

CHAIR OF CHAIRS SPEAKING NOTES

Honourable Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces

Members of the NCOP present

Dumelang

Ndimatsheloni

Avuxeni

Good morning

Gooie more

Ladies and Gentlemen

Greetings

We thank you for the invitation to present on this important occasion. Under the thought-provoking and structured theme, “Delineating key priorities for consolidation and implementation during the final year of the sixth dispensation,” this planning session requires urgent implementation by the various Chairpersons of Committees before the 6th Term comes to an end.

By prioritizing matters relating to accelerating the implementation of key developmental priorities and three-sphere coordination, this planning session seeks to address policy implementation weaknesses and coordination disjuncture across the three spheres of government. The session also seeks to identify and address underlying weaknesses across the political and bureaucratic interface.

COGHSTA has a critical constitutional mandate of ensuring that every citizen in the province can access housing and water. The department of Coghsta in the Limpopo province has begun with the construction of housing units at **Vingerkraal in the Bela-Bela municipality, the Community Residential Units (CRUs)** in Lephalale Local Municipality will be completed in the next financial. Twenty out of 44 housing units have already been completed; the remaining units must be completed this financial year; the Portfolio Committee must oversee the completion of these units. The province has a mandate to 'Strengthen relations with institutions of traditional leadership and work closely with Contralesa', there are 10 traditional council offices that have been constructed since the 6th term of office, and seven will be completed in the current financial year. Hon. Members, this is an important point for oversight as we maintain our relations with CONTRALESA.

Water projects are planned to be completed in the 2023/24 financial year. These include the Nandoni to Giyani project (**Letjatji la go fetsa projeke le a fetolwa fetolwa**), which will provide water to 55 villages, the Flag Boshielo Dam supplying water to Mogalakwena Local Municipality and part of Sekhukhune District, and the Mametja-Sekororo water projects. Three-sphere planning by national, province, and relevant municipalities is required, and the Portfolio Committee must highlight this for quick win and completion before the 6th term ends.

The National Development Plan has, through the Department of Education, prioritized the **throughput rate** of learners entering school. This entails learners who enter schooling must reach Grade 12 in view of

the increased throughput rate. As we do the planning today, the question is, **To what extent has this been achieved?**

Honourable Members, School infrastructure remains high on the agenda of this government as it is a prerequisite for a conducive learning environment. To this effect, the province planned to build an additional 150 classrooms in the next financial year. This will go a long way towards reducing classroom backlog at our schools. The Department of Education in Limpopo committed to continuing in 2022/2023 with the construction of 25 new school projects, 10 of which will be completed in the 2023/2024 financial year.

Honourable Members, in keeping with the dictates of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and demands of the knowledge economy, the project of providing learners and educators with appropriate ICT resources is well on track. In the previous financial years, Grades 1 and 8 learners in quintile 1 to 3 select schools were provided with tablets and their educators with laptops. There is, however, still a lot of work that needs to be done to complete the shift, inclusive of building learning and teaching interactivity on the e-Learning platform and securing digital connectivity across the province.

There are 519 schools with pit toilets in the province, and 303 are being attended to through the SAFS (Sanitation Appropriate For Schools) program. The Department of Basic Education will implement the remaining 216 projects. Progress to date shows that of the 519 schools with pit toilets, 455 were completed, equivalent to 88%. The Portfolio

Committee will do oversight visits to these to ensure that the projects are completed.

Honourable Members, we know that 70% of our budget goes to Education, Health, and other social programmes. The second question is, **'Is the budget commensurable to the value we get?** Paul Fayerabend uses the Theory of Commensurability as a guiding theoretical tool that this planning exercise must be relied upon. From reading the invitation by the NCOP, the concept of commensurability is used twice to highlight the important input and output.

Honourable Members, provinces want to “Build safer communities,” but crime remains a thorny issue for many businesses and households in the entire country. Crime did not start in 1994. According to Sampie Terreblanche, “extreme levels of inequality and the political conflict both contributed to high levels of crime during apartheid years.” Violent crime is not a recent phenomenon for most South Africans. The dynamics of crime and violence are rooted in repression, discrimination, political struggle, and chronic community poverty. In the words of former President Nelson Mandela **“Poverty is not an accident. Like slavery and apartheid, it is man-made and can be removed by the actions of human beings”**. As we move towards the end of the 6th term, community policing forums must be strengthened to deal with drugs and crime. For this reason, we call upon our stakeholders, in particular, Santaco, to help and strengthen our fight against crime and drugs. We call upon this planning session to identify other stakeholders to work with the government to address these issues.

Honourable Members, the 2019 manifesto of the governing party has focused on “Building a social compact on infrastructure investment with business and organised labour to finance key economic and social infrastructure projects.” The majority of One-Stop-Centres for Social Development have been completed: Mookgophong Centre in Modimolle-Mookgophong, and Saseleman Centre.

The Department of Social Development has prioritised Cooperatives to ensure they have continuous access to water and electricity in order to ensure the sustainability of their projects. The department will also provide adequate training, support, and mentoring to the members of the cooperatives as well as access to markets.

Honourable Members, the government puts more emphasis on free, quality health care for all at the point of service by 2025 with National Health Insurance. There was a total overhaul of Maphutha-Malatji Hospital’s Casualty which is complete; given the laundry crises in Vhembe hospitals, a Laundry Hub was constructed at Tshilidzini Hospital to cater to all the hospitals in Vhembe; the Department of Health invested in the Thabazimbi Hospital where the casualty section, mortuary, administration block, and nurses accommodation were constructed; and Letaba Hospital which was upgraded from being a regional hospital to almost the level of a tertiary hospital – new psychiatric ward, kitchen, laundry and administration block where patient admission is made using electronics.

Honourable Members, oversights by the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety will target border posts, starting with

borderlines along Botswana and Beitbridge in the Limpopo province. Observations made during oversight in Thohoyandou, Giyani, Maake, Mankweng, Burgersfort, Lebowakgomo, Mahwelereng, Mookgophong, Bela-Bela, Dennilton, to name a few, shows the increase of spaza shops owned by foreign nationals where owners do not take the cash they make from the business to the banks. This results in the increase of business robberies as adherence. By conducting oversight at various border posts starting at Groblersbrug, and Stockpoort borders in Lephalale, proceeding to Platjaan, Pointdrift, Zanzibar, and others, the committee will observe and assess the state of infrastructure along borderlines in Limpopo province, establish and assess the capacity that ensures the smooth operation of the border posts. This will include the number of SAPS deployments, vehicles, and functionality and effectiveness of the Border Management Authority.

Honourable Members, as we conclude there are a number of roads that will be completed in the 2023/24 financial year. These include the Makhado-Madombidza road, Blouberg Hospital-Buffelshoek road, Agatha road in Tzaneen, Groblersdal-Stofberg road, Kushke-Zebediela road, Magongwa-Mosesetjane road, N1-Flyfontein Elim, and Moletjie – Helena Frantz Hospital in Senwabarwana, Bylesteel, and Moletjie, any more roads.

We hope all these programmes will be quick wins and be completed from an oversight and accountability perspective by Portfolio Committees.

I thank you.