

**STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS BY HON. E.S. MAGASHULE
PREMIER OF THE FREE STATE PROVINCE ON
21 FEBRUARY 2013**

Honourable Speaker & Deputy Speaker of the Free State Legislature
Honourable Judge President and esteemed members of the Judiciary
Leaders of the African National Congress and the Alliance
Honourable Members of the Executive Council and Legislature
Honourable Members of the National Assembly and the NCOP
The leadership of SALGA and all local government leadership
The Chairperson of the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders
Leaders of the business, sports, traditional and religious sectors
Veterans and stalwarts of our struggle
Comrades, compatriots and friends

Honourable Acting Speaker, allow me to express my appreciation for the opportunity to deliver this State of the Province Address to the Free State Legislature and to appreciate the presence of our guests, viewers and listeners for joining us in this occasion.

The past years have provided us with many opportunities to showcase and celebrate the unique character and spirit of the Free State. Our international and national guests have experienced first-hand the warmth and hospitality that the Free State has extended to the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup, our annual MACUFE festival, the Tour de Free State, the national People in Park Conference, the centenary celebrations and the 2012 watershed conference of the African National Congress.

I wish to extend my appreciation to all our compatriots who have supported and contributed to ensure that the Free State was the proud and successful host of these events. The success we achieved illustrates the progress we are making in bringing about transformation of our cultural landscape and the promotion of social cohesion in our society.

Ons moet egter ook melding maak van die moorde en aanvalle op boere en plaaswerkers sowel as die mishandeling, verkragtings en moorde van vroue en kinders. Ek wil die meegevoel en ondersteuning van die provinsiale regering en die mense van die Vrystaat betoon met die families en vriende van slagoffers van hierdie aanvalle.

Ketso tsena, di re etsa batho ba sa tsebeng Molimo le Molao wa bophelo. "Rata wa heno jwaloka ha o ithata." Lefatsheng mona, motho ke tlhohonolofatso ho e mong."

We urge the South African Police Service and our criminal justice system to ensure that no efforts are spared to bring those guilty of these crimes to justice.

This is an appropriate time for us to reflect on our achievements and to share with you our programme for the forthcoming year.

Honourable Acting Speaker,

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND FREE STATE VISION 2030

At the start of this term of government, we identified the need to comprehensively revise the 2002 Free State Growth and Development Strategy. This commitment came at a time when the national government had initiated the process of developing the National Development Plan.

The National Development Plan has been finalized and aims to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030. According to the plan, South Africa can realise these goals by drawing on the energies of its people, growing an inclusive economy, building capabilities, enhancing the capacity of the state and promoting leadership and partnerships throughout our society.

Through an extensive consultative and public participation process involving a broad spectrum of stakeholders we have produced the final draft of the review of the Free State Growth and Development Strategy. We will engage further with the Legislature and other political parties on this final draft so that we ensure the speedy finalization of the reviewed strategy.

Embedded within the National Development Plan, the revised Free State Growth and Development Strategy recognizes the value of creating the environment, institutions, processes and mechanisms crucial for inclusive growth and development and produces Free State Vision 2030, aligned with the National Development Plan.

Free State Vision 2030 sets out the future the people of the province want. In essence, it provides a road map for the Free State to ensure that –

“By 2030, the Free State shall have a resilient, thriving and competitive economy that is inclusive, with immense prospects for human development anchored on the principles of unity, dignity, diversity, equality and prosperity for all.”

The roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders to ensure the successful attainment of the objectives of Free State Vision 2030 are set out in detail. We will be well-advised to take heed of President Jacob Zuma's warning that; "No single force acting individually can achieve the objectives we have set for ourselves."

This warning further strengthens the application of our Operation Hlasela service delivery methodology. It has effectively put into practice our belief that; "Working Together, We can do More."

Let me reiterate once more, honourable Acting Speaker, that; "Operation Hlasela brings together the resources of all spheres of government - national, provincial and local – in a focused manner in order to bring about real and concrete change in the lives and localities of our people."

PROVINCIAL ECONOMY

We are convinced that Free State Vision 2030 will direct and guide the transformation of the provincial economy and address the particular challenges of poverty and unemployment that have had such devastating impact on our communities.

Our response to address the economic status of the Province is embedded in the National Development Plan and Free State Vision 2030. It recognizes the need that high-impact long-term strategic projects are required to realize and unlock the economic potential of the Free State.

Die strategiese projekte sluit in;

- The **Durban – Free State – Gauteng Development Corridor** which forms part of the Strategic Infrastructure Projects of the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission.

The Maluti-a-Phofung Special Economic Zone constitutes the critical part of the Free State's share of this logistics and industrial corridor. It has been segmented into 2 complementary development nodes, namely the Tshiamo Industrial Development and the Harrismith Gateway Development.

Progress with this project is evident from the launch of the Vehicle Distribution Centre during November last year. This project is established in partnership with the German Bremen Logistics Group who has already committed R60 million rand towards this project.

The Harrismith Food Processing Park forms part of the broader development initiative. This will be an integrated food processing park providing for logistics service providers, warehousing, cold storage and manufacturing facilities to enhance production efficiencies.

The Intabazwe Corridor Housing project is a manifestation of the comprehensive developmental approach that will realize the full impact of this catalytic project.

- The **N8 corridor** as a transnational development corridor connecting Bloemfontein and Maseru, located in the Mangaung Metropolitan municipality.

The project has been registered as a Private Public Partnership project with National Treasury and the process to appoint a transaction advisor has commenced. We will continue our engagement with the Passenger Rail Association of South Africa (PRASA) to advance this project as one of the prime rail investment projects in South Africa.

The N8 Airport Development Node to be undertaken by the Mangaung Metro will be the single largest mixed development initiative ever undertaken by the Municipality. This development will be undertaken in two phases, with key characteristics of Phase One including an International Convention Centre whilst Phase Two will include a cargo terminal.

The Botshabelo and Thaba Nchu development nodes will also be undertaken by the Mangaung Metro with emphasis on the development of industrial and commercial enterprises that contribute significantly to job creation.

- The **green economic solar zone** in the Xhariep district will result in the establishment of the Xhariep Solar Park that will harness the excellent solar radiation in the southern part of the Free State that is suitable for the deployment of solar electricity generation technologies. The project is set to be established in the Bethulie-district of Xhariep.
- The **mining potential** that still exist in the goldfields region of Matjhabeng in the Lejweleputswa District has also been identified as a job intervention zone in the National Development Plan. The De Bron-Merriespruit Gold Project and the Bloemhoek Gold Project are included as potential development projects in the scope of work of the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission.

- Various **water resource interventions** throughout the Free State, including those identified in the National Development Plan relating to the Mantsopa and Setsoto local municipalities, will be unfolding throughout the Free State.

The municipalities of Mohokare, Letsemeng, Tokologo, Dihlabeng, Phumelela and the Sterkfontein Dam Water Scheme are included in Strategic Infrastructure Project 18 of the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission

Together with the local government sector, we will continue to cooperate and support the implementation of various strategic projects of the Department of Water Affairs during the forthcoming year. These include;

- The Bulk Water Schemes in the Xhariep District, namely Phase 2 of the Jagersfontein / Fauresmith and Rouxville / Smithfield / Zastron. We are particularly pleased that Phase 1 of the project has been completed and that the residents of Jagersfontein now receive clean drinking water.
- Regional Bulk Water Schemes in the Masilonyana and Tokologo local municipalities in the Lejweleputswa district and the Moqhaka Local Municipality in the Fezile Dabi district.
- Regional Bulk Water Schemes in the Setsoto, Dihlabeng and Phumelela local municipalities, the Sterkfontein Dam Scheme and the Nketoana Regional Water Scheme Augmentation in the Thabo Mofutsanyana district.

The completion of the pipeline between Bethlehem and Paul Roux will enable the Dihlabeng municipality to commence with the internal sewer network in Paul Roux as this Free State town will have access to water.

Significant progress has been recorded with the refurbishment of Water and Wastewater Treatment Works during the past year, including those at Bethlehem and Saulspoort, Ficksburg, Vredefort, Heilbron, the Matjhabeng and Moqhaka local Municipalities.

[Further details re progress with Water and Wastewater Treatment Works in Annexure A]

Other refurbishment projects to be undertaken this year will include the upgrade of the Jacobsdal raw water pipeline, refurbishment at the Clocolan pump station, upgrade of Ficksburg sewerage network and refurbishment of waste water treatment works of Wepener.

The **Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality** will be embarking on an extensive programme aimed at the eradication of VIP and pit latrines, specifically in Botshabelo and Thaba Nchu. In addition, an extensive programme aimed at bulk water and sewer purification plant capacity extension will be implemented.

Allow me to emphasize that our local government sector must satisfactorily address the **phasing out of the VIP system** over the long-term. Financial resources spent on maintenance of VIP toilets could in all probability by now have enabled us to implement standard sanitation services.

In the short term, municipalities must devise more cost-effective means to deal with the maintenance of the VIP-system, including investing in their **own suction equipment**. Municipalities throughout the Province will also be required to upscale their investment in their own fleet to undertake essential maintenance services.

We seldom acknowledge the achievements of our local municipalities. I must therefore make mention of the achievement of the **Matjhabeng Local Municipality** for achieving the Provincial Top Performer Award in the Free State Province in the **2012 Blue Drop Assessment** with the **Tswelopele Local Municipality** achieving the second place. Other municipalities that obtained a score of above 80 % in the 2012 Blue Drop Assessment included the Metsimaholo, Setsoto and Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipalities as well as the Mangaung Metro.

We must equally acknowledge the achievement of the **Letsemeng and Tswelopele Local Municipalities** who were declared the best performing Free State municipalities in the **2012 Green Drop Assessment**.

EDUCATION

Hon Acting Speaker, a fundamental aspect of our mandate is to improve the quality of basic education. We have achieved significant improvements with these objectives, including our school infrastructure, early childhood development, inclusive education, special schools and full service schools.

Allow me to highlight that we have recently acquired and allocated 6 modified wheelchair **busses** to the Tswelang and Pholoho Special Schools in Mangaung and the Amari Special School in Welkom. This will immediately enable access to education for learners with special needs. We have also acquired ten 60-seater busses that have been allocated to the five districts in the Free State. These busses will provide invaluable assistance to learners in rural areas.

Our investment in rural education is further illustrated by the construction of **school hostels**. The Tierpoort, Harmony, Albert Moroka and Christiaan de Wet schools hostels have been completed and are operational. The Majweng school hostel (Diyatalawa) will become operational this year whilst construction of the hostel at Phillipolis Primary School and Bainsvlei is in progress.

The **support programmes** of the Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation aimed at the arts, culture and school sport environment, the participation of the Department of Social Development through early childhood development and the eco-school initiatives of the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs illustrate our integrated and comprehensive approach towards improving the quality of basic education.

The Free State will benefit from the **construction of 20 schools** under the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative of the Department of Basic Education. This initiative is aimed at replacing inappropriate school structures such as those constructed of metal or prefabricated material. *[Details in Annexure B]*

In the forthcoming year, we will commence with the renovations and refurbishment of identified schools in **Ventersburg and Edenville**.

The implementation of the **Annual National Assessments** provides us with the opportunity to assess our progress with regard to literacy and numeracy. During 2012, 300 and 96 thousand 590 learners from Grades 1 to 6 and Grade 9 successfully completed the 2012 Annual National Assessment (ANA) tests.

The language tests results showed some improvement in the learning outcomes in most of the Grades. The desired threshold of 60 % of learners obtaining the minimum language and numeracy competencies by the end of Grades 3, 6 and 9 are not yet achieved.

One of our intervention measures to improve our performance in the Annual National Assessments has been the employment of 313 Teacher Assistants in terms of the Expanded Public Works Programme to support 212 struggling primary schools, in particular grade 3 learners.

In the forthcoming year, the Department of Education will also address the following priorities;

- An additional 60 grade R classes will be established and educational toys will be provided to 200 Primary schools which are offering Grade R.
- Maths Laboratories will be extended to another 200 additional Primary Schools to promote the teaching and learning of mathematics through ICT.
- Science Kits will be provided to 200 additional Primary Schools to enhance conceptual development and understanding amongst teachers and learners.
- The National School Nutrition Programme will benefit 500 and 35 thousand and 28 learners as well as 3 thousand and 13 Volunteer Food Handlers.
- The Learner Transport Programme will benefit 8 851 learners that are transported daily along 367 routes by 185 service providers to 166 farm schools. Learner transport also ensures the sustained viability of some of the bigger farm schools in rural areas and complements the construction of school hostels.

We take particular pride in the achievement of the Department of Education, our learners, teachers and parents in the **2012 National Senior Certificate**. Our achievement has earned us the third place amongst provinces nationally.

The 2012 provincial pass rate was 81.1% compared to 75.7% in 2011. Allow me to remind the honourable House that the 2009 pass rate was 69.4 % and the 2010 pass rate was 70.7 %. Our significant progress is clearly illustrated by these statistics. All districts obtained an average pass rate of 80 % in the 2012 examinations.

The Department will strive to achieve an 85 % pass rate in the 2013 examinations. Programmes that will be implemented to support this include;

- Expanding the Heymath Programme to 50 schools in the Thabo Mofutsanyana district;
- Providing 250 additional schools with Mathematics Laboratories;
- Supplying Mobile Science Laboratories to additional 200 schools that offer Grades 7 – 9;
- Providing all farm schools with laptops and connectivity to enhance communication and

- The Department of Education will also explore the possibility of utilizing the best performers at Grade 12 in Maths and Science who are unemployed to mentor learners in lower grades and to utilize graduates to participate in after-school classes as well as Saturday and Winter School programmes.

The critical importance of career guidance to our learners cannot be over-emphasized. It is therefore our intention to establish fully-fledged **Career Guidance Centres** in two districts in the Province by the end of the first quarter of the new financial year. The Education Resource Centre in Bloemfontein will relocate to Thaba Nchu.

The **National Teaching Awards** (NTA) is one of the highlights of the Education Sector's annual calendar. The objectives of the awards include the recognition and promotion of excellence in teaching performance, to honour dedicated, creative and effective teachers and schools and to encourage best practice in schools.

Honourable Acting Speaker, allow me to congratulate the educators who have been recognized by their peers as they have emerged as our provincial nominees in the respective categories for the National Teaching Awards ceremony that will take place during March 2013. We acknowledge their invaluable contribution to our education sector. *[Details in Annexure B]*

Mandated by the White Paper on e-Education, the Department of Education seeks to enhance learning and teaching through the use of information technology and computers in schools. Our joint project with the Department of Communication and Telkom to address **school connectivity** is progressing well and we continue our engagement with Sentech and USAASA.

LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE FOR ALL FREE STATE CITIZENS

Honourable Acting Speaker, allow me to pay tribute to the late MEC responsible for Health, Ms Fezi Ngubentombi, whose work will continue to inspire us all. I also wish to express my appreciation to MEC Zwane who continues to provide guidance and direction to the Department.

I believe that it is appropriate to honor the memory of two former MECs responsible for Health in the Free State with the **renaming** of the Metsimaholo Hospital as the Fezi Ngubentombi Hospital and the renaming of the Ladybrand Hospital as the Seniorita Ntlabathi Hospital. In honor of our freedom fighters, the Trompsburg Hospital will be named as the Alfred Nzula Hospital.

For us to achieve our vision of a Long and Healthy Life for all Free State citizens, we focus on **four primary aspects**, namely increasing life expectancy, reducing maternal and child mortality rates, combating HIV and AIDS and Tuberculosis and strengthening the effectiveness of the health system.

We have made steady progress in achieving this outcome. In fact, the Minister of Health currently rates us as the third best-performing province. Our appreciation goes to the men and women working tirelessly in all divisions of the health sector.

Our progress is illustrated by amongst others;

- The under 5 mortality rate has improved from 53 per 1000 live births to less than 30 per 1000 live births.
- The percentage of children immunized with new vaccines increased to 90.9% and 97.6% respectively during 2011/2012 as compared to 68.5% and 75.6% in 2010/2011.
- The provincial HIV mother-to-child transmission rate decreased from 7% in 2010 to 3% in 2012.
- Drug availability levels at Primary Health Care sites are 97.6% and at Regional and Academic Hospitals drug availability is at 97%.
- Infrastructure projects at the Mantsopa and Trompsburg district hospitals are at an advanced stage and these projects will be completed in 2013. Construction of the new Mangaung District Hospital will start during November 2013.
- Progress has been made with the planning and design of new clinics and 16 modular structures for HIV and AIDS have been completed at 16 clinics. *[Details in Annexure C]*
- The focus of the National Health Insurance pilot site at Thabo Mofutsanyane has been on systems, processes and infrastructure. The procurement of basic essential equipment for all clinics and the implementation of a drug management system have been completed.

In the forthcoming year, our focus will remain on the four priority areas, including the management of HIV and AIDS, maternal health services, neonatal and childhood

emergencies, the re-engineering process of the public health sector and the implementation of the National Health Insurance.

Our comprehensive and integrated approach to improving our health outcomes will be supported by, amongst others, the Isibindi Programme of the Department of Social Development and the healthy lifestyles programme of the Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation.

ALL PEOPLE IN THE FREE STATE ARE AND FEEL SAFE

Honourable Acting Speaker, our approach to the fight against crime is premised on the **community-policing philosophy**. Criminals stay within communities and most contact crimes such as rape and domestic violence occur in homes with perpetrators known to victims. The release of the 2011/2012 crime statistics indicated a marginal increase in contact crime, contact-related crime and the trio crimes of car hijacking, house robberies and business robberies.

In our engagement with the South African Police Services, we are concerned specifically about the increasing problem with **gangs and gang-related** activities, including drug abuse in certain hotspots in our Province. We have joined forces with the SAPS to develop and implement decisive programmes and interventions to deal with this problem. We intend developing an appropriate partnership with rehabilitated gang-leaders and ex-convicts to engage the youth of the Province on the dangers that a criminal lifestyle holds, both to the individual and broader society.

The first **Provincial Crime Prevention Summit** will be hosted during March 2013. It is of vital importance for us to engage particularly the farming community in this summit to find a solution to prevent and stop farm attacks. The Summit will produce the Provincial Crime Prevention Strategy, identification of specific sector strategies to address root causes of crime and to formalize the multi-agency approach that will join the forces of all spheres of government.

Far too often, we are confronted with the brutal assault, abuse, rape and murder of the elderly, women, children and people with disabilities in our communities. This is foreign to all of our cultures, black and white. It is our moral duty to uphold our value system that require of us to respect and protect all vulnerable groups in our society.

Ha ho ntho e bohloko jwaloka lelapa le hlohang botsitso. Motsotsong ona re tshwere mathata ka bana ba bashemane ba itaolang. Ba keneng mekgatlong ya dikebekwa. Bana ba senang tjhebelo-pele, ba batlang ho etsa seo ba se ratang ka nako eo ba e

ratang. Ke buile le baruti le baholo, hore ba thuse ntweng ena yaho phela ka merusu. Ba fe bana ba rona tjhebelo-pele. Bana ba tsebe hore mona ha re phele khohlong ya moriti wa lefu, empa re phela tlhohanolofatsong.

The role played by community organizations such as CPF's in crime prevention cannot be underestimated. I wish to urge all individuals and communities in the Free State to join hands with us in pushing back the criminal elements that threaten our safety. We must ensure that our children are raised in a safe and secure environment.

We are equally concerned about the **on-going carnage on our roads**. A culture of responsible road safety and awareness must be promoted consistently and should not only be linked to Easter and the Festive Season. In the forthcoming year, visible road and traffic policing will be a standard feature on the roads throughout the Free State.

Fraud and Corruption in the Public Service

Fighting Fraud and Corruption is one of our on-going strategic priorities. The Provincial Treasury continues to lead the provincial government's initiatives to create and deepen awareness of fraud amongst civil servants and practitioners within the provincial government and the broader community.

The Free State provincial government supports the initiative of the Minister of Public Service to ban civil servants from conducting business with the state as this will undoubtedly be a significant measure to prevent the abuse of public funds. A directive will be issued to ensure that this is implemented throughout the provincial government with immediate effect.

Ek wil ook 'n beroep doen op die privaat sektor om nie betrokke te raak by onwettige en onetiese praktyke met staatsamptenare nie.

DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Honourable Acting Speaker, in its Quarterly Employment Survey for the Fourth Quarter of 2012, Statistics South Africa stated that;

“Formal (non-agricultural) and informal (non-agriculture) employment in the Free State rose by an encouraging 1 000 and 7000 jobs respectively compared to the third quarter of 2012. Agriculture and private households, however, recorded a decrease in employment for the same period. Although employment is still not growing fast enough to solve the unemployment problem, the improvement is positive.”

Infrastructure Development

Upscaling our investment in infrastructure development holds the key to achieve the growth path that will significantly address the economic profile of the Free State. The Free State province will benefit significantly from various other initiatives that are included in the scope of the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission.

Ingula Pumped Storage Scheme

The **Ingula Pumped Storage Scheme** forms part of Eskom's capital expansion programme and is nearing completion. This major energy infrastructure project is located on the border of the Phumelela Local Municipality in the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal provinces.

An estimated R3.5 billion has been injected into the local economies of the Phumelela and Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipalities in the Free State as well as the eMnambithi Local Municipality and the UThukela District Municipality in KwaZulu Natal. Environmental management has also formed a critical part of this project and specific benefits have been derived for the birdlife, wildlife, wetlands and grasslands in the area.

SASOL and OMNIA Nitric Acid Complex

Sasol South Africa, the largest producer of synthetic fuels on the sub-continent, remains a key role-player in the Free State economy. Its investment in its Sasolburg operations are evident from the Wax Expansion project, the Ethylene Purification Unit 5 which is expected to start in 2013, the Gas Engine Power Plant and Clean Fuels 2.

The Omnia Nitric Acid complex, located within the Sasol Industrial Complex, includes a nitric acid plant, an ammonium nitrate plant, a porous ammonium nitrate plant, a fleet of 145 specialized ammonia rail tankers and other ancillary facilities. The project is in line with growth in the explosives and fertiliser markets and operations.

The Free State provincial government will engage **Sasol, the mining and other industries** to engage them with the aim of encouraging and promoting investment in the communities where they are located, and to ensure the provision of appropriate working and living conditions for workers.

Broadband Infrastructure

The roll-out of broadband infrastructure and digital migration has been included in Strategic Infrastructure Project 15 and Broadband Infraco has been appointed as the coordinator.

One of the private sector initiatives with regard to broadband was Fibreco's start of construction of the first 1000 km link connecting Bloemfontein with Johannesburg and East London in the Free State in May 2012. The construction of the FibreCo's fibre optic network through the Free State Province has seen the employment through local sub-contractors of over 718 people.

The provincial government has registered the provincial broadband infrastructure project as a Private-Public Partnership project. The draft Provincial Broadband Strategy has been developed. We are in the process of finalizing a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Communications that will specifically include our joint initiatives with regard to broadband and broadcasting digital migration.

Provincial Economic and Infrastructure Developments

Other major economic and infrastructure developments in the Free State include the following;

Grain Field Poultry Production

In partnership with Agribusiness VKB and the IDC, we have established a chicken broiler project and built a state-of-the-art chicken abattoir in Reitz in the eastern Free State. Production commenced early in 2012.

Grain Fields Chickens is the fifth largest chicken broiler supplier in the country and makes a significant contribution to food security. This initiative has created more than 560 job opportunities directly and has the potential of creating more than 800 jobs once in full operation.

Vrede Dairy Project

The Department of Agriculture is establishing an Integrated Dairy Project at Vrede in the Eastern Free State under the Mohoma-Mobung initiative in partnership with the private sector.

The project is unfolding in phases. This state of the art certified facility will be constructed with the initial processing capacity of 100,000 litres per day and an initial targeted milk intake of 40,000 litres per day. Products to be produced at the Vrede Dairy project will include liquid milk, UHT milk, cheese and other products.

Naval Hill Planetarium

Following on the footsteps of Carnarvon in the Karoo where the core of the largest telescope in the world, the SKA, is being built, the **Naval Hill Planetarium** in Bloemfontein will be the home of the first digital planetarium in Sub-Saharan Africa.

This will be an important 'edutainment' facility with plans for a proposed multi-purpose centre that will include office space as well as a heritage museum and a Science and Sculpture Garden.

SMME Development, Cooperatives and Social Enterprises

Small, Medium and Macro Enterprises remain the life-blood of all economies of the world. Statistics, however, reveal worrying trends which needs special attention of all those who operate in this space. We are informed that almost 75% of SMMEs collapse in the first two to three years after establishment.

To reverse this situation, we instructed DETEA, the FDC and SEDA to find underlying reasons and put in place programmes that will sustain SMMEs. Our Technical Cooperation Project with the International Labour Organisation and the Government of Flanders will also continue to support SMME initiatives. We will also be focussing on social enterprises during the forthcoming year.

Cooperatives have been identified as an economic model that could help us increase the momentum of job creation and employment. We have identified school feeding schemes, textiles for the manufacturing of uniforms and protective clothing, security, cleaning, farming, catering and maintenance as ideal platforms from which successful cooperatives can be launched.

An Interdepartmental Co-operatives Forum has been established to strengthen this initiative. The purpose of this forum is the promotion of greater awareness and utilization of cooperatives across the Free State. During this financial year, every department, municipality and entity will be required to report on the number of cooperatives they have supported through the procurement of goods and services.

We are also heeding the President's call to ensure that we settle payments legally due to service providers within the prescribed 30-day time-frame. This requirement will be included in the performance agreements of Heads of Departments and Chief Financial Officers with effect from the next financial year. We are adamant that this requirement must be closely monitored and enforced.

Other infrastructure development

- The Free State provincial road network comprises of 6343 km of paved roads, 21 711 km of gravel secondary roads and 22 000 km of gravel tertiary roads. We, continue to make steady progress in addressing required construction and rehabilitation work on the provincial road network.
- Significant progress has been made with the construction of the Monontsha Border Pass and QwaQwa Route 4 as part of the EPWP projects. An additional road construction project in Thaba Nchu will commence in the new financial year.
- Two priority projects resulting from flood damage, namely the Ficksburg–Clocolan slipway and Bluegumbusch road, have been completed. The Warden–Standerton road and the Heilbron–Mamafubedu (Petrus Steyn) rehabilitation projects will be completed by the second quarter of the new financial year.
- Four roads, namely the Bothaville–Leeudoringstad, Rouxville–Zastron, Vrede-Standerton and Frankfort-Villiers roads have been completed.
- Significant progress has been made with work on the Bloemfontein–Bultfontein, Lindley-Steynsrus, Bethlehem-Lindley and Heilbron-Frankfort roads and work is on schedule to be completed during the next financial year. *[Details in Annexure D]*
- Portions of road construction on the Wepener-Zastron, Bultfontein-Wesselsborn and Kroonstad-Vredefort roads have been completed. Remaining construction work on these roads will be prioritized over the MTEF-period. *[Details in Annexure D]*
- Designs have been completed for 8 other roads and these remain a priority to be funded over the MTEF-period. *[Details in Annexure D]*
- Upgrading of roads, including the Meadows Road in the Mangaung Metro that is a provincial road, through routes and transport centres will continue to unfold this year whilst the township revitalization programme will also continue to be

implemented by the Department of Public Works in 13 towns throughout the Province.

Re le mmuso re atsa boipiletso ho bo-mmasepala ba rona, ho sebetsa ka matla ho fana ka ditshebeletso tsa maemo a hodimo molemong wa setjhaba. Re lebelletse ho bona ditsela tse maemong a kgahlisang ho sa kgathalletsehe hore na ke tsela ya dipalangwang, ditaaso kapa tsela tse yang mabitleng.

- We have made progress with the reopening of railway lines as is evident from the re-opening of the Kroonstad–Vierfontein line. We will continue to engage Transnet Freight Rail to pursue the reopening of the Xhariep green line which will facilitate the establishment of a passenger line.
- Sport infrastructure projects completed include the High Performance Centres for Badminton / Table Tennis and Netball as well as dormitories for athletes located at the Free State Sport Science Institute. This enhances the current available facilities for boxing that have been completed.
- Construction at the Seisa Ramabodu Stadium in Mangaung will be upscaled to ensure that work is completed within the shortest possible space of time. This will ensure that Bloemfontein Celtic supporters will enjoy the advantages of a quality home ground. The upgrade of the Siphon Mutsi and Fezile Dabi stadia will also continue. We will also commence with the refurbishment of the Botshabelo and Charles Mopeli stadia.
- Construction of libraries in Luckhoff, Arlington, Wepener, Oranjeville, Clarens, Smithfield, Memel and Hobhouse will commence during the 2013/2014 financial year.
- The national Department of Arts and Culture has appointed the IDT as implementing agent for the establishment of the Winnie Mandela Museum in Brandfort and this project will continue in the new financial year. Our Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation will continue with the development of the Maphikela House and the Waaihoek Precinct.
- Scoping reports for the establishment of the Kaizer Sebothelo and Lister Skosana Museums have been completed and these projects will proceed to planning phase in the next financial year.

Tourism

The Free State Tourism Master Plan aims to provide a comprehensive framework that will position the Free State optimally to benefit from the growing local and international tourism industry and must be aligned with the National Tourism Sector Strategy. Every investment that we make in this sector, including human and capital, must bring dividends. In addition to our continued support to various local tourism initiatives, the Free State will also host various international events during the year.

We have concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the KwaZulu-Natal provincial government that sets out joint areas of cooperation and collaboration on tourism initiatives.

Expanded Public Works Programme

The Expanded Public Works Programme was introduced by government to alleviate poverty through the creation of work opportunities for the unemployed, using public sector expenditure. From the 2009/10 financial year to date, the provincial Expanded Public Works Programme has created 157,396 work opportunities. The target for the 2013/2014 financial year is the creation of 48,124 work opportunities.

Community Works Programme

As part of our response to tackle poverty and provide livelihood support to poor households, the Community Works Programme is implemented by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs. This is a key initiative to mobilize communities towards providing regular and predictable work opportunities at the local level. The Community Works Programme is being implemented in 13 municipalities and it is envisaged that the programme will create 22000 jobs per annum.

Insourcing

The next phase of insourcing of cleaning services at hospitals will result in the filling of 373 posts. This includes 277 cleaners at Universitas Hospital, 53 at the National Hospital, 26 at the Phekolong Hospital and 17 at the Nketoana Local Hospital. The support of organized labour, especially NEHAWU, for this initiative has been unwavering and we will continue with our engagement with all stakeholders in this process moving forward.

VIBRANT, EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development leads the provincial government's programme to achieve this priority outcome. Some of the major programmes in the Agriculture sector will include the Fish Hatchery in Xhariep, and the Dorper Sheep International Stud Breeding project in Brandfort, and the expansion of the Extension Recovery Plan.

The provincial programme to optimize agriculture production through mechanization was launched during November 2012 with the distribution of 72 tractor and farming implement packages. Five Mechanization Cooperatives have been formed to support Smallholder farmers.

Allow me to acknowledge the significant achievement of Ms Pamela Margaret Fyvie of the Harrismith district who was named as the Top Entrepreneur in the Sector Export Markets as well as the overall 2011/2012 winner of the Female Entrepreneur Programme. The award recognizes the Fyvie Farming's berry and apple enterprise as well as their commercial mutton and wool enterprise. This success serves as inspiration to all of us.

During 2012, an estimated 177 thousand 777 hectares of land were destroyed by runaway veld fires. The Department will continue to implement appropriate programmes to increase education and awareness regarding these fire hazards whilst also strengthening its ability to respond appropriately to these incidents.

Ke fumane le mathata a batho ba mapolosing, ba seng ba fumana mangolo a ho ntshwa mapolasing ka taba tse amanang le meputso. Ke tla kopa lefapha la temo le ikopanye le borapolasi ho utlwa mathata ana. Le nna ka seqo, morumuwa wa lona, ke tla ba teng ho bua le bona.

With regard to **Rural Development**, the provincial government's achievements during the past year included;

- The continued implementation of the Comprehensive Rural Development Plan in the areas of Diyatalawa, Makgolokoeng and Jacobsdal. These communities have benefited through the provision of essential infrastructure including education and sport and recreation facilities, community amenities as well as agri-business initiatives.

- The profiling of poverty-stricken areas resulted in the referral of cases to departments, municipalities and other stakeholders for relief of distress and other interventions on a long-term basis.
- Solar energy was provided to poor households in Jagersfontein and community halls were completed in Makgolokoeng and Thaba Nchu (Barolong Hall). The Department of Social Development supported the rural development outcome with the establishment of a youth centre, nutrition centres and food distribution plans in various towns in the province.

Initiatives to be implemented during the forthcoming year include the following;

- Housing construction for farmworkers, access roads, water reticulation and solar electricity in rural areas will be a priority for Rural Development in the forthcoming year.
- The youth-focussed programme of NARYSEC has been extended for a 4-year period. The national NARYSEC training programme will be based in Thaba Nchu. All training of NARYSEC participants throughout the country will take place at this centre. Since its inception in 2011, the programme has been able to absorb 405 young people from farms and rural towns in our province. The programme will further have an intake of 400 young people across the province with more biasness towards district 23 in Xhariep. The Re Jala Peo programme will also continue.
- The Department of Social Development will renovate the Makoane Youth Centre in QwaQwa and two Nutrition and Development Centres will be established in Springfontein and the 2010 Informal Settlement in Welkom.

SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF HOUSEHOLD LIFE

The 2030 vision of Human Settlements is that; “By 2030, most South African will have affordable access to services and quality environments. New developments will break away from old patterns and significant progress will be made in retrofitting existing settlements”.

Key to this process is the formalization of informal settlements, the upgrading of services and the installation of the necessary social infrastructure to make these areas

viable and suitable. We envisage the creation of 26 915 sites in 19 areas by March 2015.

The Department's main focus has been to consolidate and complete all outstanding human settlement projects in the Free State. In order to fast-track this priority, NURCHA has been appointed to conduct verification of human settlement projects and also as technical support.

We have commenced with the process of establishing a reliable and credible database of contractors that will enable the department to select capable contractors to minimize the risk of incomplete projects.

The Department must also conduct business review processes related to the registration of potential housing beneficiaries and the outcomes of such a process should replace the current waiting list system with a reliable housing demand database system. We will prioritize housing provision to the elderly and child-headed households.

Setjhaba sa heso, ho na le ntho e mpe haholo e etsahalang metseng ya rona. Ntho e etsang le hore monna a theole keledi;

- *Ho rekiswa ha maatlo a mmuso a di RDP*
- *RDP tse rekwang le ke batho ba profeshene ba kgonang*
- *Ho rekiswa ha di RDP ke banna ba sa natse bana le basadi ba bona.*
- *Ho rekiswa ha matlo ana ke bahlanka ba ipitsang basebeletsi ba mmuso le dimasepala.*
- *Ho rekiswa ha matlo ana, ho ntshuwa ha maqheku le dikgutsana.*
- *Ho kenngwa ha batho ho di RDP ka bonokwane bo se nang mohau.*

Baahi ba Thaba Nchu, ba dulang matlong ao eneng ele a mmuso wa mehleng wa Bophuthatswana le FDC, ba tlo fumantshwa dititle deeds tsa bona ho tloha ka 1 April 2013, e be matlo ana ke a bona ka ho totobala ntle le ho a lefella.

The Department continued to make significant inroads during the past year in delivering on its broader mandate as follows;

- In line with the informal settlement upgrading processes, 9 thousand and 47 sites were planned and surveyed in various areas of the province. *[Details in Annexure E]*

Kantorong ya ka ke fumana dititlebo ta batho ba batlang ditsha hore ba tswa khirong. Bothata bona ke bo shebile ka leihlo le nchocho.

- Basic municipal infrastructure was installed in respect of 7 thousand and 193 sites in the Mangaung Metro and 6 other local municipalities. *[Details in Annexure E]*
- A total of 337 units were construction Land Restitution beneficiaries. *[Details in Annexure E]*
- With regard to rural and farm worker housing, 50 housing units were completed in Diyatalawa, together with water and sanitation infrastructure. The Department of Rural Development completed 11 houses at Rainfall Farm in the Harrismith district and will continue with the construction of additional houses at the Dubalamanzi Farm in the Hoopstad district in the new financial year.

Some of the major programmes that will continue to unfold during the forthcoming year include;

- The replacement of one-door as well as two-roomed houses remains one of the provincial priority projects as part of the rectification programme. We must also attend to the “umbrella” houses in the Nala Local Municipality. The one-door houses that need to be replaced include those located in Bluegumbusch.
- These one-door houses were constructed during the term of office of current COPE leader, Terror Lekota, and failed to conceptualize post-apartheid spatial planning as no amenities such as shops, schools and clinics are located in this settlement.
- 402 Institutional Subsidies have been allocated towards the first phase of the Brandwag Social Housing Project in Mangaung. This project is aimed at developing a total of 1,051 rental housing units for households that earn below R7 500 who would ordinarily not afford to participate in the private rental housing market. The first phase of the project is due to be completed by March 2013 whilst the second phase of the project has commenced.
- In partnership with the Harmony Gold Mines and the Matjhabeng Municipality, the Department embarked on a Community Residential Units (CRU) Programme. 348 Households are already accommodated within the project and the remaining 113 units will be available for occupation at the end of March 2013. The redevelopment of the President Steyn Hostel in Virginia is also earmarked for implementation under this programme.

- We are in the final stages of the feasibility studies in respect of the Silver City and Dark City hostels in Mangaung and one hostel in Matjhabeng, the G-Hostel. The feasibility studies have been finalised for Zamdela Hostel 4 in Metsimaholo. Upon completion of feasibility studies, these projects will proceed to construction phase.
- The Mangaung Metro will also continue its work in the upgrade of informal settlements in Khayelitsha (Grassland Phase 4), Bloemside Phase 7, Sonderwater (Bloemside Phase 4) and Caleb Motshabi / Khotsong.

The Department's main focus during 2013 will continue to be on the consolidation of all outstanding human settlement projects within the Free State Province.

Two projects relating to Housing for Special Needs are due to commence in Bokahosane ba Bana in Kroonstad and Mphatlalatsane in Viljoenskroon. The implementation of the Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme in Viljoenskroon, Intabazwe, Vogelfontein and Ngwathe will be fast-tracked.

RESPONSIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM

Honourable Acting Speaker, four fundamental areas have been targeted to ensure the achievement of a responsive, accountable, effective and efficient local government system. The **first of these** relate to the provision of improved access to communities to basic services such as water, electricity and sanitation.

The provincial Census 2011 results confirm that the Free State provincial government has recorded steady growth in the provision of basic services to our people since 1994.

- A total number of 598 thousand 797 households in the Free State have access to free basic water and 97% of targeted households had access to a basic level of water at the end of December 2012.

Ho kwalwa ha metsi re sa bollelwa ho re bakela mathata a maholo. Re dula le bakudi, re dula le batho ba lokelang ho hlokomelwa kgafetsa.

- An additional 1049 electricity connections were provided, resulting in the total number of households having access to basic electricity in the Free State being 670 thousand 760. In the next financial year, an additional 7435 households will be connected and bulk infrastructure will be further rolled out.

Di bill tsa metsi le motlakase tse fosahetseng di re bakela mathata a maholo. Jwaloka morumuwa wa lona ke tla sebetsa ka thata mmoho le lona hore Bo-Mmasepala ba fedise bothata bona ka potlako.

- The total number of solar water geysers that have been installed in the province through Eskom is 36 thousand and 578.
- 97% of the targeted households in the Free State had access to a basic level of sanitation at the end of December 2012.

The **second area** is the deepening of democracy through the implementation of a refined Ward Committee Model in all municipalities, thereby strengthening participatory governance.

The recent violent community protests in the province where public and private properties were looted by some criminal elements, who hijacked genuine community concerns, cannot continue unchallenged. We welcome the President's announcement that appropriate measures has been put in place and that courts will be allocated to deal with such cases on a prioritised roll.

We need to acknowledge the imperative to stay true to the commitment of our government to people centred development and that we do not allow the development of a social distance between communities and government.

Ha ho thehwa meedi ho a lokela hore Demarcation Board e bue le setjhaba se ntshe maikotlo le ditakatso tsa sona. Re mmuso wa setjhaba ka setjhaba, ebile re baemedi le barumuwa ba setjhaba. Re dula re le tsebe di lethwethwe ho phethisa le ho hlompha thomo ya rona. Ha re aheng setjhaba sa Free State, re ikaheng, re be ngatana e le nngwe. Re se lwane ha ho na le mathata, empa re duleng fatshe re batleng tharollo.

I wish to call upon all leaders across all levels of government in the province, to ensure that community concerns are attended to promptly and that regular feedback is provided to communities.

The **third critical area** relates to the strengthening of the administrative and financial capability of municipalities. We have implemented various initiatives in support of the objectives of Operation Clean Audit. These include;

- The deployment of suitable qualified and experienced teams to 9 identified local municipalities which is assisting the turn-around in these municipalities and,

- The Institute of Municipal Engineers of South Africa project which assists with the unbundling of infrastructure assets at 10 identified municipalities.

The **fourth area** is the improved coordination and strengthening of cross-departmental initiatives. The implementation of a newly-developed Citizen Support System will form an integral part of our efforts to improve service delivery through the resolution of community complaints.

Se seng hape se otlang pelo ya ka ha bohloko ke batho ba kadimang maqheku, maqhekwana, le diqhwalala tjhelete. Ho tloha moo banke karete tsa bona ba kgole ka tsona. E mpe ketso ena! Re lokela ho e lwantsha ka hohle hohle hobane e futsanehisa batho ba fumanang moputso wa mmuso.

The occurrence of natural disasters such as floods, tornadoes and veld fires in the Free State are increasing. It has become imperative for us to establish a fully-functional Disaster Management Operational Centre and to ensure that our response capacity to such disasters is in place at all local municipalities.

Land use and - development

In a landmark decision, the Constitutional Court decided that spatial planning is the competence of municipalities and that they should act as the "body of first instance". A new Provincial Planning Bill for land use in the Free State, aligned with the Constitutional Court's decision and draft national legislation, is being developed.

The new way of functioning and legislation will have profound implications on the capacity of municipalities. Considering the lengthy processes involved in promulgating new legislation as well as the necessity to build the requisite capacity at municipal level, the current functioning of the provincial Land Use Advisory Board will continue until such time as the new proposed legislation has been enacted.

Traditional Affairs

We will fast-track the finalization of the Local and Provincial Houses of Traditional Leaders Bill, thereby enabling traditional leadership in the Province to do their work effectively and efficiently. Community outreach programmes will increasingly be used to not only preserve traditional culture and customs, but will also be used to advocate for the declaration of heritage sites.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Honourable Acting Speaker, the **Free State Youth Summit** convened during November 2012 and was attended by 612 youth delegates from all 82 towns in the Free State. The Summit provided us with the opportunity to interact with youth on matters relating to empowerment and development.

Upon conclusion of the Youth Summit, a declaration was issued by delegates that highlighted specific areas, notably on (i) Education and Training, (ii) Youth Economic Participation and (iii) Institutional Arrangements for Youth Development. The Department of the Premier will continue to lead the initiative to give effect to the various resolutions of the Youth Summit.

It is an undeniable fact that the Free State provincial government has led the way in the investment in the further education and training and skills development of our youth. Our **Provincial Bursary Scheme** will maintain 5288 students at various tertiary institutions this year. A total number of 758 students graduated at the end of 2012. Included in this number are 45 students who obtained their B.Com Accounting degrees, 45 obtained their B Education degrees, 43 obtained their B Social Work degrees and 14 qualified as medical doctors.

The provincial government will also maintain the 180 students who are pursuing their **medical studies in Cuba** as part of the South Africa-Cuba Health Cooperation Agreement.

We successfully concluded the first phase of the “Laptops for bursary holders” programme during 2012 and again acknowledge the significant contributions we received from the private sector.

The **Jiangxi Province of the People’s Republic of China** has awarded two scholarships to Free State students to pursue advanced studies in Agriculture. The first two Free State students are Mr Pule Samuel Tau who originates from Lindley and Ms Mamotshewa Leburu who is from Bothaville.

Collaborating with the Department of Public Service and Administration and the Department of Higher Education and Training, the Free State provincial government will place 526 students from the four provincial Further Education and Training Colleges who require **experiential training** by March 2013.

I wish to call upon our private sector to join this initiative of the national and provincial government to provide opportunities for students who require experiential training in order to enable them to complete their qualifications.

A memorandum of understanding was concluded with the **Services SETA** to assist SMMEs and cooperatives together with the Maluti Further Education and Training College. Our partnership projects with the **Construction SETA** and the **Wholesale and Retail SETA** will also continue.

A new project has been developed for implementation by the Free State provincial government and the **CATHSETA**. This project will include the funding of bursaries for 14 learners to be placed at Institutions of Higher Learning to pursue qualifications in the identified fields of study with a further additional 66 learnerships that will be available.

I must place on record our appreciation for the considerable support that we continue to receive from the respective SETAs.

SOCIAL COHESION

Honourable Acting Speaker, we have made significant progress in the transformation of our **cultural and heritage landscape** during the past year. This is illustrated by the provisional declaration as national heritage sites of the Thomas Mapikela house and grave, the graves of Dr. Moroka and Rev Mahabane as well as the Wesleyan Church. These declarations will be finalized during 2013 and the sites will be officially unveiled.

One of the highlights of the past year was undoubtedly the unveiling of the statue of former President Nelson Mandela on Naval Hill in the Mangaung Metro.

During the past year, progress was also made with regard to the naming, renaming and standardization of geographical names. I wish to express my appreciation to all stakeholders for the responsible manner in which they conducted and concluded this process.

In conjunction with **SASCOC**, the Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation will be establishing a national training center and academy for high performance for the entire country in order to prepare national athletes for the international, continental and national events.

The Department will continue to lead the provincial government's programme focusing on arts and culture, including the commemoration of national days of importance. Our

participation in the annual Grahamstown Arts Festival will continue with 7 productions, including one from the Bartimea School featuring deaf actors.

The Department of the Premier will lead the provincial **Reconciliation Games**. We intend to extend the involvement of the private sector, non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations and communities in this initiative.

We will continue our support and involvement with identified sports codes such as Free State Rugby and our rugby team, the Cheetahs as well as Bloemfontein Celtic and Free State Stars and the Ba2Cada Tournament.

The Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation will also continue to implement programmes in sport and recreation that are aimed at benefiting communities at large as well as school children such as the Siphon Mutsi Games for learners, the Dr Irvin Khoza Super League, Boxing Development League, Games for People with Disabilities, Senior Citizen Games, Indigenous Games and Women in Sport.

CONCLUSION

Mmuso ona ke wa lona, le bokamoso ba ona, bo itshetlehile matsohong a lona.

In conclusion, honourable Acting Speaker, I would like to thank communities from all walks of life in the Free State – black, white and coloured - religious formations and the private sector for their continued support of our provincial government.

We firmly believe that we have put in place a solid foundation from which we can achieve Free State Vision 2030. This will not be an easy task and will call upon each of us to make the right and responsible decisions, not in our own interests, but to promote a future that will benefit the broader Free State and South African community.

In the forthcoming weeks, an implementation planning session will convene between the Free State provincial government, provincial entities and our local government sector to develop a comprehensive implementation plan that will give effect to the projects and programmes outlined.

Working together, we will be able to achieve the socio-economic freedom of our people.

I thank you.

Dankie.

Ke ya leboha.

**PROGRESS WITH BULK WATER SCHEMES AND
REFURBISHMENT OF WASTE WATER TREATMENT WORKS**

Bulk Water Schemes

- Phase 1 of the Bulk Water Schemes in the Xhariep District, namely Phase 2 of the Jagersfontein / Fauresmith and Rouxville / Smithfield / Zastron. We are particularly pleased that Phase 1 of the project has been completed and Phase 2 will cater for the residents of Fauresmith.
- The Rouxville / Smithfield / Zastron Bulk Water Scheme in the Xhariep District comprises the construction of pipelines, the new Rouxville water treatment works as well as the drilling of boreholes. Upon completion of the Rouxville part of the project, the Smithfield and Zastron projects will be implemented.
- Progress with the regional bulk water scheme in Tokologo Local Municipality include;
 - Construction of 2ML reservoir is a 100% complete.
 - Civil works for the construction of the water treatment plant is 90% complete.
 - Mechanical and electrical component for the construction of the water treatment plant is 30% complete.
 - The 15km pipeline is a 100% complete.
 - The 10km pipeline is 65% complete.
 - The 8.5km pipeline is 98% complete.
 - The 7km pipeline is 15% complete.
 - The civil component for the abstraction works is 100% complete.
 - The mechanical and electrical component for the abstraction works is 98% complete.
- Progress with the bulk water scheme in the Dihlabeng Local Municipality include;
 - The construction of the pipelines between Bethlehem and Paul Roux is 75% complete.
 - The civil work for Paul Roux reservoir is 100% complete.
 - All necessary studies have been completed for the construction of the Rosendal Dam and pipeline as well as the pipeline from Bethlehem to Fouriesburg
- Progress with the Sterkfontein Dam Scheme include;
 - The Sterkfontein pipeline is at 100% complete.
 - The civil and structural component for the Sterkfontein water treatment works is 100% complete.
 - The mechanical and electrical component for the Sterkfontein water treatment works is 98% complete. Escor reservoir is a 100% complete.
 - The Qwa-Qwa pipeline is 98% complete.
 - The Northern Region Bulk Storage is 30% complete.
 - The raw water abstraction is 70% complete.
 - The Metsi Matsho pipeline is 5% complete.
 - The Makwane water treatment works is 5% complete. The Qwa-Qwa internal distribution and connections are 5% complete.

EMBARGOED UNTIL THURSDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2013 AT 10:00

- Progress with the bulk water scheme in the Phumelela Local Municipality include;
 - The construction of the 3Ml Reservoir and appurtenant works is 98% complete.
 - The construction of the Ezenzeleni Pump Station and pipelines is 67% complete.
 - The license application for the construction of the Cornelis River Dam is in progress.
 - The construction of the Ezenzeleni Water Treatment Works is 35% complete.

Waste Water Treatment

- The refurbishment of Bethlehem Wastewater Treatment Works and Saulspoort Water Treatment works in the Dihlabeng Local Municipality have been completed;
- The refurbishment of the Ficksburg sewerage pump station has been completed and also the rehabilitation and connection of the outfall sewer line along the pump station and the new collecting sewer line has also been completed.in the Setsoto Local Municipality have been completed.
- Essential refurbishment and maintenance work at the Vredefort sewer pump station has been completed and 80 % of the asbestos pipe line has been upgraded to UPVC at the Heilbron sewer pipeline.

EDUCATION

LIST OF 20 SCHOOLS THAT FORM PART OF THE ACCELERATED SCHOOLS INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY INITIATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION

School	Town	District	Learner Number
Diamanthoogte Combined	Koffiefontein	DC 16	1443
Luckhoff Combined	Luckhoff	DC 16	920
P.T. Sanders Intermediate	Trompsburg	DC 16	480
Heide Primary	Bloemfontein	DC 17	1153
Tweespruit Primary	Tweespruit	DC 17	378
Sehlabeng Secondary	Ladybrand	DC 17	792
Boshof Intermediate	Boshof	DC 18	932
Itemoheng Primary	Marquard	DC 19	1039
Caledon Park Intermediate	Ficksburg	DC 19	529
Nampo Secondary	Bothaville	DC 20	638
Tjhebelopele C/S	Bloemfontein	DC 17	1275
Bethlehem C/S	Bethlehem	DC 19	1074
Ntsu S/S	Bethlehem	DC 19	1333
Phephetso S/S	Kroonstad	DC 20	1066
Dorrington Matsepe Intermediate	Kroonstad	DC 20	1123
Pele-ya-Pele S/S	Sasolburg	DC 20	733
Lehutso P/S	Sasolburg	DC 20	1706
Metsimatle S/S	Oranjeville	DC 20	357
Qalabothja S/S	Villiers	DC 20	635
Vredefort P/ S	Vredefort	DC 20	434

FREE STATE REPRESENTATIVES IN THE NATIONAL TEACHERS AWARDS

- Ms. S.M Moopelwa of the Lejweleputswa District in the category Excellence in Primary School Teaching
- Mr. M.I. Moloi of the Thabo Mofutsanyana district in the category Excellence in Secondary School Teaching
- Ms. N.A Mofokeng of the Lejweleputswa district in the category Excellence in Primary School Leadership
- Mr. M.S. Sehloho of the Lejweleputswa district in the category Excellence in Secondary School Leadership
- Ms. G.F. Sand of the Lejweleputswa district in the category Excellence in Grade R Teaching
- Ms. M.A. Swanepoel of the Xhariep District in the category Excellence in Special Needs Teaching
- Ms. A. Van Vuuren of the Motheo District in the category Excellence in ICT– Enhanced Teaching
- Ms. K.B. Radebe of the Fezile Dabi district in the category Lifetime Achievement Award.

HEALTH

- Infrastructure projects at health facilities, including the Boitumelo Hospital, Tokollo Hospital, the Elizabeth Ross Hospital and the Diamant Hospital have been completed.
- In addition, the new Multi-Resistant Drug Unit at Kopano Hospital in Welkom and the Forensic Mortuary at Bloemfontein have been completed.
- Construction of clinics at Matlakeng in Zastron, Maletsatsi Mabaso in Botshabelo and Amelia in Sasolburg are in planning and design phases.
- Construction of clinics at Cornelia and Schonkenville is set to commence during the new financial year whilst construction at the Viljoenskroon clinic is already underway.
- Construction of clinics at Freedom Square (Mangaung) and the Bolata clinic in QwaQwa is set to be completed in 2014 and 2015 respectively.
- 16 modular structures for HIV and Aids have been completed at the following clinics; Sizabantu, Philane, Parys, Mafube, Trompsburg, Thembaletu, Rouxville, Paballong, Kopanong, Rearabetswe, Phuthaditjhaba, Freedom Square, Kagisanong, Thusong, Chief Albert Luthuli and Intabazwe.

POLICE, ROADS AND TRANSPORT

- Significant progress has been made with work on the Bloemfontein–Bultfontein, Lindley-Steynsrus, Bethlehem-Lindley and Heilbron-Frankfort roads and work is on schedule to be completed during the next financial year. Progress is as follows;
 - Bloemfontein - Bultfontein road is at 76 % completion
 - Lindley - Steynsrus road is at 79 % completion
 - Bethlehem - Lindley road is at 77 % completion
 - Heilbron - Frankfort road is at 60 % completion

- Portions of road construction on the Wepener-Zastron, Bultfontein-Wesselsborn and Kroonstad-Vredefort roads have been completed. Remaining construction work on these roads will be prioritized over the MTEF-period.
 - 21.5 km of the original 61.7 km of the Wepener - Zastron road
 - 11.9 km of the original 21 km of the Bultfontein - Wesselsbron road
 - 36 km of the original 60 km of the Kroonstad - Vredefort road

- Designs have been completed for 8 other roads and these remain a priority to be funded over the MTEF-period. These roads include the;
 - Harrismith-Oliviershoek
 - Deneysville-Oranjeville
 - Oranjeville-Frankfort
 - Vredefort-Parys
 - Hobhouse-Ladybrand
 - Ladybrand-Clocolan
 - Vrede-Memel and
 - Lindley-Mamafubedu (Petrus Steyn)

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

- 9047 sites were planned and surveyed in various areas of the province during the 2012/2013 financial year. The sites include the following;
 - Mamafubedu (Petrus Steyn), Reitz (Petsana) and Lindley in the Nketoana Local Municipality
 - Harrismith (Mahaseng and Tsele) in the Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality
 - Bethlehem (Bakenpark) in the Dihlabeng Local Municipality
 - Sasolburg (Mooiplatz) in the Metsimaholo Local Municipality
 - Maokeng and Rammulotsi in the Moqhaka Local Municipality
- Basic municipal infrastructure was installed in respect of 7193 sites in the Mangaung Metro as well as the Dihlabeng, Moqhaka, Malut-a-Phofung, Kopanong and Phumelela local municipalities.
- A total of 337 units under the Land Restitution beneficiary programme were constructed in Herschel (Thaba Nchu), Henneman, Bethany, Lindley, Wesselsbron, Senekal, Hoopstad, Blesbokfontein (Bultfontein) and Warden.