



# finance

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### Media Statement

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To **News Editors**  
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### Departments urged to up their expenditure

North West MEC for Finance, Paul Sebegoe has urged and advised provincial departments that they need to increase their expenditure on both infrastructure and conditional grants in order to fast track the pace of service delivery.

This emerged at the provincial Medium-Term Expenditure Committee (MTEC) meeting with all provincial departments and public entities to assess the expenditure trend for the six month period which ended on September 2013. The engagements revealed that expenditure trend should be improved and areas where over-expenditure is recorded should be revisited. The interactions observed that there is generally a need for improvement of the technical capacity which constraint spending.

The purpose of the meeting was amongst other to do a detailed assessment of departments and provincial entities in terms of expenditure trend on both financial and non financial performance, alignment of departmental budget and annual performance plans, national and provincial priorities, sector priorities and other key government priorities as well as assess the readiness of departments to implement programmes and projects identified for the 2014 MTEF period.

Sebegoe indicated that departments that spent far below the expected fifty percent threshold to-date will not receive any additional allocation during the upcoming adjustment budget next month. He said both under and over expenditure will not be tolerated and departments should spend allocated budget accordingly.

Sebegoe said although there is a need to increase human capital, he however cautioned departments to desist from spending much on compensation of employees but prioritise expenditure on infrastructure.

He tasked Public Works to establish a forum on Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) which should consist of senior managers who will be able to take necessary decisions. The intention is to ensure absorption of more people into EPWP in mid November to create labour intensive jobs which will help many people to put bread on the table.

“We want to see more labour intensive projects that would make impact to reduce unemployment and create jobs for our people. Sometimes officials disappoint us as politicians. When you postpone projects implementation we must be aware that we cannot postpone hunger as most of our people live in poverty”.

Presentations on macro economic analysis were received from both national treasury and provincial treasury’s newly established macro economic analysis unit which indicated economic performance of the country is still not satisfactory including major trading countries in Europe and the recent economic recession still obtains.

**End**

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