

Policy and Budget speech 2022/23

Let's Grow Mpumalanga Together



co-operative governance
& traditional affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**SPEECH BY THE MEC FOR COGTA, HON. MP NDLOVU, ON
THE TABLING OF THE POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH IN THE
PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**

DATE: 10 JUNE 2022

Madam Speaker, Hon. MC Masilela;

Deputy Speaker, Hon. JL Thabethe

Hon. Premier, Ms R.M Mtshweni-Tsipane

Hon. Deputy Minister D Mahlobo as our esteemed guest;

Colleagues in the Executive Council;

Hon. Members of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature;

**Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on COGTA and Human
Settlements, Hon. CG Shabalala;**

**Chairperson of the South African Local Government Associa-
tion (SALGA) in Mpumalanga, Cllr. J Sidel;**

Hon. Executive Mayors, Speakers, Chief Whips and Councillors;

President of CONTRALESA, Kgoshi Lameck Mokoena;

**Chairperson: Inkosi SE Ngomane and Deputy-Chairperson: Iko-
si MC Mahlangu of the Mpumalanga Provincial House of Tradi-
tional and Khoi-San Leaders;**

**Director-General of Mpumalanga Provincial Government Mr
Makhukhu Mampuru;**

**Management of the Department of COGTA, led by the Head, Mr
S Ngubane;**

Compatriots and fellow citizens.

Avuxeni, Sanibonani , Dumelang

INTRODUCTION

1. Honourable Speaker, thank you very much for affording me this opportunity to table the Policy and Budget Speech of the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs for the 2022/23 financial year.
2. Madam Speaker, we welcomed the fifth Democratic Local Government Administration eight months ago, following successful and peaceful municipal elections. We want to thank our people for continuing to believe in the ANC and congratulate the newly elected councilors, as well as those who have been given additional leadership responsibilities as Mayors, Speakers and Chief Whips, respectively.
3. Appreciation must also be extended to the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) for guiding the new councillors through the induction process to capacitate them to understand their roles and responsibilities.
4. Last financial year has been very difficult for the local government sphere and the Mpumalanga House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders (MPHT-KL). We lost dedicated and diligent servants of the people, Inkosi SE Mahlangu of the Ndzundza Mabusa Traditional Council who was also the Chairperson of the National House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders, Inkhosi KJ Malaza of the Mandlamakhulu Traditional Council and Hosi ML Nkuna of the Hoxani Traditional Council.
5. The departure of aboNdabezitha happened at the time when a new law was passed which is aimed at transforming the institutions of traditional leaders more especially the inclusion of Khoisan structures.
6. We recently also lost Cllr Linah Malatjie, the Executive Mayor of Emalahleni Local Municipality and Cllr Trevor Nkosi the Chief Whip of Gert Sibande District municipality their passing has left a huge void in the local government sphere as they were at the forefront of the struggle for the total emancipation and empowerment of the previously disadvantaged. Yet, we are comforted by the words of President Mandela when he said “**Death is something inevitable. When a man has done what he considers to be his duty to his people and his country , he can rest in peace**”. These gallant leaders have done exactly that and have lived to our excellent expectations.
7. Therefore, Madam Speaker, in their honour may I request your indulgence that the house observes a moment of silence (**May their Souls Rest in Peace**)

CONTEXT

STATE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

8. Madam Speaker, local government remains the most critical sphere of government as it impacts directly on the daily lives of our people. This is the sphere where our people express their concerns and expect them to be addressed.
9. In the last term of Administration, we have scored remarkable successes and learned important lessons, which will assist in improving the performance of our Municipalities during this term. In this regard, allow me Madam Speaker to focus on the following areas:

BUILDING CAPABLE INSTITUTIONS

10. Madam Speaker, in an effort to build capable municipalities, the Municipal Staff Regulations were promulgated in September 2020 with an intention to professionalize municipalities and ensure that they become hubs for excellent performance.
11. These Staff Regulations will come into effect in July 2022 and they will help strengthen the capacity of our municipalities.
12. We have seen an increase in the appointment of suitably qualified senior managers as a result of stringent legislation and regulations on the employment of senior managers in municipalities.
13. All appointed Senior Managers in municipalities have signed employment and performance contracts in line with their Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIPS) for each financial year under implementation.
14. Honourable Members, Councils and Council Committees have been established and are operational in all Municipalities. There were intermittent challenges in Lekwa, Govan Mbeki and Victor Khanye, but they were resolved.
15. The Mpumalanga Public Accounts Committees (MPAC's) were able to promptly investigate and process matters referred for their scrutiny and attention.
16. Drawing from the performance of the last term, remarkable improvement in the working relationship of the, Executive Mayor, Speaker and the Chief Whip was achieved through the clarification of the roles and responsibilities of these Office Bearers coupled with capacity building support to strengthen the performance of their functions and the exercise of their legislative powers.

17. I am pleased to report that our municipalities have improved in terms of timely submission of Annual Financial Statements (AFS) for the 2020/21 and we are hoping the same for the 2021/22, which must be submitted by the end of August 2022.
18. However, Madam Speaker, we must concede that the audit outcomes remain a great concern with few municipalities obtaining clean audit outcomes, seven(7) unqualified audit outcomes and five(5) qualified audit outcomes. Few of municipalities are still receiving disclaimers and adverse audit results, which is a task that the Department and Provincial Treasury commit to address.
19. We remain resolute and committed in addressing these challenges in collaboration with all our municipalities and respective stakeholders.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Madam Speaker, following the successful local government elections in November 2021, we remain grateful to our people both young and elderly who took their time and effort in heeding the government's call to come out and express their choices in a free and fair elections. The people have spoken. Whilst this was much appreciated, the Department noted with concern that the analysis by IEC indicated that the majority of young energetic people could not participate in the electoral processes, despite the fact that they are the country's future.

20. As we had just emerged from the acute levels of the COVID-19 pandemic which left a number of fatalities behind, we do understand that may be the fears among those who could not come out that the situation partly contributed in the deprivation of their opportunity to vote. These should not haunt us again in the coming National 2024 elections.
21. As a Department, we are committed, working with the IEC, will devise strategies of bringing together the province's different young formations to discuss this matter, in order to ensure that everyone, especially the youth, plays an important role in strengthening and deepening participatory democracy.
22. Madam Speaker, we must commend and appreciate the good work that has been done by the IEC and all the relevant Stakeholders in ensuring that the elections were free and fair. I must also appreciate all Municipalities for ensuring that the different Councils were constituted without any major challenges.
23. The 2021 local government elections have ushered in a new era of Coalition Governments, which is relatively new in this Province. We will work tirelessly to ensure that Municipalities such as Steve Tshwete, Govan Mbeki and Lekwa receive all the necessary support to ensure the success of their Coalitions.

24. We must indicate that we observed and recorded undesirable state of affairs in the functionality of councils particularly in Mkhondo, Nkomazi and Msukaligwa municipalities. These challenges were caused by political party internal differences regarding the election of the, Speakers, Executive Mayors and Chief Whips of council.
25. I am however, pleased to announce that the Msukaligwa Council met on 03 June 2022, to elect the new office bearers which are the, Speaker, Executive Mayor and Chief Whip of council. This, I believe, will bring stability to the Municipality going forward.
26. We will continue to provide support to Mkhondo and Nkomazi Local Municipalities to also resolve their challenges and bring stability to these municipalities.
27. Madam Speaker, now that the elections are over, I would like to appeal to all parties to work together in ensuring that we deliver better quality services to all our people.

MUNICIPAL INTERVENTIONS

28. Madam Speaker, in promoting good governance in our municipalities, the Department has conducted investigations in terms of Section 106 (1)(b) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, in the 07 municipalities. These include Lekwa, Dr JS Moroka, Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme, Govan Mbeki, Dipaliseng, Nkomazi and Emalahleni municipalities.
29. The Investigation Reports were tabled and handed over to the respective councils so that they could develop action plans and implement the findings. In this regard, Lekwa, Dr JS Moroka, Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme and Govan Mbeki Local Municipalities have submitted to our Department positive progress indicating the implementation of the recommendations as were approved by their respective councils.
30. Madam Speaker, whilst we continue in monitoring the implementation of these Plans, we must hasten to indicate that the Investigation Reports for Nkomazi and Emalahleni Local Municipalities are yet to be tabled and handed over to their respective Councils. We intend to finalize this aspect once these reports have been dealt with by the Executive Council (EXCO).
31. These investigations demonstrate that, as Government, we will not tolerate any acts of corrupt behaviour in our Municipalities. We will not hesitate to act when corruption raises its ugly head. We are committed to good governance, which is motivated by a desire to serve our people.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

32. Madam Speaker, it is important to note that local government is at the coal face of service delivery and Ward Committees are a pivotal structure to deepen democracy and participatory governance.
33. We are now seized with the task of re-establishing all 400 Ward Committees in the Province. In terms of the provisions of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, as amended, we had 120 days to establish all Ward Committees.
34. To date 391 Wards have already been established, however, there are few still outstanding, which are Mkhondo (Ward 11), Thembisile Hani (Ward 6), Nkomazi (Ward 2, 6, 10, 11), Bushbuckridge (Ward 38), Emalahleni (Ward 29) and Dr JS Moroka (Ward 10) municipalities.
35. We will continue to support these municipalities to ensure that they establish the outstanding Wards. We have already started rolling out the induction programme to all the established Ward Committees.
36. We appeal to all Ward Councillors to work with the Department in establishing the remaining nine Ward Committees in six municipalities as mentioned above and ensure that they are effective and fully functional.

SUPPORT TO IMPROVE AUDIT OUTCOMES

37. Madam Speaker the audit outcomes of our municipalities remain a matter of great concern to us and Provincial Treasury. However, we are gradually seeing progress coming out, we must indicate that there is still much work ahead to be done.
38. As a result of our collaboration with Provincial Treasury, we have seen a slight improvement in the 2020/21 audit results.
39. We must recognise a positive shift by Msukaligwa, Govan Mbeki and Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme municipalities where they improved from disclaimers to qualified audit outcomes.
40. It must be remembered, that Govan Mbeki and Dr Pixley ka Isaka Seme municipalities were disclaimed for the past two (02) financial years, whilst Msukaligwa municipality had been in an adverse audit opinion for the past three (03) financial years. We remain very concerned with the status in Emakhazeni municipality which is not showing any signs of improvement and has been in an adverse audit outcome. Dr JS Moroka and Dipaleseng

municipalities have been receiving disclaimed audit opinions for the past three (03) financial years.

41. To support our municipalities in improving their audit outcomes, the Department and Provincial Treasury have developed an Integrated Audit Improvement Support Plan that has been approved by the Executive Council. The key strategic focus areas of the Plan are ,amongst others, as follows:

- Establishment of all key Governance Structures
- Support Municipalities to reduce Unauthorized Irregular Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure
- Adoption of policies and by-laws (with focus on revenue generating by-laws)
- Filling of all critical vacancies including Section 54 and 56 positions
- Effective oversight over administration to ensure accountability
- Involvement of strategic partners (i.e DBSA, SASOL)
- Support and align to the District Development Model

42. We are therefore, confident that this Plan will yield the desired results and working together with all Stakeholders, we will improve the audit outcomes of our municipalities.

STRENGTHENING OVERSIGHT IN MUNICIPALITIES

43. Madam Speaker, the Municipal Structures Act as amended provides for further strengthening of oversight in Municipalities by institutionalising the functionality and effectiveness of Municipal Public Accounts Committees (MPACs). MPACs are key in ensuring that we improve governance in our municipalities.

44. All municipalities are called upon to support and cooperate with these MPAC's in their newly legislated and well defined mandate to ensure that public funds are accounted for and properly used. MPACs must also be given the necessary resources, by their respective municipalities, in order to execute their responsibilities effectively.

45. The Department shall be monitoring closely the efficient and effective operations by the MPAC's to help address the prohibited expenditure related to Unauthorised, Irregular, fruitless and Wasteful expenditures. This, we expect that the MPAC's shall be working closely with the Disciplinary Boards established in terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act to pursue this mandates.

REDETERMINATION OF OUTER BOUNDARIES IN MUNICIPALITIES

46. I would like to bring to this House's attention that the submission deadline for the new demarcation proposals was reached at the end of March 2022. The deadline was relating to submission by individuals or organizations requesting re-configuration of the existing outer boundaries for the next local government elections.
47. Therefore, the Municipal Demarcation Board is currently processing all applications, including engagements with all people who may be affected by the potential re-determinations.

PROVISION OF BASIC SERVICES

48. Madam Speaker, we are constitutionally bound to deliver basic services to all residents of the Province. The General Households Survey (GHS), 2021 indicates an increase of households with access to water by 2, 9% when compared to the 2019 levels of access to water. In the same breath, we are happy to announce that we have an increase in households with access to flush toilets by 19, 4% from 45% in 2011 to 64, 4% in 2021. The sewer spillages in Govan Mbeki, Lekwa and Msukaligwa municipalities would not escape our attention with Department of Human Settlements and DWS. It is time we address this to some finality.
49. Madam Speaker according to the GHS 2021, access to electricity has increased by 2% from 90% in 2019 to 92% in 2021. We should however acknowledge the difficulties we face that lead to our performance in rendering refuse removal services which has remained below the national average of 50% over the years. The yearly escalation of the Eskom debt is one other concern that warrants close attention. To date, this arrear debt has increased to R13,2 bn with the largest debts in Emalahleni (R5,9bn), Govan Mbeki (R2,8bn), Lekwa (R1,5bn) and Thaba Chweu (R1 bn).
50. The outstanding debts are growing at an alarming rate and serious strategic interventions that were discussed recently at the Energy Summit should be drawn in to assist all our affected municipalities without fail.
51. Madam Speaker, the municipal Infrastructure for basic services is mainly funded through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant programme (MIG) and the allocation for 2021/22 financial year was R1.85 billion which was later revised to R1.90 billion inclusive of additional funding received from National Government as the result of better performance by our municipalities.
52. A total of R1 billion was prioritized for water and sanitation projects and the difference of R890 million was committed to other projects such as instal-

lation of street high mast lights, solid waste, roads, storm water and sports facilities. The expenditure of R1.36 million (71%) was already recorded as at the end of April 2022.

- 53.** To improve performance on waste removal, the Province through the MIG programme has approved business plans for the purchasing of Waste Management Fleet in Msukaligwa, Mkhondo, Chief Albert Luthuli, Lekwa, Bushbuckridge, Nkomazi and Dr JS Moroka municipalities. The Msukaligwa, Dr JS Moroka and Bushbuckridge municipal fleet have since been procured and delivered to enhance practical refuse removal in these municipalities.
- 54.** We have made additional efforts to increase access to water in the 2021/22 financial year by setting aside over R2 billion for the provision of water and sanitation services through various municipal grant allocations. The contribution of each grant funding in collaboration with the Department of Water and Sanitation is as follows:

 - a) Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG): R1 billion
 - b) Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG): R743 million
 - c) Water Service Infrastructure Grant (WSIG): R721 million
 - d) Integrated Urban Development Grant (IUDG): R30 million
- 55.** The Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality remains one of the priority areas that require intervention on its water challenges. As a result, the Department of Water and Sanitation is implementing a project to augment water supply from the Rust De Winter Dam to Mkhombo Dam for the supply of the Weltevreden Water Treatment Plant.
- 56.** On the other hand the Mthombo Emergency Bulk Water Pipeline is currently at 95% of construction and practical completion is expected by 30 August 2022 for the Dr JS Moroka communities. We are also encouraged by the fact the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is funding the long awaited Regional Bulk Water Supply Scheme from the Loskop Dam to Thembisile Hani municipality. The designs of the schemes are intended to supply and benefit both Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka communities, Nkangala District municipality as an appointed Implementing Agent is urged to accelerate this project without further delays.
- 57.** The long wait for the building of Mbombela Dam is soon becoming a reality. DWS has approved the building of the Dam ,a strategic site which has a lower rate of evaporation has been identified. The Province in partnership with Rand Water is finalizing the Provincial Water Master Plan, which would assist in unlocking the bulk water and sanitation challenges in the province. The demand in the province is more and, our municipalities should generate technical reports and submit to DWS.

58. Our rivers are polluted , already a programme has been developed to prevent polluted runoffs to our streams, by Inkomati – Usuthu Catchment Management Agency in partnership with Dutch Water Authority (DWA) to capacitate municipalities along crocodile river, which are Emakhazeni, City of Mbombela and Nkomazi municipalities. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed. Skills audit will be conducted, DWA will fund the programme of capacitating municipal officials to have necessary capacity to handle our waste water collection system. The programme should be extended to other municipalities.
59. Our partnership with the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) which resulted in the establishment of the Provincial Project Management Unit (PPMU) is now yielding positive results. To date, the DBSA has approved support to municipalities on non-lending programmes such as asset care, master planning, revenue enhancement and spatial restructuring to the value of R58, 8 million.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND JOB CREATION THROUGH LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

60. Madam Speaker, we are concern that the Province has recorded the highest unemployment rate from 13, 3% to 27, 8%. In an endeavour to reverse this negative trend, the Department has created twenty-eight thousand seven hundred and thirty-five (**28 735**) work opportunities through the Community Works Programme across 17 Local Municipalities.
61. An additional three thousand five hundred and thirty three (**3 533**) job opportunities shall have been created through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) programme across all our Municipalities by end of June 2022. We will be adding more to this figure towards getting more employment opportunities the following year in 2023.
62. In light of this, a total of thirty one thousand four hundred and eight (**31 408**) work opportunities should have been created by the end of the Municipal financial year 2021/22.
63. Other positive contributions made by the Department includes the following;
- The creation of one thousand and one (1001) new job opportunities through Disaster Infrastructure Rehabilitation Programme.
 - In collaborated with Old Mutual we have provided school uniforms to ninety (90), needy Learners, in Violet Jiyane Secondary School. We are also going to provide fifty (50) uniforms to Magigwane high school, as a token of appreciation for the good performance in matric results. We will also give fifty(50) learners at Humulani Primary school as a feeder school by our very own esteemed and caring philanthropist, Madam Norah Fakude.

- Amakhosikati Structure was provided with 15 sewing machines and seedlings by Old Mutual.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (LED)

64. Madam Speaker, focus shall also be directed at improving the functionality of Local Economic Development (LED) Structures in all our Municipalities to take advantage of the Mpumalanga Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (MERRP), Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Plan (MEGDP) and the District Development Model (DDM) One-Plans through revised LED Strategies.

ACTIONS SUPPORTIVE OF INTEGRATED HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

65. Madam Speaker, in response to the building of our new cities in this post-apartheid era, the Department is championing the Nkosi City Development Project, which is located in the eastern part of the City of Mbombela Local Municipality and is under the jurisdiction of the Mpakeni Traditional Council.
66. This project aims to develop land through the provision of social infrastructure, providing government services and amenities, as well as multiple land uses constituting an integrated human settlement with approximately 3 400 housing opportunities.
67. This project is expected to create 15 000 job opportunities for the unemployed people in the area. There is a need for the Province to continue supporting such projects through infrastructure investment.
68. Madam Speaker, we have finalized the baseline study for the Mpumalanga Regional Spatial Development Framework (RSDF) in the following municipalities: Thaba Chweu, Bushbuckridge, Nkomazi, City of Mbombela, Emakhazeni, Chief Albert Luthuli, Mkhondo and Msukaligwa. We are currently working towards having the proposed demarcated region declared by the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.
69. Madam Speaker, in order to ensure that tools are in place to enforce land use rights within integrated human settlements, all municipalities, with the exception of Bushbuckridge and Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme have adopted SPLUMA compliant land use schemes and we are committing to ensure that the 2 remaining municipalities also reach the compliance level.

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MODEL (DDM) AND INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (IDP)

70. Madam Speaker, we would like to bring to the attention of the house that the DDM's One-Plans for Ehlanzeni, Nkangala and Gert Sibande districts were completed and adopted by the respective councils.
71. In addition, these plans are executed through phases from immediate to the long-term horizon with the initial catalytic projects in different stages of implementation.
72. The development of the next generation of Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) has commenced and is expected to be concluded by June 2022. All Municipalities in the Province have adopted their draft IDP's, which was preceded by rigorous public participation processes. The Department will be providing Municipalities with its comments on the approved IDPs as required by section 32(2) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act.
73. Madam Speaker, the Province recently hosted the DDM Presidential Imbizo on May 20, 2022, which revealed a number of intervention areas that necessitate a collaborative effort with all sectors to successfully deliver on service delivery. We will continue to mobilize sectors to implement DDM-based programs and projects that directly address community needs.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

74. Madam Speaker, the current state of global warming has an impact on weather patterns and disrupts the usual balance of nature. This poses many risks to human and all other forms of life on earth. Climate change necessitates a collaborative effort by communities and government to reduce risks and implement coordinated response measures.
75. Similarly, our communities should play a critical role in ensuring the success of the response efforts by acting in a way that reduces their exposure to the risks of the prevailing flooding incidents.
76. To mitigate the risks, the Department is assisting municipalities in developing municipal climate change adaptation plans, which will work together with the other spatial development programs, with a focus on infrastructure.
77. When these plans are finalized, the District Disaster Management Centres, which are supported by Provincial Disaster Management Centre, will work in partnership with other sectors such as Water, Agriculture, Housing, and Traditional Council Institutions.

- 78.** We are pleased to announce that the Department was able to rehabilitate a large number of damaged infrastructure in the Province as a result of Tropical Cyclone Eloise and the subsequent severe weather conditions.
- 79.** These projects included the following:
- Re-gravelling of roads and patching of potholes across municipalities.
 - Reconstruction of culverts and small bridges in municipalities such as Chief Albert Luthuli, Mkhondo, Msukaligwa, Thaba Chweu, Nkomazi, Bushbuckridge, City of Mbombela and Emalahleni municipalities.
 - Supply of building materials for the re-construction of the Tekwane bridge in Kanyamazane. The bridge is now expected to be practically completed in June 2022.
 - Repair and rectification of window panes and roofs of 841 houses in Buffelshoek in the Bushbuckridge Municipality;
 - Repairs and fixing of traffic lights in ten (10) intersections within Lekwa Municipality;
 - Maintenance and repair of Standerton Water Treatment Works and replacement of sewer pipelines in Sakhile township within the Lekwa Municipality;
 - Repair of agricultural damaged facilities within the City of Mbombela Municipality ;
 - Repair of Thulamahashe B4 section damaged water infrastructure, Bushbuckridge Municipality;
 - Repair of Bethal sewer pump station in Govan Mbeki Municipality;
 - Replacement of motors and water pumps in Avontuur, at Ekulindeni, and Elukwatini Water Treatment Works in Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality;
 - Replacement of sewer pipe in Coromandel, in Thaba Chweu Municipality;
- 80.** It is important to remind the House that on the 4th of April 2022 the President of the Republic of South Africa terminated the National State of Disaster with respect to Covid-19. Although the national state of disaster on Covid-19 has been terminated, recent Covid-19 statistics indicates that the virus remains a challenge for many of our people in the country and the Province in general.
- 81.** It is for this reason, Madam Speaker that we should continue to observe Covid-19 protocols which include social distancing, sanitizing and wearing of masks. It must also be mentioned Madam Speaker that the Department did so very well with the coordination of the Provincial Covid-19 Command Centre for proper implementation of the Covid-19 Protocols in the Province

SUPPORT FOR THE INSTITUTION OF TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP

Culture and customs

82. Madam Speaker, in response to the President's call and due to Covid-19 lockdown restrictions, cultural ceremonies and the Ingoma culture practices were suspended. However, as a Department we will be reassessing the possibility of re-opening of the cultural events (Immemo).
83. It should be noted that there was no allocation for this due to budget reprioritization in 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, re-allocation of the budget for this function is necessary.
84. Madam Speaker, it is my honour to inform the House of the recent recognition of traditional leadership:
- **Kgoshi S Chiloane of the Moletele Traditional Council in Ehlanzeni District;**
 - **Ikosi TM Mabena of the Manala Mbongo Traditional Council in Nkangala District;**
 - **Inkhosi R Nkosi of the Ebutsini Traditional Council Gert Sibande District;**
 - **Inkhosi S Mnisi of the Mantjolo Traditional Council in Gert Sibande District ;**
 - **Kgosigadi BC Mashile of the Mashile Traditional Council in Ehlanzeni District and**
 - **Inkosi NK of the Mandlamakhulu Traditional Council in the Gert Sibande District**
85. Their recognition is in compliance with the culture and customs of the traditional communities following a submission made by the royal families in accordance with their customary law of succession.
86. Madam Speaker, it is therefore important to note that Government does not appoint Abondabezitha, as this is a prerogative reserved for the Royal Families. The Certificate of Recognition issued by Government should not be interpreted as an appointment authority, but rather as a channel through which the royal families' decisions are carried out.
87. As a result, we pledge to continue to work with all Amakhosi designated as such by our Royal Families and we also would like to urge Royal Families to preferably resolve all matters relating to succession disputes internally.

- 88.** It doesn't auger well that the old custom and culture of resolving internal disputes through mediation by the elders is slowly getting eroded and preference is now escalating towards the expensively legal litigations, which in our view should not be a primary angle for dispute resolution. For this reason the Department shall be embarking on a programme for the registration of the leadership succession by the existing traditional leaders just to avoid the escalation of this battles in the future.

EMAKHOSIKATI STRUCTURE: GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

- 89.** Madam Speaker, as we continue to fight the scourge of Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), the Emakhosikati Structure is at the forefront of the fight, particularly in rural areas. GBVF has the greatest impact on women and children in such areas. We are going to support this programme.
- 90.** Madam Speaker, we applaud the Structure's intervention measures to combat poverty during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Structure distributed food vouchers to 3000 vulnerable groups in the traditional communities of the three districts, thanks to financial support from the Solidarity Fund.

SUPPORT TO TRADITIONAL COUNCILS

- 91.** Madam Speaker, as part of our commitment to provide Traditional Leaders with resources to perform their functions, the Department shall renovate 08 inhabitable Traditional Councils Offices whilst 12 new offices will be constructed during the 2022/23 Financial year.
- 92.** In addition 25 offices shall be attended to in the next three years. This will be amongst the many projects that will mark our support and strategic collaboration with the Institution of Traditional Leadership.
- 93.** All Traditional Councils, including the offices of the Kings, were provided with ICT support, such as desktop computers and printers. This ICT infrastructure improves Traditional Council offices' ability to provide services in the most rural settings.

THE PROVINCIAL INITIATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE (PICC)

- 94.** Madam Speaker, in an endeavour to prevent fatalities during the Ingoma pilgrimage, the Department has facilitated the establishment of the Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee (PICC). The Committee will carry out its responsibilities in accordance with the requirements of the Customary Initiation Act No. 2 of 2021.

95. I am pleased to announce and congratulate Inkhosi MR Mbuyane on his election as Chairperson of the PICC, as well as Kgoshigadi AS Mohlala on her election as Deputy Chairperson. The Committee will be charged with oversight and monitoring responsibilities, which will include all relevant structures that practice ingoma.
96. Allow me to also congratulate, Ikosi VW Mahlangu, on his election as Chairperson of the National Initiation Oversight Committee (NIOC). His election puts the Province at the forefront of national efforts to reduce Ingoma-related fatalities.
97. These are efforts made to help reduce fatalities during the initiation period. Unfortunately, the Province has to date recorded 16 fatalities thus far. We have since developed an action plan in collaboration with the Department of Health to allow more resources to avert an increase in Ingoma practice fatalities.
98. We urge all Ingoma initiation schools to work with Government to ensure the safety of our Ingoma initiates.

RECONSTITUTION /CONSTITUTION OF TRADITIONAL COUNCILS

99. Madam Speaker and Honourable Members, the reconstitution of Traditional Councils is one of the major tasks we will undertake as a Department during the period under review.
100. According to Section 63(4) of the Traditional and Khoisan Leadership Act, all tribal authorities and traditional councils must be reconstituted within two years of the Act's inception. Therefore, we are required to complete this massive task by 31 March 2023.
101. Madam Speaker, please note that the Department is in a process to reconstitute the Houses of Traditional Institutions throughout the Province. This we seek to finalise by this end of June 2022 in order to pave way for the National House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders to be constituted in July.

PARTICIPATION IN MUNICIPAL COUNCILS

102. Madam Speaker, the country has entered a new developmental phase that is based on a one-plan at the district level, as embodied by the District Development Model (DDM).
103. The DDM creates an opportunity of collaboration with Traditional Leaders and all sectors of the society, for the successful delivery of services to our people.

- 104.** I am also encouraged by the participation of traditional leaders in the DDM council meetings. Your presence must bring a voice from your respective Local Houses and traditional communities, as well as assist us in determining viable strategies to eliminate bottlenecks and expedite service delivery.
- 105.** Madam Speaker, The Local Houses have a duty that they must nominate traditional leaders who are going to participate in municipal council sittings to ensure that issues of traditional communities are taken care of as the current legislation prescribes.

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

- 106.** Madam Speaker, the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Mpumalanga House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders and the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency, with the goal of establishing and maintaining areas of collaboration between the two parties, demonstrates that we are getting closer to where we want to be.
- 107.** This is in line with the mandatory provisions of the Traditional and Khoisan Leadership Act and the entities respective mandate.
- 108.** Both parties recognize that the tourism industry has the potential to drive significant economic growth and development in the province, as well as increase participation in the tourism and nature conservation sectors among previously disadvantaged individuals and communities.

LAND INVASION IN TRADITIONAL COMMUNITIES

- 109.** Madam Speaker, land invasion remains a significant impediment to the full implementation of the agrarian revolution and perpetuate poverty, inequality and unemployment.
- 110.** Bondabezitha, I urge you, to continuously work closely with municipalities on land administration matters. We need to administer land in a manner that future generations have space for both settlement and development purposes.
- 111.** We will continue to collaborate with law enforcement agencies in order to apprehend the perpetrators and put an end to illegal land invasions.

IMPLEMENTATION OF TRADITIONAL AND KHOI-SAN LEADERSHIP ACT

112. Madam Speaker, I want to inform this august House that a Commission on Khoi-San matters has been established to deal with the numerous requests for recognition from Khoi-San communities. In this regard all applications or requests will be dealt with by this Commission. The Province has been visited by the Commission, which is making rounds in all provinces in the Country. Consultations, engagements and interactions have already began in the Province with this Commission.

CONCLUSION

113. Finally, Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my predecessor, Hon. MEC Busisiwe Shiba, for her exceptional work in the department. I promise not to drop the ball, and that by collaborating with all key players, we will take this Department to new heights.

114. It is my distinct honour and privilege to table the Department's budget, and I humbly request that the House approve the amount of **R 690 284 000 million (Six Hundred and Ninety Million, Two Hundred and Eighty Four Thousand Rands)** for the 2022/23 financial year, as follows:

- 1) PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION- R 150 845 000** (One Hundred and Fifty Million, Eight Hundred and Forty Five Thousand Rands).
- 2) PROGRAMME 2: LOCAL GOVERNANCE- R 280 166 000** (Two Hundred and Eighty million, One Hundred and Sixty Six Thousand Rands).
- 3) PROGRAMME 3: DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING- R 54 152 000** (Fifty Four Million, One Hundred and Fifty Two Thousand Rands).
- 4) PROGRAMME 4: TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONAL MANAGEMENT- R 185 710 000** (One Hundred and Eighty Five Million, Seven Hundred and Ten Thousand Rands).
- 5) PROGRAMME 5: HOUSE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS- R19 411 000** (Nineteen Million, Four Hundred and Eleven Thousand Rands).

Madam Speaker, as I conclude, please allow me to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Honourable Premier, Ms Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane, for entrusting me with the opportunity to serve the people of Mpumalanga.

I invite all the opposition and stakeholders to work together with the government party to get solutions of all problems which are affecting our municipalities in the Province. Working together we can do more.

Ben Carson said, “We’ve been conditioned to think that only politicians can solve our problems. But at some point, maybe we will wake up and recognise that it was politicians who created our problems”.

I Thank you

VISION

Responsive, effective, efficient and sustainable co-operative governance system.

MISSION

To ensure that Municipalities & Traditional Intitutions in the Province perform their basic responsibilities & functions by promoting good governance, sound financial management & administrative capability.

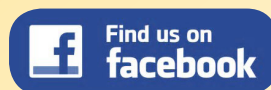
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