



Premier of the Free State
SH Ntombela

**State of the Province Address Delivered by the
Honourable S.H. Ntombela, Premier of the Free State
Province**

02 July 2019

Honourable Speaker of the Legislature
Honourable Members of the Legislature and the Executive Council
Honourable Members of the National Assembly and the NCOP
Judge President and Esteemed Members of the Judiciary
Modulasetulo wa Ntlo ya Marena, Marena le Dikgosi
The Leadership of SALGA and our Municipalities
The Provincial Commissioner of SAPS
The Regional Commissioner of Correctional Services
Leaders of Chapter Nine and Ten Institutions
Leaders of the African National Congress and the Alliance
Leaders of Faith Based Organisations
Leaders of Civil Society Organisations
Leaders of the Business Community
Comrades, Compatriots and Friends
All our Special Guests
Viewers and Listeners

Honourable Speaker,

On a glorious day like this, we can only look back with gratitude on the journey we have travelled since 1994. This day marks the beginning of the sixth democratic legislature. It unveils the New Dawn full of hope of a better future.

As we rejoice in the kindness of this moment, we know that this day would have not been possible without the support of our people. It is therefore befitting to once again thank them for their trust in the government of the ANC.

Re seo re leng sona ka lebaka la kgetho ya lona. Ka hara mathata le manolo, le bontshitse botshepehi mmusong wa ANC. La ananela bohlokwa ba hoba teng le tshebetso ya puso ya setjhaba ka setjhaba.

Le re file taelo ya ho le sebeletsa ka bokgabane le botshepehi. Re ya tshepisa hore tsohle tseo re tla di etsang e tlabo molemong wa setjhaba.

Ka nako ya dikgetho tse sa tswa feta, re tsamaile Foreisetata ena kaofela re kena metse le metsana re bua le batho ha habo rona. Re ba mametse ebile re iponetse matha a tobaneng le bona.

Ba re jwetsitse hore mmuso wa ANC o sebeditse ho fihlela mona. Empa ba re file molaetsa o hlakileng hore ha baya kgotsofala ka tsela e lenama eo mmuso o kenyang diprogramo tsa ona tshebetsong tsa ho lwantsha tlhokeho ya mesebetsi, bofuma le hose lekalekane ha setjhaba.

Ba boletse basa qeyaqeyo ho se kgotsofale ha bona ka taba tse latelang:

- *Tlhokeho ya metsi le tsamaiso ya dikgwerekgwere*
- *Phepelo e siyo kapa e fokolang ya motlakase*
- *Ditsela tse maemong a mabe tse sa tsamaeheng*
- *Ho phuthwa ho siyo kapa ho fokolang ha matlakala*
- *Dipalangwang tse siyo ebile disatshepahale*
- *Tlhokeho ya matlo le ditsha*
- *Mananeo a fokolang a ntshetsopele ya moruo*
- *Bobodu le khiri e sekameng ya basebetsi*
- *Tlhokeho e kgolo ya mesebetsi hara batjha*

Ke boikarabelo ba mmuso ho fana ka tharollo mathateng ana.

As we begin to map the future that the people of the Free State wants, our work will be shaped by the following seven priorities identified by President Cyril Ramaphosa in his **State of the Nation Address**:

- *Economic transformation and job creation*
- *Education, skills and health*
- *Consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services*
- *Spatial integration, human settlements and local government*
- *Social cohesion and safe communities*
- *A capable, ethical and developmental state*
- *A better Africa and World*

Priority 1: Economic Transformation and Job Creation

Honourable Speaker,

Now real work begins. **#Building the Free State We Want**. We will pursue this call to action through smart service delivery interventions aligned to the **4th Industrial Revolution** anchored on these commitments:

- *Infrastructure Development Support*
- *Green Economy*
- *Digital Economy*
- *Agro-processing*
- *Retail and Services*
- *Industrialisation*

Work to fulfil these commitments will be undertaken through inclusive actions compelling all our public sector institutions to set aside enterprise development packages to stimulate economic growth. The creation of jobs for the benefit of our people is not going to be negotiable. Building the Free State We Want consistent with our manifesto to grow South Africa begins today.

This we will not do alone. We know we can count on the support of the people of the Free State. Your wisdom will enrich our democracy. Only great things can happen if we work together as one.

Our ability to set the Free State on a bold development path is based on our ability to grow our economy. Currently, our economy is fragile and unstable. Its performance is yet to inspire the level and kind of confidence we desire.

The low growth rate of 0.9 percent in 2019, minimal investment and the complex trade imbalance have hampered our ability to grow the economy.

These challenges have resulted in high unemployment rate, unacceptable poverty levels and increasing inequalities.

Leqeme la tlhokeho ya mesebetsi haholoholo batjheng ha le re jese ditheohelang. Ka hona, re tla kenya tshebetsong manane a ho thehwa ha mesebetsi. Hona ho tla ntlafatsa moruo le ho tlisa serithi bathong ba rona. Hape, mesebetsi e tla fedisa bofuma le ho selekalekaneng ha maemo.

Three days ago, we concluded a successful founding **Free State Youth Expo** as part of our efforts to create meaningful opportunities for young people. Held under the theme, **25 Years of Democracy: A Celebration of Youth Activism**, the **Expo** was a great show of business passion, business-to-business interaction, career exhibition and funding opportunities.

Knowing the value of creating jobs and business opportunities for young people, we committed to the following as the Provincial Government:

- *To contribute towards youth development through sector specific incubation and mentorship programmes*
- *To enter into a social pact with businesses in fighting youth unemployment and poverty*
- *To build and strengthen relationships and supply chain linkages with large businesses*
- *To foster partnerships for broad youth development sector and implement an effective youth development programmes*
- *To improve the quality of products and services of youth businesses to meet recognised standards*
- *To build the spirit of patriotism and selflessness amongst youth through social engagements and development*
- *To create an environment for emerging businesses to enter into agreements for vertical or horizontal amalgamation*
- *To provide business and training opportunities to improve economic participation of young people*

As part of this **Expo**, we had a roundtable discussion themed **#Free State Digital Economy Youth Accord** to stimulate growth in the **4th Industrial Revolution** area where we agreed to the following:

- *Create an opportunity for **five thousand** youth to undergo training in advanced ICT skills*
- *Support the growth of five digital start-ups to have a collective revenue of **five hundred million rands** in five years*
- *Support the development, testing and commercialisation of locally produced ICT solutions*

In this financial year, we will further engage the industry by partnering with **Central University of Technology** to host the **4th Industrial Revolution Summit**. We call upon **State Information Technology Agency** to strengthen their support to young people on procurement opportunities.

From this engagement, **thirty-six** companies pledged to support government efforts to create employment opportunities. Just to mention a few, Ntate Koos du Plessis, a farmer in Vredefort district, committed to train **two-hundred and fifty** young people in the use of new agricultural value chain technologies.

Ntate Theo Fourie from **Columbus** committed to train **two hundred and fifty** support technicians in the repairs of mobile phones. Ntate Jimmy Mooko from **NAFCOC** promised to work with his affiliate businesses to place **two hundred** young graduates. Ntate Francois Strauss and Mme Baile Mavuso of **Thusa Ho Fepa** in Bainsvlei want to work with **hundred** youth on e-Pap product.

There is also Doctor Sushan Pillay from **MediTech** who committed to work with young people on healthcare solutions and repairs of medical equipment. We are working with **Harmony** on training **two hundred and ten** young people on core skills in mining for possible absorption in their operations.

We also facilitate a radio breakfast with **Dj LeGoody** of **CUT FM** and young people who raised some of the following issues:

- *More investment is needed in the creative economy and also the recognition of Free State talent*
- *The need to increase training workshops and platforms for artists*
- *Standard bank has agreed to provide soft loans for youth to incubate new business ideas*
- *Increase pecan nuts and pomegranate farming opportunities which already have markets*
- *A need to have a conversation with mining houses on procurement of mining supplies*

The provincial government and municipalities had a target of creating **fifty thousand** jobs through the **Expanded Public Works Programme** by March this year. Nothing is more pleasing to report in this **House** that this target was exceeded. **Sixty-two thousand, one hundred and sixty** jobs were created.

Rightly so, of these jobs, **forty-four thousand, two hundred and eighty-nine** beneficiaries were women, **twenty-eight thousand, four hundred and sixty-nine** youth, and **five hundred and forty-seven** were people with disabilities.

Under the **Expanded Public Works Programme**, the **National Youth Service Programme** offers endless opportunities to the youth. Because of this **Programme**, **two hundred and eighteen** youth participated in service delivery activities and benefited from government's work placement initiatives.

Integrated work learning was equally extended to **thirty-two** young people living with disabilities as part of this **Programme**. Presently, **sixty-eight** youth from Oranjeville are participating in the **National Youth Service Programme**.

Accelerated empowerment of emerging contractors under the **Contractor Development Programme** is underway. We now have **three hundred and twenty-four** participants in this **Programme**, and many are youth and women.

Honourable Speaker,

I want to repeat that for us as the Free State, agriculture is important for food security, high labour absorption rate and rural development. The 5.6 percent projected future growth of agriculture in 2019 in the province is encouraging.

With the reality of climate change, the future of agriculture will never be the same. The **Climate Change Adaptation Plan** we undertook to develop will strike a balance between our social, environmental and economic realities.

Action in this direction is impressive. We are expanding and diversifying our agricultural sector in the Free State. Through the **Agro-processing Development Support Programme**, seven businesses received funding totaling over **two million rands (R2.1 million)**.

The **House** will remember that I committed to a goat farming project earlier in February. I am glad to say that **three million rands (R3 million)** have been allocated for this **Goat Development Project** targeting women and youth.

Ikonomi e ka ntlafala haholo ha bomme ba bapala karolo e kgolo ditabeng tsa temo. Re etsa kgweletso ho bomme ho kenya letsoho temong.

We are working with **SA Pork, HygroTech, SENWES, VKB, OVK, Potato SA, Transnet**, banks and retailers to harness resources and technologies to grow this sector. We need to monitor how some of these institutions integrate black young professionals in their transformation programme.

Honourable Speaker,

We have natural resources that includes gold, diamonds, sand and salt in the Free State with a huge potential to create jobs. We will engage the mining houses in Xhariep, Lejweleputswa and Fezile Dabi about the participation of the Free State people in the mining economy.

We will also explore sand mining in the area of Wepener. Beneficiation will be enhanced. It is very important to develop a plan of action for mining towns in the Free State. **#Building the Free State We Want.**

The **Special Economic Zone** in Maluti-a-Phofung should be made to work to build the economy of the Free State. It is for that reason that DESTEA should take full responsibility of the operations of the **Special Economic Zone**.

The importance of the **Investment Book** cannot be overemphasised. By the end of July, it should be at the desk of the President and we should have announced members of the **Premier's Economic Advisory Council**.

Honourable Speaker,

In increasing our share of tourism market, we will review the **Provincial Tourism Master Plan**. Greater focus will be on marketing and product development. Tourism routes will be expanded and education prioritised.

Good road infrastructure is the heartbeat of growth. Effective roads reduce the cost of doing business and build a conducive business environment.

Beyond these factors, our roads construction and maintenance has been a source of youth employment, poverty alleviation and business development.

Details of the completed construction and maintenance of **six** roads that benefitted **five hundred and twenty-three** people were presented in February. **Ten** similar projects that I also announced are being implemented.

Ongoing work includes construction and rehabilitation of the following roads:

- *Villiers – Cornelia Road*
- *Reitz – Tweeling – Frankfort Road*
- *Kroonstad – Viljoeskroon Road*
- *Winburg- Marquard Road*
- *Ventersburg – Senekal Road*
- *Jacobsdal Trans Route*

- *N8 – Airport Road*
- *De Wetsdorp – Wepener Road*
- *Hoopstad – Bloemhof Road*

It is expected that these projects will cost **three hundred and twenty-five million rands (R325 million)** and create **five thousand, six hundred jobs**.

Priority 2: Education, Skills and Health

Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano,

Tswelopele ya setjhaba e itshetlehile hodima thuto. Thuto ke lesedi ebile ke senotlolo sa katleho le bokamoso bo botle ba setjhaba. Ke ka thuto feela re ka fihlellang ditiro le ditabatabello tsa rona. Ke ka hona re tla dulang re kgothaletsa le ho tsetela thutong ya bana ba rona.

Pejana selemong sena ke ile ka ananela hore re le mmuso wa Foreisetata, tjhelete eo re fanang ka yona ya ditshehetso baneng ba rona ba banyenyane eleng R15 ngwana ka mong ka letsatsi, ha e a lekana.

Re itlamile hore tjhelete ena re tla e nyolla ho ya ho R17 selemong sena. Ke motlotlo kajeno ho le tsebisa hore tshepiso ena re e phetisitse.

Foreisetata re bommapodi ho tsa thuto. Selemong sena re boetse re ipeletsa ho barutwana, mesuwe, batswadi le basebetsi bohle ba Lefapha la Thuto ho etsa bonnete ba hore re sireletsa sekola sa rona jwalo ka tlwaelo. *Re itse re tlabapheta...re baphete...ho fihlela ba tlwaela.*

Selemong sena re ikemiseditse ho sebetsa le dikolo ho thusa bana ba Grade 12 hore ba ithute ho fumana mangolo a ho kganna.

The pace of education infrastructure delivery is evidence of the value we place in education. The following schools will be completed this financial year.

- *Mooifontein Primary School in Zastron*
- *Rehopotswe Primary School in Bethlehem*
- *Tlholo Primary School in Botshabelo*

- *Ruang Tsebo Primary School in Clocolan*
- *Malebogo Primary School in Hertzogville*
- *Caleb Motshabi Primary School in Bloemfontein*
- *Gm Polori Primary School in Hoopstad*
- *Silindukuhle Primary School in Warden*

We are concerned about some of the schools that have gone beyond their construction period and we will take action against defaulting contractors.

We can also report good progress with the construction of **four** new hostels. Contractors have been appointed to build **Leboneng Hostel** in Welkom, **Boitumelong Hostel** in Thaba Nchu and **Breda Hostel** in Fouriesburg

Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano,

Re ne rena le dikolo tse 30 tseo di neng di hauwe ka materiale o sa amoheleheng jwalo ka mobu, asbestos le masenke. Re qetile ho aha tse 23 mme ho setse tse 7 tseo re tla diqetela selemong sena sa ditjhelete.

Re hlalositse hore ho re utlwisa bohloko ho bona bana ba sebedisa matlwana a mekoti. Re tseba mahloko le dikotsi tsa matlwana ana. Mosebetsi wa ho fedisa matlwana ana o ntse o tswela pele.

Ho matlwana a 156 profinsing ka bophara, a 73 a se a fedisitswe mme re tla qetela a setseng pele selemo sena sa ditjhelete se fela. Batho ba 218 ba ile ba thola mesebetsi kahong ya matlwana ana.

The arrival of the **4th Industrial Revolution** will change the way we learn and how our children interact with the world. Knowledge economy will be the way to the future. Work to prepare our children for these changes have started.

As part of the **Framework for Skills for a Changing World**, we made in February, we are rolling-out digital workbooks and textbooks on tablets to our learners in the province. Training has also been provided to **one thousand**

and fifty-one educators in the use of ICT for learning and teaching. We have already started working with mobile companies in a number of schools.

Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano,

Re le mmuso, re maswabi haholo ka diketso tse mpe tse etsahetseng mane sepetleleng sa Pelonomi. Re tshwela botlokotsebe bona ka mathe. Re tla etsa ka hohlehohle ho netefatsa hore diketsahalo tsena ha di iphethe. Tshireletso ya basebetsi le bakudi ba rona e bohlokwa.

Re kentse tshebetso lenane la ho matlafatsa tshireletso sepetleleng sa Pelonomi. Lenane lena le kenyetsa mekgwa e latelang ya ho ntlafatsa le ho netefatsa maemo a tshireletso:

- **Ho kenya mabone a maholo jareteng ya sepetlele**
- **Tokiso ya terata e potapotileng moedi wa sepetlele**
- **Ho laola ketelo ya bakudi sepetlele**

Hape, re tla theha sebaka sa tshebetso ya polokeho se kenyeditseng maponesa, basebeletsi ba tshireletso le mekgatlo ya setjhaba ya tshireletso. Mananeo ana a tla akaretswa dipetle kaofela.

Honourable Speaker,

Health and wealth are two sides of the same coin. Development of nations is connected to good health. Our pledge to improve healthcare is proceeding.

I said in February in this **House** that we will appoint **four hundred and fifty-seven** more doctors and **one thousand, seven hundred and ten** more nurses. In the past three months, the provincial government appointed **one hundred and one** doctors, and **one hundred and sixty-nine** nurses. We also appointed additional **hundred and thirty-five** emergency care staff.

Another **two hundred and twenty-nine** doctors and **three hundred and three** nurses will be appointed by October. The remaining healthcare workers will be appointed by the beginning of the next financial year.

Hundred and seventeen medical students from Cuba have been placed in various universities in the country to finalise their qualifications. Next month we will receive another **forty-three** students and we will place them in different universities.

We are on course to open the **Fezi Ngubentombi Hospital** and **Mafube Hospital** in this financial year. Major improvements at **Parys Hospital** and **Moroka Hospital** are also on track. Progress include improvements and upgrades of clinics as stated in the February **State of the Province Address**.

Priority 3: Consolidating the Social Wage through Reliable and Quality Basic Services

Honourable Speaker,

In an array of social wage means we are implementing is the protection of older persons, ensuring their safety and security, and combating their abuse.

Currently, **three** government residential facilities of Boiketlong, Botshabelo Haven and Thekolohelong provide **seven thousand, three hundred and thirty-three** older persons with necessary care and support.

Disability is very much part of our existence. None of us is immune from becoming disabled. To stop societal discrimination experienced by persons living with disability, we will implement several empowerment programmes.

Working together with the **Japan International Cooperation Agency**, we will implement the **Disability Empowerment and Mainstreaming Project** in Maluti-a-Phofung. This is intended to ensure that persons with disabilities are included in community activities and receive services by removing barriers.

Seven hundred and fifty-two thousand rands (R752 000) for disability mainstreaming in **thirty-five** wards in Maluti-a-Phofung has been set aside.

We are striving to meet the target set for the employment of people living with disability in all our departments by the end of this financial year.

Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano,

Lenaneo la metsi le motlakase wa mahala le leka ho thusa ba dikobo di mahetleng. Re lebelletse hore mang kapa mang ya sebedisang metsi a fetang 6 kiloliters le motlakase o fetang 50 kilowatts o tlameha ho patala hoya ka tshebediso ya hae.

The **General Household Survey** figures are uplifting. A total of 91.2 percent of households have access to electricity. Free State have the highest number of households using electricity for cooking in the country at 87.9 percent.

Again, 91.1 percent of households have tap water inside their dwellings, off-site or on-site, and 85.5 percent have access to improved sanitation facilities.

Priority 4: Spatial Integration, Human Settlements and Local Government

Honourable Speaker,

Decades of spatial segregation fuelled by apartheid remains part of our landscape. Greater spatial integration is a priority. It is about rethinking the way we live and interact with our environment to achieve shared growth.

As we speak, municipalities throughout the province are being assisted with the implementation of the **Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act**. Support provided ranges from land use administration to town planning.

We are worried about the functionality of some **Municipal Planning Tribunals**. We are going to ensure that municipalities appoint qualified people to serve on these **Tribunals** to ensure that they promote spatial integration.

Looking at the opportunities presented by the **Karoo Regional Development Initiative**, we will work with the **South African Local Government Association** to foster spatial integration and renewal of small towns. The **4th National Small Towns Conference** is planned for October for this purpose.

The provincial government have **four thousand, eight hundred and ninety-five** land parcels with an estimated value of over **ten billion rands (R10.8 billion)**.

The demand for land is serious. According to the latest national land audit, 75 percent of Whites, 13 percent of Coloureds, 5 percent of Indians and only 3 percent of Africans own land in the Free State. We have to accelerate land reform in the province.

I will establish and announce a **Land Use Task Team** to advise the Executive Council on how to make available these land parcels to the people of the Free State. Another **two thousand, six hundred and two** land parcels will in this financial year be transferred. **#Building the Free State We Want.**

Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano,

Batho ba rona ba mapolasing ba ntse ba le dikobo dimahetleng. Re le mmuso re tlamehile ho kenya lenane le ikgethang ho lokisa maemo a batho ba mapolasing. Ba bang ba borapolasi ba se ba qadile ho fana ka dikarolwana tsa lefatshe (sectional titles) hore re kgone ho haela baahi ba mapolasing matlo.

In restoring the rights of farmworkers, **thirty-two** housing units were constructed for their benefit in different farms, and **nine hundred and six** houses were built for the beneficiaries of the **Land Restitution Programme**.

All incomplete houses will be completed by the end of the financial year. We call on all our municipalities to at least provide basic infrastructure in all informal settlements.

Ke ngongorehile haholo ke lenama la tshebetso mane G-Hostel, e Welkom, eo setjhaba sa rona esaleng se lla ka botlokotsebe bo etsahalang moo. Ke laetse Lefapha la Matlo hore le kene dipakeng ho potlakisa kaho ya matlo sebakeng seo. Batho ba rona ba thole mesebetsi, ba dule matlong a nang le serithi.

Re tla potlakisa phano ya mangolo a ditsha le matlo (Title Deeds) le ho kgothaletsa dimasepala ho fana ka ditsha ho batho ba batlang ho ikahela matlo

Four thousand, seven hundred and seventy-five Title Deeds have been registered and issued. Another **two thousand, four hundred and thirty-seven** were issued to new home-owners in the subsidy market on occupation.

Mmuso o tshwengwa ke marangrang a ditshebeletso a putlamang dimasepaleng tsa rona jwalo ka disweriji, motlakase o fokolang, ditsela tse sa tsamaheng le ho sa phuthwe ha matlakala. Lekgotleng la rona la puso le ne le kenyeleditse dimasepala re itlamme hore ho tlabane le diphethoho tse bonalang kgweding tse tharo tse tlang.

Priority 5: Social Cohesion and Safe Communities

Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano,

Re tshepisetse hore re tla aha setjhaba se utlwanang, se hlomphanang, se tsotellanang, se lekanang. Kutlwano e bohlokwa setjhabeng sa rona.

We will continue to connect various races, genders, cultures and religions in our drive to instill social cohesion in the Free State province.

Selemong se fetileng re kopane le diartists mme ra ba tshepisa hore re tlabane le seboka sa ho shebana le ntshepele ya ditabatabelo tsa bona. Seboka sena se tlabane ka Lwetse (September) selemong sena. Re tshwanetse ho hodisa boqapi le bohlahisi profensing ya rona.

We will host MACUFE to celebrate our identity. This festival that attracts about **eighteen thousand** visitors to Mangaung will serve as a medley of cultural diversity.

We will explore some of the creative ideas to grow this festival, which young people suggested in my recent engagement with them.

Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano,

Re tseba seabo seo dipapadi di se bapalang ho kopanya setjhaba sa rona le ho aha moruo.

Re utlwile bohloko haholo ka hotswa ha Free State Stars ho League ya PSL. Re tshepa hore ba tla sebetsa ka thata haholo ho kgutlela teng sehleeng se tlang. Re tla leka ho sebetsa le bolaodi ba Celtic le balatedi ho etsa bonnete ba hore re tlisa botsitso sehlopheng.

Re itlamme hore re tla busetsa setumo sa dipapadi Maluti-a-Phofung ka ho ntjhafatsa Charles Mopeli Stadium. Ke ka thabo ho le tsibisa hore ditokisetso tsa ho kenya tshebetsong lenane lena di qadile.

Honourable Speaker,

Ensuring that all people are and feel safe is our outmost priority. Crime destroys people's lives and leads to insecurity. Crime undermines law and order. The National Development Plan compels us to ensure that, **(I quote)**

"By 2030, people living in South Africa should feel safe and have no fear of crime." **(Close quote)**

We will stop at nothing to condemn the chaos caused by Zama Zamas in Matjhabeng. Illicit mining is a challenge. Closure of unused shafts have now lead the Zama Zamas to resort to house robberies and other illegal activities.

To deal with this, a task team lead by the **South African Police Service** has been created and a plan developed. We are taking the fight to the criminals.

From time-to-time, there will be unannounced roadblocks, searches and seizures to deal with crime in hotspots of our province.

Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano,

Re boetse re etsa kgweletso ho batjha hore ba tlohele botlokotsebe le dikenke. Makeishene, dikolo le malapa a mang ha ana botsitso le kgotso ka le lebaka la maqulwana ana a iphetotseng ditlokotsebe.

Interventions by the **South African Police Service** has led to improvements. Gang activities have declined. Many gang members have been arrested and found guilty with the highest prison sentence of **fifty** years.

Sekgahla le phephetso e kgolo ya dithetefatsi ha holoholo batjheng ba rona le tsona di jele setsi makeisheneng a rona a mangata.

In response, we are funding **two** non-profit organisations in Mangaung and Fezile Dabi to assist with re-integration and aftercare in communities. This is in addition to the **forty** bed capacity halfway house we established in Clarens.

Again, **Local Drug Action** communities have been established in **ten** municipalities. We will this year establish **three Local Drug Action** communities in Mafube, Metsimaholo and Phumelela. Xhariep will also be included. We will also continue with our campaigns against substance abuse.

Re boletse hore ho lekane ka tlhekefetso le dipolao tsa bomme le bana. Ra itlama hore re kekebe ra dumella ketso tsena tse swabisang. Setjhaba se tlamehile ho itlama ho sebetsa le mmuso ho netefatsa tshireletso ya bomme le bana. Re tla eketsa manane a ho fedisa diketso tsena.

An amount of **fifteen million, eight hundred eighty-three thousand rands (R15.883 million)** have therefore been allocated in this financial year towards initiatives to eliminate and prevent violence against women and children.

Priority 6: A Capable, Ethical and Developmental State

Honourable Speaker,

Corruption is a burden. It breeds poverty, unemployment and inequalities. Corruption undermines development and weakens democracy. Anti-corruption agenda will be our agenda to fight this problem.

We will cooperate and work closely with all law enforcement agencies to root out corruption. We will ensure that all officials that involved in supply chain management are properly vetted by the **South African Security Agency**.

Just like the Auditor-General, we are concerned with the state of our municipalities. It can never be right that no municipality in the Free State received a clean audit. This disappointing performance is worrying and it must stop. Very serious interventions will happen with immediate effect.

Municipalities have performed below the expectations of their communities and this is evident in their failure to reach the set service delivery targets.

Local government is too important for us to see it fail. We will never tire to rebuild effective and capacitated municipalities. No amount of problems will see us give up on this sphere of government. We will work hard to improve service delivery, governance and financial management in municipalities.

We will continue to assist municipalities that received poor audit opinions. Our support will cover areas that include budgets, supply chain management, internal audit and risk management. **# Building the Free State We Want.**

Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano,

Le ha re ananela tokelo ya setjhaba ya ho ipelaetsa, re hlalositse ka Hlakola hore re kgathatsehile ke boipelaetso bo akgang merusu. Ra ba ra tshepisa hore re tla tisa maqhama pakeng tsa mmuso le setjhaba.

Re ipiletsa ho sepolesa sa rona le makaleng ohle a tshireletso ho lwantshana le botlokotsebe bo ipatileng hara boipiletso ba tlhoko ya ditshebeletso le mesebetsi.

Kajeno ke motlotlo ho phatlalatsa hore re thehile sehlopha sa banna le basadi batla shebana le ho thusa ka ditletlebo tsa setjhaba.

Re boletse rare re ananela karolo eo Marena a e bapalang kgodisong ya temokrasi. Re tla hodisa dikamano tsa rona le Marena mona Foreisetata.

Maqalong a selemo, re itlamme ho theha ntlo ya Marena Thabo Mofutsanyana le Mangaung, ra tshepisa le ho fana ka matla Ntlong ya Borena ba Barolong boo Seleka ho phethisa mesebetsi ya ntlo ya borena.

Tsena tsohle di phetahetse. Re tlanne re thuse Marena a rona ka hohlehohe ho phethahatsa mosebetsi wa bona setjhabeng.

Priority 7: A Better Africa and World

Honourable Speaker,

International relations and cooperation is a thread that binds all nations together. South Africa is now part of the international community. Our existence and prosperity is interconnected to that of Africa and the world.

Our role is evident in numerous Memorandums of Understanding we have with many provinces in other countries in Africa and the world. Values that guide our cooperation are shaped by our country's foreign policy objectives.

Re na le bana ba ithutang dinaheng tse ding ka lebaka la maqhama ao re nang le ona. Re motlotlo ka bana ba tlabe ba phetela dithuto tsa bona kgwedding tsena tsa Phuptjane le Phupu.

Hundred and eighteen students in universities in Bulgaria, China, India, Portugal, Russia and Turkey will graduate in the following areas of study:

- *Pharmacy - 10 Students*
- *Hotel and Hospitality - 43 Students*
- *Chemical Engineering - 4 Students*
- *Civil Engineering - 5 Students*
- *Masters in Agriculture - 1 Student*
- *PhD in Epidemiology - 1 Student*
- *Astronautics Engineering - 1 Student*
- *Biotechnology - 5 Students*
- *Food Engineering - 2 Students*
- *Environmental Engineering - 1 Student*
- *Agronomy - 1 Student*
- *Agro-processing - 1 Student*
- *Electrical Engineering; Computer Science; Mechanical Engineering and Industrial Engineering - 37 Students*
- *Masters of Agricultural Science - 6 Students*

We call upon the private sector at large as our stakeholders and partners to take advantage of these critical skills to grow the economy of the province.

We further support **Agenda 2063** for an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa. Our recent participation in the **Africa Public Service Day** in **Kenya** is evidence of this commitment. Inspired by this **Agenda** and our broad relations with other countries, we will pursue interests in agriculture and other fields.

We will also establish relations with the **Belgium's Boerenbond**, the biggest agricultural union in the world to assist with among other things, agri-parks and agri-villages, cooperatives and training. Similar relations will be strengthened with Angola, Belarus and China for agricultural development.

We will enhance professional development in mathematics and science education with Zimbabwe and Cuba. We will further strengthen cooperation in matters of traditional leadership with countries such as Ghana, Botswana and Uganda.

Conclusion

Honourable Speaker,

All of us need to think what is to be done to make the New Dawn a success. What changes are needed? As we do that, we should be inspired by President Ramaphosa's call to dream big because, as Ben Okri reminds us, **(I quote)**

"We can redream this world and make the dream come real. Human beings are gods hidden from themselves." **(Close quote)**

Dreams have the power to change the world. For our dreams to come true, we need improved capacity, better institutions and determination.

If along the way we need to change our strategy and alter our course, so be it. However, change is needed, as the night fades and the New Dawn sets in.

I still maintain that our role as political parties is to represent our people. To serve their interest. I therefore call on all of you members to work with us to turn our people's dream into lived realities. Let us all rise to this challenge.

#Building the Free State We Want – Rea Hlasela

I Thank You
