



health

Department:
Health
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

BUDGET

*Vote & Policy Speech
2026/2027*



BUILDING A
NORTH WEST PROVINCE
THAT **WORKS** FOR ALL



NORTH WEST TEAM HEALTH



Dr Thami Matshego
Superintendent - General



Ms Nancy Rampedi
Chief Financial Officer



Mr Polaki Mokatsane
DDG Hospital & Clinical
Support Services



Ms Tsholofelo Adelekan
DDG District Health
Services

2026
BUDGET VOTE

- Honourable Speaker of the House, Dr. Desbo Mohono,
- Deputy Speaker, Honourable Collen Maine
- Premier of the Province, Honourable Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi,
- Chief Whip of the majority party, the ANC, Honourable Motlalepula Rosho,
- Chair of Chairs, Honourable Tebogo Modise,
- Leader of Government Business, Honourable Viola Motsumi,
- Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature,
- Fellow Honourable Members of the Executive Council,
- Chairperson of Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development, Honourable Karabo Magagane,
- Chairperson of the Provincial Portfolio Committee on Public Accounts, SCOPA, Honourable Smuts Matshe,
- Leaders of different Political Parties,
- Esteemed Members of the North West House of Traditional Leaders and Khoisan Leadership, under the Chairpersonship of Kgosi Ofentse Thari Maotwe II,
- MMC's and Chairpersons of Health Portfolios from different Municipalities,
- The Superintendent-General, Dr. Thami Matshego and all Executive Management of the Department of Health
- Leaders of Faith-based Organisations,
- Leaders of Trade Unions and Civil society Organisations,
- Leaders of Academic Institutions, partner organisations and the private sector,
- Our Traditional Health Practitioners,
- Our Governance Structures – Mental Health Review Board, Hospital Boards, Clinic Committees and the Council for North



West Nursing Colleges,

- Distinguished guests,
- Members of the Media,

**Bagaetsho, dumelang
Thobela ke ralotšha!**

PREAMBLE

This Budget Vote is presented at a defining moment in our province's health journey. Over the past three decades, the ANC-led government has expanded access to primary healthcare, built clinics in rural villages, introduced life-saving anti-retroviral therapy, and strengthened maternal and child health services.

The **African National Congress** has always understood that healthcare is not a privilege but a right.

As one of our stalwarts, **Oliver Tambo**, once reminded us: “**A nation that does not care for its people cannot prosper.**” Today, we reaffirm that caring for our people, remains the moral compass of this Department.

INTRODUCTION

Honourable Members,

The Book of Galatians reminds us: **“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”**

These words aptly capture the spirit with which we table this Budget Vote today. We do so under constrained fiscal conditions, shaped by global economic pressures, domestic revenue limitations, and reductions in certain international funding streams. Yet, despite these challenges, we remain resolute in our constitutional obligation to provide quality healthcare services to the people of the North West Province.

As former President **Nelson Mandela** reminded us, I quote **“A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination.”** Close quote. We therefore approach this Budget Vote not as an accounting exercise, but as a commitment to improve the lives of our people.

We extend appreciation to our social partners, including mining companies and private sector collaborators who continue to build clinics, donate medical equipment, and sponsor ambulances - strengthening our collective effort to deliver accessible healthcare.

We now go to Programmes;

PROGRAMME ONE: ADMINISTRATION

Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members, administration of health services remains a key pillar of the North West Department of Health as it provides strategic leadership, governance and administrative support necessary for the effective functioning of the entire health system. Through this programme, the Department continues to strengthen institutional capacity, improve accountability and ensure that the health sector in our province is supported by a capable and responsive administration.

Human Resources Management and Development

Honourable Speaker, during the period under review, the Department has successfully filled **2-hundred and 38** health professional posts on a permanent basis in order to address shortages of nurses, doctors and other critical personnel across our health facilities.

In this financial year, the Department has stabilised the management of Mahikeng Provincial Hospital, to this effect we have appointed, the Nursing Manager, Quality Assurance Manager, Clinical Managers and we are finalising the appointment of the Hospital CEO. We are also finalising the appointment of CEO's of five other hospitals before the end of this year.

Senior Management Appointments

Honourable Premier; The Department has made significant progress in stabilising leadership within the organisation through the appointment of key senior managers. These include the, Superintendent General, Deputy Director General for District Health Services, the Chief Financial Officer, as well as key Directors for Infrastructure. These appointments strengthen governance and oversight within the Department.

Appointment of Unemployed Medical Doctors

Honourable Speaker, the Department has appointed 1-hundred and 20 medical doctors this past financial year – as part of strengthening the healthcare system. We have also intensified efforts to absorb unemployed medical doctors. Vacant funded posts have been advertised and the process of appointing doctors on a full-time basis across various hospitals in the province is currently underway. Great appreciation to the Minister of Health **Dr Aaron Motsoaledi** to have facilitated additional allocation to fast track appointment of medical officers.

Labour Relations Matters

A stable and fair labour relations environment is essential for an effective health system. The Department has made progress in ensuring that disciplinary and labour-related matters are dealt with efficiently, with 31 cases successfully finalised within the regulated 60-day period.

Security Management Services

Honourable Members and the House, this is one of our fundamental priorities, as Nelson Mandela profoundly put it **‘Freedom will be meaningless, without the security in the home and in the streets’**. Therefore, the safety of patients, staff and infrastructure remains a priority. The Department has therefore taken steps to strengthen security services at health facilities. We will also be deploying roving armed guards across sub-districts to respond to security challenges at health facilities.

Special Programmes

Speaker, community participation in the governance of health institutions remains an important pillar of our health system. I take this opportunity to thank the members of the clinic committees, hospital boards and other governance structures whose term of office came to the end in April 2026, for their contribution. The Department has appointed the new governance structures which are now ready to serve



starting from this new 2026/27 financial year. We are launching these structures before the end of this month.

MEDICO - LEGAL CASES

The Department is managing 3-hundred and 91 active medico-legal cases and is implementing the National Litigation Strategy to strengthen clinical governance, patient safety, records management, and accountability. Investments in medical equipment, specialised services, and medico-legal support structures are improving healthcare quality, reducing litigation risks, safeguarding public resources, and ensuring appropriate management of both defended and legitimate claims.

PROGRAMME 2: DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES

Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members,

District Health Services, remains the backbone of our healthcare system as it delivers essential health services directly to our communities through clinics, community outreach and district hospitals. Through this programme, the Department continues to strengthen prevention, early detection and treatment services while ensuring that quality healthcare reaches even the most remote parts of our province.

Honourable Premier

With our flag-ship programme, **Tsheka ka Itekanelo;**

The Department has successfully launched the 1.1 Million HIV Treatment Gap Campaign in all four districts to accelerate HIV treatment initiation and retention in care. The province is responsible for placing **53-thousand, 1-hundred and 46** people on HIV treatment as part of the national target, while also contributing to TB testing efforts aimed at supporting the national **End TB Strategy**. The first 95 target of people living with HIV knowing their status has been exceeded at 96%, which is commendable. The second 95, which measures people on treatment, stands at 82%, which require attention for improvement. And the last 95% target of viral suppression stands at 96%, which is also above target.

In the fight against tuberculosis, the province has tested 1-hundred and sixty-two thousand, 2-hundred and 44 thousand people, achieving an

80% testing rate. The North West continues to perform strongly nationally, recording a drug-susceptible TB success rate of 87%, above the national target of 85%. The province is also among the best performers in reducing patients lost to follow-up at 4-point 8%, while maintaining the highest drug-resistant TB treatment success rate of 87%.

In the new financial year, the Department will continue with the campaign to achieve the **95-95-95 international targets**, placing a lot of attention on the second 95% target, to improve from 82 %.

Honourable Premier, we are also thankful for having been part of a historic launch of the LENACAPAVIR HIV Prevention injection, a game changer - which we just launched this past Friday in Letlhabile CHC, in the Madibeng Local Municipality.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.

Honourable Speaker, the North West Province has permanently appointed 2-thousand and 4-hundred Community Health Workers, with a further 2-thousand, 4-hundred and 80 on contract basis. This means that, the department has employed, a workforce of 4-thousand, 9-hundred and 31 Community Health Workers.

To strengthen the effectiveness of Community Health Workers, this financial year we will prioritise transition from manual reporting to a fully



automated patient level digital system and targeted capacity building through strategic partnership.

Maternal and Child Health

Honourable Speaker, through the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality in Africa (CARMMA), the Department continues to strengthen maternal, child and women's health services. These campaigns are conducted at facility and district levels and are integrated with our broader health promotion activities. The results are encouraging, as maternal mortality in health facilities has declined from 81, per hundred thousand live-births in 2024/25 to 63-point-8, while ante-natal booking before 20 weeks improved from 77-point-4 percent to 79-point-3 percent.

We have also recorded improvements in reproductive health services. The couple year protection rate increased from 63-point-5 percent to 65-point-4 percent, cervical cancer screening coverage improved from 54-point-6 percent to 56-point-7 percent, and teenage deliveries among girls decreased from 100 to 78 cases. We will continue to implement the CARMMA campaigns in the 2026/27 financial year.

Teenage Pregnancy

Teenage pregnancy remains a critical public health and social challenge in South Africa. Statistics show that adolescent child-bearing is on the rise, particularly among girls between the ages of 10 and 19. There is a consistent decline in teenage pregnancy in the province. This decline is realized across all four Districts. Delivery in facility for age group 10- 14 years decreased from 2-hundred and one, in 2022/23 to 66 by end of December 2025/26 financial years, whilst the age group 15 – 19 years decreased from 8-thousands 4-hundred 63 to, 4-thousand 7-hundred 50 during the same period.

The department is implementing the following interventions:

- Integrated School health program
- Sexual and Reproductive health services
- Collaboration with developmental partners', for example Aurum, Love life and Soul city.
- And many other forms of collaborative interventions.

Mental Health

Madam Speaker, Mental health remains an important priority within district health services. The Department integrated routine mental health screening across all primary healthcare facilities. As a result, 5-thousand, 9-hundred and 5 new patients were treated for various mental health conditions during the reporting period, with the treatment initiation rate exceeding the target at 0.1% against a target of 0.01%. In 2026/27, the Department will intensify mental health screening across all primary healthcare facilities to ensure early identification and



treatment of mental health conditions. We have also finalised appointment of the two Mental Review Boards, to strengthen our system.

Implementation of the NHI programme

Madam Speaker, in preparation for the NHI, the Department has commenced geospatial mapping of public and private health facilities and aligned this with Statistics South Africa population data. From 2026/27, we will strengthen NHI implementation through household profiling, optimisation of the Health Patient Registration System (HPRS), introduction of Electronic Medical Records, and completion of geospatial mapping of service providers and communities in selected sub-districts.

From next year, the Department will implement household profiling to collect social, demographic and health data, enabling more targeted and responsive service delivery. This will be supported by the new Public Health and Clinical Unit currently being established.

ON CLINICS OPERATING 24 HOURS

As part of advancing Universal Health Coverage, the Department will increase the number of clinics that are currently operating on a 24/hour basis, from 84 to 95 in the province, which is an addition of 11 more clinics. Once budget allows, we will increase these numbers.

Thuthuzela Care Services

The Department provides Gender Based Violence management centres for sexual offences. These centres aim to:

- Provide immediate medical care (including treatment of injuries and forensic examination)
- Provide emergency contraception
- Screen and treat sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- Offer trauma counselling and psychosocial support, amongst others.

Five Thuthuzela centres are currently operational at Klerksdorp/Tshepong Hospital, Potchestroom Hospital, Job Shimankane Thabane Hospital, Mahikeng Provincial Hospital and Taung Hospital.

Report on the North West Province Ex-Mineworkers Compensation Project

North West Department of Health in collaboration with Compensation Commissioner for Occupational Diseases (CCOD), Minerals Council, Tshiamiso Trust, Rand Mutual Assurance, TEBA, Southern Africa Mineworkers Association (SAMA), Office of the Premier, Provincial Departments of Agriculture & Rural Development and DEDECT continue to work together to advance this programme.

By the end of March 2026, more than 90-thousand Ex-Mineworkers had been reached. The total number of claims settled were 5-thousand, 2-hundred and 90 and the value of claims paid was 2-hundred and 47 million, 4-hundred and 12 thousand rands.

PROGRAMME 3: EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND FORENSIC PATHOLOGY

Forensic Pathology Services

Phokeng mortuary was operationalized in February 2025. Nine (9) Forensic vehicles were procured and are operational. Thirty six (36) contract workers appointed and started in November 2025. Maintenance and refurbishment were made within Brits and Tshepong forensic mortuaries.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Honorable Speaker, I can report that a total of 60 ambulances were procured in the last financial year, with a total of 45 already delivered and distributed across the province. The remaining ambulances are already distributed with a symbolic handover conducted by Honorable Premier, last Friday during Thuntsha Lerole in Madibeng Local Municipality. I can report that the province has now a total of 1-hundred and 6 ambulances, from 64 from the previous year.

This current financial year, a further 50 ambulances and 15 Planned Patient Transporters have been procured. We have already placed an order for a total of 33 more this financial year. This will improve ambulance response time across the province.

EMS JOB CREATION:

- ✓ A total of 95 drivers for the Planned Patient Transport have been appointed.
- ✓ In strengthening the EMS operations further, the Department recruited EMS staff including scarce skills of Advance Life Support who qualified in 2024/25. The process of recruiting another cohort that have just acquired scarce skill advanced EMS qualification through bursary, will be completed by end of the second quarter of 2026/2027.
- ✓ Thirty-five (35) of the 89 newly recruited under the EMS work programme have started on the 2nd March 2026 and the remaining group are being prioritised.

PROGRAMME 4: PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL SERVICES

Honorable Speaker and the House,

Hospital Compliance and Accreditation

We planned to improve compliance with OHSC standards and prepare hospitals for NHI accreditation during the 2025/26 financial year. Progress in this regard is that 5 of the 7 regional/tertiary hospitals achieved **EXCELLENT** status for compliance on OHSC Inspection.

In the 2026/27 financial year we will assess specialized hospitals namely Witrand and Bophelong hospitals pending the finalization of the assessment tool by National Department of Health.

Specialist Appointments

A total of 21 medical specialists and 24 nurse specialists have been appointed. We also have 71 medical officers, in training to become specialists.

Medical Equipment and Infrastructure

We planned to procure and commission specialized medical equipment for the decentralized medical oncology and surgical services. I can report that procurement and installation of Lamina flow cabinet in Mafikeng Provincial Hospital is completed.

Surgical Backlog Reduction



Speaker and Deputy Speaker, we undertook to deal with surgical backlog by implementing the surgical blitzes and extended operating hours to reduce backlogs in the 2025/26 financial year.

I am happy to report that all regional hospitals have conducted the weekend blitz to reduce surgical backlogs. **The surgical backlog has been reduced from 7-thousand 5-hundred and 2 at the beginning of the financial year to 3-thousands 5-hundred 44.**

We will partner with private sector to expedite the accelerated reduction of surgical backlogs in the 2026/27 financial year.

Dialysis Services

As part of expanding access to dialysis services, the reverse osmosis system has been renewed at Mahikeng Provincial Hospital. Moreover, at Potchefstroom hospital preparations are underway and Joe Morolong Memorial Hospital started a service under Klerksdorp/ Tshepong hospital support.

We will continue maintenance of the Reverse osmosis system to ensure efficient functionality of dialysis machines and autoclaves in the 2026/27 financial year.

PROGRAMME 5: CENTRALL HOSPITAL SERVICES

Tertiary and Quaternary Services

We made a promise to strengthen tertiary and quaternary services including cardiac, oncology and specialized surgeries. **Speaker**, I am excited to report that we have established Cath Lab Theatre in Klerksdorp/Tshepong with immediate improvement of early diagnosis and treatment of patients with heart conditions. Preparations including planning for Job Shimankana Tabane Hospital (JST) has been finalized we will initiate procurement by end of the second quarter.

Advanced Diagnostics and Treatment

Honorable Members,

The Department is intentionally investing in improving diagnostic and treatment capacity for cancer. I am pleased to report that the Mammography X-ray machines for Job Shimanaka Tabane, Potch, Joe Morolong Hospitals, were received and now functional as from May, June and August 2025. A total of 610 mammograms (breast examination x-rays) were conducted towards the department drive to detect cancer early. We will prioritize appointment of a Mammographer (Specialist Radiographer for breast x-ray) for JMMH that will reduce traveling of patients to Klerksdorp hospital.



The Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) for Job Shimankana Tabane Hospital were delivered and is now functional resulting in total of 130 diagnostic examinations being done. Furthermore, we will procure additional C-Arm and a digital X-ray machine for JST.

Academic Health Platform

I am happy to report that a conditional approval has been received from Council of Higher Education for the MBChB course. The work of the medical school building is in progress and will be completed by the middle of 2027. Further accreditation processes will be concluded in 2027 and enrolment of students are expected to be on schedule and first cohort is to start as scheduled in January 2028.

The Department continues to strengthen the academic link between the Bojanala health system with Sefako Makgatho University inclusive of deployment of Registrars (Medical Doctor training to become a specialist).

Furthermore, it is heart-warming to learn of the announcement a long-term plan by Minister Aaron Motsoaledi that the National Department of Health will build the Academic Central Hospital in Mahikeng.

PROGRAMME 6: HEALTH SCIENCES AND TRAINING

Nursing Colleges

We planned to train and graduate nursing students to address skills shortages. I am happy to report that a total of 4-hundred 63 students enrolled in the college in 2025/2026 for undergraduate programmes. A total of 3-hundred 35 students graduated in various nursing qualifications during in October 2025.

The college also managed to appoint the Campus Heads for both Mafikeng and Klerksdorp Campus.

During the 2026/27 financial year, the college enrolled another 2-hundred 49 students for the undergraduate programmes. A total of 2-hundred 87 students will be graduating in the third quarter of this financial year.

JOB CREATION.

EMS COLLEGE.

Honorable Members, For the Learnership Programme, I can report that targets for the Learnership Programme in 2026/27 is that:

- The Department is planning to register ninety (90) unemployed youth on an internship programme during this financial year.
- Sixty (65) unemployed youth will be registered on Higher Certificate in Auxiliary Nursing learnership during the this financial year.
- Fifteen (15) unemployed youth will be registered for Higher Certificate in Emergency Medical Care during the 2026/ 2027 financial year.

PROGRAMME 7: HEALTH CARE SUPPORT SERVICES

On Pharmaceutical Services

I am pleased to report that medicine availability has remained above 80% with upward progression. Currently medicine availability in the province is reported at an overall average of 85%. Though this numbers are impressive, I must also inform this August House there are some medicines that are in short supply internationally and nationally and are affecting some facilities. We have placed measures in place to control the situation.

PROGRAMME 8: HEALTH FACILITIES MAINTENANCE (INFRASTRUCTURE)

On, Infrastructure Development, Honorable Speaker and the House,

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Construction of Magogoe and Uitkyk Clinics using Alternative Building Material (ABT) have reached Practical Completion, along with Delareyville Bulk Pharmacy.
- Maintenance of health facilities, including 34 clinics, is ongoing. The completed facilities include Dithakong Clinic, Sannieshof CHC, Delareyville CHC, and Ratlou CHC in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District. Khudutlou Clinic, Kgomotso Clinic and Bloemhof CHC in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District
- At JST Hospital, the Lift replacement and Refurbishment of the Medical Gas infrastructure at Neonatal Ward have been completed.
- At Moses Kotane Hospital, Practical Completion has been achieved for the repairs of the leaking roof, damaged flooring and the seeping Sewer plant.
- New generators have been procured for Witrand Psychiatric hospital, North West College of Nursing-Mmabatho Campus (MMACON), Setlopo Clinic, Masutlhe 1 Clinic and Tshunyane clinic.

- The Health Technology, the C-arm X-ray machines have been supplied to Klerksdorp/Tshepong hospital, Mmabatho Provincial Hospital (MPH), Brits hospital and JST hospitals.
- Ultrasound equipment has also been procured and delivered to Moses Kotane and Leruhutse hospitals.

UNDERPERFORMANCE OF CONTRACTORS

- The department has terminated underperforming contractors for the following projects, Motswedi CHC, Rapulana clinic, and Welverdiend clinic.
- Projects such as Bophelong Psychiatric Hospital, Refurbishment of Gelukspan Hospital, Christiana Hospital are progressing slowly but are receiving the necessary attention where intervention measures have been put in place to expedite progress.

Commitments / Plans for 2026/27

PARK-HOMES FOR 2026/2027

Construction of following clinics will commence using Alternative Building Method;

- Kokoana Clinic, Phalane Clinic, Refentse Clinic Delikile Khoza Clinic
- Goedgevonden Clinic, Fafung Clinic, Modimola Clinic, Colour Block Clinic, Wilverdient Clinic

COMPLETION OF PROJECTS

- The department committed to start with Completion of Mathibestad CHC, Refurbishment of Koster Hospital Phase 1 and Tshepong Hospital- Stormwater drainage System.
- The department will continue with completion of projects that contractors were terminated for Construction of Motswedi Clinic, Rapulana Clinic and Wilverdient Clinic.
- The department plans to implement and complete the following maintenance projects.
- Completion of the remaining 34 clinics, including 8 in Bojanala, 4 in Dr Kenneth Kaunda, 3 in Dr RSM, and 3 in Ngaka Modiri Molema.

- Roll out of the boiler maintenance contract to provide hot water and steam across all hospitals.
- Completion of repairs to leaking water pipes in Wards 3, 4 and implementation of replacement of Water hot and cold-water reticulation at Schweizer Reneke Hospital, Joe Morolong Hospital, Tshepong Hospital and Mafikeng Provincial Hospital.
- Completion of Water Augmentation projects at Job Shimankana Tabane Hospital and Ganyesa District Hospital.
- Replacement of the perimeters fencing at Moses Kotane hospital and General De Larey Hospital.
- The department has allocated a portion of HFRG (Health Facility Revitalization Grant) budget for the procurement of Health Technology equipment. In the 2026/27 financial year, procurement of equipment is planned for Klerksdorp, MPH, Ganyesa, Brits, Joe Morolong, and Potchefstroom hospitals.
- Procurement of furniture and equipment are also planned for facilities currently at the construction stage

Honorable Members, we commit to give IDTS the necessary attention and support to complete some of the outstanding projects.

ALLOCATED BUDGET FOR 2026/2027 PER PROGRAMME

Honourable Speaker, we NOW present to you, the 2026/27 Budget per programme as follows: [8 Programmes]

Table 1: Final Budget Allocation per programmes for 2026/27 financial year

Description	Amount	Words
1. Administration	1 211 877	One billion, two hundred and eleven million, eight hundred and seventy-seven thousand rands
2. District Health Services	9 257 085	Nine billion, two hundred and fifty-seven million and eighty-five thousand
3. Emergency Medical services	556 799	Five hundred and fifty-six million, seven hundred and ninety-nine thousand rands
4. Provincial Hospital Services	2 442 389	Two billion, four hundred and forty-two million, three hundred and eighty-nine thousand rands
5. Central Hospital services	2 811 525	Two billion, eight hundred and eleven million, five hundred and twenty-five thousand rands
6. Health Science and Training	310 435	Three hundred and ten million, four hundred and thirty-five thousand rands
7. Health Care Support Services	909 957	Nine hundred and nine million, nine hundred and fifty-seven thousand rands

8. Health Facilities Maintenance	727 001	Seven hundred and twenty-seven million and one thousand rands
Total	18 227 068	Eighteen Billion Two-Hundred and Twenty-Seven Million and Sixty Eight Thousand rands

Madam Speaker, the Department continues to face financial pressure due to accruals from previous financial years and baseline allocations that have not kept pace with growing healthcare demands. While the 2026/27 baseline budget has increased by 4 per cent, it remains insufficient to meet all funding requirements.

As a result, the Goods and Services budget faces an estimated shortfall of R1.7 billion, reducing available funding by 34 per cent. To address these challenges, the Department will implement a Financial Recovery Plan focused on cost containment, expenditure control, and improved financial management.

IN APPRECIATION

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank:

- The ANC, for deploying me as an MEC
- Honourable Premier, Lazarus Mokgosi, for appointing me as an MEC
- Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature for keeping me accountable,
- Fellow Members of EXCO, as we work as a team,
- Chairpersons and Members of Portfolio Committees for their oversight role
- Auditor-General South Africa
- Human Rights Commission and Public Service Commission,
- Our Organised Labour, and Social Partners,
- The entire Team Health
- Community-based and Faith based organizations,
- Traditional leaders
- Traditional healers,
- The private sector including the mining houses,
- Academic partners
- Media Houses
- Baagi botlhe ba North West
- And lastly but not least, my family, relatives, friends and comrades

CONCLUSION

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, and the people of the North West Province, a wise man once said;

“A commitment is what transforms a promise, into reality”

Therefore, Madam Speaker this Budget Vote demonstrates a department that is steadily building the capacity required to deliver quality healthcare services to every community. As the great African writer Chinua Achebe reminded us, **“A man who does not know where the rain began to beat him cannot say where he dried his body”**.

We know the challenges our health system has faced, but we also know the progress we have made and the direction we must continue to pursue. We are ensuring that no village, township or town is left behind. In the words of **Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o**, a renowned African writer, **“The future of a society is in the hands of the people.”**

It is through partnership with communities, healthcare workers, traditional leaders, labour, academia, civil society and the private sector that we will continue to build a healthier North West.

Through programmes such as **Rebona Ka Matlho, Kopano Ke Matla, and ‘..e tlhokile Mosela and Tshela ka Itekanelo**, we have reinforced the principle that leadership must be present, where people are, where services are delivered and where challenges are experienced. These



interventions have strengthened oversight, accelerated problem-solving and deepened engagement with communities.

As we move forward, we do so with confidence, determination and a shared sense of purpose. The road ahead will require hard work, innovation and discipline, but we are encouraged by the words of Barack Obama, who said: **"The future rewards those who press on."**

We therefore recommit ourselves to expanding access to healthcare, improving patient experiences, strengthening quality of care and advancing the vision of Universal Health Coverage. Together, guided by the values of the African National Congress and inspired by the resilience of the people of the North West, we will continue building a health system that serves every citizen with excellence, compassion and dignity.

Thank you very much.

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