

# POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH

2024/25

MEC  
NOMPUMELELO  
HLOPHE

08 AUGUST 2024, THURSDAY  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL  
LEGISLATURE, 10H00AM



agriculture, rural development,  
land & environmental affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



INNOVATIVE  
MANAGEMENT  
AWARDS

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60<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
ROUNDTABLE  
CONFERENCE:  
5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023  
LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA.



AAPAM

**INNOVATIVE MANAGEMENT AWARD**  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,  
LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
MPUMALANGA  
SOUTH AFRICA

**POLICY AND BUDGET VOTE No. 5 2024/2025  
BY MEC FOR AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,  
LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS,  
HON. N.E. HLOPHE (MPL), 08 AUGUST 2024**



Speaker of the Mpumalanga legislature,  
Honourable LL Masina  
Deputy Speaker of the Mpumalanga legislature,  
Honourable S Masango  
Chief Whip of the Majority Party;  
Honourable E Makhabane  
Honourable Premier; Mandla Padney Ndlovu  
Honourable Members of the Executive Council;  
Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature;  
Executive Mayors: District and Local Municipalities;  
Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture,  
Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs;  
Hon Collen Sedibe  
The Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders  
and Traditional Leaders present;  
The Acting Director-General, Mr. P Nyoni;  
The HOD for the Department of Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Land and Environmental Affairs,  
Mr. C.M Chunda; and Other Heads of Departments  
present here;  
African National Congress Provincial Leadership;  
Representatives from Organised Agriculture;  
Representatives from the Business Community;  
Representatives of Labour Federations;  
Distinguished Guests and Members of the Public;  
Members of the Media;  
Ladies and Gentlemen,





1. I am honoured to stand before this august house to present our 2024/25 budget.
2. Madam Speaker, the President of the Africa Development Bank, Akinwumi Adesina correctly observed that, I quote –

***“The future millionaires and billionaires of Africa will not be coming from oil and gas sector; they will be coming from the agriculture sector. But I want African countries to be looking at agriculture as a business not as a way of life. Nobody smokes gas, nobody drinks oil, but everybody eats food. So food is critical and that is what Africa has a comparative advantage in”.***

3. Agriculture in Mpumalanga, is indeed our **comparative advantage** Madam Speaker with our province renowned for its vast agricultural land potential, supporting a wide range of crops and livestock. We boast of an impressive array of fertile soils, favourable climate conditions, and water resources.
4. This makes our province an essential agricultural hub, that contributes significantly to the country's food security and overall economic growth. Our sector contributes directly to two of the three Key Priorities of this 7<sup>th</sup> Administration, which are - *Inclusive growth and job creation; and the reduction of poverty and the high cost of living.*

## On Inclusive Growth & Job Creation

5. However, Madam Speaker, the Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan (AAMP) decries the duality in the sector, characterized by the well-established and primarily white commercial farmers dominating the Agribusiness Economy almost entirely to the exclusion of the primarily black smallholder farmers. It indicates, Madam Speaker that -
  - 5.1. Of the average production value of 27 billion rand of Maize in 2015-2019, black farmers accounted for only 4.7%;
  - 5.2. of the average production value of 6.5 billion rand of Potatoes in the same period, black farmers accounted for only 1%; and
  - 5.3. of the average production value of 48 billion rand of Poultry in the same period, black farmers accounted for only 4.2%.
  - 5.4. Interestingly, Madam Speaker, an overwhelming 80% of consumers of the above listed commodities are historically disadvantaged individuals.



6. Madam Speaker, Franklyn D Roosevelt once said, I quote - **“The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little”**.
7. On the evidence of the numbers above Madam Speaker, it is not in dispute that, *inclusive economic growth and job creation* is **NOW**, not only a necessity but as **Martin Luther King** put it, I quote, **“our Fierce Urgency of Now”**.

## Operationalization of the Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market

8. Madam Speaker, as stated by the Honourable Premier in his Opening Address to this august house –

**8.1. Farmers and SMME's** in our province have long been waiting to have a market within their reach, operated free of administrative state handcuffs, but sensitive and alive to the plight of small-scale farmers and SMMEs, empowered and backed by the Provincial Government to bring equitable participation by Historically Disadvantaged Persons in the sector.

**8.2 The market** is now built with an operator appointed to manage, capacitate and operationalise the facility comprising in phase-1 a total of thirty-eight thousand nine hundred and sixty square metres (38 960m<sup>2</sup>) to process seven thousand eight hundred and fourteen metric tons (7 814t) of fresh produce at a time with one thousand five hundred (1 500) pallet positions and an additional three thousand square metres (3 000 m<sup>2</sup>) for Agro-processing.



- 8.3. Madam Speaker, **our focus now moves to facilitating an investment-friendly environment in support of the Market, Agricultural Hubs, rural villages, and Communal Property Associations** for the benefit of small commercial farmers and local SMMEs alongside the commercial farmers in our province.



9. To this end, my department **will utilize the Fresh Produce Market as a catalyst to stimulate rapid, inclusive growth of the agricultural sector** and create more decent jobs both at the farm and market levels.

9.1. The Honourable Premier, in his opening address of this august house, announced the estimate of hundred and fifty six (156) jobs to be created at the market floor and the over hundred thousand (100 000) jobs at the farm level upon full operation.

9.2. In order to make the Market truly Mpumalanga, we will work with our sister departments provincially and nationally; as well as with the private sector, to finance the establishment of one thousand six hundred (1,600) sector SMMEs across all 400 wards in the province over the in the province over the Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP). These SMMEs will trade in fresh vegetables, agro-processed grain products, animal meat products, and dairy products.

9.3. The establishment of these sector SMME's will be guided by the principle of inclusive growth and the need to do away with the duality in the sector.

10. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I will soon be introduce a Mpumalanga Government Nutrition Sourcing Bill to this august house. This bill aims to mandate the sourcing of agricultural food commodities by provincial organs of state through our Market and Agrihubs and to establish a Blended Finance Scheme for farmer support.

11. The **Blended Finance Scheme** and the **Government Nutrition Sourcing Bill** interventions will help us achieve our three objectives of the Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market, which namely are –

11.1. To **provide critical support** in terms of production, agro-processing, logistics, and marketing, among others to farmers that most need it, particularly small-scale farmers;

11.2. To enable Mpumalanga farmers to trade their fresh produce, fruits, grains and livestock products to local, national and international markets; and

11.3. To ensure **financial sustainability** of the Market facility built to completion by the Provincial Revenue Fund.

12. Madam Speaker, this world class facility is central to the revitalization of agriculture, agro-processing and overall inclusivity in the Agribusiness Economy.



# Operationalization of **Agrihubs** – Mkhuhlu & Mkhondo Markets

13. Madam Speaker, our Mkhuhlu Agrihub is fully operational and serves as the base for the consolidation of, among others, agricultural food commodities required for the Government Nutrition Programme.
14. The scope of the Government Nutrition Program rollout expanded to include 32 hospitals to the existing 6 boarding schools with effect from 1 April 2023. This expansion has created numerous market opportunities for 74 small scale farmers who supplied the Government Nutrition Program in the last financial year.
15. This financial year, we will complete the refurbishment of the Mkhondo Agrihub and integrate it into the Government Nutrition Program to consolidate local produce in the Gert Sibande District.



## Increased Production on Land Reform Farms – Greening Mpumalanga

16. Madam Speaker, we are grateful to the work started by former Minister of Agriculture Hon Thoko Didiza, now the Speaker of the National Assembly. She ensured that the state-leased farms were processed with Title Deeds granted to performing farmers leasing these farms, enabling them to have ownership of land by previously disadvantaged persons.
17. We will continue to work with our new Minister for Land Reform and Rural Development to facilitate the increased transfer of state land into the hands of those previously dispossessed.
18. As the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs, we will continue to invest in and prioritize all Land Reform farms already restituted and redistributed to our people, including the leased state farms for productive use of all arable land in the province to ensure food security and inclusive growth in the agribusiness economy.
19. To this end, Madam Speaker, we will put into production 250 hectares of restituted land under our Chief Albert Luthuli's Vegetable Basket Scheme, production of potatoes, onions, and tomatoes among others, to supply the market.
20. We are also establishing a 100 hectares irrigation orchard for citrus fruits at the Senteeko Tea Estate Farms, which have been restituted to the Shamile CPA at Barberton/umjindi, for future supply of fruits to the market.





## Stimulating Rural Economy: Agro-processing Grain Products in the Grain Corridor

21. Madam Speaker, the Nkangala District is considered as our Grain Corridor due to its high potential for grain production such as yellow and white maize, sorghum, soybean, and sunflower, among others.
22. Having completed the construction and handover of two Grain Agro-processing Mills, the RAKS Milling at Seabe village, Dr JS Moroka Municipality and Iphakeme Milling at Sybrandskraal, Thembisile Hani Municipality, we have created an opportunity for no less than 91 farmers to agro-process their grain produce in over 4000 hectares of communal state land in these two rural municipalities.
23. These two Grain Agro-processing Mills stand as a testament to our commitment to rural development, industrialization, and entrepreneurship.
24. Madam Speaker, in this financial year, we will enhance the security of grain production, our primary source of supply to the mills, by erecting an 83-kilometre boundary fence across Thembisile and Dr. JS Moroka. This initiative will protect grain crops from theft and livestock damage.

25. We will provide the smallholder farmers in the Dr. JS Moroka municipality a combined harvester to alleviate their harvesting costs.
26. The support to these farmers in these rural and traditional communities, has not only set them on a path to entrepreneurship and commercial scale producers, but has directly contributed to creation of several decent jobs at the plant agro-processing level for the manufacturing of, among others, maize meal from maize, maltabella from sorghum and related products including animal feed for livestock.



# Increasing Animal Production: Masibuyel' Esibayeni (MESP)

27. Madam Speaker, animal production, especially large stock is the leading farming activity in our province of the rising sun.
28. According to Statistics SA's Community Survey of 2017, there were –
- 28.1. One million five hundred and eight thousand cattle (1 508 508); Nine hundred and forty-five thousand one hundred sheep (945 118); and three hundred and thirty-seven thousand goats in Mpumalanga (337 217), making us the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) highest of the 9 provinces.
- 28.2. There were one hundred and ninety-four thousand pigs (194 238) in Mpumalanga, making us the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) highest of the 9 provinces; and one million nine hundred and thirty thousand chickens (1 938 282) making us fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) highest of the 9 provinces.
29. However, Madam Speaker, the majority of livestock farmers in the province are low scale producer farmers with one to ten livestock per farmer. There is therefore, a need to assist them to upscale in order to be commercialised.
30. We will continue working to increase and develop these farmers, using our Masibuyel' Esibayeni Program to improve the genetic pool of livestock for smallholder and low-scale communal farmers.



31. To date we have supported over 280 farmers with over 6 000 livestock. We intend to support these farmers with value chain processing through abattoirs and packaging for trading locally, nationally and internationally through the Mpumalanga Market.



# Animal Health

32. Madam Speaker, our province is home to the world-renowned Kruger National Park making it a market leader in the tourism sector. However, there is a downside to this, in that, the interaction between wild animals, in particular buffaloes among others, is a source of the deadly Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).
33. We are delighted to report that, we have since successfully, managed to control and eradicate the latest outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in Nsikazi.
34. Consequently, Madam Speaker, the export market of cloven-hoofed animals and their products were re-opened to SADC (Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Angola), UAE, Kuwait, Jordan, and countries as far as China and Saudi Arabia.
35. From April 2023 to March 2024, over 2 232 livestock valued at more than R16 million were exported to SADC (Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Angola) while over 21,6 million kg of livestock feed; 9,7 million kg of meat and 4,3 million kg of dairy products were exported to SADC, UAE, Kuwait, Jordan and other countries.
26. The success of these exports lies on the good control of animal diseases in the province.
37. Of the 12 outbreaks of avian influenza 10 were eradicated. The remaining two are on course to be eradicated.
38. Some countries including China and Lesotho, have started to open imports of poultry and poultry products under specific conditions of certification.



39. The Department will continue playing a critical role in safeguarding the life of the citizens with regard to safe food for human consumption through inspections of meat, milk, and other animal products to ensure safety for human consumption.
40. Abattoirs are inspected on regular basis to ensure safety and standards compliance.
41. The province continues to experience shortage of veterinarians. This profession is declared a scarce skill, resulting in the provision of training budget to deserving Mpumalanga students in the University of Pretoria.
42. Furthermore, through our Department of Education led program and bilateral agreement, with the Russian Federation, we have received our first qualified graduate who recently passed the South African Veterinary Council Board examination.
  - 42.1. Allow me Madam Speaker, to recognize our first qualified veterinary Dr E Matsane from Bushbuckridge, who is my special guest here today. If he can rise where he is sitting for this recognition.

- 43. We have put more graduates in an internship Programme and they will soon be sitting for their Board Examination and we wish them well. This intervention will go a long way to alleviating the shortage of state veterinarians in the province.
- 44. The use of Compulsory Community Programme for veterinary graduates will continue to be implemented to curb the shortage.
- 45. Another cohort of veterinary graduates has been deployed throughout the province to ensure veterinary services reach everyone in the province.
- 46. This will ensure every animal in the province including those on rural communities receive veterinary care. This will result in healthier livestock, improved economic contribution and a decrease in diseases that are transmitted from animals to humans.



## Youth, Women, Persons with Disabilities in Agriculture & Agro-processing

- 47. Madam Speaker, whereas, youth unemployment is unacceptably high in the province, agriculture remains an ageing sector.
- 48. According to a recent Mpumalanga SERO report the “provincial unemployment rate on the strict definition was at 34.9% in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2023 and 36.2% in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of this year 2024, and the 4<sup>th</sup> highest of the 9 provinces.

- 49. This very high youth unemployment rate especially among young women, is a serious concern and a top priority for us. We are working hard not only to revive and upscale the Fortune 40 Youth Programme of the Department, but also to mainstream youth entrepreneurship across all our primary and secondary production efforts in the sector.



50. We will in this financial year complete –
- 50.1. the construction of chicken houses for **Nkanyezi Poultry Farm** at **Tjakastad**, Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality in Gert Sibande, a young woman owned project;
  - 50.2. the construction of egg-layer houses for **Eggsellent by Lebo** at **Kwaggafontein**, **Thembisile Hani** Municipality in Nkangala, a young woman owned project;
  - 50.3. the refurbishment and upscaling of vegetable tunnel production with climate smart agriculture boxes at **Mara's Madeliefde Farm**, **City of Mbombela** in support of a project owned by a youth male farmer with a disability;
  - 50.4. in addition to the recently completed support to Raks Milling, a youth male owned Grain Agro-processing Mill at Seabe, DR JS Moroka Municipality, we will be providing production support for grains including a packhouse to Bakgatla Grain Co-operative, another young people owned grain co-operative;
  - 50.5. we will also support **Finko trading**, a **mushroom project based in Nkomazi** with packhouse equipment for compliance with South African Good Agricultural Practice also referred to as SA-GAP.
  - 50.6. Through this intervention, 41 projects were audited and certified for SAGAP compliance. Of the 41 farmers certified, **17 are female and 5 are youth** owned.
  - 50.7. In the current financial year, we will support an additional 11 projects **8 of which, are for women and 5 are for youth**.

51. Madam Speaker, as our Honourable Premier announced the completion of the broiler houses in our Mpumalanga Agri-Park, I am pleased to announce that **2 of those houses will benefit 5 youth and 5 Persons Living with Disabilities**.
52. Food safety is very key for the agro-processing or food manufacturing industry which includes abattoirs and grain Millers. We have identified 40 agro processors that will be provided with Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) training in the current financial year. **Of these agro processors, 21 are female and 16 are youth**.
53. Through the Junior Land-Care programme, we are dedicated to educating and training **1,140 learners** in order to instil in them the knowledge and skills necessary to protect and conserve natural agricultural resources and be our proactive stewards of our land.
54. Through the Land-Care programme, we will create 235 Green job opportunities, with 55% dedicated to empowering women and 40% providing valuable opportunities for the youth.



## Mpumalanga Agri-Park

55. In addition to the already completed poultry and piggery facilities at our Secunda based, Mpumalanga Agri-Park, we will in this financial year complete the construction and production of vegetable tunnels and shade nets at the Agri-Park.

56. We will, furthermore, develop the aquaponics facility for the combined production of fish and vegetables.



## Mkhondo One-Stop Centre

57. Madam Speaker, we are delighted to announce that the second phase of the Mkhondo farmer one-stop centre has reached its practical completion stage and will be concluding works in September of this year and commissioning the facility for use.

58. This centre will serve as a vital hub for our farmers, offering essential support functions and agricultural office services.



# Training skills capacity and Research and Development

59. Madam Speaker, farming is a high-risk business requiring constant innovation and knowledge upgrade to minimise the associated risk. My department will continue to work closely with our research partners, the Agricultural Research Council to conduct adaptive research and demonstration trials in crops, animal, veld and pasture for the benefit of our farmers.

60. From the adaptive research and demonstration trials, farmers are able to identify technologies suitable for their environment.

61. We will continue to strengthen the collaboration with key institutions including Agricultural Research Council (ARC), University of Mpumalanga (UMP), and Free State University.



62. To support the productivity of the agricultural sector in the province, our Soil Laboratory provides farmers especially smallholder farmers with soil analysis as well as fertilizer recommendations for optimum production.
63. We continue to provide Agricultural training, mentorship and skills development as part of our comprehensive agricultural support offered to farmers in the province. We offer both accredited and non-accredited agricultural skills programmes to farmers with a special focus on young people.
64. Madam Speaker, we also provide mentors to our Smallholder farmers through a mentorship programme aimed at assisting them to commercialize their farming enterprises.
65. We are committed to work collaboratively with partners to conduct further research that will help the province identify opportunities for diversification into the untapped green economy.
66. Madam Speaker, as a province that is leading in SA-GAP across the country, we will continue placing emphasis on stringent food safety and quality standards to ensure that products produced or manufactured by our farmers and SMME's are safe for consumption; are traceable and they meet the food safety market standards.
67. In the previous financial year, we took SAGAP to another level by partnering with Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB), and provided workshops to about 293 farmers to bring about awareness on SAGAP.
68. We will also conduct awareness through workshop, and we are targeting 250 farmers this year, which will include youth in agriculture.
69. Madam Speaker, another serious risk that we have identified, is the ever-increasing impact of uncontrolled veld fires that are causing untold damage and hardships to our farmers, especially the small-scale farmers who cannot afford the cost of insurance.
70. We are finalizing our partnership with the Nkangala District for the joint-utilization of the Marapyane Farmer Training Centre for both farmer training and District Fire Academy, which will benefit the training of our farmers on fire hazards and control, among others.
71. We will be conducting training on fire control for most of our fire affected farmers in the Gert District Municipality and other districts in this financial year.
72. We shall seek to leverage opportunities for upskilling and reskilling for entry into the emerging renewable and its associated value chain sector.



# Climate Change Interventions and Opportunities

73. Madam Speaker, appreciating the negative impact of climate change across all our economic and social sectors, it is important that specific programs are explored and implemented across the province to mitigate, adapt and take advantage of new economic opportunities and innovation as the country transit to low carbon economy in line with the National Development Plan 2030.

74. We will in this 2024-25 financial year, explore project opportunities for Climate Mitigation and Adaptation to contribute into the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) on the following most affected sectors / streams:

**74.1. Circular Economy:** Madam Speaker, our province faces serious waste management challenges. These include, among others -

74.1.1. Poor landfill practices, random household waste collection, and unacceptable levels of illegal dumping in many parts of the province.

74.1.2. It is crucial that as a province, we align our policy and strategy with the circular economy concept as defined in the National Waste Management Strategy 2020.

74.1.3. We must promote the waste hierarchy and circular economy principles in all municipalities to respond positively to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Agenda 2030.

74.1.4. We will ensure that more effort and interventions are implemented within the 2024/25 financial year to create additional two hundred and fifty-two (252) sustainable decent jobs in this sector.

74.1.5. We will support the establishment of eight (8) enterprises recycling on waste, plastic, packaging, and other waste streams through stakeholder partnership across the province, and

74.1.6. We will support the establishment of the waste pyrolysis plant at Nkangala (Ekandustria) industrial site in partnership with external stakeholders for job creation and environmental sustainability.



## 74.2. Agriculture Climate Smart projects;

Madam Speaker, our province experiences water shortages and climate change affects all of us, as a result –

74.2.1. We have introduced over the last two financial years, a climate smart agriculture innovation that increase production of crops in all types of environments while conserving water.

74.2.2. This multi-award-winning innovation, has been deployed with overwhelming success at household, subsistence and small-scale commercial grower levels.

74.2.3. We are finalizing the support to all our Traditional Authorities with the Amakhosi Tunnels roll-out using the climate smart agriculture boxes in two tunnels per traditional authority.

74.2.4. Through the Presidential Employment Stimulus (PES-III) initiative, an additional 2170 households in rural municipalities will be supported in the current financial year



## Just Transition

75. Madam Speaker, we welcome the signing into law of the Climate Change Bill, which provides a solid legislative framework to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
76. Mpumalanga accounts for no less than 80% of the country's electricity with 8 of 11 coal powered power stations in this province. Coal Power Stations are the main source for Greenhouse emissions contributing to the global challenge on Climate Change.
77. Madam Speaker, as part of our intervention in Just Transition, we will continue to implement the Just Transition Phase 1 Plan, and develop phases 2 and 3 Just Transition Plan, as our policy document for mainstreaming by all sectors to transition to low carbon economy.
78. We will, working together with Department of Economic Development and Tourism and Office of the Premier, co-ordinate the Just Transition Steering Committee in partnership with SASOL, Eskom, District municipalities, the Green Cluster Agency, and all funders on Just Energy Transition in Coal Regions.
79. We will, Coordinate and Facilitate stakeholder dialogues from business, society, labour, government, academia, civil society, NGOs and communities to ensure that transition response strategies are developed and implemented in a Just and Fair manner that leaves no one behind.

## Air Quality

80. Madam Speaker, we are further enjoined by the Constitution to respect, promote, protect and fulfil everyone's fundamental right to an environment that is not harmful to their health and well-being as espoused in section 24(a) and (b).
81. In this regard, we will actively implement measures to prevent environmental degradation to minimize any effects on the health and well-being of our citizens. These measures will include effective monitoring of air pollution across all industries and mines with the potential to pollute our air environment.
82. To date we have installed 6 Ambient Air Monitoring stations which are performing at optimal capacity to monitor air pollutants in the environment, and during 2023 the province recorded a steady decrease of air pollutants which were within required standard.
83. In this financial year, we are going to –
  - 83.1. Continue with maintenance and monitoring of the Air Quality Monitoring Stations;
  - 83.2. Increase number of these stations throughout the Province;
  - 83.3. Provide support to District and local municipalities on issues of Air Quality;
  - 83.4. Coordinate and facilitate stakeholder forums on Air Quality.



## Reducing Poverty & the High Cost of Living



### The Food Security Imperative

84. A recent Food and Nutrition Security Survey for Mpumalanga has found that only 29% of households in the province are food secure, with the bulk of households at 71% being food insecure. Nkangala District at 26% is the most food insecure district in the province followed by both Gert Sibande and eHlanzeni districts at 20%.
85. Madam Speaker, the Constitution in section 7(2) enjoins the state to respect, protect, promote and fulfil, among others, the right of everyone to sufficient food and water, and the right of every child to basic nutrition as contained in sections 27(1)(b) and 28(1)(c) of the Constitution.

### Presidential Employment Stimulus (PES-III)

86. Working together with our national department of Agriculture, we have been selected to implement the Presidential Employment Stimulus intervention on food security and job creation in the province.
87. A total of 15 000 beneficiaries have been identified across all the districts for support with household climate smart gardens, including production inputs and animal feeds for subsistence. This programme will be supported with co-funding from the department and go a long way to reducing the unacceptably high levels of households' food insecurity.

## **Phezukomkhono Mlimi – aka, Phezukomkhono Mhlali – Crop Production:**

88. Madam Speaker, the recent Statistics SA Census Report 2022, estimates that only about 18% of Mpumalanga's households are involved in agricultural activity, mostly for household food consumption.
89. Our Phezukomkhono Mlimi (PKM) Intervention has been one of the province's most effective agricultural support program in the fight against food insecurity, hunger and poverty.
90. Madam Speaker, Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu once said **'give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime'**. Over the centuries, many have hailed this proverb and we see its message mirrored in the Phezu komkhono Mlimi, in an attempt to ensure long-lasting impact on communities.

91. This program, contrary to giving food parcels or “fish for a day” to food insecure vulnerable households and categories of vulnerable persons, teaches wonk' umhlali how to grow their own food. Through this program, we provide food insecure vulnerable households, subsistence, small-scale farmers and smallholder farmers with production inputs – seeds, fertilizers, mechanization (tractors) and extension advisory services to help them grow their own food “teaching them how to fish” and be fed for a lifetime.

Nangaphandle kokuphisana ngeemphasela zokudla namkha "ifesi qobelanga" emakhayeni nemikhakheni yabantu ababubodhlana, ihlelveli lifundisa "woke umuntu" ukuthi angazilimela njani ukudla. Ngalelihlelo, sibonelela amakhaya nabantu ababubodhlana, abalimi abancani nabafufusako ngeentlabagelo zokulima ezifaka phakathi (iimbewu, umanyoro iintregere nokhunye) besibanikele ilwazi neeyeliso ukubasiza kobana bakwazi ukuzilimela ngokwabo, ngokwenza njalo "sibafundisa ukuthiya iimfesi" ukwenzela bona bakghone ukuhlala banokudla.





92. In our effort to reverse the high rate of food insecurity and low household percentage involved in agricultural activity, we are upgrading the program into Phez' komkhono Mhlali to focus not only on vulnerable and food insecure households but to have all households in Mpumalanga involved in producing their own vegetables, fruits and grains.



93. When all households are involved in agricultural activity, we will reduce household hunger, poverty and food insecurity, and directly impact on the high cost of living by driving down food prices and inflation. Madam Speaker, it is not a radical call to invite all households to be involved in agriculture but ensures that we leave no one behind.

94. We will support 12 300 households with agriculture food production initiatives and plant a minimum of 12 000 hectares.

### **The adverse effects of climate change disproportionately affect the poor**

95. The Department will use innovative ways to help vulnerable households to produce food and support the expansion of Organic Growing Medium (compost) production that integrates Climate Change responses through recycling of organic waste.

96. This business model emphasizes collaboration with the community, fostering partnerships, and educating the public about the benefits of composting. Due to the high demand for the product, a new production centre will be established Victor Khanye.

## VOTE 6: BUDGET

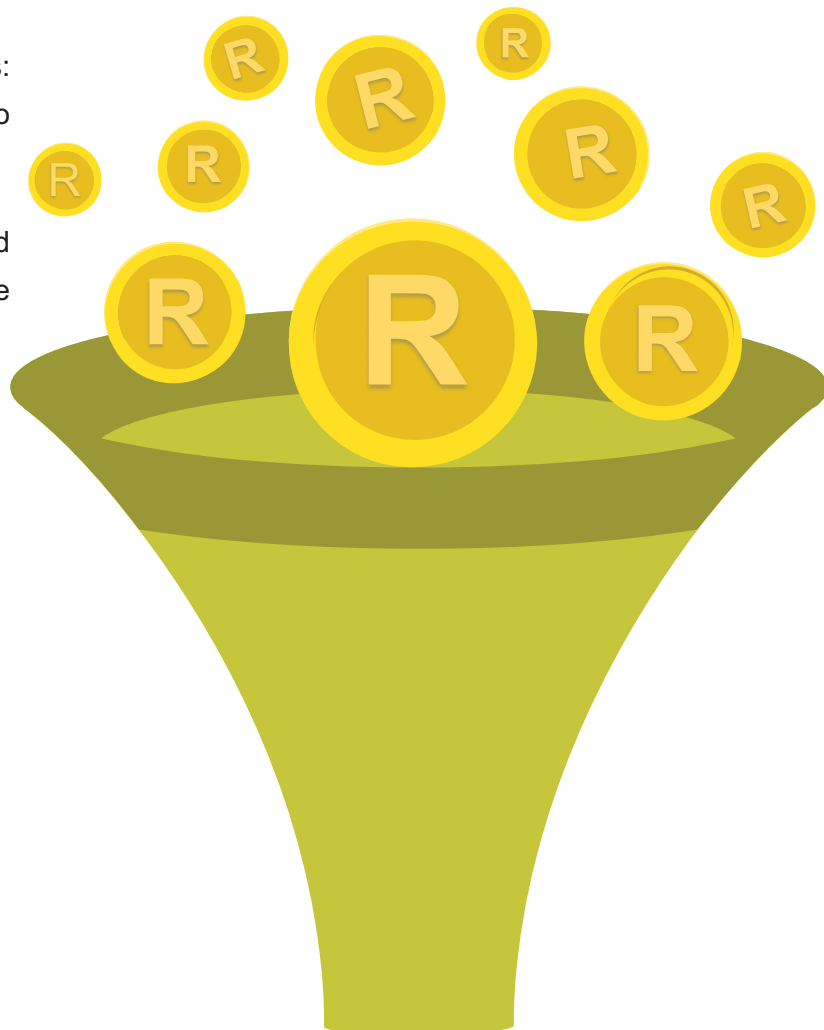
I hereby present the Vote to this august House to approve the 2024/25 financial year budget, which is allocated in nine programmes as follows:

1. Administration: One Hundred Ninety-One Million Sixty-Five Thousand Rand (R191,065 000).
2. Sustainable Resource Management: Sixty-Nine Million Eight Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand (R69,835 000).
3. Agricultural Producer Support and Development: Six Hundred Fifty-Two Million Thirty-Two Thousand (R652,032 000).
4. Veterinary Services: One Hundred Fifty-Eight Million Eight Hundred Thirty-One Thousand (R158,831 000).
5. Research and Technology Development Services: Sixty-Eight Million Seven Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand (R68,752 000).
6. Agricultural Economics Services: One Hundred Fifty-Six Million Three Hundred Thirty-Nine (R156,339 000).
7. Structured Agricultural Education and Training: Thirty Million Four Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand (R30,437 000).

8. Rural Development Coordination: Thirty-Two Million One Hundred Fifty-Three Thousand (R32,153 000).
9. Environmental Affairs: One Hundred Fifty-Four Million Five Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand (R154,524 000).

**TOTAL ALLOCATION: One Billion Five Hundred-Thirteen Million Nine Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand (R1,513,968 000).**

This budget will enable us to deliver on the plans of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs as outlined above.





## CLOSING REMARKS

Let me thank our Honourable Premier, Hon. Mandla Padney Ndlovu and Members of the Executive Council for their guidance and support.

My appreciation goes to the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs, under the leadership of Hon. Michael Collen Sedibe

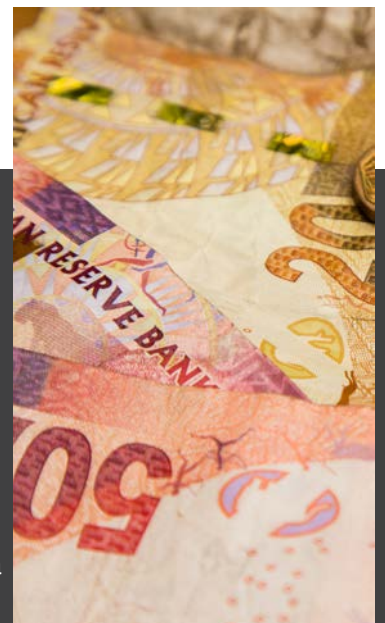
The team in my Department led by the evergreen Head of Department, Mr. Cain Mfana Chunda, thank you for the support and unwavering commitment to the cause.

To our external stakeholders, organized agriculture and farmers; let us continue working together to support our farmers.

My appreciation also goes to the Provincial Secretary of the governing party Cde Muzi Chirwa for the guidance and support.

Lastly, I want to thank my family, for the reliable support I receive.

*Thank you.  
Nginyabonga.*



Design and layout: Nonhlanhla Dooka





“Act Now for a Greener Tomorrow”