

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE MEC FOR FINANCE

MAUREEN MODISELLE

AT THE

“IT’S YOUR BUDGET – BECOME A PLAYER”

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

RUSTENBURG CIVIC CENTRE

17 MAY 2007 AT 11H00

Thank you Programme Director.

Hon. Premier Mrs. Edna Molewa,  
Comrades and Friends,  
Esteemed Ladies and Gentlemen.

As Member of the Executive Council responsible for “public finance” in the North West, I am privileged to welcome you to the Rustenburg launch of the “It’s your budget – become a player” awareness campaign.

Today we are here to celebrate. I certainly hope that you’ll enjoy your meal and the entertainment, but what we are celebrating are the many things we have to be thankful for.

We celebrate a great country with a constitution that empowers us to protect the innocent and enforce justice. We celebrate the fact that our government is sound and bound by laws higher than itself.

We celebrate our infrastructure: the great system of roads in the country, because we believe, we are going somewhere.

We build houses with joy, because, we believe that the sanctity of the home pertains to all rich and poor.

It is an honour for me, and yet a great responsibility, when in my portfolio as MEC for Finance I consider issues such as unemployment, poverty, health, education, housing, roads, and safety. To mention just a few.

When the budget is set we must ensure that funds are properly meted out to the various sectors of the province. But there is one large and seemingly insurmountable challenge, set before me each year. *How do I make sure the funds that have been allocated in the provincial budget actually reach their destination?*

How do I ensure that the children in our rural areas have the basic needs of water and fuel when this purpose is constantly thwarted by actions that are wasteful, petty, or purely criminal?

The government has done much in recent years to institute procedures to combat corruption. It has done far more than it is given credit for.

In 1997 the South African Government initiated a National Anti-corruption campaign committing itself to the fight fraud and corruption in the public service. From this a National Public Service Anti-Corruption Strategy was developed.

There are many, many legislative initiatives and national agencies for the protection of the innocent and the implementation of justice. All are good and necessary in their own right. But all are reactive and most are limited to criminal activities.

The financial budget, however, is far wider and impacted by far more than crime and corruption.

I dare say, Every bit of litter dispersed unthinkingly, every government sign defaced, or every person afflicted by the scourge of HIV/Aids in some way affects our province's budget.

The “It’s your budget – become a player” campaign has come in at this level. It is a means to proactively create awareness and gain the buy-in of every citizen in the province, for in the end, the budget that is set, is set for them.

The “Get on de Bus” aspect of the campaign aims specifically at creating awareness amongst the youth who are soon to be entering the economy. And the advantage of it being on wheels is that it makes it easier for us to bring the campaign home to the people.

My call to each and every one of you as leaders in this province, in your communities, in your businesses and in your homes, is to “Get on de Bus” and join us in this exciting venture aimed at the betterment of our province.

“It’s your budget – become a player”.

I thank you for your attention.