

GROWING GAUTENG TOGETHER: STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS BY
PREMIER DAVID MAKHURA: UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG, SOWETO
CAMPUS.

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Madame Speaker;
Deputy Speaker;
Chief Whip of the Governing Party;
Members of the Executive Council;
Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature;
Executive Mayors and Representatives of Local Government;
Leaders of Business, Trade Unions, Religious, Traditional Communities, Women,
Youth and other civil society organisations;
Fellow Residents of Gauteng:

Thank you for joining our first State of the Province Address of the sixth provincial administration which is taking place here in Soweto.

Our country has just emerged from the sixth democratic national and provincial elections. Who will disagree that our democracy is strong and vibrant?

Millions braced the rain and cold to cast their votes and choose their public representatives.

The people have indeed spoken without equivocation.

The ANC has a democratic mandate to lead the process of “Growing Gauteng Together”.

During the election campaign, many citizens explicitly expressed their desire for social justice, equity and prosperity for all. This is the spirit that drove those who drafted and adopted the Freedom Charter in 1955.

President Nelson Mandela aptly captured the expectations of the electorate in his first State of the Nation Address in 1994, when he said:

“The government I have the honour to lead and I dare say the masses who elected us to serve in this role, are inspired by the single vision of creating a people-centred society. Accordingly, the purpose that will drive this government shall be the expansion of the frontiers of human fulfilment, the continuous extension of frontiers of freedom”.

Madame Speaker, please allow me to convey my congratulations to all the women and men who have been elected to serve as members of the sixth Gauteng Provincial Legislature.

Honourable members, I trust we will join hands and work across party political lines to build a country of our dreams.

Towards this end, let's work together to build Gauteng into a province where:

- No one goes to bed hungry;
- The economy reflects the full diversity of our population and harnesses the full potential of all the people;
- Everyone has a job and earn a living wage;
- Businesses, big and small, thrive and prosper;
- Every household has access to basic shelter, a piece of land and a decent income;
- Everyone has access to quality healthcare;
- Everyone, young and old, has access to the kind of education that unleashes their full potential;
- All residents have access to basic services and quality infrastructure;
- Everyone feels safe and can walk the streets at any time;
- Women enjoy their rights, free from all forms of patriarchy;
- The environment is protected and cared for;
- All human settlements promote social cohesion and integration;
- Citizens take initiatives to improve their own lives, supported by an activist, capable and developmental state;
- There is affordable and reliable high-speed internet connectivity;
- There is efficient, reliable, safe and affordable public transport;
- Government functions as one, to serve the people in a seamlessly integrated City Region;
- Science, technology and innovation support the expansion of frontiers of human fulfilment, freedom and environmental sustainability;
- There is no racism, sexism, xenophobia and homophobia;
- There is no corruption.

This is our vision that will underpin the detailed plan to build a province which we can all be proud of.

The full plan - "Growing Gauteng Together: Our Roadmap to 2030" – will be finalised the first 100 Days (end of August), after consultation with various sectors and stake holders.

Through this first State of the Province Address, I will announce several initiatives that constitute the sign posts of our Roadmap to 2030. More details about programmes, projects, delivery targets and timeframes for the entire five-year period will follow when the Roadmap is publicly unveiled at the end of September.

The initiatives I am announcing today will give both contextual and programmatic effect to the ANC Manifesto and the specific priorities and goals outlined by President Cyril Ramaphosa during his first State of the Nation Address of the sixth administration.

Madame Speaker, we are acutely aware of the yawning gap between our vision and the difficult realities that many of our people are faced with on a daily basis.

Gauteng is a province of paradoxes.

On the one hand, our province is South Africa's largest economy; Africa's 7th largest economy and the 26th largest City Region in the world. We occupy a pride of place in the global economy where, increasingly, cities and city regions are becoming engines for growth and economic development.

On the other hand, rising levels of inequality – income, assets and spatial inequalities – are a stubborn feature of our province. It is here in Gauteng where wealth and opulence exist side by side with urban poverty and hunger. We have to take bold action to fundamentally change this ugly and unacceptable reality.

Accordingly, this ANC-led sixth provincial administration will focus on the following five priorities:

- Economy, Jobs and Infrastructure
- Education, Skills Revolution and Health
- Integrated Human Settlements and Land Release
- Safety, Social Cohesion and Food Security
- Building a Capable, Ethical and Developmental State

Under each set of priorities, we will take bold initiatives to deepen the implementation of the NDP and the programme for Transformation, Modernisation and Re-industrialisation.

ON THE ECONOMY, JOBS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

As the engine of South Africa's economy, Gauteng needs to do much more to contribute to President Ramaphosa's initiatives on economic recovery, investment, industrialisation, youth employment and township economy. We must take a lead.

Over the past five years, the Gauteng economy attracted R199 billion of foreign direct investment and 469 000 new jobs were created. This was a result of joint effort and collaboration between government and business.

Some of the highlights of these investments and job creation were in the following sectors and corridors:

- The BPO sector grew from 139 100 jobs in 2015 to 154 223 jobs in 2018.
- In 2015, BMW invested R6 billion at its Rosslyn plant for the production of the X3, creating 1 000 additional jobs.
- Iveco-Larimar invested R600 million at its Rosslyn plant in 2016, creating 1 000 new jobs.
- Ford invested R2 billion in 2016 at its Silverton plant, generating 1 200 new jobs.
- In April this year, Nissan invested R3 billion at its Rosslyn plant to expand its manufacturing capacity, adding 1000 new jobs.
- Coopervision invested R420 million in New Doornfontein, creating 300 new jobs.
- In2Food, a local agro-processing company, invested R1 billion at the O.R Tambo Industrial Development Zone, creating 600 new jobs and this opened in April this

year.

- FEMSA Manufacturing invested R280 million in Ekurhuleni, creating 400 new jobs.
- TMH Holdings invested R500 million to acquire the DCD train manufacturing plant in Boksburg, saving 300 jobs. This investment is expanding to add a further 200 new jobs.
- Gibela's Dunnottar train manufacturing factory which is producing rolling stock for Prasa, was opened in Nigel in 2018, with R1.58 Billion invested so far, creating 1 500 jobs. It is projected that this investment will increase to R50 billion and create 15 000 new jobs over the next decade.

The following new investments are unfolding or in the pipeline:

- The Tshwane Automotive Hub is going to see significant investments and job creation in the Gauteng economy as a special economic zone for the automotive sector.
- Ford Motor Company of Southern Africa has just introduced a third shift in June, employing 1 200 new workers, mostly women and youth, in the Silverton Automotive Park.
- A major investment of almost R6 billion is being finalised for the Silverton Automotive Hub, and will create 2 255 new direct jobs and 19 433 construction jobs.
- ABInBev is finalising an investment of more than R6 billion in Vereeniging, which will bring an estimated 1 000 new jobs to the Sedibeng region.
- Coming out of the West Rand Economic Development Summit, mining houses have committed to donate land for light industry and agricultural development. This includes Sibanye-Stillwater which has committed to release 30 000 hectares of land. This will bring much needed revitalisation and new jobs to the West Rand economy.
- The implementation of the Ekurhuleni Aerotropolis Roadmap is gaining new traction, with the full support of National Government and SOEs such as ACSA. This includes the development of the Tambo-Springs fuel cell industrial park at the Gauteng IDZ.
- Rollout of Special Economic Zones and revitalisation of industrial parks and agri-parks to boost manufacturing and agro-processing in other parts of Gauteng such as the West Rand and Sedibeng.

The joint sector-based initiatives between all government and business are beginning to unlock the growth and job-creation potential of different regional economies or corridors. This is a social compact in action.

Over the next five years, we will introduce special economic zones where feasible and necessary, to add momentum towards turning Gauteng City Region into a single, multi-tier and integrated Special Economic Zone.

The special economic zones are crucial policy interventions that boost manufacturing, increase exports and employment, while at the same time linking local suppliers to the value chains of transnational corporations operating in our province.

Given the fact that Africa is moving towards a continental free-trade area, boosting manufacturing capacity in our economy and increasing exports to every country in Africa. This is part of President Ramaphosa's vision.

Gauteng is already contributing significantly to intra-Africa trade and investment. There are more than 200 active FDI projects of Gauteng-based businesses in different regions of our continent. These projects sustain 45 000 jobs in our provincial economy and also create jobs in the destination countries.

Madame Speaker, bold initiatives to industrialise and re-industrialise our economy and increase trade between African economies will move us closer to the dream of Pixley Isaka kaSeme, who in 1906, wrote:

“The brighter day is rising upon Africa. Already I seem to see her chains dissolved, her desert plains red with harvest, her Abyssinia and her Zululand the seats of science and religion, reflecting the glory of the rising sun from the spires of their churches and universities. Her Congo and her Gambia whitened with commerce, her crowded cities sending forth the hum of business, and all her sons employed in advancing the victories of peace- far greater and more abiding than the spoils of war.”

In order to drive our economic transformation agenda, Gauteng will focus on the following industries and sectors with huge employment potential:

- Automotive, capital equipment and rolling stock manufacturing;
- Agro-processing, Food and Beverages;
- BPO/BPS and ICT;
- Finance and Retail;
- Tourism and Hospitality;
- Creative and Cultural Industries;
- Logistics and Warehousing; and
- Green Economy

Within 200 Days, I will announce the total number of jobs each sector and company will contribute towards our five-year job creation target, including the contribution of the township economy, cooperatives and SMMEs.

Madame Speaker, we are excited that some of our ground-breaking work on the township economy is now championed by President Ramaphosa.

We believe more jobs can be created by small and medium-sized businesses if they get appropriate support from the whole of government.

We have learnt important lessons from supporting township business through infrastructure development and access to markets through government procurement worth over R20 billion.

Going forward, we will intensify the following forms of support:

- Targeting and enforcing procurement from businesses in townships to the value of 30% of Gauteng Provincial Government's procurement budget.
- Ensuring that all SMMEs and township businesses contracting with the Gauteng Provincial Government are paid within 15 days to boost their sustainability (this is already possible through the e-invoicing platform which expedites payment).
- Continuing to invest in infrastructure that supports clusters of township businesses to expand, access markets and prosper. This will include rejuvenating township industrial parks, agri-hubs and local produce markets.
- Releasing land and unutilised buildings to allow those who can create real jobs and businesses in our townships to apply for leases from the provincial government for properties where they can start those businesses. We challenge municipalities to work with us.
- The 9 Ekasi Labs will be expanded to provide hot-desks with desktops and high-speed broadband in all townships where young people can practice new digital trades and learning through existing programmes such as Tshepo 1 Million.
- In partnership with the Taxi industry and municipalities we will transform taxi rank facilities to become vibrant economic nodes in all townships and CBDs.
- Giving township enterprises, SMMEs and co-operatives the opportunity to maintain and repair government facilities, equipment, furniture and infrastructure. Such SMMEs will employ and train young people in technical trades.
- Repositioning and the Gauteng Enterprise Propeller to provide funding and business development support for the growth and sustainability of SMMEs and co-operatives.
- We will also set up a joint township economy innovation fund with the private sector. This is in line with the announcement by President Ramaphosa of the establishment of the Township Entrepreneurial Fund.

Madam Speaker, to better enable the functioning of these government interventions in the township economy, I will, as the Premier, champion a new model by-law for more developmental regulation of township businesses.

Accordingly, I challenge all of you to work with us to support the promulgation of the new Gauteng Township Economy Development Act which will make it easier, affordable and quicker to register, open and operate a business in a township.

Gone are the days when township businesses will be harassed by government and police. Government needs to create an enabling framework.

Rahaba Ribo tweeted the following advice: "We need more economic development programs in townships and giving young people who can facilitate and encourage their own when doing those events."

I agree with you Rahaba. This administration will ensure that we increase procurement from township businesses, not only in the events sector but also in all goods and services procured by government.

Honourable Members, recent studies by the World Bank and the Institute for

Security Studies estimate that there are 30,000 artisanal miners - known as “Zama-Zamas” - in South Africa.

In our country, illicit sales of gold from these artisanal miners is estimated to be more than R14 billion per annum. Globally, there are over 100 million artisanal miners compared to the 7 million who work in industrial mining, accounting for 20% of gold and diamond production worldwide.

We need a fresh approach to dealing with informal mining in South Africa, and specifically in Gauteng.

Illegal informal mining, as currently practised, poses several threats to our environment, our underground infrastructure and water resources. It also threatens the safety of our communities and of the miners themselves.

A narrow approach of just sending the police to deal with the complexity of informal mining is not working.

As a deeply affected province, we call for a new approach that makes it possible for artisanal or informal miners to ply their trade in a lawful manner that does not pose a threat to communities, infrastructure, the environment and formal mining.

To finalise our economic initiatives, MEC Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa will present to the Executive Council detailed plan about all sectors that have greatest potential for employment, exports and empowerment, including jobs in the township economy. This will be done within the first 100 days.

MEC Ramokgopa will also table a plan on climate change and sustainability strategy for Gauteng within 100 days.

Madame Speaker, Gauteng will use the R60 billion infrastructure budget to drive an agenda for job creation, economic empowerment and spatial transformation.

In particular, we will use our infrastructure budget to:

- Improve access to water, sanitation, electricity, housing and roads in deprived areas, including completing the urban renewal projects.
- Facilitate the creation of 100 000 jobs in the construction sector.
- Empower 50 emerging black firms as contractors and sub-contractors, including women and youth owned businesses.
- Revitalise regional economies, decaying CBDs, old towns and old townships.
- Support the township economy and SMMEs in general.
- Crowd in private sector investment.
- Bring affordable, reliable integrated public transport closer to residential and industrial nodes and improve the provincial road network.
- Roll out high-speed broadband access to deprived areas and ensure last mile connectivity.

Within the first 100 Days, MEC Tasneem Motara will present a plan to the Premier's Infrastructure Coordinating Committee on how we will use infrastructure to enhance job creation and broad-based Black economic empowerment, working in partnership with construction and infrastructure businesses.

Within 12 months, I would like to see huge improvements in the maintenance of existing government buildings, including schools, clinics and hospitals in the implementation of the Government Immovable Asset Management Act.

Madame Speaker, I have received many bitter complaints from citizens about problems in our public transport system.

We are very determined to improve public transport services during this term of office by optimising and integrating all transport modes in Gauteng - taxis, buses, metrorail and the Gautrain.

Within the first 100 Days, MEC Jacob Mamabolo will present a public transport service delivery improvement plan to the Executive Council, with clear targets and budget for the entire term of office. This plan will be discussed with national and local government as well as public transport stakeholders within 200 Days.

Within the first 12 months, I would like to see real improvements in the coordination, integration and optimal integration of all modes. The responsibility of the Gauteng Transport Authority is to deliver on this goal.

In addition, within six months I also want to see significant improvements in the conditions and operations of major intermodal public transport nodes such as Mabopane station, Marabastad, Park Station, Bree Street Taxi Rank, Germiston Station and Vereeniging Taxi Rank.

Madame Speaker, our province refuses to be left out of the fourth industrial revolution and the digital age and we are therefore investing in wall-to-wall broadband coverage, with emphasis on deprived communities.

Investing in internet connectivity will increase our GDP by 1.5%, improve service delivery to citizens, create new industries and provide new platforms for small businesses to integrate with the mainstream economy.

Over several decades, we have been building a smart and techno-savvy Gauteng City Region with an innovation ecosystem that includes the Gauteng Innovation Hub, public universities and research institutes, private sector centres of innovation and recently, eKasi Labs.

In the coming years, we will expand the infrastructure and the offerings of the Gauteng Innovation Hub in order to revive the of growing it into Africa's Silicon Valley that will drive the development of our digital economy.

Our dream is that Gauteng should be a hub of fourth industrial revolution skills and a centre of excellence for digital economy breakthroughs such as Artificial Intelligence, crypto currency and big data.

Accordingly, I will appoint an advisory panel that will advise the provincial government on the fourth industrial revolution in the first 100 Days.

Within the first 100 Days, MEC Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko will present a detailed plan to the Executive Council on how to deliver 100% of government services on digital platforms over the next five years.

Within 12 months, I want to see more progress in smart and efficient digital public services in areas such as revenue collection, payment of service providers within 15 and 30 days, delivery of education and health, library services, policing and monitoring of infrastructure projects.

Madame Speaker, tackling youth unemployment and promoting youth entrepreneurship is a key priority of our administration.

We will strengthen the Tshepo 1 Million programme and take it closer to young people in communities and link it to the revitalisation of the township economy as well as sector-based initiatives in development corridors.

The Tshepo 1 Million programme will continue to focus on young people who are out of school, not in employment nor in training institutions.

Since 2014, the programme assisted more than half a million young people with skills and enabled many of them to get access to employment and entrepreneurship opportunities that would have been difficult to get.

Going forward, we need to do more to help a larger number of young people to access long term jobs or to establish sustainable businesses.

In response to the President's call for creating 2 million jobs for the youth, we will, over the next five years:

- Place 250,000 young people into long term jobs in the various growing sectors of the economy in partnership with Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator and the Youth Employment Service (YES) programme.
- Place 250,000 young people in public works employment programmes that are long term – including maintenance and repair of public facilities and infrastructure, cleaning and greening initiatives, safety and the care economy.
- Implement the government policy abolishing requirement for experience in entry level jobs in the public service by bringing in young people to deal with attrition and growth opportunities in some areas of the public service. The actual numbers will

be determined after the first 100 Days.

- Expand the welfare-to-work programme to reach 100 000 unemployed young women who are currently dependent on child support grants and empower them with skills to become employed and self-employed.
- Continue with a mass digital learning and digital skills programme to reach over 1 million young people, especially out of school youth.
- Make it mandatory for all service providers that do business with the Gauteng government to hire and train young people. The target will be set after engaging with the sector.

ON EDUCATION, SKILLS REVOLUTION AND HEALTH

In order to support the transformation, modernisation and re-industrialisation of our economy and take full advantage of the opportunities in the digital economy, a skills revolution is necessary.

Skills development initiatives and educational outcomes must meet the needs of our changing economy and changing society and must be aligned to the key sectors of the economy of the future.

Statistics South Africa has recently provided data that shows a direct correlation between education, poverty, unemployment and inequality.

In other words, education makes a big difference in the lives of citizens. Educated and skilled individuals have better jobs and better prospects of escaping the poverty trap.

We have invested a lot of resources and efforts to improve the quality of education in the townships. We have built new schools, employed more teachers and rollout ICT infrastructure in our schools. We have narrowed the performance gap between suburban and township schools.

We are also gearing our education system to meet the demands of the economy of the future through the rollout of schools of specialisation working in partnership with the private sector. The number of Schools of Specialisation will be increased from 17 to 35.

We will continue to build new schools for learners with special educational needs at a rate higher than ever before to ensure that no learner or child is left behind or left out.

All this we do as part of meeting the goals of the NDP and the Sustainable Development Goals: inclusive, equitable quality education and promotion of lifelong learning.

We will invest in Early Childhood Development, focus on improving literacy and numeracy in the foundation phase and further empower learners with portable skills

in all high school grades.

We are now the top-performing province in Grade 12 results because we paid attention to system-wide educational improvements over time.

We will work hard to maintain this position through a continuous search for excellence in all areas of basic education, especially in the STEM subjects.

However, I want more attention to be directed at strengthening and improving the performance of primary education in Gauteng.

Accordingly, MEC Panyaza Lesufi will implement the national integrated assessment framework which will ensure rigorous assessment of all primary schools. The results of this assessment will be publicly released as we do with Grade 12 results.

This ground-breaking initiative will promote accountability and transparency on performance across the entire system and will empower parents to make better decisions regarding the education of their children.

In the first 100 Days, MEC Panyaza Lesufi will present a plan to the Executive Council on the status of all primary schools as well as the improvement plans turn around poorly performing primary schools.

Interventions will focus on turning around the poorest performing primary schools through systematic support to ensure that we also drastically reduce the number of children who are lost through the system between Grade R and Grade 12.

Madame Speaker, providing quality health care to all residents of Gauteng remains one of our key priorities.

I must point out that our public health system continues to face a crisis of public confidence. We must fix it urgently because the cost of failure is too huge already.

There is a public outcry that some of our hospitals are becoming mortuaries instead of sanctuaries for saving lives.

We have learnt from the Life Esidimeni tragedy that health needs a hands-on approach that focuses on getting things done properly in every facility and directing all resources and efforts there.

I am going to lead from the front in rebuilding public confidence in our healthcare system. You will see me every week, everywhere with Health MEC, Dr Bandile Masuku visiting health facilities in order to ensure service delivery improvements.

In the next six months, we will visit all our primary healthcare facilities, including district and regional hospitals. This is where the provincial government's focus must be.

The Office of the Health Standards Compliance reports that 75% of our clinics and community health centres have ideal clinic standards. This is not good enough. Too many people still end up going to hospital things that must be done in clinics if they were functioning well.

Our target is to ensure that 90% of clinics, community health centres, district and regional hospital meet the ideal clinic standards within five years – they must open on time, have adequate medicines, equipment, be clean, be patient-friendly and provide patient safety.

The management teams of our clinics, community health centres, regional and district health facilities will be empowered with resources and decision-making authority to serve patients without bureaucratic delays.

We will also ensure that within five years, all 32 community health centres in Gauteng provide 24-hour services. Currently only half provide 24-hour services.

Within 12 months, chronic medication will be delivered to all patients so that they don't have to be collecting their medication in health facilities.

Maintenance of health facilities will receive urgent attention over the next twelve months.

The following worst performing hospitals - Mamelodi, Sebokeng, Bheki Mlangeni and Jubilee - will be on the Premier's priorities. Real improvements have to be achieved over the next twelve months.

Within the first 100 Days, Health MEC, Dr Bandile Masuku, will present a service delivery improvement plan to me for these five hospitals and clinics.

All vacant positions of CEOs of hospitals will be filled in the first 100 days and all critical posts in our health facilities will be filled by 2020.

Community health workers will be the critical backbone of this system and will be fully absorbed and retrained.

Going forward, the internal performance assessment of all health facilities will be done by the department on a quarterly basis and including citizen satisfaction surveys. This will enhance accountability and transparency.

Honourable members, it is our view that going forward, the four central hospitals must be the responsibility of national government because they service the whole nation. Over the years, we have spent much more of our provincial budget subsidising central hospitals instead of strengthening primary healthcare.

One of the major areas of chronic neglect, patient abuse and under-investment is mental health care.

As part of improving mental health services, we will ensure that 10% of District Hospital beds and 5% of Regional Hospitals beds are set aside for acutely ill mental health care users.

We will integrate mental health and rehabilitation services in all public health care facilities. We will also strengthen community awareness campaigns on mental health.

We will strengthen the HIV and AIDS campaign, in line with the 90-90-90 target and ensure that we place the remaining 1.1 million people on Antiretroviral Treatment programmes by 2020.

INTEGRATED HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LAND RELEASE

Madame Speaker, access to decent housing and land is amongst the most pressing issues raised by the people across Gauteng.

Despite having delivered 1.2 million government subsidised houses in Gauteng alone over the past 25 years, the housing backlog is estimated at 1 million, due to in-migration and rapid urbanisation.

This called for a fresh approach. Accordingly, we have introduced two key interventions: mega human settlement and rapid land release.

Our Rapid Land Release programme has received overwhelming popular support from different sectors and strata of society.

Honourable Speaker, Jobzen Thape made the following comment on Facebook: “Just try to allocate land to some of us. Just a piece of land, I will build my own house. I don’t ask for more, just only that, I will take (it) from there.”

Also on Facebook, Adv Livhuwani Tshivalule said; “Please consider allocating land to people who have money to build their own houses. RDP house cannot be the only solution to housing challenges.”

@Sandra6308 from the Federation of the Urban Poor (FEDUP) tweeted me: “FEDUP are ready in Gauteng with organised communities to implement the PHP [People’s Housing Process]. Our landless are ready with savings to embrace the Rapid Land Release programme. We need your support.”

Jobzen, Livhuwani and Sandra debunk the myth that South Africans want government to do everything for them.

As I pointed out during the last State of the Province Address when I spoke about the Gauteng spirit, our people want to do things for themselves.

We therefore need is action and collaboration between municipalities and the

province to make available 100 000 serviced stands with minimum building standards, over the next five years.

No more bureaucratic delays. I am tired of all talk but little results.

The people need serviced land and they want action now.

Within the first 100 Days, MEC Lebogang Maile will present a plan to me about Rapid Land Release, the completion of incomplete housing projects, handing over of the outstanding title deeds, urban renewal projects (Alexandra, Evaton, Kliptown, Bekkersdal and Winterveldt) and the prevention of land invasions across Gauteng.

Within two months, I will visit each of these five townships to give feedback to communities on our plans to take forward the renewal projects to their logical conclusion. I want to see significant progress concerning all these hotspots and incomplete projects.

Madame Speaker, I pledge my support to all Mayors who want the support of provincial government to improve service delivery.

We must work together to ensure all our people have clean drinking water, clean energy, decent housing and sanitation.

We must also fast-track the release unutilised government buildings, abandoned factories, municipal shops or land for urban agriculture to entrepreneurs who want to utilise this to grow the economy and create jobs.

We must also work together to respond to the call by faith-based community in our province to be included in the release of land for places of worship.

Within the first 100 Days, MEC Lebogang Maile will present a plan to the Executive Council on the upgrading and renovation of hostels. I want to see real progress on this matter within 12 months.

Municipalities must continue to do work on the upgrading of informal settlements. And we must ensure that land invasions are stopped everywhere in our province because they make informality a permanent feature.

The President's dream of new post-apartheid cities and new development nodes is something that we share deeply as Gauteng. The mega human settlements are about changing the spatial landscape of our province.

There is visible progress regarding the implementation of most of the mega projects being undertaken in partnership with the private sector.

The development of the Vaal River City and Lanseria City are back on track. These projects stalled because of delays in the signing of land availability agreements and inadequate funding from their private sector initiators.

We will ensure that the fast-tracking of the rollout of mega infrastructure projects for new nodes and cities is driven at the centre.

I will also visit all these projects within the next six months as part of the inspection of infrastructure projects. There is no better way to govern than by being there on the ground where things are happening.

Madame Speaker, one of the interesting developments in the post-apartheid townships development is the explosion of backyards as an important feature of the township housing market.

The GCRO reports that the number of people living in backyard structures has almost doubled in the past fifteen years - from 13% in 2001 to 24% in 2016.

The township real estate market is a fast-growing hidden component of the township economy that has enormous potential to empower people and it requires policy support. This is the potential to increase the asset base of many township residents.

Accordingly, the provincial government will work with municipalities and the private sector to develop innovative partnerships to provide affordable lending for the owners of properties to upgrade their backyard rooms.

This will enhance and expand the township rental economy in ways which build vibrant township high street marketplaces for goods and services.

Over the next three months, I will facilitate discussions between municipalities, Eskom and Rand Water on the debt. Discussions will also be held with communities that are not paying for services so that a lasting solution is found and services are paid.

SAFETY, SOCIAL COHESION AND FOOD SECURITY

Madame Speaker, there is no doubt that crime has been a matter of great concern to many law-abiding residents of our province.

In my last State of the Province Address in February this year, I introduced the new Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant-General Elias Mawela.

I made a public commitment that there would be a big difference in policing in Gauteng.

The police are everywhere in Gauteng. Every day, road-blocks and raids are being conducted through Operation Okae Molao. You must have seen me joining several anti-crime operations with the MEC of Community Safety, the HOD and the

Provincial Commissioner.

Honourable Members, policing has improved tremendously over the past four months and we are beginning to turn the tide against crime.

Since February, more than 3 000 people have been arrested and counterfeit goods to the value of R151 million recovered. This includes the arrest of 229 most wanted criminals, including those wanted for cash-in-transit heists, drugs, murder, gangsterism and gender-based violence.

The SAPS-led combined action of the law enforcement agencies has also resulted in the shutdown of 15 drug laboratories across Gauteng, the seizure of chemicals, drugs as well as equipment estimated at R90 million and arrested of 35 drug kingpins.

We are also responding to the President's call to tackle extortion and violence at economic sites, carried by out by criminals who are masquerading as business forums. This will come to an end in Gauteng.

Many citizens have welcomed and embraced O kae Molao. With sustained visibility and consistency of the police, people are seeing the difference.

Moropeng Malatjie, tweeted the following after last Thursday's highly successful O kae Molao campaign; "Well done #OkaeMolao. These things (drugs) are destroying our society."

Eddie waMogale also tweeted that; "This operation works and my stolen car was also found in Diepsloot in May."

We will continue to work hard to rid our society of crime and build safer communities.

In the next five years we will be strengthening police oversight in an effort to enhance the performance of all police stations in our province.

One of the new initiatives is that we will conduct regular performance audits of all 142 police stations and Community Policing Forums and release bi-annual reports on the performance of every police station to enhance accountability. This will include regular citizen satisfaction surveys on police performance, station by station.

Within the first 100 Days, MEC Faith Mazibuko and I will visit Langlaagte, Dobsonville, Ivory Park, Akasia and Kempton Park as the worst performing police stations and policing precincts in Gauteng. These police stations will be part of the Premier's priorities.

In the next five years, crime should be reduced by 50% in the 40 high priority police stations.

Last year, 1 266 police personnel and 859 high performance vehicles were added to improve police visibility and response time in our province. We will add mobile police stations where it may take too long to build new stations.

I have the assurance of the Provincial Commissioner that SAPS specialised units on priority crimes - gender-based violence, car hijackings, house and business robberies, drugs and farm murders – being strengthened.

School safety will be elevated to a Premier's Priority. We want our children are safe in all schools. We will focus on the worst schools on gangsterism, violence and drugs and regular raids and searches will be conducted by the SAPS. We say no to weapons and drugs in our schools.

In the first twelve months, we will deploy 10 patrollers per ward in all 508 wards in Gauteng and revive and professionalise Community Policing Forums in all police precincts.

We will also reposition the Take Charge Campaign to build a movement of no less than 5 million people working hand in hand with the police in the fight against crime.

To support victims of gender-based violence, during this term, we will ensure that no less than 50 000 victims of gender-based violence access psycho-social support.

We will extend gender-based violence victim support interventions to the institutions of higher learning in our province to support young women on campuses.

Criminals have nowhere to hide in Gauteng. We will find them and put them behind bars in order to make our province much safer.

Madame Speaker, urban poverty and hunger affect no less than 20% of the population of our province on a daily basis.

We need to consolidate a multi-dimensional approach to dealing with poor poverty at household level in the form of better targeting using indigent policies of municipalities, school nutrition, school uniforms, scholar transport, food security programme, public employment schemes, welfare-to-work and supply of dignity packs to girl learners.

Over the next five years, our food security programme will be expanded to 2 million food insecure people, while the school uniform programme will be expanded to 1 million learners from poor households, together with the distribution of 7 million dignity packs to girl learners.

The welfare-to-work programme will be upscaled from 30 000 to 100 000 young

women who will be empowered with skills that will enable them to graduate from social grants to work for themselves.

The EPWP and other public employment programmes will also be directed to support poorer households, with emphasis on equipping people in poor households with skills that will assist them to transition to better jobs and other income-generating activities.

Our Social Development Department is being strengthened to help drive the agenda to end urban poverty and hunger. This includes a clean-up of the Department to bring to book corrupt officials who have hijacked programmes which are meant to empower poor households.

In the first 100 Days, MEC Thuli Nkabinde Khawe will present a plan to the Executive Council on how to reduce poverty and eliminate hunger in Gauteng over the next decade. The full potential of urban agriculture will be unlocked to feed the poor and ensure that no one goes hungry.

Early childhood development (0-4 years) will be strengthened by ensuring that all ECD centres are registered and regular inspections are done.

Financial support will be provided to 1700 centres in order to reach 200 000 more children over the next five years, in addition to the 480 000 that are currently having access to early learning opportunities.

We will continue to invest in programmes that are confronting the scourge of substance abuse which is destroying families and disrupting the future of too many of our youth.

We will reboot the Ke Moja programme and galvanise the Social Movement against drugs by linking rehabilitation centres to skills development programme that are being spearheaded under Tshepo 1 Million in order to give a second chance to the many young people who are caught up in drugs and crime.

Madame Speaker, expanding the frontiers of human fulfilment and freedom for our young people includes winning the war against drugs and substance abuse.

One of the major ways through which we can empower our youth is by investing in sport, arts and culture programmes and infrastructure in our communities. This will allow the young people to engage in more positive things and discover and build their talents through which they can earn a decent living.

Accordingly, the sixth administration is going to pay particular attention to positioning Gauteng as the Hub of Africa's Creative and Cultural industries. Gauteng is already an undisputed cultural melting pot and the home of competitive sport.

In April this year, we convened the Gauteng Creative Industry Indaba which

deliberated extensively and developed comprehensive proposals on how to strengthen this important sector and unlock its dynamic potential role in job creation, social cohesion and nation-building.

In the next 100 Days, MEC Mbali Hlope will present a plan to the Executive Council on how to implement the resolutions of the Creative Industry Indaba so that Gauteng plays its rightful role as the leader of the transformation, modernisation and re-industrialisation of this sector.

In the next six months, MEC Mabli and I will convene a Gauteng Sport Indaba to develop a blueprint for the next decade, as we did with the Creative Industries. Sports is big business and it has a huge impact on many sectors of our economy, including tourism and hospitality, manufacturing and the digital economy.

Over the next five years, we will increase our support for community games and school sport as part of nation-building and social cohesion.

Due to the success of the Premier's Social Cohesion Games, there is increased demand for participation in the regions of Gauteng.

Accordingly, we will regionalise the Games and mobilise more partnership from the private sector and the sporting fraternity in the province.

BUILDING A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE

Madame Speaker, let me conclude by focusing on critical matters of stewardship, governance and leadership.

All these bold initiatives I have tabled before this House, to the people of our beautiful province will not happen by osmosis. I have been in government long enough now to know that things to get done quick enough in government.

I am ready to instil the discipline of execution and perfect the art of government delivery, even if this takes a fight. We must govern like business because governing is very serious business. Poor performance will not be tolerated.

Over the past five years, we have laid a firm foundation for clean governance through the Open Tender Process and other public financial management initiatives. Clean audits have increased and all departments and entities achieved unqualified audits.

We are awaiting the multi-disciplinary task team on life style audits being finalised by national government to be established the Presidency to commence with us – politicians and administrators. We are ready.

We have imposed very stringent cost containment measures on ourselves over the past five years. We sold the official residence in 2016.

We are buying no new cars for the Premier and MECs. Official vehicles will only be replaced when they reach its full life cycle and we have been strict with costs.

Through Ntirhisano, we spent more time in communities resolving service delivery problems in communities and fast-tracking infrastructure projects than any other government has done in recent times.

As the Premier, I have spent more time on the ground interacting with communities and frontline service delivery points. We will sharpen this activist approach to governance and mainstream Ntirhisano across all departments and agencies.

Honourable members, one of the things that we have learnt from Ntirhisano is that government has been neglecting some of our communities in terms of service delivery and infrastructure development, especially in townships formerly designated as Coloured and Indian townships.

Going forward, this must and will change. I am determined to ensure that all communities, especially those that are under-developed and deprived, are serviced by provincial and local government, regardless which party or parties govern the municipality.

Within 100 Days, all departments will identify priority social and economic interventions that must be implemented in the erstwhile Indian or classified Coloured townships across Gauteng.

The Premier and all MECs will spend more time in hospitals, schools, police stations, factories, township hubs, in the streets fighting crime and in communities getting things done. I repeat, please don't look for us in government offices.

Madame Speaker, I have appointed a younger, more energetic team of MECs who combine better education with experience. As the new team Gauteng, we are all fairly young and full of passion.

I want our youthful energy to be felt by Gauteng residents and we must be seen on the ground solving people's problems.

In September, I will sign performance and delivery agreements with all MECs and HODs based on the implementation plans of Growing Gauteng Together.

Within the first 100 Days, we will re-establish the Policy Unit in the Office of the Premier in line with what President Ramaphosa has done is doing at a national government.

We are strengthening the oversight and coordinating machinery in the Office of the Premier regarding government work to empower and support women, senior citizens, people with disabilities, military veterans and members of the LGBTIQ community.

We are taking steps to strengthen the fight against corruption, learning from the work we have done with Premier's Ethics Advisory Panel and the Special Investigation Unit regarding corruption in the Department of Health.

We will ensure that all departments that are prone to corruption are cleaned up and those responsible are brought to book. All outstanding cases will be concluded this term.

Madame Speaker, Gauteng has evolved into an urban centre. Our goal remains that of building a seamlessly integrated globally competitive City Region; where government functions as one to serve all the people.

Local government, working with the provincial government have a responsibility to deliver and improve the lives of the people.

I welcome the latest Municipal Audit outcomes and commend all Gauteng municipalities for obtaining 100% unqualified audits. Gauteng was also the only province without any qualified audit or disclaimer.

I would like to congratulate Midvaal for obtaining a clean audit for the past three conservative years.

However, we cannot close our eyes to the reality is that local government faces many financial, institutional and service delivery challenges in our province. It is important that clean audit without delivery is not good.

Municipalities in the West Rand and Sedibeng face serious financial viability problems. Some cannot even pay salaries.

Going forward, we are going to be more proactive and interventionist in order to ensure improved oversight and support to municipalities in the province.

The cautious approach is not working because things are going wrong in both small and big municipalities and residents are suffering.

In fact, I like the Western Cape model where municipalities are put into line, whether they like it or not. Collaboration and accountability on all major service delivery and socioeconomic initiatives will be enforced.

Suretta Bobeje writes that: "I thoroughly hope issues of the Vaal find expression more over [that the] Vaal will see service delivery for a change.

Surretta, you will be pleased to know that, within 100 Days, the MEC for Finance and the MEC for Co-operative Governance will present a report plan to the Executive Council on implementation of Emfuleni recovery plan.

The two MECs will also provide a comprehensive report on financial viability of municipalities, infrastructure budgets and spending regarding key service delivery

hotspots in our province.

Honourable members, well-governed municipalities are crucial for turning Gauteng into a province of our dreams. We have no choice but to work together in accordance with the injunction and prescripts of the Constitution and all applicable law.

Madame Speaker, in April we hosted Ntirhisano for all those who regard themselves traditional leaders in various communities of our province. I must say that the hall was full to capacity. The main issue raised was the establishment of the House of Traditional Leaders in Gauteng.

Except for two Traditional communities in Hammanskraal and Sokhulumi, many who claim to be traditional leaders have not been verified to establish whether they indeed meet the requirements of traditional leadership as set out in the Constitution and other applicable laws.

Accordingly, I will appoint a panel to undertake this verification process of all the traditional leaders or houses that want to be recognised by government institutions.

One of the issues that remains on my radar screen is the final resolution of the e-toll matter. Our position has not changed. We remain determined to ensure that e-tolls are not part of the future of our province.

We anxiously await the finalisation of details by national government on the mechanics of settling the debt. We are even prepared to contribute something as the provincial government to ensure the e-tolls are scrapped. There is no turning back.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to thank the people of Gauteng for re-electing the ANC as the governing party in Gauteng. Thank you.

I remain indebted to my family for affording me the time and space, as well as the ANC for giving me the opportunity to do what I truly love: serving the people.

I am grateful to my new Team Gauteng - MECs, Director General and senior officials in my office and across all departments who are driven by the dream to build a country in which the expansion of the frontiers of human fulfillment and extension of the frontiers of freedom take precedence and pre-eminence over anything else.

We want to get more things done during this second term.

We will not allow anyone or anything to stand on the way of Growing Gauteng Together.

God Bless Africa.

God Bless South Africa.

And God Bless Gauteng.

Thank you. Asante sana.
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