

## **BUDGET VOTE SPEECH 2019**

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### **ADDRESS BY MR. ABRAHAM VOSLOO (MPL) MEC FOR ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE ON THE OCCASION OF TABLING OF THE BUDGET VOTE 5**

Madam Speaker and Deputy Speaker

Honourable Premier, Dr Zamani Saul

Members of the Executive Council

Chief Whip of the Ruling party, Honourable Neo Maneng,

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Honourable Lorraine  
Senye

Honourable Members of the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature

Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders

Executive and Local Mayors

The leadership of the ANC and Alliance Partners present

Senior officials of the department led by HoD Mr Kholekile Nogwili

Distinguished guests the people of Northern Cape

Good Morning, Dumelang, Goeie More, Molweni!!!!

Honourable Speaker, in preparing for the presentation as my maiden budget vote to this house I am reminded of the many South African's who still live in unbearable conditions and stricken by poverty on a daily basis. I am truly humbled and grateful for

this opportunity afforded to me by the glorious movement of our people, the ANC under the stewardship of the Honourable Premier. I do not take it for granted as many of our people gaze up to us with hope towards the improvement of their living conditions.

Honourable Speaker, we present this budget vote, on the day preceding the official conclusion of one of the most important months in the calendar, August the Women's month. I'm starkly reminded that our country is marking 25 years under a democratic rule and gradually we moving away from our painful past. The society we continue to build in line with the vision espoused by the Honourable Premier to build a modern, growing and successful Northern Cape is premised on the broad vision of the ruling party the ANC to build a non-racial, non-sexist united and a prosperous society.

Honourable Speaker, this is the same vision that propelled our women liberation struggle stalwarts to make selfless sacrifices through their unmeasurable role and contribution towards the total emancipation of women in our country. To mention a few of these gallant women fighter's we remember Mama Albertina Sisulu, Charlotte Maxeke, Winifred Nomzamo Madikizela –Mandela, Frances Baard, Ray Alexander, Helen Joseph, Ruth Mompati,

Bertha Mkhize, Sophie Du Bruyn, Dulcie September, Rahima Moosa, and Fatima Meer, Mittah Seperepere to mention a few.

Honourable Speaker, as we conclude this special month I am reminded of the recent women's commemorative event held in our department, where we acknowledged the fifteen (15) Phakamile Mabija apprenticeship programme female learners currently placed at various mines for experiential training. Some of them shared the challenges they continue to face in the technical environment, striking which amongst others was an unfortunate incident where one of them had to fight for her life after she nearly drowned in the flash flood underground in one of the mines.

Honourable Speaker, once more this demonstrates the courage and determination of women in pursuit of their dreams. The aforementioned gallant fighters created a strong baseline for our beautiful women beyond this commemorative month. Yes, in deed "Wathint' abafazi, wanthint' imbhokotho"

Honourable Speaker, in preparation for this Budget Vote, I had to quickly appraise myself of this Roads and Public Works portfolio. So, in the shortest possible time I had intensive engagements with a whole range of stakeholders, inclusive of both provincial and districts management teams, staff, organised labour and two

lengthy meetings with the road forum of the JTG district followed with political leadership at both local and district levels. These engagements assisted a great deal in broadening my understanding of the magnitude of the issues that need my most immediate attention, because ours is to find workable solutions to community problems.

Key among these engagements is the visit by the Honourable Premier in addressing the department staff wherein he shared the 6<sup>th</sup> administration vision and further observed on the public perception about the department being view as a department not focussed on its mandate to improve the public infrastructure but more absorbed on tenders at the expense of communities. The same sentiments were echoed at the recent appearance to the portfolio committee on Roads and public Works. I believe that I am on sufficiently firm ground to deal with task at hand and the proposals I shall make have been well thought through as direct response to the 6<sup>th</sup> Administration vision of building a modern, growing and a successful Northern Cape.

Honourable Speaker, I took serious note of the comments and observations of the honourable Premier and Portfolio Committee members on various service delivery challenges and possible suggestions. I wish to reaffirm our commitment in that the plans

outlined will be implemented and not be a pipe dream at the expense of the tax payers - not under my stewardship.

Honourable Speaker, the representation of women in senior management remains a challenge. Hence we committed to addressing this anomaly with the necessary speed it requires as it contradicts our posture as government.

Honourable Speaker, we started a process of auditing skills for proper placement of officials in line with their skills and competencies as the precursor for the reviewal of the department's organisational structure.

Lastly, I observed the need for investing in plant and machinery as part of tools of trade so that we can be indeed a trendsetter for the infrastructure delivery to change the economic landscape of the province.

Honourable Speaker, the erosion of the skills base of the department put us under pressure to continue exploring mechanisms for retention of scarce and critical through the Provincial Recognition of Prior Learning Programs in various areas.

Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Premier reaffirmed the commitment of the 6th administration, towards the realization of

the seven (7) apex priorities underpinned by accelerated service delivery. Therefore, the roadmap was outlined and the expectations towards ensuring economic transformation and job creation through our infrastructure delivery programmes.

Honourable Speaker, it is against this background that the Premier in his State of the Province Address pronounced on the reconfiguration of the provincial government by including the infrastructure functions from the user-departments under Roads and Public Works in our quest to reclaiming our mandate. The name change was proposed in line with the national sector department which includes Infrastructure to emphasize on our posture for this department. Currently, a national drive to consolidate infrastructure planning, design and implementation under one roof and to be rebranded as the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, is gaining momentum.

Honourable Speaker, the Department of Roads and Public Works is therefore in the process of undergoing policy reform in order to reclaim this mandate. The Public Works sector is also in the process of introducing a Public Works and Infrastructure Bill and this will address the fragmented approach of planning and implementing infrastructure projects in the province.

In addition, the Honourable Premier pronounced on the establishment of a state-owned company and a task team has been established by the Office of the Premier, consisting of strategic partners with both technical and legal expertise to investigate and assist towards the establishment of a state-owned construction company. The main aim is to implement a portion of the provincial infrastructure projects, particularly roads and RDP houses with envisaged registration completion of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 and we do not rule out the magnitude of this project.

Honourable Speaker, it for the mentioned directives that the department of Road and Public Works will be hosting an Infrastructure Indaba before the end of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 as part of the consultation processes to solicit inputs from all stakeholders in our endeavours to develop a infrastructure blue print for our province towards building a modern, growing and successful province.

Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Premier in his inaugural speech also committed to the selling of all non-strategic assets including the Premier's state house and direct the sale of the proceeds to the Premier's bursary fund.

Honourable Speaker, I wish to confirm that the department is in the process of implementing this resolution through a disposal

process in compliance with the Land Administration Act and Treasury Regulations as the sale needs to be market related. This process commenced in June 2019 with an auctioneer appointed to implement the sale of these properties notwithstanding that the tenants need to be provided with an offer as their first right of refusal, however, implementation will be in a phases.

Honourable members, a total of seventy (70) properties across the province will be disposed and those with tenants have received the first right of refusal and the deadline has expired with the finalisation this process before end of 2019/20 financial year. The department has already compiled a detailed report regarding the value and the number of these immovable assets non-strategic assets which are have been surrendered and the estimate value of R44,7 million and the proceeds to be surrendered to Treasury for re-allocation to the Premier's Bursary Fund. This non-strategic asset portfolio comprises of residential and vacant land parcels, however, at this stage only residential properties are being disposed.

Honourable Speaker, the department is responsible for the construction and upgrading of immovable infrastructure with the purpose of providing accommodation solutions, from construction,



refurbishment, maintenance and leased office accommodation to user departments. In order to contribute to the achievement of the mission and vision of the Department, the Public Works Directorate has devised strategic objectives and subsequent key performance indicators, which is the yardstick to measure our performance on a quarterly basis. The Department has access to three infrastructure budget streams namely:

- DRPW Allocated Infrastructure Budget (Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant and Equitable Share)
- Clients' Infrastructure Budget and
- Clients' Maintenance Budget

Honourable Speaker, the department currently recorded 1 937 land parcels in the immovable asset register of which 1 310 are registered in the name of the Province and 627 are registered in the names of:

- Various municipalities
- Private individuals
- Traditional authorities
- The Republic of South Africa

Therefore, the process of verifying and reconciling immovable assets owned by the state is on-going.

Honourable Speaker, the department identified the following projects for planning, designing and construction in the 2019/2020 financial year on behalf of our Client Departments:

### **Department of Education**

- Ablution blocks
- Administration blocks
- Classroom blocks
- Early Childhood Development (ECD) classrooms
- Sport Facilities
- Technical Workshops
- New Schools

### **Department of Sport Arts and Culture**

- Community libraries at Colesburg and Niekershoop
- New Provincial Library Depot and Offices at Kimberley
- Conversions and Renovations of library at De Aar

### **Department of Health**

- Refurbishment of various Hospitals

- Kimberley Hospital: Structural defects assessment, repairs and refurbishment of lifts
- Maintenance of New Mental Health Hospital

### **Department of Social Development**

- Term maintenance contract for Electrical, Mechanical and building work at Drug Rehabilitation Treatment Centre
- De Aar Secure Care Centre
- Springbok Secure Care Centre

Honourable Speaker, the department is also responsible for providing residential accommodation to Members of Provincial Legislature. This has also presented a challenge as there is an insufficient funding to fulfill this obligation. However, the department is currently engaging with Treasury and the provincial Legislature on a lasting solution.

Honourable Speaker, the province actively participates at the Green Building Forum which is tasked to develop the green building policy and the primary objective of the program is to reduce the Green House Gas emissions to 34% in 2020. The identified initiatives are: energy and water efficiency, waste management, renewable energy, indigenous knowledge systems, and alternative sources of water.

Honourable Speaker, the department will ensure that green energy initiatives are included in the designs of all major new buildings and subsequently incorporated into the physical construction. The Province is currently participating in the Shared Water Efficiency Programme set up by National Public Works. The objective is to make a 20 % saving on the current water consumption at facilities and 30 facilities used by the Department of Health have been identified for inclusion in this project. Assessments for baseline reports on these identified facilities are currently in progress and it is anticipated that the number of facilities would increase depending on the participation of other user departments. These greening interventions have been realised in several of our state-owned buildings.

Honourable Speaker, our mission to be the trendsetters for infrastructure development remains unwavering within the 6<sup>th</sup> Administration vision of building a modern, growing and successful province. Throughout the past four years, we managed to improve the overall condition of our paved road network visual condition index (VCI) increased from 58% in 2012; and to 69% in 2018. The province is rated amongst the top three provinces in the country and it is close to the international standards. This is recognised as a good standard despite the

heavy vehicle traffic experienced in the province due to excessive over-usage of road network as a result on mining activities. The department employed a strategy to mitigate this challenge, by collaborating with the surrounding mines in order to work together in partnerships and to contribute towards the rehabilitation and maintenance of roads in the province. This collaboration with the mines has yielded some good results although not at the magnitude that we prefer due to the economic turndown in the mining sector.

Honourable Speaker, our collaborative efforts lead to the rehabilitation of Mamatwane road in JTG District which is currently under construction stage at an estimated project cost amounts of R261 million. The department continues to engage the Sishen Iron Ore Company - Community Development Trust (SIOC-cdt) and the JTG Development Trust for the upgrading of the remaining portions of Laxey and Dithakong roads and further explore funding mechanisms for the reprioritised access roads to most villages in Joe Morolong Municipality.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to indicate that with the challenges encountered due to community protests that had an effect on projects completion time, projects costs and slowed service

delivery are becoming a thing of the past. That is through our monthly consultations with the JTG Road Forum in order to build sound working relations with an intent to deal head-on with any possible challenges.

Honourable Speaker, the unpaved roads in rural areas with the potential of providing access to Strategic Integrated Projects (SIP's) and other economic activities remain a challenge. I hope that with the pending Provincial Infrastructure Indaba, together with all stakeholders, we will be able to find each other and agree on the strategies to employ in order to deal with the aforementioned challenges.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to report to this house on projects being implemented towards improvement of our provincial road network as we seek to improve the socio-economic conditions of our people in line with the requirements of the National Development Plan (NDP). During 2018/19, the following projects were completed:

- The Reseal of Williston to Calvinia
- Colesberg to Norvalspond
- Copperton to Prieska

- Nababeep to Concordia
- Hotazel to Van Zylsrus
- Williston to Fraserburg
- The upgrading to surface from Rusfontein to Padstow

Honourable Speaker, for the 2019/20 financial year the department is implementing the following projects:

- Rehabilitation of the road between Hotazel and Kathu with an estimated value of R261 million;
- JTG SIOC-cdt roads with an estimated value of R300 million (this include JTG roads);
  - Upgrading of 15km from Dithakong to Boithithong
  - Upgrading of 10km to Laxey
- Reseal of roads in various towns are estimated at R373 million;
  - Nababeep to Concordia
  - Shoulder widening Okiep to Concordia, Douglas and R31
  - Vaalharts area

- Ritchie
- Colesburg to Phillipolis

Honourable Speaker, the reseal project between Hopetown to Hanover roads will create one-hundred and sixty (160) work opportunities targeting youth and coupled with extensive skills development initiatives so that at the end of the project the beneficiaries can be self employed and/or abled enough to be gainfully employed. These work opportunities are not limited to this road alone as other are geared towards ensuring more work opportunities for our unemployed youth in their respective areas, to be outlined more under EPWP initiatives.

Furthermore, the department will maintain surfaced roads and gravel roads within the province which will include Niekerkshoop to Prieska, Onseepkans to Pofadder, Carnarvon to Van Wyksvlei, Williston to Sutherland and Philandersbrom to Rietfontein.

In addition to the re-graveling of roads in various towns to the value of R100 million the following areas have been identified:

- Calvinia to Middelpos
- Griekwastad to Postmasburg
- Askham to Van Zylsrus



Honourable Speaker, the department allocated R398 million to the five (5) districts for the purpose of road routine maintenance and part of the districts function is to do Spot re-gravelling, blading and pothole repairs in line with the policy directive of the Premier that the department should do work internally. The above mentioned projects will create more than 6 600 work opportunities which will include training of youth and people with disabilities. The department is continuing with the implementation of a plausible 'S'hamba Sonke' Contractor Development Programme and we have increased the intake from sixteen (16) contractors in the previous financial year to thirty-two (32) contractors in this current financial year, with an estimated value of thirty-nine million (R39, million) which will be awarded per district as follows:

- JTG District: 7 male, 3 female and 5 youth contractors
- ZFM District: 7 male, 1 youth contractors
- Namakwa District: 2 male contractors.
- Pixley ka Seme District: 4 male contractors
- Frances Baard District: 5 male, 4 female and 4 youth contractors

Honourable Speaker, EPWP remains a catalyst for job creation and the department as the coordinator of this mandate is committed to achieve job creation targets. The Public Works sector is in the process of concluding the EPWP recruitment policy in order to create and promote the policy environment for job creation. The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is now in phase 4 which runs from 1 April 2019 until the 31 March 2024 financial year. This phase will be replicating the existing sectors such as Social, Environment and infrastructure. The department will be participating in the road and building infrastructure projects which are more labour intensive.

In addition, we will improve on youth participation through intensifying youth skills development initiatives such as the National Youth Service (NYS), Contractor Development Programme and other Incubation Programmes. The Northern Cape Province is allocated to contribute one hundred and four thousand and thirty-one (104 031) work opportunities for the five-year period.

Honourable members, in this current financial year, the Northern Cape is expected to create nineteen thousand, five hundred and sixty (19 560) work opportunities in total.

Honourable Speaker, the Rooting Out the Dust (ROD) Programme is an on-going programme which has been implemented for the past financial years. The ROD programme is implemented with the aim of creating additional temporary work opportunities through labour intensive methods and the beautification of townships. The department will create one thousand two hundred (1200) work opportunities from ROD allocations and the gazetted target for road projects is to create six thousand (6 000) work opportunities from the Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant (PRMG)-allocations.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to express my gratitude to the Honourable Premier for allowing me to officiate at the launch of the Greenpoint Beautification Project as he committed to do so himself. That project created work opportunities for 100 people intended to beautify the entrance to the Kimberley airport. The idea is to create a safe, aesthetic and functional carriageway for both motorist and pedestrians. In addition, to the upgrading of the intersection of Jack and Mahosh Streets; is the rehabilitation of the park in front of the intersection.

Honourable Speaker, we are hard at work towards ensuring our roads are maintained as a consequence we will be launching the

Loeriesfontein Routine Road Maintenance Project under the stewardship of the Honourable Premier on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019. That project will ensure 70 beneficiaries are responsible for the cleaning of road shoulders, culverts, vegetation control and fixing edge breaks.

Honourable Speaker, the department successfully implemented its Innovation and Empowerment initiatives where we are implementing Learnerships and Artisan Construction Programmes. The department enrolled two-hundred and eighty-five (285) learners for the current financial year and at completion who will obtain a nationally and internationally recognised red seal qualification.

Honourable Speaker, the Phakamile Mabija Artisan Programme I alluded to earlier in my introduction enrolled 25 females in the training of Diesel Mechanics, Fitting and Turning, Boilermaking and Millwright. We have various long-term partnerships with host companies such as Blackrock Mine, Kimberley Ekapa Mining, De Beers Sightholders South Africa and Juwi Renewable Energy assisting with workplace training for the following beneficiaries:

- Three (3) females from Z.F Mcgawu District;
- Six (6) females from Frances Baard District;

- Nine (9) females from John Taolo Gaetsewe District;
- Two (2) females from Pixley Ka Seme District and
- Five (5) females from Namaqua District.

Honourable members, in John Taolo Gaetsewe District, a hundred and twenty (120) of which 86 female and 34 male learners were enrolled for the artisan construction apprenticeship in the trade of plumbing and electrician for a duration of three years.

Honourable Speaker, in Frances Baard District, forty (40) learners of which 15 female and 25 male learners were enrolled for the artisan construction apprenticeship in trade of carpentry, bricklaying and plumbing. The department is in strategic partnership with the Swedish International Housing Company and Sol Plaatje University where these learners will be assisted with workplace training.

In addition, for Frances Baard District, we enrolled 25 learners of which seven (7) are differently abled persons in the artisan construction apprenticeship. We can pride ourselves in that we are making serious strides in recruiting learners with disabilities in the technical fields and commit to increase beneficiaries of learners with disabilities.

Honourable Speaker, in the Pixley ka Seme District, (De Aar) the department also enrolled twenty-five (25) learners in the electrical trade.

In addition, we enrolled fifty (50) learners in various Learnership programmes such as follows:

- Pixley ka Seme District (Prieska) thirty (30) learners were enrolled in a road works construction learnership over a 12 months period and on completion they will obtain a NQF Level 3 qualification.
- Frances Baard District, (Pampierstad), twenty (20) learners are enrolled in building and civil works construction learnership over a period of 12 months and on completion they will obtain a NQF Level 3 qualification.

Honourable Speaker, as part of our flagship empowerment intervention programs, the department will implement the following new Apprenticeship in Engineering and Recognition of Prior Learning Program in the third quarter of this financial year.

The Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority, also abbreviated as MERSETA, through an awarded Discretionary Grant of approximately R11

million committed to assist in the various technical areas of development namely:

- Provincial Diesel Mechanic Apprenticeship with a total of twenty (20) learners to be enrolled which will be proportionally divided - four per district.
- Provincial Rigger Apprenticeship with a total of ten (10) learners to be enrolled, two (2) per district.
- Welder Apprenticeship Programme in the JTG District with a total of twenty (20) learners to be enrolled.
- Refrigeration Mechanics Apprenticeship in the Z.F Mgcawu District with a total of ten (10) learners to be enrolled.

Honourable Speaker, the Department also earmarked to implement an intake of one hundred and twenty-five (125) beneficiaries in quarter four of this financial year. This programme will be funded by Construction Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA) as follows:

- Z.F Mgcawu District - Quantity Surveying learnership with a total of twenty-five (25) learners to be enrolled.
- Pixley ka Seme District - Computer Aided Drawing learnership with a total of twenty-five (25) learners to be enrolled.

- Z.F Mgcawu District - Road Works learnership with a total of twenty-five (25) learners to be enrolled.
- Namakwa District - Construction Contracting learnership with a total of twenty-five (25) contractor learners to be enrolled.
- Frances Baard District - General Draughting Learnership with a total of twenty-five (25) learners to be enrolled.

Honourable Speaker, the department has already put in place measures to increase the intake to five-hundred (500) Artisans and Learners on various programs for the next financial year 2020/21.

The Department enrolled twenty-two (22) Grade 1 Contractor Learners on the Rapid Construction Incubator Programme of which enterprise development, construction N4 – N6 and business plan development was transferred to them. We are proud to announce that these Contractor Learners successfully completed the programme and obtained a National Certificate in Construction Contracting and have even built a Lecture Hall on the premises of the Northern Cape Rural Technical Vocational Education and Training (NCRTVET) College.

Honourable Speaker, the Northern Cape Fleet Management Trading Entity (NCFMTE) will ensure that it successfully carries



out its mandate of providing reliable fleet to its client departments. The Entity provides white fleet and yellow fleet to our stakeholders and eighty-one (81) white fleet will be replaced during this current financial year.

Honourable Speaker, to date the Entity bought six-hundred and sixty-one (661) white fleet since 2015. The NCFMTE responded to the challenge of ageing yellow fleet by purchasing twenty (20) new graders to the value of R60 million; increasing the availability of graders. All the grader operators received training on how to operate the new graders. As part of the strategy to replace old yellow and white fleet, the Entity will during this financial year dispose old fleet through an auction process.

Honourable Speaker, the Entity's main challenges are the late payment of invoices by some client departments as well as misuse and abuse of the white fleet. We are engaging with client departments to deal with these challenges in order to sensitize them of the dangers of not taking steps in disciplining the officials who have been identified as the misusers. As a measure to deal with fuel fraud, we are also currently looking at reviewing our internal control system with the intention to reduce fuel fraud and eradicate it from our system.

Honourable Speaker, the Entity will further engage relevant stakeholders on a five-year plan to broaden its scope. This year we will be embarking on a benchmarking exercise with both the private and public sector, with the sole purpose of remodeling and improving on the current fleet management services in the Province. As part of broadening its mandate, the Entity will in consultation with all stakeholders explore the inclusion of fleet services to the following organisations:

- Emergency Medical Services also known as Ambulance Services to the Department of Health.
- VIP services to Members of the Executive Council in the Province.
- All the Northern Cape government agencies.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to present the budget of the department for the 2019/2020 financial year; although under very difficult circumstances given the economic outlook of our province and country and especially with the high infrastructure demands by our citizens. We will have to do more with the little we have at our disposal.

## **Programme Allocation**

Administration	(9% of the total budget)	R169, 488 million
Public Works Infrastructure	(10% of the total budget)	R186, 592 million
Roads Infrastructure	(76% of the total budget)	R1,390, 722 billion
Community Based Programme	(5% of the total budget)	R92,585 million
<b>Total Budget Allocation</b>		<b>R1.839, 387 billion</b>

Honourable Speaker, I want to extend my gratitude to all our key stakeholders and partners where the department signed memorandum of understanding (MOU's) to foster our relations. I need to commend that their contribution is deeper than what is on paper and thus without them, we will not realise the skills development and empowerment programme. Plans are afoot to engage in fostering strategic partnerships with new stakeholders towards the realisation of our vision of building a modern, growing and successful province.

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to thank the Honourable Premier, Dr Zamani Saul for his wise counsel, fellow Members of the Executive Council, Members of the Provincial

Legislature as well as the Chairperson and Members of the Portfolio Committee on Roads and Public Works under the stewardship of Honourable Senye and her SCOPA counterpart Honourable Van Staden for their unwavering support and working together throughout this period. I also wish to thank our donors and esteemed development partners for their massive financial and technical support.

Finally, I wish to thank my entire team of Roads and Public Works under the leadership of Mr Kholekile Nogwili in endeavouring to be the trendsetters for infrastructure development in the province.

I hereby table the 2019/20 budget of the Department of Roads and Public Works for the consideration of this house.

Baie dankie!

Ke a leboga!

Ndiyabulela!

Thank you!