

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES  
BUDGET VOTE SPEECH  
DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENERGY, AMBASSADOR THEMBISILE MAJOLA  
23 JUNE 2015**

Honourable Chairperson

Honourable Chairperson of the Select Committee, Mr Eddie Makue

Honourable Minister of Energy and Members of the Executive

Members of Parliament and Colleagues

Senior officials of the Department of Energy and Government

Representatives of SOCs, Business and the Media

Fellow Compatriots

Good Afternoon to you all,

We are tabling our budget vote during commemoration of the youth month, when 39 years ago the youth of our country took to the streets in protest against the introduction of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction.

Department of Energy with our partners, remains seized and committed to delivering quality services to our people. Energy is central to our developmental goal of a better life for all. To those with access to affordable, accessible modern energy, it unlocks access to improved quality of life, access to information and services. To those who don't have modern energy services, it is a major constraint. It is important to note that 80% of those who do not have access to modern energy are in rural areas and this is largely dominated by women.

One of the vehicles we use to engage our people is the Public Participation Programme, a Programme that ensures that we visit various communities so as to continually improve how government services are delivered and received by communities. In the past eight months we have interacted with various communities across the length and breadth of our country.

We have interacted with residents of Goso Forrest in the Eastern Cape who did not have any access to electricity. However, I am pleased to announce that as we table this budget vote, the residents of Goso have switched on. The same good story can be told about the residents of Ramafole in Matatiele, who last week switched on the successfully delivered 660 electrical connections in Ward 24.

Similar engagements have been held with residents of:

- Phalaborwa, Mashamba, Mahatlani in Limpopo,
- Bushbuckridge and Nkomazi in Mpumalanga,
- Ulundi and Mtubatuba in Kwa-Zulu Natal
- Groot Marico in North West
- Chatty Extensions and Ntabankulu, in Eastern Cape,

These engagements have enabled us to address blockages and we go back to give feedback. This coming Friday, together with Eskom, local and provincial government, we return to Ntabankulu in the Eastern Cape to be followed by a visit to Abaqulusi Municipality for a similar exercise. We have focused our energies on the areas with the largest backlogs.

In all these engagements, we interact with our people who have reaffirmed their belief in this government, while not hesitating to tell us of short-comings in our service delivery. This has ensured that we can provide technical and other support to municipalities to ensure seamless service delivery.

It is also evident that we are on the right path and will continue rolling out services to our people in a sustained manner and are determined and committed to reach universal access by 2025 for all our people.

Honourable Members

I conclude by reaffirming that together, as Team Energy, we remain committed and determined:

- To continue working with Eskom and DPE to ensure that our electricity continues to be accessible, affordable and reliable for business and our people
- To accelerate electrification of households
- To ensure that we address the issue of unfunded posts, and filling of vacant posts, so as to ensure the Department is correctly staffed to deliver on this apex priority mandate;
- To ensure that the Strategic plans of our SOCs are aligned to the objectives of DOE and have the requisite human and financial resources to meet their objectives.

Ke A Leboga!