



NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

NORTH WEST PROVINCE

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**LEGISLATURE OF THE
NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2026

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. You may be seated. Honourable Members ...
[INTERJECTION] ...

HON. ROSHO: Madam Speaker?

HON. SPEAKER: Chief Whip?

HON. ROSHO: Madam Speaker, may I rise in terms of the Rules. Rule 17 in terms of the business of today that we allow the decorum of the House to be sustained. Something unprecedented is taking place in the House. We are having guests who have been invited who are seated, others are standing.

And I think this is not how we should allow the state of the province address to proceed. And may I please plead with you Madam Speaker, humbly so, that let us sustain the decorum of the House especially with the guests who have been invited accordingly.

There is an overflow in terms of a briefing as leaders of parties, we were briefed. So, I want to request that before we proceed Madam Speaker, the decorum of the House must be maintained because this is unprecedented. Thank you very much Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Chief Whip. Our guests, order! Order! Our guests, please, we have made provision for an overflow. According to our rules, we cannot allow our guests to be standing.

HON. MOEMA: Speaker?

HON. SPEAKER: Ushers make sure that all our guests are seated. Can we allow all our guests to be seated. There is no crisis colleagues. Honourable Moema, there is no crisis, don't worry. They will definitely be seating. Thank you very much. Honourable Members, this is a beautiful day and let's rejoice in it.

I will now request the Chief Whip of the official opposition Honourable Babuile to usher in the newly sworn Member of the EFF Honourable Matuane to her seat. This is in accordance with the convention of our Legislature. Honourable Babuile can you usher in your Member.

HON. MOTSUMI: O tshwere boto a le montšha. #[she is holding a board and she is new.]#

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, can you sit!

HON. BABUILE: Honourable Speaker, it is indeed a good day.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Babuile. Can you switch off your mic. Honourable Babuile, switch off your mic. Thank you. Thank you very much Honourable Babuile. Honourable Matuane, you are welcome. You will learn along the way how we do things in the House. Don't worry. We will teach you very well. Thank you very much.

Let me take this opportunity Honourable Members and welcome all Members of the Legislature, Members of the Executive and all distinguished guests present with us today. I want to tell you, all of us, you are special and you are all beautiful this morning. But I want to take this opportunity to recognise the following guests: Mr Monageng Shima, Member of Parliament from Botswana, Nkgomotsang Masego, First Secretary of Botswana. Thank you.

Dr Monageng Sanji, High Commissioner of Botswana, Mr Mahesh Harish Kumar, the Consul General of India, Caesar Moeti Mohwasa, Minister in the Presidency of Botswana. You will pardon me if I don't call this one correctly, Rodriguez Pinelo, Ambassador of Cuba.

We also have in our midst the Chairperson of NCOP Mme Tsipane Mtsweni, I'm told she has joined us. We have the Deputy Minister in the Presidency of South Africa Deputy Minister Morolong. We have our Members of National Assembly Honourable Somphe, Honourable McGluwa, Honourable Basson, Honourable Hatting, Honourable Mokwele, Honourable Diale, Honourable Letlape, Honourable Maatlawa Senne, and Honourable Tsotetsi, Honourable Kgabo, Honourable Kegakilwe, Honourable Setlholo, Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation in our country.

And we also have got the permanent delegates of the NCOP. They are with us today. Thank you very much. This is your House. You are always welcome. And we got our traditional leadership, beng ba mmu, dikgosi tsa rona. Re na le #the owners of the soil, our Traditional Leaders. We have]# Kgosi Maotwe, the chairperson of the House. Kgosi Molotlegi couldn't make it because of Kgotha-Kgothe, o rometse Kgosanakgolo #the traditional general meeting, he sent the Chief Headman]# Tumagole le Kgosana #and the Headman] Advocate Mokate.

Re na le #[We have]# Kgosi Motlhabane, re na le #[we have]# Kgosi Zibi, re na le #[we have]# Kgosi Mogale, Kgosi Mabalane, Kgosi Moshoele, Kgosi Montshiwa, Kgosi Lekoko, Kgosi Motshegare. And from the judiciary we have our Judge President of our High Court Ronald D

Hendricks. All of you, you are our guests and we will continue to welcome you as and when you come.

We have also extended our invitation to our learners because sometimes our learners need to know what parliament is all about. They just see it on interview, on TV, not interview. We have learners from Onkgopotse Tiro Comprehension School. You are all welcomed this morning. I also want to welcome our guests who are at the overflow in our auditorium. I also welcome those who are joining us on the media platforms.

Honourable Members, this sitting is convened in terms of Section 110, Subsection 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa read in conjunction with the Rule 16 of the North West Provincial Legislature Standing Rules to allow the Premier to deliver the State of the Province Address.

Honourable Members, I have in terms of Rule 47 of the Standing Rules of the North West Provincial Legislature given non-Members access to the floor of the Chamber for the duration of this sitting. Does the House agree?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Members. I will now call on the Premier of the North West Province Honourable Mokgosi to deliver the State of the Province Address 2026. Honourable Premier, the stage is yours.

Order Honourable Members! Can you sit down! Can you sit down! Can you sit down! Honourable Dabampe, the decorum of the House. Honourable Dabampe please! Please Honourable Dabampe! Honourable Moema! Honourable Members, you can't! You can't! Let's keep the decorum of this House. That is why we are called Honourable Members. You are not called Honourable Members by default Honourable Moema. There is a reason why you are called an Honourable Member. Honourable Premier.

HON. PREMIER: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Baagi ba porofense ya #[The residents of the province of]# North West, Madame Speaker, Honourable Dr. Desbo Sebonta sa mmaasone #[Sebonta of her mother]# Mohono, Deputy Speaker, Honourable Collen Maine, the Leader of Government Business Honourable Viola Motsumi, the Chief Whip of the majority party, Honourable Motlalepula Rosho, Honourable Members of the Executive Council, all Ministers and Deputy Ministers present, I take note of acknowledged Deputy Minister in the Presidency Kenny Morolong.

The Chairperson of the NCOP Mama Refilwe, we acknowledge your presence, Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature, Honourable Members of Parliament present here today, our permanent delegates to the National Council of Provinces. The Judge President of the North West Division of the High Court, Judge Ronald Hendricks, the Minister in the Presidency from Botswana, Mr. Caesar Moeti Mohwasa, Member of Parliament in Botswana, Honourable Shima Monageng, the High Commissioner of Botswana to South Africa, Dr Sanji Monageng, the Ambassador of Cuba to South Africa, His Excellency, Rodriguez Pinelo, the Indian Consul General, His Excellency, Mr Mahesh Kumar, Mr. Nkgomotsang Masego First Secretary to Botswana High Commission.

The chairperson of SALGA in the North West Province, Councillor Khumalo Molefe, all Executive Mayors and Mayors of the North West Municipalities present here today, the Chairperson of the House of Traditional and Khoi San Leaders Kgosi Maotwe and the Executive Committee, Magosi otlhe a rona mo porofenseng ya rona, re a lo amogela; bogolo jang mo re leng teng #[all our Traditional Leaders in our province we welcome you, especially where we are at]# Kgosi Jeff Montshioa wa #[of the]# Barolong boora Tshidi Mong wa Mmu re a leboga go nna teng ga gago, #[owner of the soil, we are grateful for your presence]# the Chairperson of the African National Congress in the North West Province, my comrade Nono Maloyi.

Leaders of Faith-Based Organizations, Trade Unions and Civil Society present here today, the Vice Chancellor of the North West University, Professor Bismark Tyobeka, Director General in the Office of the Premier, Mr. Mosweu Paul Mogotlhe, Head of Departments and CEOs of Public Entities, the Acting Provincial Commissioner of the South African Police in the North West, Ntate Naidoo, the Heads of Security Services, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, my family present here, all invited guests, members of the media and fellow compatriots.

Honourable Speaker, one hundred and fifty years ago a pioneering intellectual, journalist and founding Secretary General of the African National Congress Sol Plaatje, was born on a farm in the Boschof District of the Orange Free State. He would later relocate to Mahikeng where his political acumen was nurtured by [Barolong boora](#) Tshidi.

Plaatje dedicated his adult life to the cause of restoring the dignity of oppressed South Africans. His life which is captured in various pieces of literature tells a story of an unknown man who grew into becoming a court interpreter, a linguist, and a giant of South African Literature and Politics. An internationalist who through the financial assistance of Barolong boora Tshidi crisscrossed the world meeting with political figures like W.E.B du Bois to galvanise the global community to support the abolishment of the 1913 Native Land Act.

It is this political infrastructure created by Plaatje that will later trickle down to American Pan-Africanists such as Reverend Jesse Jackson to support the African National Congress to attain political freedom. At this very moment I would like to take this opportunity and pass my heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and comrades of Reverend Jesse Jackson, who sadly passed away last week at the age of eighty-four.

Honourable Members, today we have converged in the provincial capital of our province, Mahikeng, as part of our ongoing efforts to consolidate our democratic gains. On this historic year which coincides with the 30th anniversary since the adoption of the Constitution, we renew our commitment to the furtherance of the ideals of justice and democracy grounded on human dignity, inclusivity, accountability and transparency.

As we remind ourselves of the value of our democracy, we do so conscious of the genuine expectations of our people who live in the margins of society, who yearn justifiably so, for the true realisation of its material dividends. This includes, Madam Speaker, job creation, inclusive economic growth, tackling high costs of living, improving service delivery and building a capable and ethical state.

Honourable Members, the dream for a province free of poverty, inequality and unemployment has guided our forbearers and remain as a primary task of our generation to fulfil the historic mission to deliver a national democratic society envisioned in the Freedom Charter.

The resilient echoes of the 1956 anti-pass law campaigns by the women of Ramotshere Moiloa, the spirited tenacity of the June 16, 1976, students uprising fuels our resolve to serve the people of the North West. It is their expectation to avail the resources of the state for their benefit to build a province of equal opportunities, shared prosperity and free of corruption.

Honourable Speaker, we have declared 2026 as a "Year of Decisive Action to Fix Local Government. We have also resolved how to transform the economy. As this year is earmarked for Local Government Elections, we fully commit to support the Electoral Commission to conduct free and fair elections.

Honourable Members, municipalities as often mentioned is the closest sphere of government within reach of ordinary people and affects their daily lives directly. It is also the practical location of enterprises, big or small, domestic or international. The developmental mandate of local government is derived from the Section 153 of the Constitution which amongst others places an obligation on municipalities and I quote, "to promote the social and economic development of the community".

The duty to fix local government to correct and restore its administrative functionality is important both for meeting basic needs of the people and creating enabling conditions for businesses to operate and create jobs. There is therefore a positive correlation between a functioning local government and a growing economy that works for all the people. As a result, it is our duty to restore the administrative functionality of all our municipalities by improving provision of basic services such as water, electricity, refuse removal, and road maintenance.

We are not unfairly fixated on weaknesses in local municipalities whilst ignoring our provincial government. We recognise that a seamless ecosystem of good governance is critical for all spheres of government to build a mutually reinforcing order of cooperation and interdependence.

Provincial Government is following on the example set by the National Government to improve governance by turning the tide of poor audit outcomes with nine out of 11 departments receiving unqualified and clean audit outcomes in the last audit cycle. We can confirm that all our senior managers in the provincial departments have complied with submissions on their financial disclosures. This is aimed at promoting good governance practices with emphasis on ethical

leadership. But critically to avert incidents of conflict of interest by deterring any possibility of malfeasance.

Honourable Speaker, all the Members of the Executive Council have signed agreements with the Premier to measure their performance and where there is dereliction of duty, political consequence management will ensue.

Moreover, several cases implicating government and municipal officials are being investigated by the law enforcement agencies while others are before the courts of law. Progress in relation to these matters will be announced by relevant units at an appropriate time.

Honourable Members, in the last financial year, we have spent 98% of our provincial allocation by the National Treasury. Therefore, ga go na maikutlo ape a a reng a ka letlelela madi a setšhaba go boela kwa pusong. #[there is no feeling which says it can allow the public money to go back to government]# Now this upward trend is being witnessed in the current financial year as we don't expect any money to be returned to the national fiscus. From the beginning of the 2026/2027 Financial Year, we will introduce a province-wide Smart-Gov Monitoring and Evaluation Dashboard.

Now all our departments will be integrated into a single executive oversight platform, that allows real-time tracking of performance, expenditure, and service delivery outcomes. All departments with no exception will participate in this exercise of an executive oversight in the Office of the Premier. Honourable Members, the stabilisation of the provincial government has enabled us to focus our energies on municipalities.

The encouraging signs of recovery as reflected in our audit outcomes bears testimony to the ongoing commitment of government to support municipalities through financial recovery plans, administrative support, planning and budgeting. As a consequence, municipalities such as Moses Kotane, the Taung Municipality and the JB Marks have improved from qualified to unqualified audit opinions.

We will be dedicating our ongoing efforts in assisting Bojanala Platinum and Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipalities as well as Moretele Local Municipality to move from unqualified to clean audit outcomes. These three municipalities have shown that they are serious candidates for clean audits and therefore, provincial government is going to support those three

municipalities. We also note the decrease in Disclaimer Audit Outcomes from nine municipalities in 2020/21 to only one in 2024/25 which is Ditsobotla.

Therefore, what it means is that matsapa a rona otlhe a re a tsayang go thusa dimmasepala tse tsotlhe tse re nang le tsone a simolotse go ntsha maungo #[all the efforts we make to help all the municipalities we have, have started bearing fruits.]# Therefore, re setse ka #[we are left with]# Ditsobotla. However, we are satisfied, we are satisfied Honourable Botswe with progress registered so far following the introduction of our National Cabinet Representative under Section 139 (7) of the Constitution. So far so good in Ditsobotla, let us give them a round of applause.

Now while endowed, this municipality, while endowed with sufficient private sector investments across critical industries like cement manufacturing, regional agricultural companies, poultry and more. This Municipality is a textbook example of how bad governance and instability can lead to value destruction in the local economy, deprive a municipality of revenue and consequently poor service delivery accompanied by high levels of unemployment.

Honourable Members, we will be introducing a compact of Section 154 of the Constitution in identified municipalities to strengthen their capacity in areas such as waste management and road maintenance. The Department of Public Works and Roads as well as Economic Development, Environment, Conservation, and Tourism will be seized with the responsibility to assist with the aforementioned interventions in our municipalities.

Ditsobotla and Matlosana Local Municipalities will be our starting point where our cooperation will include working with SANRAL and Farmer's organisations. Section 106 investigations into alleged acts of maladministration at the City of Matlosana, Madibeng and Tswaing have been completed with remedial actions being implemented.

In relation to Matlosana we are using other various legislative measures to stabilize the municipality. This is aimed at strengthening administrative stability and financial accounting. Furthermore, the involvement of Eskom will assist our municipalities which are grappling with load reduction, with energy efficiency and the demand management grant.

MEC Molapisi will elaborate further on these intervention measures during his Budget Speech. Through our "Adopt a Municipality" initiative the Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality has officially now signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with Infrastructure South Africa.

In the next 24 months the municipality will be working hand in glove with Infrastructure South Africa to roll-out various projects to fast-track infrastructure development, enhance technical capacity, revenue collection, and address maintenance backlogs. So Ramotshere Moiloa will be a site of construction.

Honourable Members, the Provincial Local Government Kgotha-Kgothe #[traditional general meeting]# resolutions are going to inform our Programme of Action for the 2026/2027 Financial Year. This will be done through the establishment of monitoring mechanisms to promote and oversee the effective implementation of our action plans.

We have developed a performance dashboard to track the implementation of key deliverables in the form of various infrastructure projects. Bagaetsho #[My people]#, in this regard we are already making progress with the construction and completion of various water projects in our communities, Honourable Botswe.

We have recently introduced a contractor in Seweding village in Mahikeng to deal with the challenges of sewer spillages in the area. We want to take this opportunity to profusely apologise to our residents for this setback, which equally has been a result of various acts of vandalism and criminality. We have since reported the matter to the South African Police Services to follow all leads in arresting the perpetrators of this heinous crime of depriving our people dignity by ensuring that they vandalise and steal all the infrastructure in that area.

Honourable Members, the upgraded Bulk Water Supply Scheme in Rustenburg Local Municipality, will increase provision of water services in the villages of Bethanie, Modikoe, Berseba and Makolokwe. The second phase of the project is scheduled to commence next month to ensure uninterrupted supply of water to over one hundred and forty thousand residents in that area.

This project, Honourable Speaker, is being implemented by Magalies Water Board in collaboration with Glencore Rhovan PSV Mine. Honourable Speaker, this gives credence to our long standing resolve on how Social Labour Plans can foster socio-economic development in our communities.

Honourable Speaker, Operation Bulela Metsi #[turn on the water]# remains a critical initiative to fast-track and bolster our efforts of ensuring equitable access to this precious resource. To date

we have spent close to three hundred million for water and sanitation projects in Maquassi Hills, and the villages of Segakwaneng, Manamakgotheng, Pahalane, Makoshong in Moretele Local Municipality but also in Kokomeng, Khudutlou, Molelema and Longaneng in the Taung Local Municipality. An additional 1.9 billion rand has been set aside for ongoing bulk water supply projects in Madibeng, Ratlou, Mahikeng and Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipalities.

Honourable Members, restoring the dignity of our people through provision of houses remain one of the apex priorities of government. We fully acknowledge and are aware of the push and pull factors that drive the developmental path of our province in distressed mining towns and in particular lack of housing.

In response to these challenges, we have committed over five hundred million rand for the construction of 1 148 housing units in Madibeng, Moses Kotane and City of Matlosana where we have installed bulk infrastructure in more than 1 800 sites. We have committed to spend 80% of the budget allocated to Human Settlement to complete all blocked housing projects in the province.

Progress is being registered in this regard and to date we have spent 30 million rand for the completion of 215 housing units which were abandoned by contractors, in areas such as Lethabong, Glodina, Sekhing and Kgomotso. This is a resolve that we have made that it doesn't make sense to create an environment where we build new houses, but we still have incomplete or blocked projects. So, 80% of our budget will go to complete all those houses. This project of unblocking these projects will extend to Tshweunyane Village in Mahikeng where we appointed a contractor in January.

Honourable Members, the Smart and Mega Cities Programme remains a strategic priority of the North West Provincial Government with our North West Housing Corp leading the implementation and driving the delivery across the province. Appreciation is extended to the municipalities that have passed Council resolutions and made land available in support of this programme. Private-sector funding for the Mahikeng Student City has been secured positioning the project to break ground as soon as the final land matters are concluded.

All major technical work including engineering designs has been completed ensuring that the project is construction or shovel ready. The Mahikeng Student City alone is projected to unlock

over 3 500 jobs, creating meaningful economic opportunities for SMMEs, youth, women and persons living with disabilities. The Premier and the two MECs for COGHSTA and DARD are currently spearheading high-level stakeholder engagements to resolve the outstanding land disputes and fast-track project commencement.

Bagaetsho #[My people]#, our asbestos roof removal project is well on course with 43 million rand allocated for this exercise in Madibeng, J.B Marks, Mahikeng, and Ditsobotla. Therefore, we are focused on removing all our roof in our houses which are asbestos. So, this project is on course.

Furthermore, we will be disposing 288 houses of government that were built on tribal land. What that means literally is that our people who are living in Ganyesa, in Taung who are staying in houses which are called government houses they are going to be given an opportunity to own those houses. So, we will be giving them those houses.

Preference in giving those houses, will be given to the current tenants who are rightful occupants to ensure security of tenure and orderly regularisation. These properties are spread across in particular Bojanala, Ngaka Modiri Molema and Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati.

The MEC responsible for Public Works and Roads will outline details on the implementation framework in her Budget Speech. Honourable Members, our road infrastructure projects are steadily gaining traction with over 1.6 billion rand set aside for catalytic projects in Phelindaba, Makwassie, Verdwaal, and Ramokokastad to restore access, stimulate local economies, and reconnect our communities.

Kgosi Montshioa we can report to you our worship and the people of Mahikeng that the much anticipated upgrade of the Nelson Mandela Drive, budgeted at over 700 million rand over a multi-year period is now back on track and will include the widening of the bridge that will serve as a dual carriage way in Mahikeng.

A contractor will be on site from April as we transition from compliance processes to visible construction. The continuation of this project follows the successful implementation of phase one which included the refurbishment of several roads in and around the Golf View Suburb in Mafikeng.

A similar initiative was implemented to give internal roads in Koster in Kgetlengrivier Local Municipality a facelift. All of us we can go to Kgetleng in town, you can see what we have done in Kgetleng. We envision to roll-out this intervention in municipalities such as the City of Matlosana and Ditsobotla Local Municipalities in this coming financial year.

Kgosi Thari Maotwe, following the Premier's instruction last year, all hurdles related to challenges of trafficable roads in Ward 1 and Ward 2 in Moses Kotane Local Municipality have finally been resolved. Contractors for the 33-kilometre upgrade road that connects various communities in the villages of Dwarsberg and Pitse Disulejang will be on site from the month of April. The construction of Kromkruil and the Lebotlwane to Thlolwe road in Moretele Local Municipality will also commence in the new financial year.

Now over 700 million rand has been set aside for the rehabilitation and special maintenance of an 82-kilometre road from Swartruggens to Magaliesberg over a four-year period. Finally! The strategic corridor road is between the North West, Gauteng and Botswana, will enable economic activities within the freight and the commuter transport industry.

Honourable Members, we are looking forward to signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Central University of Technology on the filling of potholes project across all municipalities in the province targeting 7 000 unemployed youth.

The Department of Public Works and Roads will procure asphalt for identified municipalities to see to the full implementation of this project. This investment will strengthen integration with national, provincial and municipal routes and improve access to economic opportunities and ensure mobility for residents in our communities.

In relation to the latter, we have kept our commitment of providing commuter transport in villages such as Ganyesa, Taung, Bodibe, Masamane and Mabeskraal spread across the three District Municipalities, of Ngaka Modiri Molema, Bojanala-Platinum and Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati benefiting over 130 000 residents. I think our people in Ngaka Modiri Molema in particular during our *Thuntsa Lerole* will appreciate this announcement.

The current commuter contract ends in March 2026, and we have subsequently appointed a Transactional Advisor to support the finalisation of all processes that will ensure a seamless transition to the next phase of the contract.

When it comes to NTI, we have intervened in mitigating the challenges of non-payment of salaries in the North West Transport Investment as a temporary measure. Plans to recapitalise the entity through an equity partner are underway to preserve jobs and ensure the business sustainability of the entity. We expect this process to be concluded in the next three months. You'll be very happy Honourable Sonakile.

We are encouraged, Honourable Members, by the recent figures of the Quarterly Force Labour Survey, where our province created 78 000 jobs in the last two quarters of 2025, reducing official unemployment in the province by 6.2%, the largest in the country. These figures, these figures, numbers don't lie. These figures have been given impetus by the adoption of the Growth and Developmental Strategy which is currently being implemented.

In our continued efforts to revive the provincial economy and ensure common vision for driving inclusive provincial economic growth we have taken decisive steps towards the establishment of the North West Development Fund, set at 100 million rand to commit and demonstrate our commitment that we want to establish this thing which is called a development fund. Now this fund, we can report, is now registered with the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission as a Non-profit Company and Public Benefit Organisation with the South African Revenue Services.

There are ongoing discussions with industry leaders in mining and financial institutions to support this noble idea, and there is interest in this regard given our engagements on the sidelines of the Investing in Africa Mining Indaba, recently held in Cape Town.

Honourable Members, we have successfully hosted various G20 Summit meetings which have contributed immensely to our tourism drive, where international arrivals increased to 86 000 visitors. This reflects over 33% of growth when compared to 2024.

The resuscitation, Honourable Speaker, of the Pilanesberg International Airport in collaboration with Infrastructure South Africa, will boost our tourism endeavours as well as reincarnating commercial activities in the adjacent Sun City Resort and the Pilanesberg National Park.

Moreover, a 150-million-rand construction of the Majakaneng to Sun City road will be strategically positioned to support this economic drive. A similar approach is being touted for

Infrastructure South Africa to avail their expertise in commercializing Dick George Montshioa Airport as a cargo airport in Mahikeng.

Honourable Members, an additional 12 000 jobs are on the cards as we seek to revitalise and officially license and launch the Bojanala Special Economic Zone in 2026 and 2027. The SEZ is currently anchored on investments worth 12 billion rands which will have a multiplier effect on secondary industries.

We have secured significant investor interest, and investment agreements which will be signed during the upcoming Investment and Job Summit. Local businesses have been prepared to participate in Business-to-Business partnerships with international investors, facilitated through foreign embassies.

Government-to-Government cooperation has been strengthened through existing agreements with strategic partners, including the People's Republic of China. This includes strengthening the economic cooperation with Botswana and Namibia in particular around the Trans-Kalahari economic corridor.

Moreover, the high-level engagements with the Government of Botswana have been undertaken to support skills development, training programmes, investment cooperation, and joint economic initiatives. Le ba bone akere Batswana ba teng fa, re bona ka matlho. #[You saw them isn't it, the Batswana are here, we see with eyes.]#

The North West Development Corporation has secured investments to support export development. These investments will benefit agricultural producers, small-scale miners, and agro-processing enterprises. These products include nuts, citrus, agricultural produce and mineral products.

Honourable Members, the province has considered the report of the Panel of Experts on the state of the North West Development Corporation and has taken a position to implement a comprehensive turnaround strategy to restore its ability to unlock investment and support business development.

The turnaround includes addressing cross-border properties, properties located on traditional land, and resolving long-standing debt and litigation that have negatively affected the financial

position of the North West Development Corporation. Engagements have commenced with the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) to develop models to restructure and convert portions of the NWDC debt into infrastructure investment opportunities through the Infrastructure Development Fund. A dedicated team of administrators has been established to implement the turnaround and the stabilisation programme.

Honourable Members, we have initiated the commercialisation of 14 provincial nature reserves. This process has attracted investment commitments of approximately 420 million. Now this conscience decision re e tse re #[we took it]# because we have realised gore #[that]# our nature reserves which are dilapidated and government has no capacity to deal with the matter and therefore, we have then lured the private sector and as we commercialise and we have attracted commitments of investment.

This investment model will include lease agreements and equity participation where our rural communities, landowners, and traditional authorities will benefit through lease income, equity participation, job creation, and enterprise opportunities. I have no doubt that this programme will improve sustainability of the reserves and contribute to the economic growth of the province.

Honourable Speaker, in the last two years we have created over 72 000 work opportunities through the implementation of our Extended Public Works Programme. Remarkable progress has also been registered through the absorption of over 4 500 Community Health workers on a full time and temporary basis. All our community health workers who were temporary have now been absorbed and appointed on a full-time basis.

A further 200 million rand was set aside for the employment of more than 100 health professionals, in the form of medical doctors, professional nurses and eighteen various other categories in health. And this Honourable Speaker, includes go tsenya #[to put]# the necessary equipment in our different hospitals, buying of ambulances where we want to invest in the health sector in the province.

Honourable Members, the economy of our province is amongst others centred on mining. Unfortunately, with it comes illegal activities which have an adverse impact on the safety and security of our communities. I want to assure the communities of Bapong, Masebudule and Tlhatlaganyane that we are not resting on our laurels in addressing this matter.

We are in constant discussion with the Minister of Police. We will deal with this matter of illegal mining in our communities. And all of those who are perpetrators of this will be arrested. So far, we have confiscated all of their machinery in other respective areas. We will be receiving the report from the police in this matter.

Following our successful intervention in Matlosana where more than 1 400 illegal miners were arrested, the South African National Defence Force will be deployed in the province to capacitate the work of the South African Police Service in all identified hotspots.

I want to say the following Honourable Speaker, that the province has been significantly affected by the outbreak of the Foot and Mouth Disease. We have adopted a Progressive Control Plan for the province and has reached a stage of vaccination. We will receive a consignment of 100 000 vaccines with distribution earmarked for next week Friday. To align with the control process, we will focus on traceability of vaccinated animals on a risk assessment basis.

Working closely with the national government, industry stakeholders, and farmers, we are intensifying disease control measures, enforcing biosecurity protocols, and supporting affected producers to stabilise the livestock sector and protect the provincial agricultural economy.

Honourable Members, we have put systems in place to address challenges emanating from our stock theft. These measures will include enhancing monitoring the implementation of our National Rural Safety Strategy. We will also ensure that the Provincial and Stock Theft Forum and Stock Theft Information Centres are resuscitated to ensure that all stock theft related issues are reported and perpetrators are arrested.

While we have reduced this criminal act of stock theft by five percent for the good work of the police, where over two hundred people have been arrested, we will increase the footprint of the police to improve visibility and accessibility to deter future incidents.

Honourable Members, through our poverty alleviation and job creation initiatives in our rural and farming communities, we have allocated 50 million rand to improve the Red Meat Infrastructure, benefiting close to 2 000 emerging farmers. In addition to this, close to 250 million rand of CASP Conditional Grants, will be proportionally shared among women, youth and people with disabilities for infrastructure production inputs, training, capacity building, as well as Kaonafatso ya Dikgomo #[Cattle improvement.]#

Engagements with Business Unity South Africa for the development of a chicken abattoir in the province are at an advanced stage. This initiative is primarily aimed at strengthening poultry value chain by supporting emerging producers to unlock new employment opportunities in the sector across the province.

Moreover, the refurbishment of 50 000 tons of Grain Storage Facility in Springbokpan is expected to be concluded in the coming financial year. This facility is expected to strengthen our grain storage facility capacity to support food security in the province.

Through the District Development Model, we will implement targeted Food Security Interventions across the four districts. These will be done through the Letsema Grants support household food production Cooperatives and Community Institutions.

A total amount of 17.9 million rand has been set aside for Vulnerable Households and Sustainable Production. In pursuit of these objectives, we have equally reached over 10 000 households through our food security programmes. So, we are focused and we are dedicated to drive this programme to ensure that there is food security in the province. Ene tlala e mo kotsing. #[And hunger is in danger.]#

We have also established community nutrition and development centres at Mareetsane and Disaneng in Ratlou and Kameelboom in Moses Kotane to rid our people of hunger and starvation. These community driven centres are aimed at providing regular access to nutritious meals for those who are facing food insecurity.

I must hasten to indicate that over 50 000 people facing hunger in this province and undue hardships have accessed these services. This is a significant milestone particularly in cushioning our communities against poverty and hunger in our distressed communities.

Honourable Members, the process of constructing new health facilities and refurbishing existing ones is ongoing with the Delareyville as an example, Bulk Phamarcy, and our three Park-homes located in Sheila, Uitkyk, and Magogoe have been completed. Plans are already in motion for the establishment of a Chemotherapy Unit in the Mahikeng Provincial Hospital for the 2026/2027 Financial Year.

With the Tertiary Services fully established in Tshepong Hospital in Klerksdorp, the focus will now be shifted to Job Shimankana Tabane, A litany of services such as Urology, the operationalisation of the new MRI, Mammography and procurement of digital X-Ray and C-ARM to increase radiology capacity have been earmarked for this hospital.

The facility will further upgrade the Intensive Care Unit to 16 beds with specialists' outreach of Urology services to Moses Kotane hospital, Maxilla facial services to Brits District Hospital and Ophthalmology services to Tlhabane.

Honourable Speaker, the North West University Desmond Tutu School of Medicine was officially launched on the 22nd of April 2025 in honour of Archbishop Desmond Tutu's legacy of justice, compassion and humanity. Both the National Ministers of Health and Higher Education have issued letters of support for the establishment of this medical school.

The clinical training facilities across the province for the delivery of the curriculum will be provided by the North West Department of Health. The infrastructure plans are also progressing very well and activities of the different work-streams will continue as planned in 2026 and 2027.

Honourable Members, the scourge of teenage pregnancy in our province, particularly among under-age girls, can no longer be normalised. In view of its profound socio-economic and health consequences, we will implement a coordinated provincial response to reduce teenage pregnancy and strengthen support for adolescent mothers.

Working hand in glove with the Department of Social Development and Education, the Department of Health has been assigned to lead this initiative recognising that teenage pregnancy is a downstream effect of broader social determinants including poverty, school dropout, violence, and limited access to youth-friendly services.

By placing Health, Education and Social Development at the centre of a multi-sectoral effort, we will ensure a unified, evidence-driven response that protects our girls, supports young mothers, and strengthens the wellbeing of our communities.

Honourable Members, government has classified gender-based violence and femicide as a national disaster. This classification strengthens the mandates of government departments in

collaboration with civil society organisations, the media and community at large in waging a winnable war against Gender-Based Violence and femicide.

We have made great strides in establishing shelters to cater for the needs of the victims of gender-based violence across the province. These shelters are meant to provide comprehensive social support services, including accommodation, trauma counselling, protection services, and safety. So, these services are there in the province as our response to deal with gender-based violence. Happy MEC Social Development.

Over 640 victims of gender-based violence have accessed sheltering services in the current financial year and a further 3 200 victims of crime accessed support services of these centres. Honourable Members, we strongly believe that there is a direct correlation between the pandemic of Gender-Based Violence and inequalities as well as lack of economic opportunities affecting women.

As a result, we have initiated deliberate intervention measures aimed at the empowerment of women. Through capacity-building and various measures, women-led cooperatives and enterprises have progressed steadily as over 200 women-owned enterprises have successfully completed various business management enterprises.

These programmes have been anchored on various business development initiatives where R 4.2 billion and R 1.7 billion were spent on women and youth owned enterprises respectively benefiting over 2 500 enterprises.

As we commemorate both the 70th and the 50th anniversary of the 1956 Women's march and the June 16 uprisings, we will continue to champion the socio-development of our young for the children of any nation are its future. Of profound importance is to realise that the development of any nation will not reach its pinnacle stage if we don't place women at the centre of this trajectory.

Honourable Speaker, the North West Province has registered an improvement on the 2025 senior certificate examinations by obtaining 88,49 % pass rate making it the fourth best performing province in three consecutive years.

Our focus remains firmly on creating safe, functional, and resilient learning environments that support quality education and restore the dignity to our school communities. Our schools, Mokala, Tlaakgameng, Chaneng, Tshedimoso primary schools are now functionally contributing to the education capacity.

In the approaching financial year, we will allocate 1.4 billion towards education infrastructure delivery. This investment is directed at accelerating construction, strengthening maintenance, and improving the overall condition of existing schools across the province including those that were damaged by heavy rains.

Similarly, Gasetsiwe, Kgosi Shoppe and Sarafina are now providing education services to our secondary school learners. Planning for Tlamelang Special School has progressed well and is now in the design development stage. Processes for the construction of Dinokana, our Autism School have been finalised, and work will commence very soon.

The land issues which hampered progress in respect of Rysmierbult Mega Farm School are now resolved. This mega institution shall replace 15 non-viable small farm schools in that area. So, we are building a mega farm school, and we are now closing those smaller-nyana #[very small]# schools in our farming areas.

During the 2026/2027 financial year, we will deliver a balanced infrastructure programme that prioritises both new capacity and the protection of existing assets. Seven new schools such as Sunview, Fikile Jakeni, Broederspruit, Utlwanang, Madiba Kagiso Barolong and Morokweng Primary are scheduled for completion in the new financial year.

Five major infrastructure projects will enter the construction phase, supporting long-term capacity expansion and modernisation of our facilities. These includes Phase 2 of Stinkhoutboom and Mahube Primary Schools as well as Coligny Special School. Kgosi Thato Letlhogile kwa #[in]# Ganyesa, ke ithaya ke re sekolo sa Lerotlweng se re neng re appointa contractor, Kgosi Kgolo ke ithaya ke re gongwe o itumetse ka gonne e ne e re ha ke tsena ka motse wa gago o bo o lela ka sekolo se kgale baagi ba se batla. #[I think Lerotlweng school where we appointed the contractor, Paramount Traditional Leader, I think maybe you are happy because whenever I came to the village, you would cry about the school which the community have long wanted]# We have just handed the contractor to the traditional leadership.

Honourable Members, a total of 114 renovation and refurbishment projects have been allocated to management contractors. Thirty-two of these projects are expected to be completed and handed over within the 2026/2027 financial year, significantly improving learning conditions in all the affected schools.

Infrastructure investment remains a critical driver for our local economic development. The 2026/2027 infrastructure programme will continue to support job creation through the appointment of contractors, subcontractors, and local SMMEs, while also promoting skills development and community participation.

Infrastructure development in our rural and township schools has contributed in the attainment of over 54% of Bachelor Passes in our non-paying fee schools. And therefore, go raya gore mo dikolong tsa rona #[it means in our schools]# our 54% ya di #[of the]# Bachelors e kreilwe kwa dikolong tse kwa go tsone go sa patelweng. Go raya gore ke dikolo tsa batlhoki and go raya gore bana ba rona ba dira sentle. Jaanong se se raya gore re kgonne jaaka puso ya temokerasi ya North West go fokotsa the gap ya di-results tse di nang le #[was achieved in the no-fee schools. It means it is the poor schools and it means that our children are doing well. Now this means that we were able as the North West democratic government to reduce the gap of the results with]# quality between the rich and the poor.

Therefore, kgang ya gore bana ba isiwe kwa dikolong tse go tweng ke tsa the rich tsa di-Model C, ha e tlhole e le teng. #[The issue that children should be taken to the schools which are said to be rich of Model C, is no longer there]# The quality of education is the same in all our schools and therefore that's why these results tsa #[of]# matric pass rate o di bona kwa dikolong tsa kwa go sa patelweng #[you see them in no-fee schools]# school fees kwa teng #[there]#. This investment has culminated in reducing the learner performance gap like I said between the affluent and the less privileged schools.

Honourable Speaker, as part of ensuring that we improve scholar transport, government will continue to conduct vehicle inspections in our scholar transport every six months. In January and in July when schools reopen all our scholar transport service operators will be compelled to take their buses for inspection and if you don't go for inspection your contract will be terminated.

I want that message to be very clear. If your bus is not taken for inspection, you choose not to take it for inspection, your contract will be terminated. This is to ensure that busses that are used for scholar transport remain in a good state of repair, and that operators comply with their Service Level Agreements.

There had been over 100 operators who had been terminated for failure to comply with the Service Level Agreements. Therefore, we have started. Non-compliance with our service level agreement, you are terminated. A panel for Scholar Transport has been appointed to be called at a moment's notice should there be a need for troubleshooting in areas where there is non-compliance. If you don't comply, if you are not taking your transport for inspection, if it is unroadworthy, you will have to be terminated. And therefore, we have a database for replacement of such termination.

There are regular meetings chaired by the Head of Department of COSATMA and Education to ensure that there is seamless operation without disrupting teaching and learning. As we do the above, we must never at any stage compromise learning of our children. Traffic law enforcement officers will also continue to monitor scholar transport on a daily basis to ensure that busses that transport learners are roadworthy. Therefore, we expect our traffic officers regularly to target buses that are transporting learners whether they are compliant or not.

Honourable Members, the Provincial Government will continue to sponsor learners from across the province to different institutions of higher learning. We have recruited an additional 100 students this academic year, to study at different institutions of higher learning across the country.

A total of 180 learners has been enlisted in the Victor Sefora Bursary Fund with 30 million rand committed to their junior degrees. There was an advert in the newspapers, people applied and they were selected. The awards have been made. So over 30 million Rand will be committed for their junior degrees. We further committed to send 31 unemployed young people from across the North West into the Nelson Mandela Fidel Castro Medical Programme to pursue medical studies in Cuba and this was achieved.

An additional 30 young people will undergo this programme in the next financial year. The provincial administration will continue to collaborate with SETAs, organisations in the skills industry as well as business to build skills capacity and human development in the province.

To this end, Services-SETA has offered to sponsor 50 first-year students to institutions of higher learning. ETDP-SETA will be recruiting 280 young people for disability Sign Language and handy persons' programme.

The much anticipated SANSI collaboration targeting 3 000 young people in the agriculture, artisanal and aviation programmes will start in earnest and the advert will be issued next week Friday. The recruitment of the first cohort, comprising of 300 young people will begin next month on this SANSI programme. We can further confirm, Honourable Speaker, that an additional 300 learners will undergo training in assembling and operation of drones in the province.

Through the Unemployed Agricultural Graduates Programme we recruited 103 graduates for a period of 24 months with a monthly stipend of 7 600 rands. In total close to 1 000 young people are undergoing training in the public sector through Internships, Learnerships and work integrated learning processes.

Honourable Members, following the rationalisation of over 155 schools across the province, the government will partner with the Department of Higher Education and Training to repurpose these facilities into Community Training Centres. Through this mass skills development programme, these former school sites will be transformed into centres of artisan training, youth empowerment and local economic activation. Now what was once underutilised infrastructure will become engines of opportunity.

Honourable Members, we appreciate the work done by our traditional leaders in fostering development in our communities. We can report to the House that the implementation of *Phasha Ya Kgosi* is in full steam.

We will be in consultation with the House to identify one traditional Village in Ngaka Modiri Molema, Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati, and Bojanala Districts as pilot projects of this programme. In strengthening these efforts, we have completed the scoping and evaluation for all

our traditional council offices for refurbishment, and we will be engaging with the House on how prioritisation will be done.

So, we will be prioritising refurbishment of our traditional offices and therefore engagements with the House will be necessary. This intervention will also include the purchasing of 27 new vehicles for our traditional leaders to make their work seamless on their continued endeavours for socio-economic development in our rural communities.

We have, Honourable Speaker, concluded investigations in traditional leadership disputes in Bahurutshe ba ga Moiloa and Bakwena ba Modimosana. Whilst those of Bahurutshe boo Mokgatla at Koffiekraal, Bahurutshe boo Manyane, Bakwena ba Mogopa, Bahwaduba at Moretele are underway. It is therefore my appeal to all affected communities where Section 59 of the Traditional Leadership and Khoi-San Act has been instituted to exercise caution and restrain until investigations are concluded.

Honourable Members, we have achieved decisive progress in positioning digital transformation as a strategic driver of service delivery, economic growth, and good governance through the roll-out of our Wi-Fi across 121 libraries across the province. This will make our communities access government information easily and participate on a number of programmes that can uplift their lives.

We have embarked on a process of building a single Provincial Broadband Network as the digital backbone of the province. As part of this, we will revive partnerships with long-standing Underserviced Area Licensees who have held ICASA licences for over 20 years but have not fully participated in the digital economy, unlocking our local capacity and expanding inclusive growth for these entrepreneurs.

From the 1st of April, procurement across the North West Provincial Government will be fully automated through the SmartGov Programme led by the Office of the Premier of the GITO. And that will be from supplier registration and quotation management to invoice tracking and contract management creating a simpler, fairer, and more transparent system for businesses and residents alike. So, we are going digital. We do away with manual quotation, manual invoices and so on.

The first phase of the refurbishment of Mmabana Mahikeng is well underway with a contractor on sight to take this institution back to its glory days. What it means is we are restoring the glory

of Mmabana. The contractor is appointed, he's on site, for us to be able to put it back to its old glory.

Furthermore, the completion of the Wolmaranstad Library as well as Matloding Cultural Village reinforces our commitment to provide free, equitable access to information, knowledge production, and the preservation of our liberation history.

In this regard, we will be strengthening the political heritage of our liberation struggle with Botswana and other sister countries which have played an important role as a frontline-states, by providing humanitarian support and defying Apartheid destabilization tactics and raids.

We are also going to target young people between these countries to venture into film and television training to tell an African story. These documentaries will be centred on the diversity and the unity which defines our history, our culture, our heritage.

The African novelist, author Chinua Achebe maintains, and I quote: "Until the lions have their own historians, the history of the hunt will glorify the hunter". We have told our story, acknowledging our challenges, but together with the people of the North West, we remain hopeful about the prospects of our developmental trajectory.

Let's build a North West that works for all. I thank you! Ke a leboga Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Order! Honourable Members order! MECs! Order! Honourable Members, can you take your seat! Honourable Members, can you take your seat! MEC! CoC! Can you take your seat! Can you take your seat! Honourable Members, you have been good audience. Please! Please!

HON. MORWENG: Sorry Speaker! Sorry! Sorry Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Thank you, Honourable Members. Thank you very much Honourable Mokgosi. I will continue to acknowledge our dignitaries. Kgosi Maotwe, chairperson, they didn't hear me. They are complaining that I didn't recognise you. You are the

first person to be recognised under Magosi #[Traditional Leaders]#. Thank you very much. Continue being with us.

Kgosi Nyalala Pilane, re a go amogela Kgosi ya ka, le wena re a leboga. Kgosana #[we welcome you my Traditional Leader, you also we thank you. Headman]# Rakhudu is in our midst also. I have also the Deputy Minister of Higher Education Honourable Gondwe is in our midst also. We also have got SALGA in our midst, the chairperson Rre #[Mr]# Khumalo is with us in the midst.

We also received message of congratulations Premier from Ambassador of Venezuela Carlos Feo Acevedo, yes, yes. We also have our Executive Mayors, our Mayors, our Speakers, Chief Whips in our midst. We also have in our midst, we appreciate so much the former Speaker of this House, the Chairperson of the African National Congress Ntate #[Mr]# Nono Maloyi and the Secretary Ntate #[Mr]# Louis Diremelo. We thank you so much for being with us.

Finally, Honourable Members, ... **[INTERJECTION]** ... the House is still in session, the House is still in session. Finally, Honourable Members, I wish to acknowledge and appreciate my husband Ntate #[Mr]# Mohono he is in the midst. Rre #[Mr]# Mohono, ke a leboga, ke a leboga mong wa ka #[thank you, thank you, my master]#. He is my husband.

Thank you very much. Honourable Members, the North West Provincial Legislature appreciates your presence in this prestigious event, and we appreciate that you came and you were a very good audience. Honourable Members, we will be ushered to a group photoshoot and thereafter proceed to the marquee tent for lunch.

We believe that all ushers will be ready for all of you to usher you to your table and your guests. Our guests will also be ushered to lunch. I hope that it will be seamless arrangement to go to the lunch. The Deputy Speaker will be taking care of us there.

The procession will be led by the Sergeant at Arms, followed by the Speaker, Premier, Judge President, Secretary to the Legislature and the table staff. Thank you very much Honourable Members. This sitting is adjourned until the 3rd of March for the debate on the State of the Province Address. I thank you!

HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 11:32!