Free State Provincial Government

# POLICE, ROADS AND TRANSPORT

## DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET VOTE 2020/2021

**Hon. S. Mashinini**
MEC for Police, Roads and Transport

## DATE: 29 JULY 2020 I TIME: 09:00

LIVE

ON: FREE STATE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT FACEBOOK PAGE
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DEPARTMENT OF POLICE, ROADS AND TRANSPORT

Theme: "Building the Free State together during the period of COVID-19"

police, roads & transport
Department of
Police, Roads and Transport
FREE STATE PROVINCE

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**BUDGET VOTE SPEECH FOR THE**

**DEPARTMENT OF POLICE, ROADS AND TRANSPORT**

**(VOTE 10)**

**DELIVERED BY THE MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,**

**HON. M.S. MASHININI**

**Venue: Virtual Tabling**

**Date: 29 July 2020**

Hon. Speaker

Hon. Premier

Hon. Members of the Legislature

Chairperson of CPF, Adv. Leshodi

Chairperson Provincial Taxi Council, Mr. Mthimkulu

Taxi operators

Bus operators

SAPS Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant-General Motswenyane

Regional commissioner Correctional Services, Ms. Moodley

SANDF Acting Provincial Commander, Brigadier-General Mbotyi

Officials of the Department

Ladies and gentlemen

Members of the media

Baahi ba hlomphehang dumelang!!

Honourable Speaker,

History has shown us that the power of the human spirit can overcome near-impossible odds. Even as we witness times of adversity engulfing the globe because of COVID-19 pandemic, resilience is an important attribute we are called upon to exhibit in order to find a sustainable way forward!

The prevailing climate enjoins us to *accep*t - the hand that fate deals you and make the most of it; *persevere* – even when times are tough; and *focus* – on solutions, not problems.

Of course the latter should not in any way suggest insensitivity towards the victims of the pandemic and its overall ramifications to humankind.

Re tjamelane le maemo a tshohanyetso (*State of Disaster*) ao ka lehlakoreng le leng, a re tlamang maoto le matsoho ho netefatsa teka-tekano ntshetsopeleng ya moruo ekasitana le ho hlokomela hore maphelo ka kakaretso a bolokehile kgahlano le sewa sa COVID-19. Sena ke boikarabelo bo boholo bo hlokang tshebedisano-mmoho ka mekgatlelo yohle ya setjhaba le Mmuso jwaloka ha President Ramaphosa a ipileditse. Etswe re ya tseba hore Letshwele le beta poho!

Accordingly, we consider the tabling of this budget vote to be an opportunity for the Department of Police, Roads and Transport to reveal how it plans to lead and contribute creatively while also navigating these unchartered waters.

We plan to forge ahead and discharge our key responsibilities which, amongst others, includes road infrastructure development, easing mobility and facilitating safety, including road safety for our communities.

Our work will be geared towards contributing to the attainment of the priorities that are relevant to the Department of Police Roads and Transport, in as far as the Seven Priorities that have been identified by the current administration are concerned. These would be: A Capable, Ethical and Developmental State; Economic Transformation & Job Creation and Social Cohesion & Safe Communities.

**PRIORITY 1. A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE**

We are all compelled to work towards the realization of “A capable, ethical and developmental state” since this priority underpins all Seven Priorities. My organization, the African National Congress has long identified the latter to be one of the critical enablers for the effective implementation of Government Priorities and in essence, the achievement of the National Democratic Revolution, which is a process of struggle that seeks to ultimately transfer power to the people and transform society into a non-racial, non-sexist, united, democratic one, and changes the manner in which wealth is shared, in order to benefit all the people.

An ethical state strengthens governance and accountability between citizens and government. It promotes honesty, ethics and integrity and the capability of the state to fight corruption and ensures compliance with constitutional values and Batho Pele principles.

Honourable Speaker,

The Department commits to ensuring that through its recruitment process, it will ensure appointment and promotion of well deserving individuals thus ensuring ethical public service.

We cannot be content while there's growing incidents of corruption within both the public and private sector environments, which undermine the rule of law and impede government's efforts to achieve its socio-economic development and service-delivery objectives.

As noted by the Honourable Premier during the tabling of SOPA, the cost of corrupt practices falls most heavily on the poor, degrading the quality and accessibility of public services. This calls for action.

We will continue to rid our Public Service of corrupt elements as we have already demonstrated with the arrest of the Traffic Officers, Admin Clerks and Driving School owners in Bethlehem and Harrismith on 11 March 2020. During those arrests, I made an undertaking to arrest more of such elements and watch the space because we are not going to relent on this one!

## PRIORITY 2. ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION

Honourable Speaker,

The Department is charged with the responsibility to expand and maintain transport infrastructure within the Province. Indeed, transport infrastructure, as part of the broad economic infrastructure, constitutes the foundation of social and economic development. It is a historical fact that economic exclusion of certain groups within our society has had detrimental effects to their livelihood as well as to the socio-economic development of the country.

We intend to use our planned infrastructure enhancement-related projects to embark on a targeted Youth Empowerment programmes. This, we will do because we recognize the imperative for a skills revolution and in this regard, I want to acknowledge the work already started by the Head of Department in terms of engaging on a series of talks with various SETAS and other relevant role players.

The time has come for the Department to collaborate with relevant role-players and spearhead implementation of a mass apprenticeship programme in line with our mandate. To this end, we want to welcome the Competition Commission's endeavours because of the gazetted draft guidelines that seek to put an end to motorists being forced to have their in-warranty cars serviced or repaired only at manufacturer-approved service dealerships, under threat of having their warranties cancelled. We undoubtedly have a vested interest here because when historical economic monopolies get unbundled, it is our Young People in their large numbers who stand a chance to benefit.

Since the previous financial year and running into the current, the Department has always embarked on the construction and maintenance of critical routes within the Province to not only provide safe quality roads, but also to address issues such as youth unemployment, poverty alleviation and development of local SMME's.

The Department intends to complete the following routes by the end of the current financial year at a combined cost of R162 million:

- The A238, commonly known as the N8
- Bultfontein – Welkom
- Bultfontein – Wesselsbron
- Villiers – Cornelia (partly only 6 km of Phase 1)
- Meloding - Virginia

Furthermore, there is a total of 23 projects that are ongoing from the 2019/20 financial year. Some are planned for completion in 2020/21 whilst others will go beyond that period. As a result, no new projects are planned to start in 2020/21. Of the 23 ongoing projects, 5 are planned for completion in 2020/21 and funds will be prioritized in a way that allows for the timeous completion of these projects without funding any new initiatives.

Lefapha le ananetse moralo wa ho phetela Diprojeke tsa kaho le ntlafatso ya mebila tse latelang selemong sa ditjhelete sa 2020/21 ka ditjeho tse lekanang le R230 million:

- Deneysville – Heilbron
- Jim Fouché – Deneysville
- Schonkenville – Koppies
- Hoopstad – Bloemhof
- Bothaville – Viljoenskroon

Ha e le Diprojeke tse tswellang pele tse tla phetelwa dilemong tse hlahlamang tsa ditjhelete di kenyelletsa:

- Harrismith Internal Road - SEZ
- P43/1 Ventersburg - Senekal
- P17/2 Winburg - Marquard
- P15/1 Kroonstad - Viljoenskroon
- P41/3 Reitz - Tweeling
- P41/2 Tweeling - Frankfort
- P6/1 & P6/2 Bloemfontein - Dewetsdorp - Wepener
- P9/4 Sasolburg-Heilbron
- P33/3 Vredefort-Viljoenskroon
- P23/1 Kroonstad - Steynsrus
- P14/2 Wesselsbron - Hoopstad (Milling and Resealing)
- Jacobsdal Transport Route
- Zastron Access Road

Consistent with our earlier characterization of the socio-economic landscape in our Province and the intention to correct such, the Department remains committed to subcontracting a minimum of 30% of the cost of work to deserving emerging contractors, especially in local communities where projects are located.

Practical and tangible interventions in terms of Broad Based Black Economic empowerment are non-negotiable!

A value in excess of R300 million has been allocated to local subcontractors in capital projects. Furthermore, a total number of 82 SMME's have been appointed to the Contractor Development Programme (CDP) and Capital Projects during the 2019/20 financial year at a combined cost of R125 million, (versus 42 SMME's in the 2018/19 financial year). Of the 82 SMME's, 26 are female-owned companies and 27 are youth-owned. This is a clear indication of how the Department is addressing the economic inclusion of the previously disadvantaged and economically excluded individuals, particularly the youth and women.

Whilst the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is meant to be Government's intervention aimed at alleviating poverty, the Department ensures that it also brings about much needed infrastructure in the townships. The Department has surely contributed to this endeavour of poverty alleviation through this programme and will continue to do so and invest in the townships as well as rural areas. To this end, projects like the Upgrading of Cornelia Access Route, Upgrading of Qwa Qwa Route 4 and the Upgrading of the Thaba Nchu Transport Route, will continue during the 2020/21 financial year with a proposed budget of R73 million and an anticipated job creation target of 494 beneficiaries.

The Department has been able to create 4 116 job opportunities by the end of the third quarter of 2019/20 Financial year. This includes 2 624 Youth beneficiaries, 2059 Female beneficiaries and 19 disabled beneficiaries. All indications are that the annual target of 5 000 will be reached by the end of the 4th quarter.

It is furthermore expected that more than 5 000 work opportunities will be created in 2020/21 through EPWP initiatives and capital projects throughout the Province.

## TRANSPORT OPERATIONS

### Public transport services systems (Contracted Bus Services)

Apart from supporting economic development by allowing the transportation of goods from points of production to where they are consumed, Transport also bridges geographic distances and ensures that people can access previously inaccessible economic opportunities, social spaces and services.

The Province prides itself in the provision of affordable, reliable and accessible public transport. As a commitment, the Province will still continue its initiative to provide subsidized public transport services for more than 22 000 commuters daily through contracted bus services.

The impact of the COVID-19 notwithstanding, preparations are on-going for coordination of provincial input, which should serve at the National Taxi Indaba. This should amongst others, enable us to reflect on thorny issues such as: support to the taxi industry; Road fatalities; Law Enforcement; Operating Licences and the forging of strategic partnership with communities and social partners.

**Freight logistics & transport planning**

As part of the ongoing strategy of the Department of Police, Roads and Transport to construct roads which connect economic nodes, thereby catalysing economic growth, the Department has included in its plans for 2020/21 the upgrade of Hardustria Road, a 4km road which connects the N5 with the Industrial Area of Harrismith.

This is after countless requests which have been made by business to upgrade this road in order to enable additional investment in Hardustria, which is parallel to the N3.

**Operator licensing board & permits**

Social and economic exclusion caused by apartheid is still evident in the costly long distances many people, especially the poor, travel from where they live to where they work. The Department in addressing these past injustices, subsidizes bus transport and enables licensing of independent service providers within a framework of effective regulation.

In keeping up with our vision of providing commuters with safe and reliable public transport services, the Department, over and above the normal provision of licenses and permits, will be introducing hand held devices that will be used to verify the validity of public transport operating licenses with an aim of eradicating lawlessness and combating fraud in the industry.

## TRANSPORT REGULATION (TRAFFIC)

The Free State Province is committed to maintaining law and order in our roads by constantly providing quality traffic policing service. The Province continues to deploy traffic officials in a manner which seeks to maintain and promote a culture of road traffic law compliance by all road users.

We are happy to announce that our focused deployment supported by the SAPS has yielded positive results during the 2019 Easter Vacation, with the reduction of 46.6 % fatalities, and during the 2019 Festive Season we had a reduction of 35.47% in fatalities. This was also due to the positive training programmes that we had during the year for our traffic officials.

In the 2019/2020 Financial Year, the Kroonstad and Senekal weighbridges were completed and 10 testing stations in the Province were upgraded. This is informed by our commitment of ensuring that we improve conditions and services rendered to members of the community at the following testing stations.

- Petrusburg
- Bultfontein
- Frankfort
- Viljoenskroon
- Petrus Steyn
- Wepener
- Brandfort
- Reitz
- Zastron
- Senekal

Speaker,

Driving Licensing Testing Centres (DLTCs) and Testing Stations re-opened on the 1 June 2020 since their closure after the level-5 lockdown as was announced by the President in March 2020. Ever since the re-opening, we have been experiencing long queues due to backlogs and the demand of services by the public. As a mitigating factor, the Department will work on improving its queuing system which will ensure that there is a clear direction to needed services by clients and none will be turned back without being attended to.

For the maintenance of cleanliness at Registration Authorities (RAs) and Testing Stations, an interim grass-cutting plan was implemented by utilising the CDPs and work has started at the Bethlehem, Welkom, Virginia, Henneman, Harrismith and Lengau Testing Stations. For 2020/20121, 15 contractors under Vegetation Control will be appointed on a 36-month contract.

The province has encountered a few challenges of illicit transportation of liquor and cigarettes, as well as illegal movement of people since level 3 of the lockdown at the borders between South Africa and Lesotho. To address these challenges, government deployed the SAPS as well as the SANDF to ensure compliance. The PROVJOC is monitoring these operations.

It is also worth mentioning that Provincial Border roadblocks are still in operation to manage inter-provincial as stipulated in the 2020 Disaster Management Act to curb the spread of Covid-19.

## FLEET MANAGEMENT TRADING ENTITY SOPA CONTRIBUTIONS

The National Development Plan 2030 is a detailed long-term footprint, forecasting broad strategic statements for inclusive growth and prosperity of South Africa. Fleet Management has continuously and successfully aligned itself with the Mid-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) 2014-19 as approved by Cabinet as a performance evaluation tool to ensure the effectuation of government spheres towards the Developmental Plan. A core pillar in this preceding MTSF was the building of a capable and developmental state through:

- “increasing the responsiveness of public service”
- “Improving interdepartmental coordination and institutionalization of long-term planning”
- “Ensuring sufficient technical skills and specialist professional skills in public service”

**Increasing the responsiveness of public service**

Fleet Management continues to render efficient and cost-effective government motor transport to departments and entities in the province to facilitate and enhance service delivery capacity of departments. This preceding year, 23 busses were procured for Education to facilitate learner transport, additional 70 ambulances and patient transporters as well to augment the service delivery capacity of Health and 88 additional vehicles for various departments in the province.

**Improving interdepartmental coordination**

The entity continues to heed calls for assistance from municipalities and departments wherein it harnesses its vast pool of expertise and mobilizing its Road Building Equipment for special projects across the province. These projects include disaster relief efforts (recent floods), deployment of water-tankers in drought stricken areas, creation of furrows in rural arears for flood water diversion, eradication of illegal dumping sites in townships across the province and re-gravelling and gravelling of routes where collaboration with municipalities is improving the lives of people in townships and rural area.

MEC's Letsema programme, which see partnership with farmers and communities is set to continue because the commitment of Growing South Africa Together should be underpinned by practical joint undertakings meant to better the lives of the people on the ground.

Fleet Management has, in the past year, donated 75 vehicles to our ailing municipalities to ensure the sustainability of these municipalities' service delivery efforts.

Ensuring sufficient technical skills and specialist professional skills

Fleet Management has identified a gap in the automotive industry wherein FET graduates require training and experience to enhance their employability. We are responding to this gap. As such, our Road Building Equipment Division is currently concluding the training of 15 new artisans and will subsequently take 46 Artisans for Red Seal Certification.

## PRIORITY 6. FACILITATING SAFER COMMUNITIES

Honourable Speaker, some progress has been made over the past years, especially since 2013 when we launched our Provincial Crime Prevention Strategy, in reducing the levels of certain types of crimes such as murders, aggravated robberies, crimes against women, children and other vulnerable groups, but the number of crimes still being committed remains a thorny issue.

I made an undertaking last year that we planned to conduct Public Awareness Campaigns empowering our communities with information that would make them active participants in crime prevention initiatives. Indeed, we achieved our targets, working as we did with sister Departments such as Education, Social Development, Health, Home Affairs, SAPS, NPA, NGOs, FBOs, and Business etc.

Priority Committees which are the vehicle to implement Provincial Crime Prevention Strategy are firmly grounded and coordinated multi stakeholders in crime prevention programmes.

To this end, Anti-Gangsterism, Anti-Crime, Drug- and Substance abuse awareness campaigns were conducted at Heilbron, Jacobsdal, Soutpan, Bultfontein and Warden. For the 2020/21 Financial Year, these Awareness Campaigns shall be taken to Qwaqwa, Odendaalsrus, Vanstadensrus, Botshabelo and Koppies.

Gangsterism, which was beginning to rear its ugly head and bringing about instability in the Province, was severely dealt a blow. Most of the gang leaders who were awaiting trial have been successfully prosecuted and are now serving long sentences behind bars. Their followers are now found wanting and the police continue to squeeze their criminal space and arresting those who are implicated. Thanks to the sterling work by the SAPS working with communities, our communities are feeling much safer since these gang leaders are behind bars.

School Based Crime Prevention Programmes were conducted in 40 High Risk Schools, and the same Target has been set for 2020/21. The Department received R1 080 000 EPWP Social Sector Grant which we used for supporting the School Safety Programme led by the Department of Education. 38 School Safety Patrollers and one Administrator were appointed on a one-year contract at 19 schools.

Human Trafficking is another challenge coupled with cross border crimes and unsafe rural communities. We conducted Anti-Human Trafficking and Rural Safety Awareness Campaigns at Hoopstad, Van Stadensrus, Senekal, Springfontein, Zamdela, Ladybrand Zastron, Virginia, Bloemfontein and Parys. For the 2020/21 Financial Year these Campaigns will be rolled out at Theunissen, Thaba Nchu, Petrusburg, Reitz, Tweeling, Wepener, Fouriesburg, Rouxville, Verkeerdevlei and Edenville.

We shall conduct Community Outreach Programmes at Boshof, Bloemspruit, Vredefort, Hoopstad, Koffiefontein, Fouriesburg, Kopanong, Monontsha, Villiers and Wepener.

Of the 110 CPF Structures that were assessed on functionality, 11 of them were found to be dysfunctional (10%). However, Madam Speaker, I am pleased to report that except for Fauresmith, Rouxville and Edenburg, eight of the Structures have been revived. Attention is going to be given to these CPF Structures too.

Implementation of the policy on Community Safety Forums (CSFs) remains a challenge not only in the Free State but countrywide. Only Setsoto, Phumelela, Mantsopa, Lejweleputswa, Tokologo, Mafube and Ngwathe have established CSFs. However, all of these structures are not functioning optimally. We shall continue to collaborate with COGTA and SALGA to facilitate establishment and sustenance of these Forums.

We audited 110 Police Stations for compliance with the Domestic Violence Act and monitored Victim Empowerment Programme. We also conducted 16 Public Awareness Campaigns on Domestic Violence Act which included Gender-based Violence.

In the recent past we have witnessed serious acts of violence committed against the vulnerable, especially young women in the form of what has become known as Gender Based Violence (GBV). We have equally witnessed an increase in voices that seek to speak against this scourge, however despite this, such acts were unfortunately in the increase.

Although Gender-based Violence cases are very difficult to prevent since they occur within the home, perpetuated by people known to women and children or are in relationships, the SAPS is doing its best to deal with it. To this effect the SAPS has developed a Strategy for Gender-based Violence and is being implemented in a collaborative manner with other Stakeholders. I am pleased to announce that during the past financial year the SAPS has secured that perpetrators of these offences are removed from society as follows:

There were 45 accused persons facing 56 cases and all of them received 20 Years and above. In as far as the life sentences were concerned, there were 55 accused facing 62 cases which resulted to 65 life sentences. (Some got more than one life sentence).

We continue to make a call on everyone to take responsibility and especially we are calling on our male folks to take a lead and increase their voice and act against Gender Based Violence. The Department of Police Roads and Transport in partnership with the sister Departments must intensify awareness campaigns against domestic violence, human trafficking and associated types of crimes.

During the previous State of the Province Address, the Premier committed to deal with social ills that plagued our Province at the time, which amongst others, included gangsterism and illicit mining.

There was a commitment to stop at nothing to condemn the chaos caused by illicit mining/the Zama Zamas in the Matjhabeng area. Today I am proud to report that the multi-disciplinary Task Team that was established in the Province, led by the SAPS has made tremendous inroads in dealing with the scourge. A special project under the name *Project Knock-Out* was launched to address this situation. Working closely with the mines, a number of unused shafts were closed down to discourage the illegal activities. Huge successes have already been reported in this area. The project has delivered several successes which include the arrest of 569 persons. Some of them being undocumented persons. These arrests are for a variety of offences which include the possession of unlicensed firearms & ammunition, drugs, bribery and corruption to mention a few. Cash to the amount of R203 220-00 was confiscated.

Interventions aimed at this crime are continuing and the impact of this intervention can also be seen in the reduction of the number of murders reported in the Province.

Drugs and substance abuse remain serious threats to the future of our nation. The rate of alcohol consumption really leaves much to be desired. Police Statistics shows that in most horrendous acts of crime such as attempted murder, murder, rape, and gender based violence all have a common denominator which is alcohol consumption. The Department of Social Development in partnership with the relevant stakeholders must intensify its work in implementing the Drug Master Plan.

The SAPS has recently intercepted a huge drug-trafficking consignments in the form of ARV medication aimed for clinics and hospitals. In Kroonstad two separate cases was registered where two trucks with 28 boxes of ARVs to the value of R342 400 were confiscated. These trucks were in-transit from Johannesburg to Cape Town. A total of 6 suspects were arrested and detained.

At Park Road and Welkom, ARVs to the value of R282 160.00 were recovered and five suspects were arrested and detained. These crimes have serious implications for the Health Sector and the beneficiaries in particular if not curbed. More often than not, employees of both Government and NGOs are involved in the commission of these crimes for the extraction of money.

We are proud to be part of the Free State which over the past years has been a Province on the lead where the crime statics is declining annually. This achievement is a demonstration of the success of working together. The real worth of this Province and leadership abilities are witnessed on the rise of our senior police personnel to key positions at the National Level. The current National Commissioner, General Sitole, was promoted from the Free State. Lieutenant-General Tsumani who went to head SAPS National Crime Intelligence, also came from the Free State. Lieutenant-General Dimpane, the current CFO at SAPS' Head Office is from the Free State. Lieutenant-General Ntshia became National Divisional Commissioner HRM from Free State. The latest to join the Free State crew is Lieutenant-General Sempe who has become Deputy National Commissioner for Visible Policing (VISPOL). We heartily welcome back Lieutenant-General Baile Motswenyane as our new Provincial Commissioner and have confidence in her that she will pick up the spear from where her former colleagues have left it and ensure that the Province continues to shine.

## BUDGET ALLOCATION 2020/21

The initial total fiscal envelope of the Department for 2020/21 Financial Year was R3.015 billion which was an increase of 2.4% compared to 2019/20, however, due to the Covid-19 pandemic our Department's budget was revised to R2.685 billion which is a reduction of R329 million. Provincial Treasury also allocated a further R20 million towards Covid-19 response.

The Equitable share allocation including own revenue is R1.152 billion and from this R1.152 billion, R10 million will go towards revenue enhancement projects such as upgrading of testing stations and R13 million will be used towards appointment of 30 traffic officials throughout the Province.

The Provincial Road Maintenance Grant was initially increased by 4.1% amounting to R1.447 billion and it is now revised to R1.228 billion, which equates to a decrease of R 219 million. The conditional Grant will be utilized to improve the road conditions in the Free State. The Public Transport Operations Grant has increased by 6.7% to R297 million.

The revenue target for the 2020/21 financial year was increased from R812 million to R823 million and R706 million from the target set for 2019/20 financial year has been collected that is an equivalence of 94% of the target set.

## Conclusion

As the Greek Philosopher, Aristotle once said “Criticism is something we can avoid easily – by saying nothing, doing nothing, and being nothing.” it is our sincere believe that collective resolve and action is key to seeing us as victors against all the undesired consequences visited upon us by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The very fact that we are tabling this budget vote only now in July, confirms how the work of the Department has also been seriously hampered. Starting from level 5 of the National Lockdown, in response to the Presidents’ call to stay at home, the Department had to scale down certain functions as a result, roads constructions could not be carried out resulting to some backlogs; Oversight over the Police also had to be conducted at a minimal level, Transport had to adjust to new requirements and Traffic had to assume new roles working closely with the police and emergency services.

During these difficult times, modern technology or the fourth industrial revolution has been useful to help sustain work. Despite the fact that we had to minimize social interaction, Government work could not come to a halt, as we were and still are able to interact remotely through virtual meetings.

As we try to open up the economy and ensure that the work of improving the lives of our people continues, we experience new challenges of increased infections hence the earlier quote from Aristotle seeks to amplify a point that; “Never blame others for the sake of it, as this exonerates you from the responsibility to effect a change. Rather seize the opportunity to change the situation yourself!”

We want to once more acknowledge the decisive leadership provided by the sPresident in coordinating the National Coordinating Council and equally in the Province, the Premier has also led from the front through the Provincial Coordination Council. Today we are the envy of the world in terms of how we have thus far dealt with the pandemic.

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I wish to take the opportunity to thank everyone in the Department for their tireless efforts of ensuring that we deliver on our mandate as the Department.

I also thank all the stakeholders, be it in the Law Enforcement, Roads Construction, Transport and Crime Prevention environment, for their commitment and dedication in partnering with the Department to ensure the realization of this Government's goals. Your selfless commitment and collaboration is greatly appreciated.

The African National Congress' steadfast support to me as its deployee in Government is always assuring that indeed the NDR remains on course despite challenges.

Thank you.

END.