

Premier looks to strengthen service delivery

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NORTH West Premier Supra Mahumapelo held the quarterly Bokone Bophirima Premier's Coordinating Council meeting to strengthen service delivery in the province last week at the Christiana All Seasons Resort.

Some of the key outcomes of the engagement between the premier, MECs, mayors and key figures in the provinces municipalities were that the council had been combined with the Provincial Infrastructure Coordinating Council (PICC), which would help to expedite infrastructure development in the province.

The council dealt with several issues which included water scarcity, the Setsokotsane 10 by 10 Outreach Plan, economy, roads and manufacturing.

Mahumapelo said the province was doing well despite the effects of the long drought.

"After a long drought our dams are sitting at 88% capacity. Sedibeng Water and the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) will be working together to deal with water leaks. Vandalism of water infrastructure at municipal level is also a serious concern," Mahumapelo said.

"The council has agreed that two MECs per district will be helping the mayors to ensure that essential services like roads, housing, healthcare, street lights and entrepreneurial opportunities through villages, townships and small dorpias (VTSD) are delivered to the people."

In order to exploit the mineral wealth which the province possesses, the North West Development Corporation (NWDC) will be working with the department of minerals and energy to access funding and ensure that the people of the province and the government benefit and this will be done through the Agriculture, Culture and Tourism department.

“The South African National Road Agency has presented us with a report on 18 roads in the province and we will be working with them to improve road infrastructure in the province.

“Some of the outcomes of the council is that the province has identified about 15 000 items in the health sector which the province can manufacture and this will help to stimulate economic growth.

“If these items are manufactured by the people of Bokone Bophirima, employment opportunities will be created and factories will be established which will see the people in the province being self-sufficient,” Mahumapelo said.

The premier said a VTSD premier advisory council, which would give him ideas on how the government could partner with the private sector to see that there was sustainable economic growth in the province, would be established.

He said the partnership between both the private sector and the government was essential in speeding up the process to develop the economy of the province.

– Newsnote