

LIMPOPO --- LEGISLATURE

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2018/19 BUDGET SPEECH



Limpopo Legislature Budget Speech Delivered by the Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature Honourable Polly Boshielo to the Fifth Limpopo Legislature at the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber, Lebowakgomo

27 March 2018

Premier of the Limpopo Province, Hon. Stanley Chupu Mathabatha,
Members of the Executive Council,
Honourable Deputy Speaker,
Chief Whip of the Majority Party,
Leader of Government Business,
Leaders of the Opposition Parties,
Chair of Chairpersons,
Chairpersons of Committees,
Honourable Members of this House,
The Secretary of the Limpopo Legislature, Mr Simon Mothoa,
Officials of the Limpopo Legislature
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen

The 2018/19 Budget Speech of the Limpopo Legislature is dedicated to the first democratically elected President of the Republic of South Africa Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela. Tata Mandela was our liberator, activist, revolutionary leader and Nobel peace prize holder. During his life time, Tata

Mandela led the defiance campaign and fought fearlessly against a system that divided us. He dedicated his entire life to the struggle of the African people. Tata Mandela and the collective fought and advocated for equality, reconciliation and democracy amongst South Africans regardless of race or creed. In honour of our icon, we should, as Members of this House, devote our action towards the realisation of President Mandela's vision of a democratic, just and equitable society.

President Mandela would have been 100 years this year, which is thus paramount for this House to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of the world icon Madiba. We need to celebrate his life and honour his achievements. We need to rejoice and reflect on what Tata stood for. We need to emulate his values and principles so that we can also be ethical leaders. President Mandela was a believer in democracy and abided by the will of the people. We need to commit ourselves, as Members of this House, to the values of democracy and human rights, as Tata did during his life time. We need to emulate his wisdom, humility, compassion and integrity. In that way, we could be better leaders, who represent the public with dignity. If we do that, Tata Mandela will be very proud of us, and we could successfully bring public confidence in what we do on a daily basis.

Honourable Members,

It is indeed a great honour and privilege for me to deliver the Limpopo Legislature 2018/19 Budget Speech to this august House. This Budget Speech is delivered on behalf of the Members of this august House, diverse in our political ideology and affiliation, but united in our common goal of serving the people of Limpopo. The speech seeks to reaffirm our commitment to the values and principles of democracy and human rights to which Tata Mandela and many revolutionary leaders have dedicated their lives to realise. Our drive as a collective is to ensure that the people of Limpopo enjoy their democratic rights and that the Executive delivers quality service to the people. However, this collective vision can only be realised through unity in action. I am convinced, Honourable Members, that it is possible to improve the living conditions of the people of Limpopo.

We have learnt from our revolutionary leaders like former President Mandela, Tambo and others, who understood the necessity of the unity and

harmony of all the people. They believed that the unity which we so desire to achieve cannot be automatically realised or imposed, but instead it needs to be nurtured and treated with care. It requires that all stakeholders are engaged and their views taken into account when decisions are taken. It is only through unity that we can successfully contribute to the realisation of the National Democratic Revolution that will take this province to new heights. We should therefore draw lessons and inspiration from the likes of President Tambo, President Mandela and others, and unite the people of Limpopo towards the realisation of a free and equitable society.

Honourable Members,

Key to the values and principles of President Mandela was his recognition of the unity of the African people and all progressive South Africans who loved peace, freedom and fundamental human rights.

During the National Reconciliation Day, 16 December 1995, President Mandela asserted that ***“We, the people of South Africa, have made a decisive and irreversible break with the past. We have, in real life declared our shared allegiance to justice, non-racialism and democracy; our yearning for a peaceful and harmonious nation of equals. The rainbow has come to be the symbol of our nation. We are turning the variety of our languages and cultures, once used to divide us, into a source of strength and richness”.***

This was a call from President Mandela for us to create a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, prosperous and equitable society. However, regardless of the progress we have made as a nation, there is still resurgence of racism in some parts of our province. After 24 years of democracy and reconciliation, we are unfortunately still getting reports of elements of segregation based on skin colour. Henceforth, a mere apology from perpetrators of racism should not be accepted. We should, as Members of this House, stand and act against racism, and further advocate for the prosecution of perpetrators of racism. It is therefore our duty as Members of this House to emulate what Tata Mandela and Tambo did during their lifetime. We need to be activists for the course of non-racialism and become men and women bound together by our common dream to build a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society. We need to intensify

our work of building a free and equitable society for which all South Africans can live with harmony and dignity. Members of this House need to intensify their oversight work in order to realise the vision of Tata Mandela of a united South Africa in which all live in peace with equal rights and opportunities.

Honourable Members,

We are aware that corruption, theft and collusion have negative effects on service delivery. African scholars such as Nyaga and Theuri contended that corruption undermines government's ability to provide basic services such as healthcare and education, and leads to wastage of public resources. Corruption also increases the cost of doing business, discourages local and international investments, distorts public expenditures, reduces economic efficiency and slows down administrative processes.

Corruption poses a danger to the society and needs to be rooted out as quickly as possible. As alluded by Tata Nelson Mandela during the British Red Cross Humanity Lecture, London, 10 July 2003, we need to conduct ourselves with moral and integrity when doing our work. We should therefore not tolerate corruption regardless of who is involved in it. We need to join hands in the fight against corruption because it undermines government's programmes to address poverty and unemployment. The judiciary and all organs of the state should also ensure that those involved in corrupt, theft and collusive activities face the full might of the law. We therefore concur with Premier Mathabatha that we should commit ourselves to strengthen the Limpopo Anti-corruption Forum in our efforts to fight against corruption in the Limpopo Province.

Honourable Members,

The renowned American scholar James Madison summarised the essence of the separation of powers as follows:

“...If angels were to govern, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself. A dependence on the people is,

no doubt, the primary control on the government; but experience has taught mankind the necessity of auxiliary precautions...”

During his address at the final Sitting of South Africa’s first democratic Parliament in March 1999, President Mandela also asserted that:

“... Because the people of South Africa finally chose a profoundly legal path to their revolution, those who frame and enact Constitution and law are in the vanguard of the fight for change. It is in the Legislatures that the instruments have been fashioned to create a better life for all. It is here that oversight of government has been exercised. It is here that our society with all its formations has had an opportunity to influence policy and its implementation...”

The legislature is strategically placed as a representative of the people and overseer of the executive to ensure that government departments and entities deliver quality services effectively and efficiently within the provisions of the budget tabled in this House by the MEC for Treasury, Hon Rob Tooley. This House is constitutionally mandated in accordance with section 114 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa to pass laws, conduct oversight and hold the Executive accountable on how public funds are being utilised. As public representatives, we should continue to exercise our constitutional responsibilities in order to ensure that the Executive is held accountable. We should do our work with one objective, which is to serve the people. This, therefore, requires that the interests of the public should outweigh our own individual needs and aspirations.

We owe our people loyalty, honesty and integrity as we carry out our constitutional duties. This necessitates the need for effective oversight and accountability. In this way, we will be contributing towards building an inclusive economy and improve the lives of our people. We all serve in this House at the behest of the people, who voted us to represent their interests. We are not doing any favour to the electorates, but they did us a great one by voting for us to lead them.

Honourable Members,

During the 2017/18 Budget Speech, we reported that work will soon be commencing towards the construction of the Limpopo Legislature building in Polokwane. Discussions were held with both the MEC for Provincial Treasury and MEC for Public Works, Infrastructure and Roads with a view to set the process in motion in this regard. Though progress seems to be slow, the Limpopo Legislature complex has already been registered as a potential Public Private Partnership (PPP) project by the National Treasury. As we speak, a Senior Project Advisor has been appointed by the National Treasury to assist with the planning and execution of the project. The technical team is currently working on appropriate model to fund the implementation of the project. We remain committed to this project and we believe that both the MECs for Provincial Treasury and Public Works, Infrastructure and Roads will provide detailed progress on this key project in the near future.

Honourable Members,

As reported in the previous financial year, we remain committed to reduce expenditure on non-essential items even in the 2018/19 financial year. We will continue to implement our strict measures to curb costs on non-essential activities, and direct the available limited resources to Oversight, Public Participation and Law-making programmes. As part of curbing operational expenses, the costs for procuring gifts and paraphernalia associated with legislative events will be drastically reduced in the current financial year. We have already procured central printing facilities in order to cut costs of printing services and disposables such as toners. In the current financial year, for the first time, our Members and staff will access newspapers using an on-line platform. In this way, we will be saving cost for newspaper (hardcopies) purchase by almost fifty percent.

In the past financial year, we were able to procure air travel in a cost-effective manner, which was made possible through an agreement signed between the Limpopo Legislature and South African Airways. As part of cost containment measures, costs were drastically reduced during the 2018 State of the Province Address. Our decision to host the SOPA 2018 at Jack Botes Hall is increasing the event's popularity, interests and accessibility to the people. The event popularity and interests has been achieved through

the utilisation of 10 community radio stations around Limpopo. We will in the current financial year increase the live coverage of this event to several other community radio stations and newspapers. By so doing, we will be publicising the Legislature and its activities to the majority of the citizens of Limpopo.

Honourable Members,

Chapter 9 and 10 institutions play a critical role in strengthening our constitutional democracy. In the past financial year, the Legislature improved its relationship with these institutions. Our relationship with these institutions also takes into account the principles of separation of powers and respects our constitutional independence.

The Speakership has a standing arrangement with the Office of the Auditor-General so that the two offices can meet and discuss matters of mutual interests. The Speakership and the Office of the AG had meetings to find ways and means of assessing the performance of our standing and portfolio committees. The tool to assess the performance of committees has been developed and a report will be tabled soon. The report will provide a picture on the extent to which our committees are performing and their impact towards improving people's wellbeing.

The Premier of Limpopo, Hon Mathabatha, together with Members of this House attended the 2016/17 PFMA audit outcome roadshow in order to understand the provincial audit performance. The Office of the Auditor-General: Limpopo continues to provide technical support to our Committees. The Office of the AG (Limpopo) trained the Speakers of District and Local Municipalities on the roles of Speakers in promoting good governance during the Provincial Speakers Forum. We will even in the current financial year continue to have good and independent working relationship with the Office of the Auditor-General.

We will also in the current financial year strengthen the relationship between the Limpopo Legislature and Office of the Public Protector. During our Provincial Speakers Forum, the Provincial Head of the Limpopo Office of the Public Protector trained the Speakers of District and Local Municipalities on the ethics and integrity for public representatives. Due

to our constitutional obligations, we have recognised the need for a close collaboration, cooperation and the rendering of assistance between the two offices in relation to the fulfilment of our respective constitutional and statutory responsibilities and obligations as envisaged in the Constitution. To this end, a Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions has been developed and will be signed in the 2018/19 financial year.

The Public Service Commission (PSC) continues to ensure that public servants adhere to the values and principles governing public administration. During the Provincial Speakers Forum, the Provincial Commissioner trained the Speakers of Local and District Municipalities on the state of provincial Public Service Commission's work in promoting the constitutional values and principles in Limpopo Provincial Administration.

The reports from the chapter 9 and 10 institutions are tabled in this House and used by our Committees to effectively hold the Executive accountable for their decision or action taken when utilising public resources. We have complied with all the directives, recommendations and remedial actions from these institutions and will continue to do so even in the current financial year. The relationship between the Legislature and these institutions keeps on growing strong with time. We therefore commit ourselves to have engagements with the Human Rights Commission, Commission for Gender Equality, Electoral Commission and Statistics South Africa.

Honourable Members,

During his first 100 days in office as the President of the Republic of South Africa, in August 1994, former President Nelson Mandela had this to say; ***"...At the end of the day, a yardstick that we shall all be judged by is one and only one. And that is, are we through our endeavours here creating the basis to better the lives of South Africans..."*** This is an important question, which we should answer through our contribution as individuals or collective towards the upliftment of lives of the people of Limpopo.

This House will intensify its oversight work to ensure the betterment of the lives of the ordinary people of Limpopo. Through our Committees, we commit to effectively hold the Executive accountable in our endeavour to ensure that

the provincial government creates jobs, and also ensure that the people of Limpopo have access to basic needs such as water, shelter, education and primary health care. In the previous financial year, the Committees of the Legislature held oversight meetings in order to ensure that the Executive accounts on how public resources are utilised. As part of monitoring the performance of the Executive, Committees undertook oversight visits to clinics and hospitals, libraries, schools, and police stations in the province. These oversight visits are critical because they enable Members to assess progress made by the Executive in implementing the approved Annual Performance Plans and other policy prescripts. This House has processed oversight reports, quarterly and annual performance reports as well as reports from Chapter 9 and 10 institutions.

Honourable Members,

In the past financial year, we indicated that we will be strengthening oversight and accountability through Focused Intervention Studies (FIS), specifically on social, economic and infrastructure clusters. As part of the implementation of the Sector Oversight Model (SOM), which remains our central reference tool on Oversight Mechanism, we have conducted Focused Intervention Studies that include amongst others:

- *Transitional arrangements and progress on the amalgamation of the municipalities;*
- *Public enquiry on the state of Limpopo's Public Transport System;*
- *Assessment of infrastructure conditions of Limpopo Nature Reserves; and*
- *The state of Shiluvani frail care centre.*

These FIS will be referred to the relevant department for implementation of the recommendations. The relevant Committees will monitor the implementation of the recommendations of these studies. This House will continue with these FIS in this current financial year with particular focus on the infrastructure and social clusters in order to improve our current service delivery oversight model.

The outbreak of listeriosis in our country has compelled us to invite the Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, to make a presentation before this august House and clear out uncertainties facing our people. The Minister

provided detailed information on the types of listeriosis, how it spreads and preventative measures that we all need to take.

Public hearings and petitions remain critical for enhancing accountability and service delivery to the people of Limpopo. During the 2017/18 financial year, various public hearings were held in order to afford the public an opportunity to effectively participate during law making processes. Amongst others, we held public hearings on High Level Panel headed by former President Kgalema Motlanthe, Public hearings on Mineral and Petroleum Resources and public hearings on the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences (AARTO). All these public hearings were organised across the various districts of the Limpopo Province and enabled the public to participate in law making processes.

During the past financial year, the Limpopo Legislature processed various petitions from our communities. The increase of petitions received demonstrates that our communities have unparalleled confidence in the Legislature. We should therefore work hard to ensure that petitions referred to the Legislature are resolved speedily.

Through our petitions intervention, I am proud to share with this august House some of the many success stories:

- *Mhlongo M and others who were unfairly expelled from school were readmitted after effective adjudication of their petition by our Petitions Committee together with the Department of Education, School Management Team and Governing Body.*
- *There was a petition where the gender status of a petitioner was wrongly captured in the ID, and after the adjudication of petition together with the Department of Home Affairs, the anomaly was immediately corrected.*
- *We also received a petition from Community Health Workers, and through our intervention together with the Department of Health, the long standing petition was resolved.*

Due to our assistance to the Community Health Workers together with the MEC for Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, we will receive a memorandum of appreciation this afternoon from the South African Maintenance and Estate Beneficiaries Association for recognising the contribution of this

institution towards resolving a petition from Community Health Workers. As I have already hinted, these are just few examples of the efforts of the Limpopo Legislature in creating better and sustainable communities. There are several good stories to tell. We are indeed making a positive impact, which thus contributes towards improving service delivery to the people of Limpopo.

Honourable Members,

In line with our mission of deepening and maintaining democracy, we have embarked on educational workshops and outreach programmes in order to empower our stakeholders on the mandates of the Legislature. We have conducted successful education and outreach programmes with several secondary schools including Lekentle and Khujwane Secondary Schools.

During August 2017, this legislative chamber was requested by the South African Model United Nations (SAMUN) to be utilised for the Provincial High Schools debate. Learners from our province had an opportunity to debate in this House.

In the current financial year, we will continue to use educational workshops and seminars for outreach purposes as a means to create awareness about the mandate of the Legislature with our communities.

Honourable Members,

The Limpopo Legislature has proved to be effective when it comes to mobilising our people. This was demonstrated during sectoral parliaments which were held in the 2017/18 financial year. We will, in the current financial year, provide a platform for children, youth, women, people with disability, workers and elderly people to participate in the sectoral parliaments. Our Public Participation Unit is in the process of finalising a “**discussion paper on the approach to sectoral parliaments**” in the current financial year, which will shape a new discourse and direction for sectoral parliaments. The approach for the current financial year sectoral parliaments is to move towards outcomes and impacts of our programmes to the people of Limpopo.

In June last year, we had a successful Youth Parliament in the Greater Tzaneen, Mopani District, wherein the youth of Limpopo were afforded a platform to discuss issues closer to their hearts. We will explore various mechanism for further engagements with our youth. Investing in our youth is our priority, and a cornerstone for more inclusive and just society.

We have realised as an institution that young people need to be encouraged to engage in community upliftment projects. To that end, we awarded youth organisations involved in the upliftment of the living conditions of young people. We have awarded the best and well run youth projects in Limpopo and the overall winner is a youth project called Drug Addicts and Convicted Criminals Restoration Organisation from Mogalakwena Municipality. This is a youth organisation which is tackling drugs and alcohol abuse amongst the youth. At the time of the award, the organisation had assisted 28 drug users and 15 drug addicts graduated from their programme. This organisation needs our support so that it can continue to save the lives of people, especially youth, who are mainly affected by substance abuse and related social ills such as crime. It is my pleasure and honour to welcome the Drug Addicts and Convicted Criminals Restoration Organisation team to this honourable House, and they are seated at the gallery. We will continue even in the current financial year to recognise youth organisations and individuals who are contributing positively to society upliftment.

We have learnt from former President Mandela during the launch of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, Pretoria, May 1995 that ***“as we set about building a new South Africa, one of our highest priorities must be our children. The vision of a new society that guides us should already be manifest in the steps we take to address the wrong done to our youth and to prepare for their future. Our actions and policies, and the institutions we create, should be eloquent with care, respect and love.”***

In June 1995, Tata Mandela further shared profound words during the address at the dedication of Qunu and Nkalade schools when he said: ***“Our children are the rock on which our future will be built, our greatest asset as a nation. They will be the leaders of our country, the creators of our national wealth, those who care for and protect our people.”***

As directed by former President Mandela, the involvement of youth in the legislative programme is paramount. Youth are future leaders and have talents and ambition to overcome societal challenges. In order to achieve the 2030 Agenda, it is imperative to engage youth as beneficiaries, stakeholders, and leaders in the global movement for inclusive and sustainable development.

As the Limpopo Legislature, we will involve and give our youth a platform to deliberate and shape discussions around key legislation that have impact on their lives. We need to give them that platform to elevate their voices, empower them to advocate for their future, and mobilise them as agents of impactful change.

Like we did in the previous years, we will hold our Youth Sectoral Parliament in June 2018 so that we can provide platform for youth to discuss youth matters. We will continue to empower and afford young people the opportunity to participate in national and provincial events. As part of our youth empowerment programme, the Limpopo Legislature deployed Mmanyaku Desire Matlala from Ephraim Mogale Municipality to attend the State of Nation Address 2018. She was the youngest eminent person deployed by the Limpopo Legislature to represent the Limpopo Province at the SONA. She has indeed represented us with dignity. Her deployment as eminent person was as a result of her involvement in community upliftment programmes with particular focus on youth empowerment. She has assisted grade 12 learners from her community with bursary information, career guidance and referral. Please join me in welcoming Ms Mmanyaku Desire Matlala who is seated in the public gallery.

In the current financial year, we commit ourselves to create internship programme for young graduates. This programme will provide an opportunity for deserving young people to get exposed to the working environment at the Limpopo Legislature. We have engaged with the University of Limpopo Association for Public Administration Students to assist them with internships. Our engagement will be extended to other universities and TVET Colleges in the province. With all these efforts, and through your support, a black child shall rise **ka nkane**.

Honourable Members,

In October 2017, the Limpopo Legislature successfully hosted the Elderly People's Parliament at Moses Mabotha Civic Hall, Sekhukhune District. This sectoral parliament was attended by more than 800 elderly people and its key objective was to better capacitate and empower elderly people and facilitate their participation in the legislative processes. We need to provide a platform for our elderly people to interact with government and their voices to be heard. We will in the current financial year ensure that our elders continue to participate in the Elderly People's Parliament and monitor the implementation of recommendations by the relevant departments.

Honourable Members,

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol was adopted on the 13th of December 2006 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Convention follows decades of work by the United Nations to change attitudes and approaches to persons with disabilities. The Convention is intended as a human rights instrument with an explicit social development dimension. It adopts a broad categorisation of persons with disabilities and reaffirms that all persons with various types of disabilities must enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedom. As the Limpopo Legislature, we are abided by this protocol in the 2017/18 financial year by ensuring that the Parliament for the People with Disability was successfully hosted in this very Chamber. In the current financial year, we will continue to work together with associations for People with Disabilities so that we can provide tools which can assist them to overcome some of the difficulties they encounter on a daily basis.

Honourable Members,

The Children's Charter of South Africa states that "children are entitled to basic human rights and freedoms, deserve respect, special care and protection". Within this context, we are committing ourselves as an institution to host the Children's Parliament in the current financial year. The Children's Parliament will provide an opportunity for the Limpopo Legislature to interact with children and to introduce them to principles of democracy and how their Legislature functions. By so doing, we will be promoting and

raising awareness about the rights of children and also introducing them to democratic practices. **Ka Sepedi ba re e kobja e sa le e nanana.**

Honourable Members,

Despite gender equality interventions, the majority of women in this country are still marginalised. We need to work together towards emancipation of women. Providing opportunities for women to take part in the Legislature programmes is thus pivotal. In August 2017, we held a successful Women's Parliament at Lephalale, Waterberg District Municipality. The key objectives was to facilitate participation of women in the legislative processes and to provide platform for dialogue on key issues affecting women. In the current financial year, issues affecting women will be given priority during the Women's Parliament. We will continue to empower women to be the advocates of women's rights.

Women in our province will, even in the current financial year, be provided with opportunity to participate in the activities and programmes of the Legislature particularly on matters affecting them.

On the 10th of April 2017, we have successfully launched the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Limpopo branch. We need to work together in changing the status of the CPA from being a charity to a developmental organisation. This is a critical milestone in advancing democracy and developmental agenda within the commonwealth, and also for advocating for women representation in political institutions. In the current financial year, we will strengthen the Women Caucus in order to address issues affecting women parliamentarians.

Honourable Members,

With the assistance of the Legislative Sector of South Africa and our Bursary Programme, we will constantly strive to empower our Members and staff so that they can effectively carry out their responsibilities.

It is my honour to announce that through our intervention, **2** honourable Members graduated their honours degrees, while another **2** Members

graduated their master's degrees. It is encouraging to also announce that in the current financial year **12** honourable Members have registered for Post Graduate Diploma in Governance and Leadership with Wits and UJ, while **3** are doing Continuation in Education Programme with UJ so that they can qualify to do Post Graduate Diploma. We have also awarded bursaries to **2** honourable Members to do their masters studies, and **1** Member to do a PhD study. In addition, the Limpopo Legislature has funded **2** honourable Members to attend and participate in the Executive Leadership for Municipal Development programme at the University of Pretoria. To further empower our Members, we have procured and distributed copies of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Financial Management for Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, Standing Rules and Orders of the Limpopo Legislature, Public Finance Management Act and related local government legislation to all Members of this House.

Our bursary scheme is also assisting staff to further their studies in order to effectively contribute in their support roles for the Legislature. It is my honour to announce that in the previous financial year, **1** staff received a degree, **1** staff graduated with honours degree, **2** graduated with Masters degrees and **1** graduated with a PhD degree.

We will in the current financial year continue to empower Members and staff to attain professional qualifications and relevant training. We will put more efforts to make education fashionable amongst our Members and staff.

In this financial year, we will also recognise the good work that our staff are doing. Funds have been allocated to recognise high performance and excellence. This is an effort to recognise employees and to encourage them to work harder. The work of our officials remains valuable to our institution and we will continue to recognise that.

Honourable Members,

As the Limpopo Legislature, we will share resolutions of the Speakers' Forum to ensure that there is synergy of what we do. In the previous financial year, we organised a successful Provincial Speaker's Forum in the Vhembe District. We will continue to share best practices with Municipal Speakers in terms of presiding and legislative matters. We will monitor the

implementation of resolutions taken during the 2017 Speaker's Forum.

The Limpopo Legislature remains conscious and responsive to the capacity building needs of Municipal Councils in our Province. We have trained Municipal Public Accounts Committees (MPACs) in Limpopo Province. We were also requested by municipalities to train their respective Municipal Councils on Ethics and Integrity, Protocol and Application of Rules. We will even in the current financial year provide relevant training and assistance to MPACs and Municipal Council.

Honourable Members,

In the current financial year, the Limpopo Legislature is expected to fully comply with all the requirements of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act (FMPPLA). The implementation of FMPPLA has huge financial and human resources implications in terms of migration from Modified Cash to Accrual Basis by implementing the GRAP accounting system.

In addition, the implementation of FMPPLA has implication on the current Legislature organisational structure. To this end, the Legislature is in the process of reviewing the organisational structure. Substantial budget will be required to comply with FMPPLA and to successfully implement the outcome of the Organisational Structure Review.

We are happy to announce that the appointment of the Secretary and CFO have been finalised. We have also appointed manager in finance section. These appointments will create stability and enhance the operations of the Legislature. This will also assist us towards attaining a clean audit.

The Legislature is one of the institutions in South Africa which has been declared as a National Key Point (NKP). As a result, there is a need to demarcate the Legislature from other government departments in order to comply with NKP requirements.

We have improved our communication with stakeholders through the use of Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter and Instagram. These social media platforms enable us to quickly disseminate information to Members, staff

and stakeholders. We have distributed calendars to schools and other stakeholders so that the people of Limpopo know their parliamentarians.

We have resolved most of our IT challenges including the revamping of our website. The website is currently working effectively with updated information about the Legislature operations. In the current financial year, we will have an online newsletter which will be uploaded on our website. Our emails and network systems are functional. We have WiFi access both at the Legislature and the Parliamentary Village so that we can improve connectivity to the network.

We will in the current financial year explore the possibilities of having public education radio shows in order to raise awareness about the mandate of the Legislature.

Honourable Members,

The Limpopo Legislature is aware of its enormous responsibility of being the eyes and ears of the people of Limpopo. However, ours is not to police the Executive, but to work with them in ensuring that quality service is delivered to the people.

We will continue to act and work together towards the improvement of the lives of the citizens of Limpopo. In this regard, it remains our responsibility to make the right choices and do the right things in our endeavour to build a just society.

Ours should be a collective responsibility to ensure that the Executive discharges its responsibilities responsibly and in an accountable manner.

However, despite the commitment we have made in executing our constitutional mandate, our economic growth remained low, unemployment has remained high, and some of the advances made in reducing poverty are in danger of being reversed. Our economy has created jobs, but not at the pace required to absorb new entrants into the labour market. Public finances have been constrained, limiting the ability of government to expand its investment in economic and social development. All these facets put the provincial budget and our own under pressure. We need, as South Africans,

to put more effort in building our economy to enable it to address the needs and demands facing our province and country in general.

Notwithstanding these economic challenges, we have to utilise the allocated budget in ensuring that our constitutional mandate is executed. The 2018/19 Budget reflects a balance between maintaining our spending commitments, while at the same time ensuring that expenditure is within the allocated budget.

The Limpopo Legislature has been allocated a total budget of **R360.9 million** in the 2018/19 financial year. The allocation represents an increase of budget by **5.6%** in the 2018/19 financial year as compared to the 2017/18 main appropriation budget. The budget has been allocated to our three programmes as follows:

Programme 1: Administration

The purpose of Programme one is to provide strategic leadership by the Office of the Speaker and administrative support by the Office of the Secretary to the Legislature. The budget for this programme has increased from **R129.1 million** in 2017/18 main appropriation to **R131.7 million** in 2018/19 financial year.

Programme 2: Facilities for Members and Political Parties

The purpose of Programme two is to provide compensation and support for Members. The budget for this programme has increased from **R130.9 million** in 2017/18 main appropriation to **R140.6 million** in 2018/19 financial year.

In terms of section 34(5) of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act ***“Each party represented in the Assembly must be provided with financial and administrative assistance in proportion to its representation to enable it and its leader to perform their functions in Parliament effectively”***. The total allocation for political parties represented in the Legislature during the 2018/19 financial year is **R72.4 million**. The funds are for constituency allowance, political party funding and political party support. The total budget of **R72.4 million** has

been allocated to political parties as follows:

Budget Allocation to Political Parties for financial year 2018/19

DESCRIPTION	ANC (R'000)	EFF (R'000)	DA (R'000)	COPE (R'000)	Total (R'000)
Constituency allowance	21 528	3 312	1 656	552	27 048
Political Party Funding	17 567	2 703	1 351	450	22 071
Salaries	18 528	2 850	1 425	475	23 278
TOTAL					72 397

The ANC, EFF, DA and COPE have been allocated **R21.5 million**, **R3.3 million**, **R1.7 million** and **R552 000**, respectively for constituency allowance. Accordingly, **R17.6 million**, **R2.7 million**, **R1.4 million** and **R450 000** was allocated to ANC, EFF, DA and COPE, respectively for political party funding. The allocation for salaries of political parties was **R18.5 million**, **R2.9 million**, **R1.4 million** and **R475 000** for the ANC, EFF, DA and COPE, respectively.

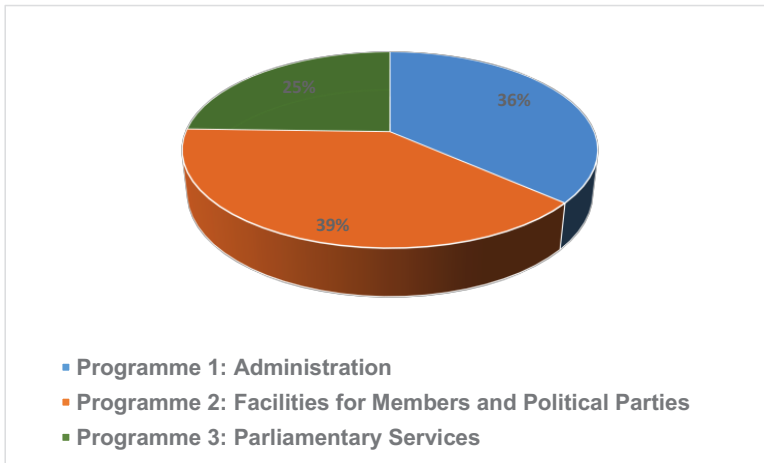
Programme 3: Parliamentary Services

The purpose of programme three is to provide services related to oversight, public participation and law making. The budget for this programme has increased from **R81.8 million** in 2017/18 main appropriation to **R88.6 million** in 2018/19 financial year.

Final Budget Allocation for financial year 2018/19

PROGRAMMES	Main Appropriation 2017/18 (R'000)	Adjustment Appropriation 2017/18 (R'000)	Main appropriation 2018/19 (R'000)	Increase between 2018/19 and 2017/18 main appropriations (R'000)
Administration	129 081	144 806	131 696	2 615
Facilities for Members and Political Parties	130 883	165 364	140 619	9 736
Parliamentary Services	81 845	87 200	88 612	6 767
TOTAL	341 810	397 370	360 927	19 117

Percentage Budget Allocation per Programme in the 2018/19 Financial Year




Honourable Members,

As I draw towards concluding this Budget Speech, permit me to also borrow the words of one of the revolutionaries, former President Mandela who in his autobiography **Long Walk to Freedom**, had this to say; ***“...I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb...”***

Indeed this insightful words from former President Mandela makes us realise that the road ahead won't be easy. There is a lot of work that needs to be done to regain the trust of our people. We will continue to draw inspiration from former President Nelson Mandela and give season of hope to our people. We should not rest until there is better life for the people of Limpopo.

As alluded by President Ramaphosa, ***“now is time to lend a hand. Now is time for all of us to work together”***. Indeed, this is a year of unity and renewal, and irrespective of our political affiliation, we should be united in ensuring that the living conditions of the people of Limpopo are improved.



Let me take this opportunity to thank the Deputy Speaker, Hon Masoga, and leaders of political parties represented in this House for your continued support.

I also thank the Secretary to the Limpopo Legislature, Mr Simon Mothoa and Team Legislature for your commitment and availability whenever we need you.

It is my honour and privilege to table the Limpopo Legislature 2018/19 Budget Vote to this House.

I thank you

