

**PROVINCIAL INPUT REMARKS BY HONOURABLE
PREMIER RM MTSHWENI-TSIPANE ON THE OCCASION OF
THE PRESIDENTIAL IMBIZO AT EMALAHLENI**

DATE: 07 MARCH 2024

**VENUE: SY MTHIMUNYE STADIUM, EMALAHLENI,
NKANGALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

Programme Director,

**Honourable President, his Excellency Cyril
Matamela Ramaphosa;**

Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;

Members of the Executive Council;

All Executive Mayors and public representatives

**Members of the Provincial and Local Houses of
Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders;**

ubuKhosi in our midst;

All leaders of religious formations;

All Directors General, Head of Departments and Deputy Directors General;

All government officials in the three spheres of government;

Members of the media

Ladies and gentlemen

Sanibonani,

Dumelang,

Molweni,

Avuxeni,

Good morning;

Goeie more;

1. Programme Director, your excellencies, it is a pleasure for me to welcome you to this Presidential Imbizo in Emalahleni and Mpumalanga province.
2. President, we are aware that this visit to our province also gives effect to your continued reaffirmation of “a government that must work for the people”.
3. We are proud that you have brought to Mpumalanga an important public participation platform that will;
 - Give citizens a voice; and
 - Provide the President an opportunity to listen to the people and respond to their concerns.
4. Citizen engagement is important as part of our participatory democracy because it promotes transparency, openness and accountability.

PROVINCIAL PROFILE

5. The Census 2022 results show that Mpumalanga province has increased its share of the nation's population from 7.8% in 2011 to 8.3% in 2022.
6. Programme Director, the population of Nkangala District increased between from 1 308 129 in 1996, to 1 588 684 in 2022.
7. Emalahleni local municipality is home to 434 238 residents.
8. The Census report of 2022 shows notable improvements in the quality of life for the people of Mpumalanga.
9. For example, the number of 'formal dwellings' increased from 82% to 91.3%
10. Access to electricity, improved from 85.7% to 91.7%
11. Households with adequate sanitation have increased from 50.9% to 62%.

District Development Model approach in Mpumalanga

12. With these platforms we are able, as government from all levels to outline interventions aimed at giving

our people a better life in accordance with the spirit, purport and ethos of the District Development Model.

13. Since its inception in 2019, the province has embraced the implementation of the DDM approach through the structures at District and Provincial level that were established for the implementation of this policy.

14. All three districts have established the IGR platforms at technical and political level which comprise all sector departments at provincial and national level, private sector involvement, NGO's, Traditional Leaders, and Community Based Organisation.

15. These formations are geared at ensuring that government, in partnership with the said sectors as mentioned strive at ensuring the attainment of One Plan, and One Budget for a District-wide Impact zone in accelerating delivery.

- This approach is already picking up momentum. Through partnership formations, we will deliver the identified 21 catalytic projects which have already been approved in the one plan of the Nkangala District area.

16. Key catalytic projects amongst others include:

- **The Loskop Regional Bulk Water Scheme** will augment bulk water supply by 20mega litres per day to benefits the communities of Thembisile Hani LM thereby reducing the huge water supply deficit. This project is currently under construction and is destined to be completed by September 2025. The total investment of this project is R1.6 billion funded through joined contribution of DWS, District and Local Municipality.
- **The Delmas and Waste Water Treatment** in Victor Khaye Municipality is currently under-going upgrading and refurbishment at R298.8 billion which is a joint contribution between DWS, District Municipality and civil society such as the Bronkhospruit Catchment Forum. This project is aimed at addressing sanitation, health and dignity of our people.
- **Middleburg District Hospital** which has just been visited this morning by the President. This hospital will enable us to improve access to health services and fulfill the social compact with our people.

- **Siyathuthuka Brick Plant Project** has been established as an economic stimulus to supply bricks within the province.
- **Rust de Winter Bulk Water Supply Scheme** will augment water supply in areas such as Mmamethake, Pankop and Marapyane (wards 23 to 31) at cost of R1.2 billion which is co-funded by DWS and Nkangala District Municipality.
- **Linah Malatjie Tertiary Hospital** will be built here at Emalahleni Municipality. It is envisaged that it will enable the provision of quality specialized hospital services in an ideal infrastructure. This will ensure that we recruit highly skilled and motivated cadre of health workers in the province.
- **Witbank hospital** is going through a refurbishment phase. We commend the fervent support by Health Minister and his department for the refurbishment project, without whom, this task would be impossible.
- The construction of the **bridge intersection**, that will connect Verena and Klarinet will commence soon. The bridge will accommodate a free flow two way traffic to and from town, towards Verena as

well as Klarinet township. It is designed to address the traffic congestion on the railway crossing.

- Once completed, the bridge will eliminate the risk of accidents between vehicles and goods train.
- Construction of the **School for the deaf** will ensue in the 2024/25 financial year. Emalahleni Municipality has since allocated proper land for this purpose. The school is designed as a state of the art facility, that will cater for the special needs of learners in this category.

Key Achievements

17. 40 MVA Mhluzi Sub-station in Steve Tshwete Municipality was constructed to relieve the 80MVA Golfsig sub-station which is currently supplying the whole of Middleburg at 76MVA and only leaving a spare capacity of 4MVA for growth and development.
18. The effect of the new Mhluzi Sub-station shall help counter the extensive load reduction for the entire community of Middleburg, and in particular Mhluzi community.
19. The 40 MVA transformer at Kwa-Guqa EXT was sourced through strategic partnership with the mining

industry to restore electricity supply in the Kwa-Guqa EXT. After the first one experienced mechanical failure due to over-loading and illegal connections.

20. DMRE has also agreed to enhance its INAP allocation for Emalahleni to fund the extensive upgrade of Duvha Sub-station to a further 40MVA and the construction of the new sub-station that shall cater specific for the demand in the Siyanqoba settlement and Duvha Park EXT.1.

21. An amount of R500 million is allocated as front loading allocation for these two critical developments.

Strategic partnership projects through social labour plans and corporate social investments we can confirm the following capital projects commitments:

- The Building of the new Satellite Police Station in Klarinet-Siyanqoba area. The council has already approved the site for the construction funded through Seriti Community Development Fund.
- A constructor for the constructions of the Ferrobank Fire Station to serve Kwa- Guqa EXT community. This contractor was just handed over, just yesterday on 06 March 2024 by Glencore Mine.
- As you were driving to this stadium from the N4, Mr President, you have drove through Moses Kotane road that has been rehabilitated.

22. Mr President we are delighted to reaffirm our commitment to land ownership, restoration of dignity by handing over 14 title deeds to 14 beneficiaries of farm dwellers.

Key Service Delivery Issues

23. Mr President, despite the number of achievements attained in the past 30 years of our democracy. The DDM approach has indeed helped to improve planning and accelerate through specific interventions which have been achieved as we been presented earlier.

Water

24. However, we should acknowledge that some teething challenges are still prevalent and persistent that still warrant for our greater attention.

25. Water services in general have proved to be a challenge across the district and we are responding through DDM water projects as alluded earlier on.

26. Specifically in Emalahleni, the greatest challenge has been with high content of Manganese since the advent of the recent floods and historical mining economic activities.

27. Whilst the SANS 241 of 2015 prescribed that Manganese content in the water should not exceed 400 micrograms per litre in the water, we have received testing results of the gradual increase though it has not yet exceeded the minimum set standard.

28. In response to this challenge,

- We have deployed a team of civil engineers, technicians, environmental and water scientist.
- The refurbishment of the lime dosing system and 12 filters which are currently being addressed by an appointed contractor to improve the quality of water release to the distribution reservoir.
- Sludge the command reservoir for the repairs to stop the acute leakage.
- The replacement of the asbestos pipes for water conservation and demand management.

29. The aged infrastructure that is currently over 100 years old has partly contributed to constant and perennial pipe burst, water leakages and unreliable water supply that has acutely affected at least 11 wards within the Municipal area.

30. DWS working closely with District and local municipality have undertaken the infrastructure

feasibility assessment to holistically address bulk and reticulation infrastructure weaknesses for potential funding of the upgrades through the Regional Bulk Infrastructure grant (RBIG).

31. Through this intervention, a total overhaul of infrastructure leading to reliable constant water potable supply shall be pursued over short, medium to long term.

32. As a temporal measure, water tankers are rolled out to our communities

33. Mr President, we have to acknowledge the past of planning and developing new settlements without installation of bulk infrastructure and reticulation in places like Siyanqoba.

34. In addressing this challenge, the municipality will install a modular plant at Doornpoort by September 2024.

Roads

35. Due to poor storm water drainage and coal haulage, the roads in eMalahleni are prone to potholes.

36. Road rehabilitation funded through MIG and strategic partnerships, social labour plans.

37. We have deployed yellow fleet which includes JET patchers to improve the turn-around of fixing potholes

Crime

38. Mr President, Emalahleni has recently recorded high levels of crime in particular contact crime which include car high jacking, retail robbery and GBVF.

39. Ukubulawa kwabesifazane nezingane kuseseyinkinga enkhulu. Kanjalo nobugebengu buyinkinga enkhulu, okufanele silwe nabo, ngokubambisa sisonkhe.

40. We will be partnering with the private sector to increase police visibility which include building of new Police Stations and police vehicles and this programme is on course.

41. We are conducting weekly High Density Operations, which start on Thursday until Sunday focusing on hot sport areas determined through crime threat and crime pattern analysis.

42. Emalahleni is pursuing the safer community concept which is characterised by multi sectoral command centre, rapid response team, CCV cameras and drones.

43. Mr President, as I conclude, I wish to assure you that issues raised during the last DDM Presidential Imbizo held in Carolina, in Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality, Gert Sibande District, were attended to.

44. We commit ourselves to finalise the outstanding matters. Furthermore, we want to assure you that issues to be raised in this Imbizo today, will not escape our attention. We will resolve them accordingly, in the same manner that we have resolved those raised in the last DDM Imbizo.

Siyathokoza