



NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND TRANSPORT

**REPORT ON THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND TRANSPORT
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN BRIEFING FOR THE YEAR 2009/2010**

1. INTRODUCTION:

The Department on Public Works, Roads and Transport Annual performance Plan 2009 – 2012 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) was tabled in the North West Provincial Legislature and referred to the Portfolio Committee on Public Works., Roads and Transport for scrutiny. On the 29th June 2009 the department was invited to brief the Committee on the Annual Performance Plan.

The purpose of the meeting was to scrutinize the departmental priorities and planned outputs for 2009 -2012 MTEF. The department made a presentation highlighting the following key programmes: **Administration, Roads Infrastructure, Public Transport, Public Works, And Expanded Public Works Programme.**

BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR THE DIFFERENT PROGRAMMES:

PROGRAMME	APPROVED AMOUNT
Administration	R 211 313 000
Roads Infrastructure	R 835 600 000
Public Transport	R 682 262 000
Public Works	R 522 548 000
Expanded Public Works Programme	R 74 128 000
Total	R 2 325 831 000

2. CHALLENGES:

- Other stakeholders such as the Department of Health use the budget to buy ambulances without any prior indication or consultation and as a result, cut some money off the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport.
- The learners who have been trained in specialized skills choose to go to other provinces with private companies for higher salaries.
- NTI: Gauteng Province has the subsidies for North West Star and Batswanagare depots that were under judicial management and Gauteng Province pays those subsidies. In essence, to sell those depots depends on that government.
- The National Department of Transport did not avail any funds for provincial roads infrastructure for the FIFA 2010 World Cup, only for national roads that pass through cities that will be used for the tournament. As a result, in cities where there are only municipal roads and no provincial roads, the department had to interact with municipalities to avail funds from the North West Growth Fund for local and municipal roads which are of priority.
- A survey was conducted by Price Waterhouse Coopers Pty that indicated that 196000 learners still walk to school for more than 3km.

It was calculated to R1.5 Billion to transport them in busses. The budget of the whole department is only R2. Billion.

- The province does not have any legislation to establish the North West Road Agency.

3. COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS:

- Graduates from the learnership programmes created by the department should be absorbed into the department. i.e. technicians can be developed in-house to ensure that their skills are retained.
- Diversification of the EPWP: Learners who are trained in skills that are relevant for other departments should also be absorbed in those departments. For example, assistant social workers assistant health professionals.
- The Rural Development Document that is the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture: The Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport need to play a role in the development of the Provincial Strategy for Rural Development as the Department is affected by issues of roads construction and maintenance, building of schools and clinics in rural places.
- The Department has a backlog of roads infrastructure which would require R2 billion per annum over a five year spread which would amount to R10 billion for that period. In essence, the Department needs a larger budget for road infrastructure.
- Scholar Transport: The Department has to prioritise their interventions for scholar transport as well as explore public-private partnerships for more funds.
- Bojanala has been identified for many road infrastructure projects and this demonstrates a skewed distribution of resources.
- Office Space: There is a lack of adequate buildings to accommodate government departments and as a result the department has to lease private properties.
- Budget Vs Contracts: The Department does not mention if they have five year contracts, where government has already committed funds.
- Non-performance of contractors: The department needs to monitor and evaluate the performance of emerging contractors instead of changing contractors as in the case of the Sannieshof and Delareyville road.
- Cross-Border Areas: The Gauteng Province's Rapid Transport System: There should be a contingency plan in case it affects the cross-border municipalities such as Moretele, Fochville and the general public transport system of the province.
- Taxi recapitalization is a long process that is ongoing for seven years depending on the availability of funds.

- Weighbridges: The Department must also prioritize building these structures so that the trucks and heavy duty vehicles that drives through our province and damaging roads such as Botswana through to Mmabatho.
- Roads are not properly maintained Mafikeng roads/Ottosdal – Delareyville. The Swartsdam/ Makapanstad road is in a bad state and it needs to be repaired.
- The employees at the Department of Public Works need to be trained in the Principles of Batho Pele and improved customer service.
- Public Works Asset Register: The department does not have a proper asset register.
- The Departments of Health, Education and Public Works, Roads and Transport are invited at different times by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and as a result it creates pandemonium on the Auditor General's Reports.
- The Department of Public Works got a qualified report for the previous financial year for projects that were budgeted for and as such are creating a pattern.

The Department was requested to submit a report on the following issues by Friday, 03 July 2009:

- Office space and leasing of private property;
- Turnkey Projects for the Department
- Auditor General's reports


4. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The Department to check the number of vacancy level of offices in all departments in order to determine the number of offices that are needed to avoid unnecessary spending on the leasing private property.
- The Department to prioritise the scholar transport in the province and design a strategy with criteria to evenly distribute contracts in all regions at the same time empower the BEE.
- The Department to ensure that learner graduates are absorbed in other departments as they are trained in different fields.
- The Department to investigate the possibility of enforcing a BEE Model regarding leased properties to enable disadvantaged community to access opportunities in the Leased Property Industry.
- The Department to submit which five year contract it has as government has already allocated funds and what percentage of the budget is allocated to such contracts.
- The Department to reprioritize the distribution of their resources and have selection criteria to use when distributing assets to all regions especially in terms of road infrastructure and scholar transport.

- The Department should device a plan to address disclaimers for projects that were budgeted for and present the relevant amounts budgeted in their Annual Performance Plan and also submit the report to the committee within 14days.
- The Department should re-table the North West Road Agency Bill as a matter of urgency in order to address issues of budget for roads infrastructure.
- The department must seek legal opinion on the Northwest Transport Investment (NTI) and seek a new mandate to wind it down urgently. The Department of Public Works must also write a report on the Asset Register which specifies who the state assets assigned to and if there are any anomalies, a strategy that the Department will use to address the matter.

5. CLOSURE:

The committee commended the department on their presentation and request the House to approve the budget.


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Date: 07/07/09
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Hon. Y. M.M. Makume

**Chairperson: Public Works, Roads and Transport Portfolio
Committee**