

POLICY & BUDGET SPEECH 2018

Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs



co-operative governance
& traditional affairs
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH 2018-2019

VOTE 4: DEPARTMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE & TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS BY HON. S.K MASHILO (MPL) IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

DATE: 29 MAY 2018

Madam Speaker, Hon. V.S Siwela

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Hon. B Majuba

Honourable Premier, Ms RM Mtsweni

Honourable Members of the Executive Council

Honourable Members of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature

Chairperson of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) in Mpumalanga, Cllr M.G Chirwa

Honourable Executive Mayors, Speakers, Council Whips and Councilors

Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders, Inkhosi S.G Ngomane and Ikosi C.M Mahlangu and Exco Members

Our revered Traditional Leaders, Amakhosi / Magoshi

Acting Director-General, Mr Mohlasedi

Heads of Departments and Municipal Managers

The leadership of the ANC and Alliance partners in our midst

Representatives from other political parties in the Mpumalanga Legislature

Distinguished Guests, Family, Friends, fellow citizens

Ladies and Gentlemen

Lotshani, Dumelang, Avhusheni, Good afternoon, Goeie Middag

1. Madam Speaker, as I rise to present before this august House, the Policy and Budget speech of the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and I do so in the month when we celebrate Africa Day.
2. As all those who are politically conscious will remember, the Organization of African Unity (the OAU), the first African organization after independence was formed on the 25 May 1963, in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa to be exact.
3. Its aim was to help bring about change and freedom to many African countries and restore dignity of African people.

4. Even though the organization was founded by thirty-two (32) countries, a further twenty-one (21) States gradually joined over the years.
5. Our Country, South Africa, could not be left behind. It is for that reason that on the 23 May 1994 South Africa became the 53rd member of the OAU.
6. All along, Madam Speaker, the Africa Freedom Day was celebrated on the 15 April, which was then changed to the 25th of May. In 2002 the OAU was dissolved and was replaced by the African Union, (AU).
7. The 25th of May marked the beginning of a quest for the unity of the continent of Africa and for the political and economic emancipation of its people as well as co-operation among them.
8. One might then ask why we are so passionate about the celebration of the Africa Day.
9. To respond to this question, one is taken back to the recent past, during the launch of a New Africa free trade area, which means that no (or much lower) tariffs will be levied on exports and imports between most countries of the continent.
10. This, Madam Speaker, is said to be the biggest in the world in terms of the number of countries involved, and South Africa is expected to be one of the biggest beneficiaries of the Agreement on the African Continental Free Trade, signed in Kigali, Rwanda.
11. Even though as a Country we did not sign the Agreement, the President of the Country, President Cyril Ramaphosa signed the Kigali declaration in support of the establishment of the free trade area.
12. This gesture by our State President is a clear indication of his respect of participatory democracy, where he believes that the South African Stakeholders and Parliament have to ratify the agreement before he sign on our behalf. This is the sign of high level discipline.
13. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate this Africa month, we are mindful that there are some of our community members in Local Municipalities of Nkomazi, Bushbuckridge and the City of Mbombela whose property was damaged by the Sunday afternoon storm.
14. As a caring government, working together with these local municipalities and Ehlanzeni District Municipality's Disaster Management Unit, we are providing relief resources, as a temporary measure.
15. Our officials are on the ground quantifying and consolidating the damage on the property so that permanent relief measures could be implemented.
16. Madam Speaker, we have also learnt of one fatality due to this storm. As soon as all the information has been released on the loss of life, we will then make all the necessary arrangement to pass our condolences.
17. Coming back to the Department of COGTA, Madam Speaker, we are cognizant of the fact that more work still lie ahead of us to make the aspirations of a better life for all, a reality. Our communities in rural areas, are continuing to grapple with the harsh realities of poverty, unemployment and inequality.
18. This is not because our government is not doing anything but because the needs of the people are as dynamic as the people themselves.

19. That is why in the bible, in Habakkuk 2: 5 to be exact, it says: the uncontrollable desires, will remain as greedy as the burial place, and like death, they will never be satisfied.
20. The goal posts of the needs of our people, we have realized, are not the fixed ones. They are continuously shifting and, this is due to the dynamic nature of us as human beings. We are not static beings.
21. Understanding the nature of the challenges we are faced with and the volatile environment we are operating in, we do not spare our strength but work, side by side with our communities, to seek and find lasting solutions to our challenges.
22. The objectives of a better life for all were spearheaded by a generation of ANC struggle icons, amongst them, Tata Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu, whose 100 years centenary we are celebrating this year as a Country and the whole World.
23. In one of his public discourse, Tata Madiba asserted that, and I quote: ***“As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest.”***
24. Madam Speaker, We in COGTA, have embraced Madiba’s vow of not resting. Until the objectives of the National Development Plan (2030) of a responsive, accountable, effective and efficient developmental Local Government system by 2030 are realized, we will not rest.
25. Pursuant to these objectives, the trust of our communities in the ANC-led administration is not misplaced. We are resolute in our determination to emulate Madiba, Sisulu, Winnie Mandela and their contemporaries, to make the objectives of a better life for all, a reality.
26. The 2018/19 financial year marks the fourth period since the Provincial Executive Council approved the **Integrated Municipal Support Plan (IMSP)**, as a pillar for the Back to Basics (B2B) and the last year of this administration, until the 2019 Provincial and National elections.
27. This period presents us with an opportunity to pursue the better life for all objectives through the IMSP as a revolutionary duty.
28. Notwithstanding the challenges in the implementation of the plan, visible, tangible and meaningful achievements have been recorded in the five pillars of the IMSP, namely: *Putting people first, Basic Services, Good Governance and Financial Management, Institutional and Administrative capability.*

Putting people first

29. The last financial year, was characterized by our determination to improve the capacity of War Rooms that are the engine room of **Operation Vuka Sisebente (OVS)**, a service delivery model aimed at accelerating the resolution rate of service delivery challenges reported at Ward level.
30. To this end Madam Speaker, **383 War rooms** have been established throughout the Province, however, their effective functionality is a cause for concern.
31. Of these, only 117 are functional and 281 are non-functional. The active participation of Councilors as Chairpersons of the War Rooms is crucial.

32. During the last three (3) months, **three thousand nine hundred and forty one (3941)** issues were received and one thousand seven hundred and **thirty five (1735)** were resolved. We have observed with appreciation the level of commitment by the Council of Stakeholders to address issues raised.
33. Equally, we are concerned about the delay in resolving the issues, owing to poor responses by Sector Departments. We have set aside **eight hundred and seventy four thousand rand (R874 000)** to institutionalize the OVS and reinforce the functionality of all public participation programs.
34. Unfortunately, these delays in resolving issues raised have fueled the service delivery protests that continue to occur in our communities, some of which have turned violent.
35. The Govan Mbeki Local Municipality in the Gert Sibande District Municipality, is a case in point. The Municipality is still reeling from the destruction shock of October last year when thirty (30) of its yellow fleet was gutted by fire, including two (2) pay point offices, when angry residents went on rampage to vent their anger against spillages.
36. Had residents used the OVS complaints management system, this irreparable damage could have been averted in order to focus on the development of eMbalenhle and other areas in that Municipality. Indeed we can still turn eMbalenhle to be a real beautiful flower.
37. Madam Speaker, let me hasten and say that we have developed a programme to visit all Municipalities in order to revive the working relationships between Councilors, Amakhosi naMakhosana, Community Development Workers (CDWs), and the Community at large.
38. During these programmes and through the Mayoral izimbizo, we will appeal to all residents to use the established complaints management systems, including the **Satise Silalele** and the **Presidential Hotline**. We also appeal to all Departments to accelerate their response time as a lever for effective public participation.
39. Communities will be urged to participate in the Ward Committees established in consistent with Section 72 (3) of the Local Government Municipal Structures Act and in the IDP forums, as a leeway towards service delivery solutions.
40. We will further, through these public engagement forums, make our communities to understand that to exercise patience, is one of the values of a successful and developing community.
41. Violent acts that lead to loss of lives and vandalism to public property must not be allowed since it has a potential of reversing the gains of our hard earned democracy.

Basic Services

42. Madam Speaker, as I indicated earlier, each financial year provides us with an opportunity to pursue the objectives of a better life for all, as espoused by Madiba and Sisulu.
43. We welcome the intervention by our former Premier, now Deputy President of South Africa, His Excellency DD Mabuza, whose pronouncement of a fifty three million rand (**R53 million**) during the State of the Province Address (SoPA) in February, as an intervention for the Govan Mbeki Municipality, was a major relief to deal decisively with sewer spillages.

44. The five (5) trucks donated by gas giant, SASOL, as an intervention for waste removal, gives credence to the importance of the Private Public Partnership (PPP). This intervention is highly commendable as the municipality is struggling to get back on its feet.
45. Madam Speaker, the allegations about a deliberate ploy by individuals who cause these spillages through putting large stones in the sanitation infrastructure cannot go unchallenged. This ploy seeks to paint the Municipality as a failure in its service delivery objectives. These are serious allegations and we will allow the law to take its course.
46. Municipalities are advised to activate 24hour security at their strategic points, for example, Water Waste Treatment Plant, electricity transformers, since these do not come cheap.
47. We encourage people with information to co-operate with the police by providing evidence for a successful prosecution against those who temper with service delivery facilities.
48. We remain resolute in our commitment to provide access to potable water for our people. This commitment, Madam Speaker is anchored in Section 27, paragraph (b) of our Constitution and the NDP with a target of **water access to all by 2030**. Mathematically, we are twelve (12) years away from this target, hence the need to employ radical means to meet this deadline.
49. In this financial year, I shall unleash a programme to visit farm owners to discuss the provision of water and electricity for the farm dwellers.
50. Statistically, we have one million two hundred and thirty eight thousand eight hundred and sixty one (1 238 861) households in Mpumalanga. Out of these, one million one hundred and four thousand, six hundred and eighty six (1 104 686) households were provided with access to water by the end of the 2017/18 financial year. This account for 89 percent.
51. Limited resources and the unfavorable rain patterns are the potential threats to impede our water delivery plan. The growing number of households in areas not promulgated for settlements, the general wastages in the ageing infrastructure, the leakages exacerbated by the drought, pose a serious threat against our plan.
52. Efforts are being made to address these challenges. We have extended the war on leaks programme to the following seven (7) Local Municipalities, namely: **Dr. J.S Moroka, City of Mbombela, Emakhazeni, Thembisile Hani, Bushbuckridge, Chief Albert Luthuli and Nkomazi**.
53. Artisans were recruited and deployed to these municipalities to help address and turn around the scourge of leakages and to ultimately reduce the water losses unaccounted for.
54. We expect positive results on a quarterly basis, with remarkable improvements on water that should rather go for conservation and not being wasted. The recorded milestone achievements thus far propel us to work even harder to make the water service delivery commitment, a reality.
55. Madam Speaker, we believe it is time that the role of the District Municipalities are reviewed to be in line with the White Paper Local Government. We need to promote the ability of the district municipality to promote on-demand assistance, as well as systematic capacity-building to municipalities.

56. The approach of water harvesting as raised by the communities during the local government election manifesto launch is one option to responding to the shortage of water as a resource.
57. Notwithstanding the limited resources, our communities can be rest assured, Madam Speaker that '**lemini iyeza nakubo**' as every rand and cents is being spared to provide them with water. We are working cooperatively with the Department of Water and Sanitation and Municipalities to advance this course.
58. Whilst we take pride for the improvement of the spending of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) over a period of time, where municipalities have reached 97 percent of the total spending in the province for the past two years, we have noted with concern that the municipalities of **Govan Mbeki**, **Lekwa** and **eMalahleni** had poorly performed during the 2017/18 period, resulting in part of their MIG allocations being stopped by National Treasury.
59. Accordingly, the Minister of COGTA, Dr Zweli Mkhize, in his budget speech of May 2018, had announced that these municipalities form part of the list of those that are distressed and would receive support from the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA).
60. Amongst these Municipalities are those that have distressed mining towns. Municipalities need to monitor the implementation of the 12 principles of the Mining Charter to revive the economic activities in these town.
61. As you do that, bear in mind the law that was signed by the former President of the Republic, Jacob Zuma, on the 30%-50% beneficiation strategy.
62. Municipalities need to further formalize this law by determining which projects will be implemented using the 30 to 50% strategy as adopted.
63. Madam Speaker, this brings me to the issue of underutilization of the Local Economic Development (LED) initiatives by Municipalities.
64. The LED has a great potential of enhancing the revenue of a municipality. To this date, municipalities have not yet fully explored and conceptualize the township economy. This is the responsibility of the LED unit.
65. The dysfunction of this unit in a municipality, due to capacity deficiency, stalls the creation of job opportunities and the generation of sustainable income by our communities, including the youth.
66. Madam Speaker, we can therefore not allow a situation to deteriorate whilst we are leading. COGTA in partnership with MISA will play an integral role in ensuring that the delivery of MIG programmes is improving, spending patterns are desirable and that projects delivered, reflect value for money for our communities.
67. We have tasked ourselves to help eMalahleni Local Municipality with the development of an Integrated Service Delivery Master Plan (ISDMP) which will address all deficiencies noted recently through the visit by the Legislature during the Taking Legislature to the People programme.
68. The plan will amongst others, provide an analysis of the status quo, identify critical gaps that are an impediment for communities to receive quality services, and to structure decisively the interventions of practically dealing with such gaps and, to provide a proper plan for future growth and demand.

69. We envisage to spiral this mechanism to all other local municipalities facing a similar challenge. The Department will be spearheading the process of reviewing the Provincial Water Master Plan in partnership with the Department of Water and Sanitation, to ensure equitable water distribution along primary, secondary and commercial users.
70. We will also be attending to the development of an Electrification Master Plan so as to provide solutions for the current electrification challenges associated with the current state of ageing distribution infrastructure, the excessive demand across large and small power users as well as challenges associated with power supply interruptions by Eskom.
71. Madam Speaker, you will agree with me that these are issues that should take much of our attention if we are to successfully turn around the situation in our municipalities.
72. We are continuing with our tasks of providing job opportunities for most disadvantaged communities. To date, we have been able to secure at least twenty seven thousand one hundred and seventy (27 170) work opportunities in all municipalities throughout the province through the CWP programme.
73. We have also rolled out an EPWP grant for the Youth Waste Management Programme that has benefitted some of the young unemployed youths in Dipaleseng, Nkomazi and Bushbuckridge Municipalities.
74. The Department will strengthen this initiative for securing job opportunities to our disadvantaged communities as part of our anti-poverty strategy and empowerment.
75. Madam Speaker, Mpumalanga is prone to the outbreak of veld fires that are hazardous to human lives and natural vegetation. The winter season has started and any forest fire has the potential to degenerate into a disaster.
76. Our disaster management systems are on high alert to deal with any eventual outbreak of fires that are a threat to human lives, natural vegetation and the eco-system.
77. In the Nkangala and Gert Sibande Districts, many people depend heavily on braziers (*timbawula*) during the winter season in the midst of the dropping temperatures. Cases of domestic fires as a result of the braziers are abounding, with children topping the list as victims.
78. All disaster management units are on high alert. Our state of readiness have been bolstered by the fire-fighting organization, **Working on Fire**, with a team of specialized fire fighters. Some of them participated in major fire-fighting operations in Australia and Simon's Town in the Western Cape last year.
79. As we enter the fire season, we pin our hopes on these men and women in ensuring the protection of human lives, wild animals and sustainability of our livelihoods.
80. Madam Speaker, some of them are here with us and with your permission, I would like them to stand up for the house to recognize them.

Good Governance and Financial Management

81. Madam Speaker, our compliance with legal and financial prescripts is being recognized. The Chartered Institute of Government Finance, Audit and Risk Officers, (CIGFARO) Award presented to the Department for the second time, attests to this.
82. It is humbling to note that this achievement is an outcome of an adjudication by an independent institution, and that it gives a positive account of our Department of working hard to achieve its mandate within the parameters of applicable legislation.
83. We are waiting, with abated breath, the audit outcomes of the last financial year. During the sitting of this august house last year, we announced the third Clean Audit outcome and hope to announce the fourth if our determination and commitment are anything to go by.
84. Madam Speaker, the Minister of COGTA, Dr Mkhize had his finger on the pulse when he addressed the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) in May this year about the state of Local Government. In his remarks, he made the following observation: *“We are all familiar with the fact that there are municipalities that are still struggling to address basic service backlogs and the rolling out of free basic services; many more are experiencing challenges with the quality of service provision; there is inadequate revenue collection, and many face rising debt levels”*.
85. It is an open secret that the majority of our municipalities are grant-dependent. They are characterized by poor revenue collections due to incapacity. This situation has become a vicious cycle as some of our municipalities have landed in the bad books of ESKOM, with a looming black out each year.
86. We welcome the Minister’s pronouncement that eighty seven (87) Municipalities have been identified to restore financial, governance and service delivery sustainability.
87. In Mpumalanga, (4) municipalities, namely: Thaba Chweu in Ehlanzeni District, Emalahleni in Nkangala District, Govan Mbeki and Lekwa in the Gert Sibande District, have been identified for this intervention.
88. Madam Speaker, even though our National government is bringing these interventions, Municipalities should strive to get themselves out of the sore state they find themselves in.
89. They should continue to comply with the legislation governing local government and most importantly, adopt their budgets before the 1 July 2018. Such budgets must be cash backed and not be on deficits.
90. Surely, we need to borrow from Amilcar Cabral when he said, I quote: *Hide nothing from the masses of the people. Tell no lies. Expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures. Claim no easy victories.”*
91. We hope that the team of engineers, construction and project managers, financial accountants, town and regional planners, governance and administration experts will hit the ground running to give effect to the Implementation of the Municipal Specific Revenue Plan that Minister Mkhize has announced.
92. Madam Speaker, the introduction of the smart metering solution to our municipalities has reduced electricity losses. We are optimistic that the partnership between the Provincial Government, National Treasury and VODACOM will improve the situation over a period of time.

93. We are concerned about the hostility of communities in some municipalities against the installation of the metering solution.
94. In eMalahleni Local Municipality there is such a case in point. Municipal workers are sometimes chased away or harassed in their course of duty and one has lost his life. May his soul rest in peace.
95. Madam Speaker, one of our key focus areas in 2018/19 is the completion of investigations into areas straddling provincial boundaries. Currently the province has 5 cases that straddle our Provincial Boundary in Dr JS Moroka, Thembisile Hani and Bushbuckridge Local Municipalities.
96. These cases could lead to a Constitutional amendment bill as set out in Section 74 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. We are hoping to conclude this exercise by the 30th of June 2018. The Department will ensure that there is an extensive public participation with the affected communities.

Institutional and Administrative capability

97. Madam Speaker, five of our municipal councils elected new Executive Mayors recently, with the envious task of providing leadership in this fifth phase of Local Government. We welcome **Cllr T S Masilela** of Nkangala District, **Cllr BJ Tolo** of Steve Tshwete, **Cllr J Mkhathswa** of Nkomazi, **Cllr T Ngxonono** of Govan Mbeki and **Cllr ML Malatjie** of eMalahleni.
98. We commit ourselves as COGTA, working together with sector departments, to provide the Executive Mayors with the necessary support as we advance Local Government to give effect to the aspirations of NDP, of establishing a responsive, accountable, effective and efficient developmental Local Government system by 2030.
99. In turn, we would love to urge Municipalities to, in turn, conduct a survey on the socio-economic status of our people.
100. It is indeed true, Madam Speaker that resolve a matter without having determined the depth of the challenge.
101. In order to support Municipalities, we have sent letters of request to Municipalities for them to determine the Departments that owe them.
102. We extend words of appreciation to their predecessors for their contribution during their tenure. Confronting the challenges that inhibit the delivery of services, Madam Speaker, will characterize the new leadership to inspire hope and confidence to our communities.
103. These include waging war against corrupt and fraudulent activities to change the narrative that municipalities are strongholds of corruption and that the perpetrators act with impunity.
104. In this financial year our priorities will be to assist municipalities to fill their Section 54 and Section 56 Managers' positions as a measure to improve their capacity. We have instructed the municipalities to ensure that all the 10 vacant Municipal Managers' positions and that of 42 Senior Managers, are filled within the next 3 months.

105. All appointed Section 54 and Section 56 Managers have signed their performance contracts as per the legislative requirements for the financial year 2017/2018. We commend all Municipalities for ensuring that this has happened. We are looking forward to their compliance again in the signing of Performance Agreements for the 2018/2019 financial year.
106. Madam Speaker, the construction of the offices for Dipaleseng Local Municipality has been completed. This milestone was achieved within the limited financial resources and it is marked as one of the contributions of the Department to improve the capacity of our municipalities in pursuit of the envisaged NDP objectives of Local Government.
107. We look forward to the enhancement of the delivery of services and access thereof.

Support for the Institution of Traditional Leadership

108. Madam Speaker, our support for traditional leadership remains intact as a commitment to restore the dignity of *ubukhosi* in Mpumalanga.
109. We have realized over the years that this support transcend beyond their role of promoting culture through cultural ceremonies that contribute to social cohesion and the fight against the triple effects of poverty, inequality and unemployment.
110. Their contribution is leaving a trail of improvement in the socio-economic status of our communities. Madam Speaker, the pivotal role played by his Majesty, Ingwenyama Makhosoke II is a case in point. His enrolment of students to study isiNdebele at the University of Venda has produced the desired outcome.
111. Thirteen (13) students have now graduated, one of them with a Master's Degree, since their enrolment in 2010. This will go a long way in the advancement and preservation of isiNdebele. *Sithi Bayede Ngwenyama!*
112. The extra-ordinary measures taken by ubukhosi bakwaMantjolo in Badplaas, has not gone unnoticed. Three thousand (3000) sanitary towels were distributed to schools in the Badplaas area, in support of the girl child and to keep them at school. *Siyabonga Manyovu, Mvuleni, Gwadla Gwadla, ngemusebenti lomuhle.*
113. We will not be giving a true picture Madam Speaker, if we do not make mention of the challenges faced by some of our Traditional Councils.
114. There are cases where the community has presented a memorandum of demands concerning uBukhosi. I must say that we are in discussions with some, whilst we will also make a visit to other traditional Councils that have challenges.
115. We shall work in partnership with the Mpumalanga House of Traditional Leaders to resolve these challenges. We believe that they are can be resolved.
116. Madam Speaker, I should put it on record that as Department, we do not install Amakhosi. Our responsibility is to provide support and their tools of trade.
117. It is for this reason that in this financial year, Madam Speaker, the Department has set aside twelve million rand (**R12 million**) to support traditional leadership for cultural ceremonies.

118. We are in the **ingoma** season. We are pulling all stops to ensure an incident free passage of our young boys into manhood. We depend on Amakhosi to guide us as we march towards a death-free ingoma season.
119. Working together with all stakeholders, we will be monitoring adherence to the Ingo-ma Act, to ensure that only initiation schools with permission from Amakhosi/Makgoshi, conduct ingoma. We are working with SAPS to bring to book culprits who treat our children as **ATMs and Cheques**.
120. Those who think that **ingoma** (initiation school) is a money market, will be shocked to find out that their illegal action is a jail term.
121. We will convey the message to the parents to ensure that their children undergo a medical checkup first and that ingoma is permitted by Ikosi in an area of its location.
122. Madam Speaker, as COGTA we will coordinate all the Departments that own state land, with the aim of transferring the land to Municipalities for human settlement purposes.
123. To date, the access by our communities to the title deed is moving in a slow pace. This is mainly due to non-proclamation of townships due to some challenges of land ownership.
124. It is for this reason that as Municipalities, we need to develop an action plan that will aid the adopted Act on the expropriation of land without compensation.
125. Madam Speaker, we welcome the Minister of COGTA's proposal for the National, Provincial and Local Government Summit in this financial year. This summit is going to return Local Government to where it belong, **amongst its people**.
126. We acknowledge the initiative undertaken by Grain SA to support emerging farmers to create an income in their maize production. This initiative is in sync with our determination to fight poverty in rural areas. For now, the focus for Grain SA is Gert Sibande District and this is a cause for inspiration of future prospects.

Conclusion

127. Madam Speaker, Community Development Workers (CDWs) continue to serve our communities as agents of change. They are the bedrock of development initiatives and have sacrificed their lives to save those on the receiving end of life threatening situations.
128. Five (5) years ago, one of them, Mr Henry Thulare came to the rescue of an abandoned child after birth at Mganduzweni, near Hazyview, wrapped in newspapers and a towel. He organized emergency services, to transport the child to the local hospital for medical attention.
129. Today, young **Future Segage** is five years old and is at a local Early Childhood Centre. Mr Thulare is with us today and I would like him to stand up so that we can recognize him. *Well done son. Re a leboga!*
130. As I conclude Madam Speaker, I want to reiterate the words of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere when he said, I quote: *"If real development is to take place, the people have to be involved"*.

131. I therefore like to extend my profound appreciation to the Accounting Officer, **Mr Tsietsie Peter Nyoni**, the Management and the staff of the Department for creating a conducive working environment for me and my office, when I joined the Department.

132. I look forward to work cooperatively with all stakeholders, including the Executive of the Mpumalanga House of Traditional, under the leadership of **Inkhosi S.G Ngomane**, Izingonyama, Amakhosi, members of the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements, Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, that plays an oversight role, chaired by the **Hon. P. Ngobeni**.

133. Many thanks to my family, my friends and Comrades for their unwavering support.

134. It is therefore my privilege, Madam Speaker, to table the budget of the Mpumalanga Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and I accordingly request the House to approve the amount of **Five Hundred and Twenty Two Million Two Hundred and Sixty Thousand Rand (R522 260 000.00)**, for the 2018/19 financial year, allocated as follows:

- **Programme 1:** Administration –(One Hundred and Twenty Five Million, Six Hundred and Seventy Seven Thousand Rand) R 125 677 000.00 million
- **Programme 2:** Local Governance- (Hundred and Ninety Four Million, Three Hundred and Forty Four Thousand Rand), R 194 344 000.00 million.
- **Programme 3:** Development and Planning - (Sixty Seven Million, Five Hundred and Sixty Eight Thousand Rand), R67 568 000.00 million
- **Programme 4:** Traditional Institutional Management- (One Hundred and Fourteen Million, Nine Hundred and Sixty Six Thousand Rand), R 114 966 000.00 million.
- **Programme 5:** House of Traditional Leaders- (Nineteen Million, Seven Hundred and Five Thousand Rand), R19 705 000.00 million

Madam Speaker, Mark Twain has this to say: *“If you tell the truth, you don’t have to remember anything. A lie travels around the globe while the truth is putting on its shoes”*

Ke a le leboga.

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