



COGHSTA

Department of Cooperative Governance

Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs

NORTHERN CAPE

Traditional Affairs Seminar

Opening Remarks by MEC Bentley Vass

04 April 2024

Honorable Premier, Dr. Zamani Saul;

Members of the Executive Committee present

District Executive Mayor, Cllr. Queen Mogatle-Thoane

Local Mayors;

Chief Whips;

Speakers;

Municipal Managers;

Chairperson of the Provincial House Kgosi Pelonomi Toto;

Deputy Chairperson of the Provincial House Kgosi Bareki;

Members of the Provincial House of Traditional and Khoi San Leaders;

SAPS Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant-General Otolu

Correctional Service NC/FS Regional Head, Ms. Shauneez Moodley

Director General of the Province, Mr. Justice Bekebeke

Head of Department present

Heads of Ministries present;

Chief Directors present

Provincial Officials;

Regional Officials;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Allow me to greet and thank you for your presence here today.

Honorable Premier, we are grateful for the opportunity to come together here, with a focus on good governance and fostering intergovernmental relations. Over the past five years, the sixth administration has been dedicated to shaping a progressive and thriving Northern Cape, inclusive of our traditional communities.

This has been achieved through close collaboration with the Provincial House of Traditional and Khoi San Leaders.

The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Provincial House have been instrumental in advocating for the needs and aspirations of traditional communities. They have worked tirelessly to ensure that the Provincial House and its local branches collaborate effectively with local, provincial, and national authorities to deliver essential services to their people.

Government has made consistent efforts to address the diverse needs of local and traditional communities. The Department has provided additional resources to the Directorate of Traditional Affairs, enhancing its ability to tackle issues concerning traditional communities, such as recognition, initiation, and service delivery provision.

Despite the progress made in these communities, there is still much work to be done. The government is focused on eradicating mud houses and improving community safety.

It is also addressing issues such as poverty, teenage pregnancy, gender-based violence, sexism, challenges faced by people with disabilities, the elderly, the LGBTQI+ community, and child-headed households. As a democratic government celebrating its 30th anniversary, we are committed to upholding democracy and advancing freedom by promoting and defending the rights of all South Africans.

As a government we also believe that we ought to invest in people by investing in education and improving service delivery, amongst others. As a result in this very region we the following catalytic projects that have consultants who have been appointed for feasibility studies and business plans;

- Telecommunication and information infrastructures
- Disaster management center
- Agri-Hub and Park
- Development of a Special Economic Zone
- Iron smelter & Sinter plant
- Integrated Human Settlement Development
- Regional Airport
- Court building
- High Education facilities
- Bulk infrastructure and distribution networks

Regional Hospital (Preliminary design for the extension of the existing Hospital)

Khatu 5700 Town Planning

These projects speak to improving service delivery as well as job creation

Programme Director, allow me to stop here for today as I believe we still have much to engage on.