

**FRIDAY: 15 FEBRUARY 2008**

Sitting No. 1

[No. 01 - 2008] Fourth Session, Third Legislature

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA****LEGISLATURE OF THE  
NORTH WEST PROVINCE****FRIDAY: 15 FEBRUARY 2008****10H00****STATE OF THE PROVINCE  
ADDRESS****HON. SPEAKER:**

Honourable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, we will open today's proceedings of the day by asking four different religious denomination leaders to lead us in prayer and meditation. I want to take this opportunity and invite Mr. Mohomed from the Hindu religious faith.

**PRAYER (INTER-DENOMI-  
NATIONAL)**

Re a leboga. Please take your seats.

Honourable Members, I have invoked Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure to suspend Rule 30 of our Rules to allow for

none-Members of this House to be seated and to have access to this Chamber. I take this opportunity to welcome all the Members and the guests here today. I also want to acknowledge in our midst Kgosi Molotlegi, Kgosi Mabe, Judge President wa province ya rona, Members ba di different legislatures, the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, Limpopo Provincial Legislature, Northern Cape Provincial Legislature. I also welcome heartily members from our National Parliament. I see my old friend Peter is here, and all the other Members of the National Assembly, and of course in our midst are our Members of the NCOP. Rre Mangope ke a bona le wena o gona kgosi. Re itumetse

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mo go maswe go go bona  
gompieno.

Members, let me also acknowledge that once again, Rre Molefi Oliphant has honoured us by coming to our opening. Premier I think 2010 is really coming to the province. Let me take this opportunity then to invite the Premier of the North West, Mme Edna Molewa to come, a tle go re naya State of the North West Province. Mme Edna Molewa.

**HON. PREMIER:**

Thank you very much Honourable Speaker of the Provincial Legislature in the North West Province and Honourable Members, Colleagues in the Provincial Legislature; Honourable members of the Executive Council; Our Leaders in all different Political Parties present here today; Honourable Members of the National Assembly and NCOP; Our Judge President Rre Mogoeng Mogoeng who I am told is here with us; Heads of

Security Agencies; Mayors and leaders in the system of Local Government; Our Honoured Traditional Leaders; Chairpersons of state organs supporting our democracy; Resident Public Service Commissioner Rre Squire Mahlangu; The Director-General and leaders of the administration in all spheres of government; Chairpersons and the Executive Officers of State-Owned Enterprises; Members of the Diplomatic Corps; Leaders of our labour movement, the civil society and faith-based organisations as well as business and Honoured guests, friends, comrades and all fellow North West citizens and fellow South Africans;

I take this opportunity to indeed wish you a very prosperous New Year with Honourable Speaker having welcomed all of you to this august House. Ons is baie dankbaar dat almal van u na hierdie baie belangrike vergadering gekom het.

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Honourable Speaker, on the occasion of the 2008 January 8 statement of the African National Congress, which is the ruling party, the consolidated directive contained in its historic manuscript, amongst many other critical statements, emphasized the importance of the following and I quote what the January 8 statements says:

"Recalling the heroic and selfless acts of countless South Africans who, over several decades, fought with determination and principle for peace, democracy and human and people's rights. They remain an example and inspiration to successive generations of our freedom fighters as they grapple with the challenges of a changing terrain of struggle".

In this regard Honourable Madam Speaker, we would like to take this opportunity to recognise some amongst the many of our people who contributed enormously in ensuring that we continue to reap the fruits of democracy as we do and those are: I start with

our own:

" Ntate Job Tabane who is better known as Casius Maake who served selflessly in the struggle for liberation and was assassinated by the then apartheid forces in Swaziland and was buried in Lusaka. His remains will be carried into the Province and will be buried here sometime during the course of this year.

" We also honour the late Bishop Nkwe on having served for 28 years as our Anglican Church Bishop at Matlosana, and indeed a very dedicated community leader and community builder as well.

" Rre Kukama who is a veteran of our struggle for liberation and a resident in this province of ours and also residing here in Montshioa. Added to these very distinguished South Africans and North West residents, we take this opportunity Honourable Speaker, to acknowledge the following people who are making a difference in society, and those are:

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" Mr. Hannes Schutte - who I saw is here with us, indeed a selfless dedicated businessman who has always been keen and determined to work with government in building integrating and coordination structures bringing our people from all races together as we strive for development in our province.

" Mme Maria Seleke - The Female farmer of the Year who lives at Koffiekraal. Her project is Seleke Vegetables and indeed this resident of ours, dedicated member of the society has never received any financial assistance from government but with dedication she managed to expand her projects through her daily sales. She is a wonderful person. We recognize her.

" The Bophirima District Municipality - who are the Vuna Award winners and also the best District Municipality in the province and in our country.

" Rre Ricky Munnick, the retired CEO of Mmabana Arts Council, who is a renowned

community builder, and Rre Ricky Munnick has recently passed on as well. We thank him for the dedicated work and dedicated manner in which he has really served this province.

" We also recognize the excellent job done by our police under the able leadership of the Provincial Commissioner Rre Beetha, and I would also in this regard like to single out a team of ten people which is led by Director Mabula, that performed a very excellent job in terms of ensuring that we break the bone and the back of the ritual killings which had taken place in our province in Phela this year.

" Sadly, we recognize also the death of our dikgosi, Rre Kgosi Lekoko, Rre Kgosi Moiloa, Rre Kgosi Sedumedi. All these distinguished people Honourable Speaker, functioned within a paradigm that actively cultivated human solidarity, as one of the key mechanisms to free our people from the economic and spiritual subjugation of

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oppression. Today, the challenges defining the evolution of struggle on the social, economic and indeed political and governance terrain, calls for a resolute return to the ideals that our pioneering fore bearers lived and died for. These ideals become even more critical during this current epoch of a transition that has already begun to stir the test of soul of our nation. In this regard, our responsibility Madam Speaker and Honourable Members from here onwards is to ensure that we sustain the values and ideals of our fore bearers, as a critical means to give hope and inspire unity of purpose at all levels of our society. Honourable Speaker Mahatma Gandhi, one of the greatest humanists and thinkers of our time, captured these sentiments with great poise and accuracy when he asserted that:

"The things that will destroy us are:  
 Politics without principle;  
 Pleasure without conscience;  
 Wealth without work;

Knowledge without character;  
 Business without morality;  
 Science without humanity;  
 and

Worship without sacrifice"

These sentiments also speak to the foundations on which the struggle for freedom and democracy were built. In this context Madam Speaker, an acknowledgement that all our actions, if not grounded on values that will build society as well as our fellow man, will ultimately lead to our destruction and I believe that these imperatives of solidarity will sustain us in the same way in which our fore bearers were sustained during the oppressive reign of apartheid terror then. We therefore stand here today Madam Speaker, as a province and indeed as a party that is not only historically conscious of what we have achieved during this electoral term of governance. We stand here today to account to our nation and indeed our people in this province and the fallen cadres that we have referred to and many others, whether

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we indeed truly served the interest of our people with resources at our disposal and constraints in our path.

The mandate of this government Honourable Speaker, was set in motion by the historic "People's contract to create work and fight poverty"

This historic directive was underpinned by a series of critically analyzed objectives and solutions, which were fundamentally cognizant of a need to accelerate growth and development in the second decade of our economy. Last year Madam Speaker, we gave an elaborate account of how we have moved since 2004 on mid-term review and indicated our achievements and challenges on critical economic and development indicators.

Today, we stand here and we humbly submit to our people on the ground in particular; whom we have served diligently we want to believe thus far, to further fulfill the promises we made since 2004. We maintain unpretentiously, that we remain fully

accountable to the masses.

This State of The Province Address therefore, will trace back our footprints to where we began, when we put before our masses, a people's contract to create work and fight poverty.

In continuing the momentum of the first decade of freedom, we have progressively moved on our path to weave back together the threads of a dignified human existence here in our province as our contribution to the country's initiatives. We are therefore confidently surging forward to intensify the momentum, in order to free the previously suppressed human and economic potential of our people. I now Madam Speaker, turn to talk about the very famous APEX programme of this financial year and the next MTEF indeed.

Madam Speaker, the North West Province also participated in the formulation of the "BUSINESS UNUSUAL" 24 APEX Priorities as was announced by our State President, President Thabo

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Mbeki on the 8th of February this year. We have included these in our programmes of government and committed to implementing those and amongst others, in ensuring also that we do what we said we would do which were the issues that were tabled before this august House in 2004, last year since 2004, and that is to deal with issues of :

- " Accelerating delivery for the poor, and poverty eradication
- " Accelerating economic growth and development
- " Building infrastructure that will indeed support the economy but also infrastructure that will benefit our people in very deep rural areas
- " Improving the effectiveness of intervention directed at second economy
- " Building critical and scarce skills,
- " Building the capacity of the state, and
- " Building the state that is safe and secure for all our inhabitants in this province, the contribution to a country.

Madam Speaker, before I give details of the 24 business unusual APEX priorities which are going to unfold this year in our province, I feel obliged therefore to report as we usually do, on progress made in the last year on broad issues, and I want to also indicate Madam Speaker, that these 24 APEX priorities are already woven into the programme that we will speak to as we carry on to deal with the issues particularly of the coming year. Madam Speaker, our provincial barometer indicates that after many years of fluctuating growth performances, the economy has stabilized substantially here in the province.

Overall the province has been registering the steady economic growth and prosperity. Our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in constant 2000 prices has grown from R58 billion in 1996 to more than R72 billion in 2006. Since the launching of the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy in

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2004 the economic growth per annum consistently outperformed the annual population growth of the province registering growth rates of 3.6%, 4.9% and 4.3%, in 2004, 2005 and 2006, respectively.

According to the Labour survey Madam Speaker, the number of jobs increased from 835 000 in September 2004 to 913 000 in March 2007. This represents a growth of 9.3% in 2½ years and an improvement in job creation of 78 000. This growth is much higher than the average population growth of approximately 1% per annum during this same period. Unfortunately the absolute number of the poor is still increasing and reminding us that the struggle is not yet over and not even closer to being over yet. We acknowledge that and we will continue to acknowledge that. It is encouraging to note however that the proportion of moderately poor households has begun to decrease from

56.6% in 2004 to 50% in 2006. This improvement is also registered in the improvement of the Human Development Index from 0.53 in 2004 to 0.56 in 2006.

Once the immediate challenges around electricity provision and service delivery in our towns are successfully met, that indeed they will be met, the prospects of economic growth in the North West indeed look good. Uranium is expected to play a very important role in future energy provisions in the world and also here in our province. The fact that uranium is also mined in our province is indeed a plus. With the gold and platinum price buoyant at all time high above \$900 and \$1 500 respectively and the weaker Rand, our mines are indeed looking forward to a great future as well. Of course there is a down side to this as well which we have to look at as we continue to work.

Economic growth is key com-

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ponent when viewed in light of the equity and redistribution objectives. Together with this, poverty alleviation in the short term is made possible by giving the poor opportunities to participate in the mainstream economy as we do with all other programmes, but before they can begin, our people who are poor can begin to participate in the opportunities at their disposal, their social needs must be at the forefront of government's poverty alleviation intervention and in this regard I now refer and turn to talk to issues of review on social transformation delivery in the North West Province.

Madam Speaker, the final result of Statistics South Africa Community Survey, which was recently completed October last year, November last year, indicates that in terms of access to basic services, that:

- " 90% of the households have access to piped water here in the province
- " 82.3 % use electricity as a source of domestic power

" 57.1% of our people have access to refuse removal

" 90.1% have access to sanitation above RDP standards

" In terms of the Presidential targets for bucket removal, this province of ours can say very boldly Madam Speaker that indeed we have successfully continued to eradicate bucket, the pre-1994 bucket toilets that were identified, and I think the Executive Mayor is here from Matlosana which is the area which had the backlog, will be able to tell the story and the MEC for Developmental Local Government that indeed we have managed to do that.

Sadly though, we all know that a task of eradicating buckets is such as that of eliminating the current shacks, and of course there is indeed a plan to deal with this eradication over time through the human settlement product. We know that this is indeed a moving target. As we build houses for other people, some other

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mushroom elsewhere, and so on and so on. So we will ensure that indeed we all work hard to ensure that going forward with this human settlement programme does benefit us. We have moved over many hurdles Madam Speaker, and battled the hard and unfriendly terrains of the underdeveloped, in order to ensure that we serve our people to the best of our ability. Even this commitment is not indeed sufficient, that we are making here today. We are aware, we have got to work harder. Our pace has to be accelerated to ensure that we do not lose the momentum. Hence the President talks about business unusual and we have to, all of us, do things in a business unusual manner. Madam Speaker, our mandate in the context of a developmental state remains unchanged and continually gravitates towards the objective to improve the quality of life of our people and in particular the poor. In essence, the Social Development

Cluster priority programmes have been instrumental in pushing back the frontiers of poverty since 2004, and as a continuation of the priorities of a developmental state that were adopted as ageless values in the developmental trajectory of our country. We have managed to expand social service delivery in the province, particularly in the rural areas and these services encompass a broad range of programmes that include improving access to Education, access to Health, to Social Development, to Sports, Arts and Culture and through the provision of these services, we have been able to keep intact the onslaught in the fight against poverty.

We had also announced the development of our North West Strategy on Poverty Alleviation which was finalized in 2007 and now under implementation. We have also in line with the 24 APEX priority begun establishing the WAR ROOMS which the State President announced in

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order to focus on the 50 wards that are the most poverty stricken here in our province. The North West Provincial Government has designed integrated strategies and plans, policies and projects Madam Speaker, and also programmes that are currently addressing social transformation measures in a coherent and holistic manner. In terms of the access to social grants, we have substantially silenced the hunger pangs of poverty, by extending our safety net to include those who are most vulnerable in our society.

Mo ngwageng ono Mme Mmusakgotla, wa dikabotekanyetso, palogotlhe ya baagi, o re tswang mo go one, palogotlhe ya baagi ba ba neng ba amogela dithuso tsa madi a bana, a bagodi le dithuso tse dingwe e ne e balelwa go milione o le mongwe, nngwe tlhano thataro, tlhano thataro pedi, 1 [156 562]. Ka ngwaga wa 2007 dipalo-palo di supa fa palogotlhe e e oketsegile ka dikete di le makgolo a mane,

400 000. Se se tliša palogotlhe ya baamogedi ba dithuso tse go milione o le mongwe, tlhano thataro thataro, nngwe supa thataro [1 536 173].

The migration of Early Childhood Programme has begun taking course from the Department of Education as we know, which caters for the under 6 downwards as part of preparatory to the Department of Social Development and that programme will also unfold as we carry on

The Secure Centers that we undertook to establish have also been completed and further elaboration on the benefits that are derived from such secure centers and other social centres that are dealing with our existing social challenges such as improving the lives of our people will be dealt with and elaborated upon by the relevant MEC. Improving access to health, in as far as that is concerned Madam Speaker, during this financial year, we have also made great stride with regards to preservation of the

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health of our people, with evidence indicating a decline in the percentages of life threatening diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis. We have through the Department of Health indeed introduced:

" The TB programme that is intensified to increase coverage by 25%, extending to include the schools as well. Various methods are being used like door-to-door and indeed a remarkable increase has now being registered of 72%. We are working hard to improve this figure as well.

" The implementation of the comprehensive HIV/AIDS plan in all the hospitals is taking place as planned and as we speak in the financial year 11 437 clients are receiving Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) in those hospitals.

" We have now managed to establish 715 operational Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) centres and that target of 665 has indeed been exceeded as we can see.

" We have also trained 165

peer educators who are providing education to people in schools on HIV matters, and also 130 other people in the Further Education and Training educators have been trained and a further 2 350 young educators benefit from the nursing training which include the university degrees as well in this regard.

" During this year Madam Speaker, we also provided effective Home Based Care as we undertook last year, and I will not elaborate on the details of this but indeed it is a programme that we have also embarked upon.

With regards to housing delivery Madam Speaker, in 2004 we built a total number of 10 484 houses and by 2007 this number had increased on average by 21 642 per annum, and since the delivery of the 2007 State of the Province address, just for a slow fraction of the year already 9 779 units have already been completed. This is indicative of the fact that the accelerated pace of delivery that have been advanced

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is indeed realized as compared to 2004.

The impact of housing delivery Madam Speaker is felt by the most needy communities. Mrs. Masego Seboko of Setlagole Village here next door outside Mafikeng, depicts in real life story that I believe must be told to the people of the North West Province and all our Honourable Members here. She is part of the community that has benefited 1 700 houses collectively as a result of government's housing delivery and thanks to the municipality districts and all those municipalities which are working hard to ensure that together as a province and municipalities we provide such housing. For many years Masego lived with her blind mother, Virginia who is 60 and five siblings including her two children at the nearby New-Stands settlement. She lived a life of despair, dreading and changing seasons that made life unbearable in a shack. She finally moved into her own house on the 1st

of January 2008 and this is what she had to say about her new house:

"I now feel like a burden has been lifted from my shoulders. I no longer have to worry about the weather and I can now live a free life like everybody. It's time for me to focus on positive things," says Masego.

Madam Speaker there is indeed room for improvement but today our people have reason to break forth into singing such songs as what is shown by Masego Seboko and her family. We will continue to progressively move towards the attainment of true freedom from poverty and depravation. Madam Speaker and Honourable Members, I would like to take the few moments to address this august House on programmes of Economic Big Bang and I will really scan through them as quick as We undertook that we will have a Big Bang programmes that will be implemented over a 3 year programme and in this regard we would like to begin

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by accounting on the MIDZ here, which is in the area of Mafikeng.

This project Madam Speaker is advancing mainly within the transport sector with the conclusion of the airport renovation and expansion concluded and also one flying school already operational here. We hope that we will be able to attack two more flying schools on an incremental and gradual manner we will be able to utilize this effort again in a better manner, and successful air shows are also held on an annual basis. Bulk services installation will also be completed this year as implemented by the municipality and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, and the economic cluster we jointly with Mafikeng and District Municipalities and as well as the MIDZ will be hard at work, working to attract investors at this airport. We are already doing so and this year we will also be following vigorously on the partnership that we will be devel-

oping with a province of China known as Hennan, our friends who have been able to visit this Legislature. We will be going there to sign with some business people some programmes that will be coming to this airport. The mineral staff also has been signed off as an agreement and the Honourable Members, including Member for Economic Development will tell more about this in detail. With regard to the Taung Integrated Development Madam Speaker, this we know is indeed a development that consists of Taung Tourism Development, Taung Dam and Heritage Site, and the Taung Irrigation Scheme and the road infrastructure programme and some other programmes that may not have been named here. Madam Speaker, the Taung Integrated Development programme is a transversal programme as we know that is worked on by different departments and different institutions. In order to accel-

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erate the implementation of this project, it is indeed very imperative that all relevant departments work in a manner that is integrated because indeed at the present moment we have not been able to integrate and we need to acknowledge that weakness that we have detected. It is therefore pertinent, that these departments and the institutions must organize themselves in such a manner that they form a project team for the purpose of integrating all functions concerned with this project, to achieve our ultimate objective of improving the economy in that area. The Taung tourism initiatives are ongoing. The department will tell about the details on this. The Taung Skull and the museum will be continuing and the calabash is also continuing in that regard. Hotel school that will be built from the Taung area, the Taung hotel will be converted into that hotel school and we also intend to build the Taung Skull Museum to accommodate the skull once the nec-

essary work and construction work and planning has already been done.

For now Madam Speaker we are continuing this programme and we did and I said there is a need to strengthen ourselves and in terms of coordination with regard to this. The Taung irrigation scheme, production on barley is still ongoing, with South African Breweries being the buyer and indeed again also here we realize some weaknesses in that the pivots in Taung had collapsed, particularly because of theft and I make a call to members of the society that we need to take care of our assets indeed. The department's task is partly to continue with the allocated amount of R3,1m to revive these pivots and continue with the irrigation of the scheme and also the expansion of the scheme as planned. Again the MEC will give the details about the further expansion that will take place in this regard.

The cattle beneficiation pro-

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gramme Madam Speaker, we have developed already a business plan as we undertook last year and a provisional amount of R4m has already been allocated for infrastructure development and also Land Affairs is in the process of acquiring some 20 000 hectares and more for this project to take off. It is envisaged that this project will cost an amount of R96m for programmes like fencing, planted pastures, fire belts, fire equipments and livestock handling as we go on and this is one programme that must continue that is already underway and in that regard we will continue to implement this.

With regard to Modimong Madam Speaker, the House will recall that in 2006, we launched the Modimong Integrated EPWP programme alongside existing projects, in order to contribute to our job creation and poverty alleviation efforts. Although we have experienced serious difficulties with regards to the lack

of financial management and labour intensive skills, I can safely report to this august House that we are already at 99% of completion of this project, with the exception from two projects, mainly the housing and the internal roads which will also be vigorously followed on.. Through this project, we have trained some 9 116 people, from whom 368 were absorbed in the project, taking advantage of the job opportunities created. We have also not been able to absorb everybody we must confess, but indeed we can safely say and say with confidence that all the people who have been trained are walking away with skills that they can utilize elsewhere in the long term.

With regards to Modimola Madam Speaker, Modimola integrated project, we are very confident indeed, also very proud to report that this project has actually been implemented successfully and it has been completed in 2006 as we said that it was a

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three year programme, and currently the learnership contractors are involved in concluding the road upgrading project as apart of the exit strategy and this project has created 89 job opportunities as well We have also undertaken that we will continue with the programme, another EPWP at Tosca as announced in the 2006 State of Province address Madam Speaker, in Modimong as well, and Tosca. The inception report of the business plan is already completed and development has also commenced in this regard. It is again a three-year programme which will continue Madam Speaker.

The Bloemhof Dam programme same applies. The bio-diversity study has already been completed and the relevant department will also in negotiating with private partners to follow on the investment in this regard. With regard to the Vredefort Dome Madam Speaker, we have never actually dealt with the details of the Vredefort Dome

in this. It is one of the sites that have been nominated and actually successfully become the world heritage site, this year in our province, between our province and the Free State Province. Madam Speaker the Vredefort Dome represents a unique geological phenomenon of international significance, representing a portion of the vast Vredefort meteorite impact structure which was formed about 2 billion years ago. I was still there and very young at that time, and it is regarded as the oldest and largest impact structure on earth. Because of this unique geological phenomenon, an area has been created which is, ecologically speaking, unique, indeed very unique and has unsurpassed aesthetics. With regard to progress to date, again we have met the Minister DEAT already, Minister Van Schalkwyk recently about a week ago to finalize the management authority which we have to deal with and agree between ourselves and Free State and

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the programme of ensuring that the necessary research is done, has been finalised and indeed by sometime late this year around June the Minister says, we shall have appointed the management authority and developments in this regard will also continue.

With regard to the Science Park Madam Speaker, it is also currently in the implementation stage and we have a partnership with the North West University in order to create the entrepreneurial innovation for the province. The site has been identified in the area of Southern District Municipality and an initial architectural plans are currently being developed. Madam Speaker the Platinum Corridor which we reported about also is led by the municipality coordinated by Invest North West and is ready to move into implementation phase. An agreement by Mining Houses will be signed and should have been signed late last year if it was not because of the very busy

schedules of the mining houses leadership there. We should have signed this partnership agreement. Already a total of R10 m has been allocated to this project for the coming financial year. With regard to the Platinum Beneficiation Project, the Platinum Beneficiation Project is now in its implementation status. A trust was established known as the Platinum Task for South Africa (PTSA) and a company registered to beneficiate Platinum into jewellery products. This company is called Jaji Range. Those of us who can get into the website, get into the website and buy the jewellery from the North West Province made of this Platinum, and the Orbit College is currently busy running, the training there which we appointed there and got some 20 students to begin with programme of training, how to make jewellery is also ongoing.. With regard to granite beneficiation Madam Speaker, the granite project which we

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reported which is based in Bethanie where a Belgian Investor has shown interest to invest pending continuous availability of raw material, R40 m worth of this project as a beginning is indeed targeted and the project is currently as negotiation stage to finalize availability of raw material. We are also in constant talk with the Department of Minerals and Energy to assist in the realization of this raw material that this investor need and we hope that we will succeed. We are very confident indeed that we will succeed.

Let us look at the issues of job creation Madam Speaker. I earlier on indicated what the survey says about the jobs created here in our province, but coming back to the level of the people and really masses, what their experience are with regards to this, I have to tell this story. Let me share with you Madam Speaker, which was told by one resident in a very remote area of Molatedi. He comes from Molatedi. Obviously

they live together with people from Molatedi, Supingstad and those other areas. This person Madam Speaker, says: "Unemployment used to be high, and so high in our area that we did not even work most of us, but with the development of some 31 lodges, by the way we had at some stage just 2 lodges in that Madikwe Game Reserve, the development of some 31 lodges in the Madikwe Game Reserve has created many jobs. A re: "Ba ba sa berekeng ba a itira. Ke metlapa". O a rialo. Ga se nna ke reng jalo.

This indeed Madam Speaker attests to the fact that through the local economic development initiatives arising from tourism in the area, we have made strides in eradicating poverty and indeed unemployment. In the light of business unusual projects, we are called upon therefore to do more with the limited resources to find innovative mechanisms to fund our future projects and in this regards we reported last year

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that we will establish North West Growth Fund.

We would to report that through the efforts of the Executive Council also led by the Department of Economic Development there where this fund will be housed, which will be launched very soon officially in a ceremony, but work has already been done. Some good R300m has been accumulated from range of some very good partners like DBSA. FNB came on board yesterday and INCA who has put in some R250m whilst government has put R50m and I think we need to congratulate them and thank these good partners of ours.

Madam Speaker, a recent survey on the state of roads network reveals that there are some 5 225 million vehicle kilometres travelled annually on our provincial roads, of which 88% are travelled on our paved or tarred roads. However, over the period of three years from 2004, there

has been a continuous deterioration of both paved and gravel roads. Over and above what the state contributes in roads construction and maintenance thereof, it is clear that we need to find creative ways on mobilizing more resources through partnerships and joint ventures with the business community in order to augment the current budget provisions, and in this regard, the MEC for Transport and Roads will elaborate on the strategy on how this initiative will be realized.

This will go a long way to improve our total investment of R578m for this year, 2008/2009, which includes R170m for ongoing projects, those which we will be completing and new priority projects to the value of R191m and R127m for the maintenance of the current infrastructure. Again we must state that Bophirima will not lose out. It will benefit in this regard, even though we have a demand, to respond to the challenge of providing such

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infrastructure for the 2010. Indeed we will continue to find innovative ways of looking at that area.

In order to give impetus to the live stock safety and cooperative development, the Department of Agriculture, as part of live stock improvement strategy, will also improve fencing, water infrastructure and fire breaks, in order to assist cooperatives to practice sound natural resource management, and there is still much room for improvement in this regard and many of our people are still to be assisted in creation of employment, and this assistance is given through skills development in the key growth sectors of our provincial economy, and opportunities created for both public and private partnership. I am here referring to support that we have to give to the agricultural sector, particularly the emerging sector, which is indeed, we have targeted the livestock improvement because we do know that we are the North West Province

and we can sell better in as far as cattle production is concerned.

With regard to land agrarian reform Madam Speaker, a total land targets for both restitution and redistribution stands at about 294 000 hectares as at March 2007. This is a programme that we are required to fast track and since 1994 to March 2007; the provincial government has transferred some 216 000 hectares and land under various land reform services. This has benefited over 10 000 households and this land relates to housing, tenure upgrades and farm settlement. We need to exceed the required figures and indeed as we can tell there isn't adequate land in our province and again here we need to look at the various innovative manner to ensure that land hunger is met particularly looking at the implementation of the communal land rights which has not been implemented up to this stage, working with the Department of Agriculture at national level

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and Land Affairs.

With regard to Anti Stock Theft Programme Madam Speaker, I am just going to summarize this and indicate that quite a while ago this august House did some study and we found that on an annual basis our farmers especially the emerging the farmers loose up to R3 billion per annum on live stock programme, the livestock loses that they incurred. We have implemented the anti stock theft programme and we are happy to report that this has actually made us realized some good results as we speak there is a very significant improvement and reduction in stock theft. But we are going ahead as the multi-stakeholder forum to implement the programme that has to be implemented on a continuous basis until we have a zero rate at stock theft level. Those who amongst others include the erection and construction of multipurpose live-stock handling facilities so that our people can go and sell their produce in areas

very closer to them and then that would able to help us stop the speculators who come and buy our people's cattle with that very minimal amount.

We will also be looking in this year at the Pounds Bill which will be processed through this Legislature because indeed that is one area where the gaps are. The Anti Stock Theft Bill also will be coming through and we will also be looking at the road fencing and many others. The programme is quite large but I just thought that we should place it before this Legislature also in this coming year. Madam Speaker the DACE has thus far trained 80 Agri-BEE in the four District Municipalities as part of the contribution towards massification of the black economic empowerment programme. Their responsibilities will include train-the-trainers and they will be responsible to roll out of the Agri-BEE Charter in our province.

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Climate change is one area that is very problematic has been isolated as a problem. Madam Speaker although South Africa is still a developing economy, our dependence on coal-driven energy sources and the energy intensity nature of our economy have resulted in an extremely high carbon emission level per unit of gross national product, compared to the rest of the world. We have emission levels equivalent to that of developed nations such as the United Kingdom. We are also located in one of the regions most susceptible and vulnerable to climate change, and we appear already to be experiencing the early effects of global warming and climate variability. Over the next five years Madam Speaker, starting from now because this is indeed a very serious problem will therefore have to be focused on this programme and also need to ensure that we coordinate ourselves because this is a multi sectoral and multi stakeholder requirement action. We will

require very vital role to be played by the championing department in this regard which is DACE.

With regard to dealing with issues of SMME Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members, in terms of our continuing efforts and the priorities that we stated in 2004, of promoting equal and fair access to opportunities, we are accelerating our SMME development. Last year the MEC as we indicated held the very successful summits with all sectors that were supposed to be there that deals with issues of SMME and they have been ready been able to identify the gaps within this sector, they have already been able to isolate and establish a database and decided that we need to ensure that we find, in fact has funded already some of a good number of SMMEs. As government Apex priorities Madam Speaker it is well known by now I suppose, we have isolated some 10 government targeted areas and projects where we will be

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specifically assisting and supporting our SMMEs as targeted areas which no one else as a big operator can come in and this is part of the Business Unusual Project as it was announced by the President.

Madam Speaker we undertook to support and sustain our SMMEs by ensuring that the turn around time of payment to SMMEs for the services rendered is decreased from between four and three months to about 30 days. We are happy to report that in all cases where invoices are submitted on time with all required supporting documents. The 30 days target time line for payment has been achieved. We do need to decrease this current timeline and take further appropriate measures as part of the business unusual initiative. In this regard we do know that the call centers as President announced will be set up and these will help further to alleviate this problem of late payment and also support the SMMEs.

We have registered a total of 962 SMMEs on our database as I said earlier on and 23 already has been assisted through the Department of Economic Development with startup funds. In addition, through our normal day-to-day procurement processes, we have succeeded in supporting and sustaining black-owned companies in various sectors such as construction, tourism, security services and general services to the value R200m, of which 22% was allocated to female-owned companies. A re thabeng batho ba Modimo. Madam Speaker, I also want to encourage emerging and functional SMME's to continue making use of support structures such as SEDA, Ntsika, IDC, Umsobomvu and others to strengthen their business development further working with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

Madam Speaker, the global economy is currently undergoing extraordinary changes in terms of economic transi-

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tions, which have positioned the BRIC countries that is Brazil, Russia, India, and China in the forefront of the changing global economic status quo. These countries are currently four of the fastest growing economies that are beginning to change the global economic status quo. The significance of these global economic shifts is that South Africa has recognized the evolution of the world economies by beginning to align our country to these emerging markets for our benefit. The international agreements that have emanated from our national government's interactions with the BRIC countries, have afforded the North West Province an opportunity to benefit in this regard.

We will be continuing to sign the MOUs with the province in India with regard to issues of the SMMEs. We will also be continuing as I said earlier on with an agreement with Hennen Province in this year as part of the national agree-

ments and but also following on the initiative of the BRIC countries The province Madam Speaker will also be benefiting from the expertise of NSIC, a company that has been established by India for establishing and aiding SMME's. We are therefore seizing remarkable opportunities to share information and learn from countries that are already mastering the art of growth and development. This is a path that we will be able to travel with greater ease by learning key growth and development mechanisms that are already successful in the BRIC countries.

We also acknowledge that several of our municipalities have entered into agreement, partnership of some arrangements with other countries here we can list some of them, the Kronoberg County of Sweden, Finland which we have an agreement with, Manitoba, Cuba, Japan and Russia. But also our Municipalities that include Tlokwe has an agreement

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with the Vaxjo in Sweden, Ngaka Modiri Molema has developed an agreement with Sao Paulo and the Chobe District Municipality in Botswana, Bojanala Platinum District with City of Lahti in Finland and City of Moscow in Russia. This will have to be followed vigorously if we really want to follow on investments and trade into the future. I believe that we have thus far successfully waded through the murky waters of underdevelopment in order to touch the various priority areas that we have identified since 1994. In this term of governance, we have managed to some extent to create the short term interventionist approach to job opportunities through private investments and governmental programmes that were created by EPWP projects.

Now going forward Madam Speaker, I would like to just take this opportunity to indicate to this august House that indeed with regard to the social development and edu-

cation infrastructure as undertaken we have build the mobile classrooms, we have also renovated the damaged schools that were there but we are also continuing with the school building programme as part of the target that we announced in 2004 for 2014. The same applies to clinics by now since 2004 we have already build the big clinics, 38 over and above the health post clinics that we undertook.

Hospital Revitalization programme is also going on. This year we have completed the Swaruggens old Hospital, Moses Kotane and Vryburg will be competed during this coming financial year. The extensions of Christiana and Bloemhof including doctor's quarters have been completed. Madam Speaker I want to take this opportunity to announce a new programme of Rural Health Center Development. As a province we have identified the need to develop skills in rural medi-

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cine to bring health care closer to our people, as well as to create a pool of health professionals who would specialize in rural medicine.

This programme has been going on very quietly but to this effect, we have already now met a partner who is from Britain and I think one of the operators, a very good Samaritan, hard working citizen of south Africa is here with us today Professor Cupa who is helping us to establish this center in partnership with the non-profit organization called Ameca from London which is established by a mother who has lost a son who was a medical practitioner, who wants to do what some other people do when they have money in developing and investing in other countries. So this center will be established as a center of Excellence, Rural Medicine in partnership with University of Witwatersrand through Professor Cupa and Ameca and will be established here in the area of Lehurutshe,

next to Lehurutshe Hospital. It's a new centre for rural hospital. Madam Speaker the secure centers that were undertaken to build 2 of them and as I said earlier on indeed they are on course, we are on course. A new one will also be coming on. The MEC will announce that as we carry on.

In educating our nation Madam Speaker, Steve Biko once said that "The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed". By controlling and inhibiting the development of black intellectual capacity, our people were essentially confined to low skills areas of employment, with limited opportunities to move beyond the parameters of growth and development set in place by the oppressor then. There was thus a direct link between education and the stagnating economic status of our people. We therefore recognize the importance of human capital as a catalyst for development. We are cog-

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nizant of the fact that the intellectual capacity and the sustained development of skills and expertise are critical for the growth of our economy. In the context Madam Speaker, the developmental state and strengthening of our human capital to enhance the state's capacity to accelerate service delivery therefore continues to be a key priority.

In this regard, our collective participation in ASGI-SA and its JIPSA sub-programmes remains to be the critical pivotal point of coherence. We have initial said that Madam Speaker we will deal with the issues of early childhood development and as I reported earlier on I am not going to dwell into the details of this particular issue as the two Departments Education and Social Development have already separated the areas of early childhood development which belongs to Social Development and those that belongs to ECD. Again this is an area of massification of

our programme. An additional 300 schools will be added to the expansion of the Grade R provision this year but also from the social development area there will be a further intake of more educators and learners in that regard of those grades.

We will continue Madam Speaker with the no fees schools and in this regard thus going forward we can report that we have already been offering the no fees school assistance to the quintile 1 which is really the poorest schools in our province, the poorest of the poor. We will now be in this year expanding the no fees schools to the quintile 2 and completing the quintile 2. And that will bring us to the target of 40% out of target of 60% that is required by 2009. We would like to take this opportunity Madam Speaker to indeed congratulate and thank the department and everybody who was involved in the attainment of the matriculation pass rate that

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we have just realized. The North West Province is one of the 2 provinces whose matriculation pass rate had increased. Even though minimal we have gone up. We therefore would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the department and all the role players. I want to further congratulate all our matriculants who passed their exams. I also want to congratulate all the top performing schools in our province, for keeping standards of excellence that continue to make us very proud.

We would especially like to congratulate those learners from Khutsong and commend the parents and community members who supported the attendance of the camp which was organized by the department in Taung. They did it under very trying circumstances. But guess what Badiri High has attained very high results. We will be continuing with the Dinaledi schools. There are already initial intake of 50 schools

that were identified will be added to and we really would like to ensure that we reach this target. We are very confident that we will reach this target as add up another 60 schools to the Dinaledi schools. This is improvement of our Maths and Science education in the province and also ensuring that our educators are trained in the manner in which they can actually have all our learners to move into Maths and Science as it is required this year. MEC will talk about that, that there is no single learner who will not be allowed not to do Maths of one kind. Either Maths or Maths literacy will have to be done.

With regard to farm and rural schools Madam Speaker as we undertook last year, the third mega school is being established as we speak in the Ventersdorp. The department gazetted the names of 130 schools that are to be merged in 2008. We talking merge here not closing please, because we are

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bringing together very good school from farmers, farm children who travel very long distances under abnormal circumstances to various schools these 130 schools. The sound and rural school strategy is already been currently implemented where by the comprehensive information on farm schools like learner number, educator number and so on are been collected.

With regard to scholar transport Madam Speaker, the famous Winston Churchill once said "There is no better investment than putting milk in the babies." And I concur. Our province has opted to invest in transporting 11 751 farm learners to school on a daily basis. This project started with a pilot in the Lichtenburg/ Coligny areas with some very small number 5397 learners transported on a daily basis. We now stand at 11751 pupils. The business plan has already been done to ensure that we extend this programme to further needy

areas. The challenges are however funds and we will work together as Executive Council together with this Legislature to extend this programme to this needy people.

With regard to Comprehensive Health Care Madam Speaker, I would like to indicate that the burden of disease has the potential to bring any nation to its knees. We have seen with the spread of HIV/AIDS how fragile life is and how the loss of skilled people can potentially affect the stability of our nation both in terms of mortality rates and the consequent loss of skills. However, our Provincial Department of Health has ensured momentous response, in order to deal more effectively with the most pressing health issues which, amongst others, includes keeping under control the spread of HIV/AIDS.

We will continue the implementation of the comprehensive plan to combat HIV/AIDS, as informed by an

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updated national comprehensive strategy. Other key interventions in our health battle plan include the enhancement of healthy life styles all of us must go to gym, must stop smoking and live a very healthy living style. We will continue to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic by increasing ARV service points in order to make ART's more accessible to those who need them. We will also increase the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission uptakes and reduce the incidence of syphilis in pregnant women.

Tuberculosis has become rife in the province and requires vigilant and decisive action to cure and keep it under control. The department will therefore working all other relevant stakeholders will therefore focus on combating Tuberculosis particularly in response to the Multi-Drug Resistant TB. We will continue to increase the number of unemployed youth placed on internships and learnerships in order to continue imparting

critical skills to our youth especially with regard to health because we do work with the youth in particular to ensure that even at young age people would have healthy living styles. We will also in this regard Madam Speaker, continue to issue more assistive devices to disabled patients and increase access to health care centers.

Food Security is equally important Madam Speaker, an amount of R6m has been set aside for this year just in the Department of Agriculture and in this regard the Department of Social Development will also in this year implementing this food security and food relief programme jointly with all other stakeholders. It's a programme that is ongoing I am not going to get into the details thereof.

Youth Participation in National Programmes in national programme Madam Speaker, the vulnerability of

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our youth to disease and susceptibility to alcohol and substance abuse is perpetuated by the fact that our youth are often either unemployed or have no opportunities to participate in meaningful activities. The National Youth Service Programme will therefore enrol 30 000 volunteers in various community development activities and increase youth participation in national programmes that enhance social cohesion in this regard. Madam Speaker, with regard to Youth Development Services, this year or last year rather as we indicated we committed to enroll at least

1000 unemployed youth into the National Youth Service, and we are also delighted, Madam Speaker, to report that the programme has managed to skill 1 040 unemployed on through EPWP in various field but this year, our target is to enroll 2 000 more unemployed youth as part of ensuring that we are absorb the youth that are unemployed.

With people with disabilities Madam Speaker, the province is striving towards improving accessibility for people with disabilities to all government buildings. We are currently subsidizing 13 homes for people with disabilities, and these homes employ 600 people. Hospitals and other health facilities offer free health policy for people with disabilities. The province has also established special schools equipped with special assistive devices and trained master facilitators on Braille and mobility for approximately 2000 learners. We have also extended more bursaries to disabled learners.

With regard to Making Local Government Work Better For our People, the initial assessment of Project Consolidate at the end of 2006 pointed to the need to institutionalize the lessons from this initiative within government generally. These lessons directly contributed to the establishment and adoption of the 5 Year Local Government Strategic

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plan to be implementable from 2006 - 2011. This programme is been implemented it has to deal with very important issues, which three strategic priorities and five key performance areas and just very important things that we just have to highlight because the MEC will deal with the details of this five year local government implementation will obviously be continuing that.

The vacancy rate that we can report now at municipal level, various municipalities as we have previously reported on, now we are standing at very low levels of vacancies that are not filled. Currently, only one municipal manager vacancy exists we have filled all those that were empty. Furthermore there was a slight increase reported in the number of vacancies for other Section 57 managers from early 2007 to the end of 2007. We will need to do a little bit more again in terms of Performance Management Systems and performance

Management Agreements and working with municipalities in this regard.

The Municipal Transformation and Institutional Development will also continue ...[Inaudible]... and indeed in this regard we would like to report that as Legislated the IDP in 2000 was legislated through the Municipal Systems Act and the 2007/08 financial year is the first year that there is a 100% adoption rate of IDPs in our municipalities. I think that we need to congratulate and thank our municipalities. Most of these municipalities Madam Speaker, rated as medium to good products and hands on support is being rendered to those who are still ailing to ensure that there is overall compliance to the IDP credibility.

We have worked with the IDP and identified some 16 municipalities which we will be working on a continuous basis as part of the support programme on IDPs. Project

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Consolidate Madam Speaker we can report that a total of 13 experts ranging from engineering, finance and planning were deployed to project consolidate, it is a success.

Siyenza Manje Project and we can report it will really make a difference and continue to make a difference in this regard to all our municipalities.

Regarding the Disestablishment of Cross Boundary Municipalities, in line with the provisions of the Constitution's Twelfth Amendment Act, we can report at this point in time that the entire local municipal area of Merafong was fully incorporated into the North West Province, while areas within Tshwane Metro have been included into Gauteng Province and Phokwane, Moshaweng, Ga-Segonyana Local Municipalities, including the whole of Kgalagadi District Municipality have been included into Northern Cape Province. Following the signing of the Implementation

Protocols and a memorandum of understanding the various SLAs have been signed. We have completed the work between ourselves and Northern Cape, we have handed over. There is basically nothing outstanding so we are now safely and confidently reporting that indeed all work has been done.

With regard to Gauteng the SLAs have been signed we have also signed the memorandum of understanding. There is some work that is still need to be done. In Gauteng Madam Speaker we have also completed the handover process but some work still need to be done. It is however noteworthy to indicate that a dedicated support is being given in phases in the form as we announce last year for the Merafong Relief Plan. The insurmountable task facing us is the identified long term project of relocating the 18 000 households from the dolomitic area in Merafong which requires over R4 billion according to preliminary

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assessments. The province has already submitted the request to the Minister of Provincial and Local Government to declare the area a national disaster so that we can be assisted with regard to this matter. The North West Province has been in the forefront of adequate reporting in terms the public sector requirements. We are happy to announce that all qualifying heads of departments have submitted their performance agreements to the Public Service Commission in the last year, although some departments did not meet the May deadline. In that regard we have achieved a 100% submission, which is well above the national average of 62%.

We want to ensure that all municipal performance agreements are submitted in the same manner as well. By May every year, and within the two months of the beginning of the financial year all, local government levels of senior management should

have filled their key performance agreements with the relevant authorities and the Public Service Commission to monitor.

We are also happy Madam Speaker to announce that all 292 senior managers have submitted their financial disclosures, also 100% in this regard, well above the country average of 80%. Ba bangwe ba tsamaya ko 62% mo go ngwe ba tsamaya ko 80% North West is 100%. Ma si xaweni bagithi. All heads of departments in the province have been evaluated consistently for the last five years. This year the last qualifying HOD's will be evaluated in March. Once again we can proudly inform the Legislature and the people of the North West that we have also performed above the national average of 53%

Madam Speaker, we have undertaken to support traditional leaders and in this regard we have established the local houses as we were

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suppose to do. Two of them already in Bojanala Platinum and Ngaka Modiri Molema. We have also made funds available for payments of sitting allowances for traditional councilors, our Dikgosi are participating in all municipal councils where they have traditional leaders. I am pleased to inform this august Madam Speaker that House that Bahumagadi are also starting to organize themselves so that they can start to play a role in the traditional leader's issues. Re a itse gore ga twe "mmangwana o tshwara thipa kafa bogaleng"

Madam Speaker, the Public Service Commission declared the North West as the leading province with more women in leadership positions currently standing at 33,4% of senior positions. We know that this was still on the target was 30%. It is now 50% we will have to move in that regard. In the past Local Government Elections, we have also as the North West Province attained 52% in this regard

and many of our women in the society occupy high positions of leadership in the society. Opportunities previously limited to men are no longer their exclusive preserve of men. We are therefore encouraged by the results of the 2007 Stats South Africa Community Survey, which is an independent confirmation that we are indeed making progress in the process of improving the lives of women.

This clearly shows that we are serious about women empowerment and emancipation. Whilst we have registered much progress in the of women empowerment, challenges still remain. We must collectively renew our pledge to continue building a better life for all women. Our programme for women emancipation and empowerment will continue in this regard. Entrenching a culture of participation Madam Speaker, I would like to indicate that the Thusong the Thusong Centres that we

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undertook have been established. We will in this financial year establish two additional Thusong Centres one in the area of Bojanala and one in Bophirima by middle of this year. The izimbizo programme is also ongoing, this is indicated indeed that it is a very good programme with regard to reaching out people and it will continue as well.

I think Madam Speaker I shall have not done my work if I don't deal with the issues of electricity crunch. The electricity crunch that we are currently undergoing, is posing many challenges to all sectors of our society, including all business sectors in our society. I therefore immediately want discourage Madam Speaker and I think all of us must do that, discourage alarmist responses that only serve a destructive purpose. We must calmly find the mechanisms to deal with the challenge before us instead of fueling sentiments of fear and panic.

In response to this, we have established a committee here in the province comprising of representatives from SALGA, districts municipalities, the Governance Cluster Chair, Economic Development as well as the Social Cluster Chair and the Health Department also including the Director General. This committee will develop and deliver common messages about both supply and demand issues as to influence and manage behavioral change to use electricity sparingly and prevent compromising the well being of our economy.

2010 FIFA World Cup nate Molefi is definitely coming to our province but we would like to just in summary Madam Speaker report that indeed Rustenburg our host city working with the Royal Bafokeng where these matches will be hosted and thank also that Kgosi Mokoena is here as well as, Mokoena mogolo. We really have actually doing some hard in this regard. Teams

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coming from 8 pillars have been established by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, they have been doing the work and they range from ensuring that the stadium building and construction is finalized on time. The Small Medium and Micro enterprises play a role, they are accredited properly, and ensuring that the road infrastructure would be in place, health facilities are also in place. So what we are reporting here Madam Speaker is that those 8 pillars have done a lot of work even including in tourism areas. We are now ready and we believe that as FIFA will be coming next on the 19th to inspect sports facilities at Royal Bafokeng we are confident that indeed that they will have a good story to tell because the work is ongoing. There is however a shortage of some funds which we will continue in an innovative manner dealing with these issues.

With regard to intensifying the fight against crime and pro-

moting social cohesion Madam Speaker, crime remains a challenge we all face and must collectively solve. Societal problems of theft, armed robbery, abuse of children and women, fraud and corruption and so on continues to plague our communities. The 2007/8 National Report reveals that the North West Province improved its fight against crime albeit very minimal indeed. The national target for the reduction of crime as part of "The Fight Against Crime Campaign registered a reduction of 6.9% as opposed to the target of 7%. Whilst our performance shows improvement, we must strive to increase our fight and create safer neighborhoods.

In the coming year Madam Speaker, innovated measures will be introduced to yield greater community participation; increase recruitment of additional SAPS and traffic members; improve resource allocation and prudent use thereof; and last but not least,

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enhance coordination within the Criminal Justice System. Madam Speaker, the Skielik murders have sparked a racially-inclined debate that has polarized our people even more. Our social cohesion efforts need to be intensified in order to bring healing not only to the Skielik Community but also to the broader North West society that has been affected by these murders.

I want to emphasize that we should not allow the horrendous and brutal acts of one individual to crucify an entire community. The law will run its course and deal appropriately with perpetrators of all crimes that take human life in such unfeeling way. Through the establishment of a unit tasked with the promotion of moral regeneration and social cohesion in our province, a platform has now been created where all formations in society, in the richness of their diversity, can sit together under a Morula Tree we do have many Morula Trees

here. Someone was saying it maybe the Mampuru Tree and seek solutions to critical moral concerns of our society. While we celebrate the gains of our democracy, we also recognize that in the past few years we have seen some unpleasant incidences, which include domestic violence, abuse of children, victimization of the elderly, discrimination of persons with disabilities, attacks of racist nature, ritual killings, breakdown of discipline in schools, and acts like that. The establishment of this programme on moral regeneration has enabled government to join hands with social partners to ensure that we forge effective partnerships for realizing moral renewal and social cohesion in all our communities.

MmeMmusaKgotla lenaneo le la go busetsa botho mo bathong, le thusitse puso go tlhaloganya botoka matshwenyego a baagi ba lebaganeng nao mo ba agileng le go dira teng, ebong

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matshwenyego a amanang le boitsholo jwa batho ka kakaretso. Re tshwere dipuisano le baagi (community dialogues) go ralala profense ka 2007, ka maikaelelo a gore le bone ba nne le seabe mo go diriweng ga se re se bitsang re re ke "The Charter of Positive Moral Values."

Ka lenaane le la di-community tsa rona di tla buisanang ka tsona, bakgweetsi ba di-taxi, baithuti mo dikolong, balemi, Magosi, ba ditumelo tse di farologaneng, bomme ba Mekgatlho ya di Kereke, bana ba ba dulang mo mebileng, ga mmogo le bagolegwa, ba utlwana ka bongwe fela jwa pelo go aga setšhaba se mo go sone batho botlhe ba tlotlanang, ba utlwelanang botlhoko; setšhaba se se tlotlang botho jwa motho le seriti sa gagwe, tota setšhaba se se gananang le maitsholo a a bodileng. Re lebogela ditshwaelo tsa botlhe ba ba ntseng le seabe mo dipuisanong tse, le dikgakolo-

lo tsa bone.

Under the Support Programmes for institutions and communities, we joined hands with the community and leadership of Pella Village in the Moses Kotane Municipality, to bring about healing in a community that was affected by a series of ritual killings. As part of the Moral Regeneration Programme, the province has launched the Ethical Leadership Project in October 2007, through which we seek to inculcate ethical values and consciousness among those who have leadership responsibilities. The promotion of ethical leadership, we believe, is an important contribution towards entrenching good governance and combating crime and corruption.

I would now want to move to make appeal to our society as I move towards conclusion Madam Speaker, that they adhere to their civic duties by ensuring that we pay for their municipal services, in order to

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help municipalities to function efficiently. Citizens must also participate in their local governance structures. I also want to make an appeal Madam Speaker that indeed we need to ensure that we support all our initiatives and our successes that we have realized already in reduction of crime in the roads and therefore let's not drink and drive.

I want to appeal Madam Speaker recognizing that we have fought so hard for this democracy and we have all earned the right to legally engage with our government. We should therefore refrain from damaging public property in an attempt to be heard, because we are only damaging our own heritage if we do so. The youth are the future of our nation, let us all preserve our lives and conduct ourselves in a manner befitting future leaders. Abstain from abusing all kinds of substances and treat ourselves with the respect which we know we deserve. We urge

the North West Community to support the President's call which is implemented by the Department of Education on the New Pledge for learners in schools because we do believe indeed that we need this.

Madam Speaker as I conclude I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the sea of support and invaluable advice without which we would not have reached these heights of delivery of a better life for all. My special words of gratitude goes to my colleagues in the Executive Council for their continued support and leadership; but the colleagues in the Executive Council start being Members in this august House, their enormous support that was found from this august House in different ways we have really made us stronger, you have supported as we continue to implement this programme on your behalf because indeed this our government programme. I would like also to acknowl-

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edge and thank our Traditional Leaders and also in particular our advisor on Traditional matters Rre Kgosi Motsatsi, the Economic Advisory Council, North West Research Council, House of Traditional Leaders, all Political Parties, all heads of departments; senior management and all staff in the entire provincial government; My political home the African National Congress for providing progressive policies that have led this government to bettering the lives of the people.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome and introduce to this august House Madam Speaker if you allow me our new Director General, Mme Nana Magomola. She is here with us today and we will like to welcome her and wish her well and look forward to working with her. She certainly comes with vast experience and will make a valuable contribution to the province.

Last but by not least, I would like to acknowledge the support of my family, my husband Richard Kgaugelo Molewa, my mother who is here in the House, my children and the whole extended family. Individually and collectively, the work and dedication of all these people I have mentioned has ensured that the North West Province is counted among the pioneers in the continued improvement of the human condition and the ultimate carriers of our renewed pledge of a national partnership to build a better life for all. Political parties that are participating in this House would like to acknowledge them. Rre Mangope we really wish you well as well and congratulate you also in the new matrimony. Thank you very much.

As I conclude Madam Speaker, I would like to say amongst a myriad of characters that populate Greek mythology; we find a man called Sisyphus. Sisyphus betrayed the Gods wishes by

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putting chains on death so that man should die no more. For his punishment, Sisyphus was arrested and detained for later execution. Before he could be executed, Sisyphus escaped. He was rearrested and, instead of being put to death, the Gods decided on a punishment more torturers than death. They condemned Sisyphus to the task of rolling a huge rock up a steep mountain and rest it there; and from its sheer weight, the rock would roll back right to the foot of the mountain.

This incensed Sisyphus who walks down to the foot of the mountain being angry, disdainful and contemptuous! He would roll the rock all the way back to the top of the mountain, and predictably the rock would roll back. In this myth, we see the whole effort of a body straining to raise the huge stone, to roll it, and push it up a slope a hundred times over; we see the face screwed up, the cheek tight against the stone, the shoulder bracing the clay-covered

mass, the foot wedging it, the fresh start with arms outstretched, the wholly human security of two earth-clotted hands.

At the very end of his long effort measured by skyless space and time without depth, the purpose is achieved. Then Sisyphus watches the stone rush down in a few moments toward lower world whence he will have to push it up again towards the summit. He goes back down to the plain. In a bizarre turn of thought, Sisyphus starts to see himself as the absurd hero; both as much through his passions as through his torture: His scorn of the Gods, his hatred of death, and his passion for life won him that unspeakable penalty in which the whole being is exerted toward accomplishing nothing. This endless task of Sisyphus is found in our endeavours to build schools, clinics, eradicating bucket systems, and a myriad of services of that nature; all these for masses

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of people who are like endlessly moving glaciers; and all in a pursuit for a better life.

Indeed if it was somebody else a lesser person would speak of a curse of Sisyphus. He saw it as a task. To a lesser political party, our job is absurd and unachievable. To us the ruling party, it is a task most worthy of being pursued. Whatever our challenges, whatever our limitations, we embrace the task of serving our people; guided by the noble mission of bringing A Better Life for All. This is the message that I want to leave to this august House with you today.

Bagaetsho, maloba ga se maabane! A tiro e tshabe diatla!

I thank you all for listening. Honourable Speaker I would like to apologize for taking your time. !!! Ke a leboga!

**HON. SPEAKER:**

Re a lo leboga. Honourable Members I am sure Members

of this House are as happy as I am today to see the Honourable George Madoda back in the House. We did not think you will give us the third leg but congratulations we are happy to see you back.

All guests are invited to lunch at the Civic Center. Please do not drive your car there. You will not find parking space. There are very serious direct orders given to people looking after the Civic Center not to agree to let you park your cars there. So we humbly request you although I don't sound so humbly to walk. It is just across here from Garona, to take that little stroll, it does not even take you 5 minutes to walk to lunch. I note that there will be ushers, protocol people to show you the way in case you are from Mpumalanga. I also wish you make a correction in the distribution of a programme. Somebody become very grant and said that the Chief Whip has a Gala Dinner. The Chief Whip wishes to correct

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this mistake. He has a bash. Now in my age we don't understand the difference between the Gala Dinner and a bash. You are invited to the bash at 17h30 not at 19h00. So please make yourself available for the Chief Whip's bash. You are expected to be smart casual.

My last announcement is that Honourable Members of the NCOP and Members of this House are again invited for a photo shooting. If you do know that you are neither a

Member of this House or NCOP please do not join us. This House is adjourned. I am going to request that all of you remain sitted until we have left and then please follow us, that is if you are a Member or Member of the NCOP. To our nice distinguish guests it will be good if you can start walking towards the Civic Center. The House is adjourned until the 19th of February.

**THE HOUSE IS  
ADJOURNED**