

**TLP CLOSING REMARKS BY HON SPEEDY MASHILO ACTING PREMIER,
VICTOR KHANYE MUNICIPALITY (SIMON GONDWE SPORTS FIELD) ON THE
14TH OF MARCH 2025**

Speaker Hon Masina and Deputy Speaker Hon Masango of our
Provincial Legislature;

Honourable Members of the Mpumalanga Legislature;

Honourable Members of the Executive Council;

Executive Mayors, in particular our Host His Worship Councillor,
K.V. Buda and Executive Mayor of Nkangala District Municipality

His Worship Councillor Ngwenya

Leaders of all Political Parties;

Traditional Leaders under the leadership of the Chairperson of
Mpumalanga House Kgoshi Mokoena who is also the President
of Contralesa

Ondabezitha,

Bayede,

The Director General of the Province Ms Skosana and all Senior
government officials from all three spheres of government.

Chairpersons and CEOs of our parastatals;
Representatives of labour, business, religious and other
community-based organisations; Beautiful people of Victor
Khanye Local Municipality Council and those coming from other
municipalities of Nkangala District Council.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Lotjhani, Sanibonani, Dumelang

1. Honourable Speaker, let me take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation for the sterling oversight work the legislature has done during this week, starting from Monday through public participation programmes which we are concluding today.
2. Taking Legislature to the People (TLP) is one of the key instruments used by the law makers to actively engage with the public so that it can remain receptive and responsive to the needs of the people.
3. Public participation an integral part of our democracy and participatory governance through the involvement of communities in the matters of national, provincial and local government, is one of the objects of our democratic government.
4. When writing our Constitution, those who came before us were very much alive to the need to engrave in that Constitution the clauses that made it mandatory to conduct and observe public participation as fundamental part of our democracy.

5. Uma bebhala uMthethosisekelo abaholi bethu, oMandela, noSisulu bakubeka kwacaca ukuthi kufanele futhi kunesidingo sokuthi nina njengomphakathi nibe nezwi futhi nibe nesandla ekushaweni kwemithetho nemigomo ezothinta izimpilo zenu.
6. The values and principles of public participation are premised on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process; including the notion that the public's input will be considered when such decisions are made and implemented and that this process seeks the genuine involvement of the people. It is not just a public relations exercises
7. It is therefore my greatest pleasure to join you, the beautiful people of this marvellous area, Victor Khanye Local Municipality an area with rich political history at the invitation of our Honourable Speaker umama uLindiwe Masina.
8. Kuyintokozo enkulu kimi nabalingani bami kuhulumeni wesifunda saseMpumalanga ukuzohlanganyela nani kulomcimbi obaluleke kangaka.
9. Lomcimbi esihlangene ngawo lapha ogqugquzelwe iSishayamthetho saseMpumalanga, wenzeka kabili ngonyaka ezindaweni ezahlukahlukene.

10. This time Mpumalanga legislature took a decision that Victor Khanye Local Municipality should host Taking Legislature to the People so that we can together promote sustainable decisions by recognising and communicating about your needs so that we can make better decisions that reflect your interests and concerns.

11. Kanjalo nawo uMkhandlu wenu oholwa uMhlonishwa uMeya uBaba ukhansela K.V. Buda kanye nawo wonke amakhansela kufanele benze ezabo izimbizo ezifana nayo lena ebizwe yiSishayamthetho, lapho bazohlala nani phansi banilalele bezwe ukuthi nikhala ngani nanokuthi ningabasiza kanjani, beseke bayanichazele ukuthi yini intuthuko eza endaweni yenu nokuthi izokwenzeka nini futhi kanjani. Nani nibe nemibono eniyibekayo.

12. The intention of public participation and involvement in democratic processes is primarily to influence decision-making processes that reflects *'the will of the people'*.

VICTOR KHANYE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

13. We have gathered here in the area that was appropriately named after Victor Khanye, a struggle hero and an anti-

apartheid activist who, together with many freedom fighters fought hard for the liberation of our country.

14. In honour of his selflessness leadership and his commitment to a non-racial non-sexist democratic South Africa, the people of Mpumalanga named this town after him. Victor Khanye's name will remain indelible in the annals of our history.

15. Siyavumelana noBaba obesikhumbuza ngomlando we Victor Khanye ngesikhathi sokuboshwa, ukushushiswa nokucindezelwa kwabaholi bethu abebengabaholi namalunga e-United Democratic Front (UDF) okwagcina sekwaziwa ngele Delmas Treason Trial from 1985 to 1989.

16. It is very important for young people, to know the history of their place and reflect on its significance and its place in our past and its relevance in our present and future.

17. As we meet here today, to reflect on the events of this long week engagement with our people, we are encouraged by the level, the spirit, and the interest of engagement shown by the people of Victor Khanye on issues that affect their day to day lives.

18. It is therefore befitting to extend our gratitude and appreciation of the outstanding and excellent work that you Madam Speaker and Hon Deputy Speaker and all other Hon members of the legislature as well as the officials, have done in this area since a decision was taken that the law makers would be visiting this area.

19. We believe that you have taken a very bold step towards the fulfillment of the key pillars of the principles of our democracy that promotes among others; ***Accessibility, Openness, Inclusiveness, Respect for Self Expression and Timeliness.***

20. These principles are also anchored on the common understanding that nothing can be done for our people without their concern their involvement and their participation.

MEDIUM TERM DEVELOPMENT PLAN (MTDP)

21. The newly endorsed MTDP is a reflection of the principles and policies of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa but also of the NDP, the Freedom Charter the ANC Manifesto and various other pieces of legislation that guide us on the day to day basis, as we endeavour to deliver services to all people of Mpumalanga in particular the poor and the downtrodden.

22. This Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP) outlines the government priorities over the five-year period which amongst others pays particular attention to:

- ***Driving Inclusive Growth and Job Creation***
- ***Reducing Poverty and Tackling the High Cost of Living***
- ***Building a Capable, Ethical, and Developmental State***

23. Whilst these three strategic priorities are interrelated and interlinked, ***driving inclusive growth and job creation*** is viewed as an Apex priority. All spheres of government, clusters and sectors will pay special attention and prioritise relevant economic interventions.

24. The MTDP places ***Inclusive Growth and Job Creation*** at the centre and seeks to transform the economy and society towards increased prosperity and equality for all citizens and to build social cohesion and unity.

MTDP PRIORITY 3: A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE

25. The focus on creating a capable, ethical, and professional public service will be achieved by enhancing institutional capacity, promoting good governance, and ensuring that public servants embody the highest standards of professionalism.

26. We are strengthening financial management, improving oversight, and ensuring transparency across Provincial Departments and Local Government.

27. By fostering a culture of accountability and ethical leadership, the province will be better positioned to deliver on its developmental objectives, ensuring that public resources are used efficiently to meet the needs of its people.

28. Moreover, in order to improve stability in governance at local government and restore delivery of services through the DDM, the following interventions have been prioritised:

- Enhance implementation of Integrated Plans through the District Development Model
- Implement reforms of the local government system to improve governance and achieve financial sustainability

- Ensure municipalities fulfil their basic obligations to citizens
- Increase infrastructure maintenance funding and human resources
- Increase revenue collection and resource mobilization in partnership with other government entities and review the sustainability and funding of local government.

VKLM ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

29. Madam Speaker, it is always an honour and humbling experience to come to contact with people that voted for us to be members of the provincial legislature.

30. We are more inspired and determined to continue with the agenda of taking Mpumalanga to greater heights. That project will never be complete if we don't have Victor Khanye Local Municipality as part of the beneficiaries of making sure that the lives of our people change for the better.

31. The issue of unemployment in particular youth unemployment is of grave concern. The unemployment rate in this municipality by the end of 2023 stood at 31.4% whilst the youth unemployment rate was at 41.7%. Working with the

National Government through programmes like Presidential Youth Employment Service, our own Expanded Public Works Programme and the private sector will prioritize job creation and skilled development for young people in this area.

32. To alleviate youth unemployment and support those with bankable business ideas, the Premier's Youth Fund will continue to support businesses that are owned by young people. We have spent over Two Hundred and Fifty Million Rand (R250 000 000,00) supporting businesses owned by young people throughout the province. Some of them come from this municipality and from Nkangala District.

33. However, we have also decided to come very close to this space and monitor the performance and the sustainability of these businesses so that they succeed and continue also employ other young unemployed people.

34. VKLM is an agricultural hub of this region. We are looking forward to farmers of this area also contributing and benefitting to the soft launch of the Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce market that will happen next month.

35. We will continue with our economic agricultural investment which includes drilling of boreholes, construction of irrigation

schemes, construction of vegetables tunnels and providing fencing to our emerging farmers.

36. We have supported a number of emerging farmers and cooperatives in this area, providing them with inputs and mechanization in animal and vegetable farming.

37. We are pleased that some of them are succeeding in selling and buying their livestock in local auctions.

38. The leadership of the municipality must also take advantage of the recently pronounced opening of the bid for the **fourth casino** of the province. It will be in the interest of the municipality to identify potential investors that can invest in the casino bid in this area.

39. VKLM has great potential in expanding its economic output in the areas of Mining, Agriculture and Tourism.

40. During the Opening of the Legislature (OLA) last year and during SOPA this year, the Premier of the Province, Hon Mandla Ndlovu reiterated that the province is planning to open a mining school and other specialized schools in the province.

41. We expect VKLM to also benefit from this initiative.

BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

42. On the matter of basic service delivery, a lot of ground work has been covered however, we will be the first to admit that a lot still need to be done.
43. A multi-year extension of bulk water and sanitation infrastructure to Waaikraal, Arbor and Groenfontein is at a feasibility stage.
44. The construction of three water treatment package plant is underway and should be completed by 31 December 2025.
45. Delmas Waste Water Works is currently being upgraded through the Nkangala District Municipality and the Department of Water and Sanitation.
46. Currently there are **four boreholes** pumping into the Delmas water treatment plant. A further **six boreholes** are in the process of being refurbished with the assistance of EXARRO.
47. In order to deal with outages affecting Botleng proper, businesses and Delmas extension 14, the municipality is

currently completing the 9km overhead line from Delmas main to D1 switching station.

48. We will continue with our programme of patching potholes as well as re-gravelling and re-grading our road infrastructure. Our partnership with Zomhlaba Resources has assisted us in rehabilitating R 555.
49. We have committed ourselves to assist the families who were allocated sites and title deeds but did not receive the top structures. We will soon begin with the process of beneficiary verification and based on the status of the beneficiaries, we will be building the top structures.
50. A total of 883 Beneficiaries of the PhP who have not received their houses today will be deregistered from the HSS so that they can benefit from the new housing program.
51. And further we shall be eradicating a total 256 asbestos roofs of households within VKLM.
52. Madam Speaker, I am glad to report to this house that yesterday we handed over an Early Child Development

Centre as well as community hall to the people of Victor Khanye Local Municipality, in Botleng extension 6.

53. Whilst some of you may see this as just a physical infrastructure, as the ANC led government, we see this as the fulfilment of the promises of a brighter future, the strengthening of our bonds with our people, and the upliftment of every individual who calls this community home.

54. When our people made a call to their government that they voted for, to build a community hall and an Early Childhood Centre, we did not hesitate but we responded by putting all processes in place to build these facilities.

55. Truly, we are a caring government.

56. Madam Speaker, the contribution of our people in the public hearings of the TLP program is something to be commended. They were very clear with issues without being chaotic but in an orderly manner. They really deserve a good round of applause for your conduct.

57. Hon Members the people of Victor Khanye can attest to that some of their issues were responded to by the relevant MECs on the spot, yet we do have those that will still be attended. It

is good that as Members of the Executive, when we make the commitment, Hon Members of various committees in the Legislature do a follow up to make sure that your issues are attended as per the undertakings.

58. It will be unfair to discuss and not acknowledge the good work done in this area despite challenges brought about by the population growth of Victor Khanye Local Municipality.

59. Victor Khanye Local Municipality has the third highest population growth rate of the 17 Municipal areas in Mpumalanga. It has the population growth rate of 3.3% per annum, which is slightly higher than the annual average growth rate.

60. Madam Speaker allow me to make a clarion call to our people, not only in VKLM, but throughout the province. **Our people must start paying for their services.**

61. There is nothing for mahhala. Rand Water and other water agencies charge VKLM for water consumption. Eskom charges the municipality for electricity, for the municipality to maintain road infrastructure and provide refuse removal services they need to buy and service vehicles. If you do not

pay for the services, how can your municipality provide those services?

EDUCATION

62. Madam Speaker, we have seen improvement in the Matric pass rate under VKLM from 78.2% in 2019 to 83.2% in 2024. The Department will provide the District and the Circuit with all the support it requires so that we can see further improvement of matric pass rate to above 90%.
63. We have built and renovated a number of classes including ablutions facilities in various schools here in VKLM. Some of the schools that benefitted from this programme are: Delpark Primary School, Mafa Max Motloung Secondary School, Othandweni Primary School, Phaphamani Secondary School, Rietkol Primary School and Sizuzile Primary School.
64. We have heard your concern about the multi-grade classrooms and the poor condition of one school in Waaikraal which is Manyavela Primary school.
65. Mphakathi, We have taken a decision to **add two more mobile classrooms** whilst budgeting for the construction of a new school in this VKLM area. As alluded earlier this

municipality is one of the fastest growing in terms of population and we expect the number of learners to grow as well. We will also be talking to the private sector especially the mining community to see if they cannot join hands with us and assist.

66. We will continue to support our learners who are in need of scholar transport. Currently we are transporting more than Two Thousand and Sixty-one (2061) learners here in VK area. We have currently contracted 32 scholar transport vehicles from 10 different operators.

67. We have listened to your concerns about buses that are overloaded, drivers that are driving recklessly and learners walking long distances

68. We are acquiring more vehicles for our traffic officers so that they are able to do thorough monitoring and inspections of scholar transport busses and vehicles and to do law enforcement on our roads.

69. We will continue to monitor and **arrest** those that will take advantage and transport our learners using vehicles that are not road worthy.

HEALTH

70. We have listened to the complaints from members of the community with regard to the operating hours of the clinic. It is a matter of policy that before we can review the operating hours, the clinic must be able to reach a particular figure in terms of numbers of people who are using it but also who reside in that area. Whilst working within this policy but it should be clear that we will do our best to make sure that the people get the best health care.

71. We are pleased to report that there are now two clinics that are operating for 24 hours that is Botleng Proper and Botleng Ext 6. The one at Ext 3 will continue to operate for 8 hours.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

72. Abject poverty, hunger, unemployment, substance abuse and gender based violence and femicide all these social ills demand a response from government.

73. Government has appointed non-profit organizations to assist in looking after the most vulnerable members of our community here in VKLM.

74. We are working with our social partners to augment what we are currently providing in terms of social services. Government alone will never be able to meet the ever increasing needs of our society.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE

75. It was an eye opener to listen to contributions from members of this Municipality about the challenges facing our communities, one of them being the scourge of GBVF. GBVF has become the second pandemic, and as Mpumalanga province, we have our hands on deck to deal with this scourge.

76. We are the first province to launch the Council to fight GBVF but over and above the launch we still have a long way to go. One thing that must be clear is that we are not going to rest until our communities are free from the perpetrators of GBVF. The council will visit this area of the province to assist with programs.

77. We live with the culprits as they are our brothers, fathers, children, uncles and neighbours. We know them very well as they are part of our communities, and some might be present here in this important gathering. It can't be business as usual

when we keep quiet, and take no action whilst our people are being brutalized in such a manner.

78. Drugs, teenage pregnancy and all other ills facing our youth is something that needs all of us. We can't keep quiet when the future leaders are being destroyed in our communities. Without the youth and their critical role to play we don't have a province. As former President Nelson once remarked that **“Any society which does not care for its children, is no nation at all”** Nelson Mandela went on to say that let us all resolve to put children at the centre of all what we do.

CRIME

79. We are fully behind the program led by MEC of the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison(DCSSL) Hon Jackie Macie, of allocating a police to each and every problematic schools. It cannot be correct that we allow criminals to corrupt the young ones. Rest assured Madam Speaker, we are not going to leave any stone unturned. This place will never be the same. We can't keep quiet when VKLM becomes number one on Provincial rankings when we it comes to **Attempted Murder**. You are also number four and five on **car high jacking** and **contact crime** on provincial rankings respectively.

80. We fully trust the intervention of government to make sure that the people of Victor Khanye Local Municipality are also part of those in the province that will enjoy peace. We urge our people to be part of the Community Safety Forums (CPF) and also participate in advocacy programmes in the fight against crime.

81. We are in the process of implementing a crime prevention strategy which includes the deployment of 1200 Crime prevention wardens throughout the province. Victor Kanye also benefitted from this deployment. The wardens will be working with the police and will be placed on hot spots areas.

CULTURE SPORTS AND ARTS

82. We will continue to support **creative** arts and all other forms of arts in the province. In VKLM we are supporting thirteen sporting clubs on annual rotational basis.

83. As part of our contribution to the Freedom Charter principle of Opening the Doors of Learning to all, we are renovating the Botleng public library and we have completed installing internet services and learning material and Electronic books to Delmas, Botleng and Sundra Public Libraries.

84. The philosopher George Santayana says, those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. To learn from our history and leave a lasting legacy we have completed building the **Delmas Treason Trial Monument** which will be a reminder of what former President Mandela said and I quote **“Never, never and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another”**

85. Hon Members we do understand the challenges especially the inadequate water supply, high informal settlements, housing backlog, high unemployment, high level of crime, long queues in health facilities, overcrowding and the scholar transport.

86. It was the best decision, Madam Speaker to bring us to this part of Mpumalanga. It is always encouraging and inspiring when we see our people deciding to take their issues to the people they voted to represent them.

87. Madam Speaker we again making the commitment as Mpumalanga provincial government that when we say **Kubhunya Lithuli eMpumalanga**, we also include Victor Khanye Local Municipality.

88. The number of projects already completed and those in the pipeline as outlined by respective MECs during our engagement on Tuesday is a clear indication of the agenda to address poverty, unemployment and inequality.

89. Let us all commit that fighting poverty, unemployment and inequality should unite all of us.

90. We are looking forward to future report back sessions and engagements that will really change the lives of the people of Victor Khanye Local Municipality. We are the province that believes in the saying that when **the sunrises, we work hard to deliver services to our people.**

91. Once again thank you Madam Speaker and your entire team for a successful TLP in Victor Khanye Local Municipality.

92. Thank you.