



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

MEDIA RELEASE

To: All Media Houses

Date: 12 May 2026

BUDGET SPEECH 2026/27 VOTE DELIVERED IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE IN LEBOWAKGOMO BY THE MEC OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS, HONOURABLE BASIKOPO MAKAMU ON THE 12TH MAY 2026.

Honourable The Speaker and Deputy Speaker

Honourable Premier of our Province Dr. Phophi Ramathuba

Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip

Colleagues in the Executive Council

Honourable Members of this august Legislature

Your Worship, Executive Mayors, and Mayors of our Municipalities

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Coghsta Honourable Champ Sepuru and all committee members

The leadership of SALGA in the province

Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of Limpopo House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders

Provincial Leadership of CONTRALESA

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The heartland of Southern Africa – development is about people!

Our esteemed Majesties and Royal Highnesses present

Leaders of Chapter Nine Institutions present

The Leadership of the African National Congress and Alliance partners

Stalwarts and veterans of our struggle

Leaders of opposition parties

Leadership of various Religious Denominations

Representatives of NHBRC, RISIMA and HDA

CoGHSTA staff led by the Head of Department, Dr. Modjadji Malahlela

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

And most importantly, the resilient people of Limpopo,

Receive our warm greetings.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the distinct honor of inviting us to present our 2026/27 Budget Vote. For us, this is an opportunity to look at our people in the eye and report back on the promises we kept in the previous financial year; while laying out the bold, transformative roadmap we have designed for the year ahead.

We do not come to this House today to simply recite figures or balance ledgers. We bring to this August House a positive disposition and a burning desire to shape a better future. We bring to this sitting a story of hope.

For too long, our conversations have been shadowed by the weight of challenges. But today, the narrative has shifted. I am here to declare that we have turned the corner. Our trajectory is no longer one of mere recovery; it is one of ascent. We are witnessing the dawn of a new era - an

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era where prosperity is not a distant dream for the few, but a tangible reality for many.

We stand here today, thirty-two years into our hard-won democracy, carrying the weight of the promises made by the giants upon whose shoulders we stand. We are guided by the immortal words of the Freedom Charter, which declared that **"There shall be houses, security, and comfort!"**

Today, I am here to report on the progress of this covenant. I am here to account for the resources entrusted to us, and to lay out a roadmap that ensures that the sun continues to rise on a Limpopo that is more equitable, more developed, and more caring than it was yesterday.

Madam Speaker,

The 2026/27 Budget we present today is the fuel for this new momentum. It is a budget that recognizes that Limpopo is no longer a "sleeping giant." We are awake. We are forging ahead with the struggle of A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL.

This budget is our commitment to the grandmother in Vhembe who deserves clean drinking water and shelter. It is our commitment to the progressive pact we have with traditional leaders and municipalities that our shared values and responsibilities towards inclusive growth remain unshaken.

ADMINISTRATION

Administration is the backbone of our department. It is the engine room where planning meets execution. Without a robust, transparent, and efficient administrative core, even the most visionary plans are doomed to fail. Good administration is what produces accountability; it creates the

systems that allow our officials to work together collegially and effectively toward a common goal.

In our unwavering commitment to strengthen our capacity for service delivery, we moved decisively in the 2025/2026 financial year to fill critical vacancies. We advertised 64 positions to bolster our workforce. I am pleased to report that the recruitment process for 49 of these positions has been finalized, with 45 posts filled to date. We are on course to finalize the remaining appointments shortly.

Looking ahead to the 2026/2027 financial year, we have approved an Annual Recruitment Plan comprising 134 prioritized positions. This includes 65 internships, reflecting our commitment to giving the youth of Limpopo the professional experience they need to lead this province in the future.

On the matter of fiscal discipline, we acknowledge that the department received an unqualified audit with matters of emphasis. While "unqualified" is a positive baseline, it is not our destination. We are working around the clock to achieve a clean audit. We have turned the tide by implementing AGSA audit findings with a 94% success rate as of March 2026. We are tightening our internal controls to ensure that every cent of the public's money is accounted for and utilized for its intended purpose: the people.

INTEGRATED SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT

Our mandate is the creation of Integrated Sustainable Human Settlements. We build homes because it is within those four walls that individuals find safety, comfort, and identity. Quality housing provides the stability and security that are the two essential ingredients for a healthy and prosperous society.

But beyond the social impact, housing development is a massive catalyst for economic stimulation. Every site we break ground on creates a value

chain of opportunities. It creates jobs for women, for our youth, and for people with disabilities. It sustains architects, suppliers, and builders.

Honourable Members

Our commitment to empowerment was vividly on display during the 2025 Women's Month. We took our "Women's Build Programme" to Joe Slovo (Altoostyd) in Lephalale. There, we didn't just celebrate the legacy of the women of 1956; we honored them by empowering the women of today.

A group of 55 young women from Lephalale received on-site training in construction, facilitated by the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBC). We are preparing them to be the contractors and engineers of tomorrow. While we have learned lessons from the challenges experienced in this skills programme, we are using those lessons to safeguard and nurture the future of women in the built environment. Their innovation and excellence are the bedrock upon which we will reconstruct and develop our province.

Honourable Speaker and Members

Last year, I stood in this House and made a commitment that the department would deliver 2,923 housing units across our rural and urban landscapes.

Today, I am humbled and proud to report that we did not just meet that target - we shattered it. The department has completed 4,532 quality housing units. We surpassed our target by 1,609 units. This was made possible by the strategic injection of additional funding: R200 million from the Provincial Treasury and R30 million from the National Department of Human Settlements.

Last year we committed to eradicate 500 unsafe mud houses. So far 240 mud houses were eradicated. Owing to the budget cuts and fiscal constraints, the department plans to eradicate 200 unsafe mud houses in the current financial year. For 2026/27 financial year, the department plans

to deliver 2 474 BNG units (Rural and Urban) including eradication of unsafe mud houses.

The department entered into Level 2 Accreditation Implementation Protocol with Polokwane Municipality for delivery of housing units. In the previous financial year, 121 units were delivered out of a target of 404 units due to late approval of the 2025/2026 national budget. For this financial year, transfer of funds will be made for delivery of 260 housing units.

These are not just numbers; these are "quality" units. When the heavy thunderstorms tore through Mbaula, earlier this year, destroying homes that people had spent years building privately, our government-built houses stood tall. They stood firm against the wind and the rain, proving that we do not compromise on the safety of our people.

Furthermore, we delivered 1,962 serviced sites as planned, directly improving access to water and sanitation. This performance is backed by a stellar financial report: in the 2025/26 financial year, the department spent 99.87% of its HSDG Grant and 100% of the ISUP Grant. We are a department that spends its budget on its people. We plan to deliver 1 690 serviced sites in the current financial year in Bela Bela Ext. 25 and Vaalwater Ext. 5.

However, Honourable Speaker, we must be honest about our challenges. We committed to unblocking housing units that had stalled in previous years. In the last financial year, we committed to unblock 250 units and managed to complete 42 units, owing to reprioritisation of project funds following budget cuts. I can confirm to this House that all contractors are on site and we aim to complete the remainder of the units in this financial year. In collaboration with the NHBRC, we will continue to conduct structural integrity audit of all blocked projects in the province.

But there is a trend that deeply concerns us. We are seeing a worrying rate of beneficiaries selling their BNG (Breaking New Ground) houses before the

mandatory eight-year period has lapsed. Some are even selling after 10 years, which negates the very purpose of this programme.

These houses are intended to be economic and social assets - a foundation for a family's wealth and a potential mortgage asset. When people sell these houses for quick cash, they return to the cycle of homelessness, and the provincial housing backlog continues to grow. **We appeal to our people: do not sell your dignity. Your house is your heritage.**

Honourable Speaker

Our debt of gratitude to those who fought for our freedom remains unpaid. We committed to building 58 housing units for military veterans. I am pleased to report that we delivered 75 units, surpassing our target by 17. In the current financial year, we plan to deliver 80 housing units for military veterans.

Regarding the First Home Finance Programme - designed for our "missing middle" who earn too much for a free house but too little for a traditional bond - we approved 70 applications. We disbursed 63 (90%) of those approvals during the 2025/2026 financial year. We missed the full target by seven disbursements because some applicants required more funding than initially anticipated.

The Department together with RISIMA, plan to accelerate the marketing campaign to encourage those who qualify, to take advantage of the programme. With this intervention, we commit to deliver 80 First Home Finance disbursements.

Honourable Members

The provision of housing, as reflected in the Freedom Charter, is still a priority of the department as more people move to economically viable areas in search of jobs. To this end, the department is building Community Residential units in Marapong under Lephalale Municipality, Tshikota in Makhado Municipality, Talana in Greater Tzaneen Municipality.

Last year we committed to delivering 514 CRUs in Marapong. Despite the challenges that affected the project from its inception, the 514 units are at a completion stage, and the paving of the streets is underway. The contributing factors include social challenges and the inclement weather. However, these challenges are receiving attention.

I am pleased to report that the installation of civil engineering services at the Tshikota CRU project has reached 95% completion.

Following a strategic pause to resolve complex design challenges, work is set to resume to finalize the remaining infrastructure. Upon completion, this development will yield 118 high-quality residential units.

The department acknowledges the delays in commencing the construction of Talana CRU, due to procurement process. Considering the budget cuts and fiscal constraints, the department reviewed the commencement on implementation of the project.

The Altoostyd/Joe Slovo Integrated Residential Development stands as a catalytic project within the Lephalale Municipality, designed to address diverse housing demands through a variety of housing typologies. Due to the project's significant scale and prevailing fiscal considerations, implementation is being managed through a multi-phased strategic approach. The Department has successfully reached a key milestone with the completion of the first 200 housing units. To ensure immediate habitability, the Department is collaborating with the Lephalale Municipality to provide interim water and sanitation services. This serves as a bridge while we finalize the Wastewater Treatment Package Plant and complete the refurbishment of the Paarl Wastewater Treatment Works, ensuring a sustainable, long-term solution. This development has successfully facilitated the relocation and permanent housing of former hostel dwellers previously residing in temporary residential units within Altoostyd, marking a significant step forward in restoring human dignity.

Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker

Last year, I was clear in this House that the department had a target of registering 1500 title deeds, which serves as security of tenure. I can confirm that 1500 title deeds have been registered during 2025/2026 financial year. Through our launched “Title Deeds Friday” Programme, we are continuously working together with the municipalities to deliver them to beneficiaries. In the current financial year, we plan to register 1 700 title deeds.

Our resolve to improve water and sanitation is evidenced by the prioritization of bulk water and sanitation, especially in the previously disadvantaged areas. The bulk infrastructure projects in Lebowakgomo Unit F, HaMawasha, and Rietbok have been completed.

The bulk infrastructure projects in Giyani F, Giyani H, Nancefield and Siyandani are progressing with challenges experienced in Giyani H receiving attention. In Masisi and Mogwadi, designs have been approved and tender documents submitted.

We also made a promise to construct bulk infrastructure in Greater Tzaneen Municipality at Dan Village. The assessment of sewer networks and designs are completed. Due to budget constraints, the department will work with Mopani District Municipality on a funding model for implementation of the project.

In the previous financial year, we have committed to replace 500 asbestos roofs. 293 asbestos roofs were replaced in Seshego (141) and Phalaborwa (152). Following successful pilot project in Seshego Township and lessons learned, we plan to replace 1 000 asbestos roofs in Ba-Phalaborwa due to high prevalence of asbestos roofs.

Further to that, the department will upgrade the following informal settlements:

One informal settlement to Phase 1 in Remainder of Farm Bochum 178LS, 4 informal settlements to Phase 2 in Mokopane Ext. 1, Mokopane Ext. 2, Portion 2 and Portion 8 of Farm Duitschland 169LS in Mogwadi as part of Informal Settlement Upgrading Programme.

Honourable Members

In support of Traditional Authorities, the department has concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Johannesburg (UJ) for implementation of Innovative Building Technology as part of the resolutions of the IBT Summit held in February this year. Government will give life to this resolution by building a community hall in Tshikundamalema in the Vhembe District.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Honourable Members

There is a saying that *the true character of a people is not revealed in times of comfort and convenience, but in times of challenge and controversy*. Recently, our province was tested by the elements in a way we have not seen in modern history. We woke up to the fury of Mother Nature - a "Disaster of Catastrophic Proportions," as rightfully termed by His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa.

We saw the sky open and the earth give way. We saw 450 bridges and roads - the very arteries of our economy - severed. We saw 3,500 houses, 34 schools, and 52 health facilities succumb to the raging waters. 37 libraries, 245 agricultural projects and the Kruger National Park were also not spared. Most heartbreakingly, we lost thirty-three of our brothers and sisters to the floods, with two souls still missing.

But, Honourable Speaker, in the midst of that darkness, we also saw the brightest light of the human spirit. We saw the SAPS K9 Divers and the SANDF braving the currents. We saw the South African Social Security

Agency and disaster management teams working around the clock. We saw the "Spirit of Ubuntu" personified by Gift of the Givers, the Polokwane Muslim Welfare Foundation, and the ordinary people of Limpopo who shared their last meal with a displaced neighbor. To all our responders: You are the heartbeat of this province. We thank you.

We welcome the classification of these floods as a national disaster in terms of Section 23(1)(b) of the National Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002). This allows national, provincial departments and municipalities to utilize their available budgets to provide relief measures to affected communities. Recovery work worth millions of rands is ongoing, a tough and difficult ask dictated to us by Mother Nature and the unpredictable and ever-changing weather patterns.

As an intervention, government has taken proactive measures to procure 670 Temporary Residential Units (TRU's). These will be distributed across the five district Disaster Management Centres so that as and when disaster happens, we can immediately respond with the resources readily available. We are turning our grief into a blueprint for resilience.

Co-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE

Honourable Members,

If disaster management is our shield, then Cooperative Governance is our engine. A municipality is more than an administrative layer; it is the frontline of our democracy. It is the closest level of governance to the people; and the first point of contact when citizens need services. It powers the day-to-day community life through the provision of basic services. While national and provincial governments create policies, it is largely the municipalities that bring these policies to life at the local level.

Honourable Speaker, Community Works Programme (CWP) addresses one of the 7th Administration's priorities which seeks to Reduce Poverty and tackle High Cost of Living. As at the end of March 2026, 23 512 work opportunities were created through the Community Works Programme in all 22 local municipalities, exceeding the target of 23 000. This is how we tackle the high cost of living: not with slogans, but with stipends, skills, and the dignity of work.

Honourable Members

Governance is also a matter of trust, and trust is measured in the transparency of our books. The 2024/25 audit outcomes tell a story of a province on the rise. Let us applaud the Capricorn and Waterberg District Municipalities for their unwavering excellence in maintaining Unqualified Audit Opinions without matters of emphasis. But let us also celebrate the "**Great Improvement.**" Eighteen (18) of our municipalities achieved Unqualified Audit Opinions with matters of emphasis - up from fourteen (14) in the 2023/2024 financial year.

The story of Thabazimbi Local Municipality is perhaps our greatest testament to what is possible. Moving from a "**Disclaimer**" to a "**Qualified**" opinion in a single cycle (2024/2025 financial year) - despite the instability they faced - is nothing short of a milestone.

Today, I can boldly state in this House: There is no disclaimer or adverse audit opinion in the entire Limpopo Province. Not one municipality regressed. We are closing the chapter on financial mismanagement and opening a new book on accountability.

To further this, we are breaking the chains of "**consultancy dependency.**" Through our collaboration with the Provincial Treasury and SALGA, we are building in-house capacity. Seventeen (17) municipalities prepared their own financial statements for the 2024/2025 financial year. All twenty-seven (27) municipalities submitted their statements on time. The Auditor General South Africa confirmed that the quality of financial statements

after audit have improved from 16 municipalities to 20 as compared to prior year, which is an improvement in financial disciplines at some municipalities. Furthermore, no municipality in the province regressed in the 2024/25 financial year, this is the discipline of a winning province!

Honourable Speaker and Members

As the department, we continue to mobilise resources and support for our municipalities. It is on this basis that the Department entered a partnership with the Development Bank of Southern Africa as a capacity building intervention on infrastructure planning, revenue enhancement, and spatial planning. The total investment by the bank amounts to R141 863 772.47 as at the end of March 2026.

In the spirit of Public Private Partnership, Anglo American together with CSIR established the Municipal Capability & Partnership Programme (MCPP). It targets support to Bloubaerg, Musina, Mogalakwena, Fetakgomo-Tubatse and Thabazimbi Municipalities on the following: **Strategic & development planning, water service management and infrastructure management.**

Honourable Members

The department has taken note of the arrest of officials for alleged tender fraud in Molemole Municipality. The municipal council has, through the leadership of the Mayor acted swiftly by convening a council to address these allegations and to appoint an acting Municipal Manager to ensure stability in the functioning of the municipality.

The Department continues to support all municipalities with anti-corruption awareness workshops, thus promoting preventative, detective, and investigative measures. Municipalities have shown commitment to promoting an ethical culture by anti-corruption policies and the Code of Ethical Leadership. Limpopo Province is among the first provinces where all municipalities have adopted this Code. We encourage all municipalities and to implement and adhere to the code

Honourable Speaker

Water provision remains a priority for the province. As such the Provincial Water and Sanitation Strategy has been developed as a differentiated response to Limpopo's persistent water and sanitation service delivery challenges. The strategy puts emphasis on governance reform, infrastructure coordination, improvement of water quality, with the ultimate foresight for the province to achieve sustainable water and sanitation service provision. The strategy introduces a differentiated provincial approach by prioritising measurable outcomes particularly the reduction of unserved and underserved settlements while simultaneously integrating regulatory performance indicators such as Blue Drop, Green Drop, and No Drop requirements.

The full institutionalisation and implementation of the strategy remain work in progress. The establishment of Water War Rooms across Limpopo is a direct response to the Provincial EXCO resolution of December 2025 aimed at strengthening coordination, oversight, and rapid response to water and sanitation service delivery challenges within Water Services Authorities (WSAs). These structures are intended to function as operational nerve centers, integrating various role players in the water value chain to unblock service delivery constraints and accelerate implementation.

The War Rooms in Vhembe District Municipality (VDM), Polokwane Local Municipality (PLK) are functional and have begun to demonstrate improved coordination and reporting discipline. Recently Capricorn District Municipality (CDM) and Waterberg District Municipality (WDM) launched their War Rooms. We are supporting and working together to establish Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) and Mopani District Municipality (MDM) war rooms.

Honourable Members

The Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) remains a critical funding instrument for the provision and upgrading of basic infrastructure services, particularly in water and sanitation. The province relies on MIG allocations to address infrastructure backlogs and improve service delivery outcomes across municipalities.

The Provincial MIG allocation for 2025/2026 was R 3,414,276,000 compared to the 2024/2025 allocation of R 3,397,368,000, which is an increase of 0.5%. As at the end of March 2026, R 2.591 billion has been spent, translating to 76.06%. This expenditure is higher than in March 2025 (67.90%) by 8.16%. We are proud to announce that no municipality lost any money during the stopping and reallocation because of good expenditure.

Honourable Members

The Honourable President of South Africa, His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa has announced the 04th November as the date for the 2026 Local Government elections. This means that the current term of office of local government will be coming to an end. The Provincial Executive Committee approved the Local Government Transitional Framework to guide the transition from the current administration to the sixth administration of local government. Municipalities have already worked on their draft hand-over reports to ensure smooth transition after the elections.

TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP

Honourable members,

We make a pledge to continue to value, respect, and work hand in hand with our esteemed traditional leaders. Their wisdom is our provincial asset. Their presence is a source of unity, and their leadership is essential in shaping the peaceful, prosperous, and culturally rich society we all aspire to build.

IN MEMORIUM

We dip our banner in solemn tribute to our traditional leaders who passed on in line of duty, serving their people. We honour the role they played in the transformation agenda of our traditional communities, especially in changing the living conditions of their people for the better. Today some of our rural areas are revered centers of economic activity. We honour their devotion to their people as we call upon those who come after them to emulate their remarkable achievements. May their souls continue to rest in peace.

Since our delivery of the 2025/26 Budget Vote Speech, we have lost the following Senior Traditional Leaders:

Ikosi Mahlangu of Ndebele Traditional Community

Kgoshi Malatji of Ba-Selwane Traditional Community

Kgoshi Maja of Maja Traditional Community

Hosi Nwamitwa of Valoyi Traditional Community.

May their souls rest in peace.

Honourable Members

Initiation is a profound affirmation of our cultural identity, values, and heritage. It remains one of the most important cultural practices in our communities, shaping boys and girls into men and women with and of dignity, discipline, and respect. It fills me with pride to see our tradition upheld with such honour and unity.

As we reflect on the 2025 initiation season, Limpopo Province received 544 (349 males and 195 females) winter initiation school applications and approved 505 (317 males and 188 females) of them. The total number of initiates admitted in registered schools during the season was 40 217 against 1 415 (687 males and 728 females) initiates who were admitted at illegal schools.

The unfortunate incident that clouded this age-old tradition was the death of two initiates who succumbed to fire wounds and chronic disease at hospitals in Mopani and Sekhukhune respectively.

Honourable members

As we look forward to the commencement of the 2026 initiation season, the Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee has begun preparations for the 2026 winter initiation season. The Department through the PICC received 957 applications, which include 557 for males and 400 for females. The Committee disapproved 186 applications because of the applicants' non-compliance to section (26)(4) of the Customary Initiation Act of 2021. The season is scheduled to start on the 19th June and end on the 19th July 2026.

As the MEC for CoGHSTA, I am making a rallying call to all those who may want to attempt to open initiation schools while their applications were declined or all those who may want to take chances and risk the lives of our children, that the law will take its course. We will be meeting with SAPS and NPA before the season starts, as we usually do, to impress on them to arrest the perpetrators who violate the law and bring them to face the full might of the law. Other stakeholders to bring on board include the Department of Education, Department of Health and SALGA.

Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker

The Premier appointed the Provincial Investigative Committee panel in line with Section 59 of the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act no 3 of 2019, to investigate and make recommendations to the Premier on disputes and claims of traditional leadership that qualify to be investigated. The Committee successfully concluded Baroka Ba Nkoana dispute, where a Senior Traditional Leader has already been appointed. The Committee has completed four cases, that is Bakenberg, Mankweng, Khomanani and Zebediela, and announcements will be made soon. The following cases are at different stages of completion, i.e., Dzumeri, Sinthumule, Machaka,

Marota Segolo, Kone Seopela and Roka Radingwana. This marks the provincial government's resolve and commitment to address traditional leadership disputes in an objective manner in order to bring stability in the sector.

Honourable Members

Working in partnership with the National Department of Traditional Affairs, CoGHSTA has also documented Customary Laws of Succession and Genealogies for 15 Traditional Communities, which will later serve as a point of reference and assist with the recognition of leaders and promptly address potential disputes that may arise in future. We set ourselves a target of 250 recognitions when we delivered the 2025/26 budget vote. I am pleased to announce that progress has been made in recognising 221 traditional leaders for the 2025/26 financial year.

Honourable Speaker

The Provincial Government has shown strong support for traditional leadership by publicly denouncing self-proclaimed leaders. To this effect, through working closely with Traditional Leaders and law enforcement agencies arrests have been made in Vhembe and Capricorn districts. Government emphasizes that declaring oneself a Traditional Leader without due process contravenes section 7(9) of the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act, underscoring its commitment to uphold the law and protect the integrity of traditional institutions. Section 7(9) states as follows:

“Any person who is not a recognized leader as contemplated in subsection (1) but purports to be such a leader, is guilty of an offence and liable upon conviction to a fine or imprisonment not exceeding three years”.

Honourable Members

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The Constitutional Court's ruling that section 25 of the Limpopo Traditional Leadership and Institutions Act, 2005 is unconstitutional has significantly affected the financial stability of Traditional Councils, many of which relied on community levies for operations. Despite this, Limpopo Province remains obligated under the Act to provide financial and administrative support. To ensure councils continue functioning effectively, the Department will be disbursing R20.3 million to qualifying traditional councils.

Honourable Speaker

Traditional leadership in Limpopo has been strengthened through induction workshops held in March 2025 for 149 duly constituted traditional councils, covering their functions, governance roles, partnership agreements, and code of conduct, with 88% attendance. Financial management training followed in 2025/26 Financial Year, while a partnership with the National School of Government introduced programmes on socio-economic development, land administration, and local economic growth.

The Department, through the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, embarked on a process of swearing in of council members in terms of Sec 5(2) of the Limpopo Traditional and Institutions Act no 6 of 2005. Out of 141 gazetted Traditional Councils to date, 130 have been sworn in, and this represents the total number of Traditional Councils that qualified to be sworn in. However, as and when the remaining Traditional Councils qualify to be sworn in, the Department will indeed facilitate their swearing in.

We always remain grateful for the support we receive from traditional leaders and their communities as we transform this sector into a sphere of government that is capable to play its role in the administration of our province. Our resolve is to have all traditional councils constituted in line with the TKLA.

The Department has fulfilled its commitment to provide vehicles to all qualifying senior traditional leaders, delivering seven vehicles in 2025/26 Financial Year and bringing the total to 162. Two more vehicles were procured and delivered last month for the Bapedi Kingship and the Balobedu Queenship.

Honourable Members

We are continuing with the programme to construct traditional council offices in our province, with several completed and handed over in 2025/26 Financial Year, including Bakone Ba Matlala, Bakwena Ba Matsepe, and Manoke. The following offices are at different stages of completion, ranging between 80% to 100%:

Ba-Shai Ditlou, Majeje, Mampane, Makuya, Mapela, and Litho Ndzundza.

Eight (8) new projects have been approved for planning during 2025/2026 financial year and the construction will commence during 2026/27FY as follows:

Matlala Ramoshebo, Mamaila Kolobetona, Tau Nkadimeng, Mabunda, Mankweng, Mashau, Masakona and Mashamba Traditional Councils

Honourable Members, we don't only provide offices, but also provide modern furniture to traditional councils to improve their working environment. So far we have delivered furniture to 56 traditional councils and for this financial year we will deliver to 15 additional traditional councils.

Honourable Speaker and Deputy 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 2026/27 financial year, a total budget available for the department of CoGHSTA as allocated is R2 583 218 000.00, a slight increase to the previous year budget of R2 573 445 000.00 (increase by 0.38 %).

The departmental budget allocation per programme is as follows:

- **Administration: R462, 221 million (2025/26: R449, 960 million) an increase of 2.72%,**
- **Human Settlements: R1, 152 987 billion (2025/26: R1, 259 018 billion) a decrease of 8.42%,**
- **Cooperative Governance: R358, 572 million (2025/26: R333, 570 million) an increase of 7.50%,**
- **Traditional Affairs: R609, 438 million (2025/26: R530, 987 million) an increase of 14.77%.**

As I move closer to the end of my speech, this Budget we present today speaks directly to the everyday realities of our people where they live, how they are governed and how their traditions and cultures are recognized and preserved. The allocations before this House are not merely figures on a page; they are instruments of dignity, stability, and inclusive development. This Budget reflects our unwavering commitment to people-centred development. It recognizes that shelter, governance, and cultural identity are deeply interconnected, and that progress in one area strengthens the other.

Finally Honourable Members, allow me to express my appreciation to the Premier of Limpopo Dr. Phophi Ramathuba for the guidance and for giving me the opportunity to lead the Department of CoGHSTA. I thank the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA Honorable Champ Sepuru, Chairperson of the Limpopo House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders, Hosi Pheni Ngove and the entire executive committee for their continued support.

My deepest gratitude to the Head of Department Dr. Modjadji Malahlela and the entire CoGHSTAZEN family who contribute and make our department a pride to work for, a story of triumph and service. Over the years, I have witnessed the department's tireless efforts to build a better Limpopo Province, and I am proud to have been part of this journey.

A special thank you to my political home, the African National Congress for entrusting me with the responsibility to lead this department.

Lastly, I want to thank my family for giving me space and time to serve the people of Limpopo.

Ha khensa, Ri a Livhuwa, Ke a leboga, Thank You, Baie dankie. Asante sana

END

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

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