that terminated contracts do not result in wasted public funds and further delays in service delivery? How about we speak about Universal Healthcare Coverage when communities are still waiting for healthcare facilities that should have been completed long ago?

Thirdly, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), it remains under severe pressure. The healthcare workers at healthcare facilities, residents in rural villages and communities continue to report unacceptable ambulance response times. If the ambulance is not 3 hours late, it often does not arrive at all.

The target of Urban P1 Response of less than 30 minutes and Rural P1 Response of less than 60 minutes is not realistic and should be reviewed to align with the provincial challenges. Every financial year the department procures ambulances, but there are so many operational challenges that undermine service delivery. Families needing medical emergencies should not be left wondering whether help will arrive in time or not.

Lastly, the digitisation of patient information is in a devastating state in our province. The AG has been red flagging the department regarding the patient record management systems in our province. During oversight visits, the files are either packed in overflowing cabinets, piled on the floor or stored in unstable conditions ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: As you wrap up Honourable Member.

HON. SONAKILE: The filing rooms are overcrowded, humid and lack adequate fire detectors in case something happens. The Health Patient Registration System remains non-operational in most, if not all, health facilities due to insufficient training, inadequate ICT infrastructure, a shortage of computers, connectivity challenges, and network challenges. We do commend the department for piloting the E-Impilo EHR System piloted in Masutle 2 Clinic and hope that moving forward the system will be expanded, available and working in other health facilities.

The termination of underperforming contractors is welcomed MEC. The new generators that have been bought, and as well as the building of the academic central hospital in Mafikeng that has been long overdue. Speaker, based on the issues that I have raised, the DA will unfortunately not support this budget. We believe that healthcare reforms must be guided by ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Your time is up Honourable Member.

HON. SONAKILE: And at this stage, we don't feel we are yet there. Thank you.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Thank you very much Honourable Member. Let me call Honourable Groenewald. Three minutes, Honourable Member.

HON. GROENEWALD: Patients do not experience a health department as a budget. They experience it as a cube, as an ambulance that does not arrive, medicine that is not available, as a clinic that refers them elsewhere, as a hospital project that was promised, funded, delayed and still not completed. That is the reality this vote must answer.

The Department of Health receives one of the largest allocations in the province. The question is not whether the department has money, the question is whether the money reaches the patients as effective services. The final committee report gives this House enough reason to be deeply concerned.

Infrastructure remains one of the clearest failures. The committee raised concerns about incomplete capital projects including facilities where contractors were terminated after prolonged period of non-operation. When a contractor fails, the community does not care about procurement explanations. They care that the clinic is not working and the hospital is not ready.

This is not only a construction problem, it is a management problem. The report points to weak project monitoring, poor consequences management and a need for proper maintenance planning. A health facility cannot be allowed to decay until it becomes a crisis. Maintenance must be planned, budgeted and enforced.

CoC, the same lack of discipline appears in the department's finances. Accruals continue to threaten service delivery. Every Rand used to pay yesterday's unpaid bill is a Rand not available for today's medicine, equipment, staffing or maintenance. This is how poor financial management becomes a patient care problem.

Emergency medical services also remain a serious concern. The committee rejects the department's response targets are unrealistic and called for indicators that reflects the geographic of the reality of this province. This is the right approach.

A person waiting for an ambulance in a rural village does not live inside a planning template. The target must match terrain, distance, fleet and real response time. The report also raises concerns about the department's outdated 2007 organogram that means the department structure is still trying to serve a modern health system with an outdated design.

At the same time, the province struggles with shortages of health personnel, specialised skills and workplace ready graduates. It is unacceptable the concerns raised about qualified nurses graduating without a basic practical competencies. A nursing college must produce professionals who are ready for the world not graduates who still need a system to compensate for training gaps.

CoC, the Freedom Front Plus also notes the continued risk of medico-legal claims. Every negligent claim represents more than legal exposure. It represents a patient, a family and a system that failed somewhere. The public does not need more promises from Health. It needs the basic medicine, ambulances, clean facilities, working equipment, competent staff, proper maintenance and accountability when contractors fail. This vote does not give us enough confidence. The department is fixing the system ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: As you wrap up Honourable Member.

HON. GROENEWALD: The Freedom Front Plus cannot support this. Thank you CoC.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Thank you very much Honourable Groenewald. Let me call Honourable Khonou. You have seven minutes.

HON. KHONOU: Thank you Honourable CoC. Honourable Dr Desbo Mohono, the Speaker, Honourable Premier Lazarus Mokgosi, Members of the Executive Council, Members of the Provincial Legislature, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. Honourable CoC, I must start off by attempting to heed the advice ya Honourable Smuts about Members of the opposition.

Honourable Smuts o rile ga ba utlwe. And ke batla go illustrate this point and I believe that this department MEC is relevant to deal with this question ya gore ga ba utlwe. Ke Department of Health. Now Honourable Moema o bua ka the hiring of doctors. So this thing is serious MEC, kopa o e tseye serious because ke nnete batho ba ga ba utlwe.

Now the speech sa MEC on page 5 o bua gore they have hired 120 medical doctors this past financial year. So its clear gore ga ba utlwe. The speech carries on, as part of strengthening the healthcare system, we have also intensified efforts to absorb unemployed medical doctors. So they have advertised, they have hired 120. They have advertised for more. So that's why ke re ga ba utlwe.

MEC, ga ba utlwe. Ke kopa gore lo intervene ka ponyo ya leitlho because ga ba utlwe clearly. Honourable Dabampe ga a yo fa. Ga ke itse gore o nyeletse kae. Gongwe o na le MEC Motsumi because o na le problem ya reading with comprehension. So I suspect the MEC is intervening gore a boele kwa ABET so that a kgone go nna le reading with comprehension. So that's why a seyo fa. Re a tlhaloganya.

So re tshepa mo nakong e tlang o tla kgona go bala with comprehension. So ga ba utlwe MEC. That's why ba etsang modumo yaana. O a ba thibela gore ba se ka ba utlwa budget e o fetsang go e tlhalosa. Ke batla go dira se ke se dirileng mo nakong e e fetileng because ga ba utlwe.

HON. MOEMA: CoC? I wish to ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Moema.

HON. MOEMA: Yes?

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Khonou, can you take your seat in the meantime?

HON. MOEMA: Are you not saying he must take a seat?

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: No, you can continue.

HON. MOEMA: I thought that was an instruction.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: No, you can continue.

HON. MOEMA: But you instructed him to sit down.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Moema, you want to speak or you want to tell me how to run the programme?

HON. MOEMA: I wish to pose a question.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Come again.

HON. MOEMA: I wish to pose a question.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Okay. What is your question?

HON. MOEMA: No check with him if he's taking it.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Come again.

HON. MOEMA: Advising tlhe. Bagolo ba a palelwa ke ba. Advisang Mme tlhe.

HON. KHONOU: Or e re ke go thuse. I'm not prepared to take your question.

HON. MOEMA: Okay.

HON. KHONOU: So o ka nna wa nna mo fatshe wa utlwelela. Honourable CoC, our province remains deeply immersed in the triple challenges of high unemployment, poverty and inequality.

The impact of this precarious state of affairs is 72% community reliance on an underfunded healthcare system whilst only 13%, Honourable Sonakile, have medical aid coverage.

Bothata jwa gago Honourable Sonakile gape ke gore you are not a Member of this Portfolio Committee. So o mislead this gallery because ha o itse gore go diragalang in that Portfolio Committee. O bua ka recovery plan, ga o itse gore mo Portfolio Committee re buile ka yone. Re buile ka lenaneo la department go fokotsa accruals and payables. So o se ka wa tlhola o tla fa o bua dilo tse o sa di tlhaloganyeng ka ntlha ya gore ga o Member ya Portfolio Committee.

Now Honourable CoC, during a recent debate proposing extension of operating hours of all state-funded clinics to 24 hours, the ANC provided the following account to the people of North West. The bulk of the challenges we face in our healthcare system are directly linked to the current health financing model, Honourable Sonakile, which can be fixed by the intentional implementation of National Health Insurance.

We stay resolute to the resolutions of our ANC 55TH National Conference Resolutions that, South Africa must facilitate and provide Universal Health Coverage to all our communities. The implementation of the National Health Insurance remains our definitive framework to balance the economic inequality that persist in our health sector, bringing forth a reality that allows all our citizens to access their right to equal and dignified services.

As we commemorate 30 years of our constitutional democracy underpinned by principles of human rights, human dignity and equality, let us intensify our collective efforts in pursuit of a non-racial, non-sexist, united and a prosperous nation.

To ensure equal access to health care, we must eliminate the two-tier health care system, where the wealthy, Honourable Sonakile, wealthy minority access private facilities as well as the best doctors money can buy whilst the poor majority, which you don't speak on their behalf Honourable Sonakile, have no other option but to rely heavily on extremely under-resourced health facilities. This dire situation manifests in the high patient debt accumulation affecting many of our community members.

It is undeniable that the current North West health sector is extremely overwhelmed. Our medical practitioners are overworked and under paid. Our health resources such as the provision of

medication, EMS services and other services are extremely limited to ensure adequate health care for all our people.

Appointment of new Hospital Boards must translate, MEC, into timeous interventions to ensure that service delivery is not compromised and that health standards are drastically improved in line with the Patients Charter. As we welcome the slight increase in the department's budget for this year, an amount, Honourable Sonakile, of R18.2 billion, we believe it must be used effectively and efficiently to ameliorate many of the challenges in the sector.

We expect this budget to be deployed to ensure that we drastically reduce the current backlog in ensuring that all operating health facilities acquire the Ideal Clinic Status, adequate staff is hired, pharmacies are fully stocked with medicines and have fully and uninterrupted Health Patient Registration System as well as efficiently functioning EMS component.

The increase in the budget through the NHI funding can remedy some of the challenges we currently face. But for real transformation of our health care sector, this needs to be done before we can provide the much anticipated universal, inclusive and sustainable health care. With the gradual implementation of NHI ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: As you wrap up Honourable Member.

HON. KHONOU: And the remodelling of our health financing system, we should be able to accelerate as well as complete historical infrastructure development backlogs. This programme is allocated 727 million in this year's budget.

As I wrap up CoC, we are pleased as the ANC that this a budget that truly demonstrates the commitment of the ANC government, the commitment of the MEC and the department to serve the people of the North West under very difficult conditions.

The ANC supports and moves for the adoption of the Annual Performance Plan and the Budget Vote Allocation to deepen transformation and achieve universal health care for all. I thank you.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Khonou. Let me call Honourable Tsholo. Honourable Tsholo, you have three minutes.

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Honourable CoC. Honourable CoC, when there is budget underfunds medicine at Mafikeng Provincial Hospital, clinics across this particular province underfunds ambulances in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati, underfunds nurses in Bojanala, we are allocating coffins.

Honourable Chair of Chairs, a government that budgets for coffins instead of cures, has forfeited or forgotten their constitutional mandate Section 7. Honourable Chair of Chairs, I have noted with keen interest the following commitments that were done by the Honourable MEC, the medical school building that is to be completed middle of 2027, o nagana gore e kgakala. Ke kamoso. We will hold you accountable through relevant oversights that we are going to conduct.

On your page 16, three bullets where you are talking about 65 unemployed youth for auxiliary nursing learnership, 15 unemployed youth for HCMC, 90 unemployed youth for internships, timelines are very much important Honourable Chair of Chairs as this might be ongoing perpetually without proper accountability.

As uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Honourable Chair of Chairs, we are concerned about the delayed rollout of the National Health Insurance Act while many already struggling to access healthcare. They are not going to be sick in 2030. The NHI journey started in 2011. When the NHI green paper was published for public consultation, this was followed by the NHI pilot project in 2012 with a focus on health system strengthening initiatives.

The NHI white paper was published in 2015 and the signing of the NHI Bill into law by the President was on the 15th May 2024 after 13 years of the introduction of the NHI concept. Private health centres are charging our people Honourable Chair of Chairs very exorbitantly especially our rural poor people bearing these particular high costs. These issues of budget cuts, Honourable Chair of Chairs, should not be used as barriers to prevent our communities from receiving NHI or in any way preventing the speedy implementation of NHI. We need to be extraordinary vigilant when we are dealing with some of these particular pertinent issues.

Honourable Chair of Chairs, during the recent public hearings on Health conducted by the National Council of Provinces Taking Parliament to The People Programme in Dr Kenneth Kaunda District residents of the North West Province expressed unhappiness about health clinics' operating hours, saying they would like them to be opened 24 hours rather than only during the day as they are now.

Other concerns included shortages of medicine and ambulances, poor filing systems, inadequately resourced security guards and filthy clinics. Citizens also, Honourable Chair of Chairs, appealed to government to extend our clinics operating times to 24 hours. I have noted also that during the debate on this particular item, Honourable Chairperson, we did not agree. Instead ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: As you wrap up Honourable Member.

HON. TSHOLO: Ooh! The 24 hours operations of the state-funded clinics will bring improved access to healthcare and can provide critical primary healthcare services at any time, which is essential for the wellbeing of citizens of this particular province.

As I conclude, Honourable Chair of Chairs, this particular department, corruption is very much rife in it. And it cannot be correct that we are saying some of these things. For instance, security services tender, Honourable MEC, you must go and investigate. Your two officials took one million from the service provider and there is evidence to that particular effect. Again, they also create their own ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Member, your time is up Honourable Member.

HON. TSHOLO: Tender processes to exclude deserving service providers ... [INTERJECTION]
...

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Member, your time is up.

HON. OLIPHANT: A a ye police station.

HON. TSHOLO: Ga ke ye police station. Le tlwaetse le wena kwa Human Settlements, botsuolodi.

HON. MORWENG: Go to a police station.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Thank you very much Honourable Tsholo.

HON. OLIPHANT: Warrant officer tsa gago.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Let me call Honourable Rosho.

HON. OLIPHANT: O dirwa ke microwave.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Wa rasa.

HON. ROSHO: Tla ke go leboge Modulasetulo wa Baduladitulo, setlhare sa ga Honourable Tsholo ke wena. Re tshepile wena fela CoC. Ha o ka re reprimandela ene re kgone go fetsa debate sentle. Let me thank you very much CoC and welcome the budget speech of Department of Health led by Honourable Lehari and the team, Superintendent General Dr Thami Matshego. We appreciate the report and the tabling.

Chair I need to just clarify certain issues. There was a report, there was a motion sponsored by the Economic Freedom Fighters by Honourable Moema somself which spoke about issues of 24-hour clinics. The ANC never rejected the motion. The public must not be misled about the motion. The ANC actually embraced and supported the motion. So it cannot be true that we rejected them. It was never rejected by the African National Congress. So let us not mislead our communities and grandstand unnecessarily on this pulpit.

Honourable, through you CoC, Honourable Sonakile, responds to what I said and I agree with you Honourable Khonou, listening is a skill. Ga ba reetse. They don't listen. I said how I wish, how I wish but by the way I want to start to amplify what I said. The role of public representatives is to make laws, to hold the executive accountable and to make sure that we engage on public participation and when you engage on public participation, we must not mislead the public.

We need to be responsible, ensure that the budget is adopted. So you are actually the worst anti-democratic person when you don't adopt the budget but how I wish, how I wish that the Rules could actually empower us so that you should be, when you don't adopt the budget, why do you want to participate in the debate in the committees. Then it must bar you not to do that. At least the people that are supporting and are voting for you, today they know that you are rejecting the budget that must change their lives.

Honourable Chair of Chairs, social transformation remains at the heart of building a caring, inclusive and capable society. Therefore, the budget of the Department of Health must ensure that annually we strengthen primary health care, optimize human resource, provide adequate maternal as well as adolescent health care and ensure that our people access equal and dignified health care.

We commend the hard work that has been done by the medical professionals, academics and scientists all over the world and in our country for their contribution towards the realisation of the long-acting injectable antiretroviral Lenacapavir and Cabotegravir to provide HIV prevention and treatment options administered every 6 months or every 1 to 2 months.

These new medication inventions will completely change the face of HIV and HIV-related deaths in the world, bringing us closer to achieving our national targets as well as global targets of 95-95-95 and ensure that we end all HIV/AIDS related deaths by 2030, bearing in mind six years is just around the concern. We believe that with the department's budget allocation of R1.9 billion, we

can increase implementation of effective awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and also cervical cancer programme.

We must monitor closely how funds are utilised to ensure that the gap left by the PEPFAR funding-cuts is potentially filled and that the Provincial Tshela Ka Itékanelo Campaigns, speedily integrate the province into World AIDS Day and other community outreach programmes like Thuntsha Lerole to ensure that it promotes health education, physical activity and preventative health screening.

Our people must not forget that access to these long-acting injectable antiretroviral treatment does not give them the green light to start having unprotected sex which can expose them to many other diseases such as incurable STIs and unwanted pregnancies. While the Provincial Health Department has done well by being third in the country for successfully rolling out the closing of 1.1 million HIV Treatment Gap Campaign, this must be intensified, Honourable MEC. But we commend the work that you've done. We are number three in the country.

The health of our women and children is paramount which is why we must strengthen youth health services including access to sanitary towels for young girls in schools and women in universities and public schools. And we want to sponsor that it is important that you also work or partner with the Department of Education. We welcome the department's efforts to roll out the HPV vaccination programme in all public schools administered to our adolescent young girls between the ages of 9 to 15.

Through this year's budget increase, our impact base to ensure that more people can access the Brachytherapy unit in Klerksdorp that was established at a cost of R15 million, enabling precise radiation treatment for cervical or prostate cancers with minimal discomfort, as part of the modernization of Tertiary Health Care Services. And we must commend the Klerksdorp Tshepong Centre for these good services they are providing. There has been great progress that has been registered on these ailments.

Our fight against cervical cancer must be one of our apex priorities, as we move towards the attainment of the elimination of cervical cancer formula of 90-70-90 pronounced by the World Health Organisation, like the HIV elimination formula of 95-95-95. And I think as the North West,

despite the shortcomings that we have from a budgetary point of view, there are good stories to tell in terms of this work that we've registered.

The first 90% calls us to ensure that girls between the ages of 9-15 are fully vaccinated, the 70% direct us to ensure that women between the ages of 35-45 are screened with new DNA-based technologies and the last 90% mean a measurement target we must achieve of how many women who have cervical and other related cancers access chemotherapy treatment.

As we continue our aggressive approach to fighting against gender-based violence which has been declared a national disaster, access to victim friendly and fully functional Tutuzela Centres for victims of GBV must be ensured while we also strengthen forensic services to deal with DNA testing essential to fast track cases of GBV to ensure that perpetrators of this inhumane crimes face the harshest hand of the law.

Honourable MEC, this area is very important. And we want to appeal with you, the superintendent general because you are a woman that this area you need to put it at the rudder. Let's focus on it. Even our caregivers, our volunteers there are not even remunerated accordingly. And it is about time that this area Tutuzela Centres, we need to prioritise. We need to focus on them because they will help us actually that interchange that you do with the Department of Social Development.

We welcome the allocation of 274.9 million and 82.9 million that must sustain permanent employment of more than 2 000 community health workers and payments for accruals respectively. Well done Honourable MEC. We appreciate this work.

People living with disabilities are taken care of as well as regularly monitored and we must also make sure that people who are on chronic medication like those who have HIV and TB do not default on treatment. So let's also make sure that we care for our people with disabilities.

As part of strengthening the provision of quality and effective health care services, we must make sure that the department's additional amount of R123.3 million maintains the current work force employment, while we await the renewal of the current outdated organogram affecting service delivery and restricting the employment of necessary medical personnel. Honourable MEC, we want to really ask you, let us focus on the organogram. I agree with the Member of the opposition ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: As you wrap up Honourable Chief Whip.

HON. ROSHO: Yes, as I conclude, Honourable Chair of Chairs, as the African National Congress, we welcome the budget vote speech tabled by the MEC. And we appreciate with the limited budget, the shoestring budget that they have, they are making their strides, and they must continue to advance and advocate and to create that awareness in terms of total wellness. The budget is fully supported by the African National Congress as public representatives who take the voters serious. Thank you very much.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Thank you very much Honourable Rosho. Honourable MEC Lehari.

HON. LEHARI: Thank you very much Chair of Chairs. Ten minutes, I will ask key questions, the rest we will talk on the sidelines during lunch, supper or on leisure time. There are no people here. I'm answering myself. They are gone, so; but let me do my work.

Let me start with FF Plus. Honourable, you are saying nurses are not competent to withdraw blood because of nursing training. You are not correct Honourable. Wrong. I agree with the philosophy of ABET. Yeah, we need people like them at ABET. Now nurses' responsibilities and duties are regulated by South African Nursing Council. Neh? Number one. Professional nurses are expected to take blood if a need arise.

You can't have a festival of taking bloods. Left and right you are taking bloods? If a need arises. The department is not aware of challenges regarding blood withdrawing, and we would therefore appreciate further details. Honourable, you can discuss after this budget speeches. Take me to that hospital or clinic. I'm done with you.

Organogram structure which is very important. I have the doctor here. Yeah, I said we will discuss after hours on the sidelines because you must be practical. You are talking about theory. Now

organogram, I agree with Chief Whip. Thank you Chief Whip. ... [INAUDIBLE] ... issue ya organogram but the doctor is here. Yeah, we are all Members of Legislature, it's fine.

Now even the Chief Whip raised it and yourself. At the end I will praise you, don't worry. Doctor Matshego, the SG is here. Dr Tlhoane, the HR, the cooperative chief director is here, Mr De Beer they are here. They will do likewise on the organogram. If you check the report, we are done. The only challenge our organogram, the initial one was above our budget by four billion. You can't give me four billion. I can't take my money from my home and come here and assist that. I must get money from this Legislature.

Eighteen billion, billion. Give me 30 billion, I will do everything. One day you will be an MEC. You will feel this, this pressure. Just talking, talking. You know the role of opposition is to oppose. All the times. Either you are correct, you are right, they will oppose so that your Members must see that you are participating here. Just to oppose. Go on opposing.

Now on Honourable Sonakile, thank you very much, partly thank you very much, partly and next meeting thank you will be 100%. Why projects do not finish on time? We have identified institutional capacity as one of the factors to the delay. We are strengthening our capacity through the establishment of projects management support. We will engage the Premier and Treasury. Treasury is here. We will engage you.

We have brought stability and capacity by employing permanently just to balance chief director infrastructure is here and directors responsible for infrastructure are here. Now on corruption, you see once Member of Legislature has come here where I'm standing, and talk about corruption, there's no corruption. I'm telling you. Corruption you go to a police station. You report a case.

We are waiting for that. I can't fear the unknown. So we must go to police station. If you want me to accompany you, I will invite MEC for Police. We will go with you. Let's make an appointment of next week Tuesday and let's go there. Yeah. When you say corruption here, you are like a person singing here. We'll end up having a song called corruption because you don't bring anything on the table. You are saying corruption. Corruption on what? ... [INTERJECTION] ...

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Tsholo!

HON. ROSHO: Order!

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Tsholo! Please behave.

HON. LEHARI: Maybe Members don't understand me. I'm not saying there is no corruption at Health for now but I've never received any information about corruption. Yeah, re batla bopaki. Ha o tla mo o bolela ha o na sepe. Kore o tshwana le motho o re haa, ha o mo lebelela a didimala. So ha wa bolela sepe.

Now on security, one Member raised issue of security. If you check the report there, we said we are going to have armed security, respond team traveling all over the province once we appoint in two months' time to deal with security at facilities, for patients, to deal with security for our facilities.

In the report, something is in the report, but you further ask it about it. Why not saying can you give a clarity not saying we are not doing anything. I talked about 24/7. Those 11 clinics for 24/7, they are based on the budget you have given me, 18 billion. So you can't have everything ka that money. We are trying ourselves to have for now, for starters, it's 11 clinics. We are on a process to turn them to 24/7, 11 because of the budget dictates.

Thank you very much Honourable Magagane. We have noted monitoring maintenance plan, accruals management plan, technical reports on expenditure amongst others. We will do likewise. We have also noted the dates that you have mentioned. We will respond, they are here. This is a very hardworking team. We note with thanks and commit to submit all reports you needed.

Honourable from the same local municipality, Moema. I'm from Moeka, he's from Maubane, the end of North West. But I must also take you on the sidelines because you were reading very fast so borrow me your notes so that I will respond in writing. I don't want to respond that was something I did not hear. You were very speed like lightning ... [INAUDIBLE] ... So give me that paper Honourable. I will respond in writing.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: As you wrap up Honourable MEC.

HON. LEHARI: There are ambulances. While we agree that the current ambulances are not enough, we have demonstrated our commitment by procuring 60 ambulances, the highest in the last three years, 60 ambulances. Go and check the history of the province. We are procuring 50 ambulances now and 15 patient planned transport now. Already issued in an order for the 27 ambulances in May 2026.

Also, the issue of ambulances, I agree with Members. There's a crisis because of Treasurer will tell you, no money. You can't say I want ambulances and they give you ambulances. You must pay then you get ambulances. The challenge here is budget and then I'm part of this Legislature. I know we don't have money.

Now in future Members when you ask us, at the back of your mind you must know that there is no money. Don't ask something which is not there. I will take you slow by slow so that you must hear me. Medicine availability, the department maintained performance about 80% right through the year. The biggest challenge is more than the province but it's the disruption in SMSMC nationally and internationally but also here it's money. Sometimes I'm told they can't deliver because we have not paid the service providers. I must call the Treasury; Treasury there's no money.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: MEC.

HON. LEHARI: Thank you.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Your time is up.

HON. LEHARI: Thank you. The rest I will see them at supper there.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Thank you MEC. Honourable Members, can we adopt the report of the Portfolio Committee?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Thank you very much Honourable Members. The report has been adopted. Thank you very much Honourable Members. I will now call roll call in terms of Rule 245, Sub-section (1) to determine the quorum. Honourable Babuile? Honourable Bogatsu? Honourable Botswe? Honourable Dabampe? Honourable Dantjie?

HON. DANTJIE: Present Honourable Chair of Chairs.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Dial? Honourable Groenewald?

HON. GROENEWALD: Ek is hier dankie CoC.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Khonou?

HON. KHONOU: Present CoC.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Kodisang? Honourable Lehari?

HON. LEHARI: Present CoC.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Lenkopane?

HON. LENKOPANE: Ke teng Mma.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Magagane?

HON. MAGAGANE: Ke teng Mme.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Maine?

HON. MAINE: Present CoC.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Makgokgowa? Honourable Matshe?

HON. MATSHE: Ke teng.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Matuane?

HON. MATUANE: Present.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Mme Modise? Ke teng. Honourable Moema?

HON. MOEMA: Ke teng.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Mohono?

HON. MOHONO: Present CoC.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Mokgosi?

HON. MOKGOSI: Present CoC.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Mokua?

HON. MOKUA: Ke teng CoC.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Molapisi?

HON. MOLAPISI: Ke teng Mma.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Morweng?

HON. MORWENG: Present CoC.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Mosenogi?

HON. MOSENOGI: Boeteledipele ka kakaretso bo teng Modulasetulo wa Baduladitulo.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Motsumi?

HON. MOTSUMI: Present CoC.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Oliphant?

HON. OLIPHANT: Present.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Rosho?

HON. ROSHO: Ke teng CoC.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Sambatha?

HON. SAMBATHA: Ndikhona ... [INAUDIBLE] ...

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Sebegoe?

HON. SEBEGOE: Present CoC.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Sonakile?

HON. SONAKILE: Present CoC.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Sonti? Hebanna. Honourable Steenkamp?

HON. STEENKAMP: I'm present CoC.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Steyl? Honourable Tlhapi?

HON. TLHAPI: Ke teng CoC.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Tsholo?

HON. TSHOLO: Teenwoordig Agbare Voorsitter van Voorsitters.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Van Huyssteen? Honourable Wallhorn?

HON. WALLHORN: Teenwoordig CoC.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Honourable Williams? Honourable Members, I believe I satisfied myself that majority of Members are present in the House to adopt the budget. Honourable

Members, we will now adopt the budget programme by programme. Let me start Programme 1 Administration, 1 211 977 000 Rand. Does the House adopt?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Come again?

HON. ROSHO: Speaker, you said nine.

HON. SEBEGOE: Eight hundred and seventy-seven instead of nine.

HON. ROSHO: Yeah, instead of nine.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: 1 211 877 000 Rand?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Programme 2 District Health Services, 9 257 085 000 Rand? Does the House adopt?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Programme 3 Emergency Medical Services, 556 799 000 Rand?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Programme 4 Provincial Hospital Services, 2 442 389 000 Rand.
Does the House adopt the budget for Programme 4?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Programme 5 Central Hospital Services, 2 811 525 000 Rand. Does
the House adopt for Programme 5?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Programme 6 Health Science and Training, 310 435 000 Rand.
Does the House adopt the budget for Programme 6?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Programme 7 Health Care Support Services, 909 957 000 Rand.
Does the House adopt Programme 7?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Programme 8 Health Facilities Maintenance 727 001 000 Rand?

HON. ROSHO: One thousand Rands.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: One thousand Rands. Does the House adopt the Programme 8?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. CHAIR OF CHAIRS: Thank you Honourable Members. The Department of Health Vote 3 for 226/27 total is 18 227 068 000 Rand is now adopted. Thank you very much Honourable Members. This brings us to the end of today's business. The sitting is adjourned until tomorrow di-24 June, nine o' clock sharp.

HOUSE ADJOURNED!