

# BUDGET SPEECH

## 2013/2014



**MEC  
DAWID ROODI**



**the dr&pw**

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

# Budget Speech of the MEC of Roads and Public Works

## Honourable Dawid Rooi

Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature

Honourable Premier Mme Sylvia Lukas

Members of the Executive Council

Members of the Provincial Legislature

Our esteemed District and Municipal Mayors

Our Traditional and Religious Leaders

The people of the Northern Cape, also known as the Province of Extremes

Distinguished guest

Members of the media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Fellow South African

Ndiyanibulisa nonke

Dumelang, molweni, good afternoon, goeie middag.

It is with great respect that I stand here before you to bring honour and commemorate the 20th anniversary of the assassination of political activist and stalwart of the liberation struggle, Thembisile 'Chris' Hani - also the former General Secretary of the South African Communist Party and NEC member of the African National Congress (ANC).

On this day I would like to dedicate my speech to a fallen hero who was described as a 'selfless revolutionist' who died for his political beliefs.

Serious tensions followed after his assassination, with fears that the country would erupt into violence. Former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela addressed the nation appealing for a calm mood, I quote:

*"Tonight I am reaching out to every single South African, black and white, from the very depths of my being. A white man, full of prejudice and hate, came to our country and committed a deed so foul that our whole nation now teeters on the brink of disaster. A*



*white woman, of Afrikaner origin, risked her life so that we may know, and bring to justice, this assassin. The cold-blooded murder of Chris Hani has sent shock waves throughout the country and the world. ... Now is the time for all South Africans to stand together against those who, from any quarter, wish to destroy what Chris Hani gave his life for – the freedom of all of us. “*

At the backdrop of the recently commemorated Freedom Month we need to acknowledge that Cadre Hani played a significant role to bring democracy to South Africa. The leading party has since 1994 made substantial progress in consolidating democracy, achieving political stability, extending basic services and promoting respect for values and various freedoms enshrined in the South African Constitution.

Honourable members, allow me to pay tribute to one of the founding fathers of democracy, Tata Madiba. We are united in the believe based on his sacrifice, struggle for freedom for all South Africans, he will be spared strength and good health.

In the same vein our province along with the Free State has just commemorated the tenth anniversary of the Saulspoort dam bus accident. The bus, filled with trade union members and workers from the Sol Plaatje Municipality in Kimberley, was on its way to a Workers' Day rally in Phuthaditjhaba, QwaQwa. These are cadres that have died in the line of duty; symbolically on the battlefield they still had the spear in the hand. As people of a caring society we must continue to show compassion to the families of the deceased.

The announcement made by President Jacob Zuma in his State of the Nation Address to expand the iron-ore rail line between Sishen in Northern Cape and Saldanha Bay in the Western Cape, will create large numbers of jobs in the Northern Cape Province. In addition to this economic investment the iron-ore capacity on the transport-side will increase the iron-ore capacity from 74 million tons to 100 million tons per annum. (SIPS)

In terms of SIPS 3, 5, 8 and 11 the department made the following commitments:

- Maintaining of the Kuruman to Hotazel road,



- We dedicated R 50 million towards the regravelling of roads to the Noupoort, Klip Gat and Karoshoek Solar Valley Park Energy Solar plants,
- The upgrading of the JTG-roads,
- Gravelling of the 2996 District Road from Carnarvon to the SKA site with drainage improvements.

The Department Roads and Public Works have taken active steps to ensure we deliver on the mandates of the ANC especially in terms of job creation, education, skilling and capacitating the youth, making available the infrastructure for education and health services to continue in communities and rural development in terms of bringing services to the poor and marginalised. We implemented a number of strategies and policies to maximise our available resources, human capital and budget.

Through the collective leadership of the ANC and government in the province, EPWP is being taken serious as a valuable intervention program and the department is charged with overseeing the implementation of one such a program. This department is committed to deliver on the mandate of the Leading Party. We have made great strides since the inception of this administration, to create jobs as one of government's priorities through Expanded Public Works Programmes (EPWP) which enables the unemployed citizens of the province and especially 'young people and women' in particular, to contribute towards the economy through different programmes in the infrastructure, social, environment and culture sectors as well as the non-state sector.

Honourable Speaker, as Custodian of all immovable assets in the province, the mandate of the Department of Roads and Public Works is to manage the provincial immovable assets throughout its lifecycle: namely acquisition, maintenance and operation and disposal.

I stand before you to account for the past financial year 2012/13 the department have spent R 1.016 billion of its total budget of R1.057 billion which represents 96 % of its total budget.



Through effective resource and project management, I can without equivocation, share the following achievements with this esteemed house:

- The successful implementation of Rooting out the Dust, which is one of the innovations in the Expanded Public Works Program.
- The successful completion of the following major projects;
  - Hotazel - Tsineng Road
  - Vosburg - Carnarvon Road
  - And the New Upington Hospital

The infrastructure sector is characterised by serious challenges, which limits the full potential of the provincial economic growth. These challenges include, but it is not limited to:

- Inadequate financial investment in economic infrastructure which have resulted in backlogs and ageing infrastructure.
- Insufficient supply of highly graded and competent contractors in the province.
- The vast extent of the province which is in contradiction to the budget allocation model.
- Inability to compete with the mines and other private sector participants to attract registered professionals.

It is clear that the establishment and maintenance of roads within this province contributes to the economy. Furthermore, I am convinced upgraded roads will not only mean happier road users, it is also synonymous to reduced accidents, and less damaged vehicles and reduced liability claims. I am sure road users will support and applaud this.

This means:

- bringing forth change,
- improving the quality of people's driving or
- to some the a job opportunity

Honourable Speaker, as a department, we are relieved by the commencement of the National Infrastructure Plan. An investment in the much-needed infrastructure will ease the pressure and unlock the backlogs to which I referred to earlier and boost the economy of



the province. We are aware of the need for synergised long-term planning to ensure that our department are able to provide the road infrastructure in proportion to the economic spinoffs resulting from government investment and to plan in line with Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs) outlined in the National Development Plan, Vision 2030.

The Road Infrastructure Programme is responsible for the proclaimed rural road network within the Northern Cape Province. The Provincial Road Network comprises of 3 360 km (12%) of paved roads and 22 812 km (88%) of unpaved roads. The department has a fundamental task of ensuring that road users travel safely and that the provincial roads are improved.

The department has engaged mining houses, which has a direct impact on the roads condition, due to the lack of rail capacity, to financially contribute to the roads affected. To date Memorandum of Agreements have been signed with mines contributing R210 million over the next 24 months and a further R225 million commitments are currently being negotiated which will be implemented over a 3 year period.

The upgrading (existing gravel road to surfaced road standard) of 59,54 km gravel section of main road 768 between Vosburg and Carnarvon have now brought hope to farmers, people of the surrounding communities. This project includes the reseal of the surfaced sections at Vosburg and at Carnarvon.

I am glad to announce that many tourists, astronomers; scientists will travel the Vosburg-Carnarvon Road as it shortens the traveling distance from the capital of the Northern Cape Province that leads to the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) site. Since the upgrading of the Vosburg-Carnarvon Road commenced on 29 November 2011, a total amount of R183 million was invested in this project.

Another success is the completion of the Phase 1 of the Hotazel – Tsineng Road. The BHP Billiton mine contributed half of the cost to upgrade. An estimated cost of R 30 million has been invested in this project. We are ready to commence with Phase 2 and 3 which amounts to R 60 million.



The Douglas – Hopetown road was selected as a project in order to boost tourism and economic routes within the Northern Cape, directed to enhance infrastructure for economic growth and social development. The estimated cost for the project amounts to R240 million and is 75% completed.

The design of the Hondeklip Bay connecting road is completed and the construction of the road will amount to R 240 million. The department will construct the road in phases of which Phase 1 will commence during this financial year. The project would create a number of job opportunities.

Honourable members, in the last year, we have witnessed service delivery protests in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District's Joe Morolong Municipality – where communities demanded the upgrading of roads. These further aggravated the pressure on the department to build more roads with limited funds. It must be borne in mind that the conditional grant provides funds only for maintenance of existing roads.

As government we heard the cry of the JTG community and acted with vigour and enthusiasm. We are sure that the community will welcome government's investment in terms of infrastructure development. After the community unrests, vandalism and destruction of some of our graders, it was the beginning of a new chapter of hope when the Sishen Iron Ore Community Development Trust, made a financial contribution towards the upgrading to some of the much demanded roads.

As government we are proud to deliver on our promise in terms of the roads when the Acting Premier Mme Grizelda Cjiekella addressed the community during the Sod Turning ceremony on 20 March in Glenred.

This project will focus on the upgrade of gravel roads to tarred roads within the Joe Morolong Local Municipality in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District. The roads under construction were prioritized by communities through memorandum of demand that was



presented to the Department on 21 May 2012 from the communities of Bothithong, Dithakong, Laxey and Gamojeremane.

Our project includes the upgrade of two sections of road namely:

- the MR 950 (From Dithakong to Colston) – 27 km and
- MR 947 (From Laxey to Samsokolo), – 31km.

We are glad to announce that the construction of roads will bring job opportunities for the duration of the project to the community.

Honourable speaker, we need to be aware due to the new demarcation process the Northern Cape Province the department inherited the backlog on roads which previously was the responsibility of the North-West Province to upgrade and maintain. The provincial government despite limited finances is doing its utmost best in terms of infrastructure development. The department adopted the roads function of the District Municipalities during July 2011 in order to ensure optimal investment of finances. This is supported by the South African Constitution, Article 108 of 1996 schedule part A, which stipulates this function is the responsibility of provincial departments.

We need to acknowledge the high unemployment and poverty rate of the JTG District. With a limited budget, government continues to face the challenge of infrastructure development. Last year the province have fallen victim to a number of protests by community members under the guise of service delivery protests. In contrast, over the past 5 years the Department of Roads and Public Works has completed several projects in the JTG Region namely:

- Mothibistad to T-junction of D3031
- Hotazel to Vanzylsrus road (53 km )
- The Ncweng to Tsineng Road
- Base & Surface repair of the Mothibistad – Maphinik
- Base & Surface repair of the N14 – Dithakong
- Shoulder repair of the Hotazel - Kuruman TR0505
- Asbestos Roads



- Churchill to Bendel road (44km)
- Re-gravel of the Dithakong road (25km) - Van Zyl Rust to Middelputs
- Re-gravelling of the Laxey road to Padstow

Gedurende Desember 2010 en Januarie 2011 het die Noord-Kaapse provinsie erge reën gehad - wat oorstromings tot gevolg gehad het en erge verwoestings aan paaie aangerig het. Talle gemeenskappe was van groter dorpe afgesny.

Agbare Speaker, die department het meer as 120 paaie geëvalueer en die totale skade vir die provinsie is omtrent R 367 miljoen. Gedurende die vloede was die situasie so krities en ons moes dringend kontrakteurs aanstel om net die probleem van gemeenskappe wat afgesny is, te oorkom, soos onder meer die volgende 5 pad-herstel projekte:

- Fraserburg TR 7301 R 32 miljoen
- Kanoneiland MR 875 R 8.4 miljoen
- Askham / Rietfontein TR 87 R 3.6 miljoen
- Perde-eiland DR 3268 R 2.8 miljoen
- Williston TR 1605 R12.8 miljoen

In totaal is sowat R 59.6 miljoen bestee. Die projekte is maar net een voorbeeld hoe ons as die regering mense se behoeftes eerste stel, om te verseker dat hul deur middel van infrastruktuur verbinding nie afgesny is nie, maar geïntegreer en verbind word met ander gemeenskappe om te baat te vind by dienslewering en ekonomiese ontwikkeling.

Honourable speaker, ladies and gentleman, Roads and Public Works will invest a total of R 2,2 billion on road infrastructure development for the 2013/14 Mid-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period. The focus of the department has shifted from roads construction to the maintenance of roads in order to preserve the assets that we have.

A total of R 740 million is allocated for the 2013/14 financial year for roads infrastructure development which is allocated for upgrading, maintenance and flood damages. This allocation will assist with regards to the linking of communities and the creating of job opportunities and the empowering of small contractors.



Honourable Speaker, the department have been identified across the entire province:

- Reseal worth R70 million
- Fog spray worth R20 million
- Roads furniture: road signs and guardrails worth R30 million
- Bridge Maintenance worth R25 million
- Eradication of potholes worth R8 million
- Routine & preventative maintenance worth R120 million
- Floods Damage worth R93 million

Honourable Speaker, the R31 road between Delportshoop and just after Koopmansfontein will be under construction for the next 9 months which will consist of reseal and upgrading of the road. The construction of the road between Postmasburg and Olifantshoek turn-off is 100% funded by Assmang Mine.

Agbare Speaker, in die Namakwa Distrik het die Boesmanland Boerevereniging, spesifiek die Paaie Kommittee, die departement geloof vir sy goeie werk ten opsigte van die skraap van grondpaaie. Ek haal aan uit 'n brief wat hul aan ons gerig het, *“Hiermee wil ons graag gebruik maak van die geleentheid om u te bedank vir die feit dat ons paaie geskraap is, en vir die wyse waarop dit geskraap is. Alle lede is baie tevrede en stem saam dat die paaie nog nooit voorheen so deelik geskraap is nie.”*

Verder het die Boerevereniging selfs die betrokke werker, Mnr Koos Tieties, op grond van ons standaard en kwaliteit van dienslewering aan die gemeenskap, geloof en aanbeveel vir permanente dienslewering. Ek haal weereens aan uit die brief, *“Dit het onder ons aandag gekom dat Mnr Tieties 'n tydelike werker is en dat sy kontrak die einde van die maand verval. Dit sal 'n groot verlies vir die departement en vir die Boerevereniging wees om iemand van sy kaliber te verloor.”*

Lede van die huis, die brief is 'n ware bevestiging dat die dienslewering van Paaie en Openbare Werke 'n tevredenheid by ons groot bydraers tot ons Noord-Kaapse ekonomie, die plaasboere skep. Die ANC-regering sal sy werksaamhede in alle mag voort sit om 'n

beter lewe vir almal te skep met die oog op die bevordering van die provinsie se ekonomie.

Honourable speaker, as part of the mandate of Roads and Public Works to act as an implementing agent for all provincial departments to provide accommodation solutions that include construction, refurbishment, maintenance as well as leasing of office accommodation. This portfolio consists of the following:

Once again, honourable speaker, with this project the department successfully delivered on the mandates of the leading party by creating jobs embracing the people who bear the brunt of poverty by creating over 300 job opportunities. The department took first delivery on the Project in April 2013 on some of the phases of the project which includes a TB Unit, an EMS Unit and 2 Sets of staff houses.

The other phases such as the main hospital, internal roads and external road has been completed and only one set of staff houses will be completed in July 2013.

The New 158-bed De Aar regional hospital inclusive of a 63 bed TB unit will address to the much needed services and the demand for specialised medical treatment in the province. The total project cost is R517,3 mil. This project has created to date over 300 temporary work opportunities and benefitted 32 subcontractors. In addition 40 (12 women and 18 men) learners from around De Aar were also provided with training on Bricklaying, Plastering, Tiling & Paving as well as Plumbing.

Honourable members, I am proud to announce that citizens of our province will soon have access to the complete Provincial Archives Repository in Green Street, Kimberley. Construction began during October 2010 and completed in December 2012.

The ANC led government has invested an estimate amount of R 21 million in the construction of the first phase of this repository. We can gladly report a total of 25 job opportunities have been created for people coming from the local area.

Under the pre-1994 dispensation in South Africa, the Northern Cape formed part of and was administered by the Old Cape Provincial Administration. All records Management



functions were implemented, monitored and policed from Cape Town and public records earmarked for permanent preservation were transferred into the custody of the Cape Archives Repository. We are looking forward to the transfer of our records from the Records Management repositories in the Western Cape to our province.

Honourable Speaker the department constructed the following projects on behalf of its client departments:

For the previous financial year the department on behalf of the Department Sports Arts and Culture, completed the construction of the Provincial Archives – Phase 1.

The Department of Sports, Arts and Culture has identified 4 projects for the 2013/14 financial year.

- Completion of the current construction of 2 new Libraries: Sternham and Churchill
- 1 New Library: Postmasburg
- 1 Conversion of an existing structure into a library: Philipstown

Honourable Speaker, a total number of projects were identified by the Department of Education for the 2012/13 financial year which included:

- 3 Administration Blocks
- 4 Classroom Blocks
- 2 ECD Classrooms
- 6 Media Centres
- 4 New Schools
- 1 Science Lab

Honourable Speaker, a total of 46 infrastructure projects were identified for the 2013/2014 financial year.

- Ablution Blocks – R16.9 million. The project consists of the construction of 20 units.
- Administration Blocks – R6.6 million. The project consists of the construction of 3 units.
- Classroom Blocks – R17.4 million. The project consists of the construction of 8 units.

- Office Blocks – R3.0 million. The project consists of the construction of 1 units.
- Early Childhood Development (ECD) Classrooms - R 34.3 million. The project consists of the construction of 14 classroom units.

Honourable Speaker, for the previous financial year we completed the following projects on behalf of the Department of Health:

- Staff Houses of the New De Aar Hospital
- New Upington Referral Hospital which consists of:
  - a) Main Hospital
  - b) TB Unit
  - c) EMS Steelwork only
  - d) Staff Houses Part A & B
- Ga Mopedi Clinic

For the 2013/14 financial year, we will focus on 12 projects including the current multi-year projects:

- Completion of the current construction of the new Upington Hospital
- Completion of the current construction of the new De Aar Hospital
- Continuation of the current construction of the Mental Health Hospital
- Completion of the current construction of the Tshwaragano Hospital
- Phase 2 of the Refurbishment of Galeshewe Day Clinic

Honourable Speaker, the construction of the Basketball court named after the mother of the province, Hon. Premier Mme Hazel Jenkins was part of the Phase 2 construction of the Maloof Skatepark. The estimated cost of the entire project amounts to R 2 million. A total number of 38 jobs have been created; 7 Artisans, 9 Semi-skilled workers and 22 unskilled workers.

We are glad with the increase interest of the extreme sport of skateboarding also to introduce basketball to youngsters within the province as another attempt in keeping them





off the streets away from the social challenges such as gangsterism, alcohol and drug abuse.

Honourable speaker, for the next financial year the department will continue to build Public amenities on behalf of our client departments.

Just more than a year ago we were extremely delighted to officially launch the new government fleet system in the Province that will replace the old fleet services system. For Roads and Public Works this decision emanated from the vision, foresight and absolute commitment by the Executive Council who decided to launch a new fleet system that will be cost effective, efficient and effective.

As government, we have committed ourselves to deliver services to the doorstep of our communities to ensure that they access basic services that can make a significant difference in their lives.

The new trading entity can be labelled as an effective government transport system that is managed that is a year in operation now. By reducing the cost of the fleet, more funding would be available to pursue the strategic objectives of departments, thereby enabling them to concentrate on their core business.

All 752 vehicles were delivered to the province. We have implemented certain monitoring mechanisms in order to curb misuse such as:

- Personalised Number plates
- A Hotline
- Tracker system that provide you with exception reports on speeding
- Wesbank report that provide incident report eg. Fuel fraud

The department is committed towards service delivery and bringing government services to the communities. We are making good progress and we are definitely in all our endeavours working towards creating a better life for all citizens in the Northern Cape Province.

An auction was held to disposed redundant, unserviceable and accident written-off vehicles and plant. A total of 120 vehicles, plant and equipment were sold off. The amount of R 3.7 million was raised. This will be used as replacement capital.

Honourable members, as trendsetters we go beyond our core function and take struggling municipalities by the hand in order to improve service delivery. The newly launched Operation Re A Thusa (*We are helping*) involves our donation of yellow fleet to identified municipalities which will bring forth improved service delivery to the dirty and dusty streets of previously marginalized rural communities.

The Northern Cape Fleet management and Trading Entity, under the legal auspices of Roads and Public Works, have serviced, registered and transferred some of their old graders, bakkies, flat trucks to:

- Siyancuma Municipality
- Kamiesberg Municipality
- Mier Municipality

Other Municipalities that will benefit from Operation Re A Thusa is Kai Garib, Ubuntu, and Kheis, Operation Re A Thusa symbolizes the need of the different spheres of government working together to maximise its potential. Working together with needy municipalities we can build better communities.

Honourable speaker, the department is responsible for the management of government's immovable assets, to provide accommodation solutions to all provincial departments and other government owned entities; to acquire and dispose of immovable assets in terms of the relevant legislations and prescripts.

Currently there are 1,943 land parcels recorded in the immovable asset register. I must hasten to say that this is work in progress as both national and provincial departments are in the process of verifying and reconciling immovable assets owned by the state at different spheres.

A number of sources are being utilised for the verification exercise. These sources include the DEEDS' Register, User Departments' records; National Public Works records, as well as Municipal Valuation Rolls.

Valuation rolls have been received from all 27 Local Municipalities and the challenge facing the Department as the custodian is lack of sufficient budget to conduct valuations of all state immovable assets in order to state them at correct market values in the Asset Register.

About 225 unregistered state land parcels to date must still be surveyed and registered to enhance the integrity of the information in the asset register.

Honourable Members, the function of rates and taxes was devolved to Provinces with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008. This allocated grant was never enough to match the number of immovable assets owned by the Province. The Provincial immovable assets portfolio also continues to grow as we acquire more assets through construction, transfers and donations.

The Department continues to experience other major challenges with regards to the payment of rates and taxes which include:

- Some Municipalities do not have appropriate billing systems
- Some Municipal valuation rolls are incomplete.
- Lack of staff capacity in some small Municipalities to submit credible information
- Incorrect billing
- The impact of the new Property Rates Act
- I must mention however, that the submission of rates and taxes schedules by Municipalities have improved over the past year.

The department is currently managing 255 leases which include residential houses, prestige houses as well as vacant buildings such as old schools and hospitals.



Honourable Speaker, the Northern Cape Province has a 5 year target of 135,296 work opportunities. In the previous financial year the province failed to reach its year target of 25,705 and only created 22,435 work opportunities. Municipalities on the other hand have exceeded their targets by achieving 126% of their target in 2012/2013 financial year.

The number of Municipalities qualifying for incentives also increased from 12 to 26 Municipalities in the previous financial year receiving a total of R32 million. All Municipalities received R1million each except for Sol Plaatje Municipality that received R7,6 million. I'm pleased to announce that for the first time since the inception of the EPWP incentive scheme, all 32 Municipalities in the Province have qualified for incentive allocation in the 2013/2014 Financial year.

Honourable Speaker, for the 2013/14 financial year our target is to create 33,744 work opportunities. The targets for the designated groups are 55% women, 40% youth and 2% people with disabilities.

We have set aside an amount of R 170 million for the 2013/14 MTEF period to target the following initiatives.

- Poverty Alleviation Projects
- Rooting out the Dust Programs
- Youth Development Programmes
- Emerging Contractor Development Programmes

Honourable Speaker, for the 2012/13 financial year, 12 projects were implemented and these created 1,820 temporary work opportunities. For the 2013/2014 financial year the program plans to create a total of 2 000 temporary work opportunities from 22 projects.

The Programme entails targeting towns for eradication of the dusty environment in all the municipalities in the Northern Cape Province. This program is covering the following sectors:

- Infrastructure:
- Refurbishment of state owned non-functional buildings.
- Environmental and Culture Sector

This Provincial program named Operation Kgotso Pula Nala is a Township Revitalisation Program which intends to revitalise and beautify townships ensuring that they are habitable, safe and a good place to live in. The department has started to disburse the R50 million allocation to 17 municipalities across the province to benefit 20 towns that were identified by the Executive Committee. It is anticipated that 1,400 work opportunities will be created through this program.

The department is continuing with the track preparation for the new land speed record Supersonic Car. This project have created 317 job opportunities to people from the local communities of Loubos, Rietfontein, Philandersbron, Groot Mier and Klein Mier.

The inspiring image of the active and enthusiastic 42 year old Mr Hendrik Kortman - who starts his day at 4h00 in the morning to get ready for work - overcomes his disability and works daily on the pan. With both legs amputated he manages to work independently with his bucket, spade and broom to earn a living.

When speaking to Hendrik, he would inform you at the backdrop of the huge unemployment rate, he regards himself as fortunate to work at the pan. I quote: *“Ek het nie ‘n vrou óf ‘n kind nie, maar met die bietjie geldjie wat ek verdien, kan ek darem kos en klere koop.”*

Honourable members, the Phakamile Mabija Learnership Programme, an NYS initiative, is now nearing the end of its phase. To remind you, a group of 40 young learners were recruited throughout the province to undergo an intensive 18-month artisanship program in Boiler making, Fitter and Turner; Motor and Diesel mechanics. A total of 13 of these have obtained their artisanship qualifications. This is a crucial programme as it responds to the shortage of scarce skills in the province.



The Department is planning a second of 60 youths to undergo training in this program. We are currently engaging with the relevant SETA's for support and local mines have also expressed willingness to partner with the Department in this endeavour.

Honourable Speaker, as we all are aware in the Northern Cape province we are facing a challenge of attracting technical experts such as engineers, architects, quantity surveyors and town planners. In an attempt to address this challenge the department awarded 22 part-time bursaries for employees and 11 full-time bursaries to out of school youth.

Honourable speaker, as part of the department's skills development programme for our staff we envisage the following interventions:

- Enrol 24 officials for adult basic education & training
- Implementation of graduate and student internship in order for them to gain work experience
- Enrol 11 employees for further studies through the departmental bursary scheme and
- Professionalising the department through the registering of employees with their respective professional bodies.

On an annual basis the department embarks on an internship programme to give graduates interns practical experience as part of the curriculum requirements at institutes of higher education and training and allows them the opportunity to be employable. A total of 13 interns were placed with effect from July 2012 of which 4 have completed the programme and 9 are still in training.

Honourable members, allow me now to take this opportunity to table an amount of R1,1 billion for the 2013/14 as follows:

<u>Programme</u>	<u>Allocation</u>
Administration (10% of the total budget)	R109 million
Public Works (10% of the total budget)	R112 million



Road Infrastructure (74% of the total budget)	R852 million
Community Based Programme (6% of the total budget)	<u>R72 million</u>
Total Budget Allocation	R1,146 billion

Honourable members, I conclude, we will continue to serve people of this province with much commitment and humility. As part of our core function and commitment to communities we will pursue in our quest to maintain roads infrastructure, providing communities with a heartbeat by establishing essential government amenities such as schools hospitals and clinics.

In the context of our countries challenge to fight the triple burden of poverty, unemployment and inequality we pull all forces together in creating employment and we will continue to bring forth change in our rural communities.

The responsibility is on this department to work with municipalities to root out dust in our living areas and build roads, creating a safer environment.

The department will expand and take EPWP to another Level. Honourable speaker allow me to once again refer to the person who I have labelled my EPWP ambassador, Mr Hendrik Kortman working at Hakskeenpan. It is my vision to increase the number of people with disabilities at EPWP projects. In the same vein, I am proud to mention the department last year heard the call of Mr Sipho Gideon Mabula of Themba Street in Bloemanda who wrote letters to the Office of the President and the Premier requesting a wheelchair friendly ablution. This has been another initiative to remove barriers to create an inclusive and accessible society. With over one billion people, or approximately 15 % of the world's population, live with some form of disability, government needs to upscale all efforts and projects aimed at people living with disabilities.

Madam speaker, we will continue in our endeavours as the department to implement the revitalisation and developmental concept of Operation Khotso Pula Nala. Municipalities have improved their capacity to implement projects and report on their EPWP projects.

The Northern Cape Provincial Government will continue to improve the living conditions of our citizens.

The Northern Cape government through the Department of Roads and Public Works we will continue to work closely with municipalities and communities, specifically the John Taolo District to decrease dirt roads. Our partnership with mining houses and the trust will accelerate the provision of roads in that district.

I would like to thank the former Premier of the Province, Mme Hazel Jenkins for her guidance, on-going support and advice, during the previous years. A special vote of thanks to the Acting Premier Grizelda Cjiekela for her collective leadership on your strategic direction.

Allow me to congratulate the new Premier Mme Sylvia Lukas who has been a colleague in the Executive Council. We wish you well in your role as head of the Executive and we are confident that you will continue to change the lives of people in this province.

My colleagues in the Executive Council thank you for your commitment to the aim of creating a better life for all and supporting the objectives of my department.

Members of the Legislature and especially those of the Standing Committee, I thank you for your support and advice in assisting us in meeting our targets to upgrade and develop infrastructure for the benefit of all people in the Northern Cape.

To our many stakeholders in the Roads and Public Works sectors; thank you for your partnerships and your commitment.

To staff members in the Department; under the stewardship of Accounting Officer Kholekile Nogwili I thank you for your unwavering dedication and hard work towards improving the situation rather than responding to critics and for providing me with intelligent and capable individuals who personify the Department's commitment to efficient



and effective service delivery. I value the gift of having dedicated professionals like you in my life. I also wish to thank the team in the Ministry as well as the VIP team.

Finally, I would like to thank my wife 'Maggy' and my family for their support, patience and understanding. Thank you once again for allowing me to do my national revolutionary duty.

Ke a leboga!!!

Ndiyabulela!

Thank you

Baie dankie