



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 of this great Province, Mme Sylvia Lucas

Members of the Executive Council

Members of the Provincial Legislature

Our esteemed District and Municipal Mayors

Our Traditional and Religious Leaders

Veterans of the Liberation Struggle

The people of the Northern Cape

Distinguished guest

Members of the media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Fellow South Africans

Ndiyanibulisa nonke

Molweni, dumelang, goeie môre, good morning.

I, like many others, stand here before you as a liberated man as a result of those who sacrificed their lives to overcome the shackles of oppression, racial discrimination and all its manifestations of the brutal apartheid regime. I am proud to have witnessed 20 Years of Freedom and Democracy in our country.

Allow me to salute the late Chief Albert Luthuli, Tata Nelson Mandela, Robert Sobukwe, Oliver Tambo, Steve Biko, Walter Sisulu, Phakamile Mabija, Hector Pieteron, and many others whose sacrifices, pain and suffering were not in vain. You have freed us from a dompass, the Group Areas Act, the fear of the white man and today we have the benefit of quality education, a fair Constitution living in a democratic, non-racial, non-sexist society. We dedicate this day to all the heroes and heroines in this country and the rest of the world who sacrificed in many ways and surrendered their lives so that all could be free.



It started years ago with the ideology of the former Prime Minister of South Africa, Dr Hendrik Verwoerd, then Minister of Bantu Affairs, when explaining his government's policy on African education he stated, and I quote: *"There is no place for him (referring to the African) in the European community above the level of certain forms of labour"*, close quote.

I quote from the book *Super Afrikaner: Inside the Afrikaner BroederBond* as written by Ivor Wilkins and Hans Strydom, a statement made by Mr H. J Klepper, the first chairman of the Afrikaner BroederBond, on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary in 1968, he said: *"Do you realise what powerful force is gathered here tonight between the four walls? Show the greater power on the whole continent of Africa! Show me a greater power anywhere even in our so called civilized world"*.

When I reflect upon our painful journey towards a free society: throwing stones, running away from the teargas and the rubber bullets, the sounding footsteps of the blood thirsty police and the sounds of 'caspers', I can but only look to the skies and as a proud citizen of my country say: *"Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika,"* indeed my Lord have blessed us and granted us mercy for *"Our beloved country cries no longer."*

Late President Nelson Mandela in his inauguration speech stated, and I quote: *"Never, never and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another and suffer the indignity of being the skunk of the world"* close quote.

To the doomsayers, Jim Wallis the editor-in-chief in his magazine (*Sojourners*), states *"Never again can I say that hope is not a concrete reality. Never again can I say that anything is impossible. The people of South Africa have opened the way for the rest of us to believe."*



Today I dedicate my speech to no one other than Former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, a true revolutionary and icon of our liberation struggle and the founding “Father of the our Democratic Nation.” During Nelson Mandela Month, we choose not to mourn you, but to celebrate your life by bringing justice to your legacy. A man of integrity, good in nature, a humanitarian and socialist who in his inauguration speech declared: and I quote *“We have at last achieved our political emancipation. We pledge ourselves to liberate all our people from the continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender and other discrimination.”* Close quote. It is against this backdrop, that the ANC-led government is fighting the scourge of poverty, inequality and unemployment in an attempt to bring economic freedom a step closer to the previously marginalised.

Honourable Speaker, I must start by saying that the department is committed to deliver on the mandate of the African National Congress (ANC). We made great strides since 2009, to create jobs as one of government’s priorities through the implementation of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). The citizens of the province and especially ‘young people, people with disabilities and women’ in particular are involved in the refurbishment, rehabilitation, and maintenance of community infrastructure within the most impoverished municipalities.

Honourable Members, 2013/14 has been a very challenging and difficult fiscal year. Regardless of this challenge, we managed our budget in a manner that allowed us to deliver on most of the agreed outputs. The total expenditure for the year under review was R 1,28 billion against the appropriated budget of R 1,3 billion. Severe budget constraints were experienced due to among others; the national budget cuts that affected the Provincial Road Maintenance Grant (PRMG), which placed further pressure on an already depleted budget. Due to effective spending in the Northern Cape, R177 million PRMG funding was reallocated to the Northern Cape during December 2013.



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 Programme such as:
 - The paving of Internal Streets in Paulshoek, Karkams, Spoegrivier Klipfontein and Kamieskroon
 - Loxton Access Road
 - Garies and Fraserberg Brickmaking project
 - Pothole eradication in Sol Plaatje Municipality
- The successful completion of the following projects:
 - Hotazel – Tsineng Road, Phase 1
 - Vosburg - Carnarvon Road
 - Upington Hospital
 - Widening of Kuruman – Hotazel Road
 - De Aar TB-Unit, Staff Accommodation, Water Reservoir
 - And 3 Clinics

I stand before you to account for the past financial year 2013/14 and to get a fresh mandate for the financial year 2014/15.

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

- Inadequate investment in economic infrastructure which have resulted in backlogs and Ageing infrastructure.
- Loss of skilled internal capacity to the private sector.
- Inadequate availability of highly graded and competent contractors in the Province.
- The extent of the Province and vast travelling distances against the available operational budget



Honourable Speaker, as a department we are relieved by the commencement of the massive Presidential Infrastructure Programme (SIP). To invest in the much-needed infrastructure will ease the pressure and help unlock the backlogs I referred to earlier and will assist economic growth in the province. We are aware of the need for synergised long-term planning to ensure that we as a department are able to provide the road infrastructure in proportion to the economic spinoffs resulting from government investment and to plan in line with National Development Plan “Vision 2030.”

Honourable Members, due to inadequate funding for maintenance over several years, the current condition of the network is generally poor. In comparison with other provinces, this province has 21% of the total road network of the country, but receives only 3.5% of the entire roads budget of the country.

We are aware that state funding will never be sufficient to deal with the backlog on our roads as well as the impact from the mines. As intervention we have entered into a number of joint venture agreements with mines.

The department has intensified its efforts 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 community and rural development in terms of bringing services to the poor and previously 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, the department is overseeing the implementing of a crucial programme to ensure that we revitalise and beautify townships ensuring that they are habitable and safe under the banner of Operation Khotso Pula Nala Township Revitalisation Programme. It is crucial that we use this space to enhance our continued initiatives to build capacity and expertise amongst the youth, especially relating to scarce skills in the province as far as infrastructure building is concerned.



ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

Honourable Speaker, the department has spent 100% of its roads maintenance grant on regravelling and resealing. The overall condition of provincial paved roads has improved from 58% in 2012, 65% in 2013 to which is only 10% less than the ultimate goal. I can also mention for the first time in 20 years that we were able to regravell 602 km in one year

- We have done 9 reseal projects that includes the R31 road from Koopmansfontein and Barkley West-Windsorton.
- 18 regravelling projects to deal mainly with the floods of 2010
- Safety improvement on Asbestos roads: 5 % complete
- Upgrading of the Garies – Hondeklip road: 25% complete
- The Upgrading of Hotazel Tsineng Phase 2 : Phase 1 of the project: 100% complete and Phase 2 is under construction: 99 % complete.
- The widening of the Postmasburg To N14: 80% complete

The department through its road maintenance programme attempts to create the maximum amount of job opportunities, by providing local job opportunities to individuals from the surrounding communities. This strategic approach serves as an economic injection for local communities, Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) and upcoming contractors.

Sol Plaatje pothole repair project – Lungis’ indlela (*Translation: ‘Repair of the road’*)

Honourable Speaker, as we are aware one of the most challenging problems in our Sol Plaatje Area is the maintenance and repair of our streets, specifically with regard to the growing number of potholes.

In a quest to help solve this problem, the department has partnered with the Sol Plaatje Municipality to eradicate potholes in the worst affected areas.

The aim of the Lungis ‘indlela pothole repair project is to repair potholes. The project lasted for 18 weeks and is conducted under the EPWP principals. A further 34 workers are also repairing potholes on the R31 to Barkly West, Middlepos and Danielskuil.



To streamline the process the department will make use of the fast and effective repair method which utilises the Jetpatcher truck, a self-contained unit which employs the latest technology to repair an average size pothole in under a minute. Five newly procured Jetpatchers to the value of R10 million will assist with the smooth sailing of Lungis'indlela.

Bathlaros Household Road maintenance Project

Approximately 40 000 residences are located within this area and the majority makes use of public transport to commute to and from their places of work, due to this traffic characteristic, with taxis and busses collecting passengers along the road, edge breaks occurs in such a severe state that creates a dangerous road condition.

This project focused on the construction of edge beams in Bathlaros in the Gasegonyane Local Municipality and has benefitted the community. A total of 160 local labourers were employed with 50% of them being women and youth. This project started during the previous financial year and won Bronze status in the Premiers Excellence Award.

Outlook 2014/15 financial year

Honourable speaker, ladies and gentleman, the department will invest a total of R 2 billion on road infrastructure development for the 2014/15 MTEF period. The focus of the department still remains to preserve our current roads through road maintenance.

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 project means:

- bringing forth change,
- improving the quality of people's driving and
- improving the living conditions of our people through job creation

The department has an essential role to fulfil in the vast Northern Cape, as the huge geographical surface poses a tremendous challenge: the enormous task of connecting places would mean more and more roads.



Roads Projects identified

The following projects have been identified across the entire province:

- Reseal worth R170 million which includes the Loeriesfontein to Nieuwoudtville road, and the Philipstown to Hanover road, MR795 in Strydenburg.
- Floods Damage worth R93 million which includes Petrusville, Prieska North, Neilerdrift to Kakamas and Blouputs to no name but a few.
- Bridge Maintenance worth R25 million to critical bridges in the Namaqua District
- Eradication of potholes worth R8 million
- Roads furniture (Road signs and guardrails) worth R20 million
- Routine and preventative maintenance worth R205 million throughout the entire Northern Cape Province

The planned departmental maintenance projects for the 2014/15 financial year include:

- N14 – Postmasburg-TR 7002 Phase 2 – This 55 km stretch of road has a project value of R100 million. A total of 50 job opportunities have been created. To date the project is 60 % complete.
- Die herseël van die R31 na Danielskuil, MR947 tot by Bathlaros, die pad tussen Loeriesfontein en Nieuwoudtville, asook Philipstown tot by Hanover met 'n gesamentlike projekwaarde van R170 miljoen. 'n Totaal van 70 werksgleenthede is geskep en die projek sal teen November 2014 klaar wees.
- Die Garies tot Hondeklipbaaipad projek kos sowat R 58,22 miljoen. Die pad verbind met die N7 naby Garies. Die Hondeklipbaai Fase 1 het tydens November 2013 begin en die projek sal teen September 2014 klaar wees. Die projek is 30% voltooi en 50 werkseleenthede is tot dusver geskep.
- The Tsineng – Ga-Sese road project to the value of R 37,10 million created a total of 50 job opportunities and the project is 10 % complete.
- Flood Damages to the value of R 93 million will create 300 job opportunities.
- The maintenance and reseal of Colesberg to Phillipolis Phase 1: The designs are complete and the project commenced during May 2014.



Joe Morolong, Wyk 10 to Laxey and N14 to Bothitong in partnership with Sishen Iron Ore Community Development Trust (SIOC-cdt): The roads under construction were prioritised by communities through the memorandum of demand that was presented to the Department on 21 May 2012 from the communities of Bothithong, Dithakong, Laxey and Gamojeremane. The SIOC-cdt remains committed to fund the 57 kilometres of the 130 kilometers, and the Department will fund the remaining 73km.

The DRPW and SIOC-cdt are glad to announce that to date we have appointed consultants who have completed:

- the environment impact assessment and,
- the design of the roads.
- A social facilitator has been appointed who is interacting with the community and the traditional leaders.
- A Technical Steering Committee have been established, and representatives of the JTG Roads Forum and the Public Protector are part of the planning process.

The construction of these roads will take place in phases. Phase 1 entails the upgrading of Samsokolo to Laxey and Heiso to Dithakong. The next phases will follow as soon as funding is secured.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Honourable Speaker, as Custodian of all immovable assets in the Province, the mandate of the Department is to manage the Provincial immovable assets throughout its lifecycle.

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.

The Department has proactively resolved to move from the current manual based immovable asset register recorded on an excel spreadsheet to an electronic web-based system.



Conditional Assessments and Valuation of State properties

The importance of undertaking Conditional Assessments is to ensure Asset Register completeness in terms of describing the conditions of the properties in the Register and for strategic decisions on future utilisation and for budgeting purposes.

The main purpose for undertaking this assessment or analysis is:

- To identify the functionality of the property, and
- To identify the deficiencies on a property.

The province is currently undertaking this intensive process and it is expected that upon completion of this process during the next two years, our Immovable Asset Register will have reliable and valid information on the rating of our immovable assets that will inform strategic decisions on such properties.

Rates and Taxes

The Northern Cape Province was allocated R46,677 million for 2013/2014 towards payments of rates and taxes on properties devolved to the Province and a rollover of R2,646 million. The Province spent 99% (R49 million) of the received total allocation of R49 million.

This allocated grant was never sufficient to match the number of immovable assets owned by the Province and continues to accrue interest on unpaid accounts. The Provincial immovable assets portfolio also continues to grow as we acquire more assets through construction, transfers and donations. This anomaly is being addressed at MinMec level and it is hoped that a solution will be reached.

PUBLIC WORKS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

New Mental Health Facility (Multi-year Project)

The current project is 41% complete. The initial contract was terminated on 7 December 2009 due to unsatisfactory performance by the Contractor. The site was handed over to the new contractor on 21 December 2011 and revised completion is expected in August 2014. The estimated cost amounts to R 401 million to complete the project.

New De Aar Hospital

This hospital will serve as a 159-bed regional hospital for the Eastern Region of the Northern Cape. The Main Hospital is 65% complete and all the other five phases are complete.

Klinieke

- Agbare Speaker, die nuwe Deurham en Gamopedi Klinieke sowel as die Tshwaragano Hospital, is 100% voltooi.
- Die opgradering van die Fraserburg en Sutherland klinieke is onderskeidelik 75% en 65% voltooi.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A total number of 68 infrastructure projects were identified for the 2013/2014 financial year. Of these, 1 are in design phase, 15 are in tender evaluation or adjudication phase, 40 in construction and 12 are complete.

- 25 Ablution Blocks to the value to the value of R 16.9 million.
- 5 Administration Blocks to the value R 7.15 million
- 3 New Classroom Blocks to the value of R 9.9 million
- 3 Conversion of Offices to the value of R 3.1 million
- 3 Early Childhood Development (ECD) Classrooms to the value of R 34.3 million
- 3 New Schools and Major Additions to Schools to the value of R 13.7 million.

For the 2014/2015 financial year a total of 19 infrastructure projects were identified by the Department of Education;

- 12 Ablution Blocks
- 2 Classroom Blocks
- 2 Early Childhood Development (ECD) Classrooms:
- 1 School Halls
- 2 Media Centres (Libraries)



DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE

Community Libraries

The programme consists of the construction of 2 libraries, one in Sternham 95% and another in Churchill 40%. Expenditure as at the end of the 2013/2014 financial year amounts to R 13.1 million. A total of 49 job opportunities have been created thus far.

NORTHERN CAPE FLEET MANAGEMENT AND TRADING ENTITY

Honourable Members, the Fleet Management Trading Entity (NCFMTE) is currently having a white fleet size at 808 vehicles and a yellow fleet sized at 1 190. Through our analysis it is only the Department of Education that is travelling in excess of 3 000 km per month which by implication mean that we would have to increase their fleet. We must say that we have inherited yellow fleet with availability rate of 40%, but since it has improved to 60% availability during the past financial year.

As an entity we were able to replace 20 vehicles that were lost through accidents and buy 8 ad hoc vehicles. We will be replacing 183 white vehicles for this financial year at a total estimated cost of R38.6 million and purchase new plant to the value of R50 million. We will also auction the old fleet which to generate proceeds in access of R 5 million.

We have implemented certain monitoring mechanisms in order to curb misuse and have already as a department taken disciplinary action against some of our staff members, and we would like our clients to follow the same action since there is still a high level of misuse.

EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME (EPWP)

Honourable Speaker, for the coming phase 3 of Expanded Public Works Programme, the target set for the Province is 113 697 job opportunities for Provincial Departments and Municipalities for the next 5 years (2014 – 2019). Provincial Departments target is 83 469 job opportunities and Municipalities is 30 228 job opportunities. The targets for the designated groups are 55% women, 40% youth and 2% people with disabilities. For the financial year 2014/15, the targets are: 15 776 and 4 565 job opportunities through several programmes.

Phase 2 is complete and the province's performance was as follows:

- Provincial Departments created 82 871 against a target of 106 194 (78%) work opportunities
- Municipalities created 29 074 (100%) against a target of 29 102 work opportunities.

Rooting Out the Dust

Rooting out the Dust is the Department's intervention programme, initiated during 2009, aimed at assisting the province to create additional job opportunities through Labour Intensive Projects. The Programme entails targeting towns to eradicate dusty environments across all Northern Cape municipalities. Phase 3 of the programme is expected to start in the financial year (2014/15).

As a department we have set aside an amount of R 170 million for the 2014/15 MTEF period to continue targeting the following initiatives:

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

For the 2014/2015 financial year we anticipate to create a total of 1 200 job opportunities through the implementation of 20 projects.

Operation Khotso, Pula Nala

The concept of 'Operation Khotso Pula Nala' generally refers to the process of improving the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas and townships.

Honourable Speaker, through the implementation of Operation Khotso Pula Nala, the department in conjunction with municipalities is able to bring forth habitability of the townships through:

- Paving
- Cleaning of towns
- Improvement of water systems



The Department has disbursed R50 million to 17 municipalities across the province to benefit 20 towns and 1 000 job opportunities have been created.

Olifantshoek Khotso Pula Nala Project

In Olifantshoek we identified that the community hall and a couple of streets needed our intervention. This initiative amounted to R10 million and created 160 job opportunities.

Sol Plaatje Cleaning Project

The Clean Sol Plaatje Project was successfully launched during December 2013 and have recently been extended with three months to end on 31 August 2014. The Department in joint venture with the Sol Plaatje Municipality created 930 job opportunities in all 31 branches of the Sol Plaatje Municipality through the cleaning of the Sol Plaatje Municipal Area.

Garies and Fraserburg Brickmaking Projects

Honourable Speaker, for a long time I have dreamt about government producing its own bricks to feed the demand of interlocking paving needed for the “Rooting out the Dust Project” and “Operation Khotso Pula Nala.” During May 2014, this dream became a reality. Simultaneously, the dream of having a job opportunity became a reality for many unemployed and unskilled local people in the towns of Fraserburg and Garies. To date a total of 45 job opportunities have been created for both brickmaking projects.

The brickmaking machines are able to manufacture paving blocks as well as building blocks of different sizes. The machine worth R 800 000 can produce approximately 6 000 paving bricks per day.

Paving of a 1 km road in Loxton

The project is located in Ward 3 in Loxton and it entails the construction of a 1 km road with interlocking paving. Ubuntu Municipality is appointed as the main contractor, but Department is funding the project. The budget of this project amounts to R 3 million.

Bloodhound SSC

Honourable Members, we are moving forward into 2015, with much vigour, speed, and anticipation in changing lives, changing communities and setting a World Landspeed record. During May 2014 the provincial government signed the Memorandum of Understanding with Bloodhound Programme LTD, which details the responsibilities of all parties in making this world famous event a reality.

Phakamile Mabija Learnership Programme

In the Province, a unique youth development programme named “*The Phakamile Mabija Learnership Programme*” has been established. We have successfully completed phase 1 of the Phakamile Mabija Artisanship Programme. We welcomed 17 qualified apprentices to the labour market and they are indentured in various trades such as:

- Fitters
- Boilermakers and
- Diesel Mechanics

Phase 2 of the programme started during August 2013 and 29 learners are now placed at the De Beers Technical Training Campus in Kimberley and this phase is expected to be completed in 2016.

We have also secured on-job-training opportunities with the following Northern Cape based companies for workplace training:

1. KEW Foundries;
2. B&C Engineering;
3. Sishen Mine (Kumba)
4. De Beers Technical Training Campus

We are proud to indicate of these 29 artisans in training 7 are female, 4 originates from the Namaqua District, 4 originates from the Z.F Mgcawu District, 14 originates from the Frances Baard District, 4 originates from the John Taolo Gaetsewe District and 3 from the Pixely ka Seme District.



NYS - Ambagsopleiding

Agbare Spreker, op die 1ste Augustus vanjaar sal die klein gemeenskap van Fonteintjie, wat net 13 kilometer buite Springbok geleë is, baat vind by die bou van 'n gemeenskapsaal. Weens die grootskaalse werkloosheid en die tekort aan sosiale infrastruktuur sal sowat 15 jongmense onder die vaandel van Nasionale Jeug Vaardighede (NYS), opleiding ontvang.

Die teoretiese opleiding sal 4 tot 5 maande duur en die praktiese opleiding sal op die konstruksie-perseel plaasvind. Die departement sal deur middel van hierdie projek bekwame en geakkrediteerde loodgieters skrynwerkers, messelaars, warmwatertoestel installeerders, en 'n administratiewe toesighouer tot die arbeidsmag voeg.

Scarce Skills Retention

We have over the past years undertaken a concerted drive to recruit the technical expertise that will enable us to execute the construction and maintenance work we are mandated to undertake on behalf of various client departments. This is a clear indication of our commitment to strengthen the state's technical expertise and thus radically improve the quality of service delivery. During this financial year we will continue relentlessly with our drive to attract and retain appropriate technical expertise required at all levels.

We have introduced full time bursary scheme to further deal with the skills shortage which the department is facing. We have awarded 14 bursaries in the engineering field of which 4 of the students are women.

Contractor Development Programme

Honourable Speaker, in this province we have a total number of 2 250 active contractors that are registered with Construction Industry Development Board (cidb) in the Northern Cape in Grade 1 to 9. Of these only 12 are Grade 7 and higher; while we are having 2 009 contractors on Grade 1, consequently most of the work are being awarded to contractors outside the province. We have found that the majority of road contractors below Level 7 does not have plant and usually have to hire.

Honourable Members, during October 2013 the Department participated in the ‘*Youth in Construction Exhibition*’ as the platinum sponsor. This Initiative is an industry initiative of the cidb in partnership with the Department. It is focused on the importance of the construction industry as a national asset and its critical link to skills development, infrastructure creation and service delivery. The objective of the exhibition was to market construction as an attractive career destination for young people by showcasing career opportunities available and advising on choice of subjects that can position children for entry into construction fields. Approximately 3000 scholars attended the 3 day event.

Met die hulp van cidb is talle werksinkels in die provinsie gehou om kontrakteurs te bemagtig en die standard van dienslewering van kontrakteurs te verbeter. ‘n Totaal van 20 kontrakteurs in die Namakwa Distrik het opleiding ontvang oor kontrakbestuur, terwyl 20 kontrakteurs in die Pixely Ka Seme Distrik opleiding in Beroepsgesondheid en –veiligheid ontvang het.

Agbare Speaker, in teenstelling met baie doemprofete is daar lede van die publiek wie oortuig is dat die dienste wat die departement lewer van nut en waarde en ook van ‘n puik gehalte is. Volgens verslae van die padvoormanne is die mense van die Richtersveld verskriklik dankbaar vir die departement se deelname in die hergruis van die Koeboes-Alexanderbaai pad. Baie van hulle verwelkom dit en meen dat die pad vir padgebruikers en bestuurders nou veel beter en veiliger is.

Die Hantam Munisipaliteit het ook in ‘n brief aan die Namakwa Distrik die volgende geskryf en ek haal aan: *“Die Hantam Munisipaliteit wil graag vir die departement bedank vir hul volgehoue ondersteuning om drinkwater aan die gemeenskap van Loeriesfontein te verskaf. Was dit nie vir jul betrokkenheid en deelname in die Loeriesfontein gemeenskap nie, sou daar sekerlik ‘n ernstige tekort aan water wees.”*

“Ook hartlik dank vir die skraap van die Ceres-Karoo grondpad. Ek Riaan van der Walt, het self tydens Mei vanjaar op die pad na Worcester gereis en dit was in ‘n puik toestand,” sluit die aanhaling.



Laat my toe om ook te noem dat Mnr'e Duvenhage, De Kok, Marais en Van der Merwe in 'n brief gedateer 16 Junie 2014, aan die departement die volgende aangaande die Hydrapad skryf, ek haal aan: *“Eerstens wil ons as boere wat hierdie pad gebruik die departement bedank vir die herstel van ons pad. Op die lang duur sal dit vir ons baie geld spaar op die onderhoud van ons voertuie - veral die bande en skokbrekers,”* sluit die aanhaling.

Agbare Speaker verder sê die twee-en-vyftigjarige Dipogisho Ndlebe, 'n spanleier in die Sol Plaatje Skoonmaak Projek: “Die werk is vir my 'n groot hulp aangesien ek 'n enkel moeder is wie 3 skoolgaande kinders het.” Sy meen dat elke sent help, ek haal aan: “Wanneer jy desperaat vir werk is, is jy nie uitsoekerig nie. Ek kan nou elke maand my opgehoopte skuld by die Sol Plaatje Munisipaliteit biekie vir biekie betaal,” sluit die aanhaling.

Governance

Honourable Speaker, we announced at the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) that we received an unqualified audit opinion for the 2012/13 financial year in comparison with the Disclaimer of the previous year. It does not mean that everything is in order; hence we need to address the other issues that were raised by the Auditor General pertaining to internal control and performance monitoring. The overall concern is that our reported performance is below what we had targeted. Our intervention includes that reasons for variance between targeted and reported performance are disclosed, no matter how significant or otherwise, the variance is.

Generally the department improved its performance on the four performance areas prescribed by the Management Performance and Assessment Tool (MPAT). The MPAT results for the 2013/24 financial year indicates that the department has improved to such an extent that we were nominated for good practises case studies.

Honourable Speaker, we are not at the compliance level where we want to be, with regards to the 30 day payment principle, but I will not relent until we achieve full compliance. Amongst the many interventions we are putting in place is the payment register, which is to be kept in our finance directorate and updated daily. Our aim is to have daily cash reconciliations done, regarding client funding to ensure that payments are released expeditiously.



Honourable Speaker and members, in order to align our procurement processes with our stated developmental outcomes, while at the same time ensuring value for every cent of taxpayer's money we spend, our Supply Chain Management (SCM) processes are also being reviewed. In the past financial year we reconfigured all our bid committees, to ensure fairness of the procurement process. We are also reviewing SCM policies, business processes, charters and delegations in order to improve turnaround times. All our committees have been appointed and we will be appointing a senior manager at SCM. Measures we have implemented to curb fraud and corruption includes the compilation of a risk register and identifying areas where these risks may occur.

As a department we realised that we need to improve on project and contract management since we faced challenges in the planning, implementation and management of our capital projects. It highlighted project cost overruns, quality concerns, late delivery of projects, as well as interest charges on late payments for service providers. For this financial year we placed special emphasis on addressing these challenges and made delivering quality projects, on time, within scope and budget. In addition to improving project management capacity, we are also beefing up our monitoring and control to ensure that service providers perform to agreed standards.

Consequently, our legal division will commence with the audit of numerous contracts that the department entered into in order to identify loopholes and shortcomings that may expose the Department to risks. The objective is to make necessary recommendations on necessary interventions to minimise such exposure. In the majority of cases, the basis of litigation between the department and third parties emanates from disputes over contracts entered into.

Budget

Honourable Members, please allow me to present the budget of the department for the 2014/15 financial year. The 2014/15 budget has seen a decrease of R 128 million or 10% as compared to the adjusted appropriation budget of R1,28 billion in 2013/14 to R 1,15 billion for 2014/15 financial year. Since the introduction of the Infrastructure Grant the percentage equitable share versus the total budget has annually decrease. The dependency on the grant poses a serious risk to service delivery which might lead to the collapse of the department if the grant is taken away. The conditional grant was 48% of the total budget during 2008/09 and increased to 56% for the year 2014/15.



<u>Programme</u>	<u>Allocation</u>
Administration (11% of the total budget)	R124 million
Public Works (10% of the total budget)	R120 million
Road Infrastructure (72% of the total budget)	R833 million
Community Based Programme (7% of the total budget)	<u>R75 million</u>
Total Budget Allocation	R1,152 billion

IN CONCLUSION

Honourable members, I conclude, the department will continue to serve the people of this province with much commitment and humility. The people have voted during the 2014 election, and the results confirm that the citizens of this province placed their faith in the ANC. We deeply appreciate the role that the masses of our people such as women, youth, and businesses, traditional and spiritual leaders played to bring about this conclusion.

Deur saam te werk het die ANC- regering al reeds baie vermag, maar daar is nog baie wat gedoen móét word. Die wye afstande in die Noord-Kaap provinsie en die politiese wil en dryfkrag om die infrastruktuur van die provinsie tot sy maksimum potensiaal te ontwikkel, forseer die departement om gebruik te maak van konvensionele en onkonvensionele maniere om die lewenskwaliteit van die Noord-Kaapse inwoners te verbeter. Ons moet noem met vele entusiasme is strategiese beplanning klaar gedoen en ons kernfokus is om hierdie beplanning uit te rol.

In the past we have launched clinics, schools, hospitals, libraries and roads across the province. We will continue to work jointly with our provincial client departments, in order to deliver public amenities in all rural communities.

We are known to have a collaborative working relationship with municipalities and the mines. The strengthening of our relationship with external stakeholders can only contribute to our process of infrastructure development.

The department will continue to march and move forward creating the infrastructure which is essential for economic growth and business development in this province.

As the coordinating Department of EPWP in the Province, I appeal to all provincial departments and Municipalities to continue to create job opportunities through the implementation of this programme. As government we have a shared responsibility to combat the high unemployment rate (especially amongst our youth and women) in the province.

On this momentous occasion, I would like to give recognition to all those who enable the successful operation of the department. Honourable Premier Sylvia Lucas and my colleagues in the Executive Council, thank you for your on-going support and advice, your strategic direction, and commitment to the mandate and objectives of this government.

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 Northern Cape citizens.

Honourable members, at the backdrop of the recently JTG-community unrests, I assure you that the Department will continue to interact with the people of the JTG District. As the ANC-led government we will never ignore or neglect those who have elected us. You have placed your trust in us, by making your cross on the correct spot on the ballot paper, but now is the time for you to cooperate and work with us and not against us. Working together we can move forward on issues such as job creation, infrastructure and rural development.

I have been fortunate to work closely with a dedicated and reliable Accounting Officer, namely HOD Kholekile Nogwili. Your belief in Change Management and your exceptional leadership style have taken the Department to a higher standard of excellence.

Aan al die personeel by hoofkantoor, die distrikskantore, skoonmakers en die padwerkers julle is almal gelyke bydraers tot die groei en die sukses van die Department. Laat niemand jou of jou bydrae tot die organisasie verkleineer nie. Inteenstelling, die visie van die Department stipuleer dat ons moet voortgaan om die toon aan te gee tot uitnemende dienslewering.



To all our external stakeholders, parastatals and partners in the private sector thank you for joining hands with government to fight poverty, unemployment and inequality. Your partnership contributes to economic development, business and network expansion and is essential for building a social capital and creating social cohesion.

I also wish to thank the team in the Ministry and my VIP team.

Laastens wil ek my wonderlike familie bedank vir hul ondersteuning en geduld. Hartlik dank dat jul my die geleentheid gun om my revolusionêre verpligtinge te vervul met die nodige toewyding. Julle volgehoue ondersteuning en gebede gaan nie ongesiens verby nie.

Ke a leboga!!!

Ndiyabulela!

Thank you

Baie dankie