



finance

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Media Statement

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North West intensifies monitoring of infrastructure expenditure

In line with EXCO resolution, the department of Finance has convened Joint Infrastructure Steering Committee meetings, chaired by the MEC Sebegoe with all the departments responsible for infrastructure delivery. This initiative is intended to ensure that infrastructure spending patterns are monitored and develop measures that seek to ensure improved quality spending on infrastructure. The Province has set aside R4.252 billion for infrastructure inclusive of conditional grant in the 2013/2014 financial year.

To ensure that spending is accelerated to the desired level, MEC Sebegoe said in addition to the current monitoring and support systems, regular assessments by the Joint Infrastructure Steering Committee on the implementation of infrastructure projects by provincial departments will be held in order to intensify monitoring and implementation of infrastructure delivery in the province. Different approaches and measures will be put in place to ensure that the allocated budget is effectively spent by affected departments.

The engagements held this week with the departments of Public Works, Roads and Transport, Health, Sports Arts and Culture, Human Settlements and Public Safety and Local Government and Traditional Affairs considered in detail the infrastructure expenditure for the first two months of the financial year in particular reasons for underspending, interventions to prevent both underspending and overspending by departments on infrastructure.

Progress registered on the implementation of the NW Infrastructure Delivery Management System (NW IDMS) also came under scrutiny as the model provides clear activities and processes as to how infrastructure should be delivered.

Strategies to clear blockages in spending on infrastructure will also be put in place. Sebegoe said identified challenges related to delayed supply chain processes, late planning and non

implementation of the infrastructure alignment model. He said all these challenges must be tackled with speed as they hamper service delivery.

“It is a concern for this province not to spend accordingly on these scarce and limited funds when it is apparent that there is a need to transform the lives of our people. He said infrastructure and conditional grant under spending have been a major challenge in the province and this affects service delivery.”

However the MEC said the slight improvement registered shows that the province is moving in the right direction. Infrastructure is the cornerstone of the province’s economic development and it impacts on job creation, poverty alleviation and lead to the general improvement of lives of people of the province”, said Sebegoe.

Sebegoe said his department will embark on a collaborative effort with all the departments’ in order to ensure effective delivery of infrastructure project in the Province including the acquisitions and maintenance of infrastructure. Departments with the assistance of the Department of Finance will also urgently come up with plans to rapidly improve the quality of spending on infrastructure and project monitoring.

Sebegoe indicated that the participation of the MEC’s in these important meetings indicates the Provincial Government commitments towards providing political leadership over clean governance and provision of services to the community of North West. Departments have agreed to ensure that with immediate effect, through improved spending on infrastructure there will be an accelerated approach towards services delivery.

End

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