



## Office of the Premier

North West Provincial Government  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



### **ADDRESS BY NORTH WEST PREMIER, PROF TEBOGO JOB MOKGORO, AT THE SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION NORTH WEST WORKSHOP HELD IN VRYBURG ON TUESDAY, 06 AUGUST 2019**

Programme Director, MEC for Social Development Mme Boitumelo Moilola,

MEC for Finance, Mme Motlalepula Rosho,

MEC for Public Works and Roads, Rre Gaoage Molapisi,

The Executive Mayor of the Naledi Local Municipality, Cllr Neo Schalk

The leadership of the North West Chapter of the South African Women in Construction,

All the Business Partners to the South African Women in Construction

All Delegates to this workshop,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Members of the media,

Bagaetsho Dumelang.

It is an honour and privilege to be afforded this opportunity to speak to the North West Chapter of the South African Women in Construction (SAWIC), four days to the commemoration of the National Women's Day and just over a week to the SAWIC National Conference to be held on

August 17, 2019; to be held under the theme “Alternative Building Technologies, the future for accelerated delivery of housing”.

In addition, I would like to congratulate SAWIC on its 20 years of existence – created and aimed at empowering women in the previously male-dominated construction industry – and would want to take this opportunity to wish you another fruitful and empowering 20 years and beyond.

We were very clear and forthright when we declared, during the first State of the Province Address of the 6<sup>th</sup> Administration at the end of June this year, that this government has taken a conscious decision to support the entrepreneurial efforts of vulnerable groups such as women, the youth and people with disabilities.

Our government has therefore decided that these long-marginalised groups are assisted to actively participate in the mainstream of the economy.

This is a decision we will continue to implement without fear or favour in the course of executing our mandate for the next five years.

In the months leading to this year’s National and Provincial Elections, our people were very clear during our continued interaction with them through door-to-door campaigns and other activities that they need adequate and quality housing as well as accessible roads, especially in the rural areas.

Ladies and gentlemen, Section 26 of the Constitution states that every citizen should have adequate housing and it is against this backdrop that the people of the North West Province should continue to have access

to adequate and habitable human settlements in this current year and beyond.

It is a promise we are bent on keeping as the 6th Administration to ensure that our people have a roof over their heads.

We are going to build 9685 housing units in this current financial year across the province while 7393 sites will be established; we have made an allocation of R1,9 billion to achieve this target and achieve it, we will.

Therefore, our accelerated infrastructure development programmes will ensure that there is an intensified drive to deliver those housing units to the previously disenfranchised communities as well as improve the rural roads infrastructure across the province; in response to the needs of the people of the North West Province.

I am therefore humbled to be addressing this gathering on the back of those decisions that we have earnestly begun to implement; where we are changing the living conditions of the 4,05 million residents of this province while on the other hand, empowering those that belong to organisations such as SAWIC in the construction programmes as well as the broader supply chain management value chain benefits that come with those programmes.

Furthermore, I would like to commit our government's support towards ensuring that SAWIC achieves its strategic objectives to create 20 women industrialists in Construction, Manufacturing and Professional Services, to increase your business capacity through collaborations and to increase the market share for women to 40 percent of the government's annual infrastructure budget spent; among others.

The history of the struggle of women to emancipate themselves and society in general is well documented – from the resistance against the carrying of pass books by the Bahurutshe women in Dinokana and other villages in and around Zeerust to the historic Women’s March to the Union Buildings in Pretoria on 09 August 1956 – and we cannot, in this day and age, be subjecting women to being spectators instead of being active participants in the mainstream of the economy.

Our transformation agenda should clearly speak to the empowerment of women and other vulnerable groups in today’s society and to ensure that your participation in our accelerated infrastructure development programmes is in line with the commitments we have made in various pronouncements and platform as a government and governing party.

It is our belief that nothing about empowering women without the participation of women – women should be to afforded opportunities occupy their rightful space in various sectors of the economy.

As you undertake today’s workshop, I hope and believe that the discussions that will ensue will contribute towards assisting this government to deliver on its infrastructure development programme as mandated by the majority of South Africa’s Universal Adult Suffrage in the recent General Elections.

Programme Director, I wish to thank you for affording me an opportunity to say a word or two to this auspicious gathering and briefly sharing our vision and commitments as government to change the lives of our people for the better.

I thank you.

ENDS