

STATE 2022 OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS

DATE: 28 FEBRUARY 2022
TIME: 10H00

**DR MOLEMELA INDOOR
SPORTS CENTRE**

S.H NTOMBELA
PREMIER OF THE FREE STATE



FREE STATE PROVINCE



Honourable Speaker of the Legislature
Honourable Members of the Legislature and the Executive Council
Honourable Members of the National Assembly and the NCOP
Acting Judge President and Esteemed Members of the Judiciary
Modulasetulo wa Ntlo ya Marena le Marena a rona
The Leadership of SALGA and our Municipalities
The Provincial Commissioner of SAPS
The Regional Commissioner of Correctional Services
Leaders of Chapter Nine Institutions
Leaders of the African National Congress and the Alliance
All our Special Guests
Viewers and Listeners

Honourable Speaker

Two years on, **COVID-19** remains a tragic crisis with significant impact on our daily lives. When we thought things were starting to change for the better, Omicron with high infection rates surfaced.

Unlike other waves, this strain was less harmful. No major impact on the healthcare system and the economy were experienced.

COVID-19 is the whole of society's problem. We have the responsibility to ourselves and to each other to fight this pandemic.

The world over, vaccine is our best weapon and pathway to recovery.



I want to thank all those who are vaccinated. We also want to encourage those who are still hesitant to get vaccinated.

As we emerge from the devastation caused by this pandemic, our greatest responsibility is to reconstruct and rebuild our economy.

We are eager and willing to transform the **Free State** to be the growth frontier of the country. This is the time for change.

As the **President** stated in the **State of the Nation Address**, the **Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan** is our common programme to turn back the tide of our economic challenges.

Our journey of economic recovery and development will still be shaped by the seven **Medium Term Strategic Framework** priorities that give expression to the **National Development Plan**.

Economic Transformation and Job Creation

Honourable Speaker

We are serious about ending unemployment, poverty and inequality.

Our priority is the masses of our young people, women and persons with disabilities. We want to see them thriving and successful.

For our young people, we need to unlock their potential. To create opportunities, and instil a sense of value and responsibility in them.



Our **YES** initiative with **Standard Bank** is beginning to do this. **Sixty** unemployed youth were offered their first job opportunity.

These young people will go on to become entrepreneurs and change-makers in full control of their present and future aspirations.

Ten million rands was spent to support **thirty** businesses through the **Industrialisation Support Incentive Programme**.

Thirteen of these enterprises that benefitted from this **Incentive Programme** were women owned and **six** were youth owned.

The type of support included rental subsidies, provision of equipment and set-up costs for emerging and established manufacturers.

We are pleased with the developments in our **Phuthaditjhaba, Botshabelo** and **Thaba Nchu Industrial Parks** to stimulate economic growth and create jobs in these disadvantaged areas.

The **Digital Hub** in the **Botshabelo Industrial Park** is now opened for business. The **Hub** is a home to an ecosystem that is driven by the **Fourth Industrial Revolution**.

For the first time ever, young people in **Botshabelo** have a space to learn how to code, develop games and program robotics.

Ongoing interventions to reduce ownership patterns, the cost of doing business and red tape are helping with our recovery drive.



We believe in the potential of small and medium enterprises to create much needed jobs. That is why we will continue to use our **Business Development Support Programme** to support them.

It is true that **local is lekker** and in supporting localisation, we will roll-out the **Strategy** to leverage on government procurement spent.

Other initiatives to grow the economy in the **Free State** include support with tax compliance matters, funding, business plans, completion of bid documents and tender opportunities.

So far, **one hundred and sixty-four** jobs have been created in the **Maluti-a-Phofung Special Economic Zone**, which is planning to attract **over two billion rands** worth of investment.

However, these investment plans are hampered by vandalism. If anything, vandalism robs the people of the **Free State** of their livelihoods. This is worsened by poor electricity and water supply.

We will never fold our arms when hopes of people are destroyed. We will therefore work with relevant authorities to address these issues.

Honourable Speaker

The dominant land use in the **Free State** is agriculture with great potential for job creation, food security and rural development.

We are humbled by the fact that on the **14th of January 2022**, the **Integrated Vrede Dairy Project**, which sits on a massive **two**



thousand and ninety-four hectares of land, was handed over to its **sixty-five** rightful beneficiaries as part of growing this sector.

This project is now **51 percent** owned by the **Vrede Integrated Farming Trust** and **five hundred and eighty-three** dairy animals and **nine** horses have been allocated to the beneficiaries.

The remaining **49 percent** will be advertised to attract investors.

Women, young people and persons with disabilities are the future faces of the agricultural sector in the **Free State**.

As a result, **one hundred million rands** have been allocated to develop on-farm infrastructure that includes irrigation schemes, mechanisation, farm buildings and agro-processing.

Our support efforts included the provision of emergency fodder to farmers who were affected by the recent runaway veld fires.

We are also assessing the damage caused by the recent floods in our province, and we will provide relief to affected farmers.

We are repositioning the **Free State** as the cannabis hub of the country. **Six** sites have already been identified in **Kroonstad, Viljoenskroon, Bethlehem, Ficksburg, Wesselsbron** and the farm in **Glen** will be used as a research site.

We are committed to property transformation in the province.



I encourage the people of the **Free State** to respond to the call for proposals for outright purchase, build-operate-transfer and leases of the **one hundred and thirty-three** land parcels covering **two hundred and sixty-seven** hectares of land available.

Our world is perishing because of climate change. These are the changing times with intense fires, rising temperatures and severe floods.

Our twelve-month training internship programme in environmental management is one act of mitigating the dangers of climate change.

We are also working with the **International Labour Organisation** to determine opportunities and challenges to address climate change.

This will assist in developing the **Provincial Carbon Emission Plan**.

We are also building the green economy through environmental support and training in the energy and waste management sectors.

Climate change support will be offered to municipalities including spatial mapping of ecologically sensitive areas for necessary action.

Honourable Speaker

Last year we committed to accelerate our **Expanded Public Works Programme**. In doing this, we created **fifty-four thousand, and eighty** jobs by the third quarter of the **2021/22** financial year.



Figures show that we continue to prioritise the most vulnerable. A total of **74 percent** of women, **34 percent** of youth and **1 percent** of persons with disabilities benefitted from this **Programme**.

In the coming financial year, we will create **fifty thousand** job opportunities through the **Expanded Public Works Programme**.

Besides job creation, our **Township Revitalization Programme** is equally facilitating local economic development.

Twelve township roads in **Botshabelo, Zastron, Oppermansgronde, Bultfontein, Vrede, Allanridge, Frankfort, Koppies, Villiers, Clarens, Paul Roux** and **Memel** will be completed and launched by the end of this financial year.

Two hundred and thirty-seven jobs have been created as a result of the **Township Revitalization Programme**. The **Programme** will be extended to the following areas in the coming financial year:

- Botshabelo**
- Ficksburg**
- Tweeling**
- Frankfort**
- Koppies**
- Villiers**
- Memel**
- Vrede**
- Oppermansgronde**
- Zastron**



- Phillipolis
- Builtfontein
- Brandfort
- Petrusteyn

We will spend **fifty-three million rands** and **three hundred** job opportunities will be created through these interventions.

Using our **Access Road Program**, we have completed **Phase 1** of the following access roads at a cost of **sixty-four million rands** and created **seven hundred and seventy-five** job opportunities:

- Cornelia
- Edenville
- Bultfontein
- Memel
- Arlington
- Warden
- Clocolan
- Tweeling
- Oppermansgronde
- Springfontein

In addition, we will complete the following roads in this financial year:

- Vredefort - Viljoenskroon
- Wesselsbron - Hoopstad
- Kroonstad - Steynsrus
- Ventersburg - Senekal



- **Deneysville - Heilbron**
- **Hoopstad - Bloemhof (Phase 1)**

The following new rehabilitation projects are under procurement and will be implemented this year:

- **Riet River Bridge in Koffiefontein**
- **Caleb Motshabi Bridge in Mangaung**
- **Ladybrand Access Bridge**
- **Luckhoff - Havenga Bridge (Phase 1)**
- **Tweespruit Access Route (Phase 1)**
- **Virginia - Hennenman - Kroonstad**
- **Heilbron – Edenville**
- **Virginia (Phase 4)**
- **Villiers – Cornelia (Phase 2)**
- **Bloemhof - Hoopstad (Phase 2)**
- **Bethlehem – Fouriesburg - Ladybrand**
- **Senekal – Rosendal – Ficksburg**
- **Harrismith Internal Road (Phase 2)**
- **Jacobsdal - Modderrivier (Phase 1)**
- **Tweespruit - Hobhouse (Phase 1)**

Over **one billion rands** will be spent to construct these roads and **five thousand** job opportunities created.

We are doing all we can to fast-track the completion of the following roads that we promised we will finish by the end of this financial year:

- **Reitz -Tweeling**
- **Tweeling - Frankfort**



- **Jimfouche - Deneysville**
- **Dewetsdorp - Wepener - Bloemfontein**
- **Koppies - Schonkenville**

We regret the inconvenience caused by the poor conditions of these roads, which were abandoned by the contractors. Their construction will create **two thousand, nine hundred and twenty** jobs.

Work on the maintenance and repairs of our gravel roads is in progress. **One hundred and fifteen million rands** was allocated for this purpose and already, **five thousand** jobs have been created.

We will still maintain roads, repair potholes and control vegetation.

For the next financial year, we have allocated **fifty million rands** for our gravel roads; **twenty-two million, five hundred and six thousand rands** for the **Pothole Repair Programme**; and **fifteen million rands** for vegetation control.

We can only achieve gender equality through women empowerment.

The **40 percent Public Procurement Programme** is meant to achieve this. We are freeing women from the chains of patriarchy.

Today women owned businesses in the **Free State** are benefiting from our infrastructure projects spend.

Honourable Speaker

Investment in infrastructure is a pathway to **#Building the Free State We Want** and a source of endless opportunities for our economy.



We are working with **Infrastructure South Africa** and other spheres of government to develop a bankable **Free State** project pipeline. We await the full benefits of the **Durban-Free State-Gauteng Corridor**, the **Orange-Riet Canal**, the **Vista Park**, **Rustfontein Water Treatment Works** and the **Gariiep Water Pipeline** projects.

Potential projects such as the **Phuthaditjhaba Gateway**, **Maluti-a-Phofung Mega City**, **Gauteng-Free State Vaal River City Region**, **Mangaung Airport Node** and the **Provincial Broadband** will also be given the necessary support.

Social Protection, Human Development and Safe Communities

Honourable Speaker

In shaping the future path of our children, payment of stipends to **two hundred and twenty-two** care givers will be increased from **one thousand, nine hundred and fifty rands** to **two thousand rands** per month in **forty-seven Day Care Centres**.

Each year we are doubling our efforts to improve **Early Childhood Development** initiatives and important progress has been made.

We have spent **twenty-two million, seven hundred and eighty thousand rands** in grants for **Early Childhood Development** benefiting **five thousand, four hundred and forty-two** workers.



As we previously committed, the movement of the **Early Childhood Development** function to the **Department of Education** will be concluded by the end of this financial year.

Six million, five hundred thousand rands has been allocated to retain **ninety-two Social Workers** that were appointed on contract as part of the **COVID-19** intervention.

Three new **Community Nutrition Development Centres** will be established to provide meals with the **Royal Houses of Bakoena** in **Qwaqwa**, **Batlokoa** in **Qwaqwa** and **Barolong** in **Thaba Nchu**.

Honourable Speaker

Sport, arts and culture defines the essence of who we are. We will still use these sectors to inspire and celebrate our diversity.

Having witnessed the impact of **COVID-19** on the creative industry, **six hundred and ninety-two** artists received **five thousand rands** each as part of the **COVID-19 Relief Fund**.

Three hundred and forty-two athletes also received **eight thousand rands** each as part of this relief intervention measure.

We are excited that our international festival, **MACUFE**, will return this year after it was stopped in **2020** after the outbreak of **COVID-19**.



More efforts to deliver cultural value will be strengthened through the construction and renovation of the following:

- **Indoor Sport Centres in Dinoheng, Smithfield and Frankfort**
- **Arts Centres Satellite Studios in Fezile Dabi, Lejweleputswa and Thaba Nchu**
- **Basotho Cultural Village**
- **Community Libraries in Tumahole, Cornelia, Bluegumbusch and Van Standensrus**

Of the **two thousand, two hundred and thirty-seven** houses we pledged to build, **one thousand, two hundred and sixty-six** units have already been constructed. We will also build **two thousand, one hundred and ninety-one** houses in the coming financial year.

We have delivered **four thousand, seven hundred and four** serviced sites and another **six thousand, five hundred and thirty** will be delivered in the coming financial year.

We are dedicating resources for the completion of **eight thousand, nine hundred** incomplete houses.

Honourable Speaker

As the threat of **COVID-19** decreases, we need to go on with our daily lives, but with caution. This is not the end of the pandemic.

We want to reaffirm our appreciation to our healthcare workers who have been at the forefront of the fight against this pandemic.



Because of your efforts, the **Free State** was awarded the best performing award for vaccination coverage of more than **50 percent** of the eligible population and vaccination of high risk individuals.

Knowing that the quality of healthcare we provide is also dependent on the quality of our healthcare infrastructure, we have completed the refurbishment of the following healthcare facilities:

- **Bophelong Clinic in Odendaalsrus**
- **Seadimo Clinic in Thaba Nchu**
- **Relebohile Clinic in Heilbron**
- **Boitumelo Clinic in Senekal**
- **Opkoms Clinic in Bloemfontein**
- **Parys Clinic**
- **Frankfort Hospital**
- **Fezi Ngumbentombi Nurses Accommodation and Offices in Sasolburg**

For these completed healthcare projects, **forty-seven million, five hundred and ninety-three thousand rands** was spent, and **three hundred and thirty-one** jobs have been created as a result.

Forty women and **one hundred and eighty-four** youth have benefitted from the refurbishment of these healthcare facilities.

Many other healthcare facilities are being refurbished and upgraded.



Pelonomi Hospital is our pride and the litigation which hampered the upgrade of its **Maternity Ward** has been finalised. Building of this **Ward** will be completed by the end of the **2023/2024** financial year

Refurbishment of the **Schools of Nursing** in **Manapo Campus** in **Qwaqwa** and **Bongani Campus** in **Welkom** has started.

Both these **Schools** will accommodate **three hundred and sixty** student nurses when completed.

We are pleased to announce that **two thousand and three** contract healthcare workers appointed as part of the **COVID-19** intervention will be retained in the **2022/23** financial year.

Four hundred and fifty-four million has been made available to ensure they continue to provide quality healthcare.

Measures to ensure technology driven healthcare are being implemented as well. This entails connecting the **Emergency Medical Services** to all parts of the health information systems.

An **Emergency Medical Services Control Centre** will be launched at **Albert Nzula Hospital** in collaboration with **SITA**.

Honourable Speaker

The **Free State** is leading the education revolution.



We said it last year that come **2021**, you will still find us in this **Number One** spot. Our determination has been rewarded.

We are proud of the achievements of the **Grade 12 Class of 2021**.

Once again, we made history by achieving **Position 1, three** times in a row. This position was achieved **six** times in the last **nine** years since the introduction of the **National Senior Certificate** in **2008**.

We value this excellent performance by our teachers and learners. We thank you all for your dedication and persistent hard work.

What is even more impressive is the reversal of gender inequality in education. More and more girls are receiving education.

The numbers show that **three thousand, five hundred and ten** more girls than boys wrote their **Grade 12** exam, and **two thousand, seven hundred and thirty-four** more girls than boys passed.

Girls obtained **61.8 percent** of all the distinctions against the **38.2 percent** of the distinctions obtained by boys in critical subjects.

For the first time, **four** of our districts are in the **Top 10** list of the best performing districts in the country.

We will continue to provide bursaries to deserving learners.



Focus is on the **'missing middle'** learners who are too poor to afford higher education and not poor enough to qualify for **NSFAS** funding.

These learners come from households earning between **three hundred and fifty thousand rands** and **six hundred thousand rands** per annum.

We have partnered with **NSFAS** to ensure learners from households with an income ranging from nothing to **three hundred and fifty thousand rands** per annum receive **NSFAS** funding.

Honourable Speaker

The **Fourth Industrial Revolution** in our schools is also underway.

Coding and **Robotics** as a subject has been introduced in **one hundred and eleven** primary schools and **fifty** secondary schools.

Efforts to provide long-lasting learning and development opportunities are evident in investment in education infrastructure.

We are pleased with the completion of **Ruang Tsebo Primary** in **Clocolan**, **Mooifontein Primary** in **Zastron** and **Rehopotswe Primary School** in **Bethlehem**.

One hundred and twenty-eight million, three hundred and forty-seven thousand rands was used to build these schools.



While **two** schools in **Motheo**, **two** in **Lejweleputswa**, **two** in **Thabo Mofutsanyana** and **two** in **Fezile Dabi** are being built, others are at various procurement stages.

Three hostels in **Leboneng Special School**, **Breda Primary School** and **Dr Blok** are under construction and will be completed in the second quarter of the next financial year.

It gives me a great pleasure to announce that we no longer have schools built with inappropriate material in the **Free State**.

Last year we reported that the **five** remaining schools that were built with unsuitable material were under construction. I can proudly report that these schools have been constructed with bricks and mortar. In the past two financial years, **thirty-four thousand, four hundred and seventy-three** young people have been appointed through the **Presidential Youth Employment Initiative** as education assistants, general school assistants and sports enrichment assistants.

This **Initiative** will be extended to the next two financial years.

Our condolences to the families and the community of Paul Roux on the tragic passing of **four** teachers, **one** admin staff and **one** member of the school governing body from **Sekoko Primary School**.

Honourable Speaker



We need a change of attitude to end violence against women and children. There is no excuse for this disease. We stand ready to support victims and work tirelessly to end this second pandemic.

We are grateful about the training provided to **forty** multi-sectoral stakeholders by the **National Prosecuting Authority on Gender Based Violence Act and Domestic Violence Act**.

Training was provided to the **United Against Crime** group to be able to identify and report incidents of gender based violence. Dialogue with representatives of the **LGBTQI+** community was also held.

Our **Thuthuzela Care Centres, Safe Houses, Shelters and Victim Friendly Centres** are providing support services. We have improved shelters and safe houses in **Wepener, Welkom and Bethlehem**.

Newly built gender-based violence centres will be launched in **QwaQwa** and **Gariep Dam** in **August** this year.

There are **eighty-six Victim Friendly Rooms** out of **hundred and eleven** police stations to fight gender-based violence. Funds have been allocated to establish these **Rooms** where they do not exist.

Declining rates of contact crimes and sexual offences in the third quarter of the **2021/22** financial year are encouraging. However, a lot more still needs to be done to end these violent incidents.



Working with the **United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund**, we will provide **Mencare 50:50 Parenting Programme** to **one thousand, five hundred** parents, mostly men.

We will continue to increase our basket of services and reach to fight gender-based violence, including the implementation of the **National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide**.

Our women and children need to be safe and feel safe.

Drugs are a serious problem that is destroying our society and livelihoods. We call on our communities to work with our law enforcement agencies to expose and report drug dealers.

We encourage those affected to use the **Beyers Naude Halfway Centre** in **Clarens** and **Charolette Maxeke Rehabilitation Centre** in **Botshabelo**, which continue to save many lives.

Honourable Speaker

We are concerned about the acts of violence and instability. These are unacceptable and are not the building blocks of our democracy.

We will defend our democratic gains and defeat attempts to undermine our Constitution.



We will this year host a conference to conclude a social compact with social partners in the province. This will reaffirm our commitment and responsibility to protect the gains of democracy.

Despite **COVID-19**, we managed to reduce road fatalities by **8.3 percent** during the **2021** festive season. Appointment of **forty** additional traffic officers will be finalised in this financial year.

Decentralisation of the **Operating Licensing Board** was disrupted by **COVID-19** lockdown. We are fast-tracking this process.

Verification of public transport operating licences to root out piracy, forgery and maladministration have started.

I salute members of the **South African Police Service** in the province under the leadership of **Lieutenant-General Baile Motswenyane** for their excellent efforts in fighting crime.

Your courage is evident in the fact that the **Free State** is leading the country in the fight against crime as demonstrated by the crime figures released in the third quarter of the **2021/22** financial year.

We welcome the recruitment of **eight hundred and sixty-five** members who will this year be recruited as **Constables**. I am happy that current police **Reservists** will be amongst the new recruits.



Governance, State Capacity and Institutional Development

Honourable Speaker

Many of our municipalities are in a dire state. Running sewage on the streets, poor water supply and mismanagement are all too common.

Work to repair the state of our municipalities together with the newly elected councilors and **SALGA** have already started.

All we want is to get the basics right and improve service delivery.

Water provision in municipalities is being stabilised. Equitable support to **Water Service Authorities** will be maintained with the disbandment of **Sedibeng Water** and the extension of the area of service of **Bloem Water**.

Municipal Infrastructure Grant is important for service delivery.

At the end of **June 2021**, **six hundred and ninety-three million, eight hundred and forty-five thousand rands** had been spent. This was **87 percent** of the total **Grant** allocated.

As a result, **two thousand, four hundred and sixty-nine** jobs were created of which **six hundred and sixty-eight** were towards women.

Five municipalities received unqualified audit opinions and **seven** qualified audit opinions. It is concerning that **Annual Financial Statements** of **ten** municipalities are outstanding.



A team has been constituted by our **Provincial Treasury** to work with municipalities to improve these financial outcomes.

Support was provided to **twenty-one** municipalities to ensure compliance with the requirements of the performance management system, and conditions of employment for senior managers.

The ongoing governance and financial challenges in **Mangaung Metro** are being addressed. **Section 139 (5) (a and c)** instituted in **2020** meant to stabilise the finances of the **Metro** is paying off. The **Metro** was able to obtain an unqualified audit opinion for **2020/21**.

An intergovernmental task team has been constituted by the **Minister of COGTA** to provide support and resolve current governance challenges experienced by the **Council**.

We will create a service delivery technical team made up of civil and electrical engineers, quantity surveyors, town planners and ICT specialists in the **Premier's Office** by **July** this year.

This will strengthen the capacity of municipalities to operate and maintain critical infrastructure essential for service delivery.

Intergovernmental forums important for the implementation of the **District Development Model** have been created. What is important now is to finalise the **Districts One Plans**.

Population in our townships have increased and some services are not easily accessible. We will bring services closer to our



communities by creating **Integrated Service Delivery Centres** to provide healthcare, social, legal support and security services.

As the **Free State**, we are on a drive to instil good governance and ethical leadership to root out corruption and maladministration. We are supporting law enforcement agencies in their fight against this problem.

We call upon our communities to report all forms of crime.

Honourable Speaker

Our challenges demand that we be highly skilled, innovative and technologically advanced.

International agricultural skills development opportunities were offered to **hundred and seventy-six** students. **Hundred and thirty-one** of these students have completed their studies.

Using our partnership with agribusinesses, **hundred and seventeen** unemployed graduates were appointed and offered work experience opportunities in businesses coordinated by **AgriFree State**.

Honourable Speaker

Skills development is our hope for building a developmental state. We want thinkers, experts and achievers to take us into the future.



That future begins now and project **#Building the Free State We Want** is in motion.

Fifty of our officials are undergoing a **Recognition of Prior Learning** to obtain a **National Diploma in Public Administration**.

Apart from our officials, **one hundred and forty-nine** unemployed youth in **Soutpan, Welkom** and **Glen** completed their **Public Administration Learnership Programme**.

Training and work placements created for **three hundred and fourteen** youth is another passage to that developmental state.

Two thousand, five hundred and seventy-two unemployed young people have benefited from various **Skills Development Programmes** supported by various **SETAs**.

We are grateful to **MERSETA** for the **forty-two million, one hundred thousand rands** allocation to the **Free State** to offer **six hundred and fifty** learners various skills.

One thousand N3 to N6 TVET Colleges graduates will benefit from the **NQF 5 Building Inspectorate Programme** offered by **LGSETA** in collaboration with the **Central University of Technology**.

Furthermore, the **Central University of Technology** and **NHBRC** have agreed to train **six hundred and ninety-five** students in the **NQF 7 Level** from **April 2022** to increase the pool of trainers.



We are also ready to ensure that **four hundred and eighty** trainees will be enrolled in **Trade Test Programme** to ultimately register on the **National Artisan Moderation Body** as artisans.

Four thousand unemployed youth will benefit from the **Digital Skills Programming** initiative that will be offered by the **National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa**.

We have invested **two hundred and forty-eight million rands** in our **Bursary Programme**, benefitting **seven hundred and forty-nine** students studying nationally and **three hundred and fifty-three** internationally.

An additional **two hundred** local bursaries will be allocated for this financial year.

Conclusion

Honourable Speaker

We need to live up to the expectations of our people. To create jobs, build houses and provide basic services. We cannot afford to fail. This is for the common good of all the people of the **Free State**.

No matter our differences, we share the dream of a prosperous **Free State**. Let us not allow our differences to rip us apart and divide the people of this province. We need each other to succeed.

Let us work together in **#Building the Free State We Want**.



We all want to see **Free State** on the move. Development of the people is the dream of generations of men and women who cherished freedom and democracy. We dare not disappoint them.

Let us not be judged by our intentions, but by our deeds.

Honourable Speaker

Let me extend my appreciation to all **Honourable Members** of this house for their advice, support and keeping our democracy alive.

My gratitude goes to all our partners in development, the National Lotteries Commission, Meals on Wheels, Al Imdaad Foundation, The Church of Jesus Christ, Red Cross, iTau Milling, Sasol, Harmony and Tiger Brands.

Most importantly, my deepest thanks to my husband and family for their patience, understanding and support.

I thank you
