

NORTH – WEST  
PROVINCE

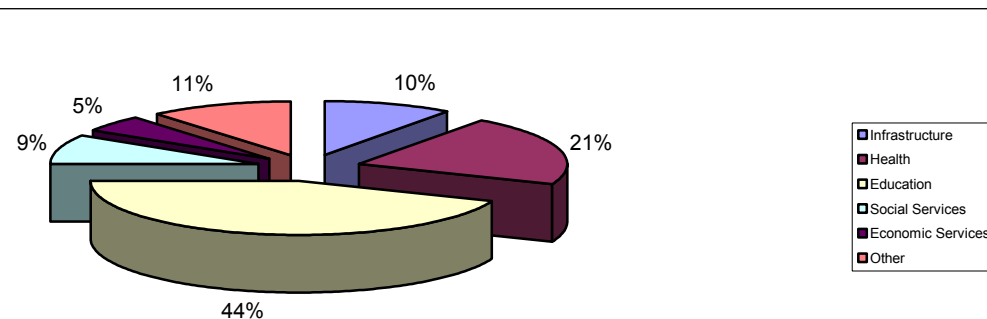
# PEOPLES GUIDE TO THE 2005/06 PROVINCIAL BUDGET

## THE PLATINUM PROVINCE

Photo of the MEC

Hon. DE Africa  
MEC for Finance and  
Economic Development

The total provincial budget, excluding social pensions, for the 2005/06 financial year amounts to R12 842,753 million, allocated as follows:



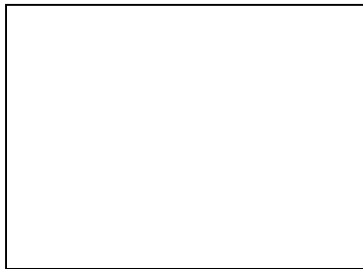
We have just completed our first decade of freedom and we now have the pleasure to present our people with an overview of our plans for the next ten years. The 2005/06 Provincial Budget was tabled in the Provincial Legislature on 8 March 2005. This budget only covers a period of three years, but we are planning our delivery on the "Peoples Contract" for the next ten years. From the priorities that we have addressed in the 2005/06 budget, we would like to highlight the following important areas:

- Skills development
- Infrastructure development
- Economic development
- Social services

## 1. Skills development

With skills development we mean formal and non-formal training, any form of training provided by the Provincial Government to improve the life of our citizens. The less training you have, the less chances you have to find employment and earn money. Skills development enables a person to qualify to be productive and therefore gives him or her a better opportunity to find employment. Skills development is therefore part of the Provincial Government's priority to create job opportunities.

### 1.1 Formal training



The low matric pass rate in 2004 is an instructive lesson. Of the 38 558 enrolled grade 12 learners, 37 327 wrote the matric exams and only 24,221 or 65% passed. That is the history. But what is the Provincial Government doing to improve the situation?

- More funds are made available in the Budget to provide more and better learner support material (text books and stationary). An additional amount of R310 million has been provided for this purpose over the next three years.
- Since 1994 the provincial government erected 2,533 classrooms at 356 schools. During the same time 423 specialized training rooms, 104 administrative blocks and 3,844 toilets were constructed. During the next three years the Provincial Government will erect an additional 1 215 classrooms at a total cost of more than R500 million.
- More than R150 million has been set aside for the upgrading and repair of schools over the next three years.
- A better dispensation for teachers, especially those with scarce skills, is currently being negotiated.

### 1.2 Informal training

A large percentage of the North West Province's population are still illiterate, the Adult Basic Education and Training Programme will be expanded during the next budget period. Over the next three years the Provincial Government will spend an additional R75 million to expedite basic training for adults (Adult Basic Training and Development Programme).

### **1.3 Learnerships**

Young people are appointed in government to enable them to gain the experience necessary for the work environment. This is called 'learnerships' and the Provincial Government has made R47 million available over the next three years to train such people. The training is for a period of six months and the first 1000 learners have already been recruited. Over the next three years 6000 young people will undergo such training.

### **1.4 Bursaries and training for public servants**

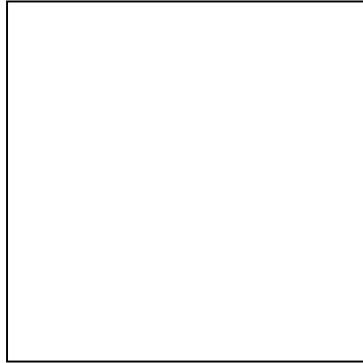
An amount of R million has been budgeted over the next three years to provide bursaries to the less privileged people of our province. We are aware that the amount is not enough but it is the intention of the Provincial Government to increase the amount in future years.

A total amount of more than R240 million has been budgeted over the next three years to improve the skills of our public servants. This skills improvement programme is aimed at improving the service to the people of the province and to make the civil service more effective and efficient.

### **1.5 Community Libraries**

A total amount of R27 million has been budgeted for the erection of community libraries over the next three years while R12 million has been budgeted over the same period for library books and computers for the libraries. This is all part of the Provincial Government's effort to bring education closer to all our people and encourage a culture of reading and promote literacy in our communities.

## 2. Infrastructure development



With infrastructure we refer to any permanent structure (such as roads and buildings) provided by the Provincial Government to create an environment for economic growth and/or to improve the lives of our people in the province. Business people will be reluctant to invest in an area where the roads are poor, schools and medical facilities are absent or totally in disrepair. The Provincial Government is also negotiating with the national government to expedite access to running water and electricity within communities, especially in rural areas.

It is therefore a priority of the Provincial Government to establish and maintain the infrastructure that would make it possible to attract investors and create an environment conducive to job creation.

### 2.1 Roads

It is a well-known fact that the roads in the North West Province are in a serious state of disrepair. The roads in our province are divided into national roads, provincial roads and municipal roads. The Provincial Government is responsible for the provincial roads, which includes the majority of our rural roads. The large number of rural roads and the relative small number of national roads aggravate the roads problem of maintaining our roads. Although the Provincial Government took a decision to provide more money for the maintenance of roads, it will take some time to improve the state of our roads. The first priority for the Provincial Government is the upgrading of economic infrastructure that will make a contribution to economic development and job creation.

A total amount of R1 billion has been budgeted for the upgrading, maintenance and building of new provincial roads in the province over the next three years.

## **2.2 Buildings**

The state of the existing Provincial Government's buildings in the province is reflecting badly on the image of the Provincial Government. Furthermore, government's assets are falling into disrepair with large losses to the province. To upgrade and maintain the province's government buildings, an amount of more than R800 million has been budgeted over a three-year period for this purpose.

## **2.3 Mafikeng Airport**

Mafikeng is regarded as the gateway to the rest of Africa. To fully utilize this potential, the runway at the Mafikeng Airport will be upgraded during the current year at a cost of R14 million. Other initiatives will include mobilizing support and the necessary resources for the Mafikeng Industrial Development Zone (MIDZ).

## **2.4 Social infrastructure**

The creation and upgrading of socio-economic infrastructure is also high on the list of provincial priorities. Socio-economic infrastructure refers to schools, clinics, hospitals, etc. that is required for the well-being of our people. The following amounts were included in the three-year budget for this purpose:

- Health facilities: More than R530 million over a three-year period
- Education facilities: More than R540 million over a three-year period
- Social development facilities: R70 million over a three-year period for places of safety for juvenile delinquents.

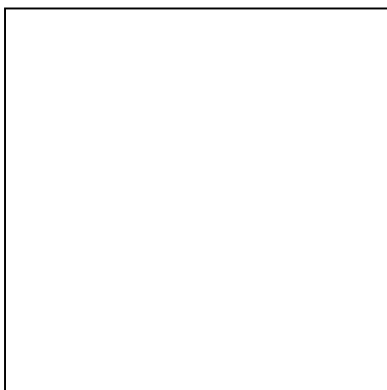
## **2.5 Housing development**

Since 1994 until 2001, 125,276 housing units have been constructed in the province. Since the census in 2001, 38 803 housing units were erected and a further 48 000 units are planned over next three years. We are aware that the quality of houses is still a serious concern with the people and the Provincial Government will do everything in its power to ensure that quality houses are being build.

## 2.6 Economic Infrastructure

Economic infrastructure refers to infrastructure such as factories, roads, water and electricity for industrial areas. An amount of more than R118 million has been allocated over a three-year period for economic infrastructure. The projects are still being finalized and would commence on 1 April 2005.

## 3. Economic development



In her State of the Province Address delivered on 28 May 2004, the Hon Premier of the North West said:  
“In pursuit of these national objectives, we have set for ourselves provincial priorities that we will pursue vigorously in the next ten years. These are:

- To reduce unemployment to less than 20% by 2014
- To pursue targeted provincial economic growth of 6.6% per annum, etc.”

### 3.1 Expanded Public Works Programme

The Government undertook to create job opportunities through the Expanded Public Works Programme. Government’s intention is to make more infrastructure projects labour intensive so that more people can be employed. Almost R million is budgeted over the next three years for this purpose. Other projects must still be identified for labour intensive construction and that will assist in creating even more job opportunities.

### **3.2 Tourism**

According to the latest available statistics, international tourists visiting the province have increased from 293 516 in 1994 to 347 242 in 2001, a growth of 18%. There is, however, still room for improvement and the Provincial Government provided an additional amount of R22 million over the next three years for tourism promotion.

### **3.3 Agricultural support**

The participation of previously disadvantaged individuals in agriculture remains a problem area if such individuals are not supported to become viable farmers. To assist such farmers, the provincial government introduced after-care and advice services and an amount of R120 million has been budgeted to assist such farmers financially over the next three years. Additional to this allocation, R30 million has been budgeted over the same period to assist farmers established on communal land.

## **4. Social Development**

The national government has established a separate entity that would administer social pensions in the future. For the 2005/06 financial year the Provincial Government will only act as service provider for this newly created entity which will ultimately take over the payment of social pensions. This development is aimed at making the payment of social pensions more accessible to legitimate receivers.

The main concern remains the illegal recipients of social pensions. The Provincial Government has launched an investigation to root out pension fraud. The National Government has also launched a campaign providing amnesty to illegal recipients of social pensions should they come forward and provide details regarding the method they used to be registered as a recipient.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is still a high priority for the Provincial government. An amount of more than R600 million has been budgeted over the next three years for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS. The provincial government has also made money available for the upgrading of the salaries of social workers. Furthermore, more social workers would also be appointed over the next three years.

The provincial, Government is committed to render more social services and more funds will be allocated in future for this purpose.

## 5. Conclusion

This is only the beginning of Government honouring the People Contract. During the next ten years it will not be “business as usual” and every civil servant will be held accountable to deliver according to the Batho Pele principles.

This guide to the 2005/06 provincial budget is published by the provincial treasury to inform the people of our province on how the Provincial Government intends honoring the peoples' contract. Any suggestions on improving this publication or comments are welcome and should be addressed to The North West Provincial Treasury, Private Bag X2060, Mmabatho, 2735: Attention Mr. E van Wyk