



# THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE POLICY & BUDGET SPEECH 2022/2023 FINANCIAL YEAR



## **SPEAKER, Ms MC MASILELA, ON THE OCCASSION OF THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE POLICY & BUDGET SPEECH 2022/2023 FINANCIAL YEAR**

- Honourable , Deputy Speaker , Ms Thabethe
- Honourable RM Mtshweni-Tsipane, Premier of Mpumalanga Province
- Members of the 6<sup>TH</sup> Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature.
- Members of the Executive Council.
- Director-General of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government,
- Secretary to the Legislature, Heads of Departments
- Provincial Secretary of the ANC, alliance partners and all progressive forces.
- Provincial Secretary of the ANCWL
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good day, Sanibonani



## Introduction

I have the pleasure to table the 2022/2023 Policy and Budget Speech of the Mpumalanga Provincial legislature. This Budget Speech intends to outline the state of the Legislature, since the establishment of this 6<sup>th</sup> Legislature, and outline plans ahead towards an effective parliamentary body of oversight, in line with the interests and aspirations of our people.

We table this Budget statement following a marathon of Policy and Budget speeches of all Departments. To this we must thank Members of the Executive, the Premier and Honourable Members of this House for a job well done, through the well delivered speeches and ensuing debates.

We are also concluding these sessions of Tabling and Debate, as the country gears up for one of its highlight political calendar events, which commemorate the **June 16, 1976 moment**.

It was a moment that many of this generation understood as a turning point in the teleological direction of dispossession and



conquest, against a settler-colonial regime constituted since the uninvited arrival of Jan Van Riebeeck at the Cape.

In so doing, we commemorate these painful events to ensure the unbridled police brutality and unrivalled violence to which these unarmed youth and children were subjected to, remains emblematic and etched in the hearts and minds of future generations. This we undertake so that **never again** as Madiba elaborated, shall our people suffer such indignity and violence at the hands of a colonial government.

Honourable Members, it is to this extent that we dedicate this Policy and Budget Speech, to those gallant fighters and the current youth of South Africa.

Cognisant of this, we must challenge the youth of today, to familiarize themselves with the ideological current of the 1976 moment, that ultimately led to a shifting of the balance of forces towards the forces of democracy and change.

This ideological current challenged the institutionalized dehumanization of the black child, against the totality of the white



power structure - a concern of the Black conscious youth at the time. It was an ideological current that resisted the normalization of black pain, black suffering, black subjugation and the alienation of the black life.

This was a black radical expression of those coming from the domain of dispossession. It was the re-invention of existence and a project of emergence and becoming. A re-inscription that radically re-imagined another reality in South Africa, through unmasking the politics of mass deception, in whose logic apartheid policies of segregation were anchored.

More importantly, this moment asserted a **rupture** that enacted the necessity and rewriting of the condition of colonial apartheid, which forced the future to the present. ***It was the question of the now.***

In this regard, the youth of today must problematize our current moment, a product of interrelated and multiple pandemics; the



legacy of a historical injustice which constituted a society that suffers the colonial wound of black poverty and black indignity. A society in which according to Thiven Reddy, **one part lives in a world of comfort, fear and guilt and the other vast majority survives a precarious life of squalor, frustration and growing anger.** This is also a world in which the Italian philosopher Giorgio Agamben termed *just bare life*.

This youth should however be cognisant that liberation is not an event but a process. Trials & tribulations, triumphs, ambivalences, ambiguities and indeed contradictions are part of the struggle. Further that, the defeat of formal apartheid was not a panacea to all human problems but contributed to the goal of the ongoing project of decolonization.

To this end, our Policy and Budget speech poses the difficult questions; **What do we understand as the Now? What is the name of this time and how does it pronounce itself? What are the stakes of this time to which we are all confronted?**



**And what are the forces in charge of the levers of power driving this change?**

In response to these these questions, Honourable Deputy Speaker, we invite Honourable Members in the discharge of their ***service and duty***, to wrestle with these tormenting questions, that underwrite the ***now*** as a moment that cannot be postponed, **it is lived and experienced in the present.**

Furthermore, this Address seeks to mobilize the current youth in the culture of critical **interrogation**, to recall the **Fononian Final prayer**, when he said; **O my body, make of me always a man who questions!**

Accordingly, our radical socio-economic turn cannot be postponed through what African- American philosopher and literary scholar Lewis Gordon termed a ***teleological suspension***, that postpones current problems to future generations.



It is time that the snares of this **global imperial design**, must **fall** as demanded by the clarion call of the **Fallist Movement**, **in order** that we disentangle our country from the logic of dependency and exploitation.

The ***Mpumalanga Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan***, to which government has committed itself, must not stop short of the opportunity to reconfigure the economy to better respond to the social, cultural, and existential reality of our people.

It must inject the necessary urgency to radical transformation of **the ownership, control and management patterns of the economy**.

We are also challenged by our youth, to unearth the institutions of power that continue to resist and reproduce inequality and social difference.





Our present task is therefore to refashion our efforts, to ensure clear government response to these pressing challenges as well as the unwavering pursuit of revolutionary change.

## **Institutional strategy**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, informed by several political and strategic guiding policy priorities of the governing party, the National Development Plan (NDP) and Legislative sector priorities, our strategic priorities include **recalibrating;**

- A vibrant parliamentary assembly that transforms society in response to developmental needs and social justice;
- an effective Oversight machinery that enacts scrutiny of government action against the needs of our citizens;
- An active and involved public on all matters that affect their lives; and



- A healthy relationship in the spirit of cooperative governance between the Legislature, government and other organs of the state.

## **On support to Committees**

The Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Oversight Model (MPLOM) remains our guide in implementing the oversight function of the Legislature. The MPLOM charts an action plan on how best to provide support to the parliamentary committees whilst taking cognisance of the unique circumstances of the Legislature. The challenge to Oversight is growing perceptions of a weakening state as reports of maladministration and corruption are on the increase.

The Zondo Commission Report also raised matters that challenge this House especially on government procurement policies. We are as various Committees charged with the responsibility to familiarize ourselves with matters of emphasis made in the report.



As a Legislative sector, we have managed to transform our Institutions and put in place formal instruments of accountability. We have also created space for organs of civil society to strive. However what seems to be increasing concern is state legitimacy and credibility, due to some of these deeply entrenched corrupt practices driven by some government employees, politicians and the private sector.

What we are witnessing Honourable Members, is social and political decadence at an alarming rate, as the gains of corruption multiply and morality declines. This cancer has spread quite significantly and become too numerous and too voracious in proportion against the lean spoils of national wealth.

Just like cancer, the pain of this social ill touches all of us in some way. It not only disfigures the state, it unfortunately also leaves the scars and wounds that impact on the very social fibre of our communities.

And while many do recover, tragically cancer often leads to chemotherapy, radiation sickness, other debilitating treatments,



and eventually death. Consequently this moral, spiritual and social death can lead to the disintegration of our very **body politic**.

Theoretically, it is evident that the democratic government has been unable to disrupt the legacy of the apartheid government, which repurposed state resources to entrench racial domination and capitalist exploitation. This is a learned colonial logic of primitive accumulation, predatory tendencies and the use of state to create a **looters paradise**. Honourable Members, **this must be defeated**.

To this extent, MPLOM as a living document constantly in the making needs to identify critical skills and tasks required to enhance oversight and enhance the impact of our work. Thus we shall also promote continuous training and development of Members and support staff to improve scrutiny and evaluation of government programmes.



## House Proceedings and Hansard

To ensure a professional House Proceedings and Hansard, we continuously aim to guarantee that our language service, production and reports are of high quality. In this regard, we have introduced an electronic portal, where all documents being tabled by provincial government are deposited.

In order to ensure transparency and easy access to information, the records of the House, Hansard are now dispatched electronically to all Legal Deposits. The revised form of these records can now also be accessed from the Legislature website under the tab 'Tabling'.

Accessing information in the language of one's choice is a Constitutional right for every South African. This right is often not



realised owing to the technical nature and field specific terminology occurring in some of our documents. The institution took an initiative of making a positive contribution in dealing with this challenge by embarking on a terminology development project which will make it easy to translate technical documents such as Bills etc.

## **Public Participation**

The Legislature continues to involve the public in its processes and programmes through:

- Public hearings;
- Petitions process;
- Sector parliaments;
- Sittings of the House; and
- Taking the Legislature to the People (TLP)

Under the current environment of a reducing budget we shall begin a process that can innovative some of our key activities through the use of technology and other means.



## **Petitions Awareness and Processing**

The Petitions section has during the period under review paid attention to education and aid through Petitions Clinics. We have been able to process one hundred and twenty-eight (128) petitions and conducted thirty (30) petitions clinics. However, some departments still do not submit progress reports on time which has affected the turn-around time and feedback to Petitioners.

## **Law making**

During the year under review, the Portfolio Committees in the Legislature duly processed six (6) National Bills affecting provinces and three (3) Provincial Bills, namely:

- Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Amendment Bill [B6B-2020]
- Division of Revenue Bill [B3-2021] ▪ National Forests Amendment Bill [B11B-2016]



- National Environmental Management Laws Amendment Bill [B14-2017]
- Local Government: Municipal Systems Amendment Bill [B2D-2019] ▪ Division of Revenue Amendment Bill [B19-2021]
- Mpumalanga Appropriation Bill [B2-2021]
- Mpumalanga Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B3-2021]
- Mpumalanga Second Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B1-2022]

In compliance with the COVID-19 regulations, public hearings were conducted through Hybrid means to ensure communities and relevant stakeholders participate meaningfully.

We will in the period ahead explore other social and media platforms to broaden and diversify our reach. During the processing of the Bills by the relevant Portfolio Committees, written and oral submissions were received from members of the public and relevant stakeholders.





In accordance with the Mandating Procedures of Provinces Act No. 52 of 2008, the relevant Negotiating and Final Mandates were submitted in time to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) on all the National Bills affecting provinces.

## **Financial Governance**

In response to the budget cuts and fiscal challenges, the Legislature will continue with the cost containment and cost curtailment measures to ensure that the MPL ably executes its mandate.

Honourable members our environment therefore dictates that the allocated budget is not sufficient to cover all the budget pressures. This is a moment of a reducing budget across government, due to the reality of multiple and intertwined crises, which includes the impact of Covid 19 pandemic, an Economic crises and Financial crises.

Furthermore, the geopolitical tensions outlined by Members of this House over the past few days, seen through the increase of



prices and the increasing cost of living, indicate a sharpening of contradictions in society enacting an uncertain future for present and future generations.

The present world can be characterized as the re-inscription of imperialism by forces of domination that seek to retain the privileges of unipolarity and re-westernization. This is further coupled by a confrontation of unipolarity by forces of de-westernization, which seek to open up a world order that is multipolar and more democratic.

Thus, it is a moment that demands us to confront the global and domestic environment still underwritten by this pursuit of domination and unbridled capitalist accumulation, that creates deepening levels of inequality, abject poverty and the alienation of those at the receiving end of its domination.

In this regard, the failure of Neoliberalism across the globe, evident since the 2008 financial crisis, wreaks havoc in multiple ways. There is declining belief in the legitimacy of Neoliberalism



and its pledge to trickle down wealth, economic security and a broadening of equal opportunities.

In many ways, public confidence in the State's ability to create employment and the production of institutional possibilities to secure a future are waning.

Italian writer, communist and political theorist **Antonio Gramsci** stated, **“The crises consists precisely in the fact that the old world is dying, and the new world struggles to be born.** To this he further warned that at the point of transition, a great variety of morbid symptoms appear, which is **“the time for monsters”**.

Within our shores, Economists, public intellectuals and academics have suggested that the state of affairs comes as result of slow growth across most Sectors of the economy.

As a body responsible for Oversight, we must take a keen interest on this impact on ordinary people. This reading must include critical engagement with concrete reality, through an application of more relevant analytics that include a more



existential philosophical extrapolation of social phenomena that privileges racial, class and gender difference.

As a Sector the impact of a dwindling budget is beginning to affect our ability to fulfil some of the expectations of our constitutional mandate. We therefore seriously need to redesign the manner in which we conduct our business, through more creativity and innovation, which includes exploring the maximum use of technology and decentralising some of our activities towards a District focused model.

This will be done to ensure that the mandate of the Legislature is not gravely affected by the reduced budget. Some of the traditional activities like **Sectoral Parliaments and SOPA**, will require urgent redesign, that reconsiders the *form, content and the questions of methodology*. This we shall undertake to guarantee maximum impact of our activities for the electorate. **We are therefore calling for more value for the public resources we spend.**



The costs for travel and accommodation will require further cuts across the board. We commit to reduce goods and services through restructuring the manner we convene meetings, so that as far as possible Microsoft Teams platform is utilized.

The Administration will also review budget so that all “luxury” expenditures are cut and resources reprioritized.

***Consequently, a culture change is necessary if we are to ensure our Sector remains relevant, legitimate and effective in the eyes of our people.***

## **Provincial Speakers Forum**

In line with the Sector priorities, the Mpumalanga Provincial Speakers Forum (MPSF) is a platform to share experiences, best practice, and dialogue amongst Speakers at National, Provincial and Local level.



Following the 2021 Local Government Elections, we have relaunched the Speakers Forum to reaffirm our commitment to a strengthened legislative sector at all levels in the province.

Some of our key pillars outlined in our MPSF Strategic Framework document, is to build and strengthen the roles of Speakers. This requires that we prioritize capacity building with the strategic intent to enhance leadership and coordination of oversight at that level.

We have noted Audit report that outlines the poorly performing municipalities. Since local government sits at the coalface of our communities we therefore call for government's intervention to rescue these struggling municipalities. Our recent Speakers Forum categorically called for leadership stability in some of these municipalities *since it is our people in the main that suffer the consequences.*



## **Members Affairs & Support**

Capacity building remains the cornerstone of Members Affairs section. It provides honourable members with the necessary skills and knowledge to better execute their constitutional mandate. Our approach to capacity building for Members is driven by the Legislative Sector Support Programme and our Legislature's Development programme.

Let me take this opportunity and congratulate all members who have successfully completed the Graduate Certificate in Governance and Leadership programme at the Wits School of Governance and the Certificate in Public Affairs and African Studies at the University of Johannesburg.



## **Interparliamentary Relations**

Interparliamentary bodies provide a platform for sharing best practices, persuasion and integrated learning opportunities. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) prides itself as an agent for promotion of democracy, good governance and human rights throughout its Member states. The CPA and CWP structures in the Legislature have adopted five year roadmap that engages on critical social issues with the aim of deepening social transformation. These include gender sensitisation and elimination of hunger and poverty.

## **On Social Cohesion and Nation Building**

In line with our Strategic Outcome- Oriented Goals (SOOGs) to increase the promotion of nation building and social cohesion, we have resolved to set aside resources to implement legacy projects that respond to the socio economic challenges affecting poor indigent families.





This is underwritten by our common vision to promote “social compact” with our communities, and a deepening of values more insinc with indigenous black people of this land –which is human *solidarity and love*.

According to an African- American feminist thinker, poet and literary scholar bell hooks **“Life is not worth living if we did not know love”**. Consequently **she elaborated that the search for love continues even in the face of great odds”**.

During the period under review, the Speaker’s Legacy Project visited and made donations to Mashishing, Katjibane, Nkomazi, Govan Mbeki and Badfontein communities.

We therefore call on private sector to partner with us so that we together play our part in the building of more cohesive communities.



## Conclusion

As I conclude, Let me challenge Honourable Members to join me in the words of Sekou Toure, to refashion the future together. To refashion a future with the people, for the people and by the people.

This **of course** requires we compose a **new narrative**, one that is one with the people. This new narrative must inculcate a **new cadre of public servant**, one that is better immersed in the social, cultural and spiritual temperament of the people.

It also requires that we maybe ask ourselves the same questions differently. **David Harvey a Marxist thinker, once said, the only way to change the system for good is to change how we fight it.** Perhaps a moment has arrived like the June 1976 moment, to fight differently our systemic and structural challenges, that maintain and reproduce the nature of South Africa as the most unequal nation in the world.



Honourable members, I therefore present to you and request this Sitting to appropriate for the year 2022/2023 the amount **R371 million and 838 thousand Rand**, to the two (2) programmes as follows:

- Programme 1 (Administration): **R175 million and 876 thousand Rand**;
- Programme 2 (Parliamentary Business): **R195 million and 962 thousand Rand**

Finally let me take this opportunity to thank the Deputy Speaker for hitting the ground running and picking up the baton of leadership from her predecessors. The Chief Whip of the majority Party, the Presiding Officers, leaders of political parties and all Members of the Legislature, for your valued contribution and support.



The Premier, Mme Refilwe Mtshweni -Tsipane and Members of Executive Council, for your continued cooperation and hard work, making the business of the legislature run more smoothly.

Thank the Secretary, Management and staff that ensure a professional administrative support to all Members of the Legislature.

Lastly thank my family which remains my pillar of strength and support.

I table the Policy and Budget statement for the financial year 2022/23 and request this Sitting to appropriate and approve the amount as proposed.

Realeboga!

**Nkosi Sikelala i-Afrika**

**[ENDS]**





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