



Remarks by MEC Bentley G Vass
for
Cooperative Governance, Human settlements and Traditional Affairs
to the
NCOP Northern Cape Provincial Week
(11-15 September 2023)
12 September 2023

Program Director

Honorable Premier

Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP

Members of the Executive Council

Executive Mayors and Mayors

Members of the NCOP

Members of the Provincial Legislature

Officials of the NCOP, Provincial Legislature

Officials of the Provincial Administration

Senior Managers of the District and Local Municipalities

Allow me to greet and welcome you back to the Northern Cape again. Let me remind all those who might have forgotten that the NCOP had a similar visit last year between March and April 2022.

I am sure that we all do welcome such a program. This I say without a shadow of doubt. These kinds of visits assist us with the help of the NCOP to objectively assess our performance as it relates to service delivery.

Let me remind this gathering of the theme of the March-April 2022 NCOP Provincial visit. The read as follows:

“Assessing the state of capacity to respond to the needs of communities.”

At the center of the theme is service delivery to the people. This theme reminds and call to action for the fight against inequality, unemployment and poverty. The focus was at the local municipalities where services are closer to the people and our communities.

Program Director

Need I remind the meeting that the NCOP focus was on the following matters in the main:

- On the provision of safe drinking water
- Crime

We had concurred and appreciated not only your visit but the matters you paid attention to. This is because the Northern cape Province is a water scarce Province, as if that is not a challenge enough, the Province is a disaster prone geographical area.

The province experienced and might be affected by drought, veld-fires and floods. All these areas of disaster are related to water and affects the provision of clean and safe drinking water.

The Province appreciates the work done by the Department of Water and Sanitation in collaboration with the affected Municipalities. Their intervention during our Departmental interventions with the water boards and Eskom in particular. The assistance they provide with boreholes where needs arises is also noticed and appreciated.

With us in the battle to bring services to the communities, the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural development and Land Reform, came in handy and still does with regards to their drought Intervention Plan

The Premier has at all material times been at the center of these interventions. He has impressed all stakeholders to make use of the intergovernmental relations intervention.

I am raising these considering the following factors:

- Most of our municipalities are in financial distress.
- The vacancy rates in the municipalities
- Lack of adequate funding for infrastructure projects and
- The rapid development of informal settlements

Program Director I must mention that we have received the report by the NCOP, we welcome it and we are grateful for your objective observations and your findings. These will assist us to work smartly and do better.

In my conclusion, let me hasten to raise the following for the attention of the NCOP:

With regards to the Municipal Infrastructure Grant the Northern Cape is allocated R501, 370,000.00 for 2023/24 financial year. Of this allocation the following is committed:

- Water Projects – R119,149,944.99
- Road and Stormwater Projects – R86,044,420.14
- MIG – R89,683,025,14

The detail of all this is in the presentation to still to be made here today.

Program Director

The issue of our equitable share and the quantum remains a challenge for the Northern Cape. They don't compare the community needs.

With all that being said, we welcome you and wish you all the best in this week's provincial visit by the NCOP.

I thank you.