



## **Budget Vote 10**

**Department of Community Safety,  
Roads & Transport**

**Hon JN Mbalula**

**16 August 2024  
Fourth Raadsaal Bloemfontein**

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Premier, Mme Letsoha-Mathae Honourable

Members of the Executive Council

Honourable Members of the Free State Provincial Legislature

The Free State Traditional Leadership

Leadership of the Local Government

Leadership of the ANC, The CEO of RTMC

The Provincial Commissioner of the South African Police Services

Brigadier-General of the South African National Defence Force

Regional Commissioner of Correctional Services

Regional Head of State Security Agency

Provincial Head of the IPID

Road Accident Fund Regional Manager

Airport Manager of the Braam Fischer International Airport

Office of Auditor General

President of SANTACO

Provincial Taxi Council Chairperson

Members of the Road Safety Forums

Members of the Community Policing Forums

All our esteemed guests

Baahi ba Foreistata kaofela dumelang!

Molweni! Goeie Dag!

**Honourable Speaker**

Allow me to foreground this budget vote by borrowing from the founding father of our democracy, the late President Nelson Mandela:

*“Safety and security do not just happen; they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, and the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear”.*

We present this budget vote at a time when our province is beset by the scourge of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, which has claimed the lives of many innocent women and girls – and could potentially take more unless we stand up as a people.

We express our deepest condolences to the families of Disebo Mosupa, Machaka “Mase” Radebe, Lerato Masiu, Kelebogile Serumone, and many other women who perished in the hands of heartless murderers.

At the same time, we are confronted with the urgent challenge of upgrading, rehabilitating, and rebuilding our road infrastructure.

The devastating impact of floods and the persisting strain of heavy freight transport has left our roads in a bad state.

We understand the frustration in the voices of our people, especially our farmers and businesses, whose survival depends on our road networks.

Bad roads are not merely an inconvenience; they destroy our economy.

Our ability to attract investors and tourists as a province is significantly diminished by the bad conditions of our roads. The potholes and crumbling infrastructure will force businesses to close their doors.

To create jobs, we need a thriving economy. To have a thriving economy, we need proper infrastructure, and at the heart of this infrastructure lies a solid road network.

Yet, these challenges notwithstanding, this budget vote presents a unique opportunity. It is an opportunity to demonstrate our resilience. It is a call to action – to rebuild, to restore, and to protect.

Today, we commit ourselves to working together with all our people, South Africa Police Services and other law enforcement institutions, traditional leaders, religious institutions, businesses, civil society associations, and other stakeholders in building a safer and better province.



## ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE

**Honourable Speaker,**

On behalf of the Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport, I would like to take this opportunity to once more acknowledge the challenges faced by the province in respect of aging road infrastructure and deteriorating conditions of our provincial road network.

Due to the central location of our province, our road network endures immense pressure and hence we must redouble our efforts in preventative maintenance to safeguard the longevity of our road infrastructure.

The department has forged strategic partnerships with various stakeholders to address these challenges. Through these partnerships, we have begun to make significant strides in ensuring that all our roads contribute meaningfully to the economic advancement of our province.

### **Honourable Speaker**

We have invested immensely in the use of the latest technology to quantify our provincial road maintenance backlog and, thus far our intervention and strategies are supported by scientific evidence.

During the past financial year, the Department successfully rehabilitated over 1.1 million square meters of surfaced roads, a clear commitment on the part of our government to enhance infrastructure and ensuring safer travel for our communities.

Additionally, 159 thousand square meters of surfaced roads were resealed, and 126 kilometres of gravel roads were re-gravelled, further improving road conditions across the province. Our maintenance efforts also saw the blading of 7,000 kilometres of gravel roads, ensuring accessibility and connectivity in rural areas.

These projects not only contributed to the improvement of road infrastructure but also created significant employment opportunities. A total of 4,044 work opportunities were generated, of which 2,250 were filled by youth, 2,060 by women, and 5 by persons with disabilities.

This reflects our commitment to inclusive growth and empowerment, ensuring that our projects positively impact the lives of our citizens, particularly those from vulnerable and marginalized groups.

As we continue to accelerate on rehabilitation, refurbishment, upgrade of gravel roads to paved, re-graveling of unpaved road network through the Provincial Road Maintenance Grant and the Provincial Infrastructure Enhancement Allocation, the 2024/25 budget will be as follows:

- 13% which equates to R258 million in Xhariep.
- 7% which equates to R134 million will be invested in Mangaung.
- In Lejweleputswa a portion of 8% will be invested with a budget of R165 million.
- Thabo Mofutsanyana with an investment of 33% with a budget of R675 million.
- 16% which equates to R334 million in Fezile Dabi.

Additionally, activities relating to preventative maintenance and routine maintenance to the value of R274 million will be rolled out Free Statewide.

A total budget of R1,2 billion is planned for Special Maintenance projects that are intended to address the road assets that are deteriorating and failing prematurely because of increased freight on our surfaced roads.

The following Major Special Maintenance projects are ongoing from the 2023/24 financial year and have a combined budget of R 1 billion in the 2024/25 financial year:

- Koffiefontein – Luckhoff – Havenga Bridge
- Zastron – Sterkspruit
- Jacobsdal – Koffiefontein
- Tweespruit – Hobhouse
- Kroonstad – Henneman – Virginia
- Senekal – Lindley
- Lindley – Petrus Steyn
- Senekal – Rosendal
- Rosendal – Ficksburg
- Harrismith SEZ
- Qwa-Qwa Roads Primary Roads consisting of six different roads totaling approximately 50 km
- Viljoenskroon – Orkney
- Koppies – Sasolburg
- Sasolburg – Heilbron (Phase 2)

An additional budget of R134 million is set aside for new projects that are expected to commence in the third and fourth quarters of 2024/25 financial year. These include the following:

- Clocolan – Marquard
- Ladybrand – Hobhouse
- Tweespruit - Excelsior
- Oppermansgronde upgrade of 10km gravel to surface road.
- Thaba Nchu Public Transport Routes (S1531 and 1523) with a total length of approximately 20 kilometers
- Dealesville – Hertzogville – Christiana border
- Completion of Kroonstad – Steynsrus road
- Reitz - Kestell

A total budget of R125 million is budgeted for the regravelling programme in all five (5) districts of the province.

To speed up pothole repairs, the Free State Province is collaborating with the Central University of Technology to expand Operation Vala Zonke. Through this program, 650 young people have been afforded work opportunities in all five districts of the province.



In an effort to address flood-damaged bridge structures in our province, the department has budgeted an amount of R39 million. This is over and above the already committed budget for Oos River Bridge in Mangaung and Bridge B244 in Lejweleputswa at a combined cost of R40,3 million.

The Welisizwe Rural Bridge Program is also continuing and a budget of R181 million is earmarked for the 2024/25 financial year, to promote accessibility in rural communities in partnership with the South African National Defense Force (SANDF) and the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

### **Honourable Speaker**

The Department remains committed to the uplifting of previously disadvantaged groups and we make no apologies for our programs to secure their integration in the mainstream economy.

We are committed to empowering emerging contractors through our road maintenance budgets in a cost-effective and transparent manner. We recognize the importance of supporting small and medium-sized enterprises so that we can create a more inclusive economy.

I have directed officials to ensure an inclusive and equitable construction industry that supports previously disadvantaged groups throughout the entire value chain. From the initial stages of manufacturing and materials supply to the complex terrain of asphalt production,

This we must do to ensure that black people also have a stake in the whole value chain, it cannot be that our people will be excluded even in spaces where their government is the biggest partner.

We are pleased to announce that in the next financial year, the Department is planning to create 6900 jobs, including 4140 for women, 3795 for youths, and 138 for people living with disabilities.

We are committed to ensuring that local contractors – particularly youth and women – benefit from our infrastructure projects, beyond the 30% threshold set by legislation.

We are yet to complete the following projects in this financial year:

- Oos River Bridge Rehabilitation
- Koffiefontein - Luckhoff- Havenga Bridge
- Harrismith Special Economic Zone (SEZ) route

The following projects will be ongoing from the 2023/2024 financial year for completion in 2025/2026 financial year.

- Jacobsdal – Koffiefontein
- Zastron – Sterkspruit
- Kroonstad - Henneman- Virginia
- Senekal – Lindley
- Lindley – Petrus Steyn
- Rosendal - Ficksburg
- Viljoenskroon – Orkney

### **Honourable Speaker**

To implement labour-intensive projects and invest in the execution of the mandates of the Expanded Public Works Programme, the procurement processes for the following Township Revitalisation Program (TRP) projects are underway for commencement in the current financial year and completion during 2025/2026 financial year to the value of R 77,9 million.

- Qwaqwa Township Access Roads
- Charles Mopedi Stadium Precinct Roads
- Harrismith Township Access Roads
- Bethlehem Township Access Roads
- Paul Roux Township Access Roads

- Ficksburg Township Access Roads
- Ladybrand Township Access Roads
- Sasolburg Township Access Roads
- Kroonstad Township Access Roads
- Bloemfontein Township Access Roads
- Botshabelo Township Access Roads
- Thaba Nchu Township Access Roads
- Trompsburg Township Access Roads

The economic and social well-being of communities is greatly enhanced by safe and well-maintained roads that provide access to work, healthcare, educational, and social amenities.

We are making an investment of R1,969 billion into the upgrading and maintenance of road infrastructure.

Maintenance of road infrastructure remains central to repositioning the Free State truly as the food basket of the country. In 2024/2025, CSR&T will be partnering with our farming communities, making available Road Building Equipment (RBE) to maintain access roads in farming areas.

In the final analysis, our roads are not mere ribbons of asphalt; they are lifelines that connect our communities, our economies, and our dreams.

I hope today we will not fail to address the urgent challenges facing our infrastructure and indeed the people of our province – because we catapulted political banter above sensible cooperation.

Politics must enable not disable us...

## TRANSPORT OPERATIONS

### **Honourable Speaker**

The Department has committed R340 million to enhance transport development, including support for the bus sector. This funding aims to reduce congestion, improve accessibility, and address social exclusion.

The Public Transport Operations Grants play a critical role in the economy in terms of creating jobs and generating much-needed income in both the transport and supplier industries.

The subsidized buses in our province have been instrumental in providing reliable transportation services, with daily passenger numbers rising from 22,000 to 24,000 in the two key rural municipalities.

We are working harder to integrate these services with the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality's public transport network and we plan to transfer responsibility to the municipality.

The Shova Kalula initiative, which promotes non-motorized transport, has allocated 542 bicycles to learners across the province for the 2023/24 financial year, with plans to provide 600 bicycles in the upcoming year.

Through this initiative, we support school children with bicycles and educate them on safe and effective use.

The initiative aligns with our goal of social inclusion, safety, and environmental sustainability – as encapsulated in the National Land Transport Strategic Framework.

Furthermore, this initiative provides an affordable and accessible transportation option for learners – the majority of whom come from indigent communities and households.

Additionally, we have secured five interns from various universities specializing in transport management in collaboration with the national Department of Transport. Amongst other things, these interns bring fresh perspectives and help us imagine new ways of being.

### **Honourable Speaker**

#### *Operator Licensing Board & Permits*

We will continue to support the taxi industry through the administrative operations of the Free State Provincial Taxi Council.

This industry is the backbone of our economy and has carried millions of our people for many years. Our government will do everything in its power to offer its support.

Through the Operating and Licensing Board (OLB), we have completely eradicated the ad hoc permits that have long troubled the taxi industry.

These ad-hoc permits often led to uncertainty and exclusion, particularly during the COVID-19 relief efforts when many Free State taxi operators were unable to access the relief fund because ad hoc permits were not recognized. This significantly impacted the livelihoods of many operators who were ineligible for much-needed financial support.

The eradication of these ad hoc permits and the transition to issuing valid operating licenses marks a significant milestone for the taxi industry in our province. We are certainly paving the way for those who were previously excluded to benefit from the second phase of the relief fund, led by the National Department of Transport (NDOT).

We are 74% complete in terms of the issuing of outstanding operating licenses – with operators currently holding compliant Temporary Operating Licenses awaiting adjudication.

All 79 registered taxi associations have now successfully established strong working relationships within their regional, and provincial structures, fostering greater cooperation across the board.

We remain committed to formalizing Scholar Transportation Services in the Xhariep Region, to ensure that learners have reliable transport to their respective schools.

### *Freight Logistics and Transport Planning*

The central location of our province makes logistics a primary and critical industry to catalyse economic development.

As a consequence, we are focusing on partnerships with the sector, both in the province and beyond to ensure the effective training of truck drivers beyond the acquisition of a Code 14 license. This will ensure the professionalisation of truck driving and the uplifting of conditions of drivers due to their extensive training and expertise.

In addition to the training of drivers, we have identified the incubation of small excellent truck owners by large established companies which will allow them to transport non-seasonal cargo, ensure sustainable work, and ensure an upward growth trajectory within the freight logistics sector.



The establishment of a dedicated counter for the servicing of Logistics Companies and other bulk clients has ensured that clients with large fleets no longer have to wait for service at our Revenue Authorities but are assisted on an appointment basis which will in the future ensure maximum use of the time of agents, appointed for this purpose.

To ensure the longevity of our road infrastructure, we shall invest in the establishment of weight bridges across key areas in the province.

These weight bridges will play a crucial role in monitoring and regulating the weight of trucks, thereby preventing vehicles from exceeding the prescribed weight limits.

### **Honourable Speaker**

It is not just in the area of road logistics where we have identified opportunities as a department.

The extension of Bram Fischer International Airport with the establishment of a dedicated cargo terminal is a critical multi-stakeholder project which we are embarking upon supported by the Airports Company South Africa.

The identification, development and refining of time-sensitive and air-friendly cargo, is an exercise our department has also embarked upon and will continue with into the foreseeable future.

As we continue to streamline the freight logistics sector through the Performance-Based Standard Vehicle Pilot Project (PBSVPP), up to 100 permits have been issued to freight companies who operate in or through the Free State since the re-commissioning of the PBS project in 2019.

## TRANSPORT REGULATION

### **Honourable Speaker**

We remain committed to maintaining law and order on our roads by constantly providing quality traffic policing services.

We continue to deploy traffic officials in a manner that seeks to maintain and promote a culture of road traffic law compliance by all road users.

We are performing relatively well when it comes to the reduction of road fatalities considering that our province shares major national roads with five other provinces – as a result of which a high volume of traffic passes through the Free State, particularly during peak days.

The number of fatal crashes experienced over the 2023/24 festive period is 1 184 which represents a 2,3 percent decline compared to the recorded 1 212 of the 2022/23 festive season.

A donation of two fully equipped trucks was received by the department from South African Breweries (SAB).

These trucks will be utilized as Mobile Alcohol Evidence centers at road-block operations all over the province to monitor alcohol operations.

Driven by our commitment to ensure improved services across all our testing stations, seven (7) testing stations in the province have been identified for upgrades in the financial year 2024/25.

These testing stations are the following:

- Excelsior
- Philippolis
- Edenburg
- Winburg
- Theunissen
- Kestell
- Lindley

### **Honourable Speaker**

Fleet Management is also improving accountability and transparency amongst employees using Government Motor Transport (GMT). A vehicle tracking and monitoring system is installed in our fleet.

Through this system, it is easier to track the location, usage, and maintenance history of each vehicle. More than anything, this helps in preventing misuse of public assets.

Our vehicles are subject to various regulations and safety requirements. We espouse the policy that says regular maintenance, adherence to safety protocols, and proper documentation of inspections must happen to ensure that vehicles comply with legal standards.

To this effect, we are partnering with the MerSETA and FSTDI (located in the Office of the Premier) to provide Skills Program and Artisan Recognition of Prior Learning (ARPL) to four hundred and sixty candidates to the value of twenty-one million four hundred thousand rands over a period of three years. These candidates include our artisans, operators, and employees of merchants doing business with the Entity.

For the 2024/2025 financial, we will be exploring the possibility of vetting all artisans, operators, and merchants working with state vehicles.

The Entity is increasingly recognizing the importance of reducing our carbon footprint. In 2024/2025 we will adopt more of fuel-efficient technologies that can contribute to environmental conservation and align the public sector with broader sustainability goals.

## SAFER COMMUNITIES

### Honourable Speaker

In his 1984 speech at the General Assembly of the United Nations, Thomas Sankara had the following to say:

*“... there is no true social revolution without the liberation of women. May my eyes never see, and my feet never take me to a society where half the people are held in silence. I hear the roar of women’s silence. I sense the rumble of their storm and feel the fury of their revolt.”*

40 years later, the situation for most women has not changed.

Despite our efforts to realise a free and non-sexist society, the scourge of gender-based violence has cast a dark cloud over our beautiful province.

We acknowledge the fear and pain that has gripped into the hearts of most women in our communities due to the escalating cases of GBV.

In the words of Angela Davis:

*“Violence against women is not a private issue, but a political one. It is a symptom of a society in which women are still seen as property rather than people.”*

This is a pandemic that requires our decisive action. The time for empty rhetoric is over, we must unite as a province to confront the problem of patriarchy and misogyny.

There is a need to create a Free State where people feel safe and walk freely without fear.

Our efforts in this regard are undermined by crimes such as gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide, human trafficking, fraud and corruption rising contact crimes, organized crime syndicates, incidents of violent public unrest, illicit mining, burglaries at schools and substance abuse.

In our province, particularly problematic areas include Park Road, Bloemspruit, Thabong, and the Welkom station precincts, which feature prominently on national crime lists.

The South African Police Service (SAPS) has been allocated a budget of R2.4 million for the Gender-Based Violence Action Plan, which includes the establishment of Victim Friendly Rooms (VFRs).

Of the 111 police stations, 88 have established VFRs according to the required standards, while 23 use alternative rooms to provide similar services to victims.

### **Honourable Speaker**

Our department actively participates in the Provincial Gender-Based Violence Desk, coordinated by the Office of the Premier.

Our primary role is to secure strict adherence by SAPS to the Domestic Violence Act (DVA) and to maintain functional VFRs at police stations to prevent secondary victimization.

By the end of the 2023/2024 financial year, we had conducted DVA audits and assessed VFR functionality at all 111 police stations.

Findings and recommendations from these audits were communicated to SAPS through the appropriate DVA Compliance Forum for necessary interventions.

In order to increase community awareness of GBV and its effects, we hosted public education programs throughout the province and distributed informative pamphlets.

Three Community Outreach Programs were held in Botshabelo, Senekal, and Allanridge – where stakeholders addressed issues related to GBV, femicide, substance abuse, and human trafficking.

We will continue our multi-faceted strategy to combat GBV and femicide, this shall include programs such as the 16 Days of Activism against Women and Children, partnerships with external stakeholders, and sustaining public awareness campaigns.

Seven Public Order Police Units, including the recently established Harrismith sub-unit, have been active in the Free State.

During the 2023/2024 financial year, these units managed 414 peaceful incidents and stabilized 89 unrest incidents, a significant reduction from the previous year's 82 unrest incidents.

Operation Shanela which we conducted in the previous financial year, led to 52 388 arrests, the apprehension of 10 071 undocumented persons and the confiscation of 261 illegal firearms.



Our Operation Road Runner continued to focus on preventing hijackings, stolen goods transportation, and cash-in-transit robberies.

A brief report highlights incidents in Vrede, planned operations in Mangaung, and successes in Senekal, including the recovery of firearms stolen in the Northern Cape. Last year, 18 arrests were made, arms and ammunition were confiscated, and one fatality occurred.

To enhance the Community Policing Forum (CPF) program, we intend to seek funding to support CPFs with resources such as uniforms, equipment, as well as stipends for patrollers.

We need to do this in order to encourage and inspire greater community involvement in crime prevention.

The establishment and implementation of Community Safety Forums (CSFs) at district and local municipal levels remain a challenge. Efforts will be made in the coming year to assist in the creation of these CSFs – to build sustainable partnerships with municipalities to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of these forums.

## **Honourable Speaker**

To address Human Resources challenges in the SAPS – through recruitment processes for the year 2023/2024 – the province received a total of 669 Student Constables in April 2023.

These constables were distributed across the province at various police stations and specialised units.

For the April 2024 intake, we currently have 262 new recruits who are busy with the Basic Police Development Programme at various Police Academies in the Country. They are scheduled to conclude their training this year and will graduate in December.

A total of thirteen (13) members were re-enlisted for allocation to the Detective Service environment.

## **RURAL SAFETY**

## **Honourable Speaker**

In May this year, two suspects were arrested in connection with the murder and robbery of two elderly farm owners in Glen.

The safety of the communities in the rural areas remains a priority and the deployment of resources including of personnel and vehicles at the police stations declared as rural stations is prioritised.

Our successes in the illicit mining and damage to essential infrastructure include the following:

The search and seizure of gold nuggets, cash, expensive vehicles, yellow fleets, and trucks with trailers containing gold-bearing material.

- Endangered Species – an intelligence-driven operation was conducted on the N6, and 1.1 tons of abalone with an estimated value of R4,2 million were seized and one suspect was arrested.
- Illicit trade: 400 boxes of illicit cigarettes worth R12 million were seized in Rouxville, in July 2024.

#### Kidnapping and Extortion

The province has made arrests on kidnapping and extortion incidents, out of 15 registered cases, 56 arrests were made.

#### Theft of seeds

Since 2022 an escalation of isolated cases of seed and poison theft led to a centralised joint operation between the Free State and North-West

provinces which unearthed a syndicate of farmers and farm labourers stealing from other farmers.

The provincial SAPS successfully arrested 14 suspects from ten dockets, and stolen property to the value of 2 million.

## SAPS ACHIEVEMENTS

Our men and women in blue in the province deserve some praise.

During the recent National SAPS Award Ceremony, the overall Laureate Winner was again from the Free State Province for the second time in a row receiving vehicles. Bravo to Const. TM Mothamane 2023 and Lt Col Santi 2024 winners.

The achievements did not end with the Laurette winner in 2024, Lieutenant Colonel Junior Santi from the Tactical Response Unit Bloemfontein not only won the category for the High-Risk Member of the Year (Level 8 - 12) but also walked away with the Laureate Award which includes a brand-new vehicle.

Constable Mathaha Lekhooa from the Navalsig Detectives not only won in the Police Minister's Special Award Category but also earned the rank of Warrant Officer. He was accordingly recognised for his diligent investigative work in a high-profile case.

Captain Pieter Drury from Bloemfontein POP Unit won the category for Medium Risk Member of the Year (Level 8 - 12). He is deployed as an operational commander at the illicit mining operation “knock out” and his operation managed to arrest 1936 suspects in 892 reported cases.

The province achieved the following between October 2023 to March 2024, 220 perpetrators were sentenced to 1 313 years of imprisonment.

In 25 Cases perpetrators received life sentences including the sentence of Mario Gutsi, who was convicted on 1 010 charges that include rape, sexual assault, manufacturing, possession, and distribution of child pornography. Gutsi is serving a sentence of 6 548 years.

In 25 Cases perpetrators received 20 years and above, in 53 Cases perpetrators received 10 to 19 years and in 118 Cases perpetrators received 1-9 years each. Free State FCS Unit achieved 113 convictions since April 2024 to date.

Just two days ago [14 August 2024], an intelligence-driven operation by the Free State Provincial Police successfully cut off a major drug supply chain targeting our schools and institutions of higher learning here in the Parkweg area (Bloemfontein).

The details of this operation are sobering: four suspects aged between 20 and 41 years were arrested.

This syndicate, operating from a unit in Brandwag, involved a substantial quantity of dagga with an estimated value of R1.5 million – along with illegal firearms.

## BUDGET ALLOCATION 2024/25

### **Honourable Speaker**

The total budget allocated to the Department for 2024/25 Financial Year is R3.6 billion and it is broken down as follows:

- Equitable share allocation including own revenue is R1.3 billion, which will be utilized towards the operational costs of the Department and
- Out of this amount, R360 million will be directed to Infrastructure Enhancement Allocation.

- Provincial Road Maintenance Grant is allocated R1.97 billion which is an increase of 8.6% as compared to the 2023/24 financial year's main allocation.
- The Public Transport Operations Grant has increased from R326 million to R340 million and that is an increase of 4.5%.

Then, the revenue target set for the Department amounts to R847 million for the 2024/25 financial year which is an increase of R8.3 million as compared to the previous financial year.



## **ADMINISTRATION**

One of our main priorities is stabilizing and improving how we govern and deliver our services. We are dedicated to continuing the implementation of the Professionalisation of Public Service Framework, which is vital for creating a skilled and ethical workforce.

We are committed, now more than ever, to ensuring that our department maintains high standards of integrity and accountability.

We will also enforce the implementation of the directive issued by the Minister of the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) on Discipline Management, which is aimed at ensuring that all employees adhere to the highest standards of conduct and accountability.

This Directive is crucial for maintaining a disciplined workforce, as it provides clear guidelines on managing disciplinary matters, ensuring fairness, and upholding the integrity of public service.

Additionally, promoting democracy and freedom is at the heart of our mission to build a better Free State province, a stronger Africa, and a more just and peaceful world.

We will keep reinforcing these values within our department, and ensure that our actions – first and foremost - benefit our communities and drive progress across the province.

## **CONCLUSION**

Allow me to express my regard to the leadership collective of the ANC and its Alliance for giving full support to the work I am deployed to execute.

Honourable Premier MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae and my colleagues in the Executive Council, your unending support is appreciated.



The Head of Department, Dr. Masego Tshabalala, and all departmental employees, it is your dedication that carries our department.

The SAPS Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Baile Motswenyane and your entire team, your hard work and dedication in the service of our people have earned you my unwavering support.

To the men and women in blue more specifically, keep arresting and jailing rotten apples in our society. And never allow yourselves to be situation perish in the hands of criminals.

Lastly, I wish to express my sincerest gratitude to my family whose love carries me on a daily. Your understanding during the days I spend away from home has been a source both of strength and encouragement when I would otherwise feel that I am failing you.

Honourable Speaker, I hereby table the 2024/25 Budget Vote for the Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport for consideration and adoption before this House.

I Thank You...

**ENDS!**