REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

LEGISLATURE OF THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE

THURSDAY, 12 MARCH 2026

09H00

EDITED

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

Thank you, you may be seated. Honourable Members, this sitting is specifically convened to allow the MEC for Finance to deliver the Provincial Budget Speech and for the House to consider the Money Bill as required by the Standing Rules.

Honourable Members, I evoke Rule 47 of the Standing Rules of the North West Provincial Legislature to give access for non-members of the Legislature to occupy seats that are ordinary reserved for members for the duration of the sitting.

Secretary, you may read the next order.

SECRETARY: ORDER NO. 2, PROCEEDINGS ON BILL
2.1. NORTH WEST APPROPRIATION BILL 2026
INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Secretary. Honourable Members, I will now call on Honourable Mosenogi to introduce and table the North West Appropriation Bill, 2026 for consideration by the House. Honourable Mosenogi, you have 40 minutes.

HON. MOSENOGI: *Ke a leboga Mmusakgotla***.** Honourable Speaker, Dr. Sebonta *sa* Mmaasona Mohono, the Deputy Speaker, Ntate Collen Mokone Maine, the Honourable Premier, Ntate Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi, the Provincial Chairperson of the African National Congress, Ntate Dumile Nono Maloyi, Members of the Executive Council, Members of the Provincial Legislature, the Chairperson of House of Traditional and KhoiSan Leaders, Kgosi Thari Maotwe II, Mayors and Executive Mayors, Members of the Mayoral Committees responsible for finance, Chairpersons of MPACS Across all the municipalities, *baagi ba Bokone Bophirima,* Comrades and friends, *dumelang.*

Honourable Speaker, thirty years ago the founding father of our democratic nation Nelson Mandela, signed into law the country's democratic Constitution marking a turning point in our socio-economic and political trajectory.

The historic and symbolic moment held in Kliptown in 1996, affirmed the long-standing resolve of our forebears who in 1955 proclaimed that **"South Africa belongs to all who live in it Black and White."**

This bold pronouncement taken under the harsh conditions of minority rule and racial exclusion culminated in the establishment of a society based on democratic values, social justice, and fundamental human rights to provide equal rights and opportunities to all people.

It is the strength, sweat and blood of the 1956 August Women's March as well as the 1976 June 16 Activists which continues to nourish our democratic gains. These acts of resilience have laid a firm foundation in our continued endeavours to unite our people by creating conditions that will make women and young people in particular to witness the full realization of our national democratic project.

This important milestone, which also coincides with Human Rights Month held under the theme, **"Bill of Rights at 30, Making Human Dignity Real",** impresses upon us not to relent on our ongoing efforts of ensuring that the poor and economically marginalised benefits from the promises of our Constitutional Democracy in every practical sense and measurable way.

The values of dignity, equality, and social justice, as espoused in the preamble of the Constitution must energise our revolutionary consciousness and serve as a moral compass for how we allocate resources.

Honourable Speaker, guided by the country's national priorities, this Budget is designed to translate our constitutional rights into lived realities of our people whose dreams and aspirations remain etched in our National Democratic Revolution.

This commitment, as explained by Premier Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi during the Debate on State of the Nation Address, "is not merely about catchphrases and how revolutionary we sound to sway public opinion. But to turn the tide against challenges of unemployment and poverty afflicting our communities".

Honourable Speaker, through targeted investments in education, healthcare, infrastructure development, economic revitalisation, empowerment of women and youth, and people with disability or living with disability, we are making deliberate fiscal choices to advance and consolidate our developmental trajectory.

This includes inclusive growth, job creation, poverty alleviation as well as strengthening the capability of the state to reverse past injustices by creating a better life for all. The Mid-year Population Estimates of 2025 report by Statistics South Africa highlighted that North West Province has a population of about 4.18 million which constitutes 6.6% of South African population. About half of the residents of the province are living in poverty and depend on government intervention and reminisce of their livelihood.

Therefore, the budget proposals being tabled today are primarily aimed at finding lasting solutions to these challenges with municipalities playing a central role in bettering the lives of our people through transformation of our economy.

tekanyetsokabo eno e itshegeditse thata ka ditshweetso tse di tshotsweng ke khuduthamaga ya porofense ka nako ya fa e ne e ithuna dinta kwa kgotha-kgotheng ya porofense ya dipusoselegae go tokafatsa dimasepala le matshelo a baagi ba rona.
Mmusa-Kgotla, ka jalo

Honourable Speaker, therefore, this budget is firmly anchored on the provincial government's position to fix local government and transform the economy as articulated by the Honourable Premier during the 2026 State of the Province Address. The budget proposals being tabled have been deliberately crafted to translate those resolutions into actions and measurable outcomes for the people of the province.

The budget we table today for the North West Province totals R179,3 billion over the medium term. This reflects an average annual growth rate of 2.1%, with allocations rising from R58,5 billion in 2026/27 financial year to R5,6 billion in 2027/28 and concluding at R61,2 billion in the final year of the MTEF period. The budget is presented against the backdrop of a significant R3,6 billion reduction, which was implemented over the 2025 MTEF.

This reduction stems from data updates on Provincial Equitable Share formula, which has negatively affected our province's baseline allocation and consequently, our capacity to fully address core provincial priorities. The province engaged National Treasury through both the Technical Committee on Finance and Budget Council to explain the negative implications of this reduction on the ability of the province to fulfil its mandate and the priorities of the Seventh Administration.

Honourable Speaker, as a result of our robust engagements, the province has received an additional amount of R1,8 billion as a cushion to mitigate the impact of these reductions. The additional allocation was distributed during the adjustment budget and over the MTEF.

As such we will ensure that money is spent wisely to achieve the intended objectives of government of expediting provision of services in our municipalities while advocating for good ethical practices. In this regard we are encouraged by the 2024/2025 municipal audit outcomes, that while challenges in local government remain, the trajectory of reform is shifting.

Over the past five financial years, the province has recorded a significant reduction in disclaimer audit opinion declining from 9 in 2020/2021 to 1 in 2024/2025. In addition, the number of municipalities receiving unqualified with findings opinions increased to 6 in 2024/2025 compared to 3 in previous MFMA audit circle.

Notably, Mamusa Local Municipality improved significantly from seven 7 disclaimer audit opinions in a row, followed by an adverse audit opinion for 2023/2024 to a qualified opinion in 2024/2025 financial year. This performance reflects a meaningful and measurable shift in the municipalities.

Honourable Speaker, in 2021/2022 financial year, only 5 municipalities in the province adopted funded budgets in full compliance with Section 18 of the MFMA. The number has increased to 9 funded budgets in 2025/26 financial year.

These encouraging signs are further bolstered by the implementation of various legislations by the provincial government to make municipalities workable and position them as organs that will reincarnate economic activities and create jobs.

Our efforts in striving towards good governance practices in the provincial government is also gaining traction at a faster pace. The provincial departments audit outcomes for the financial year which ended 31st of March 2025 saw 10 provincial departments and the Provincial Legislature received unqualified audit opinions, whilst these were 2 qualified audit opinions.

It is worth noting that the Provincial Treasury, Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation and the Northwest Provincial Legislature maintained their clean audit opinions. The public entities audit outcomes saw 6 entities receiving unqualified audit opinions with no material findings, that is clean audit opinions.

They are Kgama Wildlife, Agribank, Youth Enterprise Services, Klein Marico Recreation Centre, Donkervliet Recreation Centre and North West Gambling Board. Two entities received unqualified audit opinions, while 2 entities received qualified opinions and 4 entities received disclaimer audit opinions.

Honourable Speaker, the announcement by Minister of Finance, Enoch Godongwana of an estimated 1.6% growth rate this year, supported by investment due to the competitive interest rates and reliable electricity supply gives credence to our assertion that indeed the tide is turning.

This is exemplified by the 78 000 jobs created in quarter 3 and 4 of 2025. This upward trajectory which marks the reduction of the official unemployment rate by over 6% in the province strengthens our position to direct our resources to infrastructure projects to attract investments and create much needed jobs.

During the State of the Nation Address, His Excellency President Cyril Ramphosa made a similar observation when he said, “Our economy is growing again, and this growth is gathering pace, as the economy grows the rate of unemployment is starting to decline”. Over the medium term, National Treasury projects growth to average 1,8%, reaching 2% by 2028.

We are however concerned about the current geo-political conflict between United States and Iran, which has potential to result in surge of oil prices. This will have spill over effect in global food prices, inflation rates and currency fluctuations. But all is not lost as the increase in the demand for platinum and gold will bring positive spinoffs and a multiplier effect that will contribute immensely to our job creation initiatives.

Honourable Speaker, following the approval of accrual strategy by the Executive Council, which its implementation is mandatory, non-cash backs accruals from previous financial years will be addressed separately and will not form part of allocations for the current financial year.

Furthermore, to address spending agencies overcommitting beyond the monthly cash flow projections approved by the Provincial Treasury, it has been agreed with the respective Accounting Officers who are here today that henceforth departments will have to strictly adhere to the approved monthly cash flow projections in line with the Public Finance Management Act provisions and Treasury Regulations.

Honourable Speaker, the compliance of the Provincial Revenue Enhancement Strategy is at an advanced stage and is expected to be finalised once all the departments inputs have been received and all relevant parties are consulted. Key interventions to improve the provincial revenue enhancement will include;

- Optimising own revenue sources by implementing market related tariffs, updating fee structures and improving billing and debt collection systems;

- Enhancing compliance and enforcement through stronger debt recovery and stricter penalties;
- Leveraging state assets by commercialising underutilised properties, conducting asset audits and pursuing public private partnerships; and
- Expanding the revenue base through innovative measures such as digital platforms and sustainable green projects.

Honourable Speaker, the constrained fiscal envelope continues to exert pressure on the 2026 Medium Term Expenditure Framework. As a result, the maximisation of own revenue has become a critical strategy for the province. To ensure optimal collection against approved revenue budgets, Provincial Treasury will enforce stricter accountability measures, where departments are undercollecting revenue without justifiable reasons, the shortfall will be recovered from the first tranche of their budget transfer.

This measure will compel departments to implement credible and effective revenue enhancement strategies and prevent the recurrence of under collection. These interventions are necessary to avoid unfunded budgets, protect fiscal discipline and to safeguard service delivery in the province.

Honourable Speaker, the province has allocated over R100 billion since the inception of the Seventh Administration. The administration hit the ground running and achieved various key milestones amongst others.

The province in its quest to tackle the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality has in the past two years taken a deliberate effort to focus on programmes that empower designated groups and others that seek to improve socio-economic conditions of our people. The following key milestones have been achieved over the two years while others are continuing well into the 2026/2027 financial year and onwards.

The repatriation of the remains of our struggle stalwarts who died in exile is a solemn and necessary act of national restoration, by bringing them home, we honour their courage, restore their rightful place in the history of our nation and give their families and communities the dignity of closure.

It is in this regard that the provincial government undertook the repatriation and reburial of human remains of our fallen liberation stalwarts Mr Aaron Tiro from Zimbabwe and Mr Mabe Klaas Bogosing from Zambia. They were both reburied in Lekubu village outside Zeerust in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District on the 07 December 2024.

In an endeavour to empower and upskill military veterans, the provincial government has trained over 30 Military Veterans on manuscript writing in Vryburg in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality.

Five libraries have been built in rural communities of Migdol in Mamusa Local Municipality, Uitkyk and Madibe-a-Makgabane Community Libraries in Mahikeng Local Municipality, Mmatau Village in Moses Kotane Local Municipality and Redirile in Kgetleng-Rivier Local Municipality in Derby and are ready for use.

Another community library in Maquassie Hills Local Municipality is on practical completion and will be finalised and ready for occupation in the 2026/2027 financial year. One sport complex has been completed and functional in Manthe Village in Greater Taung, as well as a cultural village in Dinokana in Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality.

The libraries and sports facilities will assist our rural communities to promote a culture of reading as well as prevent the community members especially scholars from travelling long distances to access these facilities.

An amount of R5.1 billion, which is 43% and R1.9 billion, 17% of the provincial procurement spent on women and youth owned businesses for the 2024/2025 financial year for the benefit of 3 129 women-owned and 2 608 youth-owned enterprises.

For the 2025/2026 financial year we are confident that R4,9 billion, which is 43% and R1,9 billion which is 17% that had already been spent on 2 508 women owned and 2 110 youth owned businesses by the end of December 2025 would have significantly increased by the end of the financial year.

Through the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, an amount of R148,1 million has proportionally being shared amongst women, youth and people with disabilities for infrastructure production inputs, training, capacity building as well as Kaonofatso ya Dikgomo over the 2025 MTEF period.

Job creation and economic empowerment initiatives have demonstrated that the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has created 292 jobs in 2024/2025 financial year and is targeting creation of 356 jobs as part of the accelerated growth of strategic industrial and labour-intensive sector.

Through the Empowerment Fund, the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism supported 9 businesses in 2025 and 11 businesses in the 3rd quarter 2025/2026, aimed at supporting small businesses with production machinery and equipment to sustain and grow the economy such as sewing, embroidery machines, water purification equipment, brick making equipment, catering equipment and computers amongst others.

To promote the township and rural businesses, informal and socioeconomic program, bakery, smart tuckshops and mobile kitchens, about 25 informal traders were supported with various interventions. The programme supports the stimulation of socio-economic development through the support of informal traders, co-operatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

During 2025/2026 financial year 30 SMME's were incubated successfully with another thirty 30 to be incubated during the 4th quarter in 2025/26, with an allocation of R4,317 million. The Incubation Programme is a collaborative effort between DEDECT, Young Africa Enterprise Institute, the North West University and other stakeholders to drive youth entrepreneurship.

In 2024/25 the Department of Health invested in high-end capital equipment to strengthen oncology and surgical services. Mammogramm machines were procured by Joe Morolong, Job Shimankane Tabane and Potchefstroom Hospital at a cost of about R16 million.

A Brachytherapy Unit was installed at a cost of R15 million, enabling precise radiation treatment for cervical and prostate cancers with minimum discomfort as part of the modernization of Tertiary Health Care Services.

The Phokeng Forensic Mortuary was successfully completed and officially opened for operations on 5th February 2025 with the total cost of R44 million. The Department of Health acquired 25 ambulances in 2023/2024, followed by 3 ambulances in 2024/2025, and increased with additional 60 ambulances in 2025/2026. Furthermore, the Planned Patient Transport vehicles have increased with 39 additional vehicles to ensure rapid response and transport for critically ill patients.

The Department of Education spent R11 billion to provide 92 344 girl learners in quarter 1 to 3 and special schools with sanitary dignity towels. Furthermore, the department has provided 750 000 to 790 000 learners with free education through no fee schools policy and will continue to do the same in the next financial year by increasing the number to 754 272 learners.

In addition, 46 840 children have accessed the ECD centres in 2024/2025 and targeting 50 000 children in the next financial year with an aggregate budget of R480,9 million. In the 2024/2025 financial year, the Department of Social Development funded 302 Non-profit Organisation to the tune of R241 million. Resultantly, the department created 1 421 work opportunities. 14 305 food parcels were distributed including insecure households and individuals experiencing distress, undue hardships and those affected by disasters.

8 335 indigent learners and women benefitted from the departmental provision of sanitary dignity packs in 2024/2025 financial year. In the last 2024/2025 financial year, the department funded 133 service clubs reaching 8 190 older persons.

In terms of Community Safety and Transport Management, spent R447 million in 2024/2025 and R459 million in 2025/2026 in providing scholar transport, benefitting 51 758 and 64 665 learners, respectively.

Honourable Speaker, since the 2024/2025 financial year to the end of the 2025/2026 financial year, the provincial government has continued to prioritise investment in transport infrastructure as a catalyst for economic development, improved mobility, and job creation.

The province has completed road infrastructure projects across our municipalities which collectively generated 401 work opportunities for our communities. The combined contract value of these projects amounts to approximately R939 million, demonstrating the province's continued commitment to improving the condition of our road network.

Amongst the most significant projects delivered during this period are:

- The upgrading of Road D201 from Pampierstad to Matlapeng, covering approximately 24 kilometres, with an investment of about R168,8 million.
- The special maintenance of Road P1521 between Setlagole and Delareyville, covering 28 kilometres, valued at approximately R168,7 million.
- The upgrade of Road Z374 from Austrey to Goodwood, a 24 kilometres project valued at R130 million.
- The rehabilitation of the Bethanie–Brits corridor and Roads D109 and D519, spending approximately 23 kilometres road network with a contract value of over R106 million.
- And the special maintenance of Road P47/2 in Koster area, valued at over R103 million, including access and mobility for surrounding communities.

These projects represent safer roads, improved connectivity for rural communities, better access to economic opportunities and strengthened regional transport corridors.

Honourable Speaker, guided by the Programme of Action for the 2026/2027 financial year, this budget proposal supports the implementation of the service delivery action plan as indicated earlier adopted at the Provincial *Kgotakgote* and the National Indaba.

This budget gives concrete expression of our collective commitment to rebuild capable responsive and accountable local government.

Honourable Speaker, the allocation of R712,6 million in respect of Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs proposed seeks to enable the department to continue providing support to municipalities and traditional councils. An amount of R25 million over the MTEF has been earmarked to support Traditional Councils for construction of new offices, R10 million in 2026/2027 and R5 million in 2027/2028 financial years for maintenance of offices.

The allocation will also be used to procure vehicles for traditional leaders whereby R14 million is set aside for that purpose as well as to implement phase three of the Municipal Monitoring System Dashboard.

The Provincial Treasury is allocated R659,1 million, R643,2 million and R636,6 million over the MTEF. The Department will use R15 million thereof to implement Section 6 of the PFM in terms of the scholar transport under Community Safety

An amount of R15 million has been set aside for operationalisation of the Development Fund and R10 million in the first two years is set aside for capacity assistance programme in municipalities and Traditional Council to strengthen their BTO's.

Office of the Premier is allocated R633,7 million, R647 million and R615,5 million over the MTEF to support and conduct oversight on government institutions within the province. Following the approval of SMARTGOV by the Executive Council, an amount of R110 million has been allocated for this initiative in the first two years of the MTEF.

The Provincial Legislature receives R549,6 million to execute its programmes. The allocation considers a baseline adjustment of R10 million in 2026/2027 and 2027/2028 financial years, that will also address budget pressures in Political Party funding, Constituency Allowance, Committee work, Public Hearings, Salaries and other related Legislature activities critical expenditure items.

The budget for scholar transport within the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management has been increased by R50 million in 2026/2027 and R20 million in 2027/2028 mainly to deal with accruals, and therefore the budget for this programme amounts to R500 million and R490 million in those financial years respectively and increases to R480 million in the outer year decease.

An amount of R2,3 billion is allocated over the MTEF for Community Bus Subsidies. The total budget for this department is therefore R2,6 billion in 2026/2027, R2,6 billion in 2027/2028 and R2,7 billion in 2028/2029 financial years.

Honourable Speaker, the successful implementation of the interventions to improve governance will not only stabilise local government but will also serve as a catalyst for economic renewal across our province.

When municipalities function effectively, infrastructure projects move from plans on paper to construction sites that create jobs, stimulate local enterprise, attract and unlock investment opportunities.

An amount of R1 billion is allocated to the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism. This will enable the department to implement programmes to scaleup and coordinate support to MSME's, co-operatives and increase the number of competitive small enterprises by intensifying support intervention to focus on women, youth and persons living with disabilities.

The department will further strengthen support infrastructure by establishing 7 Enterprise Support Centres over the 2026 MTEF. To date 6 Enterprise Information Centres were sustained with a total of 11 jobs created for women and children for performing businesses development and support services to enterprises and communities.

As was articulated by Premier Mokgosi during the SOPA debate, R40 million has been made available to fund the SEZ of which about R20 million will assist with project preparation which includes professional services and relevant studies as well as project designs.

Honourable Speaker, the Financial Viability Assessment conducted for North West Development Corporation has been finalized. The Implementation is under way, and the transformation will require sustained commitment, adequate resources and strong leadership. The successful implementation will create a financially sustainable and developmentally impactful organization that effectively fulfils its mandate. This programme will be rolled out to other public entities which process will be done in a phased-in approach.

Mmusakgotla, mo dikgweding di le mmalwa tse di fetileng, naga ya rona e itemogetse leroborobo la bolwetsi jwa diruiwa jwa molomo le tlhakwana jo bo garaswantseng diruiwa. Seno se amile thekiso ya nama e khibidu mo bagwebing ba prorofense. Go fitlha Tlhakole a phirima, Lefapha la Temothuo le Tlhabololo Ya Metseselegae le tsibogetse dikgetse di ka nna lekgolo, masome a matlhano le borobedi (158).

In response to this pandemic, South Africa received 2,5 million vaccines from Turkey and North West Province received a share of 100 000 vaccines, which is extremely far less than the demand. The department had set aside R12.3 million over the 2026 MTEF period to augment what is being availed by national government.

To provide producer support services for sustainable agricultural development in line with the National Policy on Comprehensive Producer Development Support, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has supported 18 beneficiaries in the red meat commodity in 2024/25, to ensure continuity across agricultural value chain and participation of the province in the red meat export market the department has set aside R157,6 million over the 2026 MTEF period.

Mmusakgotla, phiri o rile ga bose gangwe, masa ke masamasa. Ka go rialo re a tlhaloganya gore moso o a beelwa.

The Department has refurbished 50 000 tons of Grain Storage Facility in Springbokpan. The facility is aimed at providing storage for the provincial farming community that cultivates hectares in the vicinity of the silo. The department had set aside an amount of R23. million for both 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 financial years for completion of electrical fence.

Furthermore, the department has set aside R31,2 million over the 2026 MTEF period for execution of civil and structural work in an effort of operationalising the silo. Therefore, the department receives R1,2 billion for the 2026/2027, R1.3 billion for 2027/2028 and R1.3 billion for 2028/2029 financial year.

Honourable Speaker, the Department of Public Works is allocated R4 billion in 2026/2027, R3,6 billion in 2027/2028 and R3,8 billion in 2028/2029. Included in the 2026/2027 allocation is an amount R115 million for road maintenance, contractor development and procurement of pothole patching equipment.

An amount of R277,4 million has been set aside for 2026/2027 financial year for rural roads and increased to R298,9 million in the outer year. The high unemployment rate remains a challenge and we believe that by investing in infrastructure it will help in alleviating poverty and creation of unemployment.

And furthermore, as part of our ongoing effort and in addition to other interventions or job creation initiatives, about R55,4 million has been set aside for EPWP to create 20 859 jobs throughout the province.

Social transformation remains at the heart of building a caring, inclusive and capable society. Through targeted investments in Health, Education, Social Development and Human Settlements, the budget reaffirms the provincial government's determination to improve the quality of lives of our people ensuring that no community is left behind.

Honourable Speaker, the Department of Education receives R24,2 billion in 2026/2027 increased to R24,9 billion and R25,6 billion in the outer two years of the MTEF period. This allocation is made to ensure that learners have access to quality education as well as pro-poor initiatives like provision of school meals and implementation of no-fee school policy. Therefore, the allocated budget will be used to provide meals to learners across the four districts with an amount of R746,9 million in 2026/2027.

Ensuring that girl learners receive uninterrupted education, an amount of R21,1 million, R22 million and R22,7 million annually over the MTEF will be used to procure sanitary dignity towels.

Early Childhood Development is a foundation for future skills development and securing future economic participation and growth. This allocation makes provision of about R1,2 billion in respect of Early Childhood Development to cater for both centre-based and non-centre based ECD centres.

The allocations sustain the subsidy increase from R17 to R24 for centre-based programmes and from R6 to R9 for non-centre-based programmes as pronounced in the 2025 budget. We however acknowledge that not all children in the province are accessing these services, as we call upon the department to ensure that it develops a strategy to ensure that all children have access to ECD programmes as required by Basic Education Laws Amendment Act.

An amount of R221 million in 2026/2027, R230,8 million in 2027/2028 and R237,1 million for 2028/2029 is allocated to the Department of Education to address spending pressures on compensation of employees. In addition, an amount of R21,3 million has been provided in the 2026/2027 towards the Teacher Assistants Programme based on the Presidential Employment Stimulus.

Honourable Speaker, the Department of Human Settlements receives R1,7 billion in 2026/2027, R1,7 billion in 2027/2028 and R1,8 billion in 2028/2029 financial years. This allocation will assist the department to render much needed services in terms of construction of habitable houses, upgrading of informal settlements, issuing of title deeds and assisting those who cannot afford housing bonds to participate in the First Home Finance scheme.

The allocation of the department will also be used to eradicate mud houses and remove asbestos roofs in old townships. The target for both Human Settlements Development Grant and Informal Settlement Upgrading Partnership Grant is 3 269 serviced sites and 3 793 housing units.

An amount of R18,2 billion is allocated to the Department of Health in 2026/2027, R18,6 billion for 2027/2028 and R19,1 billion for 2028/2029 financial year. The department maintain the employment of health professionals through an additional amount of R123,3 million. Allocations of R274,9 million and R82,9 million have been sustained over the MTEF in respect of Community Health Workers and payments for accruals respectively.

Emergency Medical and Rescue Services allocations over the MTEF is R546,6 million in 2026/2027, R549,7 million in 2027/2028 and R574,5 million in 2028/2029.

The Department of Health receives R481,2 million in 2026/2027, R493,8 million in 2027/2028 and R507,3 million in 2028/2029 to fund compensation of employees's costs, shortfalls on goods and services expenditure and for the employment of medical doctors.

Included in this budget provision is an amount of R38 million in the 2026/2027 financial year for the acquisition of Magnetic Resonance Imaging, MRI Scan for the modernization of Tertiary Health Care Services for Mahikeng Provincial Hospital, thus expanding tertiary services in the capital of the province.

The Department will improve its capacity to provide mental health services to the people of the province through the allocation of the National Health Insurance Grant. The funding of this service is R34,1 million in 2026/2027, R35,6 million in 2027/2028 and R36,8 million in 2028/2029 financial years.

The Provincial *Tshela ka Itekanelo* Campaign, integrated into World AIDS Day and other community outreach programmes like *Thuntsha Lerole*, promotes health education, physical activity and preventative health screening.

To enable the department to continue and implement effective awareness and response to HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and cervical cancer, the department receives an allocation of R1,9 billion in 2026/2027, R2 billion in 2027/2028 and R2,1 billion on 2028/2029 for the District Health Programmes Grant.

Honourable Speaker, the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation is allocated R860,2 million in 2026/2027 financial year to carry out the fundamental mandate to build an active, winning, creative, and socially cohesive society, where all residents of our province can thrive through arts, culture, heritage, language, sport, and recreation.

The department further receives R876,1 million for 2027/2028 and R854,7 million for 2028/2029 financial years.

Included in this allocation is an additional amount of R50 million for first two years of the MTEF to support sports, arts and culture activities, among others support to artists mega events, federations, disability sports development programmes on rural games and film development.

The department will continue to focus on the provision of sustainable mass participation opportunities across the age spectrum to promote physically activity lifestyles, whilst providing support to institutions and infrastructure that increases participation and excellence in sports.

The budget for Sports and Recreation Programme amounts to R187,2 million in 2026/2027, and R195,3 million for the 2027/2028 and R187,2 million allocated in 2028/2029 financial years. This allocation includes additional amount of R20 million over the MTEF to support athletes and federations.

Honourable speaker, the Department of Social Development receives R1,9 billion in 2026/2027 which is inclusive of an additional R50 million for compensation of employees and goods and services. The department will further be allocated R2 billion for each of the last two years of the MTEF.

The department is continuously engaging the NPO's with the focus on empowering and capacitating both funded and unfunded NPO's on compliance matters and programme specific norms and standards. To fund NPO's, over the MTEF the budget sets aside R239,1 million for 2026/2027, R225,3 million for 2027/2028 and R256,3 million for 2028/2029 financial years.

In an endeavour to rid the scourge of gender-based violence within the province, the department will implement community outreach prevention programmes, in partnership with 20 Non-Profit Organisations that are spread across the four districts.

The allocation for the Victim Empowerment that caters for the needs of victims of GBV amounts to R21,3 million in 2026/2027, R22,3 million in 2027/2028 and R23,3 million in the 2028/2029 financial years.

Honourable Speaker, on substance abuse, the department works closely with the Department of Health to provide detoxification services to ensure that all users receive comprehensive and quality services.

To sustain the treatment of substance use disorder, R87,4 million has been set aside in 2026/2027, R93,2 million in 2027/2028 and R97,4 million in 2028/2029 financial years.

This budget also provides for behavioural rehabilitative interventions through provision of accredited therapeutic and developmental diversions through crime prevention programmes. The related funding thereof amounts to R137,1 million in 2026/2027, R141,6 million in 2027/2028 and R143,2 million in the 2028/2029 financial years.

Honourable Speaker**,** through the national grant system, an estimated R2,9 billion has been allocated directly to municipalities in the province for water services infrastructure. This includes the R897 million 'B' Component of Municipal Infrastructure Grant, which is ring-fenced for water service provision in municipalities.

Accordingly, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs must ensure that sufficient portions of their MIG is allocated towards water services. This will help ensure that we avert the need for provincial intervention and most importantly, secure reliable water services for our communities.

In respect of the Early Retirement and Voluntary Exit Programmes, for employees with 10 or more years in public service, National Treasury has approved 489 applications to the value of R217,5 million which will be distributed in 2026/2027 to the affected departments.

The programme will fund the cost of the pension penalty waiver to the Government Employee Pension Funds, cost associated with additional financial incentive for employees aged 55 to 59 years, 60 to 63 years. Departments are urged to ensure that other costs not covered by National Treasury, including leave gratuity and resettlements are provided within their baselines.

Honourable Speaker, to ensure compliance, transparency and accountability in the utilisation of public resources in line with Section 217 of the Constitution, the Provincial Treasury will intensify measures already communicated through provincial and National Treasury, PFMA Instruction Notes already issued regarding publication of bids awarded.

This will include disclosing, in the North West Provincial Government website, particulars of received and awarded bids in response to all advertised tenders in addition to other platforms where provincial institutions would have been communicated in terms of treasury regulations.

The Provincial Treasury has prioritised the strengthening and capacitation of its Infrastructure Management Unit to oversee and monitor infrastructure projects in municipalities. A review of the current structure will be undertaken to ensure that the unit is able to extend oversight into infrastructure projects within municipalities as well. This will include the establishment of a dedicated capacity unit to monitor municipal infrastructure performance, while keeping focus on provincial department.

Honourable Speaker, the strengthening of accountability measures in the implementation of infrastructure projects is of paramount importance. The law provides adequate enabling provisions to pursue contractors who accept public projects but fail to perform according to their contractual obligations or wilfully engage in conduct that is prohibited by amongst others, the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Practices Act and Competition Act.

Where necessary, we will invoke available legal provisions and take actions against such contractors, including but not limited to blacklisting and instituting other recovery measures available in law, to ensure that public resources are safeguarded.

We further call on all accounting officers to strengthen project and contract management including monitoring within their institutions and to escalate challenges to the Provincial Treasury where necessary for purposes of further direction. This must include taking appropriate steps to recover funds from companies that are negligent or failed to meet their contractual obligation.

Honourable Speaker, as we table this Budget, we reaffirm our commitment to fiscal responsibility, accountability and governance, and developmental impact. The allocations therefore before this House reflect our determination to strengthen service delivery, stimulate economic growth, and build a resilient province.

Our commitment in forging ahead with these pronouncements must encapsulate the principles of Batho Pele as demonstrated by Lieutenant General Baile Motswenyane who served the

South African Police Service with distinction for 35 years, a daughter of the soil who was also a Provincial Commissioner in the province and retired as a Provincial Commissioner in Free State.

As we mark 70th years of anniversary of the 9th August Women March, we are inspired by Lieutenant General Motswenyane from the dusty streets of Ikageng in Potchefstroom who defied the patriarchal barriers of our society to be one the astute police officers in our country who specialised in gender-based violence cases. Her dedication to public service and commitment to the safety of our communities leaves a lasting legacy in our province and the Free State Province. May her contribution continue to inspire us in the work of building a safer and more just society.

Honourable Speaker, let me take this opportunity to acknowledge again the leadership of the African National Congress in the province led by Comrade Dumile Maloyi for giving me the opportunity to lead the Provincial Treasury. As well as the leadership of the African National Congress Youth League, the African National Congress Women's League, the Veterans League, and all other organs of the ANC.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the Mayors, Members of the Mayoral Committee, Accounting Officers of both departments, municipalities and public entities, including Members of the Executive Council, including the Caucus of the ANC led by the Chief Whip of the House and the ANC, Mme MmaRosho. And to all other political parties represented in the House, and importantly to the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Ntate Nathan Oliphant.

And also, to the school learners, university students, and all distinguished guests gathered here today where we table the Budget. And I must also acknowledge the Chairperson of our branch, Ntate Thatayaone, who is here leading the delegation of Ward 11.

To the beloved people of North West, we commit before you today that this budget is a roadmap to the province where human dignity is not an aspiration but a reality.
Through accountable governance, measurable achievements and relentless focus on our people, we commit to delivering schools that inspire, clinics that heal, jobs that empower and infrastructure that connects.

I hereby table the following for consideration Honourable Speaker;

- The Appropriation Bill, 2026;
- The Provincial Estimate of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure;
- The 2026 Budget Speech; and
- The Socio-Economic Review and Outlook, before you.

I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Mosenogi. Does the House consider this Bill and concur that the Bill be read for the first time?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Did you hear me Honourable Babuile, do you concur? Thank you.

Thank you Honourable Members. Secretary may you please read the Bill for the first time?

SECRETARY: This Bill shall be called the North West Appropriation Bill, B02 2026.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Secretary. Honourable Members, the North West Appropriation Bill, B02 2026 stand referred to the Portfolio Committee on Premier and Finance for scrutiny and further processing.

Thank you Honourable Members, this conclude the business of the day. The sitting is adjourned until the 17th of March 2026 for the MEC's Oral Reply to Questions, the Social Cluster and the Debate on Human Right. I thank you.

THE SITTING ADJOURNED