



FINANCE TALK

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Let us embrace the winds of change, says MEC



MEC for Finance, MME Louisa Mabe

As foot soldiers of service delivery MEC Louisa Mabe calls for all departmental staff to tighten their seatbelts and embrace the winds of change by doing things differently to ensure that service delivery is not compromised.

Mabe said the state of the nation address laid foundation, therefore there must be action. Mabe said despite several changes that took place in the department, the department must be fully on course to deliver on its mandate. She said the department must continue to ensure strict adherence to financial management and accountability as required by the Public Financial Management Act.

"We must all be responsible and go beyond our call of duty to ensure that service delivery is achieved.

"We are here to take forward the vision of government by serving our communities. The best way to achieve this vision is by simply doing our work. We have different responsibilities and if we do them diligently we will have a better province with satisfied clients. Government has entrusted us with public resources not to misuse them but to deliver best services to the people", said Mabe.

The MEC said the department will continue to strengthen its oversight role and support to provincial departments and municipalities.

"Last year, the department intervened on behalf of Tswaing, Naledi and Ventersdorp municipalities and reached an agreement with power utility Eskom not to disconnect electricity at these municipalities. The municipalities owed the power utility a combined debt of R33,5 million and arrangement was made between the entities to pay their debt. The decision by Eskom to cut power supply to these municipalities could have had a disastrous effect on communities and businesses under their jurisdiction.

"Consumers must also play their role and pay their accounts on time and desist from illegal connections of water and electricity as municipalities lose huge amount of money to such connections", said Mabe.

Mabe said the outcome of local government budget review workshop which was facilitated by National Treasury is expected to bear much fruits. The review provided comprehensive analysis of trends in budgets, expenditure and service delivery in the main areas of local government expenditure.

"We still have serious challenge of financial management in our departments, municipalities and state owned institutions. We will continue with our intervention and support to ensure that we turn the situation around.

"Together with the Office of the Premier, the department launched a R5,4 million funding towards training and skill development for 100 B Com graduates for the North West University.

"Our partnership with the university and the South African Institute for Chartered Accountant (SAICA) will see these graduates get first hand workplace experience with government through a one year mandatory internship programme scheduled to start in the next financial year. The internship will assist graduates attain accreditation as chartered accountants after completion. This will help us address the challenge of financial capacity in our province", said Mabe.

"Let us continue to work together in 2012 to ensure that we deliver to the best of our ability. We can only achieve this by doing things differently in order to achieve different results".

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Excellence must be our primary business, declares Acting HoD, Geo Paul



Acting Head of Department Geo Paul

The attainment of 2014 clean audit by government needs prudent spending on financial resources, proper implementation of strategic and annual performance plans and team work", asserts Acting Head of Department, Geo Paul.

Paul said employees must note with serious concern the financial capacity constraints in the departments, municipalities and public entities and be ready to provide support when needed.

"We recently came together with chief financial officers to deliberate on issues raised by the auditor general and much work needs to be done in

order to achieve good audit report as a province. We must reflect on issues raised by the AG, form strong partnership and deliver to the best of our ability.

"It is high time we strengthen the intergovernmental and interdepartmental relations by not competing instead support each other", said Paul.

The acting HoD said the department will continue to provide support to other state entities to ensure that the province achieves clean audits by 2014. He emphasized that although progress has been registered in this regard, there is still a lot that need to be achieved within the remaining limited time.

"I am certain that this is possible and attainable, said Paul.

He said the inclusion of middle managers to attend the recently held strategic planning session and input towards decision making will strengthen the relations between management and staff. "Middle managers are a link between management and staff and this will ensure two-way communication is achieved", said Paul.

"At the strategic planning session one of the issues we deliberated upon was paying service providers within the thirty (30) days period as

required by the PFMA. We noted with concern the dissatisfaction of service providers regarding late payments by governments departments and the effects this have on their businesses. I would also like to appeal to them to submit their invoice on time to the relevant department once service has been rendered.

"As per the resolution of the of the North West Premiers Coordinating Council, a provincial support unit to fast track departmental creditor payments made after 30 days is to be established.

"I am pleased by the effort of our department through supply chain management unit to ensure that we educate small businesses about tender processes. Our officials have travelled throughout the province imparting relevant information to those who own businesses. This is in line with promotion of access to government information regarding economic opportunities that exist in our province. This will stimulate economic growth and job creation with the thrust placed on rural development as one of the five key pillars of government.

"Significant progress has been registered with the approval of the organizational structure. Once finalized we will move with speed to fill all vacant key position in the department in order to improve the services we render, said the acting HoD.

Badiredi puso ba kopiwa go itsise dikgwebo tsa bona Ka Lemogang Mayekiso



Mokaedi wa lephata la HR Mme Desiree Mafulako o gwetha badiredipuso go itsise puso ka dikgwebo tsa bone

Mme Desiree Mafulako wa lephata la badiri o thalositse fa badiredipuso botlhe ba rotloediwa go itsise puso ka dikgwebo tse ba nang natso kwa ntle ga tiro ya bona ya puso. Seno ke go latela melao le melawana ya puso e e neelanang ka mekgwa e e maleba ya go rebolela badiri tetla ya go nna le dikgwebo.

Mafulako o rile melao e, e thalosa bothokwa jwa gore badiredi puso ba tshwanetse go kopa mothapi go nna le dikgwebo pele fa ba ka nna le tsona. Mafulako a re go ya ka molao, badiredipuso ba tshwanetse go kopa tetla go tswa go tlhogo ya lefapha gore ba ikaelela go nna le dikgwebo mme tlhogo ya lefapha o tla tsaya tshwetso ya dikopo tse. O buile fa tlhogo ya

lefapha e laelwa go lemosa badiri gore dikgwebo tse ba ikaelelang go nna le tsona di seka tsa nna tse di tla ba faposang mo tirong ya bona. A re, dikgwebo tse ga di a tshwanelwa go dirwa ka nako ya tiro e bile ke bonweenwee go dira dikgwebo tsa bona ka didiriswa tsa puso. "Modiredipuso mongwe le mongwe o gakololwa gore fa a dirisa dithoto le nako tsa puso go dira kgwebo ya gagwe, o tshwana le legodu le le ikhumisang ka madi a setshaba. Re a itse ba botlhe gore fa o dira jalo ke bonweenwee mme e bile kotlhao ya seno e boima le go feta. Re ikuela go badiredi puso go tsaya tsiboso eno tsia gonne ke pulamatlho ya gore re seka ra lelela kgama le mogogoro fa nako ya katlholo e gorogile", ga rialo Mafulako

Department exercises its oversight mandate

By: Lemogang Mayekiso

As stipulated in the Public Finance Management and Municipal Finance Management Acts over the implementation of the provincial and municipal budgets, the department of Finance will enforce its legislative mandate and exercise control to ensure proper compliance by all departments and municipalities. This was said recently by MEC Louisa Mabe during the tabling of adjustment budget. Mabe said the province operates with stringent budget and communities must get services therefore, improper spending by departments and municipalities cannot be tolerated. She said the department will ensure compliance and accountability in expending public funds.

The MEC said state resources must serve their intended purposes and proper management must be enforced. "My department has therefore taken a turn to firmly ensure prudent financial management and that state funds are used for their intended purposes. This will improve financial administration with the view of enhancing service delivery to the residents", said Mabe. In October, interventions were put in place at the departments of Public Works, Roads and Transport, Social development and Health to assist with proper usage of financial administration. These departments get the lion's share of the provincial budget therefore financial mismanagement cannot be afforded.

Adjustment budget

Presenting the adjustment budget the MEC warned companies that render mediocre services to government that their days of swindling from the public purse are numbered. She said the processes of blacklisting such companies are at an advanced stage.

"We are in the process of developing a provincial commodity price index. We are known as a province that accepts poor quality services at exorbitant prices. All government institutions have been issued with an instruction to fast track the process of blacklisting."

Mabe said the 2011/01 adjustment budget constitute a two percent growth from main



MEC Louisa Mabe, tabling the adjustment budget at the provincial legislature

The workshop to modernize budget and financial management practices for municipalities was also held to intensely review local government budget and expenditure, which provided analysis of trends in budgets, expenditure and service delivery in the main areas of local government expenditure. It further intended to place local government finances on sustainable footing in order to maximize capacity of municipalities to deliver services to all its stakeholders.

Mabe also said the department has put measures in place to ensure improved spending on conditional grants and infrastructure budget to minimize the risk of forfeiting the monies to other provinces. Spending on both grants is not encouraging.

budget of R 24, 464 billion to a revised estimate of R25,036 billion and is as follows:

Office of the Premier surrendered R8 604 million to department of finance for persal function and learnership whilst the provincial legislature budget increased by ten percent to R166 341 million. Health received a shot in the arm with the allocation of R92, 096 million which takes its overall adjusted budget to R6, 413 million. The human settlement department benefitted from R1. 699 and R1.419 million for learnership funding for both public safety and liaison and human settlement branch. R6 million has been set aside for winding down North West Housing Corporation. Economic Development, Environment,

"The report of the past financial year highlights various critical challenges faced by municipalities and a lot of work still needs to be done. We need cooperation of municipalities to turn things around. We need to prevent increasing protest actions by diligently working together to deliver services to our people," she said.

Mabe said although many municipalities have conformed to the new budget format, total compliance needs to be enforced to change the state of their financial affairs. She said based on the auditor general's report of the past year; the province is repositioning itself to tackle head-on challenges besetting municipalities.

Conservation and Tourism received R458 million more and Social Development, Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities' budget increases by R15 million whilst Education once again received a huge chunk R66 035 million allocation. The department of Finance transferred R17 million to departments for learnerships and Local government got R11, 548 million. Sport, Arts and culture and Public works, Roads and Transport were allocated R30,399 million and R63 329 respectively. Agriculture and Rural Development received R19, 773 million.

Bommasepala ba bona tshegetso ya lefapha Ka Lemogang Mayekiso



BoMayor ba Maquassi, Ventersdorp le Matlosana mo kopanong ya bommaesepala go sekaseka tiriso ya matlole

Bommasepala ba porofense ba tshwanelwa ke go fetola mokgwa wa go dirisa matlotlo gore ba kgone go tlisa ditirelo tse di nang le boleng kwa baaging. Pegelo ya morunikakaretso ya ngwaga wa ditshetele wa 2010/11 e bontshitse fa bommassepala ba tlhoka go tsholetsa dinao le go latela melao le melawana e e maleba e e laolang tiriso ya madi le dithoto tsa puso.

Seno se kailwe ke mokhuduthamaga wa lefapha la matlotlo mo porofenseng mme Louisa Mabe fa a ne a kopane le baeteledipele ba bommassepala ba porofense. Maikaelelo magolo a kopano e le go sekaseka mekgwa e e farologaneng e e ka thusang ditheo tseno go isa ditirelo kwa baaging.

Mabe o kaile fa go le mo pepeneneng gore botlhaswa mo go diriseng matlole a puso kwa go bommassepala bo tlhotlheletsa bohuma le seemo se se sa siamang sa ditirelo mo porofenseng ya rona. Fela o kaile fa puso e se kitla e

ikgatholosa kgwetho e, e bile e ka se lape go rotloetsa thebolelo ya ditirelo gonne ke lenaneo le e le tlhomileng kwa pele.

Lefapha le samagane le namane e tona ya tiro ya go thusa bommassepala ka ga mokgwa o o maleba wa go aroganya madi go ya ka mananeo a mmasepala le go dirisa madi ao sentle. Lefapha le thusa gape ka go rupelela badiri ba ba dirang ka madi ka go tsenya tirisong mokgwa o moswa wa go dirisa matlole. Fa bommassepala ba ka latela mokgwa o sentle, ba ka neelana ka ditirelo tse di maleba mme le dipegelo tsa morunikakaretso di tla galalela.

Porofense ya bokone Bophirima ke ya borobedi go tswa go di le robongwe mo go iseng ditirelo kwa baaging mme mokhuduthamaga Mabe o rile seno ga se sentle e bile se tshwanetse go fetoga.

“Bommasepala ba le bantsi ba retelelwa ke go bona letseno ka gonne ba sena mananeo a a lolameng a a gwethang

baagi go duelela ditirelo tsa mmasepala. Le fa mananeo a a le teng, mme baagi ba a ikgatholosa, mmasepala ga o gagamatse letsogo go bona gore dituelo di a dirwa. Baagi ba le bantsi go akaretse le badiredipuso ga ba duelele ditirelo jaaka motlakase, metsi, kgelelo ya leswe le tse dingwe. Fa baagi sa duelele ditirelo, seemo sa bommassepala ga se kitla se fetoga mme le ikonomi ya porofense ya rona ga e kitla e gola. Ga gona mogwebi yo o ka batlang go beeletsamotulong e leswe,” Mabe a rialo.

Mabe a re baagi ba tshwanelwa ke go tsaya karolo mo go thuseng puso go lwantsha bogodu ka go senola badiri ba ba tswetseng go ikhumisa ka matlole le dithoto tsa mmasepala.

“Go na le batho ba ba itirelang jaaka ba kgona ka dithoto tsa puso, mme batho ba re tshela le bona kwa magaeng a rona. Bothata ke gore ga re lome puso tsebe e tswa re neilwe mekgwa e e maleba ya go bega bogodu. Fa baagi ba bona dilo tse mme ba didimala go senyegelwa bona. Madi a a neilwe bommassepala go thusa baagi go ya ka dikopo le ditlhokego tse di farologaneng.

Mo dikgweding tse di fetileng, bommassepala ba le bararo ba ile ba iphitlhela ba le mo tsietsing ka gonne ba sa duela setheo sa motlakase, Eskom, mme setheo seno se tshotse tshweetso ya go tima motlakase kwa dikarolong tsa bommassepala bao.

Nnete ke gore baagi le bona ba oketsa magala ka go utswa motlakase kgotsa ba sa o duelele kgwedi le kgwedi le go reka motlakase yo o seng mo molaong. Seno ke bogodu e bile se ka go tsenya ka kgolegelo.

Lefapha le rotloetsa bagwebi potlana go nna batsaakarolo mo kgodisong ya ikonomi ya porofense Ka Lemogang Mayekiso

Seemo sa ikonomi kwa metse magae e le mentsi ya porofense ke tlhoba boroko mme se se tlholwa ke go se fitlhelelwe ke ditirelo kgotsa kitso.

Go tokafatsa seemo se, lefapha la matlotlo le thamile lenaneo la go rupelela baagi ba ba nang le keletso ya go itshimololela dikgwebo gore ba iphedise. Lephata la tswetsetso ya

bagwebi mo lefapheng, ka tshwaragano le ditheo tsa puso le tsa poraefete di bone go le maleba go rupelela bagwebi potlana ba metse magae ka kitso. Maikaelelo magolo ke go ba fatlhosa gore ba kgone go ikemela le go thusa puso ka go fokotsa botlhoka tiro le go tswetsa thebolelo ya ditirelo kwa baaging.

Mokhuduthamaga wa lefapha la matlotlo Mme Louisa Mabe a re seno ke go arabela kgwetho ya moporesitente jaaka a kaile tswetsetso ya metse magae kwa setlhoeng sa thebolelo ya ditirelo. A re bagwebi ba tshwanetse go tsaya karolo mo go tokafatseng seemo sa ikonomi mo porofenseng le mo nageng ka bophara. *(continues on page 5)*

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Fa a neelana ka tekanyetso kabo ya lefapha mo malobeng, Mabe o kaile fa lefapha la gagwe le tla tswelatsa lenaneo la go rupelela bagwebi potlana le go ba thusa ka kitso e e tla ba kgontshang go ikemela mo isagong. Mokhuduthamaga o ne gape a kaya fa lefapha le tswelatsa go kwadisa bagwebi bano mo lenaaneng la dikgwebo la puso ya porofense gore ba kgone go neelana ka ditirelo mo pusong.

Fela, Mabe o ikuela go baagi le bagwebi ba metse magae gore ba emelele mme ba tshwaragane le puso go lwantsha bothhoka tiro le bohuma. O kgalemile ka bogale bobodu jo bo renang mo baaging ba ba nang le bokgoni jwa go ka ithusa

mme ba emetse puso go ba direla. Mabe o lemositse baagi gore puso e na le matlole a go ka thusa bagwebi ba ba ikemiseditseng go thusana le puso go lwantsha lehuma. O kaile fa matlole ano a boa go le gantsi gonne a sa dirisiwa mme o rotloetsa bagwebi le baagi go tla ka mananeo a a ka fedisang bothhoka tiro.

“Puso e ke ya motlhakanelwa mme baagi le bona ba tshwanelwa ke go tsaya karolo mo go boneng gore ditirelo di a ba fitlhelela. Baagi ba seka ba nna kwa gae mme ba supa puso ka menwana, ba sa thuse ka dikakanyo. Thebolelo ya ditirelo e ikaegile ka ditlhokego tsa baagi mme baagi ba tshwanelwa ke go itsise puso ditlhokego tseo”, Mabe a rialo.

Mafapha a Temothuo, Katlatleloloago le Ditiro tsa Setshaba a na le mananeo a a rebotsweng semmuso go lwantsha bothhokatiro le lehuma. Baagi segolo bogolo bashwa ba ka fitlhelela tsotlhe tseno fa ba ka itlhotlhora matsetse, ba semelela gore re nne setshaba se se sa bolaweng ke tlaa.

Ga jaana lefapha le tswelatsa ka metsetsetsele ya go arogana kitso le bagwebi mo porofenseng kwa metseng e tshwana le Tshidilamolomo, Mokgalwaneng, Disake, Piet Plesis, Oersenskraal le e mengwe e e tshwailweng mo lenaaneng la porofense la tswelatsa ya metse magae.

Tsereganyo ya lefapha e ungwela bomasepala Ka Kelepile Mokaila



Bandile Jack wa Eskom, Mokhuduthamaga wa Matlotlo Mme Louisa Mabe le Tlhogo ya Lefapha wa nakwana Geo Paul mo tsereganyong ya ditirelo tsa bomasepala

Morago ga tsereganyo ya mokhuduthamaga wa matlotlo Mme Louisa Mabe mabapi le maikemisetso a setlamo sa motlakase sa Eskom sa go kgaola thomelo ya motlakase go bomasepala ba le bararo mo porofonseng e leng ba, ba ba neng ba palelwa ke go duela disuga tsa bona mo malobeng, se se kabong se nnile matlhabisa ditlhong go baagi ba masepala tse di umakilweng, se ne sa efogwa.

Morago ga dipuisano magareng ga lefapha le Eskom, setheo seno sa motlakase se ne sa gogela morago kitsiso ya sona ka maikemisetso a go kgaola motlakase. Setheo seno se ne se kolotiwa madi a le mantsi a a balelwang

go dimilione tse R33, 5 tsa diranta ke bomasepala ba ba umakilweng mme bona ba retelelwa ke go ka a duela ka gangwe.

Dipuisano di ne tsa thusa thata ka Eskom e ne ya dumelana le bomasepala le lefapha gore dituelo di tla dirwa kgwedi e nngwe le e nngwe go fitlhela ba fetsa go duelela disuga. Bomasepala ba ne ba dumalana le Eskom go duelela disuga tsa bona mo dikgweding di le thataro go ya go ngwaga go lebilwe sekoloto sa bona. Lefapha la matlotlo le la dipuso selegae le merero ya segosi a ne a solofetsa gore a tla netefatsa gore bomasepala ga ba ikgatholose se go dumelanweng ka sona.

Mo puong ya gagwe ka tumalano e e fitlheletsweng, mokhuduthamaga Mabe

o ne a bua fa a itumetse thata gore kwa pheletsong matlhakore otlhe a feleditse a dumalane ka bongwe jwa pelo. Mabe o rile tumalano eno, e nnile e bothokwa thata ka go ne go setse matsatsi fela gore Eskom e tsenye tirisong maikemisetso a yone a go kgaola motlakase. A re seno se ne se ile go nna le ditlamorago tse di sa jeseng monate go dikgwebo le baagi ba bomasepala ba ba amegileng. O rile dikgwebo di le dintsi di ka bo di itemogetse tatlhegelo ka ntlha ya seno, fa malapa a le mantsi le ona a ka bo a ne a amegile thata.

“Rona re le puso re ikuela go baagi go duelela ditirelo tsotlhe tse ba di rebolelwang ke bomasepala go akaretsa motlakase go netefatsa gore seno ga se tlise mokgweleo mo tekanyetso kabong ya bomasepala ba rona. Re boa re kopa bagaetsho segolo jang ba ba utswang motlakase ka go ikgokegela ona go se mo molaong, go tlogela tiro e maswe e, ka e ka nna kotsi le mo maphelong a bona,” ga rialo Mabe.

O ne a ikuela go bomasepala go tswelatsa go duela disuga tsa bona go Eskom ka tshwanelo gore go se itemogelwe mathata a go kgaolwa ga motlakase mo isagweng.

Mabe o ne a bua fa puso e se kitla e thusa masepala ope ka matlole. “Bomasepala ba tshwanetse go ithuta go dirisa madi a bona sentle ka go thapa batho ba ba maleba. Rona re le puso re ka netefatsa fela gore re thusa ka go ba fa bokgoni jo bo maleba fa go tlhokega, eseng thuso ya madi. Seno e ka nna sekai se se maswe go bomasepala ba bangwe gore le fa ba ka senya madi, re le puso re ka ba thusa,” Mabe a tlhalosa jalo.

Province intensifies fight against fraud and corruption

By: Rapelang Motlagomang

The Provincial Anti-Corruption Forum (PACF) recently embarked on fraud and corruption campaigns in three district municipalities namely Bojanala, Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati and Dr Kenneth Kaunda.

The campaigns were conducted to increase awareness on fraud and corruption and how it influences service delivery in the province. The department of Finance joined the campaigns and shared information with North West residents.

Prior to the roll out campaigns, the province held a round table discussion which was graced by the Premier, MECs and Heads of departments and parastatals. The discussions were to amplify the provincial government's determination to give corruption no place to hide, within the public service and all state entities as well as business sectors.

In her state of the province address, Premier Thandi Modise expressed that her administration will not tolerate fraud and corruption. The premier stated that measures will be put in place to combat corrupt practices by the corrupt officials and victims.



Officials engaging with community members during Fraud and Anti Corruption campaign

The PACF chairperson Bishop Matebesi also highlighted that the integration of government, state entities and community will assist a great deal in combating corruption in our nation. Matebesi said it is important for all citizens to take part in this initiative as it hinders service delivery.

"We often find ourselves in protests over lack of services this is all because some of the money that are allocated for services are lost due to fraud and corruption. Let us stand together to fight corruption", said Matebesi.

During the campaigns, community members were urged to report

suspected fraud incidents and they filled the forms which were dropped in a locked box. They were also encouraged to utilize a hotline number to report any incidents of fraud and corruption with factual information at hand. Different departments also had a chance to share how they fight corruption, and also how communities can help them combat it.

Residents of these districts were delighted with the visits; they admitted that they did not know some of the procedures of reporting corruption. Susan Van Rensburg one of the Swaartruggens residents had this to say "we are very happy that the government is engaging people in communities in the fight against corruption, it shows that we are also part of this country. We will by all means help combat this virus that is spreading like wild fire in our community. The fight is not for government only but also for us."

According to the general impact survey of the PACF, the campaigns had an impact as most people have called in to report some corruption cases. The corruption cases are treated according to their severity; other cases are dealt with at a provincial level while others are handed over to national.

Funds available for scholar transportation

The department of Finance, having learnt about the problems associated with effective provision of scholar transport, undertook a quick investigation in order to determine the status of the programme. The programme is currently the responsibility of the Department of Public Works, Road and Transport (DPWRT) together with the Department of Education.

However, the MEC for Finance Louisa Mabe says that the Province is committed towards ensuring that learners have access to education and training through the scholar transport programme. This is a key programme intended to ensure that learners who travel a long distance to schools are assisted by government.

Mabe also said the provincial government would always ensure the provision of efficient scholar transport, sound management of government resources and compliance with the law in terms of payment of

service provider within prescribed period.

The MEC recently commissioned a preliminary investigation to mainly look at the budget of the programme including assessment of the spending to date against the allocation.

"The investigation established that over a period of two years DPWRT spent R200 million on this programme and the projected shortfall on the programme is R90 million. With the anticipated shortfall, the budget of scholar transport would increase to R204 million from R114 million in the current financial year which is equal to the same amount of money which was spent by the department in two years.

"The findings further identified inconsistency with regard to the increased kilometer rates which have been increased and impact negatively on the budget of the department and programme. The increase was implemented without

informing provincial treasury to ensure that funds are availed. "On the basis of the preliminary findings, a full comprehensive investigation would have to be conducted early next year with the sole mandate of identifying gaps within the programme and develop measures to ensure the programme functions efficiently," said the MEC.

Mabe said late and non-payment of service providers associated with scholar transport were recently raised with DPWRT as this could impact on the ability of the department to provide reliable service to learners.

The late and non-payment of service providers is not in compliance with the PFMA and as such Treasury has for the past weeks worked with DPWRT to identify savings in order to address the depleted budget of scholar transport.

"This engagement has led to a situation where the Provincial (continues on page 7)

(continues from page 6)

Treasury has agreed to shifting funds from non-core activities to address the shortfall within the programme. An amount of R70 million identified as savings would be moved from other programmes of DPWRT to scholar transport programme and this will bring the budget to R184 million. The additional funding will carry the programme until the

end of March 2012. Those who increased rates without informing Provincial Treasury will have to account", said Mabe.

Mabe said with regard to the 2012 MTEF allocations, Treasury would be ring-fencing funding for the programme and monitor it closely to ensure that budget overruns and shortfalls are avoided.

The Provincial Treasury, Education and Training and department of Public Works, Road and Transport would work together to ensure that scholar transport is available come the new year and most importantly service providers are paid for the services rendered.

"This is a stepping stone towards a better future", says Mabe

North West MEC for Finance says the R5.4million funding from the North West Government towards tuition studies of 100 North West University BCom graduates shows that training and skills development in our country is in the process of responding to requirements of the economy.

Mabe together with Office of the Premier convened a meeting at the Mahikeng Campus with the first group of beneficiaries of the Thuthuka North West Project to launch an internship programme.

Mabe said the Provincial Government's partnership with the University and the South African Institute for Chartered Accountants (SAICA) will see that these graduates get first hand on-the-job experience with government through a 1 year mandatory internship programme scheduled to start next year. This

internship will also assist graduates attain accreditation as Chartered Accountants after completion.

The partnership started in 2007 after the North West University approached government to create enabling environment where economic growth would support and transform the skills profile of the South African population in addressing critical skills shortage in the finance sector. "I am already impatient and eagerly awaiting your arrival at various municipalities and institutions of government to gain the necessary experience. We need your learned knowledge, dedication and commitment to assist government to improve services to our people," expressed Mabe.

Mabe explained that the Auditor General is also in the process of

developing a short course to induct graduates into government auditing as soon as they start with their internship as part of this program.

She further said government will monitor each graduates' performance during the internship with the intent of absorbing outstanding performing individuals into permanent employment. "You therefore need to humble ourselves, have the right attitude towards our work and communities and be willing to learn. Determination is the best building block towards success. Be committed to your studies, choose to excel and do not run after having fun at the expense of your future because this is a rare opportunity which you need to take advantage of. Know that some young unemployed graduates yearn to acquire the experience that you will be exposed to during the internship program. This is a rare opportunity, go for it," said Mabe.

Learners urged to prioritise their future

North West Finance MEC Louisa Mabe says South Africa needs its youth to take their education seriously as it is one of determining factors for economic growth.

Mabe said this during her recent visit to four schools in the Moretele Local Municipality. The visit sought to monitor that learning and teaching started on the first day of schooling at Kgaphamadi and Sekitla High Schools, Thabo Ya Batho middle and Modimokwan primary schools.

Mabe explained that if education does not start on the first day of schooling, it has direct impact on allocated state funds; and that there will not be enough days for teaching and learning. For this reason, the MEC said there is a need to jealously guard that funds allocated for education are prudently spent in the purchase of education resources. She said resources must be delivered on time; while educators have to ensure teaching on the first day as a day lost in the education system is too costly for government.

Addressing learners and educators at schools, MEC announced that from 2013 the North West government will focus on assisting best performers from disadvantaged backgrounds.

"We are in need of variety of skill particularly engineering and financial ones. These skills are key drivers in growing our economy. Government therefore wants to ensure that learners from disadvantaged background also have access to tertiary education. Ensure that you study on a daily basis as this will help with doing well with examinations at the end of the year," she said.

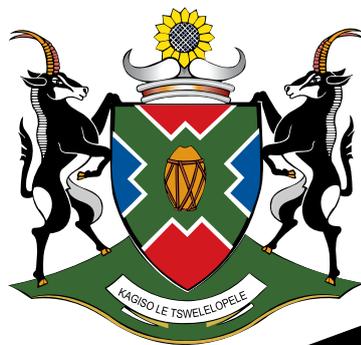
During the interaction with learners and educators Mabe advised that no learner will succeed without discipline and respect as these are basics for success. She said learners need to be serious about their education and know more of their school work and nothing less. She also urged educators to take their work seriously as the future of the



MEC addressing learners at Kgaphamadi High School during the Back-to-School monitoring campaign

learners is solely dependent on their hard work.

"I am pleased that learning and teaching started on the first day. The dedication, support and commitment in our education system will ensure that our country is well equipped with determined skilled personnel," she said.



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