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Finance, Economy & Enterprise Development
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8/2/1/2

Media Statement

BOKONE BOPHIRIMA REGISTERS NOTABLE PROGRESS.

MEC for Finance, Economy and Enterprise Development, Mme Wendy Nelson informed the Provincial Legislature that over the past four years Bokone Bophirima has registered a notable progress to combat poverty, inequality and unemployment in the midst of unfavourable circumstance.

MEC Nelson said 14 000 additional jobs have been created in the agricultural sector whilst tourism increased its contribution to the provincial economy by 6 per cent in 2016.

MEC Nelson said over the same period the Province realised a revenue growth of R238 million, a 25 per cent growth since the commencement of the implementation of the Revenue Enhancement Strategy. Since the implementation of the strategy, the Province has to date managed to collect R4.2 billion of own revenue.

She said this when presenting the provincial annual budget amounting to R41 billion, which comprise R32.392 billion equitable share, R7.467billion conditional grants and provincial own revenue at R1.209 billion.

“A four year journey which has not been easy has proven to be rewarding in response to the triple socio-economic challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. Since the introduction of the five concretes, the Province has deliberately directed resources towards programmes that support the development of the previously marginalised rural areas towards correcting the injustices of the past and ensuring equality across racial groups,” said Nelson.

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She said over the last four years both performance and financial management targets have been met despite an array of challenges such as poor road infrastructure,



Together moving Bokone Bophirima forward.

unemployment and limited contribution from private investors including various stakeholders to the government programmes.

VTSD spending increased to R10, 352 billion and there has been marked improvement of suppliers paid within 30 days. About 492 727 invoices to the tune of R52 860 were paid within 30 days as legislated.

“The participation of previously excluded individuals in particular black South Africans in the economy through VTSD, contributes to poverty alleviation and creation of job opportunities. Increased spending and development of enterprises in VTSD areas will substantially assist in containing the challenge of rural-urban migration,” she added.

She said socio-economic infrastructure at a cost of R16.5 billion has been completed and delivered. These include amongst other 34 628 housing units, seven clinics and a hospital, 50 Grade R classrooms, five new schools, eight libraries and 445 712 and 375 671 square meters surfaced of road sealed and rehabilitated respectively

The Province managed to stabilise compensation of employee budget to below 60 per cent of the total provincial spending.

However, MEC Nelson said having noted the challenges relating to spending on infrastructure, Provincial Treasury will issue an instruction note before April 2018 to address poor planning and implementation of projects and ensure that departments plan adequately for projects to be implemented in 2019/20.

She further warned departments to refrain from implementing projects with financial implications in the middle of the financial year without due diligence as they have a negative impact on spending and value for money.

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