

WORKS PROMISES 'COMMITMENT'

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DEVELOPMENT: The province is preparing to ramp up infrastructure delivery.

Maryna van Wyk

The department of public works is speeding up infrastructure delivery but also pursuing recruitment initiatives that addresses skills needs in the province.

Speaking in Allanridge during the budget vote speech, MEC Sisi Mabe said significant improvement in socio-economic conditions required much more than marginal expenditure on peripheral activities hence large numbers of employment opportunities must be generated in the economy.

Mabe said the task to transform the province has been a collective effort of government, the private sector and all communities in the province.

“In our province (this) is best demonstrated through Premier (Ace) Magashule’s initiative Operation Hlasela, which is a clarion call to all social partners and civil society to collaborate with government and work together to eliminate duplication, wastage, eradicate poverty, tackle under-development and stimulate the economy to enhance the quality of life of the people of the Free State,” he said.

Mabe outlined the projects for the coming financial year and said the department would continue with the construction of its on-going multi-year projects such as the social development office in the KGI Building in Kroonstad, a testing station in Harrismith, the Hamilton regional offices in Bloemfontein and Lebohang building lifts upgrade.

Upgrading work is set to be implemented at the provincial government building, on the Lengau testing station, Sand Du Plessis lifts and the Thaba Nchu public works offices,” she said.

Mabe said as part of the departmental income generation plans, the Revolving Restaurant is being upgraded with the intention of renting it out at a market related price.

She said the department began a review of all current leased office accommodation with the intention of creating an integrated leasing strategy and accommodation plan whose objectives were in line with the property sector transformation charter.

“The department will be implementing a second phase of property transformation comprising a BEE funding scheme and property education programme. This will include the implementation of an office accommodation plan and the decentralisation plan commencing with three municipalities in three districts.

“Our determination to tackle inequality, unemployment and poverty remain unflinching,” she said.

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