



North West Provincial Legislature Office

Caucus Leader: Freddy Sonakile

Caucus Chief Whip: Gavin Edwards

Chief of Staff: Carin Brits

Email: dumak@da.org.za

www.da.org.za

NW Provincial Legislature, Unit 1, Mmabatho

Debate

Budget – Public Works and Roads

Hon. F Sonakile

24 July 2025

“The people of North West are not asking for miracles, just roads without potholes, buildings that don’t collapse, and a government that doesn’t forget them the moment budgets are passed.”

Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members,

Let me begin with a rare but important statement in this House: we support this budget.

But let me immediately qualify that support; this is not a blank cheque. It is a conditional vote of confidence, a recognition that we are beginning to see movement where once there was only mediocrity.

This budget shows signs that the Department is finally waking up to the realities we have long spoken about. One would swear parts of it were written by the DA, because it speaks directly to the challenges we have repeatedly raised in this House, in committee meetings, and on oversight visits.

There is clear evidence that:

The MEC is available, responsive, and listening.

- Senior managers are beginning to adopt a culture of action rather than avoidance.
- Planning and spending disciplines are improving.
- Oversight is starting to yield returns.

But support must never mean silence, so allow me to outline our expectations.

- Road infrastructure funding – lagging behind reality

We must be frank: while the plans sound good on paper, the funding for road infrastructure is not keeping pace with economic indicators, inflation, CPI, and the rising cost of crude oil derivatives.

This disconnect is not academic. It means that road maintenance backlogs, on both paved and unpaved roads, will deepen, not narrow.

Without addressing the structural underfunding of this programme, we are setting ourselves up to fail, however well-intentioned the rest of the plan may be.

- A Welcome Change in the Use of the Road Maintenance Grant

We welcome the fact that, for the first time in years, the Provincial Road Maintenance Grant is being fully utilised. This marks a departure from the familiar cycle of delays, rollovers, and fiscal dumping.

It signals that the Department’s revised SCM policies and turnaround strategies, announced last year, are starting to bite. While rollovers still exist, it is significant and commendable that no funds are being returned to Treasury. That is progress.

FREEDOM. FAIRNESS. OPPORTUNITY. DIVERSITY.



North West Provincial Legislature Office

Caucus Leader: Freddy Sonakile
Caucus Chief Whip: Gavin Edwards
Chief of Staff: Carin Brits
Email: dumak@da.org.za
www.da.org.za

NW Provincial Legislature, Unit 1, Mmabatho

- The Roads Agency—Still More Questions than Answers

We note the proposed establishment of a Roads Agency to centralise delivery and overcome systemic delays.

We support the idea in principle—but only if it's not another dumping ground for recycled officials and failed consultants.

Let's see:

- The legislation,
- The governance model,
- The accountability framework,
- And most importantly, the funding plan.

Let's not build another office of excuses.

- GIAMA forum—a step toward coordination

The establishment of a Provincial Government Immovable Asset Management (GIAMA) Forum is an excellent and overdue development.

Too often, departments blame Public Works for their infrastructure failures without proper engagement or coordination. This forum offers a space to fix that, and we will hold all departments accountable for using it.

Blaming Public Works for everything horrendous must become a thing of the past. GIAMA must be the arena where interdepartmental excuses go to die.

- Borrow Pits—The Success of Pre-Engagement

We commend the Department for conducting pre-engagements with tribal authorities and private landowners to access borrow pits. What used to be a major project risk is now being proactively managed.

This is how responsible planning looks—not reactive, not entitled, but respectful and effective. A small change, with significant project implications.

- Contractors and Consequence—Time for Action

The Department must come down hard on underperforming contractors, especially given the limited resources at its disposal.

We've had enough of:

- Contractors abandoning sites,
- Invoices being paid for shoddy work,
- Endless promises of blacklisting.

The time for talk is over. Blacklist non-performers. Enforce penalties. Clean up the project pipeline.

Performance of the Department cannot be held hostage by non-performance of its service providers.

FREEDOM. FAIRNESS. OPPORTUNITY. DIVERSITY.



North West Provincial Legislature Office

Caucus Leader: Freddy Sonakile
Caucus Chief Whip: Gavin Edwards
Chief of Staff: Carin Brits
Email: dumak@da.org.za
www.da.org.za

NW Provincial Legislature, Unit 1, Mmabatho

- EPWP—The MEC's Reimagined Model Must Deliver

We welcome the MEC's announcement of a Reimagined Expanded Public Works Programme, taking inspiration from Minister Macpherson's model.

We will monitor it closely, because the current model is broken.

Right now, EPWP is:

- A feeding scheme for ANC branch favourites,
- A tool of political manipulation,
- And a programme with no measurable skills development outcomes.

If the reimagined model can prioritise transparency, training, and real work, we will support it fully. If not, we will call it out.

- Projects we've pushed – now let's see them built

We take note of the projects earmarked for this financial year, many of which we, as the DA, have raised with the MEC.

These include:

- Road P51/1 from Berseba to the R510 intersection in Bojanala,
- D681 from Brits Oukasir to D2341,
- Orkney to Leeudoringstad,
- And Tlapeng to R506.

We welcome their inclusion, but our role now is to monitor delivery, not just accept announcements.

- Contingent liabilities – motsoaledi showed you how

As we said last year, your ballooning legal claims are a self-inflicted wound.

Broken roads cause crashes. Collapsing buildings cause injuries. Injured people go to court.

Follow what Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi did in Health, commission an audit of claims, use alternative dispute resolution, and build internal legal and engineering capacity.

Stop bleeding money to lawyers. Start fixing what causes the claims.

- Public Buildings – Infrastructure of Shame

Clinics with leaking roofs. Government flats with broken plumbing. Schools without water.

What's missing is not funding; it's a culture of care.

Where is the costed asset register? Where is the proactive maintenance plan?

We must stop this annual budget cycle of building new while watching the old crumble.

FREEDOM. FAIRNESS. OPPORTUNITY. DIVERSITY.



North West Provincial Legislature Office

Caucus Leader: Freddy Sonakile

Caucus Chief Whip: Gavin Edwards

Chief of Staff: Carin Brits

Email: dumak@da.org.za

www.da.org.za

NW Provincial Legislature, Unit 1, Mmabatho

Honourable Speaker,

This speech is not a rebuke; it is a challenge. A challenge to sustain the green shoots we are seeing. A challenge to convert policy into roads, reforms into delivery, and budgets into visible results.

Our support for this budget is based on the premise that the Department is changing, that it is hearing, acting, and accounting.

We will continue to push, to monitor, and to demand.

Because the people of North West deserve roads they can drive on, buildings they can work in, and a government they can trust.

Let this be the year the Department truly begins to deliver, not just on paper, but on the ground.

Ke a leboga.

End.

FREEDOM. FAIRNESS. OPPORTUNITY. DIVERSITY.