

PRESS RELEASE

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TO : ALL MEDIA

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SUBJECT: "IT'S YOUR BUDGET, BECOME A PLAYER CAMPAIGN GOES TO BOJANALA"

“The more we fail to discourage our families, relatives, friends, neighbours, colleagues at work, and fellow citizens in business from engaging in insignificant practices such as littering, malicious damage to state property, non-adherence to road traffic signs, misuse of government property, reckless and negligent driving, the less money we will have to spend on more important and economic development”, according to the North West Department of Finance at the second launch of the ‘It’s Your Budget, Become A Player/Get on De Bus Campaign’ in Rustenburg last Thursday.

Welcoming honourable Premier Ednah Molewa, Representatives of MECs, Executive Mayors, Municipal Managers, Representatives of SALGA, Business Community and members of civil society, and the South African Police Service, Maureen Modiselle, MEC of Finance praised the National Constitution. She explained that the constitution empowers every citizen to protect the innocent and enforce justice. “We celebrate the fact that our Government is sound and bound by laws higher than itself”.

Explaining the urgency and the need for all citizens in the North West Province to become aware of the negative impact of our inability to implement the 2007/08 provincial budget, MEC Modiselle told the audience that the commitment and resolve of the South African Government since 1997 to fight fraud and corruption in the Public Service demands that there are many legislative initiatives, local and national agencies meant to ensure the protection of the innocent and the implementation of justice, which she explains are good and necessary in their own right but are all reactive and limited to criminal activities – the financial budget is far wider and impacted by far more activities. Every bit of litter thrown about unthinkingly, every government sign defaced, or every person afflicted by the scourge of HIV/AIDS in some way affects our province’s budget”.

“To the lay man in the street, it is an honour to be in charge of the Provincial Treasury, and yet this places greater responsibilities. Some of the responsibilities confronting the department include issues such as unemployment, poverty alleviation, health, education, housing, roads and safety amongst others. When the budget is set we are obliged to ensure that funds are properly meted out to the various sectors of the Province. The insurmountable task and challenge set before the department each

year, is: ‘How do we make sure that funds that have been allocated in the provincial budget actually reach their destination? This is the greatest challenge. Or how does the Provincial Treasury ensure that children in our rural areas have basic needs such as water and fuel when this purpose is constantly thwarted by actions that are wasteful, petty, or purely criminal?’” interrogated MEC Modiselle.

MEC Modiselle praised the Government saying that it has done much in recent years to institute procedures to combat corruption, surpassing more than it is given credit.

In her concluding remarks MEC Modiselle said: “Today we have heard about the ‘It’s Your Budget, Become A Player Campaign’ and how imperative it is that we have private partners to make it successful. The North West Department of Finance has created a vehicle whereby the private sector can make an impact on the main issues that challenge all of us each Financial Year. The mobility of the campaign affords the wheels to reach as many of the 3.2 million people living in this province as possible – even those who live in the remotest areas are within reach now because of the “Get on De Bus Campaign’. Without your personal involvement to make the implementation of this year’s budget a success, it will be impossible for us to achieve the objectives of allocated funds

The Department’s intention in the next few months is to take the campaign to all regions of the North West Province and to create awareness amongst members of the general public. So watch out for the next date.

Call Eben Cobblah on 018 387 3584 for more information regarding the campaign.