



## North West Provincial Legislature Office

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**NW Provincial Legislature, Unit 1, Mmabatho**

### **Debate**

#### **Budget – NW Provincial Legislature**

**Hon. H van Huyssteen**

**24 July 2025**

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Hon. Speaker

Today, as we consider the approval of the budget for the North West Provincial Legislature for 2025/2026, I rise not in opposition—but in caution.

The Democratic Alliance supports public spending only when it delivers tangible outcomes, measurable progress, and fiscal discipline. The Legislature exists not for ceremony but to serve the people of this province through oversight, lawmaking, and public participation. The budget must reflect these mandates—not inefficiency or lip service.

Let us begin with a simple truth: the Provincial Legislature is underfunded. This very institution, responsible for ensuring good governance, functions on a shoestring. Robust oversight is impossible with an emaciated budget.

We must realign this budget to our core mandate: meaningful lawmaking, oversight over the Executive, sector-focused public participation, implementation of House resolutions, and consistent monitoring. The budget must empower us to act—not merely observe.

We speak of lawmaking, but much of it remains passive. We wait for national legislation, process it, and pass it on. We need to become active legislators, initiating laws that reflect local needs—especially where national legislation is absent.

Oversight must be effective. Members conducting oversight in their individual capacity do so on behalf of this House. Yet, many have to cover expenses out of pocket or face delayed reimbursements. This is unfair and unconstitutional. Members must be reimbursed, and the process must be streamlined.

A recent example: The Human Rights Commission sat in this province last week, yet the relevant committee could not attend due to a lack of funds. This is not only shameful—it sets a dangerous precedent.

Public participation remains too generic. Communities differ, and so should our engagement. We need sector-focused participation—from youth and women to traditional leaders and people with disabilities. A one-size-fits-all model excludes too many voices.

We must modernise. This Legislature needs an electronic tracking system for House resolutions and referrals. Too often, motions are passed but then vanish into a bureaucratic void. We must track progress and hold officials accountable.

Honourable Speaker,

Our problems are not just financial—they are systemic. The Secretary and Senior Management cannot operate effectively without clear systems. Every unit of this Legislature must be underpinned by a codified, functional system that all stakeholders follow. In its absence, costs are wasted—especially in international travel. While overseas visits can offer valuable lessons, they must be planned properly and deliver clear outcomes. That is not happening.

**FREEDOM. FAIRNESS. OPPORTUNITY. DIVERSITY.**



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Portfolio Committees are also affected. Some—like Finance and the Premier’s Office—can meet whenever needed. Others, like Social Development and Infrastructure, face repeated delays due to budget excuses. The Education Portfolio Committee had four special sittings this year. Others struggle to obtain one. This is not about favouritism—it is about the absence of a fair, transparent process. We need a system that regulates and balances committee work equitably.

On member accommodation, a commitment was made in this House: that additional accommodation would be completed within 12 months. A year later, nothing has been built—only shade netting put up around the proposed site. Meanwhile, rising rental costs continue to drain this budget. This delay is unacceptable and demands accountability.

This Legislature must also build stronger ties with Chapter 9 institutions. While we commend the MOU with the Public Service Commission, where are the agreements with the HRC or the SIU? These partnerships are essential. MOUs will enable committees to escalate serious matters directly to the relevant institutions through designated officials. Without this, oversight remains reactive, not preventative.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker:

We support this budget—but only with strict monitoring and quarterly reporting to this House by the Standing Committee on Legislature Oversight. Implementation, expenditure, and system development must be tracked—and not in theory, but in practice.

Let us reflect on the words of Dr. Ivan Meyer, who reminds us:

*“The role of public money is to serve the people. Every cent must be accounted for, and every action must deliver value.”*

Let this budget be approved—not in the name of spending, but in the name of service.

I thank you.

**End.**

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