



**the dr&pw**

Department:  
Roads and Public Works  
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# Budget Vote 5 Speech 2023/24

## **BUDGET VOTE SPEECH**

**DELIVERED BY THE MEC ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS, MS. BFP MAKATONG  
(MPL), TO THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**

**21 June 2023**

**Honourable Speaker, Newrene Klaaste,  
Honourable Deputy Speaker, Mangaliso Matika,  
Honourable Premier, Dr. Zamani Saul,  
Traditional Leaders present,  
Honourable Members of the Provincial Executive Council,  
Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature,  
Executive Mayors, Municipal Mayors and Councillors,  
The Director-General,  
Heads of Departments,  
Members of the Media,  
Listeners tuning into our radio stations and watching from our social media  
platforms,  
Distinguished Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

**Madam Speaker,** it is my honour to present to this august house the **2023/24** budget speech, after an emotional send off, of our beloved Sister and Comrade and the Daughter of the Northern Cape, Cde Tina Joemat-Pettersson last week. From all walks of life, people honoured her for the contribution she has made, sacrificing her youthful life, to fight for the freedom and emancipation of our people. As we pay tribute to the Honourable Tina Joemat-Pettersson, let us further be mindful that we celebrated the National Youth Day last week Friday, under the theme *“Accelerating youth economic emancipation for a sustainable future”* at the colourful AR Abass Stadium, with a sole purpose of reliving the 1976 dream, of fast tracking a sustainable future through the economic emancipation of our young people.

**Madam Speaker**, the year 2023 marks forty-seven years since the 1976 student uprising and we are steadfast in creating opportunities for young people through economic empowerment and skills development. During this month of June, the department will be recognising **seventy-one (71)** young people who have successfully completed their skills development training. About **64 candidates** have completed our flagship Apprenticeship and **7 business learnership program** of which **forty-three (43) are female and 28 are male**. The Apprentices will be graduating with a red seal qualification, that is recognised internationally after completion of their trade test under the following programs:

- Construction electrical: 18 participants (Female: 4; Male:14)
- Phakamile Mabija Women Empowerment Program: 22 participants (22 female)
- Diesel mechanic: 17 participants (Female - 7; Male 10)
- Refrigeration mechanics: 7 participants (Female - 4; Male – 1)

Under the learnership program:

- Business Analysis Level 6 (149 credits): 7 participants (Female - 6; Male 1)

**Madam Speaker**; in the current financial year, I will also be launching Skills Development programmes funded by the Construction CETA where **360 young people**, including people living with disability and women, will benefit. They will be trained in **road construction, maintenance, construction health and safety, plant operators, business support and construction electrical**.

**Madam Speaker**, this is in line with the marching orders we received from the Honourable Premier, Dr. Zamani Saul, during the State of the Province Address, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, in Calvinia, when he stated that this year's theme would be: ***“Building a Provincial Roadmap for Decisive Action through resilience, hard work and progress”***. In conjunction with the 6<sup>th</sup> administration vision of a, ***“Modern, Growing and Successful Province,”*** we are confident that we indeed need to be decisive in our actions, to achieve more through resilience, hard work and progress.



## **INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND INVESTMENT**

**Honourable Madam Speaker**, I have to remind this August house that infrastructure investment remains the backbone of a thriving economy and that through the implementation of an integrated infrastructure growth path, the province will be in a position to improve the socio-economic conditions of the residents of the Northern Cape. The infrastructure expenditure for the last three financial years amounted to about **R 10 billion, with R 5.7 billion for Economic Infrastructure and R 4.2 billion for Social Infrastructure**. For **2023/24 MTEF** we have projected an infrastructure budget of **R 9 billion** of which **R5 billion** is for Economic Infrastructure and **R4 billion** for Social Infrastructure. The annual breakdown is as follows; **R3 billion in 2023/24, R 2.7 billion in 2024/25 and R3 billion in 2025/26**. Our infrastructure priorities focus on building of schools, health facilities, roads, housing, energy, water and sanitation.

**Honourable Madam Speaker**, **loadshedding** is affecting productivity negatively, which would lead to lack of service delivery. As the custodian of government buildings rendering a service to the people, we cannot be seen turning a blind eye on securing alternative energy. The Department is considering various options and is putting measures in place to deal with issues of **loadshedding** which might impede on infrastructure development, and this we do by installing backup generators in all new capital projects and Client Departments are therefore urged to budget for electricity backup in their capital and maintenance budgets. We are retrofitting alternative energy solutions on our existing buildings for client departments, for example we have procured 36 generators for our health facilities.

Furthermore, when it comes to the designs for new public buildings, the Department is striving to keep up with technology development by introducing the installation of energy efficiency systems to reduce the utilisation of electricity.

**Honourable Madam Speaker**, lack of project management and contract management was highlighted by the Auditor-General in last year's audit outcomes, as a management weakness. Contract Management does not only include managing contracts for procurement purposes, but it is essential to ensure that there is control over the contractual arrangements between the department and stakeholders to promote efficiency, effectiveness and value for money.

However, some of the challenges experienced in the implementation of contract management form the basis for corrective action or improvement.

**Madam Honourable Speaker**, as part of strengthening our governance efforts, this financial year, we will build internal capacity for the full implementation of this function. We will be enforcing the contract management function and it will also serve as internal controls to minimise risks like non-adherence to project costs and time frames, poor project delivery, litigation, late implementation of skills programs, just to mention a few.

**Madam Speaker, corruption** is one of the thorns impeding on clean governance and the Department is faced with numerous investigations on various projects including old and current and the Mental Health Project is one of projects under investigation. The investigations range from projects delivered not on time and not within scope and I can assure you that we will comply and conform to all requirements of these investigations.

**Madam Speaker**, in growing the Province's infrastructure investment, we have since **2019/20 to 2022/23** financial years completed **fourty-four (44)** capital social infrastructure projects, which are libraries, clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, replacement of asbestos schools, drug rehab centres, just to mention a few.

The Department supports infrastructure, maintenance and investment, and we plan to implement infrastructure projects for the **2023/24** financial year and **forty (40)** are in construction and these include refurbishments, upgrades into green energy efficient buildings. We further plan to conduct condition assessments on 6 state-owned properties to improve grading of our properties into more productive state assets and to respond to the needs of good quality infrastructure. The following Social Infrastructure projects are planned for the financial year 2023/24, namely:

- 20 Capital infrastructure projects

- 31 Planned maintenance projects
- 214 Unplanned Maintenance projects

## **CONSTRUCTION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY VILLAGE.**

**Madam Speaker**, I announced in my previous budget speech presentation that the Department will embark on the construction of the Parliamentary Village, as part of our infrastructure investment, to fully house members of Provincial Legislature.

I would like to report back to this house, that work is well underway, through the PPP Funding Model (Build Operate and Transfer - BOT Model) and this project has been registered with the National Treasury PPP Unit. The inception meeting has already been held with both the Provincial and National Treasuries aimed at setting up the project teams and development of the terms of reference for the Transactional Advisor. The complex will comprise of **30 x 3-bedroom units** and common recreational facilities have been approved with the revised estimated cost of R100m to cover bulk services, statutory approvals, geotechnical investigations, environmental impact assessment and construction of the units with a guardhouse. Benefits include optimal maintenance and occupation of the facility and reduction of dependency of rental accommodation. The developer will be granted a predetermined concession period to build and operate the facility after which the facility will be transferred back to the State.

**Honourable Speaker**, as a custodian of immovable assets, securing Provincial properties is our priority. The Department has a target of **40 properties** to be disposed to other State Custodians (National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, Municipalities, TVETs, etc.) and also to the previously marginalized individuals.

We want to remind communities to report these acts and would like to condemn in the strongest term, the criminal elements that are disrupting construction sites and involved in extortions. We re-iterate our position that law enforcement agencies will stand against those who invade, intimidate and disrupt construction sites. We will

support those who want to be part of the construction work being undertaken through legal means.

Vandalism remains one of our biggest challenges, and the Department has heeded the outcry on our vacant and unused buildings that are being hijacked by criminal elements and are being vandalized at an alarming rate. The Department is therefore intending to start securing our buildings before allocation to new users and this will also contribute to the jobs created by the Department.

It is even more important that the User Departments also ensure that the buildings are surrendered immediately after the buildings are vacated to close the gap that criminals are currently capitalising on.

The Department has previously advertised expression of interest from the public for the occupation and utilization of our vacant buildings. The advert was placed in the local newspapers but only **1 response** was received. We will be re-advertising these buildings before the end of July 2023, so be on the lookout for the advert on our website, social media platforms and various newspapers.

The advert will extend to the intention to have some kind of partnerships with interested people / businesses / NGO etc, for the **“Refurbish and Operate”** model, where the applicant will lease our building, renovate the building and operate in that building, at agreed upon terms and conditions appropriate for both parties. The interested parties must however note that if they do not occupy the building within a specific period, the Department reserves the right to withdraw the offer.

## **OPERATION VERIFY OCCUPANCY.**

**Madam Speaker**, this financial year, we are changing gears and PUSHING HARDER on our resolve by launching **Operation Verify Occupancy**, which is aimed at verifying occupancy on all leased government buildings and houses. The challenge that the Department has been battling with is tenants sub-leasing and even abandoning our properties. There are instances where government buildings are hijacked and occupied by criminal elements and private people charging rental on buildings that belongs to the state without our knowledge.

This project will also verify the level of utilization on buildings, to ensure that all properties are fully utilized. In addition, the Department will be engaging the relevant agencies to collect all debt owed by tenants on our buildings. This project will also

create **300 job opportunities** and beneficiaries who will be recruited on the initiative will be trained.

## **SUPPORT TO VICTIMS OF GBV.**

**Madam Speaker**, victims of gender-based-violence remain the most vulnerable in our society and the Department is continuing to support the Department of Social Development in the fight against the scourge of gender-based violence. The Department has made available nine **(9) suitable properties** earmarked for safe houses for victims of gender-based violence. There are continued engagement with the Department to ensure that the victims are not subjected to further stigmatization and risks about their safety.

## **ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.**

**Honourable Speaker**, with regard to roads infrastructure, we demonstrate our outcomes by promoting accessible transport infrastructure to support socio economic development in the Northern Cape Province in line with MTSF Priority 2. Despite the lack of budget to service our provincial roads, road safety remains our priority. In comparison to three years ago the conditions of the provincial road network is generally in a fair condition. For the financial years 2019/20 to 2022/23, we can report the following progress with regards to our roads:

- The paved road network improved from 68,9% to 72%.
- 93.8 kms were upgraded from gravel to surfaced
- 1 303.88 kms were re-gravelled.
- 188 159.62 kms of gravel roads were bladed.
- 318 612 kms of surfaced roads were resealed and
- 112 679 square metres of blacktop patching was conducted on surfaced roads and this includes pothole patching of internal municipal streets and the Vala Zonke projects.



**Honourable Speaker**, the collaboration between the Northern Cape Provincial Government and SANRAL, yielded positive results since the Department of Roads and Public Works, relinquished **16 provincial roads to SANRAL on 22 November 2022**.

This will provide us with more spending power to concentrate on roads which are used mainly by local motorists. The Manganese Haulage Route is part of the roads transferred to SANRAL. This adds an additional **952 kms to the 3 457 kms** which was already part of the Northern Cape National road network.

Subsequently, this addition of combined road network will result in the national road agency servicing **4 409 km** of the Northern Cape network.

The periodic maintenance of existing national roads, such as **N7, N8, N9, N10, N12, N14 and R27**, and the newly incorporated routes **R31, R325, R382, R385** and special maintenance of newly incorporated routes such as **R382, R325, R385, R31, R369, R48, R389, R58** will in this financial year cost SANRAL approximately **R3.4 billion**.

**Madam Speaker**, one of our key priorities this year will be to improve the quality of our roads. We will be investing in new technology and equipment that will help us to repair roads faster and more efficiently, and we will be increasing our efforts to maintain our roads to prevent further deterioration. In ensuring a safe and sustainable transport network we will make use of alternative and innovative ways to re-engineer our roads by using mine waste material like calcrete for re-gravelling roads in areas where material is a challenge.

We will achieve this by taking advantage of our existing social compacts especially where the mines and public resources are harnessed to create an enabling environment for safer road infrastructure. We will further explore the piloting of these roads in the JTG and Namakwa districts for this financial year where we experience an increase of mining activities.

**Honourable Speaker**, SANRAL has already embarked on a similar initiative, by using a fog spray road treatment technology which will prolong the lifespan of the road infrastructure. A fog spray treatment will be used for several roads in our province, over the next few months. This was confirmed by the recent publication of the Draft Technical Recommendations for Highway 24 (TRH24) by the Committee of Transport Officials on the upgrading of unsurfaced roads. **The R380 regional road which connects Kathu with the Botswana border at McCarthy's Rest via Hotazel will be upgraded to a surfaced standard using fog spray.** This periodic maintenance takes the form of applying a fog spray to the existing surface followed by new line markings and installation of road studs. In simple terms, a fog spray is a fine mist of diluted bitumen which is applied to an aged surfacing. Being relatively low cost, this is an excellent way to restore flexibility to the existing surfacing and can significantly postpone the need for a surface treatment or non-structural overlay.

**Honourable Speaker**, the Department has made significant strides to strengthen its relationship with SANRAL who has been open to sharing technical expertise and technologies to improve the overall road network of the province. Hence the Department is planning on tapping into SANRAL's automated road conditions assessment techniques used to gather real-time information about the state of both paved and unpaved roads.

This information can be used to assess the safety of roadways, plan maintenance and repair work, and help drivers make better decisions on the road. Some of the technologies used for automated road conditions assessment include; road sensors, satellite imagery, and machine learning algorithms that can be used to analyse data collected by sensors and other technologies to predict road conditions and traffic patterns.

This approach can provide cost-effective and efficient ways of managing road infrastructure to ensure safety and smooth traffic flow. Additionally, this virtual assessment can minimize disruptions and road closures that usually come with physical inspections, reducing the inconvenience to motorists and commuters.

**Madame Speaker**, the President, Honourable Cyril Ramaphosa, approved the Infrastructure Investment plan driven by the Minister of Public Works, Honourable Sihle Zikalala, which involves efforts to support growth in our province with Strategic Infrastructure Projects (SIP) being at the pinnacle of growth and investment.

Among these projects, is the Boegoebaai Green Hydrogen which forms part of the Namakwa Special Economic Zone (SEZ). These SIP projects have a potential to create approximately **35 000 work opportunities** on commencement. In our quest to support these investment projects, we positioned and initiated pro-active interventions to support the readiness towards the Namakwa Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

We therefore found it prudent to relinquish two sections of **R382**, which is Alexander Bay Airport to Port Nolloth and Port Nolloth to Steinkopf, as part of the 16 provincial roads which were relinquished to SANRAL. The total distance is **180 km** and there will be expansion and maintenance to increase the capacity of these two roads in order to handle the growth of economic activities in the Namakwa area.

**Madam Speaker**, the following roads projects will be implemented during 2023/24 financial year and over the MTEF period respectively:

#### **Upgrading of Projects**

- Upgrading of MR974 between Laxey and Heuningvlei Phase 1
- Upgrading of MR569 between Fraserburg and Williston Phase 2
- Upgrading of MR567 between Sutherland and Middelpos Phase 2
- Upgrading of DR 3538 Saamsokolo to Loopeng (Seal)

#### **Rehabilitation projects**

- The rehabilitation of a section of MR938 between Kathu and Hotazel (Mamathwane)

- The rehabilitation of MR804 between Modderivier and Free State border.

### **Reseal Projects**

- Widening and reseal of MR913 between Windsorton to Barkly West
- Reseal of TR38/1 Phillipstown to De Aar
- Reseal of MR948 Churchhill to Bendel
- Reseal of MR809 Plooyburg to Douglas
- Reseal MR904 Homevale
- Reseal of MR947 Bathlaros to Maphiniki

### **Regravelling projects**

Department will continue with regravelling by using different technologies like stabilizing agents on the following roads:

- Regravelling of a section of MR896 Griekwastad- Postmasburg
- Regravelling of MR803 Papkuil to Lime Acres
- Regravelling of MR758 Pofadder to Onseepkans
- Regravelling of MR808 Douglas-Ritchie

## **DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MODEL (DDM)**

**Madam Speaker**, the District Development Model (DDM) remains our priority to combine resources and work together as one plan. The DDM has had positive spin-offs since a number of infrastructure programmes resulted in job creation and our intergovernmental relations with the municipalities remains solid.

The DMM is our strategic vehicle to realizing the DDM as one plan through the implementation of our infrastructure, job creation and other empowerment initiatives like the skills development programs, **contractor development programme (CDP)**,

**SMME enterprise development programme, and this is all achieved in collaboration with the Municipalities.**

Furthermore, we also implemented various roads infrastructure projects like the “**Vala Zonke**” pothole patching programme in and around our municipal demarcated streets.

**Madam Speaker**, the Department will for this financial year implement empowerment programmes targeted at youth, women and persons with disabilities under the auspices of our District Development Model. The DDM will be implemented in various districts through various interventions such as:

- Construction projects,
- Roads maintenance projects,
- Root-out-the dust (ROD) projects,
- Training and
- Skills intervention programmes, just to mention a few.

As part of economic inclusion, we doubled our efforts through various interventions such as; procurement of goods and services where the department has reviewed its SCM policy to empower youth, women and persons with disabilities, and SMME’s residing in rural areas as targeted groups for empowerment.

**Madam Speaker**, the infrastructure industry is struggling to bridge the vacuum between big and small contractors and is faced with poor delivery of public infrastructure because of struggling emerging contractors.

We have also seen that small contractors are unable to implement large projects due to lack of skills, financial capacity and technology and this result in small contractors being swallowed by big contractors which lead to their natural death or insolvency and this is not what a caring Government would want to see happening. Hence, the Contractor Development Programme (CDP) was introduced in the 2021/22 financial year, with the primary objective to incubate small contractors through theoretical, practical training and other non-financial business support.

To date, regarding Civil Engineering, we can report that **31 contractors** have benefitted of which **68%** are target groups and majority of the contractors upgraded from an intake stage of **CIDB level 2CE** to various stages, and some even up to **CIDB level 7CE**.

Amongst these contractors, **eight (8) are women owned, twelve (12) are youth owned and one (1) is a person living with a disability**. Furthermore, regarding the General Building, **there are 2 577 contractors** registered in the CIDB register in the Northern Cape. The challenge is that **2 078** of this number are grade **1 and 90%** of them are Black Companies of which only **124** are between grade **5 to 9**, **622** are women-owned entities and **35** between **Grade 5 to 9 and 140** are youth-owned entities.

**Madam Speaker**, this is an indication that we are “PUSHING THIS THING” of promoting economic growth and business sustainability and it is yielding positive results. As a caring government we will continue to support economic growth among our emerging contractors in the Northern Cape construction industry.

**Madam Speaker**, this financial year, we are raising the bar!!! We have planned for an intake of fifty-nine (59) contractors across the Province. They will be taken through an incubation process of:

- Theoretical training,
- Practical training and
- other non-financial business support.

#### **Expanded Public Works Program (EPWP).**

Since the implementation of the EPWP phase IV, the Department created, in the 2019/20 and 2022/23 financial years, **24 581 (94%)** work opportunities against the target of **26 249** and the Northern Cape Province has to date created **seventy-one thousand five-hundred and forty-eight (71 548)** which is **69%** against the **five-year target of hundred and four thousand and thirty-one (104 031)**.

**Madam Speaker**, the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) conducted by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) reported that the Northern Cape has the largest decrease in the expanded unemployment rate with 6,1 percentage points down compared to the same period last year. This is an indication that some young people have been



disengaged from the labour market. High unemployment amongst the youth remains a great concern and we are confident that this year, we will double our job creation target from seven thousand one-hundred and forty-seven (7 147) in the previous year to an intake of fourteen thousand five-hundred and seventy-five (14 575) this financial year.

**Madam Speaker**, this is part of intensifying job creation efforts and our primary focus will be towards 60% intake for youth and 40% for women. **Madam Speaker**, one of the outcomes on the recent Quarterly Labour Force Survey, is that, we still have young people in the Province, who are not building on their skills base through education and training which means there is still a high skills deficit amongst young people. Hence, as the Department, we will recruit vigorously, this group to bring them into the EPWP and skills development programmes. **Madam Speaker**, in this financial year, we are recruiting eight hundred (800) participants under our skills development initiatives across the province, through our community-based programmes.

These programmes include:

- MERSETA and Construction Seta Artisans programmes, which are for the mainstream of engineering and construction;
- EWSETA learnership programmes, for the Energy and Water sector such as renewable energy, construction health & safety training programme;
- Short skills development programme which involves road maintenance and plant operators training; and
- MICTSETA System support which is an information communication and technology (ICT) learnership programme.

## **REMODELLING**

**Madam Speaker**, The DRPW Remodelling process is actively in progress as we are currently in the process of rolling out a change management project which includes a scientific skills audit and organisational climate survey. The scientific skills audit is a

process of identifying and assessing the skills, knowledge, and abilities of an individual or group of individuals against a set of established criteria.

It involves evaluating both technical skills and soft skills, such as communication, problem-solving, and teamwork. The first phase of the skills audit for all technical personnel has been completed and now, the Department is in a process of reviewing its organisational structure to give effect to the expanded mandate of centralising the provincial building infrastructure function to the Department of Roads and Public Works.

In order to be responsive to the human resources capacity needs, of a fully fledged remodelled Department of Roads and Public Works, an additional **64** positions on salary levels **1-8 to the value of R22.9 million will be filled**. The Department identified critical posts to be filled which amounts to a total of **R 43 million** for compensation where we re-structured our budget and distribution is as follows:

- R23 million from resignations
- R20 million from savings of the reconfiguration of projects
- R5million from the absorbing of cleaning services

**Honourable Speaker**, the Provincial Government made a resolution to rationalise all entities into one single entity and regrading the fleet management entity. The Department will be taking over some functions from client Departments through the assignment of functions and in the same breath relinquishing our white fleet function of the Trading Entity to the Northern Cape Economic Development Agency (NCEDA). The fleet entity's staff will be transferred to NCEDA as well as a total of **seven hundred and eighteen white (718)** fleet to NCEDA to the value of **eighty-five million seven hundred and sixty-eight (R85 768 000)**. We will phase-in the transition of the NCFMTE out into the Roads directorate where the yellow fleet function will be managed by the Roads Directorate from this financial year.

#### **EPWP SMME Enterprise development.**

**Honourable Speaker**, the EPWP SMME enterprise development is a newly introduced empowerment priority and is a cross-cutting function that provides support

to EPWP participants with the desire to start and operate small businesses. This programme takes off in the form of pre-viability assessment, where we assess if the business idea is viable or not, render assistance in developing market studies, financial planning and referrals to enterprise development agencies and other stakeholders. The Department will first develop a policy and an implementation plan to bring the enterprise development programme to life, and we will also start engagements with all stakeholders to develop Memorandum of Agreements with relevant Departments to solidify our relationship regarding enterprise development and support.

**Honourable Speaker**, the Department in collaboration with the Transport Education and Training Authority (TETA) will be launching a Female and Youth Entrepreneurial Skills flagship programme as part of its enterprise development initiative. The project will focus on women and youth, with the aim to enhance the growth and development of their small businesses and start-ups. This programme is designed to provide entrepreneurs with the necessary resources, skills, and knowledge to help them achieve their goals, increase their revenue, and expand their businesses. **For this financial year, the Department plans to train a group of 60 learners and assign experienced mentors to ensure their sustainable growth and development.**

#### **EPWP EXIT STRATEGY.**

**Madam Speaker**, as part of the final stages of our community-based programs, the Department is in the process of formalizing an exit strategy by strengthening collaboration with our stakeholders. This will also influence and enhance our existing partnerships with the mines, TVET College, SETA's, CIDB, NHBRC and other relevant stakeholders. In line with the three pillars of the exit strategy these learners will have three options to advance their careers, namely:

- Further Education – taking learners from skills program through learnership up to Artisan level;
- Business Development – Streamlining entrepreneurship in the trade programs to give the learners the skills to start their own businesses; and
- Employment – to make them employable to government or the private sector.

## **STAKEHOLDERS.**

**Honourable Speaker**, in order for us to achieve our goals, the Department will continue working with our partners in the private sector to leverage their expertise and resources. We also want to extend our gratitude to the farmers in assisting the department in maintenance of roads. We will be launching the “*Adopt A Road*” Program and we would like to invite partners to adopt a road for maintenance purposes.

We are currently in partnership with various institutions of higher learning, farmers who assist with pothole patching and mining houses in and around the Province, who assist in the provision of construction of road infrastructure funding, funding for the implementation of the various skills development initiatives and non-financial resources.

Our partnership will not end there; we will PUSH HARDER to advance future partnerships with mining houses to advance work placement arrangements for graduates.

I would further like to thank the following partners:

- The farmers
- The AGRI-NC
- Mining industry
- SETA's
- Professional Councils for the built environment
- Institutions of Higher Learning

## **BUDGET.**

**Honourable Madam Speaker**, it is my great pleasure to present to you the budget for the Department of Roads and Public Works for the upcoming fiscal year.

**Honourable Members**, the budget allocation for the **2023/24 financial year** amounts to **R2.164 billion** with the total equitable share showing an average growth of **22%** for this year and **22%** decline over the MTEF.

The National Conditional Grants comprise **64%** of total budget with the Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant amounts to **R1 388 billion** showing an increase of **14%** if compared to **R1.065 billion** received in **2022/23** financial year.

An additional **R4.980 million** was received from the EPWP Integrated Grant. The compensation budget of the department has decreased by **R4 million** and it amounts to **R310 million** which represents 14% of the total budget allocation.

<b><u>Programme</u></b>	<b><u>Allocation</u></b>
Administration (10% of the total budget)	R188 million
Public Works (10% of the total budget)	R 243million
Road Infrastructure (71% of the total budget)	R1,624 billion
Community Based Programme (9% of the total budget)	<u>R110 million</u>
<b>Total Budget Allocation</b>	<b><u>R2,165 billion</u></b>

**Honourable Speaker and members of this house,** I want to thank the Premier, Dr Zamani Saul for his leadership and support, my colleagues in the oversight bodies and the Executive Council. I thank the Head of the Department, Ministerial staff and the Management team for their continued dedication and professional support.

I would also like to thank all the People of the Northern Cape for their continued support and commitment to building a better future for our Province. We are confident that by investing in our roads and public works, we will be able to create jobs, drive economic growth and improve the lives of all our citizen

As Mahatma Gandhi once said: ***“The future depends on what we do in the present.”***

Honourable Speaker, I therefore table this Budget Vote for consideration.

I thank you

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