

**STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS BY MR SUPRA RAMOELETSI
MAHUMAPELO, THE PREMIER OF THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE, TO
THE FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF THE NORTH
WEST, 27 JUNE 2014**

Honourable Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the House,

Judge President and all esteemed members of the Judiciary,

Members of the provincial Legislature and delegates of the NCOP,

Members of Executive Council,

Executive Mayors and Mayors of Local Municipalities

Provincial Commissioner of Police

Director-General and Heads of Departments

Chairperson and Members of the of the House of Traditional Leaders,

The leadership of the ANC and other political organizations,

Stalwarts and Veterans of our struggle,



Youth, Women, Business, Labour and Community leaders,

Business representatives,

Media representatives,

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Baagi ba Bokone Bophirima



Honourable Speaker and fellow compatriots, We are presenting this State of the Province address under the Theme "Together Moving the North West Forward". This is a conscious and deliberate call we are making to all the people of the North West Province, to live up to dream espoused many years ago by Pixley Ka Isaka Seme to "bury our demons of petty jealousies divisions"but embrace one another in a spirit of common citizenship.

Let me begin my address Hon Members by remembering and paying tribute to some of our fallen compatriots who departed during the last two weeks; Koos Motshegwa from Moses Kotane, Johannes Baloyi and Maphefo Malinga both from Rustenburg. We thank these comrades for their dedication and diligence in performing their functions as ANC councillors. May their souls, rest in eternal Peace.

On behalf of the people's movement, the African National Congress, we are confident this morning to assert and reiterate the bold statement by President Jacob Zuma; that South Africa is a much better place today than it was before 1994. We are equally emboldened to declare without any equivocation that, this Province too has a good story to tell.

The strides we have made in the last 20 years have set us on a sustainable path to peace, development and prosperity. In this regard, we wish to recognise the roles played by all four (4) of my predecessors from comrade Popo Molefe to Edna Molewa, Maureen Modiselle and Thandi Modise.



Guided by sound policies developed by our movement through their four administrations, they remained steadfast and unwaveringly implemented the vision of the freedom charter. We shall forever remain indebted to their service and dedication.

Bagaetso! Re leboga baagi botlhe ba Bokone Bokone Bophirma le Afrika Borwa ka bophara, ka melaetsa, dikgakololo le maele otlhe a re a amogetseng mo malatsing a fetileng fa re baakanyetsa puo eno ya Profesense.

“MOSEKAPHOFU YA GAABO, GA A TSHABE GO SWA LENTSWE”

Puso eno bagaetsho ke ya lona, tsweleng go re ema nokeng le go tsholetsa mantswe fa puso kgotsa batsamaise le baeteledipele ba fapoga mo maitlhomong a lenaneo la go tokafatsa matshelo le go aga Bokone Bophirima e tsweleng pele. A re tsholetseng mantswe go sireletsa isago ya rona.

Because we are members of the humble African National Congress, we accept that whilst a lot has been delivered in building a better life for all, much still needs to be done. But, our experience of the last 20 years put us on a good stead to continue on a firm foundation build by our predecessors.

The road we are to traverse leading up to 2030 has been ably crafted into a National Development Plan, thereby lessening the burden to develop any new plans during this administration. We have already begun the process to infuse the planning framework outlined in the NDP into our own provincial delivery



strategies, and institutionalised performance accountability mechanisms as demanded by the NDP.

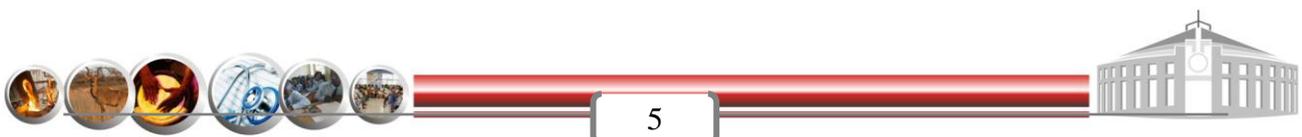
Hon Speaker, the call to rebrand, reposition and renew our province is a thorough-going philosophical construct that can only succeed through popular citizen engagement. It calls on the people of this Province not to act in any manner or do anything that harms the good name of our Province. It seeks to unleash our collective potential to achieve the greatness this Province deserves, and embrace opportunities presented by the new spirit of unity, reconciliation and healing.

“Together We Move the North West Forward”

Hon Speaker, the theme of unity of common purpose will remain a guiding principle for the duration of this fifth administration and beyond. It is a deliberate policy choice which shall be incorporated into government programmes. We make this commitment in the full presence and witness of the masses of our people, to dedicate the entire programme of this historic fifth administration to the realisation of the liberation dream of 1994.

“Eendrag Maak Mag” – “Unity is Strength” – Saamwerk Saamtrek

This message is captured succinctly by young Natasha Loeto Sesing, a Social Work Student at the University of the North West (Mafikeng Campus) in her input to this SOPA speech by quoting J.K Rowling (British Novelist):



“We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided”

Natasha goes on to write;

“Die Noordwes Provinsie sal groei as ons saamwerk, want as ons saamwerk kan ons baie beruik”

Hon Members, 20 (twenty) year old Natasha Sesing represents a model citizen that the saamwerk saamtrek philosophy seek to produce.

An ideal citizen of this Province is hopeful about its future and prospects, conscious of his/her obligation to his/her fellow citizens and free of anger and hatred. Such a citizen believes in the simplicity of life and avoids arrogant display and abuse of borrowed public office power; refuses to be corrupted and never conforms to the routines of normality. He / she is a revolutionary agent of change.

Hon Members, I am a firm believer in the virtue of SIMPLICITY, and we shall endeavour to infuse such an outlook into our provincial administration. Complex and sophisticated systems do not necessarily mean efficiency. Modesty is one of the basic values of the ANC.



We are going to tone down the paralysing choke of public administration bureaucracy and replace it with a people driven system that is designed for and responsive to the needs of the people of this Province.

Since the launch of The Bua Le Supra multi-media citizen engagement platforms, we have registered just over 2000 messages across all platforms.

The most popular of these platforms are sms (43883), and twitter (@bualesupra) with a combined volume of over 80% of all the data received. We have done an initial word analysis of the issues people of the Province have raised with the Premier. The following are the top six most complained about issues from the communities:

schools, water, housing, unemployment, youth development and roads.

Hon Speaker, we have decided to make Bua Le Supra a permanent feature of our citizen engagement strategy for the next five years.

We have initiated plans to create capacity within the Office of the Premier to integrate feedback from these platforms into government planning and ensure that issues raised by our people determine government service delivery programmes.

As part of providing additional platforms for the people to communicate with their government, the following platforms will be established;



- 24hrs Call Centre,
- bua le supra multi-media platforms,
- community meetings,
- radio talkshows
- church services attendance.

Honourable Speaker, we wish to announce that IBM (ICT Company) will be piloting a programme in partnership with both Provincial Government and the North West University (Mafikeng Campus) to roll-out E-Skilling to the young people in the Province. The project will start in Mafikeng before being rolled out to other parts of the Province.

The Province is committed to not only bridge the digital divide, but to adequately prepare the youth particularly learners to lead productive lives through ICT's. Our Provincial Department of Health will in due course launch a partnership with the Belgian Government for the introduction of Electronic Health Records as part of the e-health initiatives.

The Department of Health will soon revise the policy governing the operating hours of all clinics particularly in rural areas.

Our success in driving an accelerated programme of economic growth and job creation requires the existence of requisite institutional capacity. We have taken a bold step of appointing Prof T.J Mokgoro as Strategic Administrative Advisor to focus specifically on institutional capacity enhancement, and



reorganisation of government departments to meet the new mandate of the fifth administration.

This is in line with the reconfigured Departments and we have already started work in this regard with the Public Service Commission, and our plans are that everything will be concluded at least by September 2014.

Prof Mokgoro is a founder Director General of the North West in 1994, and a highly respected expert on public administration and governance in general.

His mandate in the next six months is not to develop any new policies but to work together with a team of Heads of Departments, to construct a provincial public administration which shall take the frontal lead in confronting challenges facing our people.

This second phase of our transition will be focused on implementation, implementation, and implementation.

This is the reason why we have reconfigured our provincial department to create single mandate portfolios like Tourism, to enhance focus, delivery and accountability. The new Department of Tourism will be embarking on tourism product development to ensure that this Province ultimately becomes a premier tourism destination.



Our tourism strategy shall be anchored amongst others on the following policy issues; ability to compete in the global tourist market, development of new tourism enterprises, growth and expansion of existing enterprises, job creation and provision of efficient government services.

We have set aside an amount of R60m for the development of the Taung heritage site, as part of the strategy to install required infrastructure to prepare for the return of the Taung Skull from Wits University to the people of the North West in general and Taung in particular.

Hon Members, great cities and successful economies of the world are built through arts, sport and events. In order to raise the profile of Brand North West, our Department of Education and Sport Development will later this year launch two major sporting events; The Sun City 5km Women's Marathon in August, and The Platinum Soccer Challenge involving three SA Premier League teams and one team from southern, west, east or Northern African leagues.

MEC Matsemela will expand on these projects during her budget speech. We will also be launching in September during the heritage Month an all-inclusive cultural festival in the Province which will going forward be an annual event.

President Jacob J.G Zuma has once more stated that; 'Education will be the apex priority of government'.



The North West supports the President, and we will focus our energies on implementing interventions measures to ensure that the North West Province achieves a number one position in the grade 12 results for 2014. We have also taken note of the Annual National Assessment and the need for better outcomes in the lower grades of 3,6& 9.

We are committed to create a universal quality education experience for all the learners of the province irrespective of their parents social standing or choice of residence. Farm workers deserve good education as do all learners across the province. Education is a firm platform through which we can build a society envisioned in our Constitution's Bill of rights.

In this regard we applaud the collective effort of parents, learners, teachers and all involved in the education sector for putting the North West at number two and one respectively after the supplementary examinations.

A total of 200 Early Childhood Development facilities will be registered as part of the ECD massification project. The target is to reach 97 000 children 0-4 years. Government has set aside a Budget of R 13 057 020m for ECD facilities funding.

BAGAETSHO, we have set aside R292.925m for the construction of 26 new schools.

R 75.484m of this budget will go towards classrooms additions and renovations of existing schools.



The amount of R16, 620 Million has been allocated for water provision for 21 schools and 54 schools for fencing, R53m is allocated to three special schools for renovations and building of new hostels namely:

- Bophelong Special School.
- MM Sebitloane Special School.
- RekgonneBapo Special School (New School and Hostel).

Ladies and gentlemen,

As a caring government, we will be implementing and extending safety nets to orphans and vulnerable children infected and affected by HIV & AIDS and providing home community based care services to 98 140 beneficiaries. This will also include linking the affected and infected to poverty alleviation and psycho-social support programmes. Social mobilisation and behaviour change programmes will be rendered to 210 000 beneficiaries and 330 Child and Youth Care Workers will benefit from Isibindi programme. A total of 79 Non Profit Organisations will be funded at a tune of R36 464 000 for delivering HIV & AIDS Social protection services.

We will render integrated social crime prevention and support services through preventative and statutory interventions for 35 000 beneficiaries. About 450 Children in conflict with the law will be assessed and 520 completing diversion programmes.



Fourteen NGOs will be funded at an amount of R11 442 000 for rendering social crime prevention services.

A total of 59 500 beneficiaries will be reached through advocacy prevention programmes. Victim Empowerment Services (VES) will be provided to 900 victims of gender based violence. Twenty five (25) Non-Governmental Organisations will be funded at a tune of R14 416 000 for rendering VES.

In ensuring safe and nurturing environment for children between 0-18 the department will place 2 661 new children in foster care and review 5 622 foster care placements. During 2014/15, Twenty eight (28) Child Protection Organisations will be funded for rendering protection services to children with the tune of R14 280 000.

We will turn our neighbourhoods into safer environments for our older persons. We recognize that the future our Province depends largely on the experiences, expertise and knowledge of our older persons.

More still needs to be done to ensure full compliance by all Provincial Departments to employ people with disabilities within government. We are still far behind from achieving the required target of 2% employment of people with disability in each Department, and in the next five years we will do everything possible to achieve this objective.



In addressing food insecurity amongst communities 400 food security beneficiaries will be linked to food production initiatives in 2014/15 with a budget of R1 500 000.

Twenty (20) Women cooperatives will be supported at a tune of R6 000 000. In providing assistance to vulnerable households, during undue hardship or disasters the Department will provide 3 000 vulnerable households with balanced nutrition through Social Relief of Distress Programme.

We will render youth mobilisation programmes to 7 600 youth, and 195 youth will be linked to Community Development Work opportunities. In improving social cohesion and employability of youth, 300 youth will participate in Skills Development Programmes.

A total of 7 407 jobs opportunities will be created through infrastructure development, green economy and social economy during the financial year 2014/15.

This contribution by the Department of Social Development will also be through infrastructure projects, social cooperatives, skills development projects (National Youth Service, Masupatsela, and Youth Pioneer Programme) and jobs created through funding of NGOs.

In December this year, we will be launching a Provincial Youth Skills Development Centre in the Kenneth Kaunda District, which will immediately



absorb a 1000 young people to be trained in various trades and link them to opportunities of jobs in the market.

Honourable Speaker, We also applaud National Department of Social Development for the initiative they have taken through the service delivery blitz in the Marikana area this coming Weekend. We wish to announce that through our reconciliation, healing and renewal programme we will be leading a programme to stabilize the social situation in Marikana and other areas in the Province.

On the 16th December this year, government will launch a Reconciliation, Healing and Renewal Day of Prayer which will be an annual event which shall bring all people of our province from different religious persuasions together to pray for the reconciliation, healing and renewal of our Province.

We also take this opportunity to welcome the settlement on wages between employers and labour unions in Marikana. We applaud all those who took initiatives during the strike to ensure that people of Marikana are clothed and fed.

We hope that we have all learnt some lessons from this protracted strike and that all role players will in future do everything possible to avoid recurrence of such developments.



The Office of the Premier will establish a new Chief Directorate on Transformation, Healing, Reconciliation and Renewal to give special attention to, and appropriate requisite funding to programmes of moral regeneration. Working together with other stakeholders, government will take the lead in mobilising efforts to build conditions for permanent peace and stability in Marikana and surrounding areas.

As part of Provincial Government strategy to revive agriculture as a priority sector for economic development and to address youth unemployment, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, Environment and Rural Development will identify and set aside all state owned farms across the Province, for allocation to Community and Youth Cooperatives for productive farming.

Government will provide seeds and implements, and ensure that state hospitals procure all their required supplies from these cooperatives. This is planned for roll-out in the MTEF period, and the responsible MEC will provide detail during her Department's Budget Speech.

Further projects in agriculture includes rehabilitation of Kraaipan, Springbokpan and Vryhof silos to stimulate Crop production by planting over 120 000 hectares of fallow land over the next five years period and rehabilitate three grain silos with the total storage capacity of 230 000 tons. This strategic infrastructure is in line with the government's approach of Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs) to revitalize the grain storage and marketing infrastructure initiatives.



Government will resuscitate and expand Citrus irrigation schemes in Taung(1700ha expansion & 3 544ha resuscitation); Disaneng (214ha), Molatedi(36ha) and Tsholofelo. The activities will involve installation, replacement and repairing the irrigation system to reduce high maintenance costs and raise net farm income.

Hon Members, We have taken a decision to introduce the Ikatisong Youth Training & Incubation Programme which will reinforce the EPWP. Ikatisong programme will be implemented in three phases; Recruitment Phase, Incubation phase and thirdly attachment to Business Sectors.

This approach will ensure that the youth programmes are not only sustainable but also expose the young people to enterprise based skills which will allow them to migrate into gainful employment or self-employment beyond government programmes.

The government will be working with interested parties both public and private to intensify learnerships across sectors and build entrepreneurship amongst the youth.

Honourable Speaker, the last leg of our economic strategy involves reviving Culture and the Arts for sustainable jobs and wealth creation. We are happy to announce that Mmabatho Arts and Sport Foundation launched a joined partnership with National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund worth R19.8m to fund inter-alia; the erection of women's liberation monument in Ramotshere



Moiloa, wheelchair dancing in Bojanala and Sol Plaatjie Exhibition in Ngaka Modiri Molema District.

The Department of Arts, culture and Traditional Affairs will spend a further R1.843,630m in the campaign to change offensive names to places, rivers, mountains etc, in order to restore our common heritage. The relationship between Government and Traditional Leaders will be given priority. We intend to complete all Chieftancy disputes by the end of the current financial year.

Distinguished Guests, in the recent past there has been negative media reporting on the D-Account and its related governance and auditing challenges. Government is committed to a speedy conclusion of investigations commissioned by the previous administration. We undertake to cooperate with the relevant Portfolio Committee established by this House to deal with this matter.

Hon Members, we have found it necessary to re-orient our approach to growing the economy by creating institutional capacity to support enterprises in order for them to thrive and to be sustainable. It is our firm believe that the general construct of our economic policy remains sound, but challenges remain with enterprises success and sustainability.

Government will use its leverage through state expenditure and procurement in general, to assist in the effort to create jobs and support enterprises development. Cooperatives formed by youth and women in particular will



receive major focus and assistance from government through targeted procurement.

Government will identify some services already contracted out through tendering for ring-fencing as part of support to cooperatives. These will include but not limited to; provision of school furniture, school nutrition programme, school uniforms, hospital laundry services, catering, government mailing and courier services, waste management etc.

Information on initial services to launch the Cooperatives support, will be announced by MEC's during Budget speeches. We must emphasise, that there will be no compromise on this approach as a demonstration of our seriousness in dealing with the challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

One of the biggest hindrances to local economic development is the debt owed by Provincial and National Government Departments to municipalities. MEC for Treasury and Enterprise Development has been mandated to ensure that Provincial Government start a process to quantify and verify all debts in order to facilitate settlement of all accounts.

In order for this intervention to work, systems within government will urgently be improved as part of enhancing turn-around time within which government pays service providers. We are going to take a firm stance against all government officials who fail to pay service providers within 30 days of successful delivery of services to government.



But we also have a challenge of some service providers not availing relevant documents on time. Such service providers will be assisted by government, failing which they will have to be downgraded to incubation.

The Premier has already asked for a comprehensive report of all outstanding payments within the entire government, and we can promise this house that if it is found that government officials may have acted negligently in failing to pay service providers in time, there will be serious and far reaching consequences.

Hon Speaker, We have set ourselves ambitious but achievable target of growing our economy from its current sluggish 2% to at least 6% in the next five years. In line with the National Development Plan, the long-term vision for the North West is to be the second largest economy in the country by 2030.

Hon Members, for the foreseeable future mining shall play an important part as a sector in the economy of the Province. We are however, conscious of the finite limitations of its long-term contribution to the economy of the North West.

In order to expand further the benefits of mining we are establishing a Mining Charter, Compliance and Procurement Committee to strengthen cooperation between government, communities and the mining industry. This will constitute part of the radical approach for socio-economic transformation.



The Mining Charter, Compliance and Procurement Committee will look into legal issues around mining in the Province, Procurement and the relationship between communities and mining houses.

As part of our contribution to development in the mining areas, we have set aside R462m for housing projects in the Bojanala District in the Rustenburg Municipality, specifically in Marikana.

This amount is inclusive of the ring-fenced R155m set aside by the National Department.

An allocation of R156m has been made available to Rustenburg, R88m to Madibeng Local Municipality, and R125m to Moses Kotane local Municipality, R47m to KgetlengRivier Local Municipality and R37m to Moretele Local Municipality.

In addition to these, the President announced in the state of the nation address that the mining areas of Matlosana will also be prioritised.

Through this partnership with the mining house (LONMIN) and Rustenburg Local Municipality, we will build 2000 housing units over a period of three years with initial phase of 192 BNG houses and 252 Community Residential units which will start with immediate effect and the project is called Marikana Ext 2 Integrated Development.



We have also purchased 400 hectare portions of land from private owners in Marikana at a cost of R47m purely for human settlements purposes. We are conscious of the fact that we will not succeed in this regard if we do not work together with all affected communities of Bapo-Ba-Mogale.

The Sunway Village Integrated Development Project consists of 1000 BNG units is already under construction and completion of these units is anticipated to be in this Financial Year. This project targets the nearby informal settlements of Popo Molefe, Ten Room, Rietfontein, and Cosmos.

All these Housing projects will be required to meet a minimum of 30% involvement of youth and women companies throughout the construction phases.

Hon Members, we have also taken a policy of rewinding the closing down of the North West Housing Corporation. Provincial Government will recapitalise and reposition the Housing Corporation to serve as a Provincial Housing Agency to meet the increasing housing demand in the province and serve as a regulatory authority on matters such as Social Housing, Regulation of different housing income categories etc.

The responsible MEC will announce in this house necessary legal processes required by the Legislature to facilitate a transition of implementing this decision.



Water and sanitation challenges facing the Province require urgent attention. Incidents such as the outbreak of water borne diseases in Lekwa-Teemane Municipality in Bloemhof recently, are preventable and should never occur again.

On behalf of Provincial Government we wish once more to pass our condolences to the families of the young children who lost their lives in Bloemhof.

We also thank National Department of Water and Sanitation, and all stakeholders who worked with Provincial Government to arrest the situation. We also thank the people of Bloemhof for their cooperation in normalising the situation.

The forensic investigation commissioned by government in Lekwa-Teemane Municipality is on-going and once completed, government will communicate its outcome to the community.

As announced during our interaction with the community in Boitumelong township, National Department of Water and Sanitation has committed to contribute an initial amount of R20m to assist with water and sanitation challenges in Bloemhof. We welcome the announcement by President Zuma that Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality will receive assistance from National Government to resolve it's water and sanitation challenges.



The service delivery chapter of our municipalities is a mixed bag of slow progress and sometimes regression. The following package of intervention measures will be implemented to turn-around the situation;

- Provincial Government intends to clear all debts owed to municipalities by end of the next Financial Year.
- The North West Premiers Coordinating Council, will be strengthened to ensure better planning alignment between the Province and municipalities.
- A Provincial Infrastructure Coordinating Committee chaired by the Premier will be set up to integrate all public sector spend on infrastructure in the Province.
- Implementation of the Clean Audit targets and Auditor General recommendations will be built into performance management contracts of all Municipal Managers, and other Senior Management Officials.
- A comprehensive Province wide Skills Audit will be conducted across all municipalities as an intervention to finally deal with over-reliance on consultants by municipalities.



- All councillors in the North West will be required to hold at least One Community Meeting Monthly in their wards to report about service delivery matters.
- All towns, cities and villages should be kept clean.

Hon Members, Brand North West has suffered major reputational damaged due to bad conditions of most of our roads. We are going to do everything possible within limited resources available to government, to improve the general conditions of our roads. We have given directive through the MEC for Public Works & Roads that, in the coming Financial Year government will budget for and prioritise at least ONE Provincial Road in each municipality in the Province.

In addition, Mahikeng, Bloemhof, Moretele and Ventersdorp municipalities have been identified to pilot brick paving projects as part of the Ikatisong Programme, for internal roads in particular. The MEC for Public Works and Roads will give further detail on the budgetary implications and project plans for each.

Equally, we are going to strengthen our project management capacity to ensure that government receives value for money across all road construction projects in the Province. No contractor will be paid unless government received a quality assured sign-off from appropriately qualified engineers.



We want to close the door on all contractors who have pocketed millions of Rands from government but failed to deliver quality roads projects. We shall also liaise with professional engineering bodies to report and blacklist engineers appointed by the state who connive with contractors and sign-off on poor projects.

We wish to announce that we will be launching a partnership with the Construction Industry worth R 1,5bn to skill our emerging contractors in various disciplines related to the built industry.

It is also planned that requirements for appointment of contractors on big infrastructure projects will be reviewed to include, a condition that all contractors with CIDB 7 grading be required to sub-contract small contractors below the CIDB 6 grading.

This is done to ensure skills transfer and necessary up skilling of small contractors. The MEC for Public Works and Roads will expand on this during his Budget Speech.

In order to bolster our road safety efforts, the Province is in the process of establishing a traffic college to improve the quality of law enforcement and increase the numbers of traffic officers and examiners.

We had in the past set ourselves a target of recruiting 600 traffic officers, 120 road safety officers and 150 Examiners of driver and vehicle licences by 2019.



We also intend providing a 24hours coordinated law enforcement service in the province. Details of this approach will be outlined in the next state of the Province Address in 2015.

Hon Members, in the beginning of the next Financial Year, Provincial Government will establish satellite offices in all major and properly zoned taxi ranks in the North West to provide some services at an initial phase.

We are planning in the long-term to have permanent presence through government offices in these taxi ranks to bring services rendered by all government departments, National, Provincial and Local.

We also recognise the strategic importance of taxi ranks as viable economic zones and we intend to enhance and grow this potential. In this regard we will consult with all taxi Associations and all stakeholders doing business in the taxi rank.

Partnership and linkages with our neighbouring Provinces of Free State, Northern Cape, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Gauteng is very important. The Premier will be engaging the Premiers of all our neighbouring provinces to enter into formal protocols / agreements to coordinate our provincial strategies and policies to improve the lives of our people.



With particular reference to Free State and Mpumalanga, we will be entering into partnership to create a tripartite maize triangle to grow our respective grain production potentials.

In the near future, a delegation of North West Government led by the Premier will visit Kwa-Zulu Natal to benchmark on their successes on economic development in the tourism, arts and sport events as part of building our respective economies.

Distinguished Guests,

Government will not tolerate corruption in any form. We have asked that all forensic investigation reports commissioned by Provincial Government in the past be made available to the Office of the Premier for processing and disclosure through the Legislature subject to necessary legal processes, in relation to any party/person implicated or investigated by government.

We also intent establishing in the Office of the Premier a higher level Forensic and Fraud Investigations Unit to give teeth to government efforts to eliminate corruption not only in the public service but in society in general.

Equally, we appeal to members of the community to work together with government to fight fraud and corruption.



Members of the Executive (Premier & MEC's) will lead by example in demonstrating our positive ethical conduct and rejection of corruption. The Executive Council will publish and make available on quarterly basis all public sections of declarations made by MEC's. This will also apply to Senior Managers of government who are required by legislation to declare their financial interests. We also reiterate the decision taken by national government that no public servant should be doing business with government.

We will be engaging the SAPS so that their crime fighting efforts focus more on preventative measures. The SAPS should play a leading role in educating our youth on the dangers of crime and criminality. School Governing Bodies will be approached to be partners in this effort to make our schools crime free.

Hon Speaker, as the North West we agree with Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng, that religion has a role to play in improving ethics and integrity in society. It is for this reason that our approach to fighting crime in particular, will rely on the support and participation of religious leaders from all backgrounds, including society in general.

In the next financial year, Government will commence with a pilot programme of deploying police, nurses and social workers in selected schools as part of the intervention to keep our learners healthy, safe and mentally prepared to pursue learning.



Hon Speaker, this administration is committed to service delivery excellence through a simplified system of public administration whose main purpose is to serve the people and not leaders in government.

We have also committed ourselves to a transparent system of citizen engagement which is informed by a code of mutual respect of government to the people, and the people of public and state institutions.

Efficiency in the Public Service will no longer be an optional undertaking on the part of public servants. In the coming week, the Premier will be meeting with Managers from Deputy Director, to Chief Directors of all Departments to communicate this directive.

Following this, there will be ongoing regular meetings between Premier and Directors to deal with specific service delivery portfolios, check targets on a daily, weekly, quarterly and annual basis.

Hon Members and Distinguished Guests, we will be introducing Information technology interventions to eradicate late coming and absenteeism within the public service. All public servants will be expected to report on time and leave their work station at stipulated times.

On the 18th July, we will be launching the EXCO Setsokotsane Programme in Mahikeng as part of implementing the President's call to clean our areas in honour of Madiba.



Linked to Setsokotsane will be a high Level Technical Advance Team which will visit areas identified by EXCO for a visit, at least two weeks before the visit in order to interact with the communities and receive their service delivery concerns and proposals for attention to EXCO.

EXCO will ensure that by the end of our term, all districts of the Province shall have been visited and their issues addressed.

Such focus weeks by EXCO will also serve as open days for the people to interact with the Premier and Members of the Executive, Mayors, state owned entities such as Eskom, NYDA, Water Boards, SASSA etc.

We have made a commitment that for this term of office, we will desert the comforts of our air-conditioned offices to be with and amongst our people.

Hon Members,

We have been overwhelmed by the humbling messages of support and encouragement received from all corners of the Province and the country at large.

Encouraged as we are and should be, we are also careful not to be lulled into complacency and forget the enormity of the challenges facing our people and the Province.





Today, in the spirit of saamwerk-saamtrek for the rebranding, repositioning and renewing of our beautiful Province, we commit government to be a partner and lead by example in the project to create a North West that is safe, at peace with itself and prosperous.

This we can achieve if we embrace and live by the wishes of Pixley Ka Isaka Seme, to “bury our petty jealousies and hatred” and work for the success and development of the North West.



Hon Speaker, the road ahead will not be easy, the challenges we still have to confront will require total commitment to the vision we have set ourselves. We must draw courage from the guaranteed certainty of our success.

Let me conclude my address by drawing inspiration from the scripture:

“Makau aa lapa, a felelwa ke thata, bagale baa kgotswa, baa wa. Mme ba ba lebeleletseng Morena, ba ntse ba fiwa thata e ntsha, batla tlhatloga ka diphuka jaaka bontswi, ba tlaa taboga ba sa lape, ba tsamaya ba sa fele thata”

(Jesiah 40: 30-31)

Ke a leboga!

I thank you!

Baie Dankie!

