

#BUILDINGTHEFREESTATEWEWANT #FSSOPA2021



Over 88000 jobs to be created

Provide work experiences to Youth & Women

4785 houses to be built

Over 2600 hectares of land to be distributed

1.9m people to be vaccinated

Corruption will be dealt with

Tourism & economy sectors to be revitalised

BUILDING THE FREE STATE WE WANT

SOPA SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT



FREE STATE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT



PROVINCIAL COVID-19 HOTLINE 0800-535-554



Vaccine Roll-out: 1.9m people in 12 months

THE fight against COVID-19 is far from over and the threat remains real and people must never lower their guards since the country is on Level 1.

For almost a year now, the country continues to experience the worst impact of COVID-19.

COVID-19 continues to negatively affect the economy, individuals and households, many people have lost their jobs, some businesses have closed, poverty is increasing, social life has been disrupted and livelihoods are at risk.

"Just when we thought we were seeing the end of the pandemic, we were hit by the second wave and the country moved from lockdown Level

1 to Level 3 again, we are happy to say we are now back to Level 1," said Premier Ntombela.

The fight against COVID-19 is far from over and the threat remains real.

"In balancing lives and livelihoods, we will still do all that we can to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Even in these worst of times, it remains our responsibility to reduce poverty, create employment and ensure businesses prosper."

"We want to thank the Free Staters for their understanding even though it is not easy but they must continue to wear their mask, sanitise and maintain social distance. With the roll-out of the vaccine, we are



hopeful that we are on the road to recovery, we will save more lives."

"But this road will not be easy and needs all of us. We do not know when COVID-19 will no longer be with us, therefore we need to be vigilant. We have adopted a decentralised vaccine roll-out

approach and plan to vaccinate 1.9 million people over a 12-month period."

"As we continue with the roll-out, we have now vaccinated over 4803 healthcare workers at Pelonomi and Universitas hospitals," said Premier Ntombela.

52 233 JOBS ALREADY CREATED

- Even though COVID-19 seems to frustrate plans to create jobs, the government managed to create 52 233 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) work opportunities throughout the province.
- From this total number of job opportunities, 69% of women, 48% of youth and 0.72% of persons with disabilities benefited.
- We are looking forward to creating 56 000 Expanded Public Works Programme job opportunities in the coming financial year.
- This should start immediately and not later than June and we will continue with the Expanded Public Works Programme until the economy yields permanent jobs.

OVER R10BN SOCIAL GRANTS PAID

- Social grants continue to build a resilient social safety net to reduce poverty and improve livelihoods.
- Through social grants we provide income to the most vulnerable.
- At the end of January 2021, more than 1 million people were benefiting from social grants.
- The amount of social grants paid in the Free State is over R10 billion per year.
- Child support grants constitute 69% of this amount followed by old age grants at 21% and disability grants at 7%.

We are dealing with corruption

ATTACKING corruption remains high in the Provincial Government's development agenda. The Government needs to be transparent, effective and accountable to create trust in the government.

This can be achieved when the Government is serious about the fight against corruption.

"We are co-operating with law enforcement agencies in their investigations and I have instructed MECs to ensure that public servants doing business with the state as reported by the Public Service Commission are dealt with accordingly. We welcome the

initial report of the Special Investigation Unit on COVID-19 related procurement. We remain committed

"Provincial Treasury will monitor and support provincial departments, entities and municipalities to improve sustainable and accountable fiscal governance."

to the investigation processes and look forward to the final report, no acts of corruption will be tolerated in our municipalities too," said Premier Ntombela.

A database of fraud and corruption cases reported in munic-

ipalities has been created and some of these cases are already being dealt with by law en-

forcement agencies.

This year the audit outcomes of departments showed significant improvements. Out of the 12, six (6) received qualified audit opinions with one outstanding.

"We congratulate all those depart-

ments that received unqualified audit opinion and the Provincial Treasury for receiving a clean audit," said Premier Ntombela.

At municipal level, of the 23 municipalities, 12 received qualified audit opinions with 4 disclaimers and 3 had outstanding financial statements. 4 municipali-

ties received unqualified audit opinions. Support will include the development of funded budgets, which are aligned to performance plans, including audit and risk management plans.



SOPA SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

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"We are looking forward to create 56 000 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) job opportunities in the coming financial year. This should start immediately and not later than June," - Premier Sisi Ntombela

R11bn land parcels



THE Free State Provincial Government (FSPG) has commenced with their programme to distribute land to people.

There are 4872 land parcels valued at over R11 billion. Over 2600 of these total numbers of pieces of land have been earmarked to be transferred to the rightful beneficiaries.

The FSPG has completed an audit of farms in the province with the view of making these available to the people, mainly the youth and woman. 95 farms that include resorts and nature conservation areas have been identified.

Two (2) lease agreements are being concluded with for Water-val Farms in Thabo Mofutsanyana. The FSPG will determine the possible nature of farming operations on the other remaining farms.



Successful developments in the Free State



THE projects that were under construction were completed in the current financial year are Odendaalsrus Township Revitalisation Programme, Steynsrus Township Revitalisation Programme and Botshabelo Substance Abuse Dependency Treatment Centre.

Other projects to be completed this year, are upgrading of the Old Eureka Hostel in Thaba Nchu, upgrading of Charles Mopeli Stadium Parking in Phuthaditjhaba and Botshabelo Township Revitalisation Programme.

The following projects are work in progress, New Riebeeckstad (Thandanani) Clinic in Welkom, New Rheederspark Clinic in Welkom and Charles Mopeli Stadium Phase 1 in Phuthaditjhaba.

Charles Mopeli Stadium remains the property of Maluti-a-Phofung and the Free State Provincial Government (FSPG) will work together with the local municipality to successfully complete this project.

In all these projects, the FSPG is committed to ensure that local contractors benefit on the 30% set aside.

R6bn project, more than 20 000 jobs to be created



The value of the project is about R6 billion and it is projected to create 20 596 jobs, this project is expected to create about 10563 mixed used housing opportunities in Bloemfontein.

Human Settlements Infrastructure Vista Park II and III is part of the human settlements portfolio of gazetted projects.

The project is funded through the Infrastructure Fund and will be implemented in the coming financial year.



PROPERTY TRANSFORMATION

- The transformation of the property industry remains a priority.
- Out of 73 office lease contracts, 39 contracts are held by previously disadvantaged individuals.
- "This is 53% of the total office lease contracts.

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In education, Free State remains number one in the country

DESPITE the effect of COVID-19, the Free State Provincial Government (FSPG), again, is the leading province with 85.1% Grade 12 pass rate in the country.

The FSPG is holding onto its number one spot and is optimistic about occupying the same spot again next year.

The FSPG wants to thank the teachers and pupils for the sterling work, their sacrifice during this time of the pandemic is a sign of their love for education.

Currently, 11 schools are at various stages of construction, two of these schools are in Xhariep, two in Mangaung, two in Lejweleputswa,

three in Thabo Mofutsanyana and another two in Fezile Dabi.

Caleb Motshabi Primary School in Bloemfontein, Ruang Tsebo School in Clocolan, Mooifontein Primary School in Zastron, Rehopotse Primary School in Bethlehem are almost complete with some facilities already partially occupied to address overcrowding.

The following new schools will be completed in the coming financial year, Tlholo Primary School in Botshabelo and Malebogo Primary School in Hertzogville.

There are 39 farm school hostels where farm pupils are accommodated across the province.

This is not enough and the FSPG is busy expanding this programme, work to improve accommodation for special needs and farm school pupils has started in Leboneng Special School Hostel, Breda Primary School and Dr Blok. Three other hostels were refurbished to ensure proper accommodation for learners.

In the coming financial year, the FSPG plans to refurbish 21 hostels. Of the 30 schools built with unsuitable material, 25 have been reconstructed with appropriate material and 5 are under construction. 527 posts of educators have been advertised, this is in addition to 82 posts advertised in

September/October last year while 97 office based educators will be appointed to capacitate our districts and provincial offices, and provide professional support to schools.

Learning facilities in progress Smithfield and Soutpan libraries are expected to be officially open in the coming 2021/2022 financial year while construction of Van Stadensrus library will soon be completed.

The FSPG will unveil the statues of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela in Brandfort and Albertina Sisulu in Welkom in the next financial year.

71 SMMES TO BENEFIT IN KOFFIEFONTEIN

A total of 71 small and medium businesses (SMMEs) are benefiting from the R10 million Contractor Development Programme in Koffiefontein.

These are granted various road maintenance business opportunities to qualify for a minimum CIDB Grading Level 4 and it will be completed in the coming financial year.

The Free State Provincial Government (FSPG) increased in-

vestment to grow the economy of the province and pave a bright future for SMMEs to flourish in these times.

This Contractor Development Programme has been allocated R110 million for the 2021/2022 financial year and the focus of this programme is the development of businesses owned by young people.

A Truck Ownership Scheme for 50 young people together with the

Transport Education and Training Authority (TETA) will be created. These trucks will be sub-contracted to local SMMEs to transport goods.

Furthermore, the construction of an SMME Business Hub in Ficksburg is complete and it was handed-over to Setsoto local municipality last month.

These other small municipalities will be prioritised in the implementation of this Scheme in the upcoming financial year.

Task team created for strategic infrastructure project

A Task Team was formed by the Free State Provincial Government (FSPG), to drive strategic infrastructure projects.

The team will play a central coordinating function in the identification, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of strategic infrastructure projects.

The Task Team is led by the Director-General, Kopung Ralikontsane, and will work closely with Infrastructure South Africa led by Dr. Kgosientso Ramokgopa.

As part of the Economic Reconstruction and



Recovery Plan unveiled by President Ramaphosa, the FSPG, will work together with Infrastructure South Africa to implement the infrastructure projects in the province, Information, Communication and Technology Infrastructure.

The Free State province will benefit from phase-two of SA Connect, which is aimed at connecting all public buildings, schools, clinics and police stations to free, quality and reliable internet access.



R61m for COVID-19 Relief Fund

THE Free State Provincial Government (FSPG) introduced Incentive Schemes to support the small and medium enterprises and spent more than R61 million.

Small and medium enterprises are the growth drivers of our economy and it is for this reason why we have introduced an Incentive Scheme to support them.

COVID-19 relief funding to the value of R61 million was offered to 681 small and medium businesses, mainly in

townships.

The FSPG is hard at work to revive the economy but the road ahead remains long.

Through economic reconstruction and recovery interventions, the FSPG, wants to revitalise the economy and bring long lasting solutions to our challenges.

When COVID-19 happened, the economy was strained, that is, economic growth, unemployment, poverty and inequality were a challenge.



R166m road projects to be completed

THE Free State Provincial Government (FSPG) has committed to the following projects worth R166m that will be completed in Deneysville - Heilbron Road, Jim Fouché - Deneysville Road, Hoopstad - Bloemhof Road and Bothaville - Viljoenskroon Road.

However, the FSPG is aware of some of the challenges encountered in the completion of the above projects.

Due to COVID-19, the FSPG could not continue with some of the projects but in the coming 2021/22 financial year, the following projects will be completed:

- Vredefort - Viljoenskroon
- Wesselsbron - Hoopstad
- Sasolburg - Heilbron
- Kroonstad - Steynsrus
- Ventersburg - Senekal
- Bloemfontein - Dewetsdorp - Wepener, Reitz - Tweeling,
- Tweeling - Frankfort
- Schonkenville - Koppies,

The FSPG has re-prioritised some of the following projects which remains a serious challenge, Tweespruit - Hobhouse, Koffiefontein - Luckhof - Havenga Bridge.

As part of the Township Revital-

isation Initiative, the FSPG implemented 9 projects to upgrade township access roads.

These projects worth R63million will continue in this financial year, these are Memel Access Route, Arlington Access Route, Warden Access Route, Clocolan Access Route, Tweeling Access Route, Edenville Access Route, Oppermans Access Route, Springfontein Access Route, Bultfontein Access Route.

In addition to these roads, three

(3) new projects will be initiated in QwaQwa Access Roads, Mangaung Access Roads and Xhariep Access Roads using the Presidential Stimulus Package valued at R74 million.



Over R1 billion investment in Maluti-A-Phofung

OVER R1 billion investment has been secured for the Maluti-a-Phofung Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

Manufacturing is the source of economic growth and they want to tap into its potential to grow this sector in the province.

Although it is located in Maluti-a-Phofung, the Special Economic Zone is not only for residents in the eastern Free State but for the benefit of the entire province.

Its success is the success of the province and the Industrial Park Revitalisation Programme is well on track, too.

The Free State Provincial Government (FSPG) is pleased that Phase One of the Botshabelo Industrial Park is complete.

Work on phase-two of the Industrial Park, which entails the establishment of the Botshabelo Digital Hub is on-going.

The Digital Hub is meant to provide training to small and medium enterprises focusing on ICT products. Another exciting investment



is the Botshabelo Smelter which will create jobs.

This project is at an advanced stage of development and it is expected that the Smelter will create 1500 employment opportunities when completed.

The FSPG will work closely with Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality in the spirit of inter-governmental relations to ensure the success of this initiative.



Job creation in Thabo Mofutsanyana District



The Free State Provincial Government (FSPG) intends to create employment opportunities through the Contractor Development Programme in Thabo Mofutsanyana.

Contractors, sub-contractors and workers working on this Contractor

Development Programme will strictly be locals residing in that region.

Operations in the traffic and licensing centres have been a challenge due to COVID-19 and as the country now moved to Lockdown Level 1, the services are expected to return to normal and improve on

the backlog.

The FSPG is going to do more, doing more will require to do things differently, the same approach to the same problems will not work anymore, come rain or shine, the FSPG is #BUILDINGTHEFREESTATEWEWANT.

Black Youth and Women enterprises empowered

THE Free State Provincial Government (FSPG) spent more than R800 million for the procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs).

62% of enterprises that benefited were black owned, 22% youth owned, 21% women owned, 1% owned by military veterans and another 1% by persons with disability.

Seeing the impact of COVID-19 on businesses, local economic development was the primary focus in the procurement of PPEs.

In these trying times, the FSPG will channel its youth in a position where they are able to apply innovative thinking to combat the challenges they face and the FSPG needs to see more businesses owned by young people providing essential services.

Essential goods should be locally produced and sourced and as gov-

ernment, it will therefore continue to provide support to businesses owned by youth.

Hail to healthcare workers

Healthcare workers are hailed for their sterling work they are doing. Their love and dedication to the country continue to save lives and they are our heroes.

Starting in April 2020, the FSPG embarked on an Immediate Readiness Program, which included visits to all healthcare facilities as well as private hospitals and clinics.

The FSPG also ensured that these facilities are COVID-19 ready as they partnered with the World Health Organisation, Right to Care, Red Cross, University of the Free State in expanding our screening efforts.

Identified healthcare facilities for COVID-19 patients have been re-

furbished and upgraded, most importantly, 1588 permanent beds were added, to increase the COVID-19 response capacity.

As a response to COVID-19, social workers, psychologists, nurses, medical officers and cleaners were employed.

These appointments have contributed to the ability to respond to the pandemic whilst creating employment opportunities.

The FSPG remains grateful to the Republic of Cuba for its continued support in the fight against COVID-19 and providing the province with 17 healthcare professionals.

Vaccine is now available and they are moving fast to scale up the roll-

out process.

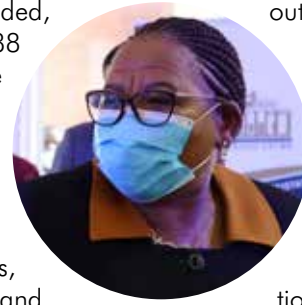
A lot is happening and this puts the province a step closer to defeating COVID-19.

A provincial coordination structure to oversee the roll-out process is now fully functional and adopted a decentralised vaccine roll-out approach.

The FSPG plans to vaccinate 1.9 million people over the next 12 months.

The target is 2042 vaccinations per day and have now vaccinated 4 803 healthcare workers at Pelonomi and Universitas hospitals.

The FSPG is launching three additional vaccine sites, Fezi Ngubentombi in Sasolburg, Bongani in Welkom and Rosepark in Bloemfontein.



MORE THAN 8000 ECD JOBS CREATED

- 8637 additional Early Childhood Development (ECD) workers will be employed using more than R38 million allocated by the Presidential Employment Intervention Initiative.
- The contracts of 92 social workers who were appointed during COVID-19 intervention will continue.
- The problem of former Masupatsela Youth Pioneers who have been at Level 2 since 2011, now, will be upgraded to Level 3.

R5.2M PAID TO ARTISTS

- 896 artists benefitted from the R5.2 million COVID-19 relief fund and R2.5 million was also made available to 171 sport sector beneficiaries.
- The creative industry continues to suffer the most during the pandemic and they will make additional funding available to assist artists and athletes.
- "Sport, arts and culture sector was affected by COVID-19 and many events had to be cancelled, including MACUFE, Heritage Day, Freedom Day, O.R Tambo Games and the annual Reading Festivals.
- Despite COVID-19 limitations, relief funds were provided to artists and athletes



Over 130 businesses sustained

The Free State Provincial Government (FSPG) has huge tourism potential and to lessen the impact of COVID-19 on this sector, 134 businesses were funded.

Under the difficult economic challenges of COVID-19, innovative ways were implemented to use the provincial-owned resorts and reserves as quarantine sites to save lives.

In increasing tourism products offering to stimulate economic growth in the province, the FSPG is currently engaging investors to develop the tourism potential of the Thaba Nchu Airfield and the Phakisa Raceway in Welkom.

The FSPG is working with the North West Province, Fezile Dabi District Municipality and the Department of Environmental Affairs, Forestry and Fisheries to revitalise the Vredefort Dome and market it nationally and internationally.

These tourism growth and development opportunities will be given material dimension in the Tourism Sector Master Plan currently being finalised.

R8 billion water project, over 3000 jobs to be created

THE Free State Provincial Government (FSPG) is prioritising the provision of water as a key intervention area.

Rustfontein Water Treatment Works to increase capacity of water supply to Botshabelo, Thaba Nchu, Excelsior and Bloemfontein has been gazetted to be one of the Strategic Integrated Projects.

Infrastructure South Africa is assisting Bloem Water to advance the development of Xhariep Pipeline Project, which is required to augment raw water for Mangaung and adjacent municipalities.

The project involves construction of a 180 km pipeline from the Xhariep Dam on the Orange River to Knellpoort Dam and it is estimated to R8 billion and create about 3000 jobs.

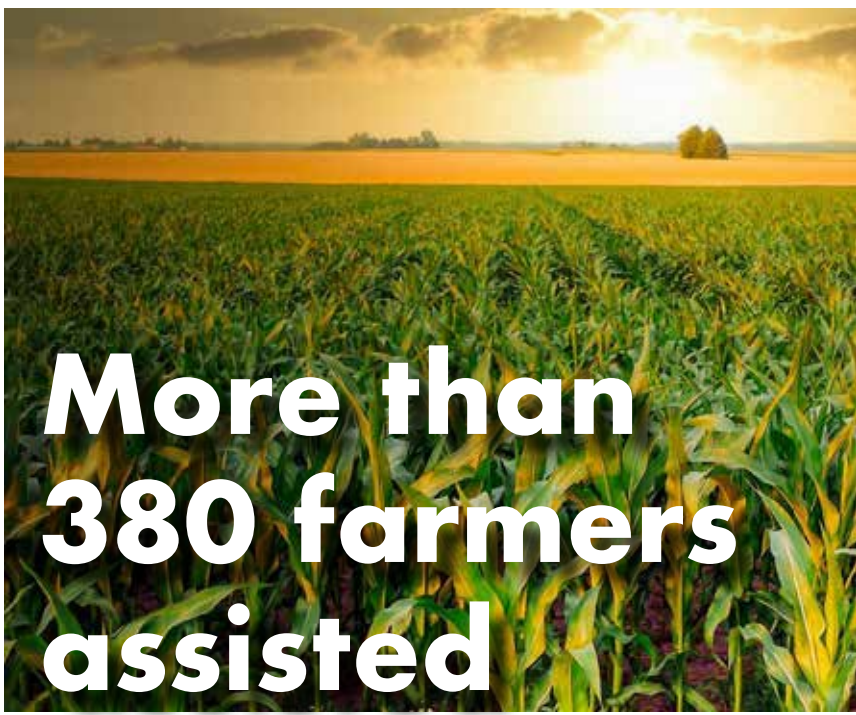
The range Riet Canal is meant



to increase water delivery capacity from 15 cubic meter per second to 24 cubic meter per second.

The project is valued at R400 million and will unlock almost 200 jobs.

Infrastructure South Africa is working with the Orange Riet Water User Association, Department of Water and Sanitation and the Development Bank of Southern Africa for project funding preparation.



More than 380 farmers assisted

“We continue to support our subsistence famers with production inputs such as vegetable seeds, fertilizers and gardent tools,”
- Premier Sisi Ntombela

MORE than R17 million assisted 389 farmers under the Disaster Relief Fund due to heavy rains that flooded their crops. It is therefore not surprising that 14.5% of South Africa’s commercial farming activities take place in the Free State province.

The location provides opportunities for agricultural growth.

The intense veld fires in 2020 caused serious damage on farms, particularly Lejweleputswa.

Over 100 farms covering 100 000 hectares of land mass and affecting 53 farmers were burnt down, as if this was not enough, farms were flooded causing another massive damage on farm infrastructure such as silos, houses, workshops, crops

and vehicles.

Besides causing harm to agricultural production, these disasters affected livelihoods of farmers, farm workers and farm dwellers alike and the Free State Provincial Government (FSPG) has since declared both disasters in terms of the Disaster Management Act 57 of 2000.

The Premier said as she previously pledged that they will use agriculture as a lever for youth employment and creation of economic opportunities.

Seven youth entrepreneurs are benefiting from the Goats Farming

Project in Tweeling.

A goat house has been constructed and training offered, and beneficiaries have been supported by 261 goats.



Another development is the Chicky Piggy, which has been constructed and is operational in Xhariep District.

This piggery has a bio security facility, office block, laundry, water establishment and reservoir, a tractor and splitter tanker.

Agri-hubs that were established in Thaba Nchu, Springfontein, Weselsbron and Parys are now implementing the Grain Value Chain Pro-

gramme.

Aspects of this programme include provision of storage and milling facilities to support Agri-parks through the Farmer Support Production Units in Makholokoeng, Thaba Nchu, Odendaalsrus, Kroonstad and Zastron.

The Free State Poultry Hub Investment Plan has been developed. Poultry initiatives are being implemented around Virginia, Parys, Frankfort and Reitz.

The FSPG continues to support the subsistence farmers with production inputs such as vegetable seeds, fertilizers and garden tools. Smallholder farmers must graduate to the commercial level and will be supported with production inputs.

Mining is a sunrise industry in the country

THE Free State province is a great example that mining is a sunrise industry in the country.

Six companies are mining industrial minerals in Lejweleputswa District Municipality.

In addition, there are 3 coal mines that are operating in the Sasolburg and Koppies areas.

These mines have a potential lifespan of almost two decades.

Together with the Department of Mineral and Resources, the Free State Provincial Government, provides support to sandstone and sand mining enterprises in Qwaqwa, Fouriesburg, Senekal, Sasolburg and Zastron.

The Premier added that support includes the provision of risk-sharing funding, permits application and skills development assistance to the miners.



COVID-19 lockdown contributed in reduction of crime



COVID-19 restrictions have contributed to the reduction of crime.

Although there was an increase in incidents of gender-based violence nationally, similar cases reported in the province were low.

Data shows that sexual offence cases in the province fell by 2,2% in the period between October to December 2019 and October to December 2020, but this is no success.

During the 16 Days of Activism on No Violence Against Women and Children, the Free State Provincial Government (FSPG), participated in the launch of the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Strategy hosted by

the Independent Police Investigative Directorate.

The FSPG was part of the Roundtable Seminar on Gender-Based Violence hosted by the Commission for Gender Equality.

Through some of these engagements, the FSPG wants to ultimately put an end to GBV and condemns acts of criminality in the farms. These acts have the potential to divide the society and these should be stopped and offenders be convicted.

The FSPG has established a special Task Team made up of all concerned to look at all ru-



ral safety matters within the context of the Rural Safety Strategy.

At the same time, a five-year Intelligent Animal Tracking System in Thaba Nchu, Botshabelo and border areas has been implemented to curb live-stock theft.

The FSPG values the law enforcement officers who day and night continue to put their lives on the line in pursuit of justice, their commitment to the rule of law is a commitment to the security of the province adding that in the police hands we are all safe.



Learning curve

THE pandemic has not prevented the government from fulfilling all the important responsibility of building the capacity of the state.

Training sessions for Recognition of Prior Learning for National Public Administration Certificate were offered. Change Management sessions and 16 accredited courses provided through the Free State Training and Development Institute were conducted.

Training and development opportunities were given to government officials, to achieve and enhance development prospects. The Free State Provincial Government (FSPG) con-

tinues to provide bursaries to many of the youth, nationally and internationally.

There are 121 students studying various courses nationally and 523 internationally.

The responsibility to the youth does not only end with the provision of bursaries.

Working with the Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETA), the FSPG is leading the efforts to provide work experiences to youth through graduate internships, learnerships, short skills programmes and work integrated learning methods.

In total, 3067 students benefitted

from different Skill Development Programmes at a cost of more than R109 million.

The FSPG is also excited with the placement programmes with the private sector, agri-business and commercial farmers that have agreed to support 120 graduates with innovative farming technology initiatives.

Another 120 unemployed graduates were funded by the FSPG and placed for work experience in various enterprises.

To fill a gap in the automotive industry and provide TVET graduates with training, the Road Building Equipment unit is concluding training

of 23 artisans who will subsequently be taken for Red Seal Certification.

The FSPG in partnership with the National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa, implement the digital skills programmes by providing Basic Digital Literacy Courses, Specialist Technology Training Programme and Digital Transformation Programme to young people.

Following the successful 4th Industrial Revolution Summit in 2019, the FSPG brought together the private sector, civil society, academics and the public sector in one platform to chart a common vision for a digitised Free State.

Municipalities under administration

The Free State Provincial Government (FSPG) is concerned about the state of local government in the province. Many municipalities are facing technical, administrative and financial challenges.

Instances of poor planning, implementation and oversight are all too common. Again, they have affected the effective functioning of municipalities and ability to provide quality services to the people.

The servants of the people take no pride in poor service delivery. People deserve better and it is the responsibility of the FSPG to give them the best they deserve. The FSPG is providing various service

deliveries, financial, technical and capacity support to municipalities and will do everything necessary and possible to serve the people with pride, professionalism and dignity they deserve.

After hearing different challenges that range from maladministration to poor service delivery, the FSPG, has placed Mafube, Metsimaholo and Mangaung Local municipalities under Section 139 of the Constitution.

What is concerning is that the situation in Mafube is yet to improve and a new Administrator was appointed to deal with challenges experienced.

Metsimaholo is no different; ser-

vice delivery remains a problem with no appointment of senior managers and less expenditure.

The FSPG has taken administrative functions of this municipality to improve service delivery.

In Mangaung, there was a cash flow and revenue collection problem. The FSPG intervened to implement a Mandatory Recovery Plan and there is progress. Intervention in Maluti-a-Phofung was lifted when signs of progress were visible improvements, include timely payment of salaries and third



parties, billing and revenue collection.

Pertaining to the water problem, the provision of water remains a challenge and the national and the FSPG are working hard with the municipality to deal with this.

Municipalities continue to provide basic services through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant to expand access to services for many of our people.

Over R286 million, out of an allocation of more than R 746 million of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant was spent by the end of December 2020.

Sites and Housing development in the province

The Free State Provincial Government (FSPG) continues to build houses in the desire to provide safety, security and comfort to all Free Staters.

3723 will be new units and 250 will be for the Finance Linked Individual Subsidy.

In this financial year, the FSPG has produced 5947 serviced sites and in the coming

“Over 5900 houses will be completed in the 2021/2022 financial year”

In this 2019/2020 financial year, the FSPG has delivered 1203 housing units, however, 4785 houses will be delivered in the coming 2021/2022 financial year.

These total housing units,

2021/2022 financial year, intends to deliver 5617 serviced sites.

A total of 4223 sites are for the upgrade of informal settlements and the others are for new greenfields developments.

Currently the FSPG is in the processes of providing the necessary basic infrastructure in Dihlabeng's Bakenpark Extensions 6 and 7 in Bethlehem.

The number of informal settlements increased from 143 to 173 and that this is a challenge.

Work to install internal reticulation in 43 informal settlements is in progress and once this has been completed, 29280 households will benefit from these developments.

28 township establishment projects in 6 municipalities have commenced and most of these will be completed by the end of the current financial year.

