

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION & TOURISM

# BUDGET

*Speech*

**2024 / 25**



**MEC Bitsa Lenkopane**



**dedect**

Department:  
Economic Development, Environment,  
Conservation and Tourism  
North West Provincial Government  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION & TOURISM



**BUDGET SPEECH  
2024**

# ADDRESS BY MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION AND TOURISM, BITSA LENKOPANE - BUDGET VOTE 2024/25

Speaker of the North West Provincial Legislature, Hon. Desbo Mohono

Deputy Speaker, Hon. Tshepo Khoza

Chairperson of Chairpersons Hon. Tebogo Modise

Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Hon. Motlalepule Rosho

Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature

Premier of the North West Province, Lazarus Mokgosi

Members of the Executive Council, Executive Mayors and Mayors

Chairperson of SALGA-NW, Cllr. Khumalo Molefe

Dikgosi tsa rona

The Acting Head of Department Ms. Lebo Diale

All Representatives from Development Finance Institutions

All Business Forums present here today

The North West Province Chamber of Commerce

Organized Labour

CEO's of State Owned Entities present here today

Captains of Industry

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Honourable Speaker, as I extent my greetings to all honourable members in your august house and the people of Bokone Bophirima across her length and breadth, I am reminded of the teachings of the icon of our democracy, Dr Nelson Rholihlahla Mandela, whom the July month of every year is about his legacy, as a champion of improving the lives of the people, once said

***“The purpose of economic growth is to create a better life for all people, not just the privileged few”.***

These sentiments were echoed by yet another African figure of remarkable stature, Dr Koffi Anan, the former Secretary General of the United Nations when he said ***“the ultimate goal of economic development is to improve the living standards of all people, particularly the poor and vulnerable”***

Honourable Speaker, this government has traversed a long way coming into its seventh administration working hard to amongst other goals, developing our economy to tackle the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. Guided by key national policy instruments that include the National Development Plan, the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy, the Industrial Policy Action Plan, the Manifesto of the African National Congress, SONA and SOPA pronouncements, this department will implement programs and projects that will accelerate the growth of our economy to improve the lives of the people in the province.

The North West Province has four districts and each with its unique comparative advantage play a unique economic role. Dr. Kenneth Kaunda is known for hosting gold mines in the province and has a footprint of manufacturing activities. It is public knowledge that Bojanala region is leading in terms of mining and export of platinum in the country. Ngaka Modiri Molema together with Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati are known for services and agricultural output.

Honourable Speaker, despite this robust structure of our economy, the North West Province continue to suffer from weak economic growth and development. We have to take advantage of what our provincial economy can offer and capitalize on that to foster an economy that creates jobs. We need to create value chains across all sectors of the economy and do away with an extractive economy that fails to process minerals.

For an example, we have mineral wealth in the province but we have nothing to show for it. We have plenty of land but we are unable to use it for productive purposes.

Honourable Speaker, the economy of the province has not been able to perform well for some time. The last Quarterly Labour Force Survey indicate that the province lost 13 000 jobs in the formal economy with mining as one of the sectors that is shedding jobs at an alarming rate. The province has the highest expanded unemployment rate of 53.6%. This high unemployment also affect young people in the province.

Honourable Speaker, I am deliberately raising the issue of youth unemployment because it is a serious concern for everybody. I am happy that the Premier Hon. Lazarus Mokgosi emphasised this matter of youth unemployment during his acceptance remarks as a new Premier and he said ***“those who do not prioritise youth unemployment as a problem that need to be solved do not speak my language.”***

I can assure you Premier that as a department we are working around the clock to mitigate the effects of youth unemployment in the province. The department is equally concerned with socio-economic challenges such as the economic exclusion of women. Women and young women in particular cannot be an after-thought on important issues of economic participation and empowerment.

## **BRIEF OVERVIEW OF 2023/24 ACHIEVEMENTS**

Honorable Speaker, in the 2023/24 financial year, the department managed to support small businesses and cooperatives in establishing and growing their businesses with an amount of R35, 5 million. Programmes implemented include Incubation program, Equipment and Machinery Empowerment Program, Business Turnaround Support, Skills

Development, Product Development, Access to Market and the Establishment of Mahikeng Trade Market. A total of one thousand nine hundred and sixty two (1 962) SMMEs in the province benefitted from these initiatives which were implemented in collaboration with key stakeholders. A total of four hundred and forty eight (448) jobs were created through business turnaround solutions, incubation and empowerment fund.

Honorable Speaker, the Dunlop Container Project is an initiative by the department to cater for the tyre fitment needs and requirements in the rural and township economies, including the taxi industry. The initiative reduces the risks of buying second hand tyres from unregistered dealers in townships and rural areas, as well as taxi ranks. The department is in the process of installing five (5) Dunlop Containers in Ditsobotla, Taung, Kagisano Molopo and Rustenburg Local Municipalities. Qualifying SMMEs will take ownership of a fully fitted 12 meter container complete with tyre fitting equipment, retail software, startup stock and point of sale material.

Honorable Speaker, the department in the 2023/24 financial year achieved the following milestones:

- The North West Province has been chosen to host the Trans –Kalahari Corridor Secretariat General Annual Meeting and the 14<sup>th</sup> Joint Law Enforcement Operations. The event is a collaboration between South Africa represented by our province, Namibia and Botswana. The strategic objective of the event is to promote transport, trade, safety and tourism between the three SADC countries. This initiative will take place in Rustenburg next month and we will collaborate with our sister department, COSATMA;
- The department through the Premiers engagement with investors was able to mobilize more than R100 billion worth of investment pledges

for the province. To this far, there is a development of a 40 beds Middle Cost Hotel and 150 seater Conference in the Taung Skull Site at an estimated total cost of **R150 million**. The project will be initiated in the 2024/25 financial year. It is envisaged that this project will create 50 permanent and 120 temporary jobs. There is also the development of a 100 seater Giant Ferris Wheel at Thomeng in Taung that is estimated at a total cost of **R400 million**. The project will commence in the 2024/25 financial year. The local municipality and the Tribal Council have passed resolutions in support of the development. It is envisaged that this project will create 75 permanent and 145 temporary jobs. The development of a Heritage Centre that include a Museum, Multipurpose Centre, Restaurant and a Power-House are already at 90% complete;

- Honorable Speaker, the department in the 2024/25 financial year will further host a number of conferences and exhibitions that will activate tourism into our province. These conferences include the North West Biodiversity Economy Transformation & Investment Conference, the Provincial World Consumer Rights Day Celebration, The Annual People and Parks Conference in October, where engagements will take place with the objective of stabilizing our CPA's. Lobelo La Dipitsa La Bokone Bophirima, The North West Expo Marketing Platform for our SMMEs, The Liquor Regulators Colloquium and the Marico Biosphere Landowners Conference;
- In addition, Honorable Speaker, the province will host the TBCSA Tourism Leadership Conference, the South African Association of Public Administration and Management (SAPAAM) and
- Honorable Speaker, the department in the 2023/24 also managed to obtain an order for the issuance of the Fifth Casino License for the NW Province.

- The department has further managed to submit all relevant requirements for the issuance of a license for the Bojanala Special Economic Zone (SEZ). We are just waiting for National Government to give us a green light then we hit the ground running.

## **KEY PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2024/25**

Honourable Speaker, arising from the recently concluded Provincial Trade and Investment Strategy, the department will guide and facilitate a focussed support towards industries in the following sectors - Energy, Transport, Manufacturing , Agro- processing, Eco-Tourism and Health/life sciences. We are pleased to let this August House know that we have already started to make interventions to resolve energy supply and reducing energy poverty in the province.

Since assigned the responsibility to explore ways and means to resolve energy challenges in the province, the North West Development Corporation will be concluding a study on the usage of different energy mix across all municipalities with specific attention on government buildings, households in townships and rural villages.

Honourable Speaker, this will assist in providing appropriate response to a number of pledges to invest in the energy sector made at the Premiers Investment Engagement last year. We have expressed intent to work with these companies and the province is in consultation with the National Energy Regulator to explore ways to use energy distribution licencing to the best advantage of our province.

Honourable Speaker, as we will be assisting enterprises in the transport sector to manufacture a variety of transport equipment's, players in this sector, including our relevant departments nationally, provincial and at local level, must respond to the call from across business and residents alike, to



improve the state of our roads. We need massive road maintenance and resuscitation of rail network connecting key productive towns of the province to ensure that products from our province not only reach markets but also do that on time.

Honourable Speaker, we are pleased that there is commitment to revive both the Mahikeng and Pilanesberg Airports and as a department we are keen to make our contribution. Having benefitted from the findings during the formulation of the study we referred to, the department will be making boundless efforts to encourage and assist in the creation of enterprises to produce scarce products required as inputs to reduce dependency on imports.

Honourable Speaker, we will spare no effort to harvest on available industry support in the country to achieve this goal. Our young people, woman and people with disabilities who cannot be absorbed as labourers and those that are casualties of retrenchments from the mining sector, would stand a chance to benefit from this. The manufacturing sector in this province must live up to its capabilities of being the economic sector that create more jobs.

Honourable Speaker, our province is amongst the top in agricultural endowment and land in the hands of communities within our parks. This sector is amongst those that are key in our industrialisation agenda. To this extent, we will work with the Department of Land and Rural Development to empower these communities to move beyond land settlement after restitution.

Honourable Speaker, we are in discussions to partner North West Development Corporation with this department to ensure that funds are set aside for post settlement.

The two entities (NWDC & Department of Land and Rural Development) will sign a service level agreement to ensure that there are income generating activities through appropriate enterprises created to venture into tourism promotion and agro-processing.

This initiative will go a long way towards accelerating the fruition of land restitution into the hands of our people to realise their dreams that were shuttered by the notorious 1913 Land Act.

Honourable Speaker, we are further in agreement that as part of the industrialisation program of the province, we will assist in completing the maize meal agro-processing project in Springbokpan where our communities will once again be given opportunity to grow, store and process maize for consumption and trading. In addition to the intervention listed, the department will be implementing a number of projects across the province. Amongst those is to bring the SEZ into operation. Following concerns raised by previous Cabinet on our application for the licence, we have now addressed all the concerns and resubmitted the application.

Honourable Speaker, today this August House would be pleased to note that Bodirelo Industrial Township, which was our base for the license is revitalised and is 98% occupied. Infrastructure repairs on 80 hectares of land is underway in preparations for additional occupation of businesses that expressed interest to invest. In addition, the zoning of 1057h is completed. A total of thirteen new investment is in the pipeline with a potential investment of R163, 591 billion and has the possibility to create nineteen thousand jobs. There is commitment from the Department of Roads and Public Works and SANRAL to upgrade roads leading to Pilaanesberg Airport and through the SEZ to the border of Botswana respectively. We are without any shadow of doubt that we are ready for the license.

## **SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT**

Honourable Speaker, small businesses remain the beacon of economies worldwide as the driving force for economic growth, the catalyst for innovation and entrepreneurship. In this regard, we will embark on numerous programs to support this sector, particularly in townships and villages as part of stimulating township and village economies. In this financial year, our focus will be on micro retailers or tuckshops as we have come to know them. Our starting point will be to position these retailers to take advantage of the one billion government expenditure on grants.

Honourable Speaker, an opportunity is abound following the closure of SASSA pay points in the province. Our grants recipient needs closer, reliable and efficient grocery stores to shop, withdraw minimum cash and use vouchers supplied by SASSA. Tuckshops in Townships and Villages face fierce competition and the sector is completely dominated by non-South Africans. The department, through the NWDC and SASSA, will work with other entities such as SEDA, NYDA, NDA, SEFA and the National Department of Small Business to strengthen the tuckshop sector in Townships and Villages.

Honourable Speaker, following a selection criterion that is based on business regulations and other policies, qualifying tuckshops will be provided with stock, appropriate technology and properly built structures. This will help them to increase their market share in the sector. They should and they will be able to serve our elders with efficient services as well as quality and unexpired products. The economic spinoffs related to this intervention is huge and will accrue to other businesses in the economy particularly to those in the food processing sector.

Honourable Speaker, we all know that government has set aside policy to procure goods and services from small businesses owned by certain

designated groups. As a department, we will make it part of our business to create and empower SMMEs. Successful bidders led by women, youth and people with disability will receive bridging finance and support on areas such as business management skills, coaching and aftercare.

We will also do all we can to bring entrepreneurial support services closer to our small, medium and micro enterprises wherever they operate through our NWDC outlets.

Honourable Speaker, the North West Gambling Board will contribute to the economic growth of the Province through SMMEs participation and issuance of Request for Applications of new entrants within the Limited Payout Machines and Bingos. The Gambling Board will continue to require from the licensees to contribute and empower Previously Disadvantaged Individuals through participation and shareholding in licensed entities. The department has set aside sixty-three point R 3 million Rands (R63.3m) for supporting SMMEs. Part of these funds will go towards completing three bakeries in three municipalities, the informal traders' market in Mamusa and Incubation hubs.

## **TRADE, INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION**

Honourable Speaker, nothing has changed, the North West Province is still a gateway to Africa and the globe. The department will continue to compete for quality investment from other parts of the country and the globe. Our focus will be to attract investment into sectors and activities of longer-term strategic importance as advised by our strategic documents like the Industrial Policy Action Plan and the North West Province Growth and Development Strategy.

Honourable Speaker, I want this August House to know that the province owns investment properties through the North West Development Corporations. Some of the properties are located outside the province in Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape. We are of the view that we can generate more revenue beyond covering operational costs of the entity, however, the entity will need recapitalisation funds as financial support to revitalise the building infrastructure. Most of the buildings and infrastructure are more than thirty years old and deteriorating at an alarming rate. We will be engaging with Gauteng and Tshwane Municipality with a view to agree on a joint submission to the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Council for the industrial townships revitalisation to be included as part of the Economic Recovery Plan given the potential of the industrial parks located in Moretele, Mogwase and Ga-Rankuwa in reducing unemployment and poverty, particularly in Babelegi in Hamanskraal.

## **TAUNG TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE**

Honourable Speaker, for a number of years, our province had always been amongst the top destinations in the country. Let me assure this August House that, we will be doing everything we can not to lose this position, if anything, we rather go at the top. It is our intention in this financial year, to ensure that we complete projects that were started to expand our destinations. Amongst other steps that we will take this year, we will be submitting 70 Tourism facilities for quality assurance to be awarded grading in line with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Province and the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa (TGCSA)

Honourable Speaker, I am pleased to report that the refurbishment of the Taung Hotel School and Conference Centre which was planned over a seven year cycle is almost complete. Five of the phases of the project are complete and operational, two will be completed this financial year and we

will start with the last phase that is at a planning stage. Other tourism projects that are implemented in collaboration with the National Department of Tourism include the following.

- The completion of Manyane Game reserve infrastructure developments - construction is underway, project is at 30% completion, practical completion by 30 October 2024.
- Planning and Implementation of Mahikeng Hotel School infrastructure developments - PSP's are appointed, scoping of work is underway.
- Renovations of Mahikeng Museum will incorporate the Sol Plaatjie Museum - practical completion obtained in June 2024.
- Lehurutshe Bird and Trophy Hunting - construction is underway, project is at 80% completion, practical completion by 31 August 2024.
- Pilanesberg Nature Reserve Road Network Upgrades - PSP's are appointed, scoping of the work is underway.

## **BIODIVERSITY ECONOMY**

Honourable Speaker, the new industry and investment promotion enjoins us to take advantage of the abundance of Eco-Tourism potential in the province. The department has started to earnestly transform our protected areas to activate our rich Biodiversity Economy sector. This sector holds the potential to contribute meaningfully to the economic development and livelihood support for the people of the Northwest Province. According to SANBI et al (2018) the Biodiversity Economy sector is sustaining at least 418 000 jobs, with majority of such jobs found in far flung rural areas. Prof J.K Thurpie et al (2017) noted that the value of ecosystem services provided by South Africa's terrestrial, freshwater and estuarine habitats are worth at least R275 billion per annum to South Africa's economy.

Similarly Mohamed A.M Abd Elbasit et al (2019) noted that the total ecosystem service values for South Africa's economy is worth **R433 billion** per annum.

Honourable Speaker, working with the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, we were able to review a number of policy and legislative instruments in order to create an enabling environment for the Biodiversity Sector to realise its potential. Amongst these instruments include the Cabinet approved White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use which is anchored on four key goals of conservation, sustainable use, fair and equitable sharing of benefits and transformation.

Honourable Speaker, the approval of the White Paper therefore necessitates the need to review without delay our own ordinances including the Nature and Environmental Conservation Ordinance, No 19 of 1974 and the Nature Conservation Ordinance, No 12 of 1983. No moment should be spared but to take the review process in earnest. This will be preceded by the Publication of the finalization and publication of the North West Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NWBSAP) 2030, of which the process has already taken a good shape.

The Northwest Province would therefore not be left behind in tapping into the Biodiversity Economy potentials. I am happy to announce that with our limited resources and working with our Traditional Authorities, Provincial House of Traditional Leaders and other stakeholders, we will be piloting **(1) COMMUNITY RANGERS PROGRAMME**. Through this programme we will be able to create work opportunities for at least 1000 young people whose job would entirely be based in their respective villages.

They would amongst other things ensure that their immediate environment is clean, no illegal activities such as illegal sand mining, illegal dumping whilst repairing degraded landscapes amongst other things.

Community rangers will be beneficial in assisting with much needed monitoring of certain basic environmental parameters of the rural environment, contributing towards a net positive rural biodiversity economy that creates rural employment.

Honourable Speaker, building on our strength and in congruent with the national initiative to develop Biodiversity Mega hubs across South Africa, the North-West Province will become home of the **(2) BIODIVERSITY BENEFICIATION MEGA-HUB** of South Africa.

Through this noble initiative, the North-West Province will be able to tap thousands of tonnes of wildlife derivatives such as animal skins and hides (currently being exported in raw form) and create local industries that would generate jobs for SMMEs whilst producing proudly South African products.

Honourable Speaker, in order to fully optimize the wildlife endowment of the North West Province, we will dedicate this financial year and part of the next financial year to develop comprehensive feasibility studies and costed business plans for the Biodiversity Mega-hub initiative that would open widely the possibilities of use of the ivory and rhino horn stockpiles for curio and ornaments for international markets, which in their current raw form, such products would not be permissible for export into such markets.

With the abundant plains of game across all our regions, the Northwest Province will in line with the National Game Meat Strategy be able to make **(3) GAME MEAT** more accessible to all the citizens of the Province and ensure that we create business opportunities for the emerging game farmers as we ramp up transformation of the wildlife industry.

We will continue to accelerate transformation of the wildlife industry by implementing the **(4) GAME DONATION** programme where previously disadvantaged individuals and communal agro-ecological landscapes



suitable for game meat product will be optimized to participate meaningfully in the wildlife industry. Furthermore, to unlock our bioprospecting potential, the department will upscale in the existing indigenous medicinal plants propagation projects in the Ganyesa and Lokaleng villages, with expanded focus on the **5. PROPAGATION OF THE DEVILS CLAW AND CANCER BUSH SPECIES** that are currently harvested from our rural areas of the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District, and exported raw mainly into the European Countries.

A semi-fledged agro-processing hub will be established in the Kagisano Molopo Municipality as a pilot template towards value chain enhancement for medicinal plant product.

Honourable Speaker, we have already indicated that the department cannot wait to see the dreams of our people that were postponed since 1913 realised. The government land restitution program must have a meaning to the current and future generations in this province. Our anticipated collaboration with the department of Land and Rural Development will also see this relationship speeding up post settlement development.

Honourable Speaker, to the extent that restitution of land in protected areas is completed and communities have been waiting for disbursement of development funds allocated for post settlement, the department, through the North West Development Corporation will intervene on behalf of these communities to speedup economic development projects as part of transformation of protected areas and without any damages to the natural habitat, biodiversity and ecosystems.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to use the platform you afforded me to inform the communities of around the protected areas of Madikwe, Borakalalo, Baberspan, Bapolomiti, Welgeval, Pilanesberg and RKM that we are on our

way to make sure that your children benefits from parks hosting lions, rhinos, buffalos and leopards.

## **GOVERNANCE**

Honourable Speaker, during the past financial year, the Auditor General raised some concerns relating to good Governance within the Department of Economic Development, Conservation, Environment and Tourism and its Entities. To address the concerns raised by the Auditor General, the department has established systems that would ensure that corporate governance is applied to the latter both in the Department and all our Entities. A further perspective on effective and good governance will be implemented to ensure that the Shareholders Compact is signed by all the Entities. The shareholder compact will promote accountability, integrity and professionalism and also ensure that they take responsibility for their decisions and actions in pursuit of the Department's mandate. The appointment of critical vacant posts at senior management level within the department has also caused serious impediments for the department to implement proper corporate governance.

Honourable Speaker, the department will fill all vacant and funded posts during this financial year to breach the gap by adhering to legal framework, ensure consistency and accountability.

In terms of selection and recruitment of Board members we will ensure that we appoint members who are duly qualified to serve the board with efficiency and integrity. Honourable Speaker, furthermore, corporative and good governance will be achieved through the review and passing of the following legislations:

North West Business Licensing Act

North West Consumer Affairs Bill

North West Gambling Act

North West Development Corporation Act

Biodiversity Management and Conservation Act

North West Liquor Licensing Act

Honourable Speaker, the Golden Leopards Resort as a subsidiary of the North West Parks & Tourism Board is facing immense challenges but a turnaround strategy will soon be implemented to mitigate the current problems.

### **SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT**

Honourable Speaker, there are a number of factors attributed to unemployment over above joblessness due to economic conditions. Amongst those is lack of appropriate skills, especially amongst the youth. Lack of entrepreneurial skills is also a challenge facing our SMMEs. Recently, the province signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Skills Fund towards programs to develop skills in the province.

Honourable Speaker, the rollout program will be made known in due course. On the other hand, through the NWDC, the department will be of part of the labour activation program spearheaded by the Department of Labour. It is in this program where we will train and place 5600 people, especially youth, women and people with disability in farming to produce various agricultural produce in Dr KK through a partnership with Lyla Farm. A rollout project plan is developed and the department will launch this project towards the end of August this year.

An amount of R85 million made up of a contribution of the department of Labour and Lyla Farm, each contributing 50% towards the project respectively, will be spent in this regard.

In addition, the Department of Labour and NWDC will each contribute 50% towards enterprise development skills. This is one of the key interventions to ensure towards addressing inclusivity, unemployment and poverty reduction as part of the commitment of this government to create a better live for all.

Honorable Speaker, in order to make sure that the Tourism Industry keep up to date with the current trends, 30 tour operators will be trained in different skills that include online marketing strategies. In addressing quality service and assurance, the department will be training 50 Tourism SMMEs in Customer Care.

Honorable Speaker, allow me to table the following budget for consideration and adoption by your August House.

**The total budget allocation for the Department is as follows:**

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Amount R'000</b>	
Administration	202 381	Two hundred and two million, three hundred and eighty one thousand rand
Integrated Economic Development Services	95 850	Ninety five million, eight hundred and fifty thousand rand
Trade and Sector Development	84 235	Eighty four million, two hundred and thirty five thousand rand
Business Regulations Services	120 876	One Hundred and twenty million, eight hundred and seventy six thousand rand
Economic Planning	9 998	Nine Million, nine hundred and ninety eight thousand rand
Environmental Services	400 192	Four hundred million, one hundred and ninety two thousand rand
Tourism	68 631	Sixty eight million, six hundred and thirty one thousand rand
<b>Total</b>	<b>982 163</b>	Nine Hundred and eighty two million, one hundred and sixty three thousand rand

In conclusion, Honorable Speaker, allow me to thank my political party, the African National Congress for expressing confidence in my leadership by bestowing in me the responsibility of leading this very important portfolio. Let me also appreciate my fellow comrades both in the Executive Committee and the Legislature for cooperation that is aimed at enabling us to achieve the objectives of the National Democratic Revolution. Last but not least, let me thank my family for support and God almighty for guidance when the going gets tough. I also want to thank the Acting HOD Ms. Lebo Diale and the staff at DEDECT for the warm welcome. I am looking forward to a productive working environment with all of you.

I thank you

DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION  
& TOURISM

**BUDGET**

*Speech*

**2024 / 25**