

TUESDAY: 03 JUNE 2008

Sitting No. 11

[No. 11 - 2008] Fourth Session, Third Legislature

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**LEGISLATURE OF THE
NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

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09H00

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

Honourable Members, we will now observe a moment of silent prayer and meditation. You may get seated. Next item.

MEC Vilakazi and it is on the ATC. I therefore refer Members to the ATC for that announcement.

**SECRETARY: ITEM NO 2.
MINUTES OF THE 29TH MAY
2008**

I now have a pleasure of inviting Honourable Mokaila to table the report of the Portfolio Committee on Finance, Economic Development and Tourism and the scrutiny of the 2008/2009 Strategic Plan of the department. Honourable Mokaila.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

Honourable Members, I place before you a set of minutes for adoption, of the 29th of May 2008. Are there any corrections from the minutes? In the absence of corrections, does the House adopt the minutes? You may proceed to the next item.

HON. MOKAILA:

Thank you Deputy Speaker. I am tabling two reports: The first report is the committee's scrutiny of the Strategic Plan of the Department of Finance and the second report is the committee report on the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. Thanks.

**SECRETARY: ITEM NO. 3.
ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLING
AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

Honourable Members, we received an announcement from

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

Honourable Members, the

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debate on this report will take place concurrently, respectively with budget votes. We proceed to the next item.

**SECRETARY: ITEM NO. 4,
PROCEEDINGS ON BILLS:
SECOND READING**
North West Appropriation Bill,
2008

- i) Office of the Premier, Budget Vote 1
- ii) North West Provincial Legislature, Budget Vote 2
- iii) Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Budget Vote 6
- iv) Department of Finance, Budget Vote 7
- v) Contingency Reserve, Budget Vote 14

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

Honourable Members, like we have done in the previous Sittings, let me also take this opportunity to urge Members to stick to time allocated as it appears on the screen in front of you. This time you have got a screen that gives you exact time, so that you manage your own time. When we say 8 minutes it is 8 minutes. Let me now invite the Premier to present the budget.

HON. PREMIER:

Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. I see 50 minutes. It has not started moving one. I would like to take this opportunity to greet and recognize,

- Honourable Speaker,
- Honourable Deputy Speaker,
- Colleagues in the Executive Council, and
- Colleagues in the Legislature,
- Our Political Party Leaders,
- Members of the National Assembly who may be here, and
- Everybody present.
- Magosi a rona
- Di NGOs,
- All the organizations that we work with in government
- The Director General in the Provincial Administration, Mme Nana Magomola and Senior Managers
- All members of media
- All the people of the North West Province

Bagaetsho ke a dumedisa Ke re gompiano jaana re baya fa pele ga Ntlo eno kabotekanyetso kana ditshitshinyo tsa kabotekanyetso ya kantoro ya Mo-Primiri e e farologanang le State of Province Address.

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Rre Motlatsa Mmusakgotla, a year ago I stood before this august House as I do today, to give a detailed account of the road that we have traveled so far and also how we have utilized the resources that were allocated to the Office of the Premier, in order for this august House to consider and pass this accounting and as well as the usage of funds.

As we approach the end of the current financial year Honourable Deputy Speaker, we do so confident that we have indeed discharged our responsibilities to our people with dedication and selflessness. This was actually done in spite of the many constraints and challenges that always face people who are hard at work, and on this occasion Deputy Speaker, we are reminded of the timeless words of Theodore Roosevelt who in 1923 said the following:

"It is not the critic who counts, not the one who points out how the strongman stumbled and how the doer of deeds might have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred with sweat and

dust and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, who knows the triumph of high achievement and who at worst if he fails, at least fails whilst daring greatly so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

These words Honourable Deputy Speaker, remains a vivid reminder to appreciate the role of unsung heroes and heroines who consistently go beyond the call of duty, to help create a better society, but whom from time to time may fall short of experience or experience some setbacks in the process of serving our nation. As Roosevelt reminds us Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is to these people that we must remain indebted.

I am standing here before you and on behalf of the people that we serve and the army of the Public Servants, the doers of deeds whose faces are marred with sweat and dust and blood, to present the budget of the Office of the Premier, and this represents the minimum resource we need to effectively discharge our mandate.

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We are keenly aware Honourable Deputy Speaker that the very nature of a developmental state requires capacity to work within a confine of limited resources, while at the same time delivering on the undertakings of efficiency and good governance to our people. Indeed many in this august House Honourable Deputy Speaker will attest to the fact that the Office of the Premier has epitomized this dictum that says, doing more of less.

Just as a reminder, colleagues in this august House, and to also inform those who may not be aware of what we implement, these are the following programs that we implement:

Under Administration we look at:

- Premier support
- Executive Council Support
- Director General Support
- Financial Management
- The other program is Institutional Development which looks at
 - Strategic Human Resources
 - Information Communication Technology
 - Legal Services
 - Communication services

And under Policy and

Governance we look at

- Special Programs
- Intergovernmental Relations
- Provincial Policy Management
- Traditional Affairs

And also one program that is very least spoken about,

- The Premier's Priority Programs

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the cluster system as we know it plays a critical catalytic role in streamlining the way in which we design and implement our program of action as government. It galvanizes a systematic coordination of all our deliverables in an efficient and effective manner.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, in order to improve the implementation of decisions and directives of the Executive Council, and also monitor progress made in the work that we do on an ongoing basis, we have ensured that through this cluster system, the work that is done through cluster system and also by EXCO is actually electronic and now it is captured in what we call the electronic action list which is very much available to all

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departments and to all sectors, which has been redesigned and is currently working very effectively and is being utilized to make it user-friendly also and simultaneously accessible by all departments, as I said.

I can also report Honourable Deputy Speaker that the Office of the Premier has for the third time in six years time won the SAIGA Annual Public Sector Reporting awards in the category for the best departmental Annual Report in the North West Province. As we know, SAIGA also considers if such reporting is actual and factual. This was a tremendous achievement which I believe is indicative of our continual improving capacity to deliver on our mandate with excellence.

We have in the year under review Honourable Deputy Speaker, raised the bar even higher on issues of human resource management and development, and in this regard we presented a total of twenty (20) management reports to Executive Council and its structures which deals with various aspects of improvement of services with regards to human

resources and thereby strengthening our monitoring and evaluation role.

We have also paid focused attention to the need for systematic and effective implementation of the Personnel Management and Development Services (PMDS) which is a very notorious thing to some people, but we believe that it is necessary to have it in government and we are now in the process of actually ensuring that this is implemented fully because we have not reached the levels that we really need.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, our staff remains our greatest assets. For us this is not just another cliché. We have developed a Provincial Employee Health and Wellness Strategy which places the health and wellness of our employees and their families ahead of everything else that we do. We are beginning to see the benefits of this priceless investment in the intensive health and wellness programs undertaken by different departments. As we saw we had a wellness day for the past two years which was very actually successful and also imple-

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mented by other departments.

We will continue to prioritize the wellbeing of those who serve the public service by taking cognizance of their wellness needs. The implementation of the Provincial Workplace HIV/AIDS strategy plan will also receive urgent attention of the employee health and wellness initiative as we have already started.

As we continue to increase and improve on targets Honourable Deputy Speaker, relating to the implementation of Batho Pele program, but we are not there yet by the way, we have this year, I am saying we are not here really where we are saying we can be fully implementing this Batho Pele, but we have this year exceeded our expectations and those of our customers, by implementing a Batho Pele Model, a new one, and this program allows government departments across the three spheres to cooperate and coordinate their efforts for maximum impact at different points of service delivery.

Our gratitude in this regard goes to those national departments which are resident in the

Province, the provincial departments and also municipalities that spared no effort in contributing to the program. That included the Public Service Week, by the way also the Africa Public Service Day and a very special Community Outreach Program which was done in Lebotlwane in Bojanala but also in Taung in Bophirima Region.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, our advance towards freeing a human and economic potential of our people remain an imperative that we continue to pursue relentlessly. We are proceeding to build on the foundation that we have laid in the area of skills development as we know this is actually a priority program, one of those that are under business unusual.

The provincial skills development conference which was held last year produced resolutions and declarations that allowed us to align our skills development interventions with our Provincial Skills Development Strategy which is there for perusal by Honourable Members.

We have established skills

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development partnerships Honourable Members, and key amongst these are our bursary partnership with ETDP, which is a SETA that operates within the Education Sector, which has offered our unemployed youth fifty (50) bursaries which is celebrated this year. As we speak 50 young children are there studying in the engineering learnership partnership. Also we have looked at a partnership with Anglo Ashanti and Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality, thanks to those, which has benefited twenty (20) young learners.

In an effort Honourable Deputy Speaker, to improve the skills profile of our province and address poverty and unemployment, our Human Resource Directorate actively coordinated the uptake of eight hundred and thirty six (836) unemployed youth on internship and another seven hundred and fifty eight (758) on learnership, processed in 2007/2008, and eight (8) of those were finalized while seven (7) are still under implementation. That is now those that comes from the management plan.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we spare no effort to clean administration and where corrupt elements have no space to maneuver, we really have to ensure that we close that kind of space. We are dealing here with issues of ensuring that we deal through forensic audit investigation on corruption and fraud, and in this regard we remain with the objective that the Office of the Premier will embrace continuously to pursue anti-corruption and anti-fraud with vigor that we have and we possess with seriousness that we have and that we possess.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we have been successful in strengthening the coordination of the security standards and systems in the provincial government, by launching what is now implemented together with the Department of Finance, the Provincial Security Managers Forum, which looks at issues that have to deal with implementation of needs in general, and as a result of this initiative, the entire government is now able to say with confidence that indeed to some an extent we are able to safeguard the government buildings and docu-

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ments, and of course I must say that I also notice that in this august House and in some departments, we still need to do a little bit more in terms of classification, particularly of documents.

For the purpose of providing a convenient and cost effective way for the employees to access essential legal information within a secure environment, as a province we have successfully installed the Juta Law Intranet Solution Software that provides a fast access to legal information at the touch of a button.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, last year we undertook to change the Project Information Management System that is known as ProMIS to a fully web-based system that can be accessed by departments at all times, and the system is now fully functional as we speak. We are confident that soon departments will increase the pace regarding project data inputs and we have also trained the data capturers at departmental level to assist to enter accurate and relevant information to enable stakeholders to

extract relevant reports.

We have gone a step further to agree with the National Treasury that our system will be used to extract national reports for provincial departments as it is currently fully aligned to national reporting needs and standards.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am pleased to report also to this august House that we are engaged in a process of monitoring achievements that we have made with regards to provincial growth and development strategy targets which we know those targets are clearly taking us towards growing the economy by 6.6%. We have emerged with the PGDS Monitor report, which indicates the extent of growth as has been registered in this province, and we are currently reviewing the PGDS to allow all stakeholders to contribute in revising socio-economic targets as we do every year since the inception of this provincial growth and development strategy.

We have also included in the PGDS the social and this time the ICT pillars, two new pillars as essential elements for socio-

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economic growth. If I may say, this social pillar will take forward the implementation of the provincial poverty alleviation strategy.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, long standing commitment to the PGDS objective is 6.6% as I said and this still remains, in order for us to halve poverty and unemployment by 2014 and also to deal with issues of under development. We are satisfied that we are on track towards realizing these objectives and targets.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, adding to our process of improving our socio-economic trajectory, the Economic Advisory Council has produced its annual report. We commend these experts for their invaluable advice indeed and I am sure some of them are here as I see.

The EAC held all its quarterly meetings and has always been ready to analyze and provide advice relating to sustainable growth in the province, and we say thanks to them that we are able to achieve some of these issues, especially around socio-economic development and growth.

One of the major achievements of the Council Honourable Deputy Speaker is the establishment of the North West Growth Fund. This is a definite indicator of excellent work that is being done by the Council in order to create an enabling environment for access to funds and accelerate the growth in the process.

This is managed, also led by the Department of Finance and I am sure the Honourable MEC will allude to that I think it is in her speech. I propose, I think that it should be there, but we are jointly working on this, together with the Economic Advisory Council.

The North West Growth Fund trustees have been appointed and are currently soliciting and processing business proposals of funding of a provincial growth projects and actual implementation work ladies and gentlemen has started already, and we will be in a position to launch this fund officially later this year, and the fund will play a catalytic role in ensuring that we continue to make resources available for the growth and development of our province.

Honourable Members, as indi-

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cated last year, the Office of the Premier together with Treasury, is spearheading the implementation of critical infrastructure forward, a very critical tool indeed which we have now began implementing, which is known as IDIP. I must indicate Honourable Deputy Speaker that we have made great stride towards the submission of all statutory plans as required by the National Treasury, in line with the new division of revenue and as a province we implemented this initiative some two (2) years ago as I said. It is now under implementation. It has resulted in a completely new paradigm planning and project management in the province and this will help to improve cross-departmental capacity for improved service delivery because we are able to pre-plan and to plan the projects even before the year start. This is the second year and we hope that this will actually take us forward in terms of the improvement as we go forward.

And as response to the Presidential clarion call of Business Unusual approach, in partnership with the Department of Finance we are currently in

the process of establishing a provincial call- centre and the importance of this project Honourable Deputy Speaker, cannot be underestimated as it will indeed bring government closer to our people that we serve.

We recently hosted also and celebrated the information society month. In the buildup towards this event of the information society month that was launched in that entire month, we exposed our youth to the opportunities on sustainable and innovative job creation through e-cooperatives, as well as launching the North West chapter of the provincial digital repository, and in this regard I may as well indicate that just about a week ago, we were actually implementing this program but have also issued out certificates after training young people in this provincial digital repository and e-cooperatives.

They are now ready in the municipalities in very deep rural areas, to begin with the process of installing e-government and e-electronic and e-cooperatives as they are to do whatever they need to do and expose our cul-

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ture in particular, and our businesses in those areas.

We are therefore going to be continuing to accelerate the implementation of our priorities in so far as the APEX priorities are concerned, with specific reference to APEX priority number 3, project number 3, and as the Office of the Premier we will continue to provide active leadership, coordination and hands-on support to government services with regards to delivery through ICTs. We will also continue to develop provincial ICT policy, regulations and standards in order to promote and enhance the uptake and utilization of the ICTs by government and the entire people of the North West Province as part of the overall objective of contributing to the sustainable economic development of our province.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the establishment of the provincial programme on moral regeneration has galvanized our resolve to create a carrying society, in which human dignity and life are respected, a society in which all our people can fully enjoy the fruits of democracy without fear of victimization and exclusion,

and amongst other this programme is looking at creating a vehicle for a national discussion and dialogue on the social ills that South Africa faces, as we saw the Skierlik issues, that we need to actually ensure that our people when such occurrences happen they are at one and speak with one voice so that we are really continuing to build a cohesive society and educating our society going forward, also with regards to these xenophobic issues.

We also need to mobilize mass commitment towards positive values, responsible citizenship and also patriotism, building bridges within and between communities especially in the face of intolerance of deep social divisions that we saw recently, and through this programme we believe we shall make a positive impact in terms of crime reduction, strengthening the family as a cornerstone of society and in the restoration of self worth amongst all of us.

Under the moral regeneration Deputy Speaker, as a programme, we have held a series of community dialogues. Already as we speak with the

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whole spectrum of stakeholders in the province, ranging from the learners, the farmers, the traditional leaders, religious communities, taxi operators and drivers as well, inmates in prisons and persons with disabilities and all have pledged their support to this campaign.

These contributions have also formed part of our chapter, the chapter of positive values that will be unveiled by the moral regeneration movement at national level and we hope that they will do it in this province, here in this province because we are calling them, for us to host that on July the 29th 2008, and in partnership with the North West Provincial Youth Commission and the Department of Social Development, we have held already in four (4) districts the Youth Summit on moral regeneration with a specific focus on promoting responsible citizenship amongst our people, and a youth specific program on moral regeneration has been drafted jointly with these partners as well as the Department of Social Development, and will be presented at the Provincial Youth Summit on moral regeneration

in June this year, just in a few days to come, as we roll out the June 16 program.

On the 16th October 2007 as I said we launched the Ethical Leadership Project Honourable Deputy Speaker, through which we sought to inculcate ethical values and consciousness amongst those who hold leadership responsibilities, and the promotion of ethical leadership we believe, is an important contribution towards entrenching good governance and combating corruption. Traditional Leadership, local government and political parties MRM specific program will also be rolled out in the next financial year.

As I indicated in the State of the Province Address Honourable Deputy Speaker, earlier this year, the Office has drafted a strategy for combating racism, xenophobia and also related intolerances, and this strategy is also based on a National Social Cohesion Program, a nation in the making as I said, and is currently being finalized with stakeholders. That is the province specific one. Upon ratification by the Executive Council, this province specific strategy shall

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become our road map on eradicating these injustices from all our communities.

The development of young people in the province has gained momentum Honourable Deputy Speaker, and our program aimed at improving the capacity of young people in the province, are becoming increasingly visible. Through the National Youth Service program, we have managed to train one thousand two hundred and twenty (1 220) youth in the trades of ICT, construction, ABET practitioners, the landscaping program, conservation and tourism and project management, and the Premier's Youth Awards as we know is a program that runs every year, that has also recognized and empowered young people who excelled in the following categories:

- Science and Technology
- Sport
- Arts and Culture
- Education
- Entrepreneurship and job creation.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, to strengthen support to the youth programs, we have requested

and advertised for nominations for the Board of Trustees of the Youth Development Trust and this new board will be appointed before the end of June this year. It is important also to inform this august House that the Trust has already started to develop partnerships with other organs of State with a view of capacitating young people in the province, and the following are some of the agreements that have been concluded in order to empower the young people.

- The Trust has signed a R4 million agreement with the Provincial Department of Social Development and these funds are aimed at training hundred and fifty (150) young people in brick-making in the Dr Ruth Mompati District Municipality.
- Also the National Department of Public Works has committed to employing five hundred (500) more young people in the Skilpadhek project in Lehurutshe and thirty (30) in the construction of Jouberton Police Station and a further fifty (50) in the renovation of Potchefstroom Prison.

All these will be implemented as part of this National Youth month Honourable Deputy

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Speaker.

With regard to improving the quality of life of our people with disabilities, jointly with the Provincial Disability Forum which we launched, the Honourable Speaker of this august House was present, a representative structure of all organizations as a Body Disability Forum has actually developed, together with the rest of the people in the province who come from departments, what we call the Provincial Disability programme of action, that spells out the priority intervention areas by government for the disability sector, and the program includes amongst others:

- commitment on economic empowerment of people with disabilities,
- improving the internal capacity to manage the disability program,
- increasing accessibility of services to persons with disabilities. and
- broadening the participation in decision-making processes.

I must also indicate that even in this program, in fact we are not

there yet, a lot still remains to be done, and I think all of us must push hard to ensure that this program becomes a success.

In the last financial year Honourable Deputy Speaker, we committed to make sure that the disability sector is represented in all PGDF working groups and I am honourable Mr Deputy Speaker, to return to this august House and declare that this has indeed been done.

During this financial year we will launch a provincial disability machinery that will ensure the mainstreaming of disability issues across all sectors, be they government, business, labour, academic institutions, religious bodies and all civil society organizations.

The Office of the Status of people with disabilities will also convene a provincial disability summit, to develop a medium term provincial plan on disability. This will be succeeded by the finalization of establishment of municipal disability forum in all municipalities because this process has also started. It is just about to be completed, of

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establishing forums in the municipalities.

During this year Honourable Deputy Speaker, we will also develop a database of people with disabilities and the intention is to make sure that our intervention is targeted and response to the real needs of the affected people, and the database will cover areas around skills within the sector, other categories and geographical spreads, gender and also the age group.

We will continue Honourable Deputy Speaker during this financial year, to strengthen units dealing with children and older persons programs. These are new units that will also need special attention, as they deal with some of the most vulnerable groups in our society.

As the custodians of old age values and traditions of our people, the institution of traditional leaders continues to make a very important contribution towards the process of deepening democracy in our province, and by legitimizing traditional leadership, even in the ambit of our democracy, our government has long sent a clear message

that bogosi ba rona, as an institution, will continue to play an important role in the development of our country, particularly in our rural communities.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we remain relentless as government in our efforts to strengthen the institutions of traditional leadership. The capacity of dikgosi therefore continues to be a major priority. We have spent almost 94% at this present time, of the allocated budget that has targeted for this institution support, and amongst other things the funds were used for the following:

- Payment of sitting allowance for traditional council,
- Renovations of the Chamber of the House of Traditional Leaders, which now looks a little bit better than last year,
- Provision of furniture, the ICT infrastructure and other goods to other traditional councils and I think that we have covered all the traditional councils just in the sitting, the opening of the House recently.
- We also provided grants to all traditional councils for the day-to-day running of this work, and

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- On the infrastructure improvement, three (3) traditional councils offices were completed and one is still under construction as announced by the Honourable Thibedi recently in this august House, and we shall hand over the offices to the relevant authorities.

These programmes Honourable Deputy Speaker, that have to deal with traditional leaders will continue in areas which we have not yet covered in terms of building offices and other infrastructure.

In this new financial year Honourable Deputy Speaker we will implement the comprehensive national programme for support for dikgosi, and this programme will be a pilot in our province. We have signed at this present time an MOU with Local Government SETA to train dikgosi tsa rona, and the programme will commence in June, this month, now as we speak in this month.

The duties of dikgosi Honourable Deputy Speaker are still a critical challenge facing our government and we will continue to work closely with the

House of Traditional Leaders to resolve these disputes. I therefore appeal to Honourable Members to ensure that we all send consistent messages to these communities. The Judge Handler Commission report on the Bakwena Ba Mogopa Bogosi dispute has been finalized and I have already acted on its recommendations and that report will be tabled in this august House.

Another commission of enquiry will soon be appointed for Ga-Rankotea Community in Brits to investigate the allegations of improper management of the proceeds of minerals mined in that area. We are just having to intervene through these commissions Honourable Deputy Speaker, because we take a long time trying to reconcile the communities and at times it becomes very dicey for us as an office because we also get accused of being part of the problem.

So we stand aside and appoint commissions where it is necessary to do so, and we are all saying let us continue to try and resolve and help to resolve the disputes that exists in our com-

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munities, particularly because we see them as commencing and starting in areas where our communities have a lot of mineral resources and wealth, and such are not needed really because we have to allow a process where our communities also become rich through the natural resources that are available in their own communities.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the implementation of the Provincial Traditional Leadership and Governance Act has actually revealed that we require more refinement, especially in regard to issues of the efficient resolution of these disputes. We will work closely with the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders to put those amendments before this august House very soon because indeed they have made those suggestions already.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, cooperative government and intergovernmental relations are critical aspects of the burgeoning democracy. In this regard we will continue to intensify IGR training in all four district municipalities, and the North West will continue to engage with the international communities on

various matters, including strengthening of existing relations and to facilitate new relations with South Africa's partners abroad.

This we do as part of our country's collective effort to contribute to the global economy in the interest of our people, and in this regard we would like to mention our engagements with Botswana, Canada, Finland, Indonesia, India and China amongst others, as important for 2007/2008 international activities. The Honourable Speaker's programme, I know it is very close to the Indonesia thing and we are intending to finalise it this year Honourable Speaker.

The North West was invited to participate in the Prospectors' and Developers' Association in Canada Conference by the Minister of Minerals and Energy in 2007, and conference attracts well renowned experts in various field of engineering, mining and prospecting exploration, banking and so forth.

With regard to Finland, we engage with the small and medium enterprise development agencies, the information and

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communication technology agencies and the arts and culture industry and the ICT sector is currently completing a project plan with the assistance of Finn ICT agency for the science park in the Southern District Municipality, working closely with that municipality.

The Department of Sports, Arts and Culture with regard to Finland as well is engaged with the University of Arts and Design in Helsinki, to sign an agreement in order to capacitate the Mmabana Cultural Foundation, but also to learn more from our own institution, Mmabana Cultural Foundation.

In China Honourable Deputy Speaker, we signed an agreement with the Province of Henan, focusing on economy, trade, agriculture, science and technology, culture, education, sports, health, personnel and so forth, to promote development and common prosperity. We are hopeful that our relationship with our partners abroad in general holds lasting future for the people of the North West Province and the relations as well for our future.

As part of our objective of government bringing government services closer to the people, we will during the course of this year again launch another additional two. If municipalities come on board before the end of the financial year, obviously we will look at those as well. The Thusong Service Centres in Tlakgameng, in the Kagisano Municipality and in the Jericho and Madibeng, those two will be established this financial year.

We remain confident that we will meet the Presidential deadline of establishing one Thusong Service Centre per local municipality. Of course the other challenge is to make this Thusong Centre function very effectively. There are those who are relatively functioning very well, but teething problems are there as it is usually the case.

The North West Mirror Honourable Deputy Speaker, continues to be one of the key instruments through which our government communicates the implementation of its programme of action to our people. We are humbled by the compendium of positive feedback that we receive from our people

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about the content and quality of the publication. We will do everything in our power to work on areas that require urgent improvement, and in particular, we will pay serious attention to the issue of distribution so that many more of our people may receive this information through The Mirror, and I hope that Honourable Members in this august House can now say with confidence that indeed the Legislature is also covered a great deal.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we remain concerned that many of our people are unable to receive government information in their own language and we will continue to do our best to ensure that the languages we use do not marginalize our people from participating in the democratic and governance processes.

A Branding Conference took place in September last year and we have drawn valuable lessons and directives from this conference. The plan for taking this process forward is currently underway as we know that we have got to finally sometime this year also finalize the branding of our province and have a brand

as the North West Province.

Each year Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Office of the Premier convenes communication strategy workshops and makgotla for all communicators across the provincial government, the municipalities and parastatals. The objective is to ensure uniform understanding of the thrust of government communication and key communication priorities of the current year as well as the core message of government and how communicators can communicate it in a coherent and consistent manner. This will continue also this year.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we are in the final year of this term, which requires a more intensified delivery drive that must permeate all levels and all aspects of our deliverables to the poor. Through the manner in which we implement our programs, we must give concrete expression to the notion of "business unusual" and ensure that all hands remain firmly on deck to accelerate the pace of delivery.

To this end Honourable Deputy Speaker, we will also intensify

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our resolve to improve our governance system by committing to the mainstreaming of transversal policies, while ensuring that strategic thrusts receive greater attention in the new financial year at every governance sphere, cluster and also economic sector.

In the interest of improving service delivery, we have identified the imperatives of designing and implementing a training program that promotes a culture of ethics of service delivery in the public service, while offering a viable career path for the particular individuals. The objective has been identified as a priority that must receive urgent attention during this financial year and this initiative will ensure that services to the poor are delivered in a humane and dignified manner.

The renewed initiative to promote "Batho Pele" principles in the workplace will be extended this current year also to the new priority sectors and Batho Pele is the defined mechanism for ensuring that we progressively move away from the legacy of deprivation of the past to our people and towards a future of

shared prosperity. We must therefore Honourable Deputy Speaker, extend it in order to ensure that these principles permeate all levels where we interface with our people.

Building on the success from the previous financial year, we must now ensure that our crime prevention and anti-corruption, as well as anti-fraud initiatives in the province are strengthened and that we continually promote high ethical and moral values throughout society, and accelerate implementation, while improving the coordination of policies, programmes and mechanisms designed to prevent crime and corruption.

In the interest of fast-tracking action on issues raised during the Izimbizo, we are focusing on how best to track down these issues that have been raised by our communities and how we follow up issues raised at the Izimbizo, so that we can actually bring difference to the lives of our people. A system already exists, that has been established in the Office of the Premier to capture these.

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Information Technology is indeed one of the imperative tools of government in the overall functioning of our state machinery. It is for this reason that we have made a decision to design and implement a plan of action to strengthen and improve information technology and electronic governance on a coordinated and integrated basis throughout the provincial government as another priority for this financial year.

We will continue to prioritize our systems that can make access or give access to information transversally and ensure that such information is availed. This will create greater synergy and ensure that we use government information to improve the way in which we conduct our business in government.

Adding on to the improvement of access to information imperatives for the purpose of continually gauging our performance, we intend to ensure that during this financial year we prioritize and accelerate progress in establishing and managing a complete province and government-wide monitoring and evaluation system. We will finalize

the strategy for the province and implement various aspects of this strategy across government, aligned to municipality's monitoring and reporting.

As the Office of the Premier, we must continue to intensify our collective advance towards meeting the needs of our people, knowing that it is not the critic who counts, not the one who points out how the strong man stumbled as pointed out by Roosevelt as quoted earlier.

Indeed the credit belongs to the army of men and women who are in the arena, who err and comes up short again and again. If they fall and if they fail, they do so while daring greatly. We are confident that their places shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory not defeat. For the Office of the Premier, I now come to the programmes as I conclude, to discharge its functions and obligations to our people in this coming financial year 2008/2009, we request from this august House an amount of two hundred and forty eight million, two hundred and ninety five thousand (R248,295,000), which will be

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allocated as follows:

Programme 1, as I alluded to earlier on as it will be appearing in the documents, pardon me that I would not go through those details, but just also move towards conclusions, we are requesting that that total as, and also the breakdown, be allocated by this august House. This total program as we said, will actually help us to take forward all these very wonderful programs that we are intending to do.

We must as I said earlier on and as we continue to say, continue to intensify our collective advance towards meeting our people's needs, and I humbly ask this august House to approve the budget as spelt out earlier on, but as I conclude, coming to what Honourable Tselapedi calls these things now, of acknowledging other people, I want to say as we stand here today Honourable Deputy Speaker, and as we do always, we say we are privileged and honoured to convey our humble thanks to the leadership of this august House as in the Speaker, yourself, and all other Honourable Members, particularly also the Portfolio

Committee that we work with, for the sterling work that they exercise, their work, and for the leadership that you provide for us to be on our toes and be able to implement on these programs on a continuous basis.

We thank and acknowledge the role that is being played by the political parties present here and more importantly my political home, the African National Congress.

I 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 for all. My special word of gratitude goes to my colleagues in the Executive Council for their continued support and leadership: the Director General of the Province, brand new from the box but she has hit the ground running, Mme Nana Magomola; all Heads of Departments; my Political Advisers, two of them only, Ntate Squire Mahlangu as a Political Advisor newly appointed. We have send the message already to this august House and I am sure the Honourable Speaker will

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announce at the right time and inform at the right time, but also the Ntate Kgosi Motsatsi who has been with us; as well as the Economic Advisory Council; the North West Research Council; the House of Traditional Leaders, Senior Managers and all staff in the entire Provincial Government.

Last but not least Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the support of my family, my husband Richard who is here in the Gallery, my children and the whole extended family, and individually and collectively, the work and dedication of all these people I have mentioned, has ensured that we as the Office of the Premier and indeed serving the entire North West, we are counted amongst 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.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen, I did say that on the rare cases two years ago, as I manage to retire home at some respectable time, which I often not do, and relax, looking

at the box called television, as I said the other day I remember that there is a program and remind you that I once said this in the program which is called and was called at the time the Hill Street Blues. I recall how at the start of each episode of the Hill Street Blues, a Captain would brief all his men and in this instance as you know at those times of Hill Street Blues were men only, the men in blue about all the crime hotspots for the day and the briefing ended with the words that says: "Let's go do it to them before they do it to us", and then the men would burst into action.

I have painstakingly outlined this monstrous challenge facing us as a province. To all of us in EXCO and all our various stakeholders, and I urge you that we must go and do it before any other evil thing does it to us. We owe it to our people to ensure that they move along with us. Anything that emerge that stops us, let us ensure that we conquer.

I want to conclude by saying, in Setswana sa rona gatwe "Nko ya kgomo mogala tshwara ka thata, erese ka gongwe o utlwa

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sebedu wa kgaoga", and therefore thank you and I want to ask once again that this august House pass this budget vote of the Office of the Premier. Thank you very much.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

The Premier has done very well in terms of time. I am now inviting Honourable Mahlakeng, the Chairperson of the Committee, to table a report.

HON. MAHLAKENG:

Thank you very much Deputy Speaker and good morning to you. Honourable Speaker, Tonakgolo ya Lebowa Bophirima, Matona a Mmusu wa hao Mme, Ditho tse Kgabane tsa Lekgotla la Ketsamelao, Bahlanka bohle ba Mmuso, Marena le Marena a na e ka sitana le bohle ba lokelwang ke hlompho, ke se ke le hlomphile.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, you would recall that we have had a lengthy debate in your august House with regard to the strategic plan regarding the Office of the Premier and we certainly have got no intention this morning to waste a lot of time with regard to how we deal with this matter and we are

going to take not more than five (5) minutes.

Moving from the premise said by the State of the Province Address and subsequent budget speeches from various government departments, I also hold a firm belief that the dark night of white minority political domination is resending into a distant horizon, yet just as the current strategy and tactics of our movement, the African National Congress said, we are only at the beginning of the long journey to a truly united democratic and prosperous South Africa, in which the value of citizens is measured by their humility without regard to race, gender and social status.

As we vote for the budget for the Office of the Premier, it is necessary that we reflect on the activities or performance of the government, particularly this Office during the previous financial year.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we will recall that the Office of the Premier received a clean bill of health from the Auditor General with regard to his operations in the past year.

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Furthermore, the economic growth of the province has outperformed the annual population growth of the province since 2004. We all know the work this Office has done on matters relating to the work of government clusters and special projects in the form of economic programs.

Whilst acknowledging the good work this office is doing under the leadership of Honourable Premier Molewa, we must raise our concerns on the area of policy generation, implementation and rationalization. The recent killing of the farm worker by lions has raised again this matter regarding legislation and other policies in general, but in particular which governs game farming in the province and matters of rate relations, particularly by some few white minorities in the farm areas in this province. We are also anxiously awaiting the strategy to combating racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance by the good Office of the Premier.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the implementation of an improved and standardized and electronic document system in the depart-

ment is still a challenge that we think must be addressed. We therefore recommend that the Premier's Office should improve the operations of its monitoring and evaluating directorate to look at all these matters.

One interesting challenge relates to matters of load shedding. You would recall that Honourable Deputy Speaker there has been a call for switching off the lights and so on but in particular, the very Office of the Honourable Premier the whole night is on and we do not know if the problem is with those persons who work in those areas or is with the Department of Public Works. We do not know what is happening but di dula di ntse di laetuwe ntate, bosihona kaofela, kapo hona le di nightshift moono, hare tsebetse sejetswang. Le ha ho le jwalo re nere Premier you may want to look at that matter because it is an important matter.

We commend the Office of the Premier on its hands-on approach on business unusual on the key priorities for the year before the end of our mandate as public representatives. We

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also welcome the new Director General as the Portfolio Committee on the Developmental Local Government and Provincial Affairs. We are aware of the leadership challenges in the ANC North West but we should close the ranks and the entrenched unity of purpose.

On the occasion of the 96 Anniversary of the ANC January 8 the ANC made the statement that there should not be any apprehension about relations between the ANC in government, which may hinder implementation. We are aware of the responsibility to ensure smooth working relations and we cannot fail the nation in this regard. The ANC members outside government will not be allowed to undermine those in the government. Those deployed in government can equally not undermine the ANC.

Having said that we, therefore propose that the House adopt this budget. Thank you very much.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:
Honourable Matladi.

HON. MATLADI:

Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. As the Honourable Chair was reading the report, from the beginning he mentioned African National Congress. I thought it is just that sentence that he is passing by, but now he goes deeper and deeper into this report, he talks more about it. Then I wonder if this is a committee report or if it is his own debate which is separate from the committee report.

I said that we have agreed in the working committee that since we have already debated the strategic plan of the Premier's Office, today we are not debating it, we will pass this budget, and we thought he would highlight the issues that the committee has agreed upon, but I have heard something totally different from what I expected. Thank you Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:
Honourable Maloyi.

HON. CHIEF WHIP:
Deputy Speaker, before starting an unfortunate debate, I thought in this House we have politicians who are from different

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political parties, and I thought in this House today we are talking about the budget vote of the Premier, who is the Head of this Province, and in any way, if you debate a budget vote of the Premier, you will have to talk about politics of the province. Now, unfortunately, if other politicians are not sure whether they are politicians or not, that is not our problem. If they want to be administrators, let them go to the administration and deal with administrative matters there. Here we are dealing with politics.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:
Ntate Mahlakeng.

HON. MAHLAKENG:
Deputy Speaker, ha ke tsebe hore Senyasemane sa ka se ile sa fella tseleng. Ke ne ke ile ka hlalosa right at the outset hore the committee report was debated at length in this particular House and therefore today we are debating with a view of ensuring that we adopt the budget as presented by the Honourable Premier. So I am not quite too sure what the quibble is all about by the Honourable Member, and I also borrow what the Honourable

Chief Whip has said.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:
Honourable Members, this now brings us to the end, because there was a question posed by Honourable Matladi, what is exactly happening. The Chairperson of the Committee is responding by saying this matter was debated.

HON. HATTINGH:
Point of order Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:
You see Honourable Hattingh, you ...

HON. HATTINGH:
I am raising a point of order Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:
But you do not raise a point of order when you are standing.

HON. HATTINGH:
That is what I did. Then you must recognize me, because I stood up and I put up my hand and then you started talking. You should recognize me Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:
Honourable Hattingh?

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HON. HATTINGH:

It is in the rules, the rules that you are supposed to have there.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

Honourable Hattingh the rule does not say when you call a point of order you must stand up. I will only recognize you if you call a point of order and you are seated.

HON. HATTINGH:

I call a point of order.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

The reason why you have a mike in front of you is to use it to indicate the red light that you want to speak.

HON. HATTINGH:

May I ask Honourable Speaker another point of order, which rule are you now referring to. I want to raise a point of order but you must now tell me, which rule are you referring to about the red light.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

Honourable Hattingh can you sit down.

HON. HATTINGH:

I can certainly sit down, yes.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

I will give you time to speak.

HON. HATTINGH:

Thank you.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

But I will never give you time to speak when you raise a point of order and you are on your feet. I will not give you that opportunity. Honourable Members, I am saying Honourable Matladi asked a question. It was answered, but what is exactly happening, the Chairperson of the Committee has outlined that the debate on Premier has long passed. We are now on budget. My reading of what Honourable Mahlakeng say, what he is presenting today here, he is debating the budget. He is not presenting a report on behalf of the committee. We shall think that defies the question raised earlier on. Can we allow Honourable Hattingh to speak.

HON. HATTINGH:

Honourable Deputy Speaker, you have tried to explain to the House what happened here. What happened is that Honourable Matladi raised a point of order, to which Honourable Maloyi responded,

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and then Honourable Mahlakeng responded, and then you concluded. I also, on the same issue had my hand up and I wanted to respond on that. So I am still at that point and I ask you now for an opportunity to allow me the same opportunity that you gave Honourable Maloyi, who is not a member of that committee, to speak on this issue, for me to speak on the issue.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

Honourable Members, the Presiding Officer in this House is going to rule whether point of order is sustained or overruled. The point of order of Honourable Matladi is overruled after the explanation given by the Chairperson of the committee, because there was a confusion whether this thing is a debate or the report of the committee. Now it is clear, it is not the report of the committee. It was the debate from Honourable Member. This matter is closed. I am now inviting the Premier to respond to the debate earlier on. Honourable Premier.

HON. MATLADI:

Honourable Deputy Speaker, no.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

Honourable Gerber?

HON. GERBER:

Agbare Ajdunk Speaker, ek was by the werkskomitee hierdie week teenwoordig en verlede week teenwoordig toe ons die saak bespreek het. Gister is dit weer bespreek die Agbare Hoofsweep was nie by een van die vergaderings teenwoordig nie, hy het verskoning gemaak. U was ook nie gister teenwoordig nie. Ek het dit so verstaan, dat daar sal nie debateerbare punte nou gestel word nie en daarom sal die oposisie nie weer aan die debaat deelneem nie. So ek wil dit net duidelik stel, dit was eintlik die ooreenkoms by die werkskomitee. Baie dankie.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

Honourable Gerber, your point is noted.

HON. PREMIER:

Thanks Honourable Deputy Speaker. I think we have saved enough time today for the other committees and thank you very much. The debate which I would want to come back to now as I do is really about issues that were raised by

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Honourable Mahlakeng, and I want to take this moment to thank the Portfolio Committee.

I know that even though you have decided today that we should not have these debates, the essence of the matter is that we have had issues tabled that actually came from the debates on the strategic plan, which are basically not far different from the issues that we are discussing in the budget because the strategic plan is a plan that has to be taken forward as programmatic or as programmed in the debate and in the discussions that we led through today through the speech. So I presume that the understanding is that the debates that Honourable Members put before this august House previously are indeed understood to be in line and also are accommodated for better understanding of this discussion today.

I do also recall Honourable Deputy Speaker, that we have responded to a large an extent to those issues that were raised by Honourable Members from this august House and we also did say that there are issues that we would have to ensure

that on an ongoing basis, working with this august House, we implement the issues that were raised and improve on them.

Some of them for instance are issues that has to do for instance with ensuring that we reach all our people through language. We made an undertaking that with funds available gradually we will be able to address this particular issue, and many others that were raised.

Today in the debate, Honourable Chairperson of the august House raised the issues of policy generation which we accede to and we really want to assure this august House that we will be able to look at t his issue of policy generation, in particular coordinating efforts from other departments as it has been cited as a case where lions have on a continuous basis ate people up.

We are also very worried that this is actually happening more in our province and we therefore require stricter policy, also working with national departments like DED in order to ensure that the police that we will adopt in this province is also in line with the national policies, but I must

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also indicate that it does appear though that it is not so much policies in this regard when we referred to, particularly the lion issues, but it is much more the management of those camps. It is something that we undertake to attend to, but if there are other aspects of policy that requires attention we will continue to do so.

The strategy to combat racism, yes, we have raised that issue even today here, a nation in the making and our own programs of social cohesion and an establishment, ensuring that we come up with, a province specific program is being finalized and we want to again assure this august House that it is a matter that we will attend to, as well as evaluation and monitoring, which is an area that we have not been the strongest, but also as a result of the outflow of staff, departure of many staff members who operate in the monitoring and evaluation directorate who are often poached by, professionally so obviously, by either national or other departments or even the private sector. We will continue to give this area attention.

Matter of load shedding

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we will obviously attend to it. There is a committee, inter multi-disciplinary and inter-departmental committee that has already been set up, to look at the issues of load shedding in our province and come up with proposals as to how we should address this effectively. Already this committee has produced some programme. It is functional. We have by the way also issued notices to various departments including the Office of the Premier to ensure that we utilize electricity and energy very effectively and efficiently so that we do not waste.

We are one of those who believe or some of those who believe that indeed if we save energy where we work in our own little offices, we can be able to contribute to the release of energy to the national greed and thereby allow the economy to grow. We are also continuing to engage with the mines in our province. Those who may be having intentions of laying some workers off or even not expanding whatever operations that they had to expand, and this programme will continue unabated of ensuring that load shedding does not affect us

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from the point of view of economic growth, but also every other individual in the province.

The issue of the business unusual, we welcome the congratulations and the comment and in fact in everything also in relation to finances. We believe that we have got to be exemplary for all departments to actually ensure that they all achieve the audits that are very good, not even qualified but completely unqualified. Not even adverse, we are not thinking about. It is for that reason that we put this matter, lifted it to the State of Province address as well to be attended to also by the Treasury that which we work with very closely.

I want to say that Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is our intention to work with this Legislature, to work with all the political parties, including my own political party because we understand that all of us, as the people of this province, I want to thank you and thank you very much for passing the budget vote. Thank you.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:
Honourable Members, I will now

run through this budget program by program.

- Program 1 is Administration and it is R27,447,000. Do you agree?
- Program 2, Institutional Development, R94,813,000. Do you agree?
- Program 3, Policy and Governance, R126,035. Do you agree?

This bring us to a total budget of RR248295000. Do you adopt this budget? Budget Vote number 1 has now been adopted. Premier you can go and spend. Honourable Members I have a pleasure of inviting the Speaker of the North West Province, Honourable Thandi Modise, to present the budget speech for the Legislature, Budget Vote number 2.

HON. SPEAKER:

Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker.

- Honourable Members,
- Distinguished guests,
- Management and employees of the North West Provincial Legislature

The progressive need for change is a permanent chal-

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lenge for humanity. The whistling winter winds, as they blow, leave communities reeling from their accompanying chill and remind us that the last season was warmer and that coolness would change to a warmer and yet again windy season. This passage of seasons is a pattern of life; it is about the timeless need for the rest of humanity to appreciate that things will always change with or without our facilitation. We have an obligation to identify and move the strategic objectives of this institution towards the attainment of its constitutional mandate.

Deputy Speaker, sometime ago when I became Speaker here, I said that, "I pledge that this House will afford all Members the necessary respect, the necessary space and that this House will debate in all earnest, in all honesty and as vigorous as any debate will allow us.

The pledge was not only an individual commitment but an expressed embrace of the philosophy of the African National Congress, which is about ensuring that the permanence of change should affirm the dignity

of the rest of humanity and our people as represented by the Honourable Members here present. Even today, we should still ensure that the passage of time, the passage of one season to another, should ensure that the blowing winds should inspire confidence in our people, to help them to have more hope in the improvement of their social conditions.

When we took office in 2004, we set ourselves targets to continuously measure our progress. Most of our targets meant that there was a need to change the status quo. Now like everywhere else where change is necessary, there will always be a contest between the maintenance of the status quo, the blend of the past and the present as well as shimmers of the future.

Consequently, we have encountered some bumpiness on the road to change as this institution.

We have observed remarkable improvement in the Legislature's oversight functions, maybe lessness, more work; maybe less drama, more substance in the debates in the House. This should be attributed to the col-

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lective leadership of this House as represented by the various committees and chairpersons. They have applied themselves diligently to the daunting responsibilities, by critically analyzing the strategic plans, the budget allocations, the annual reports of all government departments, including those of state owned enterprises in the province to enhance distributive activities in the interests of social justice and welfare.

We acknowledge the painstaking work done by the Honourable Members of this House. We also acknowledge that there are areas that require more attention, more improvements, especially in the administrative inputs to improve the functioning of the committees. I remain hopeful that we will find the ways and means to enhance this capacity of Members. We will continue to demonstrate our unwavering commitment to refine and review the oversight model in order to assist our Provincial Government to increase the pace of service delivery in our communities.

Members, we reported in the past to this House, of the need

to undertake a comprehensive legislative review. We also pointed out to this august House our dilemma of having to refer more and more work to clearly overstretched committees. We therefore developed a hybrid model which will enable us to sift out the laws that must be reviewed; to categorise these; to identify the contradictions and conflicts in the identified laws and which areas in which laws such conflicts and contradictions occur. We then sourced out resources to do this work from the European Fund.

I am happy to announce that the first set of laws is ready and will soon be referred to committees.

Now specifically what that process taught us was that we would categorise the different laws in three levels:

- The high priority level meant that there is a real high risk of the invalidity of a provision or provisions within that particular law and that such a conflict would result in litigation against the North West Provincial Legislature, and that what that category means is that as soon as possible we must make sure that we deal with the conflict.

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- The medium term priority means that the law has a high risk of invalidity but it is unlikely to lead us into a litigative process. It simply means that even though there is conflict, we must do something about it as soon as we have dealt with those that would put us into trouble. It means that in this particular category we have a timetable within which we will make sure that we resolve all the contradictions and conflicts.

- A low priority law in this category means that you have got corrections, spelling errors, redundancy maybe. It is a low level conflict area. It means sometimes that there is a technical thing which you can just twick to make sure that this law is brought to rights. It means also that in fact you, in that last category, you are more looking at law reform corrections and things like that.

We have as we were going through the first set of laws, identified very interesting instances, for instance the Arts and Culture Council Act 8 of 2000, have some conflict in its Section 5. This Section 5 of that Act conflicts with Section 5 of the Promotion of

Administrative Justice Act 3 of 2000. So clearly we have got to do something about it.

You also have the Commissions Act 18 of 1994, whose Section 5, 6 and 7 are clearly in contradiction with the Provisions of the Constitution Section 35. So these are the examples of the laws that this House must consider and consider to do at least as many of these as we can.

We have for instance interestingly Comrade Premier, the remuneration of the House of Traditional Leaders for the Province of the North West Act 14 of 1995, its Section 2 contradicts Section 5 of the remuneration of Public Office Bearers Act 20 of 1998, so that when you finally refer these Acts, your committees know exactly where the problems are, where to look for and how to make sure that the corrections, the deletions, the repeals are done.

Now Deputy Speaker, the citizens of our country are more aware of the existence of the North West Provincial Legislature. There are however still problems in ensuring that inputs made by the public directly influence the legislative

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processes. Now this is not a North West problem. This is a South African problem. This is not a problem which is going to be corrected and we are the only people in South Africa who are going to find the solution. This is a problem where collectively the legislative sector of South Africa is looking at, with the help of the constitutional court because after this matter was brought to our attention, we then began to look and identify those areas.

So even though we are happy that the Legislature is beginning to emerge as an entity that is recognised by the public, and it is out of the shadow of the Executive, we must also acknowledge where there is quite a lot of work that we need to do. We are still not sure how to utilise the inputs of the public, without taking away the responsibility and the obligations of Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislature.

Now in some areas for instance, we are not sure, even though we have got broad idea for instance how to deal with public participation, it is not yet clear even though you have got

Legislatures which have passed legislation in this matter and we intend to pass legislature before this Parliament rises, that the handling of a petition from an individual, how do you deal with it; the handling of a community petition, how do you deal with it; if the matter is not of the provincial competence, how do you deal with it, so that you actually reduce conflict even between the different spheres of government.

Now for purposes of popularising the Legislature and its functions, for educating the public about our various policies and programmes of the legislature, as well as national legislation, our support staff as the North West Provincial Legislature was deployed to accompany Honourable Members during oversight visits, to distribute pamphlets to communities, to educate and encourage citizens to contribute in policy development and implementation. The Public Participation Unit in particular has conducted workshops, educating communities on the expectations and the operations of the Legislature. Members know that we have a new Website. It is not complete

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we are still working on it.

We want to and make sure that members of our communities in our province, members of South Africa can have as wide interaction with the Legislature as they can, can be able to make inputs, suggestions, even criticisms, ask questions, but generally know that there is an entity called the North West Provincial Legislature.

One of the mandates of the North West Provincial Legislature is to endeavour to attract South African citizens in general, and the citizens of the North West in particular, to actively contribute to how the country is governed. Ours is a people's government. The people should thus relate more passionately with our systems and intentions so that they can share our sense of ownership and attachment to everything about this institution.

Through our public participation program, we have witnessed an appreciably increased attendance at our public hearings. These hearings were popularly attended, the debates were lively, the recommendations as well

as the weaknesses presented by each of these sectoral parliamentary sittings were later sent to the various Members of the Executive Council and departments for implementation, and of course even there we are still very critical because not all members of the North West communities present themselves.

Development is about partnership. It is for this reason that we have deemed it proper to start a project on community law in partnership with the University of the North West. The University is amongst the strategic institutions with which we must work. We hope that this new project will inspire both institutions to venture into more partnerships on developmental matters which will improve the lives of our citizens more.

In our resolve to ensure that the Honourable Members discharge their Constitutional mandate, many management measures have been introduced to assist. Consistent with our quest to create a conducive environment for all Members, the obsolete communication systems in the House and in the communica-

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tion rooms have been replaced.

The Chamber is aging Honourable Members. We have reported previously that we needed to improve the appearance of this House, to reflect the dignity of our province; to ensure that we comply with safety standards; to ensure that we comply with access measures, especially for people with disabilities and generally to reduce the wear and tear of our House.

Plans and processes have begun and to ensure that we refurbish. We are sure that before the end of the term of this current Legislature you will have a new Chamber. We also assure that with the help of the Premier, we will source the material to complete the manufacture of the mace. So by the end of our term here we should leave a new Chamber, a new mace, all reflecting the power and the dignity of our province.

We have launched the Oracle software system towards the end of last year, which we then named Mphatlalatsane. This system is meant to integrate during financial and procure-

ment systems in order to resolve some of the administrative hiccups which have been affecting the overall functioning of the Legislature.

This approach is ensuring that claims and other related procurements are processed without unnecessary delays. It is a comprehensive system that enables the management of the Legislature to respond to the requests of Members in a more effective and efficient manner.

It is also worth noting Honourable Members that the system has now been wholly placed and handed over to us in conjunction with our Internal Audit Committee, and right now the Internal Audit Committee is in the process of auditing the system. This process also helps us to pick up any irregularities and to move with speed.

We have on a number of occasions cited the need as per the requirements of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), cited that the Speaker is and should be the Treasurer of the Legislature. We have attained this objective to conform both with the PFMA and

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with the North West Provincial Legislature Management Act.

I appreciate the on-going advice and guidance of senior management of the Finance and Treasury Department for ensuring that the Legislature not only has its own account, but its own systems are regularly audited, regularly monitored. We have advertised positions to be filled so that we can strengthen our Finance team. The stronger team would find it easier to perform better now that we have all the necessary policies and procedures that govern our finances.

Leadership is a critical component of service delivery. The Office of the Speaker and that of Secretary of the Legislature are also supposed to be strengthened with the requisite support structure in order to provide the necessary leadership to this institution. Now that the Legislature has its own account, it has become more critical that the best personnel be recruited and we are doing this. We have been skewering all the best performing departments, including the Auditor General's office, to get somebody with the requi-

site qualifications, with the requisite character because it would be very bad for us to put in anybody with questionable character in charge of the monies of the Legislature. So we are in the process of headhunting where possible to get t these people.

Now the Legislature has to improve its mode of providing services. We are supposed to ensure that the services provided by the Legislature become second to none in the public service. To achieve that, we are called upon to review our recruitment processes and staff placement strategies so that we can uphold the best human resources. Indisputably, the quality of services we provide is equal to the caliber of the human resources we have, including our attitude towards our service users.

Consequently, it is desirable that we upgrade some of the existing positions so that their responsibilities and grades of positions can be fair to both the Legislature and the staff members concerned. We have previously reported to this House the loss of technical personnel due

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to our uncompetitive salaries. We have developed a policy on staff retention. This policy means nothing if we do not have the means to retain the staff. So we have the policy but we do not have the money. So we are still in the same hole. We are still losing staff. In short, Comrade Premier and Comrade MEC for Finance, the budget cuts have not been helpful.

Our legislature must pride itself of its commitment to the alleviation of the plight of the poorest of our citizens. We must therefore provide the necessary support for the Members in the form of training and infrastructural aid on areas of need so that it can continue to provide leadership to the citizens in a befitting manner. Honourable Members will continuously be consulted in ways in which we can give this particular support.

We have resolved the conflict which existed between the role, functions, and powers of the Accounting Officer as set out in the PFMA of 1999, and those of the Management Board as set out in the Legislature Service Act 8 of 1997. This was resolved in the introduction of

the Management Act.

The Legislature has managed to implement its Performance policy. Most of the staff members got their bonuses while others need some mentoring to cope with their key performance areas. We will continue to improve in the implementation of the review of the policy.

Members have, especially Members who sit in the Rules Committee, have been consistently raising the issue around the improvement of the gymnasium. We are happy to announce that we have been nattering with the Premier about the need to source funds. We have started looking and encouraging plans to set up the gym and the wellness centre and the crèche facilities. We are hoping that we will be able to build a gym at Lowe Parliamentary Village, which will be of the standard that is required for the Honourable Members of this House.

Members we are also introducing a new security system. I am sure Members will be aware that for quite some time we have been having problems with the

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contract with the security of the Legislature. Now the new system will be digital. It will allow our Security Manager to monitor the security of this institution from anywhere through a 3G card. Though it is somehow strange, we intend to improve this strange situation which we have. We have said previously that the heart of the institution is not covered by any security camera. This House intend to remedy this.

We also intend to prioritise the security of Members to ensure that we can through this system pick up fires, pick up any impediments, any obstructions in our system. Members will in time be required to give us your car plate numbers because the system will recognise your plate numbers. It will not recognise any car which does not bear the recorded numbers. So Members, who have two cars, please give us the different plate numbers or be prepared for a queue outside.

Now I know that we are going to have problems because last year the Media said this is our House Speaker, why are we required to identify ourselves

when we get to the Legislature, which is a good question, but which was also not a very reasonable question because the Legislature is not just any House. It is more than a stadium. It is a key point. This Legislature is the base, the embodiment of the power of the people of the North West and therefore the security measures must be up to scratch here.

Honourable Members we have an inclusive process to review which of the areas we have been working under has been good and which we have not been doing well. Added to this, our budgeting approach for the committees will also be subjected to more scrutiny. We hope that the tendency for us to close our eyes and to estimate will indeed come to an end. We will not however as we encourage committees to spend, encourage to spend anyway, anyhow. In other words, we know that study tours are an enabling tool of any Member of the Legislature and Parliament, but study tours are about acquiring knowledge, exchanging experiences, comparing.

We will not agree, I must

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emphasise this, we will not agree to any study tour which in our opinion will not be of any benefit to this House. So we will not just be agreeing because we need to spend. We will agree if it enhances capacity of the Members.

Deputy Speaker, I place before this House the total budget of the North West Provincial Legislature, of R106411m for the financial year 2008/9. This amount has been divided into three (3) programs, for the Administration, the Members' salaries, and Legislature programs.

- Program 1 which is Administration gets R68,460 million. This program includes logistics, Human Resources, building extensions and I must point out Members that building extensions have not been concluded. There are other internal things which we agreed to, the smokers' lounge and so on, and the Internal Audit.
- Program 2 is the Member's salaries. Budgeted amount here is R15298 million.
- Program 3 is Parliamentary Operations which has been budgeted for R22,653 million. This

program is one which include activities like the NCOP, our workshops, conferences, seminars. These include those study tours, international conferences, sectoral parliaments and our ability to organize activities like, go back to school.

Deputy Speaker, I humbly ask that this House agrees to this budget, and in conclusion we cannot control the direction of the wind, neither do we have the ability to negotiate the delayed visit of the chilly winter months. We as mortals can only ready ourselves to withstand the challenges by the moment. So also, in the political life of this institution, we have to adjust to change and ensure that the changes which come by our direct or indirect involvement find the masses of our people ready to understand their implications.

When we were engrossed in our hectic schedules, we rarely apply our minds to the good work and the sacrifices of this House. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for making it easier for this House to achieve most of its set objectives, and despite the imperfec-

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tions which we all have, we have managed, as a collective to ensure that we set the interests of our people ahead of our individual interests and concerns. I have no doubt that the ray of hope that beckons a sign of warmer and sunnier days, will give us more confidence to withstand the winter conditions. Nothing ahead of us would be above our ability to prevail, as long as we remain the collective we have been thus far and I thank you Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

Thank you very much Speaker. You have also performed very well in terms of time. I am now inviting Chairperson of the Committee to present a report.

HON. MAHLAKENG:

Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker Sir. I have already done the greetings and let me right at the outset go to the Portfolio Committee report which has never been debated in this House and present it on behalf of that committee. Amongst other important issues that the management of the Legislature raised in relation to issues which they referred to as the strategic implementation

focused areas related to amongst others, the Legislature has got twelve (12) existing vacant posts which they intend to fill during this current financial year.

This will also upgrade some posts with the existing structure since some of the employees' key performance areas are lower than the posts which they are holding and this will be done in support of the grading system. The Legislature management intends to reinforce staff with both the Office of the Secretary and that of the Honourable Speaker and the purpose thereof is to minimise the workload.

The Legislature will be refurbished as the Honourable Speaker has already outlined. Amongst other things relates to the intention to appoint two researchers and the gender focal person as the way of enhancing the work of the committees and to ensure that each portfolio committee has enough manpower to carry its expected mandate of doing oversight over the government departments and institutions.

The assistance of the Auditor

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General in the drafting of questions for Members during the meetings of the Public Accounts Committee will be minimised during this current financial year, by ensuring that the Legislature appoints a Chartered Accountant to assist the committee, that is SCOPA, in performing its work so that the responsibilities of the Auditor General are minimised as I have already said.

The challenges amongst other challenges that were raised are:

- There are about thirty five (35) policies in the Legislature and these policies needs to be polished and Honourable Member's input is welcome.
- The Legislature has got only six (6) pool cars. Three (3) of them needs replacement because their mileage is too high.
- The Oracle system is up and running, even though there are some areas which needs special attention and staff members would be given training before the end of the financial year, which will help to curb the problems encountered during the running of the system. Honourable Members should

bear in mind that the system is still new but because of the research made, the management is hopeful to bring the situation to normality. These are the challenges that the management says are there.

Amongst other challenges:

- The information on the computer system which Honourable Speaker earlier on referred to, which is installed in this House is obsolete and indeed needs to be changed. This is influenced by the fact that the Legislature does not have a web master personnel and management will ensure that before the end of this year that personnel is appointed because indeed it is still a challenge.
- The Legislature has completed its first round of paying out performance appraisals and some of the employees have shown dissatisfaction during this phase but these concerns will be attended to by the Speaker's Office and hoping that this has been attended to.
- The Public Participation Unit is short staffed and does not have enough resources and the management has promised to attend to this matter.

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- The security system that will be installed surrounding this area would also be upgraded.

On the recommendations Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Portfolio Committee recommends that:

- The tracking down of the issues and resolutions passed by your august House must be combined by the Proceedings Unit and be given to Honourable Members for ease of reference and for the relevant departments.
- The travelling and subsistence allowance disparities which has been experienced between the Members of the Legislature and the Administrative Staff should be dealt with by the relevant committee of the Legislature.
- The relationship between the Office of the NCOP in Cape Town and the Legislature should be improved as this will assist Members of the Legislature to be hands on with regard to the activities of the NCOP as well as those activities of the National Parliament.
- The Line Managers of the Legislature should be hands on with regard to the activities performed by their subordinates regarding the Legislature Programme. The main focus should be on the following units as they are the core business of the Legislature: the Committee Section, the Research Unit and the Public Participation.
- The Legislature should increase the number of the pool cars to eliminate the hiring of cars during the running of the Legislature events.
- The Legal division must be strengthened so that it allows Members to be able to access them during the Public Hearings.
- The meeting should be convened between the Committee and the Management of the Legislature with the purpose of getting presentation on the challenges that the Legislature is experiencing regarding the functioning of the Oracle system which has caused the institution millions of rands. Both the MPLs and the employees' salaries are escalating from one month to the other and this is causing an inconvenience amongst all people concerned.
- Members should be given and/or provided with the final copies on the Legislature Management Act.

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In conclusion the Portfolio Committee on Developmental Local Government and Housing and Provincial Affairs would like to commend the management of the Legislature for all the efforts they took to put together their strategic plan and improvement they have made on the changing of the features of this institution, inside and outside.

This improvement makes Honourable Members proud of their workplace and it also portrays the levels of the institution on the passers-by and visitors as the building becomes like a tourist attraction to other Provincial Legislatures. The Portfolio Committee therefore moves that the budget, in line with the strategic plan of the Legislature be passed by your august House Deputy Chair. Thank you very much and good morning once again.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

Honourable Mahlakeng has performed well as well. He has performed two (2) minutes less than time allocated. I take it that other Members will do the same, will not exceed time allocated. The next Speaker is Honourable Matladi, allocated

eight (8) minutes. Please stick to time.

HON. MATLADI:

I thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Deputy Speaker, allow me to acknowledge the presence of the Honourable Premier and her beloved husband that she reported is among us, the Honourable Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, my colleagues, officials from different departments, including the staff of the Legislature.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, on stating of the Legislature's Annual Report for 2006/2007, the organogram shows the structure of Management Board as part of structures falling under the Speaker's Office. The concern I raise is, since 2007 to date this Management Board has never sat. We enquire if it is still useful in the organogram of the institution or not, and say we need to check if it be removed, what would replace it.

Of the challenges the Legislature is facing is capacity building of Members of the Legislature. An effort was once made to register Members with

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an institution that would capacitate them on programmes relevant for the work they are doing. It is now the second financial year since Members have been waiting for this capacity building and we are nearing the end of the term.

Honourable Members were promised an accidental cover policy in the previous financial year. Its implementation is sealed to date and the saddest thing is Members are continuously being involved in car accidents due to the type of work that they are doing. Presently the United Christian Democratic Party has lost two (2) members on accidents in this province. Yes, Honourable Tlhagale had an accident before he became critically ill and Honourable General Seleke.

Other Members of the House as well, about three (3) of them have had accidents recently, one broken arm, one a leg and we can see Honourable Madoda also using the sticks as he walks, and we are saying, where is the policy? Why can it not be implemented, that these Honourable Members get something.

Since the Legislature building has been extended, the cleaning staff has never been beefed up, neither has cleaning equipment been purchased to ease the workload of the skeletal staff. The Legislature building continues to be dirty. In most cases you get to toilets, you find no soap and dusty areas in the buildings of the Legislature and we are saying please this has to be attended to because this is the mirror of the government. As community people come here, they see it the way it is. They do not get any incentive to be clean, also in other departments.

Presently, the institution has twelve (12) vacant positions to be filled and the staff turnover in the Legislature is still high. Nevertheless we have to register our appreciation for the improvement in the Research Unit because this Research Unit was once without a single researcher but presently there are researchers that are helping committees in doing their work.

The Honourable Speaker has talked about an Oracle, Mphatlalatsane. I would also like to say when it was imple-

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mented we were very much excited about it and during the first month it was performing miracles, but to note this fact that presently we have had a problem of it being down. We do not know what was the cause thereof and the claims of Honourable Members had to stay more than three (3) weeks unprocessed because of such a problem and we have seen in newspapers the advertisement of the service providers of the Oracle and we would like to understand if they have been expelled or the reasons that would have led to their contract being terminated.

The staff members as the Honourable Chairperson was stating, has registered their dissatisfaction on issues regarding the Performance Appraisal System in the Legislature. We are aware that it cannot always be positive but we would like the issues that they are raising to be followed and if maybe the Honourable Speaker and the Secretary would like the committee to beef them up on this, we are available to do so.

We believe the Petition Bill has taken too long to be finalised

and hope that within a very short period of time it will receive attention. Capturing of Members in different committees, especially on photographs that have been advertised in Committee Rooms have been inaccurate. The UCDP is left out in Public Accounts Committee; Transport, Roads and Community Safety; Public Works; Developmental Local Government and Housing; Agriculture, Environment and Conservation; and this matter has twice been reported in the Deputy Speaker's Office, copied to the Chief Whip's Office and to date it has taken very long to be addressed. It is causing the party a serious, serious risk of being blamed for not doing its duty.

During the previous financial year the Legislature received a qualified audit opinion and matters of concern included:

- Under spending by 11 million which was 9% of the budget;
- Inadequate management of transport, especially log sheets which resulted into late approval; inadequate reconciliations and late submissions to the Department of Transport;

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- Leave records to support the kept leave provision of 66 000 could not be submitted for audit purposes.
- A number of assets included in the asset register were not bar coded and various assets could not be physically verified.
- The dates on which the various assets were acquired were not included in the register.

Ha ke tsamaela kwa bokhutlong ba puisano e ya tekanyetsokabo ya Kokoanopeo Molao ya Bokone Bophirima, ntetla Motlotlegi Motlatsa Mmusakgotla, go lebogela the unqualified audit opinion e re e boneng mo ngwageng wa 2007/2008 mo Kokoanopeo Molaong e ya rona, e bontsha go na le tokafalo mo tsamaisong ya matlotlo. Re be re lebogele gape le mogopolo o Motlotlegi Mmusakgotla a sa tswang go o bega mo Ntlong Kokoanopeo Molao o, wa go ntshafatso bonno ba rona jaaka e le lefelo le re solofelang le tlotlega tota, le le tsamaisang melao.

Kwa bolelong ka re re fokotse mokgwa o wa ditsheko tse re nang le tsona, various cases that we have with our own employees that have also taken

part of the budget and we are losing these cases in court and we believe that in future they would be minimised. I support that the budget for the Legislature be passed. Thank you.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

Honourable Matladi, you have exceeded your time allocation by sixteen (16) seconds. The next speaker is Honourable Gerber. Please stick to time.

HON. GERBER:

Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. Dit is waarskynlik vandag die laaste begrotingstoespraak van die Agbare Speaker hier in hierdie Huis. Ek bedank haar vir haar wysheid en integriteit waarmee sy haar taak verrig het. Volgende jaar sit sy waarskynlik in die Kabinet.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Chairperson of the Committee already reported that the Legislature has twelve (12) existing vacant posts, which they intend to fill during the year under review. In this regard I have two (2) concerns. Firstly I am not happy about the high turnover of posts in the Legislature. We lose because

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we do not have continuity.

Secondly, I feel strongly that the vacant posts should be filled without hesitation and not as stated in our report during the year under review. That could be some nine (9) months further on. May I ask, have all the posts already been advertised? I really think that we should tackle this challenge of high turnover in the Legislature.

What about an in depth study by an independent commission regarding the reasons for the turnover.

- Is it salary related?
- Is it locality related?
- Is it human relations related?
- What exactly are the reasons?

We know that salaries may be the reason. We also know that the locality of the Legislature creates problems, but in the end all of us guess about the real situation. Let us have an independent in depth study to determine once and for all what is the problem. The fact of the matter is that Portfolio Committees are crippled because every few months administrators and

researchers take the roads for greener grasses.

I have the greatest sympathy for Chairpersons of Portfolio Committees in this regard. To do a good job, it is of utmost importance that you do not change horses in the race every year. No committee can really perform if administrators and researchers stay only a few months in that post.

My second concern: The committee was informed that the House of the Legislature will be refurbished in the course of the financial year. I do not have in principle a problem with this idea, but at the same time I must say that it maybe more important to firstly see to it that our sound system and electronic system works as it should be.

Last week I had to be in my office during some of the debates. I had no access to the debate in the Chamber on the television installed in my office at high costs. The speakers' list is since the 6th of May not available on the electronic system, and by the way the bell does not ring near the offices of the opposition parties. Nothing seems to work and we want to refurbish

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the House.

There is something about the Oracle System. It was said that the system is up and running, even though there are some areas which need special attention, and that staff members would be trained before the end of this financial year, but in the meantime, like Honourable Matladi said, I found an advertisement in the newspaper asking for a bid for rendering a support service on the Oracle system enterprise resource planning system.

I myself was under the impression that our own present staff should run the system. It was news to me to hear that we seek a support service from outside the Legislature. I am concerned about the costs of this system. The House should be given full details about the tender process, the tender amounts and what was finally paid for the new system. Is there a contract and if so when does it expire? Figures are running around and I think it will only be proper to give the correct information to the House.

Lastly, something about the

security of the Legislature and the Honourable Members. I have heard what the Honourable Speaker said in this regard and I appreciate it, dat dit nou reeds meer as een keer gebeur dat ? wildvreemde persoon by my kantoor instap sonder dat ek van sy besoek geweet het. Hy is eenvoudig deur die Suid Afrikaanse Polisie toegelaat om sonder dat ek daarvan weet, tot by my kantoor te vorder.

Ek weet nie wat die geval is met Regeringslede nie, maar oposisielede het geen privaatheid in hierdie gebou nie. Enigeen kan by ons kantore instap omdat ons nie afgesluit is deur die eletroniese stelsel in die gebou nie. Ons deel ons gange met amptenare wat langs ons in kantore geplaas is. Ons hoor wat hulle oor die telefoon sê en ek neem aan hulle hoor ook wat ons oor die telefoon sê.

Dit is werklik onhoudbare situasie, ons het geen privaatheid nie. Ek is ook besorg oor lede van die publiek wat die Wetgewerterrein binnekom selfs met hulle motors. Dit het talle kere gebeur dat my parkeerplek geokkupeer is deur mense wat

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van buite af aan kom.

Ek gee vir die Agbare Speaker twee voorbeelde:

- Op 25 Februarie het iemand met die registrasienommer FVB 292 NW op my parkeer plek geparkeer.
- Op 8 Mei het iemand met die registrasienommer FXM 221 NW ook daar geparkeer. Dit is net twee van die gevalle wat plaasgevind het.

Die polisie sê hulle sit met hulle hande in die hare. Hulle sê lede van hierdie Wetgewer en persone in die restaurant gee aan buite persone toegangskaarte om by die elektroniese hek in te kom.

Ek vra die Agbare Speaker om haar outoriteit te gebruik om ? einde aan hierdie onordelikheid te bring. Daar moet orde wees in hierdie Wetgewer. Anders sal daar ook geen orde wees in die samelewing daarbuite nie. Ek dank u.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

Honourable Gerber has done very well, one minute less than his time. Honourable Baloyi, 8 minutes. Please stick to time.

HON. BALOYI:

Thanks Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Premier, Honourable Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am pondering on the strategic plan of the Legislature for 2008-2011 and the budget plan for vote 2008/2009. Allow me to comment on few issues that were not adequately addressed by the Office. The Legislature derives its mandate from Chapter 6 of the Constitution. Its strategic thrust is to ensure that all provincial executive organs of state in the province are accountable to it and maintain oversight. I am quoting this specific clause on the basis that some entities are not properly accounted and I have raised this particular matter on several occasions.

We have taken several resolutions in the House and such resolutions are not implemented. To quote, we have taken a resolution to disband the DED and the Housing Corporation. We do not have taken system in place to check these kinds of

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implementation, the extent in which we have achieved in implementing decisions that has been taken by this House. Your office should follow on all issues decided upon by the House.

Deputy Speaker, the Legislature is the relevant body to intensify public participation in terms of Section 118 of the Constitution. As such, it will be important to adhere to this Section in totality. Continuously we tend to ignore this factor and we need to address this particular matter in engaging the public on these particular matters.

The long awaited period, I am not going to dwell much on it because these matters were echoed by Colleague Matladi. We have taken a resolution at this House to enhance participatory democracy. Even to date we are still waiting.

Mmusakgotla re swabiswa ke tsamaiso ya Mphatlalatsane, ba e bitsa gore ke Mphatlalatsane. Ha ko bua ka yona thata, mo lebitsong la New Dawn. Speaker, it was said by the Secretary that this project will provide efficient and effective service and will also create con-

ducive working environment for Members and staff of the Legislature. Why do we have to suffer given this assurance from the Secretary.

The Legislature spent ±R6 million and we still have to pay the service provider for this project. We were informed that the contract is terminated. The question is, how much have we paid for this system, which is no longer working? We need to check the Service Level Agreement so that we are able to check compliance.

Members will recall that the year 2005/2006 Annual Report on page 32, the Secretary reported to the House that the Service Level Agreement that the Legislature has entered into is not detrimental to the Legislature interest. The report that was made by the Secretary is not correct. There are problems on Oracle System, known as Mphatlalatsane. Currently as we are speaking all systems of the Legislature are not working to the fullest. Officials are working manually and this causes unnecessary problems.

Deputy Speaker, Speaker, we

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need to review the operations of Mphatlalatsane because it does not assist the Legislature. Of key and central is improvement of Hansard. Ke maketse ha ka kreyadi Hansard maabane. I am surprised. Go tloga ka 2005 ke gona di tla maabane, tse tharonyana fela Speaker. Ka be ke ipotsa gore go etsagalang because re a dibeita, that is why di tla. A ntlha e e lebelelwe. Ke kgale re e raisa issue ya di Hansard. I have not received any Hansard in time capturing the deliberations of the House.

Deputy Speaker, to what extent have we reviewed laws that are no longer relevant in terms of the political situation and the current conditions? Ke utlwile o bolela ka melao e e leng gore ke ya bogologolo. Therefore re kopa gore e lebelelwe.

These matters Honourable Members are matters that we have emphasised to the attention of the executing and accounting authority as matters of priority in their strategic plan and annual report of three consecutive years. Mo gotlhe more tsamayang mo diripotong tsa 2005/2006 to date go buiwa ka ho reviewa molao, but ha ke so

bone molao. O ke o itseng ke management o re o fetisitseng re le Ntlo. E mengwe e ha ke itse gore e ka mo silos or byang.

Administrative support to Members: Deputy Speaker, the Office of the Speaker should empower Members with administrative support so that they discharge their responsibilities as mandated by the Constitution. In-house operations, of the level of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Secretary, in terms of administration, is best. The gap is at the level of Portfolio Committee where you find committees having two administrators, which at some point they are nowhere to be found. Deputy Speaker we should be aware that critical and bulk of the work is at the level of committees in terms of monitoring and oversight more than the implementation of legislative policies, monitoring also of the petitions, etc.

Deputy Speaker, we need to review the organisational structure of the Legislature so that we put it in such a way that it empowers Members who are the face of Parliament, us, not

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administrators or administration, us. Therefore we need to be capacitated. We need also to be clarified on some responsibilities of some officials. You know, ke a makala, batho ba tlhola ba tletsetletse ba ba ngatangata, ba bangwe ba ha o ka mmotsisa gore o etsang, ha a itse, they are not even clear.

Deputy Speaker, can we be updated on how many officials were awarded bonuses and how many are outstanding, the criteria used for these bonuses as well as Executive Members who have not signed their fixed term contracts. We are all appealing to the Rules Committee, Chief Whip and Whip, in terms of their functions on Rule 44 G1 to intervene and report back to the House.

We also appeal to this committee to continuously update the House on resolutions taken at the level of the Rules Committee in terms of Rule 414. The Legal Management, ga ngata o utlwa ba re batho ba botlhe ba tsamaile, go setse half fela. Wa ipotsisa gore mare go etsagala eng moo. Leave management ya lona ha e handliwi pila ntate. Re kopa gore o e

baakanye.

Lastly is that we have established sub-committee ya Ntate Hantise. Ha e so bereke, Bursary Committee, a re ke Chairperson. Where are you accounting, what are these committees doing, to what extent have they performed, what are their problems, who are they accounting to, so that we do not create committees for the sake of committee. Le ena ha a itse, o ntse o ntebeletse, ha a itse gore o etsa eng. Mmusakgotla, kwa bofelong,

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

Honourable Baloyi, you address the House through the Chair without referring to a specific Honourable Member, please.

HON. BALOYI:

My apologies. Mmusakgotla, ke buile le ena Speaker. Hey, ha o tsena ka kwa, go na le monkonyana. Deputy Speaker go na le monkonyana ka mo Ntlong. Re kopa gore lenaneo la refurbishment le potlakisiwe.

Sectoral parliament: To what extent have we implemented resolutions taken by the House, or we are just convening these

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sectoral parliaments for the sake of convening. Then we pile the resolutions, we pile and pile. We eat lunch and we go home.

Lastly Deputy Speaker, we fully support the Legislature in its endeavours. Ntate o re file batho, ha re hane, re a phatsi-ma. Di office tsa rona di alright, everything but tse ke di bolet-seng di lokise ntate, o seke wa iphatlha ka diphuka tsa gago, and o tle mmerekong. O na le ho lofa.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

Honourable Members, Honourable Baloyi has exceeded his time by 16 seconds as well. Now I am noting this thing Honourable Baloyi, Honourable Matladi, I am noting these things for future use. I am now calling Honourable Speaker to respond to the debate.

HON. SPEAKER:

Can I just dispose quickly about the, whether or not we have an accidental cover and if it is there, whether it is working. We took sometime before we actually, Mme Matladi, took a cover on Members. We had to go back and investigate what was there already from Parmed side

because you are covered there. We then took a decision and that decision cannot be taken by the Legislature alone because it had financial implications. So consultation between the Speaker, the Premier, and I think at some point the MEC for Finance had to be gone into.

It would be a sad story if I wake one morning and decide that all of you need red shoes and go and buy red shoes, without talking to Finance and talking to the Head of Government, the North West Executive. So that was done. The cover is there Members. We have put you under the coverage of Old Mutual. We have to date been able to deal with two matters of our own staff because we have put everybody there. We are now in the process of finalising for instance Ntate Tlhagale's claims. So there is a cover.

Now that cover Members does not mean that accident ya ga Ntate Madoda should not have been something which is covered first of all under Parmed. In other words, you do not go and roll your car and then stay there and say now where is Old Mutual. You do have another

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cover which must kick in, and this one is an extra cover. I do not have the figures here mo tlhogong gore re patela bokae ka kgwedi but we do have a cover.

What we do not have is a policy on funerals. On two occasions when we lost Members, there was this go didizela, what are you doing. We must as this institution have our own policy on how we bury Members of this House. That is something which we do not have and that I want to take the blame for.

As to the issue ya dinepe, ke a tswafa le go e araba Honourable Members. How do you bring an issue of these photos here? These photos are an add on, not part of our core functions. They take neither take away from us or add. They are photos which have nothing to do with the policies of this institution, which I think the staff thought was a good to have. That good to have, I am told omitted a photo of one Honourable Member. We are taking steps to correct that situation and it will be corrected, but I also know that there were photos of individual members which

were also done and framed. Members have never said thank you for taking our photos and for donating them.

Now on the very, very serious issue ya Hansard, Ntate Baloyi has raised this, Ntate Gerber has raised this matter a number of times. Now Hansard, your transcript must be available to you within forty eight (48) of making your speech. If they are not, Ntate Schalk will talk about the staff.

The compilation of the book itself takes time because when you get your speech, if you get your speech, if you are interested in correcting your speech, you are then supposed to take time, correct your own speech. If we have your grammar wrong, do it. We then send it to somebody else who look at the language, who look at the grammar, who look at the interpretation if you had spoken here ka Setswana or ka Sexhosa kapa ka Afrikaans. That takes time. You then wait for "X" number of Sittings because some Sittings, we can come here and produce a book on motions. We cannot. So sometimes the delay is not because you are inefficient. It is

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because you have to compile. Ideally we should have two sets of Hansard per year.

We should then be taking those Sittings, compressing them to a volume and so on. Ideally also, you should also be having, if we could afford it, and affordability is also something which we should not keep on forgetting, is that we should be having a Hansard equivalent on interpellations and snap debates, and questions, which, as I say, your availability of staffing resources, there has been in the past, Deputy Speaker o tla intshwarela, there has been in the past a problem ya interpretation and translation. We are looking at all those.

Ntate Baloyi raises the issue of resolutions of the House. He also says that we have no tracking mechanism of these resolutions. Now some of the MECs sitting here know that we have a tracking system of those resolutions. Some of the Chairpersons sitting here know that when a matter is brought into the House Honourable Members, it is discussed here in all our presence. It is resolved here. The Executive then takes

this matter. They are expected to appear in the Committee which has brought the resolution here, and respond, give explanations, give solutions there. As soon as we take that resolution here, even before they appear ko komiting, this staff here, the tabling staff, sends those resolutions directly to the departments. So it is not as though we come here and we talk and we talk and nobody does anything.

Once the Committee Chair says they have not responded in Committee, notifies us. We then go on the attack on the Executive. Members here can tell you those letters are not very nice, which the MECs get. If they still have not, and when they respond they copy us. Now you do not reduce the Speaker's Office, which is, we have said it very openly, we are understaffed. In fact the North West Speaker's Office is the most understaffed Speaker's Office in the country. You do not then take away the responsibility of committees, 100% and say now Speaker because you brought it into the House, you must be settled with it. You use the Office of the Speaker and the Speaker as the whip of last

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resort, whipping the MECs into action.

Now if there are resolutions which have not been done, even after in my absence the Deputy Speaker has received reports from Committees, have followed up, then I will go for them. We are very happy that the Committee has hinted that we need cars. We have been saying we need cars.

The Oracle: I have been going around Honourable Baloyi, trying to find out why the Oracle is not working. I am aware of the one occasion where the system - in my layman's term and I am not a technician - collapsed and we worked on it, and even this morning I was trying to find out why Members say to me that the Oracle is not working, that the staff is doing things manually.

Short of going personally there Ntate Baloyi, I am faced with a dilemma of the fact that Members of Parliament say one thing and the staff saying something else. So I need to, in all honesty, go and investigate and come back. I take all the matters which are raised by the

Honourable Gerber about the Oracle, what was the original price, what was the end price, how did we do it. I undertake that we will bring a full report on this matter.

On the issue of turnover and the reason why currently we, after the Oracle being handed over to us, we need to ask for service providers. It is that in the past, I think we had about three good people ba IT. One I reported to this House that he got a job which was paying him R100 000 more than we could afford. The other one had come in as an intern but because he was very good, we had ended having him on a permanent staff. Greener pastures.

So when you do not have a fully fledged IT unit, when you have also reported to this august House that you cannot, in particular retain your Finance people, retain your researchers, good researchers, retain your IT specialists, then you can only come back to the House and thought, I had pointed out this matter. I have said we needed to retain. I have policy that retains. I do not have the money to pay the salaries demanded not by these

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individuals, but by these positions. So I do take the concerns raised here.

Mme Matladi spoke about the vacancies. We are doing our best, le Ntate Gerber, we are doing our best. We have advertised thirteen (13), fourteen (14) of these vacancies. We have got more than fourteen (14) vacancies in the Legislature. We will, Ntate Gerber, endeavour to fill them, not in the nine months but as soon as possible.

Members, the performance agreements. Now I have a problem with Members of Parliament, unless the matter is brought formally to the committee. I have a problem with members of my staff who approach Members of this House and bring gossip. If members of the staff of the Legislature do not understand the process they must approach their immediate supervisors to explain.

Tell you why I am saying Mr Baloyi, the performance appraisals started with the lower staff. Now the performance appraisals what you get is not the same as what the other per-

son gets. It looks at your areas as per your personally negotiated contract.

If I have undertaken that I would score, make an endeavour to perform at 8, and I score myself at 8, and my immediate manager scores me at 2, there is then a variance and that is how your bonus is determined, that I always want to rate myself better than maybe my manager thinks. So there will be that variance and that variance is what makes the unhappiness. The people expect to be given exactly the same amount.

Now, as far as I know, the people who are on contract, like for instance in the Speaker's Office, do not get that because they are covered under a very different instrument. So they will not get that. People who are on permanent staff, some of them are still in the process of quizzing and so on, on that thing. The three (3) top people who will get their performances last will be the CFO, will be Mme Mma Gao, will be the Secretary. We have not even started at their appraisals. So patience, it will come. It will come. There is no way we are going to be running an institution with dividing rule,

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some get, some do not and there is no explanation. We will do our best.

Now Mme Matladi says we are paying, we are losing cases and so on. We have not lost any case against any staff member. Mme Matladi ga ke itse gore a ke wena or ke Ntate Baloyi, we have not lost a case against any staff member. We are being lobbied to bring back people who were dismissed. Some we are sympathetic, but where it is about fraud, I am not sympathetic at all. Nobody who gets expelled from work on any matter related to fraud and theft can we again bring back. We have such a case where we are being lobbied to bring this person back to the job and I am saying not. We will not do that.

We are also being lobbied Honourable Members for people who went against the court order and tried to disrupt the Sitting when the Deputy President was here. It is fine I am very open about it. When you have a staff that is not loyal to the institution, allowing them back is a different matter. Maybe the next Speaker will allow them to come back, I will

not.

Mme Matladi says that why are we not replacing the staff, the place is very dirty. Mme Matladi we will have not replaced the old cleaning staff because in 2004 I was very upfront that we were going to allow for natural attrition, so that we do not replace, but it is absolutely not true Honourable Members that we have not bought any cleaning equipment. It is not true. It is also quite reasonable for me to accept the statement made by Mme Matladi that sometimes when you walk into the toilets, the toilets are dirty. Is it because they were not cleaned at all, or is it because they were cleaned, maybe not cleaned properly or used in between. That is what we need to find out because at all times the Legislature must be clean and it must reflect us as we want this country to see us.

On the matters of parking, I will instruct Ntate Gerber, you Honourable Members that the police must clamp the wheels of any car parked in a parking space where the owner of the parking space has not given permission for such a strange

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vehicle to be parked. I will order that those cars are clamped. I take the strongest exception Honourable Members, and we will deal with staff differently. If Members actually give access to this institution to people, we do not know, take a very strong exception because it shows immaturity and disrespect of what this institution stands for.

We have seen some of them last year especially, in the evening, strange people coming to the gym. It is not allowed. If you find them, kick them out, but maybe we should not only do that, we should go after the people who send them here. I want to apologise Ntate Gerber for these people who just walk up to your offices because that should not happen. We will deal with it, but also, I want to undertake to again look at the accommodation for opposition parties, and this interference and possibly overhearing of conversations which are actually party conversations and not meant for staff and for the other parties.

I just wanted to say that as soon as possible we will circulate the Act Ntate Baloyi. It is there, it is finalised, it is a very nice clean

copy. We are also waiting for the Premier to sign. In fact yesterday she was, I think, I do not know whether she signed it already but I know that yesterday she was considering it. So Members let me thank you again for the very robust debates. Thank you.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

Honourable Members we can quickly into this budget programme by programme.

- Programme 1 is Administration, allocated R68460 million. Do we agree?
- Programme 2, Members' Salaries: R15298 million. Do we agree?
- Programme 3, Parliamentary Operations: R22653 million. Do we agree?

Which brings us to a total budget of R106411 million. Do we agree?

Speaker, the budget is adopted. You can go and spend. Honourable Members I have been advised that there is lunch arranged for Members in the restaurant. The purpose is to keep Members close to the House because we are going to

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break and reconvene at 13h00 sharp. So we must be very close to the House, so that it does not take us long to come back to the House. So we break now and we come back at 13h00 sharp, please. This House stands adjourned.

THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED**THE HOUSE RESUMES****HON. DEP. SPEAKER:**

Honourable Members may get seated. Honourable Members, I have now a pleasure of inviting the MEC for Economic Development and Tourism, Honourable Africa, to present his budget speech.

HON. MEC AFRICA:

Honourable Deputy Speaker,

- Honourable Speaker,
- Premier,
- Colleagues in the Executive,
- Members of the Legislature,
- Mayors and Local Government leadership present here,
- Ditlhogo tsa Mafapha a Puso,
- CEOs of our Parastatals,
- Members of the cloth present here today,
- Leaders of other civil society

- formations,
- Distinguished Guests,
 - Comrades and Friends,
 - Le baagi ba Bokone Bophirima ka kakaretso.

How ought a society to exist and move into the future? Deputy Speaker, I begin by framing this question because I believe that we can never be a self-enclosed and self-referential territory with our own induction and indoctrination to deny that South Africa is the cradle for the rebirth of Africa and even the world.

Over the last few days we witnessed developments which were aimed at eroding the very values on which our society is founded, as entrenched in our Constitution.

Our ultimate goal as a country is to bring about changes which allow human beings both as individual persons and as members of groups, to move from one condition of life to one which is more human in some meaningful way. In his seminal book, the Cruel Choice, Denis Goulet asks, "What kind of development can be considered human?" In our quest to build a caring society and in part

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responding to this profound inquiry, our concept of human development must be based on respect for all life and the concept of the well-being of all, irrespective of race, gender or geographic origin.

Therefore, there can never be an iota of justification to appropriate to ourselves the right to take life under the guise, that the presence of those of our brothers and sisters in our country from other parts of Africa ostensibly denies us the right to human development. This blemish will forever destroy the possibility of our own development. It will deny us the prospects of investment, growth and development.

We must not invite disgrace to our country and continent through blatant criminality and irresponsible conduct, masquerading as a cry for service delivery. Our future development is inextricably bound with the fate and future of Africa. African solidarity is a fundamental pre-requisite for the creation of a new world order which benefits all humanity.

As we advance in our effort to

create a better Africa and a prosperous South Africa, we must continuously mobilize for social cohesion, ensuring that all sectors of our society are on deck to accelerate our agenda of human development. It is within this context Deputy Speaker, that I wish to give an account of our work and outline what we intend doing in this financial year. As we enter the penultimate year towards the end of our term of office, the more it will become important and critical to spare no effort towards accomplishing what we set for ourselves.

In her State of the Province address, the Premier reported from this very podium that there is a proportionate reduction in the numbers of poor households from 56.6% in 2004 to 50% in 2006, that people who in the past could not access piped clean water, electricity, telephone lines, houses, refuse removal are increasingly accessing these basic services today.

This confirms our commitment that, as Denis Goulet assert, "We need to design and build a developmental state based on

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tradition and indigenous values which espouse a philosophy of change founded on a basic trust in the ability of people no matter how impoverished, to improve their lives and understand the social forces that affect them and eventually to harness these forces to processes of genuine human and societal development."

Deputy Speaker, an open economy such as ours cannot avoid to be influenced by the universal behaviour of the markets it is part of. We will not escape the impact of the recent spectre of price hikes haunting the whole global economy, the ever increasing oil prices, recent upswings of interest rates, threatening increase in electricity charges and added to this, the general universal slow down in growth for most economies, including our own. The major challenge regarding all of these developments is how we respond. We need to fully comprehend these developments and respond appropriately. We are all aware of the unpredictable and uncertain situation looming as a result of recent episodes engulfing the global economy. Yet we remain

inspired by the comfort the Minister of Finance gave to all South Africans that it is time for neither gloom nor panic, because with the macroeconomic policy and fiscal stance in place, we will be able to wither the storm. This period calls for sensible economics and not populist rhetoric, and I think our country has opted for a sensible approach.

In 2006 the North West economy grew by 4.3% following a growth rate of 4.9% in 2005. The sector that dominates in terms of contribution to the GDP of the Province remains mining at 25.8% followed by finance, real estate and business services with 13,7%. The government sector stands at 11.3%.

At an aggregate level comparing industries, it is interesting to note that the tertiary industry constituted by the wholesale, retail trade, hotels, restaurants, transport and communication, finance and business services and general government services contribute a combined 50.6% of the GDP as compared to 28.4% of the primary industry. The least contributor is the secondary industry at 9.5%. There

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has been a constant decline of the secondary industry in the province for the past few years and only in 2007 was there a slight improvement from a contribution of 9.4% to 9.5%. Given the global scenario, it is imperative that the anticipated growth levels will need to be adjusted downwards.

For all intent and purposes, economic development is not one or two things and cannot be the responsibility of a single department. In economic development there are partnerships, there is dependency, there are shocks, internal and external, shocks that influence the patterns of economic performance and the North West is not immune to these challenges.

Deputy Speaker, over the years, the Department has struggled to spend its allocations. Since our meeting with the Portfolio Committee, we have been able to ensure that the department before it could complain of a lower budget, is able to spend. During the 2007/2008 financial year, the department has been able to spend 91% of its allocation. This is indeed a significant improvement.

Deputy Speaker, we have themed our action plan this year as regional industrialisation and up-scaling provincial manufacturing capabilities in recognition of the need to implement the national industrial policy and advance the goals of ASGISA and the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy. This endeavour seeks to overcome Industrializations challenge in the province and promote manufacturing exports and other tradable goods and services. To this end the diversification of our economy will be geared toward reducing reliance on traditional goods through the intensification of industrialization.

During the last 12 months the department interacted with the Department of Trade and Industry on matters relating to the National Industrial Policy Framework and the Regional Development Strategy. These key intervention strategies would lead to increasing, promoting balance growth and opportunities in the province through districts and municipalities seizing current and potential opportunities presented by both the National and the International Market economies,

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and to explore spatial interventions to build up competitive industry. This is what it entails as the aims and objectives of the Regional Industrial Development Strategy. There is no doubt that the North West Provincial economy has comparative advantage in some of the key prioritized factors for promoting diversification with the potentials to increase our manufacturing capabilities.

According to the Regional Industrial Development Strategy this is an initiative promoting the active involvement of the developmental state seeking to build productive industries and trade capabilities within regions; and to encourage enhanced growth and development. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism and the Department of Trade and Industry has put together a joint team that will work out implementation mechanisms as well as drive projects designed to build a strong regional economy in the province. Deputy Speaker, the focus of the department activities will prioritize the Regional Industrial Development Strategy (RIDS) and NIPF by selecting from a list

of national industrial policy action plan, those areas that are relevant to the province and can easily take off the ground, based on the work done in the past. The following programs and projects would be intensified in this financial year.

- " Fast tracking the development of the Mafikeng Industrial Development Zone as an important special economy zone;
- " Promoting LED as a key ingredient to achieving broad based and equitable economic growth development;
- " Restructuring and increasing the capability of the automotive industry
- " Establish processes towards implementing the Business Process Outsourcing and Off-shoring, Tourism and Bio-fuels as yet some of the important interventions identified as lead sectors geared towards generating more jobs and opportunities;
- " Mining and mineral beneficiation including ICT development and promotion; Enterprise development through support SMMEs and Cooperative and ensure empowerment of previously disadvantaged individuals;
- " Promoting and marketing

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investments corridors identified as spatial development initiatives for the province;

" Coordinating the contribution of the other sectors such as craft, the creative industry, transport and equipment as well as agro processing through working closely with departments leading in these sectors.

Deputy Speaker, in achieving these objectives, ours is to consolidate and intensify some of the initiative already in place, though this time all of this work will be aligned, to the ASGISA imperatives as alluded and contained in the National Industry Framework Policy and the Regional Industry Development Strategy. In the next three months the task team constituted by the Dti and ourselves will convene a provincial industrial development workshop where stakeholders will make inputs towards the development of a province specific Provincial Industrial Development Strategy (PIDS). It is our belief that you cannot implement the National Development Strategy without developing our own so that we can take advantage of the competitive advantages of our economy.

Deputy Speaker, the Regional Industrial Development Strategy makes reference to special economic zones and in this regard there are a few types of these zones where at least the North West has an important role to play. The first such zone is the Manufacturing Oriented Special Economic Zone and this is where the Mafikeng Industrial Development Zone features. Last year the department impressively made commendable strides towards the realization of having an Industrial Development Zone in Mafikeng. For years we kept this House abreast of development in this regard, including when we finalize the appointment of the Board and the Chief Executive Officer. The results made by the collective we assigned this responsibility deepens our resolve to fast track this project. The Infrastructure Program for phase 1 is on cause as we have completed installation of bulk sewer pipelines to the tune of R15 283 727, the bulk water supply project is 91% complete, bulk electricity project recently launched is 20% in progress and we have started the construction of internal services where at least 50 sites would be

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available to potential investors at the beginning of April 2009.

Deputy Speaker, and all distinguished guest present here today, we stand before you not make to yet another promise about the International Airport license but to confirm that it is now awarded and would be transferred from Pilanesburg and back to Mafikeng. We thank everybody who contributed in this regard especially the MIDZ Board.

The process of application was daunting and challenging, but the challenge of utilizing that license for the good of our economy, the employment of our people and generally boosting the economy of the region of Mafikeng will be more demanding. Huge investment will be needed from both the private and the public sector if the zone is to yield the necessary manufacturing export goods destined for international market. The estimates in terms of 2000 prices show that almost a R1 billion of investment would be required in the next 8 to 10 years for sustaining the zones economic activities and I hope that the MEC for Finance will

take note of that and those who may take over after us will also bear this in mind as this is an important zone whose benefits for the region will also yield some benefits for the entire province. However with the support of all stakeholders especially the private sector we are confident that will surmount these challenges.

We thank this House for its support during that period and we invite further support to ensure that we mobilize the necessary funds for the industrial zone. This project will need immediate injection or further public investment to put in place organizational capabilities, to manage the zone as an international world trade facilitation centre, and further investment to begin with the second phase of the infrastructure program. We hope that in collaboration with other departments such as the Department of Transport will be able to achieve these milestones. We are pleased to inform this august House that this project, on its own, have generated interest of investment from the business community of China when it was presented during the visit of the Premier

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and her delegation to the Province of Henan, recently.

Deputy Speaker, as the Department of Trade and Industry actively participate in this project, we should expect changes in terms of institutional arrangements as proposed in the Regional Industrial Development Strategy. The proposals include the following:

- " Converting the existing IDZ entities into National Public Entities reporting to the dti ;
- " The dti to provide policy leadership and therefore assume controlling share holding and greater responsibility for funding their IDZs;
- " Providing a framework for participation by Provincial and Local Government through the Implementation of a protocol under the IGRF Act;
- " The Board of Directors of each IDZ will be appointed and accountable to the Minister of the dti;
- " Create a National Coordinating Committee to oversee the individual IDZ Boards throughout the country.

In our view these proposals and institutional arrangement aimed

at establishing inter- sphere cohesion towards integrate implementation of the IDZ policy will bring about a comprehensive and yet coordinated involvement of government across all spheres thus to leading to increased investment into the project.

The second and third especially economic zone the province would be pursuing is the services Oriented and Tourism Special Economic Zones. We will elaborate on this as we go along with the presentation of our priority programs and projects for the year ahead.

Deputy Speaker, the automotive industry is the largest, [interrupted] yes I am speaking, ooh I am sorry Speaker, I thought they have said speak. Deputy Speaker, the automotive industry is the largest manufacturing factor in the country and in our province. Its potential to absorb high levels of unemployment is immense, hence the decision to partner with the AIDs to retain the automotive industries in then province. Last year we interacted with stakeholders wanting to exploit the forward and backward linkages associated with it.

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The department will continue to forge synergies with several factors such as metal, leather, textile and plastics and this will position the automotive sector as an important intervention to promote the North West Province as the manufacturing capabilities.

The North West Development Cooperation and the AIDC and joined by the department are at work implement in an MOU signed between the two institutions. An amount of R3.2 million was allocated for this project to focus on five areas of which three are at an advanced stage and these are competitiveness improvement cluster through the Tirisano Project, Supply Chain Assessments, and the North West Automotive Strategic Forum. Skills development is one of the major problems within the automotive industry. The members agreed that there is a need for artisans, apprentices, tool makers, electricians, engineers, and programmers. The AIDC assists automotive companies to place students at their companies and works in collaboration with MerSETA to accelerate their programs. A total of 424 employees, 377 of whom

are PDIs, were trained.

In addition, The AIDC and the Department are exploring the possibility of establishing a high technology plant in Bojanala to recycle automotive catalytic converters. The DEDT and INW have commissioned the AIDC to conduct a feasibility study to determine which option would be best to pursue regarding this initiative. The feasibility study was commissioned against the background of the abundance of Platinum Groups Metals (PGMs) in the province.

Deputy Speaker, we are in discussions with the SATECH (the SEDA Auto motive Incubator), to accelerate the National Enterprise Development Strategy (NEDS) for Motor Body Repairers (MBRs). The primary objective of the proposed National Enterprise Development Strategy for Motor Body Repairers to support the competitiveness of black MBR's so that they can contribute to long-term growth and employment. It is believed that this approach will be sustainable over time and will promote Black Economic Empowerment. The motor industry is keen to sup-

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port this initiative by making funds available for training including direct empowerment through business linkages.

Over the years, we have been focusing on a Bio-fuels program: Deputy Speaker, the Bio-fuels sector is one of those strongly recommended as priority in the Regional Industrial Development Strategy and in this regard the Bio-fuels strategy was approved late last year. We have already interacted with the Department of Energy and Minerals on this strategy to position the province as an important site to pilot the Bio-fuels industry development in the country. Since the Bio-fuels Strategy was only approved late last year, we are now presented with clearer guidance on how the Mafikeng Bio-Diesel Project can be taken forward.

This project is an important agro processing anchor that would be lead by the Mafikeng Industrial Development Company working with the multi-stakeholder Task Team we will be establishing to spearhead the Bio-Fuels initiatives in the Province. Our Province registered sufficient progress in

investigating the types of trees relevant and we now have options that could give comfort that food security would not be under threat at least from this province when we unleash the roll out of the bio-fuels initiative. Our friends from Germany, a German Company agreed to evaluate the existing Mafikeng Bio-fuels Initiatives at their own cost of R1.2 million over a twelve months period commencing in July this year. This is part of the relationship established with the Germans from our recent outbound mission to that country, in addition to the support of bio-fuels initiatives, about ten (10) selected students in the fields of Comprehensive Engineering and Project Management will go on a study Exchange Program in Germany during this fiscal year.

Local economic Development support and growth

We have indicated that LED support is an important ingredient of the regional industrial development strategy and in this connection, the department will work closely with municipalities to promote local economic development and to ensure that

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investment is attracted to municipality. Our working together should lead to the promotion of our Spatial Development Initiatives as anchor growth corridors that link key economic nodes and regions in the country.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt that the increase to the income of commercial and manufacturing towns can make immense contribution to the improvement and cultivation of the province's growth in particular and our country in general. It is for these reasons that the department will work closely with municipalities in developing an LED strategy that would ensure investments into local economies. Some of the ideas on these issues were already teased out at our recent Local Economic Development and Enterprise Support summit we hosted last year in Sun City.

A partnership program for LED support is underway between the department and the Dti. The Bojanala, Mafikeng and Southern District are amongst the eighteen municipalities selected for piloting targeted LED assistance program. Part of

the identified projects that will be undertaken in these three municipalities are the Business Process Outsourcing and Offshore program (BPOs) and Information Communication Technology initiatives aimed at rolling out ASGISA related job creation ventures. Again Deputy Speaker, the aim of these projects is to target women and youth so that the scourge of unemployment amongst our women and graduates is reduced.

Trade and Investment Promotion

The North West Province has contributed 10.5% to the national export of goods from South Africa amounting to R 82.744 137 million. The single most important sector is the export of metal products amounting to 46%, followed by mining products 39%, fuel and chemicals 8% while other unclassified products account for 4%. As a Province we continue to surf the tides presented by globalization as we pursue our agenda of being amongst the beneficiaries and not casualties of globalization. Last year investment in the province registered 3.625.5 bil-

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lion, creating 1 441 jobs.

Mining and Minerals Beneficiation

Deputy Speaker, the diversification agenda we alluded to earlier would include increasing our efforts in contributing to the competitiveness of the tradable activities through beneficiation of minerals into jewelry products.

The department allocated an amount of R8.5m towards the establishment of platinum beneficiation initiatives in the province. The Djadi range the Premier referred to earlier this year is a North West platinum jewelry product we exhibited in Europe and Asia when we were marketing the potential and the capacity of the Province in supplying world markets with locally beneficiated jewelry products.

We have seen a decline in the mining sectors due to the electricity crunch and the effect of global developments. It is for this reason that our focus will be more on industrialization.

The North West Development Corporation will be signing a memorandum of agreement with the Platinum Jewelry Trust of

SA to pursue this initiative.

SEDA is managing a technology platinum incubator located at the Orbit College for platinum jewelry manufacturing. 18 students are enrolled as part of innovative and technology transfer programs and on the other hand eight SMMEs have started platinum beneficiation product on incubation at the centre.

This initiative attracted public sector interest and there are on going discussions between the Rustenburg Municipality, Archway Projects and the Platinum Jewelry Trust discussing partnerships towards establishing a theme park in Rustenburg where our Platinum Jewelry initiatives would be one of the anchor investments. The theme park investment will be valued at about R2bn.

Gambling and betting

Deputy Speaker, as concluded by the research conducted in 1995, gambling and betting continues to foster potential for economic growth in terms of job creation, investment, contribution to the growth of own revenue base, tourism promotion and business development in general. However, it is equally

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important that this industry should be regulated to reduce the possible social and economic problems that are associated with this entertainment industry. The North West Gambling Board is in shape and last year the new Chief Executive Officer Mr. Fortune Sekgapane was appointed I can see he is here amongst us. As we welcome him in our midst we are confident that this will put the Board on a higher trajectory in terms of ensuring effective and efficient management of the regulatory program we have put in place. It is public knowledge that as a result of the re-demarcation of provincial boundaries, the North West Province lost one of its casino licenses to the Gauteng Province that further resulted in the ultimate reduction of the provincial gross gambling revenue from R914 711 363,35 to R825 877 151.79, a reduction in provincial investment, number of jobs and business opportunities.

Although Gambling revenue collected for the period under review exceeded the annual target of R 53m by R 12m, the province, suffered a 1.64% decrease from the figures recorded in the previous finan-

cial year. The numbers of licenses are now reduced from four to five although we are engaging the Department of Trade and Industry on this matter. We hope they will understand that any fraction in revenue reduction will impact negatively on the coffers of the province including the economy in general.

This industry provides the province with yet another opportunity to advance black economic empowerment. During the financial year under review the NWGB considered and approved the restructuring of Peermont Global (Pty) Ltd shareholding through the involvement of Opalton and the Mine Workers Investment Company to realize approximately 66% broad based economic empowerment structures in a manner that benefited staff of the company through staff incentives schemes, a management share schemes, national empowerment component and 10% local empowerment.

We are convinced that the Gambling industry is no exception in the drive to restructure the economy to reflect and benefit as much as possible more people previously excluded and to this extent, the roll out of the

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Limited Payout Machines will be fast tracked this year.

The new Board concluded its revision of the request for proposals administered by the previous Board and came to the conclusion to invite new applications. In the new RFP, there is provision for Route Operator License, operation of between five and forty limited payout machines per site and independent site operations. Our people should be on the look out for the roll out of one thousand (1000) LPMs to take advantage of this opportunity towards further empowerment and intervention in the second economy.

Deputy Speaker, there is no room for illegal operations or any form of illegal practices that undermine the right of legal businesses or the consumers in general. During this year we have confiscated approximately 700 illegal gambling machines from seven illegal operations and so far one (1) illegal operation was closed down. This endeavor remains top on our agenda to promote ethical and yet economically beneficial business within the framework of the law. No tolerance of whatever

violation of the law will be entertained and to our law enforcement agency we say, keep up the good work and ensure that every aspect of those whom operate illegal gambling machines is dealt with. We urge them to Clamp-down on illegal shebeens and taverns! Last time my colleague said there will be dust but certainly this time liquid will flow or spill.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, casino operations located in the North West Province are charged levies in terms of the North West Gambling Regulations promulgated in November 2002 in terms of the North West Gambling Act (Act 2 of 2001). These regulations provide for a sliding scale to calculate gambling levies with the view to ensure the viability and sustainability of smaller casino operations in the province. This formula for calculation of levies has not only failed to meet the changes in the economy from the year 2002 until to date, but its interpretation also remains a constant bone of contention between the North West Gambling Board and other casino operators in the province. It does then Honourable Speaker,

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appear very clear that the legislation in respect of casino levies in the province require urgent review to address these problems. We are going to ensure that this year we adjust casino levies and other taxes upwards, details will be worked out between treasury and the department.

Consumer protection

Honourable Speaker, although the Department has always had a mandate to oversee fair trade in the Province, it has become very clear that it will have to intensify its role on matters of trade in the Province and guide Local Authorities accordingly. This matter has been necessitated by observations made that there may be many and various types of businesses operating in the Province in contravention of section 3 of North West Business Act No 6 of 1997 as amended. Whilst the idea is not to stifle free trading and competition in the Province, the Department has since realized the need to amend the act to further ensure enforcement.

Some of the licenses that I have obtained are utilized to under-

mine fair trading and the laws of the country and the example being the recent and much publicized notorious Broederstroom case, where people are operating a Guest House and a Restaurant which do not allow in people who are not of a Caucasian descent.

There are mushrooming unlicensed businesses with the results that the business environment becomes overtraded to the detriment of legitimate and licensed traders. So this year we make sure that everyone with the license and trading trade accordance with the legislation that we have established.

Ons het besef dat om toe te laat dat 'n ongereguleerde besigheidsgewing bestaan, die staat sal ontse van die vemeerding van die nodige inkomste en bronne wat noodsaaklik is om die inwoners van die Provinsie doeltreffend te dien.

In terme van die Algemene Omsendbrief No.1 van 2000 soos uitgereik deur die Departement, is die implementering van Die Noord-Wes Besigheid Wet Nr 6 van 1997 en die regulasie daarvan afgewentel na die Plaaslike Owerhede

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en ons sal mettertyd die munisipaliteite in die Provinsie betrek in ons poging om die sukses van hulle implementering van die betrokke wet en die gepaardgaande by-wette te meet.

Deputy Speaker, I will also in due course consider effecting the necessary amendments on this Act, updating it and bring it in line with current national policy development. It may also be appropriate through the proposed amendments, to require our Local Authorities to submit periodic reports on the following, amongst others:

- o The number and types of renewed licenses by area and revenue collected,
- o The number and type of new licenses issues by area and revenue collected,
- o The number and types of new licenses applications received by area and revenue collected,
- o The number and types of licenses transfers effected and their original and new areas of location and revenue collected,
- o The number of inspections carried out area by area and commensurate reports,

- o The number of transgressions reported and remedial steps taken thereof;

The responsible Business Regulation Unit in my Department will begin to engage all Licensing Units of Local Authorities in order to identify areas of need towards ensuring a conducive trading environment in the Province.

Business Compliance & Monitoring Issues

The Department had successful inspections carried out on businesses in order to monitor compliance with applicable laws of the Province and the Country. Our records show that during the Financial Year 2007/08, we were able to carry out 1951 trade inspections in the Province with the reduction of the level of non-compliant achieved to below 5,6%. We were able to reduce outstanding complaints by 58% and only 50% of cases reported were compliant to the norm. We continued to offer consumer information and legal advice continuously as well as other advisory initiatives such as consumer clinics in the province and twenty (20) Consumer

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Advice Clinics held in this period.

On matters relating to the administration of Liquor, the Liquor Board had managed to convene seven times during this period where 1 444 applications were considered (against a total of 2073 for the past financial year of 2006/07). Only 569 new liquor licenses were issued (against 878 issued during 2006/07), whilst 4939 licenses were renewed which includes the Merafong area.

Altogether R2 201 829 in revenue based on returns was received by the Province via the South African Revenue Services who are the official revenue collectors for the Province. This is against a total of R 1 481 630 recorded during the financial year 2006/07. We continue to work on the new Provincial Liquor Act which should be aligned to the new National Act No 59 of 2003 and we are hopeful that this will be finished during the course of the new financial year. Honourable Speaker, I will not be doing any justice if I will not refer to the growing concern on the effect of drugs on our society. As this is a national

concern, we will remain guided by the national government on this issue. Notwithstanding, we will remain vigilant and increase our efforts towards regulating this industry.

Deputy Speaker, it is also significant to indicate that during this period, a total of 785 active liquor licenses were transferred to Gauteng and the Northern Cape respectively during August 2007 in accordance with the new Cross Boundary Municipalities Laws Repeal and Related Matters Act 2005. The Department has also received 220 active files from Gauteng containing licenses issued and administered under the Liquor Act, 1989 which is the current Liquor Act applicable in the North West Province. It will be realized from these figures that to some degree, the transfer of these files will also have a negative impact on the collection of revenue as more files have been transferred than received.

The Amendment of Provincial Acts under the Department

Honourable Speaker, I am happy to announce that the much spoken about amendment

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of the Consumer Affairs (Harmful Business Practices) Act No 4 of 1998 is now complete and about to be certified and will soon be presented before your Honourable House for its adoption. I must concede to the fact that this took longer than anticipated and not for wanting to do so, but because of the legal technicalities that we had to deal with to all parties that were involved to ensure that everybody is satisfied, and these brought about the need to avoid the misunderstanding with regard to this matter. Notwithstanding, I am happy to announce that although the non-functioning of the Consumer Court created a huge impact in resolving disputes registered with the Department, we managed to make a significant contribution in dealing with consumer matters.

The Department is also currently pursuing the amendments of the following Provincial Acts to ensure that they are in line with current corporate governance requirements and responding to the changing environment:

" The North West Gambling Act No 2 of 2001 (as amended) and

" The North West Parks and Tourism Act No. 3 of 1997

Voluntary Consumer Groups

Deputy Speaker, in our efforts to create the necessary partnerships we have involved Voluntary Consumer Groups to ensure that we spread education and understanding about the consumer environment.

Liquor licensing

The Department has completed its Liquor Policy draft which was intended to inform the new Provincial Liquor Act. The draft policy also takes into account the outputs of the Provincial Regulatory Lekgotla held in 2007 and following the promulgation of the National Act all of what was put into the drafting process thus far, would have to be aligned to this piece of legislation. The new law in place now gives more clarity and guidance in regulating amongst others: Liquor administration institutional arrangements; Liquor Trading Hours; Location of Liquor Outlets; The sale and supply of liquor at Service Stations; Liquor Abuse and Education Awareness.

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Altogether 1066 liquor licenses are due for transfer to Gauteng and the Northern Cape in terms of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the affected Provinces. This number is broken down as follows: The Members will read on their own.

**PROVINCE ACTIVE FILES
LAPSED FILES TOTAL
LIFTED CONDITIONAL
TO BE FINALISED TOTAL
NUMBER OF FILES**

Gauteng	567	178	745	161	906
N - Cape	109	44	153	7	160
TOTALS	676	222	898	168	1066

The Department has also received the number of files referred to and as I said both Gauteng and the Northern Cape have received more files from the North West than we have received from them and the implications will have to be worked out as to how much we are going to be loosing.

Second economy intervention Mmusakgotla, mo dingwageng di se kae tse di fetileng, re le lefapha re ntse re gatelela bothokwa le tlhabololo ya kgwebo potlana ka ele injine ya kgolo ya ekonomi. Se se dumelwa ke

lefatshe ka bophara, le bojotlhe jwa setshaba bo thagaletse go ithhagedisa karolo e go fitlhelela maitlhomo a leruri a kgolo le kitlano mo setshaneng.

Re ne rere re nale se mo dikakanyong re neelana ka molaetsa wa dithulaganyo tsa rona ngogola o o reng "go ithhaganisa ga toragatso ya tsiriganyo ya ekonomi ya bobedi". Mo go seo, re lemogile projeke le ditiragatso tse di mmalwa tse ka tsone di ka isang tiriganyo ya ekonomi ya bobedi ko boemong jo bongwe.

Re tiile mooko gore re mo tseleng e se a meng ya go itepatepanya le dikgwetlo tsa khumanego, bothhokatiro le ditlhabologo tse di kwa godimo ka kakaretso tse dikabakanyang ma emo a setshaba sa rona ka bophara.

Small Business support and development

Skills development, inadequate development of new products, business model innovation and other related weaknesses continues to hamper the competitiveness of most small businesses in the North West. To tackle

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some of this, a total number of 489 SMMEs were trained through a partnership program between the Department and the IDC and registered in the Tsosang Investment data base for potential EPWP opportunities.

Knowledge and technology transfer towards [Interrupted by Honourable Speaker]

HON. SPEAKER:

You have got 5 minutes left.

HON. MEC. AFRICA:

Mmusakgotla, gompieno re dira ka boikuelo go badiri kanna ba ba eteletseng mafapha a mangwe pele, makgotla le baetiledipele ba puso bogolo jang ba ba dirang mo dikarolong tsa dituelo ba di re gore bontlha bo re buwileng ka bone ba goleka gobakanya le go rekisetsa bagwebipotlana dilo tse di late-lang di diragale gore bakgwbo potlana banewe di tshono dingwe tse di latelang:

- ditlhabololo le dipaakanyo tsa matlo, le di building tsa puso
- tsamaiso ya bajanala
- tlhokomelo ya dijo tse di senyegang
- go phephafatso ya kwa ntle le mogare

- go rekisa le go gatisa tse dik walelang
- dithoto
- thulaganyo ya dikopano (events) gore katse bakdone gonna le bokgone ba gore badire dingwe tsa dilo tse delesome tse puso e reng ba di dire.

We are also looking at the usage of micro-technology and innovation including amongst others to ensure that:

The type of machines we are looking at to promote the usage of micro technology and innovation include amongst others

- " Bolts and nuts processing machine
- " Barbed wire making machine
- " File fasteners
- " Stapling and punching machines
- " Steel furniture
- " Wire nail
- " Welded wire mesh
- " Laundry and toilet soaps
- " Paper cups and saucers and others such as notebooks, industrial gloves and socks.

This we will do focusing on youth and women entrepreneurs and locate these SMMEs at our small industrial parks currently managed by the North West Development Corporation.

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Integrated Rural Development Strategy

Deputy Speaker, it is important to ensure that government not focus on rural development to ensure that the persistent pockets of underdevelopment are addressed within these communities. The challenge to increase economic participation of the overwhelming majority of the population in gainful activities towards eradication of unemployment and poverty will only remain a dream yet to be realized if we don't address the problems of the rural areas. In the whole efforts towards industrialization of economy, key infrastructure is required in rural areas to attract local investment and it is only through the active role of the developmental state that rural development will find meaning. The potential of the PGDS project in rural areas requires a boost through linkages that could be achieved through investment in our economy in the rural areas.

In conclusion Deputy Speaker I just wan to quote something from Karl Marx "If we have chosen the position in life in which we can most of all work for

mankind, no burdens can bow us down, because there are sacrifices for the benefit of all; then we shall experience no petty, limited, selfish joy, but our happiness will belong to millions, our deeds will live on quietly but perpetually at work, and over our ashes will be shed the hot tears of noble people. History calls those men the greatest who have ennobled themselves by working for the common good; experience acclaims as happiest the man who has made the greatest number of people happy" At all times, we must strive to make a great number of people happy and such joy must neither be petty nor selfish.

Our determination, wisdom, strength and courage will not fail us as it has never before, to soldier on with faith, hope and even believe toward lasting freedom and a better life for all our people.

To all men, women, youths, workers, unemployed, students, councilors, officials and you in particular, colleagues and comrades present here today, we thank you so much for your support. The Portfolio Committee

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and Chair Honourable Mokaila thank you for incisive engagement and advice.

Deputy Speaker, Mme wa rona Tonakokgolo Edna Molewa, colleagues in the Executives, without your able leadership and support, we could never be at this point. My support staff, helpers and cleaners. Thank you all!

Once again to Team Economy, my indebtedness to you is forever growing and the new financial year is ahead, let us do it again. I also wish to congratulate you Madam Speaker and conclude by congratulating the new Head Of the Department, Mr. Tlaetsi and wish him all the best in providing strategic guidance to the Team. To you and those who came before you, in particular, Mr Mojalefa Nale, all our CEOs and Boards- Thank you for your support.

To my beloved family, thank you for standing by me and I now Honourable Speaker, wish that your House could approve this budget, and I thank you very much, I wanted to just one minute Madam Speaker that in less than 23 years from today

on the 5th anniversary of the Freedom Charter the communities of the region formerly called Bophirima may be recognizing an icon of struggle ma'am Ruth Mompoti for your neighboring commitment to the struggle against apartheid, by naming the district in her honour, and I wish to say you came before, you came before to lay the fundamentals of an assured future. You came before and inspired generation to aspire for a greater deal. Ma'am Ruth you became before. Many may I ask but who is Ruth Segomotso Mompoti?

She was born in 1925 in Tlapeng Vryburg, she joined the ANC in 1952. She has 56 years as a member of the ANC. She worked for a law firm Mandela and Tambo from 1953-1961, leader of the Women's March in 1956, she went to exile in 1962, set as the head of the women section the ANC, member of the NEC of the ANC from 1966-1973, served in many other capacities in the ANC. We congratulate the region for honoring this icon of our struggle whilst she is still in our midst. This is the only region to honor a local icon who is still alive in our

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province. Ladies and gentlemen let us give a round of applause to our leader and mother Dr Ruth Segomotso Mompoti, you came before. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER:

The only reason you came before part Honourable Africa was allowed is that, it was about a stalwart, a unifier, somebody who have never looked at whether you are black and white, male or female, that is the only reason you came before was allowed sir. If you come before you will be cut. I take this opportunity to invite the Chairperson of the Committee ntate Mokaila.

HON. MOKAILA:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable, Premier, all protocol observed. The current global and domestic economic conditions, indicates that however robust our economy maybe defined if answers are not find to current problems, the poor of the of the world or not this country will slide deeper into the poverty trap.

The current power outages and the incapacity of Eskom to respond to challenges of the

electricity demand in the country has seen not effect on some industries, mining in particular, which seen at least shall seen in the last two months a 2.7 declined in export of mining in particularly jewelry.

There has never been a period in the last 14 years of our democratic country that practical and creative answers have been needed to respond to current challenges which are facing our economy. The Honourable Minister of Social Development Zola Skweyiya warns in a quotation captured in one of the Sunday papers that in particular if the poor youth, joblessness and unemployment is not attended to, the youth may rise against the rich.

A certain Colonel Egon Reinisch of Brazil described the 1984 Brazilian youth conditions in the following "uneducated, without general or professional education unskilled, fifteen years you look for a job and you may not find one, for every year three million young Brazilians are going to compete with him in the already limited labour market, he is now a marginal, unemployed whom holds only occa-

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sional jobs- or He may prefer the road to crime and violence".

The current conditions in the country, calls for decisive leadership and action beyond the ordinary definition or restating of the problem. Harvard textbook economic orthodoxy remain irrelevant if it does not seek to speak to ordinary people on the street, ordinary people of the village of Mathateng who's only hope from the current economy condition is government.

The state is therefore called upon in this juncture to play a much more meaningful role and a leading role on the side of the poor to address what is becoming clear that it is marked at failure. In time such as this honest leadership would admit mistakes and take corrective actions to create all wrong policy options have been taken in order to attempt to challenges.

The Honourable Trevor Manuel the Minister of Finance make this very clear when he says " Changed circumstances call for a review of policy an it is our responsibility as policy makers to provide as honest sober assessment of our

environment",

Mr. Max Sisulu the Head of the ANC Economic Desk has also captured the expectations of the masses when he says that "economic growth is irrelevant unless, people are able to see it, to feel it, to touch it because it is central to their lives". Having made these initial observations Speaker, let me then deal with the budget overview as seen by the committee. The current budget for the 2008/09 comes at the time where there have been reconfigurations of the mandate of the department as far as all other economic functions across the country have been looked at with DTI.

What is surprising to the committee is that the new reconfiguration has not seen any additional fiscal reallocation to meet the new added responsibilities of the department. The committee is also concerned that the department continues to receive a large part of its budget as transfer payment that goes to parastatals, in this financial year 67.2% of the total budget goes to parastatals or public entities. Though this has still a declined from 74% in the last financial

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year, this has not seen an increment in the actual allocation to the department. Actually the budget for this department is R64 million rand lower than it was in the last financial year.

The total economic cluster as a whole received only 18.28% or R3.357 billion of the total, R16 billion rand provincial budget and with this there is expectation Honorable Premier that this department should continue to coordinate economic activities to realize 6.6% annual growth in order to halve unemployment by half in 2014. The figures say it all that this task would be a much more difficult one.

We now deal with National Entities which are responsible for economic development. The committee has raised its concern that not all the economic, national entities which are task with the responsibility to assist in poverty alleviation have actually found presence on opening offices in the province and the committee called for interaction at the level of the provincial coordinating committee, other forums of government where matters such as this are discussed to ensure that all these

national activities find expression in terms of existence in the presence.

We now deal with Public Entities of the province. As I have indicated, these Public Entities take 67.2% of the total budget of the department. With this in mind, the committee will continue to spend in its capacity to monitor the activities of these Public Entities, to ensure that they account to this Legislature through their cooperative executive and Board of Directors. Over the last financial year the committee did not enjoy much full cooperation from Board of Directors of Public Entities that reports to these departments.

We should report though that there has been a slight improvement in terms of relations between the committee and some of these Public Entities. The committee is of a view Honourable Speaker that an amendment legislation may be needed in the next session is not done before this House rises to deal with the matter of the role that this House should play in the appointment of Board of Directors of Public Entities so that a legal mechanism is found

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to ensure that there is expression in law towards we call accountability to this House by Public Entities.

In terms of economic planning this department has budgeted R8.36 million rand for this financial year to deal with the economic planning which is in particular we will deal with the coordination of the provincial growth and development strategy. Central to this in our view, is a coordination of all economic functions across the department and ensure that all duplications or functions and double funding of mandates is actually attended to. We are happy that the department has been overtime since the committee has raise this matter, dealt with the matter of duplications of functions within Public Entities that report under the department and we are happy that this matter has now been addressed.

There is still however a challenge in terms of SMME for example interventions that are cross cutting departmental responsibilities with department making allocation to funds in this area without coordination of economic development. In

some instance it is our contention that some departments actually suffer from what we call conceptual confusion between what poverty will leave if an SMME Development is and it is our view that this department should play a role in clarifying this confusion.

We concur with the Honourable MEC that Industrial Development Zones are necessary to bring together in a very innovative way, both public and private sector investment to achieve both interest of job creation, halving poverty and also realizing return of investment on those companies which will become part of these initiatives. Central to this in terms of the view of the committee is a need for good corporate governments and management of the resources on the part of these entities and government which is putting money to these efforts.

In this regard the committee is worried that in the last two financial years, this House has not received Annual Report from the Mafikeng Industrial Development Zone and we hope that the department and the MEC in particular would deal

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with this matter. We welcome the announcement Honourable MEC that an initiative has been agreed to where national government would play a leading role in terms of the management and the government of industrial development says but however worn of over decentralization of economic management to allow for devolution and decentralization of responsibilities of province.

In term of tourism mandate we agree that sections of tourism operators who still discriminate should be attended to. Our view as a committee in this regard is that we should speed up the processes of promulgating a province specific legislation that would deal with the actual registration and management of these tourism activities.

In terms of Economic projects Speaker, the committee is worried that in the last three months of the financial year which ended in 31st March 2008 the department was able to spend in those last month at least 70% of their total budget leading to them having spend 91% of the overall budget by the end of the financial year. We are worried

that this which the department called 'March Spike' will cause fiscal dumping that it is inexplicable why a department will spend 9 months without capacity to spend but they are able to spend in the last three months of the financial year.

We take that explanation about coordination between Treasury and the Office of the Premier in terms of access to thee funds and how they are disbursed to projects, but we say it will remains un acceptable. In terms of dealing with Economic Project, we welcome that the Silk Project is now up on its feet, it has received national coverage that we welcome as a policy and we hope that this project would actually assist in dealing with poverty in this rural Bophirima Municipality of Kagisano mme maKekesi.

In terms of the Bio-Diesel Project we welcome the plans by the department to bring together all the experts around the Bio-diesel or alternative fuel, production and technology to ensure that we arrive at correct answers on how government and the department should proceed on this matter.

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Cognizance of the global debate that is going on around food security and the impact that the alternative fuel producers have in the price of the grain in particular, which then affect the affordability of the poor in terms of accessing these important products.

Lastly Speaker, we also follow the MEC in congratulating the new Head of the Department and the appointed CEOs of Public Entity and as a committee we hope that moving forward would be able to work together with these leaders. We call on the MEC to make sure that the processes leading up to the appointment of the Board of Directors of the North West Parks and Tourism Board is speeded up because in the last financial year and early months of this year we have seen disturbing negative reporting about incidents that has happened within this department with these Public Entities which has led to the suspension and formal expulsion or resignation of managers in this Public Entity which is beginning to affect the standing publicly of this Public Entity which over years has performed well in terms of dis-

charging of its responsibility.

The committee is committed to work together with the department with all Public Entities to ensure that all of us discharge our mandates and responsibilities as we go forwards to roll out and confront these challenges that we are facing. Lastly the committee takes the opportunity to request this House that the budget for the department for 2008/09 financial year be adopted by your House. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER:

Re a leboga Rra. Re laletsa mme Matladi

HON. MATLADI:

Honourable Speaker, I have already greeted the House. It has come in notice of the Portfolio Committee that the 67.02% of the departmental budget is transferred to entities in the department, but little if not no effort is taken to monitor these entities in ensuring that be performed their functions and responsibilities, particularly concerning the public funds transferred to them inline with PFMA.

The Honourable MEC of the Department Rre Darkie Africa

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argues that it is not the business of the department to account on behalf of Public Entities in the House, but rather that the Boards and those Boards are responsible accounting officers in entities should come to the House and explain how they have used the funds. To the Portfolio Committee this argument does not hold water, because the budget we are debating today which would be passed is given to the department not directly to the entities, therefore we maintain the department must account for it not entities.

Entities should report to the department and the department should report to the House in turn on how the finances have been used. Looking into the matter, we can look at what the Honourable Chairperson referred to as the 'March Spike', like the Social Development Department. The Economic Development and Tourism Department was among the lowest spending department during the end of the said quarter, but it was surprising to learn that towards the end of March it reported spending at 91% which came as a shock to the commit-

tee members.

When asked if there had been some fiscal dumping, the department argued that it transferred funds late to entities because of the delays in the Office of the Premier which took too long to approve some business plans that had to really bring funds to the entities. What happens is a problem now of that the entities might fail to use the money that could have been used in twelve months, within only three months and the question would be what would they do in the first nine months of the year without finances only to receive them within the last three months of the financial year. We urge that this matter of delays be looked into by both the Office of the Premier and the Department of Economic and Development and Tourism.

The North West Development Cooperation (NWDC) is reported to have been turned around by the judicial managers, nevertheless in the process of turning around a total sum of R114 million had been used which the committee still doubt if it was used properly. We were told that about R70 million times two

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which was transferred from treasury into this entity in particular was rather used for the salaries of judicial managers instead of service delivery. We have ever since requested that investigations be made into the matter and the department promised to report to the committee on how the funds has been used but up to today we have not received the report but I believe since we are debating and before we pass this budget the Honourable MEC would have given us such an accounts.

During the previous financial year, the department reported the emerging of NWDC with NTI. Later during the course of 2007 the story changed and we were made to believe that NTI can stand on its own even without judicial management. But as we speaking today, judicial managers are still running this entity although it was said to have turned around. Why pay judicial managers for work that is reported to have been completed. Didn't officials in this entity understudy the judicial managers in order to continue with service delivery even in their absence?

Investigations on North Parks and Tourism have been sort by SCOPA in the Legislature because of the report of fraudulent activities going on in the entity, we are awaiting the report, but I would like to echo the very same sentiments of the Chairperson of the committee when he says this is used to be one of the vibrant entities' in this department and we are worried the trend that it has taken of now late, and believe that if the problems that are now being report in it can be addressed it could go back to doing the good work.

Honourable MEC while presenting the budget speech, has referred to the department speech preparing to support local municipalities regarding LED as if he new that I had already prepared questions for him to say what is the role of the department in ensuring that municipalities have credible Local Economic Development Strategies and credible Tourism Master Plans. Also to say do we have the budget or some funds that are there to support these local municipalities especially in training them regarding LED and Tourism. We however

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welcome the fact that the plans are in way and would be looking forward to their unfolding with positive results.

The North West Gambling Board has given this Portfolio Committee a report confirming the Dinokana transactions. If I can talk about these transactions [Interrupted by Honourable Speaker]

HON. SPEAKER:

Ke kopa o ga rele mma

HON. MATLADI:

If I can talk about these transactions I would take too long that there are people that are elite that the committee was not satisfied that they had been given this transaction but the report that is before us indicate that there is no foul, nevertheless we are not satisfied about it. Honourable Speaker, we do not feel happy about the loss of revenue collection that has gone to Gauteng through the Morula Sun as it has been reported and then we would still urge that the department ca further engage into talks with other national departments regarding the matter.

As I close I would like to put the UCDP word as well in supporting the budget for Economic Development and Tourism. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER:

Re a le boga mma Rre Hattingh

HON. HATTINGH:

Thank you Speaker, it is great that you are back in your seat. Honourable Speaker, already I had some tough times during in your absence, you must believe me, but I can assure you but most of us welcome you back in the seat.

Honourable Speaker, also with your understanding of the Rules which is different to some of ours in this room. Honourable Speaker it is strange and very surprising that the Honourabel MEC Africa would actually skip two pages of his prepared speech to jump to a quote from Karl Marx, now who was this Marx, he is actually believed to be a father of communism who know that discredited system that collapsed in the very struggle 1989.

Now Karl Max argued that capitalism its predecessor its previ-

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ous socio economic system will produce internal tensions within itself that will leave to its own destruction, self destruction, and he believed that just as capitalism replaced tribalism, capitalism itself will be displaced by communism, a so called society which in reality emerge to be a situation with the state became nothing else as a revolutionary ruthless, dictatorship for the period.

Now fortunate this came to its logical collapse actually in our few international pockets in 1989, now there are only few in this world, few card carrying communists left and I must say they are all carrying credit cards. So I would advice the Honourable MEC that he should rather instead of reading that is capital of Karl Max go to another book that would advice him on the direction on initiative with this department it is called perhaps you should write it down, "The World of Nations by Adam Smith", perhaps he will benefit from that.

Honourable Speaker, I think in terms of transformation in departments in the North West province, this department by

some people will be regarded as being a pathological of transformation. Why do I say that, because previous years it was transformed itself into such situation where it does not have a single white official left in the department. It has got three coloured women left and this is according to the stats given by the department and one Indian female that is all, the rests are blacks, now that I supposed in some minds is a pinnacle of transformation but with it, obviously this transformation in some people will be seen as racist, this transformation perspective.

In other words for it, it is changed, convention and revolution on makeover but there is always been a suspicion that the so called transformation is used mainly for political appointment at the costs of expertise. This department certainly did not escape from the lack of expertise and is also a standard explanation for poor delivery, or non delivery is a lack of capacity and it is strange that when the department argues for gross and for money here it comes for lightly MEC has offered ...[Inaudible]...its situation about

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the capacity but when it fails to deliver it is because of lack of capacity and I believe that this transformation awaits a plight in this department than other departments where political people would like political affiliation or being deployed and replacing expertise is also responsible for this situation we found ourselves in this department, specifically if we judge the poor performance of the department during the past few year, which is with in fact under a sort of administration .

If you look at delivery, Honourable Matladi touched on that 16.7% in the first quarter of its budget spent, 32.2% in the second quarter up to 55.1% in the third quarter and then it averaged about 18.4% for the first three quarters, actually it was only an existence sustained itself, did not deliver anything. In fact if we look at the under spending of this department 8.3% of its budget was not spent and that is almost R25 million. Now I have asked this in the past why do we need this department and nobody has actually given the reason for this department to exist, it has become a transfer office, a very

poorly managed transfer office who sits there and doing nothing and in the last quarter transfer all the money. Now why do we need this department because there is nowhere economic development flowing out of this, what the MEC boasted here about today is actually being done by the Public Entities.

Nothing is coming out of substantial coming out of this department and is not for years. So Honourable Speaker I do not know why do have this department, why do we have to pay all these millions just to have his office a transformed office why don't we just use a post office, I mean they don't take nine months to deliver, you can expect delivery within about week.

Honourable Matladi asked a question what is happening about Public Entity, what are they doing for nine months when the departments were making up their minds whether they are going to get the money or not. At this stage we are now in June. The department should have had the business plans, everything in place for all the departments and this afternoon

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they could actually released the money. Why do you wait until January, February even march before they deliver the money that we approve here 6,7, 8,9 months before, I do not understand that. So Honourable Speaker, the question is what is the department doing instant of fulfilling its mandate. When it comes to this Legislature like this afternoon with beautiful ideas and promises and it will end in like we have experience a party is in applause then it ends there, that is the end of Economic Development and Tourism, MEC will stand her next here, plead again for money.

We leave it out what has been generated by this department in fact it has become an extremely expensive and insufficient and failing clearing House and I have asked it before and the Treasury's Report also confirmed [Interrupted by Honourable Speaker]

HON. SPEAKER:
Please round up Honourable Member

HON. HATTINGH:
Thank you. I will conclude I can

just use this 30 seconds. It is crucial that we have to look at this department with zero expenditure on departmental projects in the previous financial year, at the end of the year. To conclude the DA support this budget not because of the trust and inability and capacity of this department to deliver and to initiate and to sustain it, but in hope that it will be able to swiftly release funds for its programs and Public Entities where some economic development actually takes please. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER:
Re a leboga Rre Hattingh. Now the credit card word in red who are in this House will clear up a puzzle. I seem to remember Karl Marx referring to the dictatorship of the proletariat but not the cruel dictatorship Honourable Hatting but as you say the credit word read in the House might be able to clear this one for us. I call upon the Honourable Madoda.

HON. MADODA:
Honourable Speaker, we do not quite know which Marx Honourable read. Be it is Honourable Speaker I just want to point the few issues about

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this department. Firstly government spent over R60 million on fees to judicial managers over a period of five years from 2000-2005 and this was occasioned by the need to save the North West Development Cooperation from liquidation and for the turn around of that institution.

We are happy that this institution has now been saved and it is on its feet. However I just wish to point to the fact that for this organization been put under judicial management in the first place, points to the weaknesses in our management of this institutions and generally on our oversight responsibility over them. The long period in which the NWDC has put under judicial management and the staggering amount of over R16 million that was paid to judicial managers we all hopefully remain an important domain, that we all have to remain very judicious with the fiscals.

In this regard Honourable Speaker, we look forward to the completion of the process of overruling NWDC and perhaps looking at how we align it with the Invest North West so that we realize our important goals

of developing entrepreneurship attracting investment, growing our economy and improving the lives of our people.

With regard to the North West Gambling Board, we request that the department continue to get the Board to see to it that the gambling industry compliance with licensing conditions and that we do so especially in so far as black equity is concerned. We would like to see improvements in the entrance of black players in the industry. We therefore Honourable Speaker, in our interaction with the Board will always probe the quantifying of progress here. We will look facts and figures and how the body is performing.

On Tourism Honourable Speaker, we note that there was significant drop on the volume of international visitors to the North West Province in 2007, this has meant according to the annual tourism sector monitor this has meant losses of over a thousand jobs and revenue decline of over a billion rand in that year. Honourable Speaker, this calls for attention as we cannot allow that share of the market to sleep especially when we look

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at it in the light of comparable provinces like Limpopo and the Free-State. The fact is "The Free State Province consistently had outperformed the North West Province in terms of volume of visitors over the period of 2005-2007. Limpopo Province came from the bottom in 2005 to outperform the North West Province from 2006-2007". There has been a positive growth in the volume of the international visitors over the period 2005-2007 for Limpopo and the Free-State Provinces while the same cannot be said for the North West.

We hope that the department takes note of this signs and site for that lost ground. Honourable Speaker, Jazz Africa heritage is a brilliant idea it reminds us of the KORA Awards of old which used to be a product of this province. Both the KORA and JAH seek to affirm our Africans both of them evoke element of our culture to do this. Both of them target as part of this affirmation Africans in the dire stora. Both of them have a tourism and economic growth functions to them, and both of them government is the main sponsor. The KORAs appeared to have

failed, JAH is still starting. We therefore call on the department to draw lessons from the KORAs so that JAH does not repeat the same mistakes.

Our experience with JAH so far is that we need souring up of some of the favors that are being there especially for an example in outsourcing of the activities of JAH. Honourable Speaker, we request the department to continue to improve the leadership that it provides to various state aided and funded institutions, these institutions are for ever experiencing problems. North West Development Cooperation as an example has been under judicial management and generally has seen poor performance on its mandate, the Gambling Board with ...[Inaudible]... shares and the Tusk black empowerment ...[Inaudible]...poses and generally a lack of capacity to ensure compliance in the industry.

Tourism under whole has been stable but has recently begun to show signs of emerging problems. Invest North West has to show returns on their work, and I am saying Honourable Speaker there appears to be

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poor coordination of these institutions towards the thrust of their main mandate of economic growth. I wish to indicate that state funded institutions can be very powerful and useful drivers and instruments of our policy objectives of socio-economic development, if were thought out, well, aligned, un-quietly funded and capacitated and given good leadership, and the current state of poor investment in these institutions they have become liabilities rather than assets. We therefore call on more investments here both financial and technical as well as in performance.

Honourable Speaker, we know that government has so far developed very good policies and well articulated strategies I am referring here to in our province the provincial growth and development strategy and its anchors projects the MIDZ which the MEC has so eloquently referred to all these against the backdrop of ASGISA, Industrial Development Strategy and many other programs that we have.

We know it is not easy for these strategies to bear fruits in a

short space of time, we however Honourable Speaker believe that, the inter-sphere, inter-sector and integration that Honourable MEC has spoken about will have to optimize capacity and pool resources together for the attainment of our goals of a better life for all. The thrust of the work of this department and I have heard Honourable Hattingh says he does not know what this department is doing. The thrust of the work of this department is to coordinate the mini agencies of economic development that we have Honourable Speaker, some of which if left to their own device become counterproductive.

So we are saying to the Honourable MEC this afternoon MEC coordination, coordination, coordination and once you have done that, give oversight demand accountability and provide leadership. Lastly Honourable Speaker, we wish the department well in this financial year.

HON. SPEAKER:

Re a leboga Ntate Madoda.
May I now invite the Honourable, MEC Africa . Re

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Africa o seka watlisa leboko gape kgaetsedi yaka o a rabe fela.

HON. MEC. AFRICA:

Kene ke re ke a go tshwara kalonegore o seke wa nteleka. Honourable Speaker let me express my appreciation to the Chair of the Committee for the excellent manner in which he articulates the environments in which we operate and the practical suggestion that he has posited and also advised us to continue to value the need to continue review of policy. Any static policy cannot make the impact that it should and our policies are based one, on the RDP and gear and of course as the global environment changes it becomes necessary to look at how best we can adjust our response to the global challenges that we are facing, and I am certain that working together with the National Government and several other economic cluster department will be able to address this.

I agree indeed the youth constitute an important element of our endeavor to educate future generation which generation can be able to play a critical role in our

economy and that is one of the areas that we are focusing on. We have given a number of young people bursaries who are studying Master's degrees here for Tourism, we also are going to identify those who would be going to study engineering and project management with our German friends and that we will put an investment to enable us to deal with the critical issues were raised.

Indeed the early deep policies intended to address localized economic challenges because we have realized that municipalities whilst they have these strategies. These strategies are not addressing real issue, we do not want a menu of project that may not address the broad economic challenges and also the advantage is that each one of the municipalities may have and may not have the same advantages and therefore our intervention would aimed at doing that.

With the transfers and I think broadly on parastatals, just to make a point that these entities we inherited and there are people who would speak with passion about them not because

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they understand them in context but they wish them to be as they were when they were still of those entities at that time. What government is doing both Nationally and Provincially is to look at how best we can deal with state owned enterprises.

State owned enterprises have got several functions in the economy. There is no way we can wish them away, neither can we wish away coordination of policy at any level and if you can go back as you said we must go and read the wealth of nation Honourable Hattingh, you must also go and read the role of state owned institutions in the economy and how best they can help in developing the economy.

Indeed our budget is lowest of all departments, Economic Development Department in country is the lowest and all of what we have, goes to the entities. The NWDC does not get money from government that should be common knowledge. It does not get money from government; it has never obtained any money from government. It has been working on the basis of what it can generate itself and

that is the good thing because the NWDC in our view can play a very critical role in helping us to transform the economy and empower people, and we think that we still have a bigger role to transform that entity. So we would appreciate a situation where the role of the state on the entities and the manner in which funds are transferred are all looked into within a particular context, because when you argue about non expenditure or over expenditure outside a context you make the mistake of not understanding the dynamics of the same change you are here to influence.

So it is important that when you look at these things you will always have a context. There is a context in which things are happening and if the 'Spike' is something that we would need to explain we can do so. We agree with the Chair that National Entities are not spread across the country equitably, and unless we have the expertise that resides in those entities and the challenges that we have trying to deal with the legacy of the challenges that these entities have had, unless you have that coordination then we face

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problems and is not an easy task, it is not going to be easy neither would it be happened because Honourable Hattingh wishes everybody to read the Wealth of Nation, it would not happen that it is a very difficult process and we need to acknowledge that not only the economic development a domain of the particular country it is influenced by a number of factors which we have mentioned in the budget we should not even care to quote or challenge, but we are ready to deal with the old and you know, the old would always be with you as it were.

The Public Entities we agree will strengthen the capacity, we agree with the suggestion to deal with amending some of the legislation so that we can deal with the challenges we have. Indeed we will address, we have what we call Shareholders Compact where we are trying to deal, there will be kind of arrangement. The Public Entities are not funded to the extent that they can carry out their mandate. They are all under; including the department they are under funded. For instance if I to make an example

to what Honourable Madoda said both Limpopo and Free-State have got a bigger marketing budget than the North West Parks Board and therefore they are able to market themselves because if the Parks Board was to spread its funds across they would not be able to have anything less, R15 million for marketing and they have tried to penetrate the Chinese, the Russians and the Indian markets and therefore they would be a change because JAH is also intended to help achieve that.

We are doing everything, we have set up mechanisms. All CEOs must meet to discuss the share holder compact and to also illustrate, to indicate where we have failed as a provincial government to fund them, to assist them and also how they carry out their mandate with the respect to the fund that we are giving them. So we are trying to do the best we can under the circumstances with the limited budget that we have.

We would look at the issues that have been raised but I think I must just raise one matter which I think it is a serious era of rec-

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ollection. There has never been any statement made by us nor anybody in government about the desirability of merging the NWDC and NTI, there has never been anything like that. All that we said was the need to bring together the Invest North West and the NWDC that is what we said and if you wanted to refer to that, that is what we said but we have never said anything about the merging of NTI and NWDC.

We have over an above what SCOPA has said, we have also said that the Auditor General must investigate all the things that were prompted by the investigation of the GOBODO investigation and several other investigations that were instituted. So we have written to the Auditor General in that regard and the Auditor General indicated to us that because of their own capacity limits they would have to outsource that, we are waiting such a report so that it can be a comprehensive report to look at the totality of the problems that are afflicting the organization.

Well LED Strategy, you will recall if you follow what is hap-

pening at national level, but it is a strategy that has recently been released and it is a realization that the DTI was not playing a critical role in promoting local economic development, but at the same time local economic development cannot be a local government function alone. It can be functions of you know contributions from various other departments. That is why we feel that we need to have a broader strategy led by the department but also the two other departments that would play a critical role Public Works and the Department of Local Government.

That we look LED in the new context that LED should not just be a menu of projects or contributions by departments where it does not even make significant improvement on the quality of life of people in that local municipality, so we want a much broader and fact full approach.

I would not commend on the Diniokana thing I think the Board is the only authority that comment on that and they will provide whatever information the committee may require. We want to engage Dti to the extent

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that we can convince them that we need a license. You cannot have a proliferation of Casino in the country. We do not want to create a little Los-Angeles. All we want to [Interrupted by Hon. Speaker]

HON. SPEAKER:

Nako ya gago hara.

HON. MEC. AFRICA:

All that we want is to make sure that people at least to some extent we can contribute, we can have some contribution from that. But generally Madam Speaker, I will take into account what the committee has said and the contribution by Members and we act on that. I will not make a comment on the discussion about Marxism because when my colleagues were talking about the ANC they did not want to hear anything about ANC but they are ready to want us to discuss Marx. If you want to discuss Marx you can discuss it, not in here but somewhere else. Thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER:

In that note of Marx, thank you very much. Honorable Members let me now put the

Vote 6 on the program by program

- Administration, the department is requiring us to approve a sum of R35 654 000 does the House agree? Agreed

- Integrated Economic Development Services we are to approve a sum of R12, 732 000 agreed? Agreed

- Trade and Industry Promotion we are to approve a sum of R153570 000 agreed? Agree

- Business Regulation and Governance we are request to approve a sum of R23071 000 agreed? Agreed

- Economic Planning we are required to agree to R8 360 000 agree? Agreed.

- The total budget for the Department of Economic Development and Tourism Budget Vote number 6, I therefore put before you is R233 387 000 does the House agree to this Vote? Agreed.

Re a leboga this has been agreed to. May I then without much I do take the opportunity to invite the mme maModiselle for us to consider Vote number 7 for the Department of Finance. Mme maModiselle.

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HON. MEC. MODISELLE:

Thank you Honourable Speaker, Honourable Premier Mrs. Edna Molewa, Chairperson of the Portfolio of Finance and Economic Development Comrade Sam Mokaila and Committee Members, Colleagues in the Executive, Members of this august House, Distinguished Guests, Comrades and Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen. Madam Speaker, let me preface my budget submission with the remarks by the former President Nelson Mandela at his Inauguration as the President of the Republic of South Africa in 1994. He says:

"We have triumphed in the effort to implant hope in the breasts of millions of our people. We enter into a covenant that we shall build a society in which all South Africans, both black and white, will be able to walk tall, without any fear in their hearts, assured of their right to human dignity - a rainbow nation at peace with itself and the world".

I have elected to invoke the instructive words of the former President to remind all of us that, whilst we have entered our

Season of Hope, many of our people still remain on the outskirts, without benefiting from our many developmental programmes that they are key to restoring their human dignity, and with it, their ability to walk tall.

Madam Speaker, to continue with the subject matter at hand, two pieces of legislation which guide our endeavours are the Public Finance Management Act (1999) and the Municipal Finance Management Act (2003).

These two Acts are intended to ensure that government departments, public entities and municipalities manage their financial affairs better and deliver improved and sustainable services to all our people.

However, when we peruse the recent Auditor General's Reports, we glean that serious challenges are still evident in some municipalities and departments regarding financial management systems, processes and internal controls.

Our financial management support therefore is strategic and

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we regard it as an abler because through this support we progressively ensure that business activities of departments and municipalities are funded and that those funds are used efficiently and effectively. This in turn enables departments and municipalities to implement the necessary programmes and realize their priorities set in their annual performance plans.

This budget Madam Speaker, builds on the foundation set by the many business plans presented to your august House in the past.

It is therefore not a stand alone but part of a continuum of the many events which culminate in an integrated service delivery process to our clients. Before presenting the business plan for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework please allow me to provide a synopsis of our achievements in the past financial year on which our business plan is built.

" Two Learnerships in internal audit and public sector accounting were implemented as well as enrolling our cleaning staff on the Adult Based Education

Training (ABET) program;

" In an effort to improve the productivity and health of our staff, a physical exercise programme was launched during the year;

" For the first time, the Auditor-General came to the conclusion after carefully reviewing the Internal Audit function's work that, they could indeed rely on the work of the Provincial Internal Audit for the 2008/2009 Audit of our Provincial Departments

" The Department obtained an unqualified audit opinion for the seventh consecutive year;

" Although we experienced tremendous pressure on the fiscus due to various factors such as the after effects of the disestablishment of cross-boundary municipalities and over expenditure by the Dept of Education, we still managed to finance the expenditure of this Province;

" The Infrastructure Delivery Improvement Programme (IDIP) was implemented within the Department of Education, Public Works and Department of

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Health. It is further being rolled out to other provincial departments to address and identify problems that undermine effective delivery of infrastructure.

" Our provincial Supply Chain Management Unit trained five hundred and twenty three (523) government officials, on the new electronic tendering system.

We also conducted forty five (45) outreach workshops throughout the Province involving one thousand three hundred and forty two (1342) SMME's business entities out of which one hundred (100) suppliers were offered grants by the Department of Trade and Industries (DTI) through this programme.

" Regarding the Municipal Finance Management Act, we were able to provide assistance to municipalities with the preparation of the 2007/2008 Adjustment Estimates, as well as the 2008/2009 Draft Budgets.

The Municipal Support Unit conducted fifty (50) training workshops for municipal officials. We are certain that this initiative will go a long way to address

the problems of sound financial management in our municipalities.

" An in-depth study to assess the capacity of these municipalities, with the view to devising a turn-around strategy in order to improve the level of service delivery was also done;

" The Information Technology Directorate focused on addressing six critical ICT issues in 2007/8. Fundamental to this was the need to stabilize the provincial ICT architectures by making sure that ICT services are available throughout the year.

" As we all know, fraud and corruption in both the Public Service and the Private Sector affects the entire country. These intend to undermine the fight against poverty, by putting money that is meant for infrastructure and development into the pockets of corrupt individuals. For the successful implementation of the provincial budget, we therefore launched a vigorous awareness campaign code named: "It's Your Budget, Become a Player/Get on de Bus" against fraud and corruption in departments and municipi-

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palities throughout schools, and communities in the North West Province, nationally via E.Tv & other print media.

Madam Speaker, our performance plan is consistent with the five-year Strategic Plan that we submitted in 2005/06 financial year and Annual Performance Plan tabled in this august House on 18 March 2008.

I will now highlight our key focus areas for the period ahead.

On Corporate Services

The Department will review the Strategic Plan and organizational structure, to ensure that we are able to perform in terms of our mandate. We will continue to perfect the Performance Management Development System (PMDS), and implement policies on Human Resource and special programs in line with Labour Legislation.

In addressing our objectives, the department will implement two (2) learnerships and internship programs, and also promote the wellness and well being of all our staff. We will continue to strive to obtain an unqualified audit opinion from the Auditor-General for the eight

consecutive year.

Sustainable resource management

As far as this program is concerned, we will continue to implement fixed and non-fixed budgeting techniques in order to determine value for money, and implement "use it or lose it" approach in order to maintain an overall fiscal discipline in the Province.

A continuous effort will be made to roll out the implementation of the Infrastructure Development Improvement Program also known (IDIP) in other departments to improve and fast track the delivery of infrastructure projects in the North West Province.

We will develop a Provincial Revenue enhancement strategy with the view to increasing revenue collection in order to expand the provincial revenue envelope. Furthermore, during the current financial year, we will scale-up the level of monitoring departmental spending on a monthly and quarterly basis.

We will also assess and evaluate the effectiveness of budget allocations and implementation,

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to confirm that funds allocated are utilized in terms of the relevant mandates. We will continue to assist departments and Public Entities in planning, budgeting and expenditure management, and we will step-up the monitoring of the implementation of infrastructure projects.

In the same context, Madam Speaker, we are now going to constantly monitor the Department of Education budget spending pattern in order to assist this department to remain within the allocated budget.

On Supply Chain Management
The department is in the process of repealing the North West Tender Board Act during this financial year. The delay in repealing the Act was as a result of the contracts and cases which were still unresolved. As part of our Treasury responsibilities, we will continue to provide training, support and give policy guidance on Supply Chain Management to all departments and municipalities.

The Department will continue to monitor compliance oversight with regards to Supply Chain Management reforms and

Legislation. Furthermore, the program will empower service providers by conducting outreach training and workshops on Supply Chain management to training the public on how to access Government opportunities. We also want to assess the success of the impact of these outreach programs in terms of the number of jobs that will be created for the local people in particular women, youth and people with disabilities.

On Financial Governance
The financial management training programme is the vanguard forming the bedrock on which the future the North West Provincial administration is going to be built. We have already completed phase 1 with 600 graduates, out of which the top five achievers obtained university entrance and bursaries from Price Water House Coopers to further their studies. Most of the graduates from this program are now employed in various Departments around the North West.

Madam Speaker, In addition to our previous successes with this program, we decided to continue by now focusing on the train-

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ing of non - core financial managers on levels 9 -12. We have identified one thousand (1000) officials in this category and have officially launched this program on the 17 of March 2008. We do not intend to convert them into financial experts but rather equip them with enough ammunition to enable them to make good judgment on the decisions they make on financial matters like budget and project management. We hope that, by Improving financial management skills at this layer of management will certainly improve the quality of financial accountability and reporting.

Unlike the phase 1 which was held only in the central region, we have added a new dimension to phase 2 by providing training venues in the various regions in order to minimize traveling and other logistics. This will provide business to SMME's in the areas where this training is offered. In an effort to improve on previous audit outcomes, we have established a Centre of Excellence in collaboration with the Auditor General and the Internal Audit to focus on those key areas that pose a challenge to most departments

like asset and risk management.

This centre will also be the training hub for the implementation of the Public Finance Management Act and Municipal financial Management Act. We will assist all the Provincial Government Institutions to prepare their financial statements and to develop plans to address audit outcomes with the view to receiving unqualified audit opinions.

We will continue to provide training to improve the Technical Financial Management Capacity in departments, Public Entities and municipalities in particular. We will also continue, this year, to assist and encourage departments to improve on the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to speed up supplier payment turn-around time, in order to comply with the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA).

On the Provincial Internal Audit Function

During this financial year, we will conduct specialized audits, including the performance and Information Technology Audits. However, the high staff turn-over of the Internal Auditors in our

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unit remain a huge challenge. The department will continue to conduct follow-up audits on the implementation of the Auditor-General's findings. However, what we have observed in the past was the lack of implementation of the audit findings by departments.

We therefore, draw the attention of departments to the Public Finance and Municipal Finance Management Acts requirements regarding this matter, and to confirm that, we are always available, and ready to support the Accounting Officers in dealing with their Internal Audit matters.

On the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) Madam Speaker, the implementation of the Municipal Finance Management Act has challenging issues such as Revenue-base, Capacity, Role clarifications, etc. We have assessed the status quo of municipal performance and have already assisted in the development of draft budgets for the year 2008/2009, given the capacity constraints in the MFMA unit in our department.

We are currently increasing the staff component to fill all critical vacant posts. To this end, the department has planned to support municipalities to implement and comply with the Municipal Finance Management Act on planning, Budgeting, Supply Chain Management, Accounting and relevant Policies. We will continue to work with all stakeholders including the Department of Developmental Local Government and Housing where monthly meetings have already been agreed upon to avoid duplication.

As part of providing-hands-on support, we will assist municipalities with the development of, amongst others, Supply Chain Management and other financial related policies and guidelines.

On Information Technology The Department will establish an Information Resource Centre to support users with websites, e-mail and other related Information Technology matters. We will embark on upgrading of Local Area Networks for the Departments of Health, Social Development and Arts, Sports and Culture, Transport and Community Safety. Furthermore,

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the department will upgrade the Wide Area Network and the environment infrastructure to be in line with National priorities.

During the same period, we will establish architecture integration, for example, Government services, and assist departments in website design and development and customization of e-mails in terms of departments.

I now move to THE BUDGET FOR 2008/09

The total budget for the Department for the 2008/09 financial year is R255. 287 million (Two hundred and fifty five million two hundred and eighty seven thousand Rand) The budget allocations for the two outer years of the MTEF period are R270 284 million (Two hundred and seventy million two hundred and eighty four thousand Rand) and R286.169 million (Two hundred and eighty six million one hundred and sixty nine thousand Rand) respectively.

ADMINISTRATION

Madam Speaker on Administration this Program is allocated R48.301 million (Forty

eight million three hundred and one thousand Rand) in the 2008/09 financial year and R44.715 million (Forty four million seven hundred and fifteen thousand Rand) and R44.620 million (Forty four million six hundred and twenty thousand Rand) respectively in the two outer years.

On SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Sustainable Resources Development is responsible for the development of policy guidelines and ensuring effective implementation of the PFMA, consolidation and monitoring of the provincial budget and providing effective and efficient control over provincial revenue and other resources.

This Program is allocated R33.773 million (Thirty three million seven hundred and seventy three thousand Rand) for the 2008/09 financial year and R38.543 million (Thirty eight million five hundred and forty three thousand Rand) and R44.777 million (Forty four million seven hundred and seventy seven thousand Rand) respectively for the two outer years of the MTEF period.

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**On ASSET AND LIABILITIES
MANAGEMENT**

The program is allocated R11.245 million for the 2008/09 financial year and R10.649 million and R10.142 million respectively for the two outer years of the MTEF period.

On FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE

The program is allocated R80.406 million (Eighty million four hundred and six thousand Rand) for the 2008/09 financial year and R86.934 million (Eighty six million nine hundred and thirty four thousand Rand) and R91.652 million (Ninety one million six hundred and fifty two thousand Rand) respectively for the two outer years of the MTEF period.

**On MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT**

The program is allocated R11.472 million (Eleven million four hundred and seventy two thousand Rand) for the 2008/09 financial year and, R11.610 million (Eleven million six hundred and ten thousand Rand) and R12.078 million (Twelve million and seventy eight thousand Rand) in the two outer years.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The program is allocated R70.090 million (Seventy million and ninety thousand Rand) for the 2008/09 financial year and R77.833 million (Seventy seven million eight hundred and thirty three thousand Rand) and R82.803 million (Eighty two million and eight hundred and three thousand Rand) in the two outer years.

Honourable Speaker, preparing a budget is as difficult as determining its effective and efficient utilization.

I therefore wish to sincerely thank the following:

- The Premier, Mrs Edna Molewa, for her continued support and adroit leadership.
- Colleagues in the Executive Council for their support.
- Honourable Members of the Finance and Public Accounts Committees, and all the other committee members whose invaluable contributions made the compilation of this year's departmental budget possible.

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- Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House for your attention, time, vigilance and patience.

- The Heads of Departments, for your contribution and support by providing us with the necessary information we needed as usual.

- The Head of Department of Finance, Mr. Johannes Mohlala,

- The Deputy Director-General and Head of Sustainable Resource Management, Mr. Ernst Van Wyk.

- The Deputy Director-General and Head of Financial Governance, Mr. Geo Paul, and of course the formidable members of "Team Finance" whose dedication and professionalism assisted immensely in ensuring that we always deliver on our promises. The Titanic organization, the African National Congress and Comrades for giving me the opportunity, privilege and Honour to serve in this august House.

My husband Dr. Peter Modiselle and family for their support and unconditional love.

And to the people of the North West allow me to conclude by quoting one of Edward Everette Hale's very short poems, he says:

"I am only one,
But still I am one.
I cannot do something.
But still I can do something.
And because I cannot do everything,
I will not refuse to do
the something that I can do".

On that note, with your permission, Madam Speaker, may I table the 2008/09 Budget allocated to the Department of Finance before your august House for consideration and hopefully your approval. Ke a leboga.

HON. SPEAKER:

Re a leboga mme maModiselle. The Honourable Mokaila.

HON. MOKAILA:

Speaker if it was not because of the commitment to the ritual to come here and represent the committee I would have stood at my chair and say let the budget be adopted. But whilst there is no disagreement that Provincial Treasury are giving the respon-

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sibilities in terms of the PFMA to manage and oversight how budget are used in the departments in the provinces , questions have become to be raised of what the role of the treasury should be in the developmental state that we are. Concerns has also been raised by a number of departments including a national recently by the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry that it is time Treasuries is override even authorities of executives as a whole.

The challenge in the debate that is began to be raised about the role of the treasury is where the balance should be struck between changing economic imperative and hope the public fiscals should respond to such and prudent financial management without as it is being said being tight fisted.

The Honourable MEC has dwelt largely with the maters that the committee has over years dealt with I think in particular to pick on one issue with regard to the joint implementation and joint concurrent responsibilities of the implementation of the Municipal Financial Management Act between Treasury and

Department of Developmental Local Government and Housing.

Our view as a committee is that we need to examine the possibility for the dedicated institute that would look specifically at the management and the support of municipalities that would deal with specific municipal finance challenges. The collapse in a number of our municipalities is not much more about the lack of planning as it is about their capacity, the financial capacity one to raise the revenue and once raised how is that revenue then spent.

There is an admission in an Annual Report of then department that the last financial year was very difficult to monitor and to assist that provincial departments keep their bank accounts with minimum cash positive to ensure on a daily basis to ensure that more departments goes into overdraft, but also to ensure that departments are able to leverage interest that may accrue out of investment through our banking with banking institutions. If we are unable to do this, the leakage that comes through lack of properly manages of departmental

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accounts would run into millions and therefore there is a need to manage that aspect better.

The matter of assets management, almost all the departments that have received negative reporting of audit from the Auditor-General were either qualified or refused matters of emphasis on the basis of their lack of capacity and assets management. This area is very important because linked to assets management is the exposure to fraud and corruption through supplying Chain Management, Procurement and Disposal of state assets and it is a matter that we welcome the undertaking by the MEC that it would be looked into.

We have raised the issue of the department about its capacity of oversight in the management of the budget of Public Entities and we welcome the undertaking by the department that capacity would be increased at that level to ensure that Public Entities are held to account like all other departments. The challenge in this regard according to the committee is that a number of Public Entities will run supplying chain management systems

which do not speak to the entirety of the systems of the provincial government and therefore open up such systems to possible fraud and corruption.

We welcome the intervention in the infrastructure delivery program in particular Education and Health. The challenge there in terms of the entire infrastructure roll out in the province is that overtime I think we have missed an important ingredient in infrastructure development and that is integration. We still find Honourable MEC in instances where a clinic is built in an area which does not have the school, a housing development is built in an area where there is no school, there is no clinic, there is no roads and so forth.

I think as we roll out this infrastructure development it is important that an element of integration and joined planning by all departments which are affected by such developments they should be taken into account. We welcome the intended repeal of the old Tender Board Act. We have appeal to the department speaker that owing to the congestion of or program, we would want to

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meet with them very immediately to look at the possibility of accommodating that process into our Legislature program so that we find time in the current session of parliament to deal with this matter.

The committee continues to enjoy cooperation and support from the department each time we require information and from the Honourable MEC and to that extend we are very happy to recommend that this budget be passed and that the department be allowed to spend. I wanted to save time Speaker, so that I break the monopoly of numbers of this House who are in the Executive to on behalf of myself, thank the partners of all Members of the Portfolio Committee and dearly thank my wife who support and dedication continues to inspire the work that I do. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER:

Well at least there is one wife of a known Executive who ...[Inadible]... today. My next speaker is mme Matladi.

HON. MATLADI:

Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker the United

Christian Democratic Party as well joins the Chairperson and the MEC in welcoming the new HOD in the Department of Finance Ntate Johannes Mohlala and we are looking forward into working with him cooperatively as we have done with other HODs before him.

It has always been a pleasure to take part in the debate of the Finance Department and the reason being this department leads by example in the sense that as already the MEC has said seven consecutive years of the unqualified audit opinion from the Auditor-General. Indeed they really practice what they preach. However due to the rolling place that of monitoring of other departments, challenges would always be pointed out that would be addressed by such departments aided by the Finance Department. I would start with the poor financial management of many departments in which the majority in the previous financial year received qualified audit opinions and other still getting disclaimers which means financial management still needs serious attention.

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There seems to have been some improvement in some departments however, which moved from getting a disclaimer into a qualified audit opinion and we believe the sky is the limit, they could always improve in also one day receiving an unqualified audit report.

Municipalities in the province are reported not to be accepting the role of the Finance Department over local government sphere, they are always as well been held questioning where SCOPA in the Provincial Legislature has to monitor how they used the public funds.

It is sad to note that these municipalities do have aims of problems regarding finance management. Most of them have received a disclaimer, an audit opinion, others adverse audit opinion and only a few has received qualified audit opinions. We support then Department of Finance to continue monitoring these spheres, these local municipalities in general under the hardships that are presented by their negative attitudes. But we really would have to say is not all of them that are negative, that are pointing to the negative attitude that

has come from this anchor.

Other limitations in the department are the limited skills and knowledge and levels of officials in municipalities that have become obstacle against the smooth implementation of PFMA as well as MFMA.

Although many departments in the province are set to be implementing the fraud management prevention program, many fraudulent cases are still being reported in departments and in parastatals of the departments. This calls for the Finance Department to reinforce its monitoring strategies of these entities in these departments.

I can just highlight those that have had investigations in the previous financial year. The DED, the Parks and Tourism Board, Education Trust, we also wanted to have investigations in it the NWDC and the Gambling Board. Information Technology in the department still has challenges. They run around, none standardized ICT Infrastructure, Proliferation of computer systems, Data duplication, departments not been fully capable of managing their own department's specific ICT environment,

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users in ability to make better use of ICT a tools and many others.

It has been planned however that this would be addressed by the department but some of them have been outstanding for rather a longer period. There is a challenge of lack of trained staff to successfully implement supply chain management as the Honourable MEC has already said. This being a new program, that is in the place of what is used to be known as the Tender Board. It is presenting its own problems to the department because previously the departments were really helped by the Tender Board in procuring goods and services on their behalf.

A serious risk of mismanagement in the procurement process would be created by the delay in the repeal of the Tender Board to really teach the people the new ways of procurement. As I stand here I will do one miracle of finishing before time because of what I said I enjoy debating this department because always work is done and one does not have to waist time searching for the mistakes

and would like to congratulate the Honourable MEC and the officials in her department for work well done and the UCDP supporters the budget on Finance Department that it be passed. I thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER:

Thank you ma'am, visitors to the North West Provincial Legislature you are not required to clap hands, that is the business of the elected and paid Members of this House . ntate Hattingh you are my next speaker. Ntate Duma please do not let your ancestors disturb you in this Chamber; tell them the minute you are at home.

HON. HATTINGH:

Honourable Speaker, this is always being one of the flagship departments of the North West Provincial Legislature even in the time of the Honorable Darkie Africa leading the department it remained that. Honourable Speaker I would also like to say with the new Head of the Department there are certainly some big shoes to fill in the department and to maintain the history and the proud history of this department, so yes the DA wishes the Head

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of the Department the best, but he will know once he starts sitting in the chair.

Honourable Speaker I just want to focus to one issue, obviously this department has become a ...[Inaudible]...in the North West Provincial Government in keeping the reins tight and come up with early warnings like we have seen in the portion of the Department of Education. But Honourable Speaker there is one thing I believe that we all in the province including this department are failing in and this is with local authorities specifically with the implementation of the Municipal Finance Management Act and I have to see that there is a significant amount and effort going into the implementation of the MFMA as well as into local authorities.

The problem is, and I think it came out very clear when the AG representation to local authorities in the North West Province where we are reality is that I do not think we have ever been in the worst situation as far as local authority management and financial administration is where we are now. Two municipalities and actually high capaci-

ty municipalities Madibeng and Potchefstroom receiving the worst AGs report adverse and this is the second time in the Potch after having received a number of disclaimers. Now Potch show used to be a sort of a flagship administration wise in the North West Province. It is gone, nothing is left.

Fourteen local authorities received disclaimers in the north West Province. One a qualified, zero municipality received totally unqualified report while four received unqualified report with some matters of emphasize or like we call it now with other matters. So we are talking about local authorities in crisis in the North West Province. How did it happen, I believe that I might not be popular that the deployment policies contributed to this where expertise has been replaced by people with the political head and even worse that when one day was a certain power even those who settled in their jobs were then replaced and the same went with the councilors sitting in their positions and then being replaced because of internal friction we have seen in the past period be disbanding of two local authori-

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ties. One actually be leading a governing party lost control. Pollution is now ruling, but these are the fruits of what is happening.

So in order to counter Honourable Speaker, to counter the work of the so called deployment committee we need more of the work and finances and support of the Department of Finance. You have to count the work of the deployment committee unfortunately and in your effort to account to this I see that you are going to fill critical vacant post Chief Director Coordinating all in under the heading of the Municipal Finance Management Act and I hope that this whole effort to bring local authorities up to speed will be efficient and will be implemented swiftly.

Honourable Speaker may I warn the MEC that she has to work quickly because there is a new centre of power developing and she must get to work before they deploy to the new people into the position, so she should not waist money in training the old ones before the new ones they get deployed into municipal mangers, mayors, speakers,

HOD whatever. So this is the crisis she has to confront because we are failing project consolidate has failed, we are in the worse situation with local authorities in the province as far as the Auditor-Generals report stand. Honourable Speaker we support the budget for this department this is the watch dog, the one thing that I must start say an I think it is a requirement, we believe that the so called Fraud Unit should go back to where it belongs. It was efficient where it was. We do not believe it is efficient where it is now. We do not see any outcome ...[Inaudible]... from time to time they were successful investigations we had resorted under the treasury, we believe it should go back there and we still wonder what happened to the investigations that was ongoing when it was removed from the control of MEC. In conclusion we support this budget and early because we know it has always been in good hands. I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER:

I thank you Ntate Hattingh clearly you went for bright topic local government. Mme maModiselle re a go leboga, gore o tlo go e

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ka rabela.

HON. MEC. MODISELLE:

Thank you Honourable Speaker, let me at the outset thanks firstly to Chairperson Honourable Sam Mokaila and the Portfolio Committee members for interrogating our Annual Performance Plan for 2008/09 and also the Honourable Members who participated today in the debate. We appreciate the positive comments, we take the advance and concerns expressed about challenges that we faced, we cannot be that arrogant we need to realize that we also have been warned.

I will speak by responding briefly to the report by the Portfolio Committee of Finance as presented by Honourable Sam Mokaila. I would not answer every single matter raised, I will touch here and there and we undertake to write a written response which will be tabled in this House at the next Sitting, however let me start by responding about the whole issue of the MFMA I think the question was what is the role of the Department of Finance and the interaction with the Department of Developmental

Local Government and Housing with regard to the implantation of the MFMA.

I wish to respond as follows, the implementation of the MFMA is still a challenge to this department. We are however busy with the plan that will address the five basic services of the MFMA and these are the following:

" Ensuring transparency, accountability and appropriate lines of responsibility in the fiscal and financial affairs of municipality and municipal entities.

" The management of the revenues expenditure, assets and liabilities and the handling of their financial dealings in general.

" Budgetary and Financial claiming processes and the coordination of both processes with processes of organ of state in other spheres of government.

The handling of financial problems in municipalities they have been articulated here by speakers before me and of course the supply chain management. The department has also had start capacity challenges, I know I am sounding like a broken record,

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whereby most capable members of our staff has been pouched by the very municipality because they offer them better packages.

An application however has been submitted to the Office of the Premier to appoint a Chief Director and a Coordinator and we hope that approval will be secured very soon in order to allow the department to proceed with these approved Bills. We still have to sign a memorandum of understanding between the Department of Finance and Developmental Local Government in order to ion out some overlapping areas and functions between theses two departments.

I think Comrade Sam Mokaila raised the whole issue of the Public Finance and the PPPs I forget who raised the issue; however I wish to respond as follow:

We have a sub-program called Public Finance that is tasked with dealing with the PPPs this is a new deliverable in the North West Province as PPPs used to be dealt by National Treasury. There is a team of officials that has been co-opted from National Treasury to work with

our departmental officials to do some scales process.

We hope to make our PPPs project a joint project but the challenge for the implementation of the PPPs is that other departments must identify projects for the department of Finance to start the process, so colleagues you are being invited that we must have a pilot project at least with one project that we are going to co-observe and monitor.

I am then going to rush to the PFMA and MFMA. How far and what progress has been achieved to date in the implementation of the PFMA and MFMA. What are the targets for 2008/09 in terms of training, are we getting value for money, is the money budgeted enough.

I wish to respond as follows: Training and financial management on PFMA monitory is an ongoing process. Implementations of new areas such as risk and asset management are in progress. The PFMA as we all know is in the process of being amended hence training and the amended version will only take place at

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the opportune time.

As mentioned earlier colleagues the department is experiencing challenges in the implementation of the MFMA especially because of capacity problems within the unit. A request has been forwarded to the Office of the Premier to grant permission for the approval for the advertising of the post of the Chief Director and MFMA Coordinator so that then we can proceed to fill these positions otherwise with the type of the staffing problems that I have it is impossible to execute this function.

On Supply Chain Management. The implementation of supply chain management reforms is in turn of the PFMA and Treasury Regulations Environment. Some departments are experiencing challenges with the implementation of supply chain management for an example; there is confusion as to who should tear the bid or tender committee while this is clearly stated in our Provincial Treasury instruction number 11 which state that there accounting officers should delegate the function to the bid committee. Other departments have structures on

problems with the provisioning of the SCM some are in asset management, others in logistics and not the CFO's domain as is required in fact by the PFMA.

On adverse audits. Last year Auditor-General's Report did not paint a good picture at all with regards to the state of financial management in departments. How is the situation going to be handled this time around? With regard to audit qualifications it must be noted that each year the Auditor General increases audit requirement levels for example the requirements for level 1 audit are different from more than 3 or 4 currently our Auditor-General is conducting level 4 audits which have got vigorous requirements simply stated it means, we must get on with it. We must interpret the PFMA and the MFMA and implement period, otherwise you end in side for qualifications and I do not think that the Premier is very well pleased and if she is not, the Premier transfers that to me, and I am transferring that to you. No more disclaimers, no more qualifications we must get unqualified audits. Do you know why? Because the qualification is always invariable the same

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and is so simple and it is around the area of asset registers. Colleagues what can be simpler. I am pleading that whoever follows me should not face the same rod.

Regarding the PFMA and the FFC, we know that the FFC is also being reviewed. Madam Speaker am I protected?

HON. SPEAKER:

You are protected from the Deputy Speaker.

HON. MEC. MODISELLE:

Colleagues and Madam Speaker, I think that the time is not on my side. Those questions that I have not responded to they have been noted by the officials, I undertake that at the next Sitting we will table written responses. On this note I thank you very much for listening and you cooperation and now I am hoping that the budget would be spend efficiently as expected.

HON, SPEAKER:

As expected MEC. Members may I take this opportunity to run this budget Vote number 7 program by program;

- Administration the request is for R48, 301 000 agreed?

Agreed

- Sustainable Resource Management R33, 773 000 agreed? Agreed
 - Assets and Liabilities Management R11, 245 000 agreed? agreed
 - Financial Governance R80, 406 000 agreed? Agreed
 - Municipal Financial Management R11, 472 000 agreed? Agree.
 - Information technology R70, 090 000 agreed? Agreed
 - The total budget which we must then agree to is R255, 287 000 does the House agree? Agreed.
- Thank you very much Finance has got money.

The next Vote is the shortest one we will have, it is the Vote number 14 is usually our Contingency. I think, yes

HON. MEC MODISELLE:

Thank you Madam Speaker, indeed this is going to be the shortest budget speech in history of this august House. The Contingency Reserve as we all know is a holding Vote for funds set aside by the Executive Council for unforeseen and unavoidable events. However due to financial constrains and

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demands from departments on their specific program and the reduction in the equitable share it was impossible to allocate any funds to the Contingency Reserve for the year 2008/09 therefore there are no funds in the Contingency Reserve. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER:

Thank you ma'am. Will the House please note that the Contingency Reserve for 2008/09 is zero, zero. We then proceed, yes it is necessary that the House formally knows that there is no Contingency funds so that tomorrow the MEC does not get stressed and transfer it to the Premier who will transfer it back and then she will transfer to all of us quoting the MEC of Finance a few minutes ago.

We then proceed to ask the secretary to read the Bill for the second time.

SECRETARY:

This Bill shall be called the North West Appropriation Bill 2008

HON. SPEAKER:

Thank you ma'am. Members do you agree that we waive Rule

197 as requested did you request ma'am?

HON. MEC. MODISELLE:

Madam Speaker this august House has now considered and approved the individual votes of all the provincial departments per division or program as required by the Public Finance Management Act may I at this juncture humbly request the Honourable Speaker to allow the North West 2008/09 Appropriation Bill to be read for the second time and simultaneously that Rule 197 be waved in order to allow this now Bill to go through for the third reading and its final stage, thank you ma'am.

HON. SPEAKER:

The House having agreed for the reading of the Bill of the second time is now requested to agree to waive Rule 197 as requested by both MEC and the Committee does the House agree to this waiver? Agreed. Thank you. We move on to the next item.

**SECRETARY: ITEM NO
5 PROCEEDINGS ON BILLS:
THIRD READING**

North West Appropriation Bill, 2008

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HON. SPEAKER:

Honourable Member Modiselle may you prevail the Bill to be read for the third time.

SECERTARY:

This Bill shall be called the North West Appropriation Act 2008

HON. MEC. MODISELLE:

Madam Speaker I then prevail on the House to have the Bill read for the third time.

HON. SPEAKER:

Honourable Members we have now read the Bill for the third time. This North West Appropriation Bill 2008 has now been adopted. The next item is the nice one. This House is adjourned until the 10th of June 2008. Thank you very much

HON. SPEAKER:

Does the House agree that the Bill be read for the third time? Is that a yes? Honourable Members.

HOUSE ADJOUNED!