



Policy & Budget Speech 2019/20



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



POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH 2019/20 VOTE 4:

**DEPARTMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS TABLED BY
HON. M.J. MSIBI (MPL) IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.**

DATE: 12 JULY 2019

Madam Speaker, Honourable B Shiba

Deputy Speaker, Honourable, V. Mkhathswa

Honourable colleagues in the Executive Council

Honourable Members of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature

Honourable chief whip of the majority party, Hon. F.V. Mlombo

The chairperson of the portfolio committee on COGTA and Human Settlement, the honourable M.C Masilela

Leader of the opposition Honourable Collen Sedibe

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

Honourable Executive Mayors, Speakers, Chief Whips and Councillors

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

Our revered Traditional Leaders, Amakhosi/Magoshi

Acting Director-General, Mr M Mohlasedi

Leadership of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs

Senior Managers of the Department, Municipal Managers and CFO's led by the HOD, Mr P Nyoni

The leadership of the ruling party, the ANC and its Alliance structures led by the acting chairperson Cde Mandla Ndlovu.

Distinguished guests, friends, fellow citizens

Ladies and gentlemen

Sanibonani

1. Madam speaker, the longest serving president of the ANC, Cde President General Oliver Reginald Tambo once asserted, and I quote: "Comrades, you might think that it is difficult to wage a liberation struggle. Wait till you are in power. You will then realise that it is actually more difficult to keep the power than to wage a liberation struggle".
2. Today, 25 years later, we can all be in consensus that OR Tambo was correct, attaining and sustaining power are both not easy and simplistic exercises. As the ANC led 6th administration we can say without any iota of fear that the electoral support that midwife's our political power can only be sustained by efficient and systematic delivery of services to our people.
3. The ANC led 6th administration has a historical duty regarding service delivery. This means that the freedom charter for instance obliges and charges the state with the delivery of services.

4. "The people shall share in the country's wealth", "the land shall be shared amongst those who work it", "there shall be work and security", "all shall enjoy equal rights before the law", "the doors of learning and culture shall be opened for all" all these are service delivery obligations, the freedom charter charges the state with the dispensation of all the freedom and rights expressed therein.
5. Thus, it is in the nature of the ANC to deliver services because the freedom charter is the nucleus that carries the DNA of the African National Congress.
6. Furthermore and imperative, service delivery is at the heart of the freedom charter.
7. The freedom charter is the soul of the constitution of the Republic of South Africa, therefore since service delivery is the heart of the freedom charter and the freedom charter is a soul of the constitution of the Republic, therefore service delivery is the cradle from which our constitution was conceived.
8. Chapter 7 of the constitution of the country, Act 108 of 1996, speaks of local government, a sphere of government charged with the administration and implementation of basic service delivery.
9. The constitution further outlines the objectives of local government being,
 - To provide democratic and accountable government for local communities,
 - To ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner,
 - To promote social development,
 - To promote a safe and healthy environment, and
 - To encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in the matters of local government.
10. Section 152 subparagraph 2, explicitly states that a municipality must strive within its financial and administrative capacity to achieve the mentioned objectives.
11. Madam speaker, local government is at the heart of the priorities pronounced by the President, His Excellency Cde Cyril Ramaphosa in his State of the nation address which he delivered a month or so ago.
12. There exist a direct and proportional relationship between local government and the following priorities:
 - ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION,
 - CONSOLIDATING THE SOCIAL WAGE THROUGH RELIABLE AND QUALITY BASIC SERVICES,
 - SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND
 - A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.
13. The President's vision is not misplaced and as such we will spare no effort as COGTA in our mandate of supporting local government, for the realisation of the aspirations of this 6th administration.
14. Madam speaker, the premier, Hon. Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane announced a ten point vision for all who live in Mpumalanga province shall have
 - Access to decent employment that allows our people to participate in the mainstream economy,
 - Clean drinking water without having to walk long distances,
 - Access to adequate sanitation with effective waste water treatment plants,
 - Food on the table where no one lives below the poverty line,
 - Access to quality healthcare that improves the lifespan of the average Mpumalanga citizen,

- Access to quality education aimed at improving numeracy, comprehension and technical skills,
 - Safer communities wherein women, children, people with albinism and the vulnerable feel to walk on the street, and
 - Enjoy harmonious relations with our brothers and sisters from the African diaspora and the world at large.
15. We can all agree that the premier's 10 point vision for the people of Mpumalanga province requires a strong, ethical and functioning local government, not find wanting by the Auditor General's report.
16. Madam speaker, we aspire for a COGTA Mpumalanga that will discharge the obligation enshrined in section 154 subsection 1 of the constitution of the Republic when it states "the national and provincial governments, by legislative and other measures, must support and strengthen municipalities to manage their own affairs, to exercise their powers and to perform their functions".

BASIC SERVICES

17. Madam speaker, one of the standout anti-colonial leaders, Amilca Cabral once said and I quote: "Always bear in mind that the people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in anyone's head. They are fighting to win material benefits, to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children..."
18. Furthermore, section 27 subparagraph 1 charges government with the obligation to provide the citizenry with water, and I quote: "Everyone has the right to have access to sufficient food and water".
19. Water is the most essential of the basic services, government finds itself in an opprobrium, with the ever increasing demand for water, clean, drinkable and accessible water is a challenge that government has fundamentally addressed but much still has to be done.
20. Urban migration and the urban population dynamics are some of the major contributors to the strain on our water systems, thus exacerbating the water challenge.
21. In rural areas, the water systems are commonly inexistent or neglected thus resulting in ageing and dilapidated infrastructure.
22. However, the biggest contributor to the water dilemma in the rural areas is the poor spatial planning another area requiring intervention if we are to solve the water equation as the 6th administration.
23. Over the past 25 years, the government led by the ANC has managed to provide 89% of the households around the province of Mpumalanga with clean and drinkable water. That is, one million one hundred and four thousand, six hundred and eighty six (1 104 686) out of a total of one million two hundred and thirty eight thousand, eight hundred and sixty one (1 238 861).
24. As remarkable as these statistics can be, more still has to be done, there remains one hundred and thirty four thousand, one hundred and seventy five remaining households without any access to clean and drinkable water, that requires our collective responsibility and an all hands on deck approach in obliterating the deficiency of running water for households around the province.
25. The 6th administration's devotion and dedication in addressing the water crisis is witnessed in the premier's State of the Province Address, where the Hon. Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane declared the implementation of three major water projects aimed at addressing the water challenge
- Construction of a new dam in Mbombela that will augment the supply of water to meet the demand of the growing population at Ehlanzeni.

- The construction of a bulk pipeline from Loskop dam to the Thembisile Hani and the resuscitation of the Mkhombo dam in the Dr J.S. Moroka to stabilize the provision of water in Nkangala.
 - The completion of the Lusushwane regional bulk water scheme in the Gert Sibande district.
26. Therefore, it is clear that the water crisis in the province is a challenge that the 6th administration has the required political will and capacity to solve it
27. Madam Speaker we intend on intensifying public participation, we are of the opinion that endeavours being currently undertaken are not sufficient, we hope as a department that all municipalities will broaden their public participation programs to yield the desired results.
28. We also desire to modify the OVS, it currently doing okay but it can do much better.
29. We also would like to credit CDW for the sterling work they have been doing over the years, however we must indicate and register our dissatisfaction as far as their administrative roles to ward committee's and ward councillors and to co-ordinate and integrate government plans.
30. We note the issues raised by NEHAWU as far as the functioning and the roles of CDW's are concerned, we promise all interested stakeholders that those issues shall be dealt with.

UNEMPLOYMENT

31. The iconic, isithalandwe President Nelson Mandela once made the following observation, and I quote: "As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest" close quote
32. Madam speaker, it is a fact known that the unemployment rate in our country is sky high, at 27.1% our unemployment rate does not reflect the society we as the ANC led government envisioned for our people, it is therefore a duty to each and every one of us in this house today assist in decreasing the unemployment rate.
33. The unemployment rate in our province is at a staggering 34.2% this means that the responsibilities upon the 6th administration are humongous, in our time in this administration this figures should significantly decline.
34. Our contribution as COGTA to the unemployment rate is best summed up by the Community Works Program (CWP). Through it, the department has managed to provide twenty seven thousand one hundred and seventy (27 170) employment opportunities in all municipalities across the breadth and the length of the province.
35. The Youth Waste Management Programme (YWMP) that have been providing short term employment for young people in Bushbuckridge, Dipaleseng and Nkomazi municipalities will be continued and will be extended to other municipalities, another attempt at fighting the demon of unemployment.
36. It will be of great advantage to our cause of fighting unemployment to intensify our efforts of securing alternative avenues of securing grants for job creation initiatives through public-private partnerships aimed at bettering the lives of unemployed people, the blacks in general and Africans in particular.
37. Madam speaker, the 6th administration should consider insourcing workers, security, cleaning and ICT services throughout all the level of governance within the province. We cannot cry about the plagues of unemployment while we control the levers of power and are outsourcing services that we can insource and by so doing guarantee a wholesale number of jobs, it is possible it requires selflessness and a strong political will.

ESKOM

38. Madam speaker, the debt owed by municipalities is a call for great concern. We therefore, shall embark on a process of meeting with all stakeholders to find an amicable solution to this whole miasma.

39. NERSA approved a 13% tariff for municipalities and a 16% tariff for Eskom and that leaves a 3% variant and that is the source of all the issues around the municipal debts owed to Eskom.

DISASTERS

40. Madam speaker, our rural areas are plagued with a silent killer, drowning. By the end of June this year, drowning had claimed 13 lives. These drowning incidents happened in various dams and rivers across the province. The disturbing observation is that the victims are mainly children and male adults.
41. These incidents have left some families without closure due to the reason that some of the bodies could not be recovered from the water.
42. As a result, we have since embarked on an awareness campaign utilising media platform to alert communities about the dangers of swimming in rivers and dams without the necessary swimming skills.
43. Furthermore, the Disaster Management Unit, together with a team from SAPS and various municipalities have embarked on school visits aimed cautioning children about the dangers of swimming with the required swimming skills and simultaneously empowering them with swimming skills through swimming lessons.
44. Importantly and commendable madam speaker is the fact that we are midway through fire season and no fire incident threatening the lives of human beings or the wellbeing of the ecosystem had been reported. We commend and applaud the work done by various institutions in ensuring the status as far as fire is concerned.

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

45. Madam speaker, the Auditor General 2017/2018 municipal outcomes leaves a lot to be desired.
46. However, credit should be given where it is due, against that backdrop we would like to extend our congratulatory message to the Gert Sibande District Municipality for obtaining a clean audit, we further congratulate the Executive Mayor, Cllr Muzi Chirwa, the speaker of council, members of the mayoral committee, management and the entire staff for such a sterling achievement.
47. Equally, we must register our dissatisfaction about the failure to achieve the same benchmark for the other municipalities. It is a concern for service delivery purposes when the municipalities find it difficult to pass through the eye of the auditor general.
48. At the heart of our dissatisfaction are the findings of over ten billion rand unauthorized, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure across municipalities. Madam speaker, we can assure you, the premier and the house at large that regarding the ten billion Rands unauthorised, wasteful and fruitless expenditure, HEADS WILL ROLL!!!
49. Heads will roll because municipalities failed audit in spite of the audit action plans put in place by the department, with the assistance of Provincial Treasury, the districts, SALGA, the non-achievements of the municipalities is against the spirit of Integrated Municipal Support Plan.
50. In her State of the Province address, Hon. Mtsweni-Tsipane gave the following marching orders, and I quote: "COGTA, Provincial Treasury and SALGA shall effect oversight and ensure that municipalities develop and implement sustainable audit action plans in an effort to remedy the status quo in the spirit of the integrated municipal support plan" close quote.
51. It should be noted that we shall monitor fully and strictly the implementations of consequence management by the AG to give effect to the Public Audit Amendment Act as a deterrent against the breach of financial prescripts in the future.

INSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CAPABILITY

52. Madam speaker, the financial year upon us charges the department with the responsibility to support two municipalities to fill in the vacant position of Municipal Managers. Thaba Chweu and Victor Khanye local municipalities are the only municipalities with vacant municipal manager positions.
53. Furthermore, it is not only the municipal manager positions that the municipalities require our support but also the appointments of the section 56 managers in all affected municipalities.
54. The role of the department shall be to oversight and monitoring that the contents of section 56 are fully adhered to.
55. We will as a department introduce a provincial dashboard to monitor and intervene all municipalities on their procurement calendar, we will monitor the evaluation, adjudication and implementation of all projects within the municipalities, intervention will only be an option if clearly the municipalities are failing in abiding by their own procurement calendars.
56. Madam speaker, a substantial number of our municipalities are grant dependent and rely on revenue collection for sustainability, thus the high consumer debts owed to our municipalities affect them in discharging their mandates part of which is the delivery of basic services.
57. We urge communities to pay their property rates as to enable our municipalities to execute their duties without fail.
58. We also appeal to all provincial departments to pay their municipal debts, it is a sad norm and unwelcomed tradition that provincial governments to don't pay their municipal debts, that should change and it should do so with immediate effect.

SUPPORT FOR THE INSTITUTION OF TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP

59. Madam speaker, amongst the first stakeholders I met upon resuming office were traditional leaders, EMAKHOSI. In so doing madam speaker I managed to avoid a penalty, what we call in vernacular INHLAWULO in a form of a cow, first and foremost.
60. And secondly, by meeting the traditional leaders as among the first stakeholders, we also were paying homage to our heritage. The ANC was formed amongst other stakeholders by traditional leaders, therefore meeting with them was an acknowledgement of the role traditional leadership played in the quest to attain the freedom we enjoy today.
61. Madam speaker, the meeting with the various traditional councils was an eye opener as far as their challenges, aspirations and determination as far as their constituencies are concerned, my conclusion is, we are doing well as a government in terms of traditional councils but we can do better.
62. Part of our attempts to better the livelihoods of the traditional councils is to execute the promise of a new fleet of vehicles for the various traditional councils across the province. It is against that backdrop that a substantial amount from our budget to provide the various traditional houses with a fleet of vehicles.
63. Furthermore, R4 million had been set aside for the departmental support to traditional houses as far as cultural ceremonies are concerned, UMMEMO in particular.

LAND INVASION

64. Madam speaker, upon resuming office we have communicated to the public using media platforms about the seriousness we as a department will be approaching land invasion.
65. Land invasion is a regressive phenomenon, it undermines authority and future governmental development plans and thus as a department we will invoke the contents for the memorandum of understanding between COGTA, SAPS, SALGA and Provincial House of Traditional Leadership as an effort of curbing and minimising the phenomenon of land invasion.

66. Credit should be given to the Thabakgolo Traditional Council in Bushbuckridge for the bold steps taken against a headman suspected for the illegal sale of land in the absence of Kgoshi Mashego's permission, we encourage all traditional leadership and all other stakeholders to mirror the Thabakgolo tribal council actions against illegal sale of land.

INITIATION SCHOOLS (INGOMA)

67. Madam speaker, the month of July marks the end of the initiation schools season, thus a plethora of young men around the province are returning from a successful participation in the old tradition of the "the passage to manhood".

68. As we welcome them back, we wish to commend all the role players of multi-sectoral structures, especially the Chairperson of INGOMA trust, Inkhosi Mbuyane and Mr Koos Tugwana of the INGOMA forum, for their sterling leadership that steered our province during the INGOMA season.

69. Throughout the INGOMA season there was only one fatality reported in Kwamhlanga, Nkangala district. These marked the drastic decline in the number of fatalities during the INGOMA season, the case of the loss of life in Kwamhlanga is a matter under police investigation.

70. Nevertheless, one death is one too many, we send our condolences to the family of the deceased, we will remain committed to achieving zero fatalities throughout the initiation schools process.

71. We applaud the efforts by the Department of Health, the dispatching of 30 medical practitioners for the screening of the initiates as well as the SAPS for putting the activation of resources for the arrest of all perpetrators of the illegal initiation schools.

72. Madam speaker, in future, we shall publish a list of certified initiation schools, certified by the traditional councils of those areas, this will be done as an effort to arrest the mushrooming of illegal initiation schools.

SELF-APPOINTED TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP.

73. Sadly, there is an unwelcomed trend across the province of self-appointed traditional leadership whose action wittingly or unwittingly destabilizes the communities where they are based.

74. These self-appointed traditional leaders illegally allocate land, issue illegal certificates for INGOMA which poses a threat to the lives of the aspiring initiates and they to a greater extent challenge the authority of traditional leaders.

75. In dealing away with this unwelcomed tendency, we ought to be decisive Madam Speaker, we ought to implement the resolutions of the Provincial Committee on Traditional Leadership which will guide us on who is the legitimate leader of a traditional council of that particular place.

76. We therefore, request maximum participation from the various traditional councils across the province to assist the government in implementing resolutions that will permanently change the outlook of traditional councils in the province.

CONCLUSION

77. Before I conclude Madam Speaker, allow me to extend my deepest gratitude to my predecessor former MEC, Hon. Speedy Mashilo for the solid groundwork done at the department which we inherited. The four successive clean audits received by the department during his tenure inspire confidence, we hope we will extend the clean audits to our municipalities.

78. For the warm reception I received upon my deployment, I sincerely thank the HOD, Mr Peter Tsietsi Nyoni and the rest of the staff.

79. We highly anticipate working cooperatively with all stakeholders, including the House of Traditional Leadership under the stewardship of INKHOSI S.G NGOMANE, members of the portfolio committee on Human Settlements, Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs under the very capable chairpersonship of the Hon, M.C Masilela.
80. I also have want to extend my deepest gratitude to the ANC for deeming it fit to deploy as members of the provincial legislature. We also extend our deepest and most sincere gratitude to the premier, Hon. Refilwe Mtsweni for the opportunity of deploying us as memebers of the executive council.
81. It is therefore a privilege and a pleasure to table the budget of the department and I thus accordingly request the house to approve the amount of five hundred and twenty two million, two hundred and sixty thousand for the 2019/2020 financial year, allocated as follows:

- ☐ **PROGRAMME 1: Administration- Hundred and forty eight million, one hundred and ninety eight million Rand (R148 198)**

- ☐ **PROGRAMME 2: Local governance-Hundred and ninety seven million, five hundred thousand Rand**

- ☐ **PROGRAMME 3: Development and Planning- Fifty one million, seven hundred and eighty two thousand Rand.**

- ☐ **PROGRAMME 4: Traditional Institutional Management- Hundred and sixty million, five hundred and seventy six thousand Rand.**

- ☐ **PROGRAMME 5: House of Traditional Leadership- Twenty one million, nine hundred and fifty eight thousand Rand.**

NGIYABONGA.

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YEARS OF FREEDOM

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