



Office of the Premier

North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



RESPONSE BY NORTH WEST PREMIER, PROF TEBOGO JOB MOKGORO, TO THE DEBATE ON THE STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS AT THE NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE ON THURSDAY, 04 JULY 2019

The Speaker of the North West Provincial Legislature, Ms Suzan Dantjie,

The Deputy Speaker of the North West Provincial Legislature, Ms Viola Motsumi,

Honourable Members of the Executive Council,

Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature,

The Chief Whip of the Majority Party in the North West Provincial Legislature, Hon Paul Sebegoe,

The people of the North West Province,

Bagaetsho dumelang.

Speaker, let me first and foremost appreciate all the constructive inputs that emanated from the debate on the State of the Province Address two days ago in this august house; as they contribute to our resolve to build a better and capable North West Provincial Government right at the genesis of the 6th Administration.

We will be putting in place measures to turn around our municipalities; and if it means the total dissolution of some of these municipalities, then we shall look into the possibility of invoking Section 139(1)(c) as a last

resort because we cannot perpetually have dysfunctional municipalities at the expense of service delivery especially when we know what the root cause is.

On Tuesday, 02 July 2019, we intervened at the Ditsobotla Local Municipality; where the Council has been resisting the implementation of the Section 139(1)(b) intervention and threatening the safety of the Administrator.

We therefore resolved do the following:

- The review and setting aside of any decision taken by Council, in the absence of the Administrator, with immediate effect; as those decisions are legally regarded as irregular and this includes Monday's appointment of the Municipal Manager by Council as well as any financial commitments made by the Council or the Municipal Manager
- To declare all decisions of the Municipal Manager as null and void as the appointment is deemed irregular
- The instituting of a forensic investigation into the financial affairs of the Ditsobotla Local Municipality with immediate effect
- The immediate reinstatement of the Administrator yesterday morning to take over all the affairs of the Ditsobotla Local Municipality and in addition, the North West Provincial Government has decided to provide the Administrator with the necessary security due to the identified threats to his safety
- And lastly, the immediate interdicting of any further expenditure that is informed by irregular Council resolutions committing municipal funds without the consent and/or participation of the Administrator in the process.

I would like to thank the community of Ditsobotla for their high levels of discipline and constructive inputs throughout our engagement.

However, as we move forward, I would like to urge communities to first exhaust all available avenues such as the various government departments before knocking at the door of the Office of the Premier for assistance and intervention.

We will continue to engage with the South African Police Service and other relevant law enforcement agencies to combat farm attacks in prioritizing the general safety of our people; and this will include rural safety.

Rural safety is very important, and is a collaborative effort between the police, rural communities which include farming communities, local and traditional authorities as well as the Community Policing Forums;

The safety of women, children and other vulnerable groups in rural communities is of paramount importance to this ANC-led government.

It should be noted that the SAPS have developed the Rural Safety Strategy and the roll out thereof has begun in earnest.

We will be engaging with them regarding the implementation of this strategy in our province and will report back on progress in due course because farm attacks and murders are deeply regrettable and unacceptable.

We were very clear that one of our top priorities this financial year and in the next five years remains investment in Rural Roads Infrastructure.

The state and condition of our rural roads is central to access to social services as well as economic participation and opportunities for rural communities.

We will be convening a Provincial Economic Growth and Jobs Summit to, among others, deal with all economic and infrastructure related initiatives, including the RURAL ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE.

I AM EXTENDING AN INVITATION TO ALL THE POLITICAL PARTIES REPRESENTED IN THIS HOUSE TODAY TO THE SUMMIT.

Speaker, the State of the Province Address was very clear on the status of all corruption cases in the North West, which are currently being handled by various law enforcement establishments and government departments; we continue to report on progress on the cases as they differ in nature and character – and most of them are before the National Director of Public Prosecution to be placed on the court roll.

We therefore would like to appeal to everyone to exercise patience with regard to these cases as the Provincial Government is not in control of the investigations but rather the duly delegated agencies like the SIU and the Hawks are.

I want to refute the claims made in this house that the NWDC is on the verge of bankruptcy with the contempt it deserves.

That statement is not true.

I have instituted a macro reorganisation of government departments and public entities so as to ensure effective service delivery and economic stimulation and growth.

Speaker, we were not dreaming when we categorically stated that access to Primary Health Care Services is a fundamental human right.

In response to our rural communities' plea for access to our health facilities, we will increase the number of 24 hours health facilities from 68 to 77 in the next 12 months, and this number will increase by at least 10 facilities per year for the next five years.

I wish to guarantee that there will be enough staff compliment at the 24 hour clinics as well as essential health equipment; funds have been set aside for this.

We have put in place Planned Patient Transport Services for use to close the gap where there are clinics that do not operate for extended hours of services; should the need to transport patients to other health centres arise

I want to conclude by thanking the majority African National Congress, as a leader of society, for giving direction and providing leadership during the debate two days ago.

I also want to appreciate the constructive input by the Honourable Nel of the Freedom Front Plus.

Honourable Nel, we have heard your concerns and we shall surely be able to deliver on the commitments we have made, rest assured.

I thank you.

ENDS