

## **PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE OF THE FREE STATE**


**Report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works,  
Infrastructure, Roads, Transport and Human Settlements to the  
Free State Legislature with regard to the Fourth Quarterly Non-  
Financial Reports for 2024/25 financial year of the Departments  
of Public Works and Infrastructure, Human Settlements and  
Community Safety, Roads and Transport**

**21 August 2025**

## **REPORT PROFILE**

<b>Title of Report:</b>	Report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Infrastructure, Roads, Transport and Human Settlements with regard to the Fourth Quarterly Non-Financial Reports for 2024/25 financial year of the departments of Public Works and Infrastructure, Human Settlements and Community Safety, Roads and Transport.
<b>Status of Report:</b>	For submission to the Office of the Speaker and tabling in the Free State Legislature.
<b>Responsible Committee:</b>	Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Infrastructure, Roads, Transport and Human Settlements

**Chairperson and Members of the Portfolio Committee:**

  
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**VAN VUUREN, D**  
**CHAIRPERSON**  
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**CLOETE, A**

**FOKO, M.J.**

  
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**GAREKOE, N. J.**  
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**KHOABANE, M. D.**  
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**Mc KAY, D**

**MKHABELA, D**

  
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**MEEKO, T.P.**  
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**NDUNGANE, N**  
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**SIGWEBELA, Z**

**TSHABALALA, M.A**

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Report for tabling in the House on:

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## **1. Introduction**

The Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Infrastructure, Roads, Transport and Human Settlement met with the Departments of Public Works and Infrastructure, Human Settlements and Community Safety, Roads and Transport to consider their Fourth Quarterly Non-Financial Reports for 2024/25 financial year.

## **2. Members of the Portfolio Committee**

The Portfolio Committee comprises of the following Honorable Members:

Van Vuuren, D	<b>(Chairperson)</b>
Cloete, A	(Member)
Foko, M. J	(Member)
Gaorekoe, N. J.	(Member)
Khoabane, M. D.	(Member)
Mc Kay, D	(Member)
Mkhabela, D	(Member)
Meeko, T.P.	(Member)
Ndungane, N.	(Member)
Sigwebela, Z.	(Member)
Tshabalala, A. M.	(Member)

### **3. Procedure of the Committee**

The Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Infrastructure, Roads, Transport and Human Settlement met with MEC for Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, Hon. D. Mance, MEC for Department of Human Settlements, Hon. T. Mokoena, and Hon. J. Mbalula for Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport and their officials on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025 to consider their Fourth Quarterly Non-Financial Reports for 2024/25 financial year.

### **4. CONSIDERATION OF FOURTH QUARTERLY NON-FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR.**

#### **4.1 The Departments of Public Works and Infrastructure**

The Acting Head of Department, Mr. Mtolo presented their Fourth quarterly non-financial report for 2024/25 financial year and outlined the core functions of the Department as follows: -

- (a) Planning, design, construction and maintenance of infrastructure.
- (b) Management of Provincial Government owned properties and facilitation of rented property.
- (c) Provision of Provincial Government with office accommodation.
- (d) Coordination, implementation, monitoring and compliance with the EPWP principles.
- (e) Security management for provincial buildings.

#### **4.1.1. Functions are organized into three budgeted programmes: namely:**

- (1) Programme 1: Administration.
- (2) Programme 2: Public Works Infrastructure.
- (3) Programme 3: Expanded Public Works Programme.

#### **4.1.2 Challenges reported to the Portfolio Committee**

1. The Department could not achieve on number of capital infrastructure projects awarded.
2. The Department could not pay all the suppliers within 30 days.
3. The Department could not achieve their target on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and experienced challenges with upgrading the ICT Network and infrastructure in all the offices.
4. The budget for private security will increase due to strengthened safety in relation to staff, assets and abundant sites.

#### **4.1.3 Observations by the Portfolio Committee:**

After deliberation, the Portfolio Committee made the following observations and / or findings: -

1. The Department does not pay service providers within 30 days as per the prescribed period in terms of section 38 (1) (f) of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA).
2. The department's performance has dropped.
3. The school projects are completed within the stipulated period.
4. There are nine (9) incomplete capital projects.
5. The Committee is concerned that only one building planned for cost containment lights and not achieved. The Department should consider solar panel installations as a cost containment measure.



#### **4.2 The Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport (excluding Community Safety component)**

The Head of the Department presented their Fourth quarterly non-financial report for 2024/25 financial year and outlined the departmental programmes as follows:

- (a) Programme 1: Administration
- (b) Programme 3: Transport Operations
- (c) Programme 4: Transport Regulation
- (d) Programme 5: Transport Infrastructure
- (e) Fleet Management Trading Entity

##### **4.2.1 Challenges reported to the Portfolio Committee**

1. The target on the number of kilometers of gravel roads upgraded to surface roads could not be reached.
2. The target on the number of kilometers of gravel roads upgraded to surface roads using refurbishment could not be reached.
3. The target on number of kilometers of gravel roads bladed could not be reached.
4. The number of vehicles weighed could not be reached.
5. The number of kilometers of gravel roads visually assessed as per the applicable technical methods highways (TMH) manual could not be reached.
6. The number of vehicles stopped and checked for driver/vehicles compliance could not be reached.
7. The number of speed operations conducted could not be reached.

#### **4.2.2 Observations by the Portfolio Committee:**

After deliberations, the Portfolio Committee made the following observations and / or findings: -

1. The Department is spending money that is budgeted for administration on other targets.
2. The Department has lots of litigations.
3. The Department is not spending capital expenditure to improve road infrastructure.

#### **4.3 The Department of Human Settlement**

The Acting Head of the Department, Mr. Ndumo presented their Fourth quarterly non-financial report for 2024/25 financial year and outlined the departmental programmes as follows:

- a) Programme 1: Administration.
- b) Programme 2: Housing Needs, Research and Planning
- c) Programme 3: Housing Development.
- d) Programme 4: Housing Asset and Property Management

#### **Challenges reported to the Portfolio Committee:**

1. The Department could not pay all the suppliers within 30 days.
2. The Department could not reach their target in terms of the number of households that qualifies and receive subsidies through The Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP).
3. The Department could not reach their target with regard the number of internal audits conducted and completed.
4. The Department could not reach their target in terms of the number of houses enrolled with the National Home Building Registration Council (NHBRC).
5. The Department could not reach their target on number of served sites delivered.

6. The Department could not reach their target on the number of human settlements policies approved in line with national policy guidelines.
7. The Department could not reach their target on the number of research projects approved with content relating to the development of sustainable human settlements within the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period.
8. The Department could not reach their target on number of informal settlements upgraded to phase 3 of the Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme (UISP).
9. The Department could not reach their target of number of posts – 1994 title deeds registered.

#### **4.3.2 Observations by the Portfolio Committee:**

After the deliberations, the Portfolio Committee made the following observations and / or findings: -

1. The Department does not pay service providers within 30 days as prescribed period in terms of section 38 (1) (f) of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA).
2. The Department is unable to achieve their set targets.
3. The Committee is concerned about the declining of the department. The Department should ensure that officials that are not performing their duties should be held accountable and disciplinary processes should be enforced to ensure that all set targets are reached for all the programmes.
4. In line with national policy guidelines, the Department should inform the Committee what impact did the non-approval of human settlements policies have on service delivery and how they were concluded.
5. The Department should submit a detailed report on the progress of the integrated implementation programmes for priority development in Mangaung, Dihlabeng, Maluti-a-Phofung and Metsimaholo. The report should also include whether these plans have been approved and when they will be implemented and the impact they have on service delivery.

6. The Department should ensure that all households that qualified for subsidies through The Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP) do access the benefit.
7. The Department should also submit a detailed report on what caused the non-payment of the law firms and what are the reasons for subsidy rejections of households that received subsidies through (FLISP)/ First Home Finance (FHF).
8. The Department failed to achieve informal upgrades.
9. The Department should submit a detailed report on the reasons for defaulting on title deeds transfers which should also include how many of these are linked to Hlano Forum and / or do the 3000+ Hlano Forum title deeds still have to be added.
10. The Department should the Committee a detailed report on the progress of the 4200 permissions to occupy at Maluti a Phofung.
11. The Committee alluded to the fact that Risk Based Audits and Governance Audits are fundamental to ensure compliance throughout the Department. The Department failed to reach these targeted audits, and they are not complete.
12. There is slow progress on completion of low – cost (RDP) houses.
13. The informal settlements upgrade to phase 3 of the Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme (UISP) is being put on hold. The Department should submit a detailed report thereof and how they intend to rectify the situation.
14. The Committee does not agree with the Department to appoint implementing Agency as the agent failed before.
15. The Department should submit a detailed report about what led to the appointment of an Implementing Agency and the impact it has on the projects and how it will roll out and if there is a contingency plan in place to ensure delivery of services.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 The Portfolio Committee recommends as follows:

### **Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport**

1. The Department must implement effective strategies within 30 days after tabling the report in the House to ensure that transport subsidies reach the intended beneficiaries, particularly in remote and marginalized communities. The Department is therefore requested to provide the Portfolio Committee with faced challenges and remedial actions on overcoming these challenges quarterly.
2. It is a constitutional obligation that the Department achieves 100% of its planned targets. The Department is therefore requested to submit a detailed report on how it is planning to achieve its planned targets within 30 days after tabling the report in the House.
3. The Department must furnish the Portfolio Committee with a detailed report outlining the plans within 30 days after tabling the report in the House to improve the road conditions in the province.
4. The Department must develop a method to conduct thorough screenings of contractors awarded tenders prior to issuing appointment letters and in addition to that review its blacklisted companies to ensure non-participation within the Department due to failure to comply. The department is requested to report on updated blacklisted companies to Portfolio Committees on a quarterly basis.
5. The Portfolio Committee deems it necessary that all weigh bridges in the province be fully operational to ensure compliance and safety, most of all optimal revenue generation in the Free State Province.

6. The Portfolio Committee noted that the Department achieved an 80% performance but urged the Committee to aim for 100% in the upcoming financial year.

#### **Department of Public Works and Infrastructure**

1. The Department's performance has experienced a notable decline in the 2024/25 financial year, with an achievement rate of only 54%. The Portfolio Committee has expressed significant concern regarding this situation and has formally requested a detailed report within 30 days after tabling of the report in the House that outlines the Department's turnaround strategy. This report must include specific timelines for implementation and expected deliverables to ensure effective oversight and assessment of progress.
2. The Committee expressed concerns regarding the nine unfinished capital projects. The Department is requested to provide the Committee with a comprehensive update within 30 days after tabling of the report in the House, including an action plan, estimated completion timeframes, reasons for any delays, and explanations for pricing changes, particularly concerning the Fidel Castro building.
3. The Portfolio Committee highlighted the importance of meeting planned targets it has set. The Department is therefore requested to take note of supplier chain management regulations when issuing tenders and follow the process to the latter.
4. The Department must conduct a feasibility study on the cost implications of installing solar panels as a measure to reduce lighting expenses in its buildings. The Department is requested to present a progress report of the feasibility study quarterly.

#### **Department of Human Settlements**

1. The department is required to develop an intervention plan within 30 days after tabling of the report in the House to ensure service providers are paid, in accordance with section 38(1)(f) of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA). The Department is required to report on the 30-day payment compliance quarterly to the Portfolio Committee.

2. The Portfolio Committee has raised serious concerns regarding the commitment of the Department's officials to deliver essential services to the residents of the Free State. It is imperative that these concerns are addressed promptly.
3. The Department must prioritise capacity building within the Research Unit to develop research papers during the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period.
4. Integrated implementation programs for priority development in Mangaung, Dihlabeng, Maluti-a-Phofung, and Metsimaholo must be effectively executed, as these initiatives significantly impact service delivery. The department is requested to report quarterly to the Portfolio Committee.
5. The Department must ensure that all households eligible for subsidies under the Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP) receive these benefits. Timely payments to law firms are critical to prevent subsidy rejections for households receiving assistance through FLISP or First Home Finance (FHF). The department is requested to report quarterly to the Portfolio Committee.
6. A contingency plan within 30 days after tabling the report in the House for the issuance of title deeds must also be established to prevent delays in title deed transfers. The Department is required to provide quarterly progress reports to the Committee on this matter.
7. The Department must report quarterly to the Committee on the progress made on the 4200 permissions to occupy the land at Maluti a Phofung.
8. It is essential for the Department to meet its targets for Risk-Based Audits and Governance Audits, as these are vital for ensuring compliance. The Department is therefore requested to submit an action plan within 30 days after tabling the report in the House.
9. The completion of all outstanding low-cost (RDP) houses is paramount, with progress reports to be submitted on a quarterly basis.
10. The Department must advance the upgrading of informal settlements to phase 3 of the Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme (UISP) without

delay. The department is requested to report quarterly to the Portfolio Committee.

11. The Department must provide a detailed report within 30 days after tabling the report in the House on the rationale for the appointment of the Implementing Agency, its impact on project delivery, the rollout plan, and any contingency measures in place to ensure the successful delivery of services.
12. The Department must provide a detailed report within 30 days after tabling the report in the House on the rationale for the appointment of the consultant (LTE), its impact on project delivery, the rollout plan, and any contingency measures in place to ensure the successful delivery of services.
13. The Portfolio Committee expressed significant concern regarding the Department's overall performance, which stands at only 33%. Consequently, the Department is requested to submit a turnaround plan within 30 days after tabling the report in the House aimed at ensuring future success.
14. The Departments must report back to the Portfolio Committee with regard to the implementation of the resolutions 30 days after the tabling of the report.
15. The Department of Human Settlements must be placed under section 100 due to their poor performance.
16. The Accounting Officers must be held accountable if they do not comply with the resolution of the House.
17. The report be adopted by the House.



