

**BUDGET SPEECH 2020/2021 VOTE 09 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, DELIVERED BY MEC NAMANE DICKSON  
MASEMOLA DURING A VIRTUAL SITTING OF THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**

**DATE: Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Madame Speaker and Deputy Speaker  
Premier Mr. Chupu Mathabatha  
Colleagues in the Executive Council  
Chief Whip of the Majority Party  
Members of the Provincial Legislature  
Good morning

**Hon. (Deputy) Speaker**, thank you very much for the opportunity to present the budget and plans of the Department for 2020/21 financial year.

**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure is charged with the mandate of managing all provincial government land and buildings, the implementation of the Expanded Public Works Programme, development and maintenance of the provincial road infrastructure network and construction of social infrastructure.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

**ROADS**

**Hon. (Deputy) Speaker**,

I would like to take this opportunity to announce that several roads that were being upgraded from gravel to tar have been completed; notwithstanding the backlog that exists in the delivery of roads infrastructure. Completed ones will be officially opened whilst we pay attention to those areas of need.

**The department has managed to complete a total of 87, 62 km of roads at a total cost of R1, 150 Billion.**

The Department through Road Agency Limpopo will continue to deliver roads infrastructure in the 2020/2021 financial year. We remain committed and endeavour to propel the upgrading and maintenance of the provincial road infrastructure, amidst the high demand by communities and working together with them we will succeed.

In the current Financial Year, **there are fourteen (14) road upgrade projects spanning about 85 km in various parts of the province with two (02) bridges at an estimated cost of R662 million.**

The Department will continue with the preventative maintenance which includes the program on pothole patching to ensure that our roads are in a good state.

Over and above, the Department implements the **S'hamba Sonke** labour intensive maintenance program. This done through the 3-year contract of the 22 routine household projects.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE OPERATIONS**

The Department has also been implementing multi-year projects at the Maphutha- Malatjie and Letaba Hospital's, respectively. This financial year of 2020/21 we will be completing the construction of the Out Patient Department (OPD) at Maphutha-Malatjie. The renovations of the 36-bed female surgical ward at Letaba hospital will be completed in 2021/22.

Furthermore, we are busy with the upgrade of various laundry services in the following hospitals:

- Mankweng hospital – completed

- Tshilidzini and Letaba hospitals - will be completed during this financial year
- St. Rita's and Pietersburg hospitals - will commence during the course of this financial year

The Emergency Medical Service (EMS) in Bosele is at the tender stage and construction works is to commence during the financial year. The Lebowakgomo EMS is at design stage and is scheduled to be on advertisement during this first quarter of the 2020/21 financial year.

We will also complete the construction of Molemole Agriculture Office and Limpopo Traffic College Accommodation block phase 1 in Dzanani. The Upgrades of the four (4) nature reserves is progressing well.

The construction of the fifty-nine (59) school projects that was supposed to commence during the third quarter of 2019/20, will now commence in 2020/21 financial year. Processes for the construction Six (6) schools of the 59 are at an advanced stage and contractors will take sites soon.

The Department has completed three traditional council offices which are Rambuda, Mudavula offices in Vhembe District and Dikgale in Capricorn District.

Three (3) traditional council offices, Mphaphuli, Masia and Ditlou Machidi are currently under construction. The Department is in the process of appointing a contractor who will complete construction works at the Mogashoa Dithlakaneng traditional council office. This is after the initial contractor was terminated due to poor performance.

The Department has begun a process of engaging end user departments to rekindle the commitment and collaborative efforts for improved synergy within the Infrastructure Delivery Management System.

## **MAINTENANCE OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS**

**Hon. (Deputy) Speaker,**

The Department continues to conduct condition assessments on state owned buildings, throughout the province in order to determine the extent of maintenance required. And based on that we will commission forty-five (45) maintenance projects for the 2020/21 financial year. This is an ongoing initiative to ensure that immovable assets owned by government remain in good condition.

Equally, we will continue to work with the affected stakeholders to ensure realisation of the long outstanding programme of relocating District Offices of Sekhukhune from Lebowakgomo to Jane Furse.

## **EPWP**

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), remains a key government programme as an instrument to intervene in the lives of the poor and unemployed people.

As such, the target for the Limpopo Province is 475 358 Work opportunities which is 9.4% of the National target and will ensure continuous implementation of the programme without any failure.

## **HUMAN RESOURCE MATTERS**

**Hon. (Deputy) Speaker,**

The department is in the process of finalising the review of the organisational structure in consultation with the Provincial Treasury and the Office of The Premier and the targeted for completion by the end June 2020.

The vacancy rate in the Department is quite concerning standing at 14% against the 10% norm. As such its capacity to fully carry its mandate is affected, hence the need to ensure recruitment to position it for its primary responsibility.

## **AUDIT, SCOPA, PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE**

**Hon. (Deputy) Speaker,**

For the period 2014/15 to 2018/19; the department has had a qualified audit opinion with different findings emanating from different programmes, and in terms of the **House Resolutions**, 80% progress on Portfolio Committee and 79% progress on the Standing Committee on Public Accounts resolutions were registered.

The Department remains determined to implement the house resolutions and outstanding audit findings from the previous financial years. We are continuously implementing the corrective action plan with solid and time-bound remedial actions designed to address these critical financial and governance matters. The remedial actions are based on the root cause analysis undertaken to eliminate the irregularities and ensure that they not recur.

## **BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR 2020/2021 FY**

**Hon. (Deputy) Speaker,**

The total budget for the Department amounts to **Three Billion Eight Hundred and Fifty Nine Million Seven Hundred and Eighty Seven Thousand Rand (R3 859 787 000.00)**, broken down as follows:

**Programme 1** (Administration) – R410 516 000.00, for support function of the Department

**Programme 2** (Infrastructure Operations) – R875 360 000.00,

**Programme 3** (Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) – R68 613 000.00, and

**Programme 4** (Roads Infrastructure) – R2 505 298 000.00,

Included in the budget for Programme 4 (Roads Infrastructure) is an amount R1 478 676 000.00 as a Transfer to the Roads Agency Limpopo.

## **COVID – 19 IMPLICATIONS**

**Hon. (Deputy) Speaker**

As part of the relentless fight against COVID-19, the department has identified facilities for the purpose of quarantine and isolation working together with the Department of Health to suitability.

The Disaster Management regulations under level 4 have lifted the ban on Public Works Construction and Civil Works activities, as such we will be carefully resuming some of the activities as soon as the guidelines are issued and ensure strict adherence to the health precautions and for the safety of everyone.

I thank you.