

#MPBudgetVote



Ms RM Mtshweni-Tsipane,
Premier of Mpumalanga Province

POLICY & BUDGET VOTE 2022/23

Date: 14 June 2022 **Time:** 09h00
Venue: Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature

Let's grow Mpumalanga together



office of the premier
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Mpumalanga Provincial Government



MpumalangaGov



**REMARKS BY THE HONOURABLE PREMIER R.M. MTSHWENI-TSIPANE OF
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE ON THE OCCASION OF THE TABLING OF THE BUDGET
VOTE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PREMIER**

DATE: 14 JUNE 2022

Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker;

The Chief Whip of the ruling Party;

Honourable Members of the Executive Council;

Honourable Members of the Legislature;

The Head of our Administration, Director General, Mr Makhukhu Mampuru;

Our esteemed citizens following this session through the Face Book platform;

Good Morning;

Sanibonani;

Lotshani;

Dumelang

Context

1. Honourable Speaker, Charles Dickens would never have imagined that his seminal classic book: '**A Tale of two Cities**', would describe our lived reality in the year 2022, when he stated that:

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. It was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair”.

2. It was the worst of times because when we tabled departmental plans around this time last year, Mpumalanga, like the rest of the country, was experiencing the devastating impact of COVID-19. It was the age of wisdom, when His Excellency, President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, addressed the nation on measures taken by the 6th Administration to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

Towards Economic Recovery – Post Pandemic

3. Madam Speaker, it was the season of darkness when key economic sectors shed dozens jobs, leaving many families, without an income. But it was a spring of hope when **Stats SA** delivered the good news of a slight improvement, in the number of jobs created, in the first quarter of this current year.
4. The Provincial Government is gradually rising above the impact of COVID 19 that affected not only our operations, but the lives of ordinary citizens.
5. We have, as the Office of the Premier, revised the **Provincial five-year plan of 2019-24**, to align it with the revised **National Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) of 2019-2024**.
6. The revised plan is implemented annually through the **Provincial Programme of Action (PPOA)** that is monitored through the Executive Council cluster system.
7. As part of our efforts to adjust to operating under our new normal, the cluster management component of the Office of the Premier has conducted virtual technical and political Executive Council meetings via hybrid systems, to review progress on the implementation of the Strategic interventions outlined in the **PPOA**.
8. In light of this approach, we shall to convene two annual *makgotla* sessions in October 2022 and February 2023 to review progress and provide further guidance for implementation.
9. We are mindful of the impact the pandemic has had on standards, Madam Speaker. In an attempt to maintain and entrench quality, we have subjected **Annual Performance Plans (APPs) and Annual Operational Plans (AOPs)** of the Departments to rigorous

quality assurance measures, through our collaboration of the **Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME)** in the Presidency.

10. We are satisfied that this extensive quality assurance process, ensures that provincial priorities as well key national priorities from the revised **2019-24 MTSF**, find expression in the plans of the Departments before they are tabled to the Provincial Legislature before the commencement of the financial year.
11. Key catalytic projects emanating from our provincial sector plans, including the **Mpumalanga Economy Recovery and Reconstruction Plan (MERRP)** are also considered for implementation in the draft plans and IDPs for Local Municipalities. These plans are monitored on quarterly basis through the electronic **Quarterly Performance Reporting system**. In pursuit of an accountable and transparent governance, information from this system, is published on our provincial website every quarter.
12. As part of our efforts to review and re-purpose the functioning of our state owned entities in order to optimise operational output, we shall subject our entities to independent assessment to gauge whether operations and structures are aligned to the Provincial strategic objectives and are fit for purpose in light of our new normal.
13. The Office of the Premier is also supporting and providing quality assurance to the **Departments of Social Development and Public Works, Roads and Transport** on the development of the **Provincial Food Security and Nutrition plan and the Provincial Infrastructure Master Plan (MIMP)**.
14. Both plans are aligned with the national and provincial priorities. This process will be completed in collaboration with Provincial and National Departments, which are inextricably linked to the implementation of the plans. Providing strategic support and quality assurance to Departments by the Office of the Premier on the development of provincial master plans and strategies is pivotal for the alignment of these interventions. This service will be provided through a strategic forum led by the Office of the Premier bring together all provincial departments, public entities and the three districts.

Just Transition

15. Madam Speaker, there is no better time than **now** for Mpumalanga Province to take decisive steps that will respond to climate change.
16. The global transition from fossil to renewable energy, leaves us with no choice, but to prepare ourselves, as a province, to take advantage of opportunities within the **Just Energy Transition value chain**.
17. The recent two-day Energy Summit we convened has paved the way for the implementation of fundamental steps change the economic system of communities in the coal mining towns of **Emalahleni, Middelburg, Bethal, Ermelo and Secunda**.

18. Our focus now includes the implementation of the adopted resolutions, geared towards ameliorating communities in these towns, from the impact of the transition.
19. Key amongst the resolutions, is the the creation of economic opportunities and sustainable energy amid the energy provision challenges that we are facing as a country. This will be done through;
 - Ensuring appropriate, accurate delivery of green economy skills training and development;
 - Driving appropriate local content and trade opportunities for the manufacturing of green technology components; and
 - Creating an ecosystem that is supportive of the Green Economy;
12. The Office of the Premier will be the centre of coordination of the Climate Change and Just Transition programme and shall monitor the implementation of these resolutions to give effect to the objectives of the energy summit.

Strengthening International Partnerships

13. Madam Speaker, 2022 marks the 26th year since the launch of the Maputo Corridor. Not only has it created trade opportunities between Mpumalanga and the Republic of Mozambique, it has also paved a way for mutually beneficial future economic collaboration.
14. Buoyed by its reputation as the most advanced international development corridor in Africa, we are aspiring to replicate similar initiatives through an increase of **Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs)** in the Province.
15. **The Office of the Premier, together with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDT) and MEGA**, will lead such initiatives that seek to increase investment attracted through trade and investment promotion.
16. One such initiative is the planned virtual roundtable discussion with business community in the United States of America. This was scheduled for July 2021 as I announced in this august house last year but was held in abeyance due to the withdrawal of the erstwhile Ambassador of the United States of America to South Africa as well as the unrest that plagued the nation during the month of July 2021.
17. Notwithstanding this, I am happy to announce that discussions with the US Embassy, to convene this virtual roundtable discussion are at an advanced stage.
18. This initiative will afford the province an opportunity to present available business opportunities in the various sectors of the Provincial economy to the business

community organizations in the US, as part of our drive to attract the much needed foreign direct investments to the Province.

19. In addition, the office of the Premier will initiate processes of establishing partnership with provinces in ***Egypt, Tanzania, Kenya and Tunisia***, as part of regional integration.
20. Once areas of cooperation have been identified and consensus solidified between both parties, we will initiate inbound or outbound missions to one or two of these countries. An amount of **R 1 700 000** has been set aside this financial year to support this initiative.

Mainstreaming Special Programmes

The Mpumalanga Youth Development Fund

21. Madam Speaker, we are steaming ahead with measures that will address youth unemployment in Mpumalanga. Through the ***Mpumalanga Youth Development Fund*** our quest to address this matter is on course.
22. In the previous financial year, we succeeded in implementing the first year of the three-year piloting phase of the Youth Fund. **R90 million** was set aside for disbursement. This amount included funds rolled over from the previous 2020/21 financial year, through the support of job creation initiatives and enterprise development.
23. A total of 64 grant applications valued at **R81,95 million** was approved by an Approval Committee, transferred to the Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA) for disbursement. The 64 approved applications represent successful applicants from the 17 local municipalities of the Province.
24. To date, **R59.7 million (72%)** of the **R81,95 million**, approved for the 64 beneficiaries has been disbursed to 55 youth owned businesses. The disbursement of funds to the remaining approved companies is currently underway.
25. In this financial year, a total budget of **R60 million** is set aside for the Youth Fund to cater for the successful applicants in this phase, wherein the closing date for the intake, was the 20th of May 2022. A number of applications from all 17 local municipalities were received.
26. We will double our efforts to finalize the adjudication process, and disburse the allocations to youth enterprises with a strong business case, in line with the set criteria.
27. Our target to finalize the adjudication of this mammoth task is August 2022. I wish to assure this house that we will ensure that the process is conducted with integrity. Any element that suggests otherwise, decisive action will be taken against officials who will undermine the process.

Provincial Youth Development Coordinating Forum

28. Madam Speaker, as we address the socio-economic challenges of the youth, we are mindful of the advocacy role played by the **Provincial Youth Development Coordinating Forum (PYDCF)**. We remain guided by this structure through its efforts of monitoring the implementation of youth development programmes.

Provincial Task Team on Gender Based Violence & Femicide.

29. Madam Speaker, we are indebted to the Provincial Police Commissioner, Lieutenant General, Semakaleng Manamela and her team of dedicated investigators who apprehended the suspects who committed heinous crimes of Gender Based Violence in our Province.
30. The arrest of suspects in the brutal death of **Hillary Gardee**, as well as suspects in the murder of 6 year-old **Bontle Mashiyane of Mganduzweni**, and other victims of Gender Based Violence and Femicide, is the result of the countless hours, Lieutenant General Manamela and her team have dedicated to fighting crime across the Province. **Yingakho sithi Malibongwe igama lamakhosikazi.**
31. The team's efforts must inspire optimism in our society. It demonstrates that the police are not sleeping in their jobs, and that the perpetrators of GBVF, should know that their days are numbered, whenever and wherever they touch innocent souls. **Batawukhomba umuti lonetjwala.**
32. Our biggest challenge is to rid Mpumalanga of the scourge that is GBVF. We want women and children to feel safe in their homes and communities.
33. We will soon launch the **Provincial Task Team on Gender Based Violence & Femicide**, which will sit on a quarterly basis and, amongst others, monitor the implementation of all GBVF related programmes, as well as the implementation of the Provincial Strategic Plan on GBVF.
34. The Office of the Premier will also continue to support and convene dialogues with various civil society formations, including GBVF dialogues with traditional leaders and the men's sector.

Gender equality

35. Madam Speaker, our target of 50% women representation at Senior **Management level**, remains elusive in our Province. Currently, our Provincial Government is at 38%, and 41,6%, at Head of Department level, with male representation at 58.4%. We are mindful of the slight increase by 1,6%, in the previous financial year, and this should spur us into aggressive action to improve.
36. We will take the necessary actions to achieve **Gender Equality**. The vigorous implementation of the **Gender Responsive Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring, and Evaluation and Auditing framework**, is the roadmap towards this target. The

Provincial Departments and Municipalities have been capacitated on the institutionalization of the Framework, in partnership with the **Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities**.

Baseline Research Study on empowerment and development of target groups

37. Due to Covid-19 related restrictions on movements, the Office was unable to commence with the development of the baseline report and therefore, commits to finalize the baseline research in the current year.
38. The baseline report study will be a detailed assessment report of Mpumalanga Province on the empowerment and development of target groups from 1994 to 2020. The primary objective of this exercise is to establish a credible information hub for vulnerable groups that will be linked to the data lab for ease of reference during planning.
39. Again, the baseline information will leverage the establishment of an effective monitoring system that will ensure that implemented programmes are traceable and qualitative in terms of the extent to which the targeted programmes are able to improve the undesirable status of vulnerable groups.
40. The following are the designated target groups within OTP: **Youth, Women, Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons**. Baseline scientific research study will be commissioned in the current financial year to ensure that the Office of The Premier becomes repository of well researched, reliable information pertaining to target groups.

Persons with Disabilities

41. Since the migration of the Office on the Status of Disabled Persons from the Department of Social Development to the Office of the Premier, there is a robust drive on advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, using the existing media platforms. The desk, continues to monitor the mainstreaming of transformation issues in respect of Persons with Disabilities.

Military Veterans

42. Madam Speaker, nothing will deter us as a Province from apprehending the enormous contributions of the struggle stalwarts, especially military veterans whose patriotic spirit and undiminishing quest to uproot the indelible vestiges of colonialism and segregation, earned us the democracy and freedom we all cherish today.
43. Their steadfastness was explicitly demonstrated in dismantling the dehumanising shackles of apartheid mainly characterised by economic exclusion, marginalisation, through the Group Areas Act as well as income and asset poverty.
44. Our inner being does not allow us to live in comfort whilst our liberators are subjected to abject poverty, psychosocial distress and hopelessness. Indeed their sacrifices have ushered in a new dawn where the freedom that was yearned from time immemorial became a reality.

45. In the previous financial year, Madam Speaker, we pledged in this august house to work side by side with the **Department of Military Veterans (DMV)** to provide a sustainable solution to the challenges faced by military veterans.
46. Although we have made strides in the provision of housing benefits to military veterans as 256 units were constructed and handed over to respective recipients to the tune of **R17 000 000, the DMV** is still contending with the cleansing of the database to ascertain that the 11 benefits relating to military veterans contained in Act no 18 of 2011 are handed down to the rightful and eligible recipients.
47. In our engagements with military veterans formations on the 7th of June 2022, through the Presidential Task Team led by Deputy President Mr. DD Mabuza, where the plight of military veterans were laid bare, we resolved that the Office of the Premier shall augment the appointment of the Premier's Military Veterans Advisory Committee (PMVAC) to ultimately have an inclusive body constituted by all formations of liberation military veterans.
48. The appointments will be made soon, to enable the council and the Office of the Premier to benchmark with other Provinces on the best model to address the socio-economic conundrums, that the liberation army veterans are subjected to, year in and year out.
49. The institutionalisation of the benefits related to military veterans will be based on the District Development Model approach as it fosters collaboration amongst DMV, the Province and local government.
50. Key in our efforts to ameliorate the standard of living of the military veterans is to finalise the verification process of the military veterans' database including the status of their beneficiaries in line with the conditions stipulated in the 7 work-streams, currently established to ensure effective mainstreaming of the services to be rendered to military veterans.
51. The Office of the Premier will identify officials across government to work with DMV in the 7 work streams, mainly the stream on **pension fund and burial support** which has been recently approved to accelerate the delivery of this benefit without delays.
52. Further districts engagement with military veterans, will be held to provide feedback on the efforts of government to transform their living conditions as it is now critical for provincial departments to develop budgeted Programme of Action to implement the 11 benefits related to military veterans.

Implementation through District Development Model (DDM)

53. Madam Speaker, the District Development Model (DDM) model calls on all the 3 spheres of government to work together and maximize resources in one geographic district. The districts' plans are now developed, and we are currently reviewing these plans. This process takes into account from the national panel that was appointed to assess the plans by national **Department of Cooperative Governance (DCOG)** and new development in the environment.
54. The Office of the Premier is in the process of establishing a **Provincial Infrastructure Projects Planning and Monitoring Committee (PIPPMC)** to monitor the key catalytic projects in the province. These projects are strategic in nature and have potential to create more job opportunities and enhance economic growth.
55. The purpose of the Committee is to provide technical support, in collaboration with the **Investment and Infrastructure Office in the Presidency**, on project pipelining and packaging implementation, monitoring and evaluation of catalytic projects as well as communicating progress.
56. We have successfully coordinated the Presidential DDM *Imbizo* in Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality that took place on the 20th of May 2022. The event was coordinated in collaboration with the Presidency, both Departments of National and Provincial Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.
57. May I take this opportunity to thank all key stakeholders that participated and contributed to the success of the event. These include our social and business partners that were also part of the business roundtable discussion with the President in the morning and the main event with community members from all 17 local municipalities in the Province held at the **Silobela Stadium**.
58. My special gratitude also extends to the community of Mpumalanga at large, all the three district municipalities for mobilization and the level of discipline displayed, and the people of Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality. Thank you for the spirit of Ubuntu which you displayed.
59. We are developing an action plan to fast track the implementation of the resolutions and commitments made during the *Imbizo*. As President Ramaphosa committed on the day, a team of senior officials from the three spheres of government will be going back to the Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality through the DDM structures to provide feedback on these issues.

Strengthening the research and M & E function in the Province.

60. Madam Speaker, the Provincial Government continues in its quest to strengthen research capacity in the Province. We have commenced with the initiative of forming a partnership arrangement with the University of Mpumalanga and the Tshwane University of Technology.

61. The partnership will culminate in the establishment of the Mpumalanga Research Institute (MRI), an entity that will support the province through research studies, reflection on emerging trends and policy implementation.
62. To further enhance evidence-based decision making in the province, two research projects will be commissioned from my office during the 2022/23 financial year.
63. Furthermore, the Office will commission two evaluation studies, one on the Boarding Schools and another on the sustainable households support programme.
64. Madam Speaker, we are exploring measures to strengthen the capacity of monitoring service delivery. This includes creating a dedicated service delivery monitoring unit, that will also respond service delivery complaints, using various platforms including the **Satise Silale Application**.
65. The Satise Silalele platform will be revamped so that our people can log complaints in real-time and monitor the lifespan of each complaint until it is resolved.

Access to Broadband Connectivity

66. During the year under review Madam Speaker, a position and proclamation was made by the National Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, on the rollout of SA Connect phase 2 over 36 months, which replaced the need for a Provincial 10-Year Broadband Plan and commenced in April 2022 in the Province.
67. The revised SA Connect Phase 2 model and implementation plan which connects both government and communities has been approved by National Cabinet and is based on partnerships between **SITA, Broadband Infraco and Sentech**, and includes other industry service providers for the implementation of the SA Connect Project Plan.
68. Connection of South African communities and homes to the internet will be facilitated by **Broadband Infraco (BBI) and Sentech working with SITA and the ICT industry on an Open Access Principle**. This will enable the access to backbone infrastructure including base stations and Points of Presence, and the virtualisation of Government network to also provide a public network platform.
69. This partnership will enable small and emerging services providers such **Internet Service Providers (ISPs), Wireless Access Service Providers (WASPs), Mobile Virtual Network Operators (MVNOs) and the ICT Mobile Network Operators (MNOs)** to connect communities within 36 months.
70. The key objective in Mpumalanga is to connect citizens within 36 months, from April 2022 to March 2025 at a minimum speed of 5Megabits per second for households and 10Megabits per second for Government facilities including public schools and clinics.
71. The SA Connect target is to achieve 80% broadband access for all communities and government facilities over the next 3 years, with a minimum capacity speed of 10Mbps and 100 Mbps per second for high demand facilities.

72. The SA Connect project aims to connect 154 958 households via 22 base stations with 450 schools and clinics and 175 tribal communities being connected within the first 12 months. This will continue thereafter to provide 516 525 households via 175 base stations, 1499 schools and clinics and 582 tribal communities with broadband connectivity.

Strengthening the role of Mpumalanga Provincial AIDS Council

73. Madam Speaker, the prevention of HIV infection amongst Adolescent Girls, Boys, Young Women and Men remains a priority for the Province in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic. Interventions to mitigate the impact of HIV infections have been expanded to all wards in all Municipalities. This has been done in partnership with **Presidential Emergency Prevention for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)** and the Global Fund.
74. This year marks the end of the National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs for 2017 – 2022. The province will conduct the End Term Review of the Provincial Implementation Plan for HIV, TB and STIs in order to inform the new PIP for 2023 – 2028.
75. The Province will contribute to the development of the new National Strategic for HIV, TB and STIs through SANAC consultative processes. We would like to urge all stakeholders to take advantage of this process and give inputs accordingly.
76. Following the recent Local Government elections in November 2021, the Province, working in partnership with the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) and SALGA will continue to conduct induction of all AIDS Councils on their roles and responsibilities.
77. This will assist in reviving the functionality of all AIDS Councils in the Province. Two provincial events marking the World Health Commemorative days will be coordinated in collaboration with social partners and our provincial department of Health. These are world AIDS day in December 2022 and world TB day in March 2023.

78.

Institutionalising an Ethical Culture

79. The Province will finalise the process of reviewing and enhancing its Provincial Anti-Corruption Strategy to ensure alignment with the national strategy.
80. The Office of the Premier continued to investigate reported cases of fraud and corruption impartially. We will continue to investigate and ensure implementation of recommendations to restore public confidence.

81. We will also convene a labour summit with organised labour and other strategic stakeholders to inculcate a culture of accountable and ethical public service premised upon the ***batho pele principles***.

Improving Audit Outcomes

82. Madam Speaker, audit outcomes are a barometer of public institutions' financial discipline in the use of the public purse. The poor audit outcomes continue to be of concern to the Provincial Government. To improve audit outcomes, the Office of the Premier in partnership with the Provincial Treasury will continue to support departments and municipalities whose audit outcomes leaves a lot to be desired, especially on performance information.
83. In 2021/22, through the shared audit services function, we were able to provide internal audit services to the five cluster Departments.
84. With regards to improved audit outcomes, the report of the Auditor-General shows that seven Departments in the Mpumalanga Provincial Administration obtained unqualified audit outcomes for the financial year ended 31 March 2021, the Province regressed by three from the ten realised in the previous financial year.
85. Departments have developed remedial audit action plans to address all the findings raised by the Office of the Auditor General in the 2021/22 audit.
86. Progress on implementation of the audit action plans are being monitored by both the Internal Audit and Audit Committee on a quarterly basis. Furthermore, departments expected to report to the audit committee on a quarterly basis on the progress made for both Internal Audit and Auditor General Issues.
87. The OTP will, in 2022/23, continue to provide internal ***audit services*** to these departments, and monitor implementation of audit action plans, to ensure the realization of ***improved audit*** outcomes. In this regard, we will review the efficiency and effectiveness of internal controls in order to assist in the strengthening of the control environment.
88. We have successfully collaborated with Provincial Treasury in its endeavour to automate the business processes in the Provincial Administration through the ***Business Process Automation (BPA)***. We have implemented Invoice Tracking System which assisted in ensuring that the Office complies with the prescript of paying suppliers within 30 days. Electronic Document Delivery (EDD) tool which delivers payslips and IRP5 to employees electronically.
89. Electronic Leave Management System which enables employees to apply for leaves electronically. The Office (Province) is moving towards the fourth industrial revolution and realising some benefits that are brought by these systems.

90. These performance outcomes take into consideration, our ***strategic focus for the next 5 years*** as detailed in our re-tabled Strategic Plan for 2020-2025 and Annual Performance Plan for 2022-23 tabled to this august house.
91. It is therefore an honour, Madam Speaker, to table the budget of the Office of the Premier, and I accordingly request the House to approve the amount of **R377 826 000.00** for the 2022/23 financial year, allocated as follows:
- a. Programme 1: Administration – at **R145 350 000 (One Hundred and Forty-Five Million, Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Rands)**
 - b. Programme 2: Institutional Development **R89 392 000.00 (Eighty-Nine Million Three Hundred and Ninety-Two Thousand Rands)**
 - c. Programme 3: Policy and Governance - **R143 084 000.00 (One Hundred and Forty-Three Million and Eighty-Four Thousand Rands)**
92. I thank you.