



BUDGET

VOTE

2023/24



Ms Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane
Premier

The Office of the Premier will among others, account for the Premier's Youth Development Fund, progress on the Just Energy Transition and the programme of action to support Military Veterans.

#BUDGET2023



office of the premier
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

'Let's grow Mpumalanga together'



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: 13 JUNE 2023

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;

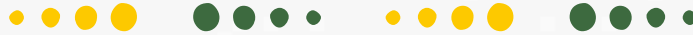
Our esteemed citizens following this session through the Social Media Platforms;

Good Morning;

Sanibonani;

Lotshani;

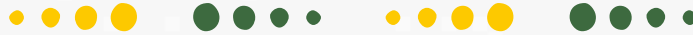
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BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

1. I am honoured to present to this august house a synopsis of the plans that the Office of the Premier has put together for the current financial year, as well as how these are going to be you be resourced.
2. Let me foreground my remarks by reiterating the reason of existence or, in more popular parlance, the mission and objectives, of the Office of the Premier, namely:
3. It is the Centre of government. By that we mean that it sets the tone and direction from which other departments, agencies and entities take their cue. In this way, it organizes and coordinates the work of government.
4. Through the Policy and Governance programme, the OTP ensures that departments, agencies and entities develop plans that are aligned to a broader provincial programme of action.
5. Working with the Ministry of Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation in the Presidency, as well as Provincial Treasury, we continue to quality assure departments' Annual Performance Plans (APPs) and Annual Operational Plans (AOPs), to ensure alignment to broad government priorities - including the National Development Plan.
6. Through our Transversal Human Resources function, the OTP ensures that the organizational structures of departments and other entities are responsive to the plans as developed. Through the Provincial Government Information Technology Office, the OTP ensures that the ICT environment, governance and systems are suited to a transformative government that Mpumalanga strives to be.
7. Through the Internal Audit function, and in collaboration with Provincial Treasury, the OTP propagates a culture of accountability for and responsible use of public resources. In this regard, we are pushing for an eventuality where all Mpumalanga Provincial Government departments and entities achieve clean audit outcomes, in line with standards set by the Auditor General South Africa.
8. The OTP also serves as the coordinator of international relations and cooperation activities and initiatives of the provincial government. To this end, the OTP ensures that international agreements are translated into action, and international missions are not undertaken purely for their sake.





9. In the light of an ever-evolving global environment, the OTP has, in recent years, taken over overall responsibility for the coordination of initiatives that promote a Just Transition.

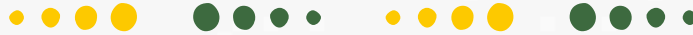
INSTITUTIONALIZING GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES AND LONG-TERM PLANNING

10. Madam Speaker and Honourable Members, we are in the final year of the 6th Administration.
11. It therefore goes without saying that we shall be documenting reflections of the thirty years of our work as the ANC in pursuit of people's power since the liberation of our people from the bondages of apartheid, a brutal system that the United Nations declared "a crime against humanity".
12. The thirty-year review report that we are compiling will highlight the accomplishments of our democracy thus far, and identify areas for improvement. The review would be incomplete if it failed to showcase how, as a nation, we navigated the financial crisis of 2008 and the COVID 19 pandemic that threatened the very existence of humanity, and changed the course of history.
13. This work will be concluded in the next financial year, 2024/25. It will inform the review of the Provincial Five-year Plan of 2019-2024 and the development of the 2024-2029 Provincial Plan in line with the new National Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) of 2024-2029 that is currently underway.
14. We will also continue to strengthen seamless implementation of the District Development Model and related District One Plans in the province, as part and parcel of all three spheres of government.
15. We are in the process of a performance review of all Provincial Public Entities, and the review report will be ready by the end of the current financial year.

JUST (ENERGY) TRANSITION

16. Madam Speaker, in the midst of our ongoing national electricity crisis, it is generally accepted that Mpumalanga, as the home of the grid, must be at the Centre of finding solutions. This is largely due to the eleven Eskom coal-fired power stations that are in our province, as well as the high number of coal mines, which constitute the core of our country's energy supply.



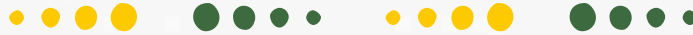


17. Madam Speaker, following our pronouncement last year, that the Office of the Premier would be the centre of coordination of the Province's Climate Change and Just Energy Transition programme, we have some progress update to share.
18. We hosted a successful Just Energy Transition alignment workshop in May 2023. Participants in the workshop included the public and private sectors, organised labour, civil society and international partners.
19. The transition from coal will have a disproportionate impact on us as a province, due to the extent of job losses and concomitant negative effect on livelihoods. It is incumbent upon us to ensure that it is managed such that we leave no one behind. Given the fact that Agriculture and tourism constitute the backbone of the Provincial economy, we are giving special attention to climate smart agriculture, eco-tourism and green industries, as areas to explore as we manage the transition.
20. These views are some of those that were sufficiently ventilated during our recent two-day alignment workshop. It was then concluded that we accelerate interventions to generate alternative economic activities in the Province, including accelerated implementation of the Komati Project, as a demonstrable example of moving away from reliance on coal, whilst protecting jobs and community livelihoods.
21. In addition, the workshop further underscored the need for a comprehensive and integrated economic diversification and industrialisation strategy, firmed up with a strong implementation plan.
22. Having made the commitment previously, I am happy to announce we have since appointed a Provincial Head of the Just Transition for Mpumalanga, whose pre-occupation it will henceforth be the realization of all our hopes and plans for the Just Transition.

STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

23. Madam Speaker and Honourable members, our trade and investment initiatives, are gaining momentum, subsequent to the Covid 19-induced lull.
24. We have resuscitated engagements with the Office of the Governor of the Maputo Province of Mozambique, and foresee a lot of activity on both sides for the foreseeable future. This will be done in line with our existing MOU, which is bound to undergo periodic review.



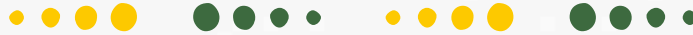


25. In the same vein, we have hosted the High Commissioner of Mozambique to South Africa, Her Excellency Maria Manuela Lucas during her working visit to Mpumalanga Province. In the process, the High Commissioner reiterated Mozambique's commitment to strengthening the existing relations between our sister countries, to which we are fully aligned.
26. During the State of the Province Address, I announced our comprehensive plans to be fully engaged in the BRICS programme during this year where South Africa, in the person of President Ramaphosa, assumes the chairpersonship of the crucial body.
27. Mpumalanga was the first province to host the BRICS roadshow, at which all BRICS country representatives participated. We will be hosting more events along similar lines, including meetings of the BRICS ministers of Higher Education and training, as well as those of Education Arts and Culture.

PREMIER'S YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUND (PYDF)

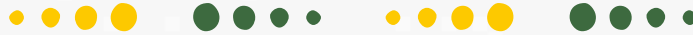
28. June is Youth Month, following the heroic deeds of the youth of 1976. In their honour, and in line with the essence of our message in this year's SOPA, I am today continuing to showcase the efforts of our government in ending youth unemployment, poverty and inequality.
29. Since its inception, the Premier's Youth Development Fund has empowered 97 youth-owned businesses across the province, to the tune of R140 million. These enterprises are drawn from a wide spectrum of sectors, such as mining, manufacturing, retail, ICT, transport and logistics, health and fitness, and restaurants, to mention but a few.
30. The disbursement of funding has created numerous employment opportunities and afforded young people ample opportunities to become part of the mainstream economy.
31. During the course of the current financial year, we have set aside a total budget of R114 million, which is inclusive of a roll-over of R16 million. 30% of this budget is earmarked for enterprises owned by young people with disabilities.





32. We continue to provide the necessary post-funding support, to ensure that these enterprises are sustainable.
33. Madam Speaker, it is truly heartening to see how the beneficiaries of the Premier's Youth Development Fund are making an impact in their communities, through this financial injection.
34. Take for example the **1246 Gym**, which is owned by two young siblings in Mkhuhlu, Bushbuckridge Municipality. The gym is fitted with state-of-the-art training facilities. Not only has the gymnasium created sustainable job opportunities, with a prospect of growing, but has contributed significantly towards the adoption of a healthy lifestyle by the community of Mkhuhlu.
35. The gymnasium is, but one of these entities. As we mark this achievement, Madam Speaker, it is my singular honour to acknowledge Bonakele Mkasi of the gymnasium in Mkhuhlu. She is joined by like-minded beneficiaries, who have used the fund to create job opportunities in their locations, namely:
- Godfrey Malatjie** of the *Young Blood holdings* in Emakhazeni;
 - Shocky Mokoena** of the *Come Today Trading* in *Thembisile Hani*;
 - Bonginkhosi Mchunu** of *Da Ross Green* in *Dr. Pixley Ka Isaka Seme*; and
 - Sihle Ngwenya** of *Black Child Twiny* in *Govan Mbeki*.
36. They are with us today, and I urge them to stand up, for the house to acknowledge them.
37. Having internalized the rallying call of the youth - that there can be nothing about them without them, we are at an advanced stage to issue a public call for applications and/or nominations of young people for possible appointment into a Premier's Youth Advisory Council. An invitation in this regard will be circulated widely in the form of an advertisement for suitably qualified young men and women to be appointed to advise me on matters that affect them.





ON TACKLING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE & FEMICIDE

38. We have set up Rapid Response Task Teams on GBVF in some of our local municipalities, and I hereby make a call to the ones lagging behind to follow suit. This will enable us to establish the Provincial Task Team on GBVF immediately after the Districts Task Teams on GBVF would have been established. All this ought to happen during the current financial year.

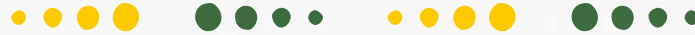
ON MAINSTREAMING OF SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

39. Through the Office on the Status of Disabled Persons, we will continue to monitor the mainstreaming of transformation issues in respect of Persons with Disabilities. To this end, we will implement a Provincial Disability Policy framework, which will assist our endeavours to improve the quality of lives for the designated group.
40. One of our firm commitments as an Office is to strive to ensure that 7% of goods and services that we procure is from enterprises owned by persons with disabilities. This is a requirement that we would like to see all our departments, entities and municipalities adhere to.

ON ADDRESSING THE PLIGHT OF MILITARY VETERANS

41. Madam Speaker, this administration has, in the previous financial year committed itself to transforming the socio-economic conditions of all military veterans in our Province. To this effect, the Premier's Advisory Council was established and the terms of reference clearly laid down in respect of their mandate.
42. For the current financial year, all provincial departments have, in tandem with the Premier's Military Veteran Advisory Council, developed a Programme of Action (POA) that seeks to accelerate the conferment of benefits to qualifying military veterans as prescribed in the Military Veterans Act.
43. The POA is a reflection of commitments made by departments to address the plight of ex-combatants, whilst improving their material conditions. The following planned targets will be achieved in the current financial year:
- Compilation of a book that relates to the contribution made by military veterans residing within Mpumalanga towards achieving the freedom we are currently enjoying;



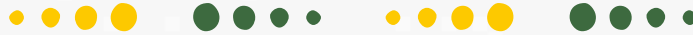


- Construction of houses in order to provide shelter to our ex-combatants and their dependents;
 - Organising of a wellness day with a view to promote healthy lifestyles;
 - Provision of counselling and treatment services to those who are emotionally affected as a result of deprivation;
 - Construction of an incubation programme to capacitate those that want to be entrepreneurs; and
 - Establishment of a dedicated Military Veterans unit within the Office of the Premier, whose first task will be to finalise and digitize the Military Veterans Database
44. My Office will assess the implementation of the PoA as one of the provincial priorities for the current financial year, and provide feedback to the Executive Council on a quarterly basis.
45. It is also important to indicate that all hands are on deck in all the three spheres of government to provide long lasting solutions to the socio-economic plight of ex-combatants.
46. We welcome the recent pronouncement by the Deputy Minister, Mr Thabang Makwetla, to the effect that the pension benefits that military veterans are entitled to will be released to qualifying individuals imminently.

STRENGTHENING COORDINATION AND ACCELERATING SERVICE DELIVERY

47. We remain on course to set up a Project Management Unit (PMU), aimed at facilitating and coordinating infrastructure planning, design, monitoring and evaluation during this current financial year.
48. Working with other partners, the Unit will help fast track the construction, maintenance and rehabilitation of strategic basic infrastructure, social infrastructure and economic infrastructure of the entire province across all spheres of government.

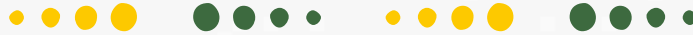




STRENGTHENING OUR RESEARCH AGENDA

49. Madam Speaker, we have completed two evaluation studies in the recently concluded financial year. The first one was on Boarding Schools and sought to evaluate the functionality, effectiveness and unique value proposition of the boarding schools system.
50. The second study was on the Sustainable Households' Support Programme that sought to evaluate the impact of the funding provided to indigent households.
51. This year we will undertake a second phase of this study, which will determine the interventions that will be required to improve the standard of living of indigent households.
52. We are also developing internal research capability by, among others, training staff across our Provincial Departments to be able to conduct rapid evaluation. Using internal capacity comes with an added benefit of reduced costs.
53. Madam Speaker, working together with the Department of Social Development, we have concluded the evaluation study on the sanitary dignity packs project. The evaluation findings demonstrate that providing free sanitary products and lessons about menstruation has increased girls' attendance at school throughout the province.
54. Furthermore, my Office will conduct performance assessment on the ***implementation and the impact as well as short term benefits of the Mpumalanga Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (MERRP)***.
55. At a partnership level, we are in the final stage of concluding our MOU with the University of Mpumalanga. The stage we are at includes the institutional mechanisms, staffing and financing of a dedicated research institute.
56. This is in line with national and international practice, where governments partner with higher education and research institutions, to ensure that the plans they implement are cut-throat and in line with what pertains out there.





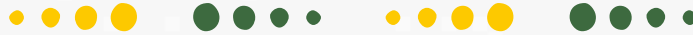
57. We are further strengthening our capability to monitor continuously, levels and quality of service delivery across all spheres of government. To this end, we will introduce a scientific, technologically enabled service delivery monitoring tool in the current financial year.

The tool, which will be interactive, will enable members of the public to share with and inform the Office on service delivery challenges experienced at ward level or any government institution. All matters raised by our communities will be monitored and reported back on.

STRENGTHENING THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL AIDS COUNCIL

58. Madam Speaker, TB and HIV remain a significant public health threat facing the province. The findings of the Mid-Term Review of the Provincial Implementation Plan for HIV, TB and STIs for 2017 – 2022 have provided a compass for our multisectoral response to these epidemics.
59. Some of the key findings include the failure to meet targets on putting patients on ART treatment, high default rate on TB treatment and high loss of follow up consultations due to migration, amongst others.
60. Emerging out of this review, we have noted with concern that the Gert Sibande and Nkangala District Municipalities have not met their **90 90 90** targets as set by UNAIDS. We will work closely with these two Districts to help move with speed to reach the new UNAIDS target of **95 95 95**.
61. District catchup plans have been developed and are currently being implemented, in line with the Mid Term Review of the 2017 – 2022 Provincial Implementation Plan, in order to address the findings as well as accelerate efforts towards achieving set targets.
62. The continued financial support from the Global Fund and the **Presidential Emergency Prevention for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)** will assist the province in intensifying its quest to eliminate new HIV and TB infections.
63. The year 2023 marks the end of the 5-year National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs for 2017 – 2022. Subsequent to the launch of the new National Strategic Plan for 2023 – 2028, the province has started the process of developing its Provincial Implementation Plan (PIP) thereto.



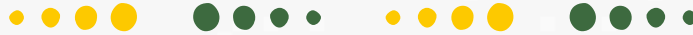


64. All stakeholders are urged to participate in the PIP development process so that no one is left out. In this regard, I wish to thank all those who participated in the National consultation undertaken by SANAC in the province. Your inputs shaped the national response as they were included in the new NSP.
65. A Provincial AIDS Council Lekgotla will be held this financial year to reflect on our performance. We shall also award the best performing AIDS Councils in the Province. The new Provincial Implementation Plan for HIV, TB and STIs for 2023 – 2028 will also be launched during the Provincial AIDS Council Lekgotla.
66. We are looking forward to the election of new Civil Society Forum at National, Provincial, District and Local levels. The term of office of the new Civil Society Forum will be aligned to the life span of the new National Strategic Plan for 2023 – 2028. We wish to thank the outgoing Civil Society Forum for their leadership in the province.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS

67. Madam Speaker, the need to improve information-sharing cannot be over-emphasised. As a Public Administration, sharing of information with our citizens, is a Constitutional requirement, which we uphold. The Integrated Provincial Communication Strategy, which we have developed, validates our commitment of compliance, as contemplated in Section 195(g) of the Constitution, stated as follows, and I quote: ***“Transparency must be fostered by providing the public with timely, accessible, and accurate information”***, close quote.
68. Our commitment to keep our citizens informed about government’s Programme of Action and the delivery of services, has yielded the desired outcome. ICASA, the media regulatory body, has allocated our Province a spectrum, with three licences, made available.
69. Our initiative of mobilizing communities to apply for the three licences, has culminated in communities working together to make a submission to ICASA. It is now public knowledge that *MPTV* and *Capital TV*, are now on the last stretch of the approval stage. The two have gone through objections phase, and the 14 days period of lodging the objections, has since lapsed, with no challenges. It is now up to ICASA to grant them their licences, and this is imminent.





70. In a Province such as ours, this is a quantum leap, in our quest to bridge the information-sharing gap that often exists between Public Administration and the citizens we are meant to serve and protect. Furthermore, this is significant to showcase Mpumalanga's cultural diversity and tourism destinations. We will keep our fingers crossed that this media development project, will stimulate an interest in the creative art industry and open a broad range of opportunities for the youth.

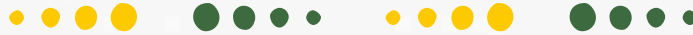
INSTITUTIONALISING AN ETHICAL CULTURE

71. Madam Speaker, in an effort to institutionalise professional ethics in the Provincial Administration, members of the Provincial Anti-corruption Coordinating Committee were trained as certified ethics officers, and more members will be trained later in the year. We will also host a Provincial Annual Ethics Seminar.
72. The Office will continue to investigate cases of fraud, corruption and maladministration, and ensure implementation of recommendations to restore public confidence.

IMPROVING AUDIT OUTCOMES

73. 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 still leave a lot to be desired, especially on pre-determined objectives.
74. During the 2022/23 financial year, through the shared audit services function, we were able to provide internal audit services to the five cluster Departments. With regards to improved audit outcomes, the report of the Auditor-General shows that eight Departments in the Mpumalanga Provincial Administration obtained unqualified audit outcomes for the financial year ended 31 March 2022. The province improved by one from the seven realised in the previous financial year (i.e., the year ended 31 March 2021).
75. The Provincial 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. Progress on implementation of the audit action plans is being monitored by both the Internal Audit and Audit Committee on a quarterly basis. Furthermore, departments are expected to report to the audit committee on a quarterly basis on the progress made for both Internal Audit and Auditor General Issues.





76. My office will, in 2023/24, 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.
77. 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 2023-24 tabled in this august house.

CONCLUSION

78. As I conclude, Madam Speaker, I want to emphasise our firm commitment to make Mpumalanga the best place to live in for its citizens.
79. This budget vote is intended to respond to the voices I still hear that our people all over the Province are crying for decisive service delivery especially water, electricity, road infrastructure, education, social amenities and most importantly Jobs.
80. We have heard the voices of farm dwellers and farm workers, mine workers, hawkers and youth with no jobs who have lost hope. Our people are still yearning for land to farm and build their families decent homes.
81. Our people are however acknowledging that the ANC -led government in this Province has, acting like a true caring government of the people, provided them with housing - cushioning them against extreme poverty through social grants. And even when COVID 19 worsened their situation, this caring Government of the ANC intervened with the special Social Relief Fund.
82. The people of Mpumalanga are clear in their resounding affirmation that for this to be achieved they expect of us to build a government that is people driven - people centred - a responsive government committed towards addressing their basic services.



83. It is therefore my honour, Madam Speaker, to table the budget of the Office of the Premier, and I accordingly request the House to approve the amount of **R478 132 000.00. (Four Hundred and Seventy-Eight Million, One Hundred and Thirty-Two Thousand Rands)** for the 2023/24 financial year, broken down as follows:
- a. Programme 1: Administration – at **R144 797 000 (One Hundred and Forty-Four Million, Seven Hundred and Ninety-Seven Thousand Rands)**

 - b. Programme 2: Institutional Development **R101 698 000.00 (One Hundred and One Million, Six Hundred and Ninety-Eight Thousand Rands)**

 - c. Programme 3: Policy and Governance – **R231 637 000.00 (Two Hundred and Thirty-One Million, Six Hundred and Thirty-Seven Thousand Rands)**

I thank you.



The people of Mpumalanga are clear in their resounding affirmation that for this to be achieved they expect of us to build a government that is people driven - people centred - a responsive government committed towards addressing their basic services.

