



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

PROVINCIAL WEEK

DAY 3 • Wednesday, 13 September



*“Building viable
Municipal
Infrastructure for
effective delivery
of services to
communities.”*



The Executive Mayor of Matjhabeng, Mr Thanduxolo Khalipha, presenting the turn-around strategy of his municipality during the Provincial Week Briefing in Welkom.

Politicians must take responsibility for mess at Matjhabeng Municipality

Free State’s permanent delegates to the NCOP with their Free State Legislature counterparts turned their attention today to Matjhabeng Municipality in Welkom which has been inundated by community protests, and subjected to adverse findings by the South African Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Public Protector over its inability

to deal with raw sewer that is spilling into homes and flowing into wetlands and leaving a stench of smell that pose health hazard to many of its communities, writes Abel Mputing.

A sad state of affairs that is attributed to a combination of various inefficiencies from water and sanitation infrastructures that are nearing their design limits, vandalism, theft, security breaches and poor maintenance of wastewater treatment plants meant

to provide its communities with clean water and lack of planned maintenance for its sanitation network systems.

So bad is the situation in this municipality that the Department of Water and Sanitation made a direct intervention to avoid a total collapse of its bulk water and sanitation infrastructures.

The delegation in conjunction went to visit this municipality to seek answers from its Executive Mayor, Mr Thanduxolo Khalipha. The Chief Whip of the NCOP, Mr Seiso Mohai, who is part of the delegation wanted to know





the progress made in fixing the bulk water and sanitation infrastructure. The delegation was not pleased to see that some water treatment plants were either not properly fenced or had no security on site to curb vandalism and theft. While work on other plants has not yet commenced or properly scoped. This contradicted some aspects of the report presented to the delegation by Bloemfontein Water Board, the Department of Water and Sanitation and the municipality.

what the municipality's skills audit say about its capability to turn the situation around.

He prefaced his reply by stating that much of the rot currently dogging this municipality happened before he took over the reins in 2021. He conceded though that part of the major problem they are faced with is that many people who occupied critical service delivery positions were not competent to be in those positions. As such, he said much of the municipality's critical services were outsourced to consultants at a huge cost to its coffers.

He cited a chilling example: "We had an official in the Supply Chain Management who had grade 12, in the presence of qualified consultants that were rendered dormant by previous incumbents." This was so because there were elements in the previous executive who were bent on defrauding the municipality.

"We have compiled a report of their transgressions and we have reported them to the Special Investigation Unit and Hawks to investigate them and bring them to book." He continued: "We have also discovered that there

were many people who were in our payroll but were sleeping on duty. As a result, 90% of their work was done by service providers."

The mayor who was part of the previous Mayoral Committee of the municipality, was asked why this municipality was not declared a provincial disaster given the extent of problems with which it was faced. He replied: "I am of the view that the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs should have reported this matter to the Cabinet and compel it to declare its situation a provincial disaster so that it could get the necessary assistance to alleviate it from the disaster it is currently faced with."

The delegation wanted to know what the new executive did upon assuming the reigns and whether was there any strategic turn around plans in place to right the wrongs of the past administration. The mayor was emphatic that when they took over the municipality, it was in an intensive care unit.

After the mayor's presentation, the delegation went on site visits to see

The delegation urged them to have a coordinated plan of action to streamline their respective interventions to ensure they are able to address the water and sanitation service delivery backlogs this municipality is inundated with currently. On the other hand, to ensure that there's a plan in place to maintain the existing water and sanitation networks to avoid the total collapse of these bulk infrastructures that are critical to the economic viability of the municipality.🇷🇵

"We have also discovered that there were many people who were in our payroll but were sleeping on duty. As a result, 90% of their work was done by service providers."

Eastern Cape's permanent delegates to the NCOP visit N2 coastal projects including Msikaba mega bridge

The Eastern Cape's permanent delegates to the NCOP started day two of their week-long Provincial Week programme in the province by visiting selected projects that included road construction and water treatment projects in the OR Tambo, Alfred Nzo and Sarah Baartman district municipalities and in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality to assess progress regarding their developments, writes Mava Lukani.

Msikaba Bridge project which is part of the N2 Coastal projects in the OR Tambo District Municipality was part of the first projects which group one of the delegation visited. The bridge is a cable-stayed steel deck bridge, currently under construction. The bridge project aims to improve the travel time between Durban and East London for heavy freight vehicles.

The delegation heard that the project yields huge economic spin-offs to the nearby communities in many respects, above all, by

provision of knowledge and experience in the field of civil engineering. That was confirmed by local leaders including the local chief and the Mayor of Ingquza Hill Local Municipality.

Briefing the delegation, the project managers said the construction work of the project is within the planned timeframe and quality work standard is maintained. The delegation heard that the bridge was benchmarked on a top class bridge that is in Canada and it is one of the best bridges among the local bridges that include Tsitsikama Bridge which is in the Sarah Baartman District in the Eastern Cape.

The delegation expressed its appreciation of the progress which has been made by the project management, particularly the harmonious cooperation between

the project management and the communities surrounding it. The leader of the delegation, Ms Nokuzola Ndongeni, commended the project managers and community leaders for the progress that has been achieved so far. "It is not by luck that this project is where it is, but it is where it is because of your cooperation," she said.

Group two visited upgrading of National Route R366 between Kirkwood and Addo, and Maintenance of the N2 Route Between Gamtoos and Van Stadens rivers. The project National Route R366 is in the Sarah Baartman District Municipality, it comprises of 13,75 km of national route R366 between Kirkwood and Addo.

The project's total costs are R274 589 809.84 and R77 750 538.97 has already been spent. The delegation called on the project managers to make every effort to ensure that the project is completed within the set time-frame to avoid cost-over-runs.

The delegation also urged SANRAL to encourage more women, youth and disabled people in business to be involved in road construction projects. 🇷🇵





NCOP delegation welcomes progress made in building pedestrian bridges in Ngaka Modiri Moleka District

The North West's delegation of the permanent delegates to the NCOP has called on the North West Provincial Government to provide full support to the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality to ensure that the district carries on with its successful plans to build pedestrian/vehicular bridges where they are required, writes Manelisi Ntsoda.

The North West Provincial Department of Public Works and Roads received an allocation of R130 million from the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure as funding for the Welisizwe Rural Bridges which is aimed at refurbishing pedestrian/vehicular bridges in the affected communities.

Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality was prioritized due to the damaging 2021/22 floods in the province. The department identified thirty-five pedestrian bridges for refurbishment. Upon assessment by the South African National Defence

Force and the Department of Public Works, 12 pedestrian bridges were selected for construction in the current financial year.

The delegation received an update from the provincial department yesterday on the state of roads, refurbishment and construction plans in place. The delegation heard that the process is underway to implement the refurbishment of the six bridges where the SANDF has established sites and has committed to develop an acceleration catch up plan to deliver the six bridges identified before the

end of this quarter.

The delegation appreciated the update, in particular the building of a bridge in the Kraaipan village as residents have been calling and waiting for such infrastructural development projects.

The provincial department informed the delegation that material to build the six bridges has been delivered already for construction of two vehicular bridges in Kraaipan village, two pedestrian bridges in Montshioastad and one vehicular bridge in Masutlhe village. 🌟

Mpumalanga's permanent delegates to the NCOP conduct oversight on road upgrade projects in Nkangala District

Mpumalanga's permanent delegates to the NCOP spent the second day of their Provincial Week programme conducting oversight to key road infrastructure projects including the infamous Moloto Road (R573), in the Nkangala District Municipality, writes Sakhile Mokoena.

The delegation jointly led by the Mpumalanga Provincial Whip in the NCOP, Ms Ethel Nkosi, and the House Chairperson for Committees and Oversight Mr Jomo Nyambi began the day with a visit to the construction site of the multi-million-rand Moloto Road where they received progress reports from the South African National Roads

Agency (SANRAL) and the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport Mr Mandla Ndlovu.

The NCOP delegates were satisfied with reports that the project was within deadline for the April next year finishing dates. The delegation also noted that the road upgrade will reduce the number of fatalities on the road that connects Pretoria, Mpumalanga and Limpopo and has become notorious for accidents that claim high number of lives.

The delegation said it will follow up on the project to ensure that it was finished on time without any period extension and additional costs. It also said the fatalities that have been happening on the Moloto Road must be a thing of the past when the upgrades are completed.

The delegation also visited another project on the Rehabilitation of Coal Haulage Road network and noted the progress with a commitment to monitor the progress to ensure the project was successfully finalised.

Provincial officials and SANRAL told the delegation that the roads in the province were facing huge pressure from trucks that transport coal from the mines especially in the coal-rich Nkangala region. Some trucks deliberately overloaded and avoided the weigh bridges by traveling at times when law enforcement officers were not on the road.

The Provincial Week is one of the initiatives that the NCOP initiated in order to enhance oversight over provincial and local governments and directly engage local communities on challenges of service delivery.

It also provides an opportunity for the NCOP and the provincial legislatures to jointly engage with citizens on challenges they experience and provide an opportunity to receive reports from government departments and municipalities on progress made regarding service delivery.

Tomorrow the delegation will conduct oversight to water and sanitation projects in Chief Albert Luthuli and Msukaligwa local municipalities in the Gert Sibande District Municipality. 🇿🇦

