



DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET VOTE

2026

HON. J.N.I MBALULA

COMMUNITY SAFETY, ROADS AND TRANSPORT(VOTE 10)

**TUESDAY,
28 APRIL 2026**

Bluegumbosch
Multipurpose Hall,
Puthaditjhaba

#FSBudgetVote26



community safety, roads & transport
Department of Community Safety,
Roads & Transport
FREE STATE PROVINCE



A **FREE STATE** THAT **WORKS** FOR ALL

**BUDGET VOTE – 10 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY, ROADS
AND TRANSPORT, 28 APRIL 2026, PHUTHADITJHABA.**

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 Members of the Free State House of Traditional Leaders,
Leadership of the African National Congress and its Alliance Partners,
Executive Mayors and Mayors of District Councils,
Director-General,
Heads of Departments present,
The CEO of the RTMC,
The Airport Manager of Bram Fischer International Airport,
The Provincial Commissioner of SAPS,
Brigadier-General from the SANDF,
Regional Commissioner of Correctional Services,
Regional Head of State Security Agency,
Provincial Head of IPID,
Leadership of SANTACO in the province,
Leadership of the Community Policing Forum,
Members of the Business Fraternity,
Religious Leaders,
Media Houses,
All our esteemed guests,
Most importantly, Baahi ba Foreistata kaofela dumelang
Molweni! Goeie Dag



Hon. Speaker,

I rise before this House today to table a Budget that speaks directly to the heartbeat of our people, their fears, their struggles, and their hopes for a better tomorrow. Following the Cabinet Meeting led by His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa on 27 March in Bloemfontein, it became clear that investment in road infrastructure is a key enabler of economic growth. This Budget therefore responds to that priority, as well as to the broader needs of our communities, by advancing inclusive development, strengthening service delivery, and creating an environment where economic activity can thrive and opportunities can grow for all.

Allow me to anchor this Budget Vote in the words of President Oliver Reginald Tambo,

- **“A nation that does not take care of its people will never know peace nor prosperity.”** -

This Budget is our declaration of a continued commitment to taking care of our people.

We achieve this through safety initiatives that make a difference, transport systems that work, and roads that connect our people to opportunities.

Hon. Speaker,

His excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed the National Executive and the Free State Provincial Executive Committee and raised key and fundamental issues related to the Free State provincial government and municipalities within the province. At the core of his remarks was the growing local government crisis of budget shortfalls and capacity gaps, financial mismanagement and corruption which directly undermines service delivery.

His excellency further stressed the importance of improving coordination in all levels of government through the District Development Model, this is where he raised critical socio-



economic issues, such as youth unemployment, poverty, and the high costs of living. And that is why as this administration we need to be intentional and deliberate about unleashing our economic potential through investment, through the development of infrastructure and through our initiatives that seek to support those in agriculture and the development of renewable energy supply.

Hon. Speaker,

This budget vote is our direct response to how our infrastructure projects will respond directly to issues of unemployment and poverty; a response on how we plan to develop SMMEs through subcontracting, Contractor Development Programmes and Township Revitalisation Projects.

Hon. Speaker,

ON GOVERNANCE

The Department continuously embarks on comprehensive employee verification each financial year. The verification of employees was embarked upon during 2025/26 financial year, in an attempt to strengthen payroll integrity and curb wasteful expenditure on compensation of employees.

As part of our commitment towards building a capable, ethical, and developmental state, the Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport (DCSRT) finalised and submitted the Organisational Functionality Assessment (OFA) on time. Through this project, the Department provided a clear, evidence-based diagnosis of service delivery, identifying areas of concern and interventions to improve service delivery. The findings of the OFA are instrumental in refining our processes and have laid a solid foundation for enhanced functionality and improved service delivery.

Hon. Speaker,



UNDER ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE

I want to present to this House the road infrastructure progress and planned investments for QwaQwa. In 2023, following a detailed assessment of our road network, priority roads were identified in line with the budget, and contractors were appointed to address those requiring urgent attention. A total of 61.4 kilometres of roads was included in this programme, with an investment of **R263 million** aimed at improving mobility, safety, and economic opportunities for the people of QwaQwa.

The budget allocation for the 2026/27 financial year is R75,8 Million and this will ensure the completion of the project.

In the 2025/26 financial year, we have implemented capital projects valued at over **R835 million**. We completed major strategic provincial roads, which include:

- Viljoenskroon – Orkney
- Kroonstad - Hennenman -Virginia,
- Lindley – Petrus Steyn,
- Tweespruit – Hobhouse,
- Sasolburg – Heilbron,
- and the Harrismith Special Economic Zone

These completed phases are making a real difference in our communities' daily lives, which means communities can travel safely and easier to schools, clinics, and work. Farmers will now transport their produce to markets on time, businesses can operate more efficiently, and emergency services can reach people faster. In simple terms, these roads help people live better lives by improving access, saving time, and creating opportunities right where they live.

We further advanced maintenance and rehabilitation across key routes, such as:



- Kroonstad – Steynsrus Road,
- Zastron – Sterkspruit Road,
- Senekal – Rosendal Road,
- Senekal – Lindley Road,
- Tweespruit – Excelsior Road,
- Koppies – Sasolburg Road
- and Clocolan – Marquard Road.

Hon. Members,

I am happy to report that work on the,

- Kroonstad – Steynsrus Road,
- Tweespruit – Excelsior Road,
- and Clocolan – Marquard Road,

are now back on track. The department has implemented the remedial actions, and is continuing to make progress. We are focused on completing these roads so that they are safe and easy to use, in order to improve mobility of goods and services as well as supporting local economic activity.

Hon. Speaker,

We understand that development must not bypass our people, it must reach every Free State citizen. Through the Township Revitalisation Programme, we are taking development directly into our communities, ensuring that it reaches our people where they live. This programme focuses on improving the image, value, and infrastructure of townships, by upgrading roads, improving access, and strengthening community safety. It also brings real economic benefits by creating local job opportunities through labour-intensive construction, supporting small businesses, and putting money into the local



economy. In this way, we are not only building roads but also building communities and creating opportunities for our communities.

We have completed eight projects through this programme at a cost of **R77 million**, and we have created **155 job opportunities**, in the following places:

- Botshabelo,
- Thaba Nchu,
- Bloemfontein,
- Sasolburg,
- Kroonstad,
- Ladybrand,
- Trompsburg,
- Bethlehem.

Hon. Speaker,

We are able to proactively maintain and protect our road network through the Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant (PRMG). This includes important work such as reseal and fog spray, which helps to extend the life of our roads, prevent further damage, and reduce the need for costly major repairs in future.

By investing in these maintenance activities, we are protecting our infrastructure as well as ensuring that public funds are used effectively to deliver lasting value for our communities.

That is why through our reseal and fog spray interventions, we invested **R74 million** to preserve the following key routes:

- Bultfontein – Wesselsbron,
- Bultfontein – Hoopstad,



- Dealesville – Hertzogville –Christiana,
- Deneysville. -Sasolburg,
- Parys – Sasolburg Roads

Hon.Speaker,

Like any other infrastructure department, we have a responsibility to support and grow emerging contractors. This is part of building a strong and inclusive economy where more people, especially from the previously disadvantaged groups, have the opportunity to participate in construction and development projects.

In line with this, the Department is implementing the **Contractor Development Programme (CDP)**. Through the CDP, we identify, support, and develop small and emerging contractors so that they can gain the skills, experience, and capacity needed to take on bigger projects.

This work is closely linked to the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) framework, which sets standards for grading and developing contractors in our country. We ensure that emerging contractors are properly trained and equipped to compete in the construction industry.

In implementing our Contractor Development Programme, **24 emerging contractors** have been empowered through an investment of **R50 million**. This programme is structured to enable contractors to progress through CIDB gradings, with budget allocations gradually increasing over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

As the department we are equipping and empowering our own in the province. We cannot continue as it used to be the practice in the past and hire contractors from other provinces when we have the talent at home.



The Welisizwe Rural Bridge Programme is a testament of collaborative efforts between National, Provincial and Local governments, ensuring coordinated implementation and alignment with broader development goals. By improving rural infrastructure, the Welisizwe Rural Bridges Programme seeks to unlock economic potential, reduce isolation, and create sustainable communities that are resilient to the challenges posed by inadequate infrastructure.

The Welisizwe Rural Bridge program in the Free State has seen the completion of 13 bridges: 3 in Mangaung Metro, 4 in Mookgeloop, 6 in Qwa Qwa, 3 bridges are still under construction in Qwa Qwa. These bridges provide access to communities in need and the location of each bridge was identified by liaising with stakeholders through the District Development Model (DDM) in each of the respective municipalities where the program had already been rolled out. This was done by collaborating with National Department of Transport (NDoT), Department of Public Works and Infrastructure and the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

More Bridges will be implemented in Qwaqwa the 2026/27 financial year, and the program will be further extended to Ladybrand, Botshabelo, Thaba Nchu and Kroonstad.

Hon.Speaker,

In the 2026/27 financial year, we will roll out a road maintenance plan estimated at **R1.4 billion** in road infrastructure, and ensure the continuation of the following current projects:

- Thaba Nchu Public Transport Routes,
- Oppermans Access Road,
- Qwa Qwa Roads,
- Kroonstad – Steynsrus Road,
- Senekal – Rosendal Road,
- Tweespruit – Excelsior Road,



- Koppies – Sasolburg Road,
- Restoration of the damaged section on the R711 between Fouriesburg and Clarens

This budget for the 2026/27 financial year will also enable us to commence with the following **new projects**:

- Christiana – Hertzogville – Dealesville Road,
- Ladybrand – Hobhouse Road,
- Reitz – Kestell Road,
- Edenburg – Reddersburg Corridor.
- Mangaung Access Roads,
- Harrismith SEZ Access Roads
- Regravelling of gravel roads in various parts of the province

The Township Revitalisation Programme will continue in the following townships:

- Botshabelo,
- Thaba Nchu,
- Bloemfontein,
- Sasolburg,
- Kroonstad,
- Ladybrand
- And Excelsior.

In a deliberate effort to broaden impact, we will also be expanding the Township Revitalisation Programme to Harrismith and Jagersfontein.

Hon. Speaker,



When we first came in as the 7th administration, we made a commitment to our people that through our infrastructure programme, we will create a total number of 3500 work opportunities, and we have in 2025/26 created **4,115 work opportunities** against a target of **3500**, which includes **1,977 youth**, **2,291 women** and **24 People with disabilities**.

Hon. Speaker,

TRANSPORT OPERATIONS

The province continues to make steady progress in developing the Harrismith Logistics Hub as a key investment and economic growth project. Since the 2025 Budget Speech, the department has led engagements with key stakeholders to ensure proper alignment, and a detailed concept document has now been completed. This work has focused on critical areas such as rail integration, freight movement, land availability, infrastructure readiness, and coordination between different spheres of government to ensure the project is well planned and investment-ready.

The Harrismith Logistics Hub is a strategic opportunity for the Free State, given its location along major freight routes with high truck volumes passing through daily. It is positioned to become a major centre for logistics, warehousing, agro-processing, and distribution, supporting growth in agriculture, mining, and tourism. The project has received strong support from national leadership, including the President, who encouraged the province to move from planning into implementation and to strengthen its investment case. With this support, the province remains committed to actively attracting investment and driving the successful development of the Harrismith Logistics Hub as a catalyst for economic growth and job creation.

The Department has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Reinhardt Transport Group to formalise a collaborative partnership aimed at skills development and empowerment within the trucking and transport sector. Reinhardt Transport Group will



utilise its own facilities and infrastructure to provide Training and Mentorship of Truck Drivers, an Incubation Programme, and Office Administration Training specifically targeting females within the Trucking Industry — all facilitated through Community Policing Development Agency (CPDA), which is their Quality Council for Trades and Occupations QCTO accredited Skills Development Provider.

In the 2026/27 financial year, the department will prioritise the stabilisation and transformation of the taxi industry as part of building an integrated, safe and sustainable public transport system. To achieve this, the Department will strengthen regulation and compliance through an improved Provincial Regulatory Entity, to Fastrack processing of public transport operating licences, reduction of illegal operations and enhanced law enforcement.

The Department is committed to ensuring stability, peace, and cooperation in the public transport sector across the Free State. Working together with national government and key stakeholders such as South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO), South African National Small Bus Operators Council (SANSBOC), and other transport associations, the department will implement key resolutions from the 2026 Imbizo which I led to improve safety, reliability, and regulation in the sector. Through ongoing engagement, transparent governance, and collaboration with all operators including scholar transport, taxis, metered taxis, and buses, the department aims to build a sustainable and well-coordinated public transport system that benefits all communities.

We honour the Free State Deaf Community for their important contribution in helping to make public transport more inclusive and accessible for all. Through their partnership with the department in launching standardised transport hand signs in June 2025, they will help bridge long-standing communication gaps between deaf commuters and taxi operators. This initiative is making it easier and safer for people with hearing impairments to travel, while also reducing stigma and promoting dignity in public transport. We truly



appreciate their leadership, lived experience, and contribution to building a more inclusive Free State where no one is left behind.

The department will also assist e-hailing operators by raising awareness and providing guidance in preparation for the new e-hailing laws in South Africa. These regulations, introduced under the National Land Transport Amendment Act and effective from September 2025, require all operators to obtain official operating licenses, ensure their vehicles are properly branded, and install panic buttons. The department will support operators through information sessions and resources to help them comply, as failure to meet these requirements may result in penalties of up to R100,000 or imprisonment for up to two years.

Hon. Speaker,

TRANSPORT REGULATIONS (TRAFFIC)

The Department made great strides in road safety awareness and education. Our province proudly took part in the 2025 National Road Safety and Participatory Educational Techniques Competition. Two rural schools stood out, with Samuel Johnson Secondary School in Zastron coming in second place in the Road Safety Debate, and Matlwangtlwang Secondary School in Steynsrus earning third place in Participatory Educational Techniques. During the 2025/2026 Festive Season, the Free State Province was also recognised as the second best-performing province in the country, thanks to a significant drop in crashes and fatalities. This was achieved through strong community education campaigns, prayer services, and tougher law enforcement operations such as roadblocks and visible policing on key routes.

During the provincial Easter Road Safety Campaign, the Free State recorded a significant breakthrough in law enforcement operations aimed at strengthening road safety and border control. Through coordinated traffic operations, officials intercepted 32



Zimbabwean nationals travelling along the R30 near Brandfort Plaza enroute to Cape Town, as well as four Mozambican nationals, at the Verkeerdevlei Plaza. These interceptions highlight the critical role played by integrated roadblocks and routine traffic checks in safeguarding both road users and communities. Beyond these incidents, the department will intensify efforts to strengthen enforcement systems and close coordination gaps between provinces, ensuring that inter-provincial collaboration becomes more effective in addressing cross-border mobility challenges and enhancing overall road safety governance.

From the beginning of June this year we want to see our speed cameras around the province being fully operational and this is a commitment we have already started working on.

We want to take a moment to recognise the important and often dangerous work carried out by our traffic officers, who put their lives on the line every day to keep our roads safe and support law enforcement efforts. Recently, we were deeply concerned by an incident near Hillside View in Bloemfontein, where Provincial Inspector Kekeletso Sefatsa, a traffic officer was shot and wounded during a cash-in-transit robbery on OR Tambo Road. We strongly condemn this act of violence against a public servant who was simply doing her duty. We are relieved that she is receiving the necessary medical care and support, and we wish her a full and speedy recovery. Acts like these are unacceptable, and we reaffirm our commitment to supporting and protecting those who serve our communities with dedication and courage.

Hon. Speaker,

While there are challenges at our Traffic Testing Stations in the Province, primarily due to budget constraints the Department has accelerated the utilisation of the Smart Environment Units Terminals for processing of licenses. This system is linked to the



database of the Department of Home Affairs which enables the real-time identity verification and SAPS verification for Professional Driver Permit. This process saves time for the applicants as they are able to renew their drivers' licences from one point and will no longer have to physically visit SAPS facilities for applications.

In 2025/26 the department focused on Lengau – Traffic Testing Station to ensure that officials are upskilled and that a pool of properly trained officials is placed to roll out the system in a phased-in approach in the province.

In 2026/2027, we plan to implement the national shift towards digitisation as a strategy towards addressing the influx at the Traffic Testing Stations, to enhance controls on the rising transaction volumes and a response to an increased audit and governance scrutiny. This hybrid system will be piloted at the Lengau Testing Centre, for the walk-in applicants and those who utilise the Online Booking System. This hybrid system will also be rolled out through a phased-in approach starting with the busiest - Traffic Testing Stations in the Province.

SAFER COMMUNITIES

Hon. Speaker,

One of the biggest achievements in the province has been the development and launch of the Free State Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy, and the alignment of different departments' plans to its six key focus areas. This shows that the province is not only tailoring its approach to local needs but also aligning with national efforts to fight crime.

All spheres of government now recognise that crime is not just the responsibility of the police, but a problem that must be tackled by government, communities, and all sectors working together. During the 2026/2027 financial year, we will focus on putting this



strategy into action and tracking progress every quarter, especially in the police stations that have been identified as priority areas.

Hon. Speaker,

President Cyril Ramaphosa in the State of The Nation Address confirmed the deployment of the SANDF to support the SAPS in combating gang violence and illegal mining from March 2026 to March 2027. This Operation Prosper deployment targets crime hotspots in Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng Province, North-West, and Western Cape.

The Free State Province welcomes this intervention and stands ready to support the large-scale deployment of SANDF members under Operation Prosper (2026–2027) which serves as a critical force multiplier in high-risk operations and the protection of key infrastructure.

Hon. Speaker.

We continue to play an important role in addressing Gender-Based Violence and Femicide by supporting the implementation of the National Strategic Plan on GBVF and working closely with the Provincial GBV Desk led by the Office of the Premier. The department focuses on ensuring that the police strictly enforce the Domestic Violence Act and that victims are treated with care and dignity, including the provision of Victim Friendly Rooms at police stations to prevent further trauma.

The establishment of the Botshabelo Sexual Offences Court by the Minister of Justice Mmamoloko Kubayi and Premier MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae aims to provide a strong intervention for the high levels of sexual violence in South Africa, particularly against children. Forming a specialised and child-friendly setting with a trained workforce that reduces secondary trauma, shields victims from contact with perpetrators and allows them to give testimony in a dignified and supportive manner.



The communities can have a quicker and more efficient courtroom, higher conviction rates and greater trust in their justice system. At last, this effort not only promotes justice, but also restores hope, and a way for survivors to be heard, to be safe, and to be empowered. It also affirms a collective commitment against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.

ON SAPS ACHIEVEMENTS

The SAPS in the Free State, in 2025/26, continued to report successes in the execution of Operation Shanela with remarkable successes including arrests for different crimes and confiscations thereof achieved through this initiative. A total of **21 223 arrests** were effected during **Operation Shanela for the 17 Community Related Crimes, 7 588 for Illegal Immigrants, two (02) for Wildlife and 478 for Illicit Mining.**

Hon. Speaker,

ON PROACTIVE POLICING

A total of 5 381 frontline service members were trained through specialised Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBV&F) programmes to strengthen their response to these serious cases. In addition, ten Victim Empowerment Programmes were conducted, along with 36 outreach projects at high-contact crime stations and GBVF hotspot areas across the province, including Mangaung, Thabong, Botshabelo, Welkom, and Sasolburg. Three focused interventions were also carried out during the 16 Days of Activism campaign in areas such as QwaQwa and Kroonstad, to raise awareness and strengthen community action against violence.

In support of safer communities, School Safety Programmes were implemented in 22 schools, while 1 026 schools now have active Safer School Committees to promote safety and learner protection. A further 94 school safety interventions were conducted during the 2025/2026 financial year, including in areas such as Bethlehem, Virginia, and Zamdela, focusing on bullying prevention, learner protection, and awareness on social challenges affecting young people. In addition, human trafficking awareness campaigns



were rolled out in rural and urban areas including Harrismith, Botshabelo, and Welkom, helping communities to identify risks and report suspicious activity, while rural safety sessions contributed to a decline in stock theft in areas such as Bultfontein, Edenville, and Wesselsbron.

The Community Policing Forum programme remains active, with 109 police stations supporting functional CPF structures, while the Community in Blue Programme continues at 111 stations with 2 347 patrollers working alongside SAPS to strengthen visibility and community safety.

RURAL SAFETY (FARM ATTACKS & STOCK-THEFT)

Rural safety remains a top priority for the province, especially in addressing farm attacks and stock theft. In Glen, two wanted suspects aged 39 and 26 were arrested and later sentenced to two life sentences each.

There have also been important breakthroughs in fighting stock theft and improving rural safety through joint operations and community involvement. In Heilbron, a farm attack involving murder, rape, and stock theft led to the swift arrest of 11 suspects, who appeared in court, while in Phuthaditjhaba five suspects were arrested and stolen livestock worth R149 000 was fully recovered. In Selosesha, police recovered 11 stolen cattle valued at R198 000, and in Bloemspruit, 12 stolen cattle were recovered after a Blue/White Light operation.

In Wesselsbron, five suspects linked to house robbery and stock theft were arrested in Welkom with stolen property recovered. These results were supported by 940 stock theft awareness interventions in priority rural stations, 42 rural safety imbizos, and implementation of rural safety programmes at 105 stations, showing that community participation, intelligence sharing, and visible policing are making a real difference in protecting rural livelihoods.



Hon. Speaker,

We honour all the men and women in blue, for their hard work, which has been even recognised nationally in the SAPS awards, and also appreciate the hard work being done by the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit, as they have secured more than 40 life sentences for rape and domestic violence cases. We will never condone a society that preys on women and children.

We also pay our deepest respect to the men and women in blue who tragically lost their lives in line of duty. We honour their service, their dedication, and their sacrifice, and we extend our heartfelt condolences to their families, colleagues, and the entire SAPS family.

Hon. Speaker,

As we move into the 2026/27 financial year, we remain firmly committed to strengthening safety and security across the Free State. While crime statistics show an overall decrease in most reported crimes, there are still key hotspots that need focused attention, with **30 police stations identified as priorities in dealing with the 17 community-reported crimes.**

In the coming year, our work will align with the national priorities. These priorities include reducing organised crime and corruption, addressing gender-based violence, lowering firearm-related crimes, strengthening border security, tackling gangs and violent crime in affected areas, improving leadership and management in policing, rebuilding public trust in SAPS, and enhancing intelligence and detective capacity to ensure safer communities for all.

Hon. Speaker

In 2026/2027 financial year, National Government committed to move with urgency to finalise a sustainable funding model for Community Policing Forums (CPFs), through the



National Civilian Secretariat for Police Service. Functional CPFs are central to the police-community collaboration. That is why as a department in partnering with the private sector, we continue to equip our CPFs with the tools and support they need to operate more effectively. Every new police station, including the one awaiting handover in Harrismith, must be embedded within a fully coordinated CPF.

FLEET MANAGEMENT TRADING ENTITY

An efficient and reliable government fleet is central to improving service delivery across the Free State Province, ensuring that departments can reach communities where services are needed most. Through the Fleet Management Trading Entity, the province procured a total of 298 vehicles during the 2025/2026 financial year at a cost of just over R210 million. These vehicles include 10 mortuary vans, 60 ambulances, 10 planned patient transport vehicles for the Department of Health, 5 large buses for the Department of Education, 6 minibuses, 124 sedan vehicles, 66 light delivery vehicles, and 8 sport utility vehicles for various departments.

Out of the 298 vehicles procured, 220 (about 74%) have already been delivered and are now in use, helping to strengthen government operations across the province. The remaining vehicles, including buses and ambulances that are still under construction, are expected to start being delivered from April 2026, with all orders to be completed by the end of the first quarter of the 2026/2027 financial year. This steady delivery process is helping to improve the availability of critical services while ensuring better mobility for government teams on the ground.

Looking ahead to the 2026/2027 financial year, we have also planned the procurement of more traffic vehicles to ensure continuity in fleet renewal and sustained support for road safety and life-saving services. Through these targeted investments, we are



ensuring that government vehicles are enablers of dignity, access and service delivery for our people.

BUDGET ALLOCATION 2026/27

Hon. Speaker,

The total allocation for **Vote 10** amounts to **Three billion, five hundred and eighty-three million, one hundred and eighty-eight thousand rand (R3 583 188 000)**, which seeks to contribute towards the creation of a prosperous Free State through the facilitation of the provision of sustainable community safety, mobility and road infrastructure.

This budget is allocated across five (5) programmes as follows:

- Programme 1: Administration — **Three hundred and forty-seven million, nine hundred and five thousand rand (R347 905 000)**
- Programme 2: Provincial Secretariat for Police Services — **Twenty-six million, six hundred and seventy-one thousand rand (R26 671 000)**,
- Programme 3: Transport Operations — **Four hundred and nineteen million, five hundred and forty-three thousand rand (R419 543 000)**
- Programme 4: Transport Regulation — **Six hundred and thirty-three million, nine hundred and fifty-eight thousand rand (R633 958 000)**,
- Programme 5: Transport Infrastructure — **Two billion, two hundred and thirty-five million, eighty-nine thousand rand (R2 235 089 000)**

Hon. Speaker,

In conclusion allow me to borrow the words of former president, Thabo Mbeki, when he said,

“The struggle continues because a struggle for a better life is never over”



And I am grateful to be walking through this struggle with people who never allow me to walk alone.

With those words I would like to thank the African National Congress for trusting me with the responsibility to represent it in government. I particularly wish to thank the rank and file members of the movement for being a trusted and reliable support base for the work we do in government including the Leagues. I want to thank the Premier and the Executive Council, for the ongoing support, guidance, and oversight. Your continued support helps us to improve safety, transport service delivery for the people of the Free State. I value your inputs and commitment to making government work better for our communities.

I also want to thank all our stakeholders, including law enforcement, transport operators, community safety structures, and other partners, for working with us to improve safety and public transport in the province. To the staff of the Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport, thank you for your hard work and dedication every day, even under difficult conditions. Your efforts truly keep the department going and make a difference in people's lives.

Finally, I want to sincerely thank the outgoing Head of Department, Dr Masego Tshabalala, for her leadership and service since 2022.

And kuni nonke ntozakuthi: “Jola, Qengeba, Ngwanya, Mphankomo, Ngqungqusha, Uvuba ngobende, Umfaz’obelenye, Alithi jwi ngaphesheya komlambo wathi ncanca mntana ngoba ibele lide, thole lomthwakazi ndiyanibulela” indeed your support keeps me going.

Together, let us continue working to build a safer, better, and more connected Free State.

