



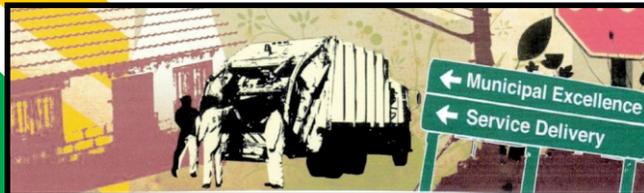
LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE,
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

2024-2025 BUDGET SPEECH

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The heartland of Southern Africa- development is about people.



ADDRESS BY HONOURABLE MEC ROGERS BASIKOPO MAKAMU ON THE OCCASION OF THE TABLING OF BUDGET VOTE 11 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS TO THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE, POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY CHAMBER.

28 March 2024

**Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker;
Honourable Premier of the Province Stanley Chupu Mathabatha;
Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party;
Colleagues in the Executive Council;
Chairperson and Members of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA;
Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature;
Honourable Members of Parliament and NCOP;
Your Worship Executive Mayors and Mayors of our Municipalities;
The Leadership of SALGA in the Province;
Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders including the entire Executive Committee;
Provincial Leadership of CONTRALESA;
Our esteemed Majesties, and Royal Highnesses present;
Leadership of the IEC and other Chapter Nine and Ten Institutions present;
The leadership of the Ruling Party, the African National Congress and Alliance Partners; Stalwarts and Veterans of our Struggle;
Leaders of Opposition Parties;
Representatives of NHBRC, RISIMA and HDA;
Chairperson of the Housing Tribunal and MEC Advisory Panel
CoGHSTA Staff led by the Head of Department, Dr. M. Malahlela;
Members of the Media present;
Invited Guests and Stakeholders of the Departments;
Comrades, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Honourable Speaker let me take this opportunity to also acknowledge members of the public who are watching and listening to us through different broadcasting channels. We present this budget vote today to advance their interests.

I stand before this August House to present the fiscal plan for the Budget Vote 11 in the 2024/2025 financial year. This is my fifth Budget Statement since I was appointed MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs. With appreciation, we therefore wish to thank Honourable Premier of the Province, Stanley Chupu Mathabatha “*Mahlatji a' Hlabirwa*” for the continued trust in us to lead CoGHSTA.

Today, allow me to guide you through the journey of the ANC-led government, which began with a single step thirty years ago. This journey, marked by footprints on land, in the air, and on water, stands in stark contrast to H.G Wells' tale of footprints without feet. I affirm that the ANC-led government has always advanced with firm footsteps, visible both day and night.

Honourable Speaker,

The journey of good governance, marked by tangible footprints, is unending. As the Ghanaian author Ernest Agyemang Yeboah eloquently stated, good governance is “a journey to make a renewing impact that changes lives, gives meaning to life and living, and turns the vision of the masses into realities.” This journey demands true focus, humour, and wisdom to bring about genuine change and liberation for the masses.

Of paramount importance, this 2024/25 Budget vote comes at a time when as of February 2022, there are more than **six million people** in Limpopo. As a department, it is imperative that we advance people's interests by facilitating the development of integrated human settlements, upgrading informal settlements, providing affordable rental housing and providing affordable housing finance in line with our departmental strategic plan and sector priorities.

Honourable Speaker;

I would like you to consider that the department has 04 programmes as follows: Programme 01 is Administration, Programme 02 is Integrated Sustainable Human Settlements (ISHS), Programme 03 is Co-operative Governance and Programme 04 is Traditional Affairs.

Programme 1: Administration

In the fiscal year past, our administration has remained steadfast in its commitment to progress. Through unwavering dedication, we've diligently pursued the implementation of our revamped organisational structure, bolstering the capabilities of our human settlements and traditional affairs divisions through the filling of key positions.

Our efforts have yielded fruits, as evidenced by the consistent attainment of unqualified audit outcomes. We stand firm in our resolve to ensure accountability and effectiveness in all facets of governance, driving towards a brighter, more resilient future for all.

Programme 2: Integrated Sustainable Human Settlements (ISHS)

The visible footprints remain engraved in our departmental mission of being an effective agent of change that delivers Integrated and Sustainable Human Settlements. This Budget vote requires us to become more responsive, and efficient so that we continue to deliver quality services to the Limpopo citizenry.

Honourable Speaker;

The National Development Plan (NDP) expresses the need for a systematic response to South Africa's increasing urbanization and entrenched spatial patterns that exacerbate social inequality and economic inefficiency. The provision of adequate housing and basic services ensures that the quality of life of citizens is improved, thereby upholding the inherent dignity and worth of every individual as the country forges towards the egalitarian and rights-based society that we all aspire to live in.

In the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) period from 2019-2024 the department delivered 29409 housing units across all integrated human settlements programmes. This achievement is our continued commitment for restoring the dignity of the vulnerable members of our communities.

On the other hand, we also acknowledge the inconvenience caused by **old blocked housing projects**. To ensure that all qualifying households get access to shelter, we will progressively address all blocked housing projects in line with the Ministerial directives. To this effect, the department with the support of National Home Building Registration Council (NHBR) is continuing with unblocking 350 housing units with a budget of **R41, 5m** in the 2024/25 financial year.

In addition, we have responded to the Ministerial priority to **eradicate mud houses**. In 2023/24 we planned to replace **500** mud houses by low cost houses at a cost of **R69m**. I'm happy that as of the 29 February 2024, we have managed to replace **428** mud houses across the province.

The Housing Sector introduced **Accreditation of Municipalities** as an instrument to ensure the progressive capacitation of municipalities in order for them to perform the delegated function without compromising delivery capacity. We are elated to congratulate Polokwane Municipality for being the first municipality in the Province to be granted **level 02 Housing Accreditation**. The signing of the Accreditation Implementation Protocol is an agreement between the department and the municipality that henceforth will strengthen the implementation and bring accelerated quality service delivery. It will also empower the municipality to undertake several roles and responsibilities in the human settlements value-chain such as beneficiary management, technical planning and delivery of specific housing programmes. The Department will gazette and transfer a total of R73.5m to Polokwane municipality for construction of 404 units. The Department will further continue to provide post accreditation support to Polokwane Local Municipality together with other six municipalities who are accredited on level 01 namely Makhado, Musina, Thulamela, Lephalale, Bela-Bela and Greater Tzaneen.

As government, we are not out of the woods yet. We are aware of the journey that is still ahead of us. In terms of what we have committed in 2023/2024 financial year's overall performance; our annual planned target was to **deliver 7291 housing** units. As of 29 February 2024, the department had delivered 6968 housing units which translate to (95.6%) and we anticipate having achieved the target by end of this financial year.

Honourable Speaker;

Our 7th term of administration is at the doorstep, and the (2024-2029) medium term presents yet another opportunity to consolidate initiatives that the department has put in place to ensure that our people are provided with decent and habitable shelters.

The ANC led government's dream of delivering services to the people never disappeared into shadows. This is a church that chose to walk in the light for people with its footprints visible. Our journey to deliver houses as per our pact continues in 2024/2025 financial year where our annual target is to **deliver 4555 low-cost housing units (R687m)**. Most of the units (3836) will be built in rural/ communal land considering the rural nature of the province of which the remainder will be implemented under various housing programmes. To ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are prioritised, we further impress upon our municipalities to prioritise the elderly, women, child-headed households, and people living with disabilities when allocating housing units.

Honourable Speaker;

We are happy to announce that our **Military Veterans** housing programme is gaining momentum. Despite teething challenges, the programme is on track, and we continue to explore various ways to expedite the delivery of houses to the Military Veterans.

Since the inception of the programme, 160 housing units have been completed. In 2023/2024 the department has planned to construct 100 housing units; however, we did not reach the target. We have completed 23 housing units of which 15 housing units were handed over in Seshego Extension 78 recently and 08 are dispersed across the province. 73 housing units which were not completed will be rolled over to 2024/25 financial year. The implementation of the programme was delayed by various challenges such as unavailability of sites in urban areas, scattered units and disputes on the size of the house. To mitigate these challenges, the department engaged municipalities to allocate serviced sites in the urban areas, the size of the house unit was increased from 50m² to 60m² and allocated contractors for low-cost houses were appointed to construct the Military Veteran housing unit/s in their particular municipalities to improve efficiencies.

The department has in 2024/25 planned to construct 132 housing units for military veterans at a cost of **(R16.5m)** across five districts in both urban and rural settlements. Let me take this opportunity to appreciate the support and partnership with the Limpopo Military Veterans Provincial Working Committee that ensures that the programme is successfully executed.

Honourable Speaker;

It is a good story to tell that the department has made significant progress on **asbestos roof removal and replacement** project. When I presented the 2022/23 budget speech, I announced that we have targeted to replace 1500 asbestos roofs (R42m) in Seshego under Polokwane municipality. In 2022/23, we have managed to replace 1000 asbestos roofs with corrugated iron. In 2023/24 financial year, 500 asbestos roofs were also replaced as part of phase one to make a target of 1500. Phase 02 of the Removal and Replacement of 755 **(R8.7m)** asbestos roofs has commenced.

The programme is ongoing, we have planned to expand removal and replacement of 10500 asbestos roofs programme to other districts. This a multi-year programme. The enumeration and auditing have been completed across five districts. We will never diminish our effort until all asbestos roofs are replaced and our people live in safe environment.

Honourable Speaker;

This administration is serious about addressing the challenges facing the social stratum called the *“missing middle”* as presented in 2023/24 budget vote. Our provincial housing finance agency **Risima** has a responsibility to implement housing missing gap (In particular to our middle-income group) through **First Home Finance formerly known as FLISP financial aid**.

Since the inception of the programme, 287 subsidies were disbursed at the cost of **R23 million** including the 40 subsidies which were disbursed in this current financial year. For 2024/24 financial year, we have planned to disburse 70 subsidies under this programme. The department is currently on a marketing drive to raise awareness to communities through broadcasting channels.

Through our outreach programmes, we will in 2024/25 financial year intensify our marketing approach for more publicity by forging road shows so that our people are familiarized to enable them able to secure housing finance at an affordable price.

Honourable Speaker;

Community Residential Units (CRU's) are one of the key focus programmes the Department continues to rollout through the construction of three multi-year projects within Lephalale-Marapong, Makhado – Tshikota and Greater Tzaneen-Talana.

In **Marapong CRU Project (Lephalale)**, we acknowledge the delay in completing the Marapong CRU projects due to technical challenges particularly during the early stages of the project. We have however made significant progress on this project.

An acceleration plan has been developed and we have tightened our monitoring systems to ensure that we complete this project. Progress to date is that 387 units are roofed which translates to 69% of the total project. Expenditure to date is **R214 million** with a balance of completion standing at **R92 million**. This project will be completed in 2024/25 financial year.

Altoostyd (Joe Slovo integrated human settlements development) in Lephalale remains one of the catalytic projects prioritized in the Limpopo Development Plan. The Department is in the process of engaging National Housing Finance Corporation (NHFC) for project packaging and funding.

In **Makhado-Tshikota Community Residential Units (R95m)**. A contractor has been appointed for construction of 118 CRUs. Currently, work in progress includes installation of infrastructure engineering services. Sewer network is at 47% and earthworks is at 07%.

The **Tzaneen-Talana Community Residential Units** as presented in 2023/24 is a project targeted to deliver 452 community residential units. The Professional Service Provider was appointed to complete feasibility study project designs and packaging. Project Designs were completed and approved by the municipality. The appointment of contractor will be finalized in the second quarter of 2024/25 and the construction is also planned at a cost of **(18.9m)** to commence in 2024/25 financial year.

When it comes to property ownership, [Title Deed](#) is a legal evidence that you truly own a property. The ANC led government provides the whole package for low-cost housing for free.

Honourable Speaker, for this financial year, we had planned to register 1500 **title deeds** at a cost of (R2,9m) across the province. It is really exciting to announce that we managed to register 1676 to date, exceeding our target by 176 (12%) title deeds. Our target for 2024/25 financial year is to register 1460 title deeds. The target has reduced due to the incomplete township establishment processes hence the department has appointed service providers to finalize township establishment processes for proclamation in the following areas, namely, Polokwane, Ba-Phalaborwa, Musina, and Mogalakwena. This will unlock more title deeds for our people. In our commitment to restoring the dignity of our people, we've in this financial year distributed title deeds to 9702 beneficiaries across Polokwane (3083), Fetakgomo Tubatse (890), Modimolle-Mookgopong (2015) , Thabazimbi (1758) , Lephalale (1351) and Bela-Bela(605). It is an ongoing programme.

With regard to **land acquisition**, a target of 20ha (**R12.6m**) is set aside for 2024/25 financial year with the aim of securing suitably located land for integrated sustainable human settlements with a special focus on Priority Human Settlements and Housing Development Areas and the Special Economic Zones. We still have not finalized the land acquisition around Elias Motsoaledi municipality due to ongoing negotiations with the seller.

In terms of **township establishments**, seven informal settlements will be formalized in 2024/25 financial year at a cost of (**R8.4m**) in Mogalakwena, Fetakgomo Tubatse, Maruleng, Greater Tzaneen and Modimolle Mookgopong municipalities.

The **Mining Towns Revitalization programme** continues to be one of our bulk infrastructure delivery instruments in 2023/24 financial year with the budget allocation of **R 94m** set aside for the following bulk infrastructure projects. The upgrading of wastewater treatment works at Motetema (progress at 63%) ; bulk water and sewer infrastructure projects in Masakaneng (progress above 89% for bulk water line and sewer line services); geohydrological studies; borehole refurbishment and mapping at Rossenekal (progress is at 94%) under Elias Motsoaledi Municipality. All these projects will be completed in 2024/25 financial year.

Honourable Speaker, on the provision of **serviced sites**, the department managed to complete 2525 serviced sites (Lepelle-Nkumpi 770, Polokwane 100, Modimolle-Mookgopong 57, Fetakgomo-Tubatse 420, Elias Motsoaledi 1137 and Makhado 41) against the annual target of 1639 and the difference is as a result of sites which were rolled over from 2023/24 financial year.

I'm delighted to present to you that in this financial year we have significantly improved in terms of spending allocated **conditional grants**. We are pleased to announce that through this endeavour, the department has received an additional **R250 million** for human settlement programmes.

As per our commitment before this August House, we have put in place systems for forward planning and ensuring that we conclude all technical planning processes a year before implementation. To this effect, we have concluded a pipeline of multi-year bulk infrastructure projects. Not only will this improve our performance, but will strengthen integrated planning, budgeting and implementation with water services authorities in line with the spirit of the District Development Model.

The Department in collaboration with the Municipalities and Water Service Authorities has assessed **26 bulk infrastructure projects** for water and sewer, and planning has been concluded for most of these projects. To this effect, the construction of bulk infrastructure will commence for five (05) projects in Musina (Nancefield, Masisi), Molemole (Mogwadi), Greater Tzaneen (Dan Village) and Lepelle-Nkumpi (Lebowakgomo Unit F).

In our budget speech, we extend gratitude to **human settlements contractors** who not only excel in service delivery but also demonstrate exceptional kindness in donating fully furnished homes to the destitute families which showcases their Good Samaritan spirit.

Programme 3: Cooperative Governance

Honourable Speaker; Our legacy of milestones of visible footprints remain. As we transit to the 07th administration, we are ready to tackle several challenges which are before us which include providing basic services such as water and sanitation, particularly for marginalized groups living at the peripheries of cities and other urban agglomerations.

As a department, we consider that our service delivery targets will be underpinned by principles such as resourcing economic development initiatives in our municipalities whilst protecting social services, strengthening departmental capacity to implement infrastructure projects and deliver services in all 27 municipalities, and encouraging good local governance and transparency to realize value.

We are all rest assured that municipalities provide immediate intervention in terms of provision of services because it is at coal phase of our communities. We know it well that none of us acting alone can achieve success. We must therefore act together as a united people, to build this province for the rebirth of a new dawn in 2024/25 financial year and beyond.

Honourable Speaker;

According to StatsSA Census 2022, service delivery increased in the following areas between 2011 and 2022:

- **Access to electricity** increased by 8.2% between 2011 and 2022 from 87.3% to 95.5%.
- **Refuse removal** increased by 10.2% between 2011 and 2022 from 21.8% to 32.0%.
- **Households with access to sanitation** increased by 19.7% between 2011 and 2022 from 38% to 57.7%.

The **provision of water** has, however decreased by 6.5% from 86% to 79.5%. This decline is mainly caused by ageing infrastructure and population growth affecting sustainable and reliable water supply. We therefore want to encourage our water services authorities to put more resources in the repairs and refurbishments of water services infrastructure.

The **spending on MIG** is gradually increasing from the decline that we indicated during the speech in 2023. As at end of February 2024, out of the provincial allocation for 2023/2024 of R3,284 billion, R 2.025 billion has been spent, translating to 61.6%. This expenditure is higher than the 2022/2023 financial year for the same period which was 43.2%.

Allow me to congratulate municipalities for their good spending pattern, who at this stage have already spent above 90% of their allocation. These are Greater Giyani 92.6% (compared to 86.4% in February 2023), Modimolle-Mookgophong 92.7% (compared to 84.9% in February 2023), Molemole 93.1% (compared to 83.4% in February 2023) and Maruleng 100% (compared to 94.3% in February 2023).

Equally I would like to call on all the municipalities that are not performing well and still below 50% in the spending of this grant to improve their spending in the remaining months of the financial year. These municipalities are Ba-Phalaborwa 48.6%, Mopani 48.4%, Lepelle-Nkumpi 45%, Sekhukhune District 31.3% and Thabazimbi 20.1%. Let me call upon the management of these municipalities to work on their recovery plans and utilise the direct support offered by CoGHSTA, MISA, Provincial Treasury and other partners. Underspending impacts negatively on provision of infrastructure for basic services. Therefore, a failure to spend these allocated budgets implies we are depriving our people of the much-needed public goods and services.

Honourable Speaker;

The province has noted with appreciation the improvement of our **municipal audit outcomes** over the years. Appreciation to our 05 municipalities that improved, Ephraim Mohale Local Municipality, Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality, Musina Local Municipality, Lepelle Nkumpi and Mopani District Municipality. Let me in particular acknowledge Mopani District Municipality for moving out of disclaimer opinion to qualified audit opinion. *May we give them a round of applause.*

Out of the 27 municipalities 18 auditees have received unqualified audit opinions with matters of emphasis, 08 auditees received qualified audit opinions and 1 auditee received an adverse. Material misstatements of financial statements remain a challenge which resulted in poor quality of submitted Annual Financial Statements (AFS). It calls on the municipalities to finalize the annual financial statements in time to allow for detailed review of the AFS with the supporting documents.

To improve outcomes, municipalities should implement corrective action plan to address the correct root causes, regular engagement with the external auditors to obtain an understanding of the findings and MPAC should monitor the progress of implementation and investigate all UIF&We. It is important that the municipalities comply with all legislative prescripts.

The AG however raised concerns over a hefty reliance on consultants, with municipalities. To this effect, the Premier has directed municipalities to reduce their consultant spending by 60%. As the department, we further undertake to work together with the Provincial Treasury to continue improving audit outcomes, and sound financial management in municipalities. We also thank MEC for Provincial Treasury for continuous support and also maintaining the momentum for improving municipal performance.

Honourable Speaker

The implementation of the **District Development Model (DDM)** continues to be a priority for the government. The districts remain central to the coordination of all the service delivery programmes and activities in each district space, to this effect, all the Districts presented the implementation of DDM at the recent Premiers Intergovernmental Forum held on 13 March 2024. The districts highlighted various challenges and interventions which need to be attended going forward in each district space.

All government spheres and sectors should continue to entrench and participate in the DDM implementation for improved integrated planning, budgeting, delivery of services, monitoring, and evaluation in each district space.

Honourable Speaker, the Limpopo Province is one of the provinces that is prone to natural **disasters**. The Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PMDC) continues to support municipalities on disaster management. The intensity of disasters has increased, requiring the province and municipalities to build the capacity to mitigate and respond to disasters. This requires all stakeholders to work together to prevent disasters, and to further respond on time.

We call upon our traditional leaders and municipalities, to strengthen land use management and ensure that households are not located on riverbanks or areas which are prone to floods. We further call on municipalities to mainstream disaster risk reduction in their planning and infrastructure provisioning processes. I would also like to appreciate our various private sector partners, NGOs and civil society that continue to offer relief to households during disasters.

Programme 4: Traditional Affairs

Honourable Speaker;

Footprints of our service delivery are endless and will never fade. Our pact with Kings and Queens, Va Ndavezitha na ti Nduna has a bond for ages. The department acknowledges and supports the critical role of traditional leadership institutions across the province and its contribution to the developmental agenda. We, therefore, remain resolute and unshaken to strengthen and support the institution of traditional leadership.

Through the support of this initiative by the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders, a total of 25 **new offices** have been constructed from 2014/15 financial year to date and 18 offices have been refurbished. Our cultural heritage and governance structures were also strengthened with the delivery of traditional council offices, including the recently completed Raphahlelo, Bakone ba Matlala, Davhana and Bakwena ba Matsepe Traditional Councils.

During the budget vote in 2023/24 financial year the department made a commitment to build 10 traditional council offices. As a result of budget pressures, the department was unable to build all the offices. The available budget for 2024/2025 can only provide for 5 offices as follows: construction of three new offices for Makuya, Ba Shai Ditlou and Mapela and refurbishment of two offices, Litho Ndzundza and Mampane Traditional council offices.

Over a period of 03 years from 2021/22 financial year to 23/24 financial year a total of 82 Traditional Councils have been provided with office furniture across the province. For 2024/25 a total of 20 Traditional Councils will be provided with office furniture.

As alluded by our Premier Tatana Mathabatha, the institution of traditional Leadership has received substantial support. We continue to **allocate vehicles** to qualifying senior traditional leaders to enable them to perform their work. During the 2023/2024 financial year, a total of 163 vehicles have been procured, with 95 handed over to Senior Traditional leaders to date. The remaining will be delivered in first quarter of 2024/25 financial year.

The Limpopo Government prides itself on how we run successful **Initiation Schools**. We want to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to our Traditional Leaders for running distinctive Initiation Schools. We wish the 2024 initiation season a great success, characterised by zero death. Working together with traditional leaders, as the custodians of our culture and heritage, the provincial government will clamp down on illegal initiation schools.

In the 2023 initiation season, we admitted 68145 initiates in various schools. The province unfortunately recorded 03 deaths during the season. The challenge faced was the increase of illegal initiations schools.

In 2024 Initiation School season, we will uphold to the successes of Initiation Schools through: rules and regulations adhered to in full by all stakeholders; observation and implementation of decisions taken; extensive monitoring by both members of staff and Senior Traditional Leaders; compulsory workshops with all Senior Traditional Leaders and Traditional Surgeons; collaboration and cooperation with other Departments such Health and SAPS; and, regular Initiation School conferences and Indabas.

Nevertheless, this culture is also characterised by challenges such as an admission of underage children at initiation schools; mushrooming of illegal schools in the Sekhukhune district (41 out of 42 illegal schools were based in Sekhukhune district); consent forms are not duly signed by some parents or legal guardians; and, overcrowding of initiates in some initiation schools.

To mitigate these challenges henceforth, we will ensure that rules and regulations should be adhered to by both the Traditional Leaders, traditional surgeons and caregivers. Awareness campaigns will be conducted in all districts.

Honourable Speaker,

With the Minister's approval, we've begun **constituting and reconstituting** traditional councils as per new guidelines. This aligns with updated laws, ensuring effective governance in our traditional communities. It marks a significant step towards inclusive decision-making and preserving cultural heritage.

During the 2024/25 presentation of SOPA by our Honourable Premier Mathabatha urged that Traditional Authorities should find a lasting solution to matters of succession and dispute resolution on their own. "As government, we would like to stay clear from being entangled in disputes arising from traditional leadership succession. The government does not identify Senior Traditional Leaders to recognize. Our role is limited to fulfilling our legislative recognition after the royal families and royal councils have themselves determined who their Senior Traditional leader is". As government, we have established investigative committee in line with Section 59 of TKLA to investigate Traditional Leadership claims and disputes. The investigative committee is given sixty days to attend to the disputes and provide a report to the Premier with recommendations.

We are saddened by the passing on of 09 beloved Senior Traditional Leaders in 2023/24 financial year. May their Souls Rest in Peace.

In the 2023/24 financial year, the Premier of the province Honourable Chupu Mathabatha approved the recognition of 04 new Senior Traditional Leaders. We salute them.

Honourable Speaker,

The Budget I am tabling today is composed of four components; Administration which is mainly support, Human Settlements, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs. In 2024/25 financial year, a total budget available for the department of CoGHSTA as allocated is **R2 473 151 000.00 (2.5 billion)**, a slight decrease to the previous year budget of R2 796 500 000.00 (R2.8 billion: decrease by 10.71 %).

The departmental budget allocation per programme is as follows:

- Administration: **R391 774 (2023/24: R396 389)** a decrease of 1.16%),

- Human Settlements: **R1 239 530 (2023/24: R1 465 745)** a decrease of 15.43%),
- Cooperative Governance: **R314 996 (2023/24: R299 455)** an increase of 5.19%),
- Traditional Affairs: **R526 851 (2023/24: R634 911)** a decrease of 17.02%).

As I conclude, **Honourable Speaker**, we must continue to improve in the work that we do and be accountable to the public that has entrusted us with a responsibility to lead. Farewell to the 6th term of government administration, hence it was a unique one, as the government had to use its resources responding to numerous economic shocks, including the COVID-19 pandemic, electricity crisis, recurrent disasters and labour unrests. We must however continue to demonstrate fortitude and resilience at all material times, and consolidate our stories of good progress, using this budget to advance the interests of the people we serve.

At all costs, let us exercise good governance and transparency to realize value in our service delivery journey with visible footprints with a feet. Lastly, as I bid farewell to my comrade Premier Mathabatha, I wish to thank his leadership and the support from all EXCO members during his tenure. Further appreciation goes to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA), Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA and other oversight committees of the Legislature. To Team CoGHSTA, under the stewardship of HOD Dr. Modjadji Malahlela, I am genuinely thankful to your dedication, commitment and precision for the improved performance of the department. My support staff and protectors, I am genuinely indebted to you for your unwavering support. To my wife and family, thank you for your undivided support.

Honourable Speaker, once again it is my pleasure to present to you Budget vote 11 of the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs Budget Vote for the year 2024/25.

Khani Mamba

Thank you.



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