



North West Provincial Legislature Office

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NW Provincial Legislature, Unit 1, Mmabatho

Debate

Budget – Office of the Premier

Hon. W Wallhorn

24 July 2025

Honourable Speaker, Members of the House,

Today I rise to present a clear verdict on the Office of the Premier. The North West is in crisis, and the source of that crisis is clear: the Premier is failing this province.

Verified financial records and documented service-delivery failures point to collapsed oversight, departmental inertia, and a paralysed centre of government.

The ongoing underspending across departments under his leadership must be directly addressed. It is not enough to issue clarification statements from his office. The residents of this province are paying the price for non-delivery, and the Premier risks being remembered as the custodian of mediocrity who preserved the status quo.

Provincial departments have failed statutory duties:

- Human Settlements let R172 million in housing grants lapse, betraying 300 000 families.
- Health lapsed R144 million in facility grants, even as Taung clinics face 26% nurse vacancies and antiquated X-ray machines.
- Public Works saw an R16 million road-tar project swell to R100 million with no penalties or audit.

In Gauteng, Premier Lesufi has vowed to act against HODs who fail to spend allocated funds. Nationally, President Ramaphosa has described non-expenditure as a form of “economic treason.” Yet in North West, non-performance is tolerated.

Not one HOD has been removed. Not one senior official has been sanctioned. This is a government that rewards failure with impunity.

There is also clear evidence of an entrenched culture of corruption in this province, from municipalities to public entities and departments. There has been a noticeable decline in the appetite for forensic investigations. Even where these investigations were initiated in the past, there has been no public disclosure of outcomes, no consequence management, and no follow-through.

The once-promised establishment of a Provincial Forensic Investigation Unit, first announced by previous Premiers, has now gone completely quiet under Premier Mokgosi. There is no visible plan or timeline for its implementation.

In comparison, provinces like Gauteng and the Western Cape routinely table forensic reports and publicly announce the outcomes, including disciplinary or criminal referrals. In the North West, the Premier hides behind bureaucracy and political evasion.

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Lifestyle audits should be institutionalised in the North West, beginning with the Premier and his Executive. This has already been announced by President Ramaphosa, who last week committed to subjecting all national ministers to lifestyle audits and making the findings public. In Gauteng, Premier Panyaza Lesufi announced as far back as 2023 that his Executive would undergo lifestyle audits, reinforcing a commitment to transparency.

In the Western Cape, the Department of the Premier has already conducted lifestyle audits through the Provincial Forensic Services unit.

Why is North West lagging behind?

We challenge Premier Mokgosi to demonstrate that he is serious about clean governance by doing the same, or risk losing the moral authority to speak on accountability.
Speaker,

Let us not forget: the Office of the Premier is not a service delivery department. It exists to coordinate, monitor, and enforce accountability. It is supposed to be the firewall against incompetence and misconduct.

Instead, it has become complicit in failure—a passive bystander as departments collapse, statutes are violated, and unqualified individuals are appointed to satisfy factional quotas rather than serve the public, and DA warnings about abandoning merit-based appointments in favour of rigid quotas have come true.

We hold the Premier personally responsible for this regression.

Let me be clear: this is not abstract policy failure. It is lived human suffering.

- In Moretele, 12-year-old Lerato walks three kilometres every day to fetch contaminated water—while the Premier enjoys bottled water in air-conditioned boardrooms.
- In Taung, Thabo Mogale, a qualified graduate, stands in his 43rd queue at a labour office—while youth unemployment soars above 60%.

This is the legacy of this administration. And we refuse to endorse it.

The Democratic Alliance rejects the 2025/26 budget of the Office of the Premier, and we issue the following non-negotiable demands:

- A genuinely inclusive EXCO, no more unilateralism;
 - A forensic audit of every lapsed grant and cost overrun since July 2024, with findings public in 120 days;
 - Legally binding performance contracts for MECs and HODs, featuring SMART targets, quarterly public reviews, and lifestyle audits;
 - Emergency Budget Amendment 7B to redirect R300 million towards water and sanitation and to fund our forensic commission;
 - Lifestyle audits beginning with the Premier and his executive;
- and,
- An Office of the Premier overhaul: Freeze non-critical posts, fill policy and ICT vacancies, and restore a fully functional Monitoring & Evaluation dashboard.

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Honourable Speaker,

R67.3 billion has flowed through a government that's breached Section 125 of our Constitution, allowed departments to flout their statutes, and sabotaged its own oversight engine.

This budget is not a roadmap for service. It is a blueprint for collapse. And we reject it in its entirety.

We urge the Premier: either embrace serious, far-reaching reform—or step aside for leadership that will.

The people of the North West are not here to serve the government. Government exists to serve them. And time is running out.

Thank you.

End.

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