



# DEPARTMENTAL **BUDGET VOTES**

**2025**

**VOTE 10**

**HON. J.N.I MBALULA**  
Community Safety, Roads  
and Transport



**TUESDAY, 17 JUNE 2025**



**Fourth Raadsaal,  
Bloemfontein**



**10h00**



**community safety, roads & transport**

Department of Community Safety,  
Roads & Transport  
FREE STATE PROVINCE



**A FREE STATE  
THAT WORKS FOR ALL**



Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Premier of the Free State Province

Hon. Members of the Executive Council

Hon. Members of the Free State Provincial Legislature

The Chairpersons of the Portfolio Committees

The Chairpersons and Free State House of Traditional Leaders

Leadership of the African National Congress

Executive Mayors and Mayors District Councils

Acting Director General

All HoDs present and support staff from different departments

The CEO of the RTMC

The Airport Manager of Bram Fischer International Airport

The Provincial Commissioner of South African Police Services

Brigadier-General from 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

Office of Auditor General

President of SANTACO

Provincial Taxi Council Chairperson

Members of the Provincial Taxi Councils

CEO of Automobile Association

Members of the Road Safety Forum

Members of the Community Policing Forums

Members of the Business Fraternity

Religious leaders

Representatives of all labour organisations,

Media Houses

All our esteemed guests

Viewers and Listeners

*Baahi ba Foreistata kaofela dumelang!!*

*Molweni! Goeie Dag!*

**Honourable Speaker,**

I stand before this House to table a budget that responds to both the pain and the urgency of our times. We continue to mourn the brutal loss of Olerato Mongale, Mpho Moalosi, Machaka Radebe, Relebogile Phelma, Disebo Masupa, Lizzy Bekker, and Selina Lekonyane and others, these are young women whose lives were taken violently and far too soon.

To their families, we extend our deepest condolences. Your pain is our pain, and your calls for justice will not go unheard. Let this be a stern warning to all perpetrators: your days of terrorising women and children are numbered. This government will not rest until every abuser is held





accountable. This budget prioritises safety initiatives, strengthens our fight against gender-based violence, and puts more resources into prevention. Enough is enough.

**Honourable Speaker,**

Allow me to open this vote in the words of jazz poet Hugh Masekela,

- “You can’t be proud of your country unless you know what it stands for.” -

Today, as a servant of the people, I humbly present this Budget Vote as a cup bearer of the people, inspired by the timeless vision of the African National Congress, a movement whose fingerprints are imprinted on the pages of our liberation, every kilometre of our roads, and every breath of democracy in this province.

This is not a regular Budget Vote. It is the ANC at work, the ANC in action and a living pledge to construct a South Africa which is just, non-racial and free from underdevelopment’s shackles.

The ANC itself, as a governing party, has not simply dreamt the dream of a better life for all but it has worked tirelessly to make this vision a reality, brick by brick, policy by policy and kilometer by kilometre.

This budget is a tool to realise that mission in the Free State, which is to unlock opportunity, enhance service delivery and to bring back safety and dignity to our communities.

And we do so not from a place of comfort, but with a deep sense of remembrance and purpose. June 16, 1976 is not just a date in our calendar but it is a heartbeat of our conscience.



The children of Soweto, who stood against bullets with books in their hands, remind us that public service is a sacred duty. Their sacrifice calls upon us to govern boldly and justly. As Steve Biko declared,

- “It is better to die for an idea that will live, than to live for an idea that will die.”

**Honourable Speaker,**

It is not just about maintaining roads, we are also bridging the gap between the past and the future. We are working to make the Free State safer, more open and economically dynamic so the poorest among us have a better chance to access opportunity, mobility and justice.

This Budget is consistent with the three strategic priorities of the 7th Administration as set out in the 2025 State Of the Nation Address by President Cyril Ramaphosa. These strategic priorities are to drive inclusive growth and create jobs, reduce poverty and the cost of living, and to build a capable, ethical and developmental state. Our department contributes directly to these national goals through targeted infrastructure investments, sustainable transport initiatives, and law enforcement partnerships.

The Premier, in the 2025 State of the Province Address, reaffirmed our collective responsibility to accelerate service delivery, eradicate inefficiencies, and foster partnerships that stimulate growth. Within this framework, our department is central to provincial development. Safe roads, reliable public transport, and effective traffic systems are not luxuries but they are levers of economic justice.

As Frantz Fanon wrote,



- “Each generation must discover its mission, fulfill it or betray it.”

We have an assignment in this administration and we are going to fulfill it!

Our approach is people-centred, ensuring no community is left behind. This Budget Vote is not merely about the numbers. It is about impact. Every rand must serve a purpose. Every project must build trust. And every intervention must move us closer to a Free State where people are safe, mobile, and proud.

Let us, like the rhythms of Zim Ngqawana, play our part with soul, depth, and purpose. Let this budget be our ballad of progress echoing with the hopes of our people and the enduring spirit of freedom.

## **ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE**

Honourable Speaker,

Roads are the foundation of economic activity and social connectivity, linking communities to opportunities, businesses, and essential services. However, with shrinking resources and growing demands, collaboration has become essential to ensure that our road network remains in good condition. The Free State government is making strategic investments across all five districts to maintain, upgrade, and revitalize road infrastructure, improving mobility, supporting local economies, and ensuring safer journeys for all road users.

**The growing proportion of the budget will be invested as follows:**

- R196 million in Xhariep.
- R212 million in Mangaung.



- R28 million In Lejweleputswa
- R934 million Thabo Mofutsanyana,
- R344 million in Fezile Dabi.

Preventative and routine maintenance, crucial to extending the lifespan of our roads, will be implemented province-wide at a cost of R206 million

Recognizing the need to upgrade roads in previously disadvantaged communities, a budget of R77.9 million has been allocated for the Township Revitalization Programme. This initiative will improve roads in townships across the province, creating safer and more accessible streets while promoting economic activity in local communities.

A budget of R1.4 billion is dedicated to special maintenance projects, ensuring that critical road assets do not deteriorate further. Increased freight movement has put a strain on our surfaced road network, and targeted interventions will prevent premature road failures.

**Ongoing special maintenance projects with a combined budget of R897 million for 2025/26 include:**

- Tweespruit – Hobhouse
- Kroonstad – Henneman – Virginia
- Senekal – Lindley
- Lindley – Petrus Steyn
- Senekal – Rosendal
- Qwa Qwa Roads Primary Roads consisting of six different roads
- Koppies – Sasolburg
- Tweespruit – Excelsior



- Kroonstad – Steynsrus (Phase 3)
- Clocolan – Marquard

**To address new priority areas, an additional R41 million is allocated for projects starting in late 2025/26, such as:**

- Ladybrand – Hobhouse
- Oppermansgronde upgrade.
- Dealesville – Hertzogville – Christiana border
- Reitz – Kestell
- R59: Viljoenskroon: Salt Pan
- Bothaville Access Route

The decision to collaborate with the Central University of Technology (CUT) in tackling pothole repairs was a strategic and forward-thinking move that has now gained national recognition. The Pothole Eradication Programme (PEP), led by Prof. Lize Theron, has emerged as a Centre of Excellence for road maintenance in South Africa.

This innovative approach was awarded the 2024 SANRAL SAICE National Award, cementing its role in setting new standards for road rehabilitation.

**It also focuses on:**

- Sustainable and cost-effective pothole repair solutions, ensuring long-term impact.
- Research into innovative asphalt materials and geotechnical risk management, improving road durability.





- A GIS-based monitoring system for real-time oversight and accountability, providing a model that can be replicated across provinces.

The GIS Monitoring Tool developed through this programme enables comprehensive project oversight, making it a game-changer for road maintenance efforts nationwide.

As part of Operation Vala Zonke, in collaboration with CUT, over 600 young people have been employed to accelerate pothole repairs across all five districts. This initiative does more than just improve road conditions, but it:

- Creates job opportunities for youth, addressing unemployment.
- Provides hands-on training in infrastructure maintenance, ensuring that participants gain valuable skills for future employment.
- Enhances service delivery in communities, ensuring safer and smoother roads for all users

In response to flood-related damage, we have set aside R3 million to address unforeseen emergencies. Additionally, R16.8 million is committed to two critical bridge repairs:

- Bridge B244 in Lejweleputswa, improving connectivity for local businesses and communities.
- Wilge River Bridge (Aberfeldy Bridge) near Kestell, ensuring safe passage for commuters.

The Welisizwe Rural Bridge Program, in partnership with the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and the National Department



of Public Works and Infrastructure, remains a priority, with R201 million allocated for 2025/26. Three bridges have been completed in Mangaung, and four are nearing completion in Mohokare, improving accessibility for rural communities and ensuring that essential services can reach those in need.

Honourable Speaker,

In alignment with the State of the Province Address (SOPA), the Department fully supports the view that road infrastructure drives economic growth and social connectivity. With an investment of R1.9 billion in roads, the Department is not only improving mobility but also deliberately creating economic opportunities, especially for local communities.

At least 30% of project work is allocated to local subcontractors, and local labour is prioritised to ensure that government spending supports township and rural economies. These roads are more than just infrastructure, they enable business expansion, improve access to services, and support agricultural logistics, making them a vital tool for inclusive development.

The Department is also strongly focused on empowering historically marginalised groups, particularly women, youth, and persons with disabilities, by placing them at the centre of its project delivery. In the upcoming financial year, 3500 job opportunities will be created, with 2100 targeting women, 1925 for young people, and 10 for persons with disabilities. By ensuring that 30% of all project work is consistently



reserved for local small businesses, the Department is strengthening the foundation of a more competitive and inclusive provincial economy. These combined efforts reflect a firm commitment to building infrastructure that uplifts communities and drives sustainable economic transformation.

**The Department has completed the following projects in the 2024/2025 financial year:**

- Oos River Bridge Rehabilitation
- Koffiefontein - Luckhoff- Havenga Bridge
- Ficksburg – Rosendal
- Koffiefontein – Jacobsdal

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

- Thaba Nchu Publ Trprt Route\_Acc (S1523)
- Wilge Bridge S59 Aberfeldy: Kestell
- Zastron – Sterkspruit
- Kroonstad - Hennenman- Virginia
- Senekal – Lindley
- Lindley – Petrus Steyn
- Senekal – Rosendal
- Tweespruit – Hobhouse
- Harrismith Special Economic Zone (SEZ) route

The Township Revitalisation Programme (TRP) remains a key driver of job creation and local economic growth by delivering labour-intensive



block paving projects in townships. It enhances road infrastructure, supports emerging contractors, and improves service delivery in previously disadvantaged communities. Integrated with the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), the TRP not only provides immediate employment but also helps build long-term skills and economic opportunities. Although procurement delays and compliance challenges slowed progress in the 2024/25 financial year, resulting in only eight service provider appointments and the programme continues to play a vital role in township upliftment and economic transformation.

**The following Township Revitalisation Programme (TRP) projects are already underway in various towns:**

- TRP: Bethlehem Township Access Roads
- TRP: Ladybrand Township Access Roads
- TRP: Sasolburg Township Access Roads
- TRP: Kroonstad Township Access Roads
- TRP: Bloemfontein Township Access Roads
- TRP: Botshabelo Township Access Roads
- TRP: Thaba Nchu Township Access Roads
- TRP: Trompsburg Township Access Roads

**The following five outstanding Township Revitalisation Programme (TRP) projects are scheduled for procurement in the 2025/26 financial year:**

- TRP: Qwaqwa Township Access Roads
- TRP: Harrismith Township Access Roads
- TRP: Paul Roux Township Access Roads





- TRP: Ficksburg Township Access Roads
- TRP: Charles Mopedi Stadium Precint Roads

The Free State's central location makes it a vital transit hub for six provinces and Lesotho, resulting in heavy inter-provincial traffic that significantly strains its road infrastructure. To address the challenge of deteriorating roads and limited provincial financial resources, the National Department of Transport (NDOT) facilitated the transfer of 670 km of critically damaged roads to SANRAL for urgent rehabilitation and maintenance. This move allows the province to reallocate funds to other road priorities while benefiting from SANRAL's expertise and reducing litigation risks due to poor road conditions. Ultimately, well-maintained roads will enhance connectivity, promote economic growth, and improve safety and accessibility for communities and businesses.

This decision, grounded in a comprehensive national assessment, ensures that repairs can proceed without overburdening the provincial budget. While concerns about tolling exist, no tolls will be implemented without stakeholder consultation. Safe roads are essential for access to jobs, education, healthcare, and services, contributing directly to poverty reduction and social upliftment. In addition, the R2.089 billion investment in road infrastructure for the upcoming financial year is to ensure a sustainable, efficient network that supports long-term development, job creation, and inclusive economic opportunities for all residents.

## **TRANSPORT OPERATIONS**

Honourable Speaker,



Given the Free State's predominantly rural character, reliable public transport is vital. To support this, the Department has allocated R356 million through the Public Transport Operations Grant (PTOG) to enhance bus services—improving accessibility, reducing social exclusion, and creating employment in both transport and related industries. Currently, Itumele Bus Lines and Maluti Bus Service collectively transport over 24,000 passengers daily using 257 buses. These services are aligned with the future Integrated Public Transport Network (IPTN) and will eventually fall under the management of local authorities to ensure a more efficient, inclusive, and sustainable transport system.

### **Operator Licensing Board & Permits**

The Operating Licensing Board (OLB) plays a critical role in regulating public transport by ensuring operators hold valid permits and comply with safety standards. In response to past misuse of temporary permits and rising public complaints, the Department launched Operation Zivese, an initiative aimed at issuing proper 7-year licenses and enforcing vehicle compliance with road safety laws. This effort has led to a more professional and law-abiding taxi industry, promoting safer travel, curbing illegal operations, and supporting local economic development.

During the 2024/25 financial year, the OLB adjudicated 1,377 applications across various categories. These included 548 new operating licenses, 105 applications for service expansion and route amendments, 69 new charters, and 219 educational transport permits to ensure student safety. Additionally, 214 charter applications supported



tourism and event mobility, while 106 transfer and 116 estate transfer applications facilitated legal continuity of operations. Together, these measures have significantly strengthened the Free State's public transport system, making it more organized, accessible, and responsive to community needs.

## **FREIGHT LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORT PLANNING**

Since 2019, the Performance-Based Standard Vehicle Pilot Project (PBSVPP) has enhanced freight logistics in the Free State by issuing 100 permits to freight companies, allowing for more efficient, environmentally friendly operations that reduce emissions and improve road maintenance. The project is now entering Phase 3, which hinges on whether it will be integrated into South Africa's national regulations. If adopted, the initiative will expand; if not, it will be phased out with no new applications accepted, though current operators can continue until vehicle end-of-life. In parallel, the Department launched regional transport planning structures in 2021/2022 to improve public transport coordination, infrastructure planning, and law enforcement through collaborative efforts with municipalities and stakeholders under the District Development Model.

## **TRANSPORT REGULATION (TRAFFIC)**

Honourable Speaker,

Given the Free State's central geographic position linking six provinces, the region experiences heavy traffic volumes, particularly during peak



travel periods such as the festive season and Easter. This increases the risk of road accidents and makes road safety a critical priority. In response, the Department has intensified patrols, traffic enforcement, and awareness campaigns to promote safer driving behaviour. Despite some progress, fatal crashes rose by 4.2% during the 2024/25 festive season, largely due to poor driver behaviour. Nevertheless, the province remains committed to improving road safety outcomes.

To support these efforts, the Department relies on a dedicated road safety budget that maintains infrastructure, funds public education programmes, and supports law enforcement operations. Collaborations with partners such as SAB, Coca-Cola, and the Automobile Association have strengthened these initiatives. The Department also oversees vehicle registration and compliance under the National Road Traffic Act, with 65 Registering Authorities operating across the province. Despite economic constraints, motor vehicle tariff rates have been kept stable for four years, and efforts are ongoing to ensure all testing stations remain compliant and operational, contributing to safer roads and more efficient public services.

## **SAFER COMMUNITIES**

Honourable Speaker,

The Provincial Secretariat is a cornerstone in the fight against crime through its role in the Integrated Violence and Crime Prevention Strategy. It ensures policing policies are fact-based, uphold human rights, and align with the safety needs of the public. By linking communities with law





enforcement and monitoring police conduct, it fosters public trust which is a vital element in preventing crime. Its research also identifies root causes and promotes community-police cooperation. This civilian oversight ensures that crime-fighting strategies remain grounded, effective, and community-centred, making the Secretariat's work essential to long-term safety reform.

In reviewing crime trends for October to December 2024/2025, the Free State saw a 1.1% rise in contact crimes. While murder dropped by 2.2% and aggravated robbery by 8.6%, attempted murder and various forms of assault and sexual offences slightly increased. Trio crimes, such as carjackings and truck hijackings, saw a notable 12.8% decrease. Property-related crimes dropped by 12.5%, though theft of motor vehicles rose by 6%. Overall, serious crimes reported by communities declined by 3%, and police-detected crimes increased by 34.9%. The province is also finalizing the localization of the National Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy, set to launch officially in 2025/2026, which will enhance coordination between government, police, and communities for more effective crime prevention.

**The Department of Community Safety, Roads, and Transport is working with different stakeholders to improve safety in towns, villages, and farms. Several Priority Committees focus on key crime issues such as:**

- Combating serious crimes like murder and robbery
- Strengthening border security to stop illegal activities
- Addressing community stability and preventing violent protests
- Encouraging youth involvement in crime prevention



- Monitoring public events and operations for safety

These committees meet regularly and report on progress to ensure that crime-fighting strategies are working.

The President has made gun violence a top priority in the 2025 State of the Nation Address (SONA). Everyone deserves to feel safe in their communities, without fear of violence. Reducing the number of illegal guns on the streets will help lower crime rates.

**However, crime in Free State goes beyond gun violence. The province is also dealing with:**

- Fraud and corruption in government and private businesses
- Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF)
- Human trafficking
- Organized crime and violent protests
- Illegal mining and school burglaries
- Drug and alcohol abuse leading to criminal activities

Some areas in the Free State, such as Park Road, Bloemspruit, Thabong, and Welkom, are among the most crime-affected in South Africa. In response, SAPS continues to implement Operation Shanela, targeting crime through arrests and the confiscation of illegal weapons and drugs. The Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport is actively collaborating with the Premier's GBVF Task Team to implement the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF). This includes supporting SAPS in enforcing the Domestic Violence Act and improving Victim-Friendly Rooms (VFRs) at



all 111 police stations to protect and assist survivors. The Department also works with stakeholders to raise awareness and promote zero tolerance for GBVF, especially during campaigns like the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children.

**The Department of Community Safety, Roads, and Transport runs outreach programs throughout the year to discuss crime-related issues such as:**

- Alcohol and drug abuse
- High unemployment and its link to crime
- Teenage pregnancy and bullying
- The reality that “Crime Doesn’t Pay”

The Free State Province is intensifying efforts to address Gender-Based Violence (GBV) through long-term prevention programmes and strategic partnerships, including with private companies like South African Breweries (SAB) to raise awareness about alcohol’s role in GBV and violent crime. School safety programmes play a vital role in educating youth about GBV, bullying, and criminal behavior, while human trafficking awareness campaigns have been expanded to both rural and urban areas, highlighting the devastating effects of trafficking on individuals and communities. Encouragingly, stock theft has declined due to rural safety initiatives, showing progress in community protection efforts.

School environments remain a focus, with challenges like bullying and teenage pregnancy undermining youth potential. The province is promoting open dialogue, supportive policies, and mentorship to foster safer, more empowering educational spaces. Efforts are also underway



to strengthen Community Policing Forums (CPFs) through a potential funding model, while the establishment of Community Safety Forums (CSFs) is progressing in municipalities such as Mangaung and Moqhaka. On the policing front, 283 student constables were deployed across the province in April 2024 as part of the SAPS National Project 10 000, with another 183 recruits currently in training, and 16 re-enlistments being processed for detective services. These interventions reflect a holistic, partnership-driven approach to building a safer, more resilient Free State.

## **RURAL SAFETY (STOCK-THEFT)**

On 11 May 2024, two suspects wanted for the murder and robbery of an elderly couple on a farm in Glen were successfully arrested in Bloemhof through a joint operation with the Welkom Tactical Response Team. Their case is set for trial in the High Court from 15 April to 5 May 2025. The safety of rural communities remains a top priority, with enhanced deployment of police personnel and vehicles at rural police stations.

During the 2024/2025 financial year, the top ten rural stations conducted 490 Stock Theft and Community Safety Awareness campaigns. These initiatives led to critical arrests, including the recovery of stolen livestock and property in Heilbron, Koppies, Welkom, Bultfontein, and Ladybrand. In Bultfontein, for example, three suspects were caught slaughtering sheep stolen from a farm, with 40 sheep either recovered or accounted for. These efforts underscore the importance of community collaboration and continued rural safety interventions.

## **ILLICIT MINING AND DAMAGE TO ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE**





**Honourable Speaker,**

Allow me to highlight a critical success in our ongoing efforts to secure our province's borders and combat the smuggling of illicit goods.

On the 1st of July 2024, in the town of Rouxville, law enforcement officers made a significant breakthrough. During a routine roadblock, a truck driver attempted to mislead our officers. However, thanks to the vigilance and professionalism of the SAPS, his suspicious behavior raised immediate red flags.

Upon conducting a thorough search of the vehicle, our officers uncovered a staggering 400 boxes of illicit cigarettes, an illegal consignment valued at approximately R12 million.

The driver, a 42-year-old foreign national, was promptly arrested on the spot for the possession of illicit goods, and the truck was seized as evidence.

Honourable members, this is not just an arrest but it is a clear message to criminal networks that, the Free State is not a playground for smuggling. We remain firm and unshaken in our commitment to law enforcement, and we will continue to intercept those who threaten the safety and economic wellbeing of our communities.

## **SAPS ACHIEVEMENTS**

The Free State SAPS has shown outstanding dedication and performance, earning multiple accolades at the recent SAPS National Excellence Awards. Brigadier MS Makhele was honoured as Senior



Administration Manager of the Year for his professionalism, while other awards included Admin Team of the Year (Lt Col CC Jackson), first runner-up for Admin Employee of the Year (Constable GRW Ortel), and second runner-up for Detective Employee of the Year (Lt Col TJ Flyman). Most notably, Sergeant Ntombi A. Peter of Mangaung FCS received the Police Minister's Special Award for her investigations that resulted in five life sentences and 337 years of imprisonment for 32 rapists.

From April 2024 to March 2025, the Family, Child, and Sexual Offences (FCS) Unit achieved major convictions. These included life sentences for a serial rapist in Heidedal, three gang rapists in Meloding, a grandfather in Bethulie who raped his grandchild, and a Senekal serial rapist responsible for multiple attacks. Additionally, 158 awareness campaigns were conducted across various platforms and institutions to address GBV, bullying, substance abuse, cybercrime, and related legislation, demonstrating SAPS' commitment to both enforcement and prevention.

## **FLEET MANAGEMENT TRADING ENTITY**

Despite economic challenges, the Free State Fleet Management Trading Entity has remained committed to delivering reliable and sustainable fleet services to government departments. Over the past year, it procured 88 new vehicles with an investment of R85 million to ensure smooth service delivery. Operational improvements included the installation of a biometric access system and a vehicle tracking system to enhance security and accountability. The Transport Officers Forum has also strengthened departmental collaboration. Looking ahead, the entity is focusing on safety compliance, capacity building, and the adoption of fuel-efficient technologies to reduce environmental impact, while



continuing to prioritise cost-effectiveness, transparency, and service excellence.

## **BUDGET ALLOCATION 2025/26**

Honourable Members,

**The total budget allocated to the Department for 2025/26 Financial Year is R3.7 billion and it is broken down as follows:**

- Equitable share allocation (including own revenue): R1.3 billion for operational costs, with R360 million directed to infrastructure enhancement.
- Provincial Road Maintenance Grant: R2.089 billion, a 0.8% increase from the previous year.
- Public Transport Operations Grant: R356 million, a 4.5% increase from 2024/25.
- Fiscal pressures: The Department faces challenges due to ongoing services, not new needs, which may compromise its ability to meet its mandate if not addressed.
- Revenue target for 2025/26: R855.6 million, an increase of R8.4 million from the previous year.
- Revenue collected in 2024/25: R855.8 million, an over-collection of R11.7 million.
- Revenue target for 2025/26: R855.6 million. An increase from previous year by R8.4 million.

## **CONCLUSION**

Honourable Speaker,



As we conclude this Budget Vote, we do so not as administrators of numbers, but as **custodians of the people's hope**, guided by the moral compass of the **African National Congress**, the liberation movement that dared to walk into the dark valleys, so we could walk into the sunshine.

Let me first extend my deepest gratitude to the **leadership of the ANC and its Alliance partners**. It is through your enduring wisdom and revolutionary clarity that we remain focused on the path of service. As *President Oliver Tambo once said*,

- "A country, a movement, a people that does not value its youth and children does not deserve its future."

This budget is a seed for that future and a reflection of values rooted in people and in the upliftment of our youth.

To the Honourable Premier, MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae, your leadership is the rock on which this 7th Administration is founded and to my compatriots in the Executive Council, your togetherness provides the force behind this provincial government. Collectively, we are heading for a future where the Free State is no longer tailing behind, but at the forefront of the pack.

To the HoD, Dr Masego Tshabalala and all our public servants in the Department, your dedication under difficult circumstances and commitment to service is appreciated the most. As Amílcar Cabral put it,

- "Tell no lies, claim no easy victories."





What you're doing is honorable, tough and heroic.

To Lieutenant General Baile Motswenyane and the South African Police Service, your dedication towards prioritising safety in the province is what the ANC's basic pledge of safety and dignity is all about. Continue being a significant peace broker for our people.

To the Traditional and Khoisan Leadership, contractors, transporters, CPFs and civil society partners you are not simply idle observers. You too are contributors to the developmental state that we are building collectively.

To the energetic foot soldiers of the ANC, who continue to mobilise in the streetcorners, in community meetings, thank you for keeping the flame of democratic accountability alive.

And lastly I just want to thank my family for the love, the prayer, support they continue to give me.

Honourable Speaker,

This budget is not merely about maintaining roads, it is about restoring direction. It is not only about policing streets, it is about protecting lives.

*And as Mama Miriam Makeba once said,*

- *"Girls and boys, we are the ones we've been waiting for."*

Let us rise to this occasion.

This budget is a commitment to the people of the Free State, that with the ANC in power no child shall be left behind, no village forgotten and no dream denied.

I present the 2025/26 Budget Vote for the Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport to this House for consideration.

I THANK YOU !