

Lucas's budget expected to focus on youth development

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AS THE country's budget votes concludes today, Premier Sylvia Lucas will be presenting her office's budget.

In her state of the province address in February, Lucas emphasised there was a great need to ensure that all the people of the province were benefitting from its wealth.

Lucas called on the private sector, particularly mining houses, to play their part in ensuring the lives of people were changed.

Today, among other things, the premier is expected to highlight the challenges her office has faced and detail plans for the next financial year.

She recently hinted that youth development was critical in transforming the lives of young people and those from previously disadvantaged communities.

It is expected that the premier will touch on radical economic transformation, youth development, the fight against women and children abuse and efforts by the provincial government to curb corruption.

Roads and public works MEC Mxolisa Sokatsha will also address the issues of roads in the province, sinkholes and the completion of the mental healthcare facility in Kimberley.

Finance, economic development and tourism MEC MacCollen Jack said that in fighting corruption, all stakeholders needed to come to the party.

He issued a stern warning to those who enriched themselves at the expense of poor people during his department budget vote on Monday.

Jack said corruption was a cancer



BUDGET: Premier Sylvia Lucas will focus on transformation. PICTURE: FACEBOOK

that did not deserve the light of day, both in public and private sector.

"Directly linked to the fight against fraud and corruption should be random lifestyle audits for public representatives and senior managers," Jack said.

"I urge everyone who has information on any corrupt activities, be it in the private or public sector, to blow the whistle and expose corruption.

"The provincial government has lost

a lot of money due to the allocation of illegal contracts to friends and families who are connected to public servants.

"In this financial year, we will therefore embark on a review of all contracts that have been issued and those in the process of being issued.

"We need to determine if the allocation of the contracts was in compliance with the law," Jack said.

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