



2024

VOTE 1

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER
POLICY & BUDGET
SPEECH

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Mpumalanga Provincial Government



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MPUMALANGA
PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENT



**OFFICE OF THE PREMIER 2024/25 POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH VOTE 1 TABLED BY
PREMIER MR. MP NDLOVU IN THE LEGISLATURE**

DATE: 08 AUGUST 2024

TIME: 14h15

Speaker of the Mpumalanga Legislature, Honorable LL Masina;
Deputy Speaker of the Mpumalanga Legislature, Honorable S Masango;
The Chief Whip of the ruling Party, Honorable Eva Makhabane;
Honorable Members of the Executive Council;
Honorable Members of the Legislature;
The Acting Director General, Mr. Peter Nyoni and HODs
The Chairperson of the Mpumalanga House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders, and President of CONTRALESA, Kgoši Mokoena;
Our esteemed Communities present in the gallery, and those following this session through various Media Platforms;
Good afternoon; Avuxeni; Sanibonani; Lotshani; Dumelang.

1. **Madam Speaker**, it is with great honour and privilege to be given an opportunity to present the 2024/25 Policy and Budget position of the Office of the Premier on this important month, Women's month.
2. We recognise the indelible role played by women from all walks of life including those from our beautiful province of Mpumalanga in the struggle for the total emancipation of the people of South Africa.
3. Allow me to salute the likes of the late Make Letta Shongwe, Make Violet Siwela, Mme Refiloe Mahlobogoane, Make Portia Shabangu, Mme Linah Malatjie, Make Thandi Mtsweni, Make Thoko Mabena, Mama Nokuthula Simelane, Mom Winnie Madikizela Mandela and many others.
4. Let me echo the words of Thomas Sankara when he spoke about Women's Liberation and the African Struggle and said: *"Comrades, there is no true social revolution without the liberation of women. May my eyes never see and my feet never take me to a society where half the people are held in silence. I hear the roar of women's silence. I sense the rumble of their storm and feel the fury of their revolt."*

5. I applaud our caring Government for naming some of the key points, including the committee rooms in our legislature, buildings and roads after these heroines.
6. As we enjoy the spoils of democracy, we must give full acknowledgment and appreciation of the role played by women in our struggle for freedom, gender equality and most importantly, for universal human liberties and democracy.
7. Our government will continue to prioritize issues that affect women and children in particular Gender Based Violence which I will address later in this speech.
8. Madam Speaker, the strategic objectives of the office of the Premier is to play a pivotal role in providing coherent strategic leadership and coordination in provincial policy formulation and review, planning and overseeing service delivery planning and implementation in support of provincial and national priorities and plans.
9. Madam Speaker, we will prioritise effective monitoring and evaluation which plays a critical role in contributing to the achievement of the Premier's Office objectives.
10. The Premier to be able to play his oversight, monitoring and evaluation role, there is a need to build a capable, ethical and developmental government.
11. To strengthen the office, the Premier has engaged with Mr Makhukhu Mampuru who has been on leave since February 2024, because he feared for his life. He only wanted to come to the province to assist the Premier to settle.
12. The office of the Premier transferred the DG to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. The MEC for DEDET subsequently seconded him to Nkomazi SEZ as the CEO to finish his term with all his benefits.
13. There are vacancies of the HODs. Currently two positions were advertised, as part of my first 100-days. The department will appoint the two HODs for DEDET and for Community Safety, Security and Liaison. There are also strategic vacant positions that we are prioritizing. We plan to fill all the funded vacant positions.
14. Our intergovernmental system is decentralized, with three inter-dependent, inter-related but distinct spheres of government. This presents a considerable amount of complexity to policy formulation and implementation, as well as Monitoring and Evaluation.



15. In concurrent functions, there are policies which are promulgated by one sphere of government while budgeting and implementation for that function, takes place within another sphere of government.
16. This complexity requires intensive sectoral, intergovernmental, functional and spatial coordination across the policy making, planning, budgeting and implementation processes.
17. Furthermore, joint work in the form of collaborative programmes, projects and services across the three spheres of government as it is done through the District Development Model, is important.
18. Joint work creates a compelling requirement for collaborative monitoring and evaluation.
19. Well-functioning monitoring and evaluation systems are therefore indispensable for ensuring the smooth functioning of the machinery of government in a way that policy aims and objectives are achieved.
20. My office has a duty of ensuring that provincial policy and planning frameworks are aligned with national plans and priorities, and also that local government Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) are also harmonized with provincial growth and development strategies and then reflect national priorities.
21. In addition, we need to ensure that provincial department plans are indeed responsive to IDPs, enabling the IDPs to inform the alignment of policies, planning and budgeting of all three spheres of government hence our DDM approach of one plan.
22. My office coordinates the monitoring of the provision of basic services by municipalities such as water, sanitation, electricity and infrastructure to ensure that the socio-economic rights of citizens of the province are realized.
23. Our monitoring and evaluation system must have early warning signals that alert us of potential service delivery breakdowns or financial crises within municipalities so that we can timeously provide support.
24. To equip the office with proper monitoring and evaluation system an amount of R40



million is budgeted to procure Service Delivery Monitoring Tool (SDMT). The process is at an advanced stage.

25. The tool will assist us to collect, analyze, and report data on service delivery performance of all municipalities, departments and all SOEs.
26. The tool includes feedback forms, complaints registers, mystery shopping, audits, dashboards, scorecards, and reports on service by all institutions across the province.
27. It also continuously monitors the performance, quality, and satisfaction of the services rendered. We use the tools to collect and analyze feedback from our customers and stakeholders.
28. Among many other functions, the tool will also do the following:
 - ☐ Facilitate a clear sequence of events based on critical reflection and managerial action in response to analysis of the relationships between the deployment of inputs, the generation of service delivery outputs, their associated outcomes and impacts;
 - ☐ To ensure that relevant data on service delivery by the three spheres is collected and reports are compiled and shared regularly;
 - ☐ It also serves as a dashboard to report on key performance indicators for informed decision making and advise the PMC and EXCO;
 - ☐ It improves the quality of planning driven by comparisons between what was planned and what was done;
 - ☐ Record the services rendered and the results achieved;
 - ☐ Registers complaints from every citizen and also,
 - ☐ To capture departmental performances in relation to their plans and priorities.
29. The system will assist us to identify and bridge gaps between different sectors of government.
30. This will encourage collaboration, coordination and synergy across departments, pulling resources, expertise and perspectives to achieve integrated solutions.
31. By breaking down silos and fostering interdisciplinary approaches, the system will enable



us to confront the issues jointly.

32. We need a paradigm shift on how we approach and tackle complex challenges that transcend departmental boundaries.

Monitoring and Evaluation

33. Madam Speaker, I am happy that the goals we set for ourselves in the 2023/24 financial year, we have successfully achieved the evaluation of the implementation and effectiveness of three important programmes, namely:

- The building of Boarding Schools programme targeting children of farm dwellers and farm workers;
- The Fortune 40 Agricultural intervention programme targeting young people who want to venture into farming;
- The Household Initiative for Sustainable Livelihood Intervention programme to see whether it offers a more coherent and integrated approach to poverty.

34. The implementation of these programmes emanating from these scientific studies, including improvement plans for the interventions, will be presented to the Executive Council soon to inform decisions on the enhancement of these programmes.

35. To highlight key findings of the study on the Boarding Schools, we discovered that the intervention is relevant and coherent with the overall aspiration of the provincial government and the department.

36. In respect of the Fortune 40 programme, the evaluation study established that the programme is relevant and is of a worthy cause for the youth who are exposed to difficult socio-economic conditions. However, the programme was found to be ineffective, since there was no evidence that any of the cooperatives set up for the purpose of the programme was still productive and the biggest limitations is lack of access to land for farming that we cannot ignore.

37. To enhance the programme and ensure that intended results are achieved, the study recommends, amongst others, the revision of the recruitment process, the stipends, and address the lack of access to land for farming.

38. The third study, on Household Initiative for Sustainable Livelihood Intervention programme,



found that the intervention is relevant and effective in addressing the socio-economic challenges affecting the people of Mpumalanga, given the high levels of poverty which has risen to alarming levels.

39. However, the use of resources in an efficient manner was found to be a challenge. Among others, the study recommended a review of the programme's guidelines, streamlining the procurement process, improving departmental monitoring and evaluation of the programme, strengthen collaboration with partners, and integrate internal audit of the processes.
40. In this current financial year 2024/25, we are continuing to evaluate eight other interventions, namely:
- ☐ The Integrated Municipal Support Programme, and
 - ☐ The Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme at the COGHSTA;
 - ☐ The Primary Health Care Facilities Governance Structures at the Health;
 - ☐ The implementation of the Tourism Development Programme focusing on KwaMdala and Mkhombo Nature Reserves at the DEDET;
 - ☐ The implementation and effectiveness of the Transversal Supplier Contracts;
 - ☐ The Sakh' abakhi Contractors Programme;
 - ☐ The Oversight Programme on Policing, and Tourism Safety Monitoring programme at the DCSSL;
 - ☐ The Phezukomkhono Mlimi at the DARDLEA; and
 - ☐ The Premier's Youth Development Fund at the Office of the Premier.
41. Of the above-mentioned evaluation studies, five have been commissioned already, the Integrated Municipal Support Programme, was concluded in the first quarter of this financial year. We commit to finalize the last two during this financial year as planned.
42. Evaluation is an important tool that uses systematic and scientific methods to generate scientific evidence.
43. It assists to improve the implementation of interventions and deepen their effectiveness with respect to intended outcomes and impact occurring within targeted communities and society at large.



MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL AIDS COUNCIL (MPAC)

44. Madam Speaker, we have already held our first quarter Mpumalanga Provincial AIDS Council (MPAC) meeting to review and approve decisions that were taken in the last sitting of MPAC during the sixth administration.
45. The government developed National Strategic Plan for 2023 to 2028 which aims to eliminate HIV, TB and STI, and this was concluded on the 24th March 2023 at Bushbuckridge Local Municipality.
46. The Provincial MPAC Steering Committee, has already commenced with the alignment of the plan and to develop the Provincial Implementation Plan for HIV, TB and STI.
47. During the Provincial AIDS Council Lekgotla that was held on the 31st November 2023, best performing AIDS Councils, AIDS Council Chairpersons, HIV Coordinators and Civil Society Co-Chairperson, were awarded for their outstanding work in assisting government to fight these transmittable diseases.
48. As part of awareness campaigns, the province successfully commemorated the Provincial World AIDS Day on 01st December 2023 as well as the TB Day on the 24th March 2024.
49. We always use these events through *Cheka Impilo campaign*, and provide comprehensive government services in partnership with our social partners.
50. In the current financial year, the Province is assisting all Municipalities to develop their Multi-Sectoral District and Local Implementation Plans for HIV, TB and STIs aligned to the 2023 – 28 PIP for HIV, TB and STIs.
51. We are working hard in collaboration with stakeholders to achieve the UNAIDS set target of 95-95-95 set for 2025.
52. All members of AIDS Councils and the newly elected Civil Society Forum members will be inducted on their roles and responsibilities in order to carry their mandate diligently.



ESTABLISHMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF PARTNERSHIPS

53. Madam Speaker, in 2023-24 financial year the OTP coordinated the co-hosting of the BRICS Roadshow with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation in the Province on 4th to the 05th of April 2023.
54. We also co-hosted the BRICS Summit build up events comprised of the BRICS Senior Officials and Ministers of Education and Sports on the 13th to the 14th of July and the 20th to the 21st July 2023 respectively.
55. We coordinated outbound mission on the 21st to the 27th of May 2023 to Germany and Austria.
56. The purpose of the mission was to benchmark a vegetable and herbs dehydration and process plant in Austria. We plan to start a similar project here in Mpumalanga within our International Fresh Produce Market.
57. Our main objective to visit Germany was to enhance these valuable partnerships in the tourism industry.
58. Madam Speaker, in the current financial year, we will continue to establish new partnerships meant to support socio-economic development initiatives in line with the Provincial priorities.
59. Over and above that, the Office will strengthen the existing partnerships with provinces, private institutions and developmental agencies in Africa, BRICS member countries and the rest of the world.
60. There are trade and investment opportunities identified in Austria and Kenya (**Tiata Taveta Province**) as part of regional integration.
61. The Office of the Premier will support the work of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism to attract trade and direct foreign investment into the Province.
62. We will renew Memorandum of Understanding with Maputo Province of Mozambique,



Memorandum of Understanding with Sverdlovsk Province of the Russian Federation, North Rhine Westphalia of Germany and Chongqing Province in the Peoples Republic of China.

63. There is an increase of requests for courtesy visits from foreign Embassies to Mpumalanga with an aim of exploring the possibility of establishing partnerships/collaborating in areas of common interests.
64. South Africa will host the G20 in 2025. We are participating in the preparation of this important gathering. We are targeting to host one of the meetings to be held by the Finance Ministers.
65. The assumption of Chairmanship of South Africa's G20 by the President will mark the first time an African country presides over the G20.
66. This initiative, forms part of the international platforms for the Province to showcase what it has to offer to the world.

ON INSTITUTIONALIZING LONG-TERM PLANNING

67. Madam Speaker, we are finalising the thirty-year review report for the province.
68. The report highlights the accomplishments of our democracy thus far, and identifies areas for improvement including lessons learned from navigating the financial crisis of 2008 and the COVID 19 pandemic that threatened the existence of humanity, and changed the course of history.
69. This review will be concluded by the end of August 2024.
70. It will include the review of the current Provincial Five-year Plan of 2019 to 2024 and the development of the 2024 to 2029 Provincial Plan in line with the new National Medium Term Development Plan (MTDF) of 2024 to 2029 that is currently underway.
71. We successfully held an Executive Council induction and Lekgotla sessions where members were appraised on their roles and responsibilities. Priorities of the 7th administration were initiated and we plan to finalise them by the end of October.
72. Our priorities for the 7th provincial administration and the development of the Medium Term Development Plan will be informed by our election manifesto and the priorities of the



government of national unity:

- Drive inclusive growth and job creation;
- Reduce poverty and tackle the high cost of living; and
- Build a capable, ethical and developmental state.

73. We plan to have an engagement session with key stakeholders including business forums and civil society organizations in the province to get their views and input.
74. Provincial Departments and Public Entities will be undertaking strategic planning sessions as from August 2024, to firm up proposed targets and indicators for this plan.
75. Upon the conclusion of this process, I will convene another Lekgotla in February 2025 to adopt the plan. I will enter into performance agreements with members of the Executive Council as part of improving accountability on the implementation of the Provincial MTDP.
76. As we embark on the planning and implementation of the Provincial MTDP, we will be intensifying the implementation of the **District Development Model**.
77. As I committed during the Opening of the Legislature Address (OLA), the Premier's Coordination Forum (PCF) will assume its critical role in overseeing the execution of the DDM One Plan across all sectors, including the Provincial MTDP.
78. We will also intensify our efforts to unlock the full potential of various programmes and catalytic projects initiated through the model.

TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MPUMALANGA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

79. Madam Speaker, a Provincial Task Team to oversee the establishment of the **Mpumalanga Research Institute (MRI)** has been hard at work with representatives from the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS) and the University of Pretoria (UP).
80. The team held engagement sessions with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA,) the University of Mpumalanga (UMP) and Tshwane University of Technology (TUT).
81. The Task Team has developed an MRI Strategy which includes proposals, business model and the implementation plan for the establishment of the Institute.



82. The process of the initial designs and the roll out plan is now at an advanced stage.
83. **MRI** will focus on creating new knowledge and on building capacity, address some of the challenges faced by the Province, and largely contribute to the broader goals of National Development Plan.
84. As part of its implementation strategy, the **MRI** will be incubated and hosted by an anchor university to ensure academic credibility and integrity. It will partner with a wide range of academic institutions, locally and abroad, as well as the communities themselves.
85. Once operational the **MRI** will, through a prioritised set of research priorities that are aligned to Mpumalanga's Development Priorities and the National Development Plan, undertake relevant research and translate the new knowledge created so as to drive transformative societal impact.
86. This includes research and new knowledge generation that will:
- ☐ Inform our policies;
 - ☐ Improve our planning for implementation;
 - ☐ Strengthen integrated service delivery;
 - ☐ Strengthen economic, social and environmental systems;
 - ☐ Build capacity; and
 - ☐ Enhance the wide range of strategic initiatives that are being put in place to fast-track the improvement of the lives of people in our province.
87. The thrust of the **MRI** is to gather through robust and rigorous research, the “communities voices” to shape and inform all policy and programmatic initiatives and interventions across all spheres of government.
88. This strategic initiative (MRI) will be a game changer, and its positive impacts will be felt far beyond our provincial boundaries.

JUST ENERGY TRANSITION AND GREEN ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT

89. The Province concluded a Provincial Chapter that formed part of the National Just Transition Plan.
90. As part of our resolve to address the negative effects of climate change and to strengthen our mitigation strategy, my predecessor coordinated the Premier's outbound mission for the province to participate in the 28th session of the Conference of the UN's Framework on Climate



Change in Dubai on the 4th to the 8th of December 2023.

91. In the current financial year, the Province will implement three initiatives for the institutionalization of Just Transition Framework. This includes the establishment of Just Transition Governance mechanisms, coordination of Just Transition Partnerships as well as the development of the Just Transition monitoring and evaluation framework.

PREMIER'S YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUND

92. Madam Speaker, my government remains concerned by unacceptable high rate of unemployment, in particular youth unemployment. To curb this scourge and assist our youth to either get employment or start their own businesses, we are working on various programmes and projects that have begun to yield positive results.
93. The Premier's Youth Development Fund is one of them. Since its inception, we have supported 182 youth owned businesses across the Province.
94. We have developed young entrepreneurs, in different sectors such as manufacturing, mining, agriculture, tourism, ICT, retail, transport, logistics, etc. they tell good stories on the success and expansion of their businesses.
95. Young entrepreneurs created their own job opportunities and sustainable jobs for other youth, provide them with an opportunity to develop work experience they so much need. Several jobs have been created, and some are tapping into the well-established businesses, to start new business adventures.
96. **Sihle Ngwenya** of Kinross, in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, has through this Fund established a printing company, named **Black Child**. The company provides a much-needed service in his area, and has created job opportunities for the local youth.
97. In the current financial year, **R100 million** is allocated for the Premier's Youth Development Fund. We also intend to be biased on allocation towards young women and youth with disability.
98. As part of our awareness campaign about various government programmes that are aimed at youth development, we will embark on aggressive roadshows throughout the Province. This will be done with our partners, including the state-owned funding institutions and the private sector business funders.



99. Madam Speaker, we would like to warn those who may want to try and use youth with disabilities for fronting for their own selfish interest. Our monitoring and evaluation teams will be going out to monitor and evaluate businesses that are funded by government to ascertain that indeed these businesses are owned and managed by the targeted beneficiaries.

ON TACKLING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE (GBVF)

100. Madam Speaker, earlier on I made a reference to this horrendous act of violence that is perpetrated against women and children, the Gender Based Violence and Femicide.
101. The recent atrocities being the discovery of bodies of children who went missing only to be found buried in shallow graves.
102. I have requested the Acting Provincial Commissioner to prioritize these kinds of criminality and apprehend the perpetrators.
103. We are calling on our courts to take stronger measures when considering bail applications and ensure that they close all the loopholes and increase the positive verdict rate.
104. Those found guilty should receive heavy sentences to send a strong message that our courts are not lenient on any acts of violence.
105. We will intensify our awareness campaigns and work with all our social partners and communities. GBVF is a societal problem, it needs all of us.
106. We send a stern warning to men who treat women as if they are their properties and subject them to abusive treatment. They will not escape the long arm of the law.
107. To strengthen our efforts in the war against GBVF, in 2023/24 financial year we initiated the Mpumalanga Provincial Strategic Plan on GBVF (2024-2029) which is aligned to the National Strategic Plan on GBVF.
108. This strategic plan will be approved before the end of the Second Quarter 2024/25. The Plan serves as a guide on how best we can collectively can detect and eliminate any form of GBVF and work towards a province that is peaceful, safe and free from any form of GBVF.



109. The National Strategic Plan on GBVF requires the establishment of Rapid Response Teams on Gender Based Violence and Femicide (RRTs-GBVF). The RRTs are a multi-stakeholder structures that are meant to swiftly respond to any form of GBV from the ward, Local and District Municipalities.
110. Currently, all municipalities, except Dipaleseng Local Municipality, have established the Rapid Response Teams (RRT) which are co-chaired by the Executive Mayors and one member of the Civil Society. Dipaleseng Local Municipality commits to establish the RRT on GBVF before the end of August 2024. For the RRTs to be functional, adequate budget need to be allocated in order to have programmes that are effective in fighting GBVF.
111. In this current financial year, we will launch the Provincial Council on GBVF. This structure is co-chaired by the Premier with one member of the civil society. The Council will give strategic direction on the fight against the scourge of GBVF in the Province. The Council reports to the Presidency on the implementation of GBV and F programmes.

ON MAINSTREAMING SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

112. Madam Speaker, during the 2023-24 financial year Mpumalanga Government initiated the development of the Provincial Policy on Disability. This process is currently undergoing a consultation phase with all relevant stakeholders.
113. The policy allows all spheres of Government and private sector partners to give expression to their commitment in uplifting, empowering and improving of the conditions for Persons with Disabilities.
114. The key issues to be addressed by the policy amongst others, is the implementation of the 3% employment for Persons with Disabilities and to spend at least 7% of procurement on businesses owned by Persons with Disabilities.
115. Madam Speaker, in the current financial year my Office is making a firm commitment to implement the good intention of the bill in terms of achieving the 3% employment target for People with Disabilities when filling vacant funded positions. Everyone has a role to play in ensuring that the rights of Persons with Disabilities are respected, adhered to and their dignity is always maintained.
116. My office remains open for engagements with the representatives of the people with disabilities on their fundamental rights. We know that there is “Nothing about them, without them.”



RATIONALIZATION OF MPUMALANGA STATE OWN ENTITIES

- 117.** Madam Speaker, the review of the Mpumalanga Public Entities remains critical to identify possible gaps, improve performance, introduce mitigating measures and enhance efficiencies.
- 118.** In the current financial year, the Office of the Premier will prioritise to finalise the rationalisation of the Mpumalanga State Own Entities to ensure that the mandates of the entities are purposefully pursued and attained.

STRENGTHENING COORDINATION OF MILITARY VETERANS

- 119.** Madame Speaker, improving the lives of the military veterans will be realised through implementing and coordination of services provided to the military veterans in the province.
- 120.** In the 2023-24 financial year, the Office of the Premier and Military Veterans Council working with National Department of Military Veterans established the database for Military Veterans in the Province.
- 121.** In the current financial year, my Office will continue to coordinate the implementation of the Military Veterans Programme of Action (PoA) as well as establishment of Military Veterans units and desk within the Office of the Premier and District Municipalities.

STRENGTHENING THE COORDINATION AND DELIVERY OF INFRASTRUCTURE

- 122.** Madam Speaker, the Executive Council took a decision to establish a Project Management Unit (PMU) within the Office of the Premier. The unit will assist government to monitor progress on government programmes especially infrastructure projects and improve all areas of project management including projects done within the allocated budgets and on time and also meeting the expected outcomes in terms of quality and quantity.
- 123.** The unit will also be responsible for reporting regularly on infrastructure development across the province.
- 124.** The Project Management Unit will be responsible for amongst others:
- To Provide support in project preparation and pipelining;
 - Liaise with private sector for corporate driven infrastructure projects;
 - Facilitate Private Public Sector Partnerships;
 - Lobby for project financing options;
 - Monitor and evaluate project implementation and results (activities, outputs and outcomes);



GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS

125. Madam Speaker, information sharing by the 7th administration is vital. This is a Constitutional imperative that this administration will uphold, to give effect to Section 195 (g), stated as follows, ***“Transparency must be fostered by providing the public with timely, accessible and accurate information.”***

126. In its mandate, as the center of coordination, the Office of the Premier will ensure that direct and indirect public engagements, through EXCO Outreach programmes are held periodically, across the three Districts. Through these engagements, we commit to pay attention to the views of the citizens and we will try respond timeously to concerns raised.

127. We will use the Integrated Provincial Communication Plan as an instrument that guide these engagements and monitor the departments’ response on the views or concerns raised by our communities.

FIGHTING FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

128. Madam Speaker, to restore public confidence in the MPG, the Office will continue to investigate cases of fraud, corruption and maladministration, and monitor the implementation of recommendations.

129. In an effort to prevent and reduce instances of fraud and corruption, in 2023-24 financial year the Province partnered with Ethics SA Institute and 15 officials were trained as Ethics Officers.

130. This is done to institutionalise ethics in the Public Service, which will result in the reduction of fraud and corruption.

131. To this end, Youth from Mkhondo and Victor Khanye were workshopped on how to detect and report corrupt activities in departments and communities. We will strengthen the integrity unit in order to investigate reported cases without fear.

132. Madam Speaker, in the First Quarter of the 2024/25 Financial Year the Office has already trained 30 Officials from local and district municipalities and from COGHSTA as trainers by Ethics SA.

133. The sessions were coordinated in collaboration with SALGA and COGHSTA.



134. Further-more in this current financial year, 15 officials will be trained as investigators by the National School of Government by end of March 2025.

IMPROVING AUDIT OUTCOMES

135. Madam Speaker, in an effort to improve Audit Outcomes, the office has partnered with the Provincial Treasury and COGHSTA. Municipalities will also be assisted in this regard. Furthermore, through the shared audit services, the Office is able to render internal audit services to five cluster departments.
136. The Report of the Auditor-General shows that 11 Departments in the Mpumalanga Provincial Administration obtained unqualified Audit outcomes for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2024.
137. Madam Speaker, the outcome shows improvement compared to the previous Financial Year. (i.e. the year ended on 31 March 2023)
138. Departments will develop Audit Action Plans on how they will be addressing the findings by the Auditor-General South Africa.
139. The progress in implementing the Action Plans will be monitored by the Premier, Provincial Treasury, Internal Audit as well as the Audit Committees.
140. It is therefore an honour, Madam Speaker, to table the budget of the Office of the Premier Vote 1, and I accordingly request the House to approve the amount of **R 456 092 000.00 (Four Hundred and Fifty-Six Million and Ninety-Two Thousand Rand)** for the 2024/25 financial year, allocated as follows:

- Programme 1: Administration – **R 145 712 000.00 (One Hundred and Forty-Five Million, Seven Hundred and Twelve Thousands Rand)**
- Programme 2: Institutional Development **R 98 876 000.00 (Ninety-Eight Million, Eight Hundred and Seventy-Six Thousand Rands)**
- Programme 3: Policy and Governance - **R 212 314 000.00 (Two Hundred and Twelve Million, Three Hundred and Fourteen Thousand Rands)**

I thank you.





