

**ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE  
CONSERVATION, Ms MASE MANOPOLE ON THE  
OCCASSION OF THE 2020/2021 BUDGET VOTE 13 IN  
KIMBERLEY**

**16 JULY 2020**

**Honourable Speaker Mme Newrene Klaaste**

**Deputy-Speaker Rre Mangaliso Matika**

**Motlotlegi Tonakgolo, Dr. Zamani Saul**

**Members of the Executive Council**

**The Chief Whip of the ruling party, Rre Neo Samuel Maneng**

**Honourable members of the provincial legislature**

**Heads of Departments and Senior Government Officials**

**Members of the Media**

**Comrades and Friends**

**People of the Northern Cape**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Madam Speaker**, Corvid-19 has also given us an opportunity to strengthen and improve air quality monitoring infrastructure and capacity. We have air quality monitoring stations that belong to local government, the South African Weather Service, and our department we need to invest more on this infrastructure.

As a Province, we have made strides in procuring two additional air monitors which will be deployed in John Taolo Gaetsewe and Pixley ka Seme districts.

We will be looking for additional funding through partnership to see how best we can install air monitors in all the districts. In responding to the Provincial vision of a **Modern, Growing and Successful Province**, we know this is a very important initiative in order for us, to have correct and reliable environmental information on a regular, ongoing basis in the whole Province.

While the information we get is adequate, it could be much better. That is why we are prioritizing investment in upgrading the status of all of these air quality monitoring stations.

This will ensure they are all online all the time, giving us the kind of information we need for compliance monitoring and enforcement.

The department has a Climate Change Adaptation Response Strategy which is adhered to by all the districts. Together with stakeholders we are planning to review the implementation. Our postponed Climate Change Indaba early this year, was going to afford us the opportunity to address the Climate Change implementation plan. However, due to the Covid-19, it had to be cancelled, which we will find away how to convene Climate Change Indaba in this difficult time.

Commented [1]:

### **Budget Allocation for 2020/2021 Financial Year**

Madam Speaker the 2020/21 budget was prepared within a very tight fiscal framework. For 2020/21 financial year, the department has been allocated an amount of R177, 662 Million.

### **PROGRAM 3 COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT- IS ALLOCATED R9.4 million**

**Madam Speaker**, as part of the Departments Compliance Promotion initiatives, in the last financial year, the Sewage Monitoring Project in the Sol Plaatje local municipality took place without any hindrance.

The Project was implemented in the Sol Plaatje Local Municipality from February to September 2019. During the implementation of the Project, about **98 manholes** were inspected in Greenpoint, Galeshewe and Roodepan.

Of the manholes, **64** were determined to be urgent or critical, requiring immediate attention by the municipality and **34** were determined to be moderate, such as, leaking but not causing any trouble.

About 12 Sewage Monitors were appointed to work on the project for the period of eight (8) months.

However, the Project could not be extended beyond the eight months' period due to budgetary constraints.

Commented [2]:

I should indicate, however, Madam Speaker, that one of the major findings during the project was that poor waste management practices by members of the community were to blame for some of the sewer blockages, where it was found that rocks, baby wipes, plastic bottles were thrown into the sewer system.

**Madam Speaker**, with regard to the Ranger Wellness Project, we will be implementing a Wellness Program in all our Provincial

Nature Reserves through the appointment of a Wellness Coordinator. Implemented under the auspices of the Rhino Conservation Lab, the Program aims to provide wellness services for field Rangers in the Department.

The Project will be implemented using part of the allocation of Environment Monitors. Working closely with the Departmental Wellness Unit, the Coordinator will ensure the development of Ranger Health Risk Assessments, Health Screening and On-site Health Promotion Programs and Activities.

**Madam Speaker,** we are working very hard to curb reptile poaching and illegal succulent harvesting, especially in the Namakwa District.

So far, working together with the communities in the District, we will establish a working committee to deal with reptile smuggling in the area.

As part of the implementation of the Environmental Monitors program, Monitors will be deployed in the Kamiesberg Local Municipality to perform compliance Monitoring and Awareness responsibilities.

A Working Committee with Conservation South Africa (CSA) will also be established to address coordination and cooperation mechanisms.

Commented [3]:

### **Operation Phakisa Oceans Economy**

**Madam speaker,** as part of the implementation of Operation Phakisa Oceans Economy, the Compliance and Enforcement Programme is a stakeholder in the Marine and Governance Lab.

In conjunction with the South African Police Services, the South African National Defence Force, Department of Environment, Fisheries and Forestry, South African Revenue Services, Home Affairs, State Security Agency and other stake holders, we have formed part in the undertaking of Operations along the Namakwa coastline.

In the last financial year, Department has participated in four Operation Phakisa initiatives in the area. The exercise has assisted to bring much needed stability in the management of crime along the Northern Cape coastal areas.

From an environmental perspective, environmental transgressions have seen a notable drop, especially cases on use of vehicle in the coastal zone.

The operation has seen a successful arrest and prosecution of transgressors, when three foreign nationals, two from China and one from Congo Brazzaville, were arrested for illegal harvesting and collection of succulents.

The two accused from China and Congo were each sentenced to 12 months imprisonment or R30,000 fine, and a further 2 years imprisonment suspended for 5 years. Accused number 3 was acquitted of all charges.

Commented [4]:

Furthermore, **Madam Speaker**, three South Africa citizens were also apprehended for the illegal hunting in protected areas and possession of wild animal carcass.

**Madam Speaker**, our fight against poor air quality management continues.

As part of our compliance monitoring initiatives, the Department has been focussing on poor air quality management in the Tsantsabane and Joe Morolong Local Municipalities respectively.

This is after we received complaints from the communities residing along those mining corridors, who continuously complained of excessive mining dust pollution.

Commented [5]:

Based on an analysis of the dust fallout results in the Joe Morolong and Tsantsabane Local Municipalities, the regulated industries have been found to be meeting the minimum emission and ambient Air Quality standards.

Commented [6]:

**Madam Speaker**, in order for us to enhance the quality of reporting, a continuous air monitor has been procured and has been installed in Hotazel, in the Joe Morolong Local Municipality. The monitor will allow the Department to observe the quality of Particulate Matter 10 and Particulate Matter 2.5.

A monitoring process will be undertaken to identify emitters in the Tsantsabane Local Municipality and with the assistance of the Provincial Air Quality Officer, the identified industries will be required to undertake a dust fall monitoring programme in terms of regulation 5 of the National Dust Control Regulations (2013).

The Department will continue to focus on the monitoring of Alien and Invasive species and will additionally be monitoring facilities where predators (lions and crocodiles) are kept in captivity.

Commented [7]:

As part of the monitoring of Alien and Invasive species, so far, four private game farms were inspected for alien species, targeting the possession of barbary sheep, fallow deer and lechwes.

All farms were found to be compliant. About two crocodile breeding farms were inspected as part of the inspections for the year.

Though both farms were found to be complying, follow up inspections will be undertaken to ensure that recommendation maintain their compliance will be undertaken.

Commented [8]:

#### **PROGRAM 4 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT ALLOCATION IS R14.2 MILLION**

##### **Climate change mitigation and adaptation**

Due to the serious budget cuts the climate change adaptation project has been seriously impacted on and the department will implement a small project with the intention on expanding on it during the MTSF year. The project will be aimed at adaptation of a community to changing weather conditions as indicated within the Provincial Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Commented [9]:

The project will be aimed at addressing the removal of alien invasive trees which utilize large quantities of water which this province can little afford.

**Madam Speaker,** Unemployed youth will receive theoretical training in various modules including administration, financial management and various aspects of biodiversity conservation management at the following provincial nature reserves, namely, Doornkloof, Goegap, Oorlogskloof, Rolfontein. The project is funded by African Global Skills Academy

The students will be hosted at the reserves, respectively, to receive practical on the job training in aspects such as alien vegetation control, fire management, infrastructure maintenance, wildlife monitoring and game counts.

The program of each of the reserves will be tailored to the unique opportunities offered by the reserve and students will qualify with

a certificate in conservation guardianship.

Commented [10]:

## **Programme 5 Biodiversity Management is allocated R33,2million**

### **Expansion of Northern Cape protected areas estate**

The Northern Cape Protected Area Expansion Strategy was developed by DENC and provides for the establishment of a representative network of protected areas on state, private and communal land by identifying an explicit set of spatial priorities for protected area expansion. A further 30 000ha of private properties primarily in the Succulent Karoo hotspot will be declared as protected areas during the 2020/21 financial year.

Commented [11]:

We are happy to announce that in the last financial year, the Department in partnership with sector partners such as the World Wide Fund for Nature, Wilderness Foundation Africa and Black Mountain Mine managed to add an additional 46 331 hectares to the Northern Cape's conservation estate.

These properties are mainly located in the Succulent Karoo Biome which is one of four biodiversity hotspots in South Africa.

Commented [12]:

### **Northern Cape Coastal Management Lines project**

Madam Speaker, the Coastal management lines, as detailed in the National Environmental Management Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008, are prescribed boundaries that indicate



the limit of development along ecologically sensitive or vulnerable areas, or an area where dynamic natural processes pose a hazard or risk to humans. The ICM Act allows coastal management lines to be demarcated, where authorities can prohibit or restrict the building, alteration or extension of structures that are either wholly or partly seaward of the coastal management line.

Commented [13]:

**Madam Speaker,** Through the Conservation Resource Guardianship, a total of thirty learners have received on-the-job training in various aspects of biodiversity and protected area management on Oorlogskloof, Doornkloof Rolfontein and Goegap provincial nature reserves.

The learners are making good progress and on completion of the learnership, will have achieved the recommended standards and be able to demonstrate a high level of competence in the core disciplines in entry level positions such as field rangers, gate guards and general workers.

One of the success stories of the program is that one of the learners, **Keaton Fortuin**, at Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve who exited the program on 28 February 2020 and is now employed by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) at the Hanta National Botanical Garden near Nieuwoudtville.

The program was temporarily suspended at the end of March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, we are hoping that it will commence again later in the year, after the peak of pandemic. The training will be extended to make up for time lost during the lockdown.

Commented [14]:

## **PROGRAM 6 ENVIRONMENTAL EMPOWERMENT (EPWP) SERVICES- IS ALLOCATED R15.2 MILLION**

Madam Speaker, about 386 EPWP job opportunities were created in the year 2019/2020, exceeding the 313 set target as per the Annual Performance Plan. This was made possible by the EPWP Incentive grant.

In this financial year, the same projects will be rolled out in line with EPWP guidelines for unemployed youth across the province, about 313 jobs will be created. However, due to the COVID 19 pandemic there is a delay in starting dates for this projects as per the approved project list. The projects are expected to be rolled out all in August 2020.

### **Working on Waste**

Madam Speaker, the Waste Management program is aimed at cleaning of public open spaces and also creates awareness around and promotes recycling in communities will be undertaken this year.

The project will be rolled out in the Frances Baard, Pixley ka Seme, ZF Mgcawu regions, respectively, with an incentive grant of **R300 000. About 60 jobs will be created through the project in all the regions**

The towns have been identified through engagement with relevant municipalities. In Frances Baard targeted area is Warrenton, in Pixley ka Seme is Petrusville and ZF Mgcawu will be Groblershoop. The project will be rolled out in August 2020.

### **Working on Wetlands**

About R300 000 has been set aside for creating sustainable land based livelihoods and rehabilitating natural resources and protecting biodiversity

The working on wetlands project will be moved from Port Nolloth in Namakwa region to Kuruman in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District, for this financial year and it will be rolled out by the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2020.

### **Greening and Gardening**

**Madam Speaker,** the Eco Schools program is a voluntary program which enables schools to systematically integrate environmental matters into school activities and curriculum. By and large, the program seeks to create awareness for a clean and green environment, biodiversity, conservation and student involvement in Eco-schools.

In the last financial year, about 500 trees were distributed amongst schools, municipalities, communities and churches. About R300 000 has been set aside this financial year, to continue with the program in the John Taolo Gaetsewe, Namakwa and ZF Mgcawu regions.

**Madam Speaker,** the Cleaning and Greening in the province remain a compulsory activity and at least 10 green initiatives were launched in the last financial year. With the green initiative in the previous financial year, the department distributed 1250 Solar lights in Lerato Park, Jerusalem and Kanana in the Sol Plaatje municipality.

Commented [15]:

### **Parks and Beautification**

The project is aimed at cleaning, clearing and beautification of public spaces such as municipal streets, parks, illegal dump sites, cemeteries. In this financial year, **R300 000** is set aside

has been to roll out the project in John Taolo Gaetsewe, Namakwa and ZF Mgcawu regions. About 60 jobs will be created when the project is rolled out in August 2020.

Commented [16]:

## People and Parks

**Madam Speaker**, the People and Parks project focuses on unemployed youth serving in the local People and Parks Programme forum and also staying adjacent to the reserves.

In the last financial year, job opportunities were created for 60 community members and for a period of six months at Goegap, Doornkloof and Rolfontein Reserves.

The project was about beautifying our reserves, and upgrading the trail runs, fencing and administrative support.

Commented [17]:

About **R400 000** has been set aside to proceed with the People and Parks program in the current financial year, were **80 people will be employed under the EPWP at the same game reserves.**

**Madam Speaker**, the Province will be hosting the National Conference of People and Parks later this year.

This is because community involvement is key to the success of the People and Parks programme. With their involvement, the reserves are bestowed with the legitimacy that they deserve.

Commented [18]:

## Environmental Monitors

**Madam Speaker**, the Environmental Monitors' focal point is on accredited training of beneficiaries to support rangers on daily activities.

The programme's operations include, daily patrols on protected areas and monitoring biodiversity in and around these protected areas throughout the Province.

Commented [19]:

With the support of the Department of Environment Forestry and Fisheries, in this financial year, about **R3.7 million** has been set aside for the project.

Commented [20]:

The project will create 56 environmental monitors job opportunities in which unemployed youth will be employed for a period of 2 years in Frances Baard, Pixley ka Seme, ZF Mgcawu, Namakwa regions, including nature reserves and ports of entries

## Conclusion

we are hopeful that National Environmental Management Laws Amendment Bill (NEMLA Bill) which was presented by the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Mme Barbra Creecy on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2020, to brief the nine provincial legislatures and Select Committee on Land Environment, Mineral Resources and Energy will bring about much desired results.

The bill will be cascaded down to Provinces for community inputs.

**Madam Speaker**, last but not least, the creation of a new department is at an advanced stage.

Regular meetings are being held to ensure smooth transition to merge the two components.

Commented [21]:

**Finally**, let me also take this opportunity to thank my organisation, the African National Congress in affording me the opportunity to lead the department and ensuring the betterment of the life of our people, my family for their understanding and support.

I will also like to express my appreciation to the Acting Head of Department, Ms. Boipelo Mashobao and the team she leads for their dedication and effort.

Let me also thank my dedicated team in the Ministry, led by Head of Ministry Mr. Kabelo Mohibidu, for their hard work and commitment.

**I hereby table the 2020/21 budget of the Department Environment and Nature Conservation for the consideration of the house.**

I thank you.