



**the dr&pw**

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

# BUDGET SPEECH VOTE 5



# 2025/26

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

**28 July 2025**

**Honourable Speaker, Newrene Klaaste,  
Honourable Deputy Speaker, Sharifa Ferris,  
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,  
Viewers watching from our social media platforms,  
Distinguished Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

As we gather in this House during Mandela Month, we stand under the enduring shadow and shining light of Nelson Mandela, a towering figure whose life was devoted to justice, dignity, and the vision of a united and equal South Africa. His words remind us that ***“overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity; it is an act of justice.”***

In this spirit, our budget is not merely a financial plan; it is a moral and political instrument for transformation. It is a declaration that we will not relent in our efforts to build infrastructure that unites rather than divides, to create opportunities where there was once exclusion, and to heal the spatial and economic wounds inflicted by our painful past.

**Honourable Members**, the signing into law of the Expropriation Act of 2024 marks a watershed moment in our democratic journey. It aligns our legal framework with the values enshrined in **Section 25 of our Constitution**, affirming the principle of just and equitable compensation while paving the way for the restoration of dignity to millions of dispossessed South Africans. This issue is not solely about land; it is about reclaiming agency, correcting injustice, and realizing the democratic promise that South Africa belongs to all who live in it.

Since the earliest days of the **African National Congress**, our movement has fought against the injustice of the 1913 Natives' Land Act, a brutal instrument of dispossession. With the Expropriation Act now enacted, we take one step closer to fulfilling the dream of equitable land ownership, one step closer to restoring the soul of our people.

## **ECONOMIC OVERVIEW AND FISCAL OUTLOOK**

**Honourable Speaker**, the Northern Cape faces an annual inflation rate of **3.1%**, slightly above the national average, with rising food, housing, and utility costs impacting vulnerable households. Despite a **3.3% decline** in national transport costs and an **11.2% fuel** price drop year-on-year, housing (4.4%) and food (5.1%) prices remain high, disproportionately affecting low-income groups, especially in rural areas.

Recent CPI data shows inflation rose from 2.8% in May to 3.0% in June 2025. Housing, food, and alcohol/tobacco are main contributors.

While global economic challenges persist, these trends offer potential for stability to support inclusive growth, infrastructure-led recovery, and social protection. Our focus on expanding infrastructure and economic transformation is vital to mitigate inflation's impact and promote development for all communities.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE MEDIUM-TERM DEVELOPMENT PLAN (MTDP) 2024-2029.**

**Honourable Members**, our **2025/26** focus is guided by the MTDP 2024–2029 and Strategic Plan 2025–2030, emphasizing infrastructure investment, inclusive growth, and sustainable job creation to transform the Northern Cape.

Over the next two years, we will upgrade **61.45 km of gravel roads** to surfaced roads and re-gravel **626 km** to improve road conditions and district mobility.

**The 2025/26 budget totals R2.282 billion-** including **R717 million** from the equitable share and **R1.567 billion** from the Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant.

With a **48% vacancy rate**, we launched a recruitment drive late 2024 and continue in 2025/26 to fill at least 10% of vacancies, aiming to strengthen technical capacity essential for effective project delivery and improved community service.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS.**

**Madam Speaker**, the Northern Cape faces worsening climate impacts, including severe flooding that has damaged road infrastructure and strained our limited resources. As a result, the 2025/26 budget must be reprioritized, shifting funds from planned projects to emergency repairs.

**Honourable Members**, in order to mitigate the impact of climate change on our roads, this Department will continue expanding our road infrastructure resilience through strategic investments in climate-smart technologies, building upon our current re-gravelling program with stabilizing agents by allocating funds for advanced materials including smart infrastructure solutions and climate-adaptive construction methods such as the nano-technology, ensuring our Northern Cape road network not only withstands the challenges of climate change but actively contributes to our province's sustainable development goals while creating jobs and reducing long-term maintenance costs for the benefit of all our communities.

### **COLLABORATION WITH SANRAL**

**Honourable Members**, our partnership with the South African National Roads Agency, SANRAL, continues to be a pillar of progress for the Northern Cape. It enables us to expand and maintain critical economic infrastructure even within tight fiscal constraints.

Since the inception of this partnership in 2004, we have transferred a total of **3,712.94 kilometres of roads** to SANRAL. This includes the strategically significant **manganese haul route**, which plays a crucial role in supporting mining logistics and export capacity.

In the 2025/26 financial year, we will transfer an additional **649.99 kilometres of strategic roads**. The motivation behind this is threefold:

1. **To strengthen linkages to key provincial bridges**, ensuring structural alignment between regional corridors and national routes;

2. **To establish reliable by-pass routes for heavy mineral traffic**, relieving pressure on local road infrastructure and improving safety in rural towns; and
3. **To boost tourism and border connectivity**, especially in areas that serve as gateways to neighbouring countries and heritage destinations.

This partnership exemplifies how intergovernmental collaboration can drive long-term sustainability, improve mobility, and unlock new opportunities for growth and inclusion in our province.

## **REMODELING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS.**

**Madam Speaker**, the remodeling of the Department of Roads and Public Works, championed by Premier Dr. Zamani Saul, signals a strategic shift toward centralized, efficient infrastructure delivery in the Northern Cape.

We have completed internal consultations and are engaging User Departments to transfer Equitable Share and DORA-funded posts-bringing in both core staff and scarce technical skills. Consultations with labour are ongoing, supported by a multi-stakeholder task team led by the Office of the Premier.

The redetermination of the Northern Cape Fleet Entity is underway, with the white fleet function set to move to NCEDA in 2025/26.

Supporting this transformation, a Skills Audit, Climate Survey, and technical structure review have been completed. We are now fast-tracking the secondment and transfer of key personnel to fully capacitate the Department.

This is a complex but vital reform to build a faster, smarter, and more responsive infrastructure delivery model.





**Public  
Works**

## **PUBLIC WORKS INFRASTRUCTURE.**

### **1. Public Works Infrastructure Projects for 2025/2026**

**Madam Speaker**, as we continue to respond to the infrastructure needs of our province, I am pleased to report that for the **2025/2026 financial year**, several key projects are in the planning, design, and tender phases. **These include essential upgrades to weighbridges in Colesberg and Kimberley, implemented on behalf of the Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison.**

In terms of active construction, **a total of 13 major infrastructure projects are underway for the Department of Education.** These range from full-service and replacement schools to Early Childhood Development centres, ablution facilities, fencing, and multipurpose sports courts, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to creating dignified learning environments for our children.

These are:

- **Voorspoed Primary School**, with an investment of R13.2 million, is expected to create approximately **13 job opportunities**.
- **Wrenchville High School**, at R22.1 million; will yield an estimated **22 jobs**.
- **Gaoshupe Makodi Primary School (Phase 2)**, at R6.3 million; may generate around **6 jobs**.
- **Bankhara Bodulong Primary School**, with a total investment of R124.2 million and an estimated 138 jobs created;
- **Franciscus Intermediate School**, valued at R150.4 million; is estimated to contribute **another 120 job opportunities**.
- **Kalahari Secondary School**, with R120.8 million allocated and 22 jobs expected;
- **Calton Van Heerden Secondary School**, at R149.7 million; is likely to generate **150 jobs**.
- **Oranje Oewer School**, at R127.5 million, also supporting 138 jobs;
- **Magojaneng Primary School**, with R129.6 million invested; million, is projected to create **130 jobs**
- **Rietrivier Primary School**, at R147.8 million; will create approximately **148 jobs**.
- **Completion of Cillie Primary School**, with R29.2 million allocated; 29 jobs expected to created, 85 jobs to be created.
- **Petrusville Primary School**, at R84.8 million; and

- The **new Kimberley English Medium Secondary School**, which is currently in the planning stage.

### 1.1 Health infrastructure:

**Nine projects** are being implemented on behalf of the Department of Health. These include:

- **Upgrades at Tshwaragano Hospital**, including the Gateway Clinic and walkways, at a value of R54.2 million and creating approximately 90 job opportunities;
- **Upgrades at Dr Arthur Letele Medical Depot**, valued at R68.4 million, with 85 jobs estimated;
- The **EMS station conversion at Kuruman Hospital**, at R18.8 million, generating 14 jobs;
- **Transformer replacement at Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe Hospital**, at R46.8 million; estimated to create 20 jobs
- A **new clinic in Schmidtsdrift**, valued at R61.7 million and set to create 28 jobs;
- **Completion of the installation of Heating, Ventilation and Air Condition installation** at Blocks K, L, M and RMS Hospital, at a cost of R49.9 million, creating 29 jobs;
- Completion of the installation of a **2-megalitre water tank** at RMS Hospital, completed at a cost of R14.8 million and generating 15 jobs;
- A **three-year HVAC maintenance contract** at RMS Hospital, valued at R67.6 million; and estimated to create 6 jobs
- The **construction of Nursing College Phase 2**, representing a significant investment of R569.2 million and an estimated 65 job opportunities.

Lastly, for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, we have four projects currently in motion:

- The **construction of a new library in Galeshewe**, valued at R42.2 million, with project approvals having been received this week; estimated to provide 42 jobs.
- The **upgrading and conversion of Masiza School**, at R16.7 million, which will create approximately 25 jobs;
- **Upgrades to the Mayibuye Community Centre**, with R24.3 million allocated and 23 jobs estimated; and
- **Repairs and fencing at the De Aar District Offices**, at a cost of just under R1 million, estimated to create 7 jobs.



## DISPOSAL POLICY AND DISPOSAL PROGRESS.

**Honourable Speaker**, the Department has finalized a revised Disposal Policy for Superfluous Immovable Assets, shifting from simple disposal to inclusive transformation. The policy prioritizes access to land and property for historically marginalised groups, including black people, women, youth, persons with disabilities, and rural communities.

The Province currently holds **13,443 hectares** of vacant land and **33 vandalized** buildings across **32.5 hectares**. Non-strategic assets will be disposed of through proposals that unlock economic value, focusing on previously disadvantaged individuals and organisations.

Disposal mechanisms include long term leases, donations, PPPs, sales (including below market rates), and land swap models. A key innovation is the Renovate, Operate, and Transfer (ROT) model, enabling the private sector to restore and use derelict buildings without state capital input. This will also help to address the challenges of vacant buildings attracting undesirable occupation and vandalism. The disposal policy is currently under review and this policy has been presented to all municipalities

The Provincial immovable asset register includes **1,911 land parcels, with 1,310 registered to the** Province and 601 are state domestic facilities. The Province continues to raise revenue to be able to conduct mandatory condition assessments on Provincial immovable assets, a process that is necessary every five years. This process enables user departments with their efficient user asset management planning.

A **R1.2 billion** maintenance backlog was last recorded in 2013. Provincial Treasury has also been requested to assist the department with funding for the entire Provincial asset portfolio.

## RATES AND TAXES

**Honourable Speaker**, a major concern for the Department and municipalities across the province is the chronic underfunding of **Property Rates and Taxes** on provincial properties. For **2025/26 financial year**, we face a projected shortfall of **R16 million**, with a

budget of **R107 million** against a need of **R123 million, only on the current accounts**. This gap is part of a longstanding, structural issue.

The Department now carries **arrears exceeding R700 million**, worsened by inability to fully pay even current accounts.

Despite raising the issue in multiple forums, no resolution has been forthcoming. We therefore call for urgent collaboration with **Provincial Treasury, SALGA, and Municipalities** to establish a standardized, market-aligned valuation model and a sustainable financial solution.

Without decisive action, the Department's ability to meet its obligations, and the stability of municipal service delivery, will remain at risk.

## **PARLIAMENTARY VILLAGE PROJECT**

**Madam Speaker**, the **Parliamentary Village Project** has been formally registered with National Treasury as a **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)**.

The Department has completed the Terms of Reference for the procurement of the **Transaction Advisor**, to conduct the feasibility study and possible procurement of a PPP partner for the development of the housing precinct. The feasibility study will determine the project's financial and operational viability. A **R10 million budget** has been allocated for this phase.

We remain committed to transparency and sound governance, and will continue updating this House as the project progresses.



# Roads

## TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE (ROADS)

**Madam Speaker,** The Northern Cape's Road network has been negatively affected by climate change that led to flood damages across the Province.

1. With all the challenges, the Department managed to perform as follows:

- 1.1 661.13km** of gravel roads were re-gravelled.
- 1.2 36 965.09 m<sup>2</sup>** of blacktop patching was conducted on surfaced roads under the Vala Zonke programme.
- 1.3 63 039.69km** of gravel roads were bladed.
- 1.4 30.38km** of gravel roads were upgraded to surfacing and paving.

**Madam Speaker,** road upgrades are progressing well in the JTG District, with 20km of MR974 (Laxey–Heuningvlei) underway. Phase 2 upgrades of 9km on MR567 (Sutherland–Middelpos) and 15km on MR569 (Fraserburg–Williston) have been completed.

### 2. Project Design:

- 2.1** DR 3342 Gasese to Washington (Design);
- 2.2** DR 950 Dithakong to North West Border (Design); and
- 2.3** DR 3235 Rooiwal to Viooldrift (Design),
- 2.4** DR034783- Bothetheletsa

### 3. Upgrading of Projects:

- 3.1** MR974 between Laxey and Heuningvlei Phase 1;
- 3.2** Pniel Paving Phase 2 (connecting to the R31); and
- 3.3** Campbell paving of MR803 (Access Road).

**4. Rehabilitation projects:**

- 4.1** A section of MR938 between Kathu and Hotazel (Mamathwane);
- 4.2** MR804 from N12 to Free State border -Modderrivier; and
- 4.3** MR904 Homevale-R31 road.

**5. Reseal Projects:**

- 5.1** MR948 Churchill to Bendel;
- 5.2** MR913 Barkley West to Windsorton;
- 5.3** TR38/1 Phillipstown to De Aar; and
- 5.4** MR807 Plooyburg to Douglas.

**6. Re-gravelling Projects:**

The Department will continue with re-gravelling by using different technologies like stabilizing agents on the following roads:

- 6.1** MR791 Petrusville to Colesberg Phase 2;
- 6.2** MR745 Komaggas to Kleinzee Phase 2; and
- 6.3** MR886 Askham to Van Zylsrus Phase 2.





# EPWP

## COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMMES – EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME (EPWP).

**Honourable Members**, since the launch of EPWP Phase V in May 2024, the Program has remained central to our efforts to uplift the unemployed and strengthen social cohesion.

In **2024/25**, our Department created **10,977 work opportunities**, 104% of the target. Province-wide, we delivered **22,567 work opportunities**, exceeding targets across departments and municipalities.

For **2025/26**, we aim to create **3,433 work opportunities** through initiatives like the **Root Out the Dust and Poverty Relief** Programs, supported by a **R4.488 million national incentive grant**.

**Honourable Members**, our commitment to municipal empowerment through incentive grants demonstrates government's unwavering dedication to building local capacity while creating sustainable employment opportunities.

Our **Municipal EPWP targets for 2024/25** reflect a substantial investment in community development, with **21,270 work opportunities** supported by **R1.211 billion** in funding. This translates to meaningful employment across three critical sectors:

- **Infrastructure Development** leads our efforts with **12,220 work opportunities** and **675 full-time equivalent positions (FTE)**, ensuring our municipalities have the human resources to build and maintain essential community infrastructure.
- **Environmental Programs** contribute **8,255 work opportunities** with **457 FTE positions**, demonstrating our commitment to environmental sustainability and climate resilience at the municipal level.
- **Social Development initiatives** provide **795 work opportunities** and **80 FTE positions**, strengthening the social fabric of our communities.

Looking ahead to the **2025/26 financial year**, we anticipate growth to **21,523 municipal positions** with an increased budget allocation of **R1.264 billion**, representing a **4.4% growth** in our municipal support framework.

This expansion will see **Infrastructure Development** growing to **12,669 work opportunities**, while **Environmental Programs** will increase to **8,563 opportunities**. These incentive grants not only create immediate employment but build long-term municipal capacity, ensuring our local governments are equipped to serve their communities effectively.

### **1. Innovation and Empowerment**

**Madam Speaker**, in 2024/25 financial year, the Innovation and Empowerment unit trained **187 participants**, exceeding its annual target. These included youth in **road maintenance, health and safety, electrical trades, and 50 persons with disabilities through New Venture Creation**.

Importantly, **108** of the beneficiaries were women, underscoring our commitment to inclusive, skills-driven economic empowerment aligned with the NDP and EPWP Phase V.

### **2. EPWP Innovation and Empowerment Planned Performance for 2025/26**

**Honourable Members**, in 2025/26 financial year, the Department will roll out **170 training interventions** through key EPWP programs, including the **Phakamile Mabija Apprenticeship, Road Maintenance Skills, New Venture Creation, and Entrepreneurship Development**.

We are pleased to confirm major support from MERSETA and Bank SETA, with over **R5.6 million** secured in discretionary grants. These partnerships reflect our commitment to empowering youth, women, and persons with disabilities through skills development and enterprise support.

### **3. The new venture creation program.**

The **New Venture Creation Enterprise Development Program** is a flagship EPWP initiative empowering persons with disabilities to start their own businesses, in partnership with **Disabled People South Africa**.

In **2024/25**, 50 participants, 25 each from **Frances Baard and ZFM Districts**, completed the program, with a near equal gender split. All

were found competent, highlighting the impact of inclusive skills development.

For **2025/26**, the program will expand to **Namakwa, John Taolo Gaetsewe**, and **Pixley Ka Seme**, targeting **75 more participants**.

As part of the **EPWP Exit Strategy**, **25 graduates** have already progressed to full **Entrepreneurship Development Learnerships**, launched in **June 2025** in Kimberley, to support their journey into sustainable business ownership.

#### **4. Entrepreneurship Development Program (Contractors)**

This program supports **female Grade 1 contractors** in the Northern Cape. In **2024/25**, **49 women** earned **20 credits** toward a full National Construction Contracting qualification, advancing their formalization and empowerment.

Aligned with the **EPWP Exit Strategy**, all districts are now using the **Women and Youth Enterprise Database** to link emerging contractors to future business and procurement opportunities.

These efforts reflect the Department's commitment to **inclusive economic development, skills building, and sustainable livelihoods** for EPWP participants.





# Fleet Management



## **NORTHERN CAPE FLEET MANAGEMENT TRADING ENTITY**

**Honourable Members**, as part of efforts to improve efficiency and streamline services, the Executive Council has resolved to **transfer macro organisation of entities including the white fleet function** from the **Northern Cape Fleet Management Trading Entity (NCFMTE)** to the **Northern Cape Economic Development Agency (NCEDA)**.

This move aims to create a more **integrated, cost-effective, and sustainable fleet management system**.

To ensure a fair process, the Executive Council also resolved that **organized labour** from all affected entities engage through a **single Bargaining Council chamber** for transparent consultations.

We remain committed to a **fair, consultative, and legally compliant** transition, protecting employee rights while advancing our developmental goals.

## **CONCLUSION**

**Madam Speaker**, our commitment has never been stronger. This budget reaffirms our dedication to building a capable state that is centered on the needs of the people, focused on the future, and responsive to the challenges of our time.

In the spirit of Madiba, let us continue our journey toward freedom, not just in words but through actions that impact lives, strengthen communities, and create lasting change.

**I hereby table the Budget Vote 5 for the Department of Roads and Public Works for the 2025/26 financial year.**

**I thank you**

**Department of Roads and Public Works  
Northern Cape Province**

Tel: (053) 839 2100

Tel: (053) 839 2229

P.O Box 3132

Web: <http://ncrpw.ncpg.gov.za>

Email: [DRPW-Info@ncpg.gov.za](mailto:DRPW-Info@ncpg.gov.za)

