



**POLICY AND BUDGET**  
*Speech*  
**2021/22**



public works,  
roads & transport  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





**Ms Mohita Latchminarain (MPL)**  
MEC: Public Works, Roads and Transport

# POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH: 2021/22

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- **Hon. Speaker - Ms Makhosazana Masilela**
- **Hon. Deputy Speaker - Mr James Jim Skosana**
- **Hon. Premier Ms Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane**
- **My Colleagues in the Executive Council**
- **Hon. Members of this Esteemed August House**
- **Hon. Chief Whip of the Ruling Party - Mr Fidel Mlombo**
- **Hon. Chief Whips of Opposition Parties**
- **Hon. Chairperson of House of Traditional Leaders iNkosi Ngomane “Mshika”**
- **Members of the House of Traditional Leaders present**
- **Executive Mayors and Members of Mayoral Committees present**
- **Head of the Department Mr Morake Charles Morolo, Management Team and all employees of the Department**
- **Heads of Departments and Chief Executive Officers of Entities**
- **All people in attendance and those participating through digital platforms**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

1. Madam Speaker, allow me to express my profound sense of humility and gratitude for the opportunity to present the 2021/22 Policy & Budget Speech Vote 08 which is, coincidentally my maiden speech as an Executing Authority of the DPWRT.
2. I am fully conscious of the mammoth responsibility bestowed upon me and the management team to continue delivering the mandate of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport.
3. Our commitment find expression in the words and deeds of our gallant heroes and heroines, who sacrificed all in their power against a violent racist regime, but always understood their historical mission, to dismantle the apartheid regime and break the chains of structural oppression on the basis of race, gender and class.

4. Honourable Speaker, as we celebrate Youth Month, we remember the gallant fighter of our struggle and the first President of the ANCYL after the unbanning of the ANC, the late Peter Mokaba who passed on 19 years ago. He inspired the youth of this country inside and outside the ANC when he said:

***“The support of the youth for the ANC is based on the Freedom Charter. It is not based just on loyal support but a convinced support that understands the ANC.”***

In honour of Cde Peter Mokaba, the youth of this Province is called upon to celebrate Youth Day under theme:

***“The Year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke: Growing Youth Employment for an Inclusive and Transformed Society.”*** This is a youth that is armed with political acumen of Cde Peter Mokaba’s calibre.

5. Madam Speaker, Mama Charlotte Mannya Maxeke was an activist and the first African woman to graduate with a degree. She set up an employment agency for Africans in Johannesburg and was the first Black woman to become a parole officer for juvenile delinquents.
6. She fought tirelessly against all forms of oppression, armed with nothing but her determination to lay down her own life, that we shall find no rest and shall, with vigour, confront our own historical mission of eradication the triple oppression of our time; Race, Class and Gender.
7. Our dedication should find expression in our decisions and actions while been cognisant of the legislative prescripts and policy framework that guides our government in pursuit to improve the lives of our communities.
8. Madam Speaker, Poverty, Unemployment and Inequality continues to inflict pain and suffering to the lives of our communities, and it is my humble submission that these bread and butter issues can no longer be used to score political points or demean each other in our debates.
9. These are emotional issues that should actually draw all of us closer, utilise our collective wisdom to ultimately find long lasting solutions.
10. The fiscal constraints and volatile environment we find ourselves under should motivate us to work harder to improve the lives of our communities.

11. We are compelled to be creative, think out of the box concerning how to address this ticking time bomb of Youth Unemployment.
12. It is again my humble submission that we should resist a temptation to seek easy solutions to complex issues under this difficult economic and political epoch.
13. We should rather use this opportunity to reconnect with our communities in a more meaningful manner and understand that our role is to deliver services for we have always understood that people are active agents of their own liberation.
14. Oliver Reginald Tambo once said the following about the challenges of running a government; and left it upon us to submit to the demands of the people or focus on delivering services as mandated. He articulated by saying:

*“Comrades, you might think it is very difficult to wage a liberation struggle. Wait until you are in power. I might be dead by then. At that stage you will realize that it is actually more difficult to keep the power than to wage a liberation war. People will be expecting a lot of services from you. You will have to satisfy the various demands of the masses of our people.”*

15. We are here today to present our “fight plan” for we know that submitting will be betrayal to the aspirations and sacrifices made by our forebears and the generation that laid the foundation for us to be in this august house.
16. We are presenting our plans within the context of a deteriorating macro-economic environment while on the other hand the demands are forever increasing.
17. In this regard, we want to extend our sincere gratitude to the various communities who call us on daily basis demanding services, that despite their grave situation, they continue to have faith, trust and confidence in us that we are working across the clock to address their issues. We are fully conscious to the fact that their patience will soon wear out if we fail to respond with high degree of urgency.

## IMPACT AND RESPONSE TO COVID-19

18. Madam Speaker, the world has been in pandemic mode for over a year and the COVID-19 virus continues to spread in South Africa and around Mpumalanga. More worrisome is that the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave is starting to engulf the country.

19. It is therefore essential that recommended measures to control the spread of COVID-19, including social distancing, washing of hands, good ventilation and wearing of masks are consistently implemented by all of us.
20. Honourable Members, the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave has a potential of undermining the Mpumalanga Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan. Equally, it further puts at risk achievement of the socio-economic outcomes envisaged in the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030.
21. We have learnt a lot since being on lockdown level 5 and amongst these is that service delivery must continue. We need to bolster our efforts to meet the social and economic challenges of the province.
22. Madam Speaker, we are also working with various stakeholders to provide and extend a wide range of essential goods and services (e.g. coal supply, public transport), both during the pandemic and into the vital economic recovery phase.
23. I am therefore proud of the efforts of our employees, partners and stakeholders. These brave men and women are amongst many public servants and private individuals who continue to be at the coalface of this pandemic.

## IMPACT AND RESPONSE TO TROPICAL STORM ELOISE

24. Madam Speaker, amidst the coronavirus pandemic, Mpumalanga was struck by **Tropical Storm Eloise** in January 2021. This too, was declared a national state of disaster after assessment of the damage caused by the strong winds and floods. In her State of the Province Address, the Honourable Premier, Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane said;

*“roads and bridges are like the arteries of transport network, without which the economy cannot function.”*

25. The provincial response to the flood damage is a standout example of our strength in working together and collaborating across government.

26. The estimated cost for repair, restoration and upgrading of important transport infrastructure including low level bridges is R1,1 billion which should have been funded through the National Disaster Rehabilitation Fund. However, this fund has been depleted by the country's health and economic responses and as a result the affected provinces were directed to reprioritize internal budgets.

## PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION

27. Honourable Speaker, in March 2021 after the first COVID-19 positive case, the Department took unprecedented actions to avoid total collapse of its operations. A COVID-19 steering committee was established to coordinate departmental mitigating strategies.
28. As the health, safety and wellbeing of employees remains our highest priority, we revised our Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Policy to be in line with the prescribed health protocols.
29. Also critical was the appointment and training of Compliance Officers, Safety Representatives and OHS Committees. The Department employed 158 young people on contract to assist with response initiatives.
30. Despite the above-mentioned measures, a total of 129 staff members were infected and sadly six (6) passed on due to complications. May the souls of those who are departed rest in eternal peace.
31. Honourable Members, as the implementing agent of the provincial infrastructure, we need a radical approach to service delivery amidst the current challenges. A capable Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport is best placed to facilitate inclusive economic growth and creation of mass employment.
32. This calls on us to have a complete rethink about how to build A Capable, Ethical and Developmental State. In our endeavour to do so, we must answer the following critical questions: **(i) how do we reclaim our mandate and (ii) how do we respond to a digitised future?**
33. Madam Speaker, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport should have the internal capacity to patch a pothole, fix a broken door and attend to a burst pipe without outsourcing these services.



34. We are therefore going to resuscitate our building and roads maintenance teams and construction units as part of building capacity of the State.
35. In addition, I have directed Government Motor Transport (GMT) programme to introduce efficiencies that will improve the overall provincial fleet management. This will result in the revival of mechanical workshops within the Medium Term and Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period.
36. Honourable Members, the Executive Council's decision to suspend the provincial moratorium on filling of vacant posts is a step in the right direction.
37. The Department has advertised 112 positions which are service delivery focused following a phased bottom-up approach. These are technical positions at an operational level which include artisans, boilermakers and road workers.
38. The position of the HOD has been filled to enhance accountability and good governance within the Department.
39. Building technical capacity in the public sector is a multi-year effort and the foundation to strengthen such has been laid within the Department.
40. Our internship and learnership programmes are aimed at providing work experience to young people. In the current financial year, we have appointed 150 interns and 70 learners.
41. Through the Young Professional Programme, the Department appointed 42 graduates in various disciplines of the built environment. This is a mentorship programme aimed at assisting these candidates to register as professionals.
42. This we are doing in partnership with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure and the Council for the Built Environment (CBE). We endeavour to do more in this area of work!
43. In partnership with Construction Education and Training Authority (CETA), we are targeting to enrol 1000 young people to do maintenance of public infrastructure.
44. These programmes will not only have a major positive impact on the skills profile of the province, but will also assist in dealing with poverty and high youth unemployment rate.



45. Madam Speaker, working remotely and with minimal physical presence at work, the department had to be innovative, creative and think outside the box.
46. Our Information Technology (IT) Unit had to rollout access to the necessary hardware, software and support to enable most of the workforce to work from home. Going forward, we need sustained investment in digital services to ensure preparedness and resilience against future disasters.
47. In this regard, the Department is exploring the use of drones to enhance project oversight and monitoring. This paradigm shift will help build the ideal Public Service envisaged in the National Development Planning (NDP).
48. Honourable Members, we want to build a Department that is performance driven, service delivery focused, people centred, litigation proof, stakeholder oriented and prescript compliant including timeous payment of valid invoices.
49. In this context, we need to improve the image, reputation and restore the credibility of the Department. As we manage infrastructure procurement, various internal controls are in place to mitigate against high risk of fraud and corruption.
50. These are complemented by detailed processes on how to report suspected cases. In this regard, we applaud Minister: Patricia de Lille for launching the Built Anti-Corruption Forum which seeks to step up the fight against fraud within the sector.

## **PROGRAMME 2: PUBLIC WORKS INFRASTRUCTURE**

51. Madam Speaker, the construction sector has been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Infrastructure projects under planning and procurement were delayed due to budget constraints and those under construction had to be reassessed to determine whether they could still be delivered considering budget reprioritisation towards the health sector.
52. Notwithstanding this, the Department has made great strides in fulfilling its mandate to deliver social infrastructure and also worked very hard at improving its implementation of capital projects. However there is still room for improvement.
53. For the 2020/21 financial year, the Public Works Programme delivered over

R2,2 billion worth of infrastructure projects. This resulted in the completion of 467 designs and 459 projects, both capital and maintenance. In the main, these projects include 441 basic services and sanitation infrastructure implemented in public schools.

54. In addition, 12 critical health infrastructure projects were completed including the construction of 2 new clinics at Oakley and KaMdladla.
55. Also notable, several repairs and alterations were done to convert existing structures to COVID-19 isolation and quarantine facilities.
56. Other major milestones include completion of the Thumahashe Children's Home, Nkangala District Office Phase (2B) and 3 Branch Offices being Kriel, Mashishing and Agincourt.
57. In the previous financial year, the construction of the Sports-Focused School of Excellence (High Altitude Training Centre) commenced in eMakhazeni Local Municipality.
58. The first phase of project includes construction of external bulk infrastructure and the subsequent phases are expected to commence in the 2021/22 financial year.
59. Madam Speaker, a total of 415 building infrastructure projects are planned for completion in the 2021/22 financial year. The breakdown of projects per client department are as follows:
  - Rehabilitation
  - 359 Education,
  - 16 Health,
  - 18 Culture, Sport and Recreation, and
  - 18 Social Development
60. It should be further noted that the main buildings at the Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market and Mpumalanga Parliamentary Village (4 sub-projects) are also due for completion this year.
61. The Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market will create a platform for agri-hubs to supply produce and present local and international market access.

62. Honourable Members, the Department as a custodian of immovable asset is responsible for the maintenance of all state-owned buildings.
63. In the current financial year, amongst the key activities is the upgrading of KwaMhlanga Government Complex using in-house capacity. This is line with the 2020 SOPA pronouncement that encourages deployment of TVET and MRTT graduates as well as the Department of Correctional Services to maintain all government buildings.

### **PROGRAMME 3: TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE**

64. Madam Speaker, the Mpumalanga Provincial Government has invested R11, 9 billion in transport infrastructure in the previous Medium Term Strategic Framework Period.
65. Over the past 12 months, several notable outputs were registered by the transport infrastructure programme. A total of 62 lane kilometres of roads were rehabilitated, 3 Integrated Rural Mobility and Access (IRMA) projects were completed and 5.6 km of municipal roads were paved. More significantly, the rehabilitated kilometres include 2 important tourism routes and several coal haulage roads.
66. Honourable Members, the recent flood damage has further exacerbated the need for additional funding.
67. Notwithstanding this, I am pleased to announce that the detailed design for the Tekwane to KaNyamazane Bridge has now been completed. The project is currently on procurement phase, and construction is planned to commence in July 2021.
68. Madam Speaker, transport infrastructure has been, and continues to be, a major focus of the Department, with more than R1.6 billion of funding allocated to capital infrastructure projects in the current financial year.

69. There are 11 transport infrastructure projects that are currently ongoing from the previous year. The following 6 projects are planned for completion this year:

- Rehabilitation of Road D2975 from P258/1 to Daantjie Police Station (3 km)
- Upgrading of Road D3973 between Hoxani and Marite (11.4 km)
- Light Rehabilitation of D2486 from N2 to Klipwal: Phase 1 (9 km)
- Rehabilitation of Road P95/1 between Verena Crossing to Gauteng Boundary Phase 2 (13.5 km)
- Upgrading of Road D281 between Volksrust and Daggakraal (12.5 km),
- Rehabilitation of Road D3930 from Acornhoek to D3932 at Hluvhukani Phase 1 (11.8km)

70. The following new transport infrastructure projects will commence during the financial year 2021/22:

- Rehabilitation of Sections of Road P8/1 (R36) between Mashishing and Bambi (Phase 3) Part A (11 km)
- Upgrading of Road D481 Embhuleni to Maanaar between Mooiplaas and Ekulindeni (7.2 km)
- Rehabilitation of Road D2950 from R571 past Mananga (13.5 km),
- Rehabilitation of Coal Haul Road P29/1 (R555) from D2669 to D2821 (12.55 km)
- Reconstruction of Kumani Bridge on D4422 near Thulamahashe, and
- Upgrading of Bridge on D4400 over Sand River near Rolle Village (balustrades plus pedestrian cantilever).

71. We have also made available R182 million for paving of 19 km of provincial and some of the critical municipal roads for this current financial year. These paving projects are located in the following municipalities: Bushbuckridge, Dr JS Moroka, Nkomazi, Mbombela, Albert Luthuli, Mkhondo and Thembisile Hani.

72. Several other preventative and routine maintenance projects will also be implemented in an effort to preserve the provincial road network. Implementation of these projects will also ensure that polling stations are accessible come Local Government Elections on 27 October 2021.

73. Honourable Members, this year there will be a renewed focus and adoption of a hybrid model in pursuance of broad transport infrastructure outcomes.
74. The Department will utilise internal maintenance teams on low traffic volume roads, however term contractors will be used on medium to high traffic volume roads as part of contractor development. Mechanised vehicles will be used to patch potholes on strategic network routes which are tourism routes and coal haulage routes.
75. A dedicated WhatsApp Hotline will be introduced to enable general public to report identified potholes. In addition, the Department will provide performance standards pertaining to the response time on patching of potholes in strategic routes.
76. Madam Speaker, by now it is obvious that there is limited funding to address the increasing infrastructure demands. We are therefore looking at leveraging on a multi-sectoral approach to achieve improved rural mobility.
77. Henceforth, we will be participating in the Welisizwe Rural Bridge Programme that is jointly implemented by the Department of Defence and Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI). This will be augmented by our Integrated Rural Mobility and Access programme (IRMA) in order to deliver comprehensive accessibility solutions to rural communities.
78. Apart from creating effective partnerships with other spheres of government, there is a greater need to unlock private sector funding for infrastructure.
79. It is for this reason that Infrastructure South Africa was established and to date the entity has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) to establish an Infrastructure Fund.
80. In addition, the Department has started discussions with local farmers and mining companies to form partnerships in road maintenance, particularly tourism and coal haulage roads.
81. This initiative will significantly decrease our maintenance burden and contribute toward visible improvement of the provincial road network condition.

**PROGRAMME 4: TRANSPORT OPERATIONS**

82. Madam Speaker, public transport is an essential service that facilitates movement of people, goods and services. Hence, it is amongst the few sectors that are allowed to operate during lockdowns – with reduced occupancy.
83. In spite of the restrictions, public transport is still seen as a major potential virus spreading zone due to limited space and prolonged exposure and recirculation of air.
84. Therefore, there is an inherent responsibility of public transport operators and users to adhere to the health protocols.
85. Honourable Speaker, the Department is responsible for the provision of public transport services in the province. To this end, we have put aside R432 million for scholar transport services. The budget for scholar transport services also includes a provision for running costs of the 206 government-owned buses.
86. As part of building capacity of the State, we are establishing a dedicated unit within the transport inspectorate to monitor scholar transport through the use of electronic tracking devices.
87. The Department is also contracted to 6 bus operators with a subsidy of R754 million.
88. On 21 May 2021, a 65 passenger bus transporting commuters on the Moloto road (R573) caught fire and unfortunately 6 passengers lost their lives. This accident has robbed families of their loved ones, parents, and breadwinners.
89. I would once more like to take this opportunity to express my sincere condolences to the bereaved families. In memory of all who lost their lives on this road, I have initiated discussions with the Minister of Transport to resuscitate the Moloto Rail Development Corridor.
90. Honourable Members, the safety of every transport user is my priority. On the 03<sup>rd</sup> of May 2021, I suspended a taxi route in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality in an endeavour to stop the taxi violence and in the interest of protecting our communities and commuters.

**PROGRAMME 5: COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAMME**

91. Madam Speaker, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport plays a critical role in the Mpumalanga Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan as an implementing agent of catalytic infrastructure projects and a coordinator of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).
92. It is envisaged that the construction and maintenance of economic and social infrastructure will create employment opportunities.
93. These projects will also stimulate local manufacturing of construction materials in line with the Social Enterprise Development Programme (SEDP) and contribute towards the development of township and rural economies.
94. Honourable Members, last year the Department received R72 million as part of the Presidential Employment Stimulus Package (PESP). This budget was utilised to empower the youth and women through the paving of rural and township roads.
95. Through the public employment programmes such as Sakh'abakhi (contractor development programme), Siyatentela (road maintenance programme) and National Youth Service (general building maintenance), the Department is creating training and development opportunities for young people.
96. Looking back at the 2020/21 financial year, the Province managed to create 32 345 job opportunities through EPWP. The main beneficiary of these opportunities were 21 113 Women, 14 340 Young People and 199 People with Disabilities.
97. We are going to strengthen this programme so that it can surpass the target of 44 180 set for 2021/22 financial year. All public bodies need to report and ensure adherence to their procurement plans, enhance project monitoring and improve data quality of EPWP reports. This will increase their eligibility to access the EPWP incentive grant and thus assist the province to create more job opportunities.



## PROVINCIAL PRIORITIES

Madam Speaker, the Department has committed its allocated budget to pursue the following broad provincial policy directives:

- Massive infrastructure rollout
- Mass employment and job security
- SMMEs be supported to have fair access to the market.
- Mpumalanga Infrastructure Master Plan (MIMP)
- Release of state land for agricultural purposes and human settlement
- Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) system in all major towns
- Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market (MIFPM)
- Efficient, integrated and well-maintained roads network and
- Adequate technical skills to enhance capacity of the State

## THE BUDGET

98. The Department's overall budget allocation for 2021/22 financial year experienced a decrease of R135 million or 3% when compared to the main appropriation budget in 2020/21 financial year.

99. The National Revenue Fund collection has drastically declined due to adverse economic conditions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

100. Madam Speaker, I now request this House to consider and approve the budget of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport, Vote 8, which is as follows:

<b>1. Administration</b>	<b>R365, 355, 000</b> (Three hundred and sixty five million, three hundred and fifty five thousand rands)
<b>2. Public Works Infrastructure</b>	<b>R 1, 047, 728, 00)</b> (One billion, forty seven million, seven hundred and twenty eight thousand rands)
<b>3. Transport Infrastructure</b>	<b>R 2, 129, 814, 000</b> (Two billion, one hundred and twenty nine million, eight hundred and fourteen thousand rands)
<b>4. Transport Operations</b>	<b>R 1 322, 675, 000</b> (One billion, three hundred and twenty two million, six hundred and seventy five thousand rands)
<b>5. Community Based Programme</b>	<b>R87, 427, 000</b> (Eighty seven million, four hundred and twenty seven thousand rands)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>R 4, 952, 999, 000</b> (Four billion, nine hundred and fifty two million, nine hundred and ninety nine thousand rands)

**I Thank You!!!**



NOTES

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