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ECONOMIC CLUSTER MECS COMMIT THEIR BUDGETS TO REBUILD GAUTENG ECONOMY POST-COVID-19

• By Lerato Mailoane

The Gauteng Economic Cluster MECs have committed their budgets to rebuild the province's economy post COVID-19.

Gauteng has begun to emerge from the shadow of COVID-19 which depressed economic activity, disrupted global supply chains, and deepened inequality and unemployment.

The Cluster MECs briefed the media on their plans to support economic recovery and reconstruction – through both short-term spending measures and structural reforms-while rebuilding public finances.

The Economic Cluster is made up of the Department of Economic Development, Agriculture and Rural Development, Roads, Transport, and Infrastructure Development, Treasury, and e-Government.

Roads and Transport MEC, Jacob Mamabolo committed to using the Department of Roads and Transport's



Members of the Executive Council (MECs) in the Economic Cluster briefing the media post their budget votes.

R8.75 billion budget to catalyse its contribution to the province's economic recovery.

Of the allocated funds, the department will spend R2,5 billion on transport infrastructure projects which include planning, design, construction, and maintenance.

On infrastructure, Mamabolo announced that the department will be hosting the EPWP Summit to secure a firm commitment from all role players to realize job creation targets and other critical programme milestones.

Working with the Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation and the City of Tshwane, the demolition of the HM Pitje stadium has commenced as part of the process to

address defects on the facility.

Mamabolo added that the department is also prioritizing illegal practices such as project stoppages and highjacking of project sites. One major cause of project stoppages is the non-payment of sub-contractors by main contractors.

Finance and e-Government MEC, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko said her department will intensify its efforts to sustain improvements in public financial management to further cut waste, eliminate corruption, and strengthen public accountability.

With regards to e-Government, Nkomo-Ralehoko said the

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department's budget is dedicated to the implementation of the Gauteng Digital Ecosystem.

To mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on township businesses, Economic Development MEC, Parks Tau said the Township Economic Development Act (TEDA) will redraw the economic geography of Gauteng. ■



Finance and e-Government MEC, **Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko**



Economic Development MEC, **Parks Tau**



Roads and Transport and acting MEC for Infrastructure Development, **Jacob Mamabolo**

R8.75 BILLION TO RENEW TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

• By Rofhiwa Marubini-Tshitahe

The Department of Roads and Transport has committed to using its R8.75 billion budget to rebuild, recover and renew transport infrastructure in Gauteng.

Of the allocated funds, R2,5 billion will be spent on transport infrastructure projects which include planning, design, construction, and maintenance, R2.9 billion will be spent on transport operations while R2,45 billion will be allocated to the Gautrain for operational expenses and subsidies.

Breaking down the budget at the Gauteng Legislature, on Monday 23 May 2022, Roads and Transport MEC, Jacob Mamabolo said it was time to roll up sleeves and work towards the economic recovery of the province.

Mamabolo announced an independent legal firm with experience in contract law has been appointed to help the department manage time, cost, and quality of transport infrastructure delivery.

Through the Transport Infrastructure House, the department has established a Compliance Office as a barometer and quick intervention tool to ensure that there is no lag between the identification of poor contractor performance and intervention.

"Through the use of smart tools such as drones, project management dashboard will form an integral part of contract management and will assist us with the performance management of all our service providers throughout the delivery pipeline", said Mamabolo.

The department has also entered into an agreement with the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) to establish two Driver License Testing Centres (DLTC), which will reduce the driver's license backlog in the province.

The department will also be rolling out



P156 road works about to be completed in Vanderbijlpark



K46 Phase 2 -William Nicol between Juskei River and Diepsloot - Road works in progress



R668 million has been allocated towards the maintenance of roads

the smart enrolment system which will reduce queueing and processing time at DLTCs.

Through Smart Mobility Strategy the department will launch a Maintenance App by August 2022 to improve the turnaround time of the maintenance.

The Smart Mobility weekends maintenance programme will continue on Saturdays and Sundays over and above the day-to-day road maintenance programme.

This year, R668 million has been allocated towards the maintenance of roads from the Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant.

Mamabolo said the department will maintain 34 roads in Emfuleni as part of its efforts to improve road conditions in the district.

A partnership with the private sector will see the redesigning of the Graystone Drive /M1 interchange, the construction of the Cradlestone interchange, the K14 Rainbow Junction bridge over the Apies River, and the Vaal River Interchange.

The department will be continuing with the Design of K90 to support the OR Tambo International Airport expansion project.

The following are road projects which commenced in the previous financial year and will be completed in the current

financial year:

- Vaal River City – new interchange on R42 in Vereeniging.
- K101 – upgrading N1 Rooihuskraal interchange to road D795.
- K14 – Cullinan road to Rayton road for R516 to bypass Cullinan.
- K46 Phase 2 – William Nicol between Juskei River and Diepsloot.
- 15 Phase 3 – Upgrading Adcock road between K102 Main street, Dobsonville to Wild Chestnut street, Protea Glen.
- K56 Upgrade – between K46 (William Nicol Drive) and P79/1 (Main RD) and extension of Erling Rd.
- K73 – Upgrading of road K73 between Woodmead drive and Allandale road.
- P39/1 – Heavy rehabilitation from km30 Diepsloot to km43 Muldersdrift.
- Phase 2 – P175/1: rehabilitation of Road P175/1 from Vanderbijlpark to Potchefstroom Phase ■

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS TO BE DELIVERED ON TIME, ON BUDGET

• By Qaqambile Mdledle

Gauteng infrastructure projects will be completed on time, within budget, and to a high standard.

This is according to acting MEC for Infrastructure Development, Jacob Mamabolo who delivered the Budget Vote for the 2022/23 financial year.

"An early warning system has been introduced to flag all the planned projects which we will not be able to deliver on time to ensure that the reasons for non-delivery are analyzed and for long-term solutions to be explored," said Mamabolo.

An internal infrastructure war-room to troubleshoot the operational issues has been established and a comparative study for infrastructure pricing has been commissioned.

"Projects that are in progress with no outstanding matters will be fully delivered by 2024 while those in progress, with challenges, will be given priority", he said.

Mamabolo also gave a snapshot of the priorities focusing on an optimized public-owned fixed property portfolio, improved productivity of the government immovable asset portfolio, revenue generation, and socio-economic development and commercialization.

For the 2022/23 financial year, the department is allocated a budget of R 3,312 billion of which R 2,668 billion is allocated to Public Works.

A total of R 384, 4 million is allocated to administration, and R 259, 5 million will fund the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

A total of R1, 177 billion is earmarked for the payment of rates and taxes to municipalities.

For infrastructure rehabilitation and maintenance of public properties, an amount of R 132,382 million has been budgeted for.

A total of R402, 530 million has been set aside for leases, R81 million for security services for assets.

Mamabolo said the department will be implementing seven construction projects in the health infrastructure and 23 projects will undergo refurbishments and renovations in the coming financial year.



85 educational projects will be completed during the 2022/23 financial year.



R 259, 5 million will fund the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)

The amount of R52 million will be allocated to Finetown Clinic, R315 million Randfontein CHC, the R137 million, Mandisa Shiceka CDC, the R119 million, Boikhutsong CDC, the R63 million, Kekana Stad Clinic, the R58 million, Sebokeng Zone 17 and the R588 million Johannesburg Forensic Pathology Laboratory.

R367 million will be allocated for refurbishment at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital and R3 billion is earmarked to restore OHS compliances and improve facility ratings at 15 priority hospitals.

About 85 educational projects will be completed during the Medium-Term Expenditure cycle. This will include new schools, schools for learning with special needs, upgrades and additions, renovations, and rehabilitations.

A total of R241.8 million will go towards poverty relief through the short-term employment EPWP programme carried out through the National Youth Service programme for stipends, and training and skills development.

"We plan to facilitate 21 283 EPWP work opportunities through Gauteng departments and another 33 376 through Gauteng municipalities

under the Infrastructure Sector. The Department further aims to recruit 2 500 young people as part of the National Youth Service Programme to equip them with workplace experience," said Mamabolo.

The MEC called on communities to protect infrastructure from vandalism and theft. ■



Acting MEC for Infrastructure Development, Jacob Mamabolo

REDRAWING THE GAUTENG ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

• By Lerato Mailoane

The Department of Economic Development (GDED) is redrawing the economic geography of the Gauteng City-Region.

Through the Township Economic Development Act (TEDA), the department will radically transform, modernise and re-industrialise the provincial economy in pursuit of inclusive growth and shared prosperity.

TEDA, which has been labeled the “new deal” is aimed at ensuring that townships and informal settlements become self-sufficient and are vibrant economic centres.

Tabling the 2022/23 budget vote, MEC Parks Tau said a prototype

Township Enterprise Zone cluster, ahead of full promulgation of the TEDA has been deployed.

The department is also finalising the regulations and instruments of TEDA, including draft model by-laws and regulations to be gazetted soon.

A target B-BBEE resources and Enterprise and Supplier Development (ESD) accelerator at Township Enterprise Zones (TEZs) to build business capability and agglomerated pipelines is also on the cards.

Through the Public-Private Growth Initiative (PPGI), Tau said the department has identified over 35 partnerships covering 65 distinct precincts that will anchor the new TEZs.

In addition, there is progress on work done at Special Economic Zones (SEZ) across all corridors.

In the Vaal SEZ, land assets have been identified and a master plan will be completed by July 2022.

The Western Corridor / N12 SEZ has been identified for agro-processing, Green H2, hemp cultivation and processing, and bus manufacturing.

Negotiations are underway on allocating land use rights into a legal vehicle controlled by the state in the O.R. Tambo SEZ.

At the Lanseria High-Tech SEZ, three clusters of investors with land assets are finalising the establishment of a real estate investment trust.

Turning on work programmes, Tau

announced that the rollout of Global Business Services (GBS), Broadband, and ICT in Nasrec is on track for prototype development by June 2022.

In the energy sector, two Commercial Green Microgrid proposals – Protea Glen and TASEZ – are under negotiation with the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC).

In the automotive sector, the Tshwane SEZ’s (TASEZ) focus for phase 2, is on securing battery manufacturing for the next generation of Ford vehicles.

Negotiations with charging station investors and funders to anchor the new charging station grid strategy are underway.

In the construction sector, Tau said the Installation, Repair, and Maintenance (IRM) programme – including platform/system deployment through the Izinga partnership in TASEZ and Baragwanath areas – is making tangible progress.

On transport and logistics, the Gauteng-Eastern Cape High-Capacity rail corridor has been gazetted as a Strategic Integrated Project (SIP). The MEC said the focal point of this rail corridor is designed to support export-driven growth initiatives.

Overall, the department has been allocated an aggregated budget of R5,3 billion over the 2022 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) cycle. ■



TEDA is aimed at ensuring that townships and informal settlements become self-sufficient and are vibrant economic centres



The Tshwane Automotive SEZ will drive investment in the City of Tshwane and surrounding communities. SMMEs from Mamelodi have benefitted to the tune of at least R1 billion during the construction phase.

R1.6 BILLION TO EXPAND GAUTENG'S DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

• By Rofhiwa Tshitahe-Marubini

With the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) transforming industries, the Department of e-Government will use its R1.6 billion budget to implement the Provincial Digital Ecosystem.

The ecosystem includes modernisation of the provincial ICT infrastructure to provide connectivity to the residents, provision of a digital platform, e-services, industry stimulation and ICT skills development.

MEC for Finance and e-Government MEC Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko said skills constraint and ICT skills development remains at the centre of the attainment of the benefits of the 4IR.

"Skills associated with the current set of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, automation, data science and programming were found to be scarce.

"This is detrimental to the country having the required skills to fully take advantage of prospects brought about



888 sites will be provided with a Wide Area Network this financial year.

by 4IR," said Nkomo-Ralehoko as she tabled the department's 2022/23 financial year Budget Vote on Monday, 23 May 2022.

To address this, the department has partnered with various organisations for skills programmes that empower and create jobs, especially for youth.

The partnership with Huawei, Siyafunda, an ICT NGO and Microsoft has provided an ICT Skills Training programme for youth while the partnership with Microsoft also saw the launch of the Centre for Excellence to drive digital innovation and accelerate skills development.

"Through our ICT Training Programs, we have trained over 15 000 young

people. We have several initiatives, such as the #DigitalSistaz to ensure that we accelerate the development of ICT skills," said the MEC.

In the 2022/23 financial year, the department will take the lead in the implementation of the Gauteng 4IR and e-Waste Strategy which are set to unlock economic opportunities in the collection, dismantling and processing of e-waste for women, youth and people with disabilities.

The department will also roll out phase three of the Gauteng Broadband Network (GBN) which will see 888 sites provided with a Wide Area Network (WAN).

Local Area Network (LAN) connectivity will be rolled out to 118 sites and 45 Wi-fi hotspots will be provided with high-speed internet access.

Nkomo-Ralehoko said the provincial government aims to deliver a consolidated service delivery and access channel to deliver ICT-enabled services for citizens, businesses and government.

In collaboration with institutions of higher learning, Gauteng will implement the Gauteng ICT Skills Development Strategy to provide training to youth and government employees.

This will ensure that Township-based ICT entrepreneurs are supported, and that staff is fully capable of utilizing the existing technology more efficiently.

A total of 6000 GPG staff will be trained on an online platform, and bursaries will be made available to 60 beneficiaries.

A total of 10 000 youth will also benefit from the ICT skills development programme (Action Lab Programme) and 150 from ICT experiential learning. ■



e-Waste Strategy which are set to unlock economic opportunities in the collection, dismantling and processing

GAUTENG TREASURY

TOUGH ON FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE

As custodians of public finances, the Gauteng Treasury has recommitted to ensuring that public money is protected and spent effectively and efficiently to improve the lives of people.

With a Budget of more than R792 million for the 2022/23 financial year, the department will use its resources to improve revenue collection to maintain and enhance provincial spending on education, health care, and social services. This will include the growth of infrastructure spending through on and off-budget initiatives.

Resources will also be directed to further cut waste, eliminate corruption, strengthen public accountability, and towards the transformation of the economic landscape to be more inclusive and sustainable.

This is according to the Gauteng MEC for Finance and e-Government MEC Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko who tabled her Budget Vote at the provincial Legislature in Johannesburg, on Friday, 20 May 2021.

For the financial year, Nkomo-Ralehoko announced that the province will improve revenue collection which would maintain and enhance spending when transfers from the National Government are declining.

In April, the department launched the Revenue Enhancement Strategy which is anchored by two pillars and constitutes 16 revenue-generating projects.

Nkomo-Ralehoko said the strategy aims to increase revenue generated from the province over the next three years by R3.7 billion over and above the 2022 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) revenue baseline estimates.

Through the Financial Governance business unit and the War Room on Clean Audits, the department will continue to implement interventions to support departments, municipalities, and entities to improve the management of their



11 Gauteng hospitals will harness close to 10MW of their electricity power from rooftop solar PVs finances.

“Through this War Room, we will unleash the collective knowledge to address provincial government challenges in these four areas: litigation, consequence management, payment of invoices within 10 to 30 days, and transformative procurement”, said MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

In response to Premier David Makhura’s call to strengthen fraud detection on contracts, Nkomo-Ralehoko said her department introduced compliance checks on procurement transactions with thresholds of between R500 000 and R1 million.

In partnership with the Gauteng Infrastructure Financing Agency (GIFA), Nkomo-Ralehoko said the department will deliver robust and sustainable infrastructure projects such as the Rooftop Solar PV, Phase 1 which will lead to 11 provincial hospitals harnessing close to 10MW of their electricity power from rooftop solar PVs.

The public healthcare facilities to benefit from this project are the George Mukhari Hospital, Charlotte Maxeke



MEC for Finance and e-Government MEC Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko

Johannesburg Academic Hospital, as well as Laudium, Mamelodi, Tembisa, Yusuf Dadoo, Carletonville, Tshwane, Heidelberg, Edenvale, and Steve Biko hospitals.

Nkomo-Ralehoko said this will alleviate the burden on the national grid while supporting the objectives of the Gauteng Integrated Green Energy Strategy. An agreement between the South African National Space Agency (SANSA) and other parties is in the pipeline. This will result in the acquisition of operating space at the Innovation Hub’s Enterprise Building 3.

For the 2022/23 financial year, the MEC said the department has set aside R63 million to fund GIFA’s operations.

“So far, 74% of the R157 million allocated to the Project Preparation Facility has been committed. This money has funded over 20 feasibility studies of infrastructure projects that have been sourced from provincial departments and municipalities in the past 6 years.”

She announced that the construction of the Jewellery Manufacturing Precinct (JMP) within the OR Tambo International Airport Precinct has commenced.

In the Southern and Western Corridors, a feasibility study and business case for the Sedibeng Fresh Produce Market has been completed. The R500 million project will create approximately 6000 direct and indirect job opportunities.

Other projects that GIFA is leading in the current financial year, are the Bokamoso BaRona Initiative, Merafong Bio-energy Park and West Agri-Park. ■

GAUTENG GOVERNMENT TO EXPAND ITS FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMMES

• By Thembisa Shologu

The Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Development (GDARD) will expand its food security programs to reach 78 144 food-insecure households by 2024.

This will be done through the implementation of household, community, school, and church gardens across the Gauteng City-Region which are geared to end hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

Issues of household food and nutrition security have received increasing attention recently as residents navigate the impact of COVID-19, climate change, rising food prices, and tough economic conditions.

According to StatsSA, about 15% of Gauteng's population faces food insecurity, and 7.3% suffer from severe inadequate access to food.

"We will improve local food production through the creation of a solidarity economy for urban food systems. In this regard, 10 000 urban farms will be developed and handed over to previously disadvantaged beneficiaries with the associated technical support to ensure long-term sustainability," said MEC Parks Tau during the tabling of the GDARD budget.

About 52% of the R3,1 billion budget over the 2022 Medium Term Expenditure is dedicated towards

the compensation of employees. This includes funding of the wage bill, cost of living adjustment, and anticipated public sector wage agreement for 2022. About 44% has been allocated for goods and services, 1% towards transfers and subsidies, and 3% allocated to the procurement of capital assets.

"The outer year budget allocation (2023/24 and 2024/25) increases by 1,5% and 3% respectively which translates to a nominal increase of R15 million and R33.7 million in the respective years.

"For the 2022/23 financial year, the budget amounts to R1,044 560 billion. The budget is costed and aligned to the 2022/23 Departmental Annual Performance Plan," said Tau.

Furthermore, the department has committed itself to collect an amount of R47,6 million over the 2022 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) cycle.

About 73% of the revenue will be collected through the sale of goods and services, 25% from fines, penalties, and forfeits and 8% from financial transactions in assets and liabilities.



In support of the agro-processing enterprises, the department has focused its support on the five value chains of beef, grains, poultry, vegetables, and piggery to ensure access to markets as well as access to finance.

In the red meat value chain, GDARD provided two red meat mobile abattoirs to two enterprises, Sizalo Bonsmara and Eve's Eden Farm. These entities are expected to generate a combined gross income of R3.5 million in 6 months.

The provision of poultry mobile abattoirs has assisted eight black poultry enterprises in generating collectively an income of R4.4 million. ■



Gauteng government will expand food security programs to reach 78 144 food-insecure households by 2024

MPHO MOERANE

- a model public servant leader

• By Thembisa Shologu

A peacemaker, an influential leader, and a model public servant were words used to describe the late former Johannesburg Executive Mayor, Mpho Moerane.

Moerane (52) was laid to rest on Sunday after he succumbed to injuries at the Milpark hospital last week, following a car crash.

He served as mayor of Johannesburg between October and November 2021.

In his eulogy at the funeral, President Cyril Ramaphosa praised Moerane's commitment to the people of Johannesburg as well as his embodiment of the spirit of government's 'Thuma Mina' leadership campaign.

"He exuded total passion and commitment to addressing the needs of the people of Johannesburg. He was a compassionate and informed leader," said Ramaphosa.

The President said Moerane's leadership should be an example for all civil servants and those serving the country in other ways.

"Comrade Mpho Moerane was the model of a servant leader. He didn't cling to the mayoral chain and cause chaos in the chamber. He deferred to the will of the electorate, to the instructions of the leadership of the province, presiding over a smooth handover and transition, and returned to work as leader of the ANC caucus," said Ramaphosa.

In his memory, Ramaphosa said the culture of servant leadership must be brought back into politics, government, and society.

Gauteng Premier, David Makhura described Moerane as a humble and practical man who was dedicated to serving. "His tragic death is both incomparable and somewhat unprecedented."

Makhura said Moerane will be



I can safely say you were one of those people who came into this world with a clear vision about what you wanted to do for your fellow humans.

remembered for his generosity and collegiality.

"Many foundations and trusts that were established to carry out developmental and charitable work would know about his legendary fundraising skills. He helped educate many students, he helped to support many young people and families", said Makhura.

He added that civil servants need to look after the city and province as Moerane would have done.

"I want to say this city, this province,



and this country does not belong to political parties, it belongs to the people of our country, to the law-abiding citizens and residents of our land".

Speaking through a friend, Fikile Moerane said she is eternally grateful for the time she had with her husband.

Fikile said her husband's energy pulled people together.

"I can safely say you were one of those people who came into this world with a clear vision about what you wanted to do for your fellow humans. You left a legacy", said Moerane. ■