



NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**LEGISLATURE OF THE
NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2025

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Thank you very much. Honourable Members, distinguished guests, May we now observe a moment of silent prayer or meditation.

HOUSE: Observing a moment of silence.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Members, the country has lost men and women who selflessly served in pursuit of peace and their sacrifice will forever be honoured and remembered. May we rise and observe a moment of silence in honour of the 14 members of the South African Defence Force who were killed during the peacekeeping mission in the Republic of Congo. May we all rise?

HOUSE: Observing a moment of silence.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. You may be seated. Honourable Members, I have in terms of Rule 47 of the Standing Rules of the North West Provincial Legislature given access for non-members of the Legislature to occupy floor seats of the chamber for the duration of the sitting. His Excellency Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi of Bafokeng Royal House and the Executive of the House of Traditional Leaders has been allocated the VIP section of the chamber.

Let me take this opportunity to welcome Honourable Members of the Legislature, Members of the Executive Council and all distinguished guests present here today. Honourable Members, this sitting is convened in terms of Section 110, Sub-section 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and read in conjunction with Section 16 of the North West Provincial Legislature Standing Rules to allow the Premier to present the annual state of the province address.

I will now call on the Premier of the North West Province Honourable Mokgosi Lazarus to present the State of the Province Address 2025. Honourable Premier, Order Honourable Members! Order!

HON. MOEMA: No water, no sound. It's a problem.

HON. BABUILE: We can adjourn for 10 minutes so that you attend to technical issues.

HON. SPEAKER: Premier, use the mic.

HON. BABUILE: Speaker, I propose that we adjourn for 10 minutes so that you attend to the technical issues.

HON. SPEAKER: You may sit Honourable Babuile, you may sit. Honourable Members, I knew this is going to happen. That's why I made a provision in ... [INAUDIBLE] ... don't work, we have a roving mic. We are not going to adjourn the House. The Premier will have to use the roving mic because this is a deliberate thing.

HON. MOEMA: Speaker, Speaker?

HON. PREMIER: ... [INAUDIBLE] ... Deputy Speaker, Honourable Collen Maine, Chief Whip of the majority party, Honourable Motlalepula Rosho, Honourable Members of the Executive Council, Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature, Honourable Members of Parliament present here today.

I want to acknowledge the presence of the Minister of Correctional Services Mr Groenewald. Also welcome in our midst Deputy ... [INAUDIBLE] ... Kenny Morolong, our permanent delegates to the National Council of Provinces, the Judge President of the North West Division of the High Court, Judge Ronald Hendricks, Chairperson of SALGA, Councillor Khumalo Molefe. The Chairperson of the House of Traditional and Khoi-SAN Leaders, Kgosi Thari Maotwe le Magosi otlhe ao a leng gone #[and all the Traditional Leaders present]#, Executive Mayors and Mayors of different North West Municipalities, leaders of Faith-Based Organizations, Trade Unions and Civil Society, the Vice Chancellor of the North West University, the Vice Chancellor of the North West University Professor Bismark Tyobeka.

Director General in the Office of the Premier, Ntate #[Mr]# Paul Mogotlhe. Heads of Departments and CEOs of Public Entities; the Acting Provincial Commissioner of the South African Police Service, Major General Patrick Asaneng. Heads of our Security Services, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, my beautiful wife, Ipeleng Sylvia Mokgosi and my three children present here, Kagiso, Nthabiseng and Oratile, invited guests, members of the media and fellow compatriots.

Honourable Speaker, the State of the Province Address today sets the tone for the implementation of the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP-2025-2030) in the next five years. The MTDP is anchored on three strategic priorities: ... [INAUDIBLE] ... inclusive growth and creating jobs, reducing poverty and tackling the high cost of living as well as building a cable, ethical and developmental state.

Delivering the State of the Nation Address, His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa, maintained to achieve these objectives, a government that works for the people is needed. And I want to quote him, he said: “We need a state that is capable and competent, underpinned by a professional public service. South Africans want a state that treats all people with dignity, humility and respect. A state with leaders who are prepared to serve our people with complete dedication and public servants who are ethical, skilled and properly qualified

Honourable Members, the 2025 State of the Province Address is a culmination of a broader consultative process with various stakeholders to find consensus on matters of socio-economic concern confronting the province.

I need outright to indicate that as a province we are concerned about the high level of unemployment and poverty confronting our communities. We are a province endowed with natural resources such as minerals and weather conditions that permit a conducive environment for agriculture to thrive as well as majestic tourist attraction sites that we must exploit to create economic opportunities for our people.

Bagaetsho #[my people]#, the Quarterly Labour Force Survey, where our province shed twenty thousand jobs, putting the expanded unemployment rate at fifty-two percent, must galvanize and unite all of us to tackle these issues, head on! Therefore, aggressive measures are needed to find solutions to these challenges.

Mmusakgotla, ... [INAUDIBLE] ... re busa mo dinakong tse di thata. Ka jalo ke rata go dirisa tšhono e, go ikuela ko Magosing, Baruti, balemirui, ditheo tsa poraefete le baagi ka kakaretso go jara joko e le rona. #[Speaker...we lead in difficult times. As a result I want to use this opportunity to plead with the Traditional Leaders, the Pastors, the farmers, the private institutions and the community in general to carry this yoke with us.]# Honourable Speaker, this SOPA comes two days after we hosted the memorial lecture of Aziz Pahad.

A panel of experts comprising of the wife to Dr Aziz Pahad, Professor Angina Parekh Pahad, Vice-Chancellor of the North West University, Professor Bismarck Tyobeka, and Minister of

International Relations in Botswana, Dr Phenyio Butale gave an account on the life and times of Dr Pahad.

Aziz Pahad, an activist, diplomat and a native of our beloved province was born in Schweizer Reneke on 25th December 1940 and dedicated his entire life in the struggle for liberation and the creation of a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic state.

Honourable Members, I have no doubt that Dr Pahad would have frowned at the recent misinformation peddled by some sectors of our population to cause harm and disunity. As a nation we have withered many storms and we are a resilient people, and no hegemon must claim authority over our domestic and foreign policies.

Honourable Members, the presentation of the State of the Province Address coincides with the 70th Anniversary of the Freedom Charter as well as the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati Centenary. Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati was born on the 14th of September 1925 in a small village of Tlapeng in Ganyesa, now known as Kagisano Molopo Local Municipality.

She was part of the defiance campaign of the 1950s and worked closely with Lillian Ngoyi, Sophie De Bruyn and Helen Joseph to organise the historic women's march to the Union Buildings. She was one of the first women to go into exile to join Mkhonto We Sizwe, the military wing of the African National Congress, after which she received military training in the Soviet Union.

African American feminist and academic, Angela Davis opines; and I quote: "Black women were equal to their men in the oppression suffered; they were their men's social equals within the slave community and they resisted slavery with a passion equal to their men." Similarly, Mama Ruta epitomized the struggle faced by many women who fought side by side with their male contemporaries such as Oliver Tambo, Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu in dismantling apartheid and its draconian laws.

It is through the efforts of people like Mama Ruta that today we celebrate and congratulate Ms Lerato Mataboge who was born in Rustenburg and recently appointed as an African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy. As Maya Angelou explains, and I quote: "Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it possibly, without claiming it, she stands up for all women."

Bagaetsho #[My people]#, through the Freedom Charter, Mama Ruta envisioned a country and a nation centred on democratic values, social justice and to improve the quality of life of all citizens. This encapsulates the preamble of our Constitution, which further impresses upon us to heal the divisions of the past through redress and equitable distribution of resources.

Thirty years later, we continue to draw lessons from Mama Ruta and many other heroes and heroines of our revolutionary course to drive a developmental trajectory aimed at achieving a National Democratic Revolution. Later this year, we will host a series of activities aimed at preserving her legacy and the contribution of the people of the North West in the fight against colonial-apartheid rule.

Honourable Speaker, in the last few days, our province, like many other parts of the country, had to grapple with inclement weather conditions that have caused widespread damage to households and infrastructure in many communities. We appreciate the efforts of good Samaritans such as Gift of the Givers and many others who extended a helping hand to many of our residents whose livelihoods were severely affected by disruptive rains and floods.

The Provincial Disaster Management team is hard at work to profile all the affected areas and to develop a remedial action plan for intervention. Priority, Madam Speaker, will be given to vulnerable groups such as child-headed households, the elderly and people living with disabilities. These adverse weather conditions have become a frequent phenomenon due to climate change.

This has compelled the government to reprioritize its budget to respond to this calamity, putting a strain on our already limited resources. Mmusakgotla, seboba re bata sa mokwatla sa mpa re a se mpampetsa. Re tsaa tšhono e, go itsise baagi ba porofense ya rona gore re le Khuduthamaga ya porofense re samagane le go fetola melao le melawana e maikaelelo a yona e leng go netefatsa gore tekanyetsokabo ya rona e ungwela baagi ba porofense ka bontsi. #[Speaker, blood is thicker than water. We take this opportunity to inform the people of our province that as the Executive of the province we are dealing with changing the laws and regulations which aims at making sure that our budget benefits many of the people of our province.]#

The Provincial Treasury will be seized with the responsibility to develop a framework and regulations that speaks to localization through Supply Chain Management Policies related to the

new Public Procurement Act without obstructing the country's Constitutional imperatives. Kgabutle, Madam Speaker, ga a ke a feta gaabo a re go tlala. #[A person does not ignore their own family.]#

Part of our poverty alleviation programmes in rural communities will include working hand in glove with the North West House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders under the stewardship of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development through Agri-hubs in collaboration with the North West University, Agriculture Research Council and other stakeholders.

This objective is primarily aimed at driving agricultural development to empower emerging commercial farmers while contributing to a sustainable economic growth to address high poverty levels at rural communities and in the district such as Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati and Ngaka Modiri Molema.

On Monday, Madam Speaker, next week, I will be launching a flagship programme of this initiative at the University's Molelwane farm in Mahikeng. In the next financial year, we will launch the "Ntime o Mphele Ngwana Poverty Alleviation Programme," which is centred on addressing hunger and starvation amongst children and youth in economically depressed communities.

I want to urge various non-governmental organisations and private sector to partner with us in executing this initiative. Honourable Speaker, we were the first province to introduce breakfast in three hundred schools across the province to cushion learners in impoverished communities against high poverty levels in their communities through the National Schools Nutrition Programme (NSNP).

We can report to the people of the North West that breakfast will now be rolled out to cover all secondary schools while the number of primary schools benefiting from this initiative will be increased from two hundred and seventy-two to three hundred and fifty. This means that Government will serve two meals per day in all these schools. This includes Bonwakgogo Primary School in Chaneng, Dr Mohono, in Rustenburg, Gaetscho Secondary School in Boikhutso, Ditsobotla, Saruchera Primary School in Huhudi and Mmokeng Secondary School in Kanana, Orkney.

For the next financial year, more than six hundred and ninety million Rands will be allocated to NSNP to feed more than seven hundred fifty thousand learners in more than one thousand three hundred schools in the province. The monthly stipend that we pay to food handlers will be increased to two thousand one hundred and ninety Rands.

Honourable Speaker, through the ILIMA/Letsema Programme and the Presidential Employment Stimulus we are supporting over five thousand subsistence farmers in ensuring that no households in the province go to bed hungry. Sixty million Rands has been set aside for the successful implementation of these programmes.

An additional eighty million Rands of conditional grants will support farming communities in increasing food production across the province. Bagaetsho #[My people]#, the resuscitation of the Taung irrigation scheme is in full swing following our ongoing discussions and consultations with bogosi #[traditional leadership]# and other key stakeholders.

The collaborative work that we have between the Vaalharts Water Users Association, the Department of Water and Sanitation and the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality will result in an increase of water supply to households in areas such as Taung, Pudimoe and Huhudi.

Plans are already afoot to also revitalise the Disaneng, Molatedi, Hartebees and Mooibank Irrigation Schemes. In giving impetus to these plans, we will be hosting a two-day Irrigation Symposium on the 05th and 06th of March 2025 to develop a framework as well as an implementation plan to drive agricultural production in rural and periphery communities.

Honourable Speaker, restoring the dignity of our people remains one of the apex priorities of this government. To date over six thousand hectares of land have been restored to communities and rightful owners. Through this programme 4, 5 billion was spent on land acquisition with over 430 million paid as development grants. This will include the Bo-Moshe Communal Property Association, where over six hundred and seventy hectares of land valued at more than 380 million Rands were restored to the community, which produces berries for export to the international markets.

This restoration has culminated in the investment of more than forty million Rands and has created close to five thousand seasonal jobs and thirty-four permanent jobs for the locals.

Honourable Speaker, the roll out of road infrastructure projects is in line with our rural development strategy. In the current financial year, 429 million was spent on rural and small towns to link rural and farming communities with the province's economic hubs.

These includes the upgrading of the Vragas to Madinonyane road, two roads in Maubane, the special maintenance of Schweizer-Reneke to Christiana and Ottosdal to Delareyville roads as well as the rehabilitation of the Hartbeesfontein to Ottosdal road. We take this opportunity to appreciate the collaborative efforts undertaken by the Provincial Government with mining houses to address road infrastructure backlogs in the province.

Subsequent to this, the Impala Bafokeng Resources has funded the rehabilitation of roads at Mafenya, Chaneng and Robega villages at a cost of 39 million Rands. The 10km project was completed in June last year. The recent investment of 160 million by the Anglo American Amandabult Complex gives credence to our ongoing efforts to foster relations with the private sector to address road infrastructure backlogs in the province.

The communities of Manamakgoteng, Sandfontein Dikweipi, Segakwaneng and Ramokokastad in the Moses Kotane Local Municipality will benefit from the 15km roads upgrade due to be completed in October this year. The company has pledged to fund a road also linking Limpopo and the North West via Ramokokastad at an estimated cost of 120 million Rand.

We are hopeful, Madam Speaker, that this pledge will be finalised and be signed by the end of the current financial year to commission the project for design and construction. All these activities amount to more than three hundred million Rands worth of investment in our road infrastructure.

And today, amongst our midst, we are joined by Mrs Ethen Makgasane, Mr Thabo Moyo and Mr Keaitumela Letebele who are executives from the aforementioned mining companies who have partnered with government to improve our road infrastructure.

Kgosi Thari Maotwe we have heard the cries of the people of Ward 1 and Ward 2, in the Moses Kotane Local Municipality over the lack of a trafficable road between Dwarsberg and Pachsdraai. We have appointed consultants to commence with various investigations for urgent intervention to construct a new twenty-seven-kilometre tarred road in those areas. I hope the Kgosi will be very happy.

Honourable Speaker, Phase 2 of Nelson Mandela Road in Mafikeng will commence in the next financial year and will entail stormwater construction, rehabilitation of the road, and a non-motorized transportation infrastructure. This is aimed also at alleviating a lot of flooding that is happening along that road of Nelson Mandela in Mafikeng.

Honourable Speaker, we have also at these far garnered investments of nine billion Rands by Harmony Gold and China Africa Precious Metals in the City of Matlosana Local Municipality. These investments have collectively created and preserved ten thousand jobs.

We can also report Madam Speaker that the Mekgareng Smart City project, which is a collaborative development initiative between the North West and Gauteng, coordinated by the national Department of Human Settlements, will create 20 000 jobs for the people of Madibeng Local Municipality. This project is estimated to attract investments of between ten and twenty-five billion Rands.

Honourable Speaker, we have allocated twenty-four million Rands to establish what we are calling a Development Fund to accelerate development initiatives across the province, with a special focus to stimulate economic growth and creating sustainable job opportunities.

Honourable Members, the work of the Economic and Investment Advisory Council is beginning to yield the desired results. The Council is responsible for assisting the province to drive its industrialization programme, to lure investments and see to the full implementation of the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (PGDS). We envisage to also establishing in the province a Regional Research, Innovation and Development Office, which will be in, and coordinated by the Office of the Premier with a specific focus on Science, Technology and Engineering.

We have as a provincial government, partnered, Honourable Members, with the South African Defence Force and Phila Jordan Academy to provide training opportunities to 3000 beneficiaries, in artisanal and tooling programmes, through the South African National Service Institute (SANSI) Pilot Programme, which is a South African National Defence Force-led National Youth Service programme (NYS).

This initiative is aimed at providing training skills programmes, through refurbishment of government buildings by young people, as well as providing incubation, mentorship, and market access support to youth-led enterprises.

Furthermore, one thousand two hundred young people also are participating in a National Youth Service programme at the Department of Public Works and Roads, Human Settlements, Social Development, Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation. And in addition to the aforementioned figures, a further seven thousand young people were provided with skills to enter the job market and be placed in various job opportunities.

Moreover, more than five thousand youth owned enterprises were supported with financial and non-financial business development interventions by supporting their entrepreneurial skills through the NYDA Grant Fund.

Honourable Speaker, more than 3000 young people have been exposed to various employment opportunities as ambassadors of One Stop Centres, SMME development through the Empowerment Fund and as tourism monitors across the province.

Our province, Honourable Speaker, will also collaborate with the Department of Small Business Development to accelerate government programs to revitalise village and township economies. As a province, we will drive the partnership through the North West Development Corporation and relevant national entities to realize this objective.

Honourable Speaker, the Victor Sifora Provincial Bursary Scheme has allocated ten million Rands to benefit students from poor and missing middle households, to enrol at various institutions of higher learning across the country.

Moreover, thirty-one unemployed young people from across the province, the North West were recruited into the Nelson Mandela Fidel Castro Medical Programme and to pursue their medical studies in Cuba. They include Matshetshe Rethabile of Ntsweletsoku in Zeerust, Motsokotsi Pholoho of Marikana West in Rustenburg, Mohlala Onthatile of Mathibestad. These are those who are beneficiaries of this programme.

In addition to this, we have absorbed one hundred and fifty-seven unemployed medical officers, who completed community service between January and July 2024. Madam Speaker, one

hundred and twenty-seven unemployed bursary and non-bursary holders will be offered full-time employment and seasonal posts until availability of funds to fund our vacant positions in government. We will continue to advertise and fill vacant and funded posts in health for health professionals' posts to ensure that adequate services is provided to our people through the health facilities.

Honourable Members, our job creation initiatives will include the massification of employment programmes such as the Expanded Public Works, Community Health Workers, Community Works and Labour Activation Programmes. This will cumulatively create more than one hundred and fifty thousand job opportunities in the aforementioned programmes in the next five years, targeting at least women, youth and persons with disabilities. To date, Honourable Speaker, over nine thousand people are benefitting from EPWP, with over six thousand of them being young people.

We are committed to rebuilding state capacity through infrastructure development. To this end, various infrastructure projects amounting to 1, 4 billion were implemented to create a conducive environment for learning and teaching in our schools. This has enabled the North West to be one of the best performing provinces, obtaining fourth position with a pass rate of 87% in the 2024 National Certificate examination.

The construction of Mokala Primary, Tlaskgameng Primary, Chaneng Primary, Gasetsiwe Secondary, Tshedimoso Primary, Kgosi Shope, and Sarafina Secondary speaks to our ongoing efforts to put emphasis on foundational education, which has given impetus to these results we see today.

Collectively, these schools have created more than four thousand two hundred jobs during their construction. The construction of over twenty schools in the next five years will also create an additional fifteen thousand job opportunities. These include among the schools Tlamelang Special School, Rysmierbult Mega Farm School, phase four of the Lykso Intermediate School and the Dinokana Autism School, to ensure that the designated and marginalized communities have access to quality education as well.

We have rolled out Early Childhood Development programme at all our primary schools; excluding only eight in the province and these eight are at their own submission that they are not

yet ready. It means we have in line with what BELA is looking for that early childhood be in all our primary schools.

And at the same time Honourable Speaker, we should applaud Hoërskool Swartruggens who have voluntarily indicated their readiness, in line with the BELA Act, to admit learners who are not first language Afrikaans-speaking school. So it's not correct to put a narrative that BELA is being rejected by most of the Afrikaans speaking people.

Bagaetsho #[My people]#, we have established a database of scholar transport service providers who are able to immediately replace non-performing service providers without affecting and infringing on our educational activities of our learners.

Honourable Speaker, in November last year, 84-year-old Lydia Mere became the owner of a newly built house by government. As tears were running down her face during this important occasion, she had this to say to government, and I quote her: "This is one of the best days of my life; I was beginning to worry that I may depart from this world without having a proper house. This is a legacy for my children."

Honourable Members, Ms Mere's story sums up our ongoing efforts to provide shelter to our people. Construction of a new house for the 16-member Modise family of Ramatlabama Six Hundred who lived in a two roomed shack has commenced.

And during our visit to the village through our Thuntsha Lerole Reloaded Programme, we committed to Kgosi Gobusamang Shole to build eighty-four houses for qualifying residents. We can report in this House, Madam Speaker, to Kgosi and the people of Ramatlabama that we have fulfilled our promise to build houses for the less privileged.

Honourable Speaker, in the next financial year, we will build three thousand five hundred and fifty-five houses across the province which will include blocked projects, first home finance and the asbestos removal programme.

The target for catalytic projects for the current financial year was 249 units at more than eighty-two million Rands and by the end of the last quarter, we had delivered 268 units and for the next financial year, we are intending to deliver 500 units and in particular in the mining towns, at a cost of 90,5 million Rands.

Honourable Speaker, the Marang Estate Project at Unit 3 in Mahikeng is a blocked social housing project that was planned to have two thousand four hundred units and was supposed to be implemented by the Social Housing Regulatory Authority.

However, the project grinds to a halt due to findings of an irregular sale of land by the Mahikeng Local Municipality to the developer as well as misappropriation and mismanagement of the approved project budget. The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), the National Treasury, and the Hawks are now jointly conducting criminal investigations and the preservation of the sites.

The NPA has secured a forfeiture order from the court, which mandated consultation with an enforcement officer and the National Treasury to transfer specific properties to entities such as the North West Department of Human Settlements, the Mahikeng Local Municipality or the Social Housing Regulatory Authority.

The land parcels and the incomplete Marang project are currently under the control of a Curator. This milestone is significant in the province in unlocking this flagship project which has been blocked for more than ten years. We will continue with engagements with the Social Housing Regulatory Authority to ensure that the project is resuscitated, in line with our commitment to complete all incomplete housing structures. So Marang will be attended to. We will fix it very soon.

Bagaetsho, re utlwile selelo sa baagi ba Ramosadi mo mmasepaleng wa Mahikeng morago ga go thubega ga peipe ya kgeleloleswe. #[My people, we have heard the cry of the community of Ramosadi in the Mahikeng municipality after the bursting of the sewerage pipe.]# The construction of a one hundred and one-million-Rand new sewer pipe will start in earnest following the introduction of a contractor to the community two weeks ago.

And various water and sanitation projects are at different stages of construction and completion in Moretele, Moses Kotane, Ramotshere Moiloa, Mamusa and Naledi Local Municipalities with a total budget of four hundred and fifty million Rands. We are responding to the water challenge in this province. This includes the construction of a pipeline from Bloemhof Dam to Mamusa Local Municipality which is due to be completed in June this year.

Several more projects of a similar kind are underway in Bodibe, in Ramosadi, Signal Hill and Lobatle amongst others. Sixty-five million Rands will be spent in finishing all these incomplete

water projects in particular in Ntsweletsoku, Dithakong and Deelpan, among others. The construction of phase two of the Pilanesberg Water Augmentation project is also continuing and will alleviate provision of water challenges in particular in the Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality.

In the last two years, we embarked on a massive investment drive initiative which culminated in hosting two investment conferences, as well as our international trip to the Henan Province of China and South Korea. We are excited to announce that the interest to invest in the logistics hub to revitalize the George Dick Montshioa Airport is back, following our concerted investment drive.

This investment is in the region of one hundred and seventy-six million Rands. We are cognisant of the potential of both the Pilanesberg and George Dick Montshioa Airports and we have since issued a Request for Proposals to resuscitate and commercialise the two airports. A successful bidder for the running of the two airports will be appointed before the end of the current financial year.

Honourable Speaker, the NTI remains a critical entity of the state through the provisioning of efficient and safe transport solutions to South Africans, who rely in the main on public transport to access economic hubs and markets, social institutions and the broader economic opportunities. It was placed under business rescue and a Business Rescue Practitioner was appointed, but in the process, the BRP failed to resuscitate the NTI, and we went to court to have him removed.

The court, Honourable Speaker, has ruled in our favour, proving that the BRP is not fit for the purpose but the victory was short lived as the BRP has appealed the ruling. We are awaiting finality on this matter as we are convinced that the current BRP will not be able to resuscitate NTI. We have appointed in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati, Honourable Speaker, and replaced a commuter bus service and we have since made an appointment and the commuter bus services have resumed in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati.

Similarly, in Ngaka Modiri Molema, commuter bus services also collapsed due to the inefficiencies by the service provider. Government is currently finalising a procurement process to appoint a replacement operator to start on the 1st of April this year in the Ngaka Modiri Molema so meaning that our people will start to have this service at their disposal.

Honourable Members, earlier this month, I attended the Africa Mining Indaba in Cape Town with members of the Economic and Investment Advisory Council. Part of promoting investments in mining, which is one of the key economic drivers in the North West, will be to lead a delegation to this Indaba next year to promote the province to access the full cycle of the mining value chain in the North West. Furthermore, we aim to bring back the Provincial Mining Investment Summit in close collaboration with the Department of Minerals and Petroleum Resources.

Honourable Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the South African Police Service, for their ongoing efforts in halting illegal mining activities in our province. Through the Operation Vala Umgodi, police managed to thwart all illegal mining activities in Stilfontein, in the City of Matlosana Local Municipality.

Our crime combatting initiatives have proven to be effective in relation to stock theft, gangsterism, gender-based violence, robberies and illicit mining, among others. Pudimoe in Dr RSM in the Taung area, Specialized Stock Theft Unit was able to reduce incidents of stock theft in the Greater Taung Local Municipality and the surrounding areas.

This has been achieved through the implementation of the Rural Safety Strategy that we are using as a department. The Department of Public Safety has also developed, just for your information Members, programmes, campaigns, advocacies, community engagements, imbizos to sensitise our communities around stock theft and in particular in the Taung area. The establishment of the Anti-Gang Unit in Dr Kenneth Kaunda District has also helped to reduce what is called contact crime in that area. This is a prevalent crime in the Dr KK which is related to gangsterism.

The seventh administration is committed to nip the corruption and malfeasance in the bud, by working with all law enforcement agencies such as the Hawks, SIU, Asset Forfeiture Unit and Chapter 9 institutions. I have received reports from law enforcement agencies especially on cases that are under investigation and these cases include high-profile cases in this province and some of the cases which are before the courts.

To extrapolate further on this, we have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the SIU to investigate alleged corruption and related cases in our State-owned Entities but I want to

emphasise this will not be limited to the state-owned entities also. Also, provincial government will be attended.

Honourable Speaker, we remain committed to promoting clean governance, eliminating malfeasance, and preventing financial leakages, ensuring that scarce financial resources are effectively utilised to benefit the residents of the province.

I am happy to share that we have seen notable improvements in the audit outcomes, which provides a strong foundation for further progress. We are proud, Madam Speaker, to report that we have achieved two clean audits at Provincial Treasury and the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation.

We have also received eight unqualified audit outcomes and one qualified audit opinion with less material findings at the Department of Education. This marks a significant milestone in our efforts to enhance accountability and transparency.

The implementation, Madam Speaker, of the Local Government Turnaround Strategy and our Financial Recovery Plan is gaining traction and there has been relative improvement in the audit outcomes of some of our municipalities. And this will include provision of services through the roll-out of our Accelerated Service Delivery Programme, called Thuntsha Lerole Reloaded.

The collaboration with the National Treasury through mandatory interventions has enabled us to implement financial recovery plans as well as skills audit, resulting in improved audit outcomes in our municipalities, and in particular, in this instance Dr Kenneth Kaunda, Bojanala Platinum District Municipalities as well as the Moretele Local Municipality. So our intervention with the National Treasury has made serious impact.

Honourable Speaker, the equitable distribution of fiscal resources is essential in bridging the gap between our rural and urban areas and ensuring that all regions can grow and thrive. Currently, the Equitable Share formula that guides the allocation of fiscal resources is under review.

A Technical Committee on Finance has established a dedicated task team to investigate this formula and ensure that it accurately reflects the developmental needs of rural provinces such as the North West. As a province, we lobbied strongly for this and we will be making submissions in this regard.

Honourable Speaker, we are on track to turn around the current state of our North West Parks and Tourism Board. We must reposition and revitalize the entity to allow it to derive adequate revenue to sustain some of its affairs and to adequately manage the state protected areas and biodiversity network.

We will continue to implement cost containment measures and introduce additional measures where possible, while identifying partnerships and stakeholders to assist in achieving the entity's legislative mandate. Among the most immediate plans is to invest in upgrading and maintaining the Protected Areas Network Infrastructure.

We will also establish a Public-Private Partnership to fund infrastructure restoration and modernization within the Protected Areas. This will include, among others, the upgrading of the Kgaswane National Botanical Garden that will be made possible by the Glencore 15 million fund that has been provided. We will issue Expressions of Interest for the management and commercialization of all our non-viable parks. We will be getting into asking for Expression of Interest for commercialization and management so that we get investors to resuscitate all our parks.

Honourable Speaker, we have conducted investigations into the traditional leadership disputes of the Banogeng, Bakubung Ba Ratheo and the Bakwena Ba Mmatau. The outcomes of these investigations will be made public in due course. The investigative committee into Bahurutshe boo Manyane, Bahurutshe boo Moiloa and Bakwena Ba Mogopa disputes will start very soon.

We have handed over the last batch of 17 vehicles to Dikgosi to help them carry out their statutory and customary duties. We will be making funding available also, Madam Speaker, to establish a Commission of Inquiry to probe the Barolong boo Ratlou boo Moshoeite traditional leadership dispute and this is as a result and directed by the Mahikeng High Court, so that we do not find ourselves in contempt of the court.

We are also, Madam Speaker, reviewing policies on traditional authorities in the province which will result in the development of one policy for all our traditional authorities. This support will include amongst others issues relating to coronations, burials and tools of trade.

Honourable Speaker, the process to build new and refurbish old clinics is on track and in the current financial year we opened three new clinics in Ngaka Modiri Molema and the Dr Kenneth

Kaunda District, as well as a bulk pharmacy in Ventersdorp and the Phokeng Forensic Mortuary. Added to this, we have given dilapidated clinics in Uitkyk, Magogoe, Koffiekraal, Mothanthanyaneng, Shiela, Cokonyane, Lobatla, Logageng, Kabe, Matshepe and Welverdiend a facelift. All these clinics will be officially opened this year.

We have spent seventy-six million Rand to buy 75 red fleet vehicles in this province, which are thirty-nine planned patient transport vehicles, thirty-five ambulances, for distribution across the province and we will continue to inject new vehicles in our health system.

For the current financial year, we received an allocation through the NHI grant that was used to expand Health Care Services Benefits, through strategic purchasing of services from health care providers and strengthening mental health care delivery in primary health care and community-based facilities.

Honourable Speaker, we want to congratulate the Klerksdorp/Tshepong Hospital Complex for successfully performing the first ever off pump cardiac bypass surgery for two patients at the newly built catheterization laboratory at Tshepong, supported by a team from India and Johannesburg's Charlotte Maxeke Academic Hospital. Our gratitude also goes to Job Shimankane Tabane Hospital for a successful cancer operation, for tumour evacuation removal in conjunction with the private facilities.

Honourable Speaker, this demonstrates the capacity of the State to ensure the rollout of adequate provisioning of quality primary and tertiary health care services in our facilities for the benefit of the poor and economically disenfranchised.

We will Honourable Speaker, continue to implement substance abuse prevention and early intervention programmes amongst children and youth in schools and in partnership with community-based organisations and other stakeholders.

We are mitigating the impact of abuse by providing psychological support, treatment, rehabilitation services at the JB Marks Treatment Centre while the Taung Treatment Centre provides outpatient, community-based and after care programmes and interventions in collaboration with the Department of Health. The in-patient treatment section will be operational this year.

Honourable Members, through the Social Relief of Distress programme, over ten thousand eight hundred people have received food parcels in this province, while over six thousand seven hundred received dignity packs. They include needy families, child-headed households, people with disabilities, the homeless as well as people affected by disasters.

We have established three fully functioning shelters for GBV victims in Vryburg, Mahikeng and Rustenburg. We will open another shelter in Potchefstroom this year, in our fight against the scourge of gender-based violence.

Honourable Speaker, one of our Child and Youth care centres has been a home for 26 undocumented, unaccompanied and migrant children who were rescued at the recent illegal mining episode in Stilfontein. We are working on their repatriation and reunification with their families in their countries of origin.

Honourable Speaker, we have introduced a flagship programme called ‘Re thuse, Re go Thuse’ with the aim of taking social development services to communities at a much faster pace. The MEC for Social Development will provide more details on the programme when tabling the Department’s Budget Vote.

Honourable Members, “the door of learning and culture shall be open” and in living up to this commitment by our forebearers, we are on course to deliver libraries in the Wolmaransstad area, Matlosana, Coverdale in Boitumelong and Bodibe. The Wolmaransstad library is almost complete and will be opened very soon, while a site has been allocated for construction in Ganyesa, and work will commence very soon.

For Matlosana, Coverdale in Boitumelong and Bodibe, we are still at the design stage and progress will be provided in due course. We have also Madam Speaker, completed refurbishments at the Moshana Cultural Village. The Matloding and Kudungwane Cultural Villages will be completed by the end of next month, while the Tseoge and Sione Cultural villages will be re-prioritized for the 2025/2026 financial year. Furthermore, we have set aside four million Rands to refurbish the Mahikeng Office of Mmabana Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation Foundation.

Honourable Speaker, we recently repatriated the remains of the late liberation struggle and hero Aaron Tiro, for reburial at Lekubu village in Ramotshere Moiloa. His spirit shall live forever and serve as a reminder of the sacrifices endured in the course for liberation.

Our special thanks go to the ordinary people of Zambia who hosted Aaron Tiro and many of our compatriots and leaders. They delayed the enjoyment of the benefits of their freedom so that our country can be free. In his memory, we will continue to forge ahead with our national democratic project.

“For a revolution,” as Fidel Castro once remarked, and I quote: “is not a bed of roses. A revolution is a struggle between the future and the past.” Ours is a skewed past centred on exploitation, exclusion and oppression but we remain hopeful about the socio-economic prospects of our province, and we are unflinching on our commitment to create a better life of all, irrespective of your race, your class, your gender or your creed.

I thank you! Baie dankie! Ndiyabulela! Ke a leboga Bagaetsho! #[Thank you!]

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, Honourable Members. Honourable Members, thank you. Honourable Sambatha! Honourable Sambatha! Thank you.

HON. SONAKILE: Order! Order!

HON. BOGATSU: Order! Order! Order Members! Order! Sit down. Order! Call yourselves to order. Order!

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you. Honourable ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SONAKILE: Speaker? Speaker? Actually, the correct song they should be singing is ... [INAUDIBLE] ... It's embarrassing. It's a wrong song.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Sonakile. Thank you Honourable Sonakile. Honourable Members! Honourable Members! Honourable Members! Let's thank the Premier; Order! Order! Order! Let's thank the Premier Honourable Members. Honourable Members, I wish to acknowledge the presence of the following dignitaries: I wish to acknowledge the presence of my husband Ntate #[Mr]# Mohono. Thank you very much.

And thank Mme #[Madam]# Mokgosi for continuing to support Ntate #[Mr]# Mokgosi. Our journey is not easy. Thank you very much Mma #[Mrs]# Mokgosi. I would want to thank the following Honourable Members with us today: Honourable Groenewald, the Minister of Correctional Services, Honourable Dr Mimmy Gondwe, and the Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Honourable Sello Seithloho, Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Honourable Kenny Morolong, Deputy Minister in the Presidency.

Our Honourable Members, Honourable Nombiselo Sompoti from the National Assembly, Honourable Christina Tlhomong from the National Assembly. From the NCOP our permanent delegates are with us today, Honourable Tidimalo Legwase, the Whip of NCOP, Honourable Celina Sithole, Honourable Kim Medupi and Honourable Mabebo. Other Honourable Members are held up in other National Assembly responsibilities.

We also have in our midst Mr Butale Phenyoi, the Minister in Botswana, we acknowledge them, Mr Tekelo Phemelo, permanent secretary of Botswana, we also have Mr Rui Xavier, Ambassador Angola. We have Ms MDF Xavier, the spouse to the ambassador of Angola, Mr Harish Kumar, Council General India, Dr Monageng Sanji, High Commissioner Botswana, Mr Jinga Emmanuel, political secretary Angola, Peng Wu, Ambassador China.

And we have our traditional leaders with us this morning and we are grateful that always you are with us Kgosi Maotwe. Kgosi Maotwe, the chairperson of the House of traditional leaders with the entourage, Kgosi Gobusamang Shole, Kgosi Ponatshego Mothibi, Kgosi Lebogang Mogale, Kgosi Ramosetlho Gasebonwe, Kgosi Kgosietsile Tsiepe, Kgosi Molefe Mabalane, Kgosi Sibi Lengana la ga Tshekedi, Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi, and all other traditional leaders that I didn't see because I gave a clear instruction that all traditional leaders must join us this side. Re a lo leboga

diaparankwe tsa rona. Le na le rona ka dinako tse tsotlhe. #[We thank you our Traditional Leaders. You are always with us.]#

We acknowledge also in our midst Judge President of the North West High Court Judge Hendricks. He's with us this morning; I'll also want to acknowledge all our heads of departments led by the Director General and all Chapter 9 Institutions with us this morning. I also want to acknowledge the presence of the African National Congress, the home that sent me today and gave me this opportunity to be here today.

I want to thank also the leaders of the alliance with us this morning. I also want to thank the leaders and the members of all political parties in this House, your EFF leaders, your DA leaders, your Freedom Front leaders, your MKP leaders, your Action SA leaders. All the political leaders in the House, we thank you so much. Keep on supporting your leaders.

Finally, we thank you honourable guests even all of you in the overflow in the auditorium, we thank you very much for honouring the day of today. Honourable Members, the North West Provincial Legislature appreciate all of you present in this prestigious event.

Honourable Members, we will now be ushered to a group photo immediately after the adjournment of the sitting which will be in the diamond square and thereafter proceed to the marquee tent for lunch. Nobody is having lunch elsewhere. All of us even all of you in the overflow, all of us we are going under one roof for our lunch.

We have improved our lunch venue this year. Don't worry we won't be squashed like last year. Our guests will be ushered to the tent. This concludes the business of the day. All Members who are able to stand shall remain standing until the procession has left the chamber in the following order: The Speaker followed by the Premier, Judge President, Secretary and the table staff. The sitting stands adjourned.

HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 11:20

[Sitting No. 02-2025] Second Session, Seventh Legislature

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**LEGISLATURE OF THE
NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

TUESDAY 04 MARCH 2025

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we will now observe a moment of silent prayer or meditation.

HOUSE: Observing a moment of silence.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Members. You may be seated. Secretary may you read the next order please.

SECRETARY: ORDER NO. 2 ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, reports have been tabled through the ATC and referred to the relevant committees for scrutiny and further processing. Committee reports

with recommendations are also tabled through the ATC. Does the House adopt the committee recommendations as House resolutions?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Members. Committee recommendations are now adopted as House resolutions. Secretary may you read the next order please.

SECRETARY: ORDER NO. 3 DEBATE ON THE STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I will now call Honourable Rosho to come and lead the debate on the State of the Province Address. Honourable Rosho, you've got 11 minutes.

HON. ROSHO: Tla ke go leboge Motlatsammusakgotla. Ke dumedise Tonakgolo ya rona ya Bokonebophirima Rre Lazarus Mokgosi [Thank you Deputy Speaker. Greetings to the Premier of the North West Mr Lazarus Mokgosi], Mme Desbo Mohono, all Members of the Legislature, багаetsho dumelang kwa gae ba lo tla bong lo re reeditse, baagi ba Bokonebophirima [greetings extended to the community of the North West listening from home]. Deputy Speaker, 70 years ago the people of South Africa adopted the Freedom Charter, a simple, honest and unpretentious founding policy document that reflected the desires and ideas of millions of common people.

It further envisioned its course that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white. Our Constitution post-1994 was premised from the charter of the people and has directed captains of apartheid to unplug crime against humanity. It captured in vivid terms the composite will of the people and gave birth to the establishment of South Africa's constitutional

democracy. The Freedom Charter remains the most inspiring policy document that embodies our shared perspectives of this country's future and represents the ANC-led democratic government movement's ideological and theoretical essence and posture. Guided by the vision of the Freedom Charter, the ANC remains committed in confronting the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality hence we have declared this year 'The Year of the Freedom Charter,' where the people shall continue to govern and share in the country's wealth.

Whereas we note with concern the challenges confronting us, we have also made significant strides in the battle against a wide range of social challenges confronting our society such as the slight decrease in the levels of crime in general and violent crimes in particular. However, Deputy Speaker, the scourge of violence against women and children is a daunting humiliation on our land. It goes against our entrenched values, norms, beliefs and human rights culture.

We must therefore unite in action and mobilise society for stronger partnership leaving no one behind to tackle the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide. We acknowledge that much needs to be done in preventing these atrocious crimes from recurring. We plead with victims of these appalling crimes to use facilities provided by the ANC-led government for free quality and confidential care for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

The ANC welcomes the intent of government to further open and establish safe shelter in Potchefstroom which will reduce secondary victimisation, expedite finalisation of cases, and improve the conviction rate through prosecutor guided investigation and stakeholder engagement. Government must strengthen organs of people's power such as ward committees, community policing forums, SGBs must work with civil society to intensify the fight against gender-based violence and all forms of criminal activities in the province.

A concerted effort to curb teenage pregnancies through intensified advocacy campaign must be rolled out. Criminal charges must be laid against perpetrators of statutory rape and those who are

failing to report such incidents. This will send a resolute message that says enough is enough, hands off our vulnerable children. We have a moral duty and obligation to protect them against sexual abuse.

Deputy Speaker, as acknowledged by the Honourable Premier in his State of the Province Address last week that he delivered before this House, unemployment that is standing at 52.8% affecting the majority of our young people remains a challenge and a growing concern. Through you Deputy Speaker, Honourable Premier, no effort must therefore be spared to diffuse the ticking time bomb of young unemployment especially focusing on our youth and women and people with disabilities.

The January 8 Statement has just put job creation through meaningful economic transformation at the top of its priority list for this year. Therefore, rigorous and radical economic transformation programmes that will revitalise industrial sites must without failure be implemented. These sites must possess the efficient ability to accelerate the creation of enabling environment for investment in improved manufacturing competitiveness which remains the most reliable sustained employment creator with the highest job multiplier whilst being cognisant of the comparative advantage that we have as a province.

In this regard, we are concerned about the delayed establishment of the Bojanala Special Economic Zone, Honourable Premier, which has the potential to create more than 15 000 job opportunities in the Moses Kotane Local Municipality and will benefit also the surrounding areas. It has been talks for a long time Honourable Premier. It's about time that we get the final plan and we pursue the Special Economic Zone decisively as a collective.

The North West Development Corporation must fully explore job creation opportunities across the province as part of full realisation of its mandate with manufacturing as a priority sector. Improving the competitiveness of our people in small scale economic activity such as local, retail

and enhanced local ownership of spaza shops must be fast tracked for beneficiaries to access that 500 million fund aimed at supporting small businesses in our villages and our townships.

As the ANC we welcome the framework on localisation that is to be developed through the supply chain located in the Provincial Treasury. Deputy Speaker, our state-owned entities must be repositioned to contribute towards job creation as part of the provincial growth and development strategy that focuses on mining, agriculture, tourism, arts and culture to stimulate economic growth and development.

We will not achieve our strategic intent if we do not get deeper into the challenges of our SOEs in the North West Province. The state must take a radical culture shift to avoid future collapse of our state-owned entities. It cannot happen under our watch as the deployees of the African National Congress in this parliament.

Their turnaround strategy must realise return on investment for an inclusive economy that benefits all our people, women, youth and people with disabilities. The acceleration on renovation of Pilanesberg and George Dick Montshioa Airports will significantly boost repositioning of the province as an investment and tourism destination of choice. Therefore, the turnaround plan in this respect must restore hope and demonstrate the vision that seeks to position the North West as a key strategic enabler through SADC and Africa as a continent for growth and development.

The recent launch of Agri hub yesterday in Molelwane Farm in partnership with the North West University is a ground-breaking milestone that will enhance livestock and crop value chain, support emerging farmers through research, technological development and capacity building. Engagements with agricultural and mining sectors, private sector and all stakeholders must be a permanent feature in pursuance to create conditions that will enable small business to emerge,

grow to access new markets, to create new products and to create more sustainable business opportunities for people thus creating sustainable jobs.

Beneficiation of our mineral resources will reverse decades of extraction economy that has not contributed much to create local jobs to address the triple challenges confronting us as a province. Government programme and action will be closely monitored, Honourable Premier, on how you take private sector to task on trading of jobs especially for young people. Your priority Honourable Premier, you must create an enabling environment so that more jobs are created and we need more jobs, nothing less but more jobs must be created. We do not have the luxury to deliver on this priority.

As the ANC, we welcome the newly opened refurbished gold processing plant at Orkney which formed part of a nine billion rand investment by China/Africa Precious Metals aimed at preserving 10 000 jobs. The support provided to youth owned enterprises with financial and non-financial business development intervention through NYDA grant needs to be strengthened but also it must also address expansion and allocation of more funds to capacity building on capacity of SMMEs. We applaud the job massification plans, Honourable Premier that you have pronounced, however, we wish to emphasise that this must be sustainable jobs.

Deputy Speaker, let me just draw from the Freedom Charter clause, “the land shall be shared among those who work it and the state shall continue to help the peasants with implements, seeds, tractors, dams to save the soil and assist tillers.” We must not be bullied Honourable Members to allow injustice and decades of land dispossession to remain without redress. The ANC commends government for restoring our people’s dignity by taking back over 6 000 hectares of land back to our communities and this must be done in accordance with the Land Expropriation Act. We’ll continue to expropriate land in the public interest to promote inclusivity and access to natural resources.

Deputy Speaker, education remains an apex priority which we believe is the only tool of cultivating and progression tool to take our country forward. We welcome the expansion of broadband connectivity to schools in rural communities where access to connectivity and internet is a challenge. However, broadband rollout in the province must be prioritised as it will ignite business opportunities especially for our young people also advancing innovation.

We commend the uninterrupted efforts of the carrying and creation of conducive learning environment for our learners with the provision of sanitary towels and the successful introduction of breakfast in 300 schools which will now be expanded to all secondary schools across the province. Thumbs up. The notion of ‘the doors of learning and culture shall be opened’ is being given practical meaning through the construction of new schools which have created other job opportunities. However, in pursuit of the vision to provide quality public education for all, as the ANC we call on government to speed up the maintenance and refurbishment of dilapidated schools infrastructure to ensure that conditions are conducive for learning and teaching.

It is further important, Deputy Speaker, to intensify learner ships to enhance the skills revolution and massification on vocational and occupational training and invest in skills that will contribute towards growing the economy Honourable Premier. The ANC reaffirms the guide that South African economy in accordance with the Freedom Charter’s call, the people shall share in the country’s wealth and applauds the commitment to urgently bring together government, labour movement, business and communities in social pact to accelerate economic growth and create jobs.

We therefore want to support and applaud Honourable Premier for his State of the Provincial Address as the African National Congress. We are looking forward to accelerate the programme of changing the lives of our people.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As you wrap up Honourable Chief Whip.

HON. ROSHO: Thank you very much.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Botswe, you've got 10 minutes.

HON. BOTSWE: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker, leaders of the EFF as led by Commissar Papiki Babuile, Members of the Executive Committee, Members of the North West Provincial Legislature, North West community ya rona ya Bokonebophirima, magosi a rona [our traditional leaders].

Today as the Economic Freedom Fighters we stand before this House to reject in the strongest possible terms the maiden statement of the provincial address delivered by the Premier Lazarus Mokgosi on Thursday, the 27th of February 2025. This address was nothing but a repetition of empty promises, a tired echo of his predecessor's failure, a blatant disregard for the pressing needs of our people.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, let me disappointedly make a reference to the theme of the 2025 of the nation address which echoes something like a nation that works for all is the first point of humiliation for working class South Africans. In fact, it should be translated to a nation that works for the elite because our people benefit nothing but empty promises from the government of the day.

Similarly, the 2025 of the North West Provincial State of the Province Address bringing nothing concrete on how it will achieve its objective to transform the provincial, politically, social and economic landscape. Each speech, Honourable Deputy Speaker, is a rhetoric of the previous one, the only change being structured content of the speech.

The EFF vehemently rejects this proof of service delivery failure delivered by the Premier called SOPA. Honourable Deputy Speaker, the people of the North West Province are tired of listening to the same scripted speeches that lack vision, substance and actionable solution. The Premier had an opportunity to chart a new course to inspire confidence and to commit to the real and tangible changes but instead he wasted our time with rhetoric devoid of commitment.

We cannot in good conscience endorse a speech that fails to address the deep-seated challenges facing our province. Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Premier completely failed to articulate a clear implementation plan to tackle the rising unemployment rate in our province. At this stage, North West remains one of the provinces with highest level of joblessness particularly amongst the youth.

Our people wake up daily to face a grim reality of no job, no economic opportunities and no relief. Yet the Premier could not provide a single concrete plan on how his government will create sustainable employment. The Premier boasts about 10 000 jobs being created but he deliberately failed to mention that these are temporary jobs that pay our people peanuts.

Our people do not need short-terms, exploitative work opportunities. They need stable, permanent jobs that will sustain them and their family. We are the long-term employment strategies. We are the industrialisation projects that will create sustainable livelihoods. The Premier's speech was silent on the crucial issues because just like his predecessors he has no vision for economic transformation in our province.

Honourable Speaker, one of the most shameful omissions in the Premier's address is his failure to speak on the escalating crisis of gender-based violence and femicide in our province. Every single day, women and children in the North West Province fall victim to brutal violence yet the Premier had no words to offer on how his administration intend to tackle this scourge.

Where are the plans for strengthening law enforcement to protect women? Where is the funding for GBV shelters and survivors support programme? Where is the commitment to implement stricter measures against the perpetrators of these heinous crimes? The silence of the Premier on these matters speaks volumes about the government's disregard for the safety and dignity of the women of the North West Province.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, infrastructure development remains a ... [INAUDIBLE] ... problem. In his speech, the Premier stated how his government has spent 429 million on the maintenance of the roads such as the Schweizer-Reneke to Christiana road and the Ottosdal to Delarey road. This spending does not touch anything on the daily in the construction of Nelson Mandela Road in Mafikeng. Instead another allocation of funds is set aside as an attempt to fix the never ceasing construction of Nelson Mandela Road.

The President of the country spoke about the allocation of the infrastructure funds that is established to build a new rail infrastructure and piped water that will be brought to the villages in different provinces. However, the North West Province remain with a stagnant rail infrastructure here in Mafikeng. Taking cognisance of the economic value of rail commuter's transportation, it could serve the community of Mafikeng as a cheaper mode of transportation as opposed to the road transport. This proves that the government of the day has no intention/plans to rehabilitate the rail infrastructure while there is a funding made available.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is absurd how unconcerned our government is about the immediate needs of our province and its people and this is ... [INAUDIBLE] ... funding being made available on national scale. The stagnant of the Nelson Mandela Road is a result of infrastructure backlog. It's a pure example of the failure of this government that claims to care for our people which is blatant lie.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is disheartening to observe that our province is the only province with unemployment rate of over 50%, standing at the staggering unemployment rate of 52.8%. This economic stance of our province is embarrassing to make mention of. In 2023, Bojanala Special Economic Zone was to be rehabilitated. The same song was sung in 2024 SOPA. Today, the Premier is silent about it as they have lied to our people about the SEZ.

How many times have we heard about the rehabilitation of Pilanesberg and Dick Montshioa Airport of which by the way are the biggest economic hubs in our province. Honourable Deputy Speaker, the EFF in the North West Province demands to know the precise starting date of all these projects. We want to hear feasible project deliverable with a clearly stated start date and intended completion period.

The tourism industry is not taken seriously in the province which turns out to be the reason why the implementation of the tourism recovery plan has failed. The seventh administration should not be comfortable and continue to blame the ... [INAUDIBLE] ... thing. They always shift the blame to contractors which in actual fact it is their inability to lead. This government, Honourable Deputy Speaker, failed to professionalise tourism industrial dismally and should accept defeat. Their failure to implement the tourism recovery plan is evidence that the ANC-led government is dead. The Bojanala Special Economic Zone received 6.1 billion in 2023 and in 2024 the amount increased to 13.5 billion. This year we can argue that the spending budget keeps increasing while the zero level of service is registered.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the economic growth as a result of the job creation remain unchanged. The tendering system has taken toll on our economy whereby only the elite benefit while the majority of the North West people remain with the economic threat of unemployment. Cost of living increased due to inflation which made food expensive. We demand that the government of the day take into justification the hike in electricity tariff and fuel which will disadvantage the working class badly. Our people in the rural villages must be compensated for and be given free electricity coupons.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the health of our people in the North West Province is not of any concern to the ANC-led government. The EFF have discerning concern relating to the Department of Health. The Premier in 2024 SOPA boasted about how his department has been opening and handing over clinics such as the Jouberton Community Health Centre and Ba ga Mothibi Community Health Centre.

We know gore next year ke dielection tsa dimunicipal election [we know that next year is municipal elections]. The same Jouberton Community Health Centre and Gaabo Mothibi will be opened again as they did in 2019. Honourable Speaker, what is the use of bragging about something so immaterial while there is zero capacity to manage and maintain those health centres.

A typical example is the Unit 9 Clinic in Mahikeng that is forever short of medical supplies. Even a paracetamol is always out of stock. The EFF is the only party that takes the health status of our people to heart. Building clinics but having no maintenance plan for medical supply which unfortunately results in a shortage of medicine and compromises the chronic patient is as good as not having those ribbons cut to open such clinics.

Mmusakgotla [Speaker], the Premier singled out the 87-year-old granny with a pride that they have built her an RDP house after 30 years of democracy. Ke matlhabisa ditlhong [It is a disgrace]. The Premier should have been ashamed to even single this granny out as is a clear sign that the ANC-led government ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute remaining Honourable Botswe.

HON. BOTSWE: has failed her and many other citizens in this province. Many of our people continue to live in mud houses because of the incompetency of the ANC to provide

shelter to our people. Honourable Deputy Speaker, the frustration of the residents of Ramotshere Moiloa, Ditsobotla, and Maquassi Hills local municipalities amongst others is the mounting and it manifests itself through those service delivery protests in demanding of water, electricity and access to basic needs.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, in his speech, the Premier has ... [INAUDIBLE] ... about skills audit in the government department as a means to eradicate incompetency individuals. The irony of how the same provincial government have allowed incompetent and incapacitated individuals to occupy key strategic positions all in the name of sustaining the status quo of the ANC party in municipalities. Ditsobotla Local Municipality is a clear indication that the incapacitated officials render municipality ungovernable due to cadre deployment. Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Premier has signed an MOU ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Botswe, your time is up. Your time is up Honourable Botswe, your time is up. I gave you an extra minute you can check. You came here ten past, it's 28 minutes past. Honourable Sonakile, you've got eight minutes.

HON. SONAKILE: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. Maybe before I start with my speech, I must put this on record. Maybe it was not a good decision that I slept at Lowe last night because sengwe se nkwetse ke robetse [something fell on me while I was asleep]. Ever since then I'm experiencing short breath. So, as I'm doing this speech please bear with me I'm not feeling well.

Deputy Speaker, I want to begin my speech today by talking about Tintswalo for a moment. Last year in his SONA, President Ramaphosa gave us a heart-warming fairytale about a 1994 born Tintswalo, cute but let's discuss the real Tintswalo, the one born right here in North West, in Taung, Modimong Village under your ANC government.

Tintswalo doesn't spend her days reminiscing about apartheid. She reads about it in history books. What she lives is 30 years of ANC rule. Her father works for NTI, a government entity crippled by ANC cadre deployment and looting of its profits. He hasn't been paid for months as the entity's revenue is unaccounted for by your government.

She grew up on child grants, attended a school built with asbestos and relied on a government funded scholar transport system so safe that her bus once lost its steering wheel while in motion, fully paid for and inspected by the same government that certifies ghost projects. Her village of Modimong was sold a dream in 2018 when your department of DEDECT spent one million on a business plan and feasibility study that promised 51 direct jobs and local economic growth. Today that plan is gathering dust somewhere in a government office much like every other grand ANC promise.

No jobs, no economic growth, just another expensive fantasy project that lined a few pockets while leaving Tintswalo and her community with absolutely nothing. She made it to university thanks to NSFAS but still went to bed hungry because your government's incompetence means that stipends arrive late if at all. She graduated and is now unemployed just another statistic in your growing youth unemployment crisis.

In April 2024, she spent her mother's last cents to travel to Mahikeng where your government told hundreds of desperate young people to bring their CV's for some mythical smart city project. The only thing that actually happened, a free concert by Makhadzi because nothing speaks job creation like a song and dance. She went home broke, hungry and betrayed. She tried EPWP but the local ANC councillor demanded sex for a job. She is still unemployed and guess what there are thousands of Tintswalos out there not because of apartheid but because of the ANC government in North West.

Premier Mokgosi, let's dissect your SOPA speech. You ended with a poetic line and I want to quote you, you said: "Ours is a skewed past centred on exploitation, exclusion and oppression but we remain hopeful about the socio-economic prospects of our country, of our province." That sounds so profound until we all realise that we are not talking about apartheid. You were describing the 30 years of ANC rule in North West.

Nelson Mandela once said that we must do to ANC what they did to apartheid if the ANC does bad things to them but Premier your government has done exactly that. Over the past 30 years, you have exploited, you have excluded and you have oppressed the people of North West for three decades. The only right they still have is the right to vote while their socio-economic rights have been trampled on, ANC style.

You bragged about expanding the National Schools Nutrition Programme to high schoolers. News flash, if you actually created jobs, families would not need school meals to survive. Feeding schemes are not a policy win, they're an admission of failure. Your speech was deja vu for residents who wasted an hour listening to you. It was like we are watching a lost man who has no clue what his predecessors did or didn't do.

Let's fact check some of your big announcements. You promised Mmabana renovations where you said you have set aside four million. Lovely, Premier but in 2020 I want to tell you that Premier Mokgoro already said renovations were under way. If you go to his speech, you will realise that there was a budget allocated. What happened to it?

You spoke about the Ottosdaal to Hartebees road, just last year your Acting former Premier said it would be finished by June 2024. You are now announcing the same project as if it's new. Did you forget your own government's promise or are you just recycling lies? The Ramosadi Sewer Project: Last year in the Acting Premier Maloyi's speech, he claimed that a contractor was

already on site. Now you come back with a fresh 101 million allocation as if it's a new project. Do you think residents have forgotten?

The North West Airports: Just last year again, your government said that preferred bidders for George Montshioa and Pilanesberg Airports will start in May 2024. Now you push the date to March 2025. You are not revitalising airports, you are revitalising lies and excuses. And then there was a media briefing by MEC Lenkopane two weeks back. She assured the media that you would announce ground-breaking initiatives for DEDECT in your SOPA. We are still waiting.

Let's talk about your idea of progress. You celebrated giving an 84-year-old Lydia Mere a house. Maswabisa ditlhong Premier [what a disgrace Premier]. You are talking about efforts to provide housing 30 years into democracy, you are still talking about efforts. You lost billions in human settlements grants between 2015 and 2021 because your government could not spend money properly and now you want applause for building only 19 307 houses in four years. At that rate, we'll clear the backlog sometime in the next century.

Then there's corruption. In 2021, your government proudly announced a forensic investigation unit to fight corruption that will be allocated in the Provincial Treasury. E kae? [Where is it?] Was it ever established or it was just another ANC fairy-tale? Now you want us to believe you are serious about corruption, please!

Jobs: You claim you have created thousands of jobs yet North West lost 20 000 jobs in the last quarter of 2024. Your own figures do not even match what the STATS SA data is saying. So, which is it Premier, did the jobs ever exist or are we dreaming with Pharaoh? Your first SOPA was underwhelming. You had one job which was to communicate your government's top priorities and how you plan to deliver them. Instead you gave us a speech that wasn't smart. As a former principal, you should know better.

Your speech was not specific. It was not measurable and definitely not time bound. Instead Premier of the ANC's usual denialism, maybe use your SOPA response on Thursday to actually fix what you failed to address last week and while you are at it, fire your speech writers. That grammar riddled, copy and paste mess, was embarrassing. I suspect you are using the same ones who used to write for former Premier Maape because he too was known for delivering empty speeches like the one you delivered last week. Deputy Speaker, I thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Groenewald, you've got three minutes.

HON. GROENEWALD: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. Benjamin Barber said: "There is a sense in which cities are beginning to assume a part of what was traditionally attributed to national sovereignty meaning the responsibility to secure the life, liberty and sustainability of citizens in a world where nobody else is doing it. Therefore, when countries face complicated issues, progress is usually slow but those difficulties are being experienced by cities and towns first and local government must find solutions while national leaders debates which policy to use."

Honourable Premier, your speech had a lack of direction which North West urgently needs. North West is a province that has limited resources and is now facing a brain drain as well. The citizens of North West would have liked to hear how you are going to promote innovation and technology to deal with the scarcities of the North West. The citizens of North West would like to see leadership skills like partnership building, establishing of visions, situation assessments and strategic solutions and what conservation planning is in place as the custodian of the assets in the public trust.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, a strong executive consists of an executive that has performance standards and an executive that do inspections and enforce the rule of law. What is the Premier's strategy to implement such? ... [INAUDIBLE] ...

If you fail to plan, your plan is to fail. Honourable Speaker, I want to challenge the Premier to think outside the box. As an example, make the MEC of DEDECT affairs sleep over at the hotel schools and conservation accommodation set there for the people of North West and not at lodges and other hotels, creating a civic trust and true social compact stating what is good enough for the ordinary citizen of North West is good enough for the executive. Honourable Premier, the Freedom Front Plus have one message in terms of your SOPA and I want to look you in your eye when I tell you this: Do better. Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Tsholo. You've got three minutes.

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Rre [Mr] ... [INAUDIBLE] ... Speaker. The State of the Province Address delivered in this House on Thursday is a replay or a precursory of the previous SOPA's with few changes and additions. It was just a mere fairy-tale story as it was done by your previous predecessors.

The government of the North West Province led by the African National Congress has for about 30 years been making announcements of promises but the North West Government has failed to implement the promise of better life to all. The latest quarterly labour force survey for Quarter 4 of 2024 shows that the expanded unemployment figure has over the years grown to 52.8%, that is half the population of North West is not working.

The statistics show that over the years the strategic plans and policies of the ANC have failed to address the fundamental socio-economic challenges of unemployment, hunger and inequality in the province. The figures from STATS SA show the contrary that the better life is for the few not for all in the North West.

I would like to cite an example Honourable Premier. From your speech, you mentioned or you touched NTI, moo ke emeng mo ke batla go go raya ke re o ne o mpampetsa. O ne o gata mae a seanyane o a gata sentle butlebutle gore o se ka wa relela. Ga wa ka wa re bolelela re le baagi ba porofense e gore maikemisetso a gago ka NTI ke eng. Go utlwisa botlhoko go bona gore go na le bomme ba ba kgonang go ntsha selelo mo pele ga rona e le cleaner a amogela a mere 6 000 a nna dikgwedikgwedi a sa amogele e le motlholagadi.

Ra tsaya tshwetso re le mo teng ga Ntlo e gore ka adjustment budget go beelwe ledi kwa thoko gore badiri ba NTI ba duelwe, ga se ka ga nna jalo. Wa bua gore o a e wina wa e mpampetsa gape mo teng ga Ntlo e ka budget speech, BP or gate ke business rescue wa gago a boa. O itiretse ka go rata mare ga wa re bolelela Honourable Speaker.

O buile ka dibese tse pedi mare ke batla go go raya ke re ga re bua ka employment le creation of jobs, as we are speaking batho ba Atamelang Bus Service ba na le more than four months ba sa bereke. Go raya gore re a go bua ka job losses e e yang go tsenyeletsa mo godimo ga 52.8% ya rate ya unemployment in this particular province. Ra reng ka yone mare e re ke go gopotse Honourable ka gore ke go utlwile o quote Fidel Castro, ke tla boela mo go wena kgantelenyana before ke tswalela.

A ke go gopotse gore Vladimir Lenin once asked a very pertinent question, ‘what is to be done?’ Now I want to pose this particular question go re ko go wena o le Mopirimiri wa rona mo Bokonebophirima gore what is to be done when things are like this, when go na le tebelopele ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

English Translation Follows:

[I would like to cite an example Honourable Premier. From your speech, you mentioned or you touched the NTI, where I am standing I want to tell you that you were just compromising. You did not say the whole truth as it is so as to be careful on your side. You did not tell the residents

of this province about your plans for the NTI. It is so sad to see women crying in front of us, a cleaner who is a widow, earning a mere salary of R6 000 but still not paid for so many months.

We took a resolution in this House that at the time of the adjustment budget an allocation should be set aside to pay the employees of the NTI, however that did not happen. You said you will handle it and during the budget speeches you compromised again by not saying everything in this House. BP or whomever they say is your business rescue, came back. You were just doing as you like but you did not tell us.

You mentioned two buses but I want to tell you that when we talk about employment and job creation, as we speak Atamelang Bus Service employees have not been working for more than four months. It means we are faced with job losses that are adding on top of the 52.8% unemployment rate of this particular province. What do we say about that? Just to refresh your memory Honourable, I heard you quote Fidel Castro, but I will come back to that later on before I close.

Let me remind you that Vladimir Lenin once asked a very pertinent question, ‘what is to be done?’ Now I want to pose this particular question to you Premier of the North West, ‘what is to be done when things are like this?’, when we can already foresee... [INTERRUPTION] ...]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thirty seconds remaining.

HON. TSHOLO: Ya gore re a go loser dijob kwa NTI e bile already setse re di loser moo [that we will lose jobs at NTI, in fact jobs are already lost there.] Re a re as MKP we are calling for the serious and radical paradigm shift in state-owned entities thus calling for the turnaround strategy that will improve state-owned entities and public/private partnerships as they will assist in job creation.

O buile wa re [you said] a revolution is not a bed of roses, let me remind you. Your position is not a bed of roses for you to come here in this particular House and just give us mere things tse e leng gore ga di na bonnete [that are not true]. Your position as the Premier is an instrument, a vehicle for service delivery, a vehicle to ensure that development in this province ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up Honourable Member. Your time is up.

HON. TSHOLO: Ke a leboga mare ke ne ke sa fetsa. Ke tla mo tsayatsaya kgantele [Thank you, though I did not finish. I will address him later]. Thank you very much.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Khunou.

HON. KHUNOU: Honourable Speaker, Dr Desbo Mohono, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Premier, Honourable Members of the Executive Council, Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I have cautiously listened to the reaction to the SOPA address by our colleagues from the opposition benches Honourable Premier, and I asked myself a question in listening to them, is there anything new they have said? And I couldn't find any of it. I asked myself a question, should you be worried about anything that they've said, should you get any sleepless night about anything that they've said and I just couldn't find any, nothing. Instead I want to say you remain focused on your plan to change the lives of the people of the North West.

Remain focused and through that focus indeed North West will become a much better province. All that you heard from them is that they are in love with Tintswalo. They are really in love with Tintswalo and we are happy that they continue to draw inspiration from the speech of

Honourable President on Tintswalo. We want to invite them from the opposition benches. They need to join this plan, this clear vision you've articulated in improving the quality of the lives of our people.

Honourable Speaker, the SOPA address by Premier Mokgosi draws inspiration from one of the key highlights of 2025, the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Freedom Charter. The Freedom Charter remains a blueprint of the type of country we want to live in. It articulates a timeless vision of a country and a nation centred on democratic values, social justice and to improve the quality of the lives of our people.

The 2025 SOPA not only gives an account of what the ANC government has done in pursuit of the progressive vision encapsulated in the Freedom Charter but also illustrates in clear and unambiguous terms practical steps to be taken by the ANC government in the next five years to improve the quality of the lives of the people of the North West Province.

What is evident in the SOPA address is that the ANC government has listened to the plight of our people and that guided by the Freedom Charter there is a clear plan to address economic rejuvenation and job creation. In this regard, the ANC commends Premier in providing leadership with regards to sound measures to ensure the full implementation of the provincial growth and development strategy.

So, Honourable Botswe it is not true that there is no plan to change the economic fortunes of our province. The Premier mentioned it, it is called the provincial growth and development strategy. In responding to the imperative of accelerating sustainable provision of water to our people especially in the townships and rural areas, the ANC welcomes the following concrete measures, not dreams, concrete measures articulated by the Premier in the State of the Province Address.

A number of water and sanitation projects being implemented at a cost of 450 million that are changing the lives of our people in areas such as Moretele, Moses Kotane, Ramotshere, Mamusa and Naledi municipalities. The construction of a pipeline from Bloemhof Dam to Mamusa Local Municipality will be completed in June this year. This is indeed practical example of the ANC government hard at work in pursuit of the vision embedded in the Freedom Charter.

Other similar projects are also under way in Bodibe, in Ramosadi, Signal Hill, Lobatle, amongst others. Sixty-five million rand will be spent in finishing incomplete projects in Ntsweletsoku, Dithakong, Deelpan and many other parts of the North West Province. Construction of the Pilanesberg Water Scheme worth billions of rands will provide much needed relief with regards to bulk water supply challenges in numerous municipalities such as Rustenburg, Moses Kotane, and Ramotshere Moiloa.

These are just a few of the interventions contained in the SOPA address that will alleviate water supply challenges and promote economic investment in our province. Honourable Members, we note the significant progress registered by the government ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SONAKILE: Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Khunou.

HON. SONAKILE: I had to do that because you were ignoring me. It's fine. I would like to check would the Member take a question? I said the Member not Members. I'm speaking to the Member.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Sonakile.

HON. SONAKILE: Lona ke a tla ho lona [I am still coming to you].

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Sonakile, can you address me?

HON. SONAKILE: Yes, I want to check if the Member can take ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Member said no. Can you sit down?

HON. KHUNOU: No.

HON. SONAKILE: Okay thank you. Thank you, Honourable Member.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed Honourable Khunou.

HON. KHUNOU: Thank you Deputy Speaker. So, we take that as a bit of a commercial break by the Honourable Member. So, he needs to read a bit more about Tintswalo. Honourable Members, we note and welcome the significant progress registered by the ANC government in the battle against a wide range of social challenges confronting our people such as a slight decrease in the level of crime in general and violent crime in particular.

Much still needs to be done to ensure that we create safer communities and protect the most vulnerable. We commend the recent successful arrest of two foreign nationals outside Zeerust who were smuggling drugs worth 37 million rand from Tanzania to Johannesburg and this they were trying to do through the Kopfontein border post.

The ANC further commends the successful uprooting of illegal mining and economic criminal activities at Stilfontein, Klerksdorp and the swift arrest of suspected illegal miners and police officials who were involved in the alleged kingpin's escape. The *Vala Umgodi* Operations must be extended to other troubled areas where illegal mining operations are taking place such as Tlhatlhaganyane Village in the Moses Kotane Local Municipality.

Honourable Speaker, the ANC reiterates that corruption deeply weakens the legitimacy and trust in public institutions and shapes the people's negative perceptions of government's performance and state efficiency. It distorts the distribution of public services and has a lopsided impact on marginalised and vulnerable groups leading to increased inequality. We welcome efforts contained in SOPA by Premier Lazarus Mokgosi to strengthen collaboration with SIU and other law enforcement agencies to root out corruption at all levels in the North West Province.

The delay in the payment of entrepreneurs, service providers and tender entrepreneurs in an effort to solicit bribes by unethical government officials must come to an end. All spheres of government must strictly adhere to 30-day payment system which enables SMMEs to continue to operate without hardships.

In line with the recent ANC lekgotla, we reaffirm commitment to fighting corruption in municipalities and to the accelerated service delivery programme as well as the implementation of the district development model aimed at improving the quality of service delivery through improved planning, coordination and monitoring at local government level. We welcome the effort of COGTA and Provincial Treasury to support our municipalities while holding them accountable for prudent financial management.

The SOPA address, Honourable Members, provides empirical evidence of work which is being done to fix roads in our province. The ANC welcomes practical steps which are being implemented by both provincial government and local government in fixing our roads which are

so critical for the economic recovery of North West. These measures include 429 million spent in the current financial year in rural and small towns to link rural and farming communities in the province to the major economic hubs.

Hundreds of millions of rands will be spent over the course of the next few years to accelerate this work. Collaboration with other state agencies such as SANRAL to improve and upgrade our major access roads. Collaboration with private sector to improve key road upgrades worth about 200 million in areas such as Ramokokastad, Manamakgoteng, Chaneng and many other parts of the province.

Special interventions which are being implemented together with municipalities to ensure that we implement proper road maintenance plans. In this regard, our people will experience major improvement in fixing potholes in our province over the course of the next few months. The massive rollout of infrastructure development programmes worth billions of rands aimed at constructing new roads.

We ought to ensure that through our roads, there's access to schools, clinics, and economic opportunities particularly in rural communities. There must be no financial rollovers of the funds allocated for the rehabilitation and upgrading our roads, low expenditure, wasteful and fruitless expenditure remains betrayal of our people.

The injunction of Clause 9 of Freedom Charter, Honourable Premier, that there shall be houses, security and comfort where all people shall have the right to live where they choose, be decently housed and to bring up their families in comfort, security must be reflected in the eradication of all mud houses and building of integrated human settlements where all have transport, roads, lighting, playing fields, crèches and social centres.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute remaining Honourable Member.

HON. KHUNOU: The speedy unblocking of all housing projects and provision of safe and affordable housing must be implemented as part of accelerated service delivery. We welcome a very clear indication in the SOPA address Honourable Premier that just in the next financial year you are going to be ensuring that we build at least 3000 houses.

Many other highlights of your speech we welcome as the African National Congress. Interventions in improving healthcare which include building new clinics, upgrading existing ones. We welcome the completion of the Phokeng forensic mortuary. All of these measures clearly indicate that we are on course in terms of improving access and improving healthcare to our people.

As the African National Congress, we believe that once more the State of the Province Address presented by the Premier is a very sound plan. And we once more call upon all the Members of the House to support this plan. We call our communities in general to support this wonderful plan which will definitely go a long way in improving the quality of the lives of our people. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Khunou. Honourable Mangope, you've got three minutes. Can we have order Honourable Members!

HON. MANGOPE: Selo se sa gana багаetsho. Ga ke itse gore go a reng. Lo a ntheng багаetsho? Motlotlegi Motlatsammusakgotla, Moprimiri yo o tlotlegang, Maloko a Ntlo e a a tlotlegang, ne ke re ke dire kopanyana ke e багаetsho kopo e e sa tlwaelesegang ka gore ke a go bua ka wena Moprimiri, ne ke kopa gore a ko o nkopele gore Motlatsammusakgotla a mphe metsotso e le supa fela go feta e ke nang nao.

English Translation Follows:

[The mic is not working, I do not know what the problem is. Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Premier, Honourable Members, I just want to make a request though it is unusual. Since I am going to talk about the Premier, may he please request the Deputy Speaker on my behalf to increase my allocated time with seven minutes.]

The Premier's 2025 State of the Province Address demonstrates a fundamental disconnect between the governing party's rhetoric and the harsh realities facing North West residents. Our province, Mr Premier, deserves more than recycled promises and misleading statistics. I would like to share with you Sir critical challenges which we believe require immediate attention.

(1) We are faced with unprecedented unemployment crisis; North West 52.1 unemployment rate is the highest in South Africa. Youth unemployment stands at 60.2% between the ages of 15 and 24 and 40.4% between the ages of 25 and 34. These figures far exceed the global unemployment rate of 5.1%.

(2) Failed service delivery: Chronic water shortages across the province, deteriorating infrastructure, basic services collapse in multiple municipalities. (3) Mismanaged economic initiatives: The 24 million development fund lacks implementation details. Private sector achievements incorrectly claimed as government successes. The Makgareng Smart City Projects diverts resources from provincial needs.

We would like to offer a solution-driven approach. (1) Economic Revival: Implement transparent investment frameworks. Create sustainable job opportunities not temporary placements. Focus on youth skills development and entrepreneurship. Governance reform: Establish clear accountability measures. Institute professional ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: One-minute remaining Honourable Mangope. One-minute remaining.

HON. MANGOPE: Services delivery mechanisms, combat corruption through independent oversight. Infrastructure development: Prioritise water infrastructure rehabilitation. Develop practical transport solutions. Focus on projects directly benefitting North West residents. The time for empty promises has passed Mr Premier. Action SA stands ready to implement and to join you in practical solutions that will restore dignity and prosperity to the North West Province.

We offer not just criticism but a clear path forward through competent governance, economic growth, and genuine service delivery. Mr Premier go bonala gore kopo ya me ga e a atlega. Ke swabile ka gore ga o a nthusa gore kopo ya me e atlege. Le gale go siame, o nkutlwile. Ke a leboga. [Mr Premier, I see my request is not successful. I am just disappointed that you did not help me with the request. Nonetheless, you heard my debate. Thank you.]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mme Honourable Member, ke go neile motsotso le 30 seconds extra [Honourable Member, I gave you extra minute and 30 seconds]. Honourable Molapisi. I'm observing Honourable Members moving from one chair to the other. Honourable Oliphant, Honourable Motsumi, you are moving from one chair to the other. Can you just be at one position, the seat that you are allocated at by the Legislature. Please. Honourable Molapisi.

HON. MOLAPISI: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Speaker Dr Mohono, the Honourable Chief Whip of the majority party Honourable Rosho, the Honourable Premier Kagiso Mokgosi, Members of the Executive Council, esteemed Members of the Provincial Legislature, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, allow me to join my colleagues in government and the people of the North West Province to welcome the State of the Province Address delivered by the Honourable Premier Mokgosi and rightly agree with what Honourable Khunou have said.

Let me remind you Honourable Deputy Speaker and the House at large that during the occasion of the opening of the Legislature in July last year, Premier Mokgosi said and I want to quote: “We do not take for granted the immense trust placed on us and we pledge to work tirelessly to create a province where no citizen is left behind.” The ANC prides itself in the continuum of commitments and progress registered in all areas towards the total liberation of the people of the province.

We are not deterred by Honourable Members who choose to ignore the hard truth and who find it difficult to accept progress we are making. We know that they will try rationalise, ignore and even deny anything that does not fit in with their core belief as aptly by Frantz Fanon on cognitive dissonance and I will leave that to Honourable Fanon Molema to explain it further on his own time to his colleagues.

The address by the Honourable Premier is a truthful account of the state of our beloved province. I must hasten to say that it takes into cognisance pathways to build a better life for our people and the people of the province in particular as envisioned in the Freedom Charter. Honourable Premier presented a comprehensive narrative of shared vision of the future of the province under the capable stewardship of the revolutionary people’s movement the African National Congress.

Now I want to draw the attention of my Honourable Members and check if they would agree with me that we have identified eight key challenges facing the province and I think Honourable Mangope has already deposited what he thinks can be a solution to some of the challenges that we are faced as the province.

We have identified at the level of the executive, eight key challenges. (1) We all agree that there is a low economic growth. (2) There is a high level of unemployment, poverty and inequality. (3) There is persistent wealth income and gender inequality. (4) There is an ongoing gender-based violence and femicide. (5) Corruption which threatens democracy and undermines public trust. (6) Inequality in access to quality public service, education, health, sanitation and, (8) cooperative governance challenges at local government level.

I want to believe that Honourable Members from the opposition agree with us that these are the challenges. Now in responding to these challenges, I'm going to challenge you because we have put in place some of the intervention plans and what we want to say is to say whether these plans are enough or not enough and contribute to that.

Now Honourable Members, the 70th anniversary of the Freedom Charter is a stark reminder of our painful history of apartheid, that is true, brutal land dispossession and colonial subjugation. Therefore, it is necessary to remind this august House of our commitment to realise the objective of this blueprint of our democracy.

In adopting the Freedom Charter, we declare that this freedom, we will fight for side by side throughout our lives until we have won our liberty. I stand here to bear testament and confirm that the ANC remains steadfast in its promise to deliver a better life for all. Among key declarations of the Freedom Charter is the restoration of the dignity of our people through providing decent and sustainable human settlement.

Honourable Members, the Freedom Charter contends that there shall be houses, security and comfort. All people shall have the right to live where they choose, be decently housed and to bring up their families in comfort and security. The Premier indicated that over 3 500 houses will be built by the Department of Human Settlements in the financial year of 25/26. I rise to confirm

the statement and add that we are also looking at ways to increase the rate at which we issue out the title deeds.

Allow me Deputy Speaker to indicate that since the start of the 2024/25 financial year, over 5 663 title deeds have been handed over across various municipalities in the province. We are of a firm believe that if properly implemented first home finance has the potential to significantly reengineer the housing market by expanding to the previously excluded individuals or household who will do more to ensure no one is left behind.

In response to the State of the Nation Address 2025 debate, His Excellency President Ramaphosa said, and I quote: “For investment to grow, there must be a razor-sharp focus on improving the capacity of local government to deliver essential services that are critical to business activity be they water, electricity or logistical infrastructure.”

The Premier has taken the lead in ensuring that we support municipalities in these areas. Through constant engagement with the Department of Water and Sanitation, we are addressing lack of water supply in many communities and have a plan to resolve debt owed to water boards. The ANC-led government summit came out strong on the need to address water challenges in the province. We were directed to urgently assess the capacity of water service authority by end of April.

Honourable Members, under the stewardship of Premier Mokgosi, the department continues its work with municipality to refurbish and unblock sewer pipelines, install water meters and internal reticulation, refurbish existing tank, ... [INAUDIBLE] ... drillings and equipping boreholes as indicated by Honourable Khunou. In the last year alone, over 100 million Rands have been spent on water and sanitation projects benefitting over 35 000 beneficiaries.

Moreover, COGTA has a bulk infrastructure commitment which has taken an advantage of the Infrastructure South Africa bid window to apply for funds for bulk infrastructure water projects which will run and in turn unlock human settlements and address slow delivery of houses. We are hopeful that the funding will be allocated to deal with outstanding water projects especially in Ngaka Modiri Molema.

I want to turn to the invitation that I've extended to the Honourable Members that of the eight key challenges that we have identified, this is what we are offering, Honourable Sonakile, that with regard to the persistent wealth income and gender inequality, we have identified that what we need to do is the empowerment of contractors in the North West Province.

We must look into issues of contractor development programme like your *Vukuphile* which will replicate itself across all the departments and not only in public works. We must determine the quantum to be set aside for contractor development, women cooperative for uniform and school fencing, improve access to funding by SMME working with the private sector. This is what we're offering.

With regard to local economic development, this is what we are offering as part of the intervention. We must support the development and implementation of industrial parks in the special economic zone, facilitate the implementation of catalytic projects in various sectors, actualisation of all investment pledges of the investors' conference that we had, ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SONAKILE: Deputy Speaker.

HON. MOLAPISI: Implement economic development activities such as brickmaking plants ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Molapisi. Honourable Molapisi.

HON. SONAKILE: Ke ne ke kopa go ema in terms of Rule 91 go botsa gore a Motlotlegi o etsa SOPA e ntšhwa na? [I rise in terms of Rule 91 to check if the Honourable Member is presenting a new SOPA?] Is that SOPA reloaded because we are debating the SOPA that was presented to us. This one is a new one.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What does the rule say?

HON. SONAKILE: It's not my job to tell you what the rule says. I stood on a rule Deputy Speaker. You have advisors. I've given you a rule. You can't ask me what the rule is. So, it's Rule 91, thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, Honourable Molapisi you may proceed because I don't have the rule book with me. I just wanted to check what the rule says.

HON. MOLAPISI: Thank you very much. We are responding to what they said that the Premier did not present any vision. We are responding and we are responding in detail on concrete plans. We are saying that with regard to because they spoke about issues of ongoing GBV and femicide and that there is no plan in place and the Premier did not mention that.

We are saying Chair that the implementation of the national strategy plan on GBV and femicide that would need to be realised. We need to expand on the victim support service like Thuthuzela Centres and GBV Desks in police stations. We need to work with our communities to end crime by working closely with our community policing forum.

On high level of unemployment and poverty and inequality, the Premier spoke to this to the issue of convening the job summit. We must promote social impact and implementation of the labour plans. We must support the creation of the employment through public employment programme. The employment creation through infrastructure project. We must invest in infrastructure project in various sectors of the economy, communication, transport, energy and water.

Now this is what we are putting in place. The Premier also addressed the issue of corruption which threatens democracy and undermines the public trust and we are saying that we need to strengthen the law enforcement security to deal with the disruption by business forums, construction mafias and the extortion. We need to ensure the implementation of ethics, fraud prevention and anti-corruption strategies.

On issues of inequality and access to quality basic services such as education, health and sanitation, we are saying that there is a need of effective use of indigent register and integration with government system for intervention. We must also look into issues of infrastructure implementation. We must expand operating hours of health facilities. We must implement the e-health solutions, digitisation. This will reduce queues and improve efficiency. We must prioritise the development of patient projects management system and all that.

On issues of cooperative governance challenges at the local municipality, we must visualise and talk about the ideal municipalities and some of the things that we must do is to bring stability to governance in municipality and restore the delivery of services to our people. We must review the municipal system act regulations. We must implement ethics, fraud and corruption and prevention of anti-corruption strategies.

We must ensure the institutionalisation of financial disclosure. We must standardise and professionalise the appointment of municipal managers and CFOs and ensure independent regulation and oversight of the appointment process. We must conduct organisational

development. We must conduct the skills audit. We must review the organisational structure to align to service delivery requirements. We must fill all vacancies within

HON. BABUILE: Order!

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Molapisi, can you hold on. Honourable Babuile.

HON. BABUILE: I rise in terms of the rules of the Legislature, I want to check as to whether the MEC has intentions to remove the Premier because he's presenting his own state of the province.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Which rule are you rising in terms of?

HON. BABUILE: They are going to remove Premier. I can tell you. You have not said anything that he's saying. Thank you.

HON. MOLAPISI: Chair, unless if maybe Members did not understand or read the speech of the Premier ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Molapisi! Honourable Molapisi! Honourable Tsholo.

HON. TSHOLO: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. Ke ne ke rise in terms of Rule 93 ke re ke gopotse Honourable MEC gore what he has just said those are rhetoric things jaaka ne re bua re re kgale go buiwa ka issues tsa corruption ga go dirwe sepe. Dijob summit, we are sick and tired... [I rise in terms of Rule 93 to remind the Honourable MEC that what he has just said are

rhetoric things because we always discuss the issues of corruption but nothing is being done about it. As for job summits, we are sick and tired] ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you please sit down!

HON. TSHOLO: Go tla go bolelwa ka dijob summit mo pele ga rona. Di effective use tsa digovernment [They tell us about job summits. The effective use of government] ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you please sit down! Sit down. Sit down. Can you please sit down! You may proceed Honourable Molapisi. You've got two minutes remaining.

HON. MOLAPISI: As I conclude, Chair I think the Premier must afford Honourable Tsholo her request to meet with the Premier so that we have enough time, so that the Premier can clarify you. Chair, we said that ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. TSHOLO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, ke clarifaiwa ka eng kana? [To be clarified about what?]

HON. MOLAPISI: We must attend to the decaying infrastructure and challenges of bulk infrastructure backlog. And what we are saying is that we must fast track the development and maintenance of water treatment and distribution infrastructure and waste water treatment system. We must implement water and road projects in the province in various municipalities and explore various option to access existing water resources for the benefit of the water scarce in the villages and we have used Midvaal as an example.

Now this is what we are putting in place as concrete plan and this is what the Premier has referred to. Now I want to challenge Honourable Members to say if we have identified challenges that are facing the province and we are saying this is the route to go or this is a way to go, can you join us? Can you make your own submission and say yes in addressing these challenges which we all agree that these are the challenges this is the intervention plan that we can take?

If we can do that Chair, I think we will then take the province forward and we would not come here and grandstand before our people and say nothing to offer to our people because we don't have any plan. Members came here but they did not offer any plan. So, I'm challenging you that this is a concrete plan which the Premier have spoken to. And lastly, Honourable Deputy Chair, ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up Honourable Molapisi.

HON. MOLAPISI: Thank you very much for the opportunity.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Sonakile, you are very disruptive. Honourable Members, we have concluded the debate but before I adjourn the House, I want to caution Members that when we refer to the rules of the Legislature, for instance, the Honourable Sonakile is raising on Rule 91. You said 91. Honourable Sonakile you said Rule 91. Now when you rise in terms of the rules, you must be sure of what you are saying because that's why I deliberately said can you tell what the rule is saying. Now Honourable Babuile, you are rising here and saying you are rising in terms of the rules of the Legislature and you are not specific in terms of which rule are you rising on.

The last issue Honourable Members, I want to appeal to the whips of political parties to ensure that Members are in the House on time. When the House is supposed to start at 9, we can't be fundraising a quorum for us to start with the business of the day. Honourable Chief Whip I want to adjourn and I see your hand is up.

HON. ROSHO: Thanks very much Deputy Speaker and you'll pardon me for raising my hand. I know that you've concluded the debate but based on your latter statement in terms of making reference to rules, I want to request that the presiding should consider another workshop for Members to attend just around rules so that as and when we rise we mention or quote the correct rules because it shows high level of disrespect amongst each other and even on the decorum of the house in mentioning rules that are not relevant. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

HON. MOEMA: Speaker. Speaker.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Moema.

HON. MOEMA: Thanks a lot Speaker. I thought you were going to call the Honourable Member to order because firstly she didn't give any reference to the rule in which she's rising on but, (2) you have concluded the debate yourself. So, for her to arise subsequently and come and make proposals for workshops and so forth while herself she knows she's serving. She has authority to convene all the whips in the relevant forum ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay your point is made Honourable Moema. You may sit down.

HON. MOEMA: So, call on yourself equally.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now Honourable Members, I appreciate the fact that you may have missed the House. We are meeting for the second time this year. The other issues that Honourable Members are raising has got really nothing to do with the business of the day but I hope that Honourable Members and whips of political parties have noted what I said that we should not in future be fundraising for quorums. Members should be seated by 9 'o clock so that we start exactly at 9 'o clock. Having said that Members, I want to thank you. The sitting is adjourned until the 6th of March 2025 for the Premier to respond on the debate. The House is adjourned.

HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 10:23.

[Sitting No. 03-2025] Second Session, Seventh Legislature

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**LEGISLATURE OF THE
NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

THURSDAY 06 MARCH 2025

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we will now observe a moment of silent prayer or meditation.

HOUSE: Observing a moment of silence.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. You may be seated. Secretary.

DR. MBEDZI: ORDER NO. 2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS SITTING

2.1. Minutes of the 03rd December 2024

2.2. Minutes of the 05th December 2024

2.3. Minutes of the 27th February 2025

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, before we commence with the business of the day, I wish to address a very disturbing matter that have been brought to my attention yesterday by the Member of this House. I have been informed that there are ablution facilities around this House that have been reserved for my exclusive use.

Neither myself nor the accounting officer have made those arrangements as they are akin to apartheid era period where there were separate amenities for some groups of people. The Secretary is following up on the matter and the official responsible for making those arrangements have been excused from discharging his House duties today until the matter is brought to finality. I thought it's important I raise it in the House so that anybody who do that again must know that, that is not an order from anyone of us.

Honourable Members, before we continue again, let me acknowledge Professor Shophole who is at the gallery with the North West University students. We appreciate your presence in the House. I gave them a lecture sometimes last year and I committed to invite them in the House. They are with us today. You are all welcome.

Honourable Members, I put before this House minutes of the 03rd December 2024 for adoption. Does the House agree?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Members, the minutes are now adopted. I now put before this House the minutes of the 05th December 2024 for adoption. Does the House adopt the minutes?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Members. I now put before this House the minutes of the State of the Province Address held on the 27th of February 2025 for adoption. Does the House adopt the minutes?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Members. Secretary you may read the next order please.

DR. MBEDZI: ORDER NO. 3 ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, reports have been tabled through the ATC and referred to the relevant committee for scrutiny and further processing. Secretary, may you read the next order.

DR. MBEDZI: ORDER NO. 4 PROCEEDINGS ON BILLS

4.1. North West Second Adjustment Appropriation Bill 2025

Introduction and First Reading

4.2. North West Youth Entrepreneurship Service Fund Act, Repeal Bill 2023

Second and Third Reading

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Members, I will now call on MEC for Finance, Honourable Mosenogi, to introduce and give the first reading speech on the North West Second Adjustment Appropriation Bill 2025. Honourable MEC, you have 40 minutes.

HON. MOSENOGI: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Honourable Dr Desbo Mohono, Honourable Deputy Speaker Ntate #[Mr]# Maine, Honourable Premier Ntate #[Mr]# Kagiso Lazarus Mokgosi, EXCO Members, Honourable Chief Whip of the majority party, and whips of all parties and committees, the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee Honourable Nathan Oliphant, baagi ba Bokonebophirima, dumelang #[the community of the North West, greetings]#.

Honourable Speaker, I stand before this august House to table a second adjustment budget for the current fiscal year 2023/2024. The need for this second tabling of the adjustment budget comes as a result of engagement between National Treasury, National Department of Human Settlements, the Provincial Government led by the Premier and Provincial Treasury and Human Settlements.

The 2024/2025 Second North West Provincial Adjustment Estimates of provincial revenue and expenditure is tabled in terms of Section 31 of the PFMA read together with Section 6.6.3 of Treasury Regulations. These sections support the processes that allow the MEC of Finance to table a second adjustment budget that provides for the appropriation of funds that have become available to the province post the tabling of the main adjustment budget.

Honourable Speaker, a submission on the additional allocation to the North West Province was made by the National Department of Human Settlements and approved by the Finance Minister and subsequently the National Treasury published the Gazette No. 52207 dated 03rd March 2025 which has facilitated a process of additional funding being made available for the provincial budget.

The National Department of Human Settlements made this request to reallocate an additional 150 million to informal settlements upgrading partnership grant for the North West Department of Human Settlements for the financial year 2024/2025. Honourable Speaker, the Minister of Finance approved aforementioned amendment which subsequently results in an increase to the provincial allocation contained in the Division of Revenue Act 2024.

The increase in allocation has been published as per the Gazette stated above dated the 03rd March 2025 in terms of Section 18 and 19 of the Division of Revenue Act. A Second Adjustment

Budget is intended to appropriate the 150 million additional funding for the informal settlement upgrading partnership grant to the Department of Human Settlements.

No other additional allocation have been received for the 2024/2025 Second Adjustment Budget from National. In this context, major spending pressures in the department must continue to be funded mainly from departmental baselines, reprioritisation or shifting of funds between programmes and economic classifications.

The reallocation of the above funds has resulted in the need for the province to table this second adjustment to appropriate this additional funding into the provincial revenue fund. Resultantly, the said grant allocation is increased from the first adjustment appropriation of 357 million to 507 million due to the 150 million reallocation.

As a result, the 2024/2025 adjusted allocation for the Department of Human Settlements increased from 1.894 billion to 2.044 billion. These changes resulted in the total 2024/2025 Provincial Fiscal Framework increase from 54.159 billion to 54.310 billion from the tabling of the Second Adjustment Appropriation Bill.

Having assessed the spending performance of the Department of Human Settlements to date, inclusive of the non-financial performance, the Department have demonstrated improved capacity to spend based on the existing plan and this increased allocation bears testimony of the confidence shown by the National Department of Human Settlements in approving this grant revised business planned to accommodate additional allocation.

Honourable Speaker, before I conclude I would like to make a humble plea to this august House. This tabling of the second adjustment comes at a time where the financial year is nearing to the end. We effectively have a week or two left to finalise all payments against the budget. The humble plea that we would like to make is for the Provincial Legislature to consider suspending some of the rules but within the rules in relation to the approval processes that would enable the Provincial Department of Human Settlements to spend this additional allocation.

The kind consideration of the House in relation to this request will enable the department and by extension, the North West Province to fulfil its mandate of delivering decent human settlements to the people of the province considering the challenges that we have experienced in the past where the sector budget was cut and the province was severely affected.

And we believe this will address the pressures that have been experienced by the department and as a result yield the much-needed service delivery in the sector in communities. Honourable Speaker, I take this opportunity to thank you and the House for giving me the opportunity. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much MEC Mosenogi. The Bill stands referred to the Portfolio Committee on Premier and Finance for scrutiny and further processing. I will now call on the Chairperson for Premier and Finance Honourable Oliphant, to present the committee report on the North West Youth Entrepreneurship Services Fund Act, Repeal Bill 2023 and move for the adoption thereafter. Honourable Oliphant you have 10 minutes.

HON. OLIPHANT: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Premier, Honourable Members, good morning. I will this morning be dealing with the primary task of the Repeal Bill of the North West Youth Enterprises Services Act. Honourable Speaker, the Bill seeks to repeal the North West Youth Enterprise Services Fund Act 2016, Act No. 6 of 2016 thus disestablishing the related North West Youth Enterprise Services Fund.

The effect to the Act was the establishment of the Fund which name came into operation on the 01st of September 2016. The Fund was established as a PFMA Schedule 3(c) public entity in terms of the relevant provisions of the North West Youth Enterprise Services Fund Act with the expectation that it must have among others a board and staff to establish and administer the Fund.

Honourable Speaker, the process that was followed was that the North West Youth Enterprise Services Act Repeal Bill 2023 was formally referred by the Honourable Speaker Dr. D Mohono to the Portfolio Committee on Premier and Finance for consideration and reporting. The portfolio committee received a presentation from the Office of the Premier in respect of the North West Youth Enterprise Services Fund Act Repeal Bill 2023 at a meeting held on the 22nd of August 2024.

Following the briefing, the committee embarked on public hearings throughout the province on the 30th of August 2024 as follows: in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District, Madibogo Community Hall which had 224 participants; Bojanala District, Mogwase Sportsground Park, Zone 1, Unit 2 of Mogwase which had 198 participants; Dr Kenneth Kaunda District, Trim Park Hall in Potchefstroom which had 23 participants; and Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District in the Ipelegeng Multipurpose Centre in Schweizer-Reneke which had 173 participants. In total, Madam Speaker, there were 825 participants in the various districts.

Madam Speaker, I will now be dealing with the recommendations by the committee. In respect of recommendations in relation to the Repeal Bill, Madam Speaker, the portfolio committee recommended that the oversight committee responsible for COGTA led by the Honourable Magagane should engage the department on the establishment of Youth Desks in each and every municipality in the province.

The Office of the Premier working with the relevant department to then deal with municipalities for ensuring that the LED offices promote youth development initiatives. I think it's important to also highlight that the Department of Economic Development, Conservation and Tourism also plays a significant role in respect of youth enterprise development or youth development under the broader umbrella.

That the North West Youth Development Agency communicate with the Office of the Premier in respect of the engagements relating to young people across the province. The Office of the Premier must then develop a programme jointly with the NYDA to go and meet with young people across the province in their various municipalities in terms of dealing with developmental issues relating to young people.

The Honourable Members to extensively engage further with the relevant youth formations, stakeholders in the North West Province on the Bill before concluding the process. That would have been done Madam Speaker. The Office of the Premier must make sure that all departments brief the committee on all programmes they have relating to youth that means each specific department represented by the various Members of the Executive Committee must then ensure that they have a youth component reflecting clearly Honourable Premier in their departments.

That the Legislature should then have an online engagement site for young people within the province. That there then be established NYDA offices or a presence of NYDA offices in each local municipality so that young people could access these services. That the Office of the Premier and the committee must then arrange a stakeholder engagement meeting with all organised groups deliberating further on the Act Repeal Bill before the adoption Madam Speaker, these tasks have been done primarily by the committee in terms of the numbers that we have given to the House.

That online engagements should further be engaged as an ongoing process Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker that is then the conclusion of the work of the committee responsible for the premier and finance and we therefore table the North West Youth Enterprise Services Repeal Bill. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Oliphant. You have saved us a lot of time. Thank you very much Honourable Oliphant. Does the House adopt committee report on the North West Youth Entrepreneurship Service Fund Act Repeal Bill 2023?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Members, the committee report is now adopted. I will now invoke Rule 243, Sub-section 1 to allow the House to consider the principle and detail of the Bill and read the Bill for the second time. Does the House concur?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Secretary may you read the Bill for the second time.

DR. MBEDZI: This Bill shall be called the North West Youth Entrepreneurship Services Fund Act Repeal Bill 2023.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I will now read the roll call in terms of Rule 245 to determine the quorum of the House. Honourable Babuile? Honourable Bogatsu?

HON. BOGATSU: Ke teng. #[I am present]#

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Bogatsu?

HON. BOGATSU: Ke teng Mmusakgotla #[I am present Speaker]#.

HON. SPEAKER: You guys you look down this morning. It's a beautiful morning. Be alive. Honourable Botswe.

HON. BOTSWE: Ke teng Mmusakgotla #[I am present Speaker]#.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Dabampe.

HON. DABAMPE: Ke teng #[I am present]# Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Dantjie? Honourable Dial?

HON. DIAL: I'm present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Dikolomela? Honourable Groenewald?

HON. GROENEWALD: Present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Khunou?

HON. KHUNOU: Present Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Lehari? Honourable Lenkopane? Honourable Magagane?

HON. MAGAGANE: Ke teng #[I am present]# Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Maine?

HON. MAINE: Present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Makgokgowa?

HON. MAKGOKGOWA: Present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Mangope?

HON. MANGOPE: Ke fano Mmusakgotla #[I am here Speaker]#.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Matshe?

HON. MATSHE: Present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Modise?

HON. MODISE: Ke teng Mmusakgotla #[I am present Speaker]#.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Moema?

HON. MOEMA: Present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Mohono? I'm present. Honourable Mokgosi?

HON. MOKGOSI: Present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Mokua?

HON. MOKUA: Ke hano #[I am here]# Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Molapisi?

HON. MOLAPISI: Ke teng Mmusakgotla #[I am present Speaker]#.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Morweng?

HON. MORWENG: Present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Mosenogi?

HON. MOSENOGI: Present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Motsumi? Honourable Rosho?

HON. ROSHO: Ke teng #[I am present]# Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Sambatha? Honourable Sebegoe?

HON. SEBEGOE: Teenwordig Agbare.#[Present Honourable]

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Sonakile?

HON. SONAKILE: Present.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Sonti?

HON. SONTI: Ndikhona #[I'm here]# Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: ... [INAUDIBLE] ... Honourable Steenkamp?

HON. STEENKAMP: Present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Steyl?

HON. STEYL: Ek is vandag teenwoordig #[I am present today]# Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Tlhapi? Honourable Tsholo?

HON. TSHOLO: Ke mo palong Motlotlegi Mmusakgotla. #[I am in Honourable Speaker]#

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Huyssteen?

HON. HUYSSTEEN: Present Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Wallhorn?

HON. WALLHORN: Teenwordig Speaker, dankie. #[Present Speaker, thank you]#

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Williams? Honourable Babuile?

HON. BABUILE: Ke teng #[I am present]# Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Is there anyone who arrived after? I didn't call you Honourable Oliphant?

HON. OLIPHANT: ... [INAUDIBLE] ...

HON. SPEAKER: ... [INAUDIBLE] ... Thank you Honourable Oliphant. Is there any Member that I have omitted mistakenly? Thank you very much Honourable Members. I have satisfied myself that we have majority of Members in the House to consider the Bill in accordance with Rule 245 Sub-section 1 of the Standing Rules. The House will now adopt the Bill clause by clause. Clause No. 1, does the House agree?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Hebanna! #[Jeez!]# Clause No. 2?

HOUSE: Agreed.

HON. SPEAKER: It's the Youth Bill Honourable Babuile that we are adopting not the budget. Clause No. 3?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Clause No. 4?

HOUSE: Agreed.

HON. SPEAKER: Clause No. 5?

HOUSE: Yes/agreed.

HON. SPEAKER: Clause No. 6?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: The yes have it Honourable Members. I will now call on Premier to give the third reading speech if the Premier saw it fit and move for the adoption of the Bill. Premier, you have 10 minutes.

HON. PREMIER: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. May I just take this opportunity to thank the committee under Honourable Nathan Oliphant, Members of the committee and Members of the Legislature who participated and deliberated on the amendment. And therefore, I move for adoption.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much Premier. Thank you so much. Honourable Members, does the House concur that the Bill be read for the third time?

HOUSE: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Secretary, may you read the Bill for the third time?

DR. MBEDZI: This Bill shall be called the North West Youth Entrepreneurship Services Fund Repeal Act 2025.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. The North West Youth Entrepreneurship Services Fund Act 2025 will be submitted to the Premier for assent. Secretary you may read the next order please. Okay, alright, hold on. Honourable Steenkamp.

HON. STEENKAMP: Thank you Honourable Speaker. The DA would like to make a declaration on the Bill please.

HON. SPEAKER: Okay.

HON. WALLHORN: Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. As such although it was part of the intent at the end of the whole process, the DA feels very strongly that this Bill should not be repealed because it can be sanctioned with various ways to actually bring it back into line for the purposes it was originally designed for. So in that sense, the DA cannot support the process of repealing the Bill. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Members. The declaration has been noted. Thank you very much. Honourable Sebegoe.

HON. SEBEGOE: Thanks. I think we will be setting a bad precedence going forward, if the Bill has been accepted. It cannot be that after the Bill has been accepted, there is a move on a different view in terms of what would have been approved by the House. I therefore wish that we don't accept, just take note of what they have just raised because it has been accepted and there was no descending view in terms of that.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Sebegoe I can hear you. That's why I have noted the speaker. I just noted what the speaker said. I've got to make sure that I don't just close the Members out but I've noted what the speaker has said understanding the procedure of the House on how matters should be processed. Thank you very much. Secretary, you've read that. This Bill shall be called the North West Entrepreneurship Services Fund Repeal 2025. The North West Youth Entrepreneurship Services Fund Act 2025 will be submitted to the Premier for assent. Secretary you may read the next order please.

DR. MBEDZI: ORDER NO. 4 RESPONSE BY THE PREMIER ON THE DEBATE OF THE STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I will now call on the Premier to respond to the debate on the State of the Province Address. Honourable Premier.

HON. PREMIER: Sonakile! Honourable Speaker, Dr Mohono, Honourable Deputy Speaker Rre #[Mr]# Maine, leader of government business MEC Viola Motsumi, Members of the Executive Council present, Chief Whip of the majority party Mme #[Madam]# Rosho, leaders of opposition parties present, Honourable Members, good morning.

Honourable Speaker, it is a great honour for me to be afforded this opportunity to respond and clarify some of the issues raised by Honourable Members in a SOPA debate which was held in this august House some days ago. Let me take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all Members who participated in this debate and some words of counsel emanating from that debate.

As Members, we are leaders of different political organisations who have been bestowed with the responsibility to contribute to our national democratic project and in particular the socio-economic development of our people. We are leading at a period when our province is inundated with a number of challenges.

Therefore, it is important that we channel our energies to address issues confronting our communities than resorting to some political grandstanding statements which do not help with anything. Our people are looking at us to provide them with solutions and not ... [INAUDIBLE] ... Honourable Members, it's important that you should have used the debate to supplement the SOPA with tangible proposals or solutions but I can stand here and say we failed dismally to provide any substantive alternative policy proposals to what we tabled on the 27th of February.

Honourable Botswe, I struggle to understand the points you raised in the course of the debate particularly with regard to SOPA being a rhetoric statement with a lot of repetitions. You further claimed that we are not a nation at work that works for all. Your assertion lacks justification in that we made significant strides in turning the tide against historical injustices inflicted on our people by more than 300 years of colonial rule and apartheid.

Our country is a better place to live in than it was before 1994. For the mere fact that you are able to sit in this House and participate in our nation building project centred on participatory democracy bears testimony to our ongoing efforts to live up to the commitment we made to establish a society based on democratic values with the right to freedom of expression as enshrined in our Constitution. This debunks your unwarranted assertion towards the successes of this government.

This SOPA gave an account of previous pronouncements particularly on what has been achieved, the challenges we face as well as the remedial action plans that we are implementing to find solutions to these matters. In relation to the latter, I did take a litany of interventions, measures

we are employing to create jobs, alleviate poverty, address road infrastructure backlogs, water and sanitation as well as dealing with scourge ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. MOEMA: Speaker!

HON. PREMIER: Of gender-based violence. I also referred to the revitalisation of both the George Dick Montshioa and Pilanesberg Airport ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Premier! Premier!

HON. PREMIER: As well as investment of over 100 million Rands ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Premier! Honourable Premier, may you take your seat. Honourable Moema, what's your point of order?

HON. MOEMA: Thanks a lot Speaker. Is the Premier willing to take a question?

HON. SPEAKER: Premier, are you willing to take a question?

HON. MOEMA: A le di #[Are you the]# Premier? A le di #[Are you the]# Premier? Wait.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Moema, may you take your seat.

HON. MOEMA: Unless if you are contesting the Premier. Are you contesting the Premier?

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Moema! Honourable Moema, may you take your seat. Premier, are you willing to take a question?

HON. PREMIER: No ma'am.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. You may proceed.

HON. PREMIER: There is no mention, Honourable Speaker, of any investment worth this amount in the previous SOPA. Therefore, you cannot contend that this policy statement is a repetition of previous SOPA. Your statement is also found wanting. Moreover, Honourable Botswe, you referred to both the Jouberton and Ga-Mothibi Health Service Centres as electioneering campaigns for the governing party and it is not true.

The rollout of health infrastructure projects to build new facilities contradicts your submission. Let me remind you that 2025 is not an election year and there will be new health facilities that we will be opening as explained in our SOPA. This is aimed at ensuring that our people have access to healthcare services as well as the full realisation of the National Health Insurance.

You went further to say there is no clear plan to address unemployment. We are not oblivious to the economic conundrum nor are we resting on our laurels to find a permanent solution to it. The over 140 000 job opportunities which will be created in the next five years encapsulates permanent jobs. So it is not true that these are only temporary jobs as you allege.

We have demonstrated our commitment to create jobs by luring investment with a creation and preservation of the 10 000 jobs by Harmony Gold and China/African Precious Metals with a cumulative investment over 10 billion Rands which Honourable Rosho spoke about. Several more job creation initiatives are under way such as our collaboration with the South African National Defence Force, Phila Jordan (Pty) Ltd and South African National Service Institute

where 3 000 young people will be trained in preparation for the job market. This includes 13 000 young people who are participating in various fields such as the National Youth Service, SMME development and underwent training for various job opportunities.

Water challenges in these areas as you mentioned are being attended to and we have set aside like we said, 450 million to the areas I alluded to in my address. You further claimed that there is no tangible plan to address the scourge of gender-based violence when we had announced that a new centre would be opened in Potchefstroom this year to add to the three existing fully functional shelters to deal with the scourge.

It is interesting to poke holes in the 22 jobs that we have shared in the fourth quarter while failing to acknowledge the more than 50 000 jobs that were created in the third quarter. This effectively means over 30 000 jobs between the two quarters were created and preserved. You mentioned capacity challenges in the Unit 9 Clinic in Mahikeng. I spoke to MEC for Health. We have sent a team on a fact-finding mission to realise all your allegations and we will intervene as expected.

Honourable Sonakile, it is actually laborious to listen to a distorted narrative on Tintswalo which has been hatched by your organisation to try and erase the achievements of the past 30 years. You indeed lack self-contradiction while thriving on historical revisionism and denialism. Your contentious of liberal thoughts contradict the United Nations that declared apartheid as a crime against humanity.

In reversing the deep-rooted effects of apartheid, we are deliberate in implementing various socio-economic measures to cushion our people against this historical injustice and afford them the opportunity to see their lives changing for the better. I implore you Honourable Sonakile to read upon on the notion of a developmental state as advanced by a renowned British economist, John Maynard Keynes when he advises that, “states to dictate the economic trajectory on their country than leaving them to the markets.” We will never do that.

So the interventions we are making on the national schools nutrition programme, scholar transport, non-paying school fee, housing, access to healthcare and free higher education amongst others is not a creation of a welfare state as you want us to believe. These are socio-

economic policies aimed at creating an equitable society where all human beings thrive and can live in peace.

To give impetus to this assertion, this province and our country has achieved more than any other post-colonial country or countries undergoing decolonisation on our beloved continent. Scholarly articles in African political economy by professor such as the late Thandika Mkandawire and Ali Mazari will be good reference points in understanding this subject better and how a nation has defied the odds and fared in reversing colonial apartheid injustices.

In 1996, for an example, the National Senior Certificate results were hovering around 50% and today as you are aware, we are sitting at 87%. Thirty years ago, access to piped water in the North West was at 20% and today just over 80% of our residents continue to benefit from the rollout of our water infrastructure projects that have been successfully implemented across the province. And where there are challenges, we are intervening.

The provisioning of electricity has increased significantly from 58.1% in 1996 to over 94.7 to date, what a significant progress in the lives of our people and especially the marginalised. We do however acknowledge the interruptions due to load shedding but we are comforted by the work done by the Minister of Electricity and Energy in this regard.

HON. BOGATSU: Speaker! Speaker!

HON. PREMIER: Similarly, we have built more than 19 000 houses ... [INTERRUPTION] ...

HON. BOGATSU: Premier! Premier, may you take your seat.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you Speaker. I rise on Rule 68, I want to check if the Premier can take a question.

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Premier, are you able to take a question?

HON. PREMIER: No Ma'am.

HON. SPEAKER: Okay. Honourable Sonakile, you are rising on which rule?

HON. SONAKILE: Speaker, I'm rising on Rule, e re ke bone #[let me check]#, oh, 74. I'm rising on Rule 74 on a point of order.

HON. SPEAKER: Okay.

HON. SONAKILE: Ee #[Yes]#. I want to check with the Premier that the Premier can we organise an appointment for him with the residents of Lehurutshe because to come and speak here and fail to go to the people is a problem. He's speaking here about water. Those residents they are waiting for him. They want him a tle go ba address instead of go bua maaka mo House gore metsi a teng #[to come and address them instead of lying in the House that there is water]#... [INTERRUPTIONS] ...

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Sonakile! May you take your seat!

HON. ROSHO: Speaker order! Order Speaker!

HON. BOGATSU: Mare #[But]# Speaker, Speaker, ke nnete bagolo ba tebetswe ka di #[it is true that the elderly people have been chased with the]# rubber bullet ko #[in]# Zeerust.

HON. SONAKILE: Ya tla nako ya hore o be #[A time is coming for you to be the]# Premier Member neh. Nou ha o #[now you are not the]# Premier.

HON. SPEAKER: Members! Members! Members! The decorum of the House. Honourable Premier you can continue.

HON. PREMIER: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. We've said when there are problems, we are intervening. Similarly, we have built more than 19 000 houses for our people in the last five years and we'll continue to build more during this term as explained by MEC Molapisi. Moreover, Mme #[Madam]# Lydia Mere forms part of more than 88% of our people who live in houses and conducive accommodation facilities built by this government to restore dignity to our people.

The announcement of a sewer pipeline in Ramosadi in 2024 was a maintenance project aimed at addressing leakages that spilt into the yards of the residents. The 101 million that I mentioned in my SOPA is the second phase to alleviate challenges related to the pipeline. Therefore, there is no repetition here as claimed, Madam Speaker.

At least Honourable Sonakile, have a simplest of objectivity when you debate and acknowledge where there is success. By the way my speech writers are products of a deliberate effort by government and NGO where I volunteer, invest in our people. Let me assure you Honourable Sonakile, they are graduates and post-graduates from globally recognised institutions of higher learning through bursaries and financial aid schemes of our government. Unfortunately, I can't say the same with some of your leaders in your own party.

Therefore, tell no lies, claim no easy victory as remarked by Amica Cabral. Honourable Mangope. Honourable Mangope, your wisdom and counsel is appreciated. It demonstrates your love and passion for our people. We will definitely incorporate some of your profound suggestions when we develop our programme of action. Thank you very much for your wisdom and counsel but I want to make a very distinct point.

It is also not correct or true to say we are disconnected with our people. In fact, the accelerated service delivery programme we call ‘Thuntsa Lerole Reloaded’ afforded us an opportunity to engage with our people, listen to them and address their challenges on a regular basis. The ‘Ntime o Mphele Ngwana Initiative’ will also add on this excellent work that has been executed by the ‘Thuntsa Lerole Reloaded.’

Honourable Mangope, the Mekgareng Smart City Development is not a diversion of some sort but efforts to partner with private sector to build cities, sustain our infrastructure and create jobs for our people. This project is aimed at restoring the dignity of our people who are victims of land dispossession. They are direct beneficiaries of a land restitution programme which could culminate into more investment to the tune of over 20 billion.

Honourable Rosho, we agree with you that our state-owned entities need to be repositioned to drive our industrial plan and developmental trajectory. Work is currently underway by a panel of experts in this regard and I believe that by the end of the financial year, they would have completed their submissions in light of the inputs made during our recent Lekgotla.

In relation to the special economic zones, a business case and an application have been made with a legislative imperative for a decision by the Department of Trade and Industry. The revival of our township and village economy and many other strategies we have developed such as collaboration with the private sector will find expression through the provincial growth and development strategy and sound measures will be implemented to see the full realisation of this plan as proposed by Honourable Khunou.

We will be collaborating with the Department of Small Business Development to ensure that our people benefit from the recent announced 500 million fund aimed at ensuring that they reclaim the spaza shop market. MEC Lenkopane will give a detailed breakdown on this in her budget speech. Honourable Khunou, there is interest by mining companies to invest in our road infrastructure and related projects through their corporate social investment and their social labour plans as in the case with the three mining companies I acknowledged during the State of the Province.

Honourable Molapisi, you have thoroughly listened, read and understood the State of the Province. The eight-point challenges as proposed plans you mentioned encapsulates what is

contained in the State of the Province. This will include but not limited to a development fund which has been allocated 24 million Rands to drive our industrial policy.

Our intervention in municipalities through our local government turnaround strategy. The Agri-hub which we recently launched as part of our SOPA activity to help grow the agricultural sector and respond to food security challenges in this province. Job creation, poverty alleviation, skills audit to build an ethical, developmental and capable state. Fighting crime, corruption and related case of maleficence.

Honourable Tsholo, we acknowledge challenges that we experience by the NTI employees and we are hard at work to turn around the situation in that entity. And I think you are aware that the matter is sub judice, it's a court matter. There have been efforts made to settle the outstanding salaries of workers and progress has been made in this regard. MEC Morweng will provide this House with a full detailed account when delivering the departmental policy statements.

Honourable Members, we have given the SOPA a more human face by committing to our people that we'll never forsake them and we don't take the trust that they've placed on our shoulders very lightly. As the founding father of Tanzania said, Julius Nyerere once remarked: "If real development is to take place, the people have to be involved."

Honourable Members, we have equally demonstrated our commitment to work with the traditional leadership and communities to address service delivery backlogs in our villages and townships which will still bear the scars of our injustice and our past. This include the partnerships we have initiated with the private sector to traverse this journey with us as well as youth formations, labour organisations, vulnerable groups, academia, faith-based organisations and civil society.

This journey is not for the faint hearted. It is and should be the collective effort by all of us to see the lives of our people moving forward, to champion the transformation agenda and to develop concrete solutions for the betterment of their lives. I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you Honourable Premier. Thank you so much. Thank you very much Honourable Premier. We appreciate your response. Hope the Members will get an

invite in your office. Anytime you want to sit with the Premier, you can have coffee with him and discuss other things but thank you very much Premier for the response.

Honourable Members, let me once more thank our guests, our students. I think you will know the practicality of the theory that you are getting in class every day. It will make some life easier for you to understand better how government is run. Honourable Members, our guests you will be ushered where you will have something before you go back to school and Honourable Members, you know where you go after the sitting. The sitting stand adjourned until the 11th of March 2025.

HOUSE ADJOURNED!

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