



**PRESENTATION BY PREMIER DUKWANA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE NCOP'S THREE SPHERE PLANNING SESSION, ON THE 29<sup>TH</sup>, MARCH, 2023, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**

**Theme: Delineating Key Priorities For Consolidation and Implementation During The Final Year Of The Sixth Dispensation:  
29 TO 30 MARCH 2023**

Chairperson of the NCOP, Mr Amos Masondo;

Deputy President – Mr Paul Mashatile;

Deputy of the NCOP- Ms Sylvia Lucas;

Premiers from various Provinces,

Chief Whip of the NCOP- Mr Seiso Mohai;

Honourable Members.

Our urge to build a capable, ethical and developmental state, remains a constant of our revolution.

In the next fourteen (14) months, decisive steps will be taken, to make the Free State, a province of a confluence of possibilities. The key priorities are to ensure that:

- Our People live in quality houses;
- Our Children play and learn in safe environments;
- Our healthcare facilities provide quality services; and
- Every person has equal access to opportunities and more importantly, we strive for *substantive equality*, beyond *formal equality*; informed by our pursuit of socio-economic rights.

To achieve the broad key priorities as outlined above, the following key milestones will attract urgent attention:

### **Our People live in quality houses:**

- Completing the **11 000** incomplete houses and resolving the blocked projects in partnership with the **National Home Builders Registration Council**;
- **Accelerating integrated housing** through the revival of the **Phakisa Mega** and the **QwaQwa Gateway** projects and, completing the **Vista Park Presidential** project;
- Embarking on **Alternative Building Technologies** within our settlements; that were identified as emergency areas
- Working with the **Development Bank of Southern Africa**, as an implementing agent for the removal and replacement of asbestos roofing in about **36 000** houses across the province.
- **Upgrading of the registered 166 informal settlements.** The improvement package includes the provision of basic services, access to amenities and security of tenure.

- Campaign to accelerate the issuing of **title deeds** will commence next month, to ensure the security of tenure for home owners.
- **Eradicate the Bucket system.** A progress report compiled in **August 2022**, revealed that there were over **10 000 unconnected toilets** in areas such as **Clocolan, Ficksburg, Senekal, Reitz, Petrus Steyn, Arlington and Dealesville.**
- We will direct the **Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality** to address **sanitation challenges**, particularly in **Botshabelo.**
- Government has equally prioritized dysfunctional **waste water treatment plants.** Work in affected areas and this will extend to **Maluti-a- Phofung.**

#### **Our Children play and learn in safe environments:**

- **Community Nutrition Development Centres** are committed to ensuring access to safe and nutritious food. We will continue to provide access to food and developmental programmes to **7 406** poor and vulnerable persons, who benefit on a daily basis from our **55 Centres** in the province.
- **School Nutrition Programme** that enhances learning and teaching in schools will be extended to **600 176** learners this year.
- Prioritising **school safety** will require a collaboration between the **SAPS** with designated patrols to schools, school management, **SGBs** and school safety committees. Schools must be weapon-free and drug-free.
- Prioritize the finalization of the **Provincial Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy.** We commend the **SAPS** for the work

that they are doing; often in very challenging circumstances. **Community Policing Forums** will be strengthened to work with the **SAPS** to combat crime in our communities.

### **Our healthcare provides quality services:**

We aim to:

Strengthen our primary health care facilities and services, including specifically pre- and ante-natal care. This will be achieved through:**Reduce queues** at **Primary Healthcare** facilities through the use of alternative chronic medication distribution channels.

- o **Increase** the **immunisation coverage** for children between **6** months and 15 years.
- o Expand the **roll-out of session doctors** at **Primary Health Care** facilities.
- o Do an outreach by **District Health Services**; up to to **Primary Health Care** facilities. We intend to attract more doctors through this mechanism.
- o The refurbishment and expansion of **clinic infrastructure**, to implement **the National Health Insurance**.
- o **Resource clinics** with human capital, equipment, medicine and consumables.

**The following Health Infrastructure Projects** will start in the **2023/24** financial year:

- o Dihlabeng Regional Hospital smart revitalization in Bethlehem
- o **Construction of New Dinaane Clinic** in **Thaba Nchu**

- o **Construction of new Vaalrock Clinic in Winnie Mandela**
- o **Construction of new Bophelong Clinic in Kroonstad**
- o **Upgrade of JD Newberry Hospital in Clocolan**
- o **Upgrade of Lesedi Clinic in Harrismith**
- o **New Gariepdam Clinic in Gariep**

**Every person has equal access to opportunities:**

To guarantee both formal and substantive equality, we strive for:

- Review of the **Free State Growth and Development Strategy**, to enhance prospects of economic growth and development.
- The **undertaking of a substantial review of the current state of our public entities** and, reposition them to be responsive to the developmental agenda.
- The **revitalization of our Industrial Parks**. Priority areas remain Botshabelo, Phuthaditjhaba and Thaba Nchu. We anticipate to conclude new agreements with private sector investors in the cement and concrete, textile and dry-powder food manufacturing sectors.
- **Increasing of our tourism market** share, through destination marketing, product development and promotion.
- Food Security efforts, to supplement a new concept - the **Production Brigade**, that will be exploring with the **Department of Defense and Military Veterans** and, the **South African National Defense Force agricultural products; leading up to agro-processing**.
- Determination of the **feasibility of the Maluti-a-Phofung Alternative Energy Solution**, to construct solar plants in QwaQwa

and Tshiame, and the Electricity Upgrades and Remedial Work to improve the network.

- Determining the feasibility of the **Mangaung Airport Development Node** project valued at over **R10 billion which will** provide residential units, retail areas, conference facilities, office space and a hotel.
- Structuring and design of the **Sasolburg Integrated and Mixed Housing Development** project valued at over **R8 billion**. This project will integrate **Sasolburg** and **Vanderbijlpark** as part of the envisaged **Vaal River City Region** between the two towns.
- The **multibillion Rand Virginia Gas** project by **Renergen**, is beginning to change our economic fortunes. A feasibility study will be undertaken for the creation of a **Special Economic Zone** to maximize beneficiation from the gas extraction and related industries in the **Virginia** area.
- The **Thaba 'Nchu Smelter**, currently under construction, will change the economic landscape of this area. This project, with an estimated value of **R300 million**, will create **2 000** permanent jobs when completed around the first quarter of the new financial year.
- Work with the **Department of Mineral Resources to support small-scale miners**. The award of mining permits to artisanal miners will be pursued. This intervention will help to curb illegal mining activities, and will usher in a new dawn in this industry in the province.
- The deteriorating state of our road infrastructure, is a stumbling block for economic development. We will spend approximately **R1.9 billion** on upgrading and maintaining the road infrastructure this year. We

will explore the implementation of solutions, such as the 24-hour road construction.

- Expedite the maintenance and construction backlog, of roads that form the backbone of the logistics industry and support economic activity, such as the roads in the **Ficksburg** and **Bothaville** areas.

**R1 billion**, has been prioritized, for the following roads:

- **Ladybrand – Bethlehem (R26 road)**
- **Ficksburg - Rosendal (R70 road)**

- Our investment in the roads infrastructure in the upcoming Financial Year, will comprise:

- **R771 million** in **Thabo Mofutsanyana**.
- **R220 million** in **Fezile Dabi**.
- **R217 million** in **Xhariep**.
- **R165 million** in **Mangaung** and,
- **R125 million** in **Lejweleputswa**.

- the **Township Revitalization Programme** focused on the upgrading of gravel to paved roads. The focus has been on township roads in **14** townships. **Nine** of these projects will be completed at the end of **March** and the remaining roads will be completed at the end of **May**. The next phase of the **Programme** will focus on township roads in **QwaQwa, Bethlehem, Bloemfontein, Botshabelo, Thaba Nchu, Sasolburg, Kroonstad Ficksburg, Harrismith, Ladybrand** and **Paul Roux**.

- An amount of **R150 million**, is budgeted for the **re-gravelling programme**, in all five districts.
- Enhancing **Operation Vala Zonke** initiatives to eradicate potholes. Our focus must be multi-pronged; include the private sector and the rebuilding of capacity within the public sector. We will draw on the capacity developed through various **Contractor Development Programmes**, to accelerate the expansion of the repair of potholes in our municipal spaces. Municipalities will be required to develop, fund and implement pothole eradication programmes.
- We continue to place high value on the delivery of **quality education infrastructure**. Eleven new schools are currently under construction in the province:
  - Trompsburg Special School in Xhariep
  - Tlholo Primary School in Motheo
  - Arbeidsgenot Primary School in Motheo
  - Matlafalang Primary School in Motheo
  - Tshehetso Primary School in Lejweleputswa
  - Malebogo Primary School in Lejweleputswa
  - Morena Tshohisi Primary School in Thabo Mofutsanyana
  - Vogelfontein Primary School in Thabo Mofutsanyana
  - DR Sello Primary School in Fezile Dabi
  - Katlego Mpumelelo Primary School in Fezile Dabi
  - Father Balink Primary School in Fezile Dabi



As we move towards the Provincial Budget Votes in April 2023, further information will be provided and more key initiatives will be highlighted, for implementation within the Free State Province.

We remain poised, to significantly reduce the number of recipients of social security grants and create more jobs and power up our economy. We intend to transform the Free State, into a bread basket of our land.

I thank you.