



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS & INFRASTRUCTURE

BUDGET SPEECH

2022 | 2023

Re a Soma

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**MEC NAMANE DICKSON MASEMOLA
PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND
INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET SPEECH 2022/2023, VOTE 09, DELIVERED BY
Dr. NAMANE DICKSON MASEMOLA AT THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**

7th April 2022

Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker

Honourable Premier

The Chief Whip of the Majority party

The Deputy Chief Whip

Colleagues: Members of the Executive council

Chairpersons of the Portfolio Committees

Leaders of the Opposition

Honourable Members of the House

Executive Mayors, Mayors, Speakers, Councillors

Royal Leaders

Director- General of the Province

Chairperson and Board members of Roads Agency Limpopo

Heads of Department

CEO's of State-Owned Entities

Leadership of the ANC and Alliance

Veterans of our Liberation Movement

Leadership of Religious Community

Leadership of Organised Business and Labour

Youth, Women, Community Leaders

Members of the Media

The People of Limpopo

Comrades and Friends

Ladies and Gentlemen

Thobela, Avuxeni, Ndi Matsheloni, Good morning, Goeie more, Lotšhani!

We stand in this august house of the people of Limpopo, during this very significant month in the calendar of our country and our revolution, the month of the martyrs of the struggle for freedom, the Freedom Month, in which we remember the passing on of President Oliver Reginald Tambo, Tembisile Chris Hani, Adv Zola Skweyiya , Winnie Mandela and Solomon Mahlangu just to mention but few.

Equally significant, we have just observed the 43rd anniversary of the brutal killing of a brave young operative of the liberation army, Kalushi Solomon Mahlangu, who faced the gallows on the 6th of April 1979.

Related to this context, is that we have also commemorated the 62nd Anniversary of what is recorded in our history, as one of the darkest days in our struggle for freedom, to free the people of South Africa from bondage and shackles of brutal apartheid regime, the Sharpeville Massacre.

To date since the advent of democracy, which was ushered-in through the blood and sweat of our heroes and heroines, unsung and renowned, we observe the day as the Human Rights Day. Observed this year under the theme: '**The Year of Unity and Renewal: Protecting and Preserving our Human Rights Gains**'.

Hon Speaker, as we continue to make strides in advancing the National Democratic Revolution towards full realisation of the Freedom Charter, we have sought to return to this Honourable house, to present a holistic account, on how we continue to work and contribute to the quality of life of the people of Limpopo, and ensure that they continue to enjoy their rights as enshrined in Chapter 2 (the bill of rights) of our constitution. This policy speech will be yet another contribution in our collective efforts, of the momentous efforts by this administration led by Premier Chupu Mathabatha, to reconstruct the economy and ignite socio-economic activities in bettering the lives of the people.

It is a package of our endeavours aimed at contributing towards a more positive viable economy and sustainable livelihoods.

In terms of the latest report by the Statistics South Africa, our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a country has grown by 1, 2% in the fourth quarter of 2021, contributing to a total annual growth of 49% for the entire year, 2021.

We need to continue on such a positive note, as we gradually emerge from the difficult times we were besieged with.

Last time when we stood here to give a report on the work of government, through the Department of Public Works Roads and Infrastructure, we were going through a difficult time of uncertainty to our lives and livelihoods due to the threat brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today we stand in this house grateful that we are gradually emerging stronger as a people, working together on our way towards the necessary reconstruction and recovery.

We are talking at the time when as a country we have just exited the National State of Disaster which lasted for two years, and in continuing to manage COVID-19 some of the measures remain, to help manage the transition.

It is undoubtedly a period through which as government we are working hard to address the socio-economic challenges of poverty, unemployment, inequality and the ailing economy, which were further exacerbated by the pandemic.

Hon. Speaker, as government we made a commitment to the people of South Africa, through the National Development Plan 2030, a period less than 10-years from now and we are very impatient with bureaucratic challenges and wittingly remain prepared to take the nation forward.

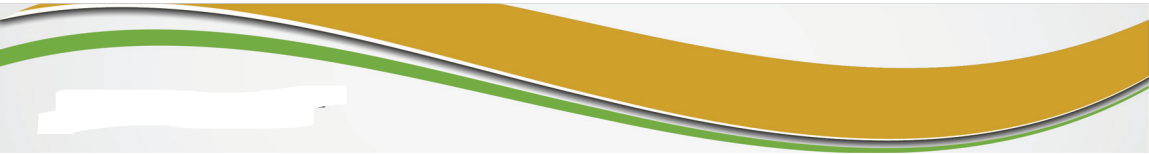
In our provincial context, we have through the Limpopo Development Plan 2021-25, accordingly aligned ourselves to this noble national blueprint for development, and in three years' time we will take stock of the strides made.

Hon. Speaker, as the Department we are here to account on the achievements we have registered during the 2021/22 financial year, through the massive roll out of infrastructure projects throughout the province. We heeded the call by the President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, to contribute to the economic reconstruction and recovery programme through infrastructure implementation.

We are happy to report that in the year under review, the Department stepped up to the challenge and launched "Letšema Ditseleng", which is a campaign aimed at getting more people involved in project implementation by infusing massive labour intensive aspect in construction projects.

This method to massify job creation is implemented through our road maintenance and road upgrades programmes. One such project is the inter-municipal rural access road, linking eight villages across Capricorn and Mopani districts.

The road was constructed through the use of differentiated engineering methods and material, including concrete and interlocking paving bricks taking into



consideration the landscape of the area. This is where at least 115 beneficiaries participated in the construction of the 32km road and produced high quality work. In the same spirit, about 50 SMMEs benefited in various business opportunities throughout the lifecycle of the project. His Excellency President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa witnessed this confluence of great engineering work and the investment of resources with maximisation of job creation, when he visited the road project in Thakgalane village, in Mopani District.

The Project is at final stages and will be completed soon. This has been one of the best means to showcase what as the Department through the Roads Agency Limpopo are able to achieve, with the limited resources given the well-known fiscal constraints we continue to grapple with.

Hon. Speaker, this is but one example of the road infrastructure projects currently under construction that we had committed to implement, through a multiyear budgeting process that has since proven to work.

In the 2021/22 financial year, we made several commitments to the people of Limpopo concerning roads infrastructure delivery. It must be noted that these commitments were made with the understanding of our current financial standing as a province, and notwithstanding the fact that more still need to be done.

An amount of R1.109 billion was transferred to RAL for operational costs and road maintenance in the 2021/22 financial year. This amount could not make any provision for us to start any new road upgrade, given multi-year projects that are still under implementation and noting the expectations of the people.

The allocation for upgrading gravel roads to tar is the equitable share of the province, and it has proven over time that it is insufficient given the massive backlog confronting government. The other allocation provided to roads, is the Provincial Routine Maintenance Grant which is strictly meant for maintaining the existing tar roads and nothing else.

Through the allocation to Roads Agency Limpopo, we were able to work on several provincial roads across the province that required maintenance and major rehabilitation.

Hon. Speaker, allow me at this moment to provide details concerning these roads I have mentioned, because one of the issues the people of Limpopo are concerned about, is seeing actual contractors working on our roads network.

These are projects that had already commenced over a few financial years, as already indicated and were due for completion.

We have been able to complete the first phase of 3km on the D3878 Sekororo towards balloon road, also Phase 2 of the upgrading of 7.5km on D3727, D879, D1356 Mashamba to Mulima to Tshitale to Morebeng. This is a stretch of road that requires further attention on the part where it is unpaved, and therefore **Hon Speaker**, with the limited resources we will be working on the remaining part of the road gradually.

In this financial year we will improve part of it to an engineered gravel road, in that way providing a solution for the people of that area to traverse, but most importantly laying a proper foundation for ultimately tarring the road.

Hon. Speaker, the upgrading of the 5km road D4253 in Ga-Masemola in Sekhukhune is also 100% complete and was officially opened by the Hon. Premier in October 2021.

In the Vhembe district, we have also completed Phase 1 of the upgrade of road D3688 from Khubvi to Tshidzivhe, which is a 3km stretch. This is the road which was on the news where local people decided to take matters into their own hands and tried to pave it with cement. The terrain of this road requires intense engineering approach and methods.

In this financial year we have planned to apply differentiated engineering methods given the terrain of the place to make sure that the road is durable.

The Upgrade of 3km on D3187 and D3843 from Mageva to Makhuvha, Mopani district is 100% complete.

The people of Mokwakwaila, Mawa and surrounding areas, in Mopani District, can also attest to the 100% completion of phase 1 of their road upgrade, D3200, and this year will do designs for the remaining part of the road.

Hon. Speaker, as we register progress in many parts of the Province, we are fully aware of the work that should be done in many other arrears. We are working tirelessly to touch as many communities as possible, thereby enabling a hive of socio-economic activities across the length and breadth of the province, in the process of projects implementation.

In that regard, we are also pleased with progress registered in other projects outlined as follows:

- The Construction of bridge 6116 in Makuleke currently at 100% Completion – this bridge is on road D3653 which is in a bad condition, and we have put plans in place to start with its major rehabilitation in this current financial year and a contractor is on site.

- The Upgrading of 22km on D4370 Tompi Seleka to Mogaladi to Phokwane is at 95% completion and we thank the community leaders for working with us to resolve such.
- The Upgrading of 11km on road D2922 & D2919 from Keerom (Metsanangwana) to Tshikanosi is at 100% completion.
- The Rehabilitation of 19km on D1589 Kgobokanang to Makgato in Blouberg is at 100% completion.
- The upgrade of 3km on D3377 from Limburg to Matlala, Capricorn district is at 99% completion.
- The Upgrade of 32Km on D3232, D15 and D3150 from Morebeng to Sekgosese is at 95% completion– this is the road that the President recently visited.
- The rehabilitation of 30km on road P51/3 Stofberg in Sekhukhune is at 95% completion: – Phase 2 of this road will cover a 9km stretch of the road and a contractor has been appointed and busy with site establishment, and phase 3 will be completed in the next financial year to complete this key economic road, which connects Storfberg and Groblersdal.

In the same area, there is significant amount of work carried out by SANRAL on R555 which connects to this road P51/3 as follows: Improvement of the road condition from Stofberg to Burgersfort and from Steyndrift to Steelpoort River, while the following are at planning and design stage: Storfberg to Steyndrift, Steelpoort River to Kokwaneng, Kokwaneng to Ga-Mopodila and lastly Ga-Mopodila to Burgersfort town. These are multi-year projects that will help improve the road network in that part of the province, once completed.

- The rehabilitation of 7.5km on road D2537 Penge in Sekhukhune is at 84% completion – this road stretches from Penge to Dresden in Tubatse area Phase 1- Rehabilitation of 30km on road D4 fom Malamulele to Elim is at 73% completion – this road ultimately connects to N1 and its rehabilitation is done in phases. Phase 2 will cover 10km from where Phase 1 ends and proceed up to Vyeboom and a contractor has been appointed and now busy with site establishment , furthermore, plans are underway to start on the N1 side towards Elim and passing Mailaskop and nearby villages and a contractor has been appointed,
- The rehabilitation of 5km on D4150 Bothashook to Prakatiseer is at 75% completion.
- The rehabilitation of road D3840 Giyani to Phalaborwa phase 1 is at 75% completion: – a contractor is on site to start with phase 2 which will complete the entire road up to Phalaborwa.

- In Giyani there is road D3641 from Giyani College via Thomo to Mninginisi which in a very bad state. Plans are underway to ensure that this road is fixed through internal maintenance this financial year.
- Phase 1, rehabilitation of 9km on D11 in Mopani is at 65% completion: – a contractor is on site for the phase 2 and that will complete the entire rehabilitation of D11, – at Ga-Mamaila Kolobetona.

Hon. Speaker, allow me at this point to say, may the soul of his Royal Highness Kgoshi Mamaila Kolobetona, who recently departed, rest in peace – in the same vein we bow our heads in honour of the departed struggle stalwart Ntate Poo Pharephare Mothupi who hails from the same area – we worked with both of them when we started this project, and we will forever cherish their support. May their souls rest in peace.

Hon. Speaker, this affirms our resolve that we shall continue to demonstrate our commitment to serve by demonstrable progress and furthermore account accordingly as follows:

- The rehabilitation of 5.3km on D3200 Lebaka – Mohlabaneng in Mopani is at 95% completion
- The phase 1 of rehabilitation on road D1483 Musina to Pondrifi in Vhembe is at 83% completion, and plans are underway for phase 2 to begin in this new financial year.
- This rehabilitation will restore the condition of this road and enable it to continue to support tourism activities in the area, as it provides access to the Mapungubwe National Park.
- The rehabilitation of flood damaged road D4240 at Maseven village is progressing well at 52% completion – in this project, we have planned to upgrade the bridge that existed and was not appropriate.
- D4424 Lulekani in Phalaborwa will be rehabilitated this financial to be in good state of use.

Hon Speaker, during the financial year under review, we also made efforts to meet with the Project Steering Committee and Vhembe Municipal leadership regarding the Makuya-Masisi road upgrade project. The project had challenges but to this end, we can report to this honourable house that, the 25,2km stretch of road on P277/1 from Thulamela Municipality all the way to Musina has been unlocked and is progressing well.

We continue to strengthen and sharpen our project management and stakeholder engagement processes within both the Department and RAL, to ensure smooth running and ultimate conclusion of projects on time.

Hon. Speaker, we also had committed to various communities and their respective Municipal, and Royal Authorities that we will begin work for the rehabilitation of their roads. We are pleased to report that road D192 in Mokgalakwena which passes through Rantlakana, Ga-Chere to Marken in Waterberg, the major rehabilitation work on this road is about to start and a contractor is on site establishment.

Over and above that, the following other projects are equally on site establishment phase and we will be breaking ground in this new financial year;

- Maintenance of road D856 - Dennilton to Moteti
- Maintenance of road D3873 - Bokgaga to Lephepane
- Maintenance of road D3880 in - Lenyenye to Mosoroni
- Maintenance of road D3110 - Ga-Seleka to Shongoane
- Maintenance of road D4070 - Mamaolo to Seleteng to Mashite
- Maintenance of road P18/2 - Kuschke to Zebediela
- Maintenance of road D3502 - Magongoa to Mosesetjane
- Maintenance of road D2219 - Magnet heights to Malekana
- D3820 Rotterdam: the community dynamics which emerged during the implementation of the project have been resolved and will continue with project unabated.

Noting the negativity and sceptics who have been telling the community that we don't care about them. We once again prove that we subscribe to the fundamental values enshrined in the constitution.

The construction of a new state of the art bridge in Ga-Malekana on the intersection of road D2219 and R555. This is where the long standing one-way steel bridge which is 94 years old is and continue to cause massive traffic congestion.

We appreciate the mining companies that have made significant pledges towards the construction of this iconic bridge. Combined financial contributions with government have brought us to the realisation of this project.

The project is at final stages of detailed design and in this new financial we will hand over a contractor site to start with the actual work.

Hon. Speaker, these projects which we continue to announce and implement are not just sand and stones, pavement and asphalt, but have significant impact on the lives of the people as they participate as employees and SMME owners during their implementation.

Furthermore, through these projects, many young people of working age, including women and people living with disability have been able to gain skills that can help them sustain their livelihoods; long after the projects would have been completed.

Hon. Speaker, allow me to remind the people of this province that there were issues of suspected negligence and possible sleaze related to the maintenance of road D959 Makhado, Madombidzha route. Soon after completion, the road started deteriorating.

The matter was handed over to SIU and the Hawks and we are waiting for a report and officials have been suspended.

In the meantime, Phase 2 on D959 towards Makhado town will begin in this quarter. On D3715, Sinthumule which connects to this road going into the Kutama villages, phase 1 has started and is progressing well.

Hon. Speaker, we remain committed to ensuring that we deal decisively with matters of suspected corruption, malfeasance and malversation as they subsequently lead to delivery of sub-standard infrastructure.

Hon. Speaker, the commitments we make to the people of our province, from time to time do not go unmonitored and therefore unimplemented.

During the 2021-22 Budget Vote in this very house, we announced that we will do designs for several roads which are part of the backlog in terms of the roads infrastructure delivery programme. We have since allocated engineers during the financial year under review, and the designs are at advanced stage. This financial year we are going to start with construction of the following roads: -

- D4180 Atok Mine to Ga-Selepe to Modimolle
- D3278 Blouberg Hospital to Buffelshoek
- D3561 Segole 1 & Segole 2 from Masebe Nature Reserve to N11 Waterval
- D4260 Malope to Phokwane
- D3669 Mavhunga access road
- D3734 Tshatshama road in Mopani :- Ga-Raphahlelo, Ga- Phooko, etc
- D4090, D4093, D4094, D4096 Malimati Roads
- D4199 Apel to Ga-Nkoana to D4190
- D3436, D3428, D5007 Ga-Ramoshwane, Ga-Rammetlwane, Ga-Ramotlwana
- D3248 Thapane access to N'wamitwa
- D4283 Glencowie to Malaka
- D3671 Musekwa to Maranikwe
- The upgrading of the 10km road D4109 from Mmamatonya to road D885.

Currently designs are concluded and the project is ready for further implementation. These are some of the roads that the Premier spoke about during the State of the Province Address and we are on track.

Hon. Speaker, the roads upgrade backlog in the province remains enormous and a major challenge given that we are forever inundated with demands by communities for their roads to receive attention. In that regard, we are trying our best to address these challenges, through the Roads Agency Limpopo despite the budget limitations. It is in that spirit that in this financial year we will be considering the following bridges and roads for technical designs and later upgrading:

- Flood damaged Bridges on Road D3505 near Thutlane community in Mogalakwena, within the Bakenburg area,
- Flood damaged bridge on Road D3753 near Dzondo community in Thulamela
- Flood damaged bridge on Road D3817 near Wayeni community in Collins Chabane,
- Designs for the Upgrading of road D3746 between Schuynshoogte, Vyeboom and Dhavana cross
- D3661 Tshikonelo to Xikundu
- Design for the upgrading of Leolo Access Road D4227
- Designs for the upgrading of road D2405 from R36 to Kgautswane in Tubatse
- The Bridge on road D5010 from Majiane to Nkotokwane
- Road D4032 from Ga-Mothapo, Phomolong to Rampheri,
- D4285 Maserumulepark, Leeuwkraal to Patantswane
- Road D3710 from Dzingahe to Tshivhazwaulu
- Road D2677 from Vleifontein, Nthabalala, Mpofu to Pfananani
- D2913 Magakadimeng , Mpheleng to Stompo
- D3786 Mashishimale Road from R3 to R1
- D4055 from Mafefe, Geneva to Moroke
- D3746 in Vuwani :- this road stretches through the areas of the following Royal Leaders: Masia, Nengwekhulu and Tshimbupfe
- Design for maintenance of D1231 from Mashashane to Mokopane
- Road D3135 from Botlokwa old clinic to Sekakene village
- Road D3370 from D19 to Newlands, Setotolwane to Mapangula
- D3200 Mokwakwaila to Mawa
- D4328 Mohlalaotwane , Seriting to Tafelkop
- D4200 : Mphanama to Ga Radingwana
- Road D3812 from Homu 14B to Vuhehli
- D1589 from Makgato to D3287 Eldorado to Ga-Dankie on D3292 towards Ga-Kibi
- D3775 Mangweni to Mafarana

We are engaging with the mine regarding the road that connects Phahlamanoge and Tsate and hopefully a solution will be found, because partnerships are critical in the delivery of roads infrastructure. In the meantime we are considering other means to make the road useable.

Hon Speaker, the roads mentioned above are critical for socio-economic development of the province, as such we are looking into other reliable funding streams primarily the Presidential Infrastructure Commission, which needs bankable projects that are ready for implementation and upon completion of the designs we will be ready for rollout given availability of resources at that level. Beyond any doubt given the commitment and passion of Dr Ramokgopa, we will secure funding.

Hon Speaker, there are several roads in the province which are receiving attention to restore their condition, as we have reported to this House before. However, allow me to lift the following two roads that are unique, given their location and the access they enable;

- Road D3184 in Morutji village which is at 95% completion of the 4,5km major rehabilitation work. This road leads to the Modjadji Queenship Royal Palace.
- Road P278/1 in Ndzelele area. We have recently allocated a contractor to this road for major rehabilitation of 4,8km stretch of the road which was horribly damaged. This road provides access to the Vha-Venda Kingship Royal Palace.

Hon Speaker, for the financial year 2022/23 the department will transfer **R1.540 billion** to RAL for roads maintenance and upgrading, and for the entity's operational costs. This allocation will help address part of the backlog that the province has, regarding roads upgrades, notwithstanding the extent of the challenge at hand and resource permitting would enable our faster movement.

We will continue to monitor implementation of the outlined projects working together with communities for quality and durable roads that will serve the people for decades to come.

Hon Speaker, we will continue with both preventative and routine maintenance on the roads of the province. This work is carried out by Roads Agency Limpopo and through Households programme as well as thirty six (36) Cost Centres that are based in twenty two (22) local municipalities of our province.

These are service points expected to service the communities and we will continue to strengthen their capacity both technically and with human resources. To improve on our performance, senior officials both in the districts and provincial

office will have their performance agreement directly link to the set targets and areas under their administrative leadership.

Be that as it may, the challenge of old yellow fleet negatively affect our work. However we have since submitted our plans to the Provincial Treasury and are confident that we will receive a positive feedback.

Hon Speaker, as we continue with infrastructure maintenance, based on policy redesign and development given the challenges confronting the Municipalities, we have since taken a bold decision to deepen and enhance cooperative governance by giving it a concrete expression at the level of service delivery.

We are going to rehabilitate roads in the following Municipalities:

Baphalaborwa, Musina, Elias Motswaledi focusing on Groblersdal and Motetema, **Polokwane** focusing on Mankweng, **Collins Chabane** focusing on Malamulela, **Belabela, Tubatse** focusing on Burgersfort, **Makhado**. This special intervention programme will focus on the CBD's, Industrial areas and identified townships in those municipalities. This will mark the beginning of a one-of-a-kind inter-governmental resource and expertise collaboration that will take the province's roads infrastructure maintenance to another level.

We have started with the programme in Mogalakwena Municipality and the people are appreciating the efforts of this government of the caring African National Congress.

We remain steadfast in our approaches and endeavours to restore the affected infrastructure for quality services and facilitation of socio-economic activities. Beyond any reasonable doubt we are on track to serve our people.

Hon Speaker, we are in the process of establishing RAL Regional Boards in the five Districts of the Province that will be comprised of five (5) Board members each and will have Ex-officio members drawn from designated authorities.

Their primary focus will be amongst others to deal with the following in their advisory role to the MEC:

- Illegal demarcation of sites on land adjacent to the provincial network and illegal structures within the road reserves of the provincial roads.
- Access to and egress from the provincial roads

Hon Speaker, at the State of the Province Address the Hon. Premier indicated government's commitment to matters of Royalty. As such matters relating to the building of Traditional Council Offices are getting necessary attention. We are very serious and deliberate about retaining the prestige of institutions of Royal Leadership in the Province.

In this regard **Hon Speaker**, we will construct the following Traditional Councils Offices in this financial year:

- Bakone ba Matlala Traditional Authority
- Majeje Tradional Authority
- Raphahlelo Traditional Authority
- Bakwena ba Matsepe Traditional Authority
- Manoke Traditionnal Authority
- Davhana Traditional Authority
- Bokone Traditional Authority

Equally, we will continue with the construction of Mogashoa Dithlakaneng Traditional Council Offices were progress is at 55%. And we have completed the construction of Ditlou Machidi Traditional Council Offices.

This is the demonstrable evidence of the efforts of the provincial administration to restore and retain the honour and prestige that Royal Leadership deserve. We will therefore be handing over contractors' sites in the coming weeks.

Going forward, in line with the provincial government's efforts to reconstruct and grow the economy, we are currently working with LEDET and the Sun Parks, as they start the process of opening a new gate into the Kruger National Park, the Shangoni Gate.

We will be starting with planning and design of a 3,5km access road in support of the work to grow tourism as one of the pillars of the provincial economy. Understandably this intended project will bring changes in that part of the Province.

Hon. Speaker, the work to maintain the roads of the province comes with opportunities for the people who reside within the areas where such happens. Through the 22 Household projects that are contracted to the Department for 3 years, and through EPWP coordination; people get attached to the contracts.

In the financial year 2021-22 this program benefitted about 4920 people, out of whom 3624 are women, 40 people with disability, and 1937 young people and many Small Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMME's).

We have just had EPWP Provincial Summit that came up with a set of resolutions to guide the implementation thereto and we are looking forward to the realisation of the set targets and recording of meaningful progress on job opportunities, training and skills development, Artisans development, empowerment of women and youth and participation of people with disability.

In 2021/22 financial year we have set a target of 95 210 work opportunities and have surpassed the target and created 95 907. These achievements are distributed per EPWP sector as follows: - Infrastructure 25 243, Environment and Culture 10 461, Social sector 23 682, Non-State sector 36 521 work opportunities. And in terms of social groups: - women account for 67 885, Youth 30 798, People with disability 733.

Hon Speaker, in essence we have recruited in 2020/21 fifty (50) participants in partnership with the South African National Council for the Blind for a period of 24 months. The contract has been renewed and the participants are placed at institutions identified by SANCB for a period of 24 months.

Again in 2022/23 the Department has partnered with DeafSA Limpopo whereby 100 participants are part of the programme and will be placed at different institutions identified by DeafSA Limpopo.

A conversation in this regard was occasioned based on the theme “**Contextualising the role of EPWP in economic recovery post COVID-19 pandemic**”.

During this Summit we were honoured by the presence of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) represented by Ms Mito Tsukamoto from ILO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

This programme is essential to help the people to survive, as we grapple with the negative impact of the pandemic.

Hon. Speaker, our economic reconstruction and recovery plan is driven through infrastructure rollout, especially through capital projects aimed at improving the provincial assets, as well as providing adequate infrastructure for government to conduct its business.

As the main infrastructure implementing agent of the Provincial Government, we are committed to collaborate and support, going forward.

We are currently busy supporting client departments for various infrastructure needs, and more improvement and progress will be registered in this financial year as well.

In the previous financial year, we have appointed several contractors for the construction of schools across the province, and those projects are at different stages of progress. Work continues at Gidela Secondary School in Giyani, Mopani, currently at 43% completion stage, All Days Primary School in Capricorn

at 85% completion stage, Marude Secondary school in Thohoyandou, Vhembe at 44% and Mahlagaume Primary school in Bothashoek also progressing at 26% completion. Leduma Mahume Primary School in Phokoane at 60%, Naledi ya Meso Secondary School in Dikgalaopeng, Sekhukhune at 15%. This last one is lacking behind and it's receiving our attention for improved performance.

All these school Projects are expected to be completed this financial year 2022/23.

Our mandate is infrastructure delivery and maintenance and this was evidenced by the Hon. Premier, Mahlatji 'a Hlabirwa during SOPA when he mentioned a list of projects that we are implementing. Indeed the pronouncements we are making today, exactly resonates with what was said and this would bring serious changes in the development landscape of the Province.

Furthermore, in support of other client Departments, we have completed the construction of offices for the Department of Agriculture in Molemole.

Hon Speaker, we will continue with construction of Accommodation facilities at Limpopo Traffic College phase 2 and phase 3 where projects are at 60% and 40% completion respectively. Planning for phase 4 i.e. the construction of kitchen is at an advanced stage. It is anticipated that construction will commence during the second quarter of 2022-23 financial year.

Again in this financial year, we will be constructing Thohoyandou K53 Testing Station, in the Thulamela Municipality, Vhembe District. Construction will commence in the first quarter of 2022-23 financial year. We remain determined to support the Department of Transport and Community Safety to complete key infrastructure and enable the provincial government to enhance revenue generation and boost the provincial fiscus.

The work to support the Department of Sport, Arts and culture in their endeavour to continue encouraging and supporting a reading culture in communities continues, as we will be constructing libraries in Tshaulu, Sekhukhukhune, Botshabelo and Vleifontein. Construction to commence in the first quarter of 2022/23 financial year.

Furthermore we are on track with the planning for the State Theatre because land transfer process has been concluded, designs will be finalised in the first quarter and the actual construction will start during this current financial year.

For the construction of Maphutha Malatjie, Out Patient Department (OPD) project currently at 92%, the department intends to continue and bring this project to completion in 2022/2023 financial year. Administrative issues are being attended to ensure project closure.

Again for the Department of Health, at Letaba hospital the construction of the new 36 bed female general ward, helipad and waste water management are complete, the department will continue with the renovation on the existing 26 bed female ward.

The Bosele and Lebowakgomo EMS project sites were handed over to contractors during the third quarter of 2021/22 financial year and work has since commenced.

Hon. Speaker, as we continue to drive an Infrastructure-led Socio-Economic recovery in the province, understanding that tourism is one of the pillars of the provincial economy as expressed in the Limpopo Development Plan 2021-25, we are equally making notable interventions in that space.

We report to the people of Limpopo that we have completed the first phase on the maintenance of Nylsvlei and Wolkberg Nature reserves. The Department will continue with the second phase of maintenance at Nylsvlei, Wolkberg and Blouberg Nature reserves from the first quarter of 2022/2023 financial year.

The construction at Letaba Nature Reserve is at 40% completion stage. The maintenance of Access road to Makhutsi Camp in Lekgalametsi Nature Reserve is at 45% completion stage. The work we are doing at Schoemansdaal Museum is one of the exciting projects we are currently implementing, and the progress registered to date is at 67% completion stage.

Hon. Speaker, the envisaged relocation of Sekhukhune District Offices to Jane Furse is imminent. We have made a significant progress and achieved a key milestone.

Today I am exalted to announce that we have formally received the community resolution for the allocation of land in the Pedi Mamone jurisdiction, next to Jane Furse in Makhuduthamakga Local Municipality.

We can report that 53 hectares of land is allocated for this project and we have agreed in principle that another portion of land for human settlement is available and they are awaiting CoGHSTA to indicate the size of land required for that development.

The commitment of the people of Mamone and their Royal leadership to this phenomenal efforts and endeavour is beyond reproach, is perfect.

Hon Speaker , going forward this financial year, we have to install signage to avoid trespassing and invasion, start with planning and design of the place and finalise on the implementation model for the actual construction to start. This project will create an economic base for the upliftment of the people now and into the future.

We remain grateful to everyone who made this a resounding success.

We will also start to engage stakeholders for broad briefing and consultation given the magnitude of this project. Indeed pillars of the new Town development are in place and this remains a historic process to be realised by our generation.

There is nothing insurmountable where solid collective leadership is provided guided by the need for development.

Words of appreciation to all those who participated in this process particularly, the Royal Family for their cooperation and robustness, with which this matter has been resolved and the community structures for their continued engagements.

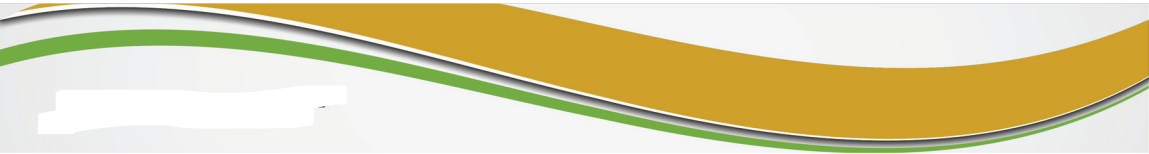
The people of Sekhukhune will finally be able to access government services in their own district instead of travelling to Lebowakgomo in the Capricorn District. Clearly Sekhukhune will never be the same.

Hon. Speaker, all of the above mentioned work to be done, will be carried out by capable men and women within the Department and RAL and that include efficient and prudent management of the budget allocated for accountability and performance.

I urge the officials to remain focused and ensure that both Unqualified Audit reports we got for the Department and RAL as expressed by the Auditor General, are sustained and in fact work hard towards clean audits.

Hon Speaker, we have been hard at work and showed endeavours to rebuild and strengthen the capacity of the Department, and that include the implementation of the newly approved organisational structure which the Department struggled for more than a decade to review.

The resultant effect over years being the loss of confidence by clients departments, hence public works functions are performed elsewhere, loss of skilful officials and depletion of skills base, misalignment between strategy and capacity required.



This process will re-position the department for excellence and occasion the officials for change management and heightened efforts to serve our people, and rekindle our collective consciousness of the Batho Pele Principle and therefore a need for continuous productive engagements of purpose. As such RDP of the souls is essential as once said by President Nelson Mandela. In fact we must all accept that the service of national purpose demands a profound mutation, in the process of development and deployment of productive bureaucracy, for sharpened political and moral awareness.

Hon Speaker, We have worked very hard thus, notwithstanding related issues thereto in the process of review and implementation, which need our focused attention because any work environment is characterised by bargaining and that remains a platform created for provision of collective leadership.

This is not a matter of choice but of the law, fully understanding the primacy of sound labour relations and applicable policy frameworks.

Development and review of the structure is an ongoing dynamic process which always requires continuous assessment and determination based on Labour Relations Act, Basic Conditions of Service, Strategy and Alignment.

However, we remain committed to platforms of robustness and solutions and conducive work environment.

In this regard, we are and will continue to work with organised labour as we traverse the political-administrative landscape.

Hon Speaker, as soldiers of humanity in the vast front led by the African National Congress, we remain faithful to the principles and to the fundamental cause of the revolution through coherence and unity of ideas. And we are in full possession of the fundamental orientation and have acquired firm posture and strength.

For ideological victories and impetuous advance, of great proportions led by seasoned revolutionaries for administrative progress and social power of the people.

The struggle to defend and consolidate the hard earned democracy and government, demand of us permanent vigilance and actions, to continue neutralising and eliminating the manoeuvres, which may attempt to dislodge the people's movement from the imaginations of the people.

In essence the Centre of gravity necessarily remains with the glorious movement.

We fully understand the grandeur, diversity and complexity of our Province hence our mutual approach for social progress.

Hon Speaker, I would like to take this moment and appreciate the good work that is done by the Officials of the Department, at various levels of their responsibilities led by HOD Mr Seroka. Thank you for the wonderful job you do in serving the people of the Province and keep up the good work.

Secondly, thank the Chairperson of RAL Board Mr Matome Ralebipi and Board members, including the CEO and Executives of the Entity and the entire staff for the good work they continue to do. That's what conscious officials do in serving the people.

To the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee Hon Makoma Rasekgala, your oversight leadership on the Department is highly appreciated.

To the Chairperson of SCOPA Hon Monama, thank you for your leadership to ensure accountability as we continue to serve the people of the province.

Hon. Speaker, the department receives a budget allocation of **R3 471 248 000 for the 2022/23 financial year**. In comparison to the 2021/22 budget allocation, **there is a growth of R259.321 million or 7 % in 2022/23 Financial year**.

Included in the allocation is **R150 million for Municipal Rates and Taxes, R1.212 billion for conditional grants**, part of which will be allocated to Roads Agency Limpopo as part of the RAL allocation of **R1.540 billion for roads maintenance and upgrading, partnerships and other operational costs**.

This Departmental Allocation is further broken down per programme as follows:

- **Administration** – 399 723 million
- **Infrastructure Operations** – 708 304 million
- **EPWP** – 69 287 million
- **Roads Infrastructure** 2 293 934 billion

Hon. Speaker, the revolutionary cause of social justice is on track, purposefully geared for improved socio-economic conditions of the people.

The collective convergence of our perfect ideas, accept factual conditions well-articulated in the National Development Plan and in particular the Limpopo Development Plan, as the guiding policy frameworks that would take us to greatest heights of development.

Thank you.

Ndo Livhuwa.

Ha Khensa.

Ke a leboga.

Baie dankie.



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