



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
**NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF PROVINCES**



**NCOP THREE SPHERE
PLANNING REPORT**

29-30 March 2023

THEME: Delineating key priorities for consolidation and implementation during the final year of the sixth dispensation

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1: Introduction

The National Council of Provinces convened a Three Sphere Planning Session from the 29th – 30 March 2023, under the theme “*Delineating key priorities for consolidation and implementation during the final year of the sixth dispensation*”.

In striving to support efforts towards accelerating the implementation of key transformation priorities, the 2023 session was intentionally convened for purposes of delineating key priorities for focused implementation, while enabling the NCOP to shape a targeted oversight agenda, to record key deliverables in the penultimate year of the sixth dispensation. Convening the three spheres of government, including all other key stakeholders, to deliberate on key transformation priorities that intrinsically require three sphere collaboration and coordination for their effective implementation, the session enabled targeted and focused conversations for three sphere planning, coordination planning and oversight agenda setting, while assisting to create the appropriate implementation tracking processes, so as to meticulously track the implementation of key priorities agreed to.

Given the developmental nature of the priorities deliberated on during the session, it is also imperative to recognize that these priorities have an envisaged long-term impact and long-term implementation timelines. These priorities are also informed by and emanate from existing development challenges across provinces, metros districts and localities, which are also accordingly reflected in the NDP, the MTSF, SONA, SOPA’s and local government planning instruments. These are therefore legacy priorities, which will continue to shape the oversight trajectory of the institution going into the seventh dispensation, particularly given their implementation and completion timelines, as well as the complexity of challenges identified, which must be effectively addressed to accelerate policy implementation.

By seeking to address weaknesses in three-sphere planning, coordination planning and oversight agenda setting, the sessions are hence intended to crystalize and accelerate government’s policy implementation trajectory, in order to achieve the overarching transformation objectives of the National Development Plan (NDP), while enabling the NCOP to play its three-sphere coordination and oversight role. The planning sessions hence seek to identify and amplify three-sphere systemic and institutional weaknesses, which continue to delay the seamless implementation of key development priorities. The sessions will therefore continue to focus on identifying systemic and institutional weaknesses across the broader state machinery, with the intention of advancing corrective processes and actions, to accelerate policy implementation.

In addition to enabling the NCOP to oversee the implementation of key development priorities by sharpening its three-sphere planning, coordination and oversight lens, the three sphere planning sessions also seek to begin to identify policy and legislative instrument weaknesses and disjunctures, by amplifying such weaknesses, gaps and disjunctures, for amendment and course correction.

It is also important to recognize that distortions and weaknesses in three-sphere planning, should be appropriately recognized as one of the root causes of poor oversight outcomes. The NCOP's institutionalized three sphere planning sessions will therefore continue to serve as strategic platform to establish coherence in three-sphere (*planning, implementation and coordination, while contributing towards processes to determine the oversight agenda of the NCOP for better oversight outcomes*).

The overarching objectives of the NCOP's three-sphere planning session are therefore to:

- To address planning distortions and disjunctures across the three sphere of government, by delineating key development priorities for implementation and oversight, (as guided by the development priorities of the NDP, MTSF, SONA and SOPA priorities, including the development priorities at the local sphere of government) ;
- Delineate transformation priorities that are informed by South Africa's broader developmental landscape (priorities emerging from and as guided by the developmental needs of the people of South Africa, across provinces, metros, districts and localities);
- Establish and institutionalise coherence in three- sphere (planning, implementation, to enable a laser sharp and focussed oversight agenda for improved oversight outcomes) particularly as they relate to the development catalysing priorities of the National Development Plan);
- Invoke the NCOP's constitutionally mandated three-sphere coordination role, in order to fast track the implementation of key transformation priorities that require three sphere collaboration to enable their effective implementation;
- Develop the commensurate tracking, monitoring, evaluation mechanisms and systems, to meticulously track and run in tandem with the implementation timelines articulated at the NCOP's three sphere planning sessions.

2: Day One

2.1 Opening and Welcome Remarks by Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Honourable A N Masondo, MP

The Chairperson the National Council of Provinces, articulated the following in his opening remarks:

- The Chairperson highlighted that the session sought to promote co-operation in planning and implementation process, particularly given the fact that the session was taking during the penultimate year of the sixth administration.
- Proper planning and coordination are critical in assisting the three spheres of government to tackle the current challenges faced by the South African society, chief among them poverty, unemployment, and inequality.
- The Chairperson expressed that the legislative institutions have the responsibility to contribute to the process of fast-tracking the transformation of our society. They ought to do so in a manner which promotes co-operation, coordination, and collaboration as the key ingredients for ensuring accountable, coherent, and effective government.

Key focal Areas for the remainder of the term, as articulated by the Chairperson of the NCOP, the Hon A N Maseko, MP

- At the beginning of the 6th administrative term, Parliament made a commitment that by the end of this term in 2024, Parliament would have increased government's responsiveness to the challenges faced by South Africans and furthermore that Parliament ought to produce evidence that clearly demonstrates its achievement of the outcome.

In his State of the Nation Address earlier in February this year, the President of the Republic of South Africa made commitments that government would concentrate on the issues that concern South Africans the most, he highlighted the following:

- Load shedding
- Unemployment
- Poverty and rising costs of living
- Crime and corruption

The Chairperson further reminded the session that it is key that the three spheres of government remain seized with issues that have been identified as requiring national effort, so that through the integrated oversight approach, they can be able to support the goals that government has set itself in this regard. This is important because even the budget which Parliament will be processing in the next quarter will be geared towards addressing the challenges that the government has placed high on the agenda.

In conclusion, the chairperson reminded the meeting that the legislative sector's role is to ensure that government is kept accountable and that in the final analysis the interests of people are met, and their needs are addressed.

2.2: Contextualizing the Imperatives of Three Sphere Planning, to accelerate the implementation of key priorities - The Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Province, Honorable S E Lucas, MP

The Deputy Chairperson highlighted the following in her contextualization remarks:

- The South African Constitution is imbued with the latter and spirit of intergovernmental relations. The drafters of the Constitution envisaged a multi-tiered Constitutional arrangement, whereby the different spheres of government would cooperate, consult, and coordinate amongst each other, while simultaneously respecting their respective powers and functions.
- The Constitution further requires co-operative government between three spheres of government. In this regard, the parliamentary oversight process, as it relates to interaction with the people and the government must seek to adhere to the values of co-operative government.
- Through the Three Sphere Planning mechanism and its accompanying institutional processes, the NCOP seeks to address deficiencies in planning, implementation and oversight agenda setting, enabling the NCOP as the only legislative house with a three-sphere constitutional mandate, to strengthen and coordinate collaboration between the different spheres of government, for purposes of accelerating the implementation of the National Development Plan.
- The programme hence seeks to delineate critical priorities as responsive to South Africa's broader developmental landscape, while further expressively invoking the NCOP's Three Sphere coordination role constitutional role, in order to fast-track the implementation of key priorities that require effective three-sphere collaboration for their effective implementation.
- Uncertainty is rife about the status of intergovernmental relations decisions and recommendations as well as who is responsible for the follow-up of recommendations. There is no horizontal integration between activities of various government departments and there also seems to be a lack of understanding of what IGR means by both Politicians and Bureaucrats, hence the failures in the implementation of key policy priorities of the country persists.

- The 2023 three sphere planning session, seeks to ensure that all spheres of government are able to crystalize key priorities that must be effectively implemented, before the end of the sixth dispensation, particularly in line with the country's overarching development priorities.
- Flowing from the resolution of the three sphere planning sessions, we intend to convene a consultative session with the broader South African local government association, including the Minister of Cogta and MECs of Cogta across the provinces, to jointly delineate the most pressing service delivery challenges to be addressed in the medium term. We need to put the appropriate support systems in place for local government, by strengthening Three Sphere cooperation, through a targeted focus on services that communities urgently need.
- We intend to institutionalize this process, by developing a cluster of interlinked tracking, monitoring, oversight, impact assessment and report-back mechanisms, which will run in tandem with the implementation timelines to be articulated by the Three Sphere Planning Session.

3: National Planning Commission: High Impact Priorities, Programmes and Projects Delineated for Consolidation and Accelerated Implementation, during the last 12 months of the Sixth dispensation, Leading into the Seventh Dispensation (Professor T Maluleke) (Perspectives from National Planning Commission Work Streams).

The presentation by the National Planning Commission articulated the following:

3.1 Overarching Priorities of the Commission for the next 12 Months, leading into the Seventh Dispensation:

The Commission has started with the first phase of its work which is to produce an initial report with evidence, initial findings and preliminary recommendations on the income of the bottom 40% of income earners.

The Commission is looking at unlocking the township economy through the reduction of red tape, drawing principally on the case study of issues of operating licences and/ or trade permits within the food and beverages sector in Gauteng province.

The Commission will further do a review of regulatory bodies and processes, while looking at databases of opportunities that will assist SMMEs to grow, as well as funding models for SMMEs.

The National Planning Commission intends to integrate the NDP into the National Infrastructure Plan, in order to enhance the coordination of infrastructure investment as well as speeding up the implementation of investments. The task team has established partnership with infrastructure SA, DBSA and PCC and will complete studies on energy, water and digital infrastructure. The task team is addressing issues not covered by PCC, especially how climate change is integrated into different spheres of government so that the NPC co-ordinates different initiatives so that there is coherence.

The aim is to ensure that ongoing and wide-ranging climate change research and proposals are incorporated into government and business planning systems so that it has an impact.

The task team on Agriculture and rural development, will focus on economic modelling for rural towns to establish sustainable economic activities and jobs, given the urban-rural population dynamics and the need for a just transition to a sustainable future.

The National Planning Commission task team is looking at reforms of the Financial Sector that will result in a more appropriate allocation of capital to realise the goals of the NDP. The Commission is further integrating the various analyses from NPC and other research institutions to develop fully-fledged scenarios and a strategic plan for addressing unemployment and creating employment.

The NPC will also review proposals of the Presidential task team on land reform and assess the extent to which these have been actioned.

The NPC will also engage with DHS on their current approach to human settlement and discuss the extent to which it aligns with NDP proposal.

The NPC will further engage with other role players on their approach including civil society, the private sector, traditional leaders including civil society, private sector, traditional leaders and review the relevance of the NDP guidance and analyse the extent to which these have been actioned.

The NPC will also develop an advisory report on the extent to which service delivery and infrastructure has impacted on spatial inequality.

3.2 High Level Objectives

3.2.1 Health

The Commission intends to work with the National Department of Health to lay the foundation for the Health System Performance Assessment (NPC) to be completed during the current NPC term.

Take forward the findings of the Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD) report and undertake mental health research.

Keep track of the National Health Insurance Legislature.

3.2.2 Social Protection

The Commission intends to steer towards a social protection floor below which no household should fall.

Comprehensive Social Protection Approach

- Social Security
- Social wage (housing, education, healthcare)
- Minimum wage and Active Labour Market Policies (EPWP)

Engage the department of Health, Home Affairs and Social Development re coordination to facilitate early birth registration and access to CSG.

3.2.3 Education

The NPC will develop a strategy for the implementation of National Institute of Early Childhood Development for recommendation to achieve 2030 goals. The NPC will also:

- Help improve state capacity in Education, Planning, and Implementation to achieve efficiencies and quality impacts.
- Development of a strategy on e-education must be prioritized and make salient early literacy and numeracy.
- The NPC will also work with the department of Higher Education and Training on its proposed indicator for monitoring institutional performance and educational outcomes for inclusion in the NDP.
- The NPC will commission research on planning systems at national and provincial levels including district levels, to examine both continuities and discontinuities between the NDP, the MTSF and MTEF.

3.2.4 Social Transformation Priorities

- Improve state capacity for service delivery.

- Address state capacity in social protection, education, and health.
- Improve planning and coordination of government activities.
- Work with Presidency on these poverty strategies

3.3. Governance Work streams

3.3.1 International Relations

- The NPC will lead the process of drafting South Africa's second voluntary National Review to be presented in 2024 and continue with partnership with UNDP on SDGs acceleration Initiative Assessment.
- The NPC has partnered with UN DESA to do capacity building on voluntary local reviews in South African municipalities.
- The NPC will Pursue engagement with the Infrastructure Development Office in the Presidency.
- The NPC will also strengthen South Africa's continued partnership in the United Nations (UN) High level Political Forum that deals with the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.
- The NPC will Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of South Africa's diplomatic presence in the world with a view to exploring ways for efficient use of scarce resources.

3.3.2 Building State Capacity

- The NPC will build the appropriate administrative oversight and implementation monitoring mechanisms, for the priority actions identified in the professionalization framework.
- PSC Bill must also be prioritised, including municipality policy reforms, including the PAMA and a range of others.
- Efforts must be strengthened to rebuild state capacity and institutional building and follow-up on progress on the implementation of the lifestyle audit.
- State-Owned Enterprises must be repositioned for a developmental state agenda
- The local sphere of government must Re-imagined to improve service delivery.
- The political–administrative interface must be strengthened to improve overall state capacity
- Macro –organisation of the state, planning and coordination of government activities must be prioritised.

3.3.3 Justice Crime Prevention and Security

The National Planning Commission intends to implement the following activities in relation to justice crime prevent and security:

- Research and stakeholder engagement on the implementation of the integrated crime and violence prevention strategy.
- Stakeholder engagement on professionalization and demilitarisation of the police
- Stakeholder engagement on migration collaboration with Social Cohesion Task Team.
- Stakeholder engagement on organised crime in collaboration with international partnership task team.

4: Gender Transformation - The Commission on Gender Equality:

Delineating factors contributing to the failure to reach the 40% target for allocating public procurement resources towards supporting women-owned businesses (Commissioner Leigh-Ann Van De Merwe)

The presentation by the Commission on Gender Equality focused on the commission's study on Women's Economic Empowerment. The title of the study is "A promise without Commitment".

4.1.1 Research Approach and Methodology

The Commission used Qualitative, Descriptive data Methodology provided by the National Treasury on expenditure patterns relating to the procurement of goods and services of National Departments and Provinces. National Treasury collects, collates, and stores such information in its central supplier database.

4.1.2 Key Findings

In 2020 Presidential procurement of 40% spending on women-owned business was welcomed, however, no effort was made to develop a clear policy or legislative framework to comply with and enforce the procurement.

Reviewing available data and information on procurement and expenditure patterns, no convincing evidence was found and there were no efforts made to turn this statement into concrete program of actions, policy, and legislation.

The commission also found that gender is often subsumed under race rather than being a primary selection criterion, as such, data supplied by the National Treasury on departmental and Provincial Spending which is categorised and disaggregated based on the race category, leaving the data relating to gender to sub-categorised under data relating to race.

Overall, national, and provincial spending on black women-owned businesses since the announcement in 2020 was generally low. Even without legislation the 40% is nowhere near being achieved in terms of consistent spending on procuring from black-women-owned businesses.

Not much improvement both prior to and after the pronouncement was made has been recorded. Low expenditure figures prevailed. The Commission of Gender Equity takes this lack of meaningful improvement in the expenditure figures across the board as an indication of lack of effort by government departments at national and provincial level to meet the 40% target announced by the President.

Drastic drop and overall low procurement spend on black-women-owned businesses, particularly in the 2020-2021 financial year, illustrates that legislation is necessary. Even then, much preparatory work and planning by the government and individual departments supply-chain management processes would have to be carried out well in advance for effective implementation.

This will require raising awareness, education, training, and capacity building of qualified staff at national and provincial level.

Across provinces, the department of Health had the highest spend overall, which did not necessarily translate to higher spending level on black women-owned businesses. In other words, higher overall spending did not imply higher spending on black women-owned business.

Sectoral activities had highest spent on construction, followed by accommodation and food service sector.

Not many studies of this nature exist in South Africa at the moment. The subject matter on the systematic allocation of state resources through procurement processes to support women-owned business, has not been covered extensively.

4.1.3 Concluding findings from the study

- There is a strong reason to conclude that procurement practices by the South African government are not designed or geared towards promoting sustainable women economic empowerment, through support for women –owned businesses as part of the overall policy of gender equality and transformation.
- The lack of necessary policy and enabling legislation to underpin the President’s pronouncement of a 40% procurement target for women-owned businesses also hampers the realization of this important undertaking. Currently, state procurement processes do not seem equitably disposed towards this pronounced target.
- The study highlights that there is no policy and legislative framework in place to earmark funds for women-owned businesses as per the President pronouncement. In general, the government is spending far less on women-owned businesses, than as promised by the President.
- The provincial spending range on women-owned business is largely between 0% and 5%. Government is hence failing dismally at promoting economic opportunities for women-owned businesses through its procurement processes.

4.1.4 Recommendations

- The current public procurement legislation does not sufficiently advance gender as a primary selection criterion for state procurement processes. It is a factor taken into account with the BBBEE Legislation covered, especially under the race category. The CGE therefore recommended that race and gender be separated and weighted as the basis for the selection of business in the allocation of state procurement resources.
- CGE also recommended that the current state procurement processes, including existing policies and legislation, be thoroughly reviewed, and where appropriate amendments should be made to strengthen support for promoting women-owned business through state procurement processes. Such amendments should clearly state that 40% of all public procurement resources should be allocated towards supporting women-owned business as part of the governments overall policy of promoting gender equality and transformation of the country economy.

- The CGE also recommended that an effective monitoring and evaluation system be put in place to ensure proper implementation and compliance with the 40% public procurement target as stated by President.

5: Service Delivery - The Finance and Fiscal Commission

Delineating key priorities to Improve Service delivery through the Intergovernmental Fiscal relations system, with particular focus on how the MIG can be effectively used to address infrastructure challenges at local government level: (Dr P.N. Mbava, Chairperson of the Finance and Fiscal Commission)

The Financial and Fiscal Commission, acts as a consultative body, makes recommendations and gives advice to Parliament, Provincial Legislatures, Organised Local Government and other organs of the state on the equitable division of revenue among the three spheres of government and many other financial and fiscal matters, in terms of the Constitution and as provided for in national legislation.

5.1.1 Contextualizing Local Government in South Africa

The FFC articulated the following:

- Municipalities have always played a significant role in the South African economy and plays a critical role in the delivery of basic services. They account for 13% of public sector employment. The eight metros combined generate more than 50% of South Africa's GDP. However, the sector is struggling to fulfil its mandate. It is faced with many challenges, including poor-quality basic services and weak institutional and governance capabilities.
- These challenges manifest, among other things in poor audit outcomes, poor asset care, generally weak service delivery. Many calls for interventions have been made to develop strategies to help strengthen the local sphere. It's an ongoing initiative between the government and various stakeholders to develop key policy recommendations to aid municipalities in fulfilling the Constitutional mandate.
- The Constitutional Mandate of municipalities is to deliver services. To assist municipalities in this regard, government has established various conditional grants

aimed at funding the delivery of infrastructure. There are several direct and indirect infrastructures grant to municipalities.

5.1.2 Changes to the MIG Framework

- The MIG aims to provide specific capital finance for eradicating basic municipal infrastructure backlogs for poor households, microenterprises and social institutions serving communities. In the 2002 DORA an indirect component was introduced to the MIG to allow Cogta to roll-out infrastructure projects in underperforming municipalities.
- The Commission noted the endeavours by the department to improve service delivery, however, the FFC noted that additional work is still required for transparency and for the effective monitoring and evaluation of this new component.
- Furthermore, in its submission for the Division of Revenue 2016/17, the Commission found that, generally, direct grants performed better than indirect grants and recommended the need for continued capacity building and that municipalities should use indirect grants as a last resort.
- The FFC also recommended that National Treasury and the Department of Cooperative Governance must develop a framework to guide accountability for indirect infrastructure grants. The framework should identify accountability lines, mechanisms and enforcement and spell out the consequences for undermining the accountability arrangements.

5.1.3 Getting the foundation right: Leadership, Management and Governance Systems

The FFC stated the following in terms of the subject matter:

- A critical objective of the public service is to deliver services to all South Africans in an efficient, equitable and sustainable manner. So, the success or failure of government with respect to service delivery including infrastructure is a function of leadership and leadership style among other things. If the performance within the local government sphere is to improve, the human capital capacity upon which it depends, will need to be renewed.

- Prompted by asymmetric financial, institutional, and human capacity across municipalities, such capacity building grants were introduced into the system as far back as 2000. These grants remain necessary to facilitate the restructuring of municipalities and support the formal development of local government in various areas of the country.
- The FFC also stated that from 2000 to 2020, a total of approximately R14 billion was spend on various capacity-building grants in the local government fiscal framework. The total expenditure for capacity building peaked in 2014/15, where just over R1,1 billion was spend.

5.1.4 FFC Capacity-related recommendations

The FFC acknowledged the conditional grant review being undertaken by the National Treasury and highlighted the following aspects in relation to capacity:

- Capacity Building efforts should be comprehensive and sustainable instead of quick fix, short term solutions.
- There is a need to establish a single capacity-support agreement per municipality. This agreement should stipulate all actions to be undertaken by national and provincial government and other relevant role-players.
- Measurable objectives for capacity building should be clearly defined and the grant conditionality must commit municipalities to specific, independently variable capacity and performance improvement.
- Grants should be redesigned to consider the quality of capacity building interventions instead of having a narrow qualitative focus. An evaluation dimension should also be included in capacity grant requirement.

5.1.5 FFC-Governance System Recommendations: Intergovernmental Oversight and Support

- While recognising each sphere as distinctive, interdependent, and interrelated the Constitution of South Africa also promotes the principles of cooperative governance. Local government autonomy is protected to the extent that service delivery and the vision of government are achieved.
- In instances where this is not the case, cooperation and support from another sphere serves as the first and preferred means to improve performance and assist local government in exercising its constitutional functions.
- The overall objective of oversight and support is to ensure that municipalities succeed in their duties towards their respective communities.
- South African Institutions have managed to create a legal environment that broadly covers, monitoring, support and interventions but still need to transform these legal provisions into effective practices that have the potential to reduce local government failures. Most common triggers of interventions are connected to fiscal and financial distress, governance issues and incompetence and failure to deliver services.

5.1.6 FFC - Fiscal Oversight and Leadership Challenges and Recommendations

Lack of intergovernmental coordination:

- The wide range of role players in the implementation of catalytic projects include, among others, human settlements, roads and transport, water, and sanitation. These stakeholders have divergent priorities in terms of infrastructure plans and sources of funding.

Political interference and poor political leadership.

- The absence of policies and regulations-the absence of policies and clear regulatory frameworks means that the adjudication of issues pertinent to the implementation of catalytic projects is left to the judicial system.

5.1.7 FFC-Intergovernmental Oversight and Support- Related Recommendations

- Given that the current monitoring and support framework is applied uniformly across local government, government should consider its current approach to explore the principle of a differentiated method to municipalities when it comes to financial and non-financial reporting requirements, overall monitoring, and support.
- The Minister of Finance should ensure that provincial treasuries are effectively capacitated to undertake their oversight and support role of local government in terms of Financial Management.
- In addition, government should consider developing a common framework to guide provinces in their oversight and support role towards the delivery of basic services.
- The Financial Management Grant and Municipal Systems Improvement Grant are critical for building Financial Management-related human Capital capacity and systems. These are particularly important in the case of rural municipalities, which struggle to attract and retain skills.

5.1.8 Development that will further strengthen Good Governance and Accountability

Amendment to the Public Audit Act (2019).

- The amendment strengthens the Auditor General’s ability to enforce the outcomes of Material Irregularities. The New Amendment addresses the issue of mismanagement but not the root cause.
- To maintain independence, the AG reports directly to the legislative branch of government, however, the lines of escalation of performance mis/management has since shifted with these Public Audit Act amendments. This removes the inclusion and responsibility of the provincial MECs and National Minister of Cogta in this process of performance management.

5.1.9 The Role of Chapter 9 Institutions in enhancing Accountability

- To ensure that collaboration is effective in enhancing the accountability of local government. These institutions should have agreed/ shared objectives identifying key priorities, roles and responsibilities to achieve a joint/ successful outcome.
- Collaborations should be ongoing and transparent, and mechanisms should be implemented at multi-level to maintain momentum on agreed initiatives.
- Sufficient mechanisms should be put in place and enforced which protect and promote the independence of Chapter 9 Institutions so that they can effectively fulfil their mandate.
- The Minister of Finance in the Division of Revenue should ensure that commitment to compliance with legislation and policy framework is formalised with all participants in an infrastructure project prior to the commencement of the project, with financial consequences for compliance failures clearly set out.
- The Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs should review the intergovernmental coordination policy framework and consider strengthening intergovernmental coordination both vertically and horizontally. The intergovernmental relations arrangement clearly defines how the three spheres of government should work together in the implementation of several mandates including infrastructure delivery but is silent on how coordination between these spheres should be managed.
- Minister of Finance in the division of Revenue should incentivise consequences management. This will ensure that all office bearers are held legally and personally responsible when they transgress supply chain management policies in the implementation of infrastructure projects.
- Departments should review and strengthen internal controls to ensure effectiveness and reduce irregular expenditure.

6: Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Priorities (Minister. P Tau, MP, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs)

The Deputy Minister articulated the following:

The task of 2019-2024 MTSF is to resolve the three uncomfortable challenges of the local government. These challenges are:

- Government financial management and administration
- Systematic issues around powers and functions
- Non-viable municipalities due to apartheid spatial planning

The adoption of the District Development Model by the 6th Administration is a step in the right direction. This will enable a coordinated approach and resolve uncomfortable challenges impacting on developmental local government.

The MTFS is the guiding framework that informs the departments strategic plans and performance reports.

The national fiscal model continues to be unsustainable as it does not prioritize local government or consider local government financial challenges. It has, to a greater extent, contributed to the worsening of some aspects of the governance challenges in local government.

Multiple shocks to municipalities.

Finances will have a deep and lasting impact on municipalities including a sharp decline in revenue and liquidity, from poverty and changing demand patterns.

COGTA is currently assisting provincial government and municipalities to review their One Plan to ensure alignment, but importantly that programmes and projects identified are impactful and will change lives.

The Department of COGTA, is currently reviewing Section 47 of the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, which is to be gazetted, for public comment. These changes in regulations will be significant milestones as it will enable three spheres of government to strengthen their relation through the lens of the DDM.

The meeting was informed by the Deputy Minister that the Auditor-General noted that political instability and ineffective governance processes at Council level were apparent throughout the term of the previous administration. That the root cause related to amongst others, failures of Councils to appoint Senior Managers with the requisite skills required to provide service delivery, and delays by the administration to approve service delivery projects leading to poor service delivery.

A multi-pronged approach that includes addressing operational inefficiencies, incompetence and governance failures is required to ensure sound fiscal discipline in the longer term. A total of R71 billion (for the period 2016/17 to 2019/20 and R66 billion (for the period 2020/21 to 2022/23) was allocated to support capacity building in municipalities to improve financial management.

6.1.1 Community Work Programme (CWP)

The government has already seen significant improvement in the operational efficiency of the programme since the adoption of the new CWP Implementation Policy in 2021. The saving realized through this process allowed the department to increase the daily stipend paid to participants from R97,50 to the current R110 per day, and to increase the target number of participants from R250, 000 within the existing budget allocation.

During the coming financial year, the Department intends to integrate the CWP into the core work of the department to ensure that the CWP supports the district development model approach.

6.1.2 Municipal Performance Reporting

Section 43 of the Municipal Systems Act (MSA) provides that the Minister may prescribe and regulate a general set of key performance indicators to local government. The performance of local government since the establishment of democratic and developmental local government is concerning.

It is for this reason COGTA established standardized national key performance indicators that can be seen in all municipal integrated development plans and service delivery, budget implementation plans.

Considerable progress has been made since 2017 among metropolitan municipalities towards producing reliable information through common definitions of the performance information. It took the metros more than three years to reach this quality of reporting.

Regarding the non-metros municipalities, progress with reporting is differentiated across provinces with municipalities in the Western Cape, KZN, Gauteng and Limpopo maintaining a relatively high rate of reporting, throughout 2021,22

More emphasis will need to be placed on securing compliance with reporting frequency, with better understanding of the indicators by non-metro municipalities, based on targeted feedback, support and guidance to strengthen credibility of reporting.

6.1.3 Promoting Good Governance

As part of reinforcing the department's efforts in relation to the promotion of good governance and the fight against corruption, the department launched the local government Anti-Corruption and the local government ethical leadership initiative in September 2022 in collaboration with key stakeholders which include heads of law enforcement agencies.

The local government Ethical leadership Initiative project aims to facilitate a national dialogue on ethical leadership in municipalities, culminating in governance for municipalities that sets out the principles and practices for ethical governance and leadership in local government. It is anticipated that the code of ethics governance will be finalized in the new financial year.

6.1.4 Code of Conduct for Councilors Regulations 2023

The Code of conduct for councilors was migrated from the Local Government Municipal Systems Act and introduced as a Schedule 7 in the Act, with various interventions brought into the code prior to the commencement of the Act, the code was included as schedule 1 in the Systems Act.

6.1.5 Coalitions in Local Government

The department, to address the challenges facing coalitions in government, the Department is currently in a process of developing a draft local government Municipal Structures Amendment Bill.

The Amendment will enable the Minister of COGTA to make regulations aimed at improving the governability and stability of coalitions.

6.1.6 On Building Municipal Capacity and Supporting Dysfunctional Municipalities

The 2022 state of local government report to cabinet shows that the number of dysfunctional municipalities had increased from 64 in 2021 to 66 in July 2022.

Post the Local Government elections, just over 30 municipalities are currently under intervention of which three are under national intervention in terms of section 139 of the Constitution.

The department, through MISA, continues to deploy built environment professionals to dysfunctional municipalities in accordance with the District Development Model. Progress to date:

- 103 built environment professionals (86 of which are professionally registered with statutory bodies have been deployed to municipalities.
- MISA has also developed Public Infrastructure Unit Cost Guidelines, in collaboration with the University of Cape Town in 2021, that municipalities can use for planning and budgeting of infrastructure assessment after floods damages in April 2022 in KwaZulu-Natal Province and recently in March 2023 in Port St. John in the Eastern Cape.
- Misa is piloting the establishment of an internal design office in O R Tambo District Municipality in the Eastern Cape Province for Infrastructure Projects to minimise outsourcing to engineering consultants currently, 8 projects are being designed using MISA procured designed software.

6.1.7 Priority Infrastructure Projects for Implementation Through the MIG

The Municipal Infrastructure Grant is allocated R 17, 5 billion for 2023/24 for implementation of projects. The 2023 MIG Framework has been reviewed to make provision for a maximum of 5% of municipalities allocation for the development of an infrastructure Asset Management Plan and up to 10% of allocation for the urgent repair and refurbishment of water and sanitation infrastructure to restore functionality.

In closing, the deputy minister stated that local government in the country is at a turning point, facing policy, legislative and systematic challenges that require immediate attention.

7: Priority Public Works and Infrastructure Project: (Honorable Ms. B Swarts, MP Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure)

The Deputy Minister reported as follows:

The 6th administration has centralized all infrastructure aspects under one banner to ensure that there is consolidated capacity to drive infrastructure-led economic growth for South Africa.

7.1.1 Strategic Alignment

Several completed projects in the 6th administration are ten (10) and eighteen (18) projects are currently under procurement to either reach financial closure or start construction. Fourteen (14) projects are targeted to be implemented in the 7th administration after preparatory work is complete. These projects will not be implemented in the 6th administration.

7.1.2 Strategic Integrated Project Overview - Vaal River System including Phase 2 of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (SIP 19A)

- The Lesotho Highlands Water Project forms part of the Integrated Vaal River System that support development in the province of Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Free State, Northwest, Limpopo, and Northern Cape and contribute to 50% -60% of South Africa's GDP. The Department of Water and Sanitation is the project sponsor with TCTA acting as its agent in the raising and management of debt. The construction of advanced infrastructure in progress.

7.1.3 Phase 2A of the Mokolo Crocodile River (West Augmented Project)

- Phase 2 of MCWAP comprises of an abstraction weir, pump station and 160km long pipeline to transfer water from the crocodile river to the Lephhalale area. The estimated capital cost is R12,36 billion. Raising of funding through development funding institutions commenced with due diligence and open market request for proposals was issued on 5 August 2022 and closed 27 August 2022.

7.1.4 Umkhomazi Water Project (KwaZulu-Natal)

- Umkhomazi Water Project will augment the Mgeni River system, the main water source that supplies about 6 million and industries in the Ethekewini Metro, and the Msuduzi local municipality areas of jurisdiction, all of which comprise the economic powerhouse of KwaZulu Natal. The project cost is estimated at R23 243 million.

7.1.5 Olifants River Water Resource Development Project Phase 2 (Limpopo)

- The entire Olifants River Water Resource Development Programme is now merged into one implementation model termed the Olifants Management Model (OMM). It was decided to partner the commercial sector on a 50-50 funding principle but to also include the water service to communities adjacent to the line. This will be implemented on public-private collaboration model.
- The value of the project is estimated at R24 890 million, funding instruments is debt and fiscus. A memorandum of intent has been signed between the DWS and Commercial Users Consortium to jointly and severally finance, build, operate and maintain the project.
- The OMM memorandum of understanding was launched in May 2022 and a Limpopo programme launched was held on 27 October 2022.

7.1.6 Vaal Gamagara Bulk Water Distribution System Phase 2 (Northern Cape)

- The purpose of the project was for the functional replacement of the existing steel pipeline with a new pipeline to provide assurance of current and future demands by all users. The main users in the area include the various mines, municipalities, agricultural sector, and Transnet.
- Total project cost is 10 billion revised from 18,4 billion by Sedibeng Water as the Batswana project was removed from the scheme. The project has been transferred to Bloem Water after

dis-establishment of Sedibeng Water. The Mining leadership forum (MCF) agreed to avail up to R2 billion for phase 2 as front loading of the capital raising fee.

7.1.7 Mzimvubu Water Project (Eastern Cape)

- Mzimvubu Water Project entails the construction of two multi-purpose dams, namely, Ntabelanga and Lalini Dams, a hydropower station, water treatment plant and secondary water distribution systems with reservoir and ancillary infrastructure. A phased implementation approach has been adopted due to implementation readiness and funding constraints. The targeted and catalytic effect is to supply of domestic water, irrigated agriculture, and the generation of hydroelectric power.
- The project is estimated to cost R18 billion including Lalini Dam and Hydropower scheme or R15 billion excluding Lalini Dam. Status of the project is at 60% and the original budget has been reduced to R8.1 billion through reconfiguration of project.

7.1.8 Berg River Voelvlei Augmentation Scheme (Western Cape)

- The BRVAS is conceptualised to abstract and pump winter flows from the Berg River to the existing Voelvei Dam, improving its yield by 23 million m³ per annum in the medium to long term. It consists of a weir and pumpstation on the Berg River, and a 6,3 km long pipeline to deliver the water to the Voelvei Dam. The water reconciliation strategy for the Western Cape Water Supply system indicates that the system is projected to be in deficit soon and should be augmented by at least 2019/20 to avert a serious shortfall. 11 billion and was revised to R728 million.
- The conceptual design was completed in February 2022 and the outcome of the concept design resulted in material changes in the project implementation timelines and project cost to completion, estimated costs, the borrowing limit requirement, and work tariff. The process to engage with the users has commenced.

7.1.9 Energy Sector Progress Update - Risk Mitigation Independent Power Producer Programme (2,000 mw, 50 bn)

- The determination for the Risk Mitigation Independent Power Producer Programme was gazetted on the 7th of July 2020. In response to the determining the 2000 MW of new generation / supply capacity will be procured from a range of energy technologies and are based on the following criteria:

- Minimum contracted capacity of project shall be 50 MW and the maximum contracted capacity shall be 450 MW. Long stop date for the last permission commercial operation before end June 2022. Estimated cost is R50 billion, section 79 application for karpowership still pending refusal/ No objection decision since 2021.

7.1.10 Embedded Generation Investment Programme

- Embedded generation is the production of electricity from smaller-scale power station and usually defined as projects that are planned for their own use. In South Africa, these include projects that lie outside of the formal government procurement programmes such as the REIPPP.
- This means that they are high risks investment as they are underpinned by government guarantee or state backed offtake agreements. Estimated capital cost is 11,7 billion, as per gazetted of the Honourable Minister of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. The following project fall under the embedded generation investment programme.

7.1.11 Transport Project Completed

- The upgrade of the N3, from Cato Ridge to Dardanelles, including upgrading the existing 4-lane dual carriageway to an 8-lane dual carriageway by widening the median and outer shoulders and lengthening one rail underpass.
- Project status, Widening and Construction of the northbound carriageway in progress with all traffic in contraflow on sound bound. Relocation of the Umgeni Water pipeline has commenced. The new link for the R103 has commenced. Widening of the rail underpass progress well, all beams placed on the 7th of November 2022 under one day rail occupation. Construction of two retaining walls and median well also commenced.

7.1.12 N3 Dardanelles to Lynnfield Park

- The upgrade of the N3 between dardanelles and Lynnfield Park, including upgrading the existing 4-lane dual carriageway to an 8-lane carriageway by widening to the media and outer shoulders as well as the upgrade of the dardanelles interchange and related upgrade the estimated cost is R1425 million. Reconstruction of section of northbound in progress including construction of retaining walls. Relocation of services completed.

- The three -sphere planning was updated about progress of transport upgrades the department was embarking upon. The projects include Paradise Valley to Mariann hill Toll Plaza, N2 Edwin Swales to South of E B Cloete Interchange, N3 Ashburton interchange to Murry Road, N3 Mariann hill Toll Plaza to Shogweni, N2/N3 EB Cloete Interchange. The status of all projects various, others are at advance stage of construction and project delivery, whilst others are at procurement and contracting.

7.1.13 Digital Infrastructure Strategic Integrated Project - MeerKAT & SKA

- Construction of MeerKAT has been completed and the instrument has been commissioned (64 Dish-Arrays with a virtual diameter of 8KM). SKA Phase 1 officially entered construction phase in December 2022. South Africa contributed to the broad project has a shortfall of R3,2 billion.

7.1.14 Space Infrastructure Hub

- The space Infrastructure Hub represents the largest strategic investment to date in mission focused space-service provision in South Africa. It seeks to fundamentally change the nature of national and regionally. The hub is outward, and community facing, seeking to engage and benefit the broadest range of stakeholders, including the upstream and downstream space industries, science councils and tertiary institutions. The project is estimated to cost R4,4 billion. The update business case advocates for a phased approach to the implementation of the Space Infrastructure Hub.

7.1.15 Digitisation of Government Information Programme (Special Programmes)

- As part of the Department of Home Affairs Modernisation Programme, the Department of Home Affairs aims to digitise and index over 400 million records that are currently on paper for security ease of access and retrieval for use within the department. Other departments and organisations relying on the department. Estimated capital cost is R1 Billion funding gap is R500 million, funding instrument is the fiscus. Relevant working streams and governance structure have been established and operationalised.

7.1.16 SA Connect Programme (Special Programme)

- SA Connect is National wide government broadband connecting project aimed at connecting government facilities and underserved communities. An allocation of R3 billion over the MTEF is confirmed to rollout the project the funds are for apex only. The implementation

SOEs will work with SMME's to expand connectivity to over 5 million households. Estimated capital costs is R2,53 billion. Cabinet approved the revised SA Connect phase 2 model and implementation plan which connects both government and communities.

7.1.17 Agriculture: Marine Tilapia Industry Incubator

- The development of enabling infrastructure to support the first transformative marine Tilapia industry cluster and associated rural agrarian value-chain. The agri-corridor with the Mbashe Municipality District, representing a template for expansion into another rural municipal district in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.
- The Initiative aims to establish a new, sustainable, and inclusive green growth aquaculture industry along the coast of South Africa. Estimated capital cost is R5 124 billion, funding gap is R3,75 billion. The status of the project there are no further movement for the project ever since end of 2021/22 financial year.

7.1.18 Human Settlement Projects

- The department in its presentation highlighted 18 human settlement projects the department was implementing. The projects are at various stages across the country. The following are the projects implemented by the department:
- Great Cornubia- is located close to King Shaka International Airport. Estimated Cost is R50 billion, funding instrument is grand funding and private capital. The project is expected to create 40 000 employment opportunities. The project has already started.
- Vista Park II- Mangaung Metropolitan municipality entered into a land availability agreement with Developers Emendo for Vista Park II Catalytic project, through a competitive bidding process in the year 2014. Estimated cost is R5,7 billion and funding instrument is grant. 4709 housing units to be build.
- The above are examples of projects highlighted by the presentation made by the Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure. The projects are not limited to the above, they also include the following:
- Lufhereng in Gauteng
- Malibongwe Ridge in Gauteng
- N2 Nodal Development in Eastern Cape
- Matlosane N12 West in Northwest

- Gren Greek in Gauteng
- Mooikloof Mega Residential City in Gauteng

8: Communication and Digital Technology Priorities: (Honorable M. Gungubele, MP, Minister of Communication and Digital Technologies)

The salient points raised by the Minister were as follows:

8.1.1 Broadcasting Digital Migration

The President Announcement during the 2023 State of the Nation Address that the Department and entities are finalizing the installation of outsourcing registered households and complete the switch-off- of analogue transmission in the remaining four provinces of Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape, and Gauteng.

Needy households are subsidized with set top boxes (decoders). The department also made beneficiation to the communities by making sure that installers are sourced locally. There are 14 000 installers and over 50% are women.

The post installation infrastructure of a consumer contact center is placed at Sentech to support beneficiaries about programme related challenges. The department has adopted a 3-tier model. The revised model and implementation plan for the SA Connect Phase 2 proposed the following key interventions:

- Electronic communication service providers licenced by the Independent Communication Authority of South Africa (ICASA) be obligated to connect 18 036 schools, 3 873 health facilities and 8241 tribal authorities' sites within 36 Months from date of licencing.
- The department and ICASA are currently negotiating with the Telcos who did not fulfil their social obligations from the 2014 licencing conditions to connect the 15691 government sites, including 949 libraries and Thusong Centres.
- SITA will provide and maintain connectivity to government sites through the current allocation of individual department.
- Connection of South African communities and homes to the internet will be facilitated by broadband Infracore and Senitech working with SITA and the ICT

industry on an open access principle. This will enable the access to backbone infrastructure including base stations and points of presence and the virtualisation of government network to also provide a public network platform. This partnership will enable small and emerging services providers such as internet service providers wireless access service providers, mobile virtual network operators and the ICT Mobile network operators to connect communities within 36 Months.

- As such, the BBI, Sentech and SITA will provide 840 Open Access Base stations and 33 539 community WI-FI hotspots to cater for 5 830 208 households, through the WASP's and MVNOs as part of transforming the industry.

8.1.2 e-Government

The department is rolling out the National e-Government Strategy and Roadmap to guide the digital transformation of public service in South Africa into an inclusive digital society where all citizens can benefit from the opportunities offered by digital technologies to improve the quality of life.

A 3-year Implementation plan of the National Government Strategy has been developed and approved. In addition, DCDT has prioritized the re-design of the National e-service portal and the uploading of prioritized e-service in collaboration with the state information technology agency. As a deliverable of the approved e-Government Strategy and Roadmap, the DCDT together with the DPSA and GCIS identified services to digitize and modernize the government public-fencing business.

8.1.3 Presidential Commission on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (PC4IR) Strategic Implementation Plan.

The Presidential Commission on the Fourth Industrial Revolution report was approved by Cabinet on the 23 September 2020. It was published in the Government Gazette and the Department conducted robust stakeholder consultation and inputs were incorporated into the PC4IR Strategic Implementation Plan.

The DCDT programmes of action for 4IR were developed in the PC4IR strategic implementation plan (SIP), which was concluded and approved. The DCDT developed a monitoring and evaluation framework to assist in the monitoring of the PC4IR implementation.

This framework will be operationalized through the abounding of Fourth Industrial Revolution Initiative across the country which will be monitored to identify their socio-economic impact.

The DCDTs role an awareness strategy for 4IR was developed as an initiative to be rollout to build strong relationships with stakeholders. The success of this strategy has resulted in witnessing multiple programmes in the past financial year where, Provincial government and industry have been seen working and implementing initiatives that complement the recommendation of the PC4IR.

8.1.4 Artificial Intelligence Institute

One of the key recommendations from the PC4IR report was related to the establishment of a national artificial intelligence Institute. The need for research and development and implementation are critical and must be embedded within the state. This embeddedness will enable the generation of new knowledge and creative technology application in sectors such as health, agriculture, education amongst others.

The report further states that once the Artificial Intelligence Institute is established its mandate should include training to the whole of society and hinge on creating a positive social impact.

8.1.5 Rapid Deployment Policy

As part of fast-tracking priority structural reforms, the department has finalized the policy and policy direction on rapid deployment of electronic communication networks and facilities. The implementation of the Rapid Deployment Policy was a standard model for granting municipal permissions that will ensure that there are no undue delays in the rollout of broadband infrastructure.

This is part of the commitment to ensure that all South African have access to the Internet by 2024. The policy and policy direction and rapid deployment of electronic communication networks and facilities was submitted for Cabinet approval.

8.1.6 Mechanisms in place for sustained and strategic communication of the milestones of the sixth dispensation with a particular focus on-line department achievement

The following are some of the listed mechanisms the department has embarked upon to sustain strategic communication:

- Social Media
- Website
- Collaborate with academia and the ICT sector.
- Community Outreach programme
- Media engagement

09: Day Two –

Strengthening Planning and Coordination Between the NCOP/ NA and the Executive. (The Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, Honorable P Mashatile, MP)

The Deputy President articulated the following:

- The planning session takes place a little less than 18 months away from the 2024 National General Elections which will mark the transition from the Sixth to the Seventh Parliament. As critical institutions of our democracy, the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces must guide this process. In doing so, both institutions must ask themselves and answer two interrelated questions. The *first question* is whether they have, during the last four years, provided sufficient oversight and enforced accountability by the executive?
- The diversity and unity of purpose should continue to fuel our will to cure the nation's problems and challenges. By so doing, we will honour the wisdom, hopes and aspirations of our founding mothers and fathers when they conceived the NCOP.
- The NCOP's continued relationship and partnership with the South African Local Government Association puts government in better proximity to a sustainable developmental local government which commands the capacity to deliver basic services to the people.
- The Constitution further directs government to establish structures and institutions to promote and facilitate intergovernmental relations as well as to provide appropriate mechanisms and procedures to facilitate disputes. The government is committed to honour the constitution and have established the cluster system of governance for this purpose.
- In addition to the transformative legislation, we have enacted over the years, the executive is now introducing and prioritising crucial legislative proposals for the efficient delivery of services that bear on the lives of the people.

- Land ownership is critical to the realisation of the goals of economic inclusion, food security, social cohesion, inclusive spatial patterns, and rural development. For this reason, we must speed up the resolution of unequal and inequitable land ownership patterns in our country. It is a matter of social justice, and its resolution will also help us to address other problems such as illegal land occupations.
- The correct call for the enforcement of by-laws to address land invasions must also be accompanied with measures for spatial transformation to reverse economic apartheid.
- The government will also have to address a difficult matter – that of unutilised land absentee landlords, some of whom are no longer resident in our country. Our social context of the scarcity of residential land, especially in the urban areas brings this matter into sharp focus. When land is invaded, the government and neighbouring property owners bear the brunt of legal, political, and other costs of evicting illegal occupants. The country will have to find a balance between the legal obligation for respect for property on the one hand and the imperative of social justice on the other.
- The responsibility a Leader of Government Business in Parliament is to introduce measures to improve the quality of legislation submitted by the Executive and to monitor the implementation of the Legislative Programme by Parliament.
- The Deputy President stated that, the executive was pleased that Parliament has prioritised key legislative revisions as mandated by the Constitutional Court, particularly, the NCOP's role in enacting crucial amendments to the Electoral Act.
- The Deputy President further said, they will continue to utilise mechanisms to monitor executive accountability to Parliament. These include monitoring and tracking responses to parliamentary questions for written reply and ensuring that Ministers and Deputy Ministers appear before Portfolio and Select Committees when required, and further avail themselves to respond to Motions and deliver Member Statements.

- In contributing towards the improved coordination, the Deputy President informed the session that a commitment was made to the National Assembly that the Deputy President's Office together with the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, will convene meetings with all District Development Model Champions in all nine Provinces, and further reach out to all distressed municipalities especially those identified as service delivery hotspots.
- The Deputy President concluded by stating that they will utilise the oversight reports on NCOP Provincial visits and *Taking Parliament to the People* to respond to issues raised during oversight visits.

10: Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Perspectives: Minister in the Presidency Responsible for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. Honorable M Ramokgopa, MP

The Minister highlighted the following in her remarks:

- The Minister articulated the imperatives for collective monitoring and evaluation from all spheres of government on government's ability to meet the seven priorities as set out by the 6th Administration.
- Called for greater inter-departmental coordination between the three-spheres of government to build an inclusive economy, improve the capabilities of people and the state, promote transformational leadership and partnership, and cultivate a culture of active citizenry.

The National Planning Commission appointed in 2015 conducted reviews on the implementation of the NDP, thus the following observations.

- The Medium-Term Strategic Framework is too broad which compromises the ability to adequately align it to the NDP and effectively measure progress with implementation.
- There are limitations in focused leadership and institutional capability which hinder strategic support for implementation.

- The barriers to resource mobilisation limit effective implementation of targets.
- There is lack of coordinated social compacts on how to tackle poverty, unemployment, and inequality.
- The Economic concentration and exclusive remain major structural challenges to development in South Africa

Covid-19 has emphasized the need to strengthen comprehensive social protection to respond to the shocks brought by the pandemic.

To improve cross sectoral collaboration, the Minister emphasized the need to strengthen coordination and improve functioning of public institutions and professional public servants at all spheres of government.

Through improved coordination and alignment across the three spheres of government, government will be in a better position to address challenges such as political -administrative interference, misaligned budgets, and fragmented planning.

The Minister reminded the meeting that the district development model must become an important mechanism to improve the developmental target as set out in the MTSF and NDP more broadly.

The Minister further, proposed the following priorities for the remainder of the term for the sixth administration:

- The need to strengthen intergovernmental planning and coordination to minimize the impact of climate change. The importance of operationalizing the Presidential Climate Commission Just Transition Framework as adopted by cabinet. The framework needs to be embedded in our disaster management strategies where restorative, distributive, and procedural justice is prioritized.

- To meaningfully address the economic challenges we face, government interventions need policy and regulatory reforms to redirect investment to SMMEs, township and rural economies to promote economic participation.
- Economic reform cannot be carried out by the government alone, there is a need for greater accountability from the private sector to address economic challenges through investment.
- The NDP envisages that 90% of employment will come from small businesses and entrepreneurs. As it stands this sector only forms about 15 % of the country's economy in comparison with peer country's where it can be as high as 90%
- The Minister in her concluding remarks state that through the support of the NCOP, there must be an integrated framework for Social Cohesion where roles and accountability is coordinated across different sectors, including Provincial and local government, communities, and civil society organisations etc.

11: Small Business Development Priorities: (Honorable Ms S.T Ndabeni-Abrahams, MP, Minister of Small Business Development)

The Minister for Small Business Development stated the following:

- The Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan prioritizes SMMEs and co-operatives and calls on government to review and scale up support for SMMEs, reduce red-tape and regulatory impediments, and co-create markets through value chain localization, especially integrating townships and rural economies.
- The Department has just completed the country's third National SMME Strategy (NISED) Framework and have developed a high-level implementation plan of game-changer programmes around which we are now developing partnerships that bring in resources, capacity, and where possible expanded market access.

Over the last 14 months of this 6th administration, the work of the Department and its Agencies will be structured and coordinated through the following interventions that are

implemented in close collaboration with the private sector as well as other spheres of government, namely:

- **The SMME-focused Localisation Programme** which is aimed at reconfiguring supply chains to co-create market opportunities for SMMEs, enabled through the Small Enterprise Manufacturing Support Programme (SEMSP), which gives support up to R15 million.
- **Township and Rural Entrepreneurship Programme (TREP)** which is aimed at supporting micro, small and medium enterprises in townships and rural areas, and linking market opportunities in townships and rural areas to local productive business ventures.
- **Enterprise and Supplier Development** partnership programme, where we are partnering with major corporates and SOCs to open supplier opportunities for black-owned and women-owned SMMEs, including those based in townships and rural areas.
- **Incubation and Digital Hubs Roll-Out**, where we have established 122 incubators and digital hubs, many in collaboration with universities and TVET Colleges.
- **Young Entrepreneurs Support** where we are targeting youth across our various financial instruments.
- **Cooperatives Support** - The objective is to support co-operative enterprises financially and non-financially in partnership with other key strategic stakeholders.
- **Shared Economic Infrastructure Facility (SEIF)** - where we fund light industrial hubs, SMME container clusters, informal trader markets etc.
- **Informal and Micro Enterprise Development Programme (IMEDP)** which is a 100% grant offered to informal and micro enterprises from the minimum grant amount of five hundred rand (R500) up to the maximum of forty thousand rand (R40 000) to assist them in improving their competitiveness and sustainability.
- **Khula Credit Guarantee Scheme** which is aimed at de-risking bank finance to SMMEs. Currently, the KCG is achieving a capital leverage effect of 6.25, meaning that for every R1 million guaranteed by KCG, R6.25 million is leveraged for SMME funding. This is key to begin addressing the R350 billion SMME credit gap in the economy.
- **New economy start-ups:** As a new game-changer, we are packaging a range of measures aimed at creating a more enabling support eco-system for high tech start-ups, and increasingly linking incubation support to this key growth area.

The DDM One-Plans become critical tools to mobilize the three spheres behind the work of DSBD on the ground. Here we are building co-location points in different District and Local municipalities, with the fourfold aim:

- To ensure the accessibility of the department, Seda, and **sefa** services in townships and rural areas.
- To raise awareness about how municipalities can reduce red-tape and ease doing business for SMMEs and co-operatives.
- To raise awareness about the Township and Rural Entrepreneurship Programme (TREP) to increase the pipeline of applications from SMMEs, and
- To ensure close cooperation with LED offices and gearing them to assist SMMEs with registration and/ or applications for the department's products and services.

The Minister further said she sees a critical role for provinces and is working with the Red-Tape Office in the Presidency to facilitate the establishment of red-tape offices in each province. To enable this, and to better enable provincial governments to champion the products and services they offer as the DSBD portfolio, the department have recently established a Provincial Coordination Forum constituted by all nine (9) Provincial Economic Development Departments. This "Provincial Coordination Forum" will be convened quarterly and provide the technical inputs for the convening of MINMEC's focused on localization and the development of small businesses and cooperatives.

The department is also appointing and assigning District Development Model champions. This will allow the department to rollout digital SMME license application systems (for example building on the experience of KZN), including systems integration and interoperability. Municipalities played a pivotal role in ensuring uptake of social relief during COVID, and department saw them playing this support role to broaden reach and strengthen delivery of TREP.

To ensure maximum participation of SMMEs in township and rural areas this year, we have split the function between the two agencies with Seda administering the grant funding for micro enterprises while **sefa** will focus on small and medium enterprises.

Legislature Review

The Department has commenced the process of reviewing the Businesses Act and intends to introduce an amendment Bill to Parliament during this financial year. The Businesses Act provides for the issuing of trade licenses and permits by Municipalities to both formal and informal businesses who want to operate in their geographic jurisdiction.

As it stands the Act provides a very broad policy and legislative framework without sufficient guidelines or a framework to ensure policy coherence and similarity across all the Municipalities. This has also resulted in uneven implementation across the country, with effective implementation in highly resourced Municipalities and Metros, while most poor Municipalities have ineffective systems and procedures thus contributing to increased red tape.

Lastly, the department is at advanced stages of amending the Small Enterprise Development Amendment Act which will assist with the merger of the entities, including the Co-operatives Bank Development Agency to create the Small Enterprise Development & Finance Agency which will provide both financial and non-financial support as well as initiatives to support the development of a broader SMME / Co-operative ecosystem. We intend to introduce the Bill to Cabinet during May this year.

12: Provincial Legacy Projects and Implementation Timelines: (Premier of Gauteng Province, Mr. P Lesufi, MPL)

The Premier of Gauteng articulated the following during the three-sphere planning session:

Gauteng set out a vision which will define the remainder of the term of office for the sixth administration. The province will continue implementing the Growing Gauteng Together with certain areas being elevated towards the end of the six administrations.

12.1.1 The province commits that the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy and Growing Gauteng Together will be supported by the following elevated commitments:

- To accelerate Gauteng's economic recovery and reconstruction
- To declare crime, corruption, lawlessness, and vandalism as the enemy that must be defeated.

- To change living conditions of people over 700 informal settlement and 6 provincial owned hostels.
- Gauteng commits itself to strengthen the capacity of the state to deliver quality service.
- The province further commits to improve and capacitate government communications so that government can communicate better with residents.

The five elevated priority areas constitute key development projects for accelerated implementation across all clusters.

The Gauteng province has allocated an additional R4 billion over the 2023 MTEF to the Gauteng Department of Community Safety to ensure that they are resourced to respond to crime. The allocation will ensure that the province recruits young agile people that will assist fight crime.

The province envisages having a petrol vehicle in every ward. High powered vehicles are currently being procured. The province is further procuring four helicopters which will be deployed to crime hotspots.

A new e-Security network will be created which will enable the availability of face recognition technology and surveillance cameras across the province to monitor the movements.

Early in 2020, the Gauteng Legislature adopted the Township Economic Development Act, a blueprint for supporting township businesses by the Gauteng government. The Act stipulates that by April 2023, 60% of the R34 billion goods and services budget will be used to support township initiatives. The province is establishing a digital database (township business register) of all business in township.

The province is upscaling the formalization and upgrading of backroom properties. To this extent the province is empowering aboMastandi to be in the real estate industry. 2000 applications have been validated for funding and 40 loans have been approved to the tune of R50 million, which has the potential to create employment.

Gauteng Province is setting aside a taxi fund to the tune of R20 million as seed capital for taxi association to raise money in the market. Gauteng province will launch taxi rank of the future, a one stop shop, for taxi parts, tyres, banks, restaurants, and many other related businesses such as filling stations.

The Gauteng government is embarking on a process to formalize informal settlements. The province is intervening in 731 informal settlements in the province, and they have mapped and enumerated 639 and upgraded 179 informal settlements at a budget of R3,1 billion.

482 service stands have been released, instead of people waiting for RDP houses, the province will release fully serviced stands with roads, water, and electricity. Gauteng government owns 6 hostels. Consistent with the objectives of making hostels livable and decent spaces, the province has installed free Wi-Fi and data and they are currently busy renovating and have appointed a service provider to clean the hostels on a consistent basis.

The Gauteng Provincial Government is releasing R1.2 billion towards resolving the energy crisis in Gauteng. The province will be appointing 6 developers who will commence the construction of an 800 Megawatts solar farm in Merafong, this will be followed by the installation of rooftops solar panels in government buildings, especially hospitals, clinics, and schools.

The province intends to engage the Johannesburg Municipality's City Power as well as Tshwane's Rooiwal Facility regarding generating more power for the city. The province also intends to meet with owners of Kelvin Power Station to establish how they can partner to limit loadshedding in Gauteng.

13: Provincial Legacy Projects and Implementation Timelines: (Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Ms. N Dube, MPL)

The KwaZulu-Natal Premier related the National Council of Provinces on key projects and programmes they intend to deliver in the remaining months of the sixth administration. The Premier further informed the meeting that KwaZulu-Natal has defined the remaining period as a time for decisive action, renewal and hope to build a better and prosperous KwaZulu-Natal.

13.1.1 In the 2023 State of the Province Address, KZN announced the following decisive interventions and high priority areas:

- Energy security plan for KZN
- Job opportunities for young people and mass employment creation
- Strengthen the fight against crime, fraud, and corruption.
- Faster implementation of the Economic Recovery Reconstruction and Transformation Plan
- Delivering of quality basic services and maintenance of infrastructure.
- Building a capable and agile state machinery to drive implementation.

13.1.2 Interventions in Energy Crisis in KwaZulu-Natal

KwaZulu-Natal has established a KZN Energy war room, chaired by the Premier overseeing the province's response to the energy crisis. The structure has also developed the KZN Energy Master Plan. The province intends to support Eskom in the establishment of the first Battery Energy Storage System in the province based in Elandskop BESS within Msunduzi and Impendle local Municipalities.

The province will accelerate the rollout of rooftops solar panels to households in the province in line with the pronouncement made by the Minister of Finance. The province will further support eThekweni Metro and other municipalities with implementing their own energy generation capacity. The province will also use the Richards Bay IDZ to establish itself as an energy hub.

13.1.3 Justice Crime Prevention Cluster

During the Three Sphere Planning Session of the NCOP, the Premier of KZN informed the meeting that KZN is reviving operation Shanela to focus on violence and crime on the province's roads and seek to strengthen the fight against crime.

The Premier told the session that KZN intends to intensify raids in search of guns and drugs in taxi ranks, residential areas, hostels, taverns, and similar spots. The province is also reprioritizing their budgets, each department and provincial entity will contribute R10

million towards the fight against crime. This will be used to acquire additional cars and technology for the police.

13.1.4 Social Cluster - Education and Skill Development

The province will extend the coding and robotic curriculum which is being implemented in 26 out of the targeted 33 schools at foundation phase and at 211 schools for the intermediate phase (grade 7)

The province has eradicated mud schools and now targets the provision of adequate clean water and sanitation as part of programmes towards zero schools with pit latrines and bucket systems. Children with special needs are prioritized and school safety for learners and educators is continuously improved.

The KZN department of education plan to build 12 new schools in 2023 which include a Maritime School of Excellence and an ICT Focus Schools in Amajuba District. The province is steadily increasing the number of paperless schools such as seen at Mandla Mthethwa Schools of Excellence and Anton Lembede.

Converting non-viable schools into learning and yarding centers for artisans and small business skills. Out of a total 356 schools that were damaged by the floods, 107 have been completed across the province, 23 others are being completed in 2023.

13.1.5 Building a healthy Society

The province intends to build 11 new clinics and re-purpose 4 district hospitals into regional hospitals. The province intends to implement an e-health system to reduce patient waiting time.

13.1.5 GBVF-Ending the Tragedy of Gender Violence

The KZN province has reported that they are in partnership with the private sector and are providing the community with panic buttons linked to police stations. The province is forging partnership in the establishment training and programming of ward based GBVF Rapid Response Teams integrated into war rooms.

The province is coordinating the refurbishment of shelters, 50 victim friendly rooms, developing gender-based violence and femicide app with a panic button. The province is also enrolling unemployed graduates to be placed in community organisations.

The province is in a process to implement the Provincial Drug Master Plan with building of two rehabilitation centres planned to be built before end of 2023.

13.1.6 Growing the Economy

The KZN province has established the KwaZulu-Natal Wealth Fund and in 2023/24 the province intends to attract greenfield investment totalling to R8,3 billion which will create 3182 jobs.

Investec Property plans to invest more than R6 billion to re-develop the old Corabrik site north of Durban into a logistics and distribution which will create 16 000 jobs.

The province is busy establishing Special Economic Zones in Newcastle and Ladysmith corridor. The two will be added to the two provincial Special Zones of Dube Trade Port and Richards Bay IDZ.

Solving the Youth Unemployment, the province is repurposing the Youth Fund and setting aside R100 million to benefit young people. Repurposing of the KZN Youth Fund is the province response to the challenge of youth unemployment and the province intends to disperse R70 million from the Youth Empowerment fund to applicants who meet the requirements.

The KZN Executive Council resolved that each department except for frontline service departments must reprioritize their budgets to contribute 10 million towards job creation through an intensified Expanded Public Works Programme to benefit youth, women, and people with disabilities.

The province is fixing potholes and has allocated R2,5 billion for patching and road rehabilitation programme. Major road networks are being rehabilitated back to life.

13.1.7 Transformed and sustainable human settlements

The KZN government is implementing several housing projects. Their programme is to decommission oLindela in eThekweni and other municipalities continue and the Department of Public Works has finished the transfer of 14000 hectares of state land for housing.

The Department of Public Works will commence with the provision of permanent solutions to the identified 13 land parcels to have the floods victims permanently rebuild their lives.

The provincial government precinct is steaming ahead, statutory compliance requirements and the funding models will be completed in March 2023 while the concept for the office blocks are targeted for April 2023.

13.1.8 SMART KZN

In 2022 the province of KwaZulu-Natal launched the SMART KZN project involving the roll-out of digital empowerment programs, capacity development and entrepreneurship and data skill development. Phase One is completed for broadband and connectivity covering 1150 sites. The South Africa Connect phase two, intends to connect 3000 sites and telecommunication companies, Social Obligation to include 8890 sites bringing the total to 13040 sites.

The Richmond and Ndwendwe digital centres will be finalised together with the Harry Gwala District Technologies. The province is piloting the online registration system in two districts of uMgungundlovu and eThekweni as part of the 4th Industrial Revolution.

13.1.9 Turning around Local Government

The province is attending to under expenditure on MIG, as KZN municipalities have spend only 53,75% of their MIG allocation, 40,4% of WSIG and 30,6% of RBIG. This expenditure performance is below projections and implies that infrastructure grant expenditure needs to improve.

13.1.10 New Smart Coastal City

The KZN government is on course to create a new smart city linking KZN with the Eastern Cape. It is about three spheres of government working with civil society and traditional leadership playing a central role. All three spheres of government have agreed to proclaim the project as a Regional SDF Zone.

13.1.11 Establishment of Agri-Hub

The province is commencing with the rollout of agri-hubs located in various districts. An amount of R152 million has been allocated to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development over the period of three years.

The province will seek to revive the One Home, One Garden Programme to fight poverty not only in rural areas but also in townships. The province will need more seeds, scooping of dams and mechanization programmes to support small scale farmers.

The government of the KwaZulu-Natal will support the planting of 6293 ha to produce 10 million seedlings in the period of 12 Months and 115 jobs for youth will be created through the project.

Over 15 248 subsistence producers were supported with food production initiatives in 2022/23 financial year. The department is planning to support a further 13 455 subsistence producers in the 2023/24 financial year, 978 smallholder producers and 20 black commercial farmers who are producing exclusively for markets.

13.1 12 Tourism Promotion

The Airport Development Master Plan, the expansion and reconfiguration of several regional airports continues. The Margate Airports Terminals have been completed and the department has initiated processes to upgrade Pietermaritzburg Newcastle and Richards Bay airports.

14: Provincial Legacy Projects and Implementation Timelines: (Limpopo MEC, Mr. T Mgoni, MPL)

The Limpopo presentation focused on key provincial priorities delineating for accelerated implementation during the last 12 Months of the sixth dispensation, highlighted key development projects for accelerated implementation across all clusters and provide

implementation timelines for priority projects across all clusters, including their spatial reach and impact across the district and localities.

14.1.1 Cluster Key Focus Areas in 2023/24

- Limpopo province intends to leverage on its comparative advantages to advance towards rapid industrialization through the implementation of the Industrial Master Plan and catalytic economic project.
- Forge strategic partnership with the private sector, national state enterprises and neighboring states to leap-frog industrialization.
- Clearly defined roles and responsibilities for social partners and a tracking system for progress.
- Strengthen the implementation of Musina-Makhandu SEZ

- Implementation of the Fatakgomo/ Tubatse Industrial Hub

14.1.2 Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone

The meeting was informed that the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Economic Zone Phase One seeks to expand the 36 hectares earmarked for 2 factories to be constructed in the year 2023/24 and six factories to follow. Phase One (b) of the project entails constructing perimeter fence and clear 75 hectares during the 2023/24 and set up bulk infrastructure and design.

Project with potential economic and job creation benefits entails the Musina Makhandu Economic Zone, which is valued at R150 billion, Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ and Industrial Park valued at R25 billion, the Industrial Park in Seshego valued at R40 million, Industrial Park in Kowankowe valued at R35 million and the Industrial Park in Thohoyandou valued at R139,5 million.

14.1.3 Key Focus Areas in Term of Agriculture in 2023/24

The province of Limpopo highlighted the cluster key focus areas as follow:

- Increase Agricultural production and implement turnaround strategy on improving agricultural production as vital and viable sector of the provincial economy.

- Implement Agro processing strategy reviving Agri Parks initiatives.
- Intensify implementation farmer support programmes.

The province further intends to develop Macadamia development, Zabediela Citrus, Limberg Citrus, Avocado development, and Boskop Citrus.

14.1 4 Fourth Industrial Revolution Initiatives

Initiatives outlined by the province include the Limpopo and Technology Park, Limpopo Broadband Network, Business Processing Outsourcing & Off -sharing, Contact Centre and a Digital Incubator for entrepreneurs. All the projects combined are estimated to create 27 000 jobs.

14.1. 5 Infrastructure Projects in the 2023/24

The provincial government intends to deliver infrastructure that plays a catalytic role in the comparative advantages of the province like mining and tourism. The province seeks to improve provision of water and sanitation infrastructure including schools' sanitation more especially in eradicating pit latrines in schools.

The province intends to improve water supply reliability to support socio-economic development and development of sustainable integrated human settlement including upgrading of informal settlements.

There are numerous water and sanitation infrastructure projects which the province intends to implement within the 2023/24 financial year and various Road Infrastructure projects which are in the pipeline to be implemented.

14.1.6 Strategic Interventions

The provincial government of Limpopo seeks to gain from resource endowment, but only if they transform their economy from resource base to industrialisation through value added, however, protracted bulk water infrastructure derails industrialisation, delays in designation of Fetakgomo-Tubase as a special economic zone and lack of funding to implement major catalytic projects in the province.

Construction of Nwamitwa Dam to support development in Mopani District. Raising of the full supply level of Tzaneen Dam wall to address water shortages in Tzaneen and surrounding areas.

Olifants River Water Resource Management Model to support communities and mines in Sekhukhune and Mogolakwena in Limpopo

Upgrade of Nandoni Water Treatment Works and Transfer of water from Zimbabwe to support Musina.

The province intends to engage various stakeholders for funding of major catalytic projects and develop the Limpopo renewable energy strategy to respond to the current energy transition and electricity challenges.

15: Provincial Legacy Projects and Implementation Timelines: (Premier of Mpumalanga Province, Ms. R Mtsweni-Tsipane, MPL)

Mpumalanga Provincial Government implements long term plans in line with the following strategic plans and frameworks that are informed by the national policy frameworks.

- The Mpumalanga 2030 Implementation Plan Framework
- Provincial Spatial Development Framework
- Mpumalanga Economic Recovery and Reconstruction Plan
- Revised Provincial 2019-2024 Medium Term Strategic Framework and
- The District Development Model One Plan from the three Districts in the Province

15.1.1 Job Massification

The province of Mpumalanga is targeting 500 youth per district for the National Certificate in Information Technology Systems support working with MICT SETA. Premier's Youth Development Fund to support youth enterprises to contribute to job opportunities, also provide pre and post investment support. The province is also intending to institutionalize the Provincial Labour Summit resolutions that were made in 2022. The province is in a process to establish a Job War Room in collaboration with local municipalities and social partners.

Enrolled 35 unemployed graduates on the departmental youth development programme. 29 of which to be accredited by the Institute of Professional Accountants.

Facilitate rehabilitation of old mines and utilization of available land for new industries i.e., manufacturing, agriculture, assembly of solar panels and batteries.

The department of health plans to create 1093 job opportunities through various programmes.

15.1.2 Crime, Criminality, and Immigration

The province informed the session that they were in a process to intensify the fight against fraud and corruption, through the training and accreditation of all ethics officers in the province. The province will also conduct lifestyle audits on designated members of staff in line with the gazette framework.

Facilitate implementation of the Public Service Commissions Framework on Professionalization of the public service and include the skill audit of officials from Mbombela, Emakhazeni and Lekwa municipalities.

15.1.3 Strategic Infrastructure

The province is in a process to Institutionalize implementation of the Provincial Disaster Management Plan and Framework. The province is also coordinating the implementation of flood management strategy.

The province intends to roll out and monitor the implementation of MERRP, infrastructure programmes, green economy initiatives, industrial through localization employment stimulus initiatives, tourism, and agriculture.

Tourism Infrastructure Commerce the construction of Gods Window Skywalk. A Public-Private Partnership project aimed at attracting between 45000 to 60 000 tourists along the panorama tourism route.

The province intends to develop a cable car linking drie-rondavels view site and Swadin Dam. The province is also in a process to build an education centre, geo-sites, and geo-trails in Barberton Makhonjwa Mountain World Heritage.

The Mpumalanga government is coordinating implementation of SANRAL projects in the province that inter-connect Gauteng, Mpumalanga, and Limpopo Province. The province is

further commencing with planning and designing of a bridge from Emalahleni City centre leading to Pine Ridge Clarinet, Siyanqoba and Verena.

The session was informed that the provincial government of Mpumalanga has increased the number of schools provided with Content Access Points and commencement of construction of five new clinics is underway. Construction of two Maternity wards will be built at Themba Hospital and Kwamhlanga Hospital.

The province intends to establish provision of radiation oncology service by constructing a bunker at Rob Ferreira hospital and restructure TB hospital in Mpumalanga. Sod turning has taken place for the construction of the Linah Malatjie Tertiary Hospital.

Several sites are planned to be serviced like the Kamhlushwa, which is planned to be delivered in the fourth quarter of 2023. Construction of Empumelelweni extension 7& 9 internal sewer in Emalahleni and three new libraries are to be handed over to communities.

16: Provincial Legacy Projects and Implementation Timelines: Northwest MEC of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation, Ms. Mosenogi, MPL

16.1.1 Key Interventions for the Remaining Term - Building Capable Ethical and Developmental State

The province intends to finalise and implement one district plans in all districts in the Northwest Province. Appointment of independent audit committees to oversee municipalities will commence to be put in place to improve municipal governance and accountability. Implementation of the framework for lifestyle audits will be carried out in all districts with the intended objective of dealing with fraud and corruption.

16.1.2 Economic Transformation and Job Creation

The province has allocated 20 farms to 20 beneficiaries ranging from youth, women, and military veterans in all four districts. The province has also received an investment pipeline boast of R6,1 billion for the development of Bojanala SEZ. Routine road maintenance plan

on all gravel roads is underway in all districts and a 13 billion for the maintenance and upgrading of 39 rural roads in all districts.

The provincial government is also developing a trade market worth R18 million in Mahikeng and Mamusa local municipalities. There are intentions to support 60 youth owned businesses with R12 million. 13 069 EPWP beneficiaries have been appointed across all infrastructure delivery departments in all districts. Plans are in place to establish a joint technical team of experts with Northwest University to reverse the provincial energy strategy.

16.1.3 Education, Skill, and Health

To accelerate skill development in the province, the provincial government has allocated over R20 million for bursaries to benefit young people and a R4 million for youth skill development programme is set aside. Work has begun to expand broadband connectivity in schools.

In terms of improving access to health 44 health clinics are being renovated in all districts. Mahikeng and Klerksdorp nursing campuses are being completed.

Northwest government is in a process to conduct feasibility study on bulk water supply from the Vaal River to improve sustainable livelihoods. Strategies are in place to implement a plan to address water challenges in the municipalities.

16.1.4 Spatial Integration, Human Settlement and Local Government

8000 title deeds to be distributed to beneficiaries in all districts. The province is also collaborating with traditional authority for land availability for the development of human settlement.

Plans are in place to start the development of the Smart City in Madibeng, Bojanala District.

16.1.5 Social Cohesion and Safer Communities

The province is working with law enforcements agencies to fight Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. Construction of Bojanala patient treatment centre is underway and 14 GBVF Social Workers have been employed to intensify the fight against GBVF.

Key interventions to accelerate Implementation of the Interventions. The following systems are put in place:

- Adequate resourcing of the interventions
- Develop of proper Implementation plan
- Plan and implement interventions through the District Development Model
- Regular reporting and monitoring of performance by oversight structures.
- Premier Quarterly One-on-One Performance Review Session with MECs

17: Provincial Legacy Projects and Implementation Timelines: Northern Cape MEC for Youth, Women, Disability, Communication and E-Government, Ms. L V Blennies, MPL

There are four driver's pillars driving the path of the Northern Cape towards prosperity which are the following:

- Economic Transformation
- Growth and Development
- Social Equality and human welfare
- Environmental sustainability and resilience
- Effective and efficient governance

17.1.1 Building a Provincial Roadmap for Decisive Action for Resilience, hard work, and Progress

The province has developed an eGovernment Strategy to enhance service delivery. The province has also established a Provincial Information Technology shared services centre as a mechanism to deploy the expertise required to implement technologies for digital transformation for service delivery.

17.1.2 Social Compacting for upgrading connectivity in the province.

Vodacom has contributed R230 million for expanding broadband coverage in deep rural areas and upgraded base station sites and network resilience. MTN has contributed to connecting 25 new sites and modernized 48 sites in the province. The province has embarked upon a Joint Initiative with the Public Service Innovation for the Digital Thusong Service Centre.

17.1.3 Broadband Penetration and Network

During the state of the province address, the Premier of the Northern Cape announced that broadband strategy rollout will be in full swing through its prioritized building blocks for implementation starting 1st April 2023.

Rollout plan for Phase 2 of SA Connect project will be implemented at 1599 sites for phase two over the next three years in clinics and schools in the Northern Cape province. Provision of tablets for all grade 12 learners has commenced.

The province is busy with a process to operationalize computer added ambulance dispatch system to improve emergency medical services and response times. Also, public health facilities are supplied with adequate ICT Infrastructure to implement the digital health strategy for 2019-2024. Digitalization of existing patient files in selected facilities and the health patient registration system is being implemented.

17.1.4 Youth Employment and Youth Development

Ministry established for improved co-ordination of all youth, women, and disability programs. There are district-based interventions for targeted and focused development. Presidential Youth Employment Initiative and a total of 7000 youth to be employed.

Explore increased investment opportunities for catalytic projects to boost economic growth and reduce unemployment and foster partnership for multi sectoral infrastructure finance and technical support.

The province intends to increase investment in sectors with heightened employment multipliers such as agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism to be encouraged. Develop partnership with SETAs to ensure maximum utilization of services to promote skill development in the province of the Northern Cape.

Memorandum of Agreements and Memorandum of Understanding are possible mechanisms to cement the relations and increase intake. Energy security is critical for the maintenance of a state economy and is also important in ensuring growth and development. Provincial and municipal government to explore the plausibility of installing solar energy infrastructure on public buildings to lessen the burden on the energy grid.

17.1.5 Catalytic Projects aligned to the National Infrastructure Plan

Namakwa SEZ- Vedata mine committed a R21 billion-rand investment in the Northern Cape. This will generate opportunities for SMMEs. The mines' capacity will be doubled in phase 2, with the construction of a smelter.

Khathu Industrial Park- Implementation received support from Anglo and Infrastructure South Africa to Fastrack implementation.

Uppington Industrial Park- Phase one construction starting in the new financial year of 2023/24

Green hydrogen signed MOU with the WCPG to develop green hydrogen corridor along SADC.

Tyre Granulate facility, R1,5 million investment in the establishment of a tyre granulator facility in Kimberley, the project to be launched in May 2023

Vaalharts Revitalization project and Vaal Gamagara project which is projected to cost 1,7 billion is commencing and phase one is completed.

17.1.6 Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan

Expand on employment creation for SMMEs, cooperative and informal businesses. Improve support to micro enterprises and co-operatives in townships. The province has also set out decisive interventions to leverage public procurement to support localization and empowerment of targeted groups.

State construction company established with phase one concluded, inclusive of legal and governance aspects.

17.1.7 Northern Cape Base premised in Mining.

SMME support, skill development, investment through interaction with mining concluded social compact in skill development, SMME Support and Corporate Social Investment.

17.1.8 IPP Beneficiation

Rooftops Solar PV-The Northern Cape province has developed a renewable energy strategy that focuses on rooftops micro scale enterprises in the renewable energy value chain. The objective is to assist the SMMEs in entering into power purchase agreements with the government and private sector to acquire loan funding from banks to procure the PV Systems.

17.1.9 Apprenticeship and learnership

Contractor Development Programme-the province will continue with the contractor development programme as part of developing small contractors to compete in the bigger market targeting an intake of 50 small contractors annually into the incubation programme.

The province has set aside a 180 million Rand Water project in Hantam and a R1.9 million to improve water and sanitation services through the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant for the Sol Plaatje Municipality.

17.1.10 GBV and Crime

The Northern Cape Province intends to intensify the implementation of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. The Provincial GBVF Forum as an inter-sectoral forum to bring all partners on board to reduce gender-based violence in the province on an integrated manner.

Reduction of crime, especially violence against vulnerable groups through enhanced crime prevention and combating, inter-sectoral coordination and integrated provincial action plan, and address funding needs for GBV Shelters.

Victim friendly facilities at police stations to be assessed and further equipped to deal with GBVF cases to reduce secondary victimization. The province will further also ensure functionality of Thuthuzela care centres are accessible 24/7

17.1.11 Reduce Learner Pregnancy

Advocacy for learner pregnancy prevention among all stakeholders, an interdepartmental collaboration with department of education, department of health and various NGOs working with youth, in the province to strengthen and provide comprehensive adolescent and youth services.

Challenges which hamper implementation of projects.

- Lack of resources
- Lack of coordination and integration
- Inadequate skills and training
- Limited industrialisation and localisation
- Energy insecurity
- Need to strengthen inter-governmental relations and cooperative governance.

18: Interactive Session

- Honourable Luthuli welcomed the presentation from all presenters, however, she wanted to know what strategies the department of Small Business was implementing to ensure that

business support information is accessible to people in rural areas. She requested the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal to intensify operation Shayela and that it be effective in fighting taxi wars in KZN. Lastly, she highlighted the challenge of drugs facing high schools in KwaZulu-Natal and that a strategy needed to be developed soon.

- Honourable Mmoiemang, requested the MEC For Youth, Women, Disability, Communication, and e-Government in the Northern Cape to outline the mandate of her department and how it was going to serve the people of the Northern Cape. He further asked whether a need for the country is there to re-looked at its micro economic reforms given the current challenges and targets and timeframes stipulated in the NDP.
- Honourable Duma highlighted that the presentation by the Financial Fiscal Commission had stated that government tends to intervene late at municipalities. He wanted to know whether does the FFC propose for an automated intervention to avoid oversight stampede and avoiding accusation of overreach by other spheres of government.
- Honourable Ntsube, commended that government legislation must ensure that young people participate in the ocean economy and that youth unemployment must be categorised as a national disaster.
- Honourable Mahlangu, appreciated the presentations as informative and was impressed by the presentation of Gauteng Premier in outline crime prevention strategies. She cautioned the session to pay attention to the raising phenomenon of tender mafias which are crippling the construction industry and other sectors. Lastly, she requested the session to address the matter of Moloto rail project which government initiated in 2002 but up until now the project has not yet been completed and affecting the working class from Thembisa, KwaMhlanga and other areas.
- Honourable Dodovu, also appreciated the presentation and that they would assist the legislative sector to conduct its oversight effectively, however, he cautioned the meeting that the underpinning of programmes outlines by various Ministers and Premiers must be implemented, must be job creation oriented, poverty alleviation focused and fighting crime.

20: Vote of Thanks by the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Honourable A Masondo

The Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces elated the following in his vote of thanks:

Given the challenges of alignment of planning and implementation activities, the NCOP welcomes the identification by the National Planning Commission of the need to institutionalize planning, and to address weaknesses in implementation.

The Chairperson stated that the NCOP has noted the need to use the remainder of the term to, among other things, support the acceleration of the activation of key infrastructure projects. In doing so, we should also evaluate the capacity of government, especially the municipalities, to execute certain projects. An example of the Giyani water project, which has seen a huge escalation in cost without concomitant results, was mentioned as an example.

As reported, it is expected that the implementation of the key infrastructure projects would lead ultimately to the creation of 800 thousand jobs. If achieved, this will be an important contribution to the fight against unemployment.

Part of our work should include the continual assessment of the impact of municipal infrastructure grants which, as pointed out, does not seem to match the kind of investment we make. This is due, in part, to the fact that in some cases the grants are used for purposes other than those they were intended for, such as personnel costs.

We welcome the announcement made yesterday by the Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Honourable Parks Tau, that to solve the skewed spending on municipal infrastructure grant that more effort will be made to ensure that monies are not simply shifted from struggling municipalities to those that can perform, but that more assistance will be provided to those municipalities that have serious capacity challenges.

dealing with the issue of unemployment, it is crucial that we really look at ways and means of supporting the emergence of Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs). As we have heard, the National Development Plan envisioned that 90% of the jobs to be created by 2030 would come from the SMME sector. Yet now only 15% of the jobs are from this sector.

As Members would recall, this is one of the issues that the NCOP has sought to focus on. For example, in November last year, Members of the NCOP, Provincial Legislatures and

SALGA, had the opportunity to raise a number of issues during the Ministerial Briefing Session on Township Economy and Industries, some of which were:

- The need to resolve support, co-ordination, and legislative challenges.
- The need to protect small businesses from unfair actions of big companies.
- The need to deal with market accessibility and security challenges.
- The need to address the negative impact of by-laws and the removal of red tape; and
- The capacitation and provision of entrepreneurial skills for young people.