



provincial treasury

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ONE BEHIND



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North West Provincial Government Tables 2025/26 Budget, Prioritizing Inclusive Growth, Job Creation, and Service Delivery



By: Lemogang Mayekiso

The North West Provincial Government, under the leadership of MEC Kenetswe Mosenogi, on 19 March tabled the 2025/26 provincial budget, outlining a comprehensive plan to address the socio-economic challenges facing the province. The budget, totalling R55.740 billion for the 2025/26 financial year, is designed to drive inclusive growth, create jobs, reduce poverty, and improve service delivery across the province.

Key Highlights of the 2025/26 Budget includes:

Economic Growth and Job Creation:

The budget prioritizes economic revitalization, with a focus on reducing the province's high unemployment rate, which currently stands at 41.3%. Through partnerships with the Department of Labour, the province aims to

create over 24,000 job opportunities for young people. Additionally, the budget allocates R81.492 million to the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative, which will provide skills development and entrepreneurship opportunities for the youth.

Infrastructure Development:

A significant allocation of R6.630 billion has been set aside for infrastructure projects in the 2025/26 financial year. These projects are expected to create 5,500 temporary job opportunities and improve the province's infrastructure, including roads, schools, and health-care facilities.

Social Development and Poverty Reduction:

The social cluster departments, including Health, Education, and Social Development, have been allocated

R44.435 billion to address poverty and the high cost of living. Key initiatives include the construction of 3,555 housing units, the provision of nutritious meals to 751,847 learners through the National School Nutrition Programme, and the rollout of HIV/AIDS programmes despite the withdrawal of PEPFAR funding.

Improved Audit Outcomes:

The province has made significant progress in improving municipal audit outcomes, with the number of municipalities receiving qualified audit opinions increasing from nine to thirteen in the 2023/24 financial year. The Provincial Treasury remains committed to supporting municipalities in achieving clean audits and addressing unauthorized, irregular, and wasteful expenditure.

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Support for Small Businesses and Agriculture:

The budget allocates R1.013 billion to the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation, and Tourism to support small businesses and promote tourism, which is a key driver of job creation. Additionally, R1.219 billion has been allocated to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to support black subsistence farmers and improve food security.

Strengthening Governance and Accountability:

The Provincial Treasury will intensify efforts to ensure transparent and accountable procurement processes. All major bids will be subjected to vetting in collaboration with the State Security Agency, and information on tenders awarded will be published online to promote transparency.

MEC Mosenogi emphasized the impor-

tance of unity and collective effort in addressing the challenges facing the province. She stated, "This budget is not just about numbers; it is about the lived realities of our people.

It is about making the right choices to lay the foundation for a thriving economy, a vibrant democracy, and a province where every individual can prosper." She further called on all stakeholders, including the private sector, to partner with the government in driving development and creating opportunities for the people of the North West.





North West Treasury Drives Financial Reform Through Collaborative CFO Forum

By: Priscilla Masigo

In a strategic move to strengthen provincial financial governance, the North West Provincial Treasury recently convened its fourth quarter Chief Financial Officers Forum and Modified Cash Standard Workshop, bringing together top finance officials to tackle critical challenges in public financial management.

The day-long working session served as both a planning platform and troubleshooting forum as departments prepare for the 2024/25 financial year-end processes. With audit outcomes and fiscal transparency at stake, the gathering took on particular significance for the province's financial leadership.

"These forums have evolved from compliance checklists to genuine transformation engines," explained the Provincial Accountant General during opening remarks. "We're not just ticking PFMA boxes – we're fundamentally reshaping how financial stewardship happens across all departments."

Three Pillars of Financial Transformation

1. Closing the Compliance Gap

The workshop provided departments with hands-on guidance for implementing the Modified Cash Standard (MCS), the Treasury's customized framework for PFMA compliance. Finance teams worked through practical scenarios

covering:

- Asset recognition thresholds
- Revenue timing principles
- Liability reporting requirements

"Many audit findings stem from inconsistent interpretation of standards," noted one departmental CFO. "Having the Treasury experts walk through actual case studies makes all the difference."

2. Audit Preparedness Intensive

In a departure from previous formats, this quarter's forum featured:

- Findings Clinics: Department-specific review of past audit outcomes
- Risk Simulations: Stress-testing financial reporting processes
- Peer Review Sessions: Cross-de-

partmental evaluation of draft statements

The collaborative approach yielded immediate results, with participants identifying 17 potential audit risks requiring preemptive action.

3. Institutionalizing Best Practices

The Treasury unveiled its new Provincial Financial Practices Hub, a digital repository featuring:

- Standardized templates for all financial statements

- Video tutorials on complex accounting treatments
- Interactive forums for real-time problem solving

"This moves us from reactive compliance to proactive excellence," commented a legislature finance director. "Having these resources available 24/7 changes the game for our frontline staff."

The department announced plans to:

- Launch monthly "Financial Fitness" check-ins for high-risk departments
- Establish regional working groups

for localized support

- Introduce competency certifications for financial reporting staff

As departments left with customized improvement plans, the prevailing sentiment reflected cautious optimism. "We're finally speaking the same financial language," observed a veteran CFO. "That alignment alone will transform our audit outcomes and, ultimately, service delivery to citizens."

The next forum is scheduled for June 2025, where departments will report on implementation progress before the critical year-end reporting period.



The Vital Role of CIGFARO in Public Sector Ethics and Accountability



By: Gomolemo Mothibi

In an era where financial mismanagement and governance failures can have devastating consequences for communities, institutions like the Chartered Institute of Government Finance, Audit and Risk Officers (CIGFARO) play a critical role in promoting ethical leadership and accountability. This was evident at the recent two-day conference hosted by CIGFARO in Rustenburg on March 6-7, 2025, under the theme “Public Sector Ethics and Governance: Balancing Accountability and Efficiency.”

The event brought together government officials, financial experts, auditors and risk management professionals to tackle pressing issues within the public sector. Discussions centered on ethical governance, financial account-

ability and the need for improved collaboration to ensure efficient service delivery. These dialogues are essential in reinforcing the principles of transparency and integrity, ultimately benefiting communities and supporting sustainable development.

One of the key concerns raised during the conference was the limited understanding of internal auditing among municipal officials. While municipalities have access to solutions for governance and financial challenges, successful implementation depends on creating an environment that is receptive to accountability measures.

MEC Kenetswe Mosenogi emphasized that financial oversight and good governance are collective responsibilities. A well-functioning municipal system requires seamless cooperation across

all departments, not just reliance on internal audit and risk management teams. The Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA), Act 56 of 2003, makes this clear by holding municipal officials accountable for financial governance. Furthermore, Section 165 (2) of the MFMA mandates municipalities to maintain an independent internal audit function to enhance transparency and service delivery.

The Role of CIGFARO in Strengthening Governance

CIGFARO, along with entities like the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and the Provincial Treasury, continues to be instrumental in shaping governance frameworks that promote financial responsibility. By providing platforms for knowledge-sharing and professional development, CIGFARO ensures that government officials are equipped with the skills and expertise needed to uphold ethical governance.

Conferences such as this not only shed light on existing challenges but also pave the way for improved policies and practices. Strengthening governance structures and fostering a culture of accountability are crucial in ensuring that public funds are managed efficiently, service delivery is prioritized and municipalities operate with integrity. As South Africa continues to navigate financial and governance complexities, institutions like CIGFARO serve as a beacon of professionalism and ethical leadership—critical elements in building a transparent and effective public sector for the benefit of all.



North West Provincial Treasury facilitates its fourth quarter CFO forum and MCS update for Departments

By: Priscilla Masigo

The North West Provincial Treasury through the office of the Provincial Account General recently facilitated its fourth quarter CFO forum and MCS update workshop with all chief financial officers of the Provincial Departments and Northwest Provincial Legislature.

The workshop is aimed at preparing for submission of financial statements and an improved audit outcome by departments for 2024/25 financial year. According to Public Finance Management Act, departments are mandated to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with generally recognized accounting practices.

The Office of the Accountant General (OAG) has introduced the Modified Cash Standard to ensure compliance

with PFMA regulations. This standard sets out principles for accounting guidelines to departments.

The CFO Forum focused on findings on previous resolutions from the past financial year and budget revenue related aspects, migration of financial systems and asset issues to departments. Departments were given a chance to deliberate on issues that might have an impact on the upcoming audit to come up with strategies that might help in preparing for their annual financial statements.

In discussions with the MCS update Departments engaged in a constructive dialogue to help each other overcome challenges they face in constructing their financial statements regarding audit findings and shared best practices to collectively develop a comprehensive

Post Audit Action Plan (PAAP) for departments. Key areas that were also discussed are the best practices in the Compensation of Employees Audit findings and contingent liabilities.

This workshop is one of the capacity buildings and supporting initiatives that Provincial Treasury provides to Provincial Departments. The convening of the CFO Forum and MSC Update Workshop underscores the Provincial Treasury's dedication to fostering improved financial practices for departments.

In facilitating the workshop and collaboration between the Provincial Accountant General and departmental CFOs, the Provincial Treasury aims to extend financial governance and intensify accountability within the provincial government.



THUNTSA LEROLE MATLODING

By: Moemedi Kotsedi

Phase four of the accelerated service delivery programme, Thuntsa Lerole kicks off in Ratlou Local municipality at Matloding village as Provincial Treasury collaborates with various government departments looking to enhance service delivery and address the most pressing needs of the people of matloding.

Fundamental to this programme will not only be the goal to intensify and accelerate the provision of basic services but to intervene where there are service delivery blockages and promote consistent engagement with different communities across the province on service delivery matters.

The roll out of Thuntsa Lerole Reloaded activities in Matloding comes after the pronouncement by Premier Mokgosi in his recent State of the Province Address that the Matloding Cultural Village is aiming to reach its completion by the end of next month.

To give impetus to this announcement, the leadership will conduct an oversight visit to the cultural village, to monitor progress in this regard. This visit under-

scores the commitment to completing the project on time, which aims to enhance cultural heritage and tourism in the region.

To address the challenges faced by young people in the area, Premier Mokgosi will lead the handing over of livestock and vegetables packages linked to the Presidential Employment Stimulus Phase 3, to nine local beneficiaries. The packages include animal feed and medication, fertilizers, water tanks and garden tools

Provincial treasury looked to do their part by helping local business owners old and new with registering within the Central Supplier Database (CSD) and to assist with updating company details on the government database and other needs to ensure a successful registration process allowing government departments to verify and source companies providing a service.

The service delivery exhibition provides an opportunity for the residents of Matloding to engage government officials as they will be informed on the type of service each department has an offer for the public.

The officials from Provincial Treasury warmly welcome curious members of the community in order to equip them with information about the benefits that come with working with the state and the importance of being in possession of the correct company details to ensure locals run businesses eligible to collaborate with government.

Other service providers such as ESKOM, stakeholders from the banking sector and department of home affairs to name a few, will be there to address the needs of the locals who have to travel long distances to the nearest town in order to access these services.

As the day progresses, Residents will gather for the community feedback session as the provincial government will share the progress of the initiatives undertaken by them. The leaders will also interact with the public, as they too will be allowed an opportunity to be heard and to share their challenges within the community, which will lead to a much-needed dialogue on the plans, which need to be implemented to improve the lives of the people of Matloding.



Thuto Ramakatsa, elected CIGFARO chairperson, North West Branch

By: Gomolemo Mothibi

Thuto Ramakatsa, a Registered Professional Accountant (SA) and Commissioner of Oaths, has built a remarkable career in public sector financial governance. With 14 years of experience in local government, she has held key positions across multiple municipalities and provincial departments, demonstrating a commitment to ethical financial management and accountability.

Currently serving as the Unit Manager for the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) at Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality, Ramakatsa has previously held leadership roles as Deputy Director for Asset Management at the Gauteng Department of Sports, Arts, and Culture, Deputy Director at the North West Provincial Treasury and Assistant Director at the Northern Cape Provincial Treasury. Her career also includes valuable experience at Greater Taung and Phokwane Local Municipalities.

Her expertise and dedication have

earned her a seat in professional organizations focused on financial governance. She is an Executive Member and Chairperson of the Chartered Institute of Government Finance, Audit and Risk Officers (CIGFARO) in the North West Region, a role that places her at the forefront of financial accountability in local government.

Academic Achievements and Professional Excellence

Ramakatsa's academic journey reflects her commitment to continuous learning. She holds a National Diploma from Cape Peninsula University of Technology, a Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Accountancy in Practice from the South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Management from North-West University Business School. Additionally, she has completed a Certificate in Leadership from Rhodes University in collaboration with Duke University.

Her excellence in accounting was

recognized when she ranked third in the Northern Cape Province for the SAIPA Project Achiever Board Exam in 2018.

Vision for Financial Governance

As the newly elected Chairperson of CIGFARO North West, Ramakatsa delivered a powerful opening speech at the Financial Governance Conference, highlighting the importance of ethical decision-making, balancing accountability with efficiency and embracing continuous improvement in financial systems.

In her speech, she emphasized that financial professionals in the public sector are entrusted with the stewardship of public funds, making ethical governance a fundamental responsibility. "It is not just about numbers and budgets," she stated, "but about maintaining the trust of the citizens we serve."

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Key Themes from Her Address

1. Ethical Decision-Making in Financial Governance

Ramakatsa stressed that integrity should be at the heart of all financial decisions. Public sector finance professionals must create governance frameworks that discourage unethical practices and promote a culture of transparency and responsibility.

2. Balancing Accountability with Efficiency

She highlighted the challenge of avoiding bureaucratic inefficiencies while maintaining strong accountability. She called on CIGFARO members to advocate for financial systems that uphold transparency without compromising operational effectiveness.

3. Looking Forward: Strengthening Public Sector Finance

Ramakatsa encouraged conference participants to engage in discussions that would shape the future of financial governance in South Africa. Topics covered included risk management, strengthening internal controls and leveraging technology for better financial oversight.

A Call to Action

In her concluding remarks, she urged financial professionals to take the insights from the conference and apply them to their daily work, ensuring that public institutions remain transparent, accountable and financially sustainable.

"Let us work together to strengthen financial governance in our public institutions, ensuring that we not only meet the expectations of today but also build a stronger foundation for the future," she concluded.

A Leader for the Future of Local Government

With her extensive experience, strong ethical stance, and passion for financial governance, Thuto Ramakatsa is poised to make a lasting impact on public sector accountability and transparency in South Africa. As she leads

CIGFARO North West, her vision will undoubtedly influence policies and practices that ensure better financial management in municipalities, ultimately benefiting communities across the province and beyond.





NOTABLE IMPROVEMENTS IN AUDITS WELCOMED

By Kelepile Mokaila

Delivering his first State of the Province address of the seventh administration and the official opening of the provincial legislature, Premier of North West Mr Lazarus Mkgosi painted a picture of a province that is making marked improvements in certain key areas to achieve its set targets and ensure that his government works for the people.

Premier Mkgosi highlighted that one of the areas where government has registered positive inroads, is in the improved audit outcomes for both departments and municipalities. These improved are largely as a result of the province implementing a clean audit strategy under the auspices of Provincial Treasury.

"I am happy to share that we have seen notable improvements in the audit outcomes, which provides a strong foundation for further progress.

"We are proud to report that we achieved two clean audits at Provincial Treasury and the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation, seven unqualified audit outcomes and one



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qualified audit opinion with less material findings at the Department of Education.”

“This marks a significant milestone in our efforts to enhance accountability and transparency” Premier Mokgosi told legislature.

The provincial treasury maintained its clean audit outcome year in and year out and has committed to offer its support to other departments to ensure they improve their future audit outcomes.

He added that the implementation of the Local Government Turnaround Strategy and Financial Recovery Plan is gaining traction and there has been relative improvement in the audit outcomes of some of the municipalities.

The provincial Treasury continues to work closely with municipalities to ensure that improve their performance and that they capture and implement their post audit action plans and progress thereof is reported on a monthly basis.

“The collaboration with the National Treasury through mandatory interventions has enabled us to implement financial recovery plans as well as skills audit, culminating in improved audit outcomes in our municipalities, and in particular, Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Bojanala District Municipalities as well as the Moretele Local Municipality.

The insights from audits demonstrate how government has fared in terms of sound financial management and governance and how such improvements should translate to improved service delivery in general.

Moreover, Premier Mokgosi said the seventh administration remains committed to promoting clean governance, eliminating malfeasance, and preventing financial leakages, ensuring that scarce financial resources are effectively



utilised to benefit the residents of the province.

In previous audit outcomes the auditor general pointed out that the strong and

positive tone set by provincial leadership in turning around governance in local government has led to an overall improvement in the provincial audit outcomes



MEC MOSENOGI MEETS MMCs FOR FINANCE FOR VARIOUS MUNICIPALITIES

By: Kelepile Mokaila

The MEC for Finance Kenetswe Mosenogi has enlightened Members of the Mayoral Council (MMCs) for Finance from various municipalities about their role and responsibilities in the bigger scheme of things to ensure healthy financial environment in the respective municipality.

MEC Mosenogi said the engagement aimed to also emphasized the importance of all key role players in the accountability ecosystem in terms of improving financial governance and transformation in their institutions. She indicated that in some municipalities governance structures are still nonexistent and this is a serious challenge when it comes to performing oversight role.

The interaction also looked at councillors' oversight function and advisory role to ensure the financial health of the environment and the difference between

playing oversight function and interference as some allege they are often accused of administrative interference.

MEC Mosenogi added that the interactions were in line with Chapter 9 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and chapter 13 of the National Development Plan which seeks to improve relations between national, provincial and local government to ensure a better fit between capacity and responsibilities of provinces and municipalities to take a more proactive approach in resolving co-ordination problems and a long term approach to building capacity.

"With all the intentions from the service delivery point of view, there's an acknowledgement that government must work together," she said.

In terms of implementation of post audit action plans towards improving audit outcomes, MEC Mosenogi stated that they have identified three municipalities

which given proper assistance stand a better chance to achieve clean audit and further congratulated municipalities that have improved their audit outcomes and those that have adopted funded budget.

Adopting funded budget, she said, municipalities commit to fund projects that they can afford and that is what they are looking for.

Councillors were also provided with feedback on the outcome of the assessment of 2024/25 Mid Term Budget and Performance conducted by Provincial Treasury on their respective municipalities.

They also made invaluable inputs on areas that need to be attended to, to ensure financial sustainability of their municipalities as well as areas where capacity building programmes are required for them to function effectively when discharging their roles and responsibilities.

Government proposes VAT increase over two years



In light of new and persistent spending pressures in health, education, transport and security, government has decided to raise value-added tax (VAT) by 0.5 percentage points in each of the next two years, which will bring VAT to 16% in the 2026/27 financial year.

“These have to do with the government properly fulfilling its service delivery mandate. After careful consideration, the government has decided to fund these. Deferring the funding of these sectors further would compromise the government’s ability to meet its constitutional

obligations to the people,” Minister of Finance Enoch Godongwana said in his budget speech.

The first 0.5 percentage point increase in the VAT rate will take effect on 1 May 2025 and the second 0.5 percentage point increase will take effect on 1 April 2026.

“This decision was not made lightly. No Minister of Finance is ever happy to increase taxes. We are aware of the fact that a lower overall burden of tax can help to increase investment and job

creation and also unlock household spending power.

“We have, however, had to balance this knowledge against the very real and pressing service delivery needs that are vital to our developmental goals and which cannot be further postponed,” the Minister told Parliament, as he delivered the Budget Speech.

He explained that government thoroughly examined alternatives to raising the VAT rate.

“We weighed up the policy trade-offs involved, including increases to corporate and personal income taxes. Increasing corporate or personal income tax rates would generate less revenue, while potentially harming investment, job creation and economic growth.

“Corporate tax collections have declined over the last few years, an indication of falling profits and a trading environment worsened by the logistics constraints and rising electricity costs. Furthermore, South Africa’s corporate income tax collections are already higher than most of our peer countries.

“On the other hand, an increase to the personal income tax rate would reduce taxpayers’ incentives to work and save. Our top personal income tax rate and our personal income tax collections as a percentage of GDP are far higher than those of most developing countries. Increasing it is therefore not feasible,” he said.

Godongwana said taking on additional debt to meet the spending pressures was also not feasible.

“The amount is simply too large. The cost of borrowing would be unaffordable.

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Our sub-investment credit rating would also make this level of borrowing costlier and put us at risk of even further downgrades.

“VAT is a tax that affects everyone. By opting for a marginal increase to VAT, its distributional effect and impact were cautiously considered. The increase is also the most effective way to avoid further spending cuts and to enable us to extend the social wage,” he said.

Cushioning households

While government has decided to increase the VAT, it will implement measures to protect vulnerable households. “The government is very aware of the cost-of-living pressures faced by households, including high food and fuel prices and rising electricity and transportation costs. This is why we are taking concrete steps to protect vulnerable households,” the Minister said.

This will be done through providing social grant increases that are above inflation; expanding the basket of VAT zero-rated food items to include canned vegetables, dairy liquid blends, and

organ meats from sheep, poultry and other animals as well as by not increasing the fuel levy for another year, saving consumers around R4 billion.

The VAT system currently zero rates 21 essential food items in an effort to make them more affordable for lower-income households.

Government has proposed to extend the list of zero-rated basic foods to mitigate the effect of the VAT rate increases.

“From 1 May 2025, zero rating will be extended to include edible offal of sheep, poultry, goats, swine and bovine animals; specific cuts such as heads, feet, bones and tongues; dairy liquid blend; and tinned or canned vegetables “Other tax proposals include no inflation

adjustments to medical tax credits, above-inflation increases on alcohol and tobacco excise duties, and diesel refund relief for primary sectors,” the Minister said.

Personal income tax brackets and rebates will not be adjusted for inflation in 2025/26.

“The personal income tax proposals are effective from 1 March 2025 and expected to raise revenue of R19.5 billion. No changes to medical tax credits are proposed – these will remain at R364 per month for the first two beneficiaries and at R246 per month for the remaining beneficiaries,” the 2025 National Treasury Budget Review said.
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PROVINCIAL BUDGET SPEECH HIGHLIGHTS

2025/2026



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The budget allocated for 2025/26 financial year is R55.740 billion which is geared towards addressing the priorities of government which are linked to goals of the Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP). This was announced by MEC for Finance, Kenetswe Mosenogi when she tabled the provincial budget speech.

The Provincial Legislature receives R522.583 million to enable to conduct oversight effectively and efficiently over the Executive and to promote good corporate governance.

THE GOVERNANCE CLUSTER

Office of the Premier is allocated R519.498 million which is meant to facilitate integrated governance, planning and accelerate service delivery in the North West Province. Of this allocation, an amount of R80 million is earmarked for Information Communication Technology (ICT) and R30 million for the Victor Sefora Bursary Scheme. For the 2025 Calendar Year, 150 learners would benefit from this bursary scheme.

The Department of Community Safety and Transport Management is allocated an amount of R2.446 billion to promote community and road safety, exercise civilian oversight of police and coordinate transport services. Included is an amount of R450 million set aside for scholar transport and R749.767 million meant for commuter bus subsidy. The department will continue with renovations at the Pilanesberg and GD Montshioa Airports with allocations of R35 million over the MTEF and R10 million in the first year, respectively.

The Provincial Treasury's allocation is R695.181 million to assist the department in providing leadership in the management of public resources. Allocation includes R100 million for the Provincial Development Fund which is meant to be utilised as leverage for the private sector to partner with government for the implementation of the economic infrastructure projects.

To enable the Department of Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs to monitor and support local government and institutions of Traditional Leadership, the department receives R681.869 million. Included in the allocation is R12 million for intervention at municipalities through capacity building and R60 million which will be used to extend support to municipalities and Traditional Authorities. To support Traditional Authorities, R147 million will be allocated as part of the Traditional Institutional Administration programme budget.

THE ECONOMIC CLUSTER: RECEIVES R6.440 BILLION

The Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism is allocated R1.013 billion. Within this allocation are amounts of R38.271 million to North West Development Corporation (NWDC), R232.049 million to North West Parks and Tourism Board (NWP&TB), and R79.722 million for the North West Gambling Board (NWGB).

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has been allocated R1.219 billion in 2025/26 financial year. Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme Grant (CASP) is allocated of R127.225 million to support black subsistence and distressed commercial farmers to improve access to formal and institutional markets. R10 million for food security programmes and another R10 million for the Agri-Hub projects.

The Department of Public Works and Roads is allocated R4.207 billion in 2025/26

and R7.271 billion over the MTEF to deliver and maintain quality infrastructure for sustainable growth and development, R80 million allocated for yellow fleet, R201 million for construction of Welisizwe Rural Bridges and R258.723 million for rural roads.

R81.492 million has been added for Presidential Youth Employment Initiative to enhance skills development, entrepreneurship for the youth, giving them tools they need to succeed and contribute to the economic growth.

The budget allocations within this economic cluster represent a holistic approach to achieving inclusive growth.

SOCIAL CLUSTER RECEIVES R44.435 BILLION

Department of Health is allocated R17.040 billion to render accessible, equitable and client orientated healthcare services. The major contributors to the growth of the departmental allocation in the first-year increase on Health Facility Revitalisation Grant and National Tertiary Services Grant by R76.466 million and R94.068 million respectively. This will enable the department to continue to build new and refurbish old clinics.

The allocation to the department includes a conditional grant allocation of R1.574 billion for 2025/26 (R4.942 billion over MTEF), which is geared towards ensuring the uninterrupted rollout of the HIV/AIDS programme.

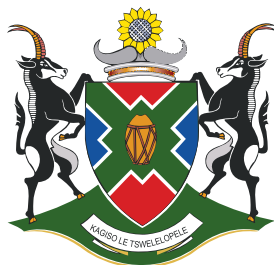
the Department of Human Settlements has planned to service 5 403 sites and build 3 555 housing units in the new financial year and is allocated R1.848 billion in the first year of the 2025 MTEF. Included is R1.302 billion for Human Settlements Development Grant (HSDG) and Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant (ISUP) allocation of R254.942 million.

The allocation for the Department of Education in 2025/26 financial year amounts to R22.895 billion. Included in this amount is R115.819 million, as an increase in conditional grants allocations, of which R93.126 million relates to Education Infrastructure Grant and R12.053 million to National School Nutrition Programme Grant of which takes the total allocation to R693.678 million.

The Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation is allocated an amount of R776.063 million. The department will continue to support 155 structures in the creative and cultural industries, 79 cultural and creative industry platforms are to be created or organised and will also implement 120 community conversations or dialogue programmes.

An amount of R1.876 billion is allocated to the Department of Social Development in 2025/26. Included in this is R225 million for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's) to allow the department to render welfare services to the communities, including services to people with disabilities as well as for implementing social behaviour programmes.

The second objective of the reduction of poverty and tackling high cost of living ties in squarely with the mandate of the social cluster departments and remain the responsibility of all the departments.



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