



SPEECH

Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport 2020/21 Budget Vote Speech: Tabled by MEC Jacob Mamabolo at the Gauteng Provincial Legislature on 18 June 2021

Madame Speaker and Deputy Speaker

Honourable Premier and Members of the Executive Council

Chief whip of the majority party

**Honourable members of the Gauteng Legislature; officials of the Department
led by Head of Department Makhukhu Mampuru**

Distinguished guests; the people of Gauteng

Madam Speaker I am deeply Honoured once more to present to this august house, the budget speech outlining our priorities for this financial year, and laying the basis for the period ahead.

Premier David Makhura has outlined a clear way forward for the Gauteng Provincial Government when he tabled the State of the Province Address (SOPA). In his address, the Honourable Premier focused GPG on the priorities stated in the strategic perspective and roadmap of the Province, known as Growing Gauteng Together; 2030.

As a Department, we presented and unveiled our strategic vision of Growing Gauteng Together Through Smart Mobility: 2030. This is our decisive contribution to the provincial blue print of Growing Gauteng Together: 2030. I am therefore pleased to present this Budget Speech and to demonstrate how the priorities of Growing Gauteng Together Through Smart Mobility advance and take forward the implementation and realisation of the strategic goals embedded in Growing Gauteng Together: 2030. Simply put, we seek to demonstrate strategic alignment and cohesion.

Let me remind Honourable members of the strategic significance of transport in the economy and society in general. This is well captured and articulated by the world renowned revolutionary, Karl Marx, when he wrote in Capital Volume 2, "The transport of products from one place of production to another is followed by that of the finished

products from the sphere of production to the sphere of consumption. The product is ready for consumption only when it has completed this movement". I would like to draw the attention of members to the movement from the sphere of production to consumption, including the transportation of the labour required in the two spheres.

Honourable members, I would like to dedicate this budget speech to the youth of 1976, and recommit to meeting the ideals and aspirations of the youth of today. We dare not fail them.

In our commitment to Growing Gauteng Together Through Smart Mobility, we outlined the following five (5) core pillars of the roadmap and these are as follows; Building Strong Institutions, Transport as a catalyst for economic growth, Gauteng as a Freight and Logistic Hub and Data Centric Mobility.

Honourable members, as we present this budget, we take into account the fact that we are in the 3rd wave of Covid-19, with the numbers in our province growing very fast. Just like the people of the world, we are faced with the challenge of the pandemic, threatening human life on the one hand, whilst on the other, we face the threat of economies functioning far below their capacity, that is, economic depression that may lead to a full blown economic recession. We therefore need to survive these two equally important threats to human life.

As you may be aware, we have conducted a detailed and comprehensive Transport Household Survey study that clearly indicates that the cost of travel in our province, is hard hitting on the working class and the victims of the legacy of Apartheid spatial planning. This is without a doubt worsened by the cost imposed on `Gauteng households by the E-Tolling system. We remain the highly-tolled province, and also carrying the cost and burden of national roads that serve the economy and linking it to global markets. We are firm in our call for the total and complete scrapping of E-tolls. E-tolls have not generated enough revenue to fund new and maintain existing roads, they are a burden on the fiscus, they violate the user pay principle as other people from neighbouring states and all provinces pass through them without paying. We reaffirm our position without fear, favour and doubt, that E-tolls are not part of the way forward in this province and should be scrapped.

In line with the Smart Mobility vision, we made a commitment to build strong institutions. I am pleased to announce that we have appointed three Deputy Directors General, in the positions of Chief Financial Officer, DDG Roads and DDG Transport

services. It is for the first time since 2016 that these positions were all filled. This team is joining the HOD Makhukhu Mampuru whose appointment I announced during the tabling of the Annual Report. Honourable Members, our top layer of leadership is now stable in this month of June. Honourable members, a promise made, is a promise kept.

Honourable Members, as part of building institutions, we committed ourselves to appoint the Transport Authority of Gauteng to lead an integrated transport planning in full cooperation with our municipalities. I am therefore pleased to announce that we have appointed the Board, it has held its induction and handover processes, it is planning its first strategic session in September this year. Honourable members, a promise made, is a promise kept.

I am also pleased to confirm and reaffirm that the Gautrain Management Agency (GMA) remains one of the best run, most stable and offering state of the art best practices on governance, leadership and ethical management. We are pleased that G-Fleet that manages GPG fleet is showing great signs of improvement and organisational stability.

We are now able to announce our internal turnaround and repositioning of the Department captured in the slogan 'Constructing Tomorrow Today'. In other words, we are building the internal capacity of the Department to drive and propel Smart Mobility to grow the Gauteng economy and enhance the quality of life of the people as our outcome and impact. We are working hard with the office of the Premier to conclude the organisational structure before the end of this financial year. Honourable members, we are on track to build the DRT of tomorrow, today.

As part of building smart institutions, we have committed to improve our Driving Licence Testing Centres (DLTCs). In the short term, we identified alleged acts of corruption as manipulating and interfering with the Online booking system. We committed to appoint a forensic investigating team to crack this corrupt practice and improve the availability of booking slots. I am pleased to announce that we have now appointed Ligwa Advisory Services to as a decisive intervention in this regard. They just started their work this week. A promise made is a promise kept.

In the medium term, we are expanding the roll out of our smart queue management

solution at all our DLTC's to track real live performance of personnel at every given moment, the performance of the equipment and machinery on a live platform. Members of Mayoral Committees (MMC's) responsible for DLTC's have agreed to roll-out this technology in their facilities.

In the long term, we have appointed CSIR working with Gerotek to help us with better solutions to resolve this crisis moving forward. They will be presenting us with a project plan that will see us leveraging smart technologies to resolve this matter. We are working with national government, in particular the Road Traffic Corporation (RTMC) and have brought in the GMA to resolve this matter.

In the Smart Mobility vision, we committed ourselves to repositioning Gauteng as a catalyst for economic growth. Premier Makhura also announced Special Economic Zones (SEZ) as a strategic intervention to grow the Gauteng Economy. We have placed roads Infrastructure at the core of the SEZ's. I am pleased to announce that we have identified 18 high capacity roads or arterial roads as a lever to support SEZ's. We have introduced and unveiled just last year, the Transport Infrastructure House as the virtual in-house capacity to ensure effective and efficient delivery of roads Infrastructure. We are leveraging smart technologies including the use of drones to monitor construction sites. We will be unveiling this program formally and demonstrating its results in July.

We are working with 12 private property developers to support their multi-billion projects that will propel the economy. Honourable members, in two weeks, we will commence with visits and roadshows to the 18 roads, and those of the private property developers to show case the project status and to give real information on these arterial and high capacity roads. We are pleased to announce that by the end of July this year, we will be rolling out the single integrated automated Smart Project templates that seeks to transform and turnaround the project management environment. We seek to ensure that our service providers and stakeholders and the officials move in one step, sing and read from the same hymn book on project management discipline. We seek to have a single source of the truth on project management. This will help us improve the project procurement environment and just like in car manufacturing, ensure that we build a proper linear pipeline. The Transport Infrastructure House remains seized with this matter.

Honourable Members we announced that we will soon finalise the procurement

process for the appointment of the K46 (William Nicol) contractor to improve and enhance Smart Mobility along the Diepsloot and Stein City area. I am pleased to, announce that just in the last two weeks, the contractor has been appointed. The contractor has assured us that they will establish and take site in mid-July. This is a major development for us. A Promise made, is a promise kept.

Honourable members, we committed ourselves to deliver the state of the art Vereeniging Taxi rank, I am deeply pleased to announce that this game changing project has now been handed over to the Gautrain Management Agency (GMA) to implement using the prescription of the Gauteng Transport Infrastructure Act. As I already stated, the GMA is one the best institutions when it comes to the state of the projects and assets. We are confident that come Transport month, we will commence with construction of this very important facility.

We committed ourselves, working with all GPG departments, to completely turnaround the roads Infrastructure in Emfuleni. Honourable members we have just concluded the spend of R173 million on roads in Emfuleni Municipality. We are now ready to unveil the 21 revamped and improved roads and hand them over to the municipality of Emfuleni. We will handover these roads starting in July this year, in the memory of Nelson Mandela, our world icon. A promise made, promise kept. We will be approaching the Executive Council to request more funds to fix the remaining roads. Our capacity is ready.

Honourable members, as part of ensuring that the road network continues to serve and grow the economy, we have adopted and unveiled Smart Mobility Weekends as a dedicated extra-capacity to catch up with the backlogs of Covid-19 lockdowns that affected our maintenance program. We have been to the City of Joburg, Emfuleni, Merafong, Randwest and MidVaal municipalities. We have just met with the City of Ekurhuleni and Mogale City, we will be meeting Lesedi and City of Tshwane municipalities. A Promise made, a promise kept.

Honourable members, consistent with our vision of Smart Mobility, we are repositioning Gauteng as a Freight and Logistic Hub. We are working with the Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA) following a ground-breaking meeting that was led by Premier David Makhura to drive the Aerotropolis, a program to leverage the airport to build an economy. We are building roads to support this program. We are also working with the private sector to support the Tambo Springs Terminal along the N3 in Ekurhuleni and the Pyramid South Intermodal Freight terminal in the City of Tshwane.

We are also pleased to announce that the expansion of Gautrain including in the townships will be a major game changer for our province. We are hard at work to ensure that we fully comply with the requirements of the PPP transaction and source investor funding to expand this state of the art game changer. Honourable members, we are very proud of the leadership and best standard by the Gautrain team to curb

greenhouse house gas emissions. In line with our commitment to addressing climate change, we will be ensuring that more people park their cars and ride the Gautrain.

We will be working with the GMA starting in the next three months to further improve and increase the number of people migrating to the Gautrain. This will even prepare us achieve the greenhouse gas emissions targets as we move forward to 2030. The road is one of the biggest polluters, we need to migrate to rail and green transport solutions.

Honourable members, in line with our commitment to building a Smart Mobility Data Centre, and as directed by the Honourable Premier, we are on track to deliver the commuter E-ticketing system that integrates all modes of public transport. We have committed to finalise a business case by the end of July of this year for submission to Provincial Treasury for funding and therefore competitive bids on the provision of smart technologies to deliver these integrated smart technologies. I am also very much pleased to announce that we have made progress in the establishment of the Smart Data Centre, that will be the nerve centre of all transport data. We will unveil this before the end of the financial year.

Honourable members, in line with Changing the Urban Form in our Smart Mobility, we have committed ourselves to resolve the long outstanding matter of Bus Subsidy Contracts. We have committed ourselves to ensure that we comply with the law and the constitution in dealing with this matter. I am pleased to announce that we are on track to ensure a new regime and dispensation on these contracts. The subsidy contracts that we first advertised in the late 1990s, and have been renewing on a short-term basis with untold damage to the bus sector as a whole.

We have committed ourselves to resolving the long-standing problems in the minibus taxi industry. We appointed the Commission of Inquiry into Minibus Taxi Violence. We are pleased that the Commission has released its report and we are currently on track to implement its recommendations. We committed ourselves to providing support to the taxi industry to meet its administrative financial costs, and we have made progress on this obligation.

We are working with the taxi industry to ensure that it is commercialised, modernised and that it broadens its business activities. We appeal to the Taxi industry to work with

us to root out taxi violence. Although we have made relative progress in curbing taxi violence, we remain worried that from time to time, it continues to rear its ugly head. We will continue to work with the Taxi industry to fight Covid-19 through the Cadet program whilst providing sanitisers to protect commuters and operators. I would like to sincerely thank the entire leadership of the Taxi Industry for the patience, good leadership and cooperation under extreme difficult conditions. We commit to improve relations with the Taxi industry.

We continue to provide support to the Learner Transport industry and we appreciate their cooperation and excellent leadership we are getting from the Gauteng Education Transport Services (GETS), the association that mobilises in this sector. We renew our commitment to work with them. We have appointed 536 military veterans to support Covid-19 learner transport compliance in schools. We are confident that our military veterans will provide protection and security to learners during this difficult period of Covid-19.

I would like to thank Honourable Premier, MEC's, Members of the Parliamentary Constituency Office, HoD, All our staff for their support.

Thank you