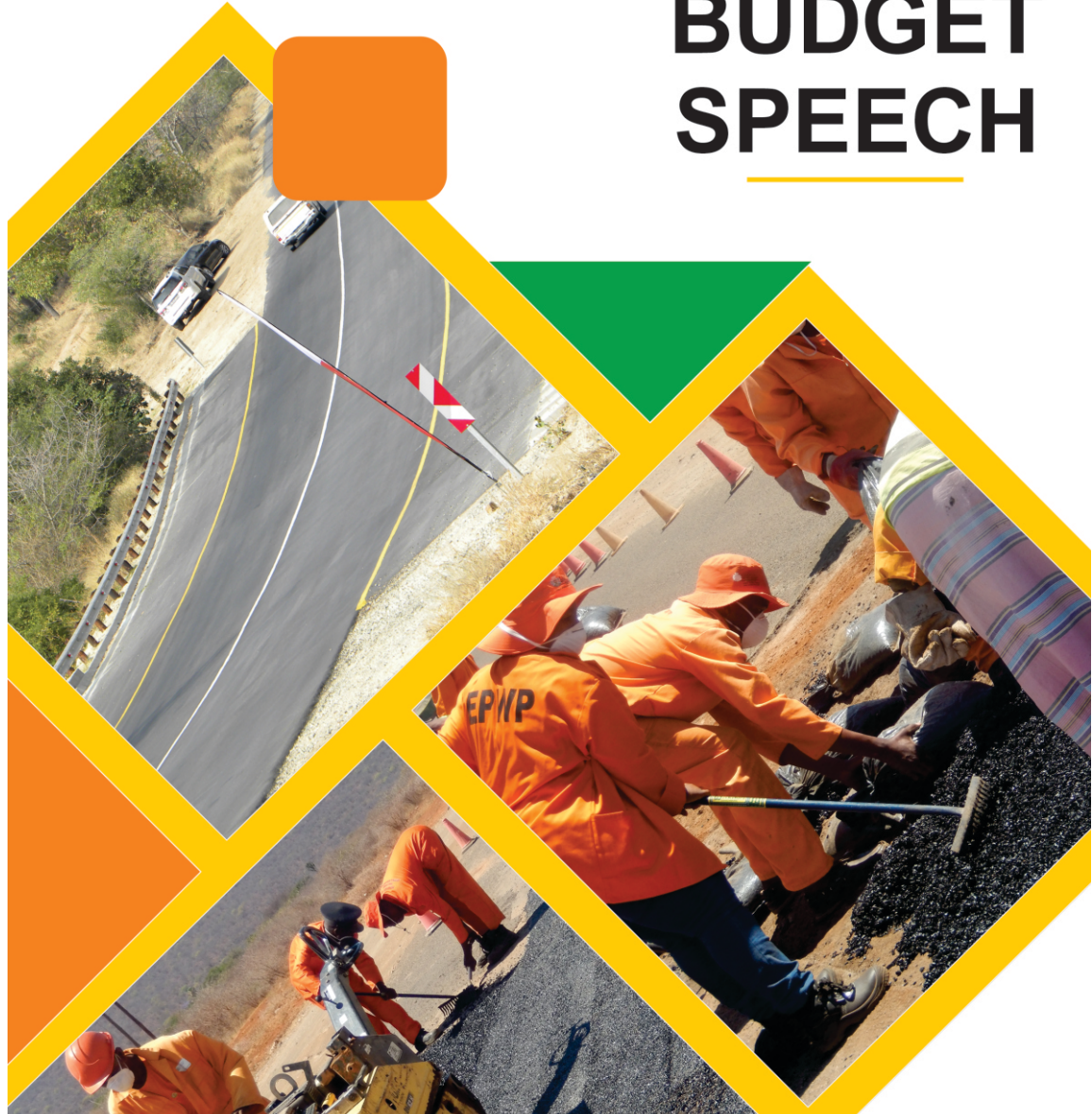




LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS & INFRASTRUCTURE

2024 / 2025 BUDGET SPEECH



The heartland of southern Africa - development is about people



MEC: Nkakareng Rakgoale
Department of Public Works, Roads & Infrastructure

**BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND
INFRASTRUCTURE, VOTE 09, DELIVERED BY MEC NKAARENG RAKGOALE
AT JACK BOTES HALL**

26 March 2024

Honourable Speaker Mme Rosemary Molapo

Deputy Speaker, Vho-Tshitereke Matibe

The Honourable Premier, Ntate Chupu Stanely Mathabatha

Colleagues in the Executive Council

**Chief Whip of the Majority Party the ANC Ntate Essob Mokgonyana and Deputy Chief
Whip Monica Mochadi**

Leaders of the Opposition Parties

Chair of Chairs Sarah Monyamane and Deputy Chair of Chairs Che Selane

**Chairperson of our Portfolio Committee Makoma Makhurupetje and other portfolio
committee members**

Members of the Provincial Legislature

Director-General of the Province Mr. Nape Nchabeleng

The Auditor- General of South Africa

Board Members of the Roads Agency Limpopo as led by, Mr. Matome Ralebepi

Acting Head of Department, Mr. Motlhanke Phukuntsi

Chief Executive Officer of RAL, Mr. Gabriel Maluleke

Chairpersons & CEOs of other State-Owned Entities

Heads of Departments of our provincial government

Members of the Media

Comrades

Kere madume ka moka setšhaba sa Limpopo!

Thobela magagešu

It is my honour and privilege that I stand before you today to present the last Budget Vote of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure in this Sixth democratic administration. This Budget Vote comes a few weeks after the presentation of the State of the Nation Address by President Cyril Ramaphosa and State of the Province Address by Premier Chupu Stan Mathabatha.

Standing in front of this august house representing the ANC, I am honoured that through our collective efforts we have pushed back the apartheid years that saw infrastructure development limited to mainly so-called white areas of the old South Africa. As the ANC we are very clear that our focus is to create inclusive communities and an inclusive economy well supported by modern infrastructure driven by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

The ANC of Luthuli, Tambo, Mandela, Maphoto and other stalwarts of the liberation movement has taught us that the projects and programmes we implement must not be piecemeal. They taught us to ensure there is an integrated overall development strategy to ensure legitimacy of our work in communities.

Let me simplify why we are here so that some don't miss the point we are making through this Budget Vote. I am saying this because the impact of our commitments here today will be felt for many years to come. I must emphasise that we are talking about hard infrastructure, training and skills development through our projects and programmes.

Honourable Speaker,

Infrastructure development is essential for the survival of people here in our province. It supports every facet of our people's livelihood be it in agriculture, tourism, mining, retail and financial services. It is the lifeblood and the oxygen of our economy without which we will stagnate and diminish our growth prospects. This means from the well-being and survival of someone in the rural villages, townships and towns to the collaboration between individuals to achieve communal goals. For an example, health care (clinics and hospitals) and educational services (schools, TVET Colleges, etc) are essential to our people's survival and productivity. Roads and bridges make economic activities within and between provinces possible! The

state of our provincial infrastructure indeed powers the provincial economy in many ways.

With quality infrastructure we are giving our people an advantage to have a better and improved quality of life. We are about critical infrastructure which include roads, bridges as well as facilities like hospitals. Without connectivity viewed from a national security point we are dead in the water because the impact on the community on being without such facilities will be dire. The ANC government has led the way in ensuring economic prosperity of our people. We build schools, libraries, clinics, hospitals, recreational facilities, courts, cultural institutions – **ke ra yona mešate ya Magoši a rena.**

We are doing this to create and maintain connections as well as to encourage the development of social capital, the transfer of skills and creation of strong communities. As we present this Budget Vote, Honourable speaker, we take comfort in knowing that our work directly impacts on the relevant strategic objective of the National Democratic Revolution which is to deepen democracy, expand our people's well-being and to create a better life for all in an environment of economic growth and social cohesion.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to highlight some of the milestones that have been achieved by the department in the space of infrastructure development.

In the 2019/20 financial year, when the 6th administration came into office, we commenced earnestly with implementing the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) which set seven (7) priorities of the current administration.

Amongst them being economic transformation and job creation, skills development and social cohesion. These speak directly to programmes and projects that the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure had to support in order for the priorities to be realised.

The past five year period, which started in the 2019/2020 financial year to 2023/2024 financial year, the Department delivered socio-economic infrastructure facilities that the province has been able to utilize to render services to our people. These facilities, have not only been able to accommodate teaching and learning, including

skills transfer and health care services, they have also been able to contribute to economic transformation agenda of government, towards building a better life for all.

In the process of implementing these infrastructure projects, black-owned businesses especially Small Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMMEs) were able to benefit and grow from contracts awarded as part of the broader government empowerment scheme in the sector.

This empowerment of SMME's was a deliberate policy decision of this government that a minimum of thirty-percent (30%) of the contract value should be sub-contracted to competent and capable small businesses. Today, we have seen the positive spin-offs of that decision. In this category we are forthright in discounting the negative and destructive tendencies of the so-called construction mafias.

The construction mafias must be eliminated, working together with law enforcement agencies. We only have space for legitimate business people not criminal gangs masquerading as business people. We implore communities to be on high alert and report such incidents wherever they rear their ugly head!

Honourable speaker, allow me to go into details on what we have been able to do in the different programmes of the department and its entity Roads Agency Limpopo.

Education Infrastructure

The Department has been hard at work delivering quality school infrastructure. We believe our learners deserve to be taught in completed, functional and safe school infrastructure facilities that are conducive for teaching and learning. We are working tirelessly with the Department of Education to implement school projects across the five districts.

In the 2019/20 financial year the department completed 12 storm damaged schools across the province.

The Schools in Vhembe are Nwaridi Secondary, Muvhimbi Primary school, Frank Mukwaswakule primary and Mphagane primary school. In Mopani they are Khetho Nxumalo agricultural school, Tirhani primary school, Zava secondary, Mahuntsi primary, Mohtlatlego Machaba and Malebalong primary. In Waterberg, it was the D.G Tsebe secondary school and Mashigoana primary in Capricorn district.

In the 2022/23 financial year, the department completed construction of five (5) school infrastructure projects which are as follows; Alldays Primary School in Senwabarwana in the Capricorn District, Gidela Secondary school in Blinkwater in Mopani District, Marude Primary school in Thohoyandou, Vhembe District, Ledume Mahume and Mahlagaume primary schools in Maserumule park and Bothashoek village respectively, under Sekhukhune District.

Honourable Speaker,

In the 2023/24 financial year, we began construction of 27 school projects across the province. Seven (7) of these school projects have been completed. Sixteen (16) new projects will be completed in the 2024/25 financial and four (4) will be completed in the 2025/26 financial year.

In Capricorn District they are:

- Matsobane Primary in Seleteng in Ga-Mphahlele village
- Rakgoatha Primary in Zebediela in Ga-Rakgoatha village
- Rasema Secondary in Botlokwa in Ramatjowe village
- Seale Secondary in Ramokgopa in Eisleben village, which will be completed by end of current financial year.
- Sekete Secondary in Moletjie in Kanana village, also to be completed in the current financial year.
- Matsuokwane Secondary in Senwabarwana village to be completed by end of this financial year.
- Dikoloi Secondary in Senwabarwana village
- Chita Kekana Secondary in Zebediela – Moletlane village

In **Mopani District** the department has commenced with construction of

- Diphuti Primary at The Oaks village
- Chameti Secondary at Mushiyani village
- Ramatimana Secondary in Bolobedu – Molototsi village

- Sehonwe Secondary in Bolobedu – Sedibeng village
- We are also completing Napšadi Secondary at Makgaung village and Ngwana Makhutšwe Secondary at Sofaya village.

Honourable Speaker,

In **Sekhukhune District** we have commenced with the construction of the following schools:

- Seboeng Primary in Manganeng village
- Dikgalaopeng Primary in Dikgalaopeng village
- Rebone Secondary in Maleetse village
- Saint Paul Secondary in Luckau and Makhwese Secondary in Maretlwane villages respectively.

In the **Vhembe district**, it is work in progress with the construction of Masikhwa Primary in Ha-Luvhimbi village, Mphakani Primary in Mangweni village and Vutivi Primary in Hlanganani village. These three will be completed in the 2024/25 financial year.

In the Waterberg District we are busy with the construction of Suswe Primary in Bakenberg in Esselsdrift village and Matsibe Secondary in Malepetleke village, these two are also to be completed in the 2024/25 financial Year. David Scara and Maphuthi Manamela Secondary schools in Modimolle Informal Settlement will be completed in the 2025/26 financial year.

Honourable Speaker, we continue to put our best foot forward in the education Infrastructure space and currently nineteen (19) new school projects are planned to commence with construction in the 2024/25 financial year.

In Sekhukhune District the schools are Kopanong Primary in Maleetse, Phaphamani Primary in Monsterlus village, Thabane Primary in Mabotsha village; Kopa Secondary in Tafelkop village, Lekoko Secondary in Ga-Marishane, Moleshatlou Secondary in Maila Mapitsane, Nkgonyeletse Secondary in Ga Mashabela and Naledi Ya Meso Secondary in Dikgalaopeng village.

The schools in **Capricorn District** are Potokela Primary School in Senwabarwana, and in Mopani they are Ooghoek Primary in Ooghoek village, Runnymede Primary in Nwamitwa, Vallambrosa Primary in Mokgwathi, Makgopele Secondary in Skhiming, Matimu secondary in Khujwana and Ukuthula Primary in Ka-Rhangani village.

In the Vhembe District, they are Pfumbada Primary in Mamohohi, Mayeke Primary in Xikundu, Nkatini Secondary in Shigalo; Mokhari combined school - Waterberg.

Four (4) new school projects are at final design stage and planned to be advertised in the 2024/25 financial years. They are Thabakgone Primary, Piet Hugo Primary, Rethusheng Special School all in Capricorn and Hututu Secondary School in Sekhukhune.

The successful planning and implementation of the above education infrastructure projects will be realised through continued collaborative efforts and commitment by both the implementing department and the client department.

Honourable Speaker,

Health Infrastructure

During the course of this term of office, the people of Limpopo have also seen the delivery of projects for the health sector. There have been laundry upgrades in Witpoort, Ellisras, Mokopane, FH Odendaal, Musina, Donald Fraser and Louis Trichardt hospitals respectively. Sekhukhune District received new Bosele EMS satellite station, and Capricorn District received Mothiba clinic, while several upgrades and additions were implemented at Letaba hospital in Mopani District.

Honourable members, the much-awaited completion of Maphutha-Malatji hospital's Out-Patient Department (OPD) is scheduled for end of April 2024.

Library and Traditional Council Infrastructure

The Department also restored dignity to the members of Royal Houses in the province by implementing traditional council office projects as part of upholding the provinces commitment to support and honour traditional leaders as they enhance the work of government at a local level. We were able to complete the following offices in Vhembe District, they are Mudavula, Rambuda, Mphaphuli and Masia traditional council offices. In Sekhukhune we completed the Ditlou-Manchidi and the

Mogashoa/Ditlakaneng traditional council offices and in Capricorn district we completed the Dikgale traditional council office.

Honourable Speaker,

We are in the process of completing the Davhana, Bakwena Ba Matsepe, Manoke and Majeje traditional council offices as committed in the 2023/24 financial year. A new contractor has been appointed to continue with work on the Bakone traditional council office which will be completed in the 2024/25 financial year.

The Department will be focusing on the refurbishment of the Makuya, Litho Ndzuzo and Mampane traditional council offices in the 2024/25 financial year.

For the people of Capricorn and Mopani Districts, the department delivered the Seleteng library in Lepelle-Nkumpi, Mavalani and Runnymede libraries in Mopani District respectively.

In 2023/24 financial year, the department has been constructing libraries in Tshaulu, Mampane, Vleifontein and Botshabelo, which are at different stages of completion. Three more libraries will be implemented in the 2024/25 financial year, and they are at Ha-Makhuvha, Bungeni and Matlekereng villages.

Transport Infrastructure

The Department has been moving well in the implementation of the Limpopo Traffic College, with accommodations Blocks A and B completed on behalf of the Department of Transport. This Traffic Training College is in Vhembe District in Tshilamba. Construction of Block C is underway along with the construction of a new canteen.

We can confirm that construction works is underway at the Thohoyandou and Seshego K53 traffic stations and progressing well.

It was also our responsibility to ensure that infrastructure to support agriculture sector was made available and to this end, we delivered the Molemole and Bela-Bela Agricultural centres in Capricorn and Waterberg districts. This was done to bring services closer to the people.

The Department further ensured that Schoemansdal Museum in Vhembe is restored to its former glory as part of preserving the province's heritage sites. Other infrastructure projects refurbished are the Lekgalamatse Nature Reserve in Mopani, Letaba A6 Female Surgical Ward in Mopani, 40 Paul Kruger Street office building in Capricorn, Giyani Chamber Hall in Mopani, Thohoyandou Government Complex in Vhembe and Lebowakgomo Legislature in Capricorn District.

Honourable Speaker,

Working together with the Provincial Treasury and Office of the Premier, we have invested time and resources in the development and improvement of our long-term planning framework for provincial infrastructure, working together with the Provincial Treasury and Office of the Premier.

It is true that the cost containment and budget cuts slowed our performance in the 2023/24 financial year. Despite this challenge, we take pride in affirming that our dedication and sustained investment in enhancing the planning and execution of infrastructure enabled us to mitigate the effects of these measures.

We are also in the process of institutionalizing improved business processes to enhance our project and contract management.

As a custodian of the assets of the Limpopo provincial government, we have a crucial role to play in the management of the assets that enable us to fulfil our mandate of serving the people of Limpopo in an efficient, responsible and transparent way.

In the past we have leveraged these infrastructure assets to promote social economic development, and we are aware of the need to uphold the highest standards of accountability and stewardship of these assets of our province in the process. We are therefore placing emphasis on the development of guiding policies and strategies to maintain the right level of provincial assets to stimulate growth, mobilise investment, and empower the people of Limpopo. The LDPWR&I's development of strategies on acquisition and disposal of assets will ensure that the province has access to properties essential for service delivery at fair, market-related and economical prices.

The entrenchment of maintenance strategies will increase efficiency and reliability of services within the public sector; and development of acquisition and disposal strategies will maintain the right level of space for provincial departments to support the achievement of the Limpopo Development Plan. It is our responsibility to ensure that government departments are housed in conducive working environment and that the buildings we house employees are properly maintained. Coupled with our responsibility to ensure we reduce rental of property expenditure, we concluded the procurement of the sale and transfer of 27 Hans Van Rensburg office building. It is important to note that in the 6th administration, this government was able to procure the Limpopo Gambling board as well as the Limpopo Tourism Authority buildings.

The Department will in 2024/25 financial year continue to acquire office accommodation to further reduce rental costs. For this, we have set aside R100-million. The department is currently refurbishing the LEDET Suid Street Building in Polokwane at an earmarked allocation of R20-million in the 2024/25 financial Year, this is also an effort to ensure government services are rendered from Occupational Health and Safety compliant buildings.

Our District offices in consultation with municipalities will continue to ensure that municipal rates and taxes are paid. An amount of R150-million is set aside for this exercise, as it is very important for government to lead by example and pay for its consumption of municipal services just like everyone else residing in serviced areas.

Honourable Speaker,

Youth Empowerment

The province of Limpopo will soon be a scouting around for talent. Today I stand proud to announce that the contractor has established site and commenced with the construction of the Provincial Theatre. The theatre will comprise of the main theatre building with 600 seating capacity and the secondary theatre with 200 seating capacity including several supporting amenities such as restaurants and bars, coffee shop, bookshops and poetry spaces.

This is a commitment to the Arts in Action. Another thing that makes me proud is that this 800-seater facility will be delivered by a "Tintswalo" who President Cyril Ramaphosa spoke about in his State of the Nation address. This is the

empowerment that the ANC-led government has been able to do. Our children are indeed enjoying the fruits born out of the struggle for liberation and equality.

We intend to continue investing in young people through the programmes and projects of the department. We have begun engaging with TVET colleges to source artisan candidates for placing in government facilities in order for them to develop practical skills.

One of the areas we want to expose these young people from TVETs is the departmental mechanical workshops that we intend to resuscitate. We have started with a pilot project at Capricorn Mechanical Workshop and associated Cost Centres. In addition, we are mobilising Modimolle Mechanical Workshop and Cost Centre as a quick-win. Thus far, engagements have been held with Capricorn TVET to initiate a partnership. Districts have also been engaged to participate in the process and initiative. Site visits have been conducted at Capricorn Mechanical Workshop, Modimolle Workshop and Cost Centre, and Vhembe Mechanical Workshop.

There are also internal engagements within LDPWR&I to mobilise resources to implement the plan including with Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and Provincial Infrastructure Delivery Management. I am excited by this project because it will address issues of unemployment and poverty by aligning the TVET colleges which require functional workshops for their students. The plan is to revive the under-utilised and resource these mechanical workshops and cost centres. The project will also contribute to building the state capacity through skills development and transfer.

Through the National Youth Service, under the Expanded Public Works Programme, we have trained young people and recently had a ceremony to hand over tools of trade to ensure they are active and productive once they exit the programme.

Our commitment to young people and growing the pool of professionals in the sector has led us to focus on Candidacy Development programme.

Honourable Speaker

The Candidacy Development Programme is a Structured Engineering Professionals Development Programme in place to build a pool of Engineering Professionals Skills for the Department and Built Environment Sector at large. The Disciplines covered in the programme are engineering focusing on Civil, Electrical and Mechanical, we are also focusing on Quantity Surveying, Construction Project Management, Architecture, Valuers and Town Planning amongst others.

The programme's main objectives are to augment current internal capacity to deliver projects, increase professional registration through a structured programme and to build a pool of registered professionals for Limpopo Department Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

The Programme is maintained via the Bursary programme of the Department in the main, whilst there are plans to broaden the feeder streams beyond the Bursary Programme. A draft policy is in place to guide and ensure the objectives of the programme are met.

Currently, the programme is hosting twenty-three (23) candidates, whilst an additional five (05) will join in the course of the 2024/25 financial year, all from the Bursary Programme of the Department.

Honourable Speaker

We have laid the ground for the Limpopo Contractor Development programme. We have entered the second phase of Limpopo Contractor Development Programme known as Vuk'uphile Programme, which seek to empower the youth of our province, of which the first phase was completed in 2022. By the 1st of April 2024, we will be enrolling 36 young, aspiring and emerging contractors who are currently at CIDB level 2. Our objective is to develop and enhance their capacity, for them to reach higher CIDB, at least level 5 or level 6.

This programme will allow young people to participate in panel of contractors that require higher CIDB levels such as 6, for them to participate in the mainstream economy of our Province. An amount of R78m within our Roads Infrastructure Management is earmarked for this purpose. The programme is earmarked for thirty-

six (36) months with intensive training programmes that will educate our young generation to manage and sustain their business initiatives. As the MEC responsible I am happy to announce that Limpopo received accolades for best practice in contractor development and other provinces have already expressed interest to learn from us. The plan is for the Programme to start with those in CIDB 1, instead of level 2. We are evaluating best option.

At this juncture, allow me to announce the arrival of ten (10) Cuban Technical Advisors (CTAs) who have joined the Department for a period of three years and will be joining the departmental officials in implementing socio-economic infrastructure projects as mentioned above. The CTAs together with other in-house professionals and colleagues from the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) will serve as supervisors and mentors to those in the candidacy and contractor development programmes. Honourable Speaker, the South Africa - Cuba diplomatic relations and bilateral cooperation in the field of infrastructure as well as our partnership with DBSA hinges on skills transfer and overall value add to infrastructure procurement process, right up to completion of the project.

Honourable Speaker,

Expanded Public Works Programme

The Department is doing well in the coordination of the Provincial Expanded Public Works Programme.

The province was allocated 475 358 work opportunity target over a period of five years, thereby contributing 10% to the national target of 5-million work opportunities. The province so far has been able to create 489 317 which is an over-achievement of 103% of the five-year target.

In the 2019/20 financial year the province managed to achieve 96 574 work opportunities against the annual target of 93 400, which depict 103%.

In 2020/21 financial year, achievement was 109%, that is work opportunities created were 103 438 against the annual target of 94 655.

During the 2021/22 financial year, 104 194 work opportunities were achieved against the target of 95210, translating to 109%.

In 2022/23 FY, 99 720 work opportunities achieved against the target of 95 735, making it 104%.

In 2023/2024 financial year which is the last year of phase IV, during Q3, the work opportunities achieved is 85 391 against the annual target of 96 358 which translate to (87%). We are confident that after the numbers are validated, we will register an over achievement in this financial year 2023/24.

Honourable Speaker

As co-ordinators of this important intervention programme, we are gearing up for the launch of phase 5 of EPWP for the 2024/25 financial year.

The EPWP for phase 5 will amongst others focus on Massification of EPWP work opportunities and exit strategies namely training and enterprise development. Targets for phase 5 have been developed and will be unveiled by national government upon approval by Cabinet.

During the planning for implementation of phase 5, Infrastructure as well as the Environment and Culture sectors have been identified as areas where massification of EPWP work opportunities can be achieved. Social and Non-State sectors are already contributing more work opportunities to the programme. The following priority areas have been identified and they are:

- Road upgrading and maintenance;
- Paving of roads;
- Potholes patching;
- Cleaning and Waste Management;
- Cleaning of rivers and dams;
- Waste removal;
- Waste recycling;
- Clean energy; and
- Maintenance and cleaning of facilities and public buildings.

An alignment of labour-intensive construction methods to EPWP prescripts workshop was held in the province attended by Infrastructure implementing Departments, Implementing Agents at provincial level as well as the local government officials responsible for Infrastructure under the banner of Infrastructure Technical Management Committee (ITMC).

EPWP is exploring partnerships with TVET Colleges, SETAS, NPOs, Private Sector and other entities of government focusing on training and enterprise development as exit strategies from the programme.

Roads Infrastructure

Honourable speaker, allow me to move to another economic stimulus of government, roads infrastructure. The province is different from how it used to look like in 1994. When migrant workers, whose home base is Limpopo, return to the province, some get lost approaching Polokwane because of the improved road infrastructure network that meanders and has relieved the city centre from dealing with high volume of traffic during peak seasons. The improvement in the road infrastructure network can be seen and felt across the province.

In the past five years we have completed 149 road works projects comprising of upgrades from gravel to tar, preventative maintenance and attending to flood damaged bridges and roads. The highest concentration was on preventative maintenance which accounts for 64% (95 projects).

Upgrading works is 20% (30 projects) of the total projects and repairs on roads damaged by floods is 16% (24 projects). Today, every district in the Province is enjoying an increase in improved road infrastructure.

Road P277/1 from Makuya to Masisi in the Thulamela District Municipality of the Vhembe District is connecting several villages to amenities and the economy. It is also a tourist route leading to Kruger National Park.

Road D21 from Ofcolaco to Gafani in the Mopani District was completed and is now entering phase two of its maintenance. Driving from Polokwane on Road D19 to Tibane to Ga-Mathapo in the Capricorn District Municipality is now a much-improved

route that contributes to social and economic activities. To date, 14 km of road D19 has been rehabilitated, and another 14 km is nearing completion.

Our people in Ga-Riba village in the Sekhukhune District are now connected to other areas through Road D4166 that was upgraded from gravel to tar. It is a huge boost to the daily travelling for the residents and businesses.

In the Waterberg District, preventative maintenance on Road P134/1 from Mookgopong to Lushof has been completed. This is just a highlight of the many roads' construction, maintenance and flood damaged projects that we have completed in the sixth administration of our democratic government.

The R71 ZCC interchange and the Musina ring road are but few examples of the improvement we talk about. Following the signing of the agreement between SANRAL and RAL to construct the St. Engenas Interchange on the R71, we are delighted to also announce that the designs are nearing completion and construction work should commence before the end of the 2024/2025 Financial Year.

Bridges were also constructed on road D4200 between Marulaneng and Maila as well as between Mphanama and Ga-Nchabeleng in Sekhukhune District. Again, in Sekhukhune, the communities of Maapea can attest to the fact that they can cross over with ease including the community of Ga- Riba, on the D4166.

The Village of Mapate also got connected to Phiphidi on the D3724 in Vhembe District. So much has been done in this sector and more is yet to come until we reach every corner of this beautiful province.

The Premier of the Province, while presenting the State of the Province, spoke at length on issues concerning roads infrastructure delivery. We can confirm that we have already made significant progress on priority roads in the province. Among others, the construction of road D3278 from Blouberg Hospital to Buffelshoek in the Capricorn District is well underway. Road D3561 in Segole 1 and Segole 2, from N11 to Masebe Nature Reserve in the Waterberg District, is progressing. We have also commenced work on road D3669, known as Mavhunga Access road, in the Vhembe District. Road D3734, also known as Tshatshama, in the Mopani District, is currently under construction.

The construction of roads D3436, D3428, and D5007 in Ga- Ramoshwane, Ga- Rammetlwane, and Ga-Ramotlokwana in the Capricorn District is progressing well. Also, the construction of road D3248 from Thapane access to Nwamitwa in the Mopani District is underway.

We have also commenced work on road D4283 from Glencowie to Malaka in the Sekhukhune District. The construction of road D3671 from Musekwa to Maranikwe in the Vhembe District is progressing. Similarly, the construction of road D4109 from Mamatonya to road D885 in the Capricorn District is underway. We have created employment in all road infrastructure projects where construction has begun.

We have been hard at work to ensure that we reduce the number of unpaved roads in the province by forming strategic public-private partnerships with progressive mines.

In the Waterberg district, RAL has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with Northam Platinum, securing R41 million in funding, entirely provided by Northam Platinum. This initiative aims to enhance a bridge and upgrade a three-kilometre stretch of Road D2357 connecting to road R511. Having commenced in November 2023, the project is presently at 32 per cent completion stage. The target is to complete it around August in 2024.

In the Mopani District, the Palabora Mining Company also partnered with RAL and jointly funded to the tune of R205-million for the construction of the D4424 road from Lulekani Post office to Matikoxikaya and the rehabilitation of road D3786 from Maseke to Mashishimale connecting the R40 to R71. These two roads have a total length of approximately 40 kilometres. The project will commence during March 2024, and is scheduled for completion in September 2025.

It is also through Public Private Partnership that the Steelpoort Bridge in Ga-Malekane situated on road D2219 connecting to the R555 in the Sekhukhune district was made possible. Eight (8) mines in the area joined efforts to be part of the solution in attending to road infrastructure challenges. The project is progressing well and on track for completion during November 2024.

More hands are on deck when it comes to attending to road infrastructure challenges in the province. Through fruitful engagements with the national Department of

Transport, an agreement was reached that 19 critical road networks in the province will be maintained through SANRAL.

Furthermore, inter-governmental relations are active in this government, and this can be seen through the work being done by the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure with the 17 planned “**Welisizwe**” bridges. The process to implement these bridges is underway. Four (4) are in implementation stage, while Thirteen (13) will be done in the next financial year. All bridges will be implemented by the SANDF in Limpopo Province.

The Department, through RAL, used collaborative service delivery approach and signed a Memorandum of Agreement with 11 Municipalities in order to provide essential construction, engineering skills and expertise lacking in municipalities and further rehabilitate damaged streets and roads in towns to enhance driving experience for residents.

The upgrade of Road D4180 from Atok Mine to Ga-Selepe is in the final stages of design. Work will commence on this crucial road after the design is completed and a contractor appointed. Road D4260 from Malope to Phokwane already has the contractor appointed and construction has started. This upgrade will significantly enhance transportation in the area.

Regarding roads D4090, D4093, D4094, and D4096, the Malemate roads, the contractor has been appointed and work has commenced on this project. The scope of works and preliminary design reports for roads D4199 from Apel to Ga Nkoana and D4190 have been approved. The consulting engineer is currently working on the detailed design report for these roads.

Honourable speaker, concerns by some communities has seen them approaching chapter 9 institutions such as the Public Protector and the Public Service Commission, as well as the Legislature’s Petitions Committee. Following these developments the department had reprioritise some of its planned programmes and look into the following roads and ensure that work begins in the 2024/2025 financial year. Roads Agency Limpopo will start a process of appointing contractors to implement three-kilometre upgrades. We will be implementing the first phase of the

upgrading on the D1589 from De Vrede joining D3308 to Ratshatsha Hospital in Eldorado village. This is a ring road which after completion will reach Ga-Dankie to join D1589 in the Capricorn District, D3556 Tiberius to Diphitshi in Waterberg and D3727 Mulima through Tshitale to Morebeng in Vhembe District.

We will also give attention to D3377 Limburg to Matlala road as its designs are at completion stage. This will be done in the 2024/25 financial year.

The department understands that these interventions might be a drop in an ocean, but it will make a huge impact in those localities and as and when budget is available, these roads and other many roads across the province will be prioritised.

Honourable Speaker, the Department has been hard at work and currently Roads Agency Limpopo has one-hundred and thirty-nine (139) road maintenance and rehabilitation projects, of which Fifty-two (52) of the projects have been completed and eighteen (18) under practical completion. The implementation of remainder of the projects is ongoing.

The Department is attending to the unpaved road network to ensure that it is drivable. In October 2023, Twenty-five (25) graders, one (1) excavator and seventeen (17) light delivery vehicles were procured in order to augment the number of plant in our districts. During the period under review the department also planned to re-gravel 110 kilometres of gravel roads, and to this end we have achieved that target. The department planned to do 552 599 square metres of blacktop patching for the year under review and that target was also achieved. Three thousand four hundred and six (3 406) jobs were created.

In the 2024/25 financial year, the department will continue with a target of 325 000 square metres of black top patching.

The Department will further procure more yellow fleet with the earmarked R100-million allocated by Treasury. All this is being done to connect people and businesses and in turn stimulate the economy of the province.

We have said and continue to say, we will reach all corners of the Limpopo province, however, just not at the same time. People of Limpopo, as you can see, the wheels of delivery are in motion.

Administration

Honourable Speaker,

All the work that needs to be done in this department is dependent on capable warm bodies attached to an organisational structure in place. To this end we are implementing the recruitment plan to ensure vacant positions are filled in order to service the province better. This is one department where natural attrition is high and it becomes important to move with speed in this regard. We have since been able to fill all executive management positions and currently in process of recruiting in line with the structure. We are focused on ensuring that the capacity we get, is able to contribute to the drive towards implementing the clean audit strategy and eventually move forward to a better audit outcome. In terms of financial performance, the Department has been improving expenditure over the years, having moved from overall 89% expenditure in 2019/20 Financial year and 97% in the 2022/23 FY.

In the 2023/24 financial year, we anticipate to spent 99% of the allocated budget, we are confident that expenditure in the 2024/25 financial year will continue to be on an upward trajectory. The allocation for the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure for 2024/25 financial year is R5.272 billion.

The Allocation is distributed as follows:

- **Programme 1: Administration – R 458 million**
- **Programme 2: Infrastructure Operations – R 1.053 billion**
- **Programme 3: EPWP – R74 million**
- **Programme 4: Road Infrastructure – R3.647 billion**

The Department will be transferring R2.557 billion to the Roads Agency Limpopo. The allocation of R2.557 billion is comprised of an equitable share of R1.152 billion and Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant of R1.406 billion. The Entity is responsible for upgrading, rehabilitation and preventative maintenance of provincial roads.

Honourable speaker before I wrap up, let me say this, although we have marked up some major successes, we have also recognized a number of challenges in our efforts so far. One issue that has emerged is the question of the fiscal responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of new infrastructure, and the measures that need to be in place to ensure that work skills developed during construction are carried over into

the maintenance period. How can I forget the important issue of ensuring that facilities, such as schools and clinics in rural areas become, and are directly linked to broader development initiatives such as electrification, water and sanitation, rural access roads, telecommunications and so on.

A critical element of the provision of infrastructure benefits of earlier economic decisions and a greater resource base for further infrastructure expenditure is now possible. As this Department our focus is on improving the implementation of our programmes, and improving the functioning and performance of our entity and facilities that are provided.

Honourable Speaker,

As I conclude, I would like to thank the Premier of the province, Mr. Chupu Stanley Mathabatha who entrusted me with the responsibility to serve in his administration. Thank you Mahlatjie-A-Hlabirwa for your guidance and leadership. To my colleagues in the Executive, thank you for walking this journey with me. To the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee Mme Makoma Makhurupetje and the Chairperson of SCOPA Honourable Donald Selamolela, thank you for inputting constructively to the work we do and taking us to task, as you represented the people we serve.

To the Acting HOD, Mr. Motlhanke Phukuntsi, thank you for agreeing to report to Public Works Roads and Infrastructure on a daily basis and providing that much needed strategic support. To the chairperson of the RAL board, Mr. Matome Ralebepi and the CEO Mr. Gabriel Maluleke, together we travelled this province with one objective and that was to deliver road infrastructure to the people. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to the mission at hand. Continue to do well in this space.

The entire Public Works family, ke a leboga. The work that we did together speaks volume and I thank you for being part of this journey. To the support staff in the private office and protectors we went, we saw, and I believe we conquered, it has been a pleasure to have you walk by my side.

To my family, thank you for understanding my absence in your life, for allowing me to do the work for the people and for supporting me in my highs and my lows. I really appreciate you.

is to ensure that these projects and programmes translate into social transformation. It appears that we have proceeded quite far in our efforts to address the backlogs, but it is clear that more still needs to be done. Without doubt in many areas we have begun to reap the

Honourable Speaker,

In conclusion, indeed, there is no ignoring or even denying that work has been done by this government, under the leadership of Mahlatji-A-Hlabirwa. Those who rationalise, ignore and even deny are merely protecting their core belief, driven by a desire to drive their own narrative for their own benefit.

I hereby table the 2024/25 financial year budget vote 09.

I Thank you.

NOTES:

[illegible]

NOTES:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. In the bottom-left corner, there is a small green triangular piece, possibly representing a folded corner or a sticker. The overall appearance is that of a clean, unused page from a notebook or a template for writing.

The heartland of southern Africa - development is about people



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS & INFRASTRUCTURE



Roads Agency Limpopo



Limpopo Department of Public Works,
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