



Province of the
Northern Cape
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SOPA

STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS

24 February 2022





**FINAL STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS BY THE PREMIER OF THE
NORTHERN CAPE, DR ZAMANI SAUL
UPINGTON, ZF MGCAWU DISTRICT
24 FEBRUARY 2022**

**Speaker of the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature, Ms Newrene Klaaste,
Deputy Speaker, Mr Mangaliso Matika,
Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, Ms Sylvia Lucas
Members of the Northern Cape Provincial Executive Council,
Members of the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces,
Members of the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature and Leaders of the
Opposition,
Minister of Human Settlements, Ms Mmamoloko Khubayi
Deputy Minister of Public Works, Ms Noxolo Kiewiet
Deputy Minister of International Relations, Mr Alvin Botes
Members of the Diplomatic Corps joining us virtually
Judge President of the Northern Cape High Court Division, Judge Pule Tlaletsi,
Consul General of Russia, Mr Aleksei Malenko
Senior Policy Officer of Netherlands, Dr Showers Mawowa
Heads of State Security Services,
Chairperson of the South African Local Government Association Northern Cape,
Mayors and Councillors,
Traditional Leaders,
Heads of State Institutions supporting our Constitutional Democracy,
The Director General and Heads of Department & Government Officials,
Provincial Secretary of the ANC and other political parties,
Leaders of the Alliance & MDM Formations**



**Business leaders,
Members of the Media,
Distinguished Guests,
Fellow citizens of the Northern Cape,
Ladies & Gentlemen**

Good morning, and welcome to our People's State of the Province Address, taking place in Upington, our second largest town. This is the first SOPA to take place in this town since the advent of democracy. To accelerate our programme to improve the quality of life of our people, this address is informed by the needs of the Northern Cape people. Taking SOPA to the people is a necessary thing to do, as we embark on the journey of mobilising all sectors of society behind our binding vision to **modernise** our province, **grow our economy** and to ensure that the Northern Cape is **successful**.

Since its articulation in 2019, this vision has taken a positive trajectory in all aspects of life of the people of the Northern Cape. This assertion of a positive trajectory in the implementation of our vision will be elaborated on later.

Madam Speaker, yesterday, as I was making my way to Upington, I stopped at the Redstone Concentrated Solar Power Project in Postmasburg for a site visit and to engage with the people that stand to benefit from this project. The investment and growth opportunities on this project are immense because it falls in the top highest capital investment projects in the Province. This reaffirms that we are solidly on course to modernise and grow the economy of our province.

The Project comprises 100 Megawatts of Concentrated Solar Power (CSP). The plant will be constructed over a period of 31 months, achieving full commercial operation by the end of October 2023.



As at the end of January 2022, the project had employed 636 direct jobs on site. Of these employees, 91% are South Africans. Further to this, 339 are from the Tsantsabane and Kgatelopele municipalities. Pleasing is the fact that more than 45% of employees are young people under the age of 35 and 15% of all employees are women in various job disciplines. The project is expected to peak close to 1800 employees by the end of this year. The Redstone project also boasts employment and procurement opportunities for local people as follows:

- 104 suppliers and subcontractors from Tsantsabane and Kgatelopele municipal areas.
- 26 SMMEs with majority black ownership.

We are confident that with government creating the enabling environment for investment and development, this project will ensure that many people get the opportunity to be employed and skilled.

Madam Speaker, on our arrival yesterday we were confronted by an organised group of Young people representing the Progressive Youth Alliance led by the Provincial leadership of the ANC Youth League. They handed over to us a memorandum of grievances on the plight of young people in the province. Key amongst these demands are high levels of youth unemployment in the province and generally the lack of economic opportunities for young people. We are taking all these grievances to heart, and commit to the young people of the Northern Cape that there will be no resting time for us until all these challenges are addressed.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as stated in last year's SOPA, the delivery of social infrastructure which includes building and renovations of Schools, Libraries, and Hospitals amongst others, remains a priority of the Sixth administration. The people of Upington have spoken and specifically the community of Rainbow regarding the increased risk at Carlton van Heerden High School as a result of the asbestos structures.



To this end, the design for the replacement school was completed and the project was allocated to the Department of Roads and Public Works late last year for procurement. I am pleased to announce that this morning I was in Rainbow location to turn the sod for the construction of a new school estimated at R 190 million.

The school will be a level 8 Secondary School (meaning 8 classrooms per grade) and comprises a large administration block, 40 ordinary classrooms, 3 large ablution blocks, 2 computer classrooms, 1 library, 3 science laboratories, a woodwork classroom, 2 multi-purpose classrooms, a school hall, a nutrition kitchen with roofed dining space as well as sports facilities. Additionally, this school will be fully accessible to learners with disabilities. Many work opportunities will be created during the construction phase of this school.

Dames en Here, soos ek alreeds gesê het, u het gepraat en ons as Regering het geluister en dit goed geag om 'n pragtige skool op te rig om sodoende die veiligheid van ons leerders te verseker en ook sodat ons kinders kwaliteit onderwys kan ontvang in 'n plek met gunstige omstandighede. Ons spreek die hoop uit dat hierdie skool, wanneer dit voltooi is, sal dien as 'n toonbeeld van vooruitgang. Laat ons dit soos goud oppas, bewaar en gebruik ten goede van ons gemeenskap.

Madam Speaker, a thorough-going process of engaging with the people to contribute and participate to the development of this SOPA was undertaken. The response was overwhelming. Many issues were raised and we will indeed account on the progress we are making. Allow me **Honourable Members** to cite a few of some of the issues raised by communities:

- **Charmaine Patterson**, from Kimberley, wants to know about “Writing off of the ‘Premiers Bursary Trust Fund Debt’ Learners are still being called to pay the Trust Fund. Whilst the Premier announced that this debt will be written off by April 2021”.



- **Wayne Neels** from Phutanang, Kimberley, wants progress on “In-sourcing of Security Guards”.
- **Patricia Dhilwayo** from Kakamas, asks “What is Government doing with regards to Primary School dropouts?”
- **Siyanda Tollie** from Calvinia, wants to know what government is doing in “Revitalization of small towns”

Madam Speaker, today we present to this august house and residents of the Northern Cape, this mid-term account on our progress in modernising our province, growing its economy and making it successful. We are immensely delighted for such an opportunity because we are an accountable government.

Madam Speaker and Honourable Members, we meet here today fourteen days after the most bold and visionary State of the Nation Address by our President of the Republic, His Excellency Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa. Indeed we are impressed by the visionary leadership he continues to provide during the most difficult times since 1994. We are ravaged by the global pandemic, COVID-19, which has plunged our country into major socio-economic challenges.

It has worsened the country’s unemployment situation, thus driving more and more of our people into poverty. The Honourable President succinctly summed up what is expected of us, henceforth, he said: **“In trying times, we have shown courage and resilience time and time again, we have pulled ourselves back from the brink of despair and inspired hope, renewal, and progress. Now, we must do so again”**.

The ravaging impact of the pandemic shows that our province was not spared. The adverse effects of the ongoing COVID19 pandemic has seen many people unexpectedly demise, with many businesses closing, the provincial economy declining, and people losing their jobs.



Honourable Speaker, The Northern Cape Province's cumulative COVID-19 deaths currently stand at 2 705, which translate into a case fatality rate of 2.5%, which is slightly lower compared to the national average, which stands at 2,7%. These better results attest to our progress to make our province successful by improving the quality of our public health in the province.

Thus far, just above 11 000 people were hospitalized due to Covid-19 since the start of the pandemic. In the current 7-day period, the number of admitted patients has decreased substantially to below 50.

Madam Speaker, our President has reminded us that we are indeed a resilient nation. Covid-19 still remains a danger. Our efforts thus far would have been in vain if it were not for the gallant fight waged by our frontline workers, who put up a brave battle, under difficult circumstances, for almost two years at the frontline against COVID-19. As a Province we take pride in in these heroes and heroines for the role they have played and continue to play in ensuring that we are relatively in control of the virus. Your efforts do not go unnoticed.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to extend our deepest condolences to the families of all public servants who have lost their lives in the fight against Covid-19. Similarly, our sincerest condolences also to the families of all our people in the Province who have lost loved ones to this pandemic.

Madam Speaker, as far as the economy and related factors are concerned, the debilitating impact of the pandemic has been as follows:

- Formal sector lost about 28 000 jobs in Q3:2021 compared to Q3:2020; the same trend was observed in South Africa. All sectors declined at the start of the pandemic in 2020;



- About 70% of the industries experienced a decline at the start of the pandemic in 2020. Increases were observed in most industries except construction and transport that shed about 9 000 and 1 000 jobs respectively between Q2:2021 and Q3:2021,
- Northern Cape's official unemployment rate decreased by 3,2 percent to 24,9% in Q3:2021 compared to Q2:2021,
- Expanded unemployment in the Northern Cape decreased by 1,2 percentage points to 49,1% in Q3:2021 compared to Q2:2021,
- Unemployment in South Africa has been increasing whilst NC official unemployment rate has experienced a general decline, making it the lowest in the country,
- Official Youth Unemployment is standing just above 37%. This is a serious indictment on all of us. We must use job opportunities in the Provincial Government to affirm young people. As at August 2021, the Provincial Government has 24 026 employees of which 6000 are within the 18 – 35 age bracket. Of the 24 026 Provincial Government employees 15 700 are women, which is 65.3% (53.22%.

Ladies and Gentlemen, though the picture looks bleak, we dare not despair! We remain resilient and resolute to our vision and we are in a better position now!

The Administration has developed coherent strategic planning and governance strategies for implementation in the province. The strategies primarily focus on the following:

- Integrated Service Delivery and Governance Model
- Provincial Growth and Development Plan (PGDP) – Vision 2040 and
- The Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF)

These strategies guide the work of government in attaining the vision set out by this 6th Administration.

Madam Speaker, in an effort to facilitate internal cohesion in the work of the different spheres of government, we established a strong and well functional Intergovernmental



Relations system. This year we will work towards the complete implementation of the District Development Model to facilitate coherence and efficiency in government.

Madam Speaker, during the occasion of my inauguration in 2019 at the Lerato Park in Kimberley, I articulated the following characteristics of the kind of province we want to build:

- A province which cares for the vulnerable and makes life worth living for them and this entails increased number of households with access to the electricity grid, water and adequate sanitation;
- A province that is at the 'Cutting-edge' of the Fourth Industrial Revolution which prioritizes quality education, training and retraining of the Youth;
- A province that strives to improve the health profile of its residents;
- A province whose youth have reasonable access to opportunities and prospects in life, and are allowed to dream;
- A province where all people, especially women and children, can freely enjoy their streets and environment without being molested, raped or abused;
- A province in which people who are differently-abled or disabled are embraced and equitably given opportunities;
- A province with a strong government that effectively fights corruption and downright laziness;
- A province that builds partnerships between the different sectors of society for shared growth and development; and lastly,
- A province in which the political leadership are hard-working, pay attention to detail, incorruptible and give hope to the hopeless in a very practical and tangible way.

Speaker, I will come back on these issues to demonstrate the extent to which we have managed to work on them.

Madam Speaker and Honourable members, we made a commitment to build a capable developmental state for effective service delivery.



The developmental, capable and professional public service is crucial to the attainment of our developmental goals. All of our set apex programmes are a mirage unless we build a capable and effective state. We must ensure that the government that we lead implements a range of measures, such as instituting more rigorous criteria for the appointment of senior public service managers, mechanisms to deal effectively with corruption and to ensure that citizens are served with diligence and utmost respect.

The issue of stability in government at all levels is critical. We are comprehensively engaged to review the current Organisational Structures albeit under stringent financial conditions; in order to align our departmental structures to the Constitutional mandate, Budget, Strategic Plans and Service Delivery Models.

Madam Speaker, as part of our vision to make the province successful, we set ourselves the goal of achieving Clean Audits across all provincial departments.

For the audit cycle of 2020/21, the province reported three Clean Audits namely the Office of the Premier, the Department of Social Development and Provincial Treasury; we attained 6 Unqualified Audits with findings and 3 Qualifications. There was an improvement as the Department of Economic Development improved from a Qualified Audit opinion to a financially Unqualified with findings. For the 2021/22 audit cycle, we intend to build on this progress.

Madam Speaker and Honourable Members, at the local government level, we are pleased with the improvement shown by the Namakwa District Municipality by achieving a Clean Audit and in so doing joining ZF Mgcawu, Francis Baard and J.T.Gaetsewe. We are targeting 10 municipalities for clean audits; which include Pixley Ka Seme DM, and the other 5 key local municipalities. We are strengthening Operation Clean Audit to assist in the achievement of Clean Audits for the targeted 10 municipalities.



Madam Speaker, in our previous address we announced the Provincial Macro-Organisation of Government (PMOG) process. We are happy to report to this august house that substantive progress has been made. To date, the following key aspects are being attended to:

1. Establishment of the new department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform;
2. The establishment of the Youth Directorate under the auspices of the Office of the Premier;
3. Re-modelling of the Department of Roads & Public Works to become the Department of Roads and Infrastructure- with the sole mandate of implementing Infrastructure projects;
4. Transfer of Early Childhood Development function from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Education as of April 2022;
5. The establishment of the State Construction Company;
6. The rationalisation of the State entities, and;
7. The centralisation of the bursaries by dissolving the Premier's Bursary Trust Fund.
8. Support for Military Veterans in the Province will in future be attended to by the Office of the Premier. Consultation processes are underway with the Ministry for Public Service and Administration (MPSA).

Furthermore, government has collaborated with the Special Investigating Unit (SIU), HAWKS, CoGTA, CoGHSTA and SALGA to launch the Local Government Anti-Corruption Forum, with the aim of dealing with all corruption cases in municipalities. Government is working with all law enforcement agencies and chapter 9 institutions to root out corruption in all government institutions.

In our quest to modernise the province and place ourselves at a trajectory that is at the cutting-edge of the 4th Industrial Revolution, we have converted five (5) classrooms, one in each district into Cyber Labs and fitted them with state of the art 4IR equipment including Coding and Robotics and virtual reality resources.



Honorable Speaker, the government conceptualised a digital Thusong Service Centre model App. This concept is not only about digitising services for our people but also digitising the entire Thusong Service Centre. In other words, in the future our people will be able to video-chat via cell phone with Social Workers and other service professionals as they would normally do at the centre. This project is in its infant stage and thus far we have managed to lobby the Centre for Public Service Innovation (CPSI) to be the knowledge and innovation partner. The Department of Communication and Digital Technologies will give support using their expertise in this journey of modernisation.

Ladies and Gentlemen, digital transformation in healthcare to streamline the work of health care professionals and to optimise systems will improve patient outcomes and reduce human error. This is part and parcel of modernising our province using digital innovation.

The department of Health has already approved the business case for an Emergency Medical Services dispatching system. The project scoping is underway with implementation starting in the next few months.

Madam Speaker and Honourable Members, we have expanded connectivity to 123 of 159 Primary Health Care Facilities within the province. Connectivity via V-satellite links has enabled the Department of Health to provide the necessary connectivity to these facilities.

Madam Speaker and Honourable Members the province is moving towards the establishment of a stock warehouse that will allow the department to eliminate attrition, leasing warehouse spaces and exploit the potential for economies of scale and improve asset management. The construction of the warehouse at the site of the Northern Cape mental health hospital will start in due cause once plans are finalised and approved.



The Department of Health is undertaking a process of strengthening District Health Services in the Northern Cape by progressively capacitating the Community Health Care (CHC) at Galeshewe Day Hospital into a fully-fledged District Hospital. Recently, government unveiled the upgrades at casualty at the facility which will enable for steady progress towards providing twenty-four-hour access and create a revamped state of the art District Hospital.

As part of modernising our public health, a biometric patient management system has also been installed and will be rolled out to all health facilities. The system will shorten waiting times; improve patient management across the entire health system by linking all facilities vertically and horizontally. This modernization of the health system will ensure patient-centred health care.

Madam Speaker, Honourable members, Ladies and Gentlemen; Broadband has the potential to enhance the provision of government services including e-health, e-education, e-government for our province. In addition, digitisation of government services could be used to improve the quality of service delivery in a cost effective manner. This will render access by poor people in remote areas of the Northern Cape more easily.

The development of the Provincial Broadband Strategy started in June 2020 and a Project Steering Committee has been established. Engagements with government, several SOE's and all the Telco Operators were held to establish the baseline and determine their needs. I am happy to say that the strategy will be finalised and approved within this financial year. Last year we had significant investment in broadband infrastructure deployment by Vodacom and MTN.

Madam Speaker, As part of social compacting, government is working with various private sector role players to modernise our services. Through this initiative Vodacom has spent over R 135 million to maintain and upgrade network infrastructure across the province in 2021.



Twenty two (22) New sites were deployed and some in very rural areas of our province, which did not have network connectivity at all. These sites had their first 3G and 4G base stations sites deployed, ushering in digital inclusion for the people living in these areas.

Furthermore Ladies and Gentlemen, similarly last year MTN invested R188 million on implementing new signal sites in Kimberley, Upington, Danielskuil, Windsorton and De Aar. In addition to this, R220 million was invested on modernising 59 signal sites with 3G and 4G technologies across our province which in the past had limited capabilities. In the spirit of bridging the digital divide, MTN is planning to deploy 12 other new sites during this year.

What this means, **Honorable Speaker**, is that responding to our call to modernise the province, both Vodacom and MTN have invested about R543 Million to improve access to high speed network in the province with the focus on rural areas. This is a significant contribution to our work to modernise the province.

Madam Speaker, during phase one of the South Africa (SA) Connect project in Pixley Ka Seme District, seventeen government sites were upgraded, fifty-four new sites were installed and sixteen Wi-Fi sites commissioned at schools and clinics by a network connectivity company called Afrovation. While we await the start of phase two of the SA Connect project, six Wi-Fi sites in Kimberley and one in Ritchie were implemented with ten additional sites planned for implementation this year by Afrovation.

Moreover, in collaboration with South 32 mine and the Department of Mineral Resources and Split Second Science Education Foundation, we established a Robotics Academy Project in the JTG District.

Madam Speaker, we announced two years ago, that as part of modernising our province, we shall create an online application system for parents that are applying for



their children. We can report that the system is fully functional and many parents are starting to familiarise themselves with it.

Furthermore, as part of modernising our schools 13 000 learning tablets with learning content, which will be operated without data are being distributed to all learners in Grades 10 - 12s. This investment in education will assist to eradicate the learning backlogs occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Madam Speaker, the roll-out of free public internet at libraries was greatly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic but we are confident that the roll-out will reach the anticipated 225 sites by the end of this financial year.

Furthermore, we will commence with procuring e-books during the 2022/23 financial year to fully digitise our libraries in the context of modernising our government services.

Madam Speaker, according to IHS Global Insight, the greatest contributing district to the province's economy is the Frances Baard District with a share of 32.35% or R 32.6 billion in 2020, increasing from R 21.5 billion in 2010. The district economy with the lowest contribution is the Namakwa District Municipality with R 10.6 billion in 2020 growing from R 7.15 billion in 2010.

When comparing the average annual economic growth of the five districts, the John Taolo Gaetsewe district had the highest average annual economic growth, averaging 2.31% between 2010 and 2020. The ZF Mgcawu District Municipality had the second highest average annual growth rate of 1.67%, with the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality having the lowest average annual growth rate of -0.86% between 2010 and 2020.

The provincial unemployment rate has declined over the same period of analysis, declining by 3.2 percent, when compared to the second quarter of 2021, estimated 28.1%. The provincial unemployment rate for the third quarter is estimated at 24.9%



(StatsSA). Importantly, the unemployment numbers declined by almost ten thousand (i.e. around 9 195), to around 91 000.

Madam Speaker, the province should be cautiously optimistic about the low official unemployment rate, as the expanded unemployment rate still hovers around the fifty percent mark in the third quarter of 2021. It should, however, be noted that the expanded unemployment rate also declined by around 1.2 percentage to the second quarter.

To ensure a greater share of procurement opportunities for localisation, Government has established ongoing engagements with Sol Plaatje University and Orion Mine to open opportunities for local businesses to benefit from their tender processes.

The Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDAT) in the Northern Cape and the National Empowerment Fund (NEF) have launched a multi-million-rand enterprise development programme. As part of the initiative, DEDAT and the NEF have jointly set aside R75 million to establish the Northern Cape Blended SMME Fund that will provide concessionary funding to local entrepreneurs across all sectors of the provincial economy.

Government is charged with the responsibility to mitigate the economic impact of the pandemic. We give support to tourism enterprises to enable them to adapt to the new normal of doing business. This is guided by the provincial tourism recovery plan.

Provincially, 124 tourism enterprises received funding from the Tourism Relief Fund to the value of R6.2 million and 105 tourist guides were supported financially through Freelance Tourist Guide Relief Fund to the value of R475 000.

In consultation with sector departments and delivery partners, the Province developed the provincial Economic Reconstruction and Recovery plan. The plan entails:



- Massive Infrastructure rollout
- Accelerated expansion of electricity generation
- Employment stimulus to create employment, sustain livelihoods and social reproduction
- Drive for industrial growth, putting manufacturing, localisation and beneficiation at the core of the programme

Some of the key interventions of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan were largely focused at addressing the challenge of Youth Unemployment:

- Through the Presidential Youth Employment initiative, a total of 7 690 education assistants were appointed in the first phase which came to an end in March 2021, costing R148,277,000 and a further 6793 were appointed in phase 2 which will be coming to an end in March 2022, costing R141 811 000. These assistants played an important role in helping out at the schools to ensure that COVID 19 regulations are adhered to. Additionally, 3172 assistants were appointed on nine months' contract which came to an end in December, costing R11,100,000 per month.
- 753 Early childhood development practitioners appointed, 696 in Public Schools and 57 in Community Based Sites, costing R6 705 000.
- 204 New Community Health Workers (COVID Brigades) were recruited by the Department of Health, costing R35 243 000.00
- Various Apprentices were offered by Department of Roads and Public Works to 232 students across 5 districts in the province, costing R5.6 million
- UIF Skills Programme concluded with 1434 graduates in the following fields Civil Construction: 300, Plant Production: 276, Assistant-Chef: 270, Animal Production: 291 and Arc-Welding: 297, costing R29.4 million.
- Through the Equitable Share (R21,2 million) and the Expanded Public Works Programme Conditional Grant (R5,217 million), a total of R 26,4 million was allocated to provide work opportunities to more than 2 000 unemployed people, by the Department of Social Development.



- Through the Early Childhood Development Stimulus Package, 666 people in the ECD fraternity continue to benefit from income support.
- Digitising the humanities display and Wonderwerk caves has been completed.
- First cohort of 16 coders graduated mLab in 2021 with two products going into incubation.

Furthermore, the province will prioritise interventions that are aimed at creating more jobs for the young people of the Northern Cape especially through:

- Industrialisation, which includes the implementation of Catalytic projects
- Skills development, which will be done in partnership with Institutes of higher learning (FET College, Universities) and SITA's to provide training and skills to unemployed youth, and
- Enterprise development focusing on township economy

Madam Speaker, in order to resolve the lingering problem of fragmentation and silo mentality on provincial infrastructure, the government committed to establish the Northern Cape State Owned Construction Company. As said during our 2019 SOPA, this company will work in tandem with a remodelled Department of Roads and Public Works. This company will, amongst others, focus on the following:

- Build RDP houses for human settlements, roads and other infrastructure;
- Train and upskill people, with a special focus to young unemployed ones;
- Absorption of trained young people,
- Serve as a training institution for mass production of artisans;
- Implement 30% of the provincial government's infrastructure projects; and
- Serve as an incubator for small businesses in the Northern Cape Province.

The objective of the re-modelling includes the centralisation of all the Provincial Infrastructure for obvious synergistic benefits. A core element of the remodelling will be to ensure that DRPW as a department has adequate in-house technical/engineering



capacity and expertise around the areas of infrastructure planning, design and implementation.

Honourable Members, COEGA, which is a state-owned public entity, was appointed in March 2020, after a competitive supply chain management bidding process, to conduct the feasibility studies on the state construction company and mining company. COEGA is well known in the country and Africa in conducting feasibility studies of this nature, and it has conducted extensive feasibility works in the country's Special Economic Zones (SEZ's).

The Executive Council approved a plan to implement the findings of the study. We are in the process of registering the Northern Cape State Owned Construction Company. We hope to launch the company before the end of June this year and the MEC of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism will elaborate on this and indicate the funding for the company for the 2022/23 Financial Year.

Madam Speaker, South Africa and the Northern Cape require local and foreign investment to grow the economy. The unique resource portfolio of the Northern Cape must be utilized to beneficiate our raw material. What industry consumes must be manufactured locally.

Thus, we need to provide industrial centres of excellence with world class infrastructure. As the Northern Cape, we are in the process of initiating a Western SADC Export and Manufacturing Corridor to connect Namibia, Botswana and several South African provinces.

The Western SADC Export and Manufacturing Corridor will consist of the following:

- Kathu Industrial Park at the centre of the Gamagara Mining Corridor.
- Upington Industrial Park as a services centre for road, rail and air transport, agriculture, agro-processing and manufacturing,



- Namakwa SEZ in Aggeneys is an industrial cluster for mining and agriculture services, beneficiation and manufacturing.

The Northern Cape Green Hydrogen strategy has been announced last year at COP 26 and SASOL's commitment at the Sustainable Infrastructure Development Symposium. We will now host and advance these investments in our province and will convene the Northern Cape Green Hydrogen Symposium this year.

All of these projects are at an advanced stage. We are especially excited for the prospects of the SASOL hydrogen pre-feasibility study outcome, the Boegoebaai Harbour nearing final planning stages, Namakwa SEZ designation, Upington Industrial Park construction and Kathu Industrial Park business plan. Each of these investments are game changers for the Northern Cape, South Africa and SADC.

To underpin these investments, provincial wide infrastructure and investment is required and thus we are working in partnership with the Presidency to realise these infrastructure investment opportunities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, during the State of the Province Address in 2020, I announced that 4 projects in Northern Cape were gazetted as Strategic Integrated Projects by the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure for priority implementation. The following progress can be reported on these projects:

- The Boegoebaai Port and Rail Development has now been expanded to include the adjacent Hydrogen SEZ as a key priority programme coordinated through NCEDA and Infrastructure South Africa.
- The Northern Cape Province in collaboration with Infrastructure South Africa developed the Provincial Hydrogen Strategy which was approved in 2021 and launched at COP 26.



- Recognising the importance of Hydrogen for the country and the province Infrastructure South Africa (ISA) has mobilised technical expertise and capacity to further support the Province to deliver on this priority programme.
- Thirty-Two Million rand has been approved for project preparation through the Budget Facility for Infrastructure for the Vaalharts-Taung irrigation scheme to finalise the Master Plan and feasibility process.
- In March of 2021, the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, announced the preferred bidders of which 450 MW is to be developed within the Northern Cape.
- The Budget Facility for Infrastructure (BFI) Funding has been approved for the Social Housing Programme. The project is expected to deliver 372 social housing units in Hull Street, Kimberley and will commence with construction this year
- The Kathu Industrial Park is a key priority for the province and was recently presented at the Sustainable Development: Infrastructure Development Symposium hosted by the President and coordinated by Infrastructure South Africa. By unlocking the bulk infrastructure for this development, we will mobilize approximately R 580 million in private sector investment and create 450 permanent job opportunities.

Madam Speaker and Honourable Members two special programmes have been prioritised for the Northern Cape Province. These are the Rural Roads Programme and the Northern Cape Schools Programme. ISA, in collaboration with Development Finance Institutions, is piloting the introduction of an innovative social infrastructure delivery mechanism through a special purpose vehicle, to address the issues affecting the delivery of school infrastructure in the Northern Cape.

The rural roads programme will make use of labour intensive methods for the construction and upgrading of roads in the province. ISA is in the process of identifying roads for inclusion in the programme, which have designs completed and ready for construction.



Madam Speaker, the next hundred years of mining in the country are in the Northern Cape. The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy in collaboration with the Province will be hosting the Northern Cape Mineral and Mining Conference in March this year. The conference will amongst others deliberate on a number of critical matters relating to mining such as:

- The current resource endowments in the Province,
- Social Labour Plans (SLP) spending,
- enterprise support and localisation of procurement,
- The current and future investment environment for junior and emerging miners, and
- Development funding and infrastructure to enable mining.

Madam Speaker, in addition to the devastating effect of COVID19 on our economy; as a province we have also experienced raging veld fires which left large areas without feed for their animals. These included five separate large veld fire incidents in August, September and October 2021. These directly affected approximately 359 000 hectares (ha) in John Taolo Gaetsewe, Frances Baard and Pixley Ka Seme Districts. The department assisted the affected farmers with fodder and other interventions. Working together with our rural communities, we will enhance our fire-fighting mechanisms.

Madam Speaker, Social Grants are government's biggest poverty alleviation and redistribution intervention with the number of social grant beneficiaries in the Province increasing from 289 216 in 2019 to 506 385 beneficiaries at the end of August 2021. The social grants budget for 2021/22 financial year for the Province is more than R 5 .6 Billion. These are cash transfers from the government to the social grant beneficiaries in the province, every month without fail.

Government continues to work together with all stakeholders to provide food-insecure households around the province with some nutrition. This is achieved through Food Security Interventions and Integrated Food Security Nutrition Programme (IFSNP). Food-Insecure households received support during this financial year, and this support



includes garden and poultry starter packs to encourage families to produce their own food.

Madam Speaker and Honourable members, owing to the government interventions and mitigation against the devastation brought about by the pandemic, in partnership with different stakeholders, over 100 000 food parcels and vouchers were procured, benefiting over 70 000 households, at a cost of R80 million to address the challenge of food insecurity for deserving and destitute households.

In strengthening our food security interventions, the government will, henceforth, establish 83 food provision initiatives across the province in the next three years to increase its footprint from 167 to 231 food provision programmes.

Ladies and gentlemen, as part of the key drivers for inclusive growth, we will enhance infrastructure investment to stimulate the construction sector, and this will include job creation. We need to leverage private sector funding for Training and Skills development. Government will invest in technical training and strong recruitment as well as retention strategies of professionals in the built environment.

Furthermore, the Universities, TVET Colleges, Universities of Technology, as well as The Premier's Bursary Scheme will help to sustain and retain needed skills in the Province.

Madam Speaker, when the sixth administration took up office, it indicated key priorities that will assist towards the enhancement of provincial developmental path in order to achieve a Modern, Growing and Successful Province. This required the state to enhance its capacity with the objective of creating decent and sustainable jobs. In order to achieve this, support functions such as security, cleaning, gardening and catering that are currently outsourced by government were highlighted as some of the functions the province should consider for insourcing.



This required the provincial government to adopt a phased-in approach which is accompanied by the cost benefit analysis to ascertain the feasibility of insourcing these services. Security services were selected as a focal point since it's the second highest spending item in the province after construction.

To date I am pleased to announce that phased-in insourcing of security services will commence in April 2022. This will commence with small Departments and be phased-in in the MTEF period. This is all due to the fact that the province does not have adequate resources to insource the more than 2000 security guards at once. Security personnel that will be on the pay roll of the Provincial Government will be housed and managed from the Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison.

Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen, the construction of a successful province requires us to have ability to attract investors into our province. We can only do so if we focus our energies on cleaning our towns and make them attractive as hubs of positive activism. It is in this context that the Provincial Government has committed financial and human capital to intervene in the Sol Plaatje municipality to address the service delivery backlogs and challenges.

This intervention has, as its primary focus, the improvement of quality of services and to put in place a turnaround strategy to speed up and improve service delivery. The provincial government availed half a billion rand for urgent infrastructure revitalisation. Kimberley is the face of the Province and we must make significant investments to strengthen the city's capacity to deliver services and generate growth for the entire province.

Madam Speaker, Honourable members, it is important to note that as part of the R500 million investment in Sol Plaatje Municipality, the Eskom building in Kimberley has been purchased and a feasibility study is currently underway. The building will be converted into either student accommodation or social housing units. In addition to this,



land has been bought on the N12 near Kimberley where township establishment will take place once provision for bulk capacity has been made.

Madam Speaker, I am happy to announce that significant progress has been registered. To date, 755 leaking and burst water pipes have been fixed; 80 major sewer blockages have been unblocked, pothole repairs in 187 streets have been completed, 1242 street light repairs have been completed, illegal dumps have been cleared in 10 areas. With all of this, there is still lots of work to be done to turn our only city around. Like many other cities in the country, Sol Plaatje Municipality is confronted by major service infrastructure challenges and as the Provincial Government we are ready to collaboratively work with the municipality to address all of these.

Madam Speaker, the province continues to affirm that the people of the Northern Cape are its most valuable asset. There is an urgent need to develop the skills of our people to enable their absorption in the labour market. Therefore, the development of human capital is a critical part of our struggle to reduce poverty, unemployment and inequality.

In the last SOPA I announced that HRD Strategy for the Province was approved in August 2020. To give effect to its implementation my office unpacked the strategy's implementation plan to identify all key role players. Indicators were communicated and targets set out for implementation through the Provincial Skills Development Forum.

As we are all aware this era has been declared a decade of Artisans by the Department of Higher Education and Training. This campaign is led by the Deputy Minister Bhuti Manamela. The objective of this campaign is to promote artisanship as a career of choice for South Africa's youth within the post-school education and training system as well as highlight skills development opportunities for artisans. For this reporting period 131 new beneficiaries were enrolled in various artisan trades. A further 79 completed their programmes and 63 fully qualified as artisans.



A total 4537 TVET Students benefited from the NSFAS bursaries in 2021 and a further 193 students were offered financial assistance by the SETAs as well as the Premier's Bursary Trust Fund.

Madam Speaker, the collaboration between the provincial administration and the SETAs remain critical in ensuring that we accelerate skills development initiatives for both the employed and unemployed. It is through this collaboration that we are able to augment our resources to ensure that we improve the skills level of our people with the objective of improving their chances of employability and exiting the poverty trap.

Furthermore, we have created employment opportunities for many unemployed Youth by appointing 75 Agricultural graduates and placing them in various commercial enterprises across the province for two years. This initiative was made possible through the Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme (CASP), Grant Funding which covers payment of stipends, training and protective clothing for the graduates.

Through other collaborative efforts with other SETAs a total of 1722 unemployed youth benefited from skills development programme such as Internships, Learnerships, Work Integrated Learning and skills programmes. The government has also partnered with the ETDP SETA to implement a skills program for 50 unemployed youth in a New Venture Creation Skills Program and the Free State University has been nominated as the service provider for this project.

Madam Speaker, allow me to cite some of the personal testimonies of beneficiaries of the Government training and development programme. Due to their tight academic programmes we could not invite them to form part of this august occasion.

Willie de Bruyn a recipient of the NCPG funding and a student from Frances Baard, completed his studies successfully in 2021 Bachelor Veterinary Science at the University of Pretoria.



In thanking the Provincial Government for funding received he had the following to say: “This bursary helped me a lot, it took financial strain off my shoulders because I didn’t have to take out loans. It also assists me a lot in getting study material which contributed to my excellent performance”.

Zelmay October a recipient of the NCPG funding from ZF Mgcau district, third (3rd) year medical student at the University of the Free State had the following to say: “This bursary really helped me and my parents as it took a lot of financial strain off our shoulders. This bursary helped me to focus on my academic work. I would like to encourage young people to work hard in order to succeed.”

Buhle Vumazonke a recipient of the NCPG funding from Pixley ka Seme district, third year (3rd) Bachelor Commerce Financial Accounting at University of the Western Cape had the following to say: “The bursary really helped me a lot with my tuition fees which is important because I wouldn’t have been able to pay for my studies. I wish to encourage the youth to apply to as many bursaries as they can, to help them further their studies and persue your dreams”

Nellboy Sesinye from Suurdig Village in John Taole Gaetsewe a second (2nd) year student registered for National Diploma in Agriculture at Taung Agricultural College had the following to say: “The bursary helps me a lot financially, and it was such a relief when I had to regsiter knowing that the bursary is covering all related expenses”.

My advise to the youth is to never let your current situation determine your future, stand up, seek for assistance from government.”

Thatoeng Bohelo is a 24-year-old young man from Lerato Park, Frances Baard district. He was one of those selected to participate in the special vocational training Lerato Park Project initiated by the Premier during his inaugural speech. He participated in a 4-month programme in Construction Engineering, Level 2 and successfully completed it. This programme gave him the required entry level to qualify for a National



Certificate in Electrical Engineering which he is doing at South West Gauteng TVET college. He will be completing his studies in the 2nd trimester of 2022.

Madam Speaker and Honourable members, we continue to implement measures to support SMME's in the Northern Cape. I have implored all departments to pay suppliers within the stipulated time of 30 days. It is encouraging that the provincial average for 30 day payment is at 9 days. The only defaulting departments currently are Health and Education. We are working around the clock to turnaround the situation at these departments. Paying service providers within 30 days from the day of receipt of invoice will be one measurable output for the Annual Performance Indicators of departments.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we dare not fail as this is part of our endeavour to stimulate the demand side of our provincial economy. Furthermore, government will continue with the Contractor Development programme which improves Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) grading in the Northern Cape as part of developing small contractors to compete in the bigger market to grow the economy of the province.

Ladies and Gentlemen, good public procurement is key to delivering sustainable value for money. Public procurement is a powerful driver of development and economic growth. As of the end of December 2021, the Northern Cape Provincial Government (NCPG) has spent R2.64 billion on goods and services and construction works related items at provincial level. A total number of 3096 suppliers received purchase orders from Northern Cape provincial departments. From the aggregated total of R2.64 billion, an amount of R1.25 billion or 47 % was spent on Northern Cape based businesses, which represents an increase from 34% in 2019. A total number of 2255 suppliers based in the province benefitted from provincial public procurement spent.

Madam Speaker, the government will meticulously work to increase local spent on designated groups such as Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities through the implementation of Gender-Responsive Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation



and Auditing (GRPBMEA) framework. This framework makes it compulsory for all departments to ensure that the designated groups are taken into consideration.

Agbare Lede, dit sou beteken dat ons nou streng ag sal slaan hoe die regerings aankope ons mense veral die jeug, vroue en gestremdes ekonomies sal bemagtig en sodoende hulle lewens standaard sal verbeter.

Honourable members, more attention will be given to the re-industrialization of the province by supporting and promoting secondary industries. Through the District Development Model, different spheres of government working together will seek to stimulate economic activity in key sectors and nodes within the different districts. Work is already ongoing on all our catalytic projects, already driven by the Northern Cape Economic Development Agency (NCEDA) to revitalize local industries.

Honourable Speaker our primary focus is not by default on Health and Education to build a resilient and healthy society. We continue to give unhindered focus to these two fronts and the associated government departments.

Honourable Speaker, for the Class of 2021 we saw a 5.4% improvement in the Grade 12 results. With this performance we became the most improved province in the country. This did not happen by chance or sheer luck but through hard work and determination.

Last year we appointed 32 school principals, 39 Deputy Principals and 99 Department Heads. In total 170 promotional posts have been filled. The Department also appointed 2029 Temporary Teachers in vacant substantive posts; of these 326 were made permanent in line with the Education Labour Relations Council Resolutions. We thank all our educators for their hard work under very difficult and challenging circumstances.

With regards to the transfer of the Early Childhood Development function from Social Development to the Department of Education, a final proclamation will be signed and



the function shift should be completed by April 2022. This endeavour will, amongst others, have the effect of elevating ECD as we seek to focus holistically on the education system starting at the early development phase.

Madam Speaker, our vaccination programme is proceeding well and at the reporting date of 19 February 2022, the Northern Cape had vaccinated 45% of the eligible population. A total of 377, 434 persons are fully vaccinated. In respect of the adult population 412 715 persons are vaccinated and this constitutes 49%. The vaccination per capita meaning per 100 000 population shows that the Province is standing at position 5, where 43, 884 people have been vaccinated per 100 000 persons.

Though challenges of vaccine hesitancy are encountered, the measures put in place by government, will ameliorate and turn the situation around. We must counter the narratives that underlie the vaccine hesitancy in our communities. We have all borne witness to the ravaging impact of Covid-19 in various facets of our lives. I therefore call on our communities and give the assurance that vaccines are safe. It is the only scientific solution to the current challenge confronting us.

Madam Speaker, the Crime Prevention Strategy 2030 has continued to set the direction for reducing crime and anti-social behaviour that goes against the values espoused in the Constitution. If we want to succeed in building safer communities, we need to establish partnerships with civil society, the private sector and the religious fraternity as the criminal justice system cannot do it alone.

Ladies and Gentlemen, to date, 4 921 persons have been reached through social crime prevention programmes, 75 persons in conflict with the law completed diversion programmes.

Madam Speaker and Honourable members, Gender Based Violence remains an issue to be fought vociferously, without fail. The State President, HE Matamela Ramaphosa, declared it as the “2nd Pandemic” after Covid-19. Consequently, the



pandemic has necessitated the development of the National Strategic Plan to end Gender-Based Violence & Femicide. The strategy provides for a cohesive strategic framework to guide the national response to the GBVF pandemic in South Africa. Critical to this cohesive approach, is the overarching vision to build a South Africa free from gender-based violence directed at women, children and LGBTQIA+ persons.

The Executive Council has approved the provincial road-map on eradication of GBVF in line with the objectives of the National Strategic Plan. An Inter-Ministerial Team is in place to track and report on incidents of GBVF in the province. The localisation of the GBVF road-map will be attained through the District Development Model.

The data show declining trends in GBVF related criminal offences:

- Sexual Offences 437 and 366 , a significant decline of 16%
- Rape cases 295 and 265, a decline of 10%
- Sexual assault 71 and 58, a decline 18%
- Attempted sexual assault 57 and 30, a decline of 47%
- Contact sexual offences 14 and 13, a decline of 7%

Madam Speaker, there are significant and progressive improvements on this fight against this second pandemic. Though the trend shows that we are on the downward trajectory, one case is one case too many!

Working together with all the relevant stakeholders such as organs of civil society, the LGBTQIA+ community, youth, women and the clergy, we must defeat this scourge.

Madam Speaker, government remains committed to the fight against crime and corruption. We will ensure that our streets remain safe and free from criminal activities. Though, statistics are showing worrying trends in certain areas, government is paying attention to the causal factors in order to address the root causes of social disintegration and moral decay.



Madam Speaker, through the Arts and Culture programme, we will continue to pursue the mandate entrusted upon us by the National Development Plan – vision 2030: that says, “Transforming Society and Uniting the Country” and to ensure the realisation of Social Cohesion and Nation Building in our communities. We are restarting the process of renaming important and strategic buildings, institutions and streets starting with the Kimberley and Upington Airports, as well as the newly-build Greenpoint Library, which will be opened soon. We have commenced with the process of consulting and planning for the construction of the new state of the art Galeshewe Community Library.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in an attempt to reposition arts in the province, we developed the Community Arts Centre Strategy and the Community Arts Centre Infrastructure Development Plan. Government remains committed to creating an enabling environment for social cohesion and nation building through cultural tourism and festivals; hence, we provide tangible support to these flagship programmes, which include the Northern Cape Awards, Kgalagadi Jazz Festival, Kalahari Desert Festival amongst others.

Furthermore, we are working intensely towards a soccer team in the Premier Soccer League by ensuring that we provide support from grass-roots level in Sport Development. This is coupled to the direct financial support we provide to Hungry Lions, currently campaigning in the National First Division (Glad Africa), Richmond Ladies currently campaigning in the National Women’s League and Royal Wizards Football Teams.

Madam Speaker, In 2020 I reported that the province through engagement with the Minister for Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation had agreed that the entire Province be declared a Priority Human Settlements Development Area. In collaboration with municipalities and agencies, the province remains steadfast in addressing the housing backlog and upgrade of informal settlements. The annual base line allocation for human settlements for 2021/22 of R341 237 000 has received a further boost of R



60 million. This was due to fact that the planned targets for the service sites upgrade of informal settlements were exceeded. Year on year, we continue to expand and consolidate progress on all the planned Housing Programmes, such as the Lerato Park Integrated Development Project.

As the province we welcome the announcement made yesterday by the Minister of Finance, Mr Enoch Godongwane, to use the Northern Cape as a pilot to fast-track implementation of infrastructure projects by using much more creative funding models. We have already started working on this and have already engaged with the Minister of Human Settlements who is in attendance here today.

Madam Speaker, We are also working closely with our traditional leaders, strides are being made to re-institutionalise the Khoi-San traditional leadership. The task of the Commission on Khoi-San Matters is to receive all first-time applications for the recognition of Khoi-San communities and leaders, investigate the applications received and make recommendations to the Minister on the possible recognition of Khoi-San communities and leaders.

The Commission is currently busy developing processes and procedures to be followed during research, investigation, public hearings and meetings. The Traditional Khoi-San Leadership Act also calls for the reconstitution of the Traditional Institutions within two years, which means all structures of traditional leadership must be re-constituted before February 2023.

Madam Speaker and Honourable members, Census 22 has started and is progressing very well. Census is undertaken every ten years in the country, the last census was conducted in 2011, but had to be postponed due to the outbreak of Covid-19. We are comforted by the fact that StatSA has conducted the necessary testing to bring us a digital census that allows people to participate remotely via online and telephonic methods in addition to the traditional face-to-face methods that will also be used for data collection.



Madam Speaker, the need for data cannot be over-emphasised particularly in times of crisis. The statistical data produced by StatsSA, population data in particular, provides information about people and their profiles, and this information was instrumental in navigating across the country as we were responding to COVID 19.

I encourage each and every household in the province to ensure that they are counted and I hope many of our people have registered and completed the questionnaire, because this process will ensure that no one is left behind during the counting.

Madam Speaker and Honourable members, our biggest challenge, as government, is failure to communicate adequately. Henceforth, effective and efficient communication will be an integral part of what we are doing. I have directed the team to focus on ensuring that our communities are made aware of government services and programmes, in order to improve their quality of life. For the first time in the 2022/2023 Financial Year there will be a budget dedicated to improve government communications. The MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism will further elaborate on this during the Budget Vote.

Madam Speaker, the construction of the modern, growing and successful Northern Cape Province is well on-track. We have given account to this effect. There are major investment projects coming our way and we must realise them.

Earlier this week we launched the Provincial Growth and Investment Council. The council will drive the facilitation of our social compacting between government, business, labour, academia and civil society to commit, prioritise and implement the measures required to support the crucial structural socio-economic transformation to set our province on new people-centred developmental path.

Madam Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, work to deliver on our people's SOPA starts now. We will traverse the Province to ensure that we give impetus to what we have



committed here and ensure that nobody gets left behind in our quest to build a modern, growing and successful Province.

Madam Speaker, as I conclude, I want to thank my family for their continued and unwavering support to my work, Members of the Executive Council the Office of the Premier, the Provincial Government and all those who without fail, continue to prioritise the implementation and attainment of the government programmes and articulation of our vision. We dare not fail!

Our commitment as Members of the Provincial Executive Council to the people of the Northern Cape is a covenant we dare not break; the hopes and dreams of our people depend solely on us working very hard together. With that, I want to thank all of you for your support and the robust engagements of the Provincial Government.

I thank you





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STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS

24 February 2022