

## **Media Statement on the Budget Speech for Public Works delivered by the MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works.**

In a maiden address dedicated to struggle stalwart Billy Nair the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Human Settlements and Public Works, Ms Maggie Govender described the mandate of the Department as a provider, procurer, maintainer and improver of the facilities required by the government departments in KZN.

The work of the Department is severely affected by the global and national economic recession.

Therefore she said,: "More has to be done with less. This can only be done by eliminating wastage, inefficiency, fraud and corruption."

She emphasized that the Department will discharge its mandate in a manner that addresses the context we find ourselves in so that we also achieve social progress. This means that tenders for work will be awarded to companies that meet the technical requirements of the Department as well as the social priorities of Government especially in respect of job creation. The Department has pledged to address tender and procurement fraud.

Already under the watch of the MEC, 7 officials have been fired for accepting bribes. Officials have been put on terms regarding the productivity of public servants. "Attitudes and the courtesy with which we engage with our people is a value that informs the budget speech", said Ms Govender.

The area of focus of the work of the Department for 2009 – 10 are:-

- Rural Development;
- Poverty Alleviation;
- Rendering a quality service according to customer need, within the agreed upon timeframe and cost;
- Departmental Skills Development;
- Skills Development for Potential Recruits; and
- Doing more with less.

The MEC has also established a direct e-mail link into the Department through which the public may ask questions, record complaints, report wrong-doings of officials or any tender fraud.

The main items of projected expenditure are: -

<b>Programme 1: Administration</b>	<b>R204,849 million</b>
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<b>Programme 2: Real Estate</b>	<b>R262,001 million</b>
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<b>Programme 3:      Provision of Buildings, Structures and Equipment</b>	<b>R400,590 million</b>
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<b>Total:</b>	<b>R867 440 million</b>
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28 July 2009.