

### **MEC's highlights on the 2019/20 Departmental Budget.**

The 25<sup>th</sup> of July marked as an auspicious day as newly appointed MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) tabled the department's 2019/20 budget at the Lebowakgomo, Legislative Chambers.

In his speech, MEC Basikopo Makamu presented a budget of a total of **R 2 720 467 000** broken down as follows: Administration **R 387 262 000**, Human settlements, R 1 476 830 000, Cooperative Governance **R315 124 000** and Traditional Institutional Development **R 541 251 000**.

He highlighted that the budget allocated is aimed at:

- Providing effective leadership in strategic planning of the department, management and administrative support to the core functions of the Department.
- Ensuring the provision of housing development, access to adequate accommodation in relevant well located areas, access to basic services and access to social infrastructure and economic opportunities.
- Providing technical and oversight support to municipalities in terms of implementing their mandates. This is pursued through the following sub programmes: development planning, municipal infrastructure development, local governance support, democratic governance and disaster management and,
- Supporting the institution of Traditional Leadership to operate within the context of Co-operative Governance. Key and of central importance to this budget is to realise our vision for integrated and sustainable human settlements.

In the 2019/20 budget report, the CoGHSTA MEC said the Department will build and handover 5579 housing units in Urban and Rural areas, inclusive of the Military Veterans.

"In addition to the planned 5579 housing units, we have planned to increase the number of Community Residential Units (CRU) at Marapong from 250 to 332 units. Upon completion, the Marapong Community Residential Unit (CRU) is planned to deliver 514 units inclusive of civil infrastructure installation of water, sewer, roads and electricity. The project has been rolled over into the current financial year and is expected to be completed by 31 March 2020," reported.

MEC Makamu stressed on how the Department will continue to play a supporting role and oversee municipalities in the province.

He alluded that this financial year, the Department will get municipal councillors especially ward councillors to hold community feedback sessions, monitor and submit reports on the functionality of ward committees, conduct mid-year assessments of councillors, come up

with decisive intervention in municipalities where there is political instability and develop a provincial policy to standardize ward committee stipends.

Makamu further reported on the strides made in the previous financial year with regard to traditional leadership institution.

“I am delighted to announce that the following Traditional Council Offices were refurbished; Nyavana (Mabunda), Pheeha, Batlhabine, Mamaila Mphotwane, Mametja, Hlaneki, Bungeni, Nkidikitlana, Babirwa, Seakamela, Mathabatha, Manthata, Maja, Seloane, Bakopa Rammupudu, Bantwana, and Matlala Ramoshebo,” he boasted.

Adding to that, MEC Makamu said the Department is committed to constructing seven (7) new offices. The construction of the offices is underway in six (6) of the above mentioned Traditional Councils and planned to be completed by November this year while the seventh one has been rolled over to this financial year as procurement processes could not be finalized.

“A total of thirty three (33) traditional council offices will be provided with R5 million worth of furniture during the 2019/20 financial year,” he concluded.

***Please refer to departmental communication platforms for the full 2019/20 budget speech.***

***<http://www.coghsta.limpopo.gov.za/sstaff/pages/sites/coghsta/documents/speeches/Budget%20Vote%202019%20FINAL20190726.PDF>***



**Ready and on time:** Mr Basikopo Makamu walking into the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chambers to deliver his first budget speech as the MEC for CoGHSTA.