

MEC Speech Delivered in the Legislature on the 17th of February 2009.

Honourable Speaker

Ours is a journey of hope and resilience.

In pursuance of an accelerated service delivery, to create decent work and sustainable livelihoods, the ANC led government has implemented programs that decisively push back the frontiers of poverty and underdevelopment. We have registered considerable progress and success through strategic partnerships working with our people.

Honourable Speaker.

Sepedi se re di retwa di boya mokatong. We have drastically improved the capacity of our department and municipalities to deliver on their mandate. Thanks mainly to our partnerships with Universities of Limpopo and Venda. We will be extending this to other institutions of higher learning.

The Statistics South Africa Community Survey 2007 shows that 81% of households have access to electricity. 84% of households have access to piped water. These milestones would not have been achieved without the resilience of our people; even those that still don't have access are awaiting their turn with hope. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the patience. All of us can agree that

today is better than yesterday and tomorrow will be better than today.

As we continue to improve the capacity of the state to accelerate delivery we will do so working with our people, because working together we can do more. Leyi Indlovu ya hina!

Honourable Speaker

We have responded to various disaster incidents in the province, amongst others, we responded to floods in Lephalale where we managed to build homes for families that have been affected; we responded to Veld fires in two districts (Mopani and Waterberg). Since November 2008 we have been responding to the cholera outbreak in our province. Our co-ordination and support is adequately managed through the Provincial Joint Operations Centre (JOC).

Through the Local Economic Development Fund, we have funded:

- 81 projects to the tune of more than R70 million, which resulted in over 1 500 jobs being created in the tourism and agricultural sectors.
- Most of these projects are run and managed by women. We also continue to empower women and young contractors through training and engaging them to build homes for our people.

We have facilitated the development of credible IDP's in all municipalities, wherein 83% of IDP's are credible compared to only 17% before 2005.

Our approach as an ANC led government is informed by our historical obligation to transform society from apartheid spatial development planning to Integrated and sustainable human settlements. In doing this we are also responding to the call by the Freedom Charter that was adopted by the real Congress of the People in Kliptown when it pronounced that "there shall be housing, security and comfort for all". This is why we have adopted Breaking New Ground policy. Putting it simply, BNG means there shall be quality houses, quality services, quality social amenities, clinics, schools, police stations and recreational facilities. Despite the global economic meltdown, we continue to press ahead in improving the lives of our people. In a few weeks time earth works and installation of services will commence at Bendor ext 100. On Lephalale, watch the space!

Since 1994 our government has built more than 2,7 million homes.

Our contribution in Limpopo is more than three hundred thousand houses. It means more than 1.2 million people in this province live in homes built by government for free!

Working together with our people our department is currently number one in the country. Independent experts recently awarded Limpopo with the National Govan Mbeki Housing Award for being the Best Housing Department in South Africa. The adjudicators were particularly impressed with Limpopo's consistency, innovation and excellence in delivering good quality houses. This achievement belongs to our people and we would like to once more take this opportunity to thank them for their continued support and partnership.

As we move forward towards April 22, in pursuance of defending the unity of the ANC and protecting the gains of our National Democratic Revolution, we will intensify our efforts encouraged by the energy, the hope and the resilience of our people who know and understand that working together we can and shall do more.

In the words of former President Mandela, "I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can rest only for a moment, for with freedom comes responsibilities,

and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not yet ended". Lets go and vote correctly!!

I thank you.