

# Parliament says North West still needs turning around

Ad hoc committee details progress and problems three years after intervention

By **Nonkululeko Njilo**

Parliament's ad hoc committee on the section 100 intervention in the North West has recommended that efforts to turn around the embattled province continue.

This amid collapsing municipalities and a lack of service delivery by several provincial departments. The recommendations are contained in a 78-page parliamentary report released on Monday.

The decision to invoke section 100 was made by the cabinet after the collapse of governance which led to social and labour unrest as well as damage to properties in 2018.

Three years later, the committee says more work still needs to be done.

Since 1994, it was the first time the national executive had intervened on such a large scale in more than 10 provincial departments. Among the most problematic are health,

public works and roads, community safety and transport, as well as education

The committee said several recommendations for criminal cases to be investigated and individuals to be held accountable had borne fruit as 28 senior managers had faced, and are still facing, disciplinary processes related to financial misconduct, fraud and corruption, and dereliction of duty.

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and the Hawks are pursuing 51 criminal cases related to public funds. Of these, 17 had gone to trial.

The committee said audit re-



**Job Mokgoro, premier of the North West** / THAPELO MOREBUDI

sults for the 2019/20 financial year revealed that unqualified audits increased from four to seven, including the office of the premier. In the same period, however, it recorded a decrease in annual irregular expenditure of R3.48bn from R4.72bn in 2018/19.

The committee said irregular project management units

and outsourcing arrangements had been terminated. Processes were under way to recover losses to the state.

Members of the committee have previously expressed concern about the premier's office's failure to provide leadership. However, premier Job Mokgoro denied some allegations levelled against his office.