

**RESPONSE BY THE MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC WORKS,  
ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, AMBASSADOR AZWINNDINI JEREMIAH  
DINGAAN NDOU, DURING THE DEBATE OF THE BUDGET VOTE 09, AT THE  
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE, LEBOWAKGOMO, 18 JUNE 2015.**

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Honorable Speaker

Honorable Members

Let me first appreciate the quality of inputs we received here today from honorable members. Indeed, we have to, from the catalog of projects of keeping our people within employment, business and training ensure that we don't fail the Provincial Employment Growth and Development Plan. I must emphasize what we have stated before that, even though we are in the Youth Month, this is the year of the Freedom Charter, and indeed 'The land shall be shared among those who work it'. Freedom of movement shall be guaranteed to all who work on the land.

IN less than two weeks the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure in partnership with our agency Roads Agency Limpopo and the community of Maruleng, in Mopani, will officially launch the Flood Disaster Rehabilitation Project. This project is the replacement of the washed away culvert at Klaserie and Repair of Bridge 1317 over Blyde River and repairing of the deck, approaches and replacement of balustrades in both the Blyde and Zandspruit River Bridge.

The project, used the local labor, providing 40 local people with employment, sub-contracting 13 SMMEs and suppliers and training 37 learners in different skills including flagman, scaffolding and working at

heights, SHE representatives and first aid. The benefit of this project to the community and public at large is that lower vehicles can operate, the road is safer, for any weather, is dust free and there improved access for the communities. This is one of the many projects currently running in the improvement of quality service for our people. Our people want training, employment and business, and it is what we are currently doing in improving the quality of their lives.

Let me remind this august House about Limpopo Employment, Growth Development Plan (LEGDP) which is a strategy that harnesses different activities and various provincial initiatives and provides direction for different tiers of government as well as the private sector in an endeavour to ensure "inclusive economic growth, decent work and sustainable livelihoods".

Key to the Limpopo Employment Growth and Development Plan is to amongst others ensure:

- The provision of economic and social infrastructure to increase access, quality and reliability of public services.
- Cohesive and sustainable communities to reduce inequalities of condition and opportunity and weakness within communities.

## **1. ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Department has a good fruition catalog of programs to ensure that government is able to deliver services to her people. Our strategic focus here is to improve accessibility and mobility through construction and maintenance of sustainable transport infrastructure by 2020. This we can guarantee knowing and understanding that the Department is managing a total road network of about 21 888 km of which 7 556 km is paved

(tarred) and 14 435 km is gravel (unpaved). In July 2014 about 1 628 km of paved roads was transferred to the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL).

To date the provincial network is about 20 260 km. The bulk of the unpaved roads are situated in deep rural areas. We have put in the microscope to our work to ensure every little thing from roads infrastructure planning, construction and maintenance of the provincial road network is implemented in line with our APP.

In terms of maintenance; the Department does routine road maintenance and regravelling primarily through departmental roads maintenance teams as well as through outsourced Household projects.

Routine road maintenance activities include but not limited to:

- Pothole patching
- Blading of gravel roads
- Installation/replacement of roads signs
- Clearing of unwanted vegetation along the road reserve
- Installation/Cleaning of drainage structures
- Re-marking of intersections
- Repair of guard rails
- Re-gravelling (often classified as periodic maintenance)

We are a labor intensive department and we are working on 36 Road Maintenance Centers responsible for daily maintenance of roads in the Province. Critical roads maintenance material items have been prioritized for procurement through term contracts and procurement of 25 Motor Graders. These items are at bid specification stage. The roads

maintenance material includes; cold asphalt, grader blades, road signs, emulsion and road marking material as well as plant hire. These are activities that take place on the carriageway and have a bearing on safety of road users and the riding quality.

To augment the existing road maintenance workforce, Household based routine road maintenance programme has been introduced wherein road maintenance projects linked to the 25 local municipalities are implemented. Through this programme; routine road maintenance activities encompassing about 7 500 kilometres of provincial roads are undertaken, these includes pothole repairs. About 9 800 job opportunities will be created per annum across the province with each project contributing about at least 300 beneficiaries.

## **2. ROADS AGENCY LIMPOPO**

I stood before you presenting the Department's 2015/16 Budget Vote and committed to stabilizing and strengthening the Roads Agency Limpopo. Indeed that is a commitment that we have to achieve in ensuring that the agency is able to manage and administer the Provincial Roads Infrastructure Network. This include constructing of new and maintenance of existing roads related infrastructure. Indeed for the next three years, we must make mention of the fact that all the Bermuda Roads have to be completed within the allocated time.

We want our people to enjoy easy access to their families and services that is why we will be completing a 17 km stretch D19 and D3436, the road linking Polokwane, Matlala, Tibane, Scaffhausen, Masehleng and Murasie. This road will serve a large number of communities, more than 18 villages directly along that road. We will, and must, complete a 53 km

road linking Bandelierkop, Dendron, Bochum and Steilloop. This route also serves large number of communities including hospitals and farms. It is also links us with

the Grobler's Bridge Border post. We are mentioning some of these roads because there is a need to illustrate the importance of the works government is doing in the improvement of our infrastructure network. We are busy with the Mhinga to Maphophe, Makuleke, Bevula, Nghomunghomu, Gijana, Lombard, Altein to Shangoni Kruger National Park gate on a 24 km road length. The linking of GaMashashane village with Mokopane in Waterberg on a 17km road length, is also getting mention as we ensure that our people travel to their work in cities and towns with ease.

These are but some of the Bermuda projects the department through the Roads Agency Limpopo are working on. Some of these roads support and protect the interests of our communities including business, thus making major access to mining, tourism and agriculture. In simple it means we are working to ensure the Provincial Employment Growth and Development Plan areas are supported.

### **3. MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS**

Government's immovable assets need to be properly maintained to ensure that they continue to function as efficiently and effectively as possible to support the delivery of a wide range of services. At the same time, the deterioration of buildings due to the lack of maintenance can lead to future financial burdens, pose legal and other industrial relations conflicts and affect the delivery of services. Therefore, the maintenance of buildings is critical to the proper management of physical assets and the overall management of capital to achieve departmental outputs

and government outcomes.

On annual basis LDPW implements its maintenance Annual Performance Plan through outsourcing or the use of in-house personnel. Projects such as refurbishment or development of landscaping of 3 Government Complexes (Giyani, Lebowakgomo and Thohoyandou) are outsourced by using private contractors to render such services to the LDPW. The renovation of offices, residential houses and construction of new structures in-house personnel are used to render such services. In-house teams are also utilised for minor non-complex construction projects. Outsourcing includes specialized services such as repair and service of air conditioners, service of firefighting equipment, servicing of mechanical equipment like lifts etc.

The Department has developed an Operational Plan which is informed by the conditional assessment reports and they are used to prioritise projects. The Inspectorate Division inspect Public Works portfolio facilities on monthly basis and for User Departments this is done on request basis. The inspected and costed facilities are then prioritised for the Annual Performance Plan for the coming financial year. The main focus of the plan for the 2015/16 financial year is to refurbish the Prestige Portfolio to ensure that it is at the optimum Operating Performance level (A1) in terms of GIAMA guidelines.

Each LDPW District Office operates a Request Co-ordination Centre (RCC) whereby clients report faults or defects either through telephone, fax, letter or physical visit to the RCC office. The opened job cards are then distributed to their respective Cost Centres for them to execute. LDPW

provides budget for day to day maintenance of Public Works portfolio. The funding for this purpose is inadequate given the industry norms but budget constraints compel the Department to allocate amounts that are available. The user Departments do not transfer maintenance budgets to LDPW which provides labour for repairs and maintenance and they only provide material to fix the defects reported.

Preventative Maintenance, the Department provides budget to perform preventative maintenance on air conditioners, standby generators, annual service of fire-fighting equipment and monthly servicing of lifts (escalators) although the allocation of budget is inadequate to ensure that this function is performed to the fullest. The Department is arranging term contracts for services such as repair and service of air conditioners, service of firefighting equipment and repair and service of standby generators. The intention is to develop a Procurement Strategy that will afford the agility to respond quickly to repair and maintenance requests expeditiously.

The allocation further makes provision for maintenance and repairs for offices and residences in the same period. In the outer years of the MTEF, there is provision for renovation of offices and residences in addition to maintenance and repairs. LDPW provides labour in the form of in-house personnel on request to the user Departments to render maintenance work such as renovation of schools, etc. In-house personnel are again used to renovate offices and residential houses for the Public Works portfolio or used to render day to day maintenance as previously explained.

Honourable members let's move in concert to make Limpopo a destination of choice through proper roads infrastructure network and property management.

I thank you