FREE STATE LEGISLATURE

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS, INFRASTRUCTURE, ROADS, TRANSPORT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS TO THE FREE STATE LEGISLATURE REGARDING THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLANS FOR THE 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEAR OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY, ROADS AND TRANSPORT

22 SEPTEMBER 2026

REPORT PROFILE

Title of Report:	Report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Infrastructure, Roads, Transport and Human Settlements regarding the Annual Performance Plans for the 2026/27 financial year of the Departments of Public Works and Infrastructure, Human Settlements and Community Safety, Roads and Transport.
Status of Report:	For submission to the Office of the Speaker and tabling in the Free State Legislature.
Responsible Committee:	Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Infrastructure, Roads, Transport and Human Settlements

Chairperson and Members of the Portfolio Committee:

VAN VUUREN, D
CHAIRPERSON

CLOETE, A

FOKO, M.J.

GAREKOE, N. J.

KHOABANE, M. D.

LEECH, D

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MEEKO, T.P.

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SIGWEBELA, Z

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Report for tabling in the House on: 22 September 2026

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1. Introduction

The Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Infrastructure, Police, Roads, Transport and Human Settlements met with the Departments of Public Works and Infrastructure, Human Settlements and Community Safety, Roads and Transport to consider their Annual Performance Plans for the 2026/27 financial year.

2. Members of the Portfolio Committee

The Portfolio Committee comprises the following Honourable Members:

(1) Van Vuuren, D	(Chairperson)
(2) Cloete, A	(Member)
(3) Foko, M. J	(Member)
(4) Garekoe, N. J.	(Member)
(5) Khoabane, M. D.	(Member)
(6) Leech, D	(Member)
(7) Mkhabela, SL	(Member)
(8) Meeko, T.P.	(Member)
(9) Ndungane, N.	(Member)
(10) Sigwebela, Z.	(Member)
(11) Tshabalala, A. M.	(Member)

3. Procedure of the Committee

The Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Infrastructure, Roads, Transport and Human Settlements met with MEC Mokoena, MEC Mance, MEC Mbalula and their officials to consider Annual Performance Plans for the 2026/27 financial year of the Departments of Public Works, Infrastructure and Human Settlements and Community Safety, Roads and Transport on 30 July 2026 through a virtual platform.

The Committee exercised its oversight mandate in terms of section 114(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, which requires a provincial legislature to provide mechanisms to ensure that provincial executive organs of state are accountable to it and to maintain oversight over the exercise of provincial executive authority and provincial organs of state. Sections 116 and 118 provide for the Legislature's rules and committee system and for openness and public involvement in legislative processes.

4. Consideration of Annual Performance Plans for the 2026/27 financial year of the following Departments:

4.1 The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure Public Works and Infrastructure

The Head of Department presented the Annual Performance Plan for 2026/27 as follows:

Programme 1: Administration

Programme 1 aims to provide the Department with administrative, strategic management, financial and corporate support services to ensure that the Department delivers on its mandate in an integrated, efficient, effective and sustainable manner.

Programme 2: Public Works Infrastructure

To provide balanced and equitable provincial government building infrastructure by promoting accessibility that is sustainable, integrated and environmentally sensitive, which supports economic development and social empowerment.

Programme 3: Expanded Public Works Programme

To manage the implementation of programmes and strategies that lead to the development and empowerment of communities and contractors. This includes the provincial management and co-ordination of the Expanded Public Works Programme.

4.1.2 Observations by the Portfolio Committee:

After the Department presented its Annual Performance Plan for the 2026/27 financial year, the Portfolio Committee made the following observations and/or findings: -

1. The Committee noted the APP for the department and further informed them that they will monitor their performance according to the commitments that they made to the APP.

4.2 Human Settlements

The Head of the Department presented the Annual Performance Plan for the 2026/27 financial year as follows:

The Departmental functions are organized into four (4) budgeted programmes, namely:

Programme 1: Administration

This programme aims to provide overall management in the Department in accordance with all applicable Acts and policies.

Programme 2: Housing Needs, Research and Planning

The purpose of this programme is to facilitate and undertake housing delivery planning.

Programme 3: Housing Development

The purpose of this programme is to regulate rentals and provide for the effective and efficient management of housing assets, as well as the upgrading of Land Tenure, and to facilitate access to adequate housing opportunities.

Programme 4: Housing Asset Management

The purpose of this programme is for the effective management of housing assets.

4.2.1 Observations by the Portfolio Committee:

After the Department presented its Annual Performance Plan for the 2026/27 financial year, the Portfolio Committee made the following observations and/or findings: -

1. The Committee noted the APP for the department and further informed them that they will monitor their performance according to the commitments that they made to the APP.

4.3 The Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport (excluding Community Safety component)

The Deputy Director General presented the Annual Performance Plan for the 2026/27 financial year as follows:

Programme 1: Administration

The aim of Programme 1 is to provide administrative and financial support and advice to the Executive Authority, the Head of the Department and all line functions.

Programme 3: Transport Operations

The Programme is responsible for planning, regulating and facilitating the provision of transport services.

Programme 4: Transport Regulations

This programme aims to establish, manage and maintain a safe and efficient road traffic system.

Programme 5: Transport Infrastructure

To promote accessible, safe, affordable movement of people, goods and services through the delivery and maintenance of transport infrastructure that is sustainable, integrated and environmentally sensitive, which supports and facilitates social empowerment through economic growth.

Fleet Management

To ensure the effective and efficient management and administration of Government Motor Transport services in the province.

4.3.1 Observations by the Portfolio Committee:

After the Department presented its Annual Performance Plan for the 2026/27 financial year, the Portfolio Committee made the following observations and/or findings: -

1. The Committee noted the APP for the department and further informed them that they will monitor their performance according to the commitments that they made to the APP.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Portfolio Committee recommends:

Department of Public Works and Infrastructure

1. The Committee noted the APP for the Department and further informed them that it will monitor their performance according to the commitments that they made to the APP.
2. The Department must revisit construction completion targets to ensure alignment with realistic project timelines given historical delays and contractor performance issues.
3. The Department must prioritise maintenance funding by increasing allocation from Infrastructure Enhancement Allocation to address the backlog and prevent further deterioration.

4. The current lack of an integrated system undermines condition assessment, maintenance planning, and revenue collection. The Department must accelerate the Smart Asset Management System
5. Strengthen contractor screening & termination processes by reducing delays caused by non-performing contractors.
6. The Department must move beyond short-term work opportunities toward sustainable employment pathways by developing an EPWP exit strategy.
7. The Municipal Debt Task Team must produce a binding, time-bound plan with consequence management for non-paying municipalities.

Department of Human Settlements

1. The Committee noted the APP for the department and further informed them that they will monitor their performance according to the commitments that they made to the APP.
2. The Department must establish a task force to expedite the approval of the organizational structure and ensure alignment with departmental goals.
3. The Department should develop and enforce clear consequence management policies to hold staff accountable for unmet targets and performance issues.
4. The Department should conduct employee satisfaction surveys and implement retention strategies to address the causes of high turnover and improve workplace morale.
5. The Department should secure additional funding and explore alternative funding sources, partnerships, or grants to enhance research capacity and support evidence-based decision-making.
6. The Department should improve and implement project management best practices and regular progress reviews to address slow project timelines and ensure timely completion.
7. The Department should address and establish a mediation process to resolve disputes related to title deeds and low-cost housing, ensuring that all stakeholders are heard and considered.
8. The Department should monitor blocked projects and conduct regular assessments of blocked projects and develop action plans to address the underlying issues, such as vandalism or neglect.

Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport

1. The Committee noted the APP for the department and further informed them that they will monitor their performance according to the commitments that they made to the APP.
2. The Department must implement targeted outreach programs to ensure that communities are aware of the transport subsidies and how to access them. This could include community meetings, informational materials, and collaboration with local leaders.

3. The Department should allocate resources to develop safe cycling paths and infrastructure to support the Shova Kalula program. This must include ensuring that roads are safe for non-motorized transport users.
4. The Department should increase efforts to monitor and enforce road safety compliance, particularly on high-traffic routes. This could involve regular safety audits and partnerships with law enforcement.
5. The Department must review and optimize the allocation of resources within the Fleet Management Trading Entity (FMTE) to ensure that disaster relief efforts and community projects are adequately supported. This may involve prioritizing projects based on community needs.
6. The Department must work closely with the Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (Mer SETA) to expedite the accreditation process for the training institution, ensuring that personnel can receive the necessary training and certification promptly.
7. The Department must strengthen collaboration with municipalities to improve coordination on projects and service delivery. This could involve establishing regular communication channels and joint planning sessions.
8. The Department must establish robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks for all transport and fleet management programs to assess their effectiveness and impact. Regular reporting to the Portfolio Committee can help ensure accountability and transparency.

5.1 The Committee noted the contents of the Annual Performance Plans of the departments for the 2026/27 financial year, especially the targets.

5.2 The Committee must monitor their performance according to the commitments that they made to the APP for the ensuing financial year.

5.3 The report be adopted by the House.