

My GAUTENG

PG 5 - eGovernment, UJ join forces to tackle e-waste | PG 7 - Allandale Road construction back on track on



R36 billion infrastructure budget to improve service delivery, create jobs

• By Lerato Mailoane

The Gauteng Provincial Government has set aside R36.8 billion for infrastructure projects over the next three years.

The money will be used to build and maintain public infrastructure that provides the enabling environment required to deliver government services to communities including schools, healthcare facilities, libraries,

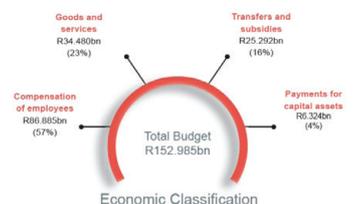
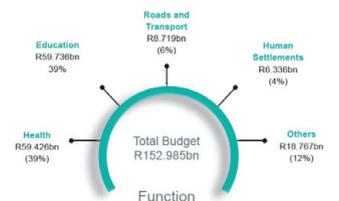
social development facilities and sports facilities.

This was revealed by MEC for Finance and e-Government, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko when she was presenting the 2022 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

The budget comprises R153 billion allocated for 2022/23 financial year, R152 billion for 2023/24 financial year and R156 billion for the outer year which is 2024/25.

Nkomo-Ralehoko said the earmarked allocations are themed along winning the battle against COVID-19, re-igniting the Gauteng economy, recalibrating

Provincial Spending



Continued - pg 2

From - pg 1

social policy to improve educational and health outcomes as well as improving governance across the Gauteng City Region.

The budget was in support of the Growing Gauteng Together 2030 and Premier David Makhura's State of the Province Address theme of moving "from the public health emergency to economic and service delivery emergency" to tackle unemployment through economic recovery.

The largest share of the budget is allocated for social services as spending on the poor remains key. The combined share of the budget of Gauteng Departments of Health, Education and Social Development amounts to R124.7 billion in 2022/23 and translates to 82% of the budget.

Nkomo-Ralehoko said the provincial government will spend more than R400 billion over the next three years to grow the economy, create jobs and expand basic services to the public.

She was, however, quick to emphasise that departments must use taxpayers' money for its intended purpose which is to improve the lives of the people of Gauteng.

"It will not bode well if scarce resources that are increasingly difficult to come by are diverted away from the needs of the marginalised segments of our society. We owe it to ourselves to be guided by our ethical and moral compass in working for those in whose name we serve," she said.

As part of broad efforts to address the crisis of youth unemployment, the MEC announced an allocation of R2.4 billion to fund the creation of youth-

Spending on Social Services



Total Social Services = R 124.699bn

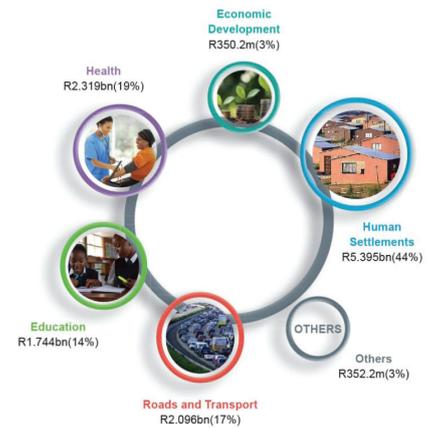
centred employment opportunities.

A total of R6 million has been set aside to fund the Gauteng e-Waste Management Strategy, which is aimed at protecting the environment from degradation and creating job opportunities.

As part of efforts to reverse apartheid spatial transformation, additional funds amounting to R177.2 million have been located to the Department of Human Settlements.

The 2022/23 provincial budget also makes provision to support and mainstream the government's programmes that focus on gender-based violence and support the rights of women, youth, senior citizens, people with disabilities, military veterans and the LGBTIQ+ community. ■

Spending on Infrastructure



Others consist of: Social Development; Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation; Infrastructure Development and Agriculture and Rural Development.

Conditional Grants



Makhura meets mayors to strengthen intergovernmental relations

Premier David Makhura is meeting with the Executive Mayors of municipalities in the province.

The meetings are aimed at promoting and facilitating inter-governmental collaboration in transforming the province into an integrated Gauteng City Region.

On Wednesday, Makhura met with Mogale City Mayor, Tyron Gray. On Thursday he met with Mayor of Tshwane Randell Williams and the Sedibeng District Municipality counsellors led by Mayor Lerato Maloka.

Local government is the sphere that is closest to the people, therefore its functionality and effectiveness are of critical importance to the strategic agenda of the province.



Premier Makhura meets with the City of Tshwane's executive

Continued - pg 3

From - pg 2

Learning from the COVID-19 response, the executive is strengthening relations to tackle the challenges and failures of service delivery and to avoid government working in silos.

In his State of the Province Address last month, Makhura committed to working with different mayors despite political party affiliation.

“Ours is to serve the people of Gauteng across the City Region, regardless of which political party or coalition is running the government.”

Together with all MECs, Makhura is paying special attention to finding lasting solutions to service delivery challenges when he visits communities on Thursdays and Fridays.

“As we make the economy and jobs our number one priority over the next two years, we will also work closely with municipalities and the national government to urgently accelerate service delivery and improve access to housing, electricity, water, sanitation, road maintenance, visible policing, quality education and health,” he said then. ■



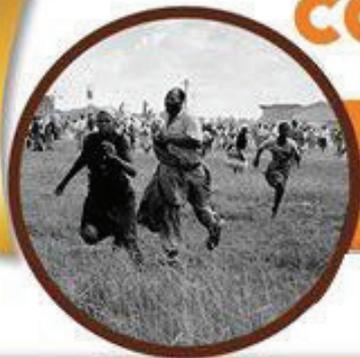
Sedibeng District Municipality councillors led by Mayor Lerato Maloka



Premier Makhura meets with Mogale City Local Municipality Mayor, Tyron Gray



HUMAN RIGHTS DAY COMMEMORATION



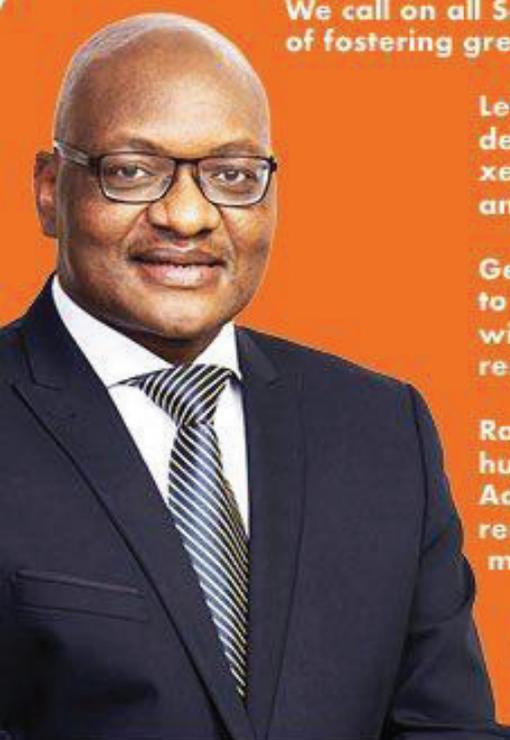
PROTECTING AND PRESERVING
OUR HUMAN RIGHTS GAINS

We call on all South Africans to use Human Rights Day as a reminder of the importance of fostering greater social cohesion, nation-building and a shared national identity.

Let us all continue working together for inclusive socio-economic development and combat scourges such as racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all related intolerances as well as gender-based violence and femicide, which continue to undermine our human rights culture.

Gender-based violence continues to rear its ugly head and continues to trample on human rights of women and children. Wherever we witness these human rights violations, we must condemn them without reservation, hesitation and qualification.

Rampant poverty, pervasive inequalities and structural discrimination are human rights violations and among the greatest challenges of our time. Addressing them effectively requires measures grounded in human rights, renewed political commitment and participation of all, especially those most affected.



**David Makhura
Premier of Gauteng**

Public Protector lauds Gauteng's handling of investigations

Public Protector, Advocate Busisiwe Mkhwebane has hailed the Gauteng Provincial Government's corruption investigative processes as a best practice that other provincial administrations and municipalities should learn from and emulate.

Gauteng government compiles and keeps a record of the number of investigations in each department or entity.

It also tracks progress in respect of the implementation of remedial action, in cases where investigations reports are not being challenged in court.

"It is a breath of fresh air. Other organs of state should benchmark against the Gauteng model. It is in the best interest of good governance and impactful service



delivery in state affairs and the public administration," Mkhwebane said.

Mkhwebane met with Premier David Makhura during a stakeholder roadshow aimed at strengthening collaboration, to promote quality service delivery and effective governance in state affairs.

Overdue and inadequate responses or failure to respond to allegations and requests for documents as part of investigations are the leading obstacles to the quick resolution of complaints in the country. This often leaves complainants in limbo. Makhura and Mkhwebane cemented cooperation between their offices with the signing of a Memorandum

of Understanding aimed at ensuring that requests for investigation-related information are responded promptly to expedite investigative processes.

Makhura said the province has an ongoing priority of institutionalising integrity, accountability and good governance.

The province has adopted a robust Integrity Policy Framework and Anti-Corruption Strategy underpinned by National and Provincial Legislative and Policy Frameworks.

"The aim of the strategy is to build a culture of integrity among public officials and public servants," said Makhura.

Of the 34 past recommended remedial actions by the Public Protector, the provincial government has implemented 26, with 2 in progress. ■



The aim of the strategy is to build a culture of integrity among public officials and public servants

eGovernment, UJ join forces to TACKLE E-WASTE

• By Lerato Mailoane

The Department of e-Government and the University of Johannesburg (UJ) have unveiled the Gauteng e-Waste Management Strategy, to tackle the province's mounting e-waste.

e-Waste refers to the disposal of electrical and electronic gadgets. The e-waste management system is being implemented as a solution to help improve the collection, recycling, and safe disposal of electronic waste (e-waste) in the province.

South Africa experiences about 360 000 tons of e-waste each year and Gauteng accounts for about 55% of the national e-waste quantities.

Speaking at the launch of the Gauteng e-Waste Management Strategy last month, Gauteng Premier, David Makhura said: "Human civilisation of the past five centuries has often been at great cost to the environment and the indigenous people's way of life. We must search for a smarter, greener, equitable, inclusive and sustainable industrial revolution that places humanity and the planet at the centre."

E-waste is valuable as a source of secondary raw material that can be used to manufacture new products. Organic waste can be turned into fertiliser. Plastic waste can be used to build infrastructure such as roads. Waste can all be used to produce energy.

The e-waste management strategy and partnership with UJ creates an ecosystem to discard, recycle or donate e-Waste products in a manner that creates small businesses and job opportunities among the youth.

"There will be training programmes for collectors, separators and entrepreneurs. We will start with training 200 young people immediately. By 2024, we will have over 2 800 young people who have been trained and employed in this e-waste management pilot programme," said Makhura.

Premier Makhura has also noted how



rapid technological change empowered people and changed their quality of life. He said it was important to have digital inclusion, so no one is left behind.

"This mounting e-waste problem is an opportunity for us to bring in new players to deal with the environmental problem by having a different approach to it and bringing in young people," said Makhura

Young people have started to take lead in digital skills and e-Waste. Siyafunda based in Katlehong leverages discarded desktops and laptops that can be refurbished to be utilised for all training programmes.

"We also make use of e-waste to help us develop programmes that are cost effective that can easily be implemented in low-income communities," said Siyafunda's Technical Training Manager, Sameer Padayachee.

Technical Manager at UJ's Process, Energy, and Environmental Technology Station, Nickey Janse van Rensburg said UJ has partnered with e-Gov to help develop the strategy, bringing them into contact with experts from various institutions and agencies.

"We are also working with other agencies to support capacity development and training, designing short learning programmes that will stretch across the entire value chain, from the informal sector to management of the facilities and what is required in terms of legislation and linking it to the circular economy," she explained.





MALIBONGWE RIDGE HOUSING PROJECT to restore residents' dignity

• By Qaqambile Maledle

Gauteng government has announced that the Malibongwe Ridge Mixed Housing Development project, is back on track.

The housing development, marked as a priority project, is an extension to the Cosmo City development project that is aimed at addressing housing needs for mixed-income groups.

This development will not only reduce the housing backlog in the area but will also accelerate government's vision to address informal settlements by offering 7 227 housing opportunities on the 164ha site.

It comprises 1324 fully subsidised units with 2186 formal backyard rental units, 646 Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP), 464 bonded and 894 Social Housing opportunities.

The project will accommodate and upgrade the Itsoseng Informal Settlement, home to approximately

3500 households, that are occupying a part of the land.

Gauteng Premier, David Makhura said 662 social houses have been completed and 392 are under construction, to be completed by 31 March 2022.

"During the month of March, we want to finalise the list of beneficiaries to enable qualifying beneficiaries to be allocated to their rightful homes," said Makhura during his visit to the area as part of Ntirisano outreach programme.

He underlined the need for new developments to allow communities to engage in economic activity.

As such, Malibongwe Ridge will include amenities and facilities, such as churches, clinics, open parks and schools, as well as commercial and retail opportunities.

With many people still without adequate housing and basic services, Makhura said accelerating housing delivery is non-negotiable.

"The time to talk must come to an end. We need to focus on real deliverables that our communities are expecting of us. We are a caring government and we will not rest until everyone has decent shelter over their heads," said the Premier. ■

This development will not only reduce the housing backlog in the area but will also accelerate government's vision to address informal settlements



ALLANDALE ROAD construction back on track

• By Rofhiwa Marubini-Tshitahle

Construction is underway on Allandale Road, K73, in Midrand after the Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport gave developers the green light.

More than R300 million has been earmarked for the construction of a twin carriageway between Montrose Road and Allandale Road (K58) as well as the upgrading of a section of the K71 (Woodmead Drive).

The project had a four-year delay due to differences between the provincial government and the developers that resulted in a tender being withdrawn twice since it was first issued.

The construction of a temporary bypass to ease traffic flow has commenced and road users are requested to cooperate throughout the maintenance period which will end in August 2023.

The scope of work also includes the construction of a bridge on K73, extension of existing culverts, relocation of existing services, landscaping, supply and installation of guard rails and streetlights, construction of kerbs, road signs and road markings.

Businessman, Nkoane Godfrey Mokabane, Director of Lonerock (Pty)

Ltd, has vowed to work closely with the community, councillors, and business forums to deliver the project on time.

More than 250 people have been employed, 30% Small Micro Medium Enterprise (SMME) and 10% local business are part of the project.

MEC for Public Transport and Roads Infrastructure, Jacob Mamabolo says transport infrastructure projects will be delivered on time, at cost and with good quality.

The department has introduced a Digital Turnaround reporting tool, Project Management Dashboard and a Compliance Office, to help track progress of all projects in the province.

The department has also appointed Malatjie Attorneys & Co to enforce compliance of meeting project deadlines.

During the State of the Province Address in February, Premier David Makhura said infrastructure investment was a key catalyst for economic growth.

"Our investments in infrastructure will result in the creation of efficiencies

in the economy and stimulate economic growth and job creation," Makhura said. ■

More than 250 people have been employed, 30% Small Micro Medium Enterprise (SMME) and 10% local business are part of the project.

GET VACCINATED! PROTECT YOURSELF

• By Qaqambile Mdledle

Medical experts warn that COVID-19 is still in our midst and therefore all eligible people are urged to get vaccinated

Everyone, including young people are at risk of severe illness and hospitalisation should they contract the coronavirus, therefore young people are also encouraged to get vaccinated.

Of the 6,4 million young people in Gauteng between the ages of 12-35, only 2,1 million have been vaccinated.

Those who are yet to be vaccinated are urged to visit their nearest vaccination site to get their jab. ■



COVID-19 VACCINATION



12-17 YEARS OLD

**GET
YOUR
JAB**

**PARENTS CAN
ACCOMPANY
THEIR
CHILDREN
TO GET
VACCINATED**

- Children aged 12 to 17 are now eligible to get vaccinated for COVID-19.
- Children need to be accompanied by their parents, caregivers or legal guardians.
- A form of identification or any verifiable proof of identity with the child's name is required for vaccination.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Call the COVID-19 Hotline: 0800 029 999 | Web: www.sacoronavirus.co.za | Send 'Hi' on Whatsapp to COVID-19 | Connect: 060 012 3456
Use the MPLO APP and answer questions for self screening. (Download at App store or at Google Play Store)

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