

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE MEC FOR FINANCE  
NORTH WEST PROVINCE  
MAUREEN MODISELLE  
AT THE  
INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY  
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME  
(IDIP)  
HELD AT MMABATHO TUSK  
ON THE 07 SEPTEMBER 2006**

**North West Position:**

*“We, at the Department of Finance, are determined to manage provincial resources effectively in support of effective service delivery toward the improvement of the quality of life for all our people.”(Ref: 2006/07 Budget Speech)*

Thus, as the Department of Finance we are supporting and are committed to the “Infrastructure Delivery Improvement Programme” (IDIP). We see IDIP as more than just ensuring that our budget is spent every year, but as echoed the Department’s ‘Aim’, that:

*“We will allocate and assist all government departments in the North West Provincial Administration to effectively manage the budget allocated to them in a responsible and equitable manner and above all, in line with the PFMA; so that these departments can identify priority programmes to promote a better life for all by providing quality, efficient services in a compassionate manner to all our people .....* “

It is towards this goal that we are driving the IDIP in the North West Province.

Our 2006/2007 Budget emphasizes the importance in the improvement of infrastructure delivery when it states that:

*“An example of such ongoing policy and priority is the eradication of backlogs in clinics, classrooms, houses, etc. identified prior to the first*

*democratic elections in 1994. The backlogs were created over a period of almost forty years and cannot be eradicated overnight. However, the eradication of these backlogs will remain a national and provincial priority until the aim is achieved.”*

We need to massively improve our infrastructure delivery if we want to achieve this, and for this reason, the Provincial Department of Finance is the ‘sponsor’ of the IDIP and is promoting its implementation in all ‘relevant’ departments.

Infrastructure delivery is seen as an imperative for economic growth as infrastructure development creates jobs, provides opportunities for skills development, promotes public and private investments, etc.

All of these imperatives compels the North West Provincial Government to improve on its infrastructure delivery, and thus sees IDIP as a vehicle to achieve this.

### **North West Progress with IDIP:**

Apart from the official acceptance of the IDIP Phase II by EXCO on 26 July 2006, North West has also appointed its' Sponsors and Champions for the North West IDIP.

The MECs for Public Works, Education, and Finance, together with our Heads of Departments, will be the Sponsors for this programme. As such, we will not only take an active interest in the programme, but we will constantly promote and communicate the programme to our respective departments and expect feedback from our officials in terms of the progress and the impact we are making.

Our Chief Directors from Education and Public Works, Mr. Phage and Mr. Van Wamelen respectively, with their Operations Committees will drive and champion the programme in their departments. We note their efforts to date, which indicate their commitment and desire to improve service delivery in the North West Province.

It is clear that the Infrastructure Delivery Improvement Programme, (IDIP), is a Change Management Programme. A programme that

intends to change the situation from where the provincial government is not quite satisfied with its current infrastructure delivery, to a situation where infrastructure delivery is hugely improved and contributes fully to the province's growth and development.

This change will inevitably require that we change the way we do things, i.e. some of our systems, processes and procedures. It is clear that this process will require additional effort from all of us – until we have fully incorporated and internalized our new systems, processes and procedures.

On the other hand, it must also be understood, that change requires time – again a luxury we do not have - but is essential for bringing about sustainable change.

From the presentation by National Treasury, and the issues that need to be addressed, it is also clear that the IDIP is not the responsibility of a few, but that the programme cuts across departments and directorates, involving for instance, Human Resources, Supply Chain Management, Information Technology, Payments, etc.

Positive results of the programme will be the way in which the programme will require departments and directorates to interface with one another, as well as the way in which, it will enhance communication within departments and with head office. This, can only lead to better relationships, improved co-ordination and service delivery.

**Issues:**

Flowing from the presentations that were made, I will reflect only on one issue:

The IDIP intends to address capacity issues. But it is this very issue that makes it extremely difficult to participate in the programme, and here I am referring specifically to the Department of Public Works: Currently the North West Province Department of Public Works, has only two professionally registered building environment professionals.

The Department and Province have on numerous occasions through the years advertised for professionals, but to no avail. The standard solutions that were proposed and implemented to resolve this problem, were also to no avail.

It will not be enough for us to say, that the Provincial Technical Assistance Team (PTAT) must assist the Province, that the Department of Public Works should prioritize and resolve the issue. We need to deal with this matter urgently, but we need the participation of National Treasury through the IDIP, to assist us and other provinces to resolve this.

Many challenges notwithstanding, we believe that we have built the basis for shared economic growth in this country. With this programme we can achieve our social objectives, and the second decade of freedom will be the decade in which we radically reduce inequality, and virtually eliminate poverty.

It is clear, that the Infrastructure Delivery Improvement Programme, requires commitment and buy-in at all levels within departments, and across all spheres of government.

In conclusion:

**Thanks:**

A very sincere “thank you” to Chief Director Malijeng Ngqaleni and her team. I know that you and your team are under tremendous pressure, not only to succeed but also to show the value and impact of IDIP. From the North West Province you have our commitment and full participation in a programme we have accepted as our own.

To our provincial IDIP Team members, you have our active support and backing. From our side we will do everything possible to enable you to make this programme a success.

I thank you.