

THURSDAY: 21 FEBRUARY 2008

Sitting No. 3

[No. 03 - 2008] Fourth Session, Third Legislature

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**LEGISLATURE OF THE
NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

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11H00

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:
Honourable Members we will now observe a moment of silence, prayer/meditation. May you get seated. Next item.

**SECRETARY: ITEM NO.2
MINUTES OF THE 19TH FEBRUARY 2008.**

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:
Honourable Members I place before you a set of minutes of the 19th of February 2008. Are there any corrections? In the absence of any corrections, does the House adopt the minutes? Silence means concern. Next item.

**SECRETARY: ITEM NO.3
MOTIONS.
A. WITHOUT NOTICE
B. NOTICES OF MOTIONS.**

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:
Honourable Members, motions

without notice. Honourable Baloyi followed by Honourable Mampane.

HON. BALOYI:
Thanks Honourable Deputy Speaker. The ANC moves to place a motion without notice to raise our concern about the racists in our province. The North West Province Honourable Deputy Speaker, for a while has been plagued by some racist incidents which need serious condemnation and attention.

It is not worthy how the recent Skielik case although the matter is sub-Judi care where there was a rampage shooting of Africans will be concluded. When one recalls how the case of Andrew Babeile was dealt with. Honourable Deputy Speaker this follows a numerous actions while introduced to him,

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while signs, post and street names under Africans names were vandalized by whites supremacy to defend the legacy of apartheid.

All these things including daily sufferings by our people some were mauled by wild animals in some of our farms, homes etc. These happenings Honourable Deputy Speaker, should be condemned by all and not find sympathy from anywhere even in this House and beyond, anywhere in this planet called earth thanks.

HON. MAMPANE:

Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker, I rise on a motion without notice on proposed pledge and Bill of Responsibility. Honourable Deputy Speaker the African National Congress herewith rises to place a motion without notice to inform your House about the proposed Pledge and the Bill of Responsibility for schools.

The Department of Educations Pledge and Bill of Responsibilities are based on the preamble of the Constitution which is the supreme law of the country. This proposed pledge

Honourable Deputy Speaker, will be made part of the morning devotion and learners are expected to memorize and recite it.

This Bill of Responsibility will be taught along with the Bill of Rights as part of the life orientation curriculum. At this stage, this pledge is part of public participation process which will lead it to be a policy that governs the public. Honourable Deputy Speaker, we are informed that the pledge will be introduced on the 21st of March 2008 on Human Rights Day, therefore as the ANC we support both the Bill and the Pledge, I thank you.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

Does the House adopt motions? We then move to notices of motion. Is there any notice of motion? None. Honourable Members on this item I would want to draw the attention to Rule 188, I repeat I want to draw your attention to Rule 188 of the Standing Rules of the House, and that Rule indicates that if there is a notice of a motion a Members does not stand up and bring that motion to stand on the order paper that motion lapses. Next item.

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**SECRETARY: ITEM NO. 4.
STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:
Honourable Vilakazi

HON. MEC. VILAKAZI:
Honourable Speaker I would like to congratulate Orlando Pirates for 70 years and for winning against Sundowns yesterday.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:
I was about to ask Honourable Vilakazi whether that is the statement, he started by congratulating. Next item.

**SECRETARY: ITEM NO 5.
ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE
PREMIER**

HON. PREMIER:
Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. As I was making an announcement on Tuesday on the appointments head of departments substantively appointed, I omitted to mention one for the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. I hereby and make an announcement therefore in addition to that list of three, the appointment of the Head of Department for the Department of Economic Development and

Tourism being Mr. Abbey Tlaetsi who is currently working already, have started during the cause of January, early January. Thank you very much.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:
Next item.

**SECRETARY: ITEM NO 6.
ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEM-
BERS OF THE EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL**

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:
Honourable Rasmeni

HON. MEC. RASMENI:
Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the Legislature, I would like to announce to this august House that February is designated as the reproductive Health month. South Africa as a whole has commemorated Sexually Transmitted Infections/ Condom Awareness Week which started on the 10th until the 16th of February 2008. The significance of this week Honourable Speaker, was to reinforce the importance of raising public awareness about Sexually Transmitted Diseases, as well as prevention of unwanted pregnancy and HIV/AIDS.

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The STI/Condom Week coincided with Valentines Day and Zithande Campaign that enhances people's self worth irrespective of their HIV status. The theme of this year is "Your Sexual Health is your responsibility". It reminds us to take responsibility for our own sexual health and wellness through early detection of and treatment of sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS.

The provincial culmination event is taking place today; I hope I would be released House as soon as possible at Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality at Lehurutshe Stadium. We have targeted all community members in our province that means it does not exclude anyone. However Honourable Deputy Speaker, our emphasis is more on those who are still sexually active as well as the vulnerable groups.

I will therefore wish to extend an invitation to Honourable Members to join us at Lehurutshe Stadium today so that together we can win this battle. Thank you very much.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

Thank you Honourable Members, before we move to the next item. May I inform the House that this morning in the meeting of the Presiding Officers we have a discussion around statements, and announcements. We came to conclusion that some Honourable Members take what is supposed to be a statement to announcement and what is supposed to be announcements to statements. We have agreed that we are going to have to attend to that matter to differentiate between an announcement and a statement, because some announcements sounds more like statements, but will attend to that in future. Next item.

SECRETARY: ITEM NO7. THE PREMIER'S RESPONSE TO THE DEBATE ON STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

North West Provincial Legislature mme maMolewa to respond to questions and draw your attention to provisions of the Rules, 20 minutes.

HON. PREMIER:

Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker, I suppose the counting

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of the minutes will start as I finished greetings. Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, Colleagues in the House.

Firstly I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all contributions made by Honourable Members and indeed thank Honourable Members for these important inputs made, particularly the clarities that were given by Honourable Members like Honourable Member Mahlakeng, Honourable Member Kekesi, Honourable Member Tselapedi and Honourable Member Gerber.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, you will recall that when we stood before this august House on the 28th of May 2004 to deliver our maiden State of Province Address, we outlined the vision of the current term of government going up to 2014, and at the same time we made the following important observation "Many of our people are still trapped under conditions of poverty, unemployment, skills shortage, crime and the number of other challenges that made the goal of a better life for all to

appear to be an illusion".

An inspired by this commitment Honourable Deputy Speaker, to build the people's contract to create work and fight poverty, we committed ourselves in the next 10years to contribute towards the achievement of the national objectives of reducing poverty and unemployment by half, and consistent with this task Honourable Deputy Speaker, of turning the tides against the hardships that many of our people are facing and to help expand the frontiers of human fulfillment, we set ourselves targets that will assist us to score new decisive victories in ongoing effort, to build a better a life for all our people.

Honourable Members would also recall that these targets were categories into deliverables for the short term that was at the time the next three months, the medium term and long term in the next 10yeras. Honourable Deputy Speaker, accountability dictates that from time to time, we must force and reflect on the extend to which we are advancing towards the goals that we have set for ourselves, and consistent reflection

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is a necessity if we want to move forward with confidence as well as concentrated and concerted awareness for people on the ground that we are indeed considering to cover a whole lot of ground.

It is for this reason Honourable Deputy Speaker, that I wish to take issue therefore with the suggestion that was made by Honourable Member Hattingh and Honourable Member Matladi that so far of this year repeats everything that has been said before year after year. It is imperative therefore to recognize that our 2004 electoral mandate dictate a process and indeed a transparent process about our performance in serving our people, and the fundamental point of departure that guides the State of Province Address engagements is accountability transparency, and the continuity of our programmes.

So I think Honourable Members should appreciate that we should now about this steps that we are taking, and in the context also of our electoral mandate as pronounced by the manifesto of 2004 and the delivery targets that I have referred to earlier on.

Honourable Members would also recall that amongst other things this term of government is also a building towards the realization of a 2014 vision. Every year and especial as we approach the end of our term it is imperative to keep recalling on pledges and undertakings that we have made in 2004, to retrace our footsteps and to pose a fundamental question are we still in track.

So us this is about accounting to millions of our people but at the same time reminding our people of the continuous character of programmes.

We do this to continuously stir societal memory and to curb the 'perceived' lack of knowledge about the status of government programmes and services, which may bridge deep levels of dissatisfaction shunning in the progressive plight that we have made as this government that is led by the African National Congress.

We remain convinced Honourable Deputy Speaker that as we march towards 2009 and 2014, we cannot afford to recall or renew the pledge we

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making in 2004. We therefore need to continue to pay attention to detailed progress that has been made. We will not be able to keep on repeating word for word the broad mandate on each an every programme of that mandate but will give account of progress made.

The best example that we can use in this instance Honourable Deputy Speaker, is to refer to progress made in MIDZ which some Honourable Members clearly missed. During the 2007/2008 SOPA we indicated firstly that the MIDZ is a multi year program; that we have completed the refurbishment of phase 2 of the airport and runway, meaning the runway of the time that the terminal building is fully refurbished, that the mineral cluster beneficiation is at the advanced stage and design stages and that the airport license processing has gone through the responsible national team.

We are now saying in 2008/2009 over and above these progress made, we will be finalizing the bulk infrastructure installation which is at the advanced stage and indeed a

major progress. I hope that all of us and Honourable Members Matladi in particular understands what it takes to install such bulk infrastructure and we can see it as we move towards the airport as we go. We also saying this year that we have established a flying school that has been started and also are in the high level of marketing through aviation industry and investment promotion is taking place. Every step towards progress and new developments is important to us and indeed surely those who understand our vision in this project and similar other projects to this will agree that gradually we are making this progress in these difficult and challenging programs which we work on with other spheres of government and other parties as well.

Similarly, Honourable Deputy Speaker, we are concern about the suggestion that given provincial expression to national policy imperatives amounts to what is called "mimicking his master's voice". This view is expressed regardless of the self evidence truth, but all spheres of government are and must be all united in one fundamental objective to create a better life for all. The

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national sphere accordingly has a critical responsibility to provide the national policy framework and the necessary strategic leadership to other spheres.

We in the North West Province regard the speeches and directives by the President as a call to arms. So if we reiterate and embrace the call by the President to adopt the "Business Unusual" approach and to put all hands on the deck to speed up change, we are not only responding to the injunction of our Constitution but we are also convinced of the correctness and appropriateness of the President's message.

I am convinced that Honourable Matladi was not suggesting that the North West should deviate from the national policies, nor was she implying that the North West Provincial government must differ with the president of the country merely to prove that we are not "mimicking" him. In addition I am certain that she is acutely aware that we are part of the country and that is our system of intergovernmental relation enjoins us to pursue programs and policies in a manner that gives concrete expression to the nations of synergy

coordination and integration which Honourable Member Mahlakeng so eloquently referred to.

To suggest that we are "mimicking", is also and is normal because the North West like other provinces, has contributed to the government program of action and the current Business Unusual APEX of Priorities as articulated by the President in his State of Nations Address, and we did through the various Cabinet Makgotla that we attended, the Presidential Coordinating Councils and provinces continuously give inputs to assist to give content and shape to this various national policies.

With regard to road infrastructure Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to say that SOPA 2007 indicated that the N18 road that is Mafikeng to Vryburg, Vryburg to Kimberly will be rehabilitated. Indeed those rehabilitated let me emphasize, indeed those who are indeed observant would have seen that the first phase of rehabilitating this road between Mafikeng and Vryburg is about to be completed whilst the second phase of

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expanding this road will also follow. We did not say we are going to build that road and finish it at the time, we say it is being rehabilitated. The same process and as it is happening those who have eyes to see they see it. And the same process will also be followed to rehabilitate and expand the section between Vryburg and Taung, it is done by SANRA and we have to also ensure that we support them in this regard.

We indicated also in SOPA 2007 that due to its strategic importance the Lichtenberg road will be prioritized and I am quoting what we have said in that SOPA. Once again if a Member pay some attention to detail, should have noticed that we never said that we are constructing this road in this 2007. In terms of our report this year we stated that our road program will continue and that also in the interest of time we did mention that, the relevant MEC will elaborate on road construction strategy and program. To shed some light for today preliminary we would like to report that the scoping of this road Lichtenberg and Mafikeng has been completed and construction will start

during the 2008/2009 financial year. These are some of the things that MEC will elaborate on.

With regard to car registration, an EXCO resolution has been passed Honourable Deputy Speaker and indeed we said that all vehicles must be registered in the North West Province. We realized and recognize the importance of revenue collection by us from the car registrations, and the reality however is that this resolution cannot easily be implemented quite strictly and enforceable. Why is it so, it is because people uses addresses some who work here and live in Gauteng and they use their address of Gauteng and naturally the car registration requires your residential address. We have however been able to enforce this resolution with regards to government cars that are owned by government and that are belonging to majority of our public service. This is a campaign that I believe that we must take up, all of us because indeed we need this revenue, it is a very important point to rise we need this revenue.

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With regards to budget allocation Mr Deputy Speaker, almost 74% of our total current budget of the province is allocated to social sector departments in order to transform and better our people's lives we know are very poor and the remaining 26% is allocated to the economic sector departments which include road construction and rehabilitation. As we indicated we will prioritize the road infrastructure program in the Bophirima District as well as Rustenburg 2010 hosting city. The MEC again will also appraise this august House with other new initiatives that will arise from the expansion of the envelope getting more money from elsewhere once the plans have also been concluded.

With regard to water shortage in Ramotshere Moiloa as we have previously reported Honourable Deputy Speaker, short, medium and long term initiatives are being undertaken. In the short term we continue to provide water to those communities through water tankers. We however saddened by the fact that some of our people within this communities rejects this water

for all sorts of reason they say they containing some other staff that is not usable and so on and so on, and would like to make the call to Honourable Members here today that we should encourage this communities really to realize that this is the short term measured intended to ensure that our people have this important life resource whilst we are implementing other medium term and long term and long term solutions.

As we speak construction Honourable Speaker, construction and installation of new water pipes is on track and it will be completed soon, so people will have water from their taps in the houses in their areas where they live. The district and local municipalities and the provincial government together with DWAF are working on long term solutions as well as reported previously in this august House. We must also indicate there that in terms of the study conducted by DWAF, we have realized that the significant amount of water is lost underground due to illegal connections and lack of water conservation. We need to collectively to address this challenge urgently and see this as a

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collective responsibility by all of us in this august House because indeed if we leave a lot of water that supposed to go into a usage by people because it is through illegal connection that is a problem.

With regard to shortage of electricity we need to recognize the mammoth growth that has taken place in this country since 1994. In order to appreciate the amount of energy that we need as a province and indeed as a country. The requirement is so huge that it has necessitated our national government to build more than five huge power stations and this is over and above other alternative methods of energy production like gas, wind and so on. The Mamatsue Power Station would therefore just be like a drop in the ocean perhaps it would have been able to just supply the size of Mafikeng. Of course appreciated but we really need to recognize the amount of power energy that we need going forward in this country.

Honourable Member Kekesi the issue of under-spending by departments would really like to indicate that the has been

tremendous improvement. We have noticed however there are one or two departments that have slid back, that is Social Development and Agriculture and we will follow that and will continue to monitor progress in order to realize more improvements as well as institutionalization of anti-fraud and anti-corruption measures because indeed we need to ensure that as we spend there is also anti-corruption measures that are in place.

Honourabel Member Hattingh with regards to the mining and economic growth we would like too indicates that the North West generates 6.4% of the GDP in the mining as an integral part thereof. As previously indicated are growth target of 6.6% per annum by the year 2014 is still envisaged. It is very interesting that when we announce this target Honourable Member Hattingh express his pessimism in achieving this target. We have made great strides and move up to 4.9 and 4.3% over a period of two years of our PGDS implementation. We would like to encourage the Honourable Member Hattingh to admit where there is growth and

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development and a bit of optimism and indeed develop that kind of optimism and also join us in our believe and resolve our to reach our target. We are interacting with developers and investors in the industry of mining, tourism, manufacturing and agriculture and we do believe indeed that jointly we would continue liberate the resources and create partnership to grow our economy and to improve service delivery in the province.

With regards to issues raised by Honourable Member Mahlakeng, we appreciate the comments made Honourabel Mahlakeng indeed, and we will ensure that within the context of "Business Unusual" extension 39 that (Sik"lekhekhe) in Mafikeng will be partly electrified in this financial year of 2008/2009 and finalized also by 2009/2010. Future housing projects will also be integrated with the provision of other services. Sik"lekhekhe is a name; it does really say to us that we have got to move in terms of renaming our places. I don't know if this is an appropriate name.

With regards to support to

weaker municipalities, we are currently actually in a process to develop a very comprehensive support package to all weak municipalities in the province and further partnership has been developed with the IDT in this regard to ensure that we support these weaker municipalities. This package will again also be announced by relevant MEC of Developmental Local Government and Housing in his policy speech.

Regarding electricity shortage we would like to say a team of provincial municipal and Eskom officials are currently working in this program and measures to save electricity have been also developed, more details of this plan will be finalized and announced to our community and also be brought to this Legislature as soon. And a provincial strategy will also be put in place on the table to once again in consultation wit the external electrical expert including academics and all other stake holders externally.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we want to assure Honourable Gerber that we will continue to recognize all our people's rights

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and diversity in culture, religion and languages. Let me dare say that Honourable Gerber was speaking on behalf of all of us when he reminded us that the role of the opposition is to oppose but also to work together with government to ensure that together we build a country and a province that is good for all of us. By so saying Honourable Member Gerber is challenging us to reject the politics of polarization and to consciously choose to be part of those who want to see the country succeeding. All of us owe allegiance to our country, the flag, the anthem and the Constitution. As patriots we must be able to jointly celebrate our achievements and jointly mourn the losses that we suffer as a nation.

Opposition parties are important part of our Constitutional democracy and therefore to be in opposition must not mean that one is unpatriotic or disloyal. It must mean that you also contribute as Honourable Member Gerber has. We need a diversity of voices and views as we strive to find sustainable solution to the problems affecting our society. Sadly some of

the opposition sometimes, not always of course have taken their roles too literally to oppose whatever government does or proposes. For them to be in the position means to paint a picture of doom and gloom about their own country, and others specialized in keeping a catalogue of what is perceived to be wrong with our country and province and give no attention indeed to what we may have achieved as a country.

Consistent with this message of Honourable Gerber, some or in the opposition need to make an effort to move away from being prophets of doom we continue to chill our spines with predictions of failure and chaos, and to become part of our solutions. Opposition parties must continue to hold government accountable; however in doing so the ultimate objective should be to contribute constructively towards the effective governance. That's from time to time opposition parties are expected to display the guards to must we to offer praises where they are due, and as the speech Honourable Deputy Speaker, that was not read to this august House and I wish that we would afforded that

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Honourable Member have an opportunity to do so. Certainly Honourable Member Groenewald here we would certainly take up the issues that you have raised in your speech.

May I conclude Honourable Deputy Speaker by saying that with the quote from the President Nelson Mandela when he delivered a State of Nation Address to our first democratic parliament on May 24th 1994 "We must, constrained by and yet regardless of the accumulated effect of our historical burdens, seize the time to define for ourselves what we want to make of our shared destiny".

Regardless of our political affiliation this is a call to which we must respond, if we want to build a nation that is united in its diversity and I thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

Thank you very much Honourable Premier. You did very well in terms of time. You completed your response in 17 minutes, you still have 3 minutes which 3 minutes will save for your next time when you speak. Next item

SECRETARY: ITEM NO 8. TABLING OF PAPERS AND REPORTS**HON. PREMIER:**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, in terms of the relevant legislation we and the Rules of the august House we table at this august House the reports from the Public Service Commission.

The first one being the report on management of the poor performance of Public Service Commission for 2007. The second one, the report on investigation into the Management of Public Servants in terms of prevailing provisions who are elected as Municipal Councilors in the Limpopo and Western Cape Provinces, it is for the responses, that is the important report for us and it is also for 2007.

The consolidated report on Inspections of Public Service Delivery Site also for 2007, and the report on Audit of reporting requirements and Departmental monitoring and evaluation system within National and Provincial Government and is also for 2007 Deputy Speaker. The report on the Management of Conflicts of Interest through financial disclosures that is also

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for 2007. The reports also from Public Service Commission the third Consolidated Public Service Monitoring and Evaluation Report also for 2007, but this is also for the cycle of 2005/2006. The report finally the last one, the Citizen satisfactory survey 2006/2007 which was done for the Department of Home Affairs, the Department of Trade and Industry, Transport Services by the Provincial Departments, that is also for 2007. Thank you Honourable

Deputy Speaker.

HON. DEP. SPEAKER:

The reports as tabled stands referred to the portfolio committee on provincial affairs, and Honourable Members that brings us to the end of business today. This House is adjourned until Tuesday the 26th of February 2008 again at 11h00 sharp.

HOUSE ADJOURNED.

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