LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE
It's your voice, use it!

ANNUAL HANSARD REPORT, 2019/20

(PART 1)

DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES

OF THE

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH PARLIAMENT

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

It's your voice, use it!

FOREWORD

The past few months have been a particularly busy time for Hansard Section, as the practitioners had been putting the final touches on the 2017/18 Annual Hansard report; and focusing on this year's transcripts of proceedings of the House. It is with great pleasure that the Hansard team presents the 2017/18 Annual Hansard report for consumption. This is a chronicle of 27 of the proceedings held between February and November 2016. Our section continues to offer a helping hand to public representatives in their attempt to reach to their constituencies and maintaining contact with the electorates. This is done, inter alia, through reports such as these, which are purely records of parliamentary deliberations.

Hansard continues to serve its clients in a fair, factually accurate and balanced manner and strives by all means to refrain from fabricating information. The existence of our section should not be seen as a threat to all political parties represented in the House, but rather as a means to ease their communication with the electorates.

I take this opportunity to compliment the Hansard team for taking pain and effort to assist in the publication of this report. The production thereof has been possible only through the hard work and dedicated commitment of our Hansard editorial staff. We endeavour to ensure that these reports are a regular feature. We would also like to express our gratitude to other stakeholders and partners, who support us at every stage along this lengthy and sometimes difficult road of publishing these reports.

However, I would also like to remind the editorial staff about complacency in the preparation of these reports. Our clients have reposed their confidence on us and it is essential that we rise up to the occasion and surpass the expectations of our clients. Hansard family is a very talented family.

I would be remiss if, in complimenting my colleagues, I fail to acknowledge and appreciate the continued support we get from our clients, the MPLs. Very little could have been done without their debates in the House and we hope that these reports, which are accurate renditions of their engagements with issues, are as useful to them as their contributions were to us in compiling these much-needed reports. This issue would not have been possible without the support of our clients, and we would like to express our sincere thanks to all of them. We remain immensely grateful to the MPLs who enthusiastically avail themselves each step of the way. This 2016/17 Annual *Hansard* report is a collaborative achievement of all the role players involved.

This 2016/17 Hansard annual report, however, should not be read in isolation, but as part of a series of compendium published by the Legislature since the dawn of democracy. Our reports are accessible for public consumption and copies can be found in public and community libraries throughout the province. We hope that these reports will continue to nourish readers' understanding of parliamentary operations and procedures. I would also like to appeal to all and sundry to make this report a publication worth reading and keeping.

M L Makgopa
Editor of Debates

Vision

The Limpopo Legislature seeks to be a representative body, a vanguard of people's aspirations and interests towards a democratic, nonsexist, nonracial, united and a prosperous society.

Mission and Strategic Goals

The Legislature is an autonomous institution and an agent for transformation that strives to:

- defend, strengthen, deepen and maintain democracy;
- make quality laws and policies for the citizens of the province;
- have an effective and meaningful participation of the citizens in the law-making processes;
- articulate the needs and desires of the citizens;
- be a transparent, consultative and accountable institution;
- maintain norms set nationally for eradication of racism and gender imbalances;
- maintain norms set nationally for eradication of racism and gender imbalances;
- have a representative and accountable budget; and
- ensure provision, retention of competent skills and efficient utilization of human resources.

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MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL [CABINET]

Office of the Premier	Mr C S Mathabatha [Premier]
Education	Ms S P Boshielo
Health	Dr P C Ramathuba
Social Development	Ms N C Rakgoale
Economic Development, Environment and Tourism	Mr T A Mokone
Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure	Dr S M Mochadi
Transport and Community Safety	Mr N D Masemola
Agriculture and Rural Development	Ms N A Ndalane
CoGHSTA	Mr B R Makamu
Sport, Arts and Culture	Ms T A Moraka
Provincial Treasury	Mr S C Sekoati

OFFICE-BEARERS OF LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

The Speaker	Ms M M Lerule-Ramakhanya
The Deputy Speaker	Mr A J D Ndou
The Chief Whip	Mr M E Mokgonyana
The Deputy Chief Whip	Ms R R Molapo
The Chairperson of Committees	Mr N V Mashamaite
The Deputy Chairperson of Committees	Mr C B D Selane
The Leader of Government Business	Mr S C Sekoati
The Leader of the Opposition	Mr M J Buthane
The Secretary of Limpopo Legislature	Mr S Mothoa

MEMBERS OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE (in alphabetical order)

PARTIES REPRESENTED IN THE HOUSE:

African National Congress (ANC)
Democratic Alliance (DA)
Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF)
Vryheidsfront Plus (VF Plus)

1.	Aphiri, Mokgadi Johanna	ANC
2.	Boshielo, Shela Polly	ANC
3.	Buthane, Modikane Joseph	EFF
4.	Kekana, Nakedi Grace	ANC
5.	Lebea-Olaiya, Kedibone Margaret	ANC
6.	Lekganyane, Nakedi Maria	ANC
7.	Lerule-Ramakhanya, Mavhungu Maureen	ANC
8.	Maharaj, Risham	DA
9.	Mahasela, Mahlodi Caroline	ANC
10.	Makamu, Basikopo Rodgers	ANC
11.	Makhurupetje, Makoma Grace	ANC
12.	Managa, Lilian	EFF
13.	Manganye, Tinyiko Florence	EFF
14.	Maritz, Marcelle Frieda	VF Plus
15.	Marule, Jacob Boy Otto	ANC
16.	Maseko, Funani Jerry	ANC
17.	Masekoameng, Mmabogahla Isaiah	ANC
18.	Masemola, Namane Dickson	ANC
19.	Mashamaite, Nkholo Victor	ANC
20.	Mathabatha, Chupu Stanley	ANC
21.	Mathe, Simon Matsobane	ANC
22.	Mathye, Susani Violet	ANC
23.	Matlou, Leswafo Joshua	ANC
24.	Mdaka, Falaza Philemon	ANC
25.	Mitileni, Wisani Goodman	ANC
26.	Mochadi, Sekutu Monicca	ANC
27.	Mohlala, Manamane Charles	EFF
28.	Mokaba-Phukwana, Mapula Annah	ANC
29.	Mokgonyana, Essob Mmanoko	ANC
30.	Mokone, Thabo Andrew	ANC
31.	Molapo, Reneiloe Rosemarry	ANC
32.	Monama, Gannye Rodgers	ANC
33.	Monyamane, Nkome Sarah	ANC
34.	Moraka, Anna Tandi	ANC
35.	Mphahlele Selaelo Regina	EFF
36.	Ndalane, Nandi Annah	ANC
37.	Ndou, Azwindini Jeremiah Dingaan	ANC
38.	Phala, Katlego Suzan	DA
39.	Phala, Kgolane Alfred	ANC
40.	Radzilani, Fulufhelo Florence	ANC
41.	Rakgoale, Chritian Nkakareng	ANC

42.	Ramathuba, Phophi Constance	ANC
43.	Raphela, George	EFF
44.	Sekoati, Seaparo Charles	ANC
45.	Selamolela Selelo Donald	ANC
46.	Selane, Che Bonnie David	ANC
47.	Seono, Mmaishibe Rebecca	ANC
48.	Seshoka, Jetrick	EFF
49.	Smalle, Jacobus Frederik	DA

PERMANENT DELEGATES TO NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

1.	Shaikh, Shahidabibi	ANC
2.	Nchabeleng, Mamagase Aleck	ANC
3.	Matibe, Tshitereke Baldwin	ANC
4.	Mamaregane, Mmamora Lilliet	ANC
5.	Mathevula, Brenda Tirhani	EFF
6.	Smit, Christiaan Frederik Beyers	DA

COMMITTEES OF THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

CATEGORY ONE – STANDING COMMITTEES

a) Rules Committee
b) Internal Arrangements Committee
c) Programming Committee
d) Whippery
e) Disciplinary Committee
f) Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests
g) Committee of Presiding Officers
h) Public Accounts Committee
i) Public Participation and Petitions
j) Quality of Life and Status of Women, Youth and Disability

CATEGORY TWO – PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

a) Provincial Treasury
b) Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs
c) Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure
d) Economic Development, Environment and Tourism
e) Agriculture and Rural Development
f) Transport and Community Safety
g) Sport, Arts and Culture
h) Education
i) Health
j) Social Development
k) Public Administration
l) Oversight Review Mechanism

LIST OF SITTINGS

1. Daily Hansard, 2019 May 22

2. Daily Hansard, 2019 July 05
3. Daily Hansard, 2019 July 11
4. Daily Hansard, 2019 July 12
5. Daily Hansard, 2019 July 19
6. Daily Hansard, 2019 July 23
7. Daily Hansard, 2019 July 25
8. Daily Hansard, 2019 July 26

9. Daily Hansard, 2019 August 20
10. Daily Hansard, 2019 August 22
11. Daily Hansard, 2019 August 23
12. Daily Hansard, 2019 August 29

13. Daily Hansard, 2019 November 21

14. Daily Hansard, 2019 December 03
15. Daily Hansard, 2019 December 05

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VERBATIM REPORT

OF THE

DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH PARLIAMENT

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

WEDNESDAY, 22 MAY 2019

It's your voice, use it!

VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
WEDNESDAY, 22 MAY 2019
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00

THE PRESIDING OFFICER [JUDGE E M MAKGOBA]

I would ask the House to observe a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations. Let us bow our heads.

[SILENCE]

You may be seated.

The Secretary is requested to read out the notice convening the Sixth Limpopo Legislature.

THE SECRETARY [MR S MOTHOA]

I, Ephraim Mampuru Makgoba, as a Judge designated by the Chief Justice in terms of section 110(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, do hereby convene the First Sitting of the Sixth Limpopo Provincial Legislature to be held on Wednesday, 22 May 2019 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber at 10:30.

During this Sitting, Members of the Provincial Legislature shall take the prescribed Oath or Affirmation. The provincial Legislature shall further elect the Premier of the province, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the provincial Legislature.

Signed at Polokwane on this 14th day of May 2019.

I thank you.

JUDGE MAKGOBA

Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, in the government gazette No. 42386 dated 06 April 2019, the Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa proclaims the rules for the First Sitting of the National Assembly, National Council of Provinces and provincial legislatures. The proclamation reads as follows:

“By virtue of the powers vested in me in terms of Item 9 of Part A of Schedule 3 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa1996, I, Mogoeng Mogoeng, the Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa, have made the attached rules that prescribe the procedure for the election of the President of the Republic of South Africa, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Premier of a province and Speaker and Deputy Speaker of a provincial legislature.”

The proclamation is duly signed by the Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa. The rules as proclaimed will be the rules applicable to this session of today. I need not

take you through all the rules as they have been published for the Members' information.

We will proceed with the order of business of today. We will start with the swearing-in of the new Members of the Sixth Limpopo Legislature. I will refer the duties to the Secretary or members who so qualify to get the would-be Members of the Legislature to be ready to come forward for an Oath. My information here is that I have 49 would-be Members. We will take them in groups. For convenience's sake, we will take them in groups of 10 until we finish. Taking an Oath is a normal procedure. There are those Members who do not subscribe to an Oath, in which event then an Affirmation will suffice.

We will, therefore, request that those Members who do not prescribe to an Oath be called as the last group for Affirmation. It's over to you, Secretary.

THE SECRETARY

Thank you, honourable Judge. I hereby declare that the list given to me is the list of the Members of the Sixth Limpopo Provincial Legislature. I thank you. The first group of 10 Members to be sworn in would be:

[THE SECRETARY READS OUT THE NAMES OF THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS TO BE SWORN IN AS MEMBERS OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE.]

Mathabatha Chupu Stanley; Makamu Rodgers Basikopo; Mitileni Wisani Goodman; Masemola Namane Dickson; Rakgoale Chritian Nkakareng; Radzilani Fulufhelo Florence; Mokone Thabo Andrew; Masekoameng Mmabogahla Isaiah; Lekganyane Nakedi Maria; and Maseko Funani Jerry. We request you to be assembled here.

JUDGE MAKGOBA

Let each Member have the Statement of Oath in their hands. Thank you. You are now going to take an Oath. As you take the Oath, you read the declaration, the "I" followed by your full names and thereafter you read the whole declaration and stop just before the words "So help me God". In other words, you stop where the sentence ends by saying "… to the best of my ability". We can start, please repeat after me. "I" …

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

I, Mathabatha Chupu Stanley; I, Makamu Rodgers Basikopo; I, Mitileni Wisani Goodman; I, Masemola Namane Dickson; I, Rakgoale Chritian Nkakareng; I, Radzilani Fulufhelo Florence; I, Mokone Thabo Andrew; I, Masekoameng Mmabogahla Isaiah; I, Lekganyane Nakedi Maria; I, Maseko Funani Jerry, swear that I will be faithful to the Republic of South Africa and will obey, respect and uphold the Constitution and all other law of the Republic; and I solemnly promise to perform my functions as a Member of the Legislature of the Limpopo province to the best of my ability.

JUDGE MAKGOBA

Please raise your right hand and say: "So help me God".

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

So help me God.

JUDGE MAKGOBA

Thank you. You may sign your Oath. [APPLAUSE]

[THE ABOVE HONOURABLE MEMBERS WERE SWORN IN AS MEMBERS OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE BY JUDGE MAKGOBA.]

MR BUTHANE

VBS or no VBS!

JUDGE MAKGOBA

The Secretary will now proceed to read out the names of the second group of Members.

THE SECRETARY

[THE SECRETARY READS OUT THE NAMES OF THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS TO BE SWORN IN AS MEMBERS OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE.]

The second group of 10 Members are: Selamolela Selelo Donald; Lerule-Ramakhanya Mavhungu Maureen; Mathye Susani Violet; Ndalane Nandi Annah; Mokaba-Phukwana Mapula Annah; Mokgonyana Essob Mmanoko; Mashamaite Nkholo Victor; Makhurupetje Makoma Grace; Monama Gannye Rodgers; and Mochadi Sekutu Monicca.

JUDGE MAKGOBA

You now have a declaration in your hands. You are going to read the declaration and stop where the sentence ends with the words "…to the best of my knowledge", that is before the words "So help me God". You read there. You start with "I", and you state your full names. Let's start, and please repeat after me. "I"…

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

I, Selamolela Selelo Donald; Lerule-Ramakhanya Mavhungu Maureen; Mathye Susani Violet; Ndalane Nandi Annah; Mokaba-Phukwana Mapula Annah; Mokgonyana Essob Mmanoko; Mashamaite Nkholo Victor; Makhurupetje Makoma Grace; Monama Gannye Rodgers; Mochadi Sekutu Monicca, swear that I will be faithful to the Republic of South Africa and will obey, respect and uphold the Constitution and all other law of the Republic; and I solemnly promise to perform my functions as a Member of the Legislature of the Limpopo province to the best of my ability.

So help me God. [LAUGHTER]

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Why do you say “So help me God” before they tell you to?

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Ga le letele di-instruction akere?

JUDGE MAKGOBA

Raise your right hand and say “So help me God”. [INTERJECTION]

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Aowa, lena le a re šaetša. Ke eng ka lena?

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Le wena o boletše.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Aowa, ga se ke bolele.

JUDGE MAKGOBA

Now this is the time to raise your right hand and say “So help me God”.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

So help me God. [APPLAUSE]

JUDGE MAKGOBA

Please sign your declaration. [APPLAUSE]

[THE ABOVE HONOURABLE MEMBERS WERE SWORN IN AS MEMBERS OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE BY JUDGE MAKGOBA.]

The Secretary will now proceed to call the third group of Members.

THE SECRETARY

[THE SECRETARY READS OUT THE NAMES OF THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS TO BE SWORN IN AS MEMBERS OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE.]

Thank you, honourable Judge. The third group of 10 Members are: Mdaka Falaza Philemon; Kekana Nakedi Grace; Selane Che Bonnie David; Moraka Anna Tandi; Ndou Azwindini Jeremiah Dingaan; Ramathuba Phophi Constance; Marule Jacob Boy Otto; Mahasela Mahlodi Caroline; Mathe Simon Matsobane; and Aphiri Mokgadi Johanna.

JUDGE MAKGOBA

You now each have a declaration of Oath in your hands. Please listen carefully. You read the declaration, putting in your full names after “I”, and stop before the words “So help me God”. [LAUGHTER] Repeat after me and say “I” …

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

I, Mdaka Falaza Philemon; I, Kekana Nakedi Grace; I, Selane Che Bonnie David; I, Moraka Anna Tandi; I, Ndou Azwindini Jeremiah Dingaan; I, Ramathuba Phophi Constance; I, Marule Jacob Boy Otto; I, Mahasela Mahlodi Caroline; I, Mathe Simon Matsobane; I, Aphiri Mokgadi Johanna, swear that I will be faithful to the Republic of South Africa and will obey, respect and uphold the Constitution and all other law of the Republic; and I solemnly promise to perform my functions as a Member of the Legislature of the Limpopo province to the best of my ability.

JUDGE MAKGOBA

Raise your right hand and say “So help me God”.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

So help me God.

JUDGE MAKGOBA

Thank you. You may sign your Oath. [APPLAUSE]

[THE ABOVE HONOURABLE MEMBERS WERE SWORN IN AS MEMBERS OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE BY JUDGE MAKGOBA.]

The Secretary will proceed to read out the names of the fourth group of Members.

THE SECRETARY [MR MOTHOA]

[THE SECRETARY READS OUT THE NAMES OF THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS TO BE SWORN IN AS MEMBERS OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE]

Thank you, honourable Judge. The fourth group of Members are: Monyamane Nkome Sarah; Sekoati Seaparo Charles; Molapo Reneiloe Rosemarry; Masoga Matjie Lehlogonolo Alfred; Seono Mmaishibe Rebecca; Buthane Modikane Joseph; Manganye Tinyiko Florence; Managa Lillian; Mohlala Manamane Charles; and Mphahlele Selaelo Regina.

JUDGE MAKGOBA

You now each have a declaration of Oath in your hands. I can see Hon Buthane is in a hurry to get an Oath. You are going to read and pronounce your full names and stop just before the words “So help me God”. Repeat after me and say “I”…

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

I, Monyamane Nkome Sarah; I, Sekoati Seaparo Charles; I, Molapo Reneiloe Rosemarry; I, Masoga Matjie Lehlogonolo Alfred; I, Seono Mmaishibe Rebecca; I, Buthane Modikane Joseph; I, Manganye Tinyiko Florence; I, Managa Lillian; I, Mohlala Manamane Charles I, Mphahlele Selaelo Regina, swear that I will be faithful to the Republic of South Africa and will obey, respect and uphold the Constitution and all other law of the Republic; and I solemnly promise to perform my functions as a Member of the Legislature of the Limpopo province to the best of my ability.

JUDGE MAKGOBA

Please raise your right hand and say “So help me God”.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

So help me God. [APPLAUSE]

JUDGE MAKGOBA

Thank you. You may sign the Oath. [APPLAUSE]

[THE ABOVE HONOURABLE MEMBERS WERE SWORN IN AS MEMBERS OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE BY JUDGE MAKGOBA.]

Thank you. The Secretary will now call the names of the last group.

THE SECRETARY

[THE SECRETARY READS OUT THE NAMES OF THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS TO BE SWORN IN AS MEMBERS OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE.]

Thank you, honourable Judge. I am going to read the last group of five Members who will be taking an Oath: Seshoka Jetrick; Smalle Jacobus Frederik; Phala Katlego Suzan; Maharaj Risham; and Maritz Marcelle Frieda.

JUDGE MAKGOBA

Thank you. You each have a declaration of Oath in your hands. You are going to read the declaration, pronouncing your full names and stop just before the words “So help me God”. Repeat after me and say “I”.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

I, Seshoka Jetrick; I, Smalle Jacobus Frederik; I, Phala Katlego Suzan; I, Maharaj Risham, swear that I will be faithful to the Republic of South Africa and will obey, respect and uphold the Constitution and all other law of the Republic; and I solemnly promise to perform my functions as a Member of the Legislature of the Limpopo Province to the best of my ability.

Ek, Marcelle Frieda Maritz, belowe plegtig trou aan die Republiek van Suid-Afrika en die Grondwet en dat ek al die ander wette van die Republiek sal gehoorsaam, eerbiedig en onderhou; en ek belowe plegtig om my funksies as Lid van die Limpopo Provinsiale Wetgewer tot die beste van my vermoë uit te voer.

JUDGE MAKGOBA

Please raise your right hand and say “So help me God”.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

So help me God.

MS MARITZ

So help my God.

JUDGE MAKGOBA

Please sign your declaration of the Oath. [APPLAUSE]

[THE ABOVE HONOURABLE MEMBERS WERE SWORN IN AS MEMBERS OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE BY JUDGE MAKGOBA.]

THE SECRETARY

[THE SECRETARY READS OUT THE NAMES OF THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS TO BE AFFIRMED AS MEMBERS OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE.]

Thank you, honourable Judge. I am going to read out a list of four Members who will be taking the Solemn Affirmation. They are: Boshielo Shela Polly; Lebea-Olaiya Kedibone Margaret; Phala Kgolane Alfred; and Raphela George. [APPLAUSE]

JUDGE MAKGOBA

Thank you. You all have an Affirmation declaration in your hands. You are required and requested to make your solemn declaration, by reading out the Solemn Affirmation which is in your hands. Start and proceed at the same time starting with the word “I”, and you stop where the sentence ends with “… to the best of my ability”.

Repeat after me and say “I” …

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

I, Boshielo Shela Polly; I, Lebea-Olaiya Kedibone Margaret; I, Phala Kgolane Alfred; I, Raphela George, solemnly affirm that I will be faithful to the Republic of South Africa and will obey, respect and uphold the Constitution and all other law of the Republic; and I solemnly promise to perform my functions as a Member of the Legislature of the Limpopo province to the best of my ability.

JUDGE MAKGOBA

You may proceed to sign your Affirmation. [APPLAUSE]

[THE ABOVE HONOURABLE MEMBERS WERE AFFIRMED AS MEMBERS OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE BY JUDGE MAKGOBA.]

Members have now taken their Oath of Office as Members of the Sixth Limpopo Legislature. It's my honour and privilege to welcome you as honourable Members of this august House. The Oath you have taken is really meaningful, and I trust that you will abide by the Oath and Affirmation which you have taken. You are now called honourable Members of this House. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

We now proceed with the order of business of the day which will be the election of the Premier of the province, and thereafter, it will be the election of the Speaker of this House. The House Rules applicable for the election of the Premier, Speaker and the Deputy Speaker were approved in terms of the Constitution of the Republic South Africa by the Chief Justice and were published in the government gazette of 5 April 2019. In terms of Rule 2(1) of the rules applicable for those elections, the Secretary of the Legislature will act as the returning officer.

In terms of Rule 2(2) of the said rules, the returning officer appointed Mr Nkoana and Ms Makgato as Assistant Returning Officer.

This morning, the returning officer and the assistant returning officers, as mentioned, took an Oath of Office before me, and they are accordingly sworn and are competent to proceed with the business assigned to them in terms of our order of business. I requested the returning officer to submit to me the list of Members of the Legislature and confirm to me that those are, to his knowledge, the only Members of the Legislature.

I do confirm that, as a presiding officer, I did receive the list of honourable Members of this House. We are now going to proceed with the election of the Premier. The process is, just to remind the Members, that the nomination has to be submitted in the prescribed form and in terms of Schedule 3 Part A of the Constitution, we only do nominations and debate is not be allowed. I now call for nomination of candidates for election of the Premier. Those who are nominating should raise their hands and should be given the nomination form to complete, to sign and the seconder to sign.

Is there any Member who wishes to bring about a nomination? I can see a Member there. You are recognised.

MS MATHYE

Thank you, honourable Judge. I, Mathye Susani Violet, rise on behalf of the African National Congress to nominate the name of Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha to be the Premier of the Limpopo province. I so move, honourable Judge. [APPLAUSE]

JUDGE MAKGOBA

Thank you. The name of Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha has been brought forward for premiership. I need a seconder to that nomination. Is there a seconder to that nomination? The gentleman there, you are recognised.

MR MASOGA

I, Lehlogonolo Matjie Masoga, stand to support the motion tabled by Hon Mathye for the nomination of Hon Mathabatha. I thank you.

JUDGE MAKGOBA

Thank you, Mr Masoga. [APPLAUSE] Are there any further nominations? In the absence of any further nominations, the sole nominated candidate will then be declared accordingly. [APPLAUSE] [PRAISE POEM]

Thank you very much. Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, having been nominated as such, is hereby declared the Premier-elect of the Limpopo province. Therefore, it is time that the Premier should now take an Oath of Office. The Premier can then be given the Oath of Office so that he can become Premier and not Premier-elect. [PRAISE POEM]

Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, please take an Oath by reading the declaration in your hand up to the point just before the words “So help me God”. You may proceed.

THE PREMIER

[HON CHUPU STANLEY MATHABATHA TAKES AN OATH AS THE PREMIER OF THE PROVINCE OF LIMPOPO.]

I, Mathabatha Chupu Stanley, swear that I will be faithful to the Republic of South Africa and will obey, respect and uphold the Constitution and all other law of the Republic; and I undertake to hold my office as Premier of the province of Limpopo with honour and dignity; to be a true and faithful counsellor; not to divulge directly or indirectly any secret matter entrusted to me; and to perform the functions of my office conscientiously and to the best of my ability.

JUDGE MAKGOBA

Please raise your right hand and say “So help me God”.

THE PREMIER

So help me God. [APPLAUSE]

JUDGE MAKGOBA

Hon Premier, in my capacity as the Judge President of the Limpopo province and on behalf of the judiciary as a whole, I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as the Premier of this province. We trust in your leadership. The Members who have taken Oath, we really trust that they will rally behind you. We trust that Limpopo will be taken up to the sky through all honourable Members of this House

and you. Also, in my personal capacity as a resident of the province, I wish you all the best of luck. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

Thank you, honourable Members and ladies and gentlemen. We proceed with further steps in the business of the day. We now proceed with the election of the Speaker. The process of election of the Speaker is quite the same in terms of the rules. There shall be nominations, a seconder and then we proceed forward. I now call for a nomination for a Speaker. You are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you, honourable Judge. I, Selelo Donald Selamolela, on behalf of the African National Congress, stand to nominate Hon Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya as the Speaker of this august House. I so move. [APPLAUSE]

JUDGE MAKGOBA

I thank you. I will now call for a seconder to that nomination. Honourable Member, you are recognised.

MS MORAKA

Thanks very much, honourable Judge President. I, Anna Tandi Moraka, rise here as a Member of this honourable House in good standing, to second the nomination of Hon Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya as the Speaker of this honourable House. I move accordingly, honourable Judge. [APPLAUSE]

JUDGE MAKGOBA

Thank you, Members. Hon Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya has been nominated as the Speaker of this House. Are there any further nominations? In the absence of further nominations, I hereby declare Hon Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya as the Speaker of this House. [APPLAUSE] Just before I round off and call the Speaker to come and assume her seat and recuse myself thereafter, may I take this opportunity to thank you all for the opportunity granted to the judiciary to perform this function.

As a resident of this province, let me indicate that it was an honour and privilege to have officiated in this House. We take this opportunity to wish all the best to our Members of Parliament and Members of legislatures. We wish you all the best. May you lead us not into temptation but lead us to the future. We are in your hands. We are your servants. On behalf of the judiciary of this country and all judges of this country who are the third arm of government in the country, we wish you all the best indeed, and we rely on you to pass good laws which we will enforce of course from our side. Thank you very much. May I ask the Speaker to come forward and assume her seat as I recuse myself? Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Let me start by greeting the House, the Hon Premier in our presence, the honourable Members of the House and the leaders of different political parties who are here. I would like to thank our honourable Judge President who has

just left the House for the work that he has done this morning, as he was presiding over and swearing in all of us as Members of the House. Let me take this opportunity to greet you all. Ndi masiari.

BACKGROUND

Avhuḓi.

THE SPEAKER

They did not adjust the seat from the length of Cde Polly to me. [LAUGHTER] I am sure that will be done. Thank you very much, honourable Members. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you as this House, for giving me the responsibility which I will be carrying out on behalf of all of you. I am ready to work with all the political parties and all of us as a collective. I want to take this opportunity and greet the Hon Premier of our province and also congratulate him on the nomination and the responsibility he has been given on behalf of the House, to serve and lead our province.

Let me take this opportunity to also thank the members who are sitting in the public gallery; members of families for all the honourable Members who have joined them today; the members of different political parties who are here to witness as we confirm the first Sitting of the province today. Equally, let me take this opportunity to thank the Limpopo community for participating in strengthening our democracy on 08 May 2019 when they went out to vote. That was a confirmation of their confidence in this House, and they are saying: “Leaders, provide us with services and focus on the business that will make the Limpopo province to grow and shine.”

I would like to make a plea to the House that let us all go and do as we have promised all the members of the Limpopo community when we were talking to them to vote for us. So, I would like to take this opportunity and thank everybody. Equally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and the team through the office of the Secretary and the whole team that he is working with. The team that has started to prepare for this Sitting, and all the processes that they have been through, we really appreciate your support. I pass those words on behalf of all the honourable Members in this House.

We are going to continue now with the business of the day where we will be calling on a speaker from each party which is represented here to come and give their congratulatory messages.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

O ka re o fetile ye nngwe. O ka re o šetše a dirile phošo. [LAUGHTER]

THE SPEAKER

When you are chairing a meeting, trust your own notes. You trust your own notes, you don’t make a mistake. I really appreciate the support. We are not going to item 5 as we thought, we are going to start with the nomination of the Deputy Speaker. I am going to request those that would like to nominate the Deputy Speaker of this House

to raise their hands so that they can be recognised. I can see a hand. Honourable Member, you are recognised.

MS LEBEA-OLAIYA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Kedibone Margaret Lebea-Olaiya, stand on behalf of the mighty African National Congress to nominate the name of Hon Jeremiah Jerry Ndou to be the Deputy Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature. I so move. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder to the nomination that has been done? Hon Mochadi, I have noticed you.

MS MOCHADI

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Sekutu Monicca Mochadi, hereby rise to second the nomination of Hon Jerry Ndou as the Deputy Speaker. I move accordingly. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further nominations? In the absence of any other nomination, I will then declare the nomination and affirm that Hon Jerry Ndou has been duly nominated and elected to be the Deputy Speaker of this House. We will allow him to take his seat. Let's give him a round of applause. [APPLAUSE]

Thank you very much. Congratulations to Hon Jerry Ndou for the delegation given to you by this House. We will then proceed to item 5 on our Order Paper where I am going request one member from each party represented here in the House to be able to give congratulatory statements. It is statements not long speeches. There will be a day that we will be sitting for speeches, but today it's just messages. We are going to go in this order; we are going to start with the Freedom Front Plus. After that we are going to proceed to have the DA. After that we are going to have the EFF and the last party to speak will be the African National Congress. You can proceed.

MS MARITZ

Thank you very much, honourable Chair and congratulations… [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Please speak into the mic. I do not have to remind you about the time. You know that you are given three minutes to speak.

MS MARITZ

Thank you very much for the opportunity. Congratulations to all the Members that were honoured to be part of this House today. To the Speaker and the new Premier, congratulations. For me it is a very great honour to be part of Freedom Front Plus for

the first time in Limpopo. I hope we are going to work very well together. I do believe that God will be with us. Baie dankie en lekker dag vir almal. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Democratic Alliance, you may proceed.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Good day ladies and gentlemen, and honourable Members. Honourable Premier, congratulations on your appointment. I do believe that the Sixth Parliament must be different. It must be different from the Fifth Parliament, and it must be distinguished differently. We keep on hearing about the President calling for the renewal of government and for the renewal of accountability and it must be that. The Fifth Parliament did not do very well when it came to accountability: holding people accountable, holding officials of government and politicians accountable for the services to the country.

We uphold this Constitution. We took an Oath here today to protect that Constitution in this august House. It is for this very same reason that it is very disturbing that there are people that were sworn in here today, that come with a cloud that we all know of – the cloud of the VBS saga. It is important to say that because that is exactly what the President of this country is asking us to do. Hon Premier, the Democratic Alliance as in the past, will give its full support to your office. We will hold the Executive accountable, and we will continue to work with you to make Limpopo a better place. After all, we would like to see this province flourish. We would like to see people stay in this province. We would like to see people build their future in this province.

I wish you well. I wished the Executive well when you announced them. Hon Speaker, I hope you will hold the seat that you hold to the highest order because it is important that all political parties are given the platform to express themselves. We might not always agree on policy views here. It is important that I mention to Hon Boshielo that I do appreciate the efforts that you laid in the previous Parliament – the Fifth Parliament. I hope that the new Speaker will do the same. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member. EFF, it is your turn.

MR BUTHANE

Thanks very much, Madam Speaker. Let me start by welcoming the new Members to this House and to this Sixth Legislature because we are returning, some of us. [LAUGHTER] Also, let me take this opportunity to thank the people of Limpopo for entrusting their confidence to the EFF. We want to thank them for giving us a seat from the ANC. I am told people are saying they have passed with a distinction. If you go to the elections with 39 and come back with 38, it means you have failed. The one who went to elections with 6 and came back with 7 has passed. [APPLAUSE] Thank you very much, and we congratulate you, Bra Stan. We normally call you, Bra Stan.

For the decorum of the House, thank you very much. We congratulate you, Hon Premier of the Limpopo province.

This congratulatory despatch does not come empty. This congratulatory despatch comes with hope that this year, this term will be better than the previous one. We need, Hon Premier, to protect the public purse, not only by words, but by action. The North Gauteng High Court has upheld Adv Mkhwebane's findings in the matter involving Hon Mapula Mokaba-Phukwana and Hanli du Plessis. We need to see action. We need to see action. We need to understand what has happened to that million of Mvula Trust. We know it is there. We need to act. You cannot blame the government of Mathale anymore. Now, this is your government. If you say you are better, let your actions tell us that you are better, not your words.

I am happy that, that one who returned millions and millions of rand is serving under CoGHSTA and is now on the relegation seat as the Deputy Speaker. [LAUGHTER] Let it be so with everyone. Let it be so. Let there be consequences for anyone who does not act and who does not respect the government purse. That is because we need to find a way of comforting those without houses and those without shelter. When we go to the public podium, we need to tell them that, that person who returned millions meant for their houses is no more the MEC. We need to act. Ga ke tsebe gore le rapeletša eng lena ba bangwe because le ka se sa ba balaodi. Le bahlomphegi. Iketleng.

Hon Premier, we have said our people are special. We went to the people of Limpopo and delivered ballot papers to their houses because we said they are bedridden. We said they can't do anything for themselves. Let us be the first province to deliver services to those people. Let us take anything they want from government to their houses like we have delivered ballots. We know them. We don't need any EPW or CDW to go and get them. We know them, and we know their addresses. Let us go and attend to those people.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, ga re tle re itlhaganetše mo, Kedibone; re a iketla. [LAUGHTER] Hon Premier, we need to bring back the economic life of Limpopo. That time of our young brothers and sisters travelling as far as the Eastern Cape when they want something to survive, must come to an end. They have a province here in Limpopo.

When they travel to the Eastern Cape, it must be by their choice. It must not be because there is nothing happening in their own province. How do you give Basetsana Makgalemele the whole tender of Limpopo for travelling when you have small businesses that must survive from that? We need to look into those things. We need to bring back the hope of our young people here in Limpopo. We hope we will work together in terms of that effort. We need to work together. Let this Legislature's term be named "Service Delivery Term". Let it be a Legislature that will bring back a better life to our young and old people in Limpopo.

We thank you very much, Madam Speaker. We wish you well. It's going to be a bit tough. You must understand that we are on duty, it's nothing personal. We want what is best for the people of Limpopo. We are not here to ask for friendship. We are here to better the lives of the poor masses of our people here in Limpopo. Those new ones who are just coming, le iketle. Selo sela sa bo-MEC; maatla a be le mokgalabje yo wa

borena. Le ge o ka dira lešata, ke bone ba rile Tonakgolo o tla felegetšwa ke batho ba babedi. Ke bone batho ba bararo mo. [LAUGHTER] It doesn't matter. O tšea sephetho a nnoši. Le tlogele go phophoroga. Yo mongwe mo o be a šetše a rile "So help me God" before the Judge. Iketle. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. African National Congress, it's your time.

MR MOKGONYANA

Hon Speaker, we are not here to sing songs of lamentations for we understand what a congratulatory message should be. It is on that basis that as the African National Congress, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Hon Mathabatha on his election as the Premier of Limpopo. We know that you have demonstrated to the people of Limpopo that you can lead. We have no doubt as the ANC that you will continue to lead. We, therefore, want to take this opportunity to wish you well in your renewed mandate. In the same vain, we also want to congratulate both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker on their election in their roles, and we want to wish them luck. So, we submit, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much to all parties. I am sure that those that are returning will be a bit softer to the new ones. We are now moving forward, and I am going to invite the Premier of our province to come and greet the people and also respond to the messages that have been presented this morning. Let us welcome the Premier. [APPLAUSE]

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker; leadership of the ruling party, the African National Congress; leaders of the opposition parties; honourable Members of this distinguished House; Provincial Commissioner of SAPS (South African Police Service); esteemed members of the judiciary; chairperson and members of the House of Traditional Leaders; stalwarts and veterans of our struggle; heads of Chapter 9 institutions; religious leaders; my special guest Consulate General of India, Dr K J Srinivasa; Director-General and members of our senior management staff; media representatives; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen; Ndi matsheloni. Avuxeni. Thobela.

There is no "Heita" in my speech, Jossey. Hon Speaker and honourable Members, I always thought that Hon Buthane and I are learned because we are from university, both of us, and we know what a pass mark refers to. You don't fail with 7% and pass when you go to 8%. It is still a failure. [LAUGHTER] But, if you pass with a 77% distinction and drop to a 75% distinction, it's still a distinction. [APPLAUSE] I thought Prof Mokgokong and Prof Mahlo taught us about that. [INTERJECTION]

MR BUTHANE

Yo a go ngwaletšego response o berekile. [LAUGHTER]

THE PREMIER

Let me first start by congratulating our new Madam Speaker – yourself – for being elected to this important position. We congratulate you together with the Deputy Speaker on your fresh mandate. We have all the confidence in your collective abilities to drive the work of this august House. You can also be assured of our continued support in the execution of your responsibilities. I wish also to take this opportunity to congratulate our newly elected Members of the sixth administration. Your mandate comes directly from the people of this province. You have been given a mandate to work with your colleagues in this House to make Limpopo a better province to live in.

I also wish to congratulate all the parties which managed to gain representation in this House. In particular, I wish to congratulate the Freedom Front Plus for gaining a seat in this House for the first time in so many years. [APPLAUSE] There is no doubt that you represent a significant constituency whose voices deserves to be heard.

It is indeed a special honour and privilege for me to stand before you and before the people of Limpopo as a newly elected Premier of our province. I assume these responsibilities entrusted to me by the African National Congress, this House and the people of Limpopo with absolute humility. This is by no means a personal achievement, but a clarion call for action. I have been called upon by the masses of our province to lead government towards a destination of a better life for all. This is a call which requires out of us to try to better the lives of our people through good governance, fighting corruption and improving access to basic services.

We do not take this call for granted. We have absolute respect for the people who have ensured that we are elected to these positions. It is our commitment to work for them and to never betray their trust. I once again wish to say that I am humbled by your faith and the unwavering confidence you have shown in me. Your confidence in me has placed on my shoulders an obligation to work diligently and tirelessly to change the lives of our people for the better. As I have said, my election today is not a personal feat, but a call to action. I must also say that I am humbled by the continued vote of confidence in the African National Congress by the people of this province.

As the African National Congress, we accept your overwhelming mandate conscious of the service delivery challenges that lie ahead, and we dare not fail you. We also accept the mandate that we should work together with the EFF, the DA and the Freedom Front Plus. We are called upon to work together to ensure that we deal more decisively with corruption, create job opportunities for the jobless, that we accelerate the provision of houses for the homeless and above all, deliver water and electricity to those communities which are still without such basic services.

Allow me to go into the subject that most people are waiting for, as I know, that is the appointment of the Executive Council of the sixth administration.

Hon Speaker, the following honourable Members will be appointed to Exco:

- Department of Finance: Hon Seaparo Charles Sekoati; [APPLAUSE]
- Department of Education: Hon Shela Paulina Boshielo; [APPLAUSE]
- Department of Health: Hon Phophi Constance Ramathuba; [APPLAUSE]

- Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs: Hon Rodgers Basikopo Makamu; [APPLAUSE]
- Department of Social Development and Welfare: Hon Chritian Nkakareng Rakgoale; [APPLAUSE]
- Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism: Hon Thabo Andrew Mokone; [APPLAUSE]
- Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure: Hon Sekutu Monicca Mochadi; [APPLAUSE]
- Department of Transport and Community Safety: Hon Namane Dickson Masemola; [APPLAUSE]
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: Hon Nandi Annah Ndalane; and
- Department of Sport, Arts and Culture: Hon Anna Tandi Moraka.

As I conclude, I wish to emphasise that as the Premier of this beautiful province, I will always be faithful to the Constitution and the law governing our country. This means that I will also be intolerant of anyone in government who is caught breaking the law. It is my primary mandate to ensure that the resources of this province will be used for the benefit of the people and not the selected few.

Every single cent at our disposal must and will be used for intended purpose. We are alive to the fact that we are called upon to execute an extremely taxing mandate. However, as revolutionaries, we have accepted that ours is not an easy parade, hence it is called a struggle. It is against this background that today we recommit ourselves to jealously guard against any tendency that seeks to reverse the gains of the past 25 years of freedom and democracy. At the core of these tendencies is crime and corruption. We, therefore, implore all of you to join us in our renewed efforts to fight corruption. We must do this because corruption is not only a government problem. It is a societal problem that requires all of us to play a role. As I have said earlier, these state resources are meant for nothing else but for the improvement of the conditions of living of our people.

Lastly, I would like to extend a hand of friendship to the leaders and members of the opposition to join me in this journey to grow Limpopo. I firmly believe that there is no course which is more significant and worthy than to serve the people of Limpopo. Pula!

BACKGROUND

A ene! [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Premier. Can we be seated please? Hon Mochadi, can we be seated. Hon Monicca, we are still in session. Thank you very much, Hon Premier for your response and the announcement. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the House to congratulate all honourable Members that have been given the responsibility to work with our Premier. We all know that we have gone to people's houses. The strategy of the African National Congress was a door-to-door campaign. I would request members in the public gallery to keep it low. Members in the public gallery, can you keep quiet. Thank you very much.

We know that the strategy of the African National Congress was to go on a door-to-door campaign, and the issues that they have given us are the issues that the different departments have to go and respond to. We thank you, Hon Premier, for the announcement, and congratulations once more to all the Members of the Executive Council. Thank you.

I am now going to move to the next item, which is item 7. We have got a motion for the appointment of permanent NCOP delegates. Can I have the motion to be presented? Hon Mokgonyana, you are recognised.

MR MOKGONYANA

MOTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF NCOP PERMANENT DELEGATES
(Motion without Notice)

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Section 61(2)(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996) provides that the provincial legislature must, within 30 days after the result of an election of that Legislature is declared, appoint the permanent delegates in accordance with the nomination of qualifying parties represented in the House.

In compliance with the dictates of that constitutional imperative, I hereby move that this House resolves to appoint the following persons as the provincial permanent delegates to the National Council of Provinces: Mr Mamagase Aleck Nchabeleng of the ANC, Mr Tshitereke Baldwin Matibe of the ANC, Ms Shahidabibi Shaikh of the ANC, Ms Mmamora Lilliet Mamaregane of the ANC, Ms Tirhani Brenda Mathevula of the EFF and Mr Christiaan Frederik Beyers Smit of the Democratic Alliance.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Can I get a seconder to the motion? Hon Molapo, you are recognised.

MS MOLAPO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Rosemarry Reneiloe Molapo, stand to second the presentation raised by Hon … Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I am sure with time you will get to know him so that then you can pronounce the name properly. Thank you very much for the secondment. Can we please move to the next motion? We have got a motion for the mandate for the appointment of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP. Hon Mokgonyana, you are recognised.

MR MOKGONYANA

MOTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP

(Motion without Notice)

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Section 64(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996) provides that the Chairperson and one of the Deputy Chairpersons are elected from amongst themselves for five years unless their terms as delegates expire earlier. Provincial legislatures are, therefore, required to confer mandates to their respective permanent delegates to vote for their preferred delegates.

Based on the above, I hereby move that this august House resolves to confer mandate to our permanent delegates to vote for the following delegates as the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson respectively: Hon Amos Masondo as the Chairperson and Hon Sylvia Lucas as the Deputy Chairperson. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Essob Mokgonyana for presenting the motion. You were moving so fast when you were reading. Hon Molapo, you are recognised for the secondment.

MS MOLAPO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise again as Hon Molapo to second the presentation made by Hon Essob Mokgonyana. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member. Thank you very much for the secondment to the motion. Those will be the mandates that our delegation will go with. Can I then request the Deputy Speaker of this House to come to the fore with the announcement? That is Item 9 on your Order Paper.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The announcement is that lunch will be served in the basement garage at Block 1. Everyone is invited. The protocol services officers will lead the Members to the luncheon area. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Jerry Ndou, for the announcement. We have come to the end of our session. As I have indicated, we really thank you for the day. I will now announce that when the House adjourns today, it will sit again on the date to be determined in consultation with the Office of the Premier. That will be the official opening of the Sixth Limpopo Provincial Legislature.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE
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VERBATIM REPORT

OF THE

DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH PARLIAMENT

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

FRIDAY, 05 JULY 2019

It's your voice, use it!

VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
FRIDAY, 05 JULY 2019
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00

THE SPEAKER

Good morning, honourable Members. We are going to observe a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you. We may all be seated. Let me take this opportunity this morning and welcome all our honourable guests to the Official Opening of the Sixth Limpopo Legislature. Let me also take this opportunity and welcome those who are listening to us on radio. Honourable Members and guests, this House is convened in terms of Rule 12 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Limpopo Legislature in order to afford the Premier of the Limpopo province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, an opportunity to deliver the Official Opening Address to the people of Limpopo.

Let me also take this opportunity and welcome all of you honourable Members of the House and our invited honourable guests. It is my honour this morning to welcome you Premier of the Limpopo province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, and the First Lady, Mrs Maggie Mathabatha. It is also an honour for me to welcome Dr Ramakhanya, my partner, and the entire family who are also present here. Let me also welcome the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon Lechesa Tsenoli, and other Members of Parliament present here today.

Honourable Members of the Limpopo Legislature, Members of the National Council of Provinces and your guests and your partners, you are also mostly welcomed. Let me also take this opportunity and welcome and acknowledge the presence of the Judge President of Limpopo Division of the High Court of South Arica, Hon Justice E M Makgoba and your Deputy Hon Justice F E Mokgohloa. Let me also welcome all the political parties' leadership represented in this House. Let me also welcome and acknowledge the presence of all our Executive Mayors and local Mayors present here this morning; the Speakers and the Chief Whips as well as all Councillors that are guests to our official opening event this morning including our religious leaders.

Hon Premier, amongst our guests we have got Miss Teen Tourism World, Xihlovo Liticia Mkhavele, who is here with her parents. Media houses, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, comrades and compatriots, today is a big day for the people of Limpopo and everybody in this province is eagerly awaiting for the Premier's Official Opening Address. I therefore take this opportunity to invite the Premier of our province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, to address the citizens of Limpopo. Hon Premier, it's your time.

[PRAISE POEM]

THE PREMIER

A ke go leboge, Moleya. O se tšhabe mediti, o tšhabe nako.

Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker of our Legislature; honourable Members of the Limpopo Legislature; Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon Lechesa Tsenoli; Members of the Executive Council; our newly elected President of SALGA, Mme Thembi Nkadimeng; Executive Mayors and Mayors present here; the leadership of the ruling party, the African National Congress led by the Secretary; the leadership of the opposition parties; Chairperson of the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders; our esteemed Majesties, Kings and Royal Highnesses; former MPs and MPLs; stalwarts and veterans of our struggle present here, Rev Farisani, and all other veterans and stalwarts; Judge President of the Limpopo High Court; Provincial Commissioner of Police; Heads of our Chapter Nine and Chapter Ten institutions; leadership of the religious community; the South African Council of Churches; representatives of His Grace, the Right Reverend, Dr Bishop B E Lekganyane of the ZCC; representatives of Reverend Bishop Lekganyane of the St Engenas ZCC; leadership of the organised business and labour; youth, women, community leaders; Director-General and Heads of Department; members of the media; distinguished guests; comrades, ladies and gentlemen, the new dawn is upon us.

The dark clouds of despair and hopelessness are retreating to settle in the comfort of a distant memory. The glitters of sunrise which carry a promise of prosperity and a better tomorrow are within our embrace.

Our New Dawn is about being free and willing to forge a common destiny together. It is about rebuilding and restoring the dignity of those whose lives were shattered by forced removals and land dispossession. It is about weaving the tapestry of varied colours, tribes and nationalities in an effort to build a united, non-racial, non-sexist and a prosperous country. It is actually about doing away with the remnants of Bantustans and artificial divisions that separated our people from one another.

The New Dawn is about transforming the economy so that it can serve the people as a whole. It is about the economy that would reduce the levels of inequality, fight poverty and create more jobs. Above all, the new dawn is about building a province that we all want; a province we can all be proud of and indeed a province that we all deserve. It is about moving from an era of policy development to an era of radical policy implementation. That is a new dawn that we all envisage.

Honourable Members and distinguished guests, the complexion of this august House today is a direct result of the elections which took place on 8 May 2019. In one loud voice the people of this province have once again renewed the mandate of the African National Congress to continue leading the government. The masses of our people have said to the ANC that as you continue to govern, you must now focus on the following:

- Economic transformation and job creation;
- Education, skills and health;
- Delivery of reliable and quality basic services;
- Transforming human settlements and strengthening local government;
- Social cohesion and safe communities;
- Building a capable, ethical and developmental state; and above all,
- Building of a better Africa and a better world for all of us.

Madam Speaker and honourable Members, the recent Stats SA Labour Force Survey shows that our country, and our province in particular, is still struggling with structural economic challenges. If performance in terms of labour absorption capacity of various sectors of the economy is anything to go by, the growth trajectory of our province has been on a downward spiral.

Out of 3,7 million people who are legible to be employed in Limpopo, about 1,4 million people are employed in different sectors of the economy. The five largest employers in the province are community and social services, trade, construction, agriculture followed by private household. The current unemployment rate in the province sits at 18,5%. Although we are the lowest province with regard to unemployment rate in the country there is a noticeable increase from 16,6% over the last quarter of 2018 to 18,5% currently.

Nevertheless, through our Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) we have taken a conscious decision to build an economy that will be a major contributor to the national wealth by the year 2030. Underpinning this economic blueprint is the commitment to create and maintain an enabling environment that is conducive for economic growth, social justice and improved quality of life for all our people. The new dawn that we are talking about demands that we must build an economy that grows at a higher rate, an economy which create jobs, provides opportunities for SMMEs to thrive and promote equitable distribution of resources.

I have got no doubt whatsoever in my mind that the new dawn we are talking about will remain an empty shell without substance if our people remain in conditions of squalor, poverty and joblessness. We have to make a deliberate and concerted efforts to drive our people out of the dehumanising web of abject poverty.

It is in this context that a sustained economic growth is crucial to enable government to defeat the persisting legacy of inequality, poverty and unemployment. To that effect, we will build on a solid foundation which we have laid over the past 25 years of freedom and democracy. We will also introduce a new and innovative programmes to stimulate growth of our provincial economy.

We have taken a deliberate decision to place our young people at the centre of our economic development programme. It is for this reason that we will use the might of state procurement to benefit enterprises owned by young people. We have thus far taken a decision that 20% of state procurement should go to youth-owned enterprises. In the same vein, 20% of state procurement will benefit women-owned enterprises whilst 7% will go to businesses owned by people living with disabilities. [APPLAUSE] These honourable Members will form the thrust and the basis of the performance agreements that are going to be entered into between the Premier and the MECs.

Our flagship Musina-Makhado SEZ project is nearing implementation stage. In this regard we are designing measures to ensure that a significant value chain should be produced if the SEZ remains to be important to this province. Our focus is to ensure that a significant number of the projected jobs should be taken up by the people of Limpopo, particularly, our young people. It is also worth mentioning that due to the increasing investor appetite in this project, our initial target of creating 21 000 jobs is set to be revised upwards. In an effort to ensure that young people are properly

equipped to benefit from this project, we have thus far approved the Musina-Makhado SEZ Skills Development Plan.

In an effort to get the construction work started at this SEZ, I have also directed the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism to fast-track the finalisation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the adoption of the Internal Master Plan by October this year. I can also report that the application for the Tubatse SEZ is at a very advanced stage. Our business proposal will most likely be lodged with the Minister for Trade and Industry by the end of August this year.

Nevertheless, pending these formal processes, we will continue with the industrial activities within this envisaged Tubatse SEZ. These include, but not limited to, the Mining Input Supplier Park and Construction Incubation. Remember, this is part of the Industrial Development Plan that we have launched last year. In the same vein, we have established a partnership with the Department of Higher Education, TVET colleges, in particular, for SEZ skills development purposes.

We are also establishing the Limpopo Skills Academy through the Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA). This academy is expected to feed the skills demands for these SEZ initiatives. We are also happy to announce that we have completed the Youth Digital Skills Database which was led by Hon Donald Selamolela in the Premier's Office. This has enabled us to digitise varied skills possessed by young people in our province.

We are now giving more meaning to our earlier commitment to revitalise our industrial parks. We have set aside a budget of R150 million for the revitalisation of the Shayandima, Nkowankowa and Seshego industrial parks. It is our firm belief that this will go a long way towards transforming the economy of our province and creating the much-needed jobs. As we have always said, this revitalisation of industrial parks is not going to be done willy-nilly. We are going to use what is today popularly known as the economies of scope as compared to what normally was a norm of following what is called the economies of scale. The economies of scale in this particular case will follow the economies of scope so that at the end of the day when we revitalise the industries, we revitalise them on a need basis.

In an effort to intensify trade and promote investments into the province, we have begun the review of LEDA's capacity to deliver on its mandate. This would include the strengthening of project management capacity in LEDA to be able to fast-track and ensure the implementation of mega projects in the province such as the SEZ. Over and above these, we have taken a decision to re-establish the Limpopo Business Support Agency (LIBSA) as an independent entity from LEDA so that we are in a position to can separate the financial support services to SMMEs from the non-financial support services and that is an international norm. [APPLAUSE]

We have laid a solid foundation to roll out the broadband infrastructure for the entire province. The construction of a data centre with voice and data capabilities has been completed. The Network Operation Control Centre and Call Centres have been completed. We have also connected 66 sites. Free Wi-Fi hotspots are available and provide access for the benefit of students, SMMEs and communities at large.

The province is currently strengthening its partnership with the national state-owned entities, mining-houses and industries to rollout broadband network infrastructure in line with the National Broadband Policy (SA Connect). This will ensure the establishment of core access points in district municipalities and thus extend new fibre networks across the province by expanding the coverage or footprint of the network into deep rural areas.

This investment in the broadband project will help to unlock investments from both public and private sectors. The infrastructure will promote efficiencies, cut costs and enhance service delivery. It is also worth noting that the implementation of the Limpopo Science and Technology Park, in partnership with Polokwane Municipality is well underway. This park is central to the safe and smart city initiatives as it will establish an ecosystem that promotes innovation and enhances competitiveness.

Furthermore, the broadband and the Science and Technology Park will be the major enablers for the Fourth Industrial Revolution by promoting social impact, innovations and cooperation, particularly among the youth. In the meantime, the connection of the Limpopo provincial departments is receiving an urgent attention between the Minister of Communications and the Premier. A high-level task team has been established to deal with both legal and operational matters and it is expected to present its report before the end of July 2019. Remember, connecting broadband to various government departments is a competency and the responsibility of SITA in terms of the Act. So, if the province has to go into that space, it must negotiate with the national department and SITA for us to be able to do so.

We have taken a conscious decision to position Limpopo amongst the top tourism economies in the country. Through targeted support to the sector, we hope to unlock the massive economic stimulation power of the tourism sector and create more jobs. In this regard, the government intends to increase the number of tourists visiting Limpopo by implementing the 5 in 5 Strategy that aims to receive five million tourists in five years. This strategy also seeks to double the current 3% contribution of the tourism sector to the total national GDP. According to the 2018 tourism performance report by Tourism South Africa, our province is the second most popular destination for international tourists after Gauteng. [APPLAUSE]

On the domestic tourism front, our province still leads the pack with 3,3 million trips recorded in 2018. We hope to build on this positive trajectory in order to create even more jobs for the people of Limpopo. We will achieve this through tailoring and supporting events which promote a lengthy stay in the province. In fact, we are packaging more tourism offerings for our visitors in all respects.

We are also responding to the challenge of a decaying tourism infrastructure across the province. In this regard, we are taking steps to re-commercialise our Limpopo nature reserves through community-driven public-private-partnerships. We strongly believe that private equity partners will assist to turnaround these nature reserves into viable and profitable entities.

It is in this context that we will be working with the mining-houses to ensure that the province maximises all possible returns from the mining activities that are taking place in Limpopo. To that end, we call upon all mining-houses to beneficiate their raw materials in the province. This will undoubtedly help expand the productive capacity

of the economy of our province because local rand will be doing more rounds within ourselves and our communities.

Agriculture remains one of the economic competitive advantages of our province. However, we have not done enough to leverage on the potential of this sector to put the province on a higher trajectory of economic growth and development. It is against this background that we have taken a decision that in this sixth administration we will focus on the following:

- Supporting the revitalisation of primary agriculture and agro-processing – targeting undeveloped lands in particular;
- Revitalisation of small-scale irrigation schemes and ensure their sustainable operations;
- Supporting black farmers in order to increase their entry into the food value chain – this will be done through ensuring access to infrastructure and the markets;
- Expansion of agricultural skills base through training and skills development initiatives; and most importantly
- Facilitate transformation in the sector with a view to ensure a meaningful participation of women, youth and people with disabilities.

The poultry industry remains one of the largest contributors to the agricultural sector in South Africa. The industry provides direct employment for over 54 000 people and indirect employment to a further 58 000 people. It is for this reason that we are going to re-operationalise the Lebowakgomo Chicken Abattoir. This will certainly bring about huge economic spinoffs for the people of Lepelle-Nkumpi and the surrounding areas. [APPLAUSE] This facility with a capacity of processing over 120 000 chickens per day is envisaged to generate about 250 direct jobs on the first day of operation. [APPLAUSE]

In the same vein, we welcome the progress made thus far for the optimal resuscitation of production and business operations at Zebediela Citrus Estate. This brings the much-needed hope to the community of Zebediela and the surrounding areas who have since become the rightful owners of that piece of land following the restitution process. Once in its full operation, this estate will have the potential to create no less than 300 permanent jobs and 500 seasonal jobs. It is in this context that I have also instructed the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development to expedite the engagements with relevant stakeholders towards the finalisation of a workable operating model.

We would also like to commend the Mamphokhu-Makgoba Trust for their perseverance and ultimately managing to put together a board of trustees. We firmly believe that these developments will help to unlock the full economic potential of the Makgoba Tea Estate. That tea estate, honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen, has got a capacity to turnaround the economy of that area in a very massive way, if and only when our people can come together and join hands with government in order to turn their lives around.

I must also hasten to mention that in this financial year, we will give infrastructure support to 577 farmers in the areas of poultry, livestock and vegetable farming. This support will include and not limited to:

- Irrigation systems for potato development at Capricorn District;
- Irrigation system for fruit and vegetable production across all the five districts;
- Poultry infrastructure and production inputs for farmers in Sekhukhune;
- Contracting a packaging facility to assist banana farmers at Matsika and Tshikonelo farms. Construction for this facility is planned to commence in September 2019 and is expected to be completed by June 2020.
- Completing a tomato paste processing facility for Norjax by October this year. This facility will provide a market for about 3 000 small tomato growers in Limpopo with a production capacity of 750 tons per day. This is a massive project, ladies and gentlemen. [APPLAUSE]

We will provide production inputs and mechanisation support to over 13 700 farmers across the province. This support aims to cushion and minimise the impact of high input costs of emerging and financially needy farmers.

During this financial year, we will also finalise the revitalisation of the irrigation schemes in Tswelopele, Phetwane, Mogalatjane, Elandskraal and Zamerkom.

Infrastructure will always be the backbone of economic development in any economy whatever the mode of production is. It is in this context that we have put socioeconomic infrastructure development high on the agenda of this government. In this regard, we have established the Infrastructure Development Working Committee with a sole mandate of championing the infrastructure delivery across the province. The committee includes provincial departments, national departments and state-owned entities that are responsible for infrastructure programmes in the province.

One of the massive infrastructure projects which is currently being implemented in partnership with the national Department of Health is the construction of the Limpopo Academic Hospital. [APPLAUSE] The construction work for this multi-phased project will commence in this financial year. The Minister of Finance has since allocated a Budget of R3,9 billion to this project. Similarly, an amount of R10 million has been budgeted for to kick-start the long-overdue Limpopo Provincial Theatre, MEC Hon Moraka. [APPLAUSE] The project feasibility study will be concluded during this financial year. Remember, this was a pronouncement during the previous SOPA.

Notwithstanding, the work we have done in reducing the road infrastructure backlog in the province over the past 25 years, lack of proper roads in other parts of our province especially in rural areas continues to be a course for great concern. In an effort to make a major dent in this regard, we are currently constructing a total of 114 kilometres of road networks at a cost of R1,064 billion in various parts of the province. These roads which are being upgraded from gravel to tar will be completed in this financial year. You see, the reason why I become so cautious about these figures is because of what is being said about politicians and figures. [LAUGHTER]

A further R3 billion has been set aside over the next MTEF period for the upgrading of roads from gravel to tar as well as maintenance of existing road infrastructure. Fellow residents of Limpopo, development is indeed a process and development is not a game of chance; it must be planned for. Where we have not constructed a road, we are definitely going to construct one. [APPLAUSE] The question is, when? We are working harder to secure more funds so that we can significantly reduce the backlog

of road infrastructure in this province. There is no doubt that our people need and deserve quality roads for easy access to socioeconomic opportunities.

Remember, ladies and gentlemen, our province is one rural province, which prior to 1994, did not have tarred roads in the main. Tarred roads were only those that were going to white-owned towns and townships. Sometimes it would be a road that drives to a one isolated farm somewhere in Soekmekaar, where I was once detained. In the middle of nowhere, you find that tarred road, but otherwise tarred roads towards our villages were not there. That is why we have such a huge backlog since 1994 when we came in.

What even worsened the matters was that after the administrators took over in 2012, for a period of three years we have not built even a single road until 2015, I think. We started building roads in 2015 under the leadership of MEC Hon Masoga. But, within three years, that was a very serious backlog for us in the province. We want to plead with our people; re nyaka go le agela ditsela. Re tlo le agela tšona. But let us be patient. It is not going to be possible to build all of them at once. The former leader of the then Lebowa government used to say, tšwelopele e swana le mollo wa hlaga. Ge o o tšhuma, o o tšhuma mo maotong a gago, wa tšama o kekela ba bangwe. O tlo le kekela mollo wo wa hlaga. Hle, se feleng pelo. [APPLAUSE]

In relation to school infrastructure, during the course of this financial year, we will complete the upgrading of 67 schools across the province. This will be done at the tune of R1,24 billion. We will also commence with the construction of 123 school infrastructure projects during this financial year. We have budgeted R1,62 billion for these projects which are expected to be completed during the current MTEF period. Referring back to what I have said earlier on, this simply says that out of this R1,26 billion, 20% must go to the youth, women and people living with disabilities. [APPLAUSE]

We have also set aside an amount of R900 million for the construction of four special schools namely: Asiphumelele Special School in Sekhukhune, Rivoni School for the Blind in Vhembe, Pfunanani Special School in Mopani and Mhinga Severely Mental Handicapped School in Vhembe. Both Asiphumelele and Rivoni projects are expected to commence with construction during this financial year whilst the Pfunanani and Mhinga projects will commence with construction works in the next financial year. We will also spend an amount of R192 million to address the backlog of the school sanitation infrastructure projects in 100 schools across Limpopo.

The development of healthcare infrastructure is also receiving our necessary attention. Amongst the key projects that we are focussing on is the revitalisation of Maphutha-Malatji and Letaba hospitals in the next financial year. This will be done at a budget of R526 million. In the same vein, we will fast-track the delivery of low-cost housing to our people. During this financial year we will complete a total of 3 921 housing units which were carried over from the previous financial year. This will be done at an amount of R348 million. In addition to that, we will construct 6 535 more houses at an amount of R762 million in this financial year.

Chapter 12 of the Constitution enjoins us to support the institution of traditional leadership. It is against this background that we have put aside an amount of R62 million for the construction of seven traditional council offices across the province.

[APPLAUSE] Six of these projects are at construction stage and we hope to complete them in this financial year. There is another project which is at a planning stage and we intend to commence with the construction work soon.

One other aspect that we need to state here about the support to our traditional leaders is the provision of mobility, Hon Sekoati, to our traditional leaders. We bought them vehicles in the previous administration. I guess those vehicles are now more than five years old, which then implies that we must revisit the idea. [APPLAUSE]

In an effort to increase the knowledge base of our people, we are rolling out a programme of well-equipped modern libraries to all rural communities. To that effect, we have set aside an amount of R90 million for the construction of new libraries in Seleteng, Dumela, Mavalani and Runnymede villages. [APPLAUSE]

As our international icon, President Nelson Mandela said, “The power of education extends beyond the development of skills we need for economic success. It can contribute to nation-building and reconciliation.” When he continues, President Mandela says, “Young people must take it upon themselves to ensure that they receive the highest education possible so that they can represent us well in future as future leaders”. As Cosas said, “Each one teach one”, Bapedi ba re kgaka nthute go tshetshetha le nna ke tla go ruta go metša tshehlo. [APPLAUSE]

It is in this context that our socioeconomic fortunes and aspirations must be directly linked to the outcomes of our education system. In an effort to improve the outcomes of our education, we convened an Education Lekgotla earlier this year. The Lekgotla produced a clear-cut and workable roadmap that is underpinned by the following pillars:

- Universal access to quality Early Childhood Development;
- A qualitative high learner attainment strategy;
- High quality standardised common assessments;
- Effective educator development;
- Efficient, effective and inclusive education; and
- Innovation through e-Education.

During his State of the Nation Address, our President Matamela Ramaphosa, went into details about the significance of Early Childhood Development (ECD). As a province, we have since aligned our plans with the President’s vision. We have begun to invest resources into this area of Early Childhood Development. Our target is to see all our primary schools in the province offering Grade R classes. This will ensure the expanded access and an improvement of the quality of our Early Childhood Development efforts.

We have put aside resources to ensure the training and re-training of ECD educators across the province. In a short-to-medium term, we will facilitate the movement of the ECD function from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Education. [APPLAUSE]

With regard to our basic education outcomes, we remain committed to our target of 80% Grade 12 pass rate. This must be supplemented by not less than 20% of Bachelor passes. We don’t just want a 100% of just passes, we want a 100% or 80% of quality

passes.

Limpopo has a significant number of schools which have been declared no-fee schools. This progressive policy of our government is geared towards improving access to basic education. The idea is that no child of school-going age should be denied access to education simply because the parents cannot afford it. I am happy to announce that in this academic year, over 1,6 million learners in Limpopo are benefiting from this policy. We will continue to improve on these figures for as long as the need remains.

In the same spirit, we will continue to provide scholar transport to all learners who reside beyond five kilometres from the nearest school. Our medium-to-long term plan is to progressively abolish the need for scholar transport by building more schools. We will continue to monitor our School Nutrition Programme to ensure that learners who are supposed to benefit from the programme do indeed benefit.

We will also work hard to improve the quality of education in our special schools. I am pleased to say that access to education for learners with special needs is on the rise. Our system is currently accommodating over 8 400 learners with special needs. In addition to the existing 34 special schools, we are building two more special schools to accommodate the anticipated increase.

I must state here that I was particularly impressed when I listened to the interview by the Sadtu (South African Democratic Teachers Union) General Secretary when he said that the curriculum of our education system must change. I totally agree with this view, honourable MEC for Education. I think that we need to pursue this matter with our national counterparts, because we can't talk about changing of the structure of our economy if we don't do that by virtue of having the right education system that is focused and specifically tailored for the needs of our economy in this province. [APPLAUSE]

We can't continue teaching our people about fishing or fisheries when we don't even have one sea. Let us teach them about mining industry, because we are a mining province! [APPLAUSE] Let us teach them about agriculture, because we are an agricultural province! Let us teach them about tourism, because we are a tourist-centred province! Hence, we decided deliberately so, as a province, that we would identify and categorise tourism as a sector of our economy despite the fact that in classical economic sense and definition, tourism is not a sector but a service. But, for our own purpose, because of the emphasis that we want to put on this service we decided to categorise it as a sector and a key competitive area for our economy.

A healthy nation is a productive nation; a healthy nation is a winning nation. In this financial year and going forward, we will continue with our multifaceted healthcare approach. This approach is anchored on health promotion, preventative healthcare, curative and rehabilitative services. When people visit our healthcare facilities, they expect adequate staff, good infrastructure, sufficient supply of medicines and good administrative processes. Anything less than these will not be acceptable.

The face of public healthcare in the province is fast changing for the better. Gone are the days of horror stories of medical negligence, lack of care and empathy. If you go and look into the amounts of litigation in the past three years, they have drastically

reduced as compared to previous years. [APPLAUSE] This is because our healthcare system is drastically changing for the better.

We are now telling a new tale of innovation in this province. We are now telling a new tale of commitment and discovery in this province. Re phethagatša lela la mogologolo ba re go feta kgomo o sware motho gobane motho ke moriri wa hlogo o a hloga. Just recently, our province performed its first open-heart-surgery in more than 23 years. [APPLAUSE] This ground-breaking operation was performed in one of our public hospitals, Mankweng Hospital. It was not in Polokwane, it was not in Tzaneen, it was not in Groblersdal, but in Mankweng Hospital. A very successful heart surgery was performed there. Since then, no less than 11 patients have undergone successful open-heart surgeries in that facility at Mankweng Hospital. [APPLAUSE]

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to congratulate a dedicated team of health workers led by Prof Lucas Mohlala, ke Bahwaduba ba Mohlala, a cardio-thoracic surgeon, and Prof Thanyani Mariba, the first Black cardiologist, for this historic milestone performance that they performed. Both Prof Mohlala and Prof Mariba are my guests today and they are here in the House. [APPLAUSE] I don't know where they are seated, but I know they are my guests; they are here in the House. Re a leboga.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

[inaudible]

THE PREMIER

[LAUGHTER] Tšeo ke dilo tša batho. Re a lekwa, Mohlomphegi Buthane. Di nyaka boratšhaatšhaa. [LAUGHTER]

Statistics shows that lifestyle diseases are amongst the leading causes of death in our province. These include diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, HIV/Aids and various forms of heart illnesses. It is in this context that we will focus most of our energy and resources on health education and preventative services. Our fight against the scourge of HIV/Aids is beginning to bear fruits. In the previous financial year, we recorded our lowest mother-to-child infections. The current rate of mother-to-child infections is at 0,77%. [APPLAUSE] Our target remains 0% mother-to-child transmission rate.

We will also be stepping up HIV/Aids awareness campaigns amongst our young people. We will target mainly young people at colleges and universities where the prevalence rate is unacceptably high. We must and will once again re-popularise the ABC message through mass media and targeted campaigns. [APPLAUSE] We will ensure that our youth understand the significance of abstinence from sexual activities at an early age, the need to be faithful to their partners and the usage of condoms.

The provisioning of effective and efficient Emergency Medical Services is at the heart of a functional healthcare system. We are oiling our EMS machinery to be able to respond swiftly to all forms of medical emergencies. In this regard, we have entered into partnership with the University of Limpopo for the training of EMS personnel. This is an important partnership which is designed to ensure a sufficient supply of well-

trained EMS personnel. We will also continue with our programme to procure EMS vehicles to supplement our existing fleet. In this financial year, as it has become our ritual, we will procure another 50 new ambulances. This is done to improve the ambulance-population ratio.

The agenda for youth development is at the apex of this government's agenda. When pessimists say that the young people of today are a lost generation, we say that our youth are our ambassadors of change and our nation's greatest assets. Our youth continue to fly the Limpopo flag and our national flag on the international stages. Young people are seizing the opportunities provided by our freedom and democracy to reclaim their rightful place on the international stage.

We take this opportunity to congratulate a young woman from the dusty and small Shirley village in Vhembe, Sho Madjozi, for being the first ever African woman to win the BET Award. [APPLAUSE] Just recently, a youth choir from Doornkraal in Moutse left judges at the America's Got Talent wowed and mesmerised. The colourful and powerful performance by the Ndlovu Youth Choir left the name of Limpopo imprinted on the world's biggest talent search stage. [APPLAUSE] We congratulate these children from Limpopo and many more who continue to undermine the difficulties to embrace opportunities. I can't stop saying wow! Thank you. Well done. Congratulations to Mokgadi Caster Semenya for running the fastest 800m ever ran by a woman in the United States. [APPLAUSE] I wish, Hon Buthane, I could say the same about Bafana Bafana. I so wish, but let's wish them all the best. They are playing against Egypt tomorrow, I suppose so.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

We are in trouble.

THE PREMIER

Are we in trouble? No, let's wish them all the best. Let's become positive. We once beat Egypt. Let's become positive and wish them all the best and I hope they will do the best.

Over the next five years, we will accelerate programmes and initiatives with a view to improve the socioeconomic conditions of our young people. We will also work with young people to create a conducive environment to support youth entrepreneurship. This will also include skills development, employment opportunities and implementation of all programmes aimed at youth empowerment. We can no longer afford to watch terrible episodes of young lives being destroyed by drugs. Our operation Swara Tsotsi, as led jointly with the SAPS, is in full swing. Gobetse'a Phogole o e swere. O swere molamo. Ke tau segata ka boya, thoba dingwe melala. O tlo ba roba melala. We are waging a vicious war against drug abuse, drug peddlers and kingpins, Commissioner Ledwaba. It is going to be the mother-of-all-wars. We are going to spring-clean all our streets and push out drug dealers from our villages and townships. If you want to see the ugliest part of drug abuse, go to the Polokwane Taxi Rank. That's where you will see that drugs are really devastating our nation. Young people can hardly talk because they are drug addicts. They are trapped in this habit. I really think that as the society we need to do something about this.

We need to stand up and do something about this because we know those people who are selling these drugs. People who are selling these drugs are amongst ourselves. We know the policemen who are also working with them. They are amongst ourselves. Why don't we come out and form civil society organisations and deal with this matter in partnership with SAPS, because I think once we can do that, we will win this battle. It once happened in the '80s during the time of the UDF. When we had street committees, we rooted out crime at that time and we said that this is the society that we want to see after liberation.

Now why don't we go back into the basics and do exactly that, establish street committees and ensure that we clear ourselves from this rot. Go na le monna ba re ke Mabitje, the husband to the late Marie-Stella Mabitje. O ngwadile puku a re Ntšhang dinoga motseng. Akere dinoga di tsebja ke lena, di dula le lena? Di ntšheng motseng. You can only do that if you are organised.

Stats SA highlights the milestones we have covered with regard to the task of delivering basic services to our people. The proportion of households with electricity connection is continuously on the increase. The number of households with electricity connection is at 94%. In this regard, we have actually exceeded our own 2020 LDP target. The same statistics shows that the province has managed to significantly increase the sanitation delivery from 27% in 2001 to 57% in 2016. [APPLAUSE] Regrettably, the number of households with access to potable drinking water has been reduced from 80% in 2011 to just above 74% in 2016. This is certainly very far from our LDP target of ensuring that 80% of our households have access to drinking water by the year 2020. In this regard, I have directed the MECs for Provincial Treasury and the MEC for CoGHSTA to develop an intervention plan to respond to this persisting challenge of water provisioning in the province. The plan should be finalised by the end of September this year.

Local government remains the strategic anchor in terms of building a developmental state. This sphere of government plays an important role in coordinating the provisioning of basic services and ensuring participatory democracy. The recent audit outcomes paint a picture of deep-seated challenges of capacity in terms of leadership and management as well as service delivery backlogs. It is in this context that the sixth administration would have a focused attention on the strengthening of the capacity of municipalities to fulfill their constitutional mandate. The measures that have to be embarked upon include:

- Supporting municipalities to attract and retain the best skills, particularly in the areas of engineering, town planning, financial and project management;
- Building the capacity of municipalities to provide basic services; and
- Working with municipalities to support local economic development through sound and flexible regulatory regime.

Notwithstanding the picture I have just painted here, most of our municipalities are doing relatively well with regard to MIG spending. By May this year, our municipalities had spent over 77% of their MIG allocations. By that time, municipalities such as Capricorn District, Blouberg, Greater Letaba, Fetakgomo-Tubatse and Collins Chabane have already spent more than 90% of their allocations. While we commend this spending, there must be value for money; our people must feel and see where their money went to. Actually, our focus and interest will now be on ensuring that the

spent resources can be accounted for in terms of tangible impact on the lives of our people. No more just figures.

As I have said earlier on, our municipalities are still not performing as expected with regard to financial management. This poor financial performance undermines the confidence of our people in this important sphere of government. It also perpetuates the perception of corruption in the management of the municipal affairs. The fact that not even a single municipality or municipal entity in this province managed to receive clean audit is a matter of great concern. Even more worrying is the fact that the number of adverse and disclaimer audit opinions have increased. We simply can no longer proceed in this fashion. These negative audit outcomes are as a result of the slow response by the municipal leadership to improve internal controls. These also include poor implementation of audit remedial plans and lack of consequence management.

Nevertheless, we take note of the improvement in terms of an increase in the number of unqualified audit opinions. In this regard, I want to take this opportunity to commend the following municipalities for sustaining unqualified audit opinion for three consecutive financial years – these are Capricorn District Municipality, Sekhukhune District Municipality, Thulamela Local Municipality, Molemole Local Municipality – Ke Ntate Paya mo, and Maruleng Local Municipality. [APPLAUSE] For the past three consecutive years they have sustained an unqualified audit opinion. I also want to commend Greater Letaba Local Municipality, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality and Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality for receiving unqualified audit opinions for the first time. [APPLAUSE] I am urging them to sustain this commendable performance going forward.

The other area of concern for the Provincial Government is the increasing debt owed to Eskom and water boards by municipalities. Municipalities must pay Eskom and respective water boards what is due and payable to them. Equally so, government departments, honourable MECs, must pay what is due to the municipalities timeously. [APPLAUSE] I have instructed the MECs for Provincial Treasury and CoGHSTA to work with the municipalities to address these challenges in an equitable and sustainable manner.

In line with our commitment to build a developmental local government, the Provincial Executive Council has adopted a targeted support programme for 10 municipalities. These are municipalities that are either Water Service Authorities, Priority Provincial Growth Points or distressed as per our Back-to-Basics Approach. The key focus of the plan is to strengthen the support and oversight, particularly ... [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Sorry, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

What is that hand for, honourable Member?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Ke no ra gore re sa thoma mošomo. Mohlomphegi Mapula a ka se ke a robala mošomong. Re sa thoma. [LAUGHTER]

THE SPEAKER

Okay. Thank you. You may be seated. I'm sure we will communicate the message. Hon Premier, you may continue.

THE PREMIER

I suppose that Hon Buthane wanted me to have a sip of water. Ke a go leboga mošemane wa gešo.

As government we will not abdicate our responsibilities to ensure that our people live in conditions of safety and security. We will continue the partnership with our social partners and the SAPS to ensure that Limpopo reclaims the reputation of being the safest province in the country.

I also want to commend our courts in the province for really coming on board with regard to the fight against violence and crime, particularly gender-based violence. In this financial year alone our courts have already handed down 49 life sentences against perpetrators of gender-based violence. [APPLAUSE] Thank you, Judge President Makgoba. We believe that these harsher sentences will go a long way in complementing our efforts to end gender-based violence. I must emphatically stress that government alone cannot win the battle against crime in all its manifestations. The fight against crime, abuse of women and children, in particular, is a societal issue. I therefore call on all of you to join government in our fight against crime and related ills.

To respond to the challenge of the increasing number of fatal accidents on our roads, we will over the next five years employ and place more traffic officials on all major roads across the province. During this financial year, we will appoint 238 young people who are currently on traffic learnership as fulltime traffic officials. [APPLAUSE] We have also set aside an amount of R43 million for the refurbishment of Limpopo Traffic College so that we can increase the college's capacity to train even more young people.

It is in this context that we welcome the recent announcement by President Ramaphosa for the commissioning of a high-speed train between Johannesburg and Musina. [APPLAUSE] This initiative will come in handy as an alternative mode of transport for the province. This will serve as a game-changer and catalyst for the transformation of the spatial economy of the country and SADC region given our strategic location. In this regard, I have directed the MEC for Transport and Community Safety to initiate discussions with the Minister of Transport to expedite the implementation of this high-speed train initiative. [APPLAUSE]

The journey ahead will obviously be a protracted one. The task ahead is daunting – we only have one choice – to conquer and win. We will and must win the war against poverty, unemployment and inequality. We must and will win the war against wastage of public resources, maladministration and corruption. It is our collective task to wage a war and win against the scourge of crime and, in particular gender-based violence. We are going to win the war against the abuse of alcohol and drugs by our youth.

We must and will succeed in the necessary effort to build the Limpopo we want. We are going to work together as different political parties, civil society, academia, business and labour. Each and every single day of this administration, we will make sure that we put shoulder to the wheel to ensure that Limpopo becomes an oasis of our dreams.

As we do the work that we are mandated to do, we continue to be guided by the judicious words of an African revolutionary, Thomas Sankara, when he says to us that: "Our revolution is not a public-speaking tournament. Our revolution is not a battle of fine phrases. Our revolution is not simply for spouting slogans ... Our revolution is, and should continue to be, the collective effort of revolutionaries to transform reality, to improve the concrete situation of the masses of our country."

Fellow residents of Limpopo, let me conclude by reiterating that our challenges are not greater than our opportunities. Our tomorrow is far much brighter than our yesterday and today. Together, we will build a Limpopo we want and a Limpopo we deserve.

Allow me to thank Lenny T of Thobela FM and Mankoko Baby for requesting yesterday morning Hon Jossey Buthane to behave himself. Ke a le leboga, Mankoko le Lenny. Mošemane wa gešo o itshwere, lehono. [LAUGHTER]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much to our Hon Premier for the Official Opening of our Sixth Legislature and setting the tone going forward. I want to take his opportunity and thank the Premier for indicating that it is a new dawn. Thank you very much. I think he deserves another round of applause. [APPLAUSE] Honourable Members and guests, I am going to call upon Hon Deputy Speaker to the podium. Hon Deputy Speaker, can you ascend the podium for announcements?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Madam Speaker, I just want to say something.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, I know you had an arrangement with the Premier to share the podium, but he is out of the podium. Now is my time, allow me to run the House. Thank you very much.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

No, no! Hon Speaker, I'm agreeing with you. I'm just saying it can't be the new dawn on a second term.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Speaker, thank you very much and let's again thank the Premier for the incisive and practical speech that he has given us. [APPLAUSE] There will be a photo session – and we must listen carefully. This photo session is for the school children with the

Premier and the Speakership. The Speakership is the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker and the MEC for Education. [LAUGHTER] It will be at the stairs outside the Chamber. That's the first announcement.

The second announcement is that there will be a second group photo session for all Members of the Sixth Legislature including the Premier, MECs, Members of the Legislature and, of course, the Speakership.

The lunch for VIPs and invited guests is going to be at the Lepelle-Nkumpi Civic Centre Hall and all honourable Members and guests are invited to that lunch. Protocol officials will direct guests and will be waiting for you at the hall to usher you in. There will also be lunch for all officials, SAPS, school learners, dancers and the public which will be served at the basement parking in the other building. Our protocol officials outside there will direct those officials to the basement areas for their lunch. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much and I think it is important as well to thank our listeners who have been listening to us on radio as the Premier was delivering his speech. I want to conclude by saying that as part of the Mandela Month, let's go out there invited guests and honourable Members and inspire change.

This House is adjourned to Tuesday, 09 July 2019 at 10:00 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE
It's your voice, use it!

VERBATIM REPORT

OF THE

DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH PARLIAMENT

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

THURSDAY, 11 JULY 2019

It's your voice, use it!

VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 11 JULY 2019
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00

THE SPEAKER

Good morning honourable Members. We shall now have a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you. We may be seated. I hope everyone is well. Feel welcome to our sitting where we will be dealing with debates and motions. I hope that Members who will be debating are ready to put our Sixth Legislature on the map in terms of robust debates and exchanging views that will change the lives of the people of Limpopo. Feel welcome, Hon Premier of Limpopo, I would like to take this opportunity and greet you this morning.

Item 2 on our Order Paper for this morning is motions without notice. Is there any party that wants to present motions without notice? I can see the hand of Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS ON THE OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF OUR NATIONAL TEAMS
(Motion without Notice)

Let me acknowledge and commend the performance of our international sporting teams participating in competitions abroad.

- The Proteas ended their Cricket World Cup campaign with a victory over Australia in London this past Saturday, reminding us of what a world-class team they have always been.

- Bafana Bafana played with tenacity equal to that of the winning team of 1996 and will advance to the quarterfinals of the Africa Cup of Nations after knocking out the host nation, Egypt. Sadly, they were outdone by Nigeria. Nonetheless, they still hold the flag up high for us to witness the outstanding performance.

- The national women soccer team, Banyana Banyana, likewise made their mark in international women's football with their noteworthy performance in the FIFA Women's World Cup. They were unable to win, but they played their hearts out and left it all on the field.

- The Baby Boks also did us proud and brought home the bronze medal after a gruelling campaign in the U20 International Rugby World Cup. Winners never

quit and quitters never win, a true legacy of our South Africans who never quit no matter their circumstances.

- I would also like to congratulate individual tennis players participating in the Wimbledon Tennis Tournament, and wish the Proteas netball team gearing up for the netball tournament all the best in their future.

- It is evident that 2019 is the year of sport for this country, which holds so much potential for our sporting codes.

- With a 60% youth unemployment rate in Limpopo, the hopes, dreams and aspirations of our future sport stars lie heavily in the hands of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and it is for this reason that we should do more to support our various sporting codes.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much for the motion. Is there a seconder for the motion as presented? Honourable Member, you are recognised.

MR MAHARAJ

I, Risham Maharaj, second the motion.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Phala, you are recognised.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

CONDEMNATION OF THE MURDER OF A 23-YEAR OLD TLOU NKOANA

(Motion without Notice)

I hereby move on behalf of the Democratic Alliance that this House:

- Notes a life that was cut short of a 23-year old Tlou Nkoana, a final year B.Com Accounting student at Damelin, who was allegedly stabbed to death by a 17-year old boy in Polokwane city.

- Further notes that Nkoana's death comes just five months after Thoriso Themane's murder, who was brutally attacked and killed in Flora Park by a gang of teenagers in February this year. A gang of teenagers who unashamedly captured his attack on video camera which remains to be the most heart-breaking moments to be seen by his family and friends.

- These incidents of killings by teenagers in our once safe city continue to highlight the need for more police visibility within our city and further shows the need for active citizens and well supported community police forums in our

communities to work together with law enforcement in identifying teenagers that hold our city hostage through fear.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the motion as read by Hon Phala.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. The motion that was presented and seconded now was about a death. Therefore, I request the House to stand and observe a moment of silence.

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much. We may be seated. We are still on item 2. I want to check if there are any further hands that want to speak. Honourable Member from the EFF ... is it Hon Manganye. Don't worry, I will get your names correct.

MS MPHAHLELE

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that the House notes:

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO THE STARS OF LIMPOPO
(Motion without Notice)

- That the EFF congratulates Sho Madjozi and Ndlovu Youth Choir for flying the flag of Limpopo high at international stages.

- Sho Madjozi collected the coveted Best New International Act Award during the red-carpet preshow.

- The 'Huku' hitmaker is the first South African female musician to win the award at a powerful and show-stopping ceremony which featured a line-up of artists, entertainers, cultural icons and inspiring humanitarians across more than 18 categories which took place at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles on 23 June 2019.

- The Ndlovu Youth Choir received an endorsement from all the four judges and a standing ovation from the audience at America's Got Talent show after singing Vicky Sampson rendition, My African Dream.

- This choir which comprises mainly children from impoverished families around Groblersdal area in the Sekhukhune District made the country and our province proud by showcasing and doing extremely well on the international stage.

- We applaud these stars from our province for being proud of their cultural heritage.

- The EFF is disappointed that these young artists do not get financial support from government to nurture and grow their talents. All what government does is to welcome them at OR Tambo International Airport to pose for pictures as if they are investing something in the creative arts, especially when nothing was mentioned during SOPA about arts and culture.

- The EFF government will facilitate the provision of financial services especially to the creative industry.

- I would like to conscientise the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture to take cognisance of what is happening in the field of arts and culture.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Any seconder to the motion? Honourable Member, you are recognised.

MR RAPHELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Hon George Raphela, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Mphahlele.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I saw another hand of Hon Molapo; I suppose it is still on motions.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

APPRECIATION OF GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO CONTINUE BUILDING TRADITIONAL COUNCIL OFFICES
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC in this august House to note and welcome:

- Government endeavours of acknowledging the role played by our traditional leaders in this democratic dispensation.

- The fact that the ANC government is forging ahead with plans to build offices for 7 traditional councils in this province signifies how serious the ANC views the role played by magoši in our society. There are strong relations that exist between magoši and the ANC government.

- This development should be viewed in the context of these offices being an extension of government's centres of service delivery, as they will be used by our people to access an assortment of government services.

- We are certain that more similar offices will be built for our traditional leaders throughout the province, as they continue to play a critical role in uniting our communities.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member. Is there any seconder to the motion? Honourable Member, you are recognised.

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I, Mathye Susani Violet, rise to support the motion as read by Hon Molapo. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. There was another hand for the motion. Honourable Member, you may rise.

MR MOHLALA

Thanks once more. I rise on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that the House notes:

CONDEMNATION OF SANEF FOR NOT PROTECTING BLACK JOURNALISTS
(Motion without Notice)

- The EFF's condemnation of the South African National Editors Forum (Sanef) for apparent inaction over the alleged ongoing intimidation and spying on independent media journalists Mzilikazi wa Afrika and Piet Rampedi.

- The seasoned journalists are alleged to being followed by unknown individuals, linking it to their reportage on the existence and operation of an illegal intelligence unit, popularly referred to as the "Rogue Unit" at SARS when Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan was at the helm of the tax collection agency in 2007.

- Had it been white journalists complaining about being spied on, Sanef would have released and inundated the country with statements including going to open a criminal case itself.

- The fact that Sanef has not spoken out against the abuse of Wa Afrika and Rampedi shows which interests Sanef is established for – the protection of white journalists and utter neglect of blacks in the field.

- Our democracy does not need such elements and they must be exposed and face the full might of the law.

- Media freedom is critical to the democratic health of holding those in power accountable.

- Once journalists are beaten to submission, the truth will be hidden and abuse of power by those in the state will go unpunished.

- We call on Wa Afrika and Rampedi to open criminal cases with the SAPS so that necessary investigative action can be taken including provisions for the protection of their lives.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder to the motion? Honourable Member, you are recognised.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you. I, Selaelo Regina Mphahlele, rise to second the motion as read.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any other hand for the presentation of the motion without notice? Hon Mapula Mokaba, you are recognised.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF 24 YOUNG PEOPLE WHO PERISHED ON THE R81 ROAD AND OF MORRIS MATSEMELA, THE STRUGGLE VETERAN
(Motion without Notice)

- About a month ago, Limpopo province was befallen by a dark cloud when 24 young people perished on the R81 road around GaMaphalle.

- The accident involved a bus ferrying young people from the June 16 festivities in Polokwane, and a taxi with passengers who had also gone out as part of the June 16 celebration.

- It was this fateful day that changed the lives of the 24 families, as they lost their loved ones in that fatal accident.

- It must be noted in this august House that this was not an isolated incident, as there has been a plethora of fatalities on our roads of late.

- But we must applaud the ANC government for being up to the task when such unfortunate incidents occur. The compassion demonstrated by the government during the funeral of the Maphalle 24 is commendable.

- Meanwhile, the ANC in Limpopo dips its banner in memory of veteran Morris Matsemela, a freedom fighter who passed on recently.

- Veteran Matsemela was incarcerated at the same time with Nelson Mandela at the Robben Island in the period between 1965 and 1971. Upon his release, veteran Matsemela got banished to Lenyenye in Tzaneen until 1981.

- The ANC and the people of Limpopo have lost a fervent freedom fighter and a gallant revolutionary in veteran Matsemela.

May his soul rest in peace! I so move, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Can we please have a seconder? Hon Makhurupetje, you are recognised.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

I, Mmakoma Makhurupetje, stand to second the motion as presented by Hon Mokaba. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

There was another hand for the motions. Honourable Member, you are recognised.

MS MATHYE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

24-HOUR OPERATIONS IN OUR HEALTH FACILITIES
(Motion without Notice)

- On behalf of the ANC, we welcome the conversion of operational hours in most of our health facilities to 24-hours. In the past six months, we have converted the operational hours of the following health facilities from the usual 8-12 hour shift to become fully functional for 24-hours: Northam, Vaalwater, GaSeleka, Marapong in Waterberg; Shotong and Nkomo in Mopani; Mohlaletse in Sekhukhune; Madombidzha and Mashamba in Vhembe; Semenya, Seshego Zone 4 and Mogoto in Capricorn.

- This has brought about a sudden relief on our usually constrained healthcare system.

- This quantum leap intervention means that our people who are serviced by these facilities will no longer be forced to queue in the early hours in order to be first on the line.

- A 24-hour service generally means that our health outlets will provide services to our people at any time of the day, without them having to rush to be first in the line.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mathye. Is there any seconder? Hon Aphiri, you are recognised.

MS APHIRI

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mokgadi Johanna Aphiri, stand to second the motion as presented by Hon Mathye. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there still any hand that wants to talk on motions without notice? Honourable Member, you are recognised.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

YOUNG PEOPLE FROM LIMPOPO FLYING THE SOUTH AFRICAN FLAG HIGH
(Motion without notice)

I hereby move on behalf of the DA that this House:

- Notes the rich talent within the youth of this province who continue to not only put Limpopo's name on the map, but also the name of the entire country.

- Notes that Limpopo now houses a BET Award Winner after Sho Madjozi won the BET Award, becoming the first black female artist to do so.

- Further notes that Makofane Milton Kekana, a young man from Limpopo, won the 10 000m world students championship in Italy.

- Further notes that Hlulani Baloyi from Giyani will once again fly the Limpopo flag high later this month in Uganda in the Africa Spelling Bee competition, to which she was part of last year in Kenya.

- Further notes the Olympic Champion Sesi Mokgadi Caster Semenya's win in the Doha Diamond League 800m race.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder?

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Risham Maharaj, hereby second the motion. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We will now move to the next item on notices of motion. Is there anyone who would like to speak to item 3? There are no notices of motions. Thank you.

We move to item 4, Statements by Members. Is there any party that wishes to speak on statements by Members? Can I see by the indication of a hand? Honourable Member, you may rise.

MS MANGANYE

Ndza mi losa, Manana Xipikara. Hi ku yimela vandla ra Economic Freedom Fighters, ndzi kombela ku andlala Xitatimende lexi:

CORRUPTION IN THE AWARDING OF SCHOLAR TRANSPORT TENDERS
(Members' Statement)

- Hon Speaker, the much spoken about so-called New Dawn has not yet dawned on us in this province.

- Corruption in government departments has escalated to higher proportions, and yet we are being told in every SOPA that the current administration is committed to dealing with corruption.

- The EFF is shocked to learn that the recent scholar transport tenders that were advertised by government were awarded to comrades and cronies who do not even own a single bus.

- Corruption is a serious obstacle to development and negatively impacts on service delivery. It also denies honest businesspeople in the province an opportunity to do business with the state.

- It is for this reason that the EFF in its manifesto calls for the banning of tenders because it is a highly corrupted system.

- The EFF government will also establish state administration courts to promptly respond to incidents of corruption with the aim of firing and blacklisting corrupt state employees and private companies and also recovering money lost due to corruption.

- Ndzi pfumeleleni ku lerisa Manana Polly Boshielo, MEC wa Ndzawulo ya Dyondzo, ku endla vulavisisi ku ri va ta kota ku yimisa vukungundwani lebyi nga tala leswaku tiko ra hina ri pona.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. The statement by the honourable Member was directed to MEC for Education. The MEC today is not in the House, we will afford her an opportunity in the next sitting when she is available to respond to the statement. Thank you very much.

Is there any other party that wishes to speak? Honourable Member, you may speak.

MR SESHOKA

LAND DISPUTE IN MOTLOLO AND MAFOLO
(Members' Statement)

The issue of land is a contentious issue in South Africa, particularly in our province, Limpopo. Communities continue to suffer because the government is moving in a snail pace in addressing the issue of land.

The community of Motlolo and Mafolo in Sekhukhune under Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality need land in portion 7 and 8 for settlement, but this land is currently in the hands of Mphoto Developers who bought it from the state. Since nothing has been happening on this land in the past 10 years, the people started building houses in portion 7 because of the huge demand for land for human settlement.

Mphoto Developers, the entity led by two white males, wants to remove the people through court processes from the land of their forefathers. Government has been requested on several occasions to intervene on this matter but has not shown interest or political will to do so. This will result in the people's houses been demolished, because unlike the two white men, our people do not have money to pay lawyers to deal with the legalities of this matter.

The EFF government will expropriate land without compensation for equal distribution. If you do not use the land, we take it back and give it to those who need it. The developers must simply surrender the land back to the people because they have not been developing it all along.

We call upon the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development to investigate this matter and provide a lasting solution to the communities of Motlolo and Mafolo.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you for the statement. It was directed to the Department of Agriculture. Can I please have the MEC Hon Ndalane acknowledging the statement?

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to appreciate the issue raised by the Hon Seshoka. As the department, we will follow up the matter and later report back to this House. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Nandi Ndalane, for acknowledging the statement. I did not see any other hand of the statements; we shall move to item 5. Are there any executive statements that need to be made by the Members of the Executive? Are there any statements? When I do not see any sign of a hand, I acknowledge that there is nothing. We shall then pass on that item.

Item 6: Are there any tabling of committee reports, other reports and papers? I do not see any hand. We shall then pass on that item.

We are then going to move to the orders of the day, where we are going to begin with item 7.1: Motion for the Appointment of the Chief Whip of the majority party and the House. I will preside over this motion. I would like to submit that I, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, hereby move that this House resolves to appoint Hon Mokgonyana E M as the Chief Whip of this honourable House in accordance with the provisions of House Rule 20.

I move accordingly. Can I get any seconder? Okay, you are recognised, Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Hon Speaker, my intervention is to assist, I am not accustomed to the Speaker of the House putting motions forward. In the past, a motion of this nature came from the Deputy Speaker, the Chair of Chairs or even the Leader of Government Business. It is just on a point of correction; I think that is the way we should be doing it. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

You might be aware that today in the House we are starting to appoint committees that you are alluding to and appointing committee chairpersons, Chair of Chairs and other positions. In the last sitting we processed the positions of Speaker and Deputy Speaker, and if the Deputy Speaker is available, we can request him to move the motion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I, Jeremiah Dingaan Azwindini Ndou, hereby move that this House resolves to appoint Hon Mokgonyana E M as the Chief Whip of this honourable House in accordance with the provisions of House Rule 20.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Is there any seconder?

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I, Annah Tandi Moraka, rise here to second the motion to appoint the Chief Whip of this august House as tabled by Hon Jeremiah Azwindini Ndou who happens to be the Deputy Speaker of this august House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. That was the secondment for the mover that was done. The papers will be signed accordingly. Item 7.2 is the motion for the recognition of the Deputy Chief Whip of the majority party. Can I please get a mover and a seconder? Hon Mokgonyana, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Rule 20(3) provides that in the absence of the Chief Whip, the Deputy Chief Whip of the majority party must act as the Chief Whip of the Legislature.

I therefore move that this House recognises Hon Molapo R R as the Deputy Chief Whip of the Legislature. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Can I please get a seconder? Honourable Member, you are recognised.

MR MASEKO

I, Funani Jerry Maseko, rise to second the motion for the appointment of the Deputy Chief Whip. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

That was the seconder for item 7.2. Item 7.3, can we get a Member to move for the election of the Chairperson of Committees and the Deputy Chairperson of Committees? Hon Deputy Speaker, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, Jeremiah Dingaan Azwindini Ndou, hereby move that this august House resolves to elect Hon Mashamaite N V as the Chairperson of Committees and Hon Selane C B D as the Deputy Chairperson of Committees in accordance with the provisions of House Rule 19(1).

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Can I call for a seconder? Hon Makhurupetje, you are recognised.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

I, Mmakoma Makhurupetje, stand to second the motion as presented by the Deputy Speaker, Hon Azwindini Jeremiah Ndou.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We will then move to the next item on the motion for the establishment of committees and the appointment of their chairpersons. Can I please get an indication of the proposer?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much once again, Madam Speaker. The report of the leaders of political parties represented in the Limpopo Legislature on the constitution of committees and its members.

The leaders of political parties in the Limpopo Legislature considered the constituted committees and its members in its meeting held on 11 July 2019. The leaders hereby submit the attached constituted committees and its members before this honourable House for adoption.

I therefore move for the adoption of the constituted committees and its members by this honourable House. I move accordingly, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Can I please get a seconder for the proposal of committees as proposed in the motion? Honourable Member, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Hon Speaker, I stand to second the Deputy Speaker's proposal. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We will then move to the next item. The motion for the recognition of the Leader of the Opposition. Hon Mokgonyana, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Madam Speaker, section 116(d) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa provides that the provincial legislature must provide for the recognition of the leader of the largest opposition party in the legislature as the Leader of the Opposition.

In line with the provisions of the abovementioned legislation, I, therefore, move that this House resolves to recognise the Hon Buthane M J of the Economic Freedom Fighters as the Leader of the Opposition in this House.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Can we please get a seconder? Honourable Member, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. In the spirit of strengthening our democracy in the Province of Limpopo, on behalf of the African National Congress, I rise here to second the appointment of Hon Joseph Buthane to be the Leader of the Opposition in this august House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

I have not been seeing any contrary view since we started with the motions, so we will not start now. [LAUGHTER]

Thank you very much. We now move to item 7.6 and request a mover for the motion for the recognition of the Leader of Government Business. Hon Mokgonyana, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Hon Speaker, House Rule 19(2) provides that as soon as possible after the elections, the Premier must appoint a Member of the Executive Council as Leader of Government Business and inform the Speaker for noting by this august House.

The Premier has appointed Hon Seaparo Charlie Sekoati as the Leader of Government Business in this House.

I therefore move that this House notes the appointment of Hon Seaparo Charlie Sekoati as the Leader of Government Business. I move accordingly, Hon speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much for moving the motion. Can I please get a seconder? Honourable Member, you are recognised

MR MAKAMU

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I stand here as Basikopo Makamu to second the motion as read by the Chief Whip of the Legislature that Hon Sekoati be the Leader of Government Business. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Basikopo Makamu, for seconding the motion. We then come to item 7.7 which is the motion for the revival of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2019 [B01-2019]. We call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Hon Speaker, House Rule 176(2) provides that all Bills before the House or any of its Committees on the last sitting of the term of the legislature or when the legislature is dissolved, lapse at the end of that day unless the subsequent legislature decides to revive the Bill.

Now that the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2009 has lapsed at the end of the fifth session, I now move that the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2019 [B01-2019] be revived and referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and to report back to this House within seven days as contemplated in House Rule 165(1) and (2).

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC for Provincial Treasury. Can I call for a secondment? Should I ask him to repeat the motion? Hon Ramathuba, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

I, Phophi Ramathuba, stand to second the motion.

THE SPEAKER

I thought that honourable Members did not get what the MEC said so that I could ask him to repeat. Thank you very much for the secondment.

We are now coming to the debate on the Premier's Official Opening Address. We have got a list of speakers that will be taking to the podium. As already indicated, the speakers are aware of the time allocated to the debate or presentation they would be doing. I do not have to get off the chair and come to grab you out of the mic when you are presenting. Be an honourable Member and stick to your time. It is still a bit cold so I might not be able to move down there.

I am going to invite Hon Phophi Ramathuba to be the first speaker to present on the debate. We welcome you to the podium.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Madam Speaker, for this valued opportunity to participate in this important debate on the state of our province. The people of this province have emphatically renewed the mandate of the African National Congress as the legitimate leader of government. Through the Premier's State of the Province Address last week, it is evident that we take this mandate with absolute humbleness and commit ourselves to the total diligence of service to the people of Limpopo.

I want to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to our Premier, Hon Chupu Mathabatha, for reigniting the spark of hope amongst the residence of our people. Indeed the future of Limpopo looks bright. Indeed, the new dawn is upon us. As you have said, the days of despair and hopelessness are fast becoming part of the ancient memory. We stand here to embrace and commit ourselves to spare neither strength nor effort in working for the realisation of the seven apex priorities you have so eloquently outlined on Friday.

In particular, we want to pledge our energies, our skills and our talents for the achievement of the goals of growing and transforming our economy for the creation of

the much-needed jobs; improving our education outcomes, skills, capabilities of our youth, accelerating the capacity of government to deliver on basic services such as water, electricity, houses and quality roads. Most importantly, we will work with you, Hon Premier, in the effort to build a capable, ethical, clean and corrupt-free government. Our long term objective for a long and healthy life for the people of Limpopo is still intact.

Your commitment to the growth and transformation of our economy is without counterpart. Your plan to revitalise the growth of our economy is both clear and practical. We agree fully with you about the need to invest more resources and attention in agriculture and tourism. Both these sectors have the biggest potential to propel our economy to new and greater heights. The unfortunate reality is that these remain the under explored sectors of our economy. We appreciate your vivid commitment to youth entrepreneurial development.

We also commend the announcement of the decision to re-establish Limpopo Business Support Agency (LIBSA) as an independent entity from LEDA. We want to thank the Hon Premier for the quantum of resources which have been set aside for the development and maintenance of health infrastructure, school sanitation and roads. In particular, we appreciate the commitment of the R3,9 billion for the much-awaited construction of the first ever post 1994 Limpopo Academic Hospital. We cannot even begin to explain the significance of this project to our provincial healthcare machinery. What we can say is that our public healthcare services will never be the same. This is what we call a revolution in motion.

An academic hospital in our province means that our province will be positioned as a vanguard province when it comes to the area of medical research. It also means that we will be able to train and attract the highest quality of medical specialists, the highest quality of medical researchers and the highest quality of innovators. This means that the country and the world will, amongst other places, look at Limpopo for answers when it comes to troubling medical conditions.

Hon Premier, the reality and the fact is that we have done our survey and most of the expert academics around this country are sons and daughters of this province; so, they need this academic centre so that they can come back home. Our geographical location gives us an opportunity to explore medical tourism industry through this facility wherein even people from our neighbouring countries will be visiting our province for advanced healthcare procedures. This is evidenced by the excellent work done not only by Prof Mohlala when he performed the first open heart surgery in Mankweng Hospital, but also a number of hospitals where we have appointed specialists. We recently saw 96 orthopaedic cases being performed in our hospital to clear the orthopaedic backlog. This has indeed reduced the number of litigations we would receive.

Our paediatric surgeons continue to perform miracles on babies. Last month we have seen 57 babies admitted in Mankweng Hospital who should have been transferred to Gauteng. About 36 of them were operated, 55 were discharged and are back with their parents. Only 2 were transferred to Gauteng compared to the entire 57 around this time last year that would have been transferred. Indeed, we are really a government not sleeping on duty.

On 01 August we will honour the women of 1956 class by welcoming Dr Esi Ackon, a young female paediatric surgeon who will be back from school and she will be joining the current one who is there. We are really working hard towards realising the dream of a quality healthcare for all.

Dr Netshiongolwe, who is a reconstructive and plastic surgeon, has just returned from the Mayo Clinic in the United States of America. He will be the only hand surgeon in the province, whether public or private. This means there will no longer be transfers to Gauteng. We are now … [INTERJECTION]

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Ke ngaka ya eng?

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

He is a plastic surgeon, but has super specialised in hand surgery. With his appointment we are now establishing a joint clinic also in August as we honour the 1956 women. This clinic is an oncology breast clinic, which will be jointly established between the general surgery and the plastic surgery. Our women who come here for mastectomy because of breast cancer, they will not only go home as they usually do, but we are going to start what we call reconstructive surgery where we will provide them with artificial breast so that we can deal with the stigma that they continue to face after they have done mastectomy.

Yes, as the Premier has indicated, we are winning the war against HIV/Aids but there is much more that we can still do and that must be done. The Premier could not have been more correct about the direction of our focus. The recent National Aids Conference held in Durban noted a worrying trend of an upsurge in the number of new HIV infections amongst the youth population. Therefore, the Premier was correct when he said that we need to reactivate the ABC message. We also agreed that we need to tailor specific messages targeting our young people who are found in universities and colleges. This is the most vulnerable group and there are many reasons for the vulnerability including the reality of student poverty which gives rise to the blesser tendency. We are convinced that the most effective way to defeat HIV/Aids, particularly to halt the new infection is through health education. We are therefore going to be rolling out HIV/Aids awareness campaigns and education programmes as part of our efforts to halt new infections. We believe that the key to HIV free generation is found in education and prevention. Madam Speaker, I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC Phophi Ramathuba for also staying within your time. I am going to invite Hon Joseph Buthane to the podium.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker and honourable Members of this House. Premier, you said: “The face of public healthcare in the province is fast changing for the better. Gone are the days of horror stories of medical negligence, lack of care and empathy.” Premier this statement is an extreme misrepresentation of the truth and can

only be said by a visitor in our province, not someone who led the province for more than five years. The statement exposes your little knowledge of what is happening on the ground. Limpopo has 5,8 million people and 5 regions with 566 wards and 3 157 VDs. Of this number the Department of Health in Limpopo has 373 ambulances. Of this number, only 233 is functional and 140 not operational. This phenomenon alone tells you that we have lost lives that we could have saved. We had our mothers giving birth in wheelbarrows, at the back of bakkies and trucks and in the bushes because there were no ambulances. We have just lost Mme Moyahabo Mametja due to negligence of Letaba Hospital staff. She went to the hospital expecting to deliver a bouncing baby. As we speak today, Mme Moyahabo is no more, and the hospital left us with an orphan. Malamulele Hospital did not have water for two weeks, and wounds of patients got worse because they could not be treated. The Seshego Hospital toilets are not functioning, dispensaries are without drip cables and administering sets, boiler pipes have worn out, the kitchen stoves are not working, the steam is not functioning, fridges are not working, trollies to deliver food are broken and workers don't have protective clothes. Those in the TB wards get improper masks, toilets and baths are in bad condition and UV lights also are not working. In casualty you have one datascope working. There are no slides for HBs, thus resulting in miscarriages. You know it? Kua Seshego ga e gona. These are but a few we want you to know about the Department of Health and its issues before you further embarrass yourself.

Premier, your incompetence and little knowledge is hazardous. Those surrounding you do nothing to assist you. They only show what is outside the hand and hide what is inside the hand.

Of the 27 municipalities, none received a clean audit and the biggest contributor being irregular and fruitless expenditure. Municipalities and provincial departments lost R15 billion due to unauthorised, fruitless and wasteful expenditure in the past five years. Limpopo provincial government underspent human settlement grant funding by R1,48 billion in the last four financial years. The underspending of housing affected more than 26 500 homeless people across the province. The R15 billion loss could have built 130 434 houses for our people. Here we speak of our people who sleep on the robots, dustbins, outside shops and dehumanising places. The money lost through this absence of your leadership could have brought an 'amper' better life for our people.

At least 130 434 of these people that you only remember during elections would have had shelter under this scorching weather, now rain is going to meet them at the robots at night without places to sleep, let alone stay. The municipality regressed because you failed to take decisive decision on those that irregularly took money to VBS. These municipalities dragged their feet because there is no consequence management in this province under your leadership. The sleeping is too much on your chair at the expense of our poor black brothers and sisters.

If you deal with those contributing to the regression of municipalities, like you are dealing with Phuti Seloba, maybe 130 000 people would have benefited from this government today. Don't only be decisive on Phuti Seloba because he brushed your ego, deal aggressively with anything and anyone who is an enemy of progress. Why choose to be selfish and self-seeking? Why do you think your ego is more important than the suffering of our people?

Limpopo has 3 846 schools and 1 474 of them still make use of pit toilets. Of the R15 billion lost, we could be having 3 846 schools with proper toilets. Besides the R15 billion, Mvula Trust had R266,86 million to assist with 253 toilets for schools, but only supplied 57. The scenario reminds us that the situation could have not been different because R1 million of the fund went to former MEC for Education, “Maria” Kgatjepe, a matter brought to your attention and you never acted. When you continue to defend thugs and don’t act on corruption, people die. You can’t say we are not telling the truth because you know how Michael Komape died. He died in a pit toilet. He suffocated and lost life in a pit toilet. He died trying to get a better life for his parents. He died having refused to be a criminal but an educated somebody. Little did he know that you don’t have him in your plans. Little did he know that this life means nothing to the powers that be. As if this torture to the family was not enough, we learned recently that the compensation is not yet concluded.

Hon Premier, the staff that you work with has identified your weakness and they sold you a dream. You bought that dream and you are now parading that dream to the people of Limpopo. The decision that 20% of state procurement should go to youth owned enterprise is a dream; it’s hot air; it’s hallucination. How do you do that when today speaking here the catering company that catered for the SOPA we are debating today come from Gauteng? Worse as we speak the Gauteng person has not paid those that she subcontracted here in Limpopo.

How do you achieve that when your government centralised travel agencies services and gave it to a Gauteng-based company, a matter to only be interdicted by a court of law? You have taken a decision that young people of Limpopo deserve nothing bigger than a subcontract. What is it that these poor young people of Limpopo business community have done to you? Please tell us so that we can ask for forgiveness on their behalf. What did DJ Bambo on a wheelchair do to you? Why is he only getting 7% whilst the abled-bodied get 20%? When you come here and talk about mining, Hon Premier, remember that mines in Limpopo feed the rich and the ruling party. Mines in Limpopo kill and destroy our people and the ruling party leadership turns a blind eye on that. Anglo Platinum destroys cemeteries of our people. It exhumes the remains of our forefathers illegally in Motlhotlong village. The same Anglo Platinum took away the farms of Leruleng village without compensation. Lives are lost at Diphale village over chrome of Marula Mine. Mine dust continues to kill the people of Skimming, GaTshaba, Leruleng and GaMalokana.

The truth you are not telling is that the majority of these mines don’t hire and empower locals. You do not tell us that in Bokoni Mine, our people lost 3 000 jobs, Twickenam Mine our people lost 1 800 and in Dilokong 380 jobs were lost. You do not tell us that when these poor people of our province refuse exploitation and harassment by these mines, you as government subject them to police brutality. They protest unarmed for better living conditions to gain from the minerals of their land; instead of listening to these unarmed people, government responds to them with hippos, teargas, rubber bullets and live rounds. You respond to the dehumanised, the homeless and the empty-stomached population of our province with detention and you say this is a new dawn; shame on you.

Hon Premier, by law when you see crime being committed and you do nothing to disassociate yourself with such a crime, it follows that you are actively participating in that crime, it then means you are an accessory to such crime. Corruption happened;

it was reported to you with evidence and you did nothing. You did not act on Mapula Mokaba-Phukwana, Makoma Makhurupetje and others. Give us one reason why a reasonable man will not call you a corrupt and a thief of a Premier. Stop talking about acting on corruption because you know you don't have the capacity. The only people you pride yourself with arresting are shoplifters, forgetting that this shoplifter is shoplifting because your government stole money for his employment.

Hon Stan Mathabatha, you do not know this province and you do not lead with passion. You don't take these realities of our people seriously. To you, it's a by the way issue. You are committing crime against humanity. Your action of ignorance must be punishable because it steals away the lives of our people. There is no new dawn you are bringing. Instead you are bringing to us a horrible dawn. Knowing you with your empty ego, you will not get the message from this response. You will want to come back here and respond with sarcasm because you lead your ego not your people. You do not have the capacity to rise above.

We have lost Tebogo Phukubje on the N1 road because of construction abandoned by Basil Read. You are quiet about this road that killed Tebogo and many others. It seems your government … [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Member, your time is up.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

… is more on killing than saving lives. Chief, please man, stop playing; our people are suffering out there. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Honourable Member, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Madam Speaker, it is unfortunate that I had to come in towards the end of Hon Buthane's speech. I thought Hon Buthane was not necessarily debating about the State of the Province Address, but his was an attack on the person of the Premier. I thought it would be proper for him to be called to order and in future for him to retract the words he was using against the Premier. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, you are recognised.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Speaker, Hon Sekoati must not beg for work or job. A se ke a rapeletša mmereko ka leina la ka. I spoke about the SOPA that the Premier presented; I spoke even about the figures, something very difficult for them to do on the other side. I spoke to the details of the SOPA. I gave advice. It tells you that this advice is not going to be taken

because people want to defend. Which words did I use that were personally attacking? Which words?

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Buthane. I can see honourable Member over there your hand is up.

MR SELANE

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I want to support what Hon Sekoati was saying, because the behaviour of Hon Buthane is too despotic. As such we are requesting that he retracts such words. The mere fact that he is mentioning in his statements that there is hallucination from the Premier; he is out of order and we are not going to tolerate it. Thanks.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, I am not going to continue to allow hands. We are saying when the House is sitting, we should deliberate on the debates and not do character assassination in terms of words that attack the person than the speech that was delivered in the House. I think that is the spirit in which Members are raising the issue. When that issue was raised, Hon Buthane stood up and extended to say he spoke to the debate itself. I think Members are indicating that in the debate there were words that were used that were not friendly, like saying a leader is hallucinating which might impact on another seriously when it comes to the existence of a person if during the day the person continues to hallucinate. I think that is why that word is said not to be appropriate, and we appeal that it should not be used again in the House. I do not want us to go on debating this, but I think these are some of the things that as we start with our sixth parliament, we should debate and do all sorts of things, but we should not use inappropriate words while debating. [INTERJECTION]

MR SMALLE

Chair, I want to rise on a point of order … [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Smalle, you are a Member of the House. Until I ask you to speak you wait, because I am going to give you that chance. But harassing the mic while I am still on the floor is not proper. You may speak, Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Hon Speaker, both Members and yourself interpret rules differently. The rule says whilst any Member is speaking, any Member can stand up and raise a point of order of retraction of words that have been said and should have been done during that speech. Coming at the end of a speech and then trying to put through a comment, is not a point of order. I am requesting that Members and the Hon Speaker stick to the rules and our proceedings will go smoothly.

THE SPEAKER

Including yourself. You will speak when you are pointed. Hon Buthane, you are recognised.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I don't want us to leave this House with a wrong understanding. No one here is going to teach the other how to speak. When you listen to someone delivering a speech, you must listen to it holistically and not selectively. That 'hallucination' does not come as a single item thrown to the Premier. It does not say Hon Premier you are hallucinating. You need to listen to the whole content. It is not my fault that people decided to be selective. I want to move with your ruling that let us proceed. No one … and I want to reiterate at the beginning of this term … No one is going to tell the EFF how to speak and how to write speeches. No one.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I made a ruling already. I will open my eyes, Hon Sekoati. Next time when the speaker is on the floor raise your hand and I will afford you the opportunity to raise your order.

I thought it's us the new people that forget these things, like switching off our mic. Thank you, Hon Masekoameng, for reminding the Member to switch off the mic. We are now going to move to our next speaker. We will be appreciative if you respect the time. Hon Essob Mokgonyana, you may come to the podium. Let's welcome him. Thank you very much.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members of the Legislature, we greet you this morning. We are meeting here today during a special month in which we are celebrating our global icon and the father of our nation, President Nelson Mandela. As we commemorate his 101th birthday. His undying spirit continues to live with us. We will continue to celebrate him together with other heroes and heroines of our struggle for bestowing their lives for the emancipation of the masses of our people.

We must indicate Hon Premier that we are done with our campaigning. We went to the people and listened to what the people said. We told the people that we heard them, hence the people accepted our mandate. Having accepted our mandate, it would mean that we would request people whose mandates were rejected by the masses to allow us to lead. [APPLAUSE] Therefore, we are no longer in a campaigning mood, but we are implementing what we said we would do to the people of this province.

We stand here today to first thank the people of South Africa, in particular 74% of the people of Limpopo who voted for us for renewing our mandate and entrusting us with their votes. We are deeply grateful for their support and their support shall never be taken for granted. Ours is to serve the masses with diligence and determination.

As the ANC, we take our mandate from the masses of our people. We agree with you Hon Premier that indeed this is the New Dawn that is about building a province that we all want and can be proud of as we continue to reduce the levels of inequality, poverty and creating more jobs. Of course, this is against a very difficult economic climate and ever changing global dynamics in politics.

According to Statistics South Africa, Limpopo and the Eastern Cape are provinces where poverty is very high. In terms of the money matrix definition of poverty, 72% of Limpopo citizens are classified as poor with a median spending power of R992 per month. About 30% of households in Limpopo get their money from social grants compared to 73% in the Western Cape getting their income from their salaries. About 20% of households in Limpopo have been identified as indigent. The state, therefore, through the policies of the ANC, remains the last buffer between our people and the reality of extreme poverty, hence the importance of functional and accountable governance.

We cannot overemphasise how important it is to ensure that the province delivers to our people. We are not quoting numbers for their own sake, but to highlight the enormity of the task that lies ahead. The face of poverty in Limpopo is young, black and rural with the African women in particular bearing the heaviest load.

It was highlighted during the State of the Province Address that as a province our current unemployment rate is 18,5%, which, of course, is the lowest across the country. However, we acknowledge that we have increased from 16,6% in the last quarter of 2018. It is therefore important to note that the expanded definition remains at 43%, which is thorny for any government. The expanded definition talks to those that have given up looking for work over and above the official definition. We take care and also keep in mind the so-called discouraged job seekers; lest we miss the ball if we do that. This is a challenge we face in an economy that is not growing as fast as it should. Therefore, the drivers of poverty have been identified as unemployment, poor education, sanitation, water and the type of dwelling.

We agree, Hon Premier, that in Limpopo unemployment remains the biggest problem. The plans that you have mentioned regarding the SEZs in Makhado-Musina and Tubatse must be accelerated, because for our people the frustration of unemployment is real, and this shall bring prospects for economic regional cooperation. These plans must bear fruits and should adhere to the set time limits so that we retain the face of our people and fast track our efforts to create jobs. Amongst these measures, is the growth and development plan which seeks to ensure that Limpopo becomes one of the major contributors to national wealth by 2030. This is in line with the ANC manifesto, which was accepted by the voters, which is about transforming the economy in order to serve all our people through the interventions of promoting a developmental growth path to create more jobs. Not just jobs but decent and sustainable jobs. This, however, will need all of us to push ourselves harder than ever as we seek to achieve a better life for our people. We have an urgent task to deepen our efforts to combat crime, corruption and social ills that create an unnecessary drag in our earnest efforts to accelerate social delivery and development to realise an ethical democratic state.

We resolved as the ANC that we are determined to hold our deployees in government accountable to the people. We cannot agree more that our municipalities are not

functioning as we would have wanted them to. We agree that we have listened to our people and we agree with you that you will get the support of the African National Congress in ensuring that our municipalities operate as effectively as they could so that they are able to render services to our people. You therefore are guaranteed of our support as the ANC that any measures that you will take in ensuring that municipalities become accountable and respond to what is needed of them is realised.

We agree with you Cde Premier that young people are the ones that are affected by unemployment in this country. It is also important to know that 73% of the population in Limpopo lives within the borders of the former homelands. This, Cde Premier, implies that in our plan for housing and human settlements, we should ensure that we break that pattern and bring our people closer to towns in order to jumpstart sustainable urbanisation as we have done with the Bendor extension project. Spatial planning must talk to the younger generation of people being able to access areas for settlements in a manner that their parents were not able to. As we plan for housing, let this be a core guiding principle: realignment of settlement to better effect a more urban and a financially viable people.

We want to assure Hon Premier and Members of the Executive Council that you have our unconditional support in your earnest effort to drive our people out of the dehumanising web of abject poverty. The New Dawn needs all of us as a collective to work together and most certainly moving Limpopo province forward.

Despite the challenges that we have raised, we are proud to announce that Limpopo has the highest number of people who own their own houses. Informal settlements are uncommon in Limpopo. To date, from 1994 over 350 000 houses were built in the province in line with national norms and standards. About 94% of the population has access to electricity from which 5% are from universal access. About 80% of households have access to portable water and 57% have access to proper sanitation.

Limpopo, as Hon Ramathuba reported, has the lowest HIV rate in the country and the highest number of people on ARV treatment, suggesting we are winning the war against this pandemic. Limpopo remains the province of peace. We are a peace loving province in the whole country. Therefore, it means that we are doing well insofar as fighting crime is concerned. We agree that there is a scourge of drugs that you reported that it is emerging. We are confident that the MEC responsible for that will be able to deal with that.

Children in this province benefit from the School Nutrition Programme and the No-School-Fee principle, which has contributed to an increase in children attending primary school to above 90%. The school nutrition programme and the child support grants have been acknowledged by the World Health Organisation as significant factors in reducing the effects of poverty in children and eliminating general malnutrition. This, Hon Premier, can only be delivered by the government that is dedicated to serve the will of the people. These two must once again be seen in our efforts to create more jobs and better opportunities for our people. The ANC has always been a listening and caring government and as such we are confident that the Premier and the Executive have heard what our people have said.

The ANC has always been called the government of the people by the people. This is something that we will never lose track of, hence our concern about the decline in

voter turnout. This government has in the past ten years invested more than R2 trillion in infrastructure projects to build more schools, clinics, roads and freight logistics network. We are delighted that a solid foundation to rollout the broad band infrastructure for the entire province has been laid. Evidently, the construction of a data centre has been completed, not forgetting the network operation control centre that has been completed.

Free Wi-Fi hotspots are available, and beneficiaries of these technological advances are students, our SMMEs and our communities at large. We also note with excitement that the implementation of the Limpopo Science and Technology Park in partnership with Polokwane Municipality under the capable stewardship of Salga President and the Executive Mayor, Cllr Thembi Nkadimeng, is well underway. What makes us rejoice is nothing but the fact that this park is central to the safe and smart city initiatives which are creating an ecosystem which promotes innovation and heightens competitiveness.

We would like to thank the Hon Premier in that this financial year farmers in the areas of poultry, livestock and vegetable farming will receive infrastructure support. It is through this support that fruit and vegetable production initiatives across the five districts will receive irrigation systems. There will be poultry infrastructure and production inputs for farmers in Sekhukhune, to mention but a few.

In addition, we are gratified that over 13 700 farmers across the province will be provided with production input and mechanisation support. Without a doubt, we are certain that this support will serve its purpose of minimising the impact of high input costs on emerging and financially needy farmers. The New Dawn is indeed in motion. Hon Premier indicated in his address that the Minister for Finance has allocated a budget of R3,9 billion for the construction of the Limpopo Academic Hospital, a huge infrastructure project which is being implemented in partnership with the national Department of Health. In the same breath, an amount of R10 million has been budgeted to kickstart the Limpopo provincial theatre.

The 2018 Presidential Health Summit highlighted the state of crisis in our health system and called for a stronger social compact among key stakeholders.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Member, you are left with one minute.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We therefore thank Hon Premier for reasserting our commitment with regard to quality healthcare. More than 50 ambulances will be procured in this financial year, and a partnership has been entered into with the University of Limpopo to train more EMS personnel. I would like to pause there and say that the ANC has got capacity. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member. We are now going to invite Hon Jacobus Smalle to the podium. Let’s welcome him.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier, the Executive and Members of this august House, allow me to start by thanking you for this opportunity to address this House and to offer my apologies for not being present during the Official Opening Address due to other pressing commitments. The State of the Nation Address by the President Ramaphosa sets the tone for the direction our governance in provinces should take over the next five years, and I hope in this Sixth Legislature, we take the functions of this House and our responsibilities to the constituencies we represent seriously.

The address by the Premier has outlined many grand plans and this is positive, but he must ensure these are all implemented in their entirety. In this new term you and your Executive must steer away from creating expectations that you fail to fulfil and cause a breakdown in the trust relationship between provincial government and our citizens.

With this in mind, I think it is wrong that we focus on a misleading narrative of an official unemployment rate of 18,5% but fail to focus on the 43,1% expanded unemployment rate in the first quarter of 2019 which is the first highest in the country. Premier, we need a solid plan to address the two million people who are not economically active and the 622 000 discouraged work seekers. In fact, we must make them our first priority in this province. We need to support SMMEs and create market linkages; we must look to grow labour intensive industries and we must look to lure investment in the province by reducing red tape and making it easy to set up businesses in the province.

The idea that the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone will create the much-needed employment in the province is one that we support. We need details around the actual cost and investments into the SEZ project and the plans around local beneficiation. Which locally owned businesses will benefit and whether there has been firm commitment by SANRAL, Prasa, Departments of Water and Sanitation; Energy; and CoGTA of their support in the development of this SEZ and linking of those budget commitments with their APPs.

There is also a need for clarity around the finalisation of the EIA report and issues raised thereon. Greater clarity is needed on where the water will come from; who will pay for the infrastructure and the timeframe assigned to finalising this important project.

The Department of Education continues to underperform in this province, despite getting the lion’s share of our Budget. While we welcome the construction of four special schools to the amount of R900 million, it is not clear where this money will come from as it does not appear in the APP up until the 2021 financial year. The upgrading of 67 schools is still short of the target set of 78 in total. The commencement of the construction of 123 schools infrastructure project is still insufficient, considering the R21 billion infrastructure and maintenance backlog that this province has got. The current funding model must be revisited in order to address this backlog.

We need stronger mechanism to support learners and teachers and we can no longer have situations where two or three teachers teach the entire school. Our children

simply do not benefit from that model. However, we do look forward to new ideas and progress under MEC Boshielo after years of disappointment under Hon Kgatjepe.

Our municipalities continue to show no improvement. None of our municipalities managed to get a clean audit, despite spending R177 million on consultants. It is unacceptable that our municipalities have racked up R4 billion in irregular, unauthorised, fruitless and wasteful expenditure in the previous financial years, and had material findings due to non-compliance with legislation. It is clear municipal officials, senior managers and politicians are not being held accountable for transgressions of good financial management and the Premier's lack of emphasis on this is concerning.

Reporting systems like section 71 reports that serve as a mere warning system have simply become a box-ticking exercise. Municipalities continue to have high levels of debt to Eskom and water boards and they owe Eskom R366 million and also owe water boards R1,2 billion. The old infrastructure has led to electricity and water loses which contributed to this debt. We need to have the Department of CoGHSTA assisting municipalities by supporting grant application dedicated to upgrade and maintain infrastructure in these municipalities.

Hon Premier and your new team of MECs have a large task at hand to address our challenges in this province. We need transparency and accountability to move forward as a province to deliver on the promises made during the Official Opening Address. When you speak about bringing about 20% youth into the economic market; when you speak about bringing about 20% of women into the economic market; when you bring 7% of people living with disabilities into economic market, we do not want to see the same business benefitting. We want to see how we grow our entrepreneurs so that we don't always look up to the same entrepreneurs. That would be a transparent government and the government which takes people forward.

I would just like to add to what the previous speaker said and say, we as the government should be worried because the biggest voter base was the people that stayed away. About 1, 2 million people could have voted, and they didn't vote and that is more than the ANC votes that were cast in the 2019 elections. That is what we should be concerned about. We are not doing what we should be doing, and I hope that in the Sixth Parliament, we can turn that around so that, that figure doesn't become bigger than any of the political parties. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Smalle. We shall now move to the next speaker and we are now inviting Hon Basikopo Makamu to the podium. Let's welcome him.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Premier of the Limpopo province, Hon Chupu Mathabatha; Members of the Executive Council; Members of the Legislature; members of the opposition parties present here; the House of Traditional Leadership which is present here; the DG and other HODs who are present here; distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. I can hear even before I start that Hon Buthane wants to

get involved in the issues of the African National Congress. We still have space if you want to come back.

In his Official Opening Address, our Premier said, “The New Dawn is upon us. The dark clouds of despair and hopelessness are retreating to settle in the comfort of a distant memory. The glitters of sunshine which carry a promise of prosperity and a better tomorrow are within our embrace.” With this opening, Premier Mathabatha was setting the tone for the Sixth Limpopo Legislature. Beyond this clarion call is for all of us in the provincial government to live Mama Merriam Makeba’s classic song, *Khawuleza*. In simple translation, khawuleza means hurry up. Khawuleza is what underpins the confidence of the people of South Africa, and of Limpopo in particular who entrusted the ANC to lead the sixth administration of our democratic dispensation. The people of Limpopo expect nothing less than that the Sixth Limpopo Legislature hurrying up and expediting the delivery of essential services, thus rolling back the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

In his Official Opening Address of the Sixth Limpopo Provincial Legislature, Premier Chupu Mathabatha invoked chapter 12 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa which provides for the recognition of the institution, status and role of traditional leadership. With the recognition of the institution, status and role of the traditional leadership follows the function to support the institution. We can never forget that kings and other traditional leaders were there when the ANC was founded in 1912 in Mangaung and these institutions (i.e. Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders and as the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa) remain our reliable ally to this day. Flowing from the provisions of chapter 12 of the Constitution, we are aware of the concerns the institution of traditional leadership has raised about the need for enabling tools of trade for the effective functioning of the institution.

In pursuit for the support of the institution of traditional leadership, we have set aside an amount of R62 million for the construction of seven traditional councils across the province. Premier Mathabatha further revealed that six of the offices are at the construction stage and they should be completed within this financial year. Another project is at the planning stage, the actual construction is about to start as we speak. Further details of these projects and other plans that are supporting the House of Traditional Leaders and other traditional institutions are going to be part of the budget vote for the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs.

As it is a tradition, thorough preparations went to 2019 initiation school season, starting with the preparatory workshop for all stakeholders ahead of the opening of the season. It is the thoroughness that goes into the preparation for the declaration of the initiation schools that has spared us death for the past three years. We have done and continued to do everything in our power to root out illegal initiation schools and therefore avoid unnecessary deaths of initiates. This year we experienced three deaths in three separate schools. I must reveal that these deaths should not have occurred, if the provisions of the law were adhered to. We mourn the lost lives and pledge to ensure that there are no reoccurrences in the future. We will continue to apply the latter and the spirit of the law and therefore, spare this cultural practice from scavengers who are in it for money with no regard for the lives of our youngsters. For this important part of our history and tradition to survive the ravages of modernity, we have to create a conducive environment for it to happen in a protected environment.

This means we need to preserve and enhance the lives entrusted upon us during the initiation season.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the House of Traditional Leaders, the Department of Health and other stakeholders for the sterling work they have done over the years to give the province's initiation school seasons that are free from fatalities. Through your hard work and collaboration, you have become the national benchmark on how to run initiation schools without losses of life under the leadership of Chupu Mathabatha. Let us continue this way and safeguard our customs and traditions and ensure that they prevail forever.

The country is reeling with disappointment at Auditor-General's 2017/18 Municipal Audit Report, which concludes that the vast majority of our municipalities are below the acceptable audit level. The major contributors to adverse audit outcome are weak governance, non-compliance to legislative prescripts, poor quality of annual financial statements, internal control weaknesses, supply chain management challenges and the lack of service delivery in some instances.

Premier Mathabatha made a commitment in his opening address that the sixth administration will have to focus attention on strengthening the capacity of municipalities to fulfil their constitutional mandate. The Premier went on to spell out some of the interventions to be embarked upon to turn around dysfunctional municipalities, and this is what he has said: (1) to support municipalities to attract and retain rare skills, particularly in areas of engineering, town planning, financial and project management; (2) to build the capacity of municipalities to provide basic services; and (3) working with municipalities to support local economic development through sound and flexible regulatory regime.

The Premier further directed the MECs for Provincial Treasury and Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs to work with municipalities to offset their increased debt owed to Eskom and water boards in an equitable and sustainable manner. Further interventions and collaborations will find further expression when we table the Budget and Annual Performance Plan.

With regard to houses, I heard when the numbers were given and people say numbers don't lie, our mission is to optimally deliver integrated and sustainable human settlement. In this regard, we will strive to attain recognised standards for service quality and maintain continuous improvement for service delivery.

I must indicate that in this financial year, we are going to deliver not less than 9 000 houses to our people, despite the fact that people were complaining, because all the moneys that people were referring to as poor spending we have already recovered from the previous financial year. In the 2019/20 financial year, 58 contractors have been appointed to construct additional 6 535 housing units, which are spread across our five districts. The allocation is informed by the needs of various districts, budget allocation, population dynamics as well as readiness of the areas. The total allocated budget for the programmes in this current year is R762 164 365.00. In terms of servicing sites, as a caring government, we take it as our responsibility to ensure that houses that are built have services to ensure improved access to quality life. In the 2018/19 financial year, a total of 2 357 sites were serviced mainly in Bela-Bela, Thabazimbi, Modimolle-Mookgopong, Polokwane and Tzaneen.

We are revitalising our mining towns in implementing the programmes in the following five municipalities: Mogalakwena, Elias Motsoaledi, Thabazimbi, Lephalale and Fetakgomo-Tubatse. In order to restore pride, there is a project into the following subgroups: the registration and endorsement of title deeds, which we call R & E, which refers to properties built after 1994, but before 2014. The other programme is the enhanced extended discount benefit scheme, which refers to properties build before 1994, the opening of township registers and proclamation.

We want to restore pride to our people in making sure that they start to own properties which have never been there before the new government came into power. An amount of R16 320 000 has been budgeted for the delivery of 68 community residential units in Tshikota in Makhado Municipality in the current financial year. There is another one coming in Talana, Tzaneen, and this is what the Premier meant when he said we should khawuleza. The message in the opening address of the Premier is loud and clear and forms the basis of the contract with the people of the province for the 2019/20 financial year.

As you made it clear in your address, we will hurry up the delivery of services to the people of the province. We say Khawuleza. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We are now going to invite Marcelle Maritz to come to the podium. Let's welcome her.

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Thank you for the time that I'm being given to talk to the Premier and thank you to all honourable Members as this is my first debate and please bear with me.

Hon Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus finds it concerning that the Premier, Hon Mathabatha, after the second term is still stuck in the new dawn that carries a promise of prosperity and a better tomorrow. The Freedom Front Plus wants to tell Hon Premier today that the sun is not rising, but is in fact going down for our province. As the Hon Premier said in his address that Limpopo's unemployment rate is one of the highest in South Africa at 18,5%, this all happened under his leadership. No wonder that the province is still struggling with structural economic challenges.

We all know that crime is one of the biggest challenges we have in South Africa and according to crime statistics from Stats SA, Limpopo is fifth on the list of provinces with the highest crime rate. The Freedom Front Plus wants to thank Job Mokgoro, the Premier of North West, and David Makhura, the Premier of Gauteng, for acknowledging the seriousness of farm murders and proposing solutions to them, while our Premier, Hon Stan Mathabatha, still ignores it. This is a cause for concern for the Freedom Front Plus.

Hon Premier did not make any mention about the people of Limpopo's safety, whether it is for the community, schools, farmers, farmworkers, towns or rural safety in villages. The province is gifted with rich agricultural resources and it is one of the country's

prime agricultural regions. This is why it is a great concern for the Freedom Front Plus that safety is not addressed as it is one of the main reasons why our agricultural sector is declining. Although the agricultural sector contributes about 3% to the provincial GDP, it is still one of the biggest contributors towards the employment sector of about 10% in Limpopo. This very fact is the reason why we have to make sure that the farming sector as a whole is protected.

Hon Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus is glad to see that the Hon Premier has a plan in place for infrastructure … [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maritz, can you hold on. Hon Buthane, is that an order?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I just want to find out if she is willing to take a question?

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maritz, are you willing to take a question? Okay, she is not willing to take a question.

MS MARITZ

The Freedom Front Plus is glad to see that the Hon Premier has plan in place for infrastructure support such as irrigation systems and various production support in Limpopo, but he did not mention anything in his address about the infrastructure of water security plan. The Freedom Front Plus would like to know how the Hon Premier will execute the plan if day zero is in fact upon us. Due to global warming and increasing demand, a well-designed water infrastructure plan should have been one of the key factors in the address.

About 28% of the dams in Limpopo's water levels are below 50% water capacity and 18% of these dams are under 15%, and 10% of this water is not suitable for human consumption. When we reach day zero and we have no infrastructure and with no plan in place, this will certainly have devastating impact on agriculture, economy, education, tourism and health. Hon Premier commended municipalities such Capricorn District, Blouberg, Letaba, Fetakgomo-Tubatse and Collins Chabane for spending more than 90% of their allocated budget. However, not even a single municipality or municipal entity in the province managed to receive a clean audit. This clearly shows that taxpayers' money is being misused and alarm bells should be ringing. It is clear that the municipalities that are guilty of corruption and maladministration are not reprimanded.

The Freedom Front Plus wants to know when will the Premier take action against those municipalities. It is precisely because of this dismal state of affairs that there is a backlog in service delivery. Please, we need that answer, Hon Premier. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER [PRESIDING]

Thank you very much, Hon Maritz. We shall proceed and call upon Hon Tandi Moraka to address the House.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier of our province, honourable Members of the Executive Council present here, honourable Members of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature, the Director-General and Heads of Department present here, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen, goeie morê. Dumelang. Ndi matsheloni.

Hon Speaker, the people of South Africa and Limpopo have once more entrusted the African National Congress, which is the oldest liberation movement in the continent of Africa, with the responsibility to lead them in the process of building a developmental state that is ethical, that is capable and that is clean from any malpractice.

Indeed, the New Dawn calls on all of us to khawuleza and speed up the process of changing the lives of our people for the better. Hon Maritz, for the sun to set, there should first be a new dawn. I thought I should assist you with free education, because you said you are new in this House.

In recognition of our former President uTata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela's contribution to the culture of peace and freedom, the United Nations General Assembly has declared 18 July as the International Nelson Mandela Day. The UN has recognised Mandela's values and his dedication to the service of humanity in conflict resolution, promotion and protection of human rights, race relations and reconciliation and the rights of children.

The theme for International Nelson Mandela Day is as follows: "Change the world, take action". We are hereby calling upon all of us to really heed to the call of that theme of the International Nelson Mandela Day celebration by calling upon all of us as Members of this august House to really be agents of change and make every day a Mandela Day.

In realising this year's Nelson Mandela International Day's theme, allow me to take this opportunity and urge all of us as Members of this august House to respond positively to the call that is made by the provincial government of Limpopo that is led by our Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, when he is calling upon all the citizens of this province to massively participate in sport. I hereby make a call to my immediate Members on my immediate left to say, help us and come and join us in that process of massively participating in sport so that we can have communities that are healthy and which can be guaranteed of a long life.

Hon Speaker, the reason why we want to urge everyone to participate in sport is necessarily because Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela himself was a sportsman. Besides him being the head of state and the most recognised global icon, he has contributed immensely in the process of sport development in the country and even beyond the borders of this country. It was the very same Nelson Mandela who lifted the Webb Ellis Trophy in 1995 after the Springbok's victory during the 1995 Rugby World Cup. Again in 1996, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela inspired Bafana Bafana to clinch the prestigious Africa Cup of Nations. The nation was really united and celebrating the victory of our national football team, regardless of colour, race, age and gender. When he was

addressing the nation after the 1995 Springbok's World Cup victory, uTata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela said that sport "has the power to inspire, the power to unite people in a way that little else does and sports has the power to change the world."

We are inspired by the team effort and the performance of our own Bafana Bafana, our national team, after they walloped the Egyptians in their own backyard in the recent football match. We want to take this opportunity to congratulate our national team Bafana Bafana for reaching the quarter finals of the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations, where they were knocked out by the Super Eagles of Nigeria last night. Given the recent performance of our national football team Bafana Bafana, it has made us to realise that a dream written down with a date becomes a goal, a goal broken down into steps becomes a plan, and a plan backed up by actions becomes a reality.

In his address, the Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, reminded us that there is a need for us to strengthen intergovernmental relations, between national departments, provincial government departments and local municipalities. Indeed, Hon Premier, your words did not fall on deaf ears. We are now more than ready to collaborate with our various stakeholders who are mandated by our own ANC-led government to drive the developmental agenda without any compromise.

We are keenly aware that the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture has identified school sports as a programme that must be implemented by all our public schools. Hon Speaker and Premier, let me put it on record here that we still have got racism trying to raise its ugly head in the province of Limpopo when we have certain laerskools in the area of Bela-Bela, certain laerskools in the area Modimolle, Tzaneen and here in Polokwane which are refusing to participate in that school sport programme.

Hon Smalle and Hon Maritz, we can't continue to turn a blind eye when racism is continuing to try and raise its ugly head in the province of Limpopo. The programme of school sports must be implemented by all our public schools with the sole intention of trying to build a South Africa that is united; a South Africa that is prosperous and South Africa that is non-racial. We are calling upon all of you to help us to talk to those principals in those schools where they are still refusing their learners to participate in school sport, because that programme Hon Premier is going to make our learners from all the schools to mix with learners from previously disadvantaged communities.

Through intergovernmental relations, we need to collaborate with all our municipalities in the province of Limpopo in an endeavour to address the lack of sport infrastructure in our various communities. The apartheid legacy has managed to deprive our rural communities from accessing sport and recreational facilities, because in the past, these sport and recreational facilities were only built in areas where they were regarded as towns and cities. And it has really left a backlog that the ANC-led government is trying its level best to address it so that we can have sport and recreational facilities in rural areas of this province, like Muyexe and GaMalebogo, an area where Hon Donald Selamolela comes from.

Although we still need to do more, in the process of building sport and recreational facilities in our province, we are talking to the Department of CoGHSTA to help us to talk to those municipalities and say through the call that was made by our Hon Premier, we need to collaborate as provincial departments. We are more than ready, Hon

Premier, to heed to that particular call that you have made and make sure that we collaborate with our municipalities and build sport and recreational facilities so that our children can continue to showcase their God-given talents without any hindrance.

Let me take this opportunity and thank our Hon Premier for recognising and appreciating the talent of our golden girl, Mokgadi Caster Semenya. Let me also take this colossal opportunity and congratulate Baroka FC for winning the Telkom Knockout Cup in the 2018/19 season. Indeed, Hon Premier, we have got a lot to tell our people. The agenda for youth development is a priority for this ANC-led government, as mentioned by our Hon Premier in his State of the Province Address. Our understanding is that young people have a lot of energy. Young people want to make sure that they redirect their energy towards activities that are going to help them become better citizens of this province.

Hon Premier, I could really understand you when you were raising issues that talk to young people having to be called a lost generation. They are called a lost generation necessarily because they are redirecting their energies towards social ills that are not going to benefit them with anything. There is a high utilisation of alcohol and substance abuse by our young people and that should not be ignored by all of us seated in this august House. We need to join hands and make sure that we confront these social ills as and when they try to raise their ugly heads.

Hon Premier, let me remind all the honourable Members that our former President O R Tambo once said that a country that does not value its youth and children does not deserve its future. Indeed, we want to bring to the attention of this august House that the young people who emanate from this province of Limpopo have indeed in the past two months raised the flag of Limpopo in the international space. We have seen the likes of Noko Matlou and Lebogang Ramalepe, who were representing South Africa in the Fifa Women's World Cup in France, and representing Banyana Banyana. Those football players are originating from this province of Limpopo.

Similarly Hon Speaker, two players from this province Limpopo will be representing South Africa at the International Vitality Netball World Cup in Liverpool, England. Those players are Lenize Potgieter who comes from Polokwane and Khanyisa Chawane who comes from Tzaneen. This should give hope to other young people that anything is possible as long as you are dedicated, committed and getting all the necessary support that you need from your government so that you can showcase your God-given talent without any hindrance.

Hon Premier, we want to salute you for making sure that you clearly articulate the need for the building of a provincial theatre for utilisation by our various artists in the province of Limpopo, so that they should not travel to other provinces … [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Member, you have a minute remaining.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

… so that they should not be travelling to the provinces like Gauteng, as and when they want to continue to make a meaningful impact in the creative industry sector. We

heard you clearly when you said that the feasibility study must be commenced in this financial year. We want to assure you that in the coming financial year, the actual construction work for the provincial theatre that is long overdue is going to be done by nobody else, but the government of the ANC led by the Hon Premier of this province.

Let me take this opportunity and clarify the issue of Sho Madjozi. Sho Madjozi is a 27-year old BET Award winner. Hon Premier, you have really made us proud when you congratulated Sho Madjozi and regarded her as the first African female musician to have won this award. As the ANC-led government, we have supported Sho Madjozi through the platforms we have given her when she came and performed in the province of Limpopo. We want to clarify these Members who want to come here and distort the support that we continue to give to our artists. Sho Madjozi did not find herself in the process of winning the BET Award. It was the very same ANC-led government that had given her the opportunity to showcase her God-given talent.

We did not go to O R Tambo to pose for pictures. We went there with the masses of the people of this province, having procured a luxury bus that ferried the fans of Sho Madjozi, to go and welcome her in a manner that is befitting an artist of her calibre.

Those who want to recognise the good work that we are doing will continue to do that and those who want to criticise for the sake of grandstanding will continue doing so. We want to assure you Hon Premier that let us have our eyes on the ball, the people of this province are waiting patiently for us to change their lives for the better. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member. May I orientate you about the mic, honourable MEC. When you finish addressing the House, you switch it off. I have learnt that. We are going to move to the next speaker. We will be inviting Hon George Raphela to the podium.

MR RAPHELA

Thanks, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity to also contribute to the debate. Before we can start, I would just say that if the EFF would be in government, we will not be complaining about anything. We will be decisive. If we were in government Hon Tandi, we would be decisively dealing with racism and not complaining about it. By the way, the resources that are used in government are not ANC resources. These are the resources of the state which all of us contribute through our taxes. The bus that transported passengers to the O R Tambo International Airport to welcome Sho Madjozi is a bus which we contributed to as well. It is not a bus organised by the ANC using its expenses. I wanted to clarify that as well.

Hon Speaker, the SOPA presented by the Premier to the people of Limpopo last Friday was nothing more than an old dawn disguising as the new dawn. Like with all the previous SOPAs, our people are bombarded with empty promises tied up with big concepts and words that we know will never come to pass. The people must never be fooled or fall for the so-called New Dawn, because this is just an attempt to hypnotise – honourable Members, the term hypnotise is a health word and not an insult, Hon

Premier. We are not being personal, but are remarking to the speech – attempt to hypnotise them for the next five years with false hopes and half-truths.

The EFF will take this opportunity to illustrate to the people of Limpopo that the New Dawn which the Premier presented is just a fallacy. The latest report as mentioned by the previous speakers on municipalities released by the Auditor-General is one example which the Premier acknowledged as well.

As we noted, the provincial government incurred an irregular expenditure of R1,063 million while it also incurred an unauthorised expenditure of R2,083 million during the same period while our people continue to live in poverty. The Auditor-General decried the fact that there is also an overreliance on consultants by municipalities resulting in a R177 million payment bill, the very same duties that the state can fulfil. But because the ANC has lost its revolutionary aspects since it came into power, Hon Tandi, particularly because it is the very same organisation that used to believe in strengthening the state role in developmental economy … [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Member, can you please pause; there is an order. Hon Moraka, is that an order?

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Hon Speaker, I'm rising on a point of order because as part of the rules of this august House, we are not allowed to address Members by their first names. I thought that Hon Raphela has learnt a lesson the past five years when he was here. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Raphela, can you respect the honourable Members and afford them the respect that they deserve as you address them. Thank you.

MR RAPHELA

Thanks, and we will never be friends in any case. Hence our manifesto mentioned that we should abolish the usage of private companies to fulfil functions and duties that the government should fulfil and ban the usage of consultants and project management units as a basis for delivering government services. We will build a responsive and effective local government and build municipalities that are capable instruments for service delivery and vehicles for economic transformation.

Delays by your administration in meting out proper service delivery, particularly proper water and sanitation to the most impoverished communities in the province have resulted in the death of children. We mentioned Nsuku Mhlongo, a 6-year old boy from Giyani who fell in a trench that was left open by a company that was handling the R3 billion bulk water project. The deaths of children are an indictment of a society that fails its most vulnerable, time and time again without a sense of either accountability or a commitment to do better.

We spoke about the issue of the death of initiates. I am referring here to the people who died during the initiation season because they went to fly-by-night initiation schools.

I want to come to this one of the awarding of a tender for the whole provincial government by Treasury to Travel with Flair as mentioned before. We acknowledge that, that was done by the previous MEC to monopolise the sector, and it is scandalous and unacceptable. We hope that the current MEC will change that process, because it will not contribute to the development of our people in Limpopo.

We are saying that the exclusion of local companies by awarding them only remnants of the contract denies them the opportunity to participate in the mainstream economy of the province forcing them to close down, resulting in workers losing jobs and livelihood. In the immediate, we hope that you reverse this tender in support of your own local people for the vision of developing your own people of the province. Ultimately, this should be stopped, and the state should take responsibility for doing such so that more people can be employed with proper salaries not what these consultants give to the workers as salaries. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Member, you have a minute remaining.

MR RAPHELA

Now that you want to stop me, let me go down. The Premier spoke about the creation of jobs. We wish in his response the Premier will tell the people of our province what kind of jobs is he speaking about. This is because you also classify EPWP as a job which is purely demeaning of our people. Worse off, there are leaders of Cosatu and SACP in your team who further accept such definition of a job or employment. That clearly shows that it is not about the class interests but their personal interests and using the working class to ascend the ladder. This is free education, Hon Tandi Moraka – but anyway we know that these structures are used as a tool by the ANC to tame the working class, Chief Whip. This is coming to an end, because we are here as the EFF to safeguard the interests of the working class in these bourgeoisie institutions while we continue to consolidate the struggle for socialism on the ground. The elements of selling out the revolution and your constituency, you start to see them by what the Chief Whip and the former chairperson of Cosatu and organised (inaudible) the working class should rely on. All of them came to this Legislature and nothing fundamental has changed, but instead of executing their roles, they continue defending the neoliberal policies to the detriment of the working class. This is what the former leader of Cosatu is doing now. Be warned, the people are watching you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member. Allow me to call the next speaker to the podium, Hon Seaparo Sekoati. Let’s welcome him. Be mindful of your minutes.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm going to request that next time we use our mother tongue, because this English is creating havoc amongst some of us here. I'm not going to respond to what you have raised. We must use our mother tongue to deal with that. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

You are on the podium, so I'm counting your minutes.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council present, esteemed Members of the Provincial Legislature, Director-General, HODs who are here and other senior members of our government, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen; I greet you. Madam Speaker, the State of the Province Address as tabled by the Premier, Hon Chupu Mathabatha, has given an account of progress in dealing with challenges facing the people of Limpopo. It takes an honest leader to present a fair and a balanced account of a government that enjoys the support of the majority of the people irrespective of their political persuasions. True to this custom, the Hon Premier must be commended for this.

The Premier presented a very elaborate and detailed State of the Province Address, and I therefore intend not to further expand on the bold commitments that he has already announced. However, it would be important to say in the words of the Hon Premier that access to basic services remains one of the focal points of the ANC-led government. Hon Premier eloquently summed it up by saying: "The masses of our people have said to the ANC that as you continue to govern, you must now focus on the following: economic transformation and job creation, education, skills and health, delivery of reliable and quality basic services, transforming human settlements and strengthening local government, social cohesion and safe communities, building a capable, ethical and developmental state and above all building a better Africa and a better world." These are the words of the Hon Premier, giving us a direction as the people of the province and also as Members of the Executive Council as to what becomes the focus of this sixth administration in an effort to create a better for all, a commitment that is a reality specifically on the transformation of the economy to serve all people through interventions that promote a developmental growth path to create more jobs and decent jobs, Hon Raphela. As stated in the ANC manifesto: This will need sustainable and radical land reform and a plan to broaden ownership of the economy. It will mean that we must address monopolies, excessive concentration and the growth inhibiting-structure of the economy and advance an industrial plan for localisation." [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Just hold on honourable MEC, there is an order. Please raise your order.

MR RAPHELA

I just want to check if Hon Sekoati will be able to take a question, to clarify if the EPWP … [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Raphela, just hold on. Before you ask your question, let me ask Hon Sekoati if he is prepared to take your question. Hon Sekoati, are you ready to take any questions?

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

I think he must understand what I said; I said decent jobs.

MR RAPHELA

So EPWP are decent jobs?

THE SPEAKER
Hon Raphela, you cannot batter the speaker, allow him to speak.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Furthermore, rebuilding and renewing a capable and developmental state will require reorganising the way government interacts with the people, rebuilding and improving local government and improving public accountability, responsiveness to the needs and concerns of the people and rebuilding as well as improving the local government system, as stated in the ANC manifesto. Remember, Hon Raphela, it's only the ANC manifesto that we can talk about now. It is only the ANC that won the elections and has the opportunity to implement its own manifesto. There is no other manifesto that we can talk about except that of the ANC.

The Premier has indeed outlined the plan in the orientation of the state-owned entities, especially focusing on the capacity in order to carry out the mandate. All these say to us that the Premier has thoroughly looked, assessed and evaluated the institutions that need to be revamped and capacitated in order to make sure that all the things that have been said are implemented, as we move from policy development to implementation.

With regard to infrastructure development, we'll work towards the advancement of socioeconomic transformation that will continue to make education and health our priorities to radically improve access to quality education and healthcare services, building more homes and also making sure that there is an integrated, affordable, accessible and reliable public transport system and working towards a comprehensive social security system to protect the wellbeing of the people and society.

The infrastructure projects such as Asiphumelele in Sekhukhune, Rivoni in Vhembe, Pfunanani in Mopani and Mhinga in the Vhembe area as stated by the Hon Premier will be a huge contribution to the development of infrastructure, particularly to those young people who are living with disability.

The building of new libraries in various villages and the construction of a tertiary hospital present the vision and commitment to implement our progressive programme.

The revitalisation of irrigation schemes, support to black farmers and transformation of the agricultural sector provide a response to the New Dawn, which demands an

economy that grows at higher rates, creates jobs and opportunities for SMMEs to thrive and promote equitable distribution of resources.

The flagship Musina-Makhado SEZ indeed presents an opportunity for the province to capitalise on the abundance of mineral resources found in this province. It also stands to expand our capacity and capability in manufacturing which will ultimately increase the labour absorption rate of the province so that we are able to address those numbers you already alluded to in terms of the expanded statistics of the unemployed in the province. However, Hon Maritz, to clarify you, at 18% we are not the highest, we are the lowest. That is the official statistics and not the expanded. We are the lowest at that level. However, we do take into account these other statistics that we have to deal with, hence the Premier has said to all of us that the SEZ flagship becomes a priority for the province so that we are to unlock the potential in terms of job opportunities and also make sure that as a province we are able to contribute to the GDP of the country. We will make sure that we enormously contribute about 10% in terms of the estimated SEZ contribution. It further stands to increase the skills capacity of the people of the province in terms of the plan to make sure that as we develop the SEZ, our young people are thoroughly skilled and have the required skills, so that we do not import skills to the province, like we did with other projects we have already implemented; but we are able to utilise the skills that have been produced in this province. The fortunes of the people of the province will indeed improve for the better and the value of the mineral resources will therefore be unlocked.

The application of the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ is also crucial to the economic development of the province and in fighting poverty, unemployment and inequalities. We have heard the Hon Premier saying that the application process needs to be fast-tracked to make sure that ultimately Sekhukhune starts with the implementation thereof.

Hon Premier has also eloquently presented the progress registered in the revitalisation of the industrial parks in the province to make them attractive to investors and industrialists. The revitalisation will inspire innovation in production of goods and services required in the province, for they also have the potential to reduce unemployment amongst our young people. We welcome black industrialists that inspire enterprises with the courage to continue to invest in various job creation initiatives in our province. All these efforts point to a province that is on the road to recovery, growth and renewal.

Hon Raphela, when we talk about jobs, we are talking about jobs that will be created in the industries that bring investors in our province and not only through government programmes. We are talking about the creation of meaningful and sustainable jobs by industries. The government is there to create enabling environments for investments to come in the province so that we are able to create those sustainable jobs.

The agricultural sector plays a pivotal role in the economic wellbeing of the province. It has the potential to be the mainstay of the economic growth. The efforts that have been taken to revitalise agriculture are starting to bear fruits. It is also a known fact that agriculture has the capacity to create more jobs, especially for low skills levels and it is labour intensive. Besides, it has the capacity to reduce poverty in our communities through food security.

The activation of the Lebowakgomo Chicken Abattoir will further activate the resuscitation of small growers, create a market and grow the poultry industry in the province as stated by the Premier in the State of the Province Address. The expansion of primary agricultural production through various progressive programmes as well as the infrastructure provide a potential for growth in this sector.

We all know that the level of growth in the sector has been dampened by amongst others, infights amongst the land restitution beneficiaries. Some of us are coming from those communities where CPAs are fighting and taking one another to courts. Those are some of the challenges that we have been facing as a province in terms of making sure that all the land restitution programmes become productive and contribute to the growth of the economy of the province. When we heard that there are some of those that have already been resolved, we were excited and hoping that they will widen opportunities for primary production in agriculture.

We also know that drought has also played a role in dampening the growth in this sector and the lack of activity in small-scale irrigation schemes and low levels of agro-processing in the province.

However, the focus of the sixth administration under the leadership of Premier Mathabatha will remain optimistic that all these challenges are part of history and these pragmatic programmes elucidated in the State of the Province Address will be able to overcome all those challenges and resolve them. The transformative programmes and support to black farmers will also contribute to the growth of the economy and create new opportunities for the sector. For the realisation of all these progressive programmes, we require a capable state with the necessary capacity to respond to the needs of our communities.

Furthermore, we need to embrace the innovation and the digital revolution upon us. It is our belief, Hon Premier, that the envisaged skills academy that you alluded to in the State of the Province Address will drive the skills revolution, ushering in the Fourth Industrial Revolution to prepare our young people for future skills required by the economy. The broadband will bring about modern infrastructure that will become an enabler for economic growth in the province.

Hon Premier has also expressed commitment in fighting corruption, wastage of public resources and the promotion of good governance in the province. That will be successfully done when all of us work together to root out the cancer of corruption. President Ramaphosa, during the State of the Nation Address also stated: “We resolve to cure our country of the corrosive effects of corruption and to restore integrity in our institutions.” That is in line with what the Premier has already alluded and committed to, hence I am saying that it needs not only the executive, not only government, but also the private sector, our entrepreneurs and everyone to put our hands together and ensure that we are able to root out corruption.

Before I conclude, it will be important to allude to the fact that as we are building this capable state, it is not true that there is no consequence management as alluded to by others. Issues have been raised about the Letaba Hospital, and I thought it was clear that a report was given regarding the maternal death case that happened at Letaba Hospital and that all those people who were involved were taken through whatever processes. Some measures of consequence management were also meted

out to whoever was implicated in any wrongdoing on the matter. All those people were held accountable for their actions. Since the appointment of the new CEO, Mr McDonald Sibuyi and Dr Ramothwala, the senior clinical manager, we have never experienced any death case in that hospital. [APPLAUSE]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Will it bring back the life?

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

It will not bring back the life. I should not be responding, but it would be important to say to you that in this country we have outlawed death penalty. Unfortunately, we have to take certain measures against those ... [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

(inaudible)

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

I am not going to respond to that. In Seshego Hospital also, action has been taken and a new team has been brought into the hospital. The Human Rights Commission which also visited the hospital is happy that remedial action has been taken in addressing the issues which were raised in 2018.

We are a government that is responsive to the needs of the people and a government that is responsible to make sure that those who disobey the law will face the wrath and consequence management will be befall them.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, allow me to reiterate the words of our world icon Dr Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela when he said: “Let there be work, bread, water and salt for all.” I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Sekoati for the presentation. Let me also take this opportunity to thank all the speakers that came and did their presentations. As we know, we are going to afford the Premier the opportunity to respond to the issues in the next sitting. We thank you for debating about the speech.

We are continuing with the business of the day. Item 8 is the Motion for the Ratification of the Appointment of Special Delegates. Is that an order, Hon Buthane?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I’m just saying it’s not healthy. The anger that I see in Hon Makoma, please let her calm down.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Makoma, you are recognised.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Chair, I'm not going to allow what Jossey Buthane is doing to me. Firstly, he is saying serious allegations against me of which I will need evidence. My name has been mentioned unnecessarily and I am not going to keep quiet.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Buthane, I gave you a chance to speak. I also gave a chance to Hon Makoma. You should just stop exercising that, because I can see that you are shouting at each other. No, it can't be. Relax. We will have to find ways of addressing issues. I understand that after we have all debated and all these issues, we will still go to committees and clarify some of these things and debate further. We should not really start the debate as if we are already in committees already. I acknowledge all the things that have been said.

Can I get the mover to the motion for the ratification of the appointment of special delegates? Can I see a hand? Hon Chief Whip, you may take the podium. Hon Chief Whip, you are on the floor, the two have not been recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP

THE RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL DELEGATES TO ATTEND JOINT PLENARIES
(Motion without Notice)

Madam Speaker, House Rule 227(3) provides for the designation and appointment of special delegates when the House is not sitting.

In line with this rule, the following honourable Members were appointed to attend the below-mentioned joint Sittings in Cape Town:

1. The President's State of the Nation Address on 20 June 2019: Hon Ndou J, Hon Mokgonyana E M, and Hon Molapo R R; and

2. The debate on the State of the Nation Address and the Reply by the President on the Debates respectively on 25 and 26 June 2019: Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya M M, Hon Mokgonyana E M and Hon Molapo R R.

Hon Speaker, I hereby move that this House resolves to ratify the appointment of the abovementioned special delegates in line with the provisions of the abovementioned House rule.

I move accordingly, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mokgonyana. Can I get a seconder? Honourable Member, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thanks once more, Hon Speaker. I, Anna Tandi Moraka, rise to second the motion as tabled by the Hon Chief Whip. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. That brings us to the next item on our Order Paper. Are there any announcements? I see a hand. It's over to you, Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thanks. The only announcement that we have that I think will entice Hon Buthane is that lunch will be served in the Big Boardroom Ground Floor, Committees Wing. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We have come to the last item of today. This Sitting is adjourned to Friday, 12 July 2019 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

LIMPOPO
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VERBATIM REPORT

OF THE

DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH PARLIAMENT

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

FRIDAY, 12 JULY 2019

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VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
FRIDAY, 12 JULY 2019
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00

THE SPEAKER

Let's observe a moment of silence as a way of prayer and/or meditation for us to be able to start our day.

[SILENCE]

Thank you. You may be seated. Let me take this opportunity to welcome all honourable Members in the House and also acknowledge the presence of our Hon Premier of Limpopo province. Let me also welcome the members of the media. I can see that today we have media people in the House, but also equally thank you for yesterday's debate. I think the proceedings went on well.

Let me check if you have any motions without notice this morning. Okay, we have a motion without notice. Honourable Member, when you rise, please state your name and your party for recording purposes. They are saying, because we are new in the Sixth Legislature, they need to know us properly. Please state your name and your party when you rise. Honourable Member, you are given an opportunity, yourself here.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Jetrick Seshoka.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS OF THE FOUNDERS OF MULILO SAUCE
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that the House:

- Notes that the EFF in Limpopo congratulates Mpho Mpfuni, the co-founder of Mulilo Sauce, and a third year Bachelor of Commerce student in Cost and Management Science at the University of Venda;

- Mpho is a small-scale commercial farmer, producing mainly vegetables and processing them into hot sauce, and works alongside Gumani Khuliso, who is a well-known chef in the Polokwane area;

- Mulilo Hot Sauce is a hit in the market and is being distributed to other areas around the country;

- Mpho and Gumani own a 10ha farm where they are expanding their business and have currently employed a total of 20 employees;

- They have got a plan to secure an additional 15ha piece of land and look forward to employing additional 100 workers; but are delayed by funding;

- These young farmers had to use money from their own pockets to finance their business to this far;

- We know for a fact that the current government does not support emerging farmers, in particular black farmers, and the possibility of them acquiring more land might be a farfetched dream;

- The EFF government will ensure that young and emerging black farmers in all agricultural development nodes are prioritised and receive technical and financial support; and by so doing, we will be ushering the real new dawn to our people.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member. Is there a seconder for the motion?

MS MPHAHLELE

I, Selaelo Regina Winnie Mphahlele, from the EFF second the motion.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I saw another hand for a motion without notice.

MR MOHLALA

Thank you, Speaker.

THE REBUILDING OF A HOUSE BY THE EFF PARTY
(Motion without Notice)

I am Manamane Charles Mohlala, rising on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that the House:

- Notes that the EFF in the Waterberg District is in the process of rebuilding a house that collapsed two years ago for the Masenya family in Sunsloot, GaMasenya village;

- Members of this family including an 85-year old woman have for the past two years been living in the house without a proper roof;

- The EFF leadership in Waterberg took it upon themselves to rebuild the house for this poor family in order to restore their dignity;

- The ANC government refused to assist, citing budgetary constraints while the budget for corruption is always available;

- The local ANC councillor has also turned his back on the Masenya family. We ask ourselves if this is what the new dawn has to offer. A caring government

could have done everything in its power to assist the family. This tells us that the current government does not have the political will to change the lives of the poor;

- The EFF government will provide quality, spacious houses to all the people like we did in Ndzelele, like we did in Riverside, Sekhukhune, and we are still doing the same in Motloulela, ward 14 of Fetakgomo-Tubatse Municipality; and

- The houses will be located within sustainable human settlements with basic services such as water, electricity, sanitation, schools, shopping complexes, sports and recreation grounds, and parks.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Can I get a seconder? I recognise Hon Managa.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Managa Lilian, am rising from the EFF stand to second the motion as presented by Hon Charlie Mohlala. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Okay, honourable Member, you are recognised.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. My name is Rosemarry Molapo. On behalf of the ANC, I rise to make an update on Matsimela's funeral.

ANNOUNCEMENT ON CDE MATSOBANE MORRIS MATSIMELA'S FUNERAL AND THE PASSING ON OF CDE MADIMETJA DANIEL THINDIZA
(Motion without Notice)

- Yesterday, we put a motion in this House announcing the death of Cde Matsobane Morris Matsimela, a veteran of the struggle who passed on recently;

- We have been informed that there is a memorial service today, which has been scheduled as follows:

  Venue: Maune Village, GaMashashane
  Time : 14:00

- Funeral arrangements are as follows:

  Date : Tomorrow, Saturday, 13 July 2019
  Venue: Maune Village, GaMashashane
  Time : 06:30

- We have also learnt with sadness about the passing on of Cde Madimetja Daniel Thindiza, an ANC ward councillor within the Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality, who has passed on;

- On behalf of the ANC in this House, we would like to convey messages of condolences to the Matsimela and Madimetja families on the loss of their loved ones.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Before I even call for a seconder, can we please rise and observe a moment of silence.

[SILENCE]

May their souls rest in peace!

Thank you. You may be seated. Can I get a seconder for the motion? Hon Makhurupetje, you are recognised.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

I, Makoma Makhurupetje, stand to second the motion as read by Hon Molapo.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there still any hands? Hon Aphiri, you are recognised.

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Madam Speaker.

THE ELECTION OF THEMBI NKADIMENG AS THE PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SALGA)
(Motion without Notice)

I, Mokgadi Johanna Aphiri, rise on behalf of the African National Congress that this House notes:

- The election of Thembi Nkadimeng as the President of the South African Local Government Association;

- Thembi Nkadimeng, who is the Executive Mayor of the Polokwane Municipality, is the newly elected President of SALGA, and succeeds Parks Tau to this prestigious chair;

- The highly decorated Nkadimeng assumes the SALGA incumbency at a time when our municipalities are grappling with the challenges of financial management and audit reports; and

- We are confident in her leadership prowess, and we remain hopeful that under her tutelage, the ship will calm the waters.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Molapo.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

[inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Molapo, thank you. Are there still any hands? Hon Mathye, you are recognised.

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Madam Speaker, and good morning to everybody in the House. I am Mathye Susani Violet representing the African National Congress.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO GOVERNMENT FOR RESOLVING SERVICE DELIVERY STAND-OFF IN ZEBEDIELA
(Motion without Notice)

- We commend government for taking the initiative to resolve the stand-off in Zebediela, where children are unable to attend schools in what is deemed as a service delivery shutdown;

- We applaud the delegation that comprised Hon Dickson Masemola, Hon Polly Boshielo and Hon Monicca Mochadi for representing government in an attempt to resolve this impasse;

- We have to register our concern on the conduct of the citizens that closing down schools is an act of self-sabotage and can only work against the future of their children. Actually, this is an infringement of the rights of their children;

- We welcome government's commitment to find a solution to this stand-off. Actions like these undermine government's persistent efforts of providing basic services;

- We cannot close one existing service in the quest for another. You cannot close a school because you want a tarred road; and

- The bigger picture in all of these is that kids' academic progress will be tempered, and come January when matric results will be announced, Limpopo will continue being a dismal performer compared to other provinces.

I so move, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Can I get a seconder? Honourable Member, you are recognised.

MS KEKANA

I, Nakedi Kekana, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Mathye. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Nakedi Kekana. Do we still have any motions without notice? In the absence of any hand, we will then move to item 3: Notices of motions. We do not have any notices of motions today. Is that a hand, honourable Member? Okay, Hon Buthane, you are recognised.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am just saying next time when they allocate us seats, they must bring the 'Fighter in red' close to us. I am saying next time when they allocate us seats, they must bring the 'Fighter in red' closer to us. [LAUGHTER]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much for being observant, and congratulations to the Fighter. Hon Buthane should not force us to fight to claim the colours of the nation back, because people should wear the colours of the nation. We are happy that you recognised that you want to add numbers.

On item 4, do we have any statements by Members? I can see, Hon Jacobus Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

CONCERN OVER THE STATE OF MUNICIPALITIES AND REQUEST FOR INTERVENTION
(Members' Statement)

The South African Constitution in sections 139 and 216 gives provincial and national government the power, and indeed the instruction to intervene where municipalities fail. The provincial departments of CoGHSTA and Provincial Treasury must intervene, and if this situation cannot be rectified, must dissolve council.

Likewise, the national departments of GoGTA and Treasury must intervene where the situation is bad enough or where provincial intervention has failed. The latest Auditor-General report on municipal audits shows us exactly how provincial government has utterly failed to do anything meaningful to rectify the situation where municipalities have collapsed.

The latest Auditor-General findings shows that Sekhukhune District Municipality and Mogalakwena Municipality respectively incurred irregular expenditure as at year-end of R1,217 billion and R1,717 billion respectively. Will the MEC consider placing the above municipalities under administration, commence an urgent financial forensic audit and immediately charge implicated officials for various malpractices? Can the MEC also confirm if section 71 reports by municipalities are being evaluated; and what actions, if any, are being taken against malfeasance in this regard? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Can I then ask the honourable MEC to acknowledge the statement.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thanks, Hon Speaker. We acknowledge the statement issued by Hon Smalle. We stand here to acknowledge the statement as presented, and also to indicate that there is work that is being done in terms of issues of irregular expenditure of municipalities. My colleague, MEC Sekoati, and I, already have a plan to meet with the municipalities in terms of the audit outcomes. We will be able to come back to the House and indicate the measures taken.

As for the evaluation for the section 71 reports, it is a matter that is being done by the Department of Treasury in consultation with CoGHSTA. Of course, the quality of the section 71 reports is a matter that has to be looked into whether they are quality reports. Like I have just said, it is a matter that is being assessed as we speak. We will come back to the House and present the turnaround strategy in terms of building capacity in our municipalities. Thanks very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any other Members that wish to speak under the item of statements by Members? Hon Mphahlele, you are recognised.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Selaelo Regina Winnie Mphahlele from the EFF and am standing on behalf of the EFF.

LATE PAYMENTS OF SERVICE PROVIDERS BY MVULA TRUST
(Members' Statement)

Mvula Trust is contributing to the killing of small emerging black businesses in Limpopo. The controversial NGO for water and sanitation is not paying service providers as expected, and when they are in a good mood, they pay them in bits and pieces. For them to be paid, it has to take days and months of knocking at the NGO's door in Polokwane offices.

The CEO of Mvula in the province cannot draw the line between politics and the position that he is holding. Instead of promptly responding to the challenges of the service providers, he politicises everything. The service providers have workers to pay, and they also have to sustain their own livelihoods. Mvula Trust is a bad payer, and

always finds it proper to engage in fiscal dumping by filling the pockets of politicians with money.

The EFF in Limpopo will not tolerate this corruption and financial exploitation of the people by Mvula. Many of the businesses have closed shop, because of non-payment by the NGO. Even though Mvula is an NGO, the fact of the matter is that it is doing business with the state, in particular the Department of Education in Limpopo.

It is for this reason that we call upon the MEC for Education to engage the board of trustees of Mvula in order to stop the abuse and exploitation of the people of our province. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. That was directed to the MEC for Education. I might want to refer the matter to any other Member of the Executive Council. MEC, Hon Sekoati, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR TREASURY [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR EDUCATION]

Thank you, Madam Speaker. On behalf of the MEC for Education, we do acknowledge the concern. However, we will make sure that we follow-up the matter, because as a provincial government, we are aware we have got a precedence that we are supposed to be paying within 30 days. Therefore, we will follow-up the matter and make sure that whatever challenges that might be there are actually resolved. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there still any hand on Members' Statement? Honourable Member, you are recognised.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Lilian Managa rising from the Economic Freedom Fighters.

UNNECESSARY DEATHS OF PATIENTS
(Members' Statement)

The selective use of information by the Premier in public platforms is a great concern, because it speaks to issues of character, honesty and integrity. In the recent SOPA that we had last Friday, the Premier indicated that they had 11 successful open-heart operations in Mankweng Hospital. What he didn't mention to the people of our province is that three people died with heart surgeries. No casualties were mentioned in the Premier's address as if all the operations that were done in Mankweng were successful. The people died because of lack of equipment at the hospital to execute such surgeries. They died because of shortage of diathermy pads, and the hospital had to quickly go to Medi-Clinic to request diathermy pads. That was on 26 June 2019.

This means that there were no operations that were done on that same date. Some of the pads that were used had expired. This is because our machines and medical equipment at the hospital are not serviced or calibrated on time. I wish that the MEC for Health was here.

We call upon her department to investigate the matter and put systems in place to avoid further loss of life. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. The statement was directed to the MEC for Health. I am taking back the matter to the Members of the Executive Council to reply. Hon Tandi Moraka, you are recognised.

THE MEC OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR HEALTH]

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to appreciate the statement made by Hon Managa on the unnecessary death of patients in one of our public hospital. I want to assure the honourable Members that the provincial government is not really taking kind this kind of incidences. We are going to report this matter to the relevant portfolio, and make sure that the request made by the honourable Member is attended to. The department will conduct an investigation into the matter, because we believe that what the Premier was talking about when he was delivering the State of the Province Address, he was highlighting the success stories that the provincial government has registered where we had 11 successful heart surgeries without any incidences of deaths. However, if there are any other loss of lives that occurred, I believe that the department is better placed to then make sure that they investigate the matter and come back to report to the House in due course. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Is there still any hand in terms of the statements? In the absence of any hand, we will then move to item 5: Executive Statements. Is there any Executive Statement that honourable MECs would like to make this morning? I do not see any indication from the Executive Council. We will then move to the next item on the tabling of committee reports, other reports and papers. We do not have that today. I am then going to move to item 7 on the Orders of the Day and then call upon the Premier of Limpopo province, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, to respond to the observations made by Members during the debate. Can we please welcome him to the podium. [APPLAUSE]

THE PREMIER

Hon Speaker, I can’t repeat what he is saying. [LAUGHTER]

Hon Speaker, honourable Members, Members of the Executive Council, Chief Whip of the Majority Party in this Legislature, leaders of political parties, respected ladies and gentlemen in the gallery, ndi matsheloni.

Let me take this opportunity to thank Members of this esteemed House who participated in the debate on the address at the event of the opening of the Legislature, because this indeed was not the State of the Province Address. The State of the Province Address was in February. This one was an address at the event or occasion of the opening of the Legislature.

As always, despite the intensity and the robust nature of the debates, the decorum of the House was also maintained. We thank you for that, honourable Members. This is important because this Legislature is an important instrument for our people to advance and deepen democracy. As I have already indicated, your debates were indeed very vibrant, robust and truly enriching, except that at times we tend to use the language that we are not supposed to use in this House. When I was still a young man, I was telling Hon Buthane that at high school we were being taught English with the Modern Graded English of the day, I was told that there are different ways of spitting hot air. Normally, when you spit hot air, you don't spit it from the front; you spit it from the back. [LAUGHTER] It can come in different forms; either in the form of carbon monoxide or in another form. If you say, a person is spitting hot air, it can't be out of his mouth. We must be careful when we use some of these expressions. [APPLAUSE]

When I concluded my speech last Friday, I made a bold claim that our challenges are not greater than our opportunities. We have great opportunities and better days ahead of us. I went further to proclaim that our tomorrow is far much brighter than our yesterday and our today. I stand here today to repeat the same assertion. I want to say without any fear of contradiction that we have far greater opportunities than challenges. We have better opportunities ahead of us, honourable Members. Our collective challenge, therefore, is to embrace the future with confidence. Certainly, this is not a moment of grandstanding or cheap politicking.

We simply cannot afford to pull in different directions. I am saying this because none of us in this House is here representing his own jacket. All of us here, ladies and gentlemen, we are presenting the people of Limpopo. We came here because we were voted by a considerable number of people. There is no one in this House who has been mandated to serve any agenda which is against the collective interest of the people of Limpopo. We may be articulating different views, but we all want to grow Limpopo and breathe life to the hallowed dream of a better life for all. I cannot imagine any person in this House with an opposing mandate. When we canvass, you don't go out there and canvass to be an opposition party. You canvass because you need political hegemony, so that you can bring a better life to our people.

Ladies and gentlemen, no one can reasonably stand opposed to the urgency of growing our economy, creating jobs, fighting corruption and building an ethical and capable state. Our unity, therefore, is a precondition for the victory towards this ideal and noble goal.

If we are to win the war against poverty, unemployment and inequality, we must pull together towards the same direction. However, this does not mean that we should not and cannot critique one another. As a matter of fact, positive criticism is also a propeller towards victory. What I am saying, honourable Members, is that or criticism should always be positive and be aimed at building, hence when we grew up again, honourable Members, I think the Chief Whip and many others who were in the trade

union movement would remember, what Mao Tse Tung used to say about this. Chairman Mao used to say, for any contradictory situation, there is a thesis and antithesis. The contradiction of the two will bring about a synthesis; a synthesis that might either be qualitative or quantitative. He went on and said, it is therefore, the task of revolutionaries when this synthesis is only quantitative, is to transform that quantitative synthesis into quality and vice versa. He said, I am saying vice versa because we want to produce a society of qualities, a society of many quantities which are qualitative – quantitative qualities – that is the society we want to produce. That is an advanced society that all of us we would like to see, ladies and gentlemen. Therefore, it is always important to have these robust debates so that we can end up producing a society which is a qualitative society.

We, therefore, need to appreciate criticisms that help us to build Limpopo and improve the socioeconomic fortunes of this province. At times, we fail to see and appreciate the progress we have registered, simply because our old spectacles obscure our vision instead of helping to expand our vision. We often allow our preconceived views to limit the beauty of our horizon. If we can allow ourselves to take off our old spectacles and put on the new ones, we will be able to see the progress and the development taking place in this province. [APPLAUSE]

We cannot say, for example, that things are not moving in our Department of Health when so much has been achieved, honourable Members. We can't say that we are not making progress when our faceted intervention has improved life expectancy from 55 years in 2015 to 70 years in 2019. This is reliable statistics. It is not somebody, Stan Mathabatha, or the Premier is hallucinating about. We are neither hallucinating nor fantasising about anything. We are telling you the actual statistics which is objective. This impressive development is amongst others, because of the improvement, quality and accessibility of our healthcare services and facilities. There is definitely progress in our Department of Health.

As I am speaking today, people living with HIV/Aids are now living longer and productively because of our policy interventions. Today, our province has over 350 000 patients on ARV programme. This is an important milestone which cannot and should not be reduced to nothing. Today, we can say with confidence that the battle against mother-to-child transmission of HIV/Aids is being won. As a province, we have reduced the number of mother-to-child infection to 0,77%. This means that more and more of our babies are born healthy with prospects of a longer lifespan. This cannot be said to be sleeping on duty obviously, Hon Buthane.

As a province, we have drastically reduced the TB cure rate with approximately 12% improvement beyond international standards. This reduction cannot be said to be nothing obviously, Hon Buthane. It can't be sleeping on duty when you are doing such good work. We can't say that the Department of Health is not moving in the right direction when so much effort is being put towards ensuring that we have more clinics operating on a 24-hour basis simply because one incident happened in one clinic somewhere in Ngwaabe, GaSekhukhune, therefore, it means nothing is happening. No, it is one isolated incident that we regret mostly, but that cannot be said to be the general norm.

During the past five years, we have sustained a tradition of purchasing at least 50 ambulances a year to supplement our existing fleet. We have said that this tradition

will continue for as long as the government is in office. During this financial year, we will be purchasing 50 more ambulances. This is real progress and not rhetoric or empty slogans. The few incidents of lack of care and empathy by some of our healthcare officials are highly regrettable. What is however, important to mention, Hon Managa is that these types of incidents are shrinking in numbers. I am also happy that where such incidences are reported, the department is swift to respond and take correctional steps like it happened in Ngwaabe, like it happened at Malamulele Hospital.

I appreciate the commitment from a number of opposition parties in this House to work with government for a common good of our people. We appreciate that. This is exactly why we are all called public representatives. We are here to represent the public and not ourselves, our jackets or our parties.

The issues of unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, are far more important for us than just merely paying lip service to them. The youth is our future as Tambo said, and we must do a lot to ensure that we capacitate them to take their position in the future as the leaders of this country. We accept, Hon Smalle, that the number of discouraged work seekers is unpleasantly high. This is not a problem that is unique to this province as you all agree with me. It is a nationwide problem which is also expanding into the global world. In 1996, when I was in the United States, Hon Smalle, as a student at Harvard University – no little education here – the unemployment rate in the United States was at a negative figure. One person in the US was faced with at least an average of three jobs. What is happening today? Their unemployment rate is currently at a positive figure, which therefore, tells you that conditions and times are changing.

We do accept the fact that the expanded unemployment rate is high, but the fact that the unemployment rate, honourable Members, is not said to be official unemployment rate, is because you can't guarantee it. No economist can stand up here and say I can guarantee and put my neck on the block because of this expanded unemployment rate, Hon Smalle. Why? Because expanded unemployment rate also includes people who have been discouraged from seeking employment, and such people, some of them are not necessarily unemployed currently. They are either in informal sectors, some of them are businesspeople and all these kinds of things. But, the fact that they went into those professions simply because they were discouraged as work seekers, they form part and parcel of that expanded unemployment rate.

Otherwise, historians and economists will tell you that if you can have a country where 43% of the people are unemployed, then you will have a rebellion. Why are you not having this rebellion, because this expanded unemployment rate is hypothetical? I think we can debate that, and I am prepared to engage in that debate.

Honourable Members, it is for this reason that our address was overwhelmingly focused on efforts to grow the economy and create the much-needed jobs. As we have said last Friday, we have tailored very specific plans to address the issue of unemployment and poverty amongst our people. Part of these specific measures include our SEZ projects both in Tubatse and Musina-Makhado corridor. Our latest projects indicate that the initial number of 21 000 jobs at Musina-Makhado SEZ will have to be revised upwards. This means that because of massive investor interest in the project, we will be creating more job opportunities than we have earlier projected.

The concern about the finalisation of the environmental impact assessment is actually an important one. However, I am able to say that we are head and shoulders above the situation insofar as this is concerned. As I have said during my address, I have since directed the MEC for LEDET to fast-track the finalisation of this environmental impact assessment. This process will also include the adoption of internal master plan by October of this year. This, we have mentioned in our address.

We are also working around the clock with the Ministry of Water Affairs to ensure that the project will have sufficient supply of water. We have also made sure that the opportunities which will accrue from this SEZ initiative are taken up by the people of Limpopo. In this regard, we have already put in place Skills Development Programme targeting our youth so that they are equipped to seize the opportunity that comes with the SEZ project.

I want to say without any fear of contradiction that the face of agriculture in this province will never be the same again. We are going to revolutionise this sector. We are going to tap into the potential of the agricultural sector to stimulate the growth of the provincial economy. We will also make deliberate efforts to support the participation of the women and the youth in the agricultural sector.

The concern of honourable Members relating to the state of our municipalities is very legitimate. There can be no debate about the urgency of getting our municipalities back on track. We need to get our municipalities back on track so that these municipalities can play an important role of being a catalyst of local economic development. There is so much socioeconomic potential at a local level which is being undermined by unhealthy state of most of our municipalities.

The provincial government will continue to provide the necessary support to all these struggling municipalities. We are also providing targeted support to those municipalities which have been identified as the provincial growth points. The specifics of our support to municipalities include support in addressing the challenges of financial management, infrastructure delivery, institutional capacity, public participation and good governance. In the final analysis, we will need to ensure that municipal councils provide the necessary leadership and take responsibilities.

We will not relent in the fight against corruption, in the fight for clean, ethical and accountable governance. I must accept the criticism on the issue of the centralisation of the tender or contract on travelling. We have since instructed the MEC for Treasury to go and make a follow-up on this matter and find out as how it came about. What we suspect happened there is that the Department of Treasury wanted to bring operational efficiency by bringing together this tender. I think we share the same sentiments. Even before you came with it, Hon Buthane, one person called the toll-free number in the Premier's Office and complained about this tender. I think I agree that we need to do something about it. It can't be correct. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Premier, can you please pause. There is a hand. Hon Buthane, you are recognised.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Ga ke na bothata le wena ‘Bra Stan’. Yesterday, Madam Speaker, this person was sleeping. Today, we are getting a lecture with the English from Harvard since 1996; this person is still sleeping. Hon Rodgers, you can’t be the sleepiest of this House. From yesterday, you have been sleeping. You are trying to avoid it, but it is too much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you for your concern. I am sure now he is smiling at you, because you have been looking for that smile. Hon Premier, you may continue.

THE PREMIER

Hon Speaker, I don’t know which Hon Rodgers is he referring to, because we have got two Rodgerses in this Legislature.

Corruption will always be our enemy. Corruption will always be the enemy of the people of Limpopo. Corruption will always be the enemy of development. Corruption will always be the enemy of good life. We may be impatient, honourable Members, with all the measures that we are putting in place, but I can assure honourable Members that the wheels of justice are in motion.

The VBS saga, Hon Buthane, is not and will never be buried. At a political level, accountability has been enforced. There are cases that are now before the courts, and these cases are being processed with the pace and standards of the criminal justice system. On our part, we are cooperating fully with the law enforcement agencies to ensure that justice does prevail for the victims of the VBS looting. This, Hon Buthane, has got nothing to do with my ego. We are doing a lot, but at the same time, people should not be pre-judged by the courts of public opinion. [APPLAUSE] People must be given a chance to present their side of the story, because that is what the Constitution of our country allows them to do.

Hon Speaker, allow me to reiterate the words I used to conclude my address last week. I want to say that our challenges are not greater than our opportunities. We have greater opportunities and better days ahead of us. Our tomorrow is far much brighter than our yesterday and our today. Let us work together and embrace the New Dawn, and remember, ladies and gentlemen and honourable Members, the New Dawn can come at whatever stage, even towards the end of your life. The New Dawn can still dawn. It doesn’t matter whether it is the first term, the second term, the third term or the fifth term. If the New Dawn has to dawn, it will dawn. Thank you very much, honourable Members. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. That was the presentation and the response by the Hon Premier on the observations made by the Members in our debate yesterday. That takes us to the next item of our business today. I would like to find out if there are any announcements. Hon Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Lunch will be served at the very same spot as yesterday, Hon Buthane. That is what is written here, lunch will be served. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

He was indicating that lunch will be served. It will be your breakfast that will be served. You should not forget that we are still in Mandela Month. In the House, we are done with the business of the House. If you thought today, re tla no phela gona mo re šoma, re sega the whole day, there are other Members that have to rush to other businesses of Mandela Month.

This House is adjourned until Tuesday, 16 July at 10:00 in the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chambers. Then we can socialise after this. Thank you very much, honourable Members.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

LIMPOPO
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VERBATIM REPORT

OF THE

DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH PARLIAMENT

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

FRIDAY, 19 JULY 2019

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VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
FRIDAY, 19 JULY 2019
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00

THE SPEAKER

Good morning everyone. Ndi matsheloni. I would like for us to observe a moment of silence as a way of prayer and meditation for us to open our session.

[SILENCE]

Thank you. You may be seated. Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge your presence, honourable Members, and also acknowledge the presence of our honourable Premier in the House. Let me also take this opportunity today as we know that we are still observing the Mandela Month, we would like to say that as South Africans we still have a journey to travel on behalf of our people and our community. As a province, we have our own stalwarts and those who have continuously pushed and led the struggle for all of us here as South Africans and also led the struggle on behalf of the African National Congress. This morning as we are going to be acknowledging and talking about the life and times of our own stalwart, Bra Ike Maphoto, I want to take this opportunity and welcome the members of his family who are here with us this morning. Feel welcomed and acknowledged as we have been briefed that we could not greet you before because of time constraints. We thought that we would be able to have an opportunity to greet you, unfortunately we work with time. So, we could not delay any further to properly greet you.

Honourable Members, we are going to start with our session. I have received motions without notice from different political parties. I am going to request Members to raise their hands so that I can give them a chance to table their motions. Yes, honourable Member, you may start.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

CONCERN OVER THE TRANSPORTATION OF PATIENTS FROM A HOSPITAL IN SEKHUKHUNE TO THE GARANKUWA HOSPITAL IN A BAKKIE
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance that this House notes that:

- Access to healthcare is a constitutional right and a necessary service that must be afforded to the people of Limpopo; we are extremely shocked to hear of incidents where patients have been transported from a hospital in Sekhukhune to Dr George Mukhari Hospital, GaRankuwa, in a bakkie as the ambulances are out of order.

- This is a serious transgression on the dignity and safety of these patients and the lack of empathy by the staff as they had to wait for hours before being

advised that the ambulances were not functional. One wonders what would have happened in the event of a more serious or life-threatening issue.

- This is furthermore a clear indication of the mismanagement of the hospital as these patients needed to travel to GaRankuwa as the hospital did not have the necessary working equipment to treat patients for dialysis.

- The MEC must urgently undertake a site visit and provide this House with feedback on ambulance shortage, hospitals lacking equipment and interim solutions until these issues are resolved.

I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maharaj. Can I please get a seconder? Hon Phala, you may take the floor.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as read by Hon Maharaj.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other Member with a motion without notice? Honourable Member, over to you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

A MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES TO THE MAPHOTO FAMILY ON THE PASSING ON OF GEN BRA IKE MAPHOTO
(Motion without Notice)

I rise here on behalf of the most gigantic revolutionary movement in Africa, the African National Congress that this House notes:

- The unfortunate passing of Gen Ike Maphoto, a freedom fighter, a member of uMkhonto we Sizwe who participated in the infamous Wankie and Sipolilo Campaigns, a community builder and a former Member of this august House.

- Gen Ike Maphoto, who was popularly known as Bra Ike, passed away on the morning of Saturday, 13 July 2019. The baobab tree has fallen, a stalwart has passed this world, a political martyr has departed, a fountain of knowledge and the ANC’s colossal institutional memory has gone to rest.

- We are saddened by the death of Gen Ike Maphoto, but are delighted that he lived a life dedicated to the emancipation of the people of this particular country.

- Bra Ike Mphoto is a political heavyweight, whose name reverberates with the same rhythm like Ben Turok, Joe Matthews, Moses Kotane, Flag Boshielo, Lawrence Phokanoka, T T Cholo and many others who participated in the Luthuli Detachment.

- The President has accorded Gen Ike Maphoto a State Funeral Category 1, which is the first in our province. In terms of the presidential declaration, the national flag is to be flown at half-mast throughout the country until Sunday, 21 July 2019 which is the day of the funeral.

- A memorial service with the family, the ANC and the people of Limpopo was held yesterday in Polokwane. A funeral will be held on Sunday, 21 July 2019 at the Polokwane Cricket Club from 07:00. President Cyril Ramaphosa will deliver a eulogy on the life and times of Bra Ike at the funeral.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Can I please get a seconder before we observe a moment of silence? Hon Aphiri, you may take the floor.

MS APHIRI

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Mokgadi Johanna Aphiri, rise to second the motion as presented by the Deputy Chair of Chairs. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Can I please request the House to rise and observe a moment of silence in terms of the notice of the death?

[SILENCE]

May his soul rest in peace! Thank you very much. Do I still have hands for motions without notice? Yes, Hon Mphahlele, you may take the floor.

MS MPHAHLELE

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO MOKWANA MONNI ON HER INNOVATION
(Motion without Notice)

I, Selaelo Winnie Mphahlele, rise on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that the House notes that:

- The EFF congratulates the 25-year old Mokwana Monni from Bakenberg in Waterberg for the innovation that will save communities more water when flushing toilets. Her innovation, ‘the swallowing toilet’, uses less than a litre of water to flush and has so far won the regional leg of the National Entrepreneurship Awards.

- Almost 10 litres of water are currently being used to flush waste. This becomes a challenge as water is scarce due to drought and other environmental factors.

- Her innovation as it uses 400 ml, thus saving around 9,6 litres of water to flush waste. We stand here to congratulate her innovation and winning of the regional leg and also wishing her more success.

We call upon the Department of Economic Development and others to help her realise her dream which will change the living conditions of our people and save more water.

Through you, Hon Speaker, I would like to conscientise the MEC of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Hon Thabo Mokone, to take care of this rising young woman by supporting her economically, especially when we look at the previously disadvantaged area where she comes from.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We should note that we are still on motions without notice. We are not yet on statements. I will go for a seconder. The honourable MEC will not reply. Honourable Member, you may take the floor.

MR MOHLALA

I stand to second the motion presented by Hon Mphahlele. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Do I still have any hands on motions without notice? Hon Chief Whip, you may take the floor.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Speaker.

GRANTING OF HON LEBEA-OLAIYA MATERNITY LEAVE
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC that this House notes that Hon Kedibone Margaret Lebea-Olaiya is officially on maternity leave from 12 June to 14 October 2019. Maternity leave is provided for and regulated under this country's labour laws and Hon Lebea-Olaiya will be given leave of absence during this period.

We therefore table this motion to make everyone aware that she had been officially off-loaded any Legislature-related responsibilities until 14 October 2019.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Member, you may take the floor.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

[MIC OFF]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. For proper recording please use the mics so that we can have the records. Do I still have hands? Honourable Member, you may take the floor.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

CONDEMNATION OF COMMUNITY UPRISINGS AT GAMPHAHLELE
(Motion without Notice)

I, Rebecca Seono, rise on behalf of the ANC in this House to register our concern about community uprisings at GaMphahlele which have reportedly caused the life of a young person.

According to the police an 18-year old Botshelo Petja was fatally gunned down during a community protest on Wednesday near Dithabaneng Mine in Sefalaolo, GaMphahlele. The deceased was shot during the protest action near the mine. It is not clear what led to the incident at this stage, but police are investigating the murder case, because the alleged incident involves the mine's security company.

We want to condemn this incident in the strongest possible terms and call upon relevant authorities to investigate this matter thoroughly.

I so move. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Can I please get a seconder for the motion proposed by Hon Seono? Hon Molapo, you may take the floor.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

I rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Seono. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Do we still have any motions? Hon Mahasela, you may take the floor.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

INTERVENTION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AT THE MOHLOPE PRIMARY SCHOOL IN TUBATSE
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC to welcome the intervention by the Department of Education at the Mohlope Primary School in Tubatse where it emerged that the principal instructed learners to carry faeces with their bare hands. The allegations were brought to the attention of the department by a group of concerned parents and the department was swift to act on the matter.

We welcome the department's endeavours into this matter, and the principal has been made to answer to those allegations.

We implore the department to get to the bottom of this and also devise some mechanisms of assisting schools that could be in a similar distressful situation. This happens at a time when society is up in arms about government's urgency in addressing the backlog of our schools' sanitation programme.

We hope that this isolated incident will help to expedite the department's programme of providing decent sanitation within our schools.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member. Can I please get a seconder for the motion? Hon Deputy Chief Whip, you may take the floor.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Speaker, I rise to second the motion as read by Hon Carol Mahasela. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Do we still have hands for motions without notice? In the absence of any other hand, we will then move to our next item. Are there any notices of motions? I do not have any. We will then move to our statements by Members. Can I see the hands of those who have statements that they need to make? Hon Maharaj, you may rise.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

CONCERN OVER THE NON-ABSORPTION OF 400 NURSING STUDENTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
(Members' Statement)

The Department of Health's failure to absorb 400 nursing students it trained due to budgetary constraints brought on by poor financial management, no accountability and a lack of consequence management is very concerning. This situation is unacceptable,

considering the severe shortage of nurses, especially in the far-flung rural areas of Limpopo.

The financial mismanagement and the accruals racked up by the department are now directly affecting the standard of care citizens will receive if it means they fail to appoint the much-needed healthcare personnel. In the 2017/18 financial year, out of a planned target to appoint 200 doctors and 250 professional nurses, the department only appointed 34 doctors and 17 nurses respectively. We need adequate nurses in our facilities to maintain good healthcare standards in our public healthcare facilities. The dignity of the people who use public health facilities is at stake and depends on them.

To turn around the situation of the department and improve their finances, there is a need to curb unauthorised, irregular and fruitless and wasteful expenditure. There must also be effective consequence management, a revisit of the programme of sending students to Cuba and rather train them locally and measures to prevent medical negligence lawsuits.

Is the MEC and the department currently considering any plans to free up money to appoint more doctors and absorb these nursing students despite the budgetary constraints given their importance in providing good healthcare?

Can the MEC confirm if there is any consequence management for the officials responsible for accruals and measures put in place to prevent medical negligence as per Scopa resolutions? Did they yield any results?

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member for directing your question. Can I please have the MEC to respond?

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am not sure whether I should start with the first question that was raised by EFF regarding patient transfers. I have just received the note here.

Honourable Members, I think we need to get the facts before we jump to listen to stories that are being said out there. The CEO of Philadelphia Hospital, after realising that our people are coming from poor backgrounds – the policy says that when you are transferred to Dr George Mukhari Hospital or go there for the first visit, we need to transport you, but subsequent routine visits, let me give an example, when you are a cancer patient and are going for chemotherapy we will transport you. If after a year or six months of completion of your treatment you are requested to come so that we can review you, you are not supposed to be transported by the state. Noting the challenges that our people face, the CEO made a provision and on that particular day the PPTs (Planned Patient Transport) we are having, were utilised to transport patients who were critically ill or who were going there for the first time. This was the day wherein the CEO called the patients and said to them that the hospital does not have the PPT, and then suggested to them that the hospital will either request Dr George Mukhari Hospital to change the date for the patients or they will have to get the patients the 4X4s that are normally used to transport staff. The patients that were transported are like you and I that do not require an ambulance. They were sitting in a double cap that

we use when we do our outreach and when we visit our clinics. They were offered a driver and there were three patients and none of these patients was sitting at the back. I have got that on record. Whoever has picked it up later on got it wrong. It is making it difficult for our CEOs these days to go all out to try to support our communities, because when they do that, at the end of the day they get to be blamed for going an extra mile and being innovative, because they understand the material conditions that affect our people.

On the second issue, Hon Speaker, I think we have presented in this august House that in the Department of Health, we have inherited a department that is spending more than 74% of its Budget on compensation of employees. How did we reach that level? I think the people of Limpopo know what happened previously when in one month more than 5 000 people who were not rendering core business would be appointed by the department.

When you have a huge number of administrators appointed within the department, it will result into a bloated staff establishment. The challenge would be that the department will not be in a position to appoint critical skills. As we speak, we only have got 26% to spend on those medical equipment. I will ask you a question: If you were the HOD of the Department of Health what will you do when you have 10 dentists in a hospital that has two dental chairs? We know that dentists can only operate with a dental chair. It means eight dentists who are sitting there are just loitering around throughout the day. That is why many of them are having practices in town. Are we really getting value for money? Must we continue to just appoint those dentists even if we know we do not have the resources that they need in order for them to work?

Just to correct you, honourable Member, we have not appointed 34 doctors. There is a difference between medical specialists and medical doctors. The 34 you are referring to is of medical specialists which we never had as a province and are starting to have now. That is why you can see us performing certain operations that were never performed in this province.

The number of doctors that we have appointed this year is 148, those are medical officers. The number of nurses that we have appointed last year was 298. I do not know where you get those numbers.

Yes, indeed we are facing a challenge of how do we absorb the current community service when they complete their community service next year. That is a challenge that this House must assist us in dealing with, that is to say how do we start a process of reskilling. We are speaking with our sister departments to say some of the … [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Alright. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

I might not want to allow MECs to really take Members through departments. It is also your responsibility to research before you say things, so that then we do not come and sit, and you are given the whole departmental vision, mission and plans. We will expect Members really to establish facts on their own so that I do not have to cut my honourable Members as they speak. Can I please have … [INTERJECTION]

MR MAHARAJ

Speaker, on a point of order. I think in the same breath one must not necessarily take that those stats are correct. Let us get the confirmation, because we have also done the research and we will put it through a written question.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We are coming to the next statement by Members. Hon Managa, over to you.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Madam Chair. I wanted to make a clarity. The first question that the MEC was addressing … [INTERJECTION

THE SPEAKER

Can you please sit down? There is an order.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mospikara, ke kgopela gore batho ba hlomphe Lekgotlatheramolao. Ge re bolela ka moka re a emelela. Morena Maharaj, le mmotše gore ge a bolela ka mo a emelele. Ge a bolela a dutše, it is unparliamentary.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Can you please respect the House and next time you stand up? Hon Managa, let me just remind you where we are. We are on statements by Members. We have heard the first statement that was directed to the MEC. The MEC has replied. When you rise you are not starting a debate on the reply of the MEC, you are giving the House the statement and you will direct it to the correct department to answer. Thank you very much. You may take the floor if you have got a statement.

MS MANAGA

Bear with me, Hon Speaker. The question that the MEC was answering was directed to the EFF and we are not the ones who asked the question. It is just unfortunate that the MEC arrived late. The question was asked by the DA. That is what I wanted to clarify. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. MEC can you please arrive on time next time, so that we do not have this confusion. I think the MEC took advantage of the fact that I allowed her to answer other statements that were not part of the question. I have clarified it; it was not on the statement. Do I still have any other hands for statements before we go on? Yes, honourable Member.

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters on a Members' Statement on the exploitation of workers in the Department of Health.

EXPLOITATION OF WORKERS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DUE TO NEW FUNDING MODALITY
(Members' Statement)

The working conditions of workers in this province are not getting any better and it looks like they will not improve any time soon. The current government continues to exploit workers instead of been a custodian of workers' rights. The umbrella organisation (NGO) doing counselling on HIV in clinics in communities which has service level agreements with the Limpopo Department of Health is on the receiving end.

Their mentors suffered a salary decrease from R7 500.00 to R4 000.00 since April 2018 on new funding modality. Transport reimbursement was cut down from R1 050.00 to R600.00 from April 2019. Lay counsellors are paid R3 700.00 which is less, especially when looking at the high costs of things like food, transport and rent. They are forced to wear the uniform without the uniform allowance since 2018 to date. There is 0% increment on their salaries this year. Most of these workers have more than 15 years of service, but the stipend is still very low.

We call upon the MEC for Health to investigate this matter and assist the workers from this misery. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, you may take the floor

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, I think we need to remember that we took a decision to appoint all our community healthcare workers through our Persal system and pay them a minimum stipend of R3 500.00. There were people who were appointed by the owners of these NGOs we were utilising, who could have been relatives and would be paid R7 000.00 when the person who is doing the actual work of a home-based carer would be earning R1 500.00.

When we brought this uniform after the approval or passing of the minimum wage, we agreed that from 1 April all our community healthcare workers were going to be treated equally. Those who ran to the EFF to complain, are those who were in management positions and not doing anything. We have now standardised the salary. All our community healthcare workers, irrespective of who you are and where you come from,

are going to be paid R3 500.00 as government for a start. Meaning that we were pulling those workers who were earning R1 500.00 to go to R3 500.00. Those who were at R7 000.00, who were benefitting from the system, but we were not getting the value for the money, will complain and run to you.

You should choose whether you are going to speak for the 10 000 majority, who are bathing the patients, those who are changing the napkins, and those who are feeding the patients or you will be worried about those who are sitting in the office and waiting for reports and getting the money, because he/she owns the NGO or is related to the owner thereof. We are not going to back down on that. We are moving forward, because at the end of the day all community healthcare workers must be absorbed by the state and be treated equally – equal pay for the equal work that is done. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Do I still have any Member that wants to speak on the statements? Is that a hand? Honourable Member, please take the floor?

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

CHALLENGES IN THE MERGING OF SCHOOLS IN LIMPOPO
(Members' Statement)

I, Tinyiko Manganye, rise on behalf of the EFF to present this statement on the merging of schools to the Minister of Education.

The EFF is worried about the unwillingness of the government to provide solutions to the challenges faced by small schools in Limpopo. One such example is the Lenare Secondary School in Capricorn District, Malebogo West which has an enrolment of 60 learners.

The SGB and the management of the school have since last year requested to be merged with the neighbouring My Darling Secondary School and followed all the procedures for merging, but nothing happened … [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Manganye, can you please sit down, there is an order.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Speaker, I thought that you were going to stop, Hon Manganye, the minute she spoke about reading the statement to the Minister of Education. I think the statement is irrelevant in this august House. I thought maybe she was supposed to address it to the MEC. I think she is out of order in that context.

THE SPEAKER

Can I please first get clarity from Hon Manganye. Is it for the national department or to the MEC of the province?

MS MANGANYE

The MEC for Education.

THE SPEAKER

The MEC for Education?

MS MANGANYE

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

You may rise and state it as such.

MS MANGANYE

Next time Member, you should listen carefully.

BACKGROUND

Order! Order!

THE SPEAKER

Hon Manganye, indeed you said to the Minister, and I have given you time not to rectify other things. You said to the Minister. Can you please address yourself to the MEC? Now if you want to start to something else, I'll overrule you.

MS MANGANYE

Hon Speaker … [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

You may sit down, there is an order. Hon Aphiri, you may take the floor.

MS APHIRI

Hon Speaker, Members of the EFF are bringing new tendencies of addressing this House seated. Can they correct that too? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Manganye, you are on the floor. May all hands go down.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

On a point of order! On a point of order!

THE SPEAKER

Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Madam Speaker, I think before we allow Hon Manganye to speak, you must rule on what the honourable has just said now about implicating the EFF on things that we have not done. I am requesting that you rule, she was out of order for raising that point.

THE SPEAKER

You see what the honourable Member next to you is doing? That is what she was referring to. Like now already Hon George is talking and swinging on the chair. I think that was what she was referring to. I will not be forced to rule on things. I will let it go. Your hand can go down honourable Member. Your hand can go down. Hon George Raphela, your hand can go down, you are not on the floor. I am still talking. You can switch of your mic.

I did not follow up on the statement that Hon Aphiri made, because she was reacting to the hullabaloo that was there when there was an order about Hon Manganye saying to the Minister and indeed, she said to the Minister. I let it go, because we wanted to hear what she was saying. When there was a correction, there was a hullabaloo and dancing while seated where you are sitting as Members and, I think, that was what she was referring to. That is why I am saying, there is nothing that I will rule on. We can allow the House to proceed and I am going to give Hon Manganye an opportunity to stand up and we give her the respect she deserves to read that motion. Hon Manganye, you are on the floor.

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

CHALLENGES IN THE MERGER OF SCHOOLS IN LIMPOPO
(Members' Statement)

The EFF is worried about the unwillingness of the government to provide solutions to the challenges faced by small schools in Limpopo. One such example is the Lenare Secondary School in Capricorn District, Malebogo West, which has an enrolment of 60 learners.

The SGB and the management of the school has since last year requested to be merged with the neighbouring My Darling Secondary School and followed all the procedures for merging, but nothing happened. Teachers who are currently working at the school are overloaded with work and work under very stressful conditions. The circuit office is citing scholar transport challenges when we know that contracts for scholar transport have been awarded to friends, relatives and comrades who do not even own a single bus.

We call upon the MEC for Education to look into this matter and provide lasting solutions to the people of GaKgatla in Malebogo.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Can I call upon the MEC to respond?

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me just assure the honourable Member that we are busy with the merging of schools. It is just that there are processes that we have to go through when we merge schools.

Firstly, we have to consult communities involved, we have to legislate, we have to also gazette and do the relocation. As we rightly said we also have to make sure that scholar transport and feeding schemes are provided for. The process is on course and Lenare is one of the many schools that we are going to merge.

As for the allegations that contracts for scholar transport are given to comrades, there is nothing wrong in such contracts being given to comrades. As long as they can provide the work in terms of the framework, there is nothing wrong. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Do I still have any statements from Members? I think we are done with the statements. We would like to check if we have got any Executive Statements that MECs would want to make? I have noted two hands. I will start with the MEC for Health.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier and Members of the House. On 12 July, the EFF tabled a regrettable, ill-informed, and reckless Members' Statement. Their source, who happens to be part of those who are enemies of progress, continues to mislead the EFF and at times leads them to write such an embarrassing statement.

The Premier was correct to celebrate 11 successful open heart surgeries which up to date, there are 15 successful cases that were done in Mankweng Hospital: 14 of them open heart surgeries and one cardiothoracic surgery. When we say an operation is successful, we simply mean from the time the anaesthetist puts you to sleep, followed by the cardiothoracic surgeon opening your chest; depending on the guidance by the cardiologist, he/she will either cut the chest from the front or the back, stop the heart from working and a perfusionist takes over and becomes your heart for a period between 1:30 minutes to even 2 hours, depending on your heart valves.

We are forced to give this lecture to the EFF so that they can even in future do their homework before they bring such a statement in the House.

Once they are done, like the engine of your car, they will restart your heart and close your chest, and the anaesthetist will take over, and a decision is to be made whether to reverse anaesthesia, whether you wake up or not. That is the definition of a successful open heart surgery. All our 15 patients had gone through that successfully so.

Yes, Hon Speaker, we do have three cases of patients that have passed on post operatively which had nothing to do with the procedures. It will be unfair to discuss each individual case, because some of them were very sick with comorbidity, other conditions. Others were as old as 73 years to even 80 years. It will be really unfair to bring the question of open heart surgery not being successful when we know for a fact that the “K-patients” died out of other conditions that they had.

It must be noted that these are cases of patients who were on the waiting list to be transferred to George Mukhari Hospital. If these urgent interventions were not done, we would have lost 15 patients.

Honourable Members, it sometimes helps to just google some of these words before you come here and present them. Like the diathermy pad which I personally started using them as a medical intern in Mokopane Hospital, which we use to stop the bleeding vessels when we are operating. There is no way a hospital like Mankweng or that equipment can be the cause of death in an open heart surgery. There, we are dealing with real sophisticated equipment, not a diathermy pad which even Botlokwa Hospital and Matlala Hospital are using. So, please look for something else.

Hon Speaker, the Premier was correct to acknowledge and honour Prof Mohlala and the team who performed all these procedures at no single cost for the state. We must be honest and tell each other that one case will cost you between R150 000 to R300 000 in private hospitals. None of these patients who were operated had the means to afford such.

We would like to thank the Premier for honouring the team because after the SOPA, Prof Mohlala had finally agreed to join Limpopo Department of Health permanently for three years. [APPLAUSE] He is going to use these three years to develop and establish a fully functional cardiothoracic unit, not just in Mankweng, but also in Polokwane.

Members must remember that we do have a state-of-the-art lab in Polokwane which was just accumulating dust for all those years. Through the intervention of both Prof Mariba and Prof Mohlala, the unit is now functional. A perfusionist who was assisting Prof Mohlala flew all the way from Durban. Also, Hon Premier, after listening to your SOPA, he confessed that indeed it is a “New Dawn” and agreed to be appointed on a three-year contract to help Limpopo train its own perfusionists so that we can have our own and do them in-house. [APPLAUSE]

We are not surprised why certain individuals will run to the EFF, because they are used to telling patients that you are on the waiting list in George Mukhari Hospital, but continue to draw our monthly salary without performing any procedure on those patients and signing unnecessary death certificates. Today, we are proud that no patient will be told that they are waiting to be operated in George Mukhari Hospital.

Patients will be operated in Limpopo. Let's google. Google is available and can guide us before we come here and present things that do not make real sense to some of us; hence we refer your sources as enemies of progress in Limpopo. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much for that statement by the MEC. I am not sure if there is any party that would like to engage on the statement made. I do not see any hand. I saw the MEC for Education, Hon Polly Boshielo.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. The Limpopo Department of Education has noted a concern by the Economic Freedom Fighters on allegation of corruption in the awarding of a tender for scholar transport. In terms of the procurement legislative framework, all bids should be awarded to bidders who comply with minimum requirements thereto, and the abovementioned bid was no exception. The department is, however, acutely concerned that there are allegations of corruption on the awarding of this bid. The department views this allegation in serious light and undertakes to investigate the matter.

It is also worth mentioning that the appointed service providers started ferrying learners on 9 July 2019 when schools re-opened. To date, the department has never received any complaint on any learners that might have not been transported.

We wish to reaffirm our commitment to a fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost-effective procurement system. We will therefore review the adjudication processes for the bid in question to establish if this principle has been complied with in full. Should it be discovered that there had been any transgression, appropriate action will be taken without any hesitation.

It is for this reason that we appeal to anyone with useful information to come forward, and/or approach any law enforcement agency. We are optimistic that these efforts will restore the integrity of the procurement system, not only in Limpopo Department of Education, but also in the entire country.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC for the Executive Statement. Is there any party that wishes to engage on the statement? Thank you very much. We will then move on to the next item, which is the tabling of committee reports, other reports and papers. The first report that we are going to have, I am going to invite the Leader of Government Business to do that presentation. Honourable Member, over to you.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Thank you, Madam Speaker and Hon Premier. In compliance with the dictates of section 207(4) of Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No 1 of 1999) as

amended as well as Chapter 5 of Treasury Regulations, I, Seaparo Charles Sekoati, as the Leader of Government Business in this House, on behalf of my colleagues in the Executive Council as well as the Legislature, do hereby table the departmental and institutional Annual Performance Plans for the following departments for consideration by this honourable House:

- Office of the Premier;
- Limpopo Provincial Legislature;
- Department of Education;
- Department of Provincial Treasury;
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development;
- Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, and its entities as follows: Limpopo Tourism Agency; Limpopo Gambling Board; and Limpopo Economic Agency (LEDA);
- Department of Health;
- Department of Transport and Community Safety, and its entity which is Gateway Airport Authority Limited (GAAL);
- Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and its entity, Roads Agency Limpopo;
- Department of CoGHSTA;
- Department of Social Development; and
- Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Sekoati. We will then refer all the Annual Performance Plans to the relevant portfolio committees for consideration and report back to the House.

We will then move to the next item: The Tabling of the Report of the Financial and Fiscal Commission on the Annual Submission for the Division of Revenue, 2020/21. The MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Sekoati, over to you.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you once again, Madam Speaker. On behalf of the Financial and Fiscal Commission, I hereby table 2020/21 Annual Submission for the Division of Revenue. This is done in compliance with the provisions of section 230(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and section 9(1) of the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act, 1997.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Sekoati. The report is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and report back to the House. We will then move to our next item and invite the committee chairperson for the consideration and adoption of

the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Appropriation Bill. Adv Phala, you are recognised.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2019 [B01-2019] be adopted as a report of this honourable House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable Member. Can I get a seconder for the proposal done by the chairperson? Hon Masekoameng, you are recognised.

MR MASEKOAMENG

I, Isaiah Mmabogahla Masekoameng, from Mankweng cluster second the report tabled by the chairperson, Hon Rudolph Phala.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member. We will then go to the second reading debates on the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill. I have received a list of speakers who will debate on that. Can I have Hon Isaiah Masekoameng starting with the debate.

MR MASEKOAMENG

Ke a leboga, Mohumagadi Mospikara le Motlatša Mospikara, Tonakgolo ya rena, le balapa la Genl Isaac Maphoto, Bakhuduthamaga ba Tonakgolo bao ba lego mo, Maloko a rena a Lekgotlatheramelao le batho ka moka, ke a le dumediša.

The committee met with the Department of Provincial Treasury for a briefing on the principles and provisions of the 2019 Limpopo Appropriation Bill. The committee agreed that it was indeed desirable to approve the amount of money for the requirements of the province as indicated in the schedule of the Bill.

Today, we are about to adopt the 2019 Appropriation Bill which is commitment to all the policy priorities that were set out in the ANC manifesto as expressed in SONA and SOPA. These commitments have found expression in the departmental Annual Performance Plans and are confirmed by various departmental votes of what this administration plans to do in the current financial year.

Hon Speaker and the MEC for Finance, we are barely a few months after the elections, collectively seated here, both ourselves as the ruling party and the opposition parties, have a fresh memory of the issues raised by our people during our campaigns. Our people need jobs and more jobs. They need to work for themselves and be able to feed their families.

Our people don’t have water. They yearn for tarred roads, decent schools, infrastructure and clinics with medication and caring health professionals to take care

of them in their time of need. We have talked, made countless promises to our people. Now it is the time for implementation.

The committee recommended that Provincial Treasury should find a way to reduce spending on compensation of employees. Policy implementation should be politically evaluated to assess progress made with respect to government priorities.

Provincial Treasury should, together with CoGHSTA, devise ways to ensure that municipalities generate more revenue. Investor infrastructure project should be prioritised for meaningful economic development in the province. It, therefore, calls for proper coordination and cooperation by departments and municipalities. The amounts reflected on the Schedule of the Bill should be appropriated to the department accordingly. The principle of the Bill should be accepted by the House.

In conclusion, the committee welcomes the principle of the 2019 Limpopo Appropriation Bill, and hereby moves that this report be adopted as a report of the House and that the Bill proceeds to the next stage. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Masekoameng. Hon Risham Maharaj, over to you.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. As we begin this sixth term, we need to address issues that have been inherently troubling this province. We need to handle the R69,5 billion allocated to Limpopo for this financial year far better than the previous financial year where we had to swallow up over R1,3 billion in provincial reserves due to poor financial management, especially in departments like Health.

The Department of Education received R32,3 billion which amounts for slightly less than 50% of the whole province's Budget. For this reason, we need to ensure that we have strong internal controls, so our children benefit from this money, because in the 2017/18 financial year, it was the largest contributor to irregular expenditure at R957 million. We need the department to seriously start addressing the infrastructure maintenance backlog in the province which is over R20 billion by allocating significant amounts towards it.

In the State of the Province Address, the Premier spoke of R900 million for four special schools, but a look at the detailed Budget for the department leaves one puzzled where the money will come from, because it is not mentioned in the Budget. There is a total of R569 million and R1,05 billion budgeted for public special school education and infrastructure development respectively for all activities. We do, however, welcome the allocation of R21 million to cater for the sanitary dignity project, and it should be an annual consideration.

The Department of Health is another department that takes a large chunk of the money allocated and is arguably the poorest run in terms of finances with over R1 billion in accruals. In fact, the Auditor-General in the 2017/18 financial year noted that they had already committed more than 50% of the next three years' budgets, and (inaudible) to the gains of the department which exceeded their next year's budget.

We need to revisit the department's programme of sending students to Cuba and see if it is more beneficial to rather train more people locally to ensure we produce much-needed medical practitioners. If there is a report highlighting the benefits of this programme, it should be presented to the House. The department needs to ensure consequence management for the officials responsible for accruals, and needs measures put in place to prevent medical negligence as per the Scopa resolutions.

Transport is another department that has committed more than 50% of the next three years' budget, and we need to seriously consider the support given to the entities under the department's control like GAAL and Great North Transport. They have failed to be sustainable, and we suspect they have become vehicles for looting. In the last PFMA report, the Great North Transport and GAAL were both fingered for having financial sustainability challenges, because they incurred net losses and their total liabilities exceeded their total assets. They also could not pay their creditors as they became due, and GAAL even required a bailout from the department for operational purposes. These entities continue to rely on government grants to fund operations while not generating enough cash. There should be no more bailouts for entities like GAAL. These must become self-sufficient or we must consider a public-private partnership because we cannot continue to throw money into a bottomless pit.

Provincial Treasury allocated R9,6 million for municipal interventions in capacitating our municipal staff on financial prudence, but it is insufficient considering the dire situation in our municipalities. Many municipalities that have expenditure greater than their income are struggling to stay afloat and many municipalities' situations have been worsened by money lost in the VBS scandal.

CoGHSTA needs to address the misuse of public funds in our municipalities. The 2017/18 MFMA (Municipal Finance Management Act) report shows R2,8 billion unauthorised expenditure and R1,06 billion irregular expenditure which constitute 30% and 5% respectively of the province's local government budget. More resources must be put into ensuring skills development in our accounting officers in municipalities to end the use of consultants. A total of 24 municipalities, that is 96%, used consultants for financial reporting at a cost of R177 million. In 2016/17 that amount was R123 million. Due to a lack of skills and/or vacancies in key positions, especially in the finance units, the financial statements still contained material misstatements that were identified during the audit.

While we support this Appropriation Bill, we believe the bloated staff component in our government departments is unsustainable, where over 70% of the R69,5 billion will go towards compensation of employees, leaving very little resources to actually service our citizens. We need to find a way to lower that cost. Good financial management practices and consequence management are key in stopping mismanagement and malfeasance in all our provincial government departments and municipalities. The performance of our municipalities threatens to see some of them collapse, and we must address this immediately. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon George Raphela, over to you.

MR RAPHELA

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Before I proceed, I would like to first start by sending our condolences to the family of Mtileni about the death of Moses Mtileni – one young promising communist, not the ones that we have now who defend white monopoly capital. He was a very consistent young fellow within the left wing. Before I can start, I also want to direct our speech to Hon Phophi Ramathuba. We lost a patient, a patient died. We are taught at the schools where we go that Google is not reliable. You can't rely on Google. They tell us that if we rely on Google, we'll have such cases; but Hon Ramathuba insists that we should use Google to assist us. That is the first thing. Again, if you become subjective, you will be like the DA, and miss the point about our programmes. At least here in South Africa, we are not funding terrorist governments like Israel, like what others are doing in the Western Cape by giving them money to murder Palestinians. They come here and do not understand the revolutionary programme behind the Cuban doctors and our background. That is why you will always agree with them, because you are subjective. That is why I agree with the Deputy President of the EFF that by the time we take over, we'll take the DA to come and join you that side, while we remain on the left wing as the EFF.

Going back to the speech, comrades, this Bill like all the other appropriations previously tabled in this House, does not put the people at the centre of development. It is public knowledge that moneys allocated to various departments are not used for what they are intended for. Apart from other things, departments will continue incurring more and more fruitless and wasteful expenditure. We are going to see more and more irregular expenditure patterns increasing, despite what had been raising the past five years.

The service delivery backlog in Limpopo will never be addressed as long as these anomalies continue to find expression in the economic setup of our province and the country at large. That is why, we are now able to defend white monopoly capital in the name of defending state institutions. A progressive Bill will transform the lives of the people by creating quality jobs and not by subjecting them to unsustainable short-term temporary jobs, which is what was said about community health workers earlier. It also happens with the EPWP workers. If we are serious, be consistent with our policies and ensure that our EPWP workers do get that minimum wage unlike what they are getting. The policies must touch the lives of the ordinary citizens and put a smile on their faces when they wake up every morning. There is absolutely no consequence management in this administration, hence officials and corrupt politicians easily get away with murder.

The Appropriation Bill should seek to improve the lives of the people, and not push them further to the periphery of poverty and unemployment like what is happening now, Hon Premier. More and more funds are allocated to the Department of Health every financial year, yet we still have clinics that do not operate 24 hours. Yes, Hon Premier, you said that they are now going to operate 24 hours, but it is not true. In reality, they do not operate 24 hours when we do our own oversight as the organisation. Hospitals and clinics continue to experience shortages of doctors, nurses, medicine and basic equipment in the department. How will government implement the National Health Insurance (NHI) when they are still struggling to fund the primary healthcare model? Maybe you can adopt what the EFF continues to raise, that let's refocus all our resources on the state and cut all funding that goes to private

health. We must improve the state of our public health institutions so that our public servants would be attracted to use public facilities. Why we are not improving this sector, is because we are comfortable going to the private sector ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

A minute remaining, honourable Member.

MR RAPHELA

Re tsebile. [LAUGHTER] Le tlile le kwana ka EFF lehono. We are saying, furthermore 5,8 million people in this province rely only on 223 ambulances.

Hon Speaker, more than 1 474 schools still use pit toilets as we have noted, and the possibility of more children drowning in these toilets cannot be ruled out, MEC of Education, while we are preoccupied with the procurement issues. It is clear that the Mathabatha administration has not learned anything from the Michael Komape experience. The corrupt relationship between the Department of Education and Mvula Trust in this province continues unabated while our children in schools continue to suffer because of lack of decent and dignified toilet facilities. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member.

MR RAPHELA

There is only one Speaker. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Even if the other honourable Member was helping me with checking the time, I do not have preambles as the honourable Member started with. You were actually using your own time. I would like to thank you, Hon George Raphela. We appreciate the debate on behalf of the EFF. Can I invite Hon Phala to the podium?

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity to debate the principle of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2019 [B01-2019] as tabled in this honourable House by the former MEC, Robert Noel Tooley in February 2019. The Department of Provincial Treasury came to brief us in the course of this week. They went through it vote by vote and explained how the money is going to be used, almost R60 billion that the provincial government is receiving. They went slowly through all the departments: Provincial Treasury; Economic Development, Environment and Tourism; CoGHSTA; Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure; Social Development; Sport, Arts and Culture; Education; Health, Provincial Legislature and Office of the Premier. All of them, one by one, articulated how the moneys and funds that have been budgeted for this financial year 2019/20 are going to be spent.

We, the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, are satisfied that the provincial government has put money well where it should be, and it is properly focused on responding to the challenges that face the people of our province in relation to roads, healthcare, education, housing, agriculture and so on. We also believe that the Budget will ensure that the provincial government, particularly the Departments of Provincial Treasury and CoGHSTA, enhance their capacity to help the municipalities, because the books of the municipalities in the previous few months were not very good in the province, and because of the R1,2 billion that was illegally invested by some municipalities in our province into a non-bank mutual institution – a "mogodišano", which money has been lost. The National Treasury in the coming period will demand that money from the municipalities. I do not know where they will get it, because the money that was illegally invested in Venda Building Society Mutual Bank was a conditional grant for municipality infrastructure in the municipalities. We hope the provincial government will enhance that support to the municipalities in that regard in the hope of improving their books and ensuring that they are able to deliver basic services to the people of the province.

We also hope, Hon Sekoati, that we will enhance the revenue enhancement strategy so that we just don't rely on money that comes from national, but are able to ensure that those strategies: patient fees, traffic fines, gaming fees, motor vehicle licenses and other categories of revenue enhancement strategies are strengthened so that we are able to get (inaudible) money as possible to help the people of our province. We also hope that provincial government will release the R200 million that is spent every year on rentals of various categories of rent lord in the province. In the previous term, Hon Tooley was telling us about the strategy of the provincial government to acquire some of the cheaper government buildings one by one so that we are able to release the R200 million that we spend on rent every year, which R200 million could be used for other things for the people of the province.

We also believe, Hon Sekoati, that we will ensure, through Provincial Treasury and Office of the Premier, that all departments that have conditional grants that come from national are able to spend all those moneys. The problem in the past has always been that, if we don't spent the conditional grant – a conditional grant is a grant that comes with conditions, and one of those conditions is that all the money must be spend. It must be spent for the purpose for which it was granted. When it is not spent, National Treasury takes the money back. We have seen this happening, particularly in the area of human settlements. In the previous term, Hon Sekoati will remember that we lost millions in that area. We must ensure that all the departments that receive conditional grants from national government are able to spend them.

From where we are sitting, as the portfolio committee meeting, we met yesterday and adopted the report that is here. We are fully satisfied that this Bill can move to the second stage of Second Reading so that Members of the Executive Council can then come to the House and present various Budget Speeches of the various portfolios of the provincial administration, and that we are satisfied that the money is well-budgeted and has been used properly for the service of the people of the province. We hope, Hon Sekoati, you will not be like that animal – you remember what the provincial secretary was talking about over the weekend. You will be able to watch the funds. You will be able to watch the coffers and ensure that the moneys are well-budgeted for, and therefore, this Bill must move to the second stage of the Second Reading, Hon Speaker. I thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Can I then now request the MEC for Provincial Treasury to respond to the debate raised by honourable Members.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Speaker, Hon Premier, the august House and guests in the House, first and foremost, let me take this opportunity to express words of gratitude, particularly for the House and for the committee for having been able to revive the Bill, and ensuring that the Bill is back on track and we are able to ultimately adopt it as the House.

Let me also appreciate the remarks and the concerns raised by honourable Members, in terms of the areas that we need to look at. First, amongst those priorities that we will be looking at is the reduction of the COE (compensation of employees) which we believe that in a way denies us the capacity to deliver services to our community, because the bulk of the money that has been allocated is directed towards compensation of employees. I believe that with the strategies that are already in place, including early retirement of some of the officials in government, particularly those that are above the age of 55, should be able to assist us reduce that and to make sure that those that are remaining within the system are utilised efficiently and ensuring that we are not expanding more resources towards the COE. It is a matter that we will have to discuss with various departments through our bilaterals to deal with those matters and ensure that we consistently look at various ways and means of reducing the COE.

We are also looking at ways and means of capacitating municipalities. We are aware that it is a sphere of government that is at the coalface of service delivery, and therefore, we need to ultimately ensure that it gets the capacity that it is supposed to have in order to render services required by our communities. For us to be able to do that, we will be working closely with the Department of CoGHSTA to ensure that jointly, we are able to strengthen municipalities both on financial and non-financial matters.

We will also be looking into ways that can help us reduce the utilisation of resources through consultants within municipalities. We will also be focusing on building the required capacity in municipalities so that they are able to do things on their own, particularly on financial matters, because we are aware that we are not doing well in that regard.

Madam Speaker, we are also aware that conditional grants are supposed to augment the equitable share that we are getting as provincial government. Therefore, it would require all provincial departments and municipalities in the province to utilise those resources effectively so that we are able to spend every rand and cent allocated to the province through conditional grants as much as we are spending the equitable share so that we can continue improving the services that are rendered to our communities. We also want to make sure that we ultimately deliver quality services to our communities as required.

With those remarks, I would like to thank the committee led by Hon Phala and the House for affording us this opportunity. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC for Treasury, for responding and I think we had a good debate as you rightfully indicated. We will now move to the Snap Debate on the Mandela Month. I have the Speakers' List here, please mind your time. I don't have time for preambles. What I allocate you, is what you get. I don't want to find myself having someone who helps me with time. Even last time we compared, today I can see that we are differing on time.

We all remember that Mandela is one of those gallant fighters, a leader and a father of the nation who said to us, hate no one, no matter how much they've wronged you. Live humbly, no matter how wealthy you become. Think positively, no matter how hard life is. Give much, even if you've been given little. Forgive all, especially yourself, and never stop to give the best to everyone that you give service to. Now I'm going to invite Hon Phophi Ramathuba to take the podium to open the debate.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, colleagues in the Executive Council, Chief Whip of the Majority Party, honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen, our guests who are here, good morning. Ndi matsheloni. Avuxeni.

It is always an honour for me to participate in any debate in this august House. We want to thank you once more, Hon Speaker, for allowing us to participate in a debate that celebrates and commemorates the legacy of former President Nelson Mandela. The story of Nelson Mandela is a story of triumph, of love over hate. It is the story of hope over despair. It is the story of reconciliation over revenge and retribution. The story of Nelson Mandela is a story of bravery and resilience. It is the story of unmatched patriotism; it is the story of Nelson Mandela; the story of boundless love for humanity as a whole.

There are many songs that have been composed and sung about Nelson Mandela. But for me the one that is closest to my heart in defining former President Nelson Mandela is the song that says, Nelson Mandela ha o na ya tshwanang le yena. There is absolutely no one like you. The decision by the United Nations' General Assembly to declare 18 July as the Mandela Day, is a deserved tribute to this finest son of the African continent. As we observe this day, we are guided by the instruction from Mandela himself when he said that this day is not a public holiday, but it is a day of action.

If Mandela could have dedicated his 67 years of his life to active service to humanity, we too can and must play our part. Our challenge is to make everyday a Mandela Day. Mandela played his role and ran his race up to the finish line. The task before us and those of his generation was the political liberation of our country. Beyond political liberation of our country in 1994, Nelson Mandela took it upon himself to champion the course for national unity and reconciliation.

As we commit to make each day a Mandela Day, we must position ourselves to confront our contemporary challenges as Mandela confronted the challenges of his time. The challenges of our time are poverty, joblessness, inequality and ill-health. In

his own words former President Mandela had advised us about the importance of education as a weapon to fight against these inherited social ills.

Madam Speaker, allow me to quote the most common quotation by Nelson Mandela, “Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor; that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine; that a child of a farmworker can become the president of a great nation.”

I’m quoting this because just this month, the country celebrated a 35-year old Dr Lindiwe Sidali, who is a daughter of a mineworker, and not only did she, through the Mandela Fidel Castro Scholarship, complete or graduate as medical doctor in Cuba, but is also the first female cardiothoracic surgeon in the country. It was through the Cuban Scholarship that this girl was able to become a doctor, otherwise she would have not become a doctor. To be a cardiothoracic, these are surgeons we are talking about in Mankweng. We don’t have them. She is the first one in the country. We celebrate Mandela thinking about her.

Education is very key to all of us, and as the Sixth Administration, we appreciate the leadership that has been provided by the Premier on the significance of education in fighting against the challenges of unemployment poverty and inequality. It is for this reason that as Limpopo government 40% of its budgetary resources on education, particularly the education of an African child.

During his State of the Province Address about two weeks ago, the Premier elaborated in detail about the commitment of this government in ensuring access to education. Part of these measures include the fact that our province has the highest number of children who are not paying school fees. The no-fee school policy of the ANC government is the most progressive and without counterpart. Other measures in this regard include the Scholar Transport and the School Nutrition Programmes. Former President Nelson Mandela would indeed be happy and be proud of our efforts to expand access to higher education and training opportunities. The expansion of NSFAS and the TVET sector is yet another example of our commitment to Mandela’s vision of expanding and availing educational opportunities to young people.

Madam Speaker, former President Nelson Mandela would have been happy with the strides we are making in providing access to quality healthcare services. Madiba was particularly concerned about the ballooning scourge of HIV/Aids. In his own words he said, “History will surely judge us harshly if we do not respond with all the energy and resources that we can bring to bear in the fight against HIV/Aids.” Madiba goes further to say let us give publicity to HIV/Aids and not hide it. We can confidently report to Madiba that we are turning the tide. We are winning the war against HIV/Aids. We have significantly managed to bring down the mother-to-child infection rate. As the Premier has said, our target remains zero of mother-to-child infection and our efforts to de-stigmatise HIV/Aids is also in full swing.

Former President Mandela would have been happy to know that Limpopo will be getting the first state-of-the-art academic hospital very soon. We are also reaching new heights in achieving the ideal clinic status. Former President Mandela would have been happy with the progressive policies that we have seen two weeks back, whereby

our Cabinet approved the NHI Bill. It is through this Bill that the dream of President Nelson Mandela of free healthcare services to everyone shall have been achieved.

Honourable Members will remember that long before the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals came up or pronounced on the mother-to-child reduction of mortality and also the G20 leaders who recently pronounced on universal healthcare coverage, former President Mandela's first vision in 1994 was to get pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and children under six years to have free healthcare services from a clinic level to a central or academic healthcare services. Mandela was trying to deal with the issue of women dying because they were pregnant. That is also another contradiction of maternal mortality. If you were not a woman, you wouldn't fall pregnant and wouldn't die. That is triple oppression, because if you were not a woman and were not poor, you would access healthcare services. We will know that pre-1994, women would die because they were women; women would die because they didn't have money; women would die because they were black. When former President Mandela brought this, he was trying to deal with all those issues.

Today we celebrate as South African government and honour him to say it is upon our National Assembly or Parliament to approve the National Health Insurance Bill which will bring that dream of a free and quality healthcare to all people of South Africa. We are first to admit that we still have challenges, but it was Nelson Mandela himself who reminded us that after climbing a great hill, one finds that there are still more hills to climb.

Madam Speaker, we will continue to honour the name and legacy of Nelson Mandela. May the spirit of Nelson Mandela continue to fuel those powers of our engine of service delivery. For as long as we live, Nelson Mandela will never die. Re a leboga. Aa. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Ro livhuwa. I now call Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Mandela Day and Mandela Month during July celebrates a great man's life, and his sacrifices throughout the years for this nation as well as his call for reconciliation, unity and equality across all different races and social classes. Nelson Mandela once said, "As we take stock of our accomplishments and shortcomings, we should not by the slightest of chance lose sight of our once ambitious dream for education, total economic participation, democracy and freedom for all." This quote sums up the values that Tata Madiba held dear, stood for and wanted addressed to redress our horrible past. Mandela Day calls on us all every day to make the world a better place.

Hon Speaker, poverty continues to affect our most vulnerable and is at the root of many social issues like malnutrition, poor educational outcomes, skills deficit and unemployment and the loss of dignity. This is something Madiba was dedicated to fighting and the Nelson Mandela Day goals reflect this. The Nelson Mandela Day goals for 2019 to 2029 are education and literacy, food and nutrition, shelter, sanitation and

active citizenship. This provincial government has a long way to go in achieving these goals for the people of Limpopo. We currently have over 2 000 schools with inappropriate sanitation facilities and R20 billion in school infrastructure and maintenance backlog in schools that are still without basics like desks, chairs and many overcrowded classes.

In Limpopo, 384 249 of the population, that is 24,3% have no access to safe drinking water; 10 700 households have bucket toilets; over 68 000 households have no toilets and 77 000 households are informal dwellings. We need a provincial leadership that is sensitive to the needs of the people it serves and prioritizes those needs. Targets for timelines in each department must be to address the needs of the people of Limpopo and must be monitored. There should be consequences for officials and MECs for non-performance or failure to meet those targets.

Hon Speaker, Mandela Day and Month encourages all South Africans to contribute to social and economic security of all citizens by taking action to assist and positively impact those in need by living the values of our Constitution that provide for the rights of all people living in our country and affirming the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom for all.

Mandela stated that what counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead. Government needs to facilitate this by providing services expected of them and ensure the responsible use of state resources to uplift those that are disadvantaged. The time for talking and making empty promises to people of Limpopo is over.

It is now time for action where we, all of us, actively work towards fulfilling the Mandela Day goals and ensuring that dignity is restored to everyone in the province. Hon Premier and honourable MECs in this term we must carry this great responsibility and hope we do not disappoint the people of Limpopo. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I will now call upon Hon David Selane.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Legislature and Hon Premier, Hon Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip, distinguished guests, the Maphoto family, ladies and gentlemen, I greet you. Honourable Members, let me take this colossal moment and opportunity to express my profound and revolutionary gratitude to you all in this majestic and august House. This year marks the 56th anniversary of the Rivonia Trial, where Nelson Mandela and other revolutionary giants of our struggle stood in the vexatious and draconian trial. The case was heard before Judge President Quartus de Wet, the then President of the Transvaal Provincial Division of the Supreme Court. Leading the prosecution was Dr Percy Yutar, the Deputy Attorney-General of the Transvaal.

Mandela, Sisulu, Mbeki, Mlangeni and Goldberg were found guilty on all four counts of high treason. Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment and served

almost 27 years and 8 months on Robben Island. Madam Speaker, amongst the defence team that represented the accused persons was Arthur Chaskalson, who went on to become the first President of the then newly established Constitutional Court before it was merged with that of the Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa.

The persecutors of Nelson Mandela never harboured even the innermost imagination that the long walk to freedom will in fact be a journey of triumph from Robben Island to Union Buildings and also to the global stage of the United Nations as prophesied. It was on 11 November 2009 when consensus was reached at the United Nations to adopt a resolution that the date of birth of former President Nelson Mandela be recognized internationally for his remarkable contribution of promoting world peace, resolving conflicts and promoting race relations, human rights and reconciliation.

Since 2010, the Mandela Day has been celebrated worldwide as a gesture of goodwill for which the people of this world are encouraged to contribute 67 minutes towards humanity and making the world a better place. We will always remember him as the man of integrity who embodied the values and principles of the people's movement, the African National Congress, such as unity, selflessness, sacrifice, collective leadership, humility, honesty, discipline, hard work and mutual respect.

We must strive towards promoting and practising values which Nelson Mandela believed in. Nelson Mandela once said, "During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die." These are ideals which he espoused and vowed to live and which he was prepared to die for.

When apartheid and the colonial enterprise was strategically defeated and the dawn of democracy was ushered to promote this ideal that he wanted to build, he promoted this ideal for the achievement of non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa. Today all South Africans including the ANC leaders, public representatives and internationals are participating in the Nelson Mandela campaign to honour the legacy of this greatest leader.

July remains the month of Mandela who taught us the importance of services, humility, hard work, sacrifice, and respect for the people. Nelson Mandela was a leader who acted as a role model, a caring cadre and an agent of change which the country wishes to build. At all times we will listen to political leaders who stayed close to him and responded to his needs. He served the people of this country tirelessly and in spite of the massive repression against him and his family, he never looked back, but sacrificed his life for the attainment of freedom by all.

Hon Speaker, the complexion in this august House is a living testimony which the masses of our people have bestowed confidence upon the African National Congress to lead the agenda for transformation in this particular province. The people's barometer to test the African National Congress was not only measured through a historical track record of fighting colonial and apartheid enterprise, but by the ability to put bread on the table.

Honourable Members, Amilcar Cabral, who was one of the African and revolutionary towering giants, prophesied the following: “Always bear in mind that the people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in anyone’s head. They are fighting to win material benefits, to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children.” He went on to say, “Hide nothing from the masses of our people. Tell no lies. Expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures and claim no easy victories.”

In this sixth democratic Parliament, we have heard our people and we know their challenges. These are challenges which they have been complaining about since we took power in 1994. Our people are disenfranchised and humiliated because of the political genocide orchestrated by the vexatious draconian regime. The people of South Africa suffered gravely and inhumanly from the untold hardships as a result of the implementation of colonial laws which are persisting even today.

The time has come to have an activist legislature or parliament in order to be effective and strengthen our interaction with our people. This is precisely informed by the fact that the African National Congress has stressed on the need to have an activist parliament. The legislature and the entire legislative arm of the state are to be treated as an activist forum. The ANC has committed itself to an activist parliament and legislature that puts the interests of all South Africans first, especially the poor. As it performs its constitutional responsibilities as a national liberation movement and governing party, the legislature must be felt by the people. It must be visible through its representatives and have a meaningful impact upon the lives of the people so that they can practically feel and see in practice the concept that says, “The people shall govern” that the Freedom Charter spoke about in 1955.

It is our firm belief that the legislature should act as the voice of the people and must be central to the advancement of a representative and participatory democracy. This is obviously informed by one of our defining features which is to involve the people on issues of service delivery, because we are not only held accountable by the people, but we also account to the people.

It is our political conviction that an activist legislature should have Members who are rooted amongst our communities, and who act as a catalyst for community outreach. The constituency work of the legislature is crucial and needs to be strengthened significantly to address the challenges facing the masses of people … [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

You are left with a minute.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Speaker, allow me to conclude by making a clarion call under the theme Khawuleza, which must define our work and also the future that indeed, the youth of our country cannot wait anymore. The time to live in air-conditioned boardrooms, meetings and comfort zones is over. We have to deliver on the commitments to our people. I hope I did not paralyse you. Thanks very much.

THE SPEAKER

You should have just done the Mandela quote nicely, Hon Che Selane. I now invite Hon Lilian Managa.

MS MANAGA

Thank you so much, Madam Speaker and Members present in this House. Allow me, Madam Speaker, to greet the family of the late Mr Lesiba Isaac Maphoto.

Madam Speaker, allow me to touch on something before I start with my debate and it is not a preamble. Hon Ramathuba, be rest assured that as the EFF when we come to this House with Members' Statements, we make thorough and proper research as researchers. We know exactly how the diathermy pad, diathermy machine and diathermy needle work.

Coming to the debate, as the Economic Freedom Fighters we mark and celebrate Nelson Mandela Month for his selfless contribution to the well-being of humanity. The EFF celebrates his life for what it represents in political achievements of South Africa, the continent and the world at large.

We celebrate Nelson Mandela, the commander-in-chief of the revolutionary armed forces of uMkhonto we Sizwe who, throughout the many years of apartheid oppression, trained activists in combat and arms. We celebrate him as the volunteer-in-chief of the Defiance Campaign during the 1950s in which he and many of his generation defied apartheid laws because they were racist and unjust. The EFF celebrates Mandela as the representative figure of the collective generation of freedom fighters who were willing to sacrifice their lives for their mission.

This generation identified their mission as freedom in our lifetime and fought through many years until the major breakthrough that came in 1994. All the freedoms enshrined in the Constitution today are due to their selfless struggle as a generation. Sadly, the current generation of leadership has for the past 10 years reversed all the gains, afflicting society with miseries like poverty, unemployment, crime and corruption. This is the leadership that is self-centred, the leadership that is greedy, preoccupied with the desire to amass more wealth at the expense of the poorest of them all, who are found on the periphery of our small towns and our villages out there in the bundus.

Nelson Mandela spent the rest of his life serving others; he never lived for himself, but for others. He became the global icon that we all know, that is the reason why we are celebrating him today. Under his leadership the state would have never been captured, auctioning it to the Guptas and white monopoly capital.

South Africa and its people came first and not his political party as some have previously suggested that the ANC comes first. Nelson Mandela would never have allowed anyone, including Pravin Gordhan, to be part of his cabinet when they have a cloud hanging over their heads. He was not a constitutional delinquent but was the kind of a leader who respected the Constitution and all its chapter nine institutions.

Under the current generation of African National Congress leaders, corrupt people are rewarded with promotions in strategic positions of responsibility in government and all sectors of society. The New Dawn has ushered nothing, but the continuous endorsement and approval of the dodgy characters like Faith Muthambi, Supra Mahumapelo and Mosebenzi Zwane who have been appointed to chair critical and strategic portfolios in Parliament.

Poor communities in Limpopo continue to be bullied around and are harassed by mining companies, leaving them with diseases and miseries instead of development. Today's leadership is that kind of leadership that protects corrupt friends and cronies by reshuffling them from one department to the other instead of showing them the door.

EFF has directly taken from Mandela's generation, and chosen a mission of economic freedom in our lifetime. We have taken the baton from his generation to continue running towards the finishing line with the socialist and the internationalist struggle for economic freedom in our lifetime.

On this month, we salute a revolutionary and a freedom fighter who spent each day of his life seeking to contribute towards freedom for all. Mandela dreamt of an Africa at peace with itself, a free Palestine and a modest international, economic and judicial order.

As the EFF we shall never rest until the continent is free and we are free from economic exploitation and violence. We shall never rest until the oppressed of the world like Palestine and Western Sahara are free. We shall never rest until the land and the minerals belong to the people. The people of South Africa must celebrate Mandela Month by making each day a Mandela Day by doing good to the society. Former US President Bill Clinton once said that the core of Mandela's example was that the power of public good does not require public office, just a well-placed heart and a determined mind.

In conclusion, we leave you with a question: We who are Members of this Legislature today, are we like the leader I was talking about? That's food for thought for another day. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Managa. Can I then invite the Premier, Hon Mathabatha, to the podium?

THE PREMIER

Hon Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Maphoto family, honourable Members of this House, leaders of political parties, ladies and gentlemen in the gallery, I greet you.

Hon Speaker, let me thank you for giving us an opportunity to participate on the debate about the legacy of our former President Nelson Mandela, President of African National Congress. Yesterday the citizens of our country and residents of the global

community participated in different yet selfless activities to mark and celebrate the Mandela Day.

The year 2019 marks ten years since the recognition of 18 July as the Mandela Day by the United Nations General Assembly. This declaration was in recognition of President Nelson Mandela's values and his dedication to the service of humanity. The United Nations was honouring Mandela for his role in conflict resolution, race relations, promotion and protection of human rights, reconciliation, gender equality, the promotion of the rights of children and the fight against poverty, and most importantly, the promotion of social justice.

The resolution acknowledged Mandela's contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world. Remember his slogan: Go out there and make this world a better place for all of us. We are so privileged to share the same motherland with such a revered and an admired icon of the world. The 18 of July which is former President Nelson Mandela's birthday, has become one of the most celebrated birthdays of a figure who lived amongst us. There is no any other birthday of an ordinary man which is as popular as that of Nelson Mandela, Rolihlahla, Madiba.

Former President Mandela has left us with a solid foundation upon which we can and should build a South Africa we want. This is a South Africa free of hunger, poverty, joblessness, and inequality. It is in our hands to build this South Africa for the sake of our children and future generations to come. Former President Mandela believed it is possible for us as a people to unite and defeat poverty. In his own words, he said, "Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by action of human beings." He went further to say, "Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life."

Indeed, former President Mandela is correct when he said poverty is a manmade phenomenon, and as a result, it is a direct product of the past policies of exclusion and discrimination. Apartheid was a system that was designed to empower the few and impoverish the rest. This is the system that Mandela took arms against; it is the system that Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in prison fighting against. It is indeed the system that Mandela was prepared to die fighting to liquidate.

The architects of poverty are those men and women, who enacted the 1913 Land Act. This is a piece of legislation which seized the very asset which was central to the lives of African people and rendered them destitute. It was the Land Act of 1913, which took away over 70% if not 85% of the arable land from the African majority and concentrated it in the hands of a minority. As if that was not enough, in 1927, the Native Administration Act was passed which was designed to push black people in general and the so-called natives which are Africans in particular to the periphery of our land. As if that was not enough again, the Native Trust and Land Act, 1936 was passed, which was also designed to even encroach into the 13% that was left for the African masses.

As a result, it is correct that poverty in this country is not natural, it was man-made, Hon Managa, and was not made by this current leadership. It was designed and man-made referring specifically to the apartheid regime, the system of the time. A system

that Nelson Mandela was fighting against and the remnants of which filtered into the current epoch of our revolution; hence we are saying, the current leadership that you are seeing here is perpetuating the ideal that Nelson Mandela lived for.

The inherited legacy of poverty we are fighting today is not some natural imposition; it is a direct product of deliberate policies of exclusion. The worst are those amongst us who engage in corruption and looting of the very resources that are meant to lift our people out of the web of poverty. These are the modern-day architects of poverty and remember, corruption is not starting today. It was inherited. If you read the writings of most advanced revolutionaries, they will tell you that corruption is one of the characteristics of capitalism. And remember, there is nothing called white monopoly capital. The honourable Member must take that into account. Capital refers to something that is not necessarily human, but refers to forces of production. That is capital. It refers to money, it refers to labour-power and refers to other forces of production which are not human beings. How can they be white? That is capital.

Capitalists can be white; they can have colour, not capital. Monopoly capital will remain monopoly capital. There are no ways in which it can categorically have colour. How? Tšhelete ga e na mmala, ke tšhelete. Naga ga e na mmala, that is capital. Land is capital, ga e na mmala and is land; it is capital. How does it become white or black? Well, perhaps ge hlaga e swele, you can call it black land.

Corruption and looting of public resources entrench and sustain poverty and the general suffering of our people. More than anything, corruption undermines the vision that Nelson Mandela had about our country. Nelson Mandela dreamt of a society where the poorest of the poor are set free from the prison of poverty. He believed that education, more than anything else improves our chances of building better lives. Former President Nelson Mandela reminded us that it is not beyond our power to create a world in which all children have access to good education. However, we cannot achieve this if the resources, which are meant for the education of our children and stimulating the growth of our economy, are channelled to the pockets of the criminals who loot without shame. These are the people who are waging a war against Mandela's vision and we must take the war back to them.

To honour Nelson Mandela, we will continue with our programme to build more schools, including schools for our children living with disability, Hon Maharaj. We would do this, because Mandela said to us that education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. I want to take advantage of this Mandela Month to urge all parties in this House to work with government as we build the Limpopo that we want. No one should be pulling towards a different direction. Let us all position ourselves as builders and not destroyers of our province. In the spirit of Marxist-Leninist maxim, Hon Raphela, that says 'unity and struggle of opposites', which is one of the laws of dialectical materialism, Hon Managa, which says we can work together irrespective of whatever different views or thoughts we have, we still can work together to drive the frontiers of poverty backward. Mandela himself said that it is easy to break down and destroy, but he went further to say that heroes are those who make peace and build. Let us be the builders of Limpopo that we want.

I want to conclude by borrowing the words from former President Mandela again and say that let us all remember that what counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived, it is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the

significance of the life we lead; for that makes you a revolutionary. That makes you an agent of change, Hon Maharaj. At least there we agree. That makes you an agent of change. That is what made this generation of Mandelas different from many generations that you may think of. You know in the African National Congress we have got generations, and these generations are determined by your participation within your youth structure, when you were still young. Just like we had the Mandelas being the generation of 1944; you will have the Ike Maphotos being the generation of the 1950s; you will have the generation of the 1960s again, bo-Ntate Marule, generally the Luthuli Detachment; you will have the generation of 1970s, bo-Stan Mathabatha; [LAUGHTER] you will have the generation of 1980s, bo-Charlie Sekoati; and then you will have the generation of the 1990s, bo-Che Selane. I am not sure about this side. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Premier, for the debate. I could see that everybody was enjoying the free political education.

We are then moving forward to our second tribute, the eulogy in honour of the late Lesiba Isaac Maphoto, who is known as Bra Ike, a former Member of this Limpopo Legislature. He has served this province. The tribute is going to be done as we continue to acknowledge and appreciate that he was a leader, a family man, a friend to both young and old.

The disadvantage of reading what you are given is that sometimes you might leave other people outside, but I want to acknowledge the following family members that when we started some of them were already sitting. I may not be able to acknowledge all of you in names, because the list might not have reached you, but as we started, I have welcomed and acknowledged your presence. Let me also indicate, Hon Premier, that within the family members that have accompanied the children, we have got grandsons and others Maphoto Sam; we have got Bra Ike's children, Mike Diapo Maphoto, Morongwa Seskie Thabana, Mike Nkululeko Maphoto, Tina Chokoe, Paledi Machaka and other family members that have joined them.

As I indicated if I do not mention you by name feel acknowledged, respected and welcomed that you did as a family make an effort to come and spend time with us this morning. I am going to invite the following speakers and one of the speakers on the Speakers' List is not here, the party then forfeits the opportunity to debate

I am inviting Hon Thabo Mokone to come and start the debate, mind the time allocated to you. You cannot look at the Speaker for pity for the time. We work with time in the House. Hon Mokone, you are welcomed.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Madam Speaker, Deputy Speaker, the Maphoto family, the Premier of the province, veterans and stalwarts of our movement, Members of the august House, my colleagues in the executive, Chief Whip of the Majority Party, comrades and friends, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me the privilege to honour this great man, Bra Ike Maphoto. Today we are paying our respects to a gallant fighter, a combatant and a loyal member of the African National Congress and a freedom fighter. The baobab

tree has fallen, mokgapa wo mogolo o wele. Sadly, we mourn and at the same time we celebrate a well-deserving life of Bra Ike, a recipient of Order of Luthuli in Silver in 2006.

Bra Ike has run his race. Bra Ike's passing on reminds us of the strategic objectives of the broader National Democratic Revolution. He understood that our course is that of a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa.

Bra Ike fought relentlessly for the objective of our Constitution, as I quote from the Constitution, "Honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land; Respect those who have worked to build and develop our country; and believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity." He understood that our freedom is incomplete without inclusive socioeconomic transformation. A course he was prepared to live and die for like Nelson Mandela and other stalwarts and veterans of our movement. In this month of celebrating Nelson Mandela, it is important to pause and ask ourselves: Are we worthy of the course? Bra Ike was captured and sentenced to death in the then colonial Rhodesia by the Smith regime. He served ten years at the notorious Chikurubi Maximum Prison and was released in 1980.

Bra Ike was robbed of his youth life and potential contribution to society. Through the efforts of Bra Ike, the sound of revolution reverberated throughout Africa. After his release, Bra Ike traversed the world in search of knowledge to free South Africa. Bra Ike was passionate about human development; he had foresight. He was instrumental in recruiting young people to become pilots, doctors, and engineers in the province and the country as a whole. These are the skills that are most sought after for the economic growth of the province. We must forge ahead with this idea of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

What can we learn from this gallant fighter? Selflessness, hardworking, humility, courage and patriotism. It is up to us to emulate this revolutionary giant. He was passionate about the unity of our people.

We want to take this opportunity to thank the Maphoto family for giving us their son. The passing on of Bra Ike is not only a loss to the Maphoto family, but also to the village, the province, the country; the continent and the world at large. He was committed to helping our people, he understood that motho ke motho ka batho. Today we are talking about the New Dawn, we need to recommit ourselves as we celebrate the tenth Mandela Day and the passing on of Bra Ike Maphoto.

Bra Ike never wielded his authority by virtue of office. He was ever ready to draw others into leadership and he never asked of others what he was not prepared to do himself. As I paraphrase Nelson Mandela at the funeral of Walter Sisulu, he knew and taught us that wisdom comes from sharing insight and learning from each other. He was a unifier and never a divider, seeking to heal and bringing together.

Famba kahle wena nhenha ya tinhenha, makombandlela, wena u nga chavisiweki hi voko ra timfenhe. Na hina hi ta ku landzela. Khanimamba. Inkomu. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Thabo Mokone. Can I then invite Hon Katlego Phala to the podium.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Democratic Alliance sends its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the former honourable Member of this House, Mr Isaac Lesiba Maphoto. We also extend our condolences to his organisation, the African National Congress, he served until his last day.

In the absence of one's work, it is hard to claim in knowing them, but through the good deeds and meaningful contributions to this beautiful country by the former Member, I can say indeed that I do know him.

The DA can attest that as a former honourable Member of this House, he worked well with the former Members of this House as he understood the very freedom and democracy that he fought for during apartheid days.

When he was captured by the Rhodesian security forces and sentenced to death in 1968, almost 12 years later on his release by the new Zimbabwean government, he continued to fight against the apartheid government, travelling across various countries, mobilising international communities against the apartheid system. This with no doubt shows and proves that he was a freedom fighter who never retreated as he still continued on the long road to freedom after facing a death sentence.

Besides the love for his country, he too shares the same beliefs with the icon and the former first democratic President of this country, Tata Nelson Mandela, whose Ubuntu still lingers to this day as we commemorated his birthday yesterday, said that: "education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." The former honourable Member not only believed in education, but it is also believed that he further initiated the Limpopo Premier's Bursary Fund to secure funding for disadvantaged tertiary students.

His brave deeds against apartheid struggle have birthed our country to freedom and his belief for education initiated the Limpopo Premier's Bursary Fund, where some youth of this province continue to benefit. Mr Maphoto has played his role and as the young generation of this province continues to enjoy the freedom that he fought for along many other fallen freedom fighters of this country. As the DA we say, may his soul rest in peace. The family, friends and the African National Congress, may you find comfort in the memories you shared with your fallen father, uncle, and comrade. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. Can I then invite Hon Polly Boshielo to the podium.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

I need some crate here; I can't reach the podium well.

Madam Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable Members, family members of Cde Bra Ike, good day. As we celebrate Mandela's Month, we are saddened that the struggle veteran of our movement, Bra Ike Maphoto, has left us all. I'm saying this because he fought a noble battle and lived his life in pursuit of a better life for all. The 25 years of freedom and democracy that we celebrate is the sweet fruit of Bra Ike's contribution to the struggle. We are all anguished by the loss of our liberation struggle stalwart.

We pay a tribute to this fallen hero, a tower of strength and a source of inspiration to many generations. We can all bear witness that in our encounter with Bra Ike, you would experience courage, humility, dignity and most importantly, we got to be reminded and encouraged that the impossible can be done because he, himself, had done the impossible. His life was not a life wasted, but a life spent fruitfully, and this is something worth-emulating.

Let me also talk about the Bra Ike that I know. Bra Ike came to Mimosa Building somewhere in 1991 when he was working there and still very young. Hon Premier will remember that. He was a very short guy and all of us were looking at him and we didn't even understand what this old man was all about. We were with Ntate Phala, Ntate Diale and Ntate Phokanoka and they had boxes full of handwritten notes from Robben Island. But this one, Bra Ike, was narrating his story verbally. It was very difficult for us to even start to understand him. We were with Cde Tracy Malatji, Cde Bongi Mabunda, Cde Thembi Nkadimeng and Cde Mavis Chabane when Bra Ike started lecturing us about the importance of education. He went all out to even establish a bursary fund for us to go back to school. While still working in the ANC offices, we went to school because of him and some of us are still being taught. We are still studying because of Bra Ike.

He used to tell us about him making sure that a black child becomes a pilot and that is why we have a female pilot called Asnath Mahapa from GaMashashane. So, Bra Ike made us to love school. There are three features which I liked about Bra Ike. He had a sense of humour; we could laugh, and he could crack jokes. Some jokes were sad, but he could make us laugh. He also liked laughing, but at times would cry. He would tell us about how he suffered during the days of the struggle and we would cry with him. Even to this day, I don't even know how he survived, not being bitter but also continued to contribute to the development of our country. We renamed our Bendor Branch to Ike Maphoto Branch. The branch did an outstanding job in taking care of Bra Ike during his happiness and during his sad times. We had yearly memorial lectures where he would tell us about the struggle, the hardships and the discipline.

We would celebrate his birthday in style. I was fortunate to share my birthday with Bra Ike on 26 February. We would dress up and sit on those two big white chairs with black, green and gold decorations enjoying ourselves. Last year we even had our own portraits and paintings. We would listen to Mr Party, Bra Ike and Ms Party, myself of course, sitting next to each other. This year during our birthdays Bra Ike was not feeling well, and as such we had our birthday celebration at his house.

Of course, he was in his Sunday best, wearing a big yellow necklace around his neck and we were sitting on our maroon sofa, Mr and Ms Party; and it was for the first time when Bra Ike could not respond. Of course, as Ms Party I responded on his behalf and it was very unusual.

But suffice to say, even after that we went on and enjoyed the night, dancing and eating our cake which is always in ANC colours. I'm not sure whether, Hon Premier, I'm going to still enjoy the benefits of Ms Party. It's going to be a very sad day. I don't wish to have the 26 February 2020 without Bra Ike. I don't know what I will do.

Let me take this opportunity to thank Bra Ike's sons. I call them Buti Bra Mike the big one and then there is the small one and there is Paledi. When we go to Bra Ike's house, they would take care of Bra Ike with dedication and they will always give you feedback on how he was doing.

Hon Ramathuba, I think the three qualify to be healthcare givers. I have seen them going up and down ensuring that their father is well taken care of. We salute you for your sacrifices and dedication, Bra Ike. You have displayed all your life and we choose to continue with your legacy as dedicated men and women for the betterment of our people. You taught us that it is never easy, but inspired by your spirit, we shall level the hardships and overcome them. Martin Luther King correctly put it when he once said, "If a man has not discovered something, he will die for he is not fit to live." Bra Ike, you lived your life to the fullest. Go well my birthday partner. I am definitely going to miss you. The 26 February is not going to be the same anymore. May your soul rest in peace! I thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Polly Boshielo, for the presentation. I call upon Hon Jetrick Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Hon Premier and Members of this august House, sebatakgomo! Mokgapa o mogolo o wele dithaga tša lla bošogošogo. Ruriruri re tloga re wele ka mahlong. Re swabile nko go feta molomo.

Madam Speaker, the Economic Freedom Fighters in Limpopo is saddened by the passing on of the struggling veteran, Bra Ike Lesiba Maphoto. The death has robbed us one of the greatest liberation stalwarts of our time. Bra Ike, as he preferred this name, was among the few remaining struggle stalwarts who fought for our liberation. He is among those who fought tirelessly and selflessly to liberate this country from the oppressive rule of colonial apartheid. He dedicated his life to the liberation of our country and its people unlike some of those who continue to undermine the democratic gains brought by the struggle efforts of the likes of the late Bra Ike.

We learnt that he left the country in 1961 and underwent military training in the Soviet Union and Beirut. Bra Ike later joined the Luthuli Detachment of uMkhonto we Sizwe. He is among the finest who fought against the Rhodesian army in 1967 in the Wankie and Sipolilo Campaigns. He was captured by the Rhodesian army in 1968 and sentenced to death. He got his freedom after a decade when Zimbabwe got its independence. Bra Ike served as a Member of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature and he initiated the establishment of the Premier Bursary Fund to assist students at tertiary institutions. This veteran of our struggle understood very well that education is the key to the future of this country and therefore we ought, Hon Premier, to invest in young

people. Like Nelson Mandela, Bra Ike was a selfless leader who always put the interests of other people first. He is from the generation of leaders who despised and hated corruption with passion, because he knew very well that corruption hampers human development. Bra Ike was conferred with the National Order of Luthuli in Silver for his contribution to freedom and democracy. He further received the Order of Bravery in Gold in 2012 by the Department of Military Veterans.

It is a pity that many of our struggle veterans have been abandoned and left to fend for themselves as if they have never contributed anything to the liberation of our people. Many of them are languishing in poverty and suffering to the last degree. Their democratic government which came through their own sweat and blood has abandoned them. We believe as the EFF that he will be welcomed by Chris Hani, Oliver Tambo, Albert Luthuli, Mama Winnie and many of our revolutionaries who departed this world after their contributions to the freedom of South Africa.

As EFF we convey our revolutionary condolences to the ANC, the Maphoto family, the children, relatives and the people of South Africa and Limpopo in particular. It is therefore befitting that this veteran of our struggle is accorded a special official funeral. There will be no better and dignified send-off than this, Premier. South Africa and Limpopo, in particular, is poorer without him but his legacy lives forever. His name and political credentials will live in our memories forever. Hamba kahle uMkhonto we Sizwe.

Please tell other revolutionaries that those who have been assigned to lead your organisation in the country are busy continuing to urinate on their graves and erode their efforts by looting state resources and undermining the Constitution and the institutions mandated to protect democracy. May his soul find eternal peace! Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Order! Okay, honourable Sekoati.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Madam Chair, it is very much unparliamentary for Hon Seshoka to come and use the language that he used. I believe that it will be in order for him to really retract the words that he used even if he is no longer on the platform. The honourable Member is out of order. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Seshoka, can you withdraw the unparliamentary words that you have used.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm unconditionally withdrawing those words more especially because we are honouring a great stalwart here. It was not my intention to insult anybody here, but it was in a way trying to raise what we believe is a fact. We unconditionally withdraw that. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you for respecting the House and the Maphoto family. We appreciate that. When Hon Boshielo was addressing the House, we thought that she will produce the cake. She kept on talking about it. Maybe she will do so when we finish. Can I then invite Hon Dickson Masemola to the podium. [APPLAUSE]

MR MASEMOLA

Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa, my colleagues in the Executive Council present here, honourable Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip, COC and Deputy COC, leaders of the opposition parties, Members of the House, the Maphoto family, comrades and fellow South Africans, ladies and gentlemen. It is with great sadness that this Special Sitting of the Limpopo Legislature has been convened for us to come and pay tribute, honour and express our words of condolences to the Maphoto family, the people of Limpopo, the African National Congress and the entire movement.

Indeed, the passing on of Lesiba Isaac Maphoto is a colossal loss of huge proportions and cataclysmic nature to the family of the African National Congress. I'm standing before you today with a heavy heart and dropped jaws as we mourn the departure of Commander Maphoto. We should equally, as we mourn his life, acknowledge with our sober hearts the active role and contribution he had made in the struggle for the liberation, freedom and democracy. As we are convened here, we are illuminated by the heroism of the martyrs of the revolution whose sacrifices brought about the revolutionary consciousness, freedom and social progress.

Therefore, ideologically we are firm on the ground as the African National Congress and are demonstrating our unshakable superiority of ideas as we salute this fallen hero. Through this Sitting, we are unequivocally honouring the hero of the struggle, veteran Bra Ike Maphoto, a member of the heroic and legendary Luthuli Detachment, a generation which distinguished itself in the heroic battle of 1967; a combatant of uMkhonto we Sizwe who was skilled both theoretically and operationally; a fighter in Wankie and Sipolilo Campaigns who fearlessly engaged the Rhodesian forces to an unimaginable level; a Commander of the glorious army uMkhonto we Sizwe, an underground operative who pushed barriers for successful operation; a warrior and a guerrilla who could not be underestimated due to his capabilities and prowess.

He was a disciplined and fearless freedom fighter; an internationalist whose character was sharpened by his interaction with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; a political prisoner who survived the death sentence; a recipient of the Order of Luthuli in Silver; Order of Bravery in Gold and an education activist who facilitated the construction of many schools in the province and offered many bursaries to many needy students; a father, an uncle, a cousin, a comrade and indeed, a gallant fighter of the struggle for liberation.

He was the legislator who participated in the enactment of transformative laws; a strategist who had shaped the course of events. Bra Ike Maphoto, whose honour has also been bestowed by the ANC branch which is named Ike Maphoto Branch in Bendor.

Beyond any reasonable doubt, he was a true leader of revolutionary forces who continued to mobilise a broad front in pursuit of an agenda of national purpose. He won the conscience and active support of the people, both young and old. Through his hard work he had helped to produce many South Africans of greater social complexity with national understanding and the required flexibility; South Africans who are conscious enough to societal dynamics thus enhancing social cohesion and nation-building because of their social maturity.

The veteran, Bra Ike Maphoto, we are honouring today was a comrade who devoted most of his life to the service of the people. He was an organic intellectual of prominence and note who was loved and appreciated in the African National Congress, alliance, government and society in general as he was affectionately known as Bra Ike. He combined excellent qualities of a true patriot and a dynamic leader of the working class. A man who had a needle that could be used to sew moral fibre in society, and he was able to guide and inspire others to fully commit themselves to the struggle for liberation, freedom and democracy, just social order and a better life. He was the confluence of perspectives for the advancement of National Democratic Revolution. He was indeed a fountain of wisdom from which we got theoretically enriched. He was a unifier to whom all of us could go for ideas and political counselling. That is Bra Ike Maphoto.

Bra Ike Maphoto the veteran has played a tremendous role in the course of public services to respond to the challenges that our people face. As we continue to push back the frontiers of poverty, unemployment and inequality, we shall forever remember his contributions and remain indebted to his political life.

We must therefore, in defence and recognition of his contribution, strengthen the ever-advancing revolutionary process engulfed in the majority of mankind led by the African National Congress. Certainly, he was like the sharks prowling the ocean floor to help surface swimmers to be totally immersed in the revolutionary waters of the African National Congress. He was indeed an embodiment of a true character and values of the ANC, the organisation he served for the rest of his life. He was selfless, hardworking, trustworthy, humble, reliable, dependable, honest, dedicated, ethical and he hated corruption, malfeasance as well as sleeves. In fact, Hon Maphoto lived to the principles of the organisational democracy and displayed the fundamental values of the ANC and uppermost of the Constitution. He was indeed a personification of what a true leader and representative of the people should be.

He tirelessly participated in the building of the African National Congress and today he leaves a formidable organisation and government that leads and serves the people of South Africa. The agenda of creating a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, united and prosperous country remains the trajectory and a long-term horizon we have taken, and Bra Ike Maphoto articulated it and taught many throughout his life in the ANC as well as in the society in general.

As we honour this hero today, we should remember his generation of pathfinders of the struggle for freedom and democracy. A generation of brave men who represented a gigantic movement in the history of struggle for freedom and democracy and a generation that represented a possibility of victory and pulverization of the reactionary forces of apartheid and the foreign forces.

At this point in time we need to take note of the lives and times of Flag Boshielo, Lawrence Phokanoka, Oriah Maleka, Chris Hani, T T Cholo, Isaac Makapo, Joseph Mangwane, Themba Dlamini, Teddington N'Capayi, James April, just to mention but a few.

We are at this centre of democracy today as honourable Members of the Legislature and those of our comrades who are sitting in Cape Town as a result of the wondrous efforts of this generation which triggered a political and military wave that over decades engulfed society, and occasioned itself for a protracted and tedious struggle that brought about democracy. Indeed, at this point in time, we shall forever respect and honour these generations of our freedom struggle. Those who fed on the courage and teachings of Bra Ike Maphoto will forever be infused and inspired to continue as active and dedicated agents of change in the agenda of building a national democratic society and it shall forever remain edged in our minds.

He taught us to continue to use our effective and cognitive capacities, our skills and knowledge and experience to lead people with integrity, honour and discipline and that we should use our talents and strengths in the ANC in the service of a tangible purpose characterised by high confidence and commitment to our work and continue to be energised in our innermost world of ideas and thoughts by the work that we continue to do on a daily basis.

He said to us that we should, with ingenuity and excellence, inspire the people and display our profound love and loyalty and serve them with passion. In this regard, we shall not disappoint Bra Ike Maphoto and we will continue to provide basic services to our people in the province and the country. We will provide infrastructure, fight social challenges and continue to confront the triple challenges facing our people with vigour, determination, zeal and without any ambiguity and push back the frontiers of underdevelopment back to where they deserve to be.

We know that Bra Ike Maphoto loved his country and its people and both your organisation and the Legislature where you are spiritually, shall continue to advance a developmental agenda aimed at social change in the lives of our people. As you taught us, we shall continue to show critical thinking which descends individual solidarity between us, the people and amongst ourselves and strive for unity and cohesion and thereby rally them behind and around the development perspective articulated in the macro-economic strategy of our country and our Limpopo Development Plan in particular.

Bra Ike Maphoto is the man who would contradict naïve thinking aimed at devouring our minds, confidence and detour us from the programmes of serving the people of our country and our province in particular. He taught us that in the course of our public duty we would undoubtedly face imponderable and at times tragic realities and therefore ours at this point in time is to remain steadfast and resolute on matters of principle.

In this regard we would always look for revolutionary ideas and alternatives as we transcend narrow horizons of system legalities and theoretical ambiguities that others may want to purport to mislead the national course. He was indeed a leader that we should bestow on him accolades worthy of the character he was and heap on him

encomiums of an outstanding revolutionary. We remain indebted to your revolutionary ideas and we shall never fail you. Hon Ike Maphoto, wherever he is, I suppose he is very much happy looking at this Sitting today honouring his life and times as we continue to make a public commitment that the course of serving and changing the lives of our people remains a cornerstone of our day-to-day work as public leadership in our public offices.

Therefore, we will continue to advocate with keen interest longevity and durability of the democratic forces so that they can be able to conclude and complete this particular course. At this point in time we lower our banners in honour of this man of the towering character, a character that stands shoulder to shoulder with those who laid down their lives for this nation to be where it is today. It is our firm belief that together with them spiritually wherever they are, Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Chris Hani and many more, we shall move this country forward towards economic freedom as we advance the second phase of our transition. Lerumo la mogale ga le swe le mphato. Thobela. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable Members for the debate and the sharing of the podium that you have just done in honour and tribute to our former Member, a stalwart of our organisation and also the leader of our struggle in South Africa. Thank you very much. Now we will continue with our programme, but before we do that, I should also be able to thank the team that prepared for this debate and also for putting on some photos and all that. We do not take it for granted that workers are at work, but we need to appreciate the effectiveness of preparing the House for our debate today.

I would then like to check if we have got any announcement. Can I get an indication of the person who will be dealing with the announcement? Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The only announcement that we want to make is that we have distributed the Legislature programme approved by the Programming Committee and we want all of us to look at it, particularly our MECs must assist us to make sure that the business of the House goes smoothly. We have discussed, of course, and the Leader of Government Business is part of that, and we want to indicate that there are very few amendments that should be made on it. Thank you very much. Lunch is served.

THE SPEAKER

I recognise the Deputy Chair of Chairs.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker and honourable Members. We are here to remind honourable Members that committee work has already started. All Members are required to attend committee meetings. Committee coordinators will then convene meetings and Members must be available to attend those meetings. Members are also

advised that through the packages that we have been given, they must check their emails for invitations emailed to them, so that they don't these meetings. Members will also be reminded telephonically about the meetings taking place. Members are further advised to carry with them the Constitution, the PFMA and the Rules of this particular august House regularly. Thanks very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Deputy Chair of Chairs. It's critical also to remember the inductions that we were given, because there is a lot of misunderstanding sometimes when people forget that we were inducted on how the House operates. Can I still get another announcement?

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Hon Speaker, there is an announcement from the Protocol Section that those who will be attending the funeral on Sunday will get their tags at the Parliamentary Village on Saturday. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much for all those announcements. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the honourable Members, the Hon Premier, members of the public in the gallery and the Maphoto family for this session this morning. This House is adjourned until Tuesday, 23 July 2019 here at Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE

It's your voice, use it!

VERBATIM REPORT

OF THE

DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH PARLIAMENT

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

TUESDAY, 23 JULY 2019

It's your voice, use it!

VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 23 JULY 2019
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Members. We shall now have a moment of silence for prayers or meditation.

[SILENCE]

Thank you very much. You are recognised honourable Member.

MR SMALLE

Speaker, I would like to rise on a point of order. The Members of this House were given a notification that infringes on the rule book that has been passed by this House that leave of absence from this House must be given from the Speaker's office. According to my understanding of rule 30, it is the Whippery's duty to deal with matters of leaves of Members. I would ask that you ask the Speaker to withdraw the letter that was given to Members today.

I so move. Thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. The matter is noted and will be referred to the relevant authority. We shall now proceed. We will first want to welcome all of you; Hon Premier, honourable MECs, honourable Members and members in the gallery. We once more welcome all of you.

We shall now go straight to the Orders of the Day. Item 2.1 is the Second Reading Approval of Votes and Schedule of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2019 [B01-2019]. In terms of item 2.1.2, we shall now have the Budget Speech on Vote 01: Office of the Premier by Premier, Hon Chupu Mathabatha. [APPLAUSE]

THE PREMIER

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE OFFICE OF THE PREMIER
(Address by Hon C S Mathabatha, Premier of Limpopo)

Thank you, Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, Chief Whip of the ruling party, chairpersons of various portfolio committees, esteemed Members of the House, members of the media, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Two days ago, the country and the SADC region descended on our province to bid a final farewell to a freedom fighter, a revered member of the Luthuli Detachment, a former Member of this House, and a worthy recipient of the National Order of Luthuli. It was indeed a deserved final farewell to Genl Ike Maphoto, a man who sacrificed his

own freedom for our freedom. Genl Ike Maphoto endured the indignity of being an outlaw in his own country of birth; he endured the pain of life in exile; the bleakness of being jailed in a foreign country; the shattering pain of almost being hanged and the prospect of being separated from his loved ones for 30 years.

The death of Bra Ike once again reminded us that our freedom was not free. The road to our freedom was paved with so much blood of innocent men and women whose only crime was to call for equal rights. Apartheid was indeed an antithesis of the religious injunction that we are all made in the image of God, and in the image of one God. We once again wish to thank President Ramaphosa for according Bra Ike a special official funeral, category one. This was indeed a deserved sent off to this hero of heroes, mogale wa bagale.

This presentation of the Budget Vote also takes place during the month dedicated to the celebration of the life and times of yet another giant of our liberation struggle, President Nelson Mandela. Contextualising the struggle of the African people, President Nelson Mandela said the following words … [INTERJECTION]

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Sorry, Hon Premier. Let's hear the order.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you very much. I have a problem, chair. We are proceeding here and it's during school hours, and there are kids singing outside. Before the Premier proceeds with the speech, can we clear that issue outside. It is during school hours, we are comfortable in the House and children are sitting outside, singing. We can't be seen as this House condoning that. Thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Okay, Hon Buthane. The matter is being dealt with outside already. Let's allow the Premier to continue.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

[inaudible]

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Yes. I am saying the matter is being dealt with outside. The Premier can continue.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Chairperson, I am standing to say that education is a very important aspect of life. We shouldn't look at education in a very myopic way. I speak as a former teacher. This is part of education. When people come to parliament, they will be enlightened. If you … [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

This is not an order, Chair, he is debating.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Buthane!

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Chair, this is not an order. Hon Mokone is debating. If he wants to debate, we will give him a debate. I am rising on a very important issue. If that is an exhibition, let us be told that it is an exhibition. We do not have a problem with that. But, we cannot allow as this House to have children singing outside. If they are here for exhibition processes, let them come and stay on top there at the gallery with the public. What is education when we are inside, and they are singing outside?

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Buthane, I have already made a ruling on the matter. Let's allow the Hon Premier to continue.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Order, order, Hon Speaker.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I'm on order, what is this order you are talking about?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

I want to raise an order on this one called Jossey. Because, Jossey just arrived now. We can't allow Jossey to … [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

You can't say Jossey. He is called "honourable". He is not Jossey, he is "honourable".

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Can we have order, honourable Members. Honourable Members, can we have order!

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

We will not be surprised by your action. You said your mother is bewitching you. So, we are not surprised by your action.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

[YELLS AT THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION]

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Can you all sit down. Can you all sit down. Can you all sit down.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I'm not here begging for a caucus. You are a member of the youth league. You cannot allow young kids to be outside. You can't do anything, sit down. O sa le ngwana. O nkga Purity.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Can you all sit down, otherwise I'm going to take you out of the Sitting, if you don't listen. Sit down honourable Members.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Okay. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable Members, if we are not going to respect each other, both of you Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs and Hon Buthane, I'm going to chase you out of this meeting, if you don't listen to me as I chair this Sitting. I shall, therefore, request the Premier to continue with the presentation because I have already made a ruling on the matter. Thank you, Hon Premier. [APPLAUSE]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Speaker, Hon Speaker!

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

It's over to you, Hon Buthane.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Speaker, when we rose to speak here, we spoke about an issue that is happening outside. You said to us that the matter is being attended to, outside. Right? We are not fighting here; we just want a small clarity. Are these kids here on an exhibition mission? If that is the case, let us be told. Because their action affects all of us. I don't have a problem with those that are still begging for salaries. They are new, I don't have a problem with that.

On a very serious matter, I only want you to say to us that they are on an exhibition mission. There won't be any problem. So that, when we are asked – because it affects all of us, that bench and this bench – we then say; they were on an exhibition mission. If they are on an exhibition mission, I'm requesting through you Speaker that they be allowed to enter inside and see what is happening here.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

As I said, the children are being attended to outside. We should allow the Premier to continue.

THE PREMIER

Ba re di leseng di gole mmogo, le tla di bona mohlang wa kotulo. [LAUGHTER]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Aowa, nka se gole le Che; ke ngwana.

THE PREMIER

Hon Speaker, I thought those kids were invited for the Budget Speech of the Department of Education as an educational excursion. This presentation of the Budget Vote also takes place during the month dedicated to the celebration of the life and times of yet another giant of our liberation struggle, President Nelson Mandela. Contextualising the struggle of the African people, President Nelson Mandela said the following words during the infamous Rivonia Treason Trial: “In my youth in the Transkei I listened to the elders of my tribe telling stories of the old days. Amongst the tales they related to me were those of wars fought by our ancestors in defence of the fatherland. The names of Dingane and Bambata, Hintsa and Makana, Squngthi and Dalasile, Moshoeshoe and Sekhukhune, were praised as the pride and the glory of the entire African nation. I hoped then that life might offer me the opportunity to serve my people and make my own humble contribution to their freedom struggle. This is what has motivated me in all that I have done in relation to the charges made against me in this case.”
President Mandela went further and said, “This then is what the ANC is fighting. Our struggle is a truly national one. It is a struggle of the African people, inspired by our own suffering and our own experience. It is a struggle for the right to live.” This is the struggle that earned President Mandela 27 years in prison, and years of solitude and hardship on Robben Island. It is the same struggle that earned Genl Ike Maphoto over 30 years in exile.

Today we stand in this august House, which has the power to make and amend laws, the all-important power to allocate and pass budget. The question is whether we are using this power to breathe life to the ideals which Nelson Mandela, Maphoto and so many others have struggled for. We can only truly earn our decorations and titles as honourable Members of this House, if we use the power given to us by the people to change their conditions of living for the better. The power that is in our hands as lawmakers is not for self-decoration; it is an instrument to pursue fundamental social change. We need to use this power to ward off the frontiers of poverty, to create jobs and to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor. This is what a revolution is all about. A revolution is not about cosmetics, it is about fundamental social change.

It is for this reason that we will be ensuring that every single cent allocated to the Office of the Premier is utilised in an efficient and effective manner. We will not tolerate any wastage of public resources. We will fight wastage and corruption with the tenacity with which President Mandela and Genl Maphoto fought against the evil system of

apartheid. Wastage of resources and corruption undermines the rights of our people just as apartheid did.

In the same vein, we will also take necessary action against those who fail to spend the allocated resources. It is simple logic that we cannot tolerate underexpenditure when so many of our people are still without basic services such as water, sanitation, electricity and proper road infrastructure. We therefore believe that the Budget we are presenting today will assist us to coordinate and drive this process of fundamental change, which indeed is a revolutionary process.

Honourable Members, in order to carry out its constitutional mandate, the Office of the Premier has three functional programmes. These programmes are: Administration Support Services; Institutional Development; and Policy and Governance.

The main function of Programme 1, which is Administration Support Services, is to provide the necessary administrative support to the Premier, the Executive Council and the Director-General in fulfilling their legislative mandate as well as the promotion of good governance. We have recently finalised and adopted a reviewed organisational structure for the Office of the Premier. The new organisational structure is aligned with our overall strategy. The adopted structure is designed to empower the Office of the Premier to function as a well-oiled machine, with the ability to coordinate and provide necessary leadership to the rest of the provincial government.

This structure has amongst others done away with redundant posts which did not add value to the urgency of service delivery. This will also allow us to direct some of the moneys attached to these posts towards service delivery imperatives. At the core of this adopted structure is the strengthening of the policy development and policy coordination capacity in the Office of the Premier. In this regard, we have combined the Planning Unit with Monitoring and Evaluation Unit to ensure integrated approach and efficiency.

As I said in my introduction, our ability to spend allocated resources is directly linked to our ability to take services to our people. I am happy to report that the Office of the Premier is doing very well when it comes to the area of expenditure management. In the past financial year, the Office managed to spend over 99% of its allocated budget. We want to see all departments and entities following in this direction.

We are also doing very well when it comes to the obligation of ensuring that we pay our suppliers and service providers within the prescribed 30 days period. Paying service providers on time is vital for the financial health of small and medium enterprises. The sustainability of our SMMEs is highly dependent on us paying their invoices as and when they become due and payable. Remember, for any SMME to support itself, it must have a healthy cash flow. Honourable Members, Members of the Executive Council and Mayors who may be listening to this Budget Speech, paying SMMEs on time has a multiplier effect of warding off or pushing back the frontiers of poverty. Because that implies that those who are employed by those SMMEs are in the position to can make a meaningful difference to those around them. The multiplier effect simply refers to the outcome of the moneys that somebody gets as a salary or whatever, your per capita income that you earn on a monthly basis.

It is for this reason that we are concerned about a number of other departments which are not doing well with regard to this area of payment within 30 days. We will therefore be working with departments to ensure that all of our departments do pay invoices within the 30 days period.

While the Office of the Premier has received an unqualified audit opinion from the Auditor-General, we have noted a few management issues which require our urgent attention and action. The administration has been directed to ensure a sustained solution to all the issues which have been highlighted by the Auditor-General. The one area where the Office is not doing well is with regard to our equity targets. We are particularly concerned about the representation of females at the senior management level. The situation is that we have many more women between the levels of 1 to 12 and fewer women from level 13 upwards. This issue will receive our undivided attention during the course of this financial year and going forward.

The Office of the Premier is, however, doing relatively well when it comes to the representation of people with disability. With a threshold of 2%, the office is now at 3,4%. We are assisting the entire provincial government to adopt this and even go beyond this. When I say this, I am referring to the threshold of 2% and even beyond.

The function of Programme 2, which is Institutional Development Support, is to provide efficient and effective institutional support services to the rest of the provincial government. It is for this reason that we have finalised an integrated support strategy which is aimed at supporting departments in the areas of skills development, ICT governance and economic development. This we hope will also improve our performance when it comes to audit outcomes, as a province.

As part of the programme to ensure that government has the necessary capacity to deliver on its mandate, we have taken a decision to merge the Department of Community Safety and the Department of Transport. This means that from now on we will only have one HOD and one CFO for these departments. They will no longer be two departments but one department.

We will also be undertaking an extensive overhaul of various entities under the provincial government. This is aimed at ensuring that these entities function in a more effective, targeted and cost-effective efficient manner. In this regard, we have already taken a decision, as announced during SOPA, to re-establish the Limpopo Business Support Agency as an independent agency of LEDA.

We will also be looking at the reorganisation of the Road Agency Limpopo with a view to strengthening its capacity to deliver roads for the people of Limpopo and to some extent also deal with the maintenance of our roads. We want to declare war on potholes on the roads of Limpopo. I, therefore, invite and encourage organised labour to participate actively in this reconfiguration.

Ours is a participatory democracy, and we are committed in consultations to make sure that government meets the needs of our people. As part of our consultative strategy, I will also soon be meeting with the senior management services (SMS) to outline the vision and mission of the sixth administration. This meeting at the end of August will cascade down to the lowest level of government through these SMSs so

that no single civil servant is left out in pulling towards one direction; that of serving the people of Limpopo with determination.

As I reported during SOPA, we have adopted the first-ever comprehensive youth development strategy. The strategy focuses on areas such as youth participation in the economy and job market, youth education and skills development, youth health, nation-building and social cohesion. We will therefore be putting resources aside to drive the implementation of this strategy.

We are equally committed to breathe life to the directives of the White Paper on the rights of persons with disability. The White Paper urges us to assist people with disability in accessing higher education, and capacitating departments with the necessary training in sign language. We are also establishing capacity within the Office of the Premier to coordinate issues of interest to our military veterans.

Through the Provincial AIDS Council, we will continue the partnership between the government, civil society and the private sector to create a collective response to HIV, TB and STIs in the province.

In order to coordinate the support of the private sector for our province's economic development and growth, we will be re-establishing the Premier's Economic Growth Advisory Council (PEGAC). The mandate of this advisory council would be to focus on the growth priorities of the current sixth term of administration, and I am glad to announce here that we would be launching this process by the end of August 2019.

In line with our established tradition, PEGAC will be composed of representatives from our academic institutions, economists, civil society and the private sector. In the past, this partnership has proven to be effective and successful. Through this partnership we have been able to implement projects such as the Africa Pipe Industries North, which manufactures pipes for water infrastructure in Mogalakwena, the development of a R2,5 million sulphur dioxide abatement project by Anglo America Platinum at the Polokwane Smelter, and construction of the Twickenham road in Sekhukhune in partnership with Anglo American.

We have also established a regional socioeconomic development platform, which is a partnership between Anglo American, Exxaro, CSIR, World Vision, and our provincial government. The partnership is based on the understanding of the need to sustain opportunities beyond the lifespan of mining activities in the province. We don't want ghost towns when we are done with those mines.

I am also happy to announce that we will be hosting the provincial economic development workshop from Thursday to Friday this week. This workshop will focus on the development of a framework to inform the review of the Limpopo industrial strategy and priorities of economic clusters. The workshop will also adopt a workable programme to ensure that we build a strong social contract between public, businesses, labour and civil society in Limpopo province.

The Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) is our socioeconomic blueprint whose lifespan expires at the end of the current financial year. We can say without any fear of contradiction that through the Limpopo Development Plan, the fifth administration did manage to cover significant ground with regard to the creation of jobs, improving life

expectancy and improving access to basic services. We will therefore be commencing with a process to review the current Limpopo Development Plan with a view to bring it in line with the priorities of this sixth term of our administration. Central to these priorities shall include the issues of industrialisation, the process of delivery of basic services such as water, sanitation and roads.

I must say Hon Speaker that given the serious challenge of water in this province, I have decided to handle this issue of water delivery in the Office of the Premier. I will be working closely with our water boards, municipalities which are water service authorities and the Department of Water and Sanitation to ensure that we unblock whatever bottlenecks we are having in our communities, when it comes to delivery of water.

As a means of improving the local government sector, we have been in the news of late, and I have therefore instructed Members of the Executive Council and the Director-General that issues of local government should be a standing item at every EXCO sitting from now going forward. This is due to the kind of performance that we had more especially the financial outcomes emanating from the report of the Auditor-General. We have decided that we will make that as a standing item at EXCO, so that we can continuously assess the kind of performance we get from our municipalities.

Furthermore, we will also review the role of the Premier's IGR (Intergovernmental Relations) with a sole intention of transforming it into a nerve centre of integrated planning and service delivery. Part of this process will be to implement an integrated service delivery model, emphasising the relations between the Office of the Premier and the district municipalities in the implementation of developmental priorities.

On the international front, the Office continues to strengthen our relations with countries such as China and SADC neighbours. This is mainly to ensure that our trade relations continue to bear much fruit to the benefit of our people especially in the transfer of skills, training and investment. Ga re sa nyaka gore ge re bitša batho re re ba tle ka mo le dipeeletšo tša bona, batho ge ba etla mo, ba tle le bokgoni bja bona, ge methopo ya rena e fela, ba tloge le bokgoni bja bona ba boele morago. Ge ba e tla mo, go swanetše go ba le service level agreements and specific contracts that we enter into with them that clearly stipulate and specify that one of the main things that they are going to do is imparting of skills to the local population, so that at the end of the day they assist in teaching us how to fish rather than just giving us a fish.

By the end of March 2019, the Office of the Premier had spent 99,5% of its allocated Budget which translates into [LAUGHTER] [FAILURE BY THE PREMIER TO READ THE FIGURE CORRECTLY] You know, there is this thing that is going in almost all our heads, that politicians cannot read figures. You get a person who has been a Maths teacher for 11 years producing very good results, but you are unable to read just R420,680 million. About 99% translates into R420,680 million. For this 2019/20 financial year, the Office is allocated a Budget of R443,478 million.

It is therefore my honour and privilege to table before this esteemed House the 2019/20 Budget Vote for the Office of the Premier. I am not going to go through it line by line, if the House so permits, Hon Speaker. I will just highlight a number of baselines.

On Administration, in the medium-term starting from this financial year, 2019/20, we will be allocating R174,943 million. On Institutional Support Services, we will be allocating R161,818 million. On Policy and Governance, we will be allocating R106,715 million. All in all, it will amount to a sum of R443,476 million. Those are the baselines.

Perhaps if one can just reflect a little bit given the experience that we have. Our biggest cost driver, Hon Speaker, taking from the fifth administration going into the sixth administration remains compensation of employees. Unconfirmed reports say the Office of the Premier in Limpopo is the biggest in terms of staff in the country. It is even bigger than the biggest provinces such as KZN and Gauteng. We are actually twice the staff complement of the province of the Western Cape.

BACKGROUND

[inaudible]

THE PREMIER

Ke botšiša lena e lego kgale le le mo.

That is why we were talking about these institutional arrangements. Seeing to it that we use the money of the taxpayers appropriately and optimally. Hence, we are going to appeal to organised labour to come on board and appeal to other stakeholders to also come on board and assist us in dealing with this matter in such a way that we don't retrench people, we don't kick people out of work. I am sure that there is somewhere within government where we can effectively utilise some of our people rather than to kick them out into the streets. Like I am saying, compensation of employees remains the biggest cost driver in as far as we are concerned.

Hon Speaker, I therefore, would like to make it my very special honour to present this Budget Vote 01 to this esteemed House and esteemed Members of the House. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Premier. The Budget Speech together with the APP are then referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Administration. We shall now allow the MEC for Education to ascend the podium. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
(Address by Hon S P Boshielo, MEC for Education)

Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; honourable colleagues in the Executive Council; Members of the Provincial Legislature – including Hon Buthane, he must keep quiet; Executive Mayors present; leaders of the African National Congress – my party; leaders of the opposition parties; veterans of our struggle; traditional leaders; religious leaders; stakeholders in education; our Director-General; Heads of Department; distinguished

guests and members of the media; ladies and gentlemen and the people of Limpopo; I greet you all.

It is a privilege to be honoured on delivering the Limpopo Department of Education Budget Vote for the financial year 2019/20, my inaugural budget speech as MEC for the sixth administration.

Let me assure Members that the learners that are outside are from a special school called Setotolwane. They participated in the National Eisteddfod Choir Competition representing the province and they got position one. [APPLAUSE] They came here just to show Members the skills that they have and to participate in the Budget Speech. The guy who was sitting down and playing the trumpet is blind. The other ones were using the sign language as they were singing. I am sure they were displaying the skills that they have and why they won the competition. So, they are part and parcel of this, and they wanted to show you that they might be differently abled, but they are abled in some other ways. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker, in his State of the Nation Address in June 2019, President Ramaphosa indicated that within the next 10 years the government would have made progress in tackling poverty, inequality and unemployment. In this regard, the education sector will have to improve the quality of education and ensure that every 10-year old should be able to read with understanding. He further stated that: “Early reading is the basic foundation for a child’s educational progress, through school, through higher education and into the workplace.”

Honourable Members, the department is involved in a number of interventions and campaigns to promote reading. These include Read to Lead and Read Aloud Campaigns, spelling competitions and puzzles. In line with the Read to Lead Campaign, learners are expected to read and distribute stories to parents and community members. In February 2019, the World Read Aloud Day was launched at Moria Primary School where learners were expected to read stories and distribute them to parents and community members. The department will expand these reading campaigns to all schools in this financial year, especially to rural schools.

Tshegofatso Morapedi, a learner from Letlotlo Primary School in Seshego who won the 2017 National Spelling Bee, represented our country in the Africa Spelling Bee competition which was held in Mombasa, Kenya, in 2018. She competed against learners from other 11 African countries and got position 5. It is worth noting that she was a primary school learner in Grade 7, but participated in the secondary school category and got position 5. We want to thank Tshegofatso Morapedi, I think she is amongst us. [APPLAUSE]

In 2018, 7 800 learners from Limpopo province participated in the national spelling competition for Grades 4-6. Rubina Hussain, a learner from Platinum Primary School in Waterberg District obtained position 3. In this financial year, we expect all 141 circuits to participate in the Spelling Bee Competition and we hope to send more learners to represent the province at national and international competitions. This will assist the department in achieving its goal of ensuring that learners read with understanding.

To further promote reading with understanding, the department conducts provincial reading competitions for Grades R-3 learners in their home languages. These competitions start at school level up to the provincial level. In this financial year, the department will strengthen these competitions to ensure that more schools participate, and learners are able to read in their home language.

In promoting writing, the department implements a provincially initiated programme for Grades 6 to 9 learners on story writing and poetry in both English Home Language and English First Additional Language. In this programme, educators are trained to produce stories of their own in both English and in their own home languages. Stories developed by teachers are printed and shared with all primary schools in the province. The department will continue with this programme in this financial year.

In promoting African languages, the department introduced the Incremental Introduction of African Languages (IIAL) policy in schools. This policy focuses on introducing African languages in schools that do not offer any African language. These schools have been provided with ad hoc posts and bilingual dictionaries to support the implementation of this policy. We will continue with this, increasing it in this financial year.

The success of any education system is determined by the strength of its foundation. In his State of the Nation Address delivered in June 2019, the President highlighted the importance of focusing attention on both reading and laying a solid foundation for Early Childhood Development. This matter was also emphasised by the Premier in his State of the Province Address in July 2019.

In this financial year, the department has enrolled 120 876 learners in Grade R in line with the Early Childhood Development programme. The department in partnership with the North-West University (NWU) has registered 100 Grade R practitioners for the NQF level 6 qualification, which is a three-year qualification.

The department is in the process of implementing the decision to relocate the ECD functions from the Department of Social Development as pronounced by the President. The main aim is to prepare children for the schooling system. Premier, we don’t want our children to eat and sleep. We want them to be introduced to the schooling system from 0 to 4 years. The relocation at a policy level will be led by national Department of Basic Education. In this financial year, the department will provide 100 ECD centres with outdoor equipment.

The perennial problem facing the ECD in particular and the GET in general is the language issue. The language of learning and teaching (LoLT) in the foundation phase is home language, which are largely African languages. The situation changes in the intermediate phase where teachers offer content subjects in the first additional language, which is largely English. It is for this reason that the implementation of the national strategy to use English language across the curriculum was advocated for. It is also for this reason that the January 2019 Basic Education Lekgotla resolved that the use of African languages be extended to Grade 7 as languages of learning and teaching. We want our learners to learn the content subjects in their African languages.

The Limpopo Grade 12 results improved by 3,8%, from 65,6% in 2017 to 69,4% in 2018. The province managed to improve the 2017 bachelor passes by 2,1% which

puts it as the fifth contributor of the bachelor passes in the country. The percentage of Limpopo progressed learners improved from 47,8% in 2017 to 55,9% in 2018. The number of underperforming schools declined from 705 in 2017 to 621 in 2018. Subject performance in Mathematics improved from 50,1% in 2017 to 54,9% in 2018 and Physical Sciences from 63,2% in 2017 to 71,8% in 2018.

New technical and technology subjects were written for the first time in the 2018 National Senior Certificate. They all performed above 90% with the exception of Technical Mathematics which performed at 45,6%.

In this financial year, the South African Sign Language (SASL) will be written for the first time as a subject in 2019. The department is preparing teachers, materials and facilities for the National Senior Certificate examinations in this regard.

Limpopo Grade 12 candidates continue to be counted amongst the best performing learners in the country. In the 2018 National Senior Certificate results, the following learners were recognised by Minister Motshekga as top achievers in the category of best performance in quintile 1 schools: Kharendwe Mudzielwana from Thengwe Secondary who took position 1 and Felicia Makondo of EPP Mhinga Secondary School who took position 3. [APPLAUSE] Sipho Chauke, a learner from Rivoni School for the Blind in Vhembe West District, received the MEC Special Award in the 2018 National Senior Certificate. This award was used to promote inclusivity in our education system by recognising performance from special schools. I am happy to announce that Sipho is currently registered for an LLB degree at the University of Limpopo. [APPLAUSE]

In this financial year, the department will continue to implement and intensify the following interventions to improve the Grade 12 results: School improvement plans; academic improvement plans; winter, spring and Saturday enrichment classes; camps; radio lessons broadcasts and use of examination guides and past question papers.

These measures will assist in improving learner performance in the 2019 Grade 12 National Senior Certificate. The department will implement the second chance matric programme and intensify the support for learners who enrol for this programme. Invigilators, examiners and internal moderators will be thoroughly trained to continue to conduct and administer credible examinations in our province without hiccups.

The department continues to participate in the Annual National Teaching Awards whose main objectives are to recognise and reward excellence. In 2018, the Limpopo province obtained first positions in the following categories and the recipients won three cars: Excellence in Primary School Teaching; Excellence in Primary School Leadership; and Excellence in Enhanced Technology Teaching and Learning. The names of these winners are as follows:

- Excellence in Primary School Teaching: Ms Phenyo Victoria Violet Koka from Dikobo Primary School, Waterberg District;

- Excellence in Primary School Leadership: Mr Marcus Thobya Matsebane from Rapoho Primary School, Capricorn North District; and

- Excellence in Technology-Enhanced, Teaching and Learning: Mr Mmatlake Linford Molaodi from Masemola High School, Sekhukhune South District. [APPLAUSE]

I am sad to announce that Mr Molaodi has been poached by the Gauteng Department of Education and has been given a better offer which we could not.

The province has also received third position in the National Teaching Awards Competition in the category of Excellence in Teaching Physical Sciences. This position was won by Mr Matsentshe William Mathipa from Flora Park Comprehensive High. This phenomenal achievement deserves a round of applause. [APPLAUSE]

The department will continue to provide learner and teacher support materials to all schools on time. In this academic year, the department managed to deliver learner-teacher support materials (LTSM) in all public schools. A notable benefit in this regard is on the use of an Automated LTSM Ordering System which was used for the first time in 2018. In this financial year, the department will launch a provincial LTSM call centre to manage queries related to orders, shortages or surpluses and any general complaints on LTSM. We will continue to monitor very closely schools, circuits and districts to ensure timeous retrieval of textbooks. The department has also budgeted R649 million for LTSM, of which R75 million is allocated for the provisioning of ICT equipment and e-Learning in schools.

In his book entitled Shaping the Future of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Klaus Schwab states that: “The world is at a crossroads. The social and political systems that have lifted millions out of poverty and shaped our national and global policies for half a century are failing us. The economic benefits of human ingenuity and effort are becoming more concentrated, inequality is rising, and the negative externalities of our integrated global economy are harming the national environment and vulnerable populations: the stakeholders least able to absorb the cost of progress.”

The ANC 2019 Election Manifesto acknowledges that the world and our nation are at a critical point in the rapid digital transformation linked to the Fourth Industrial Revolution. This is shaping the future of work, social interaction and industrial production. The rise of new technologies in robotics, artificial intelligence, big data and the internet-of-things will have a profound impact on our country. The manifesto pledges to strengthen and consolidate efforts to digitise government, utilise big data in planning and execution, and expedite the implementation of eGovernance so that citizens can access public services from any location as they become connected. Priority will be given to effective use of new technologies for public infrastructure as we build smart public schools and offices.

The Department of Education will in this financial year ensure that its head office, 10 education district offices and 141 circuit offices are all equipped with Wi-Fi facilities. [APPLAUSE] We will also ensure that all senior management, district directors and circuit managers are provided with tablets to prepare them to lead in the implementation of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The department will roll-out the biometric system in this financial year starting with the head office. This will ensure that our workforce observe official working times and are available to serve our people when they visit departmental offices. Name tags will also be provided to departmental officials for easy identification.

In terms of Education White Paper 7 of 2007 on e-Education, the department will use Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as a tool to enhance quality curriculum delivery through ICT infrastructure provisioning, connectivity, ICT professional development for management, teaching and learning. The main aim is to produce a learner that can function in the changing world characterised by the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

In this regard, the department will allocate R75 million to procure tablets, interactive boards and mobile science laboratories for schools especially in the rural areas. [APPLAUSE] These initiatives will progressively assist in bringing learners of Limpopo on par with learners from other provinces in ICT skills and the implementation of eLearning.

The department will also identify unemployed youth in each district and train them to service, upgrade and repair these electronic equipment. The department will also partner with TVET colleges, private sector and other relevant stakeholders to identify and train these youth in order to create employment and equip them with relevant skills needed by our economy.

The department's main challenge remains the theft and vandalisation of school infrastructure including ICT equipment. We are appealing to communities to protect and jealously guard this infrastructure for the benefit of our children.

It broke my heart when I visited Mammati Primary School in Madisha Ditoro to discover that a library was burned to ashes when the community was protesting demanding a tarred road. How could it be? Who in their right mind burn books meant for Grade R learners? What has become of us? These are ills that cannot be normalised and promoted in our schools and communities as they pose a serious barrier to learning and also have a potential of depriving our learners their inherent constitutional rights to life, education, equality and dignity.

Hon Speaker, it is an undisputed fact that the provision of school infrastructure plays an important role in the creation of a conducive environment for teaching and learning. This then calls upon the education sector to prudently plan for the provision of infrastructure in each school. The infrastructure challenges in schools range from inappropriate, hazardous and unhygienic sanitation facilities, lack of safe running drinking water, lack of proper security fences, schools with old dilapidated buildings, storm damaged schools, new residential settlements without schools resulting in massive overcrowding in existing neighbouring schools.

The demand for infrastructure across the province is well documented as per the norms and standards. This is a matter that is receiving our undivided attention in order to create a safe and favourable environment for teaching and learning in our schools. The budget allocated for infrastructure development in this financial year is R1,05 billion. This will cater for the building of new schools, inclusive of the four special schools mentioned in the State of the Province Address by the Premier; upgrading, renovations and maintenance, including the building of new classrooms. This allocation includes the provision of appropriate infrastructure at special schools.

Currently there are 507 schools with pit latrines in the province. I want honourable Members to listen to this very carefully. In this financial year, the department will eradicate pit latrines in all the 507 schools and replace them with proper sanitation facilities. [APPLAUSE] The Department of Basic Education will be providing for 300 and the provincial department for the balance of 207 schools. There will be no talk of pit latrines in the coming financial years. We will be talking about the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The department is experiencing serious challenges in the delivery of infrastructure projects in the province. As the department, we do not have a fully staffed unit to plan and monitor the implementation of projects assigned to implementing agents. The vacant posts within the Infrastructure Unit will be advertised and filled in this financial year and we hope this will enhance the effectiveness of the unit.

The department appointed three implementing agents: The Mvula Trust, the Independent Development Trust and the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to implement infrastructure programme. The main challenge of the implementing agents is that they too, do not have capacity to discharge their contractual obligations to the department.

The department has engaged the implementing agents in June 2019 and an agreement was reached that they must submit a comprehensive review plan on how they are going to fulfil their contractual obligations. [APPLAUSE] Honourable Members, we are no longer going to accept any excuse from these three implementing agents. If we have to go to court with them, we will go to court. We can't have a situation where a toilet is planned for two years. We can't have a situation where one school is planned to cost R420 million. We don't have a budget in the province to do that. This huge amount can be used to develop all the 35 special schools in our province. [APPLAUSE] We told our implementing agents that those companies that have abandoned their projects, we are not going to be nice to them. Those are public moneys, and if we have to pursue them legally, we are going to do so. We are not going to tolerate any infrastructure that is inferior.

We have given the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure 70 schools to build in this financial year. When I met them, they were telling me that they were still at the planning phase and are going to advertise somewhere in November. Premier, as this province we can't allow such to happen to our own people. We are going to be very tough on them, and I am going to ask this Legislature to give us time until the end of this financial year to sit down with these implementing agents. We have asked them to submit to us their reviewed submissions. If we are not satisfied, we will do our own project and we will come to this Legislature and report back. We will do that. We are asking this Legislature to understand us and support us on this issue. [APPLAUSE]

Leadership and management plays a crucial role in making schools function and as such school management teams (SMTs) play a central role in the provisioning of quality education in schools. The department will conduct training on school leadership and management to all principals of underperforming schools. All circuit managers have been trained on curriculum management for them to be able to support school management teams in the delivery of curriculum. Furthermore, the department will also conduct induction of newly appointed SMTs and subject advisors on their roles and responsibilities.

The department has also developed a leadership programme for capacitating the representative council of learners (RCL) on knowledge, attitudes and leadership skills. This programme will mainly focus on linking training on leadership and development with improving both school and learner performance. The department will also organise a provincial RCL summit focusing on youth leadership and also on protection of quality learning and teaching in public schools. The department signed a pledge with members of RCL at the recent dialogue with RCLs in June 2019. The representative council of learners committed themselves to intensive learner involvement in transforming and democratising of our province through strategic and corporate governance. Most importantly, they pledged to ensure that the culture of teaching, learning and safety becomes our priority through supporting professional management and guidance.

Our learners raised among other challenges and social ills that are facing them as learners such as child-headed families, bullying, substance abuse, HIV/Aids, just to mention but a few. We have agreed as the Departments of Education; Social Development; Health; and Community Safety to work together to address the challenges of the learners.

Hon Speaker, adequate school funding enhances effective teaching and learning at our schools. The department put functionality of schools as one of its highest priorities. All ordinary public schools are funded in terms of national norms and standards for school funding as published by the Minister of Basic Education. The total amount provided for norms and standards is R2,273 billion of which 70%, which is R1,591 billion is for transfers to schools for operating expenses; 29% which is R649 million is for LTSM and 1% which is R30 million is for fee exemption, which is provided for poor learners who are attending at quintiles 4 and 5 schools. The no-fee threshold is R1 390 per learner and all small schools will receive a fixed amount of R32 197 per school.

Funds transferred to public schools are for enhancing curriculum delivery and must be used for that purpose. The department will also conduct monitoring and support to schools on management of school funds. Anyone who embezzles school funds will be dealt with accordingly. Those principals must ensure that they discharge their responsibilities without fail as accounting officers in terms of the Basic Education Laws Amendment Act in this regard.

The department will continue providing subsidy to qualifying independent schools. The amount of R141 million is provided to subsidise independent schools. For independent schools to qualify for a subsidy, that school should have performed at or above the provincial average pass rate for that academic year. Monitoring and support of the independent schools remain our priority even in this financial year.

The department has observed with serious concern an increase in the challenges relating to substance and alcohol abuse in our schools. This abuse leads to both bullying and gangsterism in our communities and schools. There is one school in Seshego where gangsters are led by girls, and they carry very dangerous weapons. The town/city schools in Polokwane have been declared hotspots because of the increased number of incidents of gangsterism and bullying of learners. Four hotspot schools whose learners were negatively affected by the teenage pregnancy and murder incidents were visited. In order to strengthen the school safety programme, the

department trained circuit managers and assistant directors for governance on the school safety policy. I am informed that in one instance, the learners hit the bus driver of scholar transport because they wanted him to go and pick up their friends.

Furthermore, the department has developed a training programme on drug testing and bullying to be rolled out to all public schools in this financial year. The department will strengthen partnership with SAPS to intensify the process of random searches and seizures for dangerous weapons in hotspots especially in public schools around Polokwane. The department will ensure that school safety committees are established in all school in partnership with SAPS.

Special Projects encompasses three important programmes which support delivery of curriculum in schools. These are: learner transport commonly known as scholar transport, the national school nutrition programme (NSNP) and EPWP (Expanded Public Works Programme) incentive grant. All the three programmes play a critical role in addressing the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

The learner transport programme provides transport to deserving learners from Grade R to 12 who walk a minimum distance of 5 km single trip to the nearest public school. The target groups in this instance are mainly learners from farm and rural areas.

The Department of Education signed a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Transport and Community Safety, wherein the two departments as part of the agreement jointly conduct vehicle inspection on all shortlisted bidders to ensure roadworthiness and safety of such vehicles that will be ferrying learners. The aim of this joint engagement is to ensure that learners are safely transported to and from their respective schools. It should be noted that the demand for learner transport continues to increase due to relocations, establishment of new settlements and lack of schools within and around the area where these settlements/communities are located.

In this financial year, the department increased the budget from R290,4 million to R306,5 million. The department is providing scholar transport to 37 357 learners from 375 schools. The learner transport programme has empowered 396 SMMEs in the province.

It is important to acknowledge the role played by the scholar transport programme. Among others, it has improved learner attendance, minimised absenteeism and late coming and thus support delivery of quality curriculum in our schools.

The National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) plays an important role in ensuring the improvement of learner health and thereby attendance and effective learning. The NSNP provides learners with nutritious meals for a specific number of feeding days in order to alleviate hunger and to contribute to the enhancement of the learning capabilities. The NSNP programme is funded through a conditional grant from the Department of Basic Education. The grant allocations are based on the number of primary, secondary and special schools learners from quintiles 1 to 3. In the 2018/19 financial year, the department provided meals to 3 795 schools for 199 days, feeding 1 636 229 learners. We are continuing to feed the same number of schools and feeding over 1 643 707 learners in this financial year.

The number of jobs created through the implementation of the NSNP is 10 447 temporary jobs for 12 months which is for food handlers at school level, whose responsibility is to cook for the learners in all benefiting schools. The programme contracted 283 SMMEs from 10 education districts to supply and deliver food stuff to benefiting schools in this financial year.

Additionally, NSNP jobs are also created through the national Department of Public Works' Expanded Public Works Programme. In the 2018/19 financial year, the NSNP received a sum of R40 million from the national Department of Public Works as an incentive grant to expand the programme by creating more job opportunities within the social sector.

The grant was able to contract 555 beneficiaries for a period of 12 months in schools benefiting from NSNP in the all districts. The key responsibility of the beneficiaries is to monitor the implementation of NSNP at school level. Due to budget cuts, in the 2019/20 financial year, the programme will provide temporary jobs to 520 school-based monitors (SBMs).

One of the objectives of the NSNP programme is to encourage schools to establish food gardens. The sustainable food production project (SFP), as part of the NSNP, is a programme where the department strives to provide learners with knowledge, skills and values so that they become future food producers, the situation which will minimise dependency. This SFP eventually contributes towards the success of food security initiatives.

In this financial year, the department is implementing the EPWP through training 221 ECD Pre-Grade R practitioners from the community learning centres to acquire NQF level 4 qualification. The main objective is to train the Pre-Grade R practitioners in the implementation of the National Curriculum Framework which prepares 0-4 years learners before the formal schooling systems. They will complete their training at the end of the academic year in March 2020.

In fulfilment of the national mandate of building a healthy nation and social cohesion, schools participate in schools sport league programme. Schools are expected to register a minimum of 3 out of 20 sporting codes, MEC Moraka. Public special schools and public ordinary schools participate from circuit, clusters, district, provincial and up to the national schools sport championships. Premier, I must say to you that we have observed that the former Model C schools are no longer participating in the schools sport. We don't know what the problem is, but we have instructed all schools to ensure that they participate because it is part of social cohesion.

The department presented teams that participated in the National Athletics Championships for primary and secondary schools. The competition was held in March 2019 and the provincial primary and secondary teams brought back 9 and 8 medals respectively.

The department also sent a team that participated in 9 sporting codes in the National School Sport Summer Games and won 43 medals. [APPLAUSE] The South African Cross Country Competition was held in September 2018 in the Free State and the provincial team won 7 medals.

The department acknowledges that its vision and excellence in the provisioning of quality basic education will be possible if it capacitates its employees to respond to the challenges and needs of the current epoch. This can happen if its employees are kept abreast with the developments and changes in their work environment. The department has in recognition of this imperative, allocated R1,72 million for skills development and training. The allocation enables the department to pay its obligation to the ETDP SETA in terms of the Skills Development Levy Act, which prescribes that 30% of the skills development allocation must be contributed to ETDP SETA. An amount of R78,147 million has been set aside for this purpose. The department in return benefits immensely from SETA programmes and various collaborations. An amount of R23,8 million is allocated to bursaries for employees to pursue studies in their fields of work. This is crucial for the employees to improve their knowledge and competencies. Early Childhood Development and Professional Teacher Development are allocated R11,7 million and R13,3 million respectively.

In order to ensure stability in our schools the department has kept the educator posts basket constant at 51 752 as in the previous year. This has resulted in an educator learner ratio of 1:32,7.

The age profile of our professional educators poses a major threat and risk to the sustenance of the education system. Premier, 21% of our educators are of the pensionable age bracket of 55 – 65 years while those who are 30 years and younger only account for 11%. The department is on a drive to recruit and train younger educators to mitigate this risk, Hon Che Selane. In order to attract more young people to the profession, the department offers contractual bursaries to learners in the province to study teaching specialising in fields of scarce skill subjects. About R9 million is provided for this purpose. In addition to this, the national Department of Basic Education provides bursaries for the same purpose through the Funza Lushaka Bursary scheme. The beneficiaries of these bursary schemes are employed in schools that are in need on completion of their teacher qualification.

The department is progressively employing administration support staff to our schools and offices with bias to high enrolment schools and newly established districts. The filling of support staff posts will be undertaken with due consideration of the prevalent budgetary constraints.

The provisioning of professional support to our schools remains a major challenge. The department acknowledges that our educators do not have all skills and expertise required to deal with barriers to learning which include socioeconomic, psychological and physical factors. For this reason, the department will again be working together with the Department of Social Development for the recruitment and placement of learner support agents in the form of social workers in our schools. This collaboration which was initiated in the previous financial year has benefitted the schools that received the service immensely.

Although the department maintained a qualified audit opinion during the 2017/18 financial year, there is improvement since 2016/17 financial year. The department, supported by internal audit, is working hard to improve the audit outcomes for the 2018/19 financial year. We have established the required controls in a number of critical areas to improve financial management in this regard.

In the 2019/20 budget, we prioritised the following core mandates of the department:

- Improvement of the quality of teaching and learning: We plan to improve learning outcomes from Grade R to Grade 12 so that our learners exit the system with the firm foundation for further studies and other opportunities;

- Teacher development and support: As part of improving teaching and learning, we will continue to invest in continuing professional development of teachers as well as ensuring proper and efficient functioning of districts and circuit office. This will definitely lead to improved learner performance across the system;

- In terms of infrastructure, we have said that we are going to ensure that we get value for money and that the people and learners of Limpopo get the required and appropriate infrastructure that they deserve;

- Early Childhood Development programme remains a national and provincial priority. On this aspect we will continue to work hard to ensure that our ECD practitioners are appropriately qualified. The department will have to explore ways to ensure that there is improvement on the supply of other infrastructure resources required in this programme; and

- Inclusive Education: This programme is a priority for the education sector and that is the reason why it is also prioritised in the 2019/20 budget.

Hon Speaker, the 2019/20 Budget for the Limpopo Department of Education is a total of R32,291 billion. This budget is made up of R26 billion for compensation of employees; R2,8 billion for Goods and Services; R2,5 billion for transfers and subsidies; and R1 billion for Capital Assets. Details of allocations to programmes and economic classifications are hereto attached.

It is of utmost importance that we deliver on our mandate and we shall continue to put the necessary measures that will ensure that we work hard towards our targets. We will tightly monitor and support systems in order to achieve our strategic objectives. We are called upon by the National Development Plan Vision 2030 to use these scarce resources to produce learners who are motivated to come to school and learn; train teachers who conduct themselves in a professional manner, principals who are leaders; involve parents who are interested in the education of their children; and provide suitable school infrastructure that enhances teaching and learning.

In conclusion, we want to emphasise that education remains a critical societal matter which is a collective responsibility and requires constructive participation from all of us. We are confident that working together, we can deliver on the task at hand. Let us not forget that all successful nations invest in education and we want young South Africans to have a strong solid foundation to compete with the best in the world. We therefore emphasise that an investment in education is a prerequisite for building a country that works and, most importantly, that advances the ideals of our Constitution. We remain on track and resilient in our mission to educate the nation by promoting access to and equity in the provision of education. In the words of Nelson Mandela, we must know that: “To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity. To impose on them a wretched life of hunger and deprivation is to dehumanise them.” The department accordingly thanks all stakeholders: parents,

teachers, traditional leaders, religious leaders, teachers unions, professional associations, governing bodies, learner representatives, community members and volunteers who play a critical role in ensuring that our children receive quality education they so much deserve.

The department would like to thank the previous Portfolio Committee on Education in the fifth administration and looks forward to working with the new committee in terms of giving the department the wise counsel and oversight in the delivery of education across the province.

Let me take this opportunity and thank the Head of Department, senior management and the entire workforce of the department for their sterling work, renewed determination, dedication and commitment. Let me also thank the staff in the office of the MEC for their unwavering support.

Let me also thank my life partner, Mr Benny Boshielo, for his support and unerstanding at times. Kgafela, on your big shoulders I stand, you are indeed the wind beneath my wings. Hon Premier, let me also thank you for your guidance and leadership including the confidence that you have shown in me. We will not disappoint.

Lastly, let me take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Cde Ishmael Kgatjepe, for the work well done in steering this department to greater heights. O e kgathile tema ya gago, Bauba'a Hlabirwa. Re a leboga.

Hon Speaker, I hereby table the 2019/20 MTEF Budget for the Limpopo Department of Education. Let us grow South Africa together. Re a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable MEC. I nearly said thank you, Hon Speaker. I won't commit a mistake by saying Hon Rob Tooley, when I shall be calling the MEC for Provincial Treasury. I won't commit that mistake. And before I call upon the MEC, Hon Buthane is that a point of order?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thanks, Acting Speaker. We want to welcome the explanation given by the MEC for Education on the matter we raised as the EFF upon arriving in this House. And we want to challenge all Members from this side and that side that it must never happen that they see a child in uniform or without uniform during school hours and don't make it their responsibility to take that child to school. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Buthane. The Budget for the Department of Education and the APP will then be referred to the Portfolio Committee on Education for consideration and report back to the House. I now call upon the MEC Hon Sekoati. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Di tla gola mmogo.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Di tla gola le ngwana.

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL TREASURY
(Address by Hon S C Sekoati, MEC for Provincial Treasury)

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Hon Premier; Members of the Executive Council; Members of this august House; Business Executive of the Auditor-General present here, Director-General and Heads of Department; Head of Provincial Treasury, Mr Gavin Pratt; comrades; friends; ladies and gentlemen, allow me to table the 2019/20 Budget Vote for Provincial Treasury Vote 5 together with the attached Summary of Payments and Estimates for consideration by this House.

Hon Speaker, in South Africa the expenditure budget over the 2019 MTEF period is projected to be above the national revenue targets and therefore it is imperative for Provincial Treasury to continuously provide support to departments and public entities to ensure the maximisation of provincial own revenue collections to augment the allocated Provincial Share of National Revenue to address provincial spending priorities.

Hon Speaker, this budget is presented during a difficult economic period both at national and provincial level. In February 2019, the Minister of Finance projected that the real GDP growth in 2019 will rise to 1,5%, and then strengthen moderately to 2,1% in 2021. The first quarter of 2019 however, showed a negative quarter on quarter economic growth rate of 3,2%. These developments are indications that the national economic growth rate may be 1% or lower in 2019.

The slower than anticipated economic growth impacts negatively on the already tight fiscal situation with various national state owned entities requiring government guarantees for their continuous operation. The slower than anticipated growth also impacts negatively on national tax collection since companies report lower profits and lower salaries will be paid to employees. The tight fiscal situation has already led to reduction in the baseline of the Limpopo province, with the anticipated further cuts over the years.

Hon Speaker, the challenge of unemployment continues to exist in Limpopo despite the fact that the province has one of the lowest unemployment rates in South Africa. In terms of Stats SA, the unemployment in the province reached 18,5% in the first quarter of 2019 with 318 000 persons unemployed while two million persons of a working age deemed not to be economically active. The high number of people reported as not economically active may be attributed to the large informal trade sector in the province and many of these young people of a working age that are still at higher education institutions pursuing further studies.

In terms of inequality, progress has been made in Limpopo to reduce the level of inequality with the Gini coefficient in the province reduced to 0,59 in 2017 from 0,63 in 2000. Despite the progress, the level of inequality in Limpopo is still higher than the

target of 0,50 that was set in the Limpopo Development Plan. The improvement in inequality coincided with the reduction of both the number and the percentage of people living in poverty in the province since 1996. As provincial government we are committed to even further reduce the levels of poverty and inequality as a province.

Hon Speaker, revenues and costs are the basic financial apparatus that drive the provision of quality services and infrastructure development, and thus creation of job opportunities. Provinces and municipalities are empowered by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa to generate own revenue to augment the provincial equitable share in supporting the provincial and local priorities. Given the prevailing economic downtimes, it is imperative that while departments, municipalities and public entities do more with less, they should accelerate their efforts timeously collecting all revenue that is due.

Provincial Treasury provides support to departments and public entities on revenue collection endeavours through amongst others, quarterly revenue enhancement bilateral meetings, provincial revenue workshops and revenue project site visits. The provincial revenue target for 2019/20 financial year is R1,3 billion, an improvement from the previous year's original target of R1,2 billion. The province has sustained the annual total collection of over R1 billion for a period of more than five years. However, the volatile nature of interest earned on provincial bank balances requires collective efforts in uncovering new revenue sources, revenue enhancement projects and implementation of effective revenue management systems.

The Department of Transport continues to lead on own revenue collection, contributing 44,1% of the total provincial own revenue, primarily through motor vehicle licenses and taxes. The planned extension of motor vehicle registration and licensing services to provincial registering authorities in 2019/20 will not only benefit revenue collection, but also allow more access to public services. Also, the initiatives by the Department of Health and the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, in improving billing systems and in the refurbishment of state resorts respectively, will contribute meaningfully to the provincial cash inflow if aptly implemented.

Provincial Treasury plays an important and a pivotal role in guiding departments to reprioritise their budgets to fund service delivery imperatives and reduce allocations of non-core items or activities. Thus, the implementation of cost containment measures remains a key priority for the province. The provincial government is implementing the fiscal consolidation package as part of the fiscal strategy with the aim of stabilising the economy and government spending.

Hon Speaker, as part of our mandate to prepare a Provincial Budget, Provincial Treasury works hand in hand with the departments and public entities on gathering budget inputs for the upcoming financial year that are addressing sector, provincial and departmental mandates and priorities. The understanding of the critical nature of budget preparations by provincial departments and entities is witnessed by their cooperation towards the implementation of budget processes throughout the budget cycle.

In October 2018, Provincial Treasury conducted MTEC hearing with provincial departments and public entities with a view to assess the budget alignment with sector priorities and the same was done by National Treasury during the benchmarking

exercise with the province on 04 December 2018. Through these collective efforts, the province in 2019/20 financial year was allocated a Budget of R69 billion Equitable Share, R9 billion from Conditional Grants and R1,3 billion from Provincial Own Revenue. The allocation of this budget to departments and entities was approved by Provincial Executive Council on 13 February 2019 and tabled in this august House on 05 March 2019.

The monitoring and reporting on the provincial spending remains one of the core functions of the Provincial Treasury. Provincial Treasury conducts quarterly expenditure bilateral meetings and projects visits. These engagements assist in assessing the spending by departments and entities against their plans. It is during these sessions that departments are held accountable for the implementation of plans. In 2019/20, Provincial Treasury intends to host two quarterly expenditure bilateral meetings and conduct two project visits sessions. Furthermore, quarterly bilateral meetings will also be held on conditional grants spending to unlock any challenges which hamper service delivery and spending on the various conditional grants in the province. The quarterly bilateral meetings have shown positive results as evidenced by the improved provincial expenditure from 99,1% in 2017/18 to 99,2% of the Budget in 2018/19.

Limpopo province is the province with highest percentage of the budget spent on compensation of employees as it was said by the MEC for Education today and the Premier also alluded to that fact, which I think we need to look into it seriously. The implementation of the Persal block as set out in the Provincial Personnel Management Framework and Instruction Note 7 of 2016 continues to bear fruits in reducing the high provincial wage bill. Provincial departments are prioritising personnel budgets to provide for critical posts only and the budget for compensation of employees is ring-fenced. The implementation of the cost containment measures linked to procurement reforms has also been successfully applied to reduce and contain expenditure on non-essential goods and services. I know that practising this Note 7 has become a devil that even when officials are not procuring whatever services they continue pointing at it. I hope that today it has been clarified what its responsibility is all about.

The province has been able to maintain the COE cost below 70 percent of the total provincial budget from 2017/18 to date and 69,0% was achieved in 2018/19 financial year. More effort is still required to further reduce the percentage on spending on compensation of employees cost and to close the gap between Limpopo and the national provincial average of just above 60% of the budget. Departments are also urged to encourage their staff members from 52 years old to take early retirement packages without penalties as introduced by Department of Public Service and Administration. We are not saying that when you have reached the age of 52 you must take early retirement, but you start applying from the age of 52 so that when you get to the age of 55 you are ready to exit the system. I hope that is very clear.

Hon Speaker, the Provincial Treasury Infrastructure Management Support and Oversight Responsibility is derived from the Public Finance Management Act and the Municipal Finance Management Act. As a result, the institutional capacity of the Provincial Treasury to fulfil its infrastructure mandate in departments, provincial public entities, municipalities and municipal public entities is substantial. In response to this substantial mandate, the province is implementing the framework for implementation of Infrastructure Delivery Management System which was approved by the Provincial

Executive Council. In consideration of the vastness of the provincial government, the IDMS puts more focus on Health; Education; Provincial Treasury; and Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, but is extended to all infrastructure departments.

Provincial Treasury, jointly with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, continues to play a central role in ensuring that the province strengthens and practically implements IDMS in all infrastructure departments. The support and monitoring of the IDMS implementation is enhanced through conducting monthly provincial infrastructure governing structures meetings with the support of Office of the Premier as a key link to the effective and consequential reporting to the level of the political cluster and ultimately the Executive Council.

Hon Speaker, it is worth noting that the province still faces a challenge with regard to the availability of built environment skills across various departments. However, in the Departments of Health and Education, together with the National Treasury through the human resource DoRA capacitation grant, the built environment professionals are continually recruited and a handful of the already acquired skills has made a positive impact in infrastructure delivery and expenditure trends.

Provincial Treasury has also with the assistance of Government Technical Advisory Centre (GTAC) in collaboration with Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure endorsed the integration plan for the secondment of the built environment professionals from the infrastructure strategic planning hub to departments thereby ensuring that capacity is sustained. Provincial Treasury has currently developed a generic work plan to help clarify the roles, responsibilities and scope assignment so that all built environment professionals seconded to departments can deliver based on a structured approach and in line with the IDMS.

The Limpopo Provincial Treasury Infrastructure Programme will be supported by the GTAC team until the end of December 2019 to ensure that transition management plans are developed and implemented. As part of transition planning, certain aspects such as the institutionalisation of the departmental infrastructure coordinating committees, and planning and acceleration of infrastructure programmes have been identified as requiring continued support to sustain the traction gained thus far and to ensure institutionalisation by the Infrastructure Strategic Planning Hub going forward.

Last year we did mention to this House that we have agreed with the top management of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to conduct a rapid assessment in order to make findings and recommendations on the readiness of the department to deliver the provincial infrastructure portfolio of projects on behalf of sector departments. Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure is critical to the delivery of infrastructure both at a provincial and local government. In this regard, the department is the custodian of provincial infrastructure and the preferred implementing agent according to the adopted Limpopo Infrastructure Delivery Management System. However, the capacity challenges in the department to perform this role cannot be overemphasised. We have now concluded a project charter which determines the immediate and long-term support required by the department.

Given the complexity of the functions, the mandate of Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and the historical legacy of many of the issues

identified, it is proposed that this support should be resident and based in the department. The support to address all the areas that have been identified will entail a technical support team with expertise and engagements will be held to conclude this process.

The province continues to experience infrastructure delivery challenges at local government. The province is not able to deliver physical infrastructure on the ground at an acceptable rate to ensure access to services for the citizens and infrastructure budgets spent. Thus, Limpopo Provincial Treasury has also included GTAC support to the struggling municipalities in order to optimise Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) performance. The overall duration for the support programme is from September 2016 to 31 March 2021.

It is important to note that the Standard for Infrastructure Procurement and Delivery Management is withdrawn from 01 October 2019 and the improved Framework for Infrastructure Delivery and Procurement Management (FIDPM) will apply going forward. Provincial Treasury together with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure are working on a plan to ensure the province is ready to operationalise the plan and the framework and its associated templates.

Limpopo Provincial Treasury has the responsibility to monitor the implementation of Municipal Finance Management Act over 26 delegated municipalities. To achieve this responsibility, the focus of the department is on four main areas namely: planning and budget, accounting and reporting, revenue management and governance.

Given the current financial position of municipalities in the province, Provincial Treasury intends to embark on the following key interventions in line with its approved strategic and annual performance plans:

- Support municipalities in developing and adopting funded budgets. This will happen through the assessment of draft budget and provision of feedback on time. Treasury will also provide hands on support when necessary;

- Support, capacitate and monitor municipalities in the implementation of the Municipal Standard Charts of Account (mSCOA) reforms with the support of a specialist from National Treasury;

- Support and capacitate municipalities on governance and supply chain management related matters with the support of a specialist from National Treasury as well;

- Assess municipal cash flows and provide timeous feedback;

- Support distressed municipalities to develop financial recovery plans and monitor implementation thereof. Some municipalities already have FRPs and implementation is in progress;

- Engage municipalities and departments on the reconciliation of debts owed by departments to municipalities and vice versa;

- Implement the provincial revenue enhancement strategy for municipalities in the province with the support of a specialist from National Treasury with special attention to financially distressed municipalities;

- Monitor municipal financial performance on investments in ensuring compliance with applicable legislation; and

- Support municipalities on asset management related matters with the support of a specialist from National Treasury.

The above actions require constant engagements with municipalities and relevant stakeholders such as Salga and the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs. In this regard, Provincial Treasury and CoGHSTA will continue to convene provincial forums namely: MMs forums, CFOs forums, Forum for MEC and MMCs for Finance, Internal Audit and Chief Audit Executive forums, Debt Management Forum and Budget and Revenue Forum, all to allow for constructive engagements with stakeholders to improve the municipal financial management in the province.

Hon Speaker, to attain the above, the department intends to capacitate its municipal finance unit by recruiting skilled personnel in line with the newly approved organisational structure which provides for permanent positions. It is envisaged that if these appointments are concluded during this budget cycle, they will undoubtedly contribute significantly to the general improvement of municipal financial performance in the province.

Honourable Members, the budget details of our department are as follows: Provincial Treasury which is Vote 5 has been allocated a total Budget of R506 million for the 2019/20 financial year. The department also plans to collect R280 million in Own Revenue which consists mainly of interest earned, commission on insurance, sale of tender documents and parking fees. The Own Revenue will be paid into the Provincial Revenue Fund. The department's budget is allocated per economic classification is as follows:

Compensation of Employees:	: R322,1 million;
Goods and Services	: R173,5 million;
Transfers and Subsidies	: R6,5 million; and
Payments for Capital Assets	: R4,7 million.

There is an overall increase of 7,2% in 2019/20 Budget of R506,8 million as compared to the main budget allocation of R472,8 million in the 2018/19 financila year, and this is attributed to amongst others, the general salary increase, additional funds allocated for infrastructure support capacity programme, municipal intervention capacity as well as the provincial support programme.

Provincial Treasury will continue to improve its strategies in supporting and monitoring departments, municipalities and public entities to improve compliance to the PFMA, MFMA and policies and legislation thereby contributing towards improved audit outcomes in the province. The key focus in the current financial year will be to further strengthen the Provincial Treasury's capacity to support Limpopo departments, public entities and municipalities to ensure sound financial management for effective and

efficient service delivery. I will not go into the details of the budget; you will be given copies of the Budget Speech to read on your own.

As I conclude, Provincial Treasury is tasked with an important role of allocating, monitoring and managing our provincial funds to ensure that they have the desired impact. A lot has been done in the last financial year, but we are fully aware that a lot still needs to be done.

As Provincial Treasury we continue to do our utmost best to ensure proper and sound financial management and governance in line with the PFMA and MFMA to ensure that they are progressively realised. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable MEC. The Budget and Annual Performance Plan are referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and report back to the House. I will now invite MEC Mokone to the podium. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

THE BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

(Address by Hon T A Mokone, MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism)

Hon Speaker; Premier, Hon Chupu Mathabatha; colleagues in the Executive Council, Chief Whip of the ruling party; Chairperson of Committees; esteemed Members of this august House, Executive Mayors and Mayors; traditional leaders present; stalwarts and veterans of our struggle; chairpersons and board members of state-owned entities; leaders from various business sectors of our society; members of the media; fellow citizens of Limpopo, a very good day to you all. Thobela. Inhlikanhi. Ndi masiari. Goeie dag.

Hon Speaker, it is a great pleasure to be afforded this opportunity to address the House on the priorities of the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism for the year 2019/20. On 18 July, we celebrated International Mandela Day, a day that resounds as a global call to action to celebrate the idea that each individual has the power to transform the world and make an impact for good. The world's icon once said: "For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."

Officials of the department dedicated their time and effort at the A re Kgotleleleng Disability Centre in the Sekhukhune District to uplift the lives of people with disability. The department engaged in a variety of activities including planting trees and seedlings, renovating the building, donating the much-needed equipment and conducted a clean-up campaign to promote waste management. The coupling of the department's Mandela Day activities with the Good Green Deeds Campaign announced by President Ramaphosa in April this year goes a long way in promoting sustainable environmental management in the surrounding villages.

In the words of one of Africa's foremost philosophers and leaders, Amilcar Cabral: "Always bear in mind that the people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in anyone's head. They are fighting to win material benefits, to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children."

Hon Speaker, it would be appropriate to commence this address with this quote, given that the people of the province have spoken and have once again given the ANC-led government a mandate to forge ahead with the implementation of the National Development Plan and Limpopo Development Plan priorities. President Cyril Ramaphosa, during his State of the Nation Address and Premier Chupu Mathabatha in his State of the Province Address held on 05 July 2019 clearly outlined priorities for implementation.

Honourable Members, our priority is about the plight of the people, the unemployed youth who are in the majority, aspiring entrepreneurs, supporting small businesses and cooperatives and businesses led by women in rural areas and townships. Yes, indeed, the New Dawn is upon us. To borrow a quote from the State of the Province Address, "The New Dawn is about transforming the economy so that it can serve all people. It is about then economy that will reduce the levels of inequality, fight poverty and create more jobs." "It is about moving from an era of policy development to an era of radical policy implementation."

Honourable Members, there are positive growth indicators in the provincial economy. The province has seen a moderate economic recovery during 2017. According to Statistics South Africa, Limpopo's economy experienced the highest growth of 2,2% during 2017, larger than both Gauteng, which grew by 1,1% and the Western Cape, which grew by 1,2% respectively. The growth in 2017 is attributed to positive improvements in agriculture, mining, finance, real estate and business services. Limpopo economy grew from R273 billion in 2014 to R340 billion in 2017. Although the province achieved the highest growth rate, it is still noticeably lower compared to other similar regions of Africa, China, Middle East and India.

Hon Speaker, Premier Mathabatha has clearly outlined the challenges the province is facing in creating jobs, namely, low labour absorption capacity by the sectors of the economy and increasing unemployment, although Limpopo has the lowest unemployment in the country. To address these challenges, the programmes of the State of the Province Address require urgent attention. These programmes are outlined below as follows: Special Economic Zones; Targeted procurement; Broadband; Tourism investment and marketing; Support to SMMEs and cooperatives; Youth entrepreneurship development and support; Mining development; Sustainable environmental management programmes; Mobilisation of private sector investment, including foreign direct investment; Strengthening the implementation capacity of LEDA; and GNT turnaround.

Ladies and gentlemen, the rapid implementation of the provincial Special Economic Zone programme cannot be overemphasised. The SEZ programme has the potential to transform the structure of the economy from primary into a modern industrialised economy, creating thousands of jobs and business opportunities.

Honourable Members, the final implementation of the Musina-Makhado SEZ is gaining momentum. The board of the SEZ has been appointed and properly constituted. The

recruitment process for the appointment of the CEO of the SEZ entity has been completed and announcements will be made to this august House during the course of next month.

Work on the environmental impact assessment (EIA) and internal master plan is progressing well. A workshop was held from 15 to 17 July with planners from China representing investors, the SEZ project management team and environmental specialists to unpack, identify and close gaps that may be identified towards the completion of the EIA. The internal infrastructure master plan is 70% complete and will be finalised by October 2019.

The key challenge in the implementation of the programme is long-term water availability. In this regard, officials from LEDET, the Office of the Premier and the Department of Water and Sanitation are working tirelessly to confirm water availability and sources. The Head of Department has engaged the Director-General of the Department of Water and Sanitation to develop solutions towards confirming water availability. In this regard, the construction water demand schedule has been provided to the Department of Water and Sanitation and this department is finalising a short-term water reconciliation plan to confirm water availability. Furthermore, the Premier will be engaging the Minister of Water and Sanitation before the end of August to advocate for the prioritisation of water resources for the SEZ.

We are at a stage of applying for funding for basic bulk infrastructure from the Department of Trade and Industry. This is supported by the DTI as announced by Deputy Minister, Nomalungelo Gina on 11 July 2019 during the department's budget vote held at the National Assembly, and she said: "We will complete the bulk infrastructure and consolidation of investments for the Musina-Makhado SEZ."

Training and skilling our people, especially young people, for this SEZ is our top priority.
The department will ensure that local people benefit enormously from the job and business opportunities created by the SEZ. In this regard, the Executive Council has approved the Musina-Makhado skills development and implementation plan last year. Training of artisans by the Chemical Industries SETA and Mechanical, Engineering and Related Services SETA will commence in September 2019 and January 2020, respectively for a period of 20 years in partnership with Vhembe and Lephalale TVETs.

A total amount of R19 million is set aside this financial year to re-accredit the four LEDA training centres in Lwamondo, Seshego, Nkowankowa and Giyani. These centres will be used in partnership with TVETs to train our young people in accredited courses aligned to the SEZ programme. As directed by the Premier, a task team has been constituted to fast rack the establishment of the Limpopo skills academy this financial year.

Honourable Members, the application for the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ is ready for submission to the DTI by the end of August. While this process is unfolding, the department has taken a conscious decision to support Fetakgomo-Tubatse as a nodal growth point. A support package for Fetakgomo-Tubatse will be finalised by the end of August 2019.

The work on special economic zones will put the province on an industrialisation growth path, which is one of the key pillars of the Limpopo Development Plan. During Minister Ebrahim Patel's budget vote held on 11 July 2019, it was announced that the DTI will develop 400 new black industrialists in the next five years. We are going to ensure that the largest number of these black industrialists are from our province.

Premier Chupu Mathabatha announced in the State of the Province Address that R150 million has been allocated for the revitalisation of industrial parks in the province. We will ensure that our black industrialists are supported by this industrial parks programme.

On targeted procurement, we wish to report that the Limpopo Procurement Strategy is in place. The strategy has an annual target of 60% for black-owned businesses, particularly women, youth, people with disabilities and military veterans. The current goods and services budget of the province is over R10 billion. In collaboration with my colleague, MEC for Treasury, Hon Sekoati, we will be monitor the achievement of these targets quarterly. In supporting these targets, support will be provided to small businesses that offer services and manufacture locally. We will engage all departments in the province to develop clear and tangible targets on procurement as directed by the Premier.

Hon Speaker, the Fourth Industrial Revolution is upon us. The department will forge ahead with the rolling out of broadband to municipalities, businesses and rural areas in the province in partnership with state-owned entities. To date, the province has laid a solid foundation in rolling out broadband infrastructure for the entire province. The construction of a data centre with voice and data capabilities has been completed. The network operation control centre and call centre are completed. About 40 sites have been connected to the network and 22 sites have been connected in the Vhembe District in partnership with USAASA in line with the national broadband policy. Free Wi-Fi hotspots are available providing access to students, communities and SMMEs.

The broadband infrastructure project will be complemented by the implementation of the Science and Technology Park, which is central to the development of the smart and safe cities concept. The EIA and master plan for the Science and Technology Park will be completed by the end of this financial year. I will engage my colleague, MEC for CoGHSTA, Hon Makamu, to urge municipalities to take resolutions to adopt the use of broadband infrastructure by December 2019. Mitirho ya vulavula!

On support to SMMEs and cooperatives, I wish to report that small businesses and cooperatives are the heartbeat of the provincial economy. All state-owned entities in the province including LEDA are geared up to provide financial and non-financial support to small businesses. This year alone, there is a total budget of over R100 million housed in the National Empowerment Fund, Small Enterprise Finance Agency and LEDA, all of which have a local presence. The IDC alone is funding projects to the tune of R3 billion in mining, agriculture and tourism. Furthermore, a partnership is being finalised with ABSA to create a dedicated R500 million fund to support SMMEs and cooperatives in the province. Halala ABSA halala!

We are going to re-establish a dedicated non-financial support agency to SMMEs and cooperatives. The new business support agency will provide incubation, facilitate grant funding and provide aftercare services. An update on these developments will be

provided to this august House. In partnership with the Chemical Industries Education and Training Authority (CHIETA), a plan is in place to train 50 SMMEs on the new venture creation learning programme and 50 cooperatives on a new venture creation learnership in this financial year. The value of this funding is R3,2 million.

On 19 July 2019, the department in partnership with LEDA hosted a stokvels and cooperatives conference and exhibition in Thohoyandou in the Vhembe District. Conference participants robustly engaged on the possibility of collaboration between stokvels and cooperatives towards a mutual sustainable growth.

Hon Speaker, on youth entrepreneurship development and support, I wish to report that unemployment in the province especially among the youth is still unacceptably high. The province developed the youth development strategy to deal with the socioeconomic challenges of youth unemployment. In July 2018, the department launched a youth programme called Walala Wasala, targeting 9 400 youth to benefit from various empowerment initiatives by the provincial government. To date, a total of 7 874 youth which is over 83% have benefited from the Walala Wasala Youth Development Programme as follows:

- 1 120 youth benefited from tourism programmes;
- 390 youth engaged in agricultural projects;
- 306 youth in mechanical development programmes, where 108 young people are placed in GNT depots as diesel mechanics, on learnerships and transport operators programme;
- 3 510 youth in artisan development apprenticeship programme;
- 976 youth in environmental programmes;
- 2 603 youth in entrepreneurship programme;
- 50 youth in the green economy programme;
- 445 youth in the transport programme where 426 are being trained as traffic officers and point of duty officers; and
- 500 young people in ICT.

Honourable Members, we will continue to support our young people through these programmes annually.

On mining development, the Premier has emphasised the importance of mining for the province and I quote: “Our province has 147 mining projects that are operational. A further eight projects are in the pipeline in the Capricorn and Sekhukhune Districts. These projects are expected to attract investments worth R2,5 billion and create around 3 000 jobs.”

The work of the Limpopo Mining Forum is critical in ensuring that a sustainable mining sector is developed. The forum is dealing with three focus areas and they are: local manufacturing of mining inputs; community development and social labour plans; skills for the economy. In line with our intention to facilitate mining development, the sector has recently been impacted negatively by illegal mining, community instability and other critical activities especially in the platinum and chrome belt of Sekhukhune District.

My colleague, MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Hon Masemola and I have met with leaders of mining companies in Sekhukhune earlier this month to find a

working solution for the instability and volatile situation in that area. The engagement resolved on two main approaches:

- Lawlessness cannot be condoned and therefore MEC Masemola and SAPS will deal swiftly with criminal activities in the area; and

- LEDET will facilitate an economic development terms of reference for the mines to be led by the Mayor of Sekhukhune, Cllr Ramaila.

We are making a call to communities in the Sekhukhune District to collaborate with these efforts in bringing a lasting amicable solution for the economic prosperity of the district.

On tourism investment and marketing, President Cyril Ramaphosa recently said: "Doubling international tourists into South Africa to 21 million people requires renewal of branding, introduction of a world-class Visa regime and a significant focus on Chinese and Indian markets." Tourism has proven to be one of the most resilient economic sectors worldwide and it is anticipated that the industry will grow at an average rate of 3% to 4% in the next couple of years. Investing in tourism development will harness the many benefits tourism can bring. With Limpopo strongly positioned as the leading province in South Africa in receiving the most domestic trips of about 3,3 million in 2017 and second in receiving international tourists of about 2,2 million in 2017, the potential exists to grow these numbers, despite the current economic climate that resulted in an overall national decline experienced in the domestic market.

Limpopo's strategic position within the SADC region provides endless opportunities for crossborder initiatives that will promote Limpopo as a must visit tourist destination. Through the revision of the Limpopo Tourism Growth Strategy and strong partnerships, specific interventions to strengthen this position will receive attention. The Limpopo Tourism Agency (LTA) continues with its concerted marketing efforts in promoting the province as the tourism destination of choice, and this year LTA won the gold award at the Tourism Travel Indaba, Africa's largest tourism marketing event.

Continued investment into the development of the provincial tourism establishments is a prerequisite for sustainable tourism growth. Government has invested over R200 million for upgrading infrastructure in our reserves and resorts and this year alone R45 million will be invested in priority tourism reserves. Since 2018, we have collaborated with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries to the tune of R500 million for a period of three years. These resources are earmarked for upgrading rural tourism projects and provincial resorts including Makapans Valley World Heritage Site and Shangoni Gate to enhance entrance into the world-renowned Kruger National Park. We are making a call to the people of the province to enjoy the hospitality provided by these resorts. Sepedi se re moeng e tla ka gešu re je ka wena.

Hon Speaker, beyond doubt, one of the legacy projects that this province prides itself on is the Limpopo Marula Festival. To this end, plans are afoot to unveil the newly established Marula Industry Hub within Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality. The hub is meant to optimise the marula industry value chain whilst attracting scores of tourists into the province during the marula season. To date, the annual Marula Festival alone contributes in excess of R48 million into the local economy.

In addition, we have established tourism incubation centres in partnership with the national Department of Tourism in the Mopani and Vhembe Districts to enhance tourism transformation in the sector. Furthermore, a working model towards commercialisation of state-owned reserves is being finalised. We want government to collaborate with the private sector in unlocking the tourism potential of our reserves and resorts. A prioritisation plan is being planned … [INTERJECTION]

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable MEC, please take your seat. An order is being raised by Hon Buthane. I recognise Hon Buthane.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Chairperson, I recommend ABET here. [LAUGHTER] There is a reading problem.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Okay, thanks Hon Buthane.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

A prioritisation plan is being developed to commercialise our 29 provincial nature reserves. The initiative will be finalised by the end of this financial year. Tourism safety, which is an important focus area, will also receive attention. I think we can all agree that tourists who do not have a pleasant experience will not return. It is therefore critical to ensure they have a good and safe experience if we want to grow tourism in Limpopo. To support this initiative, 180 tourism safety monitors will be deployed at various tourism hotspots throughout the province to curb crime against tourists.

These placements do not only contribute to creating a tourism-friendly culture amongst our people, but also contribute to the youth development programme. The department will continue with its tourism practitioners programme, which aims to build tourism capacity in local municipalities, and to date 54 young tourism graduates have been placed in various municipalities throughout the province. A further 550 young people have been recruited to be capacitated in a fast-food learnership. The enhancement of our hospitality services requires more attention to offering value for money.

Hon Speaker, September has been declared as a tourism month. Domestic tourism activities take place during this month to highlight the essential role of tourism in growing the economy and developing critical skills for the sector. To this end, honourable Members, I would like to invite you to join us as we host a tourism indaba during the month of September to showcase what the province has to offer.

On Sustainable Environmental Management Programme, the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Forestry and Fisheries, Hon Barbara Creecy, had this to say during the departmental budget vote on 11 July 2019: “Natural assets are under unprecedented threat from climate change, environmental degradation and the loss of our biodiversity. We know that here, as elsewhere in the world, those living under conditions of poverty and vulnerability will be hardest hit by drought, floods and extreme temperatures.” The cornerstone for sustainable environment management is

to ensure that future generations are able to enjoy a safe and healthy environment. In line with national priorities, the department will be putting particular focus on the following nine areas: Climate adaptation and mitigation programmes; Waste management; Protected areas management; Environmental impact assessments; Air quality management; EPWP; Rehabilitation of mining land; Research capacity; and Biodiversity economy.

Hon Speaker, our towns are not the cleanest in the country. The management of waste, and in particular single use plastic waste, is a matter that requires the most urgent and pressing attention. We successfully launched the Presidential Good Green Deeds Programme in Lephalale last month. The objectives of the programme are to encourage communities to ensure effective waste management and volunteer in cleaning their areas. We are making a call to all departments and municipalities as well as private sector companies to initiate their own Good Green Deeds programmes. Hon Premier, we have to influence consumer behavior and reduce littering.

The wildlife industry is a key contributor to the provincial economy and currently Limpopo ranks first in the hunting industry compared to all other provinces. This calls for us to invest more resources to optimise the hunting value chain including opportunities to invest in venison meat production.

The department annually issues about 13 000 wildlife or biodiversity permits and this ranges from the introduction of species onto farms, hunting, keeping and breeding of species for research and importation of species regulated by the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species. Honourable Members, one hunting permit, for example, could create three to four job opportunities. The transformation of this sector deserves special priority.

On mobilisation of private sector investment, including foreign direct investment, we are happy to report that the department has received a total of 952 applications for environmental authorisation. These applications are mainly from the private sector to either expand or establish new businesses. The projected investment of these submissions is around R160 billion and is projected to create just over 20 000 jobs in the next five years. We commit to speed up the approval process to facilitate timeous implementation of the projects.

We will continue to strengthen the marketing of investment opportunities in the province, thus making Limpopo a preferred investment destination. In this regard, a one-stop investment centre is nearing completion and will be launched before the end of November of this financial year. The centre will house shared services comprising critical stakeholders who are required to ensure that investments are realised on time.

Honourable Members, we do not want to take investors from pillar to post and thus unnecessarily prolong the gestation period to secure investments. Our key partnership and source markets will remain BRICS, the European Union as well as our neighbouring countries of the SADC region.

On business regulations, the department is continuing to urge municipalities to take up the implementation of the Limpopo Business Registration Act, 2015, which is known as LIBRA. To date, eight out of the 22 municipalities have taken up the implementation of the Act. LIBRA implementation by municipalities will ensure that

there is effective governance of businesses in their localities, thereby eliminating illegal business operations. We are once again urging municipal councils to take resolutions regarding the implementation of the Act.

The MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Hon Masemola, has launched Operation Swara Tsotsi last month. As part of this campaign, we will be partnering with Hon Masemola and SAPS to flush out illegal business activities in our townships. We would like to thank our citizenry like Energy FM for bringing to our attention some of the hotspots that breed criminal business activities.

The Limpopo Gambling Board is doing a sterling work with the regulation of gambling activities in the province. I am proud to announce that a new bingo site will be launched in Groblersdal in the Elias Motsoaledi Municipality tonight, 23 July 2019. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the chairperson of the board, Mr Elijah Tjiane, for his leadership in steering the Limpopo Gambling Board to achieving top honours at the Gambling Indaba where Limpopo Gambling Board was announced the best in dealing with illegal gambling activities. [APPLAUSE]

Honourable Members, LEDA is the implementing agent of the provincial government. We have recently advertised for the appointment of the new board of LEDA. The urgent mandate of the board will be to, amongst others:

- Review and strengthen human resource capacity and skills;
- Align delivery priorities with the Limpopo Development Plan imperatives;
- Expedite the establishment of a state bank;
- Strengthen contract management and capacity; and
- Develop effective governance policies for subsidiaries, particularly CMR.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the board of LEDA led by Dr Mofasi Lekota, for the sterling work that the board has done in the past five years.

On GNT turnaround, I wish to reportt that Great North Transport is providing essential transport services to communities of the province. However, the entity is currently going through a difficult and challenging business cycle. The single most serious challenge is the fleet that has aged. Honourable Members, we have to recapitalise GNT. The MEC for Treasury, Hon Sekoati, and I have constituted a task team led by the HODs of LEDET and Treasury to manage this situation. The terms of reference of the task team is to develop a business case to turn around the entity. The task team will present their recommendations by next week.

For this financial year, LEDET is allocated a total Budget of R1,7 billion to implement all its priorities and targets and it is allocated as follows:

Programme 1: Administration:	: R404 million;
Programme 2: Economic Development	: R769 million;
Programme 3: Environmental Affairs	: R418 million; and
Programme 4: Tourism	: R129 million.

Included in the above total equitable share of R757,057 million is a transfer to public entities as follows:

Limpopo Gambling Board	: R75 million;
Limpopo Tourism Agency	: R99 million; and
Limpopo Economic Development Agency	: R582 million.

In conclusion, as I take up this office to serve this beautiful land, I remain resolute in my commitment to ensure that radical socioeconomic transformation and inclusive growth occurs in our lifetime. Indeed, if we want to see change, we cannot remain doing things the same way. I commit the department and state-owned entities to relentlessly implement the developmental agenda in pursuance of a better life for all.

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable Members, and the people of Limpopo, we are mindful of the enormity of the commitment we are making today and the challenges we will face under these difficult economic conditions. However, we do this because we are inspired by the needs of our people.

Honourable Members, I would like to remind you that July is the saving month and our people are not saving for the future retirement and investment. We are encouraging the people of our province to save their meagre hard earned income for the future generation.

I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the Premier of the province, Hon Chupu Mathabatha, for his sterling leadership and continuous support. I look forward to working with the Hon Donald Selamolela, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and the members of the committee, who provide oversight and support to the department. I am also grateful to my colleagues in the Executive Council, especially in the economic cluster, who remain committed to ensuring that radical socioeconomic transformation and industrialisation in Limpopo becomes a reality. I would like to extend my appreciation to the officials of the department, led by the Head of Department, Mr Solly Kgopong, for the sterling work that they are doing for the people of Limpopo. Mitirho ya valavula. Ke a leboga. I sincerely thank you all. [APPLAUSE]

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, MEC Hon Mokone. The relevant portfolio committee will consider the Budget and the APP and report back to the House. Once more let me take this opportunity to thank all of you, in particular the MECs who presented their Budget Speeches. I have really seen that many of us have been inspired by the presentations and in particular that of the Premier of the province. I think we are on the right direction.

Without much ado, honourable Members, I will therefore call upon the Deputy Chairperson of Committees to make some anouncements.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, Hon Speaker. We have few anouncements to make in this majestic House. The first announcement is to remind committee members to attend committee meetings. All of you are required to attend committee meetings from tomorrow, particularly the Portfolio Committee on Transport; the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture; the Portfolio Committee on Health; the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture; and the Standing Committee on the Quality of Life, Status of Women,

Youth and People living with Disability. All these commitees will be … [MIC OFF] The programme is being distributed to you.

Secondly, Hon Jossey and all honourable Members are invited for lunch at the Lebowakgomo Civic Centre. I think I have done justice, Hon Speaker, with regard to these announcements. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Deputy Chairperson of Committees. This House is adjourned to Thursday, 25 July 2019 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you. The Sitting is adjourned.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE
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VERBATIM REPORT

OF THE

DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH PARLIAMENT

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2019

It's your voice, use it!

VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2019
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We shall now have the opportunity for silent prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Thank you. Please be seated. Let me take this opportunity to welcome the Members of the Legislature and guests who have joined us today on this day when we will be listening to Budget Speeches from various Members of the Executive Council. We will go straight to the Orders of the Day. We will have the Second Reading Approval of Votes and Schedule of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill and the Budget Speech Vote 07: The Department of Health. It will be presented by the MEC for Health Hon Phophi Ramathuba. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
(Address by Dr Phophi Ramathuba, MEC for Health)

Hon Deputy Speaker; Premier, Hon Chupu Mathabatha in absentia; colleagues in the Executive Council; Hon Chief Whip in absentia; Hon Chair of Chairs and Hon Deputy Chair of Chairs; chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Lehlogonolo Masoga in absentia; leadership of the official opposition; Members of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature; Executive Mayors and Mayors of our local municipalities; leadership of the ruling party, the African National Congress; leadership of the South African Communist Party and all alliance partners; Director-General of the province; Head of the Department of Health and all other HODs; executive management of the Department of Health and all healthcare workers; stalwarts and veterans of our movement; House of Traditional Leaders and esteemed Majesties; traditional health practitioners; leaders of religious organisations; leadership of the trade union movement; the representatives of the nongovernmental organisations; representatives of the business community; members of the media; ladies and gentlemen and all of you whom I couldn't mention by names, ndi matsheloni. Avuxeni. Thobela. Goeie more. Good morning. Lotjhani maNdebele wekhethu.

As I stand here to present this Budget Vote, I do so with a heavy heart after learning of the untimely death of Dr Simon Lefoane, one of the most outstanding servants of the Limpopo Department of Health. Dr Lefoane, a neonatologist by profession, left the comfort zone of Gauteng's Steve Biko Academic Hospital in April this year to come and join not just Letaba Hospital, but a rural hospital in a rural province in order to serve the most disadvantaged, deprived and disenfranchised strata of our society. By having Dr Lefoane at Letaba Hospital, mothers in Mopani District didn't have to endure the long waiting list like they use to do at Mankweng Hospital in order for their babies to be seen by a medical specialist of Dr Lefoane's calibre, but their babies could be seen and treated in a hospital closer to their homes.

Indeed, mothers and babies alike have lost a passionate and a hard-working physician who in less than four months had revolutionised the Letaba Hospital Neonatal Unit. We had already begun to have an ICU for neonates, medical interns, junior doctors, nurses and all other healthcare professionals in that side of the province. We have lost a towering figure who inspired them. He was a mentor and a clinician and a teacher for that matter. Through his skills and expertise, Letaba Hospital Neonatal Unit was beginning to move towards the right direction. We have begun to see the reduction of deaths amongst our infants and neonates. Just at the age of 37, we have been robbed of this quality life.

I therefore wish to send out my heartfelt condolences to his family and also to the leadership of Letaba Hospital and all the Mopani District hospitals.

I therefore dedicate my Budget Vote Speech to Dr Lefoane who was not just a medical specialist, but a deeply-rooted doctor on the notion of fusing modern technology into healthcare in order to increase efficiency and access. The advantage to have this young specialist is that we now begin to see ourselves using modern technology to treat diseases that we have. May his soul rest in peace!

Fifty years ago, and to be specific, on 20 July 1969, history was made in the world. What seemed to be impossible became possible. What started as a dream became a reality when a man, Neil Armstrong, landed on the moon for the first time. It had initially appeared as a dream during his generation, but he managed to achieve it. Had Neil not dreamt, today the world would not be celebrating this anniversary. The new dawn is here. The new dawn is what President Cyril Ramaphosa commands. The new dawn is what Premier Chupu Mathabatha directed. The new dawn is what we are embracing as the Department of Health. The ANC-led government takes health issues very seriously.

As I am presenting this Budget Vote, I should have been at George Mukhari Academic Hospital wherein President Cyril Ramaphosa will preside over the signing of the Presidential Health Compact which is aimed at improving the quality of the South African healthcare system. The new dawn for Health simply means that hospitals should fly. The ultimate flight plan is for patient safety where no wrong limb will be amputated; where no wrong medication will be dispensed; and where patients admitted in our facilities with fractures will not die of hospital acquired infections.

This flight plan will see our dream of a clinic in the cloud where primary healthcare will be delivered at the doorstep of the poorest of the poor. In simple terms, you will check your blood pressure while watching television in the comfort zone of your home and where by just wearing spectacles you will be able to monitor your blood sugar. Not only will this new dawn in Health see the building of the long-awaited Limpopo Central Academic Hospital, but also a state-of-the-art technology-driven hospital where robotic surgery will be performed. Technology requires huge capital investment, and we do appreciate the current fiscal constraints.

However, without an effective and efficient health information system, the realisation of the strategic objectives of the National Health Insurance will remain a pipe dream. It is for this reason that during this new dawn, we will jump on the bandwagon of innovation and technology as we fully embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Technology has changed the face of the world, and the gap between physical, digital and biological spheres is shrinking drastically. We will invest in the modernisation of our technology in order to address a number of challenges which include workforce management, revenue collection, physical facility management, missing files and duplication of services; for instance, your blood tests. When you visit a clinic, you are done; the blood is ordered. When you are referred to hospital, the same blood is ordered. When you are referred to tertiary hospital, again, the same blood is ordered. The same happens to our X-rays and our medicine dispensation, just to mention a few.

These are the challenges which have contributed significantly towards the status that we find ourselves in today wherein the department loses a lot of money while at the same time patient care management is compromised. To this end, the department has implemented electronic data interchange and patient verification system, as we pronounced last year in this august House, in our hospitals to properly classify patients and to speed up submissions and payments of medical aid claims. As a result of this progressive initiative, we managed to collect R212 million, of which R34 million is above our initial target of R178 million, meaning 119%.

Building on this achievement, our plan in this financial year is to seize the moment and continue to surpass our revenue collection target. The department is committed towards the introduction of a paperless environment. Accordingly, we will implement an e-filing system. To this end, we have started piloting this technology at Rethabile Healthcare Centre. Even as I'm presenting this Budget Vote Speech now, it will not be accessible on hard copies, but electronically on our official website and on the departmental social media accounts.

In this regard, we will provide only 70 copies as a matter of compliance. Otherwise, it will be available online and can be accessed electronically by anyone who needs it. This has resulted in the department saving an amount of R130 000 which we spend annually towards printing of copies. This money will be re-channelled towards making sure that patients get medicine and food in clinics and hospitals. It is an open secret that we are a resource-constrained department. For us to accelerate, we must be innovative and look for ways to free resources within the department.

This includes reducing the travelling costs by employees from our facilities to the district offices and to head office to hold physical meetings and moving documents from one office to another. To this end, the department is in the process of implementing a video collaboration so that we speed up the decision-making process and thereby improve overall efficiency of the department – meaning that we won't have meetings at the head office. Meetings will be held through video conferencing, and in that regard, we will be able to reduce money we spend on transport and also at the same time we know how risky our roads are.

A si tshiphiri zwauri ri muhasho une u kha ḓi vha na khaedu dza tshomedzo. Uri ri kone u shuma ri tshi ya phanḓa ri tea u wana nḓila ya u shumisa tshomedzo dzi re hone ngomu kha muhasho. Izwi zwi katela u fhungudza kushumisele kwa masheleni nga u fhungudza miṱangano ya vhaofisiri musi vha tshi fara nyendo uya dzi ofisini khulwane kana u rumela maṅwalwa. Kha zwezwo, sa muhasho ri kha nḓila ya u thoma u shumisa vhuṱumani nga vidiyo u itela u fhungudza nyendo dza u ya dzi ofisini khulwane ri sa fhedzi.

During the Fifth Administration, we managed to reduce the maternal mortalities from 182 per 100 000 deliveries during the 2014/15 financial year to the current 106 per 100 000 deliveries over the past financial year. Amongst the strategies we have used to achieve this reduction, as mentioned in our previous Budget Speech and as it appears in our turnaround strategy, was the dissolution of district clinical specialist teams wherein mid-wives, gynaecologists, anaesthetists, paediatricians, to mention a few, who were appointed to station at district offices and head office were redeployed back to the maternity wards and theatres where pregnant women and babies are.

As we speak now, we no longer have specialists just sitting in offices. They are all in our hospitals. We are at an advanced stage towards the realisation of the Mother and Child Centres of Excellence. This is a new dawn, and time for big concepts and endless discussions are gone. We are implementing. The first centre will be officially launched at Seshego Hospital on 27 August 2019 as part of celebrating the 2019 Women's Month. You are all invited, honourable Members, to see for yourselves. Sixteen million rand has been spent to date towards the procurement of medical equipment dedicated to the reduction of mother and child adverse results. These include our obstetric beds, our anaesthetic machines, our ultra-sounds, our CTG machines, just to mention a few. These are life-saving machines without which the life of the unborn child and the mother are not safe.

The revamping of our neonatology units has been completed in institutions like Maphutha Malatji to avoid the death of new-born babies as a result of cross-infections due to overcrowding. We will continue with this work until such time when no woman or a child will die during birth. While we have noted some few negative stories that make headlines regarding our nurses and other healthcare professionals, it is important for us to seize this moment and congratulate Jane Furse Hospital maternity team.

This is a team which made history this past December when they delivered nine babies safely utilising cell phone lights in the middle of a raging storm which left them not only with power failure but their stand-by generator was damaged by lightning, and the medical equipment which they were supposed to utilise while delivering babies was also immersed under water. These are the Florence Nightingales of today who did not sit down and have all reasons why these nine women and their babies must die.

They improvised some means, and today we celebrate nine babies whom in the department we call "Nokia, Cell C" and all other types of cell phones as we make fun out of it because it's a good story to tell at the end of the day. [APPLAUSE] Allow me to ask the Florence Nightingales and the Mama Albertina Sisulus to stand up and take a bow in this House because if each and every nurse can emulate them, a zero maternal mortality in our facilities is possible. [APPLAUSE] Thank you very much. Jane Furse Hospital is no longer, "Re boile fela"; re boa re swere bana le bomme ba rena ba phela.

Our commitment towards our long-held dream – the other one without a uniform could be a medical doctor. It's a maternity team – of our people not to travel to Gauteng for life-saving procedures and some of them losing lives while on the waiting list has received a major boost with the pronouncement of R3,9 billion investment towards the construction of the Limpopo Central Academic Hospital. As a province, we will

continue to prioritise both Mankweng and Polokwane Hospitals as part of our tertiary healthcare service, hence the recent deployment of experienced senior executives to strengthen both the management of Polokwane and Mankweng Hospitals. To this end, we have recruited many key specialists who are providing highly specialised services. Twenty-nine specialists have been recruited since the beginning of this year to date. Unfortunately, that's why you heard me mourning today because he was part of the 29 specialists. Included in number are key clinical heads of department. We have got clinical head of surgery, anaesthesia, psychiatry, ophthalmology, neurosurgery and obstetrics. Young subspecialists in areas that were previously not there in this department which include the paediatric surgeons, the plastic surgeons, the neurologist, the gastroenterologist and the nephrologist have been appointed. Since his appointment in February, the only paediatric surgeon in the province has operated more than 185 babies who would have waited for transfer to Gauteng. We want to congratulate Dr Motloung for his dedication and commitment. When they say dynamites come in small packages, they are referring to this young man who operates babies as young as one day old.

Unfortunately, Dr Motloung could not join us today because he indicated that Prof Nash, an international professor from the US, is in the country to teach them on the latest development on minimum invasive procedures when you operate on pectus excavatum – babies who are born with deformed chests.

So, very soon you will hear us pronouncing that our babies have gone through such procedures without being cut open. So, that's what Limpopo is doing which people must appreciate and celebrate. But, in this House as we approach Women's Month, we promise you that by August we are going to appoint the second paediatric surgeon. This time around, it will be "amayounger younger". She is a 34-year-old who is already a super specialist in paediatric surgery. Dr Esi Ackon, if you are around here, because you are living the comfort zone of Gauteng to come and serve the people of Mankweng and Limpopo as a whole, you can just bow. [APPLAUSE]

There she is. You can see; she is a young girl. I hope she will also inspire our young girls as we run the She Conquers campaign to join the medical profession and do wonders. It's no longer a profession for men these days. It's a profession for young women. For the first time Limpopo is blessed with a gastroenterologist. This is the only one both in the private and public sector. These specialists that I'm announcing now, you won't get them in the private sector. Some of them who operate in the private sector are also asked from us. She has since performed operations which we never performed in Limpopo such as the endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography. We must tell you. If I don't tell you, people will not tell you. This is where the surgeons are able to access your liver or your pancreas and operate on them without opening the abdomen in line with our new dawn. [APPLAUSE] Patients who were not able to swallow have since received life-changing operations. Miracles are indeed happening in our province. Allow me to introduce the miracle man, I call him the miracle man, Dr Sam Mashoeshoe.

There he is. [APPLAUSE] He is a young man. Le bale ba go nyaka go bofa mala goba mogodu gore ba fokotše mmele, that's the specialist. Yes. You don't have to go to Gauteng anymore. He can do all those procedures. I'm simplifying so that we can all understand what he can do. That's the miracle man. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Order!

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

We have the gastroenterologist in the province. Ke yola. Šole.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

O dira eng?

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Re tla go hlalosetša.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Hon Speaker… [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, can you proceed, please. Let's have order!

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Our commitment towards the battle against cancer remains intact. We have managed to address the backlog in cancer treatment through partnership with the private sector with the focus being on cervical cancer as the number one cancer in women followed by the breast cancer. We will be launching a joint breast cancer clinic between the newly appointed reconstructive and plastic surgery and our general surgery department. Instead of breast cancer patients receiving mastectomies only, as currently is the case, patients will be done reconstructive surgery and receive breast implants to deal with the stigma which has huge psychological impact and has resulted in a number of women refusing this mastectomy which has led to us losing some of them in the process due to breast cancer.

No women's breast will be removed without a replacement and we therefore want to congratulate our young plastic surgeon, Dr Thendo Netshiongolwe, who has just returned from USA Mayo Clinic and Massachusetts General Hospital to come and join us and impart his skills and knowledge to the people of his province of birth. [APPLAUSE] In addition to the 29 specialists, we have also appointed 17 young doctors awaiting their final registrations as specialists with the HPCSA. The appointment of these specialists is being celebrated because it has given us an opportunity to now train our own registrars. Today registrars are those doctors who are now specialising when they go back to be students. To date and as a province for the first time, we are training 79 registrars who will be specialists in different categories.

Ku thoriwa ka madokodela lawa yo hlawuleka, swi hi pfunile ku va hi kota ku hunguta nhlayo ya vanhu lava a va yimele vuhandzuri. Hi nkarhiwa mavhiki mambirhi ntsena, tanihi Ndzawulo ya Rihanyo ya xifundza nkulu xa Limpopo, hi kotile ku endla

vuhandzuri eka vavabyi vo ringana 670 lava a va yimele vuhandzuri byo hambana-hambana. Hi ri eka n'wina madokodela ya hina ya Limpopo, inkomu, ha khensa swinene, hi tlhela kambe hi khensa swinene.

Let us seize the moment as the people of Limpopo and thank Prof Steven Matshidza, the son of the soil, who is a qualified orthopaedic surgeon and the head of department at the University of the Free State. Prof Matshidza together with his team of volunteers has to date performed more than 700 orthopaedic operations during our weekend Letsema project. This project has managed to reduce huge orthopaedic backlogs and also disabilities as a result of long waiting time for operations. As a province, we have been hit hard by a number of road accidents and most of our patients end up lying in our hospital waiting to be operated on. As a province, noting that we have a challenge of specialists like orthopaedic surgeons, we did approach the son of the soil who is at the University of the Free State. By being in the Free State, he is also assisting in training some specialists to come back home. He did not hesitate to do so. Not only did he bring more than 10 teams of specialists on a weekend, but they never charged us even a single cent. This is a real "Thuma Mina" spirit. [APPLAUSE]

Those of you who have been done orthopaedic spacers will know, you will not pay less than R30 000. Prof Matshidza kha vha takuwe vhathu vha vha vhone arali vhe hone. [APPLAUSE] These are the people that the President was referring to when he talks about "Thuma Mina", and that we must celebrate. We believe that these are the people who must make headlines in our newspapers so that they can motivate many of us to join this spirit of selflessness and giving. It's a new dawn indeed. We have seized the moment and we have purchased 4 new CT scanners. They are awaiting installation at Tshilidzini Hospital, Letaba Hospital, Mokopane and Pietersburg Hospitals.

In our quest to achieve the hospital that flies, which I have spoken about, we are in the process of establishing a teleradiography service (radiological information system) that will allow CT scan images as they will be done at Tshilidzini Hospital, but be read remotely in Polokwane. This service which is the first of its kind in our province and in our regional hospitals will save many of our patients' trips to Polokwane and Mankweng just for a CT scan and sometimes be told it's out of order because one CT scan cannot survive to deal with all patients.

So, there won't be any procedure postponed because we don't have CT scans. CT scans and treatment will be done at a regional hospital but be interpreted at a tertiary hospital. Equally so, we anticipate, and hope that Hon Buthane will be happy about this, the delivery and commissioning of the linear accelerator before the end of this financial year to augment cancer treatment (radiation oncology). We have been waiting for this equipment for some time.

Kidney failure has been ravaging our people, young and old alike. This can be as a result of failure to control and manage lifestyle diseases like diabetes and hypertension. That is why our call for healthy lifestyle remains. We expect our people to exercise regularly and eat healthy. We are encouraged by early morning and late afternoon runners who occupy the streets of our towns and villages to make sure that they reduce the burden of diseases as a result of noncommunicable diseases. We are happy to note that, Hon Makamu, it is no longer Capricorn District and Polokwane municipalities which have heeded the call to mobilise their communities around

healthy living, but the majority of our municipalities across the province have seized the moment.

We have seen the Executive Mayors of Vhembe, Mopani, Sekhukhune and Waterberg municipalities in this past financial year hosting their own mayoral marathons and lifestyle activities where they are encouraging community members to live healthy.

We really appreciate the leadership provided by those Mayors when it comes to physical activities. In the same breath, we would also like to congratulate the senior golden boys and girls who are also playing soccer to prolong their lives. They are also running and doing other activities. Today we have invited three of them whom if really we can go on a marathon with those 80-year-olds plus, some of the honourable Members can be left behind.

We do have them here. They can stand up if they are around so that you can see them. [APPLAUSE] There they are. Those are great marathon runners and soccer players, Hon Buthane. They can teach us. We call upon motorists, Hon Masemola, to exercise their patience on the road. When they see runners, please, they must respect them. The runners are contributing a lot in reducing healthcare expenditure. If those runners were not on the road, some of them would have been on chronic medication of TB, diabetes and hypertension. So, when we see them on the road, let's note that they are doing our job of making sure that the budget is deviated towards the building of schools and fixing roads because we are spending over R1,5 billion just on medication to deal with diseases that we can prevent.

That's why we have to rethink as a nation to say, do we want to continue like this or do we want to change our lifestyle? The call made by Lutendo Munarini, the representative of renal patients in the province, has not fallen on deaf ears. His passionate plea for us to improve renal dialysis services is being answered. We are happy to announce to Lutendo Munarini and his constituency that we will be taking over the running of this service from the public-private partnership in November this year which has been going on for ten years. Thirty-eight employees will be given job offers by the end of this month to come and join the department permanently.

For this purpose, an amount of R16 958 342,12 has been set aside from both the equitable share and the National Treasury Services Grant (NTSG). In addition, we will by 2020 decentralise services of renal dialysis to patients at regional level, thus bringing the services closer to home and decreasing the distance that they have to travel three times a week to access haemodialysis.

We were able to achieve this by appointing the only nephrologist in the province, Dr Mangena. I'm already thinking that he should be awarded a professorship because he has been able to develop a business case and able to assist us together with his team of those specialist nurses. We will take over the renal unit. It will no longer be a private thing; it will be insourced fully. I thought the left will be happy.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

It must not only be the left; all of us will be happy.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

They have instructed me to do this so that they don't have to be happy for what they told me to do. On HIV and Aids, as echoed by the Premier, whilst we have seen positive results … [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

MEC, can you take your seat. Let's hear the order. What's the order all about?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Speaker, may I please allow you to call to order Hon Buthane for interrupting Hon Ramathuba whilst in actual fact she was speaking. That's because he can't just talk whereas he is not identified.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Okay.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

I think that is the order that I want to stand on. Thanks very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

No, but we will also address the honourable MEC. Honourable MEC, stick to your speech.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker … [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Wait, do not refer to the left or right. Stick to the speech. Hon Buthane, when you want to speak, please, the Chair is here. What's wrong now?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Chair, can we also teach the new Member that you raise the order when things are still unfolding. You don't wait and raise it later. You do it immediately. I'm referring to the new Member, Hon Selane. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, please continue.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker. On HIV and Aids, as echoed by the Premier, whilst we have seen positive results on mother-to-child transmission improving from 4,9% at the

beginning of the Fifth Administration to the current 0,73%, of great concern remains the upsurge in new infections on the girl child. The Aids conference in Durban painted this bleak picture on our fight against HIV and Aids. We accept the call by the Premier to accelerate the integration of school health and HIV and Aids programmes amongst our learners. We will work jointly with the Department of Education towards the realisation of our dream of an HIV-free generation.

Re mo kwele Tonakgolo ya Limpopo ba bontšha gore re šome ka mafolofolo go fokotša malwetši go baswa ba rena ba ebile e lego bokamoso bja profense ya rena ya Limpopo. Re lebeletše mananeo a go tlo re thuša go thibela malwetši ntle le go a alafa. Sepedi se re thibela bolwetši e phala kalafo.

We will amplify the ABC message which focuses on young people to abstain from sex while focusing on their education. Those who are ready psychologically, mentally and agewise to engage in sexual activities, please, our plea is that you continue to be faithful to your partner and condomise at all times as you have been directed. Our health remains our responsibility. Our commitment towards fighting TB remains. We have seen an increase in TB treatment success rate from 83% to 86% over the last financial year.

Our decentralisation of multidrug-resistant TB to around 28 active centres is showing its benefits and progress towards improving the treatment success rate from 54,8% to the current 65,4%. So, multidrug-resistant TB is no longer a killer in Limpopo. If patients comply, we are able to treat it. We cannot celebrate our achievements on TB or HIV/Aids without mentioning the efforts put in by our community healthcare workers – those we commonly refer to as home-based carers. It is against this background that as a province, we kept our promise which we made last year in this House that with effect from 1 April 2019, we will start paying them the minimum wage of R3 500 through Persal system, and we have delivered that from 1 April 2019. [APPLAUSE]

This is just the beginning. They will still see some improvements. We are a Department of Health. We are not a department of diseases; hence, our focus will remain that of preventing diseases rather than treating them. It's against this background that we saw our multidisciplinary outbreak response team preventing the spread of cholera from our neighbouring country Zimbabwe which recorded 10 443 cases of cholera and 59 deaths as a result thereof. Of the suspected 123 cholera cases which we blocked at the border, we were able to confirm only two cases and zero deaths.

If we did not do this work, cholera would have been in Cape Town by now. But the work that we put, whether it's the Department of Home Affairs, the Department of Police, the Department of Transport, the Department of Health or the Vhembe District Municipality, has resulted in us not reliving what we once lived in 2008 during that cholera outbreak. We want our teams to continue to work like that to prevent diseases. Our concerted efforts towards the reduction of mortality rate as a result of malaria have paid dividends.

We have seen a reduction of malaria confirmed cases from 18 977 in the 2017/18 financial year to 6 606 in this 2018/19 financial year which represents two-third reduction. The number of deaths due to complicated malaria reduced from 160 to 38 which represents 76% death reduction or mortality reduction. We want to congratulate and thank the House of Traditional Leaders because it is through different traditional

councils within malaria endemic areas that we were allowed access to their households where we managed to fumigate a total of 922 000 structures.

Without this fumigation, we would be talking a different story. We will continue with the investment on malaria prevention where we will appoint a total of 365 seasonal sprayers and supervisors as malaria season will be starting soon. As reported by the Department of Transport, we are concerned by the increase in the number of road accident fatalities in our province leaving our already overburdened public healthcare system to be strained. We draw considerable pride from the work done by the forensic teams in the province, and we would like to seize the moment that despite this high volume we have experienced in the province, the Forensic Pathology Service unit has always ensured that they ease the pain of the bereaved families by making sure that postmortems were conducted on time and families were able to bury their loved ones with dignity. There was never a single day where I was called as an MEC to intervene because a postmortem was not done.

We want to thank the dedication and commitment of the entire team. This one I need to acknowledge if he is around to stand up, that is Dr Thakadu Mamashela. I know the work that they do, and I have seen you dissecting. [APPLAUSE] Thank you very much. Your team has never failed us, and Hon Masemola will agree with me. Our turnaround time, irrespective of 24 deaths on road accidents remains 12 hours. It's not happening in other areas. We are asked to intervene as political heads. We also note the challenges facing the forensic pathology officers and we believe that the Health Professional Council of South Africa will expedite the processes of professionalisation of this service.

Our commitment towards strengthening Emergency Medical Services division will continue not only with procurement of an additional 50 vehicles, but we will also look at an effective and efficient control system in the Emergency Medical Services wherein a computerised automated dispatch in line with the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the new dawn will be introduced to assist in tracking the whereabouts of our ambulances and also to improve our response time. Another long-term measure is our deliberate efforts to continue to send our students for Advanced Life Support training.

With our newly opened EMS College, which is now fully functional, we have increased our enrolment to 24 in the cycle. Very soon we will address the backlog of all our basic assistants to also finally become advanced life supporters. Despite noting an upward trajectory in the availability of medicines as we continue to improve our systems, there is still an outcry on the shortage of medicines, especially at our clinic level. This is attributed to a number of factors, including leadership and accountability. It is against this background that in this financial year, we will have all our clinics with fully appointed operational managers to provide leadership.

Our head office and district offices have so many appointed pharmacists on occupational specific dispensation positions, and yet they are not doing any clinical work. Just like we did with our district clinical specialist team, we are going to redeploy them to manage hospitals and support clinics. We have analysed and noted that all our hospitals are fully staffed with qualified pharmacists. In actual fact there is no single hospital with a vacancy on pharmacist post. Now it still becomes a problem when you find nurses struggling with medicines when this province has produced so many

pharmacists. We will be redeploying these pharmacists to primary healthcare facilities where the patients are not in offices because there are no patients in the offices.

We expect them to go and help our nurses with the ordering, distribution and management of pharmaceuticals. We know that this division is not popular, but that's part of leadership. By this financial year, we will seize the moment and procure a smart pharmaceutical warehouse management system in order to improve the effectiveness of the pharmaceutical depot. Food is medicine and remains an integral part of patient treatment. Therefore, it's not everyone who is qualified to prepare patient food. To this end, the department has in the past financial year managed to insource all our kitchens in the province. In order to achieve this mandate, we employed qualified food service practitioners who are still young and energetic. On 2 July 2019, we launched the first ever standardised eight-day menu cycle which will ensure that all our patients, irrespective of which hospital you are admitted to, will be served the same type of healthy, nutritious quality meal. We have in our midst food service healthcare professionals from Thabamoopo Hospital. If they are here, I mean those who have changed the menu of our mental healthcare, please, stand up. We said we also want to start with our mental healthcare users. If they are around we want to thank them for that initiative.

This juncture requires us to have at our facilities and centres of operation, model public servants who inspire hope and confidence. Former President Thabo Mbeki had this to say about the public servants: "We must be impatient with those in the public service who see themselves as pen-pushers and guardians of rubber stamps, thieves intent on self-enrichment, bureaucrats who think they have a right to ignore the vision of Batho Pele, who come to work as late as possible, work as little as possible and knock off as early as possible."

To give practical meaning to the timeless words of former President Mbeki, we will be embarking on a process to review our business model and take steps forward towards a skills audit to assess whether we have the right people for the job or not. In addition, we will be implementing a workforce management system to manage attendance, overtime and regulate working hours. Before we entertain any form of overtime, all employees shall have given the people of Limpopo their forty hours per week as they deserve. This will assist us in achieving the value for money while at the same time ensuring the availability of staff in rendering quality healthcare services to our vulnerable patients. The department's spending on compensation of employees remains a major headache for us.

While other provinces, twice our size are cruising at 56% compensation of employees, as it stands, Limpopo is spending 74% of its entire Budget on compensation of employees, remaining with only 26% for all these operations that I'm talking about. This financial constraint has resulted in the painful non-absorption of the post-community services healthcare professionals in various categories.

These challenges combined warrant drastic measures to be taken in order to remedy this situation. We hope that the envisaged skills audit, redeployment of staff and reprioritisation will result in us freeing money so that we can together with Treasury be able to appoint those nurses and other healthcare professionals. Innovation has to be the order of the day in addressing unemployment of young health professionals. As part of the interventions, we have seen how moving people from head office and

district offices into facilities improve efficiency at facility level. During this financial year, we will deepen this process wherein maintenance of staff from districts will see themselves at hospitals and clinics. As part of PHC strengthening and also addressing the disintegration of mobile clinics and fixed clinic services, we will attach every mobile clinic team to a fixed clinic or health centre which in turn will be attached to a hospital.

This will ensure that our clinics render 24-hour services. It must be noted that failure to render 24-hour services in some clinics is not only as a result of staff shortage but is also due to security threats to our employees which has become a national challenge. We, therefore, call upon the strengthening of security at our facilities which require collaboration amongst different stakeholders such as traditional councils, South African Police Service, Department of Home Affairs, PSIRA (Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority) and the Department of Labour. In partnership with the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Hon Mokone, and all other entities, we are exploring ways of supporting young unemployed health professionals to establish small businesses and/or cooperatives in areas of business akin to the functions of the department. We hope that with this initiative, we will make a dent on the challenge of unemployment which has reached a worrying crisis in our country. I am sure the MEC, Hon Mokone, will agree with us that young people must be encouraged to be entrepreneurial and create jobs.

We want to see our young unemployed physiotherapists having their own independent practices where they can assist to reduce a lot of absenteeism amongst us due to backaches and skeletal problems. To achieve this, we need to bring an end to the culture of remunerative work outside of public service in certain categories which tend to take away the market for those who are unemployed. It has become unfair that you are a fulltime optometrist in government and you also have got a fulltime practice in town. Where is your loyalty? Definitely, in government whether you come to work or not, you will still get paid. In your private practice, if you don't go to work, you won't get money. We are going to be unpopular on this decision, but we have to take it.

We have got so many unemployed professionals. People must choose whether they go for a state or they decide to work for their practices. There are certain categories which will still allow RWOPS (remunerative work outside of public service), but on certain categories we are going to be very strong. We are ending this RWOPS so that we can create jobs for those who are unemployed. Our Youth Development Programme is in full swing. Our belief is that every workplace is a training platform; hence, our memorandum of understanding with all our TVET colleges is being implemented. Today in this House we have got young lady, Ms Suzan Rasekgololo, an intern in heavy current electrical engineering currently placed in Van Velden Hospital. These are the skills that we need as a province, especially with the special economic zone. Without 18 months experiential learning, they will never graduate as artisans. Currently there are 477 young people acquiring their skills within the Department of Health.

So, this young lady has an electrical engineering qualification. We chose her because most young ladies don't want to be electrical engineers. Can you rise so that people can see you? There she is – a young girl. [APPLAUSE] She is our future electrical engineer. When it comes to healthcare infrastructure, we are at crisis point. Not only is our majority infrastructure ancient, but it is no longer fit for the purpose. For the immediate future a strategic decision has been taken to reprioritise "crisis point"

projects such as theatres, laundries, replacement of chiller plants and standby generators. Our maintenance has been generally reactive rather than according to a preventative maintenance programme. Due to the budgetary constraints, we can barely meet the 2% recommended budget as a percentage of total budget for maintenance. The strategic priorities for infrastructure are to upgrade the mother and child centres of excellence in the six hospitals and 27 primary healthcare facilities which will receive alternative backup power supply.

These 27 primary healthcare facilities are the ones that must run 24 hours. The reason they can't run 24 hours is that we don't have generators. So, we will prioritise them so that we can activate them immediately to function 24 hours. Thirty-four primary healthcare facilities are also targeted for other related services, including the enviroloo. Ten laundries are in the building phase in various stages of construction. The programme to replace generators will continue in conjunction will the electrical upgrade programme. Except for grant funded projects, the department will not be in a position to commence the new projects due to budgetary constraints.

I'm presenting this Budget against the country's poor economic outlook and the budget constraint faced by the department. I want to repeat this because I really need serious intervention on this matter. Not only is our compensation of employees the highest in the sector, but it is the highest in the country at 74% share of the total budget allocation. Given the remaining 26% for goods and services, it becomes almost impossible to cover all service needs. We are working together with Treasury and the Office of the Premier to try and find solutions on this matter.

But, of course, this is worsened by the increasing service demands due to increasing burden of diseases. In spite of these, the department has made significant strides in the reduction of accruals to free money for service delivery. Plans targeting major cost drivers and spending efficiencies have been developed, as I have already indicated, and are in the implementation stage. The honourable MEC for Treasury has already indicated here that national economy has been growing at relatively low rates for the past few years. As a result of these unfavourable economic conditions, the department has prioritised revenue collection as an alternative source to augment the budget deficit being experienced. The department is implementing its revenue enhancement strategy to address challenges that impede maximum collection. We want to thank the support we received from Provincial Treasury, and we will continue to appreciate that on revenue collection.

Our target is to collect R194 million in this 2019/20 financial year. This is 9% increase from the previous target of R177 million. We will put more efforts to achieve this target as we are aware that this will contribute to the funding of the health services in our province.

We, therefore, honourable Members, urge the community to pay for the healthcare services they receive in our health facilities as you have noted that we are now performing operations that were not done in the province, but our people are still not paying despite that. We call upon them to say these services cannot be for free unless you are visiting a clinic or a primary healthcare facility; unless you are a pregnant woman; unless you are visiting a mobile clinic, a gateway clinic or you have been declared a non-paying patient.

Those of us who can pay, please pay. This will assist us to do more if we collect more revenue. The overall Budget for the Department of Health Budget Vote has increased by 6,5% from the 2018/19 Main Appropriation and by 4,9% from the Adjusted Appropriation. Equitable share grows by 4,2%, and 9,3% on conditional grants from the 2018/19 adjusted allocation. In monetary terms, the total Budget indicates a growth from R19,8 billion in 2018/19 to R20,7 billion in 2019/20. The total allocation grows by an average of 6,4% over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

Let me conclude by saying that the term of office for our hospital boards, clinic committees and mental health review boards have come to an end. We, therefore, call upon members of the public who are prepared to serve selflessly to avail themselves in the spirit of “Thuma Mina” and “Khawuleza”.

Our experience has taught us that no challenge is bigger than the commitment of the ANC-led government. Hand in hand we will be working with our communities to enhance the quality of life, to build sustainable health infrastructure and to further open the healthcare system to be accessible to all, irrespective of the size of their pockets. We profusely thank the Hon Premier of the province for giving us the opportunity to serve the people of Limpopo as part of the Executive collective. My gratitude goes to colleagues in the Executive Council for making it possible for this department to thrive through their unwavering support and guidance. Special thanks to this House, to the chairperson of the portfolio committee for continuing to provide support through oversight activities.

To our acting head of department Dr Thokozani Florence Mhlongo and her generals from the men in blue at the gate of our facility to those mending our mortuaries, we want to say, thank you. Without all of your sleepless nights, we would not be able to achieve what the department has achieved to date. More still needs to be done.

To my comrades, to my friends and family, especially my only surviving parent, I remain grateful for the continuous support of your prayers. With you on my side, my mother, I can walk on stormy and rough seas, I can climb the highest peaks. Ndo livhuwa mukololo wa Vhafamadi. Tshiongwe uri u a longwa muhwe. Vhe Mashau Luvhuvhu ha weli nga u shavha u tswuka milenzhe. Wa thanga ya ludo i shengwaho nga maṋo. A si na maṋo a u phoretshedza. Ḓulu ḽa Rasikhuthuma ḽa Masingo vhane vha ila mutshila wa mbudzi ngeno mutumbu vha tshi ḽa.

Ndza khensa. Ke a leboga. Baie dankie. Thank you. Ndo livhuwa nṋe Phophi. Tshidzimba thi ṱoholi ndi ḽa na makanda atsho. Khezwo ṋamusi ndo ṱohola.

I am, therefore, honoured and indeed privileged to table to this august House the Budget for Health Vote 07, for the year 2019/20 to the value of R20,7 billion, which consists of R17,6 billion equitable share, R3 billion conditional grants and R193 million own revenue. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Order! Thank you very much. The Budget Speech together with the Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Health are referred to the portfolio committee for consideration and to report back to the House. We shall proceed with the programme of the day and go to Item 2.1.2 which is Budget Speech Vote 10, the

Department of Community Safety. MEC, Hon Namane Dickson Masemola, you may take the floor. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY
(Address by Mr Namane Dickson Masemola, MEC for Community Safety)

A very good morning to you Hon Deputy Speaker; Premier of the province in absentia this morning; my colleagues, Members of the Executive Council present here; Hon Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip; leaders of the opposition parties who are part of this honourable House; honourable Members of this majestic and august House; Your Majesties and leaders of royalty present here this morning; heads of department and other senior government officials present here today; management of South African Police Service in the province and other law enforcement agencies of our government who are part of these proceedings this morning; veterans of our struggle and former combatants of our just and people's war present here today; Executive Mayors and Mayors of our municipalities; leaders of community policing forums as well as community safety forums present here; faith-based organisations; members of the media; distinguished guests; comrades; ladies and gentlemen.

I am standing before you today with a formidable and unbending mandate bestowed upon the African National Congress by the voter population in the country and our province in particular; and also given the jurisprudential democratic articulation espoused in the overarching law of the Republic – the Constitution of the land. Thus, giving an account that the revolution as pursued by the African National Congress has indeed acquired a firm posture that makes it possible for us to be standing before you today to articulate government policy and the trajectory that we are going to be pursuing in the next coming five years.

Sadly, I am presenting this Budget after we have just had heartless killings of two leaders of our people in Mogalakwena area, Ralph Kanyane and Faltein Kekana, in a very terrible way. I want to take this opportunity to call upon my colleagues in the South African Police Service to work around the clock and leave no stone unturned and bring those perpetrators to book. May their souls rest in peace, and words of condolences to their families!

This debate occurs after the historic May 8 elections, which ushered in the Sixth Administration geared towards heightened delivery of services to the communities of our province. Our efforts in this regard will be to ensure safety, social cohesion, peace, stability, comfort and productivity of the people. Most importantly, it happens a few days after the global family of humanity have celebrated the life and times of the founding father of our democratic government, President Nelson Mandela, for the he had played in the struggle for liberation, freedom and democracy, and infusing democratic ideas in the world of politics which gradually ensured assimilation and internalisation of democratic systems in governments of the world, at the centre of which being the fundamental human rights, development and social change.

I am presenting this Budget five days after we have laid to rest a commander and militaire extraordinaire, "Bra Ike" Maphoto. A man whose contribution to the struggle led to the progressive forces being freed from domination and subjugation. His glorious

character shall destruct subjective and misleading ideas from the agenda of national purpose and sharpen sociopolitical articulations with the necessary vigour. Knowing that mastery begins with humility, we fully humble ourselves to the people of Limpopo and that this Budget that I am presenting this morning is the response to the contribution made by men and women who traversed the landscape of our province in exchange of ideas and views and a direction. As such, we have solicited a mandate from the communities about the need to create safe environments in their localities where they live. Therefore, indestructible masses of our people mobilised in their consciousness have laid a policy basis to pursue through effective mechanism of policing and community participation in our fight against crime.

In the State of the Nation Address, President Ramaphosa said in the seven-point plan that government will ensure safe communities and social cohesion going forward as we roll out the National Development Plan in this current administration. In the spirit of "Thuma Mina", we are on track in pushing back the frontiers of crime through multiagency approach throughout our province to ensure that people in the villages, townships, informal settlements and suburbs of our towns, live in harmony without fear and walk their streets freely without any form of intimidation.

The Provincial Executive Council took a decision to reconfigure the Department of Transport, Safety, Security and Liaison into one department. I want to present to this House this morning that we are on track in pursuit of that decision and are confident that we will conclude it without serious challenges. In this regard, attention will be given to the establishment of the secretariat for police in terms of the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service Act, 2011 (Act No. 2 of 2011). We will build the necessary capacity required to perform our functions and carry out the constitutional mandate in terms of section 206 without any failure.

This section empowers the province to play an oversight and monitor police conduct; ensures oversight and effectiveness and efficiency of the police service; promotes good relations between the police and communities; and ensures that there is continuous visibility of our police officers throughout the corners of the province. Therefore, we fully understand, standing here this morning, the responsibility given to us with regard to crime combating in the province which, of course, needs our collective effort as the citizens of this beautiful province of Limpopo.

Working with the provincial commissioner and his team, with clusters of commanders, station commanders and specialised units in the police force, we will intensify our work and implement crime prevention strategy without any failure. We are going to ensure social crime prevention; rural safety, reduction or eradication of drugs and anti-substance abuse; and confront violence against women and children, just to mention but a few in our endeavours to create conditions for proper living of our people in this province. I am pleased to announce that men and women in uniform are fired in their imagination to see a province free from any form of criminality, hence they are all over the province as you might have seen so far, making Limpopo a peaceful province to live in. I want to say to them, keep up the good. This year in particular, going forward, we are going to be celebrating police excellence and commitment in serving the people of our province.

Together with the Department of Agriculture, we are going to ensure continuous engagement with farmers, both small holders and commercial farmers, to strengthen

our plans for safety and security. I am looking forward to working with MEC Hon Ndalane in this regard to ensure better agricultural productivity, commitment to produce food for our people in this province without any form of security challenge. Before the end of the calendar year, we will have interacted with them to work out a practical plan to take this noble idea forward. The necessary infrastructure will have to be put in place for efficiency and positive impact thereof from our side as the police department.

Border control remains an area of focus to improve controls and strengthen security as a necessary matter to pursue. Necessary attention will be given to this area to fight cross-border criminal activities through interdepartmental collaboration which will be intelligence driven. The central role of local government in crime prevention needs to be heightened to ensure that they assume their responsibility in the roles of advancing and implementing crime prevention strategy in this province. If going forward their IDPs will be without crime prevention plans, it means that they will be incomplete. More so that, there are emerging trends that we are dealing with on a daily basis of interest structures or groups in various communities in many parts of the province that are making it difficult for municipalities to implement projects. It is very essential for all our municipalities and the districts to facilitate the establishment of community safety forums and street committees so that together we can push back the frontiers of crime and criminality and create conditions conducive for government to roll out its development plan and infrastructure projects in particular. These forums are important forums of interactive activities by citizens in preventing and combating crimes in various localities.

I want to urge municipalities to adopt costed community safety forums plans linked to their IDPs and finalise them as a matter of urgency because we cannot postpone plans to fight crime in our communities. Some by-laws are needed to regulate socioeconomic activities so that the police could be empowered. If you have many illegal businesses which are not registered nor meet the health required standards, have many unused buildings and localities and houses which are dilapidated, these all together create conditions of illegality which provide fertile ground for criminal activities.

Together with the department of LEDET and MEC Thabo Mokone in particular, we are going to have joint operations to enforce compliance with the law regarding illegal businesses. In this regard, municipalities will be expected to produce records of business registration. Gone are the days where businesses will not meet the building regulations and operate out of policy. There must be opening times for businesses in the province and closing times. Hopefully, they are selling consumables which are life-supporting to the people of Limpopo. We are going to be attending to this matter with the necessary vigour it deserves as a matter of urgency because the lives of our people are uppermost to our plans and activities going forward. We have approved the Limpopo Policy on Community Safety Forums and Boards, thus contextualising the national policy in this area so that we could have the required structures to build capacity needed in this functional area of fighting crime and criminality within our communities. Hence my call this morning for the municipalities as well to become conscious partners in crime prevention and crime combating.

Going forward, we envisage the launch of Provincial Street Committees Framework this month to strengthen measures of community policing in the province.

Unavoidably, it needs collaborative efforts between us as a department together with all the local and the district municipalities of our province. In this regard, I would like to appreciate the good work done so far by Tzaneen and Blouberg Municipalities for taking a lead in establishing street and village committees. The power of communities in action and organs of civil society cannot be surpassed by anything, as we have seen it in Dan village. The community has claimed its streets from criminals, and people do express appreciation because now they can freely and safely walk their streets without any fear.

I would like to thank Mayor Maripe Mangena and Cllr Machimane from Tzaneen Local Municipality and Mayor Pheedi and his council from Blouberg Municipality for the good work in leading the municipal efforts in crime prevention. I would also like to acknowledge and appreciate the good work done by the people of Dan village led by Mr Shingange and Mr Rikhotso. Your leadership is highly appreciated, and it's our conviction that we will roll out this model to many communities in the province because there is evidence that where communities have resolved against crime working with the police, there shall be no space for criminals in our social spaces.

We are inspired and highly appreciate the good work done in many communities and they indeed deserve our support going forward as government because all that resembles a true reflection of organs of people's power in action. As Che Guevara once said: "The people are their own liberators." Indeed, together with them, those affected areas shall be freed from criminal activities. Traditional leadership is key in providing co-ordinated leadership, and we will together with them strengthen systems of control and management with regard to crime prevention. It is our view that they should be able to produce records of residence in their villages so that every resident can be accounted for, given high levels of housebreaking crimes that are committed on a continuous basis in almost all communities of the province. In most cases, such criminal activities are violent, and lives do get lost.

Working together with CoGHSTA and MEC Makamu in particular in this regard, we will have to intensify the "Molo Makhelwane – Dumela Moagišane" campaign and mobilise society around this programme for a decisive defeat against crime and criminality in the province. If those systems are sharpened, strangers will be easily and quickly identified for appropriate response. We are looking forward to their co-operation in this regard. As we roll out our plan, pushing back the frontiers of crime and criminality within the province.

As we enter the Sixth Administration, the JCPS cluster will be hosting a provincial summit to review the Provincial Crime Prevention Strategy so as to align it to the new mandates and respond to latest crime patterns.

Equally, youth have a key role in fighting crime, and through young civilians on patrol, we will encourage them to take keen interest in this programme and urge municipalities to come on board and embrace this initiative of young people against crime as well in their various localities. This will be part and parcel of our endeavours to implement youth development strategy, programmes and plans in the province. Crime prevention through environmental design is a project funded by the national Department of Public Works through the Expanded Public Works Programme. To clear and clean some crime-prone areas in some parts of the province, in the previous

financial year some places have been attended to, and we will continue with the same this year by identifying places that need attention in the districts of the province.

Domestic violence remains an intransigent occurrence in society and as such, it needs comprehensive approach and measures to strengthen effective prevention and combat thereof through a coherent institutional action. We call upon men to be loving husbands and loving fathers of their families, and we call upon the perpetrators who commit these stupid criminal acts on a daily basis to understand the impact of what they are doing on the psychosocial capacity of their children and be considerate to quality family lives that are required going forward for us to build strong, productive and progressive communities in our villages, in our localities and, of course, in the rest of the Limpopo province. The abuse of women and children and people with disability is totally unacceptable, given some cases that have occurred in some communities in the province where lives were lost. Many such cases might not have been reported, and victims that are traumatised and depressed are dying inside in their various homes. We call upon those who are affected but keeping quiet to break the silence so that the law could take its course. We are here to liberate them from those shackles of repressive men who do not have love and care for their families.

Indeed, the law shall be tough and protect the vulnerable and the perpetrators should get sentences that they so much deserve. We are on track in establishing family, child and sexual offences units in police stations and will incrementally work on this matter to increase this required capacity in almost all the police stations of our province. The sexual offence courts in our province will continue to fast-track cases to ensure that victims receive justice speedily. Thus far, we have seven sexual offence courts and an additional three will be established this current financial year. We are, therefore, calling upon communities to break the silence and speak out against any form of crime and abuse. Police will also continue to receive training so that victims are not subjected to secondary victimisation and abuse when they visit our stations to report such cases as it has happened in some parts of the country.

Family plays an important role in the socialisation and development of society. The extent to which they are functional determines their productivity and contributive value in society. Given that domestic violence stems from the collapse of basics in families and upbringing of our children, it is important for parents to uphold moral standards that resonate with good values of stability, of love, of respect, care and proper upbringing of their children.

I would like to take this opportunity to appreciate the good work done by SAPS Mankweng for their sterling work in reducing sexual offence cases working together with the communities in that area and the criminal justice system. The recent multiple life sentences handed to a serial rapist who has been terrorising our students in that area is highly commendable. We are looking forward to serious efforts in this regard in various parts of our province.

Schools are an arena of social development in terms of attitudes, values and skills. As such, basic grounding in the operation of criminal justice system is key in building capacity and confidence to deal with manifestation of crime in its various formations. Of worrying concern is the use of learners in community protests, use of drugs and carrying weapons and emergence of gangsters in our schools in the province. In many schools where we have already conducted random searches, we found knives, dagga,

spray guns and many other weapons that are not supposed to be carried by learners in our schools. This shows a serious problem which is creeping into our schools as a consequence of moral decay in society. We will continue with our work, and those learners who are found in possession of wrong things will be arrested without any question. That is because they put lives of education-loving learners at risk and in danger. We are looking forward to facilitating a Police Officer – Adopt a School Programme to pay a closer attention to these challenges faced by our schools. Together with the Department of Education, we are going to work hard, through school safety programme and confront gangsterism in schools with the vigour it deserves.

We remain committed as the department and the South African Police Service to fighting corruption in the public administration, private sector and in society, for indeed malfeasance, sleaze and corruption shall not be permanent features of the sixth administration led by President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa and Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha. Crime combat has become more complex and challenging given the character of criminals featured through organised formations, zeal with which they do both domestic and foreign criminal activities and their operational existence across national border lines. There are globalised activities and our country and province is not impervious to this reality. As such, SAPS and law enforcement agencies are continuing to sharpen their skills and capacity to be up to speed to deal with this reality. In fact, they are well positioned in working together with citizens to ensure that our country and our province remain a place of comfort as Limpopo is at the moment.

Given the above context, once again, Che Guevara says: “The true revolutionary is guided by a great feeling of love. It is impossible to think of a genuine revolutionary who lacks this quality.” In this regard, we took a decision as a department together with the South African Police Service to launch an Operation Swara Tsotsi in the province to restore and strengthen the rule of law and social order in our communities, and ensure safety and security of the people. There are signs of lawlessness that are not acceptable. The love for our people and for our country and province in particular has triggered us into an action as Limpopo to create a province of peace and harmony. That is why we thought it will be very important to launch this operation. We must restore law and social order once more. We cannot hand over this country to criminals, and, therefore, hand over our democracy to unelected people. We cannot allow mafias to replace democratic systems of governance, dilute and detour the revolution because of their counter-revolutionaries. They are using criminal activities to undermine the government of the African National Congress.

Mnr Adjunkspeaker, ons moet almal saamwerk om misdaad te beveg en al die misdadigers arresteer. Ons moet hierdie werk met onderskeiding doen want dit stel die lewe van die mense in gevaar. Hierdie regering van President Ramaphosa en Premier Mathabatha is aanspreeklik en deursigtig. Ons moet almal die Grondwet van die land volg, respekteer en gehoorsaam.

Upon the launch of the Operation Swara Tsotsi, we had in three hours on that day arrested 309 suspects, searched 3 000 vehicles, issued 150 summonses, arrested 9 illegal immigrants who were without valid documents, impounded one unroadworthy taxi operating illegally, searched 610 people and recovered firearms. That is a clear indication of the success of this operation just in three hours of its launch on the day in question in Polokwane city. This is just the record of three hours of work on the day

of the launch of the operation. So far, a lot of work continues to be done and a consolidated report will be given at an appropriate time when it is ready.

Let me, at this point in time, Hon Deputy Speaker, borrow words from the book of authority, the Holy Bible, Job 11:18: “And you will feel secure, because there is hope; you will look around and take your rest in security.” Clusters and police stations are expected to intensify this operation at their levels in the interest of safety of our people. I am happy to announce that it has found expression in the working of almost all the police stations in the province. All of us are required to be active citizens in this programme of national importance and, through our constituency offices as Members of this august House, strengthen the revolution defence structures in our various parliamentary constituency offices.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the hard work done by men and women in uniform led by Lt Gen Nneke Ledwaba, and police officers who are at the police stations at the real coalface and frontline of crime prevention, combating and those who push back the frontiers of crime in our province. That is why today here you can see senior officers from SAPS led by generals, they are part of this august House to continue to display their public commitment as honest, dedicated and responsible citizens who serve no one else but the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. Thank you for sustaining the peaceful record of Limpopo for four successive years. Thank you for reducing house robberies, carhijackings and business robberies in the province. Thank you, officers, for dealing with cash-in-transit heists that registered a drop nationally. Thank you for arresting the drug lords in Polokwane and Bela-Bela. Let’s continue to serve our people without any ambiguity. Once more, thank you very much indeed. Let’s continue to be fired in our imaginations. [APPLAUSE]

The department has received a Budget of R117,638 million for the 2019/20 financial year. Through this Budget the department will provide civilian oversight on 103 police stations and 12 SAPS components. We will continue to make sure that we mobilise all sections of society behind crime combating plans and our strategies; promote involvement of youth in crime prevention; and coordinate and facilitate JCPS cluster programmes. In the MTEF period, the current Budget represents 7,2% growth. Next year it will represent 3,7% and in the outer year 5,4%. The money is allocated to two major programmes of the department, which are as follows:

Programme 1: Administration	: R55,7 million; and
Programme 2: Provincial Secretariat for Police Service	: R61,8 million.

I would like to take this opportunity and thank the head of department and her management team for the good work they continue to do for the people of this province. Let me thank the provincial commissioner and your management team of generals and other officers from all over the province, up to the station, for your tireless efforts in creating conditions of safety and security in the province. To the officials in my office, I would also like to take this opportunity and thank them. CPF boards and CPF forums and many other structures that are responsible in this functional area, I would also like to thank you very much indeed. Chairperson of the portfolio committee, we are looking forward to working with you in this coming term of office. Rena bosegama nko ya motswetši re tlo tšwela pele go tsenya letsogo sehlageng sa mašianoke. Thobela. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC Masemola. The Budget Speech and the Annual Performance Plan will be referred to the portfolio committee on Transport and Community Safety for consideration and report back to this honourable House. Thank you very much. We will proceed to the next Budget Speech Vote 11, Department of CoGHSTA, and call upon MEC Hon Rodgers Baisikopo Makamu to ascend to the podium.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COGHSTA
(Address by Mr B R Makamu, MEC for the Department of CoGHSTA)

Hon Deputy Speaker; Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha in absentia; colleagues in the Executive Council; honourable Members of this provincial Legislature; honourable chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Johanna Aphiri and other members; leadership of Salga in the province led by the chairperson, Cllr Pule Shai; president of Salga, Cllr Thembi Nkadimeng; Executive Mayors and Mayors of our municipalities; chairperson and members of the House of Traditional Leaders; all traditional leaders present; chairperson and members of Contralesa; our esteemed Majesties and Your Royal Highness present; leadership of Chapter 9 and 10 institutions; leaders of opposition parties; leadership of the ruling party, the African National Congress; stalwarts and veterans of our struggle; leadership of various religious denominations; members of the Housing Advisory Panel and Limpopo Rental Tribunal; representatives of Eskom; NHBRC and the SABC; CoGHSTA staff led by the our HOD Ms Ngaka Dumalisile; invited guests and stakeholders of departments; comrades; ladies and gentlemen, good morning. Thobela. Avuxeni. Ndi matsheloni. Goeie more.

It is a great privilege to be delivering this Budget Vote a few days after the birthday of one of our world icons, the late Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, in a month dedicated to do work in honour of this struggle hero. May his soul rest in peace! Empowerment through access to decent housing, skills development, safe water, sanitation, affordable energy and cohesive and vibrant communities are all important for the recovery of humanity. To be treated with respect and dignity by one's fellow citizens and by those who have the responsibility of providing public service is important for the recovery of our humanity. This is how Madiba conducted himself through and through before he left us.

We also dedicate this Budget Speech to the memory of Gen “Bra Ike” Maphoto who put aside the comfort of his family to go into unknown foreign countries to fight for the freedom that we enjoy today. This combatant of uMkhonto weSizwe dedicated his entire life to the service of the people of South Africa. Gen “Bra Ike” Maphoto took part in the battles of Wankie and Sipholilo campaigns where he distinguished himself as a reliable fighter. As we present this Budget Speech today, may we at all times remember the role he played in ushering freedom to the people of South Africa. May his soul rest in peace!

Whilst we are still mourning the passing of Cde “Bra Ike” Maphoto, a few days ago, we were saddened by the murder of one of our Councillors, the chairperson of MPAC

(Municipal Public Accounts Committee), for that matter, and his colleague in the Mogalakwena Municipality. We condemn this murder with the strongest possible terms. In the same vain, we call on all people with information that can lead to the arrest of the perpetrators of the gruesome act to come forward and assist the police in ensuring the arrest so that they are brought to book and face the might of the law. May their souls rest in peace!

As we are working for humanity in honour of these stalwarts of our struggle, we have to be mindful of the fact that South Africa has to grow, and we have to grow it together. We are indeed having a conviction that South Africa will realise growth, just as the President of the Republic, Hon Cyril Ramaphosa in his State of the Nation Address opening remarks in Parliament, Cape Town on Thursday, 20 June 2019, said: “We are at a moment in our history that holds great hope and promise. In 25 years of democracy we have made remarkable progress in building a new nation in which all South Africans have equal rights and broadening opportunities. Government has done much to meet people's basic needs, to reduce poverty and to transform a devastated economy that was built to serve the interests of the few.”

The department's move in the new dawn coincides with the marking of 25 years of democracy and freedom in the country and the province. It continues to devote its efforts in fulfilling its mandate as provided for in the Medium-Term Strategic Framework and the implementation of the National Development Plan Vision 2030 in ensuring an integrated sustainable human settlement in Limpopo province.

The journey we traversed in the last 25 years was worth undertaking. For us it has been pursuant to a just course, underpinned by a quest to build a nonracial, nonsexist, nongreedy and democratic South Africa. We indeed wanted to reverse and eradicate the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. In presenting this Budget for the Department of CoGHSTA today, we continue to cement a call made by South Africans of all colours in 1955 in Kliptown, Johannesburg, when they adopted the Freedom Charter and agreed that: “There shall be houses, security and comfort.” After sixty-four years having made this call, I am pleased to present a Budget geared towards pursuing this Freedom Charter resolution. The Budget I am presenting is of a total of R2,720,467 billion broken down as follows:

Programme 1: Administration	: R387,262 million;
Programme 2: Human Settlements	: R1,476 830 billion;
Programme 3: Co-operative Governance	: R315,124 million; and
Programme 4: Traditional Institutional Development	: R541,251 million.

This Budget is aimed at the following:

- 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 the form of implementing their mandates. This is pursued through the following subprogrammes: 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. Human settlements development post 1994 elections started with the Botshabelo National Housing Accord prepared and signed under the leadership of the first Minister for Housing, Cde Joe Slovo. This accord was signed by various stakeholders and organisations representing government, homeless people, communities and civil society, the financial sector, emerging contractors and established construction industry, building material suppliers, employers, developers, and the international community.

The document formed the foundation of South Africa's Housing Policy, leading to the promulgation of the Housing Act No. 107 of 1997.The preamble of the National Housing Act states that in terms of Section 26 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act No. 108 of 1996) everyone has the right to have access to adequate housing. The preamble to the Housing Act further recognises that:

- Housing as adequate shelter, fulfils a basic human need;
- Housing is a product of human endeavour and enterprise;
- Housing is a vital form of integrated development planning;
- Housing is a key sector of our national economy; and
- Housing is vital for the socioeconomic wellbeing of the economy.

However, 25 years into South Africa's democracy, and despite being recognised as a right in the Constitution and the relevant enabling legislation, access to adequate housing continues to be a significant challenge to our people.

It has been acknowledged, through the term “human settlements” that housing comprises part of broader integrated development and is intrinsically linked to the provision of basic services, including water, sanitation, social and economic facilities such as schools, clinics, parks and business centres.

The NDP also recognises that apart from the right of access to adequate housing being entrenched in the Constitution, it forms a key component to the country's economic development. It recognises that due to its apartheid past, the majority of South Africans reside in far-flung areas away from work, with little access to basic services and efficient transport, thus limiting their ability. In line with the NDP, we will continue to develop sustainable human settlements, improve spatial integration and housing assets, upgrade and eradicate informal settlements.

The late Minister, Cde Joe Slovo, solidified these sentiments during the signing of the Botshabelo Housing Accord when he said: “All role-players must strive for the establishment of viable, socially and economically integrated communities which are situated in areas allowing convenient access to economic opportunities, health,

educational and social amenities and within which South Africa's people will have access on a progressive basis to: a permanent residential structure with secure tenure, ensuring privacy and providing adequate protection against the elements; potable water and adequate sanitary facilities including waste disposal and domestic electricity supply."

Pursuant to this commitment and the constitutional stipulation on housing as a basic right, in the previous financial year, 2018/19, through housing development, implementation and planning, we have planned to build and hand over 7 450 housing units as a contribution to our delivery target of creating 80 000 housing opportunities in the province by 2019. Of this figure as at the end of March 2019, the department successfully completed 10 562 housing units. The total contribution to meeting the delivery target of the previous term of government of 80 000 housing opportunities by 2019 amounted to 40 781 housing units and 11 330 services making it a total of 52 111 housing opportunities created.

Compared with the previous financial years, 2016/17 and 2017/18, the number of completed houses in the last financial year shows some significant increase. These completed housing units are inclusive of rural and urban, Enhanced People's Housing Programme, Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme and military veterans. The completed housing units exceeded the target as a result of roll-over housing units from the 2017/18 financial year which were at various construction levels at the end of that year. In this financial year, the department will build and hand over 5 579 housing units in the urban and rural areas. This planned number of houses is inclusive of the military veterans. I must, however, acknowledge that we face some challenges in the implementation of this programme. These challenges range from unavailability of stands, deceased beneficiaries and beneficiaries who were not interested in the size of the houses we want to build for them.

In addition to the planned 5 579 housing units, we have planned to increase the number of community residential units (CRU) at Marapong from 250 units as announced last year to 332 this year. Upon completion of the Marapong community residential units, we have planned to deliver 514 units. The scope of the development includes 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. Plans for the Altoostyd Project are at an advance stage. This is a mega project aimed at developing 5 050 mixed housing units on 500 hectare portion of land.

Bulk services have been installed for R230 million, internal engineering services for 2 000 sites, bulk connector and currently awaiting an upgrade of sewer services. A transactional advisor has been appointed to develop a financial and development model and has since concluded the report that is awaiting consultation with all relevant stakeholders for approval. The target for the current financial year is to upgrade the sewer and roads, develop BNG and FLISP housing, and this is expected to commence in the third quarter of this financial year.

The completion of Bendor Extension 100 project, Hon Buthane, is long overdue. This is an integrated human settlements development project based on two sectional title yielding a total of 661 units. The aim of this project is to cater for a GAP market, through provision of FLISP units and affordable accommodation. So far, 60 housing units have

been transferred and occupied by approved owners. About 66 housing units are at various stages of construction i.e., foundations, wall plates, roofing, plastering and finishes. An amount of R16,320 million has been budgeted for the delivery of 68 community residential units in Tshikota in Makhado Municipality in the current financial year. The project is still at the pre-evaluation stage and implementation is anticipated to start in the third quarter of this financial year.

The Talana community residential unit in Tzaneen is still at project packaging stage. The Tzaneen Municipality has engaged Social Housing Rental Association (SHRA) on management of current hostel dwellers for rental collection and monitoring. The service level agreement between the municipality and Social Housing Rental Association has been finalised. We have planned to formalise and upgrade the Vingerskraal informal settlement in Bela-Bela. I think even the former MEC Ndou has been working on this project. The project is aimed at formalising and upgrading 1 000 units. A service provider for the township formalisation has been appointed and installation of internal services is expected to commence in January 2020.

As the department, we committed ourselves to the revitalisation of the mining towns of Mogalakwena, Elias Motsoaledi, Thabazimbi, Lephalale and Fetakgomo-Tubatse. We have since entered into a memorandum of understanding with these municipalities and R116 million has been transferred to them as per the gazette for 2018/19 to implement bulk infrastructure that is: water, sanitation, electricity, roads and storm water. Contractors were appointed for Mokopane Extension 20, Raphuti and Regorogile in Thabazimbi. The tenders for Masakaneng in Elias Motsoaledi and Burgersfort extensions in Fetakgomo-Tubatse was advertised. According to Stats SA community survey conducted in 2016, Limpopo's population increased by 400 000, from 5,4 million people in 2011 to 5,8 million in 2016, making it the fifth largest province in the country in terms of population size. The number of households in the province has also increased to 1,6 million in 2016, from 1,4 million in 2011. The district municipality with the largest share of households in the province is Vhembe with 382 346 followed by Capricorn with 378 272, Mopani 338 385, Sekhukhune 290 489, and Waterberg 211 452.

This implies that Limpopo has the highest proportion of households living in formal dwellings, about 88%, Hon Smalle, which constitutes about 1, 4 million; and the lowest number of informal dwellings is just near 77 371 and its lowest in the country. About 5,1% of households in the province are living in traditional dwellings. Limpopo also has the highest proportion of “owned and fully paid-off” homes in the country with 65%. About 7,5% of these households in the province own their main dwellings; however, they are still paying back their home loans. More than a tenth, that is 11,4% of the households stay in rent-free homes they do not own, whereas 9,8% rent their main homes. Taking into cognisance this development, in this financial year we have planned installation of services in 5 354 IRDP sites with an increase of 725 compared to 2018/19 financial year through Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme. These informal settlements will be upgraded and formalised by March 2020 in our growth towns of Mogalakwena, Polokwane, Fetakgomo-Tubatse, Musina-Makhado, and Thulamela Collins Chabane. About 18 000 beneficiaries are set to benefit in this regard. The basic services designed to benefit these families will include, among others, portable water, sanitation and roads.

As part of our commitment to ensuring full ownership of property, the department will continue with its programme of handing over title deeds to our beneficiaries. In the previous financial year, the department handed 3 563 title deeds to the beneficiaries. This number of title deeds represent a shortfall of 5 168 title deeds. However, the remainder of these title deeds have been rolled over to this financial year and are committed. In this financial year, we will hand over 50 title deeds through Enhanced Extended Discounted Benefit Scheme, 1 500 for houses built between 1994 and 2014 and 1 810 title deeds for houses built post 2014.

All these human settlements development programmes alluded to in the Budget, will contribute to the over 350 thousand housing opportunities created since 1994 in this province. In addition to these housing opportunities created by all these human settlements programmes, 3 600 job opportunities will also be created. Last year we announced that as a province we will be delivering housing units that meet the BNG, National Housing Code and SANS 10400 standards and that our subsidy quantum was to be increased to match the national determination of R115 000 per housing unit. It gives me pleasure to inform this house that we are now building BNG houses that are 45 square meters with bathroom included, plastered and painted in and outside, with ceiling and roof tiles that thermally perform SANS 10400 standards, electrical wiring and plumbing. I think honourable Members, you should be able to see these houses. They are worth living in. [APPLAUSE]

During the last financial year Budget presentation, we undertook to finalise the appointment of the new Limpopo Rental Housing Tribunal and Limpopo Housing Advisory Panel. I am happy to announce that the appointment of members to these bodies have since been finalised. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the two bodies for having started their term of office in earnest. In particular, I would like to thank the chairpersons of these statutory bodies, Mr Robert Mokgalabone and Prof Muxe Gessler Nkondo, for the leadership they continue to provide. In delivering these human settlements programmes, we continue to receive support from various stakeholders like the media and business community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all people who continue to partner with us in building houses to the needy. Your continual lending of hands is indeed welcomed and appreciated. In appreciating these efforts, we are as a department making a commitment that Budget allocated to us, especially the Human Settlements Grant is spent to the last cent. I am making this commitment because of our history in the last administration of having lost millions of rand to the national human settlements. That is a commitment we make to this House.

Local government is the third sphere of government deliberately created to bring government to the grass-roots population and gives citizens a sense of involvement in the political processes that control their daily lives. It is the closest sphere of government to the people, and thereby constitutes the coalface of service delivery. As the department, we will continue to play our supporting role and oversight to the municipalities of our province. In playing this role, we will in this financial year get municipal councillors, especially ward councillors to hold community feedback sessions, monitor and submit reports on the functionality of ward committees, conduct mid-year assessment of councillors, come up with decisive intervention in municipalities where there is political instability and develop a provincial policy to standardise ward committee stipends.

As we will be doing this, we will be ensuring that there is political stability in our municipalities, functional structures of governance, healthy political-administrative interface, responsiveness to service needs, infrastructure maintenance, institutional continuity, clear policy and delegation framework, community satisfaction, engagements and feedback. All 27 municipal councils of our province were established in accordance with the legislation and are functional. However, we observed some signs of regress in the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Municipality due to inability of council to appoint a Speaker to the position of the Acting Mayor.

Section 37 of the Municipal Structures Act outlines the roles of the Speaker as a chairperson of council and any other functions that may be delegated as per section 69 of the Systems Act. Continuous absence of the Speaker means that some functions are not performed, and this negatively affects the functionality and governance of the municipality. Ward committees were established in all municipalities except in three wards in Collins Chabane due to demarcation challenges and two wards in Thabazimbi due to challenges with the mining houses. There has been a good improvement in the filling of senior management vacancies, especially for Municipal Managers and chief financial officers in compliance with the provisions of the Municipal Systems Act. There is, however, a worrying progress on filling of technical services posts which has a direct impact on the provision of services. In this financial year we will finalise a prototype of municipal structures to avoid bloated structures in our municipalities.

All 27 municipalities have approved their budgets as request by the legislation. There is, however, a challenge of high debt which affects the financial health of municipalities as they are expected to continue providing services without money. Outstanding debts for property rates on government property alone amounted to R199 million as at 31 March this year. Most of government properties are built in the rural areas and are unregistered with deeds office. Custodian departments acknowledge the properties, but dispute paying municipalities due to their registration status. Household debt is standing at R5 763 billion and constitutes 60% of total debt owed to municipalities. This is an indication of inability of municipalities to collect, poor culture of payment amongst ourselves as citizens and high level of indigents. We, therefore, urge our municipalities to prioritise their credit control, advocacy for payment of services by councillors and proper management of indigent policies and registers.

I would, therefore, take this opportunity to make a call to our government departments, more especially my fellow MECs to pay their outstanding debts and services within 30 days of receipt of invoices so that municipalities can continue to render services. The financial situation of our municipalities has further been compounded by the loss of money as a result of the investments with the Venda Building Society Mutual Bank, and thereby negatively impacting on service delivery. As part of consequence management, the province acted swiftly by removing Mayors of municipalities where money was lost, and the various municipal councils also instituted disciplinary actions against officials suspected of wrongdoing. In some municipalities, implicated officials have been dismissed, while in most municipalities disciplinary processes are still underway. Several lessons have been learnt from this unfortunate occurrence.

Amongst some of the observations made is poor oversight by the legislative arm of municipalities which are councils, insufficient capacity of both Councillors and

administration to ensure that policies comply with relevant legislative prescripts. The forensic audit report indicates that most the municipalities' cash and investment policies did not comply with the MFMA, thereby allowing them to invest money in the Mutual Bank. As part of our intervention, Madam Speaker, we will workshop Councillors on their oversight and monitoring responsibilities. We will also be putting much attention to the training of members of the Municipal Public Accounts Committees (MPACs).

With regard to our municipal audit outcomes, let me indicate that the province has not been doing well on audit outcomes as we received no clean audits over the past three financial years. These negative audit outcomes are a result of the slow response by the leadership and management in improving key internal controls; addressing risk areas such as key officials lacking appropriate competencies; poor implementation of audit remedial plans; and inadequate consequences for poor performance and transgressions.

We are, however, encouraged by some of the municipalities that have consistently achieved unqualified audit opinions for the past three financial years. These municipalities are Capricorn District Municipality, Sekhukhune District Municipality, Thulamela Local Municipality, Molemole Local Municipality and Maruleng Local Municipality. We hold our hope for clean audit outcomes in these municipalities and as the department we will with immediate effect start working closely with these municipalities to realise this outcome. When I engaged with Auditor-General one municipality in Maruleng did not even have one issue on its supply chain management processes. Is a candidate closer to getting us a clean audit. Hence as a department, we will be working very quickly with them. We are equally concerned about municipalities that continuously receive disclaimers and adverse audit outcomes.

Provincial Treasury and CoGHSTA are working together to monitor and support these six municipalities that received disclaimer and adverse audit opinions. The majority of these municipalities fall within the distressed category and are part of our provincial targeted support and intervention plan. These municipalities are Fetakgomo-Tubatse, Modimolle-Mookgophong, Mopani District, Thabazimbi and Vhembe District Municipality. Amongst some of the interventions to be made, we will resuscitate the Residents Accountant Programme and finalise the process of the establishment of the local government support hub together with the MEC for Treasury. As part of the Back to Basics programme, the province has identified several municipalities that are distressed. Three categories of municipalities have been identified as those that are doing well, those with the potential to do well and those that are distressed. These municipalities are characterised by, among others, low revenue collection; persistent negative audit outcomes; poor governance; unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure; non-payment of bulk services due to financial constraints; and poor expenditure on conditional grants.

To support and strengthen monitoring of these municipalities, the Limpopo Executive Council adopted a targeted support and monitoring programme targeting ten municipalities that are either distressed, identified as priority provincial growth points and/or water service authorities in May 2019. The support programme aims to mobilise and align the support and monitoring by three spheres of government, including entities such as GTAC (Government Technical Advisory Centre), MISA (Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency) and SETA) (Sector Education and Training

Authorities). Key focus on these PGPs is infrastructure delivery, financial management and long-term planning. Furthermore, a co-ordination model to ensure proper alignment of initiatives co-ordinated by the Office of the Premier, CoGHSTA and Provincial Treasury has been developed to implement the support plan and other initiatives.

The economy of our country is not performing according to our expectations, and thus requires us to live within the limited means. This will have a severe impact on our municipalities, especially at the time when public coffers are bleeding. Acting with the concurrence of the Minister for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, the Minister for Finance has issued Municipal Cost Containment Regulations, 2019 in terms of section 168(1) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003. Municipalities are, therefore, urged to be prudent with their financial resources and focus on service delivery. In the same breadth, I will be instituting investigations in municipalities where there are allegations of misappropriation and inefficient use of funds as mandated by section 106 of the Municipal Systems Act.

We have also noted serious development planning challenges in some of our priority growth municipalities, and we will continue to mobilise support from various entities in pursuance of the objectives of the Limpopo Development Plan and the Integrated Urban Development Framework. We are confident that the support from the national Department of Co-operative Governance to target our identified priority growth point municipalities will be intensified so that the objectives of the IUDF are realised, and the province benefits from the opportunities of urbanisation and the catalytic interventions, particularly in Musina-Makhado SEZ and Fetakgomo-Tubatse; which is an earmarked SEZ. The provincial government will continue to mobilise key national departments and state-owned entities to align resource prioritisation to support planning capabilities and infrastructure planning and implementation in these two municipalities as this will unlock the economic potential of the areas and further change the provincial and national space economy.

Our focus areas for collaboration with national partners in particular relate to building development planning and infrastructure delivery capacity in the identified municipalities; road and rail infrastructure upgrade; and bulk water and energy provision. Specific projects that require immediate attention have been identified in this regard.

Poor expenditure of Municipal Infrastructure Grant and other conditional grants results in delayed and deferred provision of services to communities, which subsequently leads to community unrests. Some of these challenges we are experiencing in this area are due to insufficient attention to development or review of critical sector plans to guide annual resource allocation; insufficient alignment in respect of bulk and reticulations plans; disruptions of projects implementation by communities; poor forward planning; and protracted supply chain management processes. There is a need to strengthen partnerships with nongovernment partners to benefit on their skills, capacities and resources to build municipal planning, implementation and monitoring capacity.

Our provincial MIG expenditure trends reflect an improvement as follows: in 2016/17 we were at 86%; in 2017/18 we were at 82%; and in 2018/19 we are at 90%. The 10% less spent, which translates to R305,841 787 million unspent funds, however, is a

cause for concern considering the infrastructure and service delivery backlog in our province. We will be putting more emphasis on our Water Service Authorities in particular as they constitute a higher percentage of the MIG allocation. We are, however, confident that the partnership and support provided through the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency, GTAC internal CoGHSTA support and other sectors the province will help us to improve.

We are confident that if we manage to address the deficiency in terms of long-term planning and procurement challenges which are being addressed through the implementation of the Standard for Infrastructure Procurement and Delivery Management, we will improve expenditure on MIG, conditional grants and own source capital budgets in municipalities. Despite these challenges, there are municipalities that continue to do exceptionally well. We have municipalities such as Capricorn, Thulamela and Makhado that have consistently spent 100% of their MIG allocation over a three-year period. We are also noting significant improvements in Blouberg, Bela-Bela, Makhuduthamaga and Greater Letaba Municipalities that have spent 100% of their MIG over two years, that is 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years. This gives us hope that with the right skills, attitude and support our municipalities can spend 100% of their allocations.

The Community Works Programme continues to be a strategic intervention for providing job opportunities in light of the high unemployment rate the country is facing. In the Limpopo province the programme has seen an increase in participants from 23 905 during the 2015/16 financial year to 28 709 in 2018/19. The following are lessons learnt in the implementation:

- Training of participants: Skills development through the support of sector departments has resulted in participants getting better job opportunities elsewhere;
- Public goods provided through the CWP has assisted to bring services to rural areas which were not getting government services;
- The involvement of community members in identifying the type of work to be performed by participants assists in creating ownership of the programme; and
- Incapacity of appointed NPOs, lack of work opportunities in some areas to enable participants to exit the programme and due to budget constraints CWP is not covering all wards.

With all these lessons learnt, we will develop a model that will see development of cooperatives that will manage the programme and also prepare the participants to develop cooperatives that can later administer the programme or offer other services based on skills acquired during the CWP.

Our Constitution recognises the existence and the importance of traditional leaders. Traditional leaders, as community leaders and custodians of land, play an important role in ensuring coordinated development. One area of concern is demarcation of sites by traditional leaders which in some instances does not align with the Spatial Development Framework or land use schemes of municipalities. It is, therefore, important that we strengthen the relationship between the democratic state and traditional systems in support of development of our local governance. Equally so is the implementation of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (Spluma). We need to develop innovative ways of partnership between local government and

institutions of traditional leadership to ensure proper land management and development.

As part of our commitment to support the traditional leadership institution, in the last financial year, we committed ourselves to constructing new offices for traditional councils, refurbish those that are not in good shape and to procure furniture for those that are in need of it. I am delighted to announce that the following traditional council offices were refurbished: Nyavana, Pheeha, Batlhabine, Mamaila Mphotwane, Mametja, Hlaneki, Bungeni, Nkidikitlana, Babirwa, Seakamela, Mathabatha, Manthata, Maja, Seloane, Bakopa ba Rammupudu, Bantwane, and Matlala Ramoshebo. All these traditional councils were refurbished last year. We further committed ourselves to constructing seven new offices. Work with the construction of these offices is underway in six of these traditional council offices and are planned to be completed by November this year. The seventh one has been rolled over to this financial year as procurement processes could not be finalised. A total of 33 traditional council offices will be provided with R5 million worth of furniture during the 2019/20 financial year.

In an endeavour to integrate services and bring services closer to the people, we will be working together with our provincial House of Traditional Leaders to develop a model of using these offices as multi-purpose government centres. This initiative will not only bring services closer to communities, but will also help harmonise relations between spheres of government and the institution of traditional leadership. Following the completion of the task of the provincial committee on traditional leadership disputes and claims, commonly known as Kgatla Commission in December 2017, last year during the Budget Vote presentation, we committed ourselves to communicating the outcomes to claimants.

As we are busy communicating the outcomes of the commission to the claimants, I would like to take this opportunity to call on all that are affected to follow the correct channels and protocols in handling their discontent. Key to this call is that matters of traditional leadership should be left to royal families to discuss and conclude on them. As government, we will not allow a situation where traditional leadership disputes lead to disruption of service delivery to our people, destruction of other people's properties and threat to other people’s lives.

The Initiation School Programme for 2019 started on 7 June and ended on the week ending 14 July 2019. The 2019 initiation season had a total of 317 legal schools with an enrolment of 45 896 compared to 50 379 in 2018. We, however, regret that we continue to have challenges of mushrooming of illegal schools in our province. Unfortunately, this year, we recorded three deaths unlike the previous year where our province registered zero death. Despite this setback, the partnership between the provincial House of Traditional Leaders, our department; the Department of Health; and SAPS ensure that we continue to run a successful programme in preservation of our culture. During this financial year, we will finalise the initiation school regulations. These regulations will assist in ensuring the implementation of the newly enacted Initiation Schools Act, and therefore, this means that the 2020 initiation schools season will be conducted in terms of the new Act and its regulations.

Let me take this opportunity to thank and appreciate the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders under the leadership of Kgoši Malesela Dikgale and the initiation school

committee led by Kgoši Rammupudu for the sterling work in running of our initiation school for the 2019 season. We will also be revisiting our Initiation School Action Plan to ensure that we improve on the management and the timelines for finalising the applications as this will help us reduce the number of illegal schools. The department plans to close applications for 2020 initiation schools by December 2019, to give an ample time to address all administrative processes and other logistics. Details in this regard will be communicated through the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders. I, therefore, would like to take this opportunity to call on all role-players and stakeholders to work closely with the house as we work towards improving the work of initiation schools in our province.

As I conclude, let me extend my sincere gratitude to the Hon Premier, Chupu Mathabatha, for having afforded me an opportunity to lead the Department of CoGHSTA and the support he continues to give to us as Members of the Executive Council.

To members of the portfolio committee and the chairperson; Salga leadership; IEC; Mayors; the House of Traditional leaders; and my colleagues in the Executive Council, thank you for the support and guidance you give to the department. I further would like to acknowledge and appreciate work done by my predecessors in the previous administration, Hon Makoma Makhurupetje and Hon Jerry Ndou, for the solid foundation they have laid in this department. May I also acknowledge Team CoGHSTA led by the Head of Department, Ms Ngaka Dumalisile for the warm welcome you gave me when I joined the department in May this year. Lastly, I would like to thank my family for the support you continue to give me. Your support is highly appreciated.

It is my pleasure to present to you and the House, Budget Vote 11 of the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, for the year 2019/20 with a Budget of R2,7 billion divided in the following:

- Programme 1: Administration : R387 million;
- Programme 2: Human Settlements : R1,4 billion;
- Programme 3: Co-operative Governance : R315 million; and
- Programme 4: Traditional Institutional Development : R541 million.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC Hon Makamu. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome you Madam Speaker. You are welcome, Hon Speaker. Can I also request the House to rise and observe a moment of silence for Cllr Kekana who was gunned down as the MEC has mentioned.

[SILENCE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

May his soul rest in peace! Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to greet everyone. I heard that in my absence from the House there were new rules and they were being challenged to the Chair of Chairs. Even now I can see Members are indicating other things. Let me indicate that, that will be dealt with in our own House Sittings. We will explain why I am not wearing a gown as I am chairing now. However, let me take this opportunity and welcome the next Budget Speech; we are going to invite the MEC for Transport and Community Safety to come forth. Let's welcome him. [APPLAUSE] Hon Buthane, they need to arrange for my gown and that has been sorted. You can allow the MEC to continue. Is that a hand for order?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Speaker, you will appreciate that here we are colleagues. There are rules that govern us. When things are not done in the manner that they should be done, it must not be a shortcut. It must be clearly stated before we can proceed that this is why such a thing is not happening. When you send them to collect a gown, you should tell the House to be in the know that you will not be wearing a gown for these purposes. It cannot just be not wearing a gown, and everything must be like that, or else the decorum will collapse. The House will degenerate. That is what we want to put to you, Madam Speaker. Even though we might be having other relations and all that, we need to keep the professionalism in the House. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Honourable MEC, you are on the podium.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
(Address by Mr N D Masemola, MEC for Transport and Community Safety)

Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker; Mahlatji'a Hlabirwa in absentia; colleagues, Members of the Executive Council present here; Honourable Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip; Hon COC and Deputy COC; Leaders of opposition parties; leaders of the ruling party and the alliance; veterans and combatants of the glorious army present here today; Your Majesties and leaders of royalty present here; honourable Mayors of our district and local municipalities, both executive and collective; HODs of both the Department of Transport and Department of Safety, Security and Liaison; management of the South African Police Service present here as well; leaders of both taxi and bus industry; leaders of churches and faith-based organisations, allow me to embrace this opportunity once again to stand before this very honourable House to table yet another Budget Vote of a department I am responsible for, the Department of Transport. I do so with an understanding that this would be the last time we shall be presenting a two-tier Budget Vote in this Chamber as we will soon be having a newly established Department of Transport and Community Safety.

As you might know, the Executive Council under the leadership of the capable Premier has taken the decision to merge the two former Departments of Transport; Safety, Security and Liaison into one department. Under the current period, we are, therefore, seized with the complex, but not insurmountable task of expediting the process that

should see us having one department with one HOD in the next coming months. This, honourable Members, is being handled delicately in consultation with labour formations to ensure that no single employee in the two departments is disadvantaged, suffice to say no employee shall lose his or her job.

The month of July, this year, comes with mixed feelings to us. Whilst on the one hand, we are celebrating the legacy and heroic deeds of our late icon, President Nelson Mandela, on the other hand, our spirits are dampened by the untimely passing on of yet another struggle icon, our beloved Gen “Bra Ike” Lesiba Maphoto, who was honoured by this honourable House seven days ago and got a befitting send-off by the presence of the President on Sunday. May his soul rest peace!

Let me take this opportunity, once more, to remind you that transport is a key enabler of economic growth, but also an important tool for empowerment and social cohesion. This is pointed out clearly in Chapter 4 of our country’s 2030 vision, the National Development Plan on economic infrastructure where it asserts that by 2030, investments in the transport sector should ensure that it serves as a key driver in empowering South Africa and its people by enabling improved access to economic opportunities, social spaces and services by bridging geographical distances affordably, reliably and safely. It should continue to catalyse economic development by supporting the movement of goods from one point of production to where they are consumed, thereby facilitating regional and international trade. It should ensure greater mobility of people and goods through transport alternatives that support minimised environmental harm.

This is what this department stands for as we pursue the 2030 vision. Talking about alternative forms of transport, I must emphasise what the Hon President of our country said about the vision of a high-speed train travelling between our two cities of Musina and Cape Town via Johannesburg. Given the above-mentioned point, I believe that through collective effort, nothing is impossible. I have no doubt in my mind that through concerted efforts this could be realised, and we are going to pursue it in the next term of our office.

Taking heed of the instruction of our Premier during his State of the Province Address, I will be working very closely with the national department to explore possibilities of commissioning this 2030 vision, as we seek alternative means of transport for both people as well as the delivery of goods in the province.

As already alluded to unarguably, the predominant mode of transport in our province similarly to the national pattern is the public transport. Owing to both economic and spatial patterns of the province, buses and mini-bus taxis form part of the core of our public transport system that our people use on a daily basis throughout the five districts of our province. As the department charged with the mandate of transport management, we have a responsibility to ensure that commuting in the province doesn’t come at a heavy price to the majority of our people as they travel to work, to places of business, educational institutions and to their various leisure destinations.

In this regard, therefore, we are fully aware of the pervasive challenges that operators have been facing with regard to the matter relating to the issuing of operating licences. In an endeavour to ensure a thorough process for approval of operating licences, the Limpopo provincial regulatory entity has been established in terms of section 23 of the

National Land Transport Act. This entity will continue to monitor and oversee the smooth running of public transport in the province and ensure stability of the taxi industry.

Therefore, Limpopo provincial regulatory entity will continue to conduct hearings in all the five districts of the province, ensure that backlogs on operating licenses applications are addressed without any failure. To ensure eradication, reduction or rather removal of illegal operators in the industry, this entity will have to do its work in earnest and without any delay. Hence, appropriate resources have been allocated through this Budget to this entity in this financial year towards its activities for better and improved performance. A process with clear milestones will be announced soon to guide and ensure real attention to this long pending matter of issuing of the operating licences.

The department will continue to sustain its operating licensing services in five districts of the province and render part-time satellite services in Waterberg, Mopani and Capricorn Districts to ensure easy access to the industry. We will also sustain satellite services in Groblersdal and Dilokong Traffic Station. Although we concede that more access points for operating licensing services are needed, we commit ourselves going forward that enough attention will be given to this area so that appropriate decentralisation and establishment of the necessary units are there in most parts of the province for easy access and utilisation by the stakeholders and the industry in particular.

No one can deny the place and relevance of the mini-bus taxi industry in our province. The unquestionable reality remains that mini-bus taxi industry is one of the oldest black-owned industries in our country, which has been doing very well for over a period of time. This sector is big and responsible for commuting almost the majority of citizens in this province, and therefore, deserves to be supported by government. Hence, the existence of structures established primarily to interface and resolve possible areas of conflicts as well as differences whenever they emerge on their day-to-day operations.

In recent years, our province has been one of the most stable provinces when it comes to the taxi industry. I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to commend the leadership of the industry in its organised formations for exercising care and providing the much required leadership in this epoch of transformation and development. Working together, we shall grow the industry and continue to make it a formidable sector representing the success of black people and representing black excellence in terms of its operations.

It is with a deep sense of pride to acknowledge that the sector has undergone substantial evolution, from a violence-ridden one to a sector that is now organised and growing. Although, we have noted an increase in the number of reported disputes, we, however, remain encouraged by a significant drop or decrease in the number of violent conflicts. We continue to work very closely with the leadership of the industry to address the reported disputes. We are confident that there is nothing insurmountable in areas where conflict and confrontation do exist between and amongst themselves.

Indeed, the main causes of conflicts in the industry are multi-pronged and find expression both in the sector and also from the administrative services given to them by government. A thorough-going engagement will be undertaken to address and

minimise such factors for smooth operations, safe commuting of passengers and, of course, productivity and growth of the industry. Their support to us as well as our support to them is very important.

In an effort to assist the taxi industry with matters of administration and transformation, we have set aside funds in this financial year to support and strengthen it to perform their functions. This is done in earnest to introduce a new funding structure that will resource them appropriately so that together with us they can discharge their responsibilities without any constraint of whatsoever kind. Equally, a review of their business plan is underway to refine their strategy for efficiency and improved services. This is an important thing to do without any reservations because it at the centre of the industry's support, industry's stability, capacity building and positioning of it to be able to take durable decisions.

Scholar transport is an important service given to learner and student population of our province. Importantly, therefore, their safety is uppermost in our plans as government. As such, those who are privately and publicly providing such a service should ensure that their vehicles are in good condition. We are going to embark on an awareness campaign for legal compliance with learner transportations which will be followed by intensified law enforcement to ensure that they are transported in roadworthy vehicles and buses in all districts of the province. Those who are using inappropriate means of transport should know that time for inconsiderate decisions on the plight of learners are over and should prepare themselves for unnegotiable compliance and cooperation with regard to the safety of our children as they commute from their homes to their various centres of educational excellence and schooling.

The bus industry is amongst the core public transportation services offered to the province and together with the taxi industry, they are the reliable mode of transport for the working class, the poor and the downtrodden masses of our people. The department will in this regard continue with the Passenger Subsidy Programme to enable the bus industry to provide transportation services to our people. Subsidised buses and scheduled public transport services provide our people with more needed access to viable transportation in places where there is none. The majority of them are found in villages and townships of our province.

Equally, in the process of providing subsidised bus transportation, the bus industry creates employment for many of our people who are unemployed in the form of drivers, dispatchers, administrative and financial clerical staff, maintenance staff and mechanics. That is why it is important for us to continue to make sure that we sustain this industry in the interest of job creation, economy and transportation of our people. This service benefits millions of the people in the province, hence the continuous allocation of the subsidy to the industry. This financial year, the department has set aside an amount of R742 million which will indeed go a long way in ensuring that we support and cushion the commuting public of which at the moment in some parts of the province, they need this service, and are unable to access it.

However, it must be indicated that the department is unable to introduce new services or to approve additional trips in existing subsidised areas, which are experiencing overloading problems due to insufficient funding. Ways and means to address this will be sought in order to expand on this important service to our people who need it. The

enormity of the demand is evident and compels us to explore alternative means and methods to break new grounds in this regard.

Amidst the challenges of scarce resources, the need to normalise the current contracts has arisen. The contracts have long exceeded their contract periods, and the last extension period is only until 31 March 2021. The department is looking into ways in which the normalisation processes could be undertaken efficiently and cost-effectively. A compelling process of restructuring has to be done over a period of 24 months before the expiry date. In this regard, an amount of R8 million has been budgeted in this current financial year to commence with phase 1, which includes, amongst others, collation of historical and existing data sets and field surveys. This is aimed – this process of restructuring – at bringing fairness, equal treatment and access to the fiscal support.

Understandably, the study will provide clarity on guidance on how to introduce fair competition in the industry, and appropriate balance and consideration, mindful of the fact that there are many bus companies out there, which at the moment are not beneficiaries of these bus subsidies. This exercise that we will be undertaking is aimed at opening this process for fair competition and participation so that when the state allocates resources, they become shared equally and equitably throughout the province by those who are in the industry providing service to our people. So, we call upon our communities and those who are interested in this industry to begin to professionalise themselves, raise themselves for a much more competitive business going forward. We are looking forward to their co-operation as we undertake this study in the interest of compliance with the statutes of the republic based on the overarching law of the land.

In our endeavours to have more effective and efficient subsidised operations, the department will continue to sustain the electronic vehicle trip monitoring system – a system that has been installed in buses of nine subsidy contracts. During this financial year, the system will be extended to one additional contract, and its sustenance and monitoring will preoccupy our administrative work going forward in the next coming few years. Going forward, therefore, we will engage with Treasury to look into possibilities of extending the system to other outstanding bus contracts for proper monitoring and proper utilisation of resources based on evidence travelled for support to and subsidisation for the commuters.

Transport planning is key to the delivery of services, and therefore, safe, efficient and viable transport services to our people is very important. It is against this understanding, that we require Integrated Transport Plans before issuing operating permits as stipulated in the National Land Transport Act of 2009.

In this regard, we are looking at approving ITPs (Integrated Transport Plans) of various municipalities as part of unlocking the process of issuing operating licences. We will be engaging municipalities to make sure that as transport planning authorities, they develop and implement such plans as required in terms of the National Land Transport Act. They should budget for the processes and ensure that together with the department, these plans are produced as part and parcel of their Integrated Development Plans.

We are calling for the establishment of transport forums in all municipalities, as they are vital for managing transport systems in the municipal areas. Transport forums help in creating platforms for the industry and community structures to participate in transport matters at the municipal level. We will continue this financial year to assist municipalities in establishing and resuscitating transport forums to play their roles where they have been in existence.

We continue to be deeply concerned about the delays regarding the opening of Thohoyandou Intermodal Facility which has taken many years so far without any completion. We'll be interacting with the legal state process to ensure finality on this matter, and if wrongdoing is found, those responsible will take responsibility. Reasons of noncompletion are not convincing enough given the time it has taken.

Roads accidents, carnages and fatalities on our roads are a serious concern given the many lives that we are losing on a continuous basis. Fresh in our minds, is the Maphalle 24 and many others who perished in many parts of the province due to accidents. May their souls rest in peace! Indeed, the road users should take precautions and drive with discipline and care, be responsible and loving on the roads of the province. Good conduct and behaviour will save many lives as we use our different vehicles criss-crossing the length and breadth or the landscape of our province. Indeed, the message about the dos and don'ts on the roads are known, but accidents continue to happen.

As such, we are going to heighten Operation Ndadzi and continue to conduct major roadblocks throughout the province in our endeavour to reduce accidents. We will be strengthening law enforcement to make sure that its might is felt on the roads of the province. As part of the practical measures to capacitate traffic law enforcement officers, we are going to purchase R10 million worth of vehicles to support their good work so that they continue to do the good work for the province. We have also set aside R4 million to procure more visible speed cameras for those who enjoy speeding on our roads, they must know that the law is behind them. We are going to catch them. We will send them to jail. They will have it very tough. They must know that.

We are contemplating the reclassification of certain road traffic offences to become Schedule 5 offences in terms of the Criminal Procedure Act, given the envisaged law to be enacted and assented to by the President. Transgressions such as drunken driving, reckless and negligent driving and excessive speeding are the reason we continue to lose many lives and should therefore carry heavy penalties. As a start, we want those who are detained for committing these offences to spend a minimum of seven days behind bars before any bail application can be heard. This is where we are heading to, to protect and save lives of our people by reckless drivers who enjoy speed of their machines on our roads, caring less about the lives of many of the South African people.

I am certain all of you will agree with me that the country is battling to contain an enormous rate of what is actually a preventable matter – road fatalities. This needs to be brought to an end as part of ushering in the new dawn in the transport sector as instructed by the President. This legal process will bring discipline on the roads and reduce what seems to be an unpreventable challenge which results in road accidents.

You will know that as a province, we have been on the news quite frequently, owing to the number of unfortunate incidents of crashes in particular on the N1 road between here and Gauteng province, especially from Modimolle coming towards Polokwane, through to Musina. Reports have suggested that, amongst other things, the narrowing of that highway on the North side of the Modimolle toll plaza is part of the reason we continue to lose lives. Engagements have since been held or started with the national Department of Transport in order to provide necessary intervention measures in this regard. The possible expansion of N1 with demarcated space in between will be a probable solution to this long challenge of causing accidents in that part of the province or along that part of our N1.

Amongst a battery of interventions we have implemented so far includes the average speed over a distance system, which has been installed or mounted by SanRal in between Polokwane and Kranskop, the candlesticks or temporary barriers between Mookgophong and Kranskop. We are pleased to announce that ever since these systems have been implemented, we have seen a reduction in the number of fatalities on the N1 road.

Notwithstanding the difficulties we continue to go through, we are encouraged and committed to working with many stakeholders to find solutions to these challenges, including the religious sector that is working with us very closely. Their prayers infuse in us high level of enthusiasm, commitment, capacities, strength and hard work so that we can overcome this issue. Their hard work on a daily basis on our roads of giving us prayers is highly appreciated. Their prayers indeed keep us going and infuse in us strength to forge ahead.

The department placed 238 learners who completed the course for training to become traffic officers on an internship programme until their absorption as traffic officers. This has been a challenge which has a potential to ignite negativity in society as well as from the labour formations. What I can announce in this honourable House today is that we have put plans in place for this young people to be absorbed into the system permanently as traffic officers. Administrative processes are underway between ourselves, Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury to get them permanently absorbed with effect from 1 December 2019 this year. [APPLAUSE] I want to emphasise this matter that with effect from 1 December this year, those students, those learners who are on internship will be permanently appointed as traffic officers who will be utilised throughout the province in many roads of our districts of our localities to provide law enforcement on our roads. So, their future is guaranteed. [APPLAUSE]

Furthermore, as part of improving conditions under which traffic officers are trained, we are happy to report that work has already begun at a traffic college station in Manenu to refurbish the residential facilities. In this financial year, an amount of R23 million has been put aside for finalisation of phase 2 of the project which started in the previous financial year. Future trainees will receive their training in more cordial environment, comparatively speaking.

Other infrastructural projects for this current financial year will be continuing to include the upgrading of Mampakuil Weighbridge and the construction of K53 testing ground at Thohoyandou Traffic Station. One of the reasons why this project is very important is that it continues to be one of the big stations, highest with regard to revenue

collection in the province, and therefore, has a potential of bringing return on investment. The station has also been identified as a pilot project for the construction of provincial K53 and EOV test kit going forward. The entire budget to complete this project will cost about R30 million, and money has been allocated for this project in particular.

When it comes to matters of registration and licensing services, we can report that the province conducted 540 compliance inspections in all testing centres to ensure compliance with the National Road Traffic Act 93 of 1996. The Department also managed to complete the partitioning of registering authorities at Makhado and Polokwane as a way of maximising service delivery in registration and licensing services. Currently, partitioning of registering authorities is continuing in Lephalale and Tzaneen, and it is almost at a completion stage.

The National Traffic Contravention Management System has finally been developed and ready for implementation. The system will be utilised to capture traffic written notices which were issued from 1 April 2019 and are being accounted for. The system will interface with AARTO (Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences), and it is linked to eNaTIS system. The synergy between the two, AARTO and eNaTIS (Electronic National Administration Traffic Information System), will help us to expose habitual offenders. Future plans to reinforce compliance and payment of written notices will require that we reintroduce the Automated Number Plate Recognition System. This will help us to trace traffic offenders and increase the rate of payments, thus increasing revenue for the province because you are quite aware that this department contributes the highest to the provincial revenue fiscus.

We continue to experience accidents caused by stray animals on the roads and will explore other interventions with positive impact. We call upon livestock owners to look after their cattle. In fact, a provincial law is needed to make it an offence on the part of the livestock owners if life gets lost in an accident caused by animals. [APPLAUSE] This will send a clear message to irresponsible owners who don't look after their animals because we cannot lament this reality anymore. We will be interacting with the portfolio committee, vigorously so. Before the end of this term, a law must be introduced to regulate this area for better livestock maintenance, and MEC Ndalane will have to talk to her farmers that it is going to be very tough ahead of them. Gone are the days where we become irresponsible, leave our animals and kill our people on our road. You will go to jail for having left your animal to go on the road, cause an accident and kill a person. We are going to make it an offence going forward. [APPLAUSE]

Road safety education and campaign remains an important programme that will receive our attention. We will do so to empower the citizens about the need to heed the importance of road safety. Going forward together with the Department of Education, we will intensify this programme. Amongst other things that we will be doing, we are going to work with RTMC, which is Road Traffic Management Corporation and Road Traffic Infringement Agency and other stakeholders to run programmes and projects that will benefit young people. We will also re-establish and strengthen youth structures in transport for them to become active participants both at policy programmes, but also at where benefits are through distribution of appropriate resources for their own livelihood as the Premier has said that a particular percentage

has to be put in place for young people, women and people living with disability in the administration of the resources of the province.

GAAL is an important entity of government that is positioned to provide services for economic stimulation and social development for the province. We remain firm on the strategic direction of the entity as the service point for public services which should be profitable, sustainable and fulfil its obligations. We are going to engage Airport Company South Africa for collaboration and management as we seek to strengthen systems for aeronautical and nonaeronautical services at the airport.

The entity has experienced challenges, and we are going to address those to ensure good governance, prudent fiscal management and good leadership management that is so much required and ensure aviation compliance, friction-testing report must be produced, and appropriate lease agreement must be entered into. These are interventions that we will be doing as we move forward, working together with the management as well as the board of GAAL. The state of affairs in that entity has not been pleasing, and standing here, I am not that much excited. I am looking forward to finding long-lasting solutions to provide the required services to the people of the province. That is our only pride as Limpopo people. That is our only pride as the Limpopo provincial government, and therefore, we cannot allow it to go down the drain as a consequence of mismanagement or governance, problems and difficulties. [APPLAUSE]

As such, as part of our obligation to get this entity up and running, we are once more this financial year allocating R53 million towards management and operations of the Polokwane International Airport, and to sustain the airport licence. With ACSA, we are quite certain that we will indeed turn around these facilities.

Subsequent to the decision of the Executive Council to merge the two departments, a lot of progress has been achieved. The organisational structure of the Department of Transport was approved, and placements of all employees on the 2018 structure have been completed. A task team to drive the merger process between the two departments has been initiated, and we believe that it will complete its work in the next coming two months. On the completion of the process, we shall have assembled a quintessential management which will take the department forward in earnest, with capacity and vigour.

Training and development of human resource is an essential programme to empower the employees to have the requisite capacity and skills needed for improved performance. In this regard, resources have been put aside towards realisation of this goal.

Sound financial management is our priority and commitment, as such the Budget allocated to the department will be managed properly in the interest of services to the people of Limpopo province. The consecutive achievement of unqualified reports is what will continue to characterise the department. Indeed, the department contributes 47% of the provincial revenue mainly out of traffic function. Given the previous year’s performance with regard to collection, we will continue to make sure that the revenue increases. The targets set are realistic and achievable. And indeed, we are going to do that.

The Budget allocation of the department for this financial year is R2,227,547 billion, which represents 5,6% increase compared to the previous year's Budget. In the next financial year, given the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, it will increase to R2,374,961 billion, which will represent 5,4% increase. Included in this Budget is the conditional grant amounting to R373,790 million and R402,035 million which will be used to ensure that bus subsidy and other areas of importance continue, and that the department is able to perform its obligation.

With regard to the Budget breakdown, I might not go through that. I think honourable Members will be able to see. It suffices to say that the bottom figure is what I have referred to earlier on.

Allow me, therefore, Madam Speaker, to conclude by saying, I would to appreciate the mandate bestowed upon me, the responsibility to be part and parcel of the leadership core of this government located in the functional area of Transport, and the support that the Premier continues to give remains a pillar of strength going forward as we discharge our executive responsibility.

To members of the portfolio committee, we are looking forward to that collective leadership. My colleagues in the Executive Council, MECs, our wondrous commitment, working together will make it possible for the people of this province to get the required services. My words of appreciation to all the stakeholders in the transport sector, from the taxi industry, the bus industry, faith-based organisations and many other leaders in your various formations, those who work with us on a daily basis, thank you very much for making it possible for us to be where we are. Head of department together with your management team and staff in my office for the tireless work that you do, those sleepless nights that we work together and most in particular the law enforcement officers, traffic officers who are forever on our roads during hot, cold difficult weathers doing work in the interest of government and on behalf of the people of this province, I want to say to all of you, thank you very much. I hereby present this Budget for processing by this honourable House. Ke a leboga. Baie dankie. Ndza khensa. Ndiyabulela. Nndaa. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. The Budget Speech together with the Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Transport are therefore referred to the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety for consideration and report back to the House. Honourable Members, allow me to invite the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to the podium. Honourable MEC, it's over to you. Let's give her a round of applause. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE DEPARMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

(Address by Dr S M Mochadi, MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport)

Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker; Hon Premier in absentia; Chief Whip of the ruling party; Deputy Chief Whip; Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs; colleagues in the Executive Council; chairpersons of the portfolio committees; leaders of the

opposition parties; honourable Members of the House; Executive Mayors, Mayors, Speakers, Councillors; representatives of the South African Local Government Association (Salga); Director-General of the province; chairperson and board members of Roads Agency Limpopo; heads of department; CEOs of state-owned entities; leadership of the African National Congress and of the alliance partners; veterans of our liberation movement; traditional leaders and royal representatives; leadership of the religious community; leadership of organised business and labour; youth; women; community leaders; members of the media; comrades and friends; people of Limpopo; ladies and gentlemen, inhlikanhi. Masiari. Good day. Goeie dag. Tameng. Sanibonani. Lotjhani.

Hon Speaker, it is a great privilege and honour for me to address this august House not long after 08 May 2019 general elections during which the people of Limpopo affirmed in their majority that they would like the African National Congress to govern. We present this Budget Vote during the month of the celebration of our struggle icon, Tata Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela. Last week, Thursday, 18 July, the whole world took a break to celebrate the annual international day in honour of Nelson Mandela to heed the call to action that celebrates the idea that each individual has the power to transform the world, the ability to make an impact.

It is a touching moment to present this speech a few weeks after we lost one of the disciplined, committed and gallant fighter members of the Luthuli detachment, Cde Lesiba Maphoto, who was affectionately known as “Bra Ike” Maphoto. May his soul rest in peace! This son of the soil made an impact in his struggle for the liberation of South Africans, he has left a long-lasting legacy.

It will be befitting to honour Cde “Bra Ike” by committing ourselves to the programme of transformation and renewal, a new dawn that focuses on action that has an impact. Cde Ike’s commitment to the struggle gives us a renewed vigour to implement government programmes with great speed in the spirit of “Khawuleza” – phakiša. We who are still alive, should follow in his steps and strive to implement the Freedom Charter to the end. We commit not to fail the people of Limpopo who have shown so much confidence in us.

Cde “Bra Ike” Maphoto, as we speak, has joined the departed stalwarts of the liberation movement, who would like us, if they were still alive, to implement the Freedom Charter to the latter. We commit to our departed leaders, Oliver Tambo, President Nelson Mandela, Cde Nchabeleng, Phokanoka, Collins Chabane, Sparks Ramagoma, Cde George Phadagi and many others, that we shall not fail the people of this province.

Chairman Mao Tse Tung said, “Changes in society are due chiefly to the development of internal contradictions in society, that is, the contradiction between the productive forces and the relations of production, the contradiction between classes and the contradiction between the old and the new; it is the development of these contradictions that pushes the society forward and gives the impetus for the supersessions of the old society by the new.”

Our President, Cde Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, said this is a new dawn. Indeed, a new dawn has come, the beginning of a new chapter – a chapter that requires us to

impact positively on the lives of the people of Limpopo through the implementation of programmes and projects of government.

Under the leadership of this organisation, government has delivered infrastructure projects, and introduced programmes to intervene in the lives of our people in a manner we can say indeed today is better than yesterday. Over the years, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure has played an integral role in ensuring the delivery of socioeconomic infrastructure projects.

This, Madam Speaker, we will provide in detail when we report on the achievements over the period 2014/15 to 2018/19 financial years in appreciation of the predecessors who have been steering this ship, who were Hon Jerry Ndou and Nandi Ndalane.

During the Fifth Administration, the department had set itself priorities for the five years. These priorities were to focus on the following:

- Infrastructure Strategic Planning Hub;
- Artisan Development Programme;
- Limpopo Contractor Development Programme;
- Contribution to the creation of decent work and sustainable livelihoods through increasing the labour intensity of government infrastructure funded projects; and
- Improvement of provincial roads infrastructure through maintenance and upgrading to ensure easy access and mobility.

Madame Speaker, this five-year journey we started in the 2014/15 financial year has been long, it had its challenges; however, in terms of performance against the priorities we had set, I am able to stand before this august House and say, we have made huge strides in delivering on what we had committed ourselves to. Our business is infrastructure delivery and our mission has always been to utilise resources optimally in the provision and management of provincial government land and buildings. The achievements are as follows:

- As infrastructure implementing agent of government, we managed and implemented projects from client departments;

- On behalf of the Department of Education portfolio, the department set a target to implement 128 school projects in the past years, of which six were construction of new schools and 122 school were upgrade projects. All 128 projects were completed;

- For the Health portfolio, there was a target of 19 projects for clinics, upgrading of hospitals, construction of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and of the mortuary. Fourteen of these projects were completed, while multi-year projects in Letaba and Maphutha Malatji Hospitals are at construction stage. Later in the speech, we will speak on the project in detail;

- In support of the initiative to encourage reading and writing in communities, the department delivered 30 libraries, of which two were new and 28 were upgrades; and

- Government's commitment to the work done by traditional leaders is evident in the completion of 13 traditional council offices by the department's in-house teams as Hon Makamu has already alluded to that. In the five years under review, the department completed 13 traditional council offices for the following districts: 3 offices in Vhembe District; 2 offices in Mopani District; 1 office in Waterberg District; 4 offices in Capricorn District; and 3 offices in Sekhukhune District.

Men and women employed in the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure did the planning, designing and construction of these offices. This was to display the capacity within as we reclaim our space to be government's agent of choice for infrastructure delivery.

During the term under review, the Department of Public Works underwent a reconfiguration where it was mandated to be responsible for provision and management of roads infrastructure. This led to the department being known as the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. Although this came with its own change management challenges, the department, through the implementing agency, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), managed to deliver the 74 projects under the following categories: 12 flood-damaged projects; 45 maintenance projects; and 17 upgrade projects, that is, gravel to tar roads.

Through the projects I speak about, we have been able to empower the people of our province as follows:

- A total of R350 million was spent on local labour for the road infrastructure projects;

- A total of R527 million was spent on SMMEs, and a total of 5 264 full-time job equivalents were created; and

- A total of 2 408 workers/labourers were trained as part of the implementation of these projects. Speaking of job creation, over the five-year term, Limpopo Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) created 493 937 work opportunities in the four sectors, the infrastructure, social, nonstate entities and environment and culture.

Thank you to the implementing agent, RAL, for the work done so far. However, we need not rest as the battle against alleviation of poverty, unemployment and skilling our people is not yet won, especially young people.

With regard to the plans for the 2019/20 financial year, we are now in the 2019/20 financial year, and I believe the people of Limpopo have been waiting patiently to hear the plans of this department and programmes already underway. Infrastructure delivery is imperative for economic growth, which is high up on the agenda of government and the Sixth Administration has committed to focus on. To date, the infrastructure development working committee was established to deal specifically with the infrastructure programmes. When these programmes are implemented effectively, they will provide potential economic benefits to Black Economic Empowerment (BEE); small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs); businesses; and local labour.

Our business is infrastructure delivery and, indeed, we have been hard at work. Over the years, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure has played an integral role in ensuring that socioeconomic infrastructure projects are delivered and are fit for purpose for client departments to render service to the people of Limpopo.

Honourable Members, to strengthen the mandate of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, EXCO approved the establishment of Limpopo Infrastructure Strategic Planning Hub through resolution 1 of 2014. The ISPH is institutionalised in the department. The infrastructure hub was established to position the department to effectively deliver on its mandate. The objective of the infrastructure hub is to minimise on existing built environment professionals in the province. The infrastructure hub will also enhance the management and delivery of Infrastructure Delivery Management System and Limpopo Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan will be implemented.

There are currently 87 various built environment officials working under the infrastructure hub comprising registered professionals and candidates. Twelve Cuban technical advisors that are qualified in the built environment professionals also augment the department. The Cuban technical advisors assist the department in transferring technical skills to candidates in the infrastructure hub. The department also assigned infrastructure hub personnel to client departments to provide technical assistance on infrastructure planning and delivery. The department through the hub is now implementing projects internally without outsourcing to external consultants.

The department envisages to establish a research unit within the infrastructure hub that will look at the alternative building technology as infrastructure funding is getting limited over the years, and this requires the department to be innovative.

On its drive to professionalise the technical personnel, the department entered into an agreement with the Council for the Built Environment and national Department of Public Works for their registration with the respective built environment councils. To date, the department has enrolled 10 matured permanent candidates on the Construction Education Training Authority (CETA) – the South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions in order to register them as professional project managers within 3 years. The project is funded by the Construction Education and Training Authority. Sixteen project managers have been identified for qualification recognition prior to learning to register them as candidate construction project managers with the South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions. The budget is R1,1 million.

The department has in its employment 25 registered professionals on various fields. The Artisan Development Programme is in the final year with 246 artisans. Hundred and eight have already qualified as artisans. Hundred and fourteen trainees are waiting to be tested for their final qualifications as artisans. Twenty-four artisans have been appointed on a permanent basis.

As part of the skills development initiatives to further build capacity for infrastructure delivery and to professionalise the infrastructure operations unit, the department is implementing the Candidacy Programme. Fifty-three young professionals are recruited for a period of five years contract to skill them to register as professional engineers with a budget of R900 000.

The department is in partnership with the following stakeholders for the delivery of infrastructure: Independent Development Trust (IDT); Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA); Mvula Trust; Construction Industrial Development Board (CIDB); and the Council for the Built Environment (CBE). This is a collaboration that further strengthens government's ability to deliver infrastructure.

Through the efforts of infrastructure hub and our partners in construction, the department implemented strategic infrastructure projects as follows:

For the Education portfolio, the department currently has 59 school projects at an advanced planning stage, and construction is to commence during the third quarter of this financial year. Of the 59 schools, I am proud to announce that seven of the projects are being done internally through the infrastructure strategic planning hub. This is part of the department's initiative to reclaim its mandate.

Seven projects, might seem like a small number; however, it is a step in the right direction. An amount of R912 million is budgeted for these projects planned as follows: 23 projects are schools in Sekhukhune District; 16 in Mopani; 15 in Capricorn; 2 in Vhembe; and 3 in Waterberg.

The projects will be completed during the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework starting from 2021/22 financial year. The department is pleased to announce that upgrading of the Lemana College is back on course, and the project completion will be in the 2020/21 financial year.

With regard to the Department of Health, according to a report by Statistics SA on a survey done in 2011 on the utilisation of health facilities, statistics show that nationally 81,3% of households from the black African population mostly used health facilities in the public sector compared to the 10,5% of the white population group that used the same facility.

In Limpopo province, 86% of our people are depending on public sector health facilities. This simply says the majority of our people are fully dependent on government facilities for their well-being and protection of dignity. They deserve better hospitals, better clinics and better Emergency Medical Services facilities. Through the implementation of these projects by the department, this government is committed to ensuring delivery of decent health infrastructure.

To this end, the department has completed the construction of medical records and admission block at Letaba Hospital in May 2019, Hon Buthane. The renovation of the theatre block and of the burnt ward is expected to be completed by September 2019. The department is continuing with the revitalisation of Maphutha Malatji and Letaba Hospitals that are at construction stage and to be completed in 2020/21. The budget for Maphutha Malatji Hospital is R353 million and Letaba Hospital is R173 million.

Allow me to talk more on this Maphutha Malatji Hospital project as the province needs to know the kind of socioeconomic infrastructure being delivered by this government. The project is part of the hospital revitalisation initiative to improve hospital infrastructure and enable the rendering of quality healthcare service in the province.

Honourable Members, the Cuban technical advisors received through the national Department of Public Works memorandum of understanding signed with the Cuban government are actively leading in the delivery of this multi-million rand project. The technical advisors are managing the construction of the new outpatient department (OPD); X-ray building and many other amenities required in a state-of-the-art hospital facility. One hundred and one EPWP beneficiaries are on site sourced from the community to gain skills and deliver a structure they can call their own. This facility will serve the population of around 158 222 people under the Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality. The Cubans are participating in the implementation of all infrastructure projects where they are mentoring and transferring skills to candidate engineering professionals within the Infrastructure Strategic Planning Hub (ISPH). To date, the Cubans have transferred engineering and project management skills to 50 candidates.

The department is also managing delivery of two EMS projects in Lebowakgomo and Bosele, and two laundry upgrade projects at Pietersburg and St Rita's Hospitals. These projects are at planning stage with a total budget of R112 million. Construction works will commence during the third quarter of this 2019/20 financial year. Laundry upgrades in Tshilidzini and Mankweng Hospitals are under construction, and to be completed this financial year. We are proud of this progress as completion of this work will ensure that our workforce perform their duties in conditions that assist them to deliver quality services to the people.

With regard to the Department of CoGHSTA, the government's commitment to the work done by traditional leaders is evident in the completion of 13 traditional council offices by the department's in-house teams to date. The success of this initiative led the Department of Co-operative Governance; Human Settlements and Traditional Affair to mandate Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to implement 7 traditional council office projects with a budget of R62,2 million. Six projects are at construction stage, and to be completed in 2019/20 financial year. One project is at procurement stage, and construction works will commence during September 2019/20. The 6 offices also being done without outsourcing for consultants are 3 in Vhembe District; 1 in Capricorn District; and 1 in Sekhukhune District. In support of the work done by the Department of Transport and Community Safety, we are constructing Limpopo Traffic College in Dzanani, Makhado Local Municipality Vhembe District, in phases over the MTEF as follows:

- Phase 1 is the construction of accommodation block, and is currently being implemented at a budget of R20 million. The college will be completed in 2020/21 financial year; and

- Phase 2 is the construction of the second accommodation block, which is currently at planning stage. Construction is expected to commence in October 2019 with a budget of R23 million. The people of Thohoyandou in Thulamela Local Municipality will soon receive a brand new driving licence testing centre, costed at R15 million. The project is at planning stage, and expected to commence with construction works in December 2019.

With regard to Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, four nature reserves will soon get a facelift as government's initiative to enhance revenue collection. The Nylsvlei, Wolkberg, Blouberg and Letaba Ranch nature reserves projects under LEDET are currently at planning stage, and construction will be in

October 2019, done through the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) at a value of R30 million.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has also mandated this department to deliver the agricultural office project in Molemole Local Municipality on its behalf. The project is already at construction stage with a budget of R2,2 million. The project is expected to be completed in the 2020/21 financial year.

Honourable Members, we further commit to ensuring that maintenance of these immovable infrastructures will be provided, and done regularly. This is to ensure that immovable assets owned or utilised for delivery of government's services yield functional, economic and social benefits to the province.

The department through its infrastructure hub has embarked on an aggressive condition assessment programme on the existing government buildings, and to take note the number of immovable assets we have both leased and owned assets to ensure that government buildings are compliant with health and safety regulations.

A budget amounting to R52 million has been set aside in the current financial year to address the backlog. The three main government complexes in Giyani, Thohoyandou and Lebowakgomo have been subject to major refurbishments, and these projects will be completed in the current MTEF cycle.

Through the properties and facilities management, the department has been successful in acquiring pieces of land for the establishment of the Limpopo Legislature facility in Polokwane, and the establishment of the Sekhukhune District government offices in Jane Furse.

Honourable members, as you can see, our business is infrastructure delivery. One infrastructure need that our people have raised countless time, and made me hit the ground running is the need for roads infrastructure. The department's social media platforms are inundated with calls for better roads on a daily basis. Almost every protest that erupts is about roads or has an impact on roads infrastructure. When communities go on the streets to protest against what they term "non-service delivery", they burn our surfaced roads and other social infrastructure, this should not be allowed to continue, and we call upon all civil structures to assist us in communicating this message. Destroying existing government infrastructure of any form to register a grievance is a criminal act and a nonprogressive move. These acts cost government money it doesn't have. It sets back the infrastructure development agenda, it steals from the strides we have made as a province. It disadvantages the users of such existing infrastructure who are the same community members. We cannot afford to move three steps forward and take five steps backwards, Hon Buthane. We will never make it as a province. As a custodian of provincial government infrastructure, I humbly plead with all citizens of the province to protect government property, and take pride in it.

I'm making this plea fully aware of the continued demand for surfaced roads by our people, and fully aware of the financial limitation faced by government related to these projects. I call upon the people of Limpopo to appreciate the work done in the past 25 years of democracy in relation to delivering surfaced road network in the province, which are the best roads we have ever constructed. In light of the demands that come

thick and fast, the department through its implementing agency, RAL commenced with a process of consulting each district and local municipalities on their respective roads infrastructure needs. This exercise is expected to inform development of a comprehensive provincial priority list, which will guide how and when roads infrastructure projects will be implemented.

The process of consultations with municipalities has been concluded. Local municipalities have submitted to their district municipalities for consolidation, and soon we will have a provincial priority list that will be shared with members of the public. Amidst the challenges we are facing, it is not all doom and gloom as we are making serious strides in implementing road infrastructure projects. The department through RAL will be completing upgrades of the following roads in this financial year:

- In Waterberg District, the 33 km being done on roads D3114, D3117 and D3102 in GaSeleka is at 99% practical completion stage. The project is valued at R148 million;

- In Capricorn District, construction work of 9,5 km has started on road D4168, Senwabarwana to Indermark to Vivo. It is valued at R96 million. Completion is expected at the end of September 2019, Hon Smalle;

- In Sekhukhune District, Fetakgomo Local Municipality, RAL has started construction of road D4190, which is 13,8 km from Apel to Mmabulele to R37. It is at 82% completion stage and work is progressing well. The project is valued at R171 million. The 13 km stretch on roads D4311, D4310 and D4328 Legolaneng to Monsterlus is at 75% completion stage to the value of R159 million; and

- In Mopani District, the D3820 and D3205 roads from Babangu to Ndengeza to Noblehoek to Maphalle for 26 km is at 99% practical completion stage. It is valued at R274 million.

We are committed to providing quality and sustainable provincial road infrastructure network for the economic development of Limpopo province. Roads infrastructure connects people, it connects businesses and is key to unlocking Limpopo tourism potential.

As Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha said in his State of the Province Address, “Development is indeed a process. Where we have not constructed a road, we are definitely going to construct one. We are working much harder to secure more funds so that we can significantly reduce the backlog of road infrastructure in the Province.” Therefore, fellow Limpopo citizens, let us be patient, let us wait, the road will come.

The department also has 22 three-year term contracts for household routine roads maintenance projects for each local municipality to a total amount of R875 million. The household project is expected to create 7 660 work opportunities in this financial year. Already in the first quarter, 3 410 work opportunities where created. Our maintenance teams within roads infrastructure programmes will continue to ensure that the gravel and upgraded roads are continuously maintained.

Honourable Members, the Expanded Public Works Programme remains a key government programme with an objective to intervene in the lives of people by providing work opportunities focused on ensuring we push back the frontiers of poverty, unemployment and skills development. This programme is critical as it speaks to the bread and butter issues of the majority of our people. Maya Angelou, an America poet once said, “People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

Honourable members, through coordination and implementation of this programme, government should seek to ensure it speaks fondly to the heart of the beneficiaries and citizens at large. The department has just concluded coordination of the EPWP phase 3 that began in the 2014/15 financial year until 2018/19.

In the fifth administration, the Expanded Public Works Programme has achieved 493 962 work opportunities. In April 2019, EPWP phase 4 kickstarted and its implementation will end in March 2024. The objective of the EPWP phase 4 is to continue to put in motion efforts to reduce the scourge of poverty as it is still prevalent to reduce unemployment by providing work opportunities through the labour-intensive delivery of public and community assets and services, thereby contributing to development. Limpopo province has set targets for over the 5-year period at a minimum of 475 358 work opportunities for the EPWP phase 4. The provincial EPWP phase 4 will be launched during the 2019/20 financial year.

With regard to Budget allocation for 2019/20 financial year, the MEC for Provincial Treasury announced that the department is allocated R3,6 billion to deliver on its mandate which is to provide and manage sustainable social and economic infrastructure, and in the implementation of the Expanded Public Works Programme, the Budget is broken down as follows:

- Programme 1: Administration : R400 million;
- Programme 2: Infrastructure Operations : R849 million;
- Programme 3: Expanded Public Works Programme : R45 million; and
- Programme 4: Roads Infrastructure : R2,3 billion.

An allocation of R1,2 billion has been made for conditional grants to be shared between the department and the entity. An amount of R1,4 billion is transferred to the Roads Agency Limpopo – an entity of the department that is tasked with the responsibility of providing much-needed roads infrastructure.

This Budget is to serve the people of Limpopo and further ensure that we surpass the 95,48% average of paying service providers within 30 days, which has been recorded in the past five years. In the same breath, we call upon these service providers to honour their contractual obligations and deliver quality infrastructure, goods and services within the agreed period.

In conclusion, I thank the Premier of our province, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha not only for entrusting me with the responsibility to lead the Department of Public Works Roads and Infrastructure, but also for his guidance and support. I would like to thank the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure led by Hon Makoma Grace Makhurupetje.

With the few months I've spent in the department, it has been a pleasure to serve the people of Limpopo in this capacity. I thank Mr Dikgole Timothy Seroka, the HOD who together, we have just entered the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, and navigating our way trying to know the department. I thank the management and staff … [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, just pause. There is an order. Hon Buthane, you are recognised.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Makoma Makhurupetje was not in Public Works, or is she the chairperson of the committee?

THE SPEAKER

Yes, she is the chairperson of the committee.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

The English comes through the nose, so it is difficult to contemplate what is being said. [LAUGHTER]

THE SPEAKER

Can you please proceed, MEC.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Thank you, Madam Speaker. That is how I speak. I thank the management and staff of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and management of Roads Agency Limpopo who welcomed us with warm hands, and assured us that all hands are on deck, ready to push back the frontiers of poverty by being committed public servants, ready to serve.

I would also like to thank my family, my only daughter, Hope; my sisters, Reggie and Rebecca; my brother, Reuben; and friends for their support and prayers; and the church – Eternal Life Family Fellowship International Ministry – for sustaining me with prayers which continue to give me strength. I would also like to appreciate and thank my comrades and my combatants of June 16 detachment, Nchabeleng Unit, who are always there to give advice, not forgetting our veteran Ngwenya Luthuli Detachment, Hon Jacob Marule. I want to appreciate the guidance you give all the time. I look forward to the guidance that will be provided by all oversight bodies.

Allow me to conclude with this Scripture found in Matthew 25:41-46, it says:

> 41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43

> I was a stranger and you did not invite me in [your house]. I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'
> 44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'
> 45 "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'
> 46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Honourable Members, we are indeed called upon to serve our people of Limpopo, even the word of God tells us to take care and be of service to them, not to ourselves. This is a year of action, let's walk, let's talk and let's practise what we preach. [APPLAUSE]

I commit as a servant of God to use the projects and programmes of this department to make a difference in the lives of my people in Limpopo, lest I be cursed into the eternal fire along with the devil and his angels. [APPLAUSE]

Setšhaba sa gešo, a re rateng, re babaleleng thoto le diphahlo tše tša setšhaba. Ke bohwa bja rena le bana ba rena le bana ba bana ba rena. Baswana ba re mphiri o tee ga o lle. Ga e be mathomomayo. A re šomišaneng bagešo, re kgotlelelaneng. Mmogo re ka kgona. Together we can make it. Ri ro̱the ri nga kona u ita zwinzhi. Let's grow South Africa together. Let's make it happen. I̱nkomu. Ndi a livhuwa. Baie dankie. Re a leboga. Ngiyathokoza maNdebele wekhethu. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. The Budget Speech together with the Annual Performance Plan for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure are referred to the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure for consideration and to report back to the House. Can I get an indication if there are any announcements.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Madam Speaker, there are no announcements. I think the departments have made their own arrangements with their guests.

THE SPEAKER

Are there any announcements?

THE CHIEF WHIP

I am informed that the Department of Health has arranged lunch in the municipality hall.

THE SPEAKER

The announcement says that there is lunch at the basement. Thank you very much. This House is adjourned to Friday, 26 July 2019 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE
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VERBATIM REPORT

OF THE

DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH PARLIAMENT

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

FRIDAY, 26 JULY 2019

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VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
FRIDAY, 26 JULY 2019
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We will now have a moment of silence for prayers and/or meditation.

[SILENCE]

Thank you. Please be seated. Good morning and welcome to the Sitting of the Legislature on Friday, 26 July 2019. We are going into the Orders of the Day. Item 2.1 is the motion for the revival of the Limpopo Interim Appropriation Bill, 2019. The MEC for Treasury, you may take the floor.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. House Rule 177(2) provides that all Bills before the House or any of its committees on the last sitting of a term of the Legislature or when the Legislature is dissolved lapse at the end of that day unless the subsequent Legislature decides to revive the Bill.

Now that the Limpopo Interim Appropriation Bill, 2019 has lapsed at the end of the fifth session, I now move that the Limpopo Interim Appropriation Bill, 2019 [B03-2019] be revived and referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and to report back to this House within seven days as contemplated in House Rule 165(1) and (2).

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC. Can I call for a seconder? Hon Makhurupetje, you may take the floor.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Hon Deputy Speaker, I, Makoma Makhurupetje, stand to second the Bill.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. The Bill will be referred to Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and report back to the House. Thank you very much.

We go to the Second Reading: Approval of Votes and Schedules of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill. The first one will be Budget Speech Vote 02: Limpopo Legislature. We shall call upon Madam Speaker, Hon Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, to ascend to the podium. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
(Address by Ms M M Lerule-Ramakhanya)

Ndi matsheloni. Hon Deputy Speaker; Premier of the Limpopo province, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha; Members of the Executive Council; the Chief Whip of the Majority Party; Leader of Government Business; leaders of the opposition parties; Chairperson of Chairpersons; the Deputy Chairperson of Chairpersons; honourable Members of this House; the Secretary to the Limpopo Legislature, Mr Simon Mothoa; officials of the Limpopo Legislature; distinguished guests; media houses; members of the public in the gallery; ladies and gentlemen.

The 2019/20 Budget Speech is dedicated to the Members who have served the Limpopo Legislature during the fifth term. They stood firm in carrying out their constitutional mandate of serving the people of Limpopo. They were united in action regardless of their different political affiliation in ensuring that we build a better and responsive Legislature. It was through this collective responsibility that we maintained the decorum of this House and for this House to function as expected. It was through their vigorous oversight that we ensured that the people of Limpopo received the services they deserve.

We have ended the fifth term being aware that the people of Limpopo are satisfied with the work conducted by this House. We usher in the Sixth Limpopo Legislature being optimistic that today will be better than yesterday. We have to ensure that our government creates jobs and delivers quality services to the people. We have witnessed, Hon Deputy Speaker, during the election campaigns that the electorate regards and embraced the progress we have made, but we still have to do more to improve their living conditions. They are much more hopeful of the future; hence we should not disappoint them.

In response to the call by President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa to grow South Africa together, we will, in the sixth term, ensure that the plans tabled by the Executive before this House are implemented for the benefit of the people of Limpopo. Quality service delivery is our priority as Members of this House. There is still a lot of work that needs to be done, but together we can realise our goals of reducing poverty and unemployment. We will remain vigilant in our work until all the people of Limpopo enjoy the fruits of our democracy, which the late Gen Ike Maphoto and others fought for to be enjoyed by all of us.

It is indeed a great honour and privilege for me to deliver the Limpopo Legislature 2019/20 Budget Speech to this august House. It is a reflection of the journey that we traversed as well as plans for the Sixth Legislature. We owe our existence to our liberation stalwarts such as Oliver Tambo, Nelson Mandela, Charlotte Maxeke, Frans Mohlala, Alpheus Malivha, Norman Mashabane, Pandelani Ramagoma and others who collectively fought fearlessly to liberate us from a system that divided us. The Budget Speech reaffirms our commitment to the values and principles of democracy and human rights to which our stalwarts and struggle heroes have dedicated their lives for us to realise. In honour of our liberation stalwarts, we should devote our action towards the realisation of a free and equal society.

In 1985, President Oliver Reginald Tambo asserted that: “The distinctive feature of the revolutionary cadre is a high level of discipline, dedication and courage in carrying out the tasks assigned by the movement. Such a cadre are guided by our goal of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa.”

As we remember President Tambo, we should use his words to draw lessons and inspiration to unite the people of Limpopo towards the realisation of a democratic society. Despite our divergent political views, we should together ensure that the people of Limpopo enjoy peace, freedom and fundamental rights. We need to be united in the fight against inequality, poverty and unemployment faced by the people.

As South Africans, we should heed the call by former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela and create a free society in which we can live together in harmony and equal opportunities. We need to fight any resurgence of racism in our province, and those who perpetuate racism tendencies should be prosecuted. The people of Limpopo should live in peace, harmony and dignity.

Our country is grappling with corruption both in the public and private sectors. Corruption has reached unprecedented proportions and we should, together with law enforcement agencies, root out corruption where it manifests itself. We are aware that corruption cripples service delivery and increases the cost of doing business. It steals from our people the resources that are supposed to improve their lives, and it must stop. We are also aware that corruption discourages and stifles domestic and foreign investment as well as economic growth. Few individuals benefit from a corrupt system, while the majority of people suffer. Corruption further derails the delivery of quality services and other economic opportunities. Our country has a robust anti-corruption legislation. However, we need to be united as Members of this House in ensuring that we fight and prevent corruption, and decisively deal with it.

Having noted some of the challenges facing us as a nation, we should be delighted that we have a functioning democracy and credible institutions of governance. The Chapter 9 and 10 institutions play a vital role in strengthening our constitutional democracy. We have already held meetings with these institutions in order to strengthen our relationship, while at the same time recognising and respecting our constitutional mandate.

We have among other things established a good working relationship with the Office of the Auditor-General, Limpopo. The Auditor-General has already developed a tool to assess the performance of Legislature’s committees and this tool will assist in monitoring the performance of committees during the current term.

We have also worked together with the Auditor-General in the facilitation of the Public Finance Management Act audit outcome roadshows. These roadshows are critical in encouraging good audit outcomes. In our quest for good audit outcomes and good governance, we will continue even in the current term to have good association and working relationship with the Office of the Auditor-General.

We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Public Protector South Africa. The MoU allows for greater collaboration, cooperation and assistance in fulfilment of our respective constitutional and statutory responsibilities and obligations.

The reports from Chapter 9 and 10 institutions are used by committee members to effectively hold the Executive accountable for their decisions or actions taken when utilising public resources. We will continue to use these reports to strengthen our oversight function.

We took a decision that houses at Parliamentary Village and block 3 offices in Lebowakgomo should be refurbished. The refurbishment of the houses at Parliamentary Village has been completed and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure is currently rectifying any defects identified during the assessment. The refurbishment of block 3 offices in Lebowakgomo commenced in 2018 and will be completed in the current financial year.

Members and staff of the Limpopo Legislature remain hopeful and committed towards the construction of the Limpopo Legislature building in Polokwane. We call on both the MEC for Provincial Treasury and the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to prioritise this important project.

The people of Limpopo have elected us to represent their interests in this House. We are therefore the representative body of the people and a basic source of authority to make laws under which society is governed. The people of Limpopo have entrusted us with the responsibility of making sure that government programmes and policies are implemented by the Executive for the benefit of the people.

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 resources are being utilised. As public representatives, we should take pride in our achievements especially when it comes to oversight, law-making and public participation. We should continue to exercise our constitutional duties in order to advance the interests of the people who elected us. This requires us to do everything in our means to serve the people of Limpopo and fulfil their aspirations.

We need to be loyal to the people of this province and execute our responsibilities with honesty and integrity. We need to conduct effective oversight so that the people of Limpopo can receive quality services and pass laws which will assist towards building an inclusive economy. We have learnt that the task of building a strong legislature is a collective effort. We therefore report our achievements during the fifth term of office with key focal areas on oversight, law-making and public participation.

The Sixth Legislature affirms that there is significant improvement in the ability of our committees to conduct their business. During the fifth term, 147 Sittings were conducted by this House in order to hold the Executive accountable on the implementation of government programmes. As part of strengthening the oversight function, 418 oversight committee meetings and 544 oversight reports were accordingly facilitated. The institution further produced 225 proactive research reports and analysed 560 strategic documents in order to strengthen oversight as conducted by Members of this House.

During the current term, we will increase the number of oversight visits in order to oversee the implementation of government projects and programmes. This is critical in ensuring that government delivers quality service to the people of Limpopo. As

dictated by the Sector Oversight Model, we will further initiate various focused intervention studies in our quest to strengthen our oversight work.

Legislatures are constitutionally required to engage the public in all their affairs and such engagements need to be meaningful. Therefore, public hearings remain critical in enhancing effective participation of the public. During the fifth term, 75 public hearings were held in order to afford the public an opportunity to participate effectively in law-making processes.

This institution also plays a strategic role in resolving public concerns and challenges. During the fifth term, there was an increase in the number of petitions referred to the Limpopo Legislature. We have received and processed 406 petitions across all the districts of the Limpopo province.

While we acknowledge that the processes of resolving petitions take long, we should in the same breath celebrate our successes when it comes to resolving petitions referred to us. Some of the successful interventions are as follows:

- In 2015, the community leaders of Leolo village petitioned the Limpopo Legislature requesting us to assist them with network coverage for cell phone reception, radio and TV. We can report that the construction of the network tower was completed in February 2019 and will soon be operational. This will assist the people of Leolo with access to cell phone network coverage.

- You will remember that Ramothwala Z petitioned the Legislature requesting our intervention in providing basic shelter for the elderly, Ms Moseki Madintsi Hilda. After adjudication of the petition, an RDP house was built for Ms Moseki.

- We have been petitioned by the workers in the Department of Education. After adjudication of these petitions, the department paid their outstanding salaries.

- The Legislature has assisted quite a number of petitioners to receive their identity documents from Home Affairs and as such many others can bear witness on how this institution has assisted them to get their smart ID cards.

The number of petitions referred to us clearly demonstrates that the public has confidence in the work we do as the Limpopo Legislature and we will continue to serve them with pride. We will, in the current term, ensure that the petitions referred to us are adjudicated and resolved promptly for the benefit of our petitioners. This will assist in ensuring that petitioners get what they are entitled to from the government.

Indeed, we are proud of these achievements. We are also proud that the people of Limpopo can look upon the Legislature for intervention whenever they are facing some challenges. The Legislature is the voice of the people, and we encourage the people to continue using this voice.

During the fifth term, about 113 educational and outreach programmes were conducted. These educational and outreach programmes were conducted in order to empower our stakeholders to understand the functions of the Legislature. The Office of the Speaker together with the IEC conducted a successful voters' registration programme in order to educate and encourage the people of Limpopo, particularly the

youth, to register so that they can be eligible to vote during the May 2019 provincial and national elections. The programme assisted a great deal in encouraging the people of Limpopo to register to vote. We will, in the current term, continue to embark on educational and outreach programmes that aim at educating and encouraging meaningful participation of the public in our democratic processes.

We host sectoral parliaments annually in order to provide a platform for children, youth, women, people with disability, workers and elderly people to deliberate on legislative issues affecting their wellbeing. The former President Nelson Mandela alluded that: "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 who care for and protect our people." In commemorating the contribution of Nelson Mandela to humanity, the Limpopo Legislature hosted the Nelson Mandela Children's Parliament in this Legislative Chamber. The event provided a platform for 600 children across South Africa to raise societal problems they face on a daily basis. These issues included amongst others abuse, rape as well as gross violation of their democratic rights. It is incumbent upon us as the Sixth Legislature to ensure that all children's rights continue to be protected.

As we traversed across the Limpopo province prior to 08 May 2019 elections, young people told us that they want jobs and an economy which is inclusive. They told us that they want land, and further emphasised a need to be included in decision-making processes, particularly on issues that affect their lives. As Members of this House, we need to ensure that government programmes, as outlined by the Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha during the Official Opening of the Sixth Legislature, are implemented fully. Our government should contribute in creating jobs and also a conducive environment for the youth to participate in the economy.

Investing in our youth is our priority and we will set aside resources to ensure that the month of June is dedicated to youth empowerment through the hosting of the Youth Parliament. We will play our part when it comes to youth empowerment especially on law-making processes. During our oversight function, we will ensure that the Executive plays its part when it comes to job creation and participation of youth in the economy.

As our contribution to youth empowerment, we have in the past financial year empowered a youth organisation called Limpopo Pioneers of Services Ushers. This is an organisation that assists drug addicts, particularly the youth to overcome their addictions. We have procured 50 drug testing instruments which they are using to test the level and type of drugs consumed before referral can be made. It is my pleasure and honour to welcome the Limpopo Pioneers of Services Ushers organisation to this honourable House, and they are seated in the gallery. I think we should give them a round of applause. [APPLAUSE] Hon Deputy Speaker, we applaud them in recognition of the work they are doing to the youth. As a development-oriented and progressive Legislature, we will continue in the current term to recognise and support youth projects that bring meaningful change to society.

We have further initiated an internship programme in order to prepare graduates for work experience. As we speak, we have trained 23 graduates through our internship programme and 2 graduates from the programme have been employed fulltime by the Limpopo Legislature.

We have further initiated learnership and in-service programmes to empower the youth. In partnership with the University of Limpopo, Ms Tjie Malehu, a Masters student in Political Science was placed under our Research Section to get work exposure. This assisted her in completing her research. We have further received a request from the School of Human and Social Sciences at the University of Venda for the experimental learning placement of Ms Maruping Rasebotsa. Ms Rasebotsa was placed in the Hansard Section from August to November 2018 and has graduated with an Honours degree and at the same time obtained experience in Hansard reporting, language translation and interpreting. It is my honour to welcome Ms Tjie Malehu and Ms Maruping Rasebotsa to this honourable House today. Let's give them a round of applause. [APPLAUSE]

We commit ourselves to continue with the internship, learnership and in-service training programmes in order to expose young people to the working environment. We have engaged local universities to have a common strategy in preparing graduates for work exposure. We should accept that young people are tomorrow's leaders. They understand what they want and have ideas on how they can shape their future. We just need to provide them with an opportunity to lead and include them in decision-making structures and processes.

On 19 October 2018, the Limpopo Legislature hosted the Elderly People's Parliament in Phalaborwa, Mopani District, where elderly people were hosted as part of celebrating the lives of Mama Albertina Sisulu and Tata Nelson Mandela. The event provided our elderly people with an opportunity to discuss issues affecting their rights. We will continue even in the current term to provide our elderly people with a platform to participate in Legislature activities. Members of this House should ensure that the resolutions taken during the Elderly People's Parliament are implemented fully by the Executive.

In commemorating uTata Mandela's contribution, the Limpopo Legislature visited Chuene Kgolo Secondary School on 24 July 2018. We assisted with the cleaning of the school and also donated old desktops and laptops. We will continue to ensure that we observe Mandela Day by contributing positively to the lives of those who are disadvantaged. In this year we have also visited B B Matlaila Public Primary School in Mookgophong to do the same.

As the Limpopo Legislature, we are committed to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability and its protocol. We will ensure that in all our work, the rights of persons with disability are respected. Our commitment for the sixth term is to save resources from items such as corporate gifts and use such funds to address some pressing needs for our people. Thomas Sankara alluded that: "The revolution and women's liberation go together. We do not talk of women's emancipation as an act of charity or because of a surge of human compassion. It is a basic necessity for the triumph of the revolution." Clearly, there is no revolution without women liberation. Women are still faced with a scourge of abuse even after the dawn of democracy. The rise in the number of violence cases against women is a cause for concern and needs to be addressed urgently. As a country, we need to have stringent measures to prevent and mitigate these social ills.

Women should feel safe and free wherever they are in this country. Our law enforcement agencies need to deal decisively with gender-based violence cases. We

need to work together towards the emancipation of women. The Sixth Legislature will host the Women's Parliament and strengthen women caucus in order to provide a platform for women to raise issues affecting their lives. We will further participate in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians to advocate for redress of issues affecting women parliamentarians.

We have also hosted the Workers' Parliament, which was attended by 500 workers across the Limpopo province. The event provided a platform for workers to engage and debate current issues affecting them. We will continue in the current term to host sectoral parliaments in an effort to discuss and address issues affecting children, youth, the disabled, women, men and elderly people.

The Limpopo Legislature is entrusted with the authority to make laws. During the fifth term, 30 provincial legislation and 69 NCOP legislation were facilitated. We need to ensure that the laws we pass in this House address the socioeconomic challenges facing the people of Limpopo. These laws need to contribute positively towards the upliftment of the lives of our people. Any law that appears to supress the will of the people must be reviewed or repealed.

The Office of the Speaker annually hosts the Provincial Speakers' Forum, which is a forum hosted on a rotational basis across all districts in Limpopo. The forum provides a platform for the Legislature's presiding officers to share best practices with municipal Speakers with regard to presiding and legislative matters. We will continue in the current financial year to host the Provincial Speakers' Forum in our province.

We further commit ourselves to provide capacity-building needs for municipal councils and Municipal Public Accounts Committees in the Limpopo province. We will continue to provide free training on rules, ethics and integrity, protocol and other relevant areas that are likely to enhance the capacity of municipalities whenever the need arises.

With the enactment of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act (FMPPLA) in 2009, all legislatures in South Africa are expected to migrate from Modified Cash to Accrual Basis by implementing the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GRAP) accounting system. In compliance with this idea and ensuring the independence of the legislative sector from the Executive, the Limpopo Legislature procured its own financial system. The system has huge systematic, financial and human resources implications to the Limpopo Legislature. However, it remains critical in improving the efficiency and competitiveness of the institution.

We are happy, Hon Deputy Speaker, to announce that the system "Go-Live" was in April 2019. From 01 April 2019, salaries, goods and services were paid and procured through our new system. Though we initially experienced some teething problems, we have since succeeded in addressing most of the challenges within a reasonable period of time. We are continuously working hard to ensure that the system delivers according to expectations.

In order to strengthen the capacity of the Legislature and provide technical support to Members, we have filled critical positions including the Secretary to the Legislature, CFO, and other sectional managers to tighten our workforce. In the current term, the Legislature commits itself to finalise the organisational structure and fill funded vacant positions as well as critical posts.

The Limpopo Legislature has a bursary programme and its sole mandate is to empower Members and staff so that they can effectively execute their responsibilities. It is my honour and I would like to congratulate all Members that have graduated through this bursary fund together with all other staff members.

In May 2018, we concluded the appointment of the Audit Committee. This committee is playing a critical role in overseeing the financial and performance information of the institution. The roll-out of the system, appointments of personnel as well as proper oversight bodies will create stability and enhance the operations of the Legislature. It will further improve our compliance to legislation, which could also lead to improvement in our audit outcomes.

The Legislature has been declared a national key point, which thus requires that it has to comply with the national key point requirements. Amongst the requirements include the demarcation of the Legislature from other government departments, the creation of a new entrance and handing-over the management of security to the South African Police Service. We will work with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure in ensuring that funding is allocated for the implementation of the National Key Point project.

We have in the past experienced challenges with our ICT infrastructure; however, we have revamped our ICT infrastructure and our website, emails and network are currently functioning effectively. In the current financial year, we will improve our network connectivity through the roll-out of the fibre network.

Our country and province are also affected by the global economic outlook. As a result, we have to be vigilant on our spending trends. We need to come up with ways to efficiently use the available funds. This requires us to reduce expenditure on non-essential items. Strict measures have to be implemented to curb spending on non-essential activities, and direct the available limited funds to oversight, public participation and law-making activities. For instance, in the previous financial year, we cut spending on corporate gifts and diverted the saved funds to the roll-out of sectoral parliaments. This is the main reason why so many sectoral parliaments were held in the 2018/19 financial year compared to other previous years.

The Limpopo Legislature is aware of its enormous responsibility of being the voice of the electorate. Ours is to ensure that the people of Limpopo receive quality service from their government. We will work together with the Executive in ensuring that there is a better life for all in our province. We will use the allocated budget to effectively hold the Executive accountable and that it takes right decisions that benefit the people of Limpopo.

We have to utilise the allocated budget in ensuring that our constitutional mandate is executed effectively. The 2019/20 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 R375,8 million in the 2019/20 financial year. The allocation represents an increase of 4,1% on the Budget

for this financial year as compared to the 2018/19 main appropriation Budget. The Budget has been allocated to our three programmes as follows:

- Programme 1: Administration: The purpose 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 decreased from R131,7 million to R128,9 million for this financial year.

- Programme 2: Facilities for Members and Political Parties: The purpose is to provide compensation and support for Members. The budget for this programme has increased from R140,6 million to R148,3 million for this financial year.

  As required by section 34(5) of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2009, each party represented in the Assembly must be provided with financial and administrative assistance in proportion to its representation to enable it and its leaders to perform their functions in Parliament effectively. Accordingly, the total allocation for political parties represented in the Legislature during the 2019/20 financial year is R76,2 million. The funds are for constituency allowances, political party funding and political party support.

- Programme 3: Parliamentary Services: The purpose is to provide services related to oversight, public participation and law-making. The budget for this programme has increased from R88,6 million in the past year to R98,6 million in the current financial year.

As I draw towards the conclusion of this Budget Speech, let us all embrace the spirit of “Thuma Mina”. The spirit of “Thuma Mina” should prevail upon us. It should triumph in whatever we do, ngauri heyi democracy yashu ndi ya vhathu vhoṱhe. The spirit of self-conviction to service those in need should prevail. We need to be ready to assist those in despair. We need to be ready to assist the poor and the sick. We need to be ready to make the New Dawn a reality to the ordinary people who elected us. We need to bring a renewed sense of hope. We need to restore the confidence of the people and inculcate the spirit of selflessness. The challenges ahead of us demand that we work together to contribute in the growth and development of our province. Let us unite to grow the economy of Limpopo and fight against poverty and unemployment.

Let us work together to improve the living conditions of the people of Limpopo. Let us restore public confidence in government. It can be done. A better life for all is possible.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Members who have been elected to serve in the Sixth Legislature. Let me also thank the leaders of political parties represented in this House for their commitment to serving the people of Limpopo. I also want to take this opportunity and thank the Secretary to the Limpopo Legislature and Team Legislature for your support and commitment. It is my honour and privilege, Hon Deputy Speaker, to table the Limpopo Legislature 2019/20 Budget Vote to this House. I thank you. Ndo livhuwa. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for the presentation. The Budget Speech and the APP will then be referred to the Oversight Mechanism Committee for consideration and report back to the House. We will proceed and invite the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon Ndalane, to present her Budget Vote. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(Address by Ms N A Nandi Ndalane, MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development)

Thank you, Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker. Hon Speaker; Hon Premier in absentia; Hon Deputy Speaker; honourable colleagues in the Executive Council; the Chief Whip of the Majority Party; honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature; the leadership of the ruling party and other political parties present here today; chairperson of the Agriculture and Rural Development Portfolio Committee, Ntate Masekoameng; Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders, led by Kgoši Malesela Dikgale, magoši, tihosi, vho-thovhele; Members of the Limpopo Agricultural Advisory Council; officials of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; representatives of the farming community and civil society organisations; representatives of the business sector and other sector partners; members of the media; distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, a very good morning.

It is with a great sense of pride that this Budget Speech is presented following the burial of our struggle veteran and the hero of our people, Gen Lesiba Bra Ike Maphoto. As we laid him to his final resting place over the weekend, I would like to pay a special tribute to him and greatly acknowledge and appreciate his selfless sacrifice and dedication to the freedom and democracy of our country. On the same token I would like to pay tribute to Cde Joy Matshoge, who led this department with great ability. I further would like to extend my tribute to the struggle heroine of freedom, Mme Joyce Mashamba, who also led this important department. We are now riding on their stewardship and are grateful for their contributions. Today, we are building on the strengthened foundation these heroines laid. We are proud to confidently talk about food security for the masses of our people, mainly due to the contribution of the heroines of our people. May the souls of the two servants of the people rest in eternal peace.

Our country is engulfed by the usual word of the New Dawn as presented by President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa. Over the last few years our country went through a difficult period with increasing unemployment, increased levels of poverty and many other social ills. However, that brief period has come and gone. We are now in the era of a New Dawn, great hope and stability. In the State of the Nation Address, President Ramaphosa detailed his dream of the new era which therefore becomes the dream of our country. Many of us were happy of the dream, hoping that this attainable dream shall bring a better life to all South Africans. Ramaphosa said, I dream of a South Africa where the first entirely new city built in the democratic era rises, with skyscrapers, schools, universities, hospitals and factories. As a country we share the President’s dream and indeed it shall come to be realised.

As the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, we find resonance with the President’s dream, particularly when he said we must be a country that can

feed itself and that harnesses the latest advances in smart agriculture. We totally embrace the President's dream and assertion and we shall double our efforts and spare no strength in eventually attaining this realistic dream.

In his State of the Province Address, the Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, repeated and embraced the President's new dawn. In his address the Premier said: "The New Dawn is upon us. The dark clouds of despair and hopelessness are retreating to settle in the comfort of distant memory." The people of Limpopo have given the governing African National Congress overwhelming majority in the last polls, a clear vote of confidence in this movement of the people by the people. We therefore dare not fail our people. We will not take that victory for granted. Instead, it will propel us to deliver on our mandate, our targets and to spend our budget.

On the performance of the agricultural sector, I wish to report that the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery sector has in the past four years suffered the longest negative growth due to prolonged drought. In the 2015/16 financial year, the sector experienced eight consecutive contractions quarterly and the sector only started to recover in 2017. The recovery was attributed mainly to good rains in the 2016/17 season, which led to increased production of maize and improved conditions of horticultural crops. Throughout 2017 the agricultural sector showed some new hope and propelled the country's positive economic recovery throughout, closing the year with 3,1% growth in the fourth quarter of 2017.

In 2018 the sector regressed due to the slowdown of production activities in the first quarter for many high value agricultural commodities due to drought and erratic weather conditions during summer. It became stable during the third and fourth quarters, with 13,7% and 7,9% positive growth respectively. In overall the agriculture, forestry and fishery sector recorded -4,8% in 2018 due to low production of field crops and horticultural products.

On employment creation, the agricultural sector remains a key contributor to employment, not only at primary level, but also at downstream and up stream. From the Stats SA report, the agricultural sector in Limpopo is the second largest employment contributor in the sector following Western Cape.

According to the Stats SA Quarterly Labour Survey latest data, the province suffered two consecutive quarters of job losses, 10 000 jobs in the fourth quarter in 2018 and 14 000 jobs in the first quarter of 2019. The sliding patterns of the sector employment could be attributed to field production that declined drastically in the province due to profitability amongst other factors.

Despite the setbacks, this sector continues to take centre stage as one of the key strategic economic sectors with potential to support the acceleration of inclusive economic growth and job creation. Agricultural exports also make an important source of revenue for the economy through foreign income earnings.

As outlined by President Ramaphosa in his first SONA of the Sixth Administration, the sector is no longer just about food security and rural livelihoods to address social policy question, but a major contributor to economic growth. It is envisaged that the potential of the sector will be unlocked through acceleration of land reform in both rural and urban areas.

President Ramaphosa further repeated the government's stimulus and recovery package announced last year, which is aimed at prioritising funding for black commercial and upcoming farmers. Government will expand agriculture and agro-processing sectors by supporting key value chains and products, developing new markets and reducing reliance on imports. The stimulus packages will direct investment in the key agricultural commodity industries with high growth potential. The pronouncement by the President had set a tone for the next five years of our administration.

The Premier of Limpopo, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, in the first SOPA of the Sixth Administration, has already given us a line of march. Our main priority focus would be on:

- Supporting the revitalisation of primary agriculture and agro-processing in the province, targeting unutilised and underdeveloped land in particular. This includes our small scale irrigation schemes, whereby we must ensure their sustainable operations.

- Ensuring access by black farmers to infrastructure and markets in order to increase their entry into the food value chain.

- The expansion of the agricultural skills base through training and skills development as central initiatives to improve viability and sustainability of farming operations, particularly for black farmers.

- Facilitating transformation in the sector with a view to ensure meaningful participation of women, youth and people with disability.

In the light of this, we are working together with key stakeholders in the sector, namely commodity organisations in the fruit and vegetable industry such as citrus growers, subtropical fruit, Potato South Africa and umbrella bodies such as Fruit SA, the Land Bank and organised agriculture formations, to develop a much more comprehensive plan to revive agricultural production in Limpopo. This plan aims to unlock the potential of unused and underdeveloped agricultural land in the province. The target is land reform farms, irrigation schemes that are not in production and new underdeveloped land.

We will be working with the communities and local authorities through municipalities and traditional leadership authorities to find workable solutions to ensure that the unused land is put back into production. As the Hon Premier has directed, we have started engagements with the management structures of land holding entities Bjatladi CPA and Mamphoku Makgoba Trust to find workable approaches towards the development of these reclaimed properties.

The department will be hosting a round table discussion on the revitalisation of irrigation schemes during August 2019 in Sekhukhune District. This session must come up with concrete activities and quantifiable deliverables towards sustainable operations of the schemes that we are working on to revitalise. We must find lasting solutions for these schemes. I am looking forward to the full participation, especially

from our local authorities, being the municipalities and traditional councils, as most of the schemes are in communal areas under our traditional councils.

The 2019/20 financial year plans of the LDARD (Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development) are meant to put into effect the key priorities as outlined in the SONA and SOPA, which adequately outlined the direction we must take towards the realisation of the National Development Plan and the Limpopo Development Plan. Our 2019/20 plans also take forward the work we committed to do when we presented the 2018/19 Budget Speech.

We have made significant strides in some areas and those areas where we did not achieve as planned, we have reviewed our approaches for implementation. As I have mentioned when I started, the agricultural sector went through difficult periods over the past few years. The challenges are in the main associated with the effects of climate change. The agricultural sector in Limpopo was not immune, disasters of various forms were experienced such as drought, crop pests and diseases and animal diseases. We, however, believe that with interventions that were provided by government in partnership with various sector partners, the impact of these phenomena has been minimised to some extent.

Allow me to provide more details of the support as mentioned by the Hon Premier in the SOPA. We will assist with infrastructure development for primary production and agro-processing to 577 farmers in the areas of fruits, vegetables, red and white meat production. Furthermore, 13 700 farmers across the province will receive production inputs and mechanisation support. A budget of R270 million under the Farmer Support and Development Programme has been allocated for this purpose.

With regard to fruit and vegetable cluster development, I can report that the irrigation system at Matsika banana production in Thulamela has been completed for the whole scheme covering 90 ha. The banana crop establishment was completed in 2018, with the last 20 ha planted. Production is now in full swing and the fruit is sold at local and national markets. On average, 90 seasonal jobs are created annually.

The construction of a packing facility will be done this financial year. An amount of R10 million has been set aside for this development. The procurement process was concluded in May 2019 and construction is underway. The expected completion period is June 2020. This facility will also service Tshikonelo farmers who are also producing bananas. The packing facility will reduce post-harvest losses and increase opportunities for more market access by these farmers.

The Tshikonelo banana crop establishment on 87 ha commenced in 2018/19 following the completion of irrigation infrastructure. Crop establishment is scheduled to be completed in the 2019/20 financial year. The department is supporting the farmers with required production inputs in order to see this development through to completion. The Nwanedi agri-hub development in Musina has progressed well. This development is a partnership between our department and the Jobs Fund of the National Treasury implemented by Timbali Technology Incubator. The irrigation infrastructure has been completed for 107 farmers covering 214 ha. The pack house officially opened in October 2018 is complete and fully operational. The Nwanedi development has brought value in many ways in terms of increased production, farmers' access to formal markets, local and international markets as well as job creation. The

development has enabled the creation of 72 permanent and 356 short-term jobs. On average 1 000 seasonal jobs are created during planting and harvesting seasons. This is another testimony of the value of partnerships in development.

In 2019/20 the phase D irrigation development covering 86 ha for 43 farmers will be completed. Upon completion a total of 300 ha would have been developed with irrigation infrastructure benefitting 150 farmers, who are also being commercialised to participate in the value chain. Measures are being put in place at primary production sites that will take them to a level of GlobalGAP market certification compliance. A budget of R11 million has been allocated for this development.

As part of agro-processing support to ensure that farm losses are minimised, the department has assisted Tshakuma Agricultural Cooperative to upgrade their mango processing facility and increase production capacity from 60 tons to 300 tons per annum. The facility is now operating and has also expanded markets for mango producers in localities.

In the GRASP cluster development in Ba-Phalaborwa, notable progress was made to assist fruit and vegetable farmers in the areas of Gravelotte, Selwane and Prieska with irrigation infrastructure development in the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality. A 17 km irrigation canal in Prieska was rehabilitated and the farmers are now able to get a proper flow of water. Shade-nets were constructed on five farms to protect the crops against harsh weather conditions.

In this financial year 28 projects on primary production infrastructure on new farms would be implemented. These projects include irrigation infrastructure development on 10 new farms; shade-nets, on-site mini packing sheds, water reservoirs and ablution facilities on 6 farms; water source development, testing and equipping of 10 boreholes for vegetables production, nursery establishment and cold storage and ablution facilities for integrated aquaculture production systems. An amount of R20 million has been allocated for these projects.

The refurbishment of the Masalal pack house is linked to the GRASP cluster development as part of the Mopani agricultural development zone for fruit and vegetables. The aim of refurbishing this pack house is to have a packing facility within a closer range for fruit farmers in the area, therefore minimising transport costs. The refurbishment work included renovations of the buildings, installation of new packing lines, installation of a weighbridge, refrigerated rooms and upgrading of ablution facilities. The packhouse is GlobalGAP-certified to enable the packaging of fruits for the export market. It was commissioned in June this year with 6 500 tons of citrus packaged, which was part of a consignment for export to China. A total of 124 new jobs were created at the start of the operation.

This financial year we will also complete a tomato paste processing facility for Norjax in Greater Tzaneen by October 2019. The department responded to the plight of and request from the tomato growers for the refurbishment of this tomato paste processing facility. The facility was no longer producing the right quality of paste and as a result they had lost the market for the end products. The project started in 2017/18 and we are glad to announce that after lengthy processes, it is ultimately being brought to completion.

Masupatsela farm in Tzaneen happened to be part of my initiation when I assumed this portfolio, as one of the farms for which there were no plans to make them productive. This farm was purchased by the Mopani District for agricultural development and empowerment of smallholder farmers. I am happy to report that the department has resuscitated the discussions with the municipality. A development model has already been proposed and is under consideration by the municipality. The model has served at the Economic Technical Committee of the district municipality and is awaiting approval by the council. The model proposes the settlement of youth farmers, who will be assisted to establish high value crops, enterprise of avocados, macadamia and blueberries.

The potato production support for smallholder farmers initiative in Molemole, Blouberg and Polokwane is about supporting smallholder potato farmers to commercialise. It is done in partnership with Potato South Africa, which is a commodity organisation and McCain, who also provides a market for the potatoes. Since the start of this development to date, irrigation infrastructure, boreholes, reticulation system and centre pivots were installed on 677 ha across Molemole, Polokwane and Blouberg municipalities.

I am delighted to announce to this House that we have amongst us a businessman who was supported through our CASP and Letsema funding within our potato belt. He is also a youth from Molemole Municipality and his company, Maroon Trading, has been selected and recognised by McDonalds International as the best producer of good quality potatoes for McDonalds. It must be noted that he is the best farmer in both black and white-owned farms that produce potatoes for international markets such as Switzerland, Australia, Denmark, just to name but a few. The quality and size of potatoes produced by Maroon Trading meets the required McDonalds International standards. Dr Elias Monhla of Maroon Trading, please stand up for acknowledgement by the House. [APPLAUSE] Maroon Trading enterprise has increased jobs opportunities from 80 to 200 during production season.

In the 2019/20 financial year, farmers would be assisted with irrigation systems to support primary production. The support will include water source development and reticulation system which involves the equipping of boreholes, installation of a water reservoir, pipelines, booster pump, fertigation unit, centre pivots; installation of power supply infrastructure, de-bushing and grubbing as well as land preparation. A budget of R10,5 million has been allocated for this support.

On market access, the department has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Perishable Products Export Certification Board. The board is a public entity under the national Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development on the provision of market standards certification support. Last year, 15 farm enterprises and pack house facilities were audited as food business operators on phytosanitory measures for SAGAP certification. This year 20 enterprises will be audited.

We move to the red meat development cluster. This development is to support smallholder red meat farmers in the Waterberg red meat development zone with livestock infrastructure for commercialisation purposes. The support includes livestock infrastructure in the form of stock water system, handling facilities and fencing of camps. Farmers are also provided with breeding stock for the establishment of a nucleus herd. The development is in phases. The first phase started through the

department's partnership with the Industrial Development Corporation, the University of Limpopo and Anglo Platinum Mine. The Livestock Massification Programme was initiated, which involved production improvement through the provision of appropriate infrastructure and genetic resources.

The Anglo Platinum Mine commissioned a study to determine the feasibility of commercialising livestock production for cattle owners within a 15 km radius of the mine. The project is made up of livestock farmers in the Mapela area of the Mogalakwena Municipality. A total of 272 cattle owners from 15 villages of the Mapela Tribal Authority were identified as participants in the programme. The identified producers are traditional cattle producers facing multiple challenges from lack of infrastructure, inadequate skills and market exploitations. The development has been extended to include other municipalities in Waterberg. Plans for 2019/20 include:

- A 60 km border fencing for 10 farms, animal handling facilities for 3 and stock watering for 2 farms in Mogalakwena, Mapela area;

- Water source development and infrastructure development for 14 farms in the Immerpan area under Modimolle-Mookgophong. The development in Immerpan will continue into the 2020/21 financial year.

Water source development and reticulation to the camps in 4 farms will be completed in 2019/20. A budget of R6 million will be used for the 2019/20 development.

Key to the success of the red meat programme is an effective animal health programme. Early this year an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease occurred in Vhembe District. Foot-and-mouth disease is a severe disease which affects cloven-hoofed animals such as cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and others. Steps were immediately taken to manage the disease. The food-and-mouth disease control campaign was successful and some of the countries lifted their ban on the South African meat imports. Our prevention measures are continuing. Vaccinations and animal movement control is ongoing. During 2019/20 we will also construct 30 animal handling facilities in various areas across the province. The construction of the fence separating the foot-and-mouth area from the free area, commonly called yellow line, will commence as a multi-year project.

As the Premier pronounced in the SONA early this month, we will be finalising the revitalisation of the irrigation schemes in Tswelopele, Phetwane, Mogalatjane, Elandskraal and Zamerkom.

As the Hon Premier has further announced, the Lebowakgomo Abattoir will be operationalised this year. It can also be reported that the signing of the operating lease and other related documents will be during August. It is envisaged that the abattoir will start operations before the end of 2019. Over and above the jobs that would be created by the abattoir, the 14 broiler farms who will be supplying this abattoir have the potential to create at least 100 direct jobs. I am working with my colleague, the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Hon Mokone, to ensure that this happens.

On capacity-building for farmers, the department is partnering with Agri-Seta and key sector players for the capacity-building of technical staff in both livestock and crop

sectors. Agri-Seta has committed to the initiative a total of R1,5 million for the 2019/20 financial year, in partnership with the National Agricultural Marketing Council.

On Food Production Support for Household Food Security, the achievement of food security, particularly at household level, is of paramount importance as enshrined in the Bill of Rights. Support is targeted at vulnerable households as part of the National Integrated Food and Nutrition Security Programme. A total of 6 500 households would be assisted in the 2019/20 financial year on various food security initiatives as part of promoting food production at household level to improve access to basic food.

The department is positively responding to calls of climate smart agriculture. I am glad to announce that today we have a young entrepreneur in our midst. He is from Limpopo and has invented a water efficient vegetable production equipment, which is the vegetable garden tower. This vegetable technology is a water saving vegetable production technology which requires less water. This technology saves space and allows households to have access to organic leafy vegetables all year round regardless of climate conditions. This technology is also being implemented in the identified Early Childhood Development centres and schools across the province which are involved in good gardens. This is done to ensure that learners are exposed to agricultural technology at a young age so as to view agriculture as a career of choice. Mr Bruce Diale of Brucol Global, can you stand up? [APPLAUSE]

On natural disaster risk management interventions, Limpopo province continues to experience serious deterioration of agricultural resources due to persisting impacts of disasters such as drought and floods. In line with the approved Comprehensive Agricultural Disaster Risk Management Plan, the department continues to implement strategic actions identified that focus on proactive approaches to disaster risk reduction and mitigation. We are making a call to all farmers to say, let us adopt climate smart principles. Our farming practices should have built-in disaster risk measures.

Honourable Members, EPWP is closer to my heart. We will still implement fencing within the scope of EPWP in addressing the infrastructure gap on a farm level. Our efforts will assist communities who are affected by the lack of fencing for increasing agricultural production for different farming systems. The department has targeted to create 5 500 work opportunities within its budget allocation for different programmes and projects. This would be possible with the R7,686 million incentive allocation for 2019/20 financial year.

We have started in the past three years a programme on Youth in Agriculture Development Support. In the 2018/19 financial year, we have placed 110 agricultural graduates with commercial enterprises for a period of two years as part of the Walala Wasala Moswa provincial drive to address youth unemployment. This placement is meant to expose them to the field experience so they can acquire practical knowledge and skills that will empower them. We want to thank all participating farmers who are hosting these young professionals and also to urge other established farmers to volunteer to host and mentor these young graduates. It is through this collaboration that young people can be empowered and prepared to have a meaningful contribution in the sector.

Annually the department hosts the Young Farmer of the Year Awards competition. The purpose of these awards is to showcase and give recognition to young farmers for

their contribution in the sector as food producers, and most importantly, employers. Annually prizes to the value of R2,7 million are won, which young farmers use to plough back to their farming businesses. Through the awards, they get exposure, which brings other forms of support such as financial and markets from external sources in the private sector, which contributes to the growth of their agricultural enterprises.

On Structural Agricultural Education and Training, I wish to indicate that education is very close to my heart. Seventy-three students obtained their diplomas in animal and plant production at the Tompi Seleka and Madzivhandila colleges of agriculture in a joint graduation ceremony at Bolivia Lodge in Polokwane on 12 September 2018. The two colleges whose academic programmes were closed for a number of years, resumed their academic life in 2015. The reopening of the colleges was to address the skills required by the agricultural sector in line with the Agriculture Skills Development Strategy.

What follows are the details of LDARD 2019/20 budget allocation. In summary the overall budget for Vote 4: Agriculture and Rural Development is R2,000,770 billion. The budget is made up of R1,658 million equitable share allocation and conditional grants amounting to R342 million. The overall budget has increased by 4,1% on conditional grants. The amount for conditional grants comprises R247 million for Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme; R75,254 million for Letsema; R12,863 million for Landcare grant; and R7,686 million for EPWP.

It is therefore my honour and privilege to table before this House the 2019/20 Budget Vote for the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development allocated as follows:

- Programme 1: Administration has been allocated R402,3 million to cater for normal administrative costs and contractual obligations.

- Programme 2: Sustainable Resource Management has been allocated R92,2 million to provide agricultural support services to farmers in order to ensure that there is sustainable management of agricultural resources. The services cover agricultural engineering services, natural resource management, land use management services, disaster risk management and spatial information services.

- Programme 3: Farmer Support and Development has been allocated R1,190 billion, which constitutes 60% of the budget of the department including CASP and Letsema conditional grants. The allocation is for farmer support programmes and projects, ranging from agricultural infrastructure and equipment for primary and secondary production activities.

- Programme 4: Veterinary Services has been allocated R63,7 million to render veterinary services, that is, animal disease control, veterinary public health, certification of animals and animal products for export as well as providing a laboratory diagnostic service which detects disease-causing agents in submitted samples.

- Programme 5: Research and Technology Development receives R62,3 million to render agricultural research services and development of information systems with regard to agricultural and natural resource utilisation technologies.

- Programme 6: Agricultural Economics Services has been allocated R29,6 million to provide timely and relevant agricultural economic services to the sector in support of sustainable agricultural and agri-business development to increase economic growth.

- Programme 7: Structural Agricultural Training receives an allocation of R151,4 million for the two colleges of agriculture in the province to provide student academic programmes, college infrastructure revitalisation and learnership programmes.

- Programme 8: Rural Development has been allocated R9,1 million to facilitate and co-ordinate the planning and implementation of integrated rural development programmes in line with the Limpopo Integrated Rural Development Strategy.

Chairperson, Hon Masekoameng, and members of the portfolio committee, I wish to thank you in advance. Together we are going to shape the success of the department.

Many thanks to the Head of the Department, Ms Ramatsimela Maisela, and her team for the sterling job they continue to provide for the department. I would like to express my special appreciation to my predecessor, Hon Basikopo Makamu, who did a wonderful job at the department. My reception went extremely well and working together we shall continue to improve the work of the department and deliver on our mandate. Our march towards a poverty-free society continues. Our department is central to achieving a poverty-free society. We shall work very hard to attain food security for all our people. Let us grow South Africa together as we celebrate 25 years of freedom. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, MEC. The Budget Speech and APP will be referred to the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development for consideration and report back to the House. Can we proceed and invite the MEC for Social Development, Hon Tandi Moraka? [LAUGHTER] [APPLAUSE] My apologies, my apologies, it is Hon Nkakareng Rakgoale. Order! Hon Nkakareng Rakgoale, you may take the floor.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

On a lighter note, MEC, Hon Moraka, you must come and take over your office; we'll just do the exchange.

BUDGET SPEECH OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
(Address by Ms N C Rakgoale, MEC for Social Development)

Hon Deputy Speaker; Hon Speaker; Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha in absentia; esteemed Members of the Executive Council; honourable Members of the

Legislature; Executive Mayors and Mayors here present; our esteemed Majesties and Royal Highnesses; Heads of our Chapter 9 and 10 institutions; Chief Whip of the ruling party; leaders of the opposition parties; stalwarts and veterans of our struggle; religious leaders from various denominations; the Director-General in absentia; the Head of Department of Social Development, Ms Daphne Ramokgopa; Executive Management of Sassa and NDA and Executive Management of the Department of Social Development; members of Eskom, JICA and other donors; representatives of civic and non-governmental organisations; the members of the fourth estate; distinguished guests and stakeholders of the department; comrades and friends; ladies and gentlemen, avuxeni. Ndi matsheloni. Thobela. Good morning. Goeie môre.

It is a great honour and privilege to be given this opportunity to deliver the Limpopo Department of Social Development, Budget Vote 12 to this sixth democratic Legislature. I do so with pride and enthusiasm during a month in which we celebrate the birth and the life of our first democratically elected President, Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. Had it not been for him and his fellow comrades who vowed to dedicate their lives to the struggle, we would not be talking about the 25 years of democracy and freedom today.

In 1961 Nelson Mandela released a statement from inside South Africa explaining his decision to carry on his political work underground, where he said: “For my own part I have made my choice. I will not leave South Africa, nor will I surrender. Only through hardship, sacrifice and militant action can freedom be won. The struggle is my life. I will continue fighting for freedom until the end of my days.” What are you going to do about it? It is in this regard that we are still extending our condolences to the family of our struggle veteran, Gen Ike Maphoto, whom we laid to rest this previous weekend. The contribution of Gen Ike Maphoto to the liberation of our people will forever remain indelible in our minds. These are our struggle veterans who vowed to fight the apartheid regime and refused to co-operate with its efforts to suppress the claims and aspirations of our people.

Today, we have a responsibility to answer the question posed by Nelson Mandela back in 1961 as to what are we are going to do in the context of the issues that we must deal with, to deliver quality and credible services, working side by side with all the citizens of this province. We have to work together inch by inch and mile by mile to increase the pace of service delivery in all communities where the mandate of the department must be discharged.

The mandate of the Department of Social Development is to provide social protection services and to lead government efforts to forge partnerships through which vulnerable individuals, groups and communities become capable and self-reliant participants in their own development. The key focus for the department is to provide care and support to the most vulnerable groups and individuals such as children, older persons, persons with disabilities, unemployed youths and women living in poor households and communities.

The bulk of these services are provided in partnership with non-profit organisations (NPOs) through the following programmes: Social Welfare Services, Children and Families, Restorative Services, and Development and Research. Both Finance and Corporate Services provide the necessary administrative and technical support for the implementation of service delivery programmes.

Post-national and provincial elections on 08 May 2019, there have been significant changes as a result of the alignment of our focus in line with the ANC manifesto commitments. The changes necessitated that the department adjusts its plans in order to give effect to the implementation of the newly configured MTSF (Medium-Term Strategic Framework) apex priorities for 2019-2024 as pronounced by the President in his State of the Nation Address and emphasised by our Premier in his State of the Province Address.

The following seven apex priorities will guide the Department of Social Development as it prepares its five-year Strategic Plan 2020/25 and subsequent to which Annual Performance Plans will be developed as a mechanism to operationalise the National Development Plan, the five-year Implementation Plan and the Limpopo Development Plan. The seven apex priorities that will guide us are:

- Economic transformation and job creation;
- Education, skills and health;
- Consolidating the social wage bill through reliable and quality basic services;
- Spatial integration, human settlements and local government;
- Social cohesion and safe communities;
- A capable, ethical and developmental state; and
- A better Africa and the world.

The department will also contribute towards achieving the following five fundamental goals for the next decade as pronounced in both the SONA and SOPA:

- No person in South Africa will go hungry;
- Our economy will grow at a much faster rate than our population;
- Two million more young people will be employed;
- Our schools will have better educational outcomes and every 10-year old child will be able to read for meaning; and
- Violent crime will be halved.

Informed by evidence-based planning and results-driven management, the department will work closely together with the Social and JCPS (Justice, Crime Prevention and Security) cluster partners, civil society and the business fraternity. Integrated monitoring and evaluation systems will be improved and institutionalised to ensure effective and efficient implementation of policies, plans, programmes and projects aimed at reducing incidences of poverty, unemployment and inequalities.

As we are still in the midst of celebrating Mandela Month, we recall vividly well his passionate love for children when he said: “Educating of all our children must be one of our most urgent priorities. We all know that education, more than anything else, improves our chances of building better lives.” Therefore, Early Childhood Development remains key to the realisation of this ideal of Tata Madiba. The National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy of 2015 aims to address challenges encountered within the sector in relation to currently available legislation that is not well coordinated. The policy’s objective is to improve universal access to quality, equitable and appropriate services to children. Allow me to highlight to this august House some of the successes in relation to ECD and partial care.

The provincial Department of Social Development and other departments contributing to the ECD programme successfully organised a Provincial ECD Colloquium with special focus on reviewing the 2010 Provincial ECD Strategy and align it with the National Integrated ECD Implementation Plan, and to give effect to overall implementation, monitoring and reporting as envisaged in the National Integrated ECD Policy approved by Cabinet in 2015.

Since 2014 to date, 224 534 children accessed the ECD programme in registered ECD centres and 181 000 have been targeted for 2019/20. Of the 224 534 children who accessed the registered ECD programme, 153 are children with disability and 86 801 children were fully subsidised through the equitable share and 80 349 children have been targeted to benefit for the 2019/20 financial year.

The ECD conditional grant, which was introduced in 2017/18, has to date benefitted 11 868 children and 12 911 children have been targeted to benefit in 2019/20. In the past five years, 275 ECD centres were fully registered, while 919 were conditionally registered. Five trucks were procured to provide for the mobile ECD programme in farming and deep rural areas. The service is rendered in Blouberg, Musina, Mookgophong, Ephraim Mogale, Greater Letaba and Greater Tzaneen municipalities reaching 1 305 children. Additionally, 107 ECD centres were constructed through partnership with the mining industry, National Lotteries Commission, Blouberg and Aganang municipalities including private sector companies.

Two-hundred and twelve (212) ECD centres have been upgraded towards full compliance with the norms and standards and 71 ECD centres will be maintained or upgraded in 2019/20 through the ECD conditional grant maintenance component.

An amount of R244 million has been allocated through voted funds for subsidising eligible children within the province. In addition, R68,992 million was allocated through the ECD conditional grant specifically for expansion of the R15 subsidy per child and renovations or upgrading of conditionally registered ECD centres envisaged to attain full registration.

The department is currently working together with the national Departments of Social Development and Basic Education in developing a comprehensive plan to migrate children of between four and five years old, which is grade RR and R, so that we are able to exclusively strengthen services to children of zero to four years of age. Partnerships with all stakeholders will be strengthened to ensure that resources are mobilised to improve quality of services provided in the ECD programme.

The National Development Plan declares that employment is the best form of social protection. In his State of the Nation Address, President Ramaphosa emphasised the following with regard to job creation initiatives, “Government will continue to provide employment through the Expanded Public Works Programme, especially in labour-intensive areas like maintenance, clearing vegetation, plugging water leaks and constructing roads.”

Since the inception of the scholarship programme, the department has employed 1 112 social work bursary holders on a permanent basis out of 2 058 who completed

training, 1 111 interns were placed in different programmes and 8 500 job opportunities were created through 2 883 funded NPOs.

Since 2014 to date, 14 169 employment opportunities have been created through the Expanded Public Works Programme which benefitted women, youth and persons with disabilities through the Isibindi project; Early Childhood Development; the Victim Empowerment Programme; Community Nutrition Development Centres; disability centres; community-based care services for older persons and community-based services for children and youth. An additional 3 000 employment opportunities will be created in the 2019/20 financial year. The main target shall be youth from poorer households and young women in particular, as indicated in the State of the Nation Address.

With regard to child and care protection, the department has, in partnership with the Office of the Premier, conducted foster care evaluation in 2017 as part of the Provincial Evaluation Plan. The purpose of the evaluation was to assess whether the Foster Care Programme is leading towards achievement of sustained impacts to the general well-being of targeted beneficiaries.

The study findings state that, “A full ninety-eight per cent (98%) of surveyed children said that they like their foster families, suggesting a subjective positive experience of their home circumstances. Children are generally experiencing stability of care over an extended period of time, and are not moving from one home to another.” In terms of children’s health, the study also found that the majority of foster parents considered their children to be physically well when they first took over the responsibility of caring for them.

However, the evaluation concluded that institutional arrangements are not optimally supporting the effective and efficient implementation of foster care. Key challenges are the inability of institutional arrangements to resolve the challenges raised, and insufficient monitoring systems inclusive of case management. It was therefore recommended that the national Department of Social Development should take the evaluation findings into consideration in the current reform of the policy framework on foster care, with the Children’s Amendment Act being in the process of being submitted to Parliament for tabling.

Since 2014 to date, 14 814 children were placed in foster care and an additional 3 680 children will be placed in foster care in the 2019/20 financial year. In the past five years, 169 914 orphans and vulnerable children received psychosocial support services, while an additional 35 885 vulnerable children will be receiving services in 2019/20. The budget allocated for Child Protection Services is R196 million for the 2019/20 financial year.

Under poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods, the national Department of Social Development appointed an independent service provider to evaluate the effectiveness and impact concerning the implementation of the Household Food and Nutrition Security Programme. We are now happy to announce that stemming from the evaluation, Limpopo was hailed as the best province in terms of co-ordination and developmental initiatives.

The national Portfolio Committee on Social Development also commended Limpopo for a job well done in the fight against hunger and malnutrition amongst the most vulnerable households and food insecure citizens. The portfolio committee has urged the province to increase the number of Community Nutrition Development Centres (CNDCs) given the magnitude of poverty in the province. The National Food and Nutrition Security Policy identifies four pillars of food security in South Africa namely, adequate availability of food; accessibility of food; utilisation and quality of food; and stability of food supply.

During the State of the Nation Address, the President pronounced his determination that within the next decade, no person in South Africa shall go hungry and that it is fundamental to the efforts of eradicating poverty and reducing inequality.

To date, 730 436 people have benefitted from feeding programmes in the form of nutritiously cooked meals served in drop-in centres, Early Childhood Development Centres, Community Nutrition Development Centres, residential facilities for older persons and persons with disabilities. About 191 000 people are targeted to access food through DSD food security programmes for 2019/20, while 21 734 vulnerable households benefited from DSD food security programmes such as backyard gardens. The allocated budget for the coming financial year for funding of sustainable livelihood projects is R13,6 million.

With regard to youth development, the unemployment rate among young South Africans is more than 50%. Once again, in his State of the Nation Address, the President called this a national crisis that demands urgent, innovative and co-ordinated solutions. Since 2014 to date, 15 372 young people have participated in skills development programmes such as carpentry, hospitality, sewing, computer and entrepreneurship development programmes focusing mainly on business development and financial management.

To that effect, 9 800 young people are targeted for 2019/20, and 1 000 more employment opportunities are planned for 2019/20 targeting young people of 19 to 35 years of age in National Youth Service, youth in cooperatives, funded NPOs and SMMEs. An amount of R6 million has been budgeted for 2019/20 for youth mobilisation, provision of youth camps, district youth dialogues, entrepreneurship development workshops and other training programmes for the youth. An amount of R4,8 million will fund youth NPOs for the management of youth development programmes.

On women development, to date, 86 503 women have participated in empowerment programmes such as co-operative development support; entrepreneurship and capacity-building on governance; conflict management and fundraising. A further 22 000 will benefit in 2019/20 and an amount of R3,1 million has been set aside for this programme.

On services for older persons, Mahatma Gandhi once said, “The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members.” The Limpopo Older Persons Team participated in the National Golden Games from 21 to 27 October 2018 in Mangaung, Free State Province. About 200 older persons took part in 17 sporting codes including athletics, soccer and other sporting codes. The games also include a

non-competitive choir competition. Today we are very proud to pronounce that Team Limpopo scooped position one in the National Golden Games 2018. [APPLAUSE]

It remains a wonderful sight to observe senior citizens of an advanced age – even 80 year-olds – running the 100 metre sprint; and I would like to invite this august House to attend this year's Provincial Golden Games to experience age in action and support our golden boys and girls.

To date, 20 626 older persons accessed services in community-based care and support services and another 21 198 will access these services in 2019/20. We are very thankful for our municipalities, Office of the Premier and the Departments of Health; and Sport, Arts and Culture, for ensuring that the Active Aging Programme is alive and running smoothly in the province through a collective partnership in driving the activities and sharing of resources.

The department has been in partnership with the South African Defence Force since the 2018/19 financial year to upgrade the infrastructure of the Sekutupu Old Age Home in order for our older persons to live in a suitable environment.

The department will continue providing funding support to the eight old age homes in the province and 103 community-based service centres for older persons. The amount allocated for the programme in 2019/20 financial year is R32,9 million. In addition, the Older Persons Bill has already been approved by national Cabinet and is ready for tabling in Parliament. The review of the Act seeks to strengthen the protection of older persons from violence and abuse perpetrated against them.

With regard to services to persons with disability, 4 869 persons with disabilities accessed services in funded protective workshops to date and a further planned 4 812 will access these services in the 2019/20 financial year. A bilateral agreement with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for disability mainstreaming and empowerment of persons with disabilities successfully reached the following number of persons in the Vhembe District, Collins Chabane Municipality:

- Six hundred parents of children with disability were empowered through support groups;

- One hundred persons with disability were capacitated on disability equality and mainstreaming;

- One hundred and fifty persons with disability received peer counselling;

- Eleven officials including persons with disability received training on self-help groups in Japan; and

- Sixteen self-help groups have been established to empower persons with disability and promote mainstreaming.

Further to this, a total of R73,3 million has been budgeted for management of frail care and community-based care to persons with disability. The Policy Framework on Orphaned and Vulnerable Children provides for a common agenda for mounting an effective response towards addressing the challenges posed by the HIV/Aids

epidemic. It outlines key actions that must be taken urgently, including the prioritisation of support for orphans, vulnerable children and their families in the national policies, actions and plans.

In the past years, the department has provided 4 942 sets of school uniform to orphans and vulnerable children and 284 060 beneficiaries were reached through social behaviour change programmes and received psychosocial support services. In 2019/20, a planned 74 480 beneficiaries will be targeted. An amount of R13,8 million will be earmarked for NPOs providing services to people affected and infected by HIV/Aids and towards vulnerable families. An amount of R13,6 million has been set aside for the procurement of school uniform and other material needs for orphans and vulnerable children.

Under social relief of distress, since 2014 to date, 50 975 vulnerable people were provided with social relief of distress in the form of food parcels, blankets, clothing and paupers' burials, and provision is made for support of 14 072 during the 2019/20 financial year. The budget allocated for that purpose is R1,2 million.

In the past five years, 378 512 families participated in family preservation and parenting skills programmes, estranged members of families were reunited with their next of kin, and 54 200 families will benefit in 2019/20. The department is also funding 19 child protection organisations throughout the province, which are also providing accessible services to the most vulnerable communities. The budget allocated towards care and services to families is R19,5 million.

The department also actively participated in the launch of Provincial Men's Parliament which was held on 18 October 2018 at Lebowakgomo Legislature, where 500 men gathered to discuss issues that affect them. This was facilitated by the Office of the Premier.

Under child and youth care centres, from 2014 to date, 1 133 children in need of care and protection were placed in child and youth care centres. Provision is made for 944 in the 2019/20 financial year. An amount of R25,1 million allocated through Nawongo Court Judgement seeks to improve conditions of children in child and youth care centres. From the current financial year, funding for children in child and youth care centres increased from R2 500 to R4 000 per child per month. The funding will go a long way in professionalising services in these centres. The total budget allocated to the 17 child and youth care centres is R100,7 million for 2019/20 financial year.

Under Community-based Care Services for Children, the department will be expanding training of child and youth care workers so that they can be deployed in communities to strengthen child protection services to children in need of care. Since 2014 to date, 284 060 orphans and vulnerable children accessed services through the Isibindi and drop-in centres programmes and 63 290 will access these services in the 2019/20 financial year. An amount of R100 million has been set aside for community-based care services for children which will be transferred to NPOs rendering these services.

With regard to social crime prevention and support, during the State of the Nation Address, the President pronounced that: "Violence against women and children has reached epidemic proportions. Every day, South African women are faced with

discrimination, abuse, violence and even death, often by those they are closest to. Over the last year, we have started to address this scourge in a more serious and co-ordinated way."

He further committed that violent crime will be halved in the next 10 years. Since 2014 to date, 8 529 children in conflict with the law accessed diversion programmes for rehabilitation and a further 1 150 is planned for the 2019/20 financial year. The budget allocated to NPOs who are providing these services and to the two secure care centres Mavambe and Polokwane is R62,1 million.

Under victim empowerment, our province is experiencing a high rate of gender-based violence in many of our communities. The department is also working closely with other departments and stakeholders to strengthen awareness and support of victims of crime and violence. In the past five years, 73 005 victims of crime and violence accessed services provided by social workers in 75 Victim Empowerment Centres. The Victim Support Service Bill is ready for tabling in Cabinet and gazetting in the current financial year by the social sector. The Bill will regulate victim support programmes and allocation of dedicated practitioners to render victim support services. This will increase accessibility, protection and safety of victims.

Provision is made for the support of 14 040 victims in the 2019/20 financial year, and 74 Victim Empowerment Programme service centres will be funded for the prevention of domestic violence and victim empowerment programmes, counselling services and provision of shelter for abused women. An amount of R1 million is set aside for computer services under the Victim Empowerment Programme to implement an electronic case management system. The overall total budget allocated for the programme is R20,4 million.

Under substance abuse, prevention and rehabilitation, in his State of the Province Address, Hon Premier expressed the need to rid our communities of all forms of crime, drugs, gangsterism and violence against women and children. Since 2014 to date, 1 732 750 children under the age of 18 and persons aged 18 and above, were reached through substance abuse prevention programmes and service users accessed outpatient-based treatment services. About 393 952 service users will be provided with prevention programmes, treatment and rehabilitation in 2019/20.

Allow me to take this opportunity to report to this House that the long-awaited Seshego Treatment Centre was officially opened on 23 October 2018 and started with admissions in November 2018. So far, 47 service users have been admitted to the centre and 33 were discharged after being on rehabilitation programmes for three months.

Here is a good story to tell. Of the two service users admitted in December 2018, one is already back in school completing Grade 11 in Fetakgomo and the second one is currently managing a family business in Mankweng. [APPLAUSE] Up to so far no case of relapse has been reported to the centre amongst all cases discharged and a follow-up programme has started in July 2019, to visit all the discharged service users, to monitor the impact of after care services.

In partnership with the South African National Council on Alcoholism (Sanca), 707 users were provided with outpatient treatment services. An amount of R19 million has

been set aside for management and the smooth operation of the Seshego Treatment Centre.

I take this opportunity to thank all the staff and management of the centre and the Seshego Hospital, through the efforts and dedication of Dr Hopane, who helped make it possible for the province to operate its first government-run treatment centre. Dr Hopane, you can take a bow. [APPLAUSE] Thank you, Dr Hopane. Your dedication does not go unnoticed.

We urge all families and youth of the province to utilise the services of the treatment centre and to ensure that they support and provide care to their loved ones after discharge from the rehabilitation programme.

With regard to community-based research and planning, I wish to report that during the provincial commemoration of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty in Botshabelo village, Maruleng Municipality in October 2018, 12 profiled households were provided with gardening tools and water tanks for the purpose of establishing backyard vegetable gardens for food, nutrition security and sustainable livelihoods.

Since 2014 to date, 131 193 vulnerable households were profiled to determine the nature of interventions to be provided and 116 783 people were mobilised. The department aims to profile 20 000 households for 2019/20, with the aim of addressing poverty and food insecurity and ensuring active participation of community stakeholders. The department will intensify community mobilisation dialogues, community-based planning and stakeholder engagement and R1 million has been set aside for this purpose for the 2019/20 financial year.

With regard to institutional capacity-building and support for NPOs, government alone cannot address all the social ills that are pervading and ravaging our society. It is important for the department to ensure the involvement and participation of all sectors if it is to achieve its constitutional and legislative mandate.

The Department of Social Development is therefore rendering social services in partnership with civil society organisations in order to realise its vision of creating a caring and self-reliant society. To that effect, the department supports NPOs which render social services to the poor and vulnerable groups, especially children, youth, older persons, people with disability, women, victims of violence and abuse, persons affected by substance abuse and those infected and affected by HIV/Aids.

It is within this context that the department, in collaboration with the Office of the Premier, recently convened a provincial social sector dialogue which was attended by more than 400 community service organisations. The dialogue served as a build up to the National Social Sector Summit to be held during the second quarter of the financial year.

Our agency, the National Development Agency (NDA) has made great strides in capacitating, training community groups and individuals and about 2 500 non-profit organisations and co-operatives were trained in good governance, financial management, and conflict resolution and resource mobilisation. Two hundred (200) ECD practitioners were trained on NQF level 4 and 5. About 3 000 civil society organisations were formalised through community engagements and a further 60

women and traditional leaders were trained on governance and financial management in support of the role played by traditional leadership. To extend these services, R3 million has been allocated to the NDA for training purposes for this financial year.

The department is implementing the Population Policy for South Africa which needs us to avail credible data for planning and population interventions. We are currently confronted by population concerns on issues such as age structure change – that is older men and women engaging in sexual activities with younger men and women – gender equity, migration and sexual reproductive health and rights. The department has also recently conducted research projects that established gender identity and sexual orientation of Limpopo's LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) community. Results show that we continue to discriminate against persons based on their gender or sexual orientation.

We also evaluated the Isibindi programme that emulates and reinstates the family set-up of children and youths. Results informed us that the Isibindi programme is the solution to preserving the family structure, provided we intervene together in an integrated way. In the 2019/20 financial year, the final evaluation on value for money in the implementation of the Isibindi programme will inform future planning and decision-making related to this programme. An amount of R4,8 million has been allocated for the total Population Development Programme for the 2019/20 financial year.

On infrastructure projects, we can report that in partnership with the national Department of Social Development and German KFW Bank, the Ndindani and Bonn Centres for orphans, vulnerable children and youth were completed and officially opened. Elandsdoorn, Tauyatswala and Mamvuka Centres for orphans, vulnerable children and youth are still under construction and will be completed during the 2019/20 financial year.

To attract and retain our social workers and community development practitioners who work in deep rural areas, the department is committed to provide office accommodation for these employees and bring services closer to the people. With this in mind, the following projects have been completed and officially opened in May 2019: Mankweng offices in Capricorn District and Gawula in Mopani District. The Mookgophong offices in Waterberg will be completed in September 2019 and Saselemani in Vhembe District will be completed in March 2020. An additional five office accommodation projects will commence in October 2019 in Dzumeri in Mopani, Tshilwavhusiku in Vhembe, Bela-Bela in Waterberg District and two projects in Sekhukhune, namely Moutse and Mecklenburg. An amount of R42 million has been set aside in the 2019/20 financial year for these projects. An amount of R6 million has been centralised for procurement of tools of trade such as vehicles, laptops and Wi-Fi connectivity to identified service points in an attempt to improve service delivery particularly in rural areas.

In summation, the 2019/20 Budget of the Department of Social Development is allocated, I will not go through it, and you will see it through the documents that will be distributed. The total budget allocation for Vote 12 is R2,181,129 billion.

As I conclude, let me take this opportunity to thank all the stakeholders of the department who are available at all times to join hands with us in our quest to deliver

quality services and better the lives of our people. This is precisely what Nelson Mandela expects of us – to never forsake our people. The department would like to appreciate the work of the portfolio committee that served in the Fifth Administration. You have been there for the department in good times and hard times. Your wise and critical counsel has strengthened the department and we welcome the portfolio committee that will be working with the department in this Sixth Administration in their oversight responsibilities. Together we can do a lot more in the department.

Furthermore, we appreciate the leadership provided by the Head of Department, the senior management and indeed, the entire staff complement. Let us soldier on and make a success of the coming five years as we help to create a caring and prosperous society. To the Premier, we remain resolute and determined to carry our responsibilities without any excuses and we accordingly appreciate and thank you for expressing your confidence in me to take this department forward in terms of its mandate.

To my predecessor former MEC, Hon Mokaba-Phukwana, please be assured that we will take this department to new levels of success, because of the solid foundation that you have laid. I appreciate you for the work that you have done in the department. Much appreciated and well done comrade!

I would like to also take this opportunity to heartily and mightily thank my family led by my mother, my pillar of strength, in everything that I do and my spiritual parents whose guidance and support is unwavering. Let our Living God richly bless you in all your spiritual endeavours as you continue to reach out to many souls. Yours is a perfect calling.

Magoši a ka ao a lego gona mo – Kgošigadi Sekgopo le Kgoši Sekororo – Monareng, kgomo ya makhutšo kgodim'a lerule – ke re ke ngwana wa lena.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I hereby table the 2019/20 Budget for the Limpopo Department of Social Development. God bless you. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Rakgoale. The Budget and the APP of the Department of Social Development shall be referred to the Portfolio Committee on Social Development for consideration and report back to the House.

I must assure Hon Phala that there was no intention to reshuffle. It was an honest mistake. As we proceed, we will call upon Hon Tandi Moraka, the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

BUDGET SPEECH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE
(Address by Ms T A Moraka, MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture)

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker; Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha in absentia; Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Hon Essop Mokgonyana; the Members of this august House; the chairperson of the portfolio committee, Hon Caroline Mahasela;

the Acting HOD, Mr Daddy Phukhuntsi; senior management from the department who are here today; the representative of the National Heritage Resource Council, Mr Puleng Tsebe, who is also here with us today; the Limpopo Sport Confederation, led today by President Muneri and his collective; the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders; the representatives of magoši le mantona a rena ao a lego gona mamohla; our artists and athletes who are here with us today; members of the media; esteemed guests, comrades and compatriots, ladies and gentlemen; aa! Thobela. Avuxeni. Lotjhani. Good day. Goeie dag.

We had arranged with Tinti Kgamana from GaMphahlele, Mashite, Maake village to come and render a poem before the delivery of this budget vote, but because we are guided by the rules that it is only the Hon Premier who is privileged to have a praise singer, we are going to allow Tinti Kgamana to perform a rendition of a poem to our guests later on during lunch-time.

We are alive to the national key priority areas of the Sixth Administration as the strategic framework that will guide our daily work as the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in Limpopo. These key priority areas are well-captured by the State President, His Excellency, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, in his State of the Nation Address and further elaborated on by the Premier of the province, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, in his speech when he was opening the Legislature early this month. We have put our focus on key priority areas as the department as follows: social cohesion and safe communities, nation-building, economic transformation, job creation and a better Africa and the world.

Today, we are presenting this Budget Speech a week after we have laid to rest a stalwart of our liberation movement, the African National Congress, Cde Isaac Maphoto. ‘Bra Ike’ as he was commonly known was a chairperson of Limpopo Heritage Resources Authority (LIHRA) and served in this committee from 2015 to 2018. Cde Ike Maphoto led the team in the erection of monuments in honour of Cde Sefako Makgatho, Kgoši Mampuru and Cde Josias Madzunya. These are the programmes that LIHRA and the department will continue to pursue, thereby walking in Bra Ike’s footsteps. In this financial year, we are going to start with the process of renaming Polokwane International Airport to “Ike Maphoto International Airport” in honour of his contribution to the liberation struggle for the people of Limpopo and South Africa as a whole. [APPLAUSE]

The Budget Speech is taking place in the month of July where we are commemorating and celebrating the life and times of our global icon uTata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. The United Nations has declared 18 of July the International Nelson Mandela Day under the theme: Change the world, take action. We want to urge our people and Members of this august House and say to them, let us all make everyday a Mandela Day.

The South African National Netball Team reached the semi-finals of the Vitality Netball World Cup for the first time since 1995. Our girls were up against the defending champions, the Australian Diamonds that has made the SA Spar Proteas to be in position 4. Indeed, the spirit of Mandela was with our girls as and when they participated in that world cup. [APPLAUSE] Let me take this opportunity and congratulate Karla Pretorius who is a goal defender for the team who was voted Player of the 2019 Netball World Cup. Similarly, I again take the opportunity and congratulate

Polokwane-born Lenize Potgieter and Khanyisa Chawane from Tzaneen who both represented the province in the national team of South Africa in the Spar Proteas. The performance of the team gives us hope as a province of Limpopo and South Africa as a country that indeed, South Africa will be ready to host the 2023 Netball World Cup in the province of Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, please allow me to begin tabling the Budget Vote 13 of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in Limpopo. I will begin by first by focusing on Programme 1: Administration. The objective of the programme is to conduct the overall management and administrative support to the department. Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality and Sports Sector Education and Training Authority (Cathsseta) and Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (Pseta) has granted the department a total of R2,6 million which will go towards the recruitment and training of sport co-ordinators in our local municipalities throughout the province of Limpopo. [APPLAUSE]

The organisational structure is currently under review and the department has been operating without a complete structure. Key strategic positions have not been filled which affects service delivery and also destabilises the core functions of the department.

The position of Head of Department is currently vacant, but we are liaising with the Office of the Premier in making sure that an appointment is made and at the same time we are also working tirelessly with Provincial Treasury in making sure that all strategic positions are filled without failure. I hope “Hon Moreki” will respond accordingly. In the process of recruitment that the department will be embarking on, priority is going to be given to youth, women and people living with disability, with the intention of addressing equity issues as they are stipulated in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. The detailed budget for the Administration programme will be attached to the copies that will be distributed later on.

The objective Programme 2: Cultural Affairs, under arts and culture, is to promote culture, conserve and manage the cultural, historical assets and resources of the province by rendering various services.

Our province, Limpopo, is the gateway to Africa, whereby it borders three countries within the SADC region, and they are Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. It is of paramount importance for us as a province to embark on cultural exchange programmes with these three neighbouring countries with the sole intention of ensuring that we are joining hands in the fight against xenophobic tendencies within communities of the province of Limpopo.

Limpopo is unique, because of its cultural diversity found only in the province of Limpopo. In the province, we have Bapedi ba GaSekhukhune, Mandebele a GaKekana, Batswana ba GaSeleka, Vatsonga, Vhavenḓa vha Ha-Ramabulana and Balobedu ba GaModjadji.

Culture and its heritage reflects and shapes values, beliefs and aspirations, thereby defining people’s national identity. It is important to preserve our cultural heritage, because it keeps our integrity as people. I will borrow words from Mahatma Gandhi who once said, “A nation’s culture resides in the heart and in the soul of its people.”

Limpopo has recently dominated the international space when it comes to the issue of entertainment. Just last month we observed one of our own, Sho Madjozi, a 27-year old girl from Shirley village, Vhembe District, who became the first black female African artist to win a BET Award. [APPLAUSE] We have invited the family of Sho Madjozi, and I am told that her aunt is here. Can she please take a bow. Okay, they are not yet here. Similarly, other artists from the province continue to represent the country abroad with their music and talent. We are proud of artists like King Monada, Master KG, Makhadzi, and other artists in the province of Limpopo, who continue to make the province of Limpopo shine both nationally and in the international space.

The Ndlovu Youth Choir from Moutse, Groblersdal, in the Sekhukhune District, has made everyone proud by going through to the next round of 'America's Got Talent Show'. The choir is one of the seven acts to have made it to the live show of the competition. In appreciating what the Ndlovu Youth Choir has achieved, the department will build an arts centre in the area of Moutse, Groblersdal under Kgoši Mathebe Tribal Authority. [APPLAUSE]

We are hereby introducing the 'Limpopo's Got Talent Show' that is going to be broadcasted on SABC channels. The aim of the show is to unearth talent, give the necessary support and exposure to young and emerging artists, so that they are able to thrive and prosper in their careers.

The department will continue to host the Mapungubwe Arts Festival as a way of preserving cultural heritage for the people of Limpopo. We are pleased to report to this honourable House and the people of Limpopo as a whole that the 2018 Mapungubwe Arts Festival was a success and for the first time in the history of the festival all the tickets were sold out and we managed to fill up Polokwane Cricket Grounds. Please clap hands for yourselves. [APPLAUSE] The aim of the department is to grow the brand Mapungubwe even beyond the borders of South Africa, so that it can help to grow the economy of this province.

This shows that the people of this province understand the importance and the significance of the festival itself, and from now on we can only improve by bringing in new innovations and different aspects to the event itself. In the year 2018/19 the department set aside R10 million to implement this year's Mapungubwe Arts Festival and priority will be given to our local artists, and other artists beyond the borders of South Africa who have a potential to help us grow this festival.

Provinces get financial allocations from the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to market themselves in the arts and culture sector. Through that allocation from the Ministry we will make sure that we collaborate with the following programmes: Limpopo Music Awards, that takes place annually; Phalaphala FM Royal Heritage Festival that takes place annually; Marula Festival that takes place annually; Phalaphala FM Traditional Dance Competition, that takes place in the Vhembe District; Ndlovu Youth Choir, when they get back we are going to collaborate with them on a choral music competition in all our five districts. The intention of the department is to make sure that we help these initiatives to grow and be self-sustainable.

On the provincial theatre, Limpopo is the only province that does not have a provincial theatre in the whole country of South Africa. The patience of our artists has worn thin and it is a cause for concern for us as the department. Having realised that, we liaised

with the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to fast track the building of a provincial theatre, and are pleased to report to this august House that already processes are underway to start with the feasibility study for the building of the theatre of Limpopo. [APPLAUSE]

The national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture under the able leadership of Minister Nathi Mthethwa has already transferred R10 million to the province to help achieve this mandate. We are quite certain that the actual construction of the provincial theatre is going to start in the next financial year at Bakone Malapa, the land earmarked for the building of this provincial theatre. [APPLAUSE]

Statistics reveal that there is a high usage of drugs and substance abuse by learners in our public schools. The province is, however, worried about this phenomenon. The department is supporting a play called 'Your Choice', which is being produced, written, and performed by young people of this province. The play itself is an initiative of 'The African Blend Arts Academy' and is important to our province, because it is addressing issues of school bullying, alcohol, drugs and substance abuse. The department is working with the group in making sure that the play is performed in all our public schools within the province of Limpopo, in order to curb these social ills that are affecting our young people. We have also made a commitment as a department to support similar projects like these ones within the province of Limpopo.

On social cohesion and creative industry strategy, the department is at the final stage of the development of social cohesion and creative industry strategies. The strategies are oriented towards us as a province realising outcome 14 of the National Development Plan (NDP) that talks to issues of social cohesion and nation-building.

The strategies will help grow the creative industry sector in the province, boost the economy by creating decent jobs for our young people and promote our diverse cultures that we only find in the province of Limpopo, given our relationship with the BRICS – I can then elaborate and explain what BRICS means – it stands for Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – a country we have entered into. As the South African creative arts industry, we are going to partner with these BRICS countries in making sure that we create a platform for our artists to showcase their craft work even in those BRICS countries. It is high time that our Limpopo artists should take advantage of this BRICS initiative and use it to their advantage.

On the film industry, this industry has got the potential to help the province of Limpopo to alleviate the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment amongst our people. As the department we will continue to support film makers in the province of Limpopo, and we also welcome and appreciate those who have seen the need to put together a Xitsonga drama called 'Giyani – Land of Blood' currently being aired on SABC 2. This is a step in the right direction, because we want Limpopo stories to be shown on our national television.

On the Limpopo Merit Awards and After School Programme, we have made a commitment to support the "After School Programme" which is an initiative from Joyce Majoy Ledwaba, an actress from "Skeem Sam" who is here with us today. Majoy, can you please stand up? [APPLAUSE] The project was initiated in 2017 and its aim is to keep our young people away from the streets and social ills that we find among our various communities. This project is also receiving support from the national

Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, for it to advance its programme in teaching learners about music, acting and dancing activities which is our core mandate as the department. The good thing about this project is that it takes place after school hours and has so far supported six schools in Waterberg District. The department is making a commitment to this honourable House that we are going to partner with Majoy to ensure that this initiative is implemented in all our five districts.

On Museums and Heritage, the department has a mandate of helping the Heritage Resource Council for heritage resource management in Limpopo province in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999). We have, in line with this Act, procured 76 flagpoles and flags which will be installed at our libraries in this financial year. The aim is to instil elements of patriotism amongst our people and celebrate our national symbols.

The department hosted the Kuluma Vukanyi event at Muti wa Vatsonga Museum and the event was supported by traditional leaders and traditional healers, who graced the occasion with the intention to share indigenous knowledge and practices with our people.

We managed to upgrade Dzata and Muti wa Vatsonga museums in the financial year 2018/19 and furthermore, the department has set aside an amount of R36 million to develop new infrastructure at Schoemansdal and D'Nyala Museums in this financial year. Those who do not know the history of D'Nyala, it is place where Nelson Mandela and FW De Klerk met for peace negotiations.

There are also plans to develop the Resistance and Liberation Heritage Route in our province. This project is going to help us to celebrate and honour those heroes and heroines of our liberation struggle who have fought against the brutal apartheid regime. The department is planning to build a garden of remembrance in Polokwane, with the intention of preserving our history for generations to come. In that garden of remembrance, we are going to start by erecting statues of Mark Shope and Sefako Mapogo Makgatho. The department has put aside R1,5 million for this project to kickstart.

The department has made a commitment to support two statutory bodies attached to Museums and Heritage Services in the province and those are Limpopo Heritage Resources Agency (LIHRA) and Limpopo Provincial Geographic Names Committee. As such an amount of R1,5 million has been budgeted for this exercise with R1 million allocated for LIHRA while R500 000 will go to Limpopo Provincial Geographic Names Committee. A benchmark exercise is currently underway with our sister departments in KwaZulu-Natal and North-West provinces. The benchmark aims at finding an ideal model to manage the statutory bodies by the department.

The department has partnered with the National Heritage Council on heritage education and advocacy project. The project propelled the establishment of a National School Heritage Competition. The department identifies few schools across all districts for this provincial competition, and the winner is sent to participate nationally. Kha vha ntendele, ndi fhululedze George Mbulaheni Secondary School from Tshirolwe village in Vhembe District for winning the previous edition of the competition.

Over the past few years, both Office of the Premier and the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture were overwhelmed with the number of requests and inquiries on the programme of developing and encouraging our young people to read and write. To this end, the Premier has directed that the department should resuscitate the Literary Awards Competition. Today we are pleased to announce that indeed the Literary Awards Competition is back by popular demand. [APPLAUSE]

As we celebrate the International Year of our Indigenous Languages, we would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone present here today that our languages are carriers of our heritage and culture. As we proudly display our diverse cultural heritage, we should not be shy to express ourselves in our own mother tongues. Ka moya wa botho le Seafrika re swanetše go ithuta go bolela ka maleme a gaborena gore re tle re tsebe mo re tšwago le mo re yago re le Maafrika.

Our province produced great writers in the past like Prof Es'kia Mphahlele, Dr T N Maumela and others. We cannot afford to let our languages die in our lifetime. If that happens, we will not have anyone to blame but ourselves. The department will embark on a process of producing other prominent writers who will help us to write our stories in our indigenous languages.

Let me move to Programme 3: Library and Information Services. The main aim of the programme is to assist local authorities in rendering of public library services and provision of an archive service in the province. There is a narrative in our society that seeks to suggest that if you want to hide information from our people you must put it in writing. We appreciate the fact that knowledge is power, and we need to embark on a programme that will help us as a province to inculcate the culture of reading and learning amongst our people. Hon Raphela, can you please clap hands for that? [APPLAUSE] A total amount of R144 million in the form of a conditional grant has been set aside for Library and Information Services. The grant's goal is to enable the South African society to gain access to knowledge and information that will transform their socioeconomic status.

In the last financial year, we completed the construction of three libraries and those are Maphalle Library, Zamani Library and Mahlabathini Library This current financial year the department is building state-of-the-art libraries in the following villages: Runnymede in Mopani, Mavalani also in Mopani – this is the village where MEC for CoGHSTA comes from, Dumela village in Vuwani and Seleteng village is here in Lebowakgomo area. As we speak the actual construction work in these four libraries has already commenced. Indeed, the communities of Runnymede, Mavalani, Dumela and Seleteng will never be the same again when the construction of these libraries is completed. The department has in this financial year set aside an amount of R90 million for the building of these state-of-the-art libraries. However, the department has realised the delay in the building process, because of lack of capacity by our implementing agent, the IDT. We have since realised that the patience of our people on the ground cannot be ignored because of these delays. In this financial year, the department will embark on a process to build in-house capacity within its infrastructure management unit for us to expedite the process of building and maintaining our infrastructure projects.

We are also going to maintain eight existing libraries in Lebowakgomo, Modimolle, Jane Furse, Northam, Vaalwater, Thulamela, Nzhelele and Fetakgomo areas. The

department will also upgrade two existing libraries in Sekhukhune and Haenertsburg, in Mopani area. We are moving towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and a total number of 40 libraries will be equipped with modern ICT infrastructure such as networking and cabling and a total amount of R5,5 million has been set aside for this exercise. Furthermore, the department will spend an amount of R3 million to buy ICT equipment like computers for our eighteen libraries in the province. The department is providing free internet services to 90 libraries for communities at an amount of R15 million. Library materials to the value of R14 million will be procured and distributed to all our public libraries. At the same time, 126 employee contracts will be maintained, and 19 new personnel appointed, which will cost the department an amount of R47 million.

On Provincial Archives and Records Services, we also continue to preserve the provincial heritage through Oral History Project, which aims at amplifying silent voices of our unsung heroes and heroines of our liberation struggle. This will bring aspects of Africanism amongst our rural and disadvantaged communities. We have since appointed an advisory archival council, composed of men and women who are qualified professionals in this field of archive services to help us expedite archival services to our various communities in the province.

Let me proceed to Programme 4, which is Sport and Recreation. The main aim of this programme is to provide assistance to provincial sport associations and other relevant bodies to stimulate the development of sport and recreational services on the ground.

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture is advocating for our people to participate massively in sport and recreation programmes, so that we can achieve our mandate of building a healthy and a winning nation. The department has realised that there are challenges of lack of sport and recreational facilities in this province of Limpopo because it is rural. We are, however, working closely with the Limpopo Sport Confederation, the Limpopo Sport Academy, the South African Local Government Association and our municipalities to make sure that we address this challenge of lack of sport infrastructure in our province.

In the past three years, capacity-building programmes in the areas of coaching, refereeing, technical officiating, and umpiring were offered to 4 000 officials and 1 500 officials will be trained in this financial year. The department will once more offer training to 1 300 people at a budget of R1,5 million in the prioritised federations to increase the bar of skills development in the sport sector. These capacity-building programmes in sport development will be implemented in consultation with the Limpopo Coaching Commission, an associate of the Limpopo Sport Confederation.

There is a need for us to devote the resources we are having towards the process of developing athletes at grassroots level who will represent the province of Limpopo going forward. The department will in this financial year bring back the OR Tambo Games which will be implemented jointly with our various municipalities with the sole intention of unearthing talent in our various communities.

The following Limpopo provincial teams are participating in the national league initiated by the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and the national federations such as Limpopo Netball Baobabs Team, Limpopo Pride Basketball Team,

Limpopo Boxing Provincial Team, Limpopo Mapungubwe Volleyball Team, Limpopo Softball Team, which we call Dinare.

To align further with the National Sport and Recreation Plan, the department will support Limpopo teams that will participate in the planned national leagues of softball, and women football leagues through the club development programmes. We are pleased to announce that Limpopo is now regarded as the home of softball by our national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. Can we please clap hands for that? [APPLAUSE] We are also happy to announce that the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture has transferred a total amount of R20 million to Polokwane Municipality to start with the construction of the state-of-the-art softball facility that will be used for Softball Premier League in the near future.

In recognition of high performance in sport, the province recognised the consistent performance of our own Mokgadi Caster Semenya both locally and abroad and Ria Ledwaba for her immense contribution to women football in the country. We are also recognising the Limpopo Softball Association for being the best Federation of the Year and for its contribution in the international arena. We are pleased further to recognise our own Kgothatso Montjane for representing the Disability Sport Sector in Wheelchair Tennis.

The province also recognised the administrators in sport who were elected to positions of leadership at the national level such as Cecilia Molokwane as the President of Netball South Africa, and Mashilo Matsetela as the National President of Softball South Africa. All these men and women originate from the province of Limpopo. The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture will continue to host the Annual Sport Awards and a total of R800 000 has been budgeted so that we can continue to award and recognise excellence in sport.

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture will in this financial year enter into a memorandum of agreement with Mr Tom Sidibe who has initiated an ultra-marathon “Run for Cancer” that is a qualifier to the Comrades Marathon with the intention of helping the brand to grow.

Let me take this opportunity and appreciate our three teams that are currently playing in the Premier Soccer League which are Black Leopards FC, Baroka FC and Polokwane City FC. We also acknowledge the efforts made by our National First Division side, Tshakhuma Tsha Madzivhandila FC, who reached the PSL Promotional Playoffs in the last season. There is a need for us as a province to be patriotic to our teams with the intention of growing their fan base. As the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, part and parcel our mandate is to focus our resources towards the development of our emerging teams. In this financial year we are going to sign a memorandum of understanding with our three professional teams with the intention of making sure that they maintain their PSL status.

We are also liaising with relevant stakeholders like Limpopo Economic Development and Tourism under the abled leadership of the MEC, Hon Mokone, to make sure that we support our emerging teams. As the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, we are going to support Tshakhuma Tsha Madzivhandila with an amount of R500 000 to enable them to gain promotion to the PSL. [APPLAUSE]

Allow me to congratulate Baroka FC for winning the Telkom Knockout Cup last season. Indeed, they have made history in the football fraternity and we want to urge them to continue keeping that cup in the province. We are working together with Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality and other stakeholders to make sure that we upgrade the Ngwanamohube Sports Ground to meet the PSL standard so that Baroka FC can start playing their matches in their home ground. [APPLAUSE] This will go a long way in growing the fan base of the team, and contribute to the local economy of GaMphahlele. Re a le lebogiša Baroka ba meetse a pula.

We are going to visit all the three PSL teams and Tshakhuma Tsha Madzivhandila FC in the NFD in the near future and are also planning to visit the First Touch Ladies FC, which will represent Limpopo province in the newly formed Women's Premier League. We do so in order to encourage and give them support for the coming 2019/20 season.

Sport development commences in the remote and rural areas of the province. The Rural Sport Development Programme under the guidance of the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders was at its second edition in 2018. The programme covers sporting codes such as athletics, rugby, netball and football to unearth raw talent of sport in rural areas of the province. The programme is piloted in the following traditional authorities which have been identified in consultation with the House of Traditional Leaders: Bakone Tribal Authority – (Waterberg District), Mabunda Traditional Authority – (Mopani District), Gidjana Traditional Authority – (Vhembe District), Moletji-Moshate Tribal Authority (Capricorn District), and GaSeopela Tribal Authority – (Sekhukhune District). The department has allocated an amount of R2,8 million that will maintain and support 200 rural sport development clubs through league participation and sport equipment. Furthermore, the province has allocated a total amount of R2,6 million to support 300 clubs in prioritised federations with sport equipment and attire.

Allow me to also congratulate Vakhegula Vakhegula for beating France 10-0 in the recently held Women's World Cup competition in France. Let me take this opportunity to appreciate the work done by Ms Bheka Ntsan'wisi who saw the need to keep our elderly citizens actively participating in sport. [APPLAUSE]

On disability sport, amidst the minimal funding of the sport sector in the province of Limpopo, the department managed to implement Intellectually Impaired Sport Tournament in three codes namely, volleyball, football and netball. The department has also managed to implement the Provincial Deaf Sport Tournament in football and netball; Wheelchair Tennis Provincial Tournament; Goal Ball and the Physically Disabled Sport Tournament. The province will sustain the Disability Sport Programmes in the financial year 2019/20 and we have allocated a budget of R700 000 to that programme. Indeed, we must always say, nothing about us without us. We are also proud of our wheelchair tennis player Kgothatso Montjane, who made history by becoming the first black African woman to reach the semi-finals of Wimbledon Grand Slam Tournament. [APPLAUSE] Plans are in motion to make her an ambassador of tennis in the province of Limpopo.

Limpopo will still be hosting the National Indigenous Games in 2019/20 for the fifth year in a row and the games will be hosted at Seshego Stadium under Polokwane Municipality, Capricorn District. This will contribute massively to the hospitality and job creation industry in that district. The aim of the games is to encourage our people to

go back to basics in terms of appreciating their own African culture and identity. A total of 28 indigenous clubs from all local and district municipalities will be supported and sustained to build teams that will play at the provincial and national level. An amount of R1,4 million has been set aside to support these clubs.

On Schools Sport, the National Sport and Recreation Plan emphasised that the promotion of sport and physical education at schools plays an important role in creating motivation for, and a commitment to life-long participation of our athletes. Evidence exists that sport and physical activity can benefit education.

Amidst the challenges of minimum funding in the sector, in the year 2018/19 the sector ensured that almost 200 000 learners from the age of 9-19 participated in the School Sport Programme in 19 sporting codes. However, Hon Speaker, we are concerned about the nonparticipation of our former Model C schools in this programme. We are committed to the process of building a South Africa that is non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous. There is a need for us to collaborate with the Department of Basic Education in Limpopo with the intention of outlining and understanding the roles and responsibilities of these two departments.

Efforts are already at an advanced stage to finalise and sign off the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and the Department of Basic Education so that this programme of schools sport can start being implemented in all our public schools. An allocation of R1,3 million has been set aside in this financial year to train 950 educators to ensure that the learners in schools are competitive and participate in national and international competitions.

Limpopo Sport Confederation is also an enabling agency in delivering sport programmes where government is unable to reach. The confederation assists in ensuring that federations as custodians of sporting codes function effectively and efficiently to deliver growth in all our sporting codes in the province. The Limpopo Sport Confederation will be supported with an allocation of R1,8 million to render sport services to various communities alongside federations.

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity and appreciate the wisdom of the Premier, Hon Stanley Mathabatha, who has seen the need to bestow on me the responsibility of implementing the mandate of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. Let me also appreciate the support given to me by the officials in the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in their various capacities. We also appreciate the support from colleagues in the Legislature, the chairperson of our portfolio committee, Hon Caroline Mahasela, and other members of the committee. I conclude by borrowing words from Amilcar Cabral, who said: “Hide nothing from the masses of our people. Tell no lies. Expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, and failures. Claim no easy victories.”

We understand the milestones we have set for ourselves as the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. We also comprehend the prevailing material and immaterial conditions that we find ourselves in on the ground. However, we remain resolute that the resources appropriated to us will be utilised to achieve the set goals and objectives of our department in this financial year.

Allow me to present Budget Vote 13 of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to this august House and indicate that copies will be circulated to honourable Members. We are going to ensure that we work together with our honourable Members in the process of growing Limpopo. I thank you. Ndza khensa. Ro livhuwa. Ke a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much for the Budget Speech and the APP will be referred to the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture for consideration and report back to the House. I think the House must commend Hon Raphela and Seshoka for holding the fort for the opposition. [LAUGHTER]

Are there any announcements? Where is the Chief Whip?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, Hon Deputy Speaker. I am here to announce that all the committees of this honourable House must seriously and earnestly interrogate all the budget speeches and their APPs and report back to the House timeously in order to finalise the budgetary process and this must be done on 23 August 2019. Of course, from 29 July to 16 August, this period is dedicated to all committees to round off the budgetary process.

I have not received any notice regarding lunch. I think one department can inform us if there is any. Thanks very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Lunch will be served at the basement. I am told the Department of Social Development is hosting that lunch.

The House is adjourned to Tuesday, 20 August 2019 at 14:15 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE
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VERBATIM REPORT

OF THE

DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH PARLIAMENT

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

TUESDAY, 20 AUGUST 2019

It's your voice, use it!

VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 20 AUGUST 2019
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 14:15

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES [PRESIDING]

We may now have a moment for silent prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

[MOTIONS, MEMBERS' STATEMENTS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS WERE NOT RECORDED BY THE SYSTEM]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Second Reading Debate: Approval of Votes and Schedule of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2019 [B01-2019]. We are on item 7.1.1: Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Oversight Mechanism on the 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature, Vote 2. I now call upon the committee chairperson.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Oversight Mechanism, I hereby table the committee report on the 2019/20 APP and the Budget of the Limpopo Legislature. I move accordingly. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much, committee chairperson. I shall now call upon Hon Radzilani to open the debate.

MS RADZILANI

[BEGINNING OF RECORDINGS] it is a well-known fact that some offices in this Legislature are in an undesirable state. Hon Speaker, we want to assure you that as the committee we will regularly monitor the performance of the Limpopo Legislature and ensure through performance reporting that all targets set for this financial year are met.

We hereby recommend that the Parliamentary Services Programme should be equipped particularly with machinery and equipment which will enhance the smooth running of committee work. Progress should also be provided on the review of section 51 of the FMPPLA and that the Legislature should provide an update on the filling of posts, including content and legal advisors attached to committees. The target set on the publication of events hosted by the Legislature should be reconfigured and become inclusive. The e-learning system employed by Parliament should be modelled in order to catch up with the green economy and the Fourth Industrial Revolution concept and also that the Legislature should be exemplary on matters of clean audit

and progress should be provided on all issues raised by the AG for the attention of this Legislature. Political parties should timeously submit their annual financial statements to allow for prompt transfer of funds by the Legislature. Progress should also be provided on how the Legislature is faring when it comes to the implementation and tracking of House resolutions. Finally, Hon Speaker, details pertaining to outstanding contingency liabilities in the Legislature and progress report should be regularly provided to the committee.

Hon Speaker, ours is to provide oversight and nothing else. It is the duty of this House to implement. The Legislature must lead by example and show all other departments in the province what needs to be done. I'm certain Hon Speaker that the leadership of this House has the capabilities and means to make an impressionable difference to this proud institution that is at the heartbeat of our people.

With these words, Hon Speaker, I want to thank honourable Members of this august House for affording me the opportunity. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. You were strictly on time. I will now call upon Hon Mohlala.

BACKGROUND

Malibongwe! [LAUGHTER]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable Members, can we be disciplined?

MR MOHLALA

Greetings Hon Speaker and greetings to honourable Members. I stand here on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters. Hon Speaker, the EFF rejects this Budget allocation of R375,8 million for the Limpopo Provincial Legislature because it is not radical in addressing the backlog of challenges that our people are faced with daily.

The allocated Budget to this important institution does not inspire confidence at all because a thorough consideration was not made to the needs of the people. It is clear that the mandate of this institution is being undermined and reduced to just one of those institutions … [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable Member, can you just pause a little bit. I recognise Hon Moraka.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Chair, I'm just rising as a worried Member of this honourable House that the rejection of the Budget of the provincial Legislature has implications to the honourable Member

himself to such an extent that he can spend a month without a salary. Is he aware of those consequences of rejecting this Budget?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. Honourable Mohlala, can you proceed.

MR MOHLALA

Of the total Budget allocated, only R148,4 million was allocated to Facilities for Members and Political Parties. Political parties have an important role to play in society through constituency work and making sure that our democracy is being strengthened. They need money in order to keep afloat; in order to continue playing a meaningful role in society. A meagre budget allocation implies that the role of political parties in society is being downplayed. The Legislature must also make sure that FMPPLA is effectively and fully implemented.

Hon Speaker, we need to take this opportunity to express our displeasure in the manner in which the new SAGE payroll is being implemented by the Legislature. While we don't necessarily have an issue with the system itself, we are however seriously concerned about its implementation. It is clear that the Legislature does not have the capacity, nor was it ready to implement this payment system. The staff has not been adequately trained to implement the system; hence the glitches continue to happen all the time unabated. Staff members and MPLs are subjected to all kinds of emotional abuse and frustration to the payment of their salaries and taxes. People are being overtaxed and sometimes their salaries are being cut for no apparent reason. Staff members no longer know how much they are earning because their salaries fluctuate all the time. Late payment of salaries for employees has become the order of the day since the inception of SAGE. This is a huge inconvenience to employees because it also affects their debit orders at the banks.

Salaries that have been wrongfully deducted have never been returned to employees. What is this, if not a daylight robbery and thievery of people's hard-earned salaries. We demand that their money be paid back as soon as possible without any further delay. This system has brought panic to employees instead of bringing stability and the smooth running of the Legislature.

The EFF is also concerned about the cutting off of important events as compared to the previous years, meaning that the work of the Legislature will be seriously compromised. The Legislature slogan that says "It's your voice, use it" will never be realised. This happens only when the government does not take seriously the role that the Legislature plays in society. We are being led by a bunch of clowns who don't have the slightest idea on issues of governance.

Hon Speaker … [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable Member, can you just pause and allow the honourable Member to raise an order.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Chairperson, I'm not sure from which university is the honourable speaker from. I'm not sure if it is allowed to call honourable Members of the House "a bunch of clowns". I would want him to withdraw that, chair.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

The order is sustained. Hon Mohlala, can you withdraw to call honourable Members "a bunch of clowns".

MR MOHLALA

The, the … [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Mohlala, can you confine yourself to the order for calling honourable Members a bunch of clowns.

MR MOHLALA

I thought you gave me a chance to respond. I thought … [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

On a point of order!

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

I must rule on the order, honourable Member.

MR SESHOKA

It relates to what you are ruling, because I strongly believe that it is against the rules.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

The honourable Member has raised a point of order on Hon Mohlala for calling honourable Members a bunch of clowns, and the order is sustained on the basis that it is unparliamentary. Hon Mohlala is requested by the presiding officer here to withdraw his utterances.

MR SESHOKA

But acting Speaker, you are now pre-empting what I'm going to say because it is exactly related to what you are saying. The rules should only be applied if what is said is apportioned to a particular Member. The statement is not directed to any person here, it is just general.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Seshoka, it is unparliamentary to call honourable Members a bunch of clowns. I think we need to understand each other from that point. It is unparliamentary to call honourable Members of the House a bunch of clowns. I have therefore sustained the order that was raised by honourable Members. What we are requesting so that the House can proceed is a simple item which cannot even kill any of the honourable Members sitting here. We just request Hon Mohlala to withdraw and proceed, because Members are not a bunch of clowns. Just withdraw so that we can continue with the business of this House. Honourable Member, can you just assist the House by withdrawing the statement for calling honourable Members a bunch of clowns?

MR MOHLALA

Thank you once more, Hon Speaker. As the Economic Freedom Fighters … [INTERJECTION]

MR MATHE

Order, order! Withdraw that thing of yours.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Mathe, you have not been recognised yet. Hon Mohlala, can you withdraw because now you are taking time.

MR MOHLALA

I withdraw.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much. As you are concluding, Hon Mohlala.

MR MOHLALA

Hon Speaker, I think we should stop talking about this thing of relocating the Legislature to Polokwane. It is now irritating and annoying. This matter appeared in every report of the Legislature almost every year and every time when the new Speaker is appointed and yet nothing happens. The unwillingness, laziness and lack of interest to implement House resolutions is worrisome. It makes a mockery out of the important institution of the Legislature.

The EFF government will make sure that the state has more capacity to implement programmes to the benefit of the people. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, Hon Mohlala. We will now call upon Hon Monama and you are given ten minutes. [APPLAUSE]

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Presiding Officer. Honourable Members of the House, honourable MECs present here today, members of the opposition parties; I rise on behalf of the ANC as Monama Rodgers to come and confirm that we have adopted this Budget as tabled by the Presiding Officer of this House. [APPLAUSE] I'm raising this matter, Chair, in the context that most members of other political parties were part of the Oversight Mechanism Committee when we were confirming this Budget. It is within that context that we have also observed a few areas that I think need some improvements. Issues like the prudent and judicious management of our finances as the Legislature and as such we have observed that there are some areas of inconsistencies and deficiencies. The areas like interchangeably using FMPPLA and PFMA. As the portfolio committee we are moving that in future we must use FMPPLA as one piece of legislation that is applicable in this House.

We are also appreciating the introduction of SAGE as one of the mechanisms of remuneration of honourable Members, it's a system that I think is going well and we have never experienced any problems in terms of the payments of honourable Members. We appreciate those efforts and that we must keep the efficiency and effectiveness of the system.

In the Budget Speech, Madam Speaker has … [INTERJECTION]

MS MANGANYE

Order!

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable Member, can you just pause for a while. What are you rising on honourable Member?

MS MANGANYE

Hon Monama is saying no honourable Members were paid late. I want to confirm here that I was not paid on the 15th but on the 16th. It was a late payment; and that is my order. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you. Order sustained. Can you proceed Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much. For honourable Members to be paid on time they must submit necessary documentation. Chair, I'm raising this matter because we have never received any query from honourable Members in our portfolio committees that they are experiencing problems in terms of the implementation of this system. If there are challenges, of course, we will urge the administration to ensure that the system is perfected.

We are raising a matter on the issue of undesirable conditions in which we find ourselves in the Legislature. We are urging the House to ensure that you put measures

in place so that we can deal with those matters. We will liaise with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to ensure that we get regular reports in terms of refurbishment of offices in this complex. Going forward we don't want to see pronouncements that are not aligned to the APP because it is very difficult for the committees to monitor those pronouncements.

We are also worried about some of the political parties that are not obliging in terms of submission of their annual financial statements. We are saying that this must come to an end and stringent measures must be put in place so that this thing does not recur unabated. We also want to encourage the House that the issue of the study tour is very critical for the empowerment of our Members. It assists them to enhance their capacity and their performance and must be prioritised in this House.

We are also raising the matter that the Legislature is stagnant in terms of the audit findings. For the past four years it has been getting unqualified audit reports, and we don't understand why it can't graduate to a clean audit. There are some matters of emphasis that I think must be considered. We are also observing that the Legislature is not necessarily faring well in terms of tracking of the resolutions of the House. We are urging, Madam Speaker, that those matters must be followed up so that on a continuous basis they are being followed and implemented.

Over and above, we are worried about the contingency and liabilities that are experienced by this institution. Measures must be put in place to ensure that all these things are addressed, reduced and eliminated. I therefore support the Budget and the APP of the Legislature. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Monama, for being within the confines of time. We will now call upon Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Democratic Alliance welcomes the Speaker's call for Members of this House to unite against corruption and fight corruption by leading by example. Rest assured Hon Speaker, you have the support of the DA on this. However, we must not just pay lip service to this, we must act on these individuals. Gone are the years of just talking and no action. The Legislature in this new term must act decisively.

We welcome the meeting by the Speaker's Office with the Chapter 9 and 10 institutions in fostering better relationships, however we must never compromise the integrity and functioning of these institutions, through party or individual base relationships as we see unfold currently through some of these institutions.

These institutions must be impartial and ethical to ensure efficiency and functionality. In the same breath we feel that it is imperative that the Speaker must attend the Oversight Mechanism Committee meetings and cannot delegate this responsibility to the Secretary of the Legislature.

Hon Speaker, we constantly hear about the construction of the new Limpopo Legislature, however when questions are asked around the budget for this project or the commencement date of the project, there are no answers or responses that are forthcoming. Hon Speaker, please give us a clear indication on this project as we seem to be referred to multiple departments without a response on the details and specifics of this project. If it is not happening, let us know it's not happening.

Hon Speaker, indeed, we feel that we must bring the issue of Members' housing to the attention of this House. Although the Parliamentary Village houses have been refurbished, one must question some of the quality of the workmanship or contractors utilised. We cannot have a situation where we have contractors who make the simplest of errors like to cut the space for the stove too big for the stove to fit in, or for a bathroom that has been tiled to have water leaking from under the tiles. Or when contractors visit us to see air conditioners are not working, and never return for more than six weeks. This is of grave concern as we must ensure that resources spent on the assets of the Legislature are indeed well-spent and with best quality output to ensure we get value for taxpayers' money.

The biggest challenge in the province is the high rate of unemployment. Especially the youth who possess the requisite qualifications but cannot access jobs. This is not only a morale killer, but it is an additional element that leads to alcohol, drug abuse and criminal activity. Our youth are screaming for opportunities and the situation is dire indeed.

We also welcome the focus on women emancipation in your speech and look forward to the interventions in the province that will see our women prospering. We are continually reminded that we are in the age Fourth Industrial Revolution. However, we as the Legislature need to practise what we preach. Most, if not all, legislatures have a functionality and ability to live stream their Sittings. This must be looked into as a means of bringing the Fourth Industrial Revolution closer to the people of Limpopo so that we keep them abreast, educated, and informed about what this government is delivering for them. I cannot see why this has not been implemented yet, unless certain officials, politicians and departments are afraid of the public noting their empty promises and the spin doctoring when things are not efficient and effective but rather want to deflect from the problems.

The change of the payroll structure has been an issue for many Members, who have either not been paid on time, have not been paid correctly or have incorrect taxes. We respond in writing to the department and we get no feedback and we have got Members whose travel claims are still outstanding for four months, five months in some cases, and yet the right documents have been sent through. This has an impact on us having to perform our functions.

Hon Speaker, we hope in this term we will make strides in bringing about changes that will truly make this the Legislature of the people. We welcome and support the adoption of this Budget. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. We will then call upon Hon Lekganyane. [APPLAUSE]

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, for the opportunity. Hon Premier in absentia, Hon Speaker, our Members of the Limpopo Legislature, ntumeleleng ke le dumediše, ke re kgotso e be le lena. Hon Speaker, allow me to take this opportunity to deal with some of the issues from our Oversight Mechanism Committee. Hon Speaker, the functionality of the Legislature is essentially based on the functionality of the Oversight Mechanism Committee and the role of this committee is to play oversight over the Executive.

Hon Speaker, for the committee to be fully functional, we must ensure that the necessary machinery and equipment are made available so that the committee can be able to keep up with the Parliamentary Services Programme.

We understand that whatever is discussed and debated in this House must be achieved for future generations and as such we should ensure that we have the necessary equipment and resources to perform this work effectively as the Oversight Mechanism Committee. We have also noted the issue of understaffing that has been raised and as such we implore the Speaker to move with speed in addressing this challenge.

The Legislature as an overseeing body should to lead by example regarding achieving a clean audit and we expect nothing less than a clean audit. Matters of governance raised in the report of the Auditor-General regarding Limpopo Legislature must be duly attended to.

Regarding the issue of moving the Legislature to Polokwane it seems there is not much progress in this regard. As we move towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution, we would want this Legislature to be on board. Perhaps it would be advisable for this Legislature to benchmark with other legislatures. We need to benchmark with other legislatures who are already implementing the concept of e-parliament. Indeed, e-Learning is the future now that technology is so advanced. It would be better to move with times and this will save the state a lot of money.

As the Portfolio Committee on Oversight Mechanism we have no doubt on the Speaker’s capacity to lead. We even applaud you, Hon Speaker, that you lead by example. As we are now in August, which is the Women’s Month, we say to all our women, Malibongwe!

BACKGROUND

Igama lamakhosikazi.

MS LEKGANYANE

A le retwe!

BACKGROUND

Leina la basadi.

MS LEKGANYANE

This Legislature is the parliament of the people by the people. Under your leadership and guidance, we believe that we will serve the people of Limpopo with excellence. We know that we will accelerate service delivery to our people in order to better their lives. Ours is to guide and steer the ship in the right direction. We are certain that we are on the right path.

Let me take this opportunity to encourage our Members within the committees that working together we can achieve more and better the lives of our people in the province. Let me also take this opportunity to thank the portfolio committee members and our committed officials. I hereby move that the report of the Oversight Mechanism Committee on 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan and the Budget of the Limpopo Legislature, which is Vote 2, be adopted as the report of this august House. I thank you. Ke a le leboga. Ga e be kgotso. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Members. We shall now call upon the Hon Speaker to respond to the observations made by honourable Members. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Ndi masiari. Thank you, our Presiding Officer today, for giving me the opportunity to come and respond to some of the issues. Let me also take this opportunity to greet the Members of the House, our Premier in absentia and MECs present, the chairperson of our committee and members of committees and all Members present this afternoon.

I will not take much time because most of the issues that the Members have raised are going to be matters that would continuously be coming back to the House to be reported on in terms of the progress. I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge that there are critical issues have been raised that criss-cross between us as the Legislature, Treasury and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and we have since noted that through the Office of the Speaker there would be conversation with the Provincial Treasury before we talk on other budgetary matters because we do not sit in Exco, we need to be able to talk through the Leader of Government Business.

Again let me also say to Members that indeed we are in Fourth Industrial Revolution and I think the chairperson of the committee concluded it well in terms of all the issues that we spoke on technology to say there might be a need for the committee and for us as the Legislature to benchmark and see how other legislatures are running it and I think that is one of the issues that we would be making follow up on.

We are also noting that there are a couple of issues raised in terms of workmanship both here at the Legislature and at the Parliamentary Village. We have noted that, and we will pay attention and make sure that those anomalies are addressed.

Since we took over the office, as it has been acknowledged, I have also met with the Auditor-General and there is some progress on issues that have been raised in terms

of audit of the Legislature. We are working on that in order to be able to get a proper briefing. Since the last Sitting, we had sessions as the Speakership office with the Auditor-General where we submitted the items they needed, and we are waiting for another session with them which this House will be given a progress report as we continue.

I also need to clarify that when we took over as the Sixth Parliament, the Legislature has just started implementing SAGE. On the speech I did allude that we were not made aware of the workers who were affected by SAGE. The information that I'm getting from Hon Manganye is new today. What we have received from honourable Members was one issue from Hon Smalle which we then clarified and I'm saying this because we don't want to mislead the public to say that SAGE is affecting honourable Members.

Since we started with the sixth parliamentary session, as the Office of the Speaker we have not really been getting inquiries about money; it seems people are talking to the Department of Treasury. The inquiries that are coming to the Office of the Speaker were about different issues not necessarily involving money per se and we have been able to handle them. We have been able to transfer money, be it for relocation or any other funds that were due to Members, timeously and on the day in which we said we will make the payment. If ever there's any other Member who still has challenges, please fill free to come to us because we did not know about the challenges that you might be facing. We only knew about the officials and I can confirm that immediately around June we were sitting with the representatives of the workers to inform them that we have dealt with the teething problems that we were facing. We have noted the concern about the filling of vacant posts, and we will attend to that as quickly as possible.

Hon Speaker, I don't want to take lot of time responding to issues. We have noted that from the committee there is an observation that we need to enhance the capacity of the committees through study tours and we will be able to do.

There was an issue raised in terms of gender-based violence. We are ready as the Legislature to give support and the necessary resources to the committee relevant to dealing with women and children issues in order to be able to enhance the way in which we deal with these challenges.

We, as the Legislature, have presented during the budget speech that we are expecting that public participation to be done by all committees and further that the constituency offices that Members have we hope and expect that they should be part of the political work that they do. There was a question raised in terms of insufficient moneys that we are giving to political parties, but remember the constituency offices that we are capacitating you on, we are capacitating you to be able to work with the community. I think it cannot be that every time when we talk we need an increase in terms of political party funding, because the other way that we augmenting political funding is to be able to capacitate your constituency offices to be able to talk to Members, but we have noted that we need to increase public participation from our side.

I think there were lot of issues that repeated themselves and I have tried to just sum up so that I do not take much time. Hon Speaker, allow me to say in terms of the

system as I have indicated, the moving of the Legislature is one issue that delayed us to say do we implement the new system here or what. You will remember in my speech I did speak about moving and I should also confirm that the registration of the Legislature building in Polokwane as a private-public partnership has been completed. What is needed is funds from National Treasury and us to start with the project. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure as the custodian of immovable assets will play a significant role in this project and I think I need to put that as an emphasis. Equally we are saying we have started to procure for electronic services for this chamber so that we could be able to say as we move or as we start to construct the new Legislature we should not limit our work in terms of us speaking to the public.

Let me take this opportunity to say we have noted and acknowledged all the suggestions and let me thank the honourable Members of the committee for the hard work and thank all the Members that have contributed to the reports and discussions. Our officials have worked tirelessly with the committee to make sure that we come to some understanding until we can agree that we are adopting this Budget and I want to say on behalf of the office we are continuing to say, “It is your voice, use it!” Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Members. We shall now go to item 7.1.2: Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development on 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. I recognise the honourable Member there.

MR MASEKOAMENG

Thank you, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, I, Masekoameng Mmabogahla Isaiah, hereby move that the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development on 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development as it appears on the ATC to be adopted as a report of this honourable House. I move accordingly.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable chairperson of the committee. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Phala.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I, K R Phala, second the motion as presented by the committee chairperson, Hon Mmabogahla Isaiah “Messina” Masekoameng. Thanks very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. We shall now go to item 7.1.2.1: Second Reading Debate on Budget Vote 4: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. We shall now refer to our Speakers’ List and each speaker is allocated time and we will have

four speakers. The first one will be Hon Mathe S; the second speaker will be Hon Seshoka; the third speaker will be Hon Phala and the fourth one will be Hon Masekoameng. Hon Mathe you are allocated ten minutes; Hon Seshoka you are allocated seven minutes; Hon Phala you are allocated five minutes and Hon Masekoameng you are allocated ten minutes. [APPLAUSE]

We will then start with Hon Mathe. Hon Mathe, please don't call me Madam Speaker as others have already said.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Presiding Officer, Hon Premier in absentia, Deputy Speaker in absentia and Members of the Executive Council, the Chief Whip of the Majority Party in absentia and the Deputy Chief Whip and Members of the House, and all members of the Chapter 9 and 10 institutions. Let me begin by saying, if agriculture goes wrong, nothing else will have a chance to go right in our country. Agriculture does not only give riches to a nation, but the only riches she can call her own. Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals and happiness. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker and Members of this House, we want to emphasise that soil is the greater connector of lives, the source and destination of all. It is the healer, restorer and resurrector by which diseases pass into health, aged into youth, and death into life and without proper care for it, we can have no community and further without proper care for it, we can have no life. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker, this month is declared as the Women's Month and marks the 63rd anniversary since the 1956 Women's March to the Union Buildings where women protested the pass laws which amongst the other things, restricted their freedom of movement. The bravery and tenacity which they fought with, is worth our praises and ululations. It is therefore befitting that as we celebrate this month, we pause to reflect on the progress made since the dawn of democracy and assess the achievements in the realisation of a truly non-sexist, non-racial, democratic and united South Africa.

Hon Speaker, looking at the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Annual Performance Plan for 2019/20 financial year, it is worth noting and appreciating the departmental plan to establish 81 agricultural infrastructure programmes and also equipping 215 ha of agricultural land with irrigation schemes and this will be provided to our needy and emerging farmers across the length and breadth of our province during 2019/20 financial year.

However, we need to indicate that the collapse of the irrigation schemes throughout the province remains a matter of serious concern and this contributed towards wasteful expenditure and we are sure that as of now, the department is working on effective mechanism and interventions to avoid the collapse and further waste of public funds.

Madam Speaker, this irrigation ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Mathe, we have cautioned you that the Madam Speaker might come the next sitting or very soon, but now is the Hon Speaker.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. As all our hands are now on deck, this department is encouraged to accelerate the sustainability of irrigation schemes and productivity thereof, considering the large amounts of money pumped into these irrigation schemes. We want to see value for money, and we remain confident that we will see a different approach this time.

Agricultural productivity in the province has declined as a result of challenges arising from the collapse and unproductive farms and irrigation schemes which are largely due to unresolved conflicts amongst beneficiaries, an example of such is Makgoba Tea Estate, but we are aware of interventions that are being made to normalise the situation.

As a remedial plan the department will ensure that a programme of action is designed and implemented for the restoration of collapsed irrigation schemes and ensure other necessary interventions through investigation in relation to illegal dams and ensure stability in the land reform farms in the province.

In terms of job creation, the committee welcomes and appreciates the creation of 5 500 green jobs planned for 2019/20 financial year. This means 500 more jobs compared to 2018/19 financial year. However, we have observed with concern the level in which EPWP workers are exploited by the private contractors who receive contracts from the department. It is advisable for contractors to appoint their staff and pay them instead of making money by using EPWP staff who will be paid by the department.

The department is encouraged to improve the provision of support to unemployed graduates through skills development. Members of this House should bear in mind that education plays a crucial role in developing our mental strength which is the hallmark for success in every field. The youth of today owes it to the class of 1976 to excel in their chosen fields of study and take South Africa forward. Hon Speaker, as guided by the National Development Plan as hinted in the State of the Province Address by the Premier, Hon Stanley Mathabatha, the ANC-led government is hands on in building a South Africa that must be free from poverty, inequality and unemployment.

While the global economic environment remains uncertain, indications are that we have entered a period of recovery as a province while the world is confronted with a possibility of another recession. The National Development Plan enjoins us to build an active citizenry that participates in democratic governance structures and take responsibility for their own development. This dream was achieved since it was well articulated in the Freedom Charter. The referred Freedom Charter says, “The people shall govern”, and indeed Hon Speaker our people are governing.

Whilst it is worth mentioning that we are much better as compared to the average national unemployment rate, it remains unacceptably high in our province and it is also unacceptably intolerable nationally. We also want to take this opportunity and welcome

the statement made by Premier Stanley Mathabatha when delivering the State of the Province Address. The Premier promised to focus on areas which include industrialisation, agriculture and agro-processing, energy, SMME development, attracting investments through special economic zones, growing the economy and tourism. In the long-term, the only way we can be able to create sustainable jobs, eradicate poverty and build a more prosperous and equal society is through a radical economic transformation so that we are able to escape from the over-reliance on the exports of our raw materials to an economy founded on modern manufacturing industry.

The target of eyeing 90 students graduating from both Madzivhandila and Tompi Seleka agricultural colleges is a positive development. At the same time, we cannot sit back and wait for jobs to come on stream only after these long-term structural challenges in our economy have been implemented. The youth in particular wants jobs now and 73% of the people who are unemployed in South Africa are below the age of 35 and it is crucial that we find a way to give these young South Africans the opportunity to work and earn a living which will guarantee them a secured future.

Hon Speaker if we fail, the outcome will be disastrous not only for the young people themselves, but for all South Africans, because these young people would have lost an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution. The committee is eager to support the department as they strive to provide NQF levels 1 to 4 through Structured Education and Training programme. The farmers training must also aim to impart skills demonstration and training to the emerging farmers on the new crop varieties.

As we conclude, we want to emphasise that the goal of farming is not the growing of crops, but cultivation and perfecting of human beings and we should not forget that eating is an act of agriculture. The Limpopo province is on a continuous stride to set new heights for its performance countrywide. We just need to keep this momentum by maintaining and sustaining the ideals set out by the likes of O R Tambo and Nelson Mandela.

Hon Speaker, Members of this House must note that commitment and dedication invested in the department will assist our province in its endeavour of nation-building, social cohesion, unity and moving towards a better life for all our people.

In conclusion, we want to quote Victor Hugo and believe that we will take his message home when he said, “All the human and animal manure which the world wastes, if returned to the land, instead of being thrown into the sea, would suffice to nourish the world.” We thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. We are now going to call Hon Seshoka. You are allocated seven minutes.

MR SESHOKA

Hon acting Speaker, Members of the Executive Council present here, I would to take this opportunity and greet you this afternoon. Hon Speaker the 1,9% increase in the budget allocation is problematic as it deepens the crisis of not creating an agri-

participatory society and noting the challenges faced by farmers in various communities. This is a clear sign that the current government has put the agriculture sector least in its priority. We therefore call on the department to locate *[sic]* more funds to assist struggling farmers particularly from previously disadvantaged communities and cooperatives. The department must verify if there are duplicate senior posts and ghost employees … [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Seshoka, can you just pause a little bit. Honourable Member, is that an order?

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

I just wanted to ask Hon Seshoka if he said the department must locate or allocate funds, so that it must be clear.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Seshoka, you can proceed.

MR SESHOKA

The department must verify if there are duplicate senior posts and ghost employees as the compensation of employees is high even though there are still over 400 vacant posts. There are high possibilities that the department's structure is populated by senior management than the foot soldiers on the ground.

The planned recruitment of 130 graduates on internship programme as well as 138 graduates on experiential learning programme should translate into actual absorption in the sector through permanent employment and creating environments for them to directly do farming themselves at the end of the training.

It is critical that the department must make land available for such graduates to pursue their careers in agriculture, otherwise these programmes will remain useless. Youth, women and people living with disabilities should be major beneficiaries of these projects. The reasonable model to empower our communities will be to have ward-based recruitment and training which will ensure that the entire province is integrated into agricultural plans and input/output processes.

The acquisition of two software systems by the department should be in consultation with assigned bodies such as SITA, this will ensure we avoid what transpired with the Limpopo Wi-Fi project. It's sad that with unemployment so high, the department is still above 10% vacancy rate threshold. Critical posts should be filled, and processes must be clear to avoid cadre deployment and nepotism.

Hon Speaker, we are shocked to note that this department which is supposed to be a pillar for food security and job creation, has reduced its Sustainable Resource Management budget by R27 million which is a 4,6% decrease. This is one programmes aimed at creating job opportunities and training of farming communities on good agriculture practices. The envisaged creation of 5 500 green jobs and additional 500 jobs remains rhetoric if the budget allocation to Sustainable Resource

Management Programme is reduced by 4,6%. This shows lack of vision and planning by the department and this is an indication that our farmers won't get required help from this administration.

This House needs to know the real reasons why irrigation systems collapse immediately after being installed, and the department is quick to revitalise such schemes without processes of preventing similar causes. The poor workmanship in the installation of irrigation systems is one of the challenges brought by corruption in the department's supply management section.

Hon Speaker, year-in and year-out millions of rands are pumped into the installation of irrigation systems, but the province is yet to see the impact or positive outcome of such investment. It cannot be business as usual; the department must prepare a report to this House detailing the status and impact of each irrigation system installed in the past three years to gauge the real return on investment.

We need intensive agricultural training for our farming communities if we are to create a sustainable agricultural system. The department should avoid investing in areas of conflict until measures to resolve such conflicts are in place as it affects the schemes and operations. We hope that the lessons of failed Levubu Strategic Partnership in Vhembe would have taught the department going to the well-decorated Zebediela Citrus Estate partnership and the same as Tshivhase Tea Estate would have done to the Mamphoku-Makgoba Trust Tea Estate. A lot of money was used with little or no return to investment.

We need to increase agricultural productivity and processing of products to happen in the province. This will increase job creation and ensure food is cheap and accessible to communities.

Hon Speaker, we welcome the opening of Lebowakgomo Chicken Abattoir, and we hope that the department has done its analysis, because the white meat market in the country is vulnerable due to cheap white meat dumped by the American producers. A clear off-take agreement must be presented to the House regarding this abattoir.

Hon Speaker, the department should communicate broadly across the province about the opportunities available without favour, noting the intended support of 29 300 small-holder farmers to be supported. The provision of 210 animal breeding material for Nguni cattle development and 10 000 fish breeding stock should not be tainted by nepotism and corruption like previous projects.

The department is silent on those who may want to do marijuana farming and processing as an agri-business model in the province. We call on the department to look into that so that we can tap into that market. The actual implementation of the most talked about agri-parks is long overdue, the programme has been in the planning for the past 4 to 5 years with no clear implementation plan, and like they say, "Too much planning is a failure to implement". We demand that the department to categorically outline the implementation plan on agri-parks with timeframes. We need job creation statistics for the past financial year including categories funded. There should be more intake of people who will be trained on various farming skills.

The department must report within 60 days on the progress of Scopa and AG recommendations, failure which this House must act accordingly.

In conclusion, I want to thank the MEC for Social Development in absentia, I saw her wearing a traditional dress with Khelobedu colours.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Seshoka, your time is up.

MR SESHOKA

I really appreciate that because I'm also a Khelobedu. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, Hon Seshoka. We are now going to call upon Hon Phala. We have got two Hon Phalas, because it is a Women's Month we are going to call the "She" Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Agriculture's contribution to the food supply, foreign currency earnings, provision of employment, supply of raw material to other sectors and its role as a market and contributor to the gross domestic product cannot be overstated. Unfortunately, the latest employment numbers released by Stats SA show that Limpopo shed 16 000 jobs in agriculture over a year-on-year basis. This places enormous strain on rural economies, and it is clear that the "New Dawn" so enjoyed and advocated by the governing party is yet to set foot in these 16 000 households.

More and more mining projects are being approved in Limpopo and compete with limited water resources for agricultural use. The Musina-Makhado SEZ will have a negative impact on agriculture. A "New Dawn" is synonymous with revival, advancement and modernisation. Except for the Veterinary Programme, which consistently does excellent work, the other programmes are in desperate need of modernisation. A scientific approach across all programmes is needed if we are to make a significant contribution to food security in South Africa. Failure to meet targets on the same programmes year after year we will no longer be able to do that.

Programme 6 focuses on agri-business development and we are of the opinion that this is a potential growth point that has been largely neglected. However, to have these agro-processing projects facilitated under LEDA's management is a great concern as their track record is dismal and failure is almost guaranteed.

It is recommended that this department facilitates these projects without any input from LEDA due to its downfall. The most significant example is the downfall of the Makgoba Tea Estate and the resultant 2 000 job losses whilst under the management of LEDA.

As the DA we propose that the portfolio committee arranges regular visits to Lebowakgomo Abattoir, the Tala Potato Processing Plant, Mashashane Hatchery, Vhembe Milling, Zebediela Citrus, Tshakhuma Fresh Produce Pack House and the organic pack house in Tzaneen to confirm the statuses of these projects.

The DA receives complaints from subsistence and smallholder farmers on daily basis, and we would like to recommend that the portfolio committee do extensive oversight across all five districts to see for ourselves how the R1,19 billion is being spent on Farmers Support and Development. To plough a hectare of arid land and to drop off a bag of seed will not stimulate subsistence farming.

Hon Speaker, our two agricultural colleges have never met their intake targets and we must ask ourselves why. Compared to the Elsenburg Agricultural College in Western Cape, they clearly lack a modern curriculum and world class facilities. Tompi Seleka does not even have a website to attract prospective students and Madzhivhandila's website hardly has any information available. We have been pumping money into these colleges for more than five years and have precious little to show for it.

Hon Speaker, Western Cape is the only province to have conducted an independent evaluation of the projects it supports and the results from the latest study indicate that the support package offered to farmers is profiting a real impact in terms of business growth and their quality of life. About 72% of land reform projects supported by the Western Cape government are successful. Limpopo can learn from the Western Cape government who provides support to land reform projects through a unique and highly effective commodity approach where the support of 11 commodity groupings representing farming from horticulture to livestock is leveraged to provide funding, market access and technical support.

This approach is aligned with the President's "New Dawn" as it assists to bring a job into every home and a reason to dream again. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. We are now going to call Hon Masekoameng. You are also allocated ten minutes.

MR MASEKOAMENG

Thank you, honourable Members. Firstly, I just want to greet everybody in this House. Hon Speaker, as the ruling party we would like to welcome the good work done by the departments under the ANC-led government. The ruling party has delivered approximately 30% of jobs to our people in the province, including the people from the opposition parties. I don't want to dwell more on the issues that my colleagues have already spoken about.

Let's go through the achievements first before we go through the issues. We would encourage the department to focus on and do more. If you can look at the Farmers Support and Development Programme, we have got a lot of achievements. The department was encouraged to meet the targets, since it has the potential to change the lives of the emerging farmers. The portfolio committee encourages the department to continue providing extension and advisory service to farmers. The plan by the department to support 29 300 smallholder producers with agricultural advice and 10 community groups that will be supported with capacity-building was appreciated. The planned efforts by the department to support 35 youth agricultural entrepreneurs was

also appreciated and the department was encouraged to continue to bring more youth in agriculture. It is another achievement.

The portfolio committee also appreciates that in line with Fetsa Tlala and food security programmes, the department has planned to ensure that 14 339 ha of land is set aside for food production in communal areas and land reform projects. Furthermore, about 6 500 households will be assisted with agricultural food productions.

The work of the ruling party is to deliver to our people, but the work of the opposition is to try to advise the ruling party on the remaining things, not everything. We have delivered in the whole province.

The portfolio committee wants to register its concern about the ever-collapsing irrigation schemes. Irrigation schemes play a pivotal role in food security – putting food on the table and pushing back the frontiers of hunger and poverty. Every year, this department is preaching the gospel of revitalisation and rehabilitation of irrigation schemes. This is where there is a problem. That is why I mention it. As we speak now, it is heartbreaking to see the once flourishing irrigation schemes in a state of total collapse. The communities around Tswelopele, Tshiombo, Phetwane and Krokodileheuwel irrigation schemes used to feed themselves and pay school fees for their children. Hon Speaker, nowadays, irrigation schemes are turned into residential areas. We want this department to turn this unacceptable situation around. We want to see productive irrigation schemes and believe that with this budget this can be achieved. We believe that the R2 billion allocated will go a long way in supporting farmers, especially the communal and emerging farmers. It is our belief that farmers supported will grow and become commercial and self-sustainable.

The use of strategic partners in irrigation schemes and Communal Property Associations (CPAs) on land and farms has been very futile in the past years. The majority of these strategic partners have no interest in transferring skills to our communities. It is apparent that they want to be strategic partners for life which is against our intentions and the manifesto of the African National Congress. We want our communities to be skilled so that they could be able to run their projects on their own in the near future. Some of these strategic partners are taking bank loans using communal land or farms as collaterals. This poses a danger from which our communities can lose their land and farms if loans are not paid up. As the ANC-led government we fought very hard to ensure that our people get their land back. We will jealously guard against any attempt to reverse these gains acquired through blood and sweat.

Hon Speaker, the Fetsa Tlala programme is not productive and supporting our communities as expected. We noticed that farmers plough late and sometimes receive inputs like seeds and manure when the planting season has passed. We urge this department to curb this and be hands on and make sure that communities are assisted on time. These things of getting a land ploughed but not planted should be a thing of the past in this financial year.

The portfolio committee will be vigilant and always alert in monitoring this 2019/20 budget. Our province is an agricultural province; therefore, we need to make sure that our people benefit from this natural resource.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, we support this Budget with recommendations made in the tabled committee report. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. We shall now call upon the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development to respond to the observations made by honourable Members.

THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Let me first from the bottom of my heart thank the chairperson and members of the portfolio committee for the oversight work that they are doing. As a department we have taken note of the issues raised by the committee. We are going to ensure that the findings by the AG for the past three financial years are not repeated. All the Scopa recommendations will be fully implemented. The committee will be updated regularly on the plans, targets and commitments for the 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan.

Hon Speaker, as the department we shall try by all means to reduce the cost for the compensation of employees. At the same time, critical posts will be filled. As the department I need to assure this House that there are no ghost workers. The reduction of the sustainable resource budget is because last year we received a drought allocation of R45 million which is not part of this financial year's allocation.

On illegal dams, the department will bring this to the attention of the Department of Water and Sanitation. As a department we are convening an indaba on the Revitalisation of Irrigation Schemes on 10-11 September 2019 in the Ephraim Mogale Municipality and are inviting Members to be part of this indaba.

As I conclude, we are serious about job creation, food security and the provincial economic growth. On the above items, the committee shall be updated at all times. The department will prioritise and try by all means to encourage the youth, particularly young women farmers to have interest in farming. One Member raised a concern about the Tshivhase Tea Estate not functioning. I wish to inform the House that the Tshivhase Tea Estate is doing well.

Hon Speaker, I once more thank you for the opportunity given to me. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. Before we go to item 7.1.3, I want to take this opportunity and acknowledge Hon Joshua Matlou as a new Member of this august House. Hon Matlou, can you stand up because others might not know you? [APPLAUSE] Thanks very much. Honourable Members, we are proceeding with item 7.1.3 ... [INTERJECTION]

ADV PHALA

Is it parliamentary for a new Member to wear a new suit for that day?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. The decorum of this majestic House allows that. We will now move to the Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Health on the 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for this department by the committee chairperson. I call upon Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

Hon Speaker, I, Monama Gannye Rodgers, rise to appeal to the honourable august House to consider and adopt the Budget for the 2019/20 financial year of the Department of Health. I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Can we call for a seconder? Hon Deputy Chief Whip, you may take the floor.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the move made by Hon Monama.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, Hon Deputy Chief Whip. We will now go to item 7.1.3.1: Second Reading Debate on Budget Vote 07 of the Department of Health. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. We have the following Members who must prepare to come to the podium. We have Hon Matlou, Hon Managa, Hon Seono, Hon Maharaj and Hon Monama. All honourable Members have been allocated time. Let's stick to time allocated to us. Hon Matlou, can you come to the podium please. [APPLAUSE]

MR MATLOU

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Thanks very much, Hon Phala, for the comment. Fortunately, the Legislature has already paid me and I bought a suit for this Sitting. [LAUGHTER] Hon Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, honourable MECs present here, Hon Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Chief Whip in absentia, and honourable Members of the august House, thobela.

Health is a fundamental right and the provision of healthcare in South Africa forms part of the constitutional mandate of this democratic order. For this reason, the ANC understands that health is a fundamental human right and quality healthcare should be accessed by all regardless of the depth of their pockets. As such, budget allocations continue to prioritise health and education in trying to ensure a better life for our people. Of all the departments in the province, Health and Education remain the most fundamental. As such, our oversight on Health will be rigorous and unrelenting as we work together to ensure a better health service for the people of Limpopo.

Hon Speaker, primary healthcare centres are the first stop for our society. Primary healthcare centres and clinics continue to carry the heaviest burden and are the coalface of service to the communities. While we are doing well as a province with regard to HIV/Aids management, we are consciously aware of the workload carried by

clinics as the first point of call in communities especially in the far-flung areas and villages of our province.

We remain concerned that primary healthcare centres as the first stop for communities tend to receive the heaviest workload in that respect. Are there any plans in place to ease this load? Is the role played by community healthcare workers assisting in this regard? What is the plan of the department to ensure that clinics operate on a 24-hour basis?

We remain with challenges relating to the shortage of support staff, medicines and health professionals. Indications are that despite incentives such as the rural allowance and scarce skills payments, we still do not have enough professionals to match the demand. Is there any plan to address all these challenges?

The attraction to other provinces, the private sector and Western countries continues to play havoc with the provincial health system whereby skilled professionals continue to leave the provincial Department of Health. What categories of healthcare workers are migrating away from the province and exiting the provincial health system? What are the contributing factors? What plans are in place to arrest this particular situation?

At the same time, we commend the effort taken by the honourable MEC to attract various specialists to our province. We trust that the provision of this necessary support, working tools and facilities will allow us to retain them in our province. The MEC continues to retain these specialists, particularly appointing young professionals and we should applaud her for the efforts to enhance the quality of care our patients receive in our facilities. [APPLAUSE] Honourable MEC, continue investing in young people because young people are the future.

As we celebrate Women's Month, we commend the extraordinary effort by the nurses of Jane Furse Hospital who under very trying circumstances were able to deliver nine babies using the light of a cellular phone when there was a power failure emanating from heavy rains. These are the unsung heroes who not only understand their calling for nursing but live the ethos of what nursing is all about. Their efforts are admirable and indicate to us the difficult situations that our healthcare workers face on a day to day basis. We are however concerned about the state of some of our clinics and hospitals in our province.

Hon Speaker, if you remember, the Treatment Action Campaign 2018 on the state of health in Limpopo does not present a positive picture. Amongst others, it lists the following challenges:

- Shortage of health professionals;
- Overcrowding in health facilities coupled with long queues;
- Ongoing shortage of medicine;
- Dilapidated buildings and crumbling infrastructure; and
- Broken, aged and inadequate infrastructure and equipment.

The report does not say anything that we are not aware of. The report, however, should raise concerns because if we are to move towards the National Health Insurance by 2025, do we still have enough time? Do we have the will, the power and the resources to address these challenges?

Is the level of care in hospitals and clinics complementary to the standards of the Office of the Health Standards Compliance (OHSC)? Where in Limpopo is an example of an ideal clinic so that as the Legislature, we can be able to benchmark and, perhaps working together, try to raise the standards across clinics to be able to serve our people better? Such clinics which meet the standards of the OHSC could indeed be model clinics and ideal sites for piloting the NHI and adopting best practices.

Hon Speaker, non-essential services such as security are also eating up a substantial amount of our budget. In some cases, more money is spent on security than other things that we have in our own institutions. Security services have been identified as one of the main cost drivers in the department. How is the department attempting to manage costs with regard to security services? Would the insourcing of this service help the province in anyway? That's the question.

The department also spends a lot of money outsourcing laundry services. We want to take this opportunity and applaud the honourable MEC for the decision she has taken to build laundry facilities and upgrade the old ones in older hospitals. This will go a long way in cutting costs and creating substantial jobs for our people in the province. As such, the laundry infrastructure project is a key project in our province. We expect the MEC to report on the progress of this particular project on a quarterly basis to this honourable House. We commend the effort and encourage the honourable MEC and the department to move with the speed of a lightning, "Khawuleza", in implementing this decision.

Facilities and infrastructure programmes are also central to job creation. The rolling out of infrastructure programme is an ANC policy with the view of improving the lives of our people, creating jobs and building sustainable infrastructure for the benefit of our people. The revitalisation of hospitals is urgent especially at the hospitals which were erected pre-1994, because most of our buildings and machinery are dilapidated. It is concerning that in some hospitals maintenance funds are used for other services that hospital management perceives to be more essential than the maintenance of infrastructure. In the long-term, the cost of procrastinating the refurbishment of the hospital buildings and facilities will be higher or equal to erecting new ones.

We know now that the economy is not growing at the rate that it should be. The public purse is not as big as we would like it to be and we have to maximise the little that we have. The pipeline project as proclaimed and announced by the Hon Premier and the honourable MEC, Siloam central hospital and the provision of accommodation for the nurses should prioritise quality and value for money over everything else. Indeed, if we are serious about implementing the NHI, we need quality infrastructure. As this is the very important project in the calendar of our province, we would like the MEC to report on a quarterly basis on the progress of this project. This we request remembering that at all times the Legislature remains the voice of our people and it is therefore the honourable House that must account to our people.

Finally, we know that the MEC and her team are not working under most ideal conditions and that perhaps our budget allocations from national government are not always what we wish for. However, that should never be a reason for despair. The MEC continues to steer the ship steadily across rough waters. She and her team have never lost sight of the goal.

I so support and I so move. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. We are now going to call upon Hon Managa.

MS MANAGA

Afternoon everyone in the public gallery, the representatives from the Department of Health, Hon Speaker as well as the Members of this august House. Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. This is according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Hon Speaker, the R20,7 billion allocated to the Department of Health like the previous budgets will not translate in touching the lives of ordinary masses and people on the ground. Despite the fact that billions of rands are being allocated to this department every financial year, there is nothing tangible to show for it. The health system in the province is collapsing under the department. The doors of clinics are not opened 24 hours in order to provide healthcare services to the poor communities.

The EFF is shocked to learn that the department intends to reduce the number of primary healthcare facilities that provide 24-hour services from 60 to 52, whilst the department is spending millions on training student nurses that it cannot even absorb. Instead it is directing the trained nurses to other provinces.

Furthermore, facilities implementing core system will also be reduced this financial year from 143 to 136. This is the worst decision any government that claims to take care of its people can implement. Instead of making sure that all primary healthcare facilities in the province are working 24 hours, the department has decided to cut down the few that were already doing so. The majority of people in the rural areas will be affected by this dubious decision of the Department of Health. There is a need to increase and expand the service to our people so that our people should benefit. Instead, there is backward thinking of the department by cutting down the services. They talk about access to universal healthcare, but their actions are a sharp contrast to what they preach.

Hon Speaker, the shortages of medicine, emergency vehicles and basic equipment that should be used at hospitals is a reality in many clinics and in many hospitals around the province. We do have a shortage of specialists; it’s true.

The much talked about academic hospital has not taken off the ground despite all these billions that appear on government documents. Despite all these moneys, the department continues to obtain qualified audit opinion every single financial year. The allocation of such a massive budget to the department amounts to fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

The National Health Insurance (NHI) pilot project has left many doctors out there in Vhembe in misery than joy. These doctors were dumped as soon as this pilot project ended and their contracts were not renewed, whereas in other provinces like Gauteng, the doctors’ contracts were renewed. The MEC for some reason decided not to renew

their contracts when their services were still needed by the poor communities out there who cannot afford to go to the general practitioners, because they don't have medical aid. It is clear, Hon Speaker, that the department is not really caring about the people. Why is the department always preaching that it is delivering whereas our masses out there are suffering by not getting services especially those who do not have access or who do not have money or medical aid?

As we speak there is shortage of water at the Jane Furse Hospital and medical doctors are intending to go on strike as a result of this problem. We would like the MEC for Health to make sure that this is attended to as a matter of urgency. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. We are now going to call upon Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Let me start by greeting the Premier in absentia, all MECs present here, the Chief Whip in absentia, the Deputy Chief Whip, the committee chairperson and all honourable Members of this august House.

Hon Speaker, on a better life for all, I would like to say the point of departure is from a basic human right which is a right to quality health services. This is encapsulated in the ANC manifesto seeking a better life for all. The provincial picture indicates that Limpopo has a population of 5,7 million. Of this population, 91% of the population depends on public health services.

The vast majority of this population is black, rural and poor. Against this background, the NHI cannot be a pipedream. The ANC aims to bring the country closer to quality universal health coverage through the National Health Insurance and improve the quality of the public health sector as the backbone of a future unified national health system. According to the manifesto, all South Africans will be covered by the NHI by 2025.

Hon Speaker and Members, this is happening against a very difficult economic climate and a very tight public purse. It is therefore important that frugality, value for money and consistent oversight should be the order of the day. It is important that while we are working on implementing the NHI, we should also be ensuring the functionality of our health system in its current state. According to the World Health Organisation, health is a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease. That is the ideal state which the NHI aims to achieve for our people.

On filling critical vacant posts in the public health system, it remains a concern that we are spending a huge allocation of the budget on compensation of employees. Currently, 74% is spent on the COE, leaving 26% for goods and services. Despite our high spending on the compensation of employees, we still remain with critical shortages of health professionals. While we remain concerned about this pattern, we should also appreciate that the business of Health lies in its investment in capable and highly qualified personnel. A part of policy resolutions is to fill the skills gap especially

in the health sector. The current ratio of medical professionals to patients is way below the national norm affecting both service delivery and causing burnout amongst health professionals.

We should also have a plan for retaining the health professionals that we attract to the public service. We are also concerned that there are nurses that are still awaiting placement across the province. The NHI will remain a pipedream if we do not attract and retain the highly skilled specialists that we now have in our province.

On pharmaceuticals, the provision of essential medicines is central to both curative and preventative health. Besides the compensation of employees, pharmaceuticals have also shown to consume a significant amount of the budget. The MEC should indicate how much of the pharmaceutical costs are exacerbated by lifestyle diseases and what plans, if any, are there in the department to move towards managing this challenge.

In the past, the depot suffered from inherent risks such as pilferage, expired stock, lack of security and challenges with regard to supply and insufficient distribution to hospitals and clinics. The management of pharmaceuticals was a problem more so from the distribution point which is the provincial depot to the point of receipt at clinics and hospitals. We hope that this is something that belongs in the past as the promised smart pharmaceutical warehouse management will be procured for use at the provincial depot. The MEC should outline where the smart management of pharmaceutical has been piloted or is currently in use and what the outcomes have been in other provinces.

On risks in obstetrics, the Saving Mothers Report indicates that challenges often met in obstetric cases are related to the lack of specialists in the area leading to an increase in maternal and stillborn deaths. The challenge in obstetrics has also led to the ongoing medico-legal claims against the department. It remains a concern given the number of litigations against the department in this field in particular. The department has placed specialists in obstetrics at district level. We hope that the department has a very good plan to retain these specialists so that we do not lose them to the private sector or to other provinces.

The reduction of maternal mortality by 182 per 1 000 deliveries to the current 106 per 1 000 over a period of five years is commendable. We believe with more effort and dedication this can only get better. The MEC should indicate the districts where we continue to have challenges with regard to litigations, RAF (Road Accident Fund) claims and cases of negligence lodged against health professionals in the province. If there are also legislative challenges especially with regard to litigations, the MEC should indicate these.

On challenges and achievements, Hon Speaker, the department’s overall efficiency is indicated by the decline in maternal deaths, infant mortality and malnutrition illnesses such as kwashiorkor and marasmus. A success in these health indicators means we are doing well on implementing the ANC policy decisions. This simply means we should have less children dying from preventable illnesses. We should have less children suffering from diseases of poverty and we should have less mothers dying while giving birth.

On service delivery indicators in implementing the manifesto, the service delivery indicators are as follows:

- Improved health: The life expectancy in the province has increased;
- Combating of diseases especially HIV/Aids: Limpopo has the lowest HIV rate in the country;
- Increased access to healthcare services by providing 24-hour service in health facilities;
- Reducing maternal and child mortality are indicators on implementing the ANC policy decisions;
- The increase in the number of mothers agreeing to be tested for HIV in antenatal clinics and follow-up on subsequent treatment where necessary is a positive step; and
- The latest statistics from Stats SA indicate that Limpopo has one of the lowest HIV rates in the country. This talks to health management in the province.

In conclusion, we remain with challenges of poor hygiene and infection control, and cases of neonatal deaths due to improper hygiene procedures not being followed. Though we have reduced infant mortality, we are concerned that in some districts, child health remains a concern with Limpopo having a higher number of stillborn rates than the national average. Despite these challenges, Limpopo is second to the Eastern Cape in terms of children receiving the child support grant. This has gone a long way in alleviating poverty and hunger in many households. The immunisation campaigns indicate that despite the challenges, Limpopo is improving in terms of better health management for children under five years. We have generally improved the quality of life of the people of Limpopo. More needs to be done and if you keep your eyes on the ball MEC, things can only get better. I thank you, Hon Speaker and the august House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. We are now going to call upon Hon Maharaj who is allocated five minutes.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, we have always been aware that the MEC for Health is a medical doctor but after listening to her Budget Speech, it is clear she is even a better spin doctor. She paints a hopeful picture of the state of the health system in Limpopo, but the truth is that the department is failing the people of Limpopo. This is mainly down to poor management.

The department spends almost 73% of its Budget on salaries and this leaves very little left to provide for the health services the people of Limpopo so deserve. There is a need to reduce the cost on salaries to around the 55% mark in order to free up resources to address the large infrastructure backlog, maintain dilapidated infrastructure and address the shortage of equipment. To turnaround the situation of the department and improve its finances, there is an urgent need by the department to curb medico-legal claims that stand at about R4,3 billion, mainly caused by medical negligence claims.

The poor management of the department is evident even more so by the fact that there is no budget to settle these claims in the case judgment goes against the department. The closing balance for unauthorised expenditure for the 2017/18 financial year amounted to R196 million, whilst irregular expenditure for the same period amounted to R1,1 billion and fruitless and wasteful expenditure for the same period amounted to R19 million.

The department has been receiving qualified audits since 2015, so once again MEC, where is the positive change that you are bringing to this department? A number of irregularities have been cited such as the flouting of the supply chain and procurement policies, failure to obtain the necessary three quotations, payment of overtime above the limit of 30% of the monthly salary, quotations accepted after the closing dates, and no completion and update of asset registers. These issues are recurring problems and show a disregard for ethics and good financial management processes.

In this financial year, the MEC and the department must fight against the impunity that has crippled the department by finally implementing the previous Scopa resolutions and ensuring that there is consequence management for the officials responsible for bringing under R1,2 billion accruals down to R700 million, irregular, unauthorised, fruitless and wasteful expenditure in the department and the need for a comprehensive plan to address and limit medico-legal claims against the department especially since most are medical negligence claims which could have been avoided.

There needs to be a revisit on the programme of sending medical students to Cuba and rather train them locally. The cost for one year is about R330 000 which is more than double what it would cost at a local medical school. Training in Cuba takes six years including a year learning Spanish. The students still need to come and spend another 12-18 months at a medical school in South Africa. You have spent all the time in Cuba and now you have to come back and spend another 12-18 months at a medical school in South Africa. In essence, the full cost to train a doctor in Cuba amounts to over R2 million for one doctor versus R900 000 in South Africa. The department is in no position to incur such unnecessary expenses and must apply austerity measures and train more students locally.

The MEC has made mention of the pronouncement on the R3,9 billion Limpopo Central Academic Hospital, however this line item cannot be cited in any of the budgets of the Department of Health. While it is an exciting development, may the MEC please inform us where this budget is and when this project will commence.

Speaker, I am concerned the MEC has her head in the clouds when she speaks of the state-of-the-art technology driven hospitals where robotic surgery will be performed and the “New Dawn” for health simply means hospitals must fly. The MEC must first focus on basics like ensuring that the department can perform its mandate within the allocated Budget, properly implement the 24-hour services at the primary health centres or clinics, ensure medication is available to patients and there is adequate medical equipment, address shortage of medical specialists in the province and improve outcomes.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. We now call upon Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Health, I rise to present the debate on behalf of that committee. Chair, the 2019/20 financial year marks the first financial year of the sixth term of the Legislature and government that received their mandate from the 2019 general elections. The Annual Performance Plan is informed by the departmental five-year strategic plan which is derived from the medium-term strategic framework. The objective of the APP is to link the plan, Budget and performance of the department. The APP serves as the roadmap on how the Department of Health intends to deliver on its programmes in order to fulfil its mission of providing quality healthcare services that are accessible, comprehensive, integrated, sustainable and affordable.

As the portfolio committee, we will be robust in our oversight role to ensure that the allocated Budget of R20,7 billion is accounted for. Undoubtedly, this Budget will translate in changing the lives of our people and ensure that the socioeconomic landscape of our province is dramatically changed. We will also not allow any element of financial leakages or malfeasance in the utilisation of these public funds. We are going to be closely monitoring this Budget to ensure that it is expended across all the eight programmes.

As the portfolio committee, we want to take this opportunity also to appreciate the MEC for Health, Dr Phophi Constance Ramathuba, who is a medical doctor and not a spin doctor, for sharing this report on the construction of the Limpopo Academic Hospital. She is registered as such in the Health Professions Council of South Africa. Hon Maharaj knows that because I am presenting this report on his behalf. This hospital will bring opportunities to the people of Limpopo.

Of course, as the committee we note with great reservation that the department received a qualified audit opinion since the 2015/16 financial year to the 2018/19 financial year. We are urging the department to develop a turnaround strategy to address all the matters that have been raised by the Auditor-General. We are more worried when one of the qualifications is the asset management by the department on both movable and immovable assets. We are also quite worried that this department is one of those departments that are unable to ensure that all the service providers are paid within the 30-day period as stipulated in the Treasury regulations. The department must put new mechanisms to ensure that this anomaly is addressed.

We are also appealing to the department to ensure that the issue of the 24-hour clinics is not just a pipedream, but something that I think they will develop a rollout plan to ensure that this matter is realised.

We also want to appreciate the pronouncement by the MEC that they are going to acquire 50 ambulances. We hope that the acquisition of these 50 ambulances will assist us as the province for emergency medical services so that the response time can be reduced especially in urban and rural areas.

Hon Speaker, we also want to make a recommendation as the committee that the honourable MEC and the department must furnish us with a detailed report in relation to the Cuban medical students. How many are they and how much are they paying? We also want a comprehensive report on the irregular expenditure, a detailed report on accruals starting from the period when the department was under administration, section 100(1)(b). We also want a detailed report on how the department is going to ensure that those health professionals and trained nurses are absorbed, and the turnaround strategy on all matters raised by the AG in order to improve on the stagnant qualified audit opinion.

The committee, having scrutinised the 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan and the Budget of the Department of Health, recommends to the august House that the Budget for Vote 07 be passed with the abovementioned recommendations.

I therefore move that this report be adopted as the report of this august House. I move accordingly. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, Hon Monama. We are now going to call upon the MEC for Health to respond to the observations made by honourable Members.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker, honourable chairperson of the portfolio committee, honourable Members of the Executive Council and honourable Members. We want to appreciate this opportunity that we have been provided as the department to be able to participate in this debate of one of the most important and critical sectors. A healthy nation is a safe nation, a healthy nation is a productive and an economically stable nation to can live in. Indeed, we all agree that we cannot compromise on this particular sector which is health. The honourable Member has rightfully so defined using the WHO definition of health.

At the same time, I want to remind honourable Members that as we read that definition of the WHO, we must further on do what other honourable Members do. We must continue and read what the definition of a collapsing healthcare system in terms of the WHO is. The WHO which is the guiding structure globally is very clear to say that when you are running a Department of Health and you find that your maternal mortality rate continues to decline, it means that you are on the right path. If you can see your infant mortality rate going down, you must know that you are on the right path.

Yes, indeed, during the 2015/16 financial year this department was number last in the country. The Capricorn District was the last district in the entire country in terms of maternal mortality at 182 per 100 000 deaths. But, today we can with pride say that we are top three in the country in terms of the reduction of maternal deaths. [APPLAUSE] That cannot be a definition of a collapsing department in terms of the WHO, honourable Members.

With regard to an ideal clinic, we were equally number last in this country. Our clinics were seen and defined as horror clinics. For the 2018/19 financial year, we had only 152 clinics declared ideal status. Today we can say we have 240 clinics declared ideal

status. It is not only that, we used to have only nine that are platinum, today there is 30 that are platinum. [APPLAUSE] From 44 gold, we are now 57 gold. From 97 silver, we are 127 silver. This is the latest statistics. We are saying we are fourth in the country. From number last, we are number four in the country. That cannot be a department that is collapsing. That surely is a department that has challenges, but is working on the challenges, and results are there for you to see. [APPLAUSE]

We do welcome and acknowledge what the committee is saying in terms of strengthening the 24-hour services of our clinics. We are continuing to do that. We are toping up the clinics that we had in the previous years. But we must also put the new targets based on the resources that we are currently having. We must also look at the issues of security in terms of our clinics. We must put it in this august House that, yes, Ngwaabe Clinic was not running 24-hours, wherein a woman had to deliver by the clinic gate. We went there to make interventions. Guess what, members of the Economic Freedom Fighters went to that clinic, threatened the nurses, we took from other areas to come and make interventions and pulled these nurses out of work. When they suffered this harassment by politicians who were supposed to serve and provide leadership in the communities, those nurses said to me: MEC, we rather go back to where we were working. You didn't find us unemployed, you took us from where we were working comfortably, where political parties were protecting us. We call upon honourable Members to make pronouncements and denounce the issues of attacks on our nurses if all of us want our clinics to provide quality services to our people.

The NHI general practitioners who were being contracted by a service provider as contracted by the national Department of Health for Vhembe District were not left in the dark by this Department of Health. Those NHI doctors were simply told that we can absorb you provided you are going to work in terms of the DPSA (Department of Public Service and Administration). You are not going to choose for us where you want to be seconded. You are not going to choose for us what salary we must pay you. You are not going to demand from us that we pay you from home to work because even SARS is against that.

As honourable Members have said, we are spending 74% on compensation of employees. Now to absorb a post-com-serve who was recruited by that NGO to go and work in the pilot project and be paid a salary of a medical officer, grade 03, with ten years' experience and honourable Members expect me to be irresponsible when I'm honourable, and absorb them with that particular salary and leave the ones that have been loyal to the system for all these years, I will not do that. The fact that I understand how the occupation specification dispensation works, I will tell you simply that when you have two years' experience, your salary band is this one, and where I can place you is at this clinic and not where you want. [APPLAUSE]

The 30% overtime that we exceed, we are doing it because it is the right thing to do. The Limpopo Department of Health has a challenge in terms of skills and scarce skills. We can't be compared to provinces like the Western Cape, where the Groote Schuur Hospital alone has more psychiatrists than Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Northern Cape, and North West combined. They don't qualify for that more that 30% overtime. It is Limpopo and Mpumalanga which do qualify because doctors in these particular provinces are few and they need to work. To compare is with such provinces and say don't exceed, we are going to exceed, because when you don't exceed overtime, you

are saying people must die. We made a submission to the Minister of DPSA and understanding the material conditions that the people of Limpopo find themselves in, she has approved and we are doing it within the law. [APPLAUSE]

The fact that we have financial challenges is true, but we are not sleeping on duty. We are also not spinning; we are just putting facts as they are. Accruals used to be at R1,4 billion and we managed to reduce them by 50% to R700 million. The facts are there for you to see. Unauthorised expenditure used to be R196 million, which relates to the 2012/13 financial year. We have cleared it completely today and the facts are there for you to see. [APPLAUSE]

Fruitless and wasteful expenditure which we inherited at R200 million, today is at R3,1 million. Irregular expenditure of R1,1 billion, which is a backlog from 2009 to 2010, we have investigated it and we are working with our lovely Provincial Treasury, waiting for condonation. We have done that and the facts are there for you to see. We do acknowledge that we must get out of qualification and mark my words we are going to move out of qualification.

Honourable Members, we do and we must welcome the fact that the National Health Insurance is here and the Bill has been tabulated and we are going to make sure that it is implemented so that it can deal with the inequalities that we find ourselves facing. It doesn't matter how you earn, whether you are a CEO of a company or a general assistant, you will receive the same coverage so that you are not told in August, like some of the honourable Members here, that your medical aid is exhausted and you are dumped into the public healthcare system. We want a system that is going to benefit all of us. The revolutionisation of the healthcare industry will only be achieved through the National Health Insurance.

On that note, we want to thank the chairperson and the committee for the support that they continuously provide us with. We are saying, constructive criticism must continue; unless you do that, we will drop the ball. But, when you do that, we continue to be on our game and we'll remain on top of our game. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable MEC. Now we are going to move to item 7.1.4: Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on the Provincial Treasury on the 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan and Budget by the committee chairperson.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Department of Provincial Treasury be adopted as the report of this honourable House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. Can we call for a seconder? I recognise Hon Masekoameng.

MR MASEKOAMENG

I, Isaiah Mmabogahla Masekoameng, stand to second the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, Hon Phala.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, Hon Masekoameng. We are now going to the Second Reading Debate on Budget Vote 05: Department of Provincial Treasury. We shall refer to the Speakers' List. We have Hon Makhurupetje allocated 10 minutes, Hon Seshoka allocated 07 minutes, Hon Lekganyane allocated 10 minutes, Hon Maharaj allocated 05 minutes and Hon Phala Rudolph allocated 10 minutes. You are recognised honourable Member.

MR MOHLALA

Just a correction. It is not going to be Hon Seshoka but Hon Manganye, next to me.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Okay. Hon Makhurupetje, the podium is yours.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Malibongwe!

BACKGROUND

Igama lamakhosikazi!

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Wathint' abafazi, wathint' imbokodo! Hon Speaker, MECs present here, honourable Members of this august House, I take this opportunity and greet all of you. Hon Speaker, the Hon Premier in his SOPA said: "The New Dawn is about transforming the economy so that it can serve all people. It is about the economy that would reduce the levels of inequality, fight poverty and create more jobs. Above all, the New Dawn is about building a province that we all want, a province we can all be proud of, and indeed we all deserve. It is about moving from an era of policy development to an era of radical policy implementation". Indeed, the Department of Provincial Treasury is central to the "New Dawn" and "Khawuleza" as directed by our President Hon Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa.

As the Provincial Treasury Portfolio Committee, we present the report on the 2019/20 APP and Budget, as the chairperson has already indicated as referred to the committee for consideration. The Provincial Treasury has been allocated a Budget of R506,8 million for the 2019/20 financial year. About 38% of the Budget is towards Corporate Management Services, 20% of it is for Sustainable Resource Management, 12% is for Assets, Liabilities and Supply Chain Management, 21% is for Financial Governance and 9% is for Shared Internal Audit Services.

The committee noted an increase of 7,2% of the Budget and we think is a result of the previous financial year's allocated money for infrastructure capacity, municipal intervention and provincial programme support. In terms of section 18 of the PFMA which provides for functions and powers to the Provincial Treasury, that Provincial Treasury should conduct monitoring and reporting on provincial spending by the departments and their entities, we therefore commend Limpopo Provincial Treasury for its commitment to hold departments accountable through engagements and assisting in assessing the spending by the departments and entities against their plans.

Limpopo province has the highest percentage of the Budget spent on compensation of employees which in the year 2017/18 was 70%. We want to thank the department for the good work that it is doing, because indeed we are seeing the efforts and signs even though minimal that in the 2018/19 financial year the department was sitting at 69%. This was done through the implementation of the Persal block as set out in the Provincial Personnel Management Framework and Instruction Note 7 of 2016. We believe they will continue to monitor the COEs and apply measures that will reduce the COEs further to a national average of around 60% without taking away powers of the executing authority in terms of the Public Service Act to ensure proper accountability.

In relation to the Limpopo Provincial Treasury mandate towards infrastructure management support and oversight responsibility in terms of the PFMA and the MFMA in departments, provincial entities, and municipal public entities, we welcome the implementation of the framework for the implementation of the Infrastructure Delivery Management System (IDMS) as approved by the Executive Council and the fact that this IDMS puts more focus on Health, Education, Provincial Treasury and Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

Hon Speaker, the committee was concerned about compliance-related challenges that exist in departments and public entities and inadequate measures put in place to curb such challenges from recurring. It was found that challenges were mainly of noncompliance with the PFMA, Treasury regulations and supply chain management prescripts particularly on material misstatements in annual financial statements, performance information, consequence management not implemented, unwanted expenditure not prevented, procurement and contract management and revenue collection. Other challenges are noncompliance with the Public Service Act and regulations, particularly on strategic planning.

The committee is as well concerned about the level of financial mismanagement which was escalating in the province as witnessed by the investments made to the VBS Mutual Bank, contingent liabilities in the province, and lack of financial discipline amidst recommendations from various audit reports. The committee is optimistic that the department will ensure that the envisaged legislation on state liability will address matters pertaining to the contingent liabilities because it is one of the serious concerns we have, honourable MEC.

The committee will continue to regularly monitor the performance of the Provincial Treasury and persuade it to meet all its set targets. It was recommended that the Provincial Treasury must continue to follow up on the following prioritised capacitation

of the risk management unit and regularly review the provincial risk profile to enhance compliance.

In the Department of Health there is a need to provide the breakdown on accruals, classify envisaged payments per financial year and indicate how outstanding balances will be dealt with in an endeavour to avoid increases in accruals and manage cash flow.

The Department of Provincial Treasury will be expected to:

- Submit a strategy on how the 10 key interventions on municipal support will be carried out and furthermore report quarterly on the implementation plan pertaining to such a strategy;

- Submit a report on the findings of the Auditor-General on interim reviews pertaining to the identification of possible misstatements as reported earlier;

- Quantify all provincial contingent liabilities to provide a report on measures put in place to address them; and

- Establish possibilities to institutionalise consequence management to improve on matters of financial management and governance in general.

We want to commend Provincial Treasury as it is one of the best performing departments in terms of the audit outcomes. They regularly get a clean audit. Please keep up the good work, honourable MEC and the department. [APPLAUSE]

As the committee we want to support that the APP for the 2019/20 financial year and Budget for Vote 05 be supported and approved by this august House. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. We are now going to call upon Hon Manganye.

MS MANGANYE

To our Hon Speaker, our visitors, honourable Members of this august House, ndza mi losa. Hon Speaker, we are gathered here and wondering what is the purpose of funding a department which continues to fail in its mandate, noting the high level of corruption, misuse of public funds and looting which is taking place in the province. This House must note that we are still awaiting a clear report on the Tubatse land transaction which was processed with the approval of this same department.

We know that the bulk of the R506 million allocation is consumed by the compensation of employees. Whilst public funds are being misused daily, employees continue with their lives as if all is well. It is this comfort that institutionalises tendencies that undermine the PFMA and other legislative prescripts.

Whilst we complain about skills that can be aligned with the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the department has reduced its bursary intake with a massive 10,6%. This

immature decision should be reversed and instead there should be an increase in bursary allocation and intake unless if education is no longer a key to success.

We request that the government takes the House in confidence on the factor that led to decline in payments of capital assets from R10,9 million to R4,7 million. It is 25 years in power, yet the government still does not have a holistic model to prevent threats by those who exercise parasitic behaviour on state resources, feeding on their conspicuous consumptions.

The Department of Health should be given a timeframe of 30 days to comply with the provisions of effecting payments within 30 days and providing a clear plan on how they will deal with all accruals. The House should note that the transgression of late payments does not only occur at the level of departments. I was not lying, even here in the Legislature. It is still prevalent in municipalities and other entities where emerging businesses suffer the wrath of those in power prioritising invoices of those who are aligned to them.

The EFF is disappointed that whilst our people are overcrowded in bad conditions of hospitals and subjected to long queues in clinics only to be told that there are no medicines, the medical depots are loaded with expired medications. This is cruelty to the masses of our people and confirms that the collapse of the health system is deeper. We therefore request a report on the procurement of these medicines for the last three financial years which must include: ordering processes, lifespan of procured medicines and entities used for procuring such stock.

Does the compensation of employees rise because of cadre deployment as most posts are advertised prior to your elective conferences or it's an inevitable factor? The dismal audit outcomes by departments and municipalities call for the employment of people with skills and continued reskilling of personnel. Advanced support should be given to municipalities and entities such as RAL, GAAL, GNT, etc.

Hon Speaker, what clear steps of action are taken to eliminate bad audit outcomes and consequences? Why do you allow the same people who bring unwanted audit findings to continue with the daily work as if things are normal and you expect good results? Municipalities should not hesitate to disconnect services of those departments which are increasing the debt burden. This ignorance delays the provision of quality services by municipalities to the people.

The collapse of municipalities, entities and the VBS shenanigans happened under the watch of this department. The question is: Will they monitor and assist others when they watched and allowed the loot to take place in their presence? [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Can you conclude honourable Member?

MS MANGANYE

Is my time up?

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker!

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable Members, order! I am presiding over this august House. Honourable Member, can you conclude?

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We will monitor the process which was initiated as per request to the AG to conduct the reviews on three previous quarterly financial statements. We seek a report on this process and actions taken in various institutions as per audit findings. Since the function of condoning irregular expenditure has been delegated to the Provincial Treasury by the national department, we request that before such condonations are made, the committees of this House be updated to avoid misuse of the functions. The failures of departments, entities and municipalities cannot be avoided and will keep on recurring as long as Treasury is comfortable with the level of the misuse of public funds, looting and non-compliance.

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. We are now going to call upon Hon Lekganyane to come to the podium.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Acting Speaker, our Hon Speaker and Members of the House. Honourable Members, we are dealing with the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Interim Appropriation Bill, 2019 [B03-2019], which is Vote 05. As the ANC, we know very well that our province has three sources of revenue, namely: provincial equitable share, conditional grants and provincial own revenue.

Equitable share constitutes the bulk of the provincial revenue which is more than 85% of our provincial purse. One of the biggest determinants of the equitable share formula is the number of kids in schools. The trend shows a disturbing picture that says even though our equitable share has been increasing over the years, the rate of increase in equitable share has been decreasing. The conditional grant is the second largest source of revenue for the province. However, it aims to address national priorities in the province like the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP), the Letsema project and the EPWP in the Department of Agriculture.

As the ANC, we welcome the grant allocated to both Departments of Education and Health to focus on the fight against the HIV/Aids pandemic as well as awareness in the province. Own Revenue is the only source of revenue that is fully under control and can be determined by the province. This revenue comes from sources such as motor vehicle registration licenses, gambling and casino licenses, liquor licenses and

horse racing taxes, just to name but a few. These are the biggest sources of own revenue in the province.

The Department of Transport remains the largest provincial own revenue contributor at 44% mainly from motor vehicle license taxes. This is followed by the Provincial Treasury through interests generated from the money in the bank with 25%. This is a double-edged sword because the more the interests earned means service delivery is not taking place at the rate it should be. The Limpopo Provincial Treasury generates more interest rates if the departments are not spending. The provincial own revenue grows by 5,6% in the 2019/20 financial year and 5,4% in the 2021/22 financial year. This is a concern as the provincial own revenue is said to be going to increase at a decreasing rate from 5,6% in this current financial year to 5,4% in the next financial year.

As the ANC, we welcome the allocation. The funding includes an allocation of R6,2 million for SMS capacity-building programmes, provincial evaluation plan and disaster recovery sites. This will assist in terms of addressing leadership challenges that have often been cited as findings in the Auditor-General's report.

Hon Speaker, we welcome the allocation to the provincial Legislature of an amount of R375,8 million for the 2019/20 financial year in order to assist the provincial Legislature in exercising its role of playing robust oversight over the Executive.

In conclusion, this portfolio committee will continue to play its oversight role in order to ensure that good governance is also transferred to other departments, public entities as well as all municipalities. I, therefore, move for the adoption of this report. I thank you. Re a leboga. Ga e be kgotso. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. I will then call upon Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, another year passes with none of our municipalities managing to achieve a clean audit. This is very hard to accept when a total of 24 municipalities, that is 96% of the municipalities, used consultants for financial reporting at a cost of R177 million in the 2017/18 financial year. In the 2016/17 financial year, a R123 million was used for consultants. This was as a result of a lack of skills and vacancies in key positions within municipalities, especially in the finance units.

However, despite this huge outlay, there is still an insufficient transfer of skills and value for money for the taxpayer as the last MFMA report showed that 100% of municipalities had material findings due to noncompliance with legislation. The most common compliance findings related to the quality of financial statements submitted for auditing are 100% and noncompliance with supply chain procedures. This brings into question the efficacy of these consultants.

Provincial Treasury allocated R9,6 million for municipal interventions and we hope that they use this money and more in capacitating our municipal staff on skills to ensure

financial prudence and also to improve the revenue collection in these municipalities. The support in oversight is insufficient considering the dire situation in our municipalities. Many municipalities having an expenditure greater than their income are struggling to stay afloat.

The DA feels the need to ensure that Treasury receives financial reports from municipalities that are of a high standard in order to stop the poor financial management by these municipalities. The municipal investment regulation 6 requires municipalities to invest with banks registered in terms of the Banks Act. Despite this regulation and the submission of financial reports every month, we had 11 municipalities that invested money with the VBS, and 8 of those municipalities namely: Greater Giyani, Makhado, Elias Motsoaledi, Lepelle-Nkumpi, Ephraim Mogale, Vhembe District, Collins Chabane and Fetakgomo-Tubatse had investments amounting to almost R1,2 billion with the VBS Mutual Bank which they will not recover. Treasury needs to table a comprehensive recovery plan for each of these municipalities with the necessary resources to ensure a turnaround. Honourable MEC, deploying one or two members from the department will not save these municipalities. They are just too far gone.

Hon Speaker, we need to stop bailing out entities like Corridor Mining Resources, Great North Transport, Roads Agency Limpopo and GAAL for their operational purposes. They have financial sustainability challenges. Their current total liabilities exceed their current total assets. Gateway Airport Authority Limited, Roads Agency Limpopo, Limpopo Tourism Agency, Limpopo Economic Development Agency and Great North Transport had creditors that exceeded cash and cash equivalence at year-end. These entities could not pay their creditors as they became due. It is not feasible for these entities to rely on government grants to fund their operations while not generating enough cash from their operating activities, which puts an additional strain on the province's fiscus.

Provincial departments like Health continue to be worrisome as they continue to overcommit themselves and rack up over R1 billion in accruals. Claims, contingent liabilities instituted against departments like Health at R4,3 billion threaten to collapse the provision of quality health services to our people and threaten to collapse the province. Treasury must ensure that these departments have systems in place to keep claims to a minimum and not threaten other programmes of the department. Long standing issues of misappropriation of funds like the Tubatse land deal in the CoGHSTA department must also have consequences for all those involved.

The MEC spoke of the challenge of unemployment and strides towards tackling it. We believe the bloated staff component in our provincial government's departments is unsustainable. [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

In conclusion.

MR MAHARAJ

We cannot have over 70% of the R69 billion budgeted for this province directed towards compensation of employees. We hope our new MEC will work towards this,

and if he is committed to achieving improved outcomes regarding our province's finances across the board then we will fully support him. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks. We are calling upon Hon Phala.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much for the opportunity to debate the Budget for Vote 05: Department of Provincial Treasury. Honourable Members and Hon Speaker, this is a department that without any equivocation and without any contradiction we can say is the best performing department of the provincial government. This is the best performing department of the provincial government and one of the best performing provincial Treasuries in the Republic of South Africa. [APPLAUSE] That is why, if you listened, when Members debated, they spoke about the problems in the Department of Health, they spoke about municipalities and they don't speak about Treasury. [APPLAUSE] Without any contradiction, Provincial Treasury is the best performing provincial department in this Limpopo provincial government and one of the best performing provincial Treasuries in the Republic of South Africa. [APPLAUSE] The issues we raise are not necessarily issues of Treasury as a department per se. Batho ba bolela ka RAL; ba re Health ya re, ya re; yola a re masepaleng. Aowa, a re boleleleng ka Provincial Treasury as a department itself. I repeat, for those who didn't hear me: The best performing department of this provincial government of the ANC and one of the best performing provincial Treasuries in the Republic of South Africa. [APPLAUSE] That is why it is one of those departments in the Republic of South Africa that has been getting clean audits after clean audits, because it is one of the best departments in the republic. [APPLAUSE] That is why, when we talk of issues that Members raised here, those issues are of other departments.

I see there is an order by Hon Seshoka there. [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable Member, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, I just want to check if it is parliamentary for a Member of this House to continuously repeat the same thing time and again? [NOISE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Can you proceed, honourable Member. Hon Phala, can you allow the honourable Member to conclude, we will afford you the opportunity to proceed. Honourable Member, can you raise your point of order.

MR SESHOKA

I was asking if it is parliamentary. I don't know whether it is allowed for me to talk when the honourable Member is still standing as well.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

You are protected. Can you proceed with the order.

MR SESHOKA

Can you ask him to sit down while I'm talking?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Phala, can you sit down.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Speaker. Before I was disrupted, I was checking with you, Hon Speaker, if it is parliamentary for an honourable Member to continue telling us the same thing time and time again for more than five minutes. If he does not have anything to say, we heard what he said than for him to continue telling us the same thing time and again. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. I'm quite convinced that the honourable Member was speaking on the time allocated to him. Hon Phala, can you proceed. Please wait, Hon Phala. Can you sit down, there is another hand from Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. We can't leave that order like that, because it's an order that you have to make a ruling on. I think the order was out of order in the sense that this august House has adopted standing rules. [LAUGHTER] In those standing rules there is nowhere it says a person must not repeat, repeat and repeat. I'm saying Hon Seshoka was out of order.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Monama, you can't call order where there is an order. The Speaker has not sustained the order, because the order is not sustainable; hence I directed Hon Phala to proceed with the speech because he has been allocated that time to speak. I didn't find anything convincing regarding the order raised by Hon Seshoka. The order is not sustained. Thanks. Hon Phala, please proceed with the debate.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Before I was interrupted, I was saying the Provincial Treasury of Limpopo is the best performing department in the provincial administration, one of the best performing provincial Treasuries in the Republic of South Africa. [APPLAUSE] We say that on behalf of the ANC without any fear of contradiction, because we know that this department has been performing well. That is why when people speak, the issues that are raised are issues that concern either

the entire provincial government or other departments in the provincial administration, not the Provincial Treasury as a department. Even in the report of that Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, there are issues that were put for emphasis for Treasury to expand, extend, and transport the good work that they are doing there to other departments in the provincial administration. That is what we want so that other departments and entities in the provincial administration can improve their finances and perform better in delivering services to the people of Limpopo and do very well for this provincial administration.

It is about expanding, extending and transporting the good things that are happening in Provincial Treasury to other departments, entities and even municipalities in the province. That is why Hon Makhurupetje and Hon Lekganyane were emphasising the issue of payment of invoices within 30 days by departments. We are not talking about Treasury. Treasury has been doing that for years. There are departments that are known 100% there. Health is number one and followed by others. First, we want them to also improve and pay all invoices within 30 days as provided for by Public Finance Management Act. Secondly, we also want the reduction of compensation of employees' budget which is very high in the province. It must go down. Thirdly, we are also raising the issue of the financial revitalisation of Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) whose finances are not up to scratch as we speak. We are saying that Provincial Treasury needs to help there to ensure that RAL is financially revitalised. We also talk about assistance to other departments to turn around their finances, particularly those departments that have received qualified audit opinions from the Auditor-General, not Treasury. Treasury gets clean audit after clean audit. We are talking about other departments that get qualification. We are talking about Public Works; we are talking about Department of Health; we are talking about Department of Education; we are talking about Sport, Arts and Culture and others so that the Provincial Treasury transports and expands its capacity to those departments so that they are able to get better audits themselves.

We are talking about Provincial Treasury working to reduce R200 million that we are paying on rental annually to service providers of all kinds that provide rental service for the provincial government. An amount of R200 million per annum is a lot of money that can be utilised to deliver services to the people. Treasury needs to work on that to acquire buildings and come up with other methods to reduce that R200 million. Provincial Treasury must work to ensure that departments that receive conditional grants – because a conditional grant is a grant that comes from national government with conditions for its spending. Provincial Treasury does not receive lots of conditional grants, but it is almost all departments that receive up to billions of rands of conditional grants, and some of these departments don't spend such grants to the last cent. Therefore, the Provincial Treasury should help other departments to spend their grants as much as possible.

Reduction of the contingent liability, which is standing at R9,3 billion of the provincial government, and not a single cent of those contingents is in the Provincial Treasury. Of these contingent liabilities, an amount of R7 billion is in Health. We are talking about other departments; we are not talking about Treasury. As Treasury, we should just stand up – and I will do it later and you will see – and move the report and leave the House, because it is one of the cleanest, best performing provincial departments. We hope, Hon Sekoati, you will keep up the good job and not slaughter the chicken that is laying eggs. The tendency in villages is to slaughter a chicken that is laying eggs

and remain with megogonope – mekoko. [APPLAUSE] We want a chicken that is laying eggs to remain laying eggs. [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

As you conclude, Hon Phala.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much for the time given, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks. We are now going to call upon MEC for Provincial Treasury to respond to observations made by honourable Members.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Acting Speaker and the august House. Let me this opportunity to thank the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury as led by Hon Phala, and extend words of gratitude to the staff members of the department for the great work that they continue to perform for the province of Limpopo. Again, let me say that we take into consideration the recommendations made by the portfolio committee and by this House to ensure that we are able to continue supporting various departments and municipalities in ensuring that there is a continued good governance in the province and at the local level, and further make sure that there is efficient and effective use of resources in this province.

We also considered all the areas that have been mentioned, whether in terms of contingent liabilities, or sustainable resource management within various departments. We will continue to do so with the responsibility given to us to support those various departments.

With those remarks, I would like to thank the committee and the entire House for the continued support. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable MEC. We are now going to item 7.2 and call upon the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee for Provincial Treasury to table the Limpopo Interim Appropriation Bill, 2019 [B03-2019] for consideration and adoption by this august House.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I table on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury to this House a report of the portfolio committee on Limpopo Interim Appropriation Bill, 2019 [B03-2019] for consideration and adoption by this honourable House. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Other Members will learn that there will be no debate once the Bill is adopted as I said earlier.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable Members, thanks very much. We are now going to call for a seconder. Hon Makhurupetje, you are recognised.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand to second the Bill as read by Hon Phala.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. We are now going to a Snap Debate on Women's Month. We shall also go to our list. Firstly, we have Hon Rakgoale allocated 10 minutes; Hon Managa allocated 7 minutes; Hon Phala allocated 5 minutes; and Hon Mokaba-Phukwana allocated 10 minutes.

We then call upon Hon Rakgoale. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier in absentia, MECs present today, the Chief Whip of the Majority Party, the Deputy Chief Whip, honourable Members, good evening. Perhaps before I start, Hon Speaker, I need to indicate that I am a South African by birth, and if you look behind us, there is a flag standing next to the chairperson of the day. A dominant colour on that flag is red. Therefore, we can't have any political organisation that can take ownership of the colour red. [APPLAUSE] I want to say to our fellow honourables that I refer them to the history of South Africa; our political history as the ruling party together with our alliance partners in terms of the colour, we are saying, they chose to steal our colour, and at that time they were not yet born as an organisation. Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. Let me go to my speech.

In his first State of the Nation Address in 1994, former President Nelson Mandela said to the first democratically elected Parliament: "Freedom cannot be achieved unless women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression. Our endeavours must be about the liberation of the woman, the emancipation of the man and the liberty of the child." Sixty-three years ago, women of South Africa staged a daring combat against oppression and exploitation. Women vowed, when it was not fashionable, that they would resist and fight for liberation and declared that they would insist on their role in making history. Twenty-five years into our hard-fought freedom and democracy, we say your efforts were never in vain, and for that we salute the more than 20 000 women who made apartheid unworkable.

For us as women, the month of August holds great significance because it is a celebration of fortitude, perseverance, respect, appreciation, love and care. Let us reflect on our 25 years of democracy and plot properly on how we are going to contribute in growing South Africa together for women emancipation. We proudly participate in this debate because we have in this country a Constitution which commits our society to the quality of women. We have a government that is committed to providing the necessary support to anyone who desires to pursue various endeavours under the sun be it taking up leadership positions in government or in the

private sector. The environment to thrive has been created by our government, something that was unheard of 63 years ago.

The ANC-led government has been working very hard in the past 25 years of our democracy and freedom to ensure that the needs and interests of women inform our policies and the way we implement them. Indeed, women have contributed greatly to the welfare of the society and subsequently to the country. You will agree with me that a society is better when women are not taken for granted and are given equal respect. Gone are those days when women were confined to homes and were not allowed to step out of the house for work purposes. But today, society has seen a lot of changes because today women are given equal potential at work and can stand amongst and sometimes ahead of men in many fields.

We are at a stage where both men and women contribute equally to the betterment of the home and the society. That tells us that this government does not pay lip service to its policies concerning women, but actively implements them. Women in this country continue to organise themselves, continue to define themselves in terms of needs and priorities and freely bring their issues that will take this country in the next 25 years to the attention of government. We say it is critical as women of this country, given the legacy of oppression to speak with one clear voice as we champion women issues. We know better the issues that weigh heavily on women, and accordingly take cue from the women of 1956 who created an enduring landmark in our country's history.

Unity will see us attacking poverty, inequality and unemployment. We can play our rightful roles in transforming our society in generating sustained economic growth and development in our communities. Unity of purpose will see us dealing decisively with violence against women and children which is a serious evil in our society. It cannot not be allowed to thrive as part of our subordination of women and consequence of inequality. Let us take cue from determined women of 1956 who dared the apartheid regime. Their inspiring examples compel all of us, challenge all of us to work together to eradicate violence against women. Time has come to speak up and expose the criminals masquerading as wolves in a sheep skin. We must win against women and child abuse.

Our clarion call to women of our country is to have unity of purpose as we grow South Africa together. We must do this by continuing to educate the nation about the role women played in the emancipation and liberation of this country. We are once more reminded of the caution Nelson Mandela gave in one of the occasions celebrating women in 1996: "As long as women are bound by poverty, and as long as they are looked down upon, human rights will lack substance. As long as outmoded ways of thinking prevent women from making a meaningful contribution to society, progress will be slow. As long as the nation refuses to acknowledge the equal role of more than half of itself, it is doomed to failure." Let us grow South Africa forward.

Seshoka go and research in terms of what does that red represents in the flag. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member.

MR SESHOKA

Point of order! We really respect August, the month of women. We really respect it. But it becomes worrisome to us because even during this month of the women, women continue to praise men, and we felt that it is unacceptable. [INTERJECTION]

MR SELAMOLELA

Order! Order! Order!

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable Members, let us not call order after order. The order is not sustained because the order was supposed to be called when the speaker was still on the floor. Thanks. Hon Selamolela, you are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

Chairperson, I am very much worried by the conduct from the other side. I think it begs a question on whether the induction we had was enough. Perhaps we must reconsider having a second induction, because these points of procedures are being exploited in a manner that exposes lack of understanding. Thanks very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. Can we call upon Hon Managa.

MS MANAGA

Evening, honourable Members. Hon Speaker, women have suffered most from the neoliberal reality of the past 25 years under the ANC government. The vicious cycle of triple oppression which is based on race, class and gender has not been broken for the black women in particular. The EFF recognises that while patriarchy and sexism are pervasive in our society. It is black women who suffer the most from gender-based violence. I am going to abbreviate the gender-based violence as GBV from now on going forward.

According to Stats SA, … [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable Member, can you just take a seat. There is a hand. Can we note that hand.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I just want to assist the honourable Member to appreciate what the ANC-led government has done. I would like to pose a specific question to Hon Managa regarding the leadership positions in the EFF. Are women allowed to contest for leadership positions in the EFF? Can she clarify me on that?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Can you proceed, honourable Member.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Chair. I was still saying according to the Stats SA, murders of women increased from 9,6% per 100 000 women in 2015 to 20,8% in 2016/17. Clearly there is a dramatic increase of women murders in South Africa. According to the SAPS stats, 2 639 women were murdered in 2017/18. Our femicide rate in South Africa is high indeed. Out of 14 333 of murders that happened in 2016, 1 713 of those murders were women. Up to now, interventions for dealing with gender-based violence have been superficial, half-hearted and based on the wrong understanding of the root causes of the vulnerability of women. Our 16 Days of Activism and our Domestic Violence Act, 1998 (Act 116 of 1998) are not enough to solve the problem of GBV. Survivors of gender-based violence are still being poorly treated by the judicial system and this needs to change.

Women are still under abuse by their employers, their men and their white colonial masters. As if that was not enough, they get victimised by the police on daily basis when they go there to open cases. Officials in the judicial system are not trained enough and equipped to better handle GBV cases. They abuse women when they go to report cases. Our women are more terrified to go to our courts. The EFF government will amend existing legislation to include minimum sentences for crimes committed ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Moraka, can you allow the honourable Member to proceed.

MS MANAGA

The EFF government will amend existing legislation to include minimum sentences to crimes committed with hatred as motivation such as corrective rape. The month of August has been dedicated to women emancipation in recognition of more than 20 000 women … [INTERJECTION]

MR MATHE

Order!

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable Member, can you take a seat. Honourable Member, can you proceed with your order.

MR MATHE

Hon Speaker, I am rising on a point of order. The honourable Member said a statement which is not factual and is misleading this House on the basis that, firstly, there is no woman who was ever abused by the judiciary. In fact, the courts in this country have

taken a decision to protect women, hence even yesterday, three perpetrators who abused women were given 13, 8 and 5 life sentences. What the honourable Member is saying is misleading and must be withdrawn.

Secondly, it has never been factually proven that when women go to police station to open cases, they are abused. In fact, in all police stations, you have what you call victim empowerment centres to assist women that are not confident in opening cases. The Member is misleading this House and must, therefore, withdraw and desist from making statements that are factually unproven or leave the House. The third point of order is that – when we raise an order, you must sit down – the honourable Member did it deliberately, and that conduct is not honourable. She is deliberately misleading the House and the province by talking about the EFF government that will never happen. She must withdraw that statement.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable Members, the discretion for the honourable Member to leave the House lies with the Speaker. Secondly, honourable Member, can you confine yourself within the Snap Debate on the Women's Month. Of course, the order was sustained. Thanks.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Chair. I am not sure whether the honourable Member that has just raised an order has consulted the research that were done recently on gender-based violence or not.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable Members, can we allow the honourable Member to proceed.

MS MANAGA

I was still saying the month of August has been dedicated to women emancipation in recognition of more than 20 000 women who bravely raised the banner of freedom on 9 August 1956 against the apartheid regime. The women opposed laws that racially restricted the movement of black people in the interest of the migrant labour system and security of the white community. Pass laws represented a system designed to keep majority of blacks as cheap and easily disposable labour as it is the case up to this day with domestic workers, your mineworkers and many others in the casualised labour regime. It is for this reason that economic freedom is even more urgent, for there shall never be a truly economically free society without the betterment of conditions of women.

The EFF is clear that economic freedom must crush patriarchal oppression and its associated violence against women. Women's Month is also dedicated to women emancipation in recognition that patriarchy continues to structure the lives of women as belonging to the kitchen, and worse off as objects of sexual gratification.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

As you conclude, honourable Member.

MS MANAGA

The question that I would like to leave to the government of the day with is: How many shelters do we have in the province that accommodate battered women and their children for three days or more while they are still trying to get a place of safety wherein they will be secured and be freed from their perpetrators? We do have non-governmental organisations like trauma centres, your victim empowerment centres and FAMSA (Families South Africa) that are here in the province. The question is: Are they doing enough? If the answer is no, it means there is still much that needs to be done. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. We are going to call upon Hon Phala. Hon Phala is not here. We are calling upon Hon Mokaba-Phukwana. You will debate for 10 minutes. Hon Monama, you are recognised.

MR MONAMA

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I think we have adopted the order of speakers here. One of our honourable Members was part of this House. You are calling her name and she is not here. I think you cannot just leave it like that and say we skip that name. We must take drastic steps so that Members don't just leave this House willy-nilly. You must take a decision about the absence of that honourable Member. I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

The order is noted, and we will refer it to the relevant authorities. Hon Thabo Mokone, is that an order?

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Yes, it is an order. Hon Speaker, I wanted to say that on a serious note that we should note that the DA is making a lot of noise about the Constitution of this country, and claiming to be serious about women emancipation. This is an indication that the honourable Member who is here on the Speakers' List, who was present here, just decided to abruptly disappear when we are talking about serious matters which affect women. Worse off she is also a woman. I think it is a shame to the 'Democratic Party' that they leave while the House is engaged in a snap debate on this serious matter. I think as Hon Monama has indicated, we need to discuss this matter, because it is not a matter that concerns a ward, but this matter is of provincial and national importance. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Mokone. Hon Moraka, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I am rising here just to sensitise you as the chairperson of this session because everything that is being said in this honourable House is going to be recorded in *Hansard* and even on the ATC. When an order is being called upon a Member, and you have ruled on it that indeed the order is sustained, as a matter of procedure, the honourable Member on the podium must withdraw. Otherwise, you are running a risk of having issues wherein we are setting a very wrong precedence. I am just cautioning you, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks. The matter is noted. Hon Mokaba-Phukwana, can you proceed.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Starting with the Premier in absentia, the leader of Freedom Front Plus in absentia, the leader of DA in absentia, the leader of EFF in absentia, honourable Members in the House, good evening. [APPLAUSE] The principal objective of any growth and development must be human-focused. A better life for all and the attainment of a high standard of living for our people must be our ultimate calling. This requires a more equitable distribution of development benefits and opportunities, better living environment and empowerment of the poor and the marginalised.

There is a special need to empower women who can act as catalysts for change. In making the development process inclusive, the challenge is to formulate policies and programmes to bridge regional, social and economic differences in an effective and sustainable manner as possible. To achieve that, we need 100% involvement of young women and girls in all development trajectories. When that unity occurs, together with our menfolk, we will be operating at full capacity as a nation.

Let me firstly take this opportunity to express my gratitude towards this august House. It is perhaps befitting, Hon Speaker, that today's occasion involving women, young women, and girls in general takes place in this August month, a stark reminder of the journey women travelled. Not so many years ago, the apartheid government saw young women and girls as nothing. Our people, especially women, young women and children were seen as labourers, migrants from homelands, sexual objects, child-bearers, barbarians and aides to male-dominated society. It is important to note that the position of women in our global society has since changed.

On the contrary, this ANC government sees women and young girls as the future – a critical resource that is at the cutting edge of our country's development. This is the month we commit ourselves to develop and empower our cream of the crop. It is an honour and a privilege to contribute on women economic empowerment and sustainable development during this August month.

Today, as we speak, we are beginning to witness women progressing from those traditional minor roles as lifetime assistants. Women are leading as company directors, as Premiers and MECs, as Ministers and leaders of great institutions in both the public and the private sector. It took a lot of sweat, blood and pain for women to be where they are today. Today, we compete as equals with men and boys. We are an important link towards economic empowerment and sustainable development.

The primary struggle facing every woman today is gender stereotypes. The success of this struggle does not depend on the goodwill of men, though their support is always of great importance. Gender inequality in education and health can also be explained to a considerable extent by religious preferences, regional factors and civil freedom. As a society, especially women and girls, we are gradually changing these stereotypes. We have modified those outdated beliefs that tša etwa ke ya tshadi pele di wela ka leopeng. We have successfully changed that to tša etwa ke ya tshadi pele di nwa maswi. [APPLAUSE]

As women and girls, we need the support that we displayed as a nation when we fought the apartheid regime. It is only through this support that we can realise our full potential towards developing our country to its maxim. That unity of purpose, Hon Speaker, was briefly captured by one of the sons of Africa, Dr Nkwame Nkrumah of Ghana at the African Union Conference in Addis Ababa in 1963, when he said: “We must unite now or perish. We must recognise that our economic independence resides in our African union and requires the same concentration upon the political achievement.”

The founding fathers and mothers of our democratic society have visualised in the Freedom Charter, the Constitution and Bill of Rights, a South Africa in which everyone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and benefit of the law. Within the context of these constitutional obligations, the ANC government has since 1994 led a transformation process aimed at ensuring that women, girls and children including people living with disability occupy their rightful place in society as equals.

These efforts have also seen us as a nation introducing among others, the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act. This piece of legislation seeks to fight trafficking of young girls and women by international syndicates. It also addresses the local practice of ukuthwala, a form of abduction that involves kidnapping a young girl and compelling her into forceful marriage.

These are extreme actions of abuse of women and girls that we must stop as women. If it was not of these and other crimes, South Africa could have been much better today. The triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and crime would be forgotten. Everyone would have been employed and earning a decent living wage. Unfortunately, today, our country’s resources are spent on fighting crime and protecting our borders against women and girls trafficking.

The report by David Dollar and Roberta Gatti of the World Bank observed that the relative status of women is poor in the developing world, compared to developed countries. Increases in per capita income lead to improvements in different measures of gender equality. To achieve our objectives as a society, we need to identify ourselves within progressive organisations such as the Young Women’s Christian Association. As women and girls in this part of South Africa, we must feel proud to say that we are in the main of Abraham faith of Christianity that will give women and girls the power to change their lives.

Societies that prefer not to invest in girls pay a price in terms of slower growth and reduced income. Check the United Nations Human Development Index 2015 for top developed countries and the bottom of the list. South Africa has made great strides in

promoting the involvement of women in the development trajectory. In 2014, the former President of South Africa released the report on the status of women in the economy, which painted a rather encouraging picture.

The report attested to the fact that women have now become the majority population in public higher education institutions outnumbering male enrolments by a ratio of 2/3 and even reaching an all-time high of 57%. This is a sure sign that the ANC education policies are working and are indeed beginning to bring more and more women out of destitution into the world of sustainable development.

Nothing stops you from taking advantage of these changes in order to transform your life for the better. Nothing stops a self-motivated young woman to cross the seemingly high mountains to pursue a knowledge for self-empowerment.

As the South African government, we share the vision to have 100 million young women and girls that will transform the power structures to create justice, gender equality and a world without violence and war. Nothing stops you from being the person you have always wanted to be. The former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan once said: “To live is to choose. But to choose well, you must know who you are and what you stand for, where you want to go and why you want to get there.”

Let us go out as proud South Africans and celebrate Women’s Month with discipline and focusing on our women who sacrificed their lives for this freedom we enjoy today. Let us remember where we come from and where we want to go as a nation. Let us not be swayed by wolves wearing sheepskins.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, allow me to read from the book of 1 Samuel 16:7 that says: But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Members. We are now going to the NCOP Business. We move to item 9.1: Motion for the Ratification of Appointment of Special Delegates who attended the NCOP Plenary on 17, 18, 24, 25 and 30 July 2019 in Cape Town. We will call upon the Chief Whip’s office.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to table for a motion for the ratification of the appointment of special delegates who attended the NCOP plenaries. Hon Speaker, House Rule 226(3) provides for the designation and appointment of special delegates when the House is not sitting. In line with this rule, the following honourable Members were appointed to attend the below-mentioned plenaries in Cape Town:

- 17 July 2019, policy vote16: Department of Health, Hon Ramathuba P;
- 17 July 2019, policy vote 14: Department of Basic Education, Hon Boshielo P;
- 18 July 2019, policy vote 4: Department of CoGTA, Hon Makamu B R;

- 24 July 2019, policy vote 17: Department of Social Development, Hon Rakgoale R;
- 25 July 2019, Budget Vote 38: Departments of Human Settlements; Water and Sanitation, Hon Makamu B R; and
- 30 July 2019: Consideration of the Appropriation Bill [B06-2019], Hon Mokgonyana E M, Hon Lekganyane N M and Hon Selane C B D.

Hon Speaker, I hereby move that this House resolves to ratify the appointment of the abovementioned special delegates in line with the provision of the abovementioned rule. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. Can we call for a seconder? Hon Moraka, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I, Tandi Moraka, rise here to second the motion as tabled by the Hon Deputy Chief Whip. Thanks.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. Honourable Member, what is that hand for?

MR MATHE

I am not objecting. As the motion was presented, there was Rakgoale R which in terms of my record, there is no Rakgoale R.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Mathe, can you sit down.

MR MATHE

No, I am moving for an amendment because there is no Rakgoale R. She is N C Rakgoale.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Okay, the amendment is noted – Hon Nkakareng Christian Rakgoale. Honourable Members, are there any other announcements? In the absence of announcements, I move to item 11: Adjournment. The House is adjourned to Thursday, 22 August 2019 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

LIMPOPO
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VERBATIM REPORT

OF THE

DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH PARLIAMENT

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

THURSDAY, 22 AUGUST 2019

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VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 22 AUGUST 2019
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00

THE SPEAKER

Ndi matsheloni. Let's use this opportunity for a moment of silence as a way of prayers and/or meditations before we start our session.

[SILENCE]

Thank you. You may be seated. Welcome back to each one of us. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all honourable Members to the House as we can see on our Order Paper that we have got a lot of work to do. So, I will appreciate it if Members can really focus and we utilise this morning effectively. Feel welcome. Are there any motions without notice this morning? I notice Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

A CALL FOR INDIVIDUALS TO TESTIFY AT THE ZONDO COMMISSION
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance that this august House notes the call from the Zondo Commission to call upon all individuals concerned together with the Premier of Limpopo province, Stan Mathabatha, to account to the commission on their involvement and/or reasoning for investing in VBS Mutual Bank contrary to the Municipal Investment Regulation 6 which requires municipalities to invest with banks registered in terms of the Banks Act.

- Despite this regulation, 11 municipalities in Limpopo transgressed and neglected these by-laws and policies and invested in the VBS Mutual Bank close to R2 billion of which R1,2 billion has since been recorded as a loss to the municipalities.

- Given the current economic climate, this clause cannot go without a proper investigation and explanation at the commission.

- Given the talk from all sectors of government on wanting to have the political will to stamp out corruption, we call on all those involved to fully cooperate and provide full disclosure to the commission.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder to the motion? I notice Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the motion as read by Hon Maharaj.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any other motion without notice? I notice Hon Phala.

MR PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

CELEBRATION OF THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT ANNIVERSARY
(Motion without Notice)

I move on behalf of the African National Congress that this August 2019 we celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the United Democratic Front (UDF) in 1983. The United Democratic Front was a front of organisations that had sprung up after the 1973 deaths, strikes and the 1976 student uprising throughout the country.

- There were organisations of various kinds of women, youth, rural people, students and pupils from high schools. The United Democratic Front was formed to bring all those organisations under one umbrella.

- It is the United Democratic Front that was formed in August 1983 that led to the roaring 1980 in which the struggle reached the new levels, new intensity and new preamble in which there were marches, pickets, strikes, boycotts, stayaways, stay-at-homes and “azikhwelwa”, and the struggle for liberation reached a new level to the extent where the ANC was unbanned in 1990.

- Nelson Mandela was released, and we went to the free and democratic elections in April 1994 because of that work of the giant United Democratic Front.

- Therefore, on behalf of and in the name of the African National Congress, we move that this House recognises all the heroes and heroines, the trailblazers, men and women – urban and rural, young and old, black and white, rich and poor – who propelled the structures of the United Democratic Front and ensured that it is victorious.

We say, long live the memory of the United Democratic Front, long live!

BACKGROUND

Long live!

ADV PHALA

Viva, ANC, viva!

BACKGROUND

Viva!

ADV PHALA

Thanks, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I notice Hon Mitileni.

MR MITILENI

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Wisani Goodman Mitileni, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Phala.

THE SPEAKER

Do we still have motions? I notice Hon Mathye.

MS MATHYE

Thanks, Hon Speaker and good morning to the august House.

THE RENAMING OF SOME BUILDINGS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA
(Motion without Notice)

I, Mathye Susan Violet, rise on behalf of the African National Congress to present a motion without notice on the renaming of Unisa.

- The ANC in this House welcomes the renaming of some buildings of the University of South Africa (Unisa), a process that is in tandem with the country's spirit of renewal and transformation.

- The university has embarked on a process to rename its three historical buildings after the country's political icons who had contributed greatly to the shaping of the university and the society at large.

- As the ANC, we are humbled by the nobility of this endeavour by Unisa for removing names that resonate with the old order and replacing them with names of the true stalwarts of the liberation of our people.

- The individuals that are being honoured are Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Anton Lembede and Prof Simon Radipere. These are impeccable individuals who were all driven by the spirit of improving the lives of our country.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? I notice Hon Makhurupetje.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Nna, Makoma Makhurupetje, ke ema mo go thekga se se boletšwego ke Mohlomphegi Mathye. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there still motions without notice, honourable Members? I notice Hon Mohlala.

MR MOHLALA

THE RULING AGAINST THE APARTHEID FLAG BY THE COURT
(Motion without Notice)

I, Manamane Mohlala, rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to move the motion without notice on the apartheid flag court ruling.

- The EFF Limpopo welcomes the court ruling which declared the gratuitous display of the apartheid flag as hate speech.

- As the EFF Limpopo, we welcome that ruling of the equality court that declared the gratuitous display of apartheid flag as hate speech.

- We furthermore call for the removal of “Die Stem” from our national anthem. Apartheid tools cannot continue to fit into democratic society disguised as freedoms.

- Racists hold a core belief that they are superior beings whilst the rest of us are treated as less human beings and subjects. Racists and their representatives such as AfriForum should be ashamed that after 25 years into democracy they still can’t adapt to the reality of building a united society.

- Their defence of apartheid symbols can’t be justified under any circumstances apart from the fact that they seek to protect their cruel deeds to the nation.

- We can’t subject our people to cosmetic unity and artificial rainbow nation when apartheid symbols are still dominant in our cities, school syllabus and our daily lives disguised as street names, statues and language imposed on people.

- We need to unite against racism, unite against those who abuse elders and people living with disability, women and children. Our province is prone to such activities, and often these perpetrators receive less sentences or punishment. To curb racism and its disguised acts, we must be harsh in dealing with those who advocate it.

- We would furthermore like to appreciate and welcome the renaming of University of South Africa buildings after a struggle heroine, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I notice Hon Managa.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Managa Lilian from the Economic Freedom Fighters, stand to second the motion as presented by Hon Charles Mohlala. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Are there still any motions without notice? Can we then move to notices of motions. Are there any notices of motions? There are none. Are there any Members' Statements? I notice Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE MUSHROOMING OF MOB JUSTICE IN OUR COMMUNITIES
(Members' Statement)

On behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters, we would like to raise this important issue regarding the mushrooming of mob justice in our communities. The EFF is concerned about the mushrooming of mob justice in this province. This unfortunate current status of affairs says a lot about the state of safety and security system we have in this province in particular SAPS.

When we see people taking the law into their own hands, it tells that our police system is failing to deal with crime in our communities. The police must attend to crime challenges in our communities to avoid mob justice from reigning supreme. The state has the responsibility of protecting peaceful communities from the raging crime by criminal elements in the society. Communities are sick and tired of the uncontrollable crime in our communities; hence they act in the manner in which they do. SAPS must respond to community needs of our people, and key among them is safety and security.

As it stands now, rapists are running amok, breaking into houses, raping women and children, and nothing concrete is being done to arrest the situation. Reported cases are not attended to promptly and communities end up being frustrated and not knowing where to go. The situation calls for more recruitment, training and deployment of more police officers, including resources to make them do their work profitably. We call upon the MEC for Safety, Security and Liaison to investigate these matters and rid the community of Limpopo of the scourge of mob justice and criminality.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder to the Members' Statement?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

It is the Members' Statement, and it does not need a seconder.

THE SPEAKER

Okay. Honourable Members that are in the House, are you able to respond to that or can we proceed? Okay, I notice you, Hon Dickson Masemola.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I have taken note of the statement as read by the honourable Member. Of course, as we continue to do our work, we will be able to provide a much more detailed clarity in the portfolio committee regarding plans and programmes that are advancing around crime combating strategy. Suffice to say, I suppose by now the honourable Member is quite aware that we have launched very intensive crime combating activities or programmes aimed at mobilising communities to make sure that together with them, we establish the necessary structures relating to community safety as well as police forums.

We are calling upon our communities to make sure that they refrain as much as they could from taking law into their own hands and work together with the police so that we can rid our province of any form of crime as well as criminality. It is a regrettable occurrence indeed that we have seen in some communities, members of the public taking the law into their own hands and doing very unfortunate and unacceptable activities.

Together with communities and all of us as leaders in this honourable House, we should be able to wage this war without any failure. Our police are hard at work and they need support from all of us and most importantly those crime combating structures which have got to be established in all various communities of our province. I think we are on track in responding to the matter, as the honourable Member has said. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Are there any Executive Statements that must be presented? I notice Hon Tandi Moraka.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO THE NDLOVU YOUTH CHOIR FOR REACHING THE SEMIFINALS OF THE AMERICAN TV SHOW, *AMERICA'S GOT TALENT*

(Executive Statement)

Allow me to rise in this august House and present the Executive Statement in terms of Rule 200. On behalf of the African National Congress, we want to take this opportunity to congratulate our very own, the Ndlovu Youth Choir from this Limpopo province for reaching the semi-finals of the American TV show which is commonly known as the *America's Got Talent*. The choir is one of the 12 acts to have performed in last night's quarterfinals and they were voted by the public to make it through to the semi-finals.

We made a call yesterday as the provincial government to the South Africans that are living in the United States of America to vote for the choir and they have since responded positively. We are happy with their last night's performance and would like to thank the public for showing confidence in this choir. The Ndlovu Youth Choir – conducted by the brilliant Mr Ralf Schmitt – blew away the judges and the TV viewers across the United States of America the first time they stepped onto the world's biggest talent stage in June 2019. They have since performed the song "My African Dream".

Their quarterfinals performance mesmerised the audience with a rousing rendition of the Irish band U2's hit song "Beautiful Day". The other acts to have made it to the semi-finals from last night's performance are Tylor Butler, Robert Finley, Chris Clifford, Light Balance Kids, Rian Niemand and V-Unbeatable.

The choir from Moutse which is here in Groblersdal has made everyone proud by their performance internationally. In appreciating what the Ndlovu Youth Choir has achieved, the ANC-led government will build an art centre in the Groblersdal area under the tribal authority of Kgoši Mathebe. We have made a commitment to work with the choir so that we can revive choral music in the Limpopo province. We are at the final stage of development of social cohesion and creative industry strategies.

The strategies are oriented towards us as a province realising Outcome 14 of the National Development Plan that talks to issues of social cohesion and nation-building. The strategies will help to grow the creative industry sector in the province, thereby boosting the economy by creating decent jobs for our young people and to promote our diversity in terms of culture. Given our relationship with Brics, which is Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, the South African creative arts industry has got a potential of exceptional growth.

Limpopo artists are thereby called upon to take advantage of the platform that this Brics relationship is bringing to them and make it a point that they utilise a platform for their own advancement. The semi-finals performance will take place on 3 September and on 10 September the results will be out, and the members of the public will, therefore, be made aware of the winner. This is a big moment for the Limpopo province where the winner of that show will be granted $1 million as a ticket for their sterling performance.

We are hereby making a call to the members of the public and to those citizens who are still in the United States of America to continue to be behind this choir that originates from the Limpopo province. We also want to make a call to all the Members of this House to utilise their relationship with the people who are residing in the United States and advocate for the people that they know to continue to vote for the Ndlovu Youth Choir so that they can come back being crowned the champions of this *America's Got Talent* search show.

I thereby move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Tandi Moraka, for the statement. I want to check if the parties would like to comment on the statement made by the honourable MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture. Hon Maritz, do you have a comment? Okay. I notice Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Although we acknowledge the support that will be going towards the choir, it is important that we also understand that the phenomenon of our province is that we are not reaching out enough to the artists in various platforms within the various spectrums of mediums and that there is greater need for the department to reach out to support our script writers, our people that are trying to get their hearts in this field. I would like to urge the MEC to stand boldly before the MEC for Treasury and start asking for a bit more support in this regard as our youngsters are showing in Limpopo province, if given the opportunity, that they can own the national and international platforms. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. The EFF, do you want to make a comment? I notice Hon Buthane.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thanks, Madam Speaker. Even though it was difficult to hear what the MEC was trying to say, we wish to give our support to the choir and to follow what the DA was saying, we know that that is the department that gets a very little allocation. We just hope that there will be something to improve that allocation. It deals with the activities of young people, and in those activities the good part is that it takes them away from the streets and it takes them away from committing crime. So, you cannot undermine that department.

We are here to back you, MEC. You already have two hands – you must go and ask for enough money, you will get the support. We just hope that when we say this, the money will not all go to Mapungubwe Arts Festival. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member. Is there any Member who still wants to comment on the matter? I notice the African National Congress. Okay.

MS SEONO

As the ANC, we welcome the presentation by the honourable MEC.

THE SPEAKER

Okay. Thank you very much. We will then move to the next item. Are there any tabling of committee reports, other reports and papers? There are none. We will then move to the Orders of the Day. We have got Item 7.1: Motion for the Third Reading of the Limpopo Interim Appropriation Bill. It's over to you, Hon Dickson Masemola.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Now that the Limpopo Interim Appropriation Bill, 2019 [B03-2019] has gone through all relevant stages of the legislative processes of this House, I now move that the Bill be read for the third time in terms of the provisions of House Rule 170. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Can I get a seconder? I notice Hon Mdaka.

MR MDAKA

I, Falaza Mdaka, stand to second the Bill as read by the MEC Hon Namane Dickson Masemola. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We will then move to the next item. You have been given the document: The Third Reading of the Limpopo Interim Appropriation Bill, 2019. You have been given the document, and we will then quickly go to the Bill itself. There are four numbers here, but I think we just need to correct it. There are three numbers instead. There is number 1 in the Bill which is the definition. That is the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain funds from the Limpopo Provincial Revenue Fund for the requirements of the province in the 2019/20 financial year as a direct charge before the annual budget is passed in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act of 1999, (Act No 1 of 1999). Do we agree with Clause 1? Can I hear, "Yes"?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Clause 2?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Clause 3?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

The second 3 should be Clause 4. Are we agreeing with Clause 4?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Can I call upon the Secretary to read the short title of the Bill? It's over to you, the Secretary.

MS MAKGATO [ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY]

Thank you, Hon Speaker. This Act is called the Limpopo Interim Appropriation Act, 2019. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We will then move to the next item which is item 7.3 which we have shifted to tomorrow's Sitting. We will then go to item 7.3.2: Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety. I will then request the committee chairperson to present this item.

MS SEONO

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety, I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, stand to present the report on the 2019/20 APP and Budget for the Department of Transport and Community Safety Vote 08 as tabled. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Can I get a seconder? Okay, I notice the Hon Deputy Chief Whip.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the move as presented by Hon Seono.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We will then now go to the Speakers' List in terms of the debate. Our honourable Members who will debate this morning is Hon Radzilani Florence, Hon Mphahlele, Hon Phala, Hon Maritz and Hon Seono. We will then request Hon Radzilani Florence to take the podium.

MS RADZILANI

Thank you, Hon Speaker; Deputy Speaker in absentia; Premier of our province in absentia; MEC Hon Dickson Namane Masemola and all other MECs; Chief Whip in absentia and Deputy Chief Whip; chairperson of the committee, Hon Rebecca Seono and all other Members of the committee; honourable Members of this august House, good morning. Thobela. Avuxeni. Ndi matsheloni.

On an occasion such as this during a month designated to celebrate the courage of women, it gives me great pleasure to open my address by paying tribute to the countless women of our country who continue to achieve greater successes despite the odds. It is thanks to the 25 years of our democracy that today we stand tall on the shoulders of giants. Without mentioning all their names, I deem it fit that we should pay homage to women in various sectors of our country who continue to make us proud even as we still battle with the ills of gender-based violence.

I salute women in the art, women in politics, women in business, women in media, women in transport, engineering and law enforcement sectors, amongst others, like those who came before us. It is your steadfastness and resoluteness that have made it possible for us to shine the torch and to blaze the trail that makes the younger ones to emulate your great example. The steadily rising number of women generals, women traffic heads and women transport operators here in this province and elsewhere is a testimony to the validity of the dream that our foremothers dreamt of.

When we see Sho Madjozi and Saray Khumalo conquering the world as they are doing, it is only so because those who came before us have laid a great foundation for them. As children of Lilian Ngoyi, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and Charlotte Maxeke, we have no choice but to follow in their footsteps. Our struggle is not yet over. By and large, we still must battle with the pervasive challenges of gender stereotypes and patriarchal relations that continue to this day to afflict women in society.

In the face of all our adversity, let’s declare this like Thomas Sankara did to the people of Upper Volta now known as Burkina Faso that our revolution cannot triumph without the emancipation of women. Like other members of the committee, I have received the address of the MEC for Transport and Community Safety with enthusiasm and great anticipation. The MEC allowed us to dream when he talked about the vision shared by the President of the country about a high-speed train that will travel between our two cities of Musina and Cape Town.

He said that he was going to seriously pursue the dream, and as members of this committee, we have got no reason to doubt him because, indeed, dreams do come true. One of the things that the MEC said which we believe is long overdue and which we believe will help us to save the public funds in the long run is the commitment that the Department of Community Safety and the Department of Transport will soon merge to form one Department of Transport and Community Safety with one HOD as we have one MEC.

The committee will watch this space with eagerness to ensure that there is seamless integration of both human resource and systems. Furthermore, we also welcome the consistent unqualified audit outcomes that have so far been part of the DNA of the Department of Transport for the past five years running now. If we become more diligent and focused in doing our work, there is absolutely no reason as to why the department such as this cannot translate this audit outcome into a cleaner audit.

I must indicate that we are happy to see the continuous increase in the generation of revenue through the issuing of tickets. The department contributes 47% of the provincial revenue mainly out of the traffic fines and judging by the amounts collected in the previous financial year, we think that nothing can stop us from increasing the collection rates this year and in the outer year. To avert the known culture of non-payment of fines that is behind poor revenue collection, we are of the view that the department needs to develop strong, effective and efficient revenue enhancement strategies accompanied by punitive measures that deal decisively with those who choose to undermine the law.

The launch of the Aarto (Administrative Adjudication of the Road Traffic Offences) Act by the Minister of Transport is a step in the right direction. This law finally introduces for the first time in our country the driving demerit system which I have no doubt will change driving behaviour and specifically reduce the number of errant drivers. The initiative by the department to reclassify certain road traffic offences to become schedule 5 offences is highly welcomed by the committee. We also support the eminent move to have traffic officers operating 24/7 as well as to know that most road carnages happen during the night when traffic officers are off-duty.

Losing lives through road accidents should be the last thing that we tolerate as society and as Members of this august House. The law must bite, and therefore I welcome the commitment by the department to continue with the enhancement of more visibility and roadblocks as part of Operation Ndadzi. I'm hopeful that the new addition of some 238 new traffic officers who are freshly graduated from college will add much-needed impetus to the effort to reduce fatalities. It is good news that the college itself is undergoing rehabilitation, and we further commend the department for taking a conscious decision to absorb these 238 graduates into a workforce as part of the ANC-led government job creation.

It is important that we highlight the fact that fighting road fatalities can never be a job of traffic officers alone. The reality that is not always said is the fact that the majority of those who perish on our roads are pedestrians and not always motorists. From the statistics we know that these pedestrians are usually young, black and often male. This calls for far-reaching partnerships that embrace community structures, including community safety forums. If we want to spare pedestrian lives, it goes without saying that we must involve the tavern owners and scholar patrollers as part of this effort.

We want the department to do more in the area of public transport as well as transport operations. One other thing which I must also mention to this august House is the Thohoyandou Intermodal Facility. The project has been delayed. The people of Vhembe and the people of this province in general have been patient and it's enough.

We urge the MEC to fast-track the process of resolving all the challenges facing that project so that the people can start to benefit what is meant for them. Thanks, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member. I allow Hon Mphahlele S.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, members in the gallery, MECs present and honourable Members. We urge the department to avail the detailed action plan which will indicate appropriate steps that will be followed by the department to address and implement audit findings and recommendations. This is the Department of Transport; and GAAL. The department should report back to this House within 60 days on the progress and steps taken to resolve the impasses around impoundment, fees and special permits.

When will the driver licence training programme commence? MEC for Transport, we request that this process should be fast-tracked. The process should be undertaken within previously disadvantaged training facilities as part of empowerment of historically disadvantaged communities. The subsidy of taxi operators is crucially important. This will ease the financial burden from the poor masses who continue to suffer due to unstable and high cost travelling. Metered taxis should be integrated into the transport plan of the province. They are already operating without regulations and this causes a risk to our commuters and often causes conflict with taxi operators and so forth.

There should be no funding or budget allocation to GAAL until there is a clear plan in place to assure that its operations will meet regulation and legislative framework. What is the department's plan regarding the 200 learners who have been trained on point duty? The number of unemployed youths trained to be traffic officers should be augmented and the intake should be a minimum of five learners per ward with guaranteed integration into the system upon completion, noting the high rate of accidents in our province and road-related offences thereof.

The department should ensure that during its implementation of phase 1 of bus subsidy network design, all stakeholders are taken on board to avoid delays on the project. The completion of minibus taxi routes should not be in isolation of prioritising the subsidy to the industry which ferries many people to various destinations. This House deserves to be informed of the reason why the completion of Thohoyandou Intermodal Facility has been delayed or deserted. It will be important to inform this House on how many buses have been fitted with the electronic vehicle trip monitoring system and how many are outstanding at what cost per bus.

The Great North Transport entity has been in a mess situation over a period of time. Its relocation back into the Department of Transport should not be delayed and revitalisation programmes should be developed for the entity. There is nothing normal when the taxi industry is underfunded and ignored. Similar condition as proposed for the provincial taxi council should apply to GAAL and all institutions should receive budget and funding from the department. Minibus taxis should be integrated in instances where learners are few to satisfy the bus seating capacity. All transport responsibilities and safety measures should be given to the department.

The increased intake of traffic officers will ease the traffic burden encountered by people of Lebowakgomo, Tubatse Crossing and other areas of the province that are subject to traffic jam and road problems in this developing area. We should receive quarterly reports on progress made regarding dealing with backlogs in issuing of operating permits and licences. The department should start with the process of insourcing cleaners, security guards, artisans and related crafts.

This will increase the departmental capacity and ensure that work is done at minimal cost whilst the living condition of those absorbed from contractors will improve drastically. As the department is in the process of relocating road budget structures, this House should be informed of plans of incomplete or outstanding road projects in the process. Awareness programmes in communities are key to minimising roads carnage and will eliminate theft on speed cameras. The department should be creative and device wireless monitoring systems to track and monitor speed cameras. The EFF government will investigate ways of helping taxi industries, and we will ensure that we build quality roads in areas of labour absorption. Having considered the fact that you are bankrupt, we are creative and ideas that we have given you are fresh ideas that are in the best interest of the people. Please take them. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I allow Hon Phala K.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The appointment of MEC Hon Dickson Masemola to this department by the honourable Premier shows the commitment to improving the state of transport in the province and is one that the DA supports. [APPLAUSE] We are optimistic about these developments because the MEC is the former chairperson of the previous Portfolio Committee on Transport that played oversight and demanded accountability from this department.

Under his chairmanship, the committee was able to hold its taxi indaba where taxi drivers and owners took part and gave issues to the committee which we gave to the department. He has a proper understanding of the transport permits, the systemic issues troubling the GAAL entity and a clear understanding of the attributes during the public participation process. We, therefore, hope that it will have a successful rollout in the province.

The continued poor performance by GAAL continues to be a cause for great concern. This entity has the potential to be a vehicle for great economic development in this province. Instead, it has become a burden on the fiscus of the department. It has yet again received over R50 million and it again dreams of making revenue collection of over R28 million, a figure that proves not achievable based on their previous record. The Auditor-General found that GAAL had financial sustainability challenges as this entity incurred net losses. Their current liabilities exceeded their current assets. The entity had creditors that exceeded cash and cash equivalents at year end and could not pay their creditors as they became due, while GAAL required a bailout from the Department of Transport for operational purposes and relied on government grants to fund operations as it continued not to generate enough cash from their operating activities.

It must be noted that the Department of Transport has also committed more than 50% of the next three years' budget, and this needs to be addressed. The MEC needs to stop bailing out this entity and ensure the implementation of turnaround times and consequence management for officials who are underperforming or responsible for financial transgressions. The Great North Transport also had financial sustainability

challenges and relied on government grants to fund operations as it continued not to generate enough cash from their operating activities and could not pay their creditors as they became due.

During the briefing with the department, the DA voiced its disappointment that the Great North Transport drivers had to surrender their fleet to the traffic officials in Polokwane, and we questioned as to why unroadworthy buses were never identified by traffic officials, but instead the drivers had to surrender them. The department admitted that this was an embarrassment to them. Therefore, we call for better cooperation between GNT and the department not only to keep the fleet of buses on the roads, but to ensure that these buses are roadworthy as we can no longer put Limpopo residents' lives at risk.

As a committee we call for more traffic officials' visibility within rural areas. A quick example of that is that of Polokwane Municipality. They have a new fleet of bakkies; however, they roam around town and don't go to rural areas. They can take an example from the Blouberg Municipality officials who have speed traps within their villages, and it should be this department's responsibility to ensure that all municipalities play their role to ensure safety and law-abiding drivers on roads within villages.

The committee further advised the department that the stolen speed camera in the Ephraim Mogale Municipality must be found in order to avoid motorists safety being at risk as criminals will pretend to be traffic officials. We also welcome the absorption of more than 200 graduated traffic officials later in the year.

However, the department briefed us on their job cuts as well as they will only be able to absorb a decreased number of their road ambassadors. The committee was saddened that the candlesticks on the N1 were not put to decrease accidents such as the ones we have seen previously, but rather to create awareness on the lanes. Those that frequent the N1 will know that those things are a danger to road users, and the HOD agreed on this. Road accidents are also caused by driver behaviour. Through you, Hon Speaker, perhaps if this ANC-led government could install road lights, especially on R37 and R579, some of us would knock off late and witness the Sitting until its end. I'm referring to Hon Monama.

Some of us will not risk arriving home in coffins. We know our abilities and weaknesses on the road. Therefore, when it is dark, we will exit this Chamber on time to ensure that we get home safely. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I allow Hon Maritz. Hon Maritz, are you not debating?

MS MARITZ

Thank you very much for the opportunity. I was still very busy with other commitments. I didn't prepare for one debate, and for that I apologise to the House. I will make sure that next time I hit back hard.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. I think that in other Sittings you do inform my office on the debates that you will debate on. Honourable Members, can we then give Hon Seono a chance.

MS SEONO

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. As the committee, we appreciate the prompt response by this department in its dealings with the committee. We believe that if this way of doing things is sustained, we will all work together to deliver a better province for our people. I'm saying this against the background whereby the committee requested certain information regarding driving schools, traffic congestion, the Ndadzi report and a report on the Thohoyandou Intermodal Facility. This was promptly responded to. Indeed, the spirit of "Khawuleza" is driving this department, and we commend the department and the MEC on this matter.

We trust that the MEC and the department will also khawuleza in moving towards a clean audit. The department has been stagnant at an unqualified report for the past five years, and we would like the situation to change. The Auditor-General indicates in his report that the department is opposing legal claims against it to the value of R72 million. Could the MEC clarify us further on the nature of these litigations and how the office is managing them? Indeed, an issue was raised by the committee regarding the traffic congestion along Lebowakgomo traffic lights and the entrance to the provincial Legislature.

The MEC's office promptly responded that they will engage the Capricorn District Municipality to find a solution to this problem. The traffic work stations of Lebowakgomo and Lepelle-Nkumpi have agreed upon deploying officers from 2 August, according to the report. On the Thohoyandou Intermodal Facility, we are saying work on the facility started in July 2011 and was reported to be practically complete by June 2015.

The facility, however, is still not yet complete. Remedial work was done on the structure as the project indicated a level of instability. On this project, the committee is concerned about the delay. Due to apartheid spatial planning, most of our people still live on the outskirts of their area of work. Every morning we see our people loaded in buses, minibus taxis and various forms of transport moving from their homes to their places of work.

We know that this government is working towards arresting this pattern, but we are not where we should be. As such, matters of safe and affordable transport remain at the core of a better life for our people. The average Limpopo citizen spends a significant amount of their money on transport. While we are fighting against reversing the apartheid-style settlement patterns, we should work towards making public transport safe, affordable, reliable and accessible.

Sometimes the quality of our buses leaves much to be desired. We also raised a concern, honourable MEC, especially regarding a looming introduction of the bus rapid system of the Leeto la Polokwane under the Polokwane Municipality. We are concerned that if this is not well managed, this may create tensions between existing operators in the industry. We believe that working together with the municipality, we

will be able to find a fair solution regarding the concern that we raised. We also raised concerns about the recent strikes by Great North Transport whereby buses blocked the main road into the city.

We wish the MEC could also brief us about what the challenge is and how that has been addressed moving forward. MEC, you highlighted in your speech that the department will be unable to introduce or approve additional trips due to insufficient funding. We hope that as the old contract lapses, we will be able to find ways to maximise whatever little you have as you sign new bus contracts. The spate of accidents along the N1 stretch-off road remain a constant challenge. We appreciate the efforts but remain concerned about the ever-increasing heavy flow of traffic, especially between Gauteng and the province, especially over long weekends, on school holidays and the festive seasons.

We are also worried about overloaded vehicles travelling between Limpopo and Gauteng on their way to Zimbabwe. Most of these vehicles seem to travel at night perhaps trying to evade traffic authorities. We know that there are various way bridges across the province, and we hope these are well utilised to the benefit of road safety in the province. On GAAL, we are saying this airport should be the pride and joy of Limpopo and has the potential of being a significant generator of revenue for the province.

The airport is strategically located as a possible gateway to Africa but has not really performed to expectations. The entity has moved from a disclaimer in 2013/14 financial year to a point where it moved between a qualified and unqualified audit opinion. We would like to see this situation improved to a point of a clean audit. MEC, there are various litigations against the entity. It is important that enabling legislation is developed to assist GAAL against litigation and as such legal experts also need to be roped in.

In my conclusion, we are saying as a way of generating revenue that it is reported that the airport aims to launch a second airline. How far is that process? We also need a plan on how the department aims to popularise the airport, especially given its proximity to heritage sites such as Mapungubwe, Makapansgat Caves and the Punda Maria Gate to Kruger National Park.

On the issue of traffic officers' placement, we are satisfied that the newly qualified 238 learners have been placed in various stations around the province and will be absorbed into the department. We are also satisfied that Manenu Traffic Training College is being refurbished. We trust it will soon return to its place and as the Premier's training station of choice. We know that the department is a very central department as it contributes 47% of the provincial revenue through its traffic functions. We, therefore, can never underestimate it.

We trust that under your leadership, the department will address challenges raised and move forward in making Limpopo a better province. I move that the august House supports and adopts the report as the report of the House. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members for the contribution on the debate. Can we now request the honourable MEC to take the podium.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I would like to appreciate and welcome the comments made by honourable Members in considering the APP and the Budget of the department as presented. I would like to make a few comments on some of the matters which have been raised, understanding that a full report about a couple of matters which have been raised will be prepared and be presented before the portfolio committee. The first matter, Chair, which I want to raise is the fact that the Freedom Front Plus has been unable to participate in this debate, which clearly indicates its unpreparedness and unreadiness to serve the people of the province, in fact, the very huge mistake by the electorate to have designated them to come and be part of this august House.

Their failure to participate is a clear demonstration of their inability to represent their electorate. It's highly regrettable, Hon Speaker. I want to make an appeal to the Members of this august House that as we go and do our work in our various constituency offices, let us make sure that we popularise and deepen public education regarding the Aarto Act. This is because this new Act that the President has just signed, and the Minister launched has so far-reaching implications regarding how we are going to make it very difficult for traffic infringements to happen on the roads of the province. Therefore, continuously we have to make sure that we deepen public education because this Act is going to help us to enforce discipline and ensure that all of us as road users improve on our discipline, commitment as well as behaviour that we demonstrate on the roads of the province.

So, it's very important that all of us embark on public education in deepening this Act. Regarding the Thohoyandou Intermodal Facility, I have raised it in the Budget Speech and even before the portfolio committee that we are continuing to engage with the state law advisors because the process is in their hands at the moment. Probably after our engagements with them, I should be in a better position to bring back to this august House through the portfolio committee a full report regarding this long-pending project which unfortunately is not as yet commissioned for utilisation by members of the public.

So, it's a matter that is receiving the attention of the department, my office in particular. We are continuing to pay the necessary and very close attention to the process that has got to be undertaken by Limpopo provincial regulatory entity – an organ of the department that is bestowed with a mandate to manage the issuing and the management of the operating licences for the taxi industry within the province. Preliminarily, we have already had a discussion and have agreed on a plan that is going to be unveiled regarding how best we can work together with the rest of the industry.

We are going to be normalising what appears to be an anomaly where quite a number of taxis that are moving in many roads of our province are not necessarily in possession of legal documents issued by this entity. We are hard at work together with the industry to make sure that from the department's side, we unveil a management

plan that will respond to this real matter which is a concern for the entire industry. GAAL indeed continues to be the black spot of the department.

Preliminarily so far, we have already done diagnostic analysis and a report is being produced. The Department of Provincial Treasury, equally important, is hard at work producing a report that will make it possible for me to take appropriate decision as we move forward to strengthen this entity for it to assume its public mandate of serving the people of the province. It's a matter that is equally important and receiving our attention. I suppose by the time we go to the portfolio committee; I should be able to give feedback regarding progress made at that point in time.

The restructuring of the bus industry is continuing, and from the Budget Speech and the APP, we made it very loud and clear that the national department gave an instruction that the subsidy which the department issues or gives to various bus companies in the province is going to come to an end in the 2020/21 financial year.

So between now and that time, the policy process is underway aimed at making sure that we put at the centre of this policy process the real articulation of the fundamental values enshrined in our Constitution, one amongst them being the equal access to services of government and an equitable share on the national fiscus through our various systems of distribution of resources.

By the time this policy process concludes, we should be in better position to make sure that geographic balance and equitable distribution of the subsidy is enjoyed by many bus companies throughout the geozones of the province, which are our districts at the moment.

I think by working together through the portfolio committee, we should be able to bring back a report in this regard regarding progress made. Great North Transport, as you are quite aware at the moment, is an entity that is under the Department of LEDET. Because we are one government, we have established an interdepartmental committee, or a task team comprised of the Department of Transport as well as LEDET.

We have already had about three meetings to look at this entity, and there is a very clear commitment and a process is underway which is advised by transactional advisors appointed so that we can make an informed policy decision that will reposition this entity as we pursue the possible relocation of this entity from one department to the other.

Suffice to say very briefly that as the two MECs together with our department, we are looking at the finances of this entity, we are looking at the management, we are looking at governance and we are looking at the fleet. Quite clearly, honourable Members have alluded to the fact that buses were dropped at a site next to the municipal offices and upon our assessment by our officials together with the city officials, they found that some of them are not necessarily appropriate for utilisation by the public.

That is why we have moved very swiftly as the two departments to try to recapture this process so that we can reposition this entity. So, liabilities of the entities are much well known by us. The subsidy from our department to try to help the Great North Transport is also a matter that we are very alive to. Suffice to say that in brief, we have already

agreed on a broad framework regarding the stabilisation of this new entity. Within a very short space of time, through the MEC for LEDET, we should be able to make a public pronouncement with regard to our intervention in the area of stabilising the Great North Transport both at a policy level, management level, but equally important, above them all operationally for it to be able to provide appropriate services to the people of our province.

Hon Mphahlele said something about road projects. I think this is a matter which the honourable MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure will be able to articulate as she responds to questions from this august House with regard to the conditions of our roads and the management plan that we are intending to roll out as government together with her department to make sure that our roads in the province are in good condition for easy use by road users in their various modes of transport.

Regarding litigation reports, I think we should be able to bring back a report to the portfolio committee at an appropriate time so that we are informed about this matter. Lastly, it is about the Leeto la Polokwane BRT Project by the Polokwane Municipality. We are hard at work in terms of discussions together with the city leadership so that we are able to create conditions of harmony between taxi industry as well as the bus industry for the municipality to be able to find a better way to roll out that intended system because it is about providing comfort and about providing quality transport services to our people.

On those ongoing discussions between us, the city council and the industry leadership, we should be able to find an appropriate solution to what appears to be some policy issues of operation. We must also provide the required management of that process through the leadership of both the city as well as the industry itself fully guided by all of us as interdepartmental committee.

With these few words, I fully concur with all that has been said and make a commitment once more that we will respond to whatever has been raised here in various ways through the committee and many other forms of public and parliamentary engagements. Ke leboga kudu dikgopolo tše di tšweletšego mo. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Now we will then move to the consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety on the 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Department of Transport and Community Safety. Can I have the chairperson presenting. Just hold on, chairperson. I notice Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Thank you very much for giving me time to speak. I did not prepare. I just want to address the MEC through you, Hon Speaker – the latter MEC. It’s very upsetting for me … [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Order! Order!

THE SPEAKER.

Okay. Sit down. There is an order. Sit down.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Order! Order!

THE SPEAKER

Okay. I notice Hon Buthane.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon Speaker, this is an honourable House that has rules that follow suit. Hon Maritz must tell us on which rule she is standing on before she can talk.

THE SPEAKER

Sit down, Hon Maritz. Sit down. When you were raising a hand, I thought you wanted maybe to start by clarifying why your hand was up, but we are on the procedural process now. If you have got any other issue to raise, you will raise it when you are allocated minutes during the debates. Thank you very much. I thought I saw Hon Buthane going outside. You can't make my neck to break by bowing so much and you go back on the way. Honourable Members, we were requesting the chairperson on the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety to present.

MS SEONO

On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety, I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, rise to present the report of the Department of Transport and Community Safety Vote 10 as tabled. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Can I get a seconder? I notice Hon Phala.

MR PHALA

I second the motion as presented by the committee chairperson, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. The Members who will be debating on the item are as follows: Hon Monama Rogers, Hon Mphahlele, Hon Phala, Hon Maritz and Hon Seono. Hon Monama Rogers, you may start.

MR MONAMA

Hon Speaker, honourable Members of the Executive Council present here, Hon Members of this august House, I rise to debate on the matter of community safety in the province as presented by Hon Namane Dickson Masemola. The integrity of any state lies in its ability to secure its borders, security and protection of its citizenry. Notwithstanding, the challenges of high influx of immigrants is largely due to our porous borders, weak legislative measures governing asylum seekers, weak enforcement capabilities, the existence of good socioeconomic opportunities and benefits which serve as a pool factor to these foreign nationals.

It is within this context that strengthening policy, Hon Masemola, to rid our communities of all forms of crime, drugs, gangsterism and gender-based violence against women and children, should be the roadmap for this Sixth Parliament. The finalisation of the border management authority legislation and implementation thereof will assist us as the province to stop and curb this type of influx to our province. Violence against asylum seekers, foreign citizens and illegal immigrants, more especially from the African continent is very common in our province.

We have recently witnessed the looting of foreign-owned shops in parts of this country. The recent confrontation of what was purported to be immigrants fighting police in Johannesburg over the sale of counterfeit goods has been disturbing to any right-thinking South African. We don’t want to see the repeat of this, and under your leadership, Hon Masemola, we have got that confidence. Regarding ports, Limpopo province is one of the provinces that is bordering three countries such as Botswana, Zimbabwe and Swaziland.

We know that the two ports of entry which are Groblersbridge and Beitbridge are very busy, and they are the gates which some of these people use to enter our country. Groblersbridge is one of the biggest but less busy ports of entry. It has, however, seen increases in traffic volumes by those who seek to avoid the busiest Beitbridge. In the past there was a challenge as there was no big metal scanner, and we are urging the honourable MEC to liaise with the Department of Home Affairs to ensure that this matter of lack of scanners in these borders is addressed because it is creating a lot of problems where trucks and pedestrians have to be searched manually.

Some of the challenges highlighted at this border is that there was no accommodation for our SAPS members, and I think that you can liaise with the national Minister to ensure that these people are accommodated because they are using the rooms in the nearest villages.

There is also a big challenge regarding grounded vehicles which have been at the port of entry for quite some time. We are, therefore, recommending that special courts be established to deal with grounded vehicles. Most of these vehicles lack SARS and related customs clearances. One of the challenges identified is the issue of the South African farms which border the ports. This is problematic, honourable Members, because, to a certain extent, it bridges the security gaps as those farms are private and most of our SAPS or law enforcement agencies are unable to go and do or execute their responsibilities.

The sooner the honourable MEC liaises with the MEC for Agriculture to address this matter, the better. Many illegal crossings are through these farms through to the cities in South Africa. Beitbridge is one of the busiest ports of entry in the whole of Southern

Africa, second to Durban Harbour. It is one of those ports that must be given necessary attention. Many sub-Saharan countries through rail and road depend on this port.

There must be visible policing from SAPS supported by SANDF in manning this border. We also need to interact or liaise with the Zimbabwean authority to ensure that they also play a meaningful role in the border management on their part. We are also worried about the understaffing of the South African National Defence Force because soldiers that are deployed there are not enough and that's why there is that high volume that is being experienced there and it puts a serious strain on the personnel that we find there.

Goods going through customs undetected are a serious problem in terms of the revenue collection of our country. Like at Groblersbridge, the farms bordering the ports of entry are a serious security risk. Many illegal crossings happen through these farms using what we call "guma guma" – illegal taxis ferrying people across the border. They are rampant at that part of the border. These together with the associated problems of rape and robbery occur along these routes and the so called no man's land. These are the issues that we must address and give the necessary priority.

The SANDF, Home Affairs, and SARS are the national competencies; however, they must be involved if we must deal with this matter which is of national importance. However, more responsibility of monitoring should be considered by the Department of Transport and Community Safety. We are also worried as the portfolio committee about the brutal killings of our political leaders in our province, and this matter will not be left unattended.

Hon Masemola, an impression should not be created that criminals are more sophisticated than our law enforcement agencies. Cracking of these high-profile cases will undoubtedly bring hope and confidence to our law enforcement agencies. Under your stewardship, MEC Hon Masemola, the department generally performs well in programmes which encourage community to work with the police. The department performs well in this aspect and gets the community involved in its initiatives on monitoring and implementing the security summit resolutions.

We are, therefore, calling upon yourself to capacitate the community safety forums, the crime prevention forums and public safety campaigns. We especially commend the MEC's swift and decisive action in arresting the disturbing trend on gang violence amongst the youth in Polokwane suburb of Flora Park. We also appreciate your efforts, honourable MEC, for having gone to Musina to address the issue of illegal and counterfeit goods which are disturbing our country. As this honourable House and the people of Limpopo, we must ensure that we work closely with the municipality and LEDET.

We need the database of all the businesses that have been approved by LEDET because that can assist us. We also ask ourselves a question, where are the municipal environmental practitioners? It is their daily work to go and check these counterfeit goods in these shops. So, with you at the helm, we have that confidence, and it's unfortunate that Hon Phala has congratulated you on our behalf as the African National Congress, but we do welcome that. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I allow Hon Mphahlele.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker, protocol observed. I would like to thank you all. Regarding the APP and the Budget for the 2019/20 financial year, the department must give us a report on the development pathway towards obtaining a clean audit for this financial year end. We are not going to compromise on this matter. The need of a 24-hour satellite police station is a matter of urgency and involvement of our communities in policing matters is key to defending crimes. This process should include training and hiring of more police officers and availability of vehicles.

As the EFF, we advocate for the retraining of all police officers with inclusion of specialised skills to deal with the abuse of women and children, people living with disability, sexual offences and complicated cases. Each police station must always have a DNA test kit. This will give prompt service when required. When politicians and companies fail in their duties of delivering services to our community, they should not use police as a tool to deprive communities of their rights. Situations such as Marikana massacre deny workers an opportune moment to express their dissatisfaction in a peaceful manner.

The measures aligned to 2017/18 audit findings should be presented to this House, and we must ensure that there is no favouritism or biased support based on nepotism, politician affiliation and so forth.

As the EFF, we reject this Budget of R117,683 million with its increase as police deserve more resources given the scourge of crime, corruption and related matters. The prevailing economic conditions should not be used as a reason to justify the unjust budget given to the department. We are not accepting that there is a rollback of audit findings when there is no coherent plan to outline steps to deal with this unacceptable situation.

The department should ensure that there is 24/7 availability of sanitary towels to all prison inmates. Failure to do that will violate human rights and increase health crisis. The merger with the transport component should ensure that all broken and unserviced police vehicles are serviced and deployed to communities within the next 90 days. This process should involve local SMMEs.

This House must be updated quarterly on the work done thoroughly, monitoring and customer satisfaction survey. Systems should be in place to ensure the following: the fellow African brothers and sisters are not harassed and do not become economic cash-cows for some corrupt officers at the borders. It is unfortunate that officials of the department avoid confronting realities on the ground objectively and want to blame foreign nationals entering through Beitbridge. Xenophobia and its fuelling tension undermine African unity. The issuing of the resident permits should not be used as a tool to combat housebreaking. This, in conclusion, will make one assume that other criminal elements who are residing in this country are exonerated and each blame will be directed to foreign nationals.

Absorbing and training artisans should be done within the next 90 days. The EFF government will make sure that it will not only make its pronouncements, but it will support the action to it. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Phala, the floor is yours.

MS PHALA

Once more, thank you, Hon Speaker. It must be noted that the DA might be small in numbers, but clearly, we are leading in this House as the honourable Member before me felt overtaken by the DA's warm welcome to the MEC into this department. We are leading and he followed our congratulatory message. [INTERJECTION]

MR MATHE

Order!

THE SPEAKER

Hon Phala, just hold on. Hon Mathe, what is your order?

MR MATHE

The honourable Member is deliberately and intentionally misleading this House, the province and the country by coming into this honourable House and lying that the DA is leading. [INTERJECTION]

MR SMALLE

Hon Speaker … [INTERJECTION]

MR MATHE

No, no, wait Gupta, wait! [LAUGHTER]

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mathe, can I request that you sit because we are on the procedure for debates. I could not detect which order you were rising on. Hon Phala, you can continue.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Thohoyandou has the third highest incidents of rape in the country and Mankweng the second in highest attempted sexual offences. This is hardly anything to celebrate on a Women's Month. This House must take note that just last week the DA revealed that 76% of SA police stations do not have adult rape kits and 69% of the police stations do not have child rape kits in stock. On adult rape kits in Limpopo there was only 1 494 in stock instead of the required 3 000. Although it was announced over the weekend that a supplier for the rape kits has finally been

appointed after the previous tender was cancelled due to alleged corruption, it must be noted that to an administrator it may just have been a delay in awarding a tender, but to many women out there it is the only tool to collect physical evidence against the rapist. No one deserves to become a victim of sexual violence; therefore, everything possible must be done to eradicate this evil from society. A fundamental part of holding perpetrators accountable is gathering the necessary evidence to convict them on these crimes. As without this tool, a rape kit, it is the victim's word against that of the accused.

Whilst SAPS remains the responsibility of national government, there is plenty that a province can do by improving the oversight role within the province over policing such as ensuring that its crime intelligence unit works to ensure that Limpopo becomes gang free in all corners of this province. The life of a 23-year old Tlou Nkoana that was cut shot came just five months after that of Thoriso Themane who was killed in Flora Park by a gang of teenagers in February this year. Deplorable as these incidents were, we need to applaud the community that allowed the law to take its course in allowing proper investigations and arrest. We can only hope that justice will prevail. At that point in time we only knew of the Dan village gang, and Thoriso's death was a rude awakening on the existence of gangs in Polokwane. Hence, we need a Crime Intelligence Unit that works.

As a committee, we were updated by the department that extra two scanners have been allocated to the border. This is a positive progress as Limpopo has the busiest border post compared to the other countries in Africa. The department further mentioned that national government has made further commitments to the border to tighten up security. We, therefore, as a committee recommended that the department furnishes the committee with the report or list of those commitments for Members to monitor progress in achieving this commitment. As I said before, the DA is very hopeful with the MEC, and we hope that very soon we can have a border that meets the standards of a border. The MEC is fully knowledgeable about the issues there as it was under his tenure as a chair to the portfolio committee oversight that we initiated an oversight visit to the border, and we have faith that he shall continue to drive the issue on a national level or MinMec to ensure that our border is safe.

We need to ensure that rural safety works to ensure safety of villagers, our farmers, especially those farmworkers who also play their part in safeguarding food security. We need a rural safety plan that is well resourced so it can be effectively implemented. To our women in blue who daily put the citizens of this province first and leave their families to safeguard us, the DA would like to wish them a happy Women's Month. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Seono, the floor is yours.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We are saying as the committee according to SAPS, Limpopo remains the safest province in the whole country. It has the lowest rate of violent crime, hijackings, armed robbery and violence against women and children. This not only talks to the quality of leadership in the province, but to the nature of the

people here. Generally, the citizens of Limpopo are peace-loving people. This strength that is inherent in the province has become its weakness when it comes to allocation of policing resources in the country. Limpopo is, therefore, relatively almost an ideal province when it comes to matters of the community policing itself, and as a community, we are working well with the police.

We are saying as we come towards the close of August, which is a Women's Month, we must intensify our fight against violence towards women and children. We further need to educate our people that no one has the right to take the life of another human being regardless of how that person is related to them. The death of women and children at the hands of their husbands, fathers and partners is disturbing. Of late Limpopo has witnessed a disturbing rise in the incidence of rape and violence against women and children. It will be beneficial if the department were to assess the viability of the support structures available to victims of this particular crime in the specialised unit in the province with a focus on crimes committed against women and children.

This will be done with a view to ensure that the people of Limpopo receive the best possible services and, where possible, assistance from the relevant organs of state. The information will be of use in assisting the committee to offer constructive guidance to the department. Over and above this, we would appreciate if this honourable House through the office of the MEC could afford the Independent Police Investigative Directorate to make presentations of their annual report to this House. This would allow us as a committee to also play oversight over the police.

Honourable MEC, we would like you to follow up on this request and in due course report to this august House. We are a province that prides itself on responsible policing. We, however, note with concern the high level of crime and violence in densely populated areas like Thohoyandou, Burgersfort, Seshego, Tzaneen and Polokwane. We are also concerned that the population explosion in the town of Burgersfort, for instance, must be matched by the deployment of the police officers in proportion to the people living there. The identification of Burgersfort and Tubatse as well as Musina for development as special economic zones must be matched by the necessary law enforcement officials. Our planning must indicate foresight before because where there are economic opportunities, criminal elements also tend to raise their ugly heads there.

However, we are saying that this does not mean that as a province we are immune to challenges. Matters of service delivery protests continue to trouble the province. The tendency by communities to destroy infrastructure as a way of expressing their dissatisfaction with government is not acceptable. The recent developments in Zebediela whereby children were prevented from going to schools and classrooms were burnt are a course for concern. We were able to follow the MEC both on social media and the general news as he paid a visit to Zebediela. What is the progress regarding the situation there?

We need to educate our people more on the nature of what we perceive to be state property. In essence, that property belongs to the people because it is their tax money which build schools and all infrastructure which they burn down as they are misguided and angry. In the same breath it is important to remind those in possession of power and responsibility to always keep channels open in communicating with the people. Let us not promise what we cannot feasibly deliver and let us not be reckless with

state money. On the issue of taking community policing to the people, we also want to commend the police, the MEC and the national leadership on good work done in managing the gangs that were festering in Dan village in Tzaneen.

This village was notorious as a no-go area and residents were living in perpetual fear of criminals who were terrorising the village. We would like the Dan village intervention to be modelled in villages and townships where small bands of criminals continue to hold law-abiding citizens at ransom. We further appreciate the strong working relationship that this department has with the traditional leadership in these programmes. It has long been a policy resolution of the ANC to establish village and street committee forums whereby the people work together with the police in ensuring the safety of their community.

To this end we encourage the MEC to work with the people in places like Westenburg, Seshego and Thohoyandou in replicating the Dan village model of community policing. We also commend the Operation Swara Tsotsi. We are certain that soon there will be no place to hide for criminals. We are glad to see that the department is implementing the suggested interventions by SAPS on managing crime which are, amongst others, rating social awareness through effective prosecution of as many cases as possible; and indicating that social and domestic violence is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated, particularly where women and children are concerned.

In our conclusion, we are saying the establishment of community safety forums is more important and more needs to be done to strengthen them with municipalities and community stakeholders playing an active role as we have seen in the case of Dan village. Mobilisation of traditional leaders as central partners in promoting peace and stability in rural areas and getting young people involved in massive programme of community policing and safety will also be appreciated. We also applaud the effort whereby problematic schools have been identified for random searches by the police. We remain proud that Limpopo remains the safest province in the country. We appreciate the hard work by the office and the officials within the department. Indeed, together we can do more. I move that the august House supports and adopts the report as the report of the House. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC for Transport and Community Safety to respond to the observations made by the honourable Members.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you once more, Hon Speaker, for allowing me to make some few comments. The first one is regarding our continuous commitment as the JCPS cluster regarding the management and administration of the Emigration Act of the Republic of South Africa. This service and this area of management will continue to receive our attention so that we are able to ensure that the movements in and out of the country are managed in accordance with the statutes that regulate the lives of our people and those that come from afar entering into the borders of our country. So, it’s a very important service that we are going to continue to make sure that it does receive our attention.

Equally, in the same spirit through the very same JCPS cluster nationally and provincially, we are hard at work towards making sure that the border management agency is established, well-resourced and well placed for it to come and play its appropriate role and take responsibility of managing the borders of our country. It is a matter that is ongoing, and understandably, before it's too long, we should be able to come back to this honourable House to give progress regarding this area. Regarding the point that Hon Monama has raised regarding the scanning services at the border whether we are improving or not, it is very important that we continue to pay the necessary attention to this issue. Suffice to say that there is a tremendous improvement so far regarding the scanning services at the border. More still needs to be done to make sure that all the services expected from the organs of state that are operational at the border post, Beitbridge in particular and other ports of entry do perform at an appropriate or expected level.

Together with the MEC responsible for Agriculture, let me indicate that before the end of September we will have had a meeting with commercial farmers in the province to discuss matters of their concern which they have already raised with us, and we are looking forward to that discussion on a very close engagement with them. In the same spirit through the policy framework of the ruling party, the African National Congress, we will continue to make sure that rural safety through crime prevention strategy continues to receive our attention working together with the rest of the communities through their organised formations.

The defence review report as it was raised about the capacity of the South African National Defence Force to play its role, I think it is very important at this point in time just to flag the point that the report on defence has been produced, and it is under implementation and processing, and understandably, working through the portfolio committee, we will continue to keep each other updated with regard to progress in that regard. The killing of political leaders in the province is indeed a very worrying development and a trend, and it's a matter that is not going to escape the attention of the department; in fact the top on our radar screen, and working together with SAPS and the intelligence organs of the state, we are hard at work on a daily basis looking forward to a successful operation with regard to this matter. I did raise it in some of the forums that understandably and in terms of the international conventions, it is said that once you go over three political killings, you crossed what is regarded as the red line in terms of this area of concern; therefore, that level where we are as a province is very much worrying.

That is why we are not sitting on our laurels through the organised organs of state, we are hard at work. I am looking forward to a successful prosecution if not arrest of those perpetrators. We will keep the committee and the rest of the people of the province updated regarding the latest developments in this regard. We know all the crime hotspots in the province, we have listed them. That is why driven by intelligence work, we are moving all over the province visiting specific areas so that we can make our presence felt and launch very aggressive if not robust crime combating strategies as well as efforts.

I am looking forward to working together with communities in their organised formations both as CSF (community safety forums), CPF (community policing forums) and formation of those streets, villages and township committees. We will be visiting almost all the communities in the province to work with them through municipalities

and find ways and means of strengthening all our endeavours in this regard. It is true that we will only be able to succeed in all our endeavours if we intensify our work with local municipalities. That is the reason why I together with MEC, Hon Mokone for LEDET in the next coming two weeks will be meeting with municipalities through Salga to discuss a lot of matters that concern this department and matters of safety.

Together with them, we will have to redouble our efforts in that regard so that at the local level through wards, they can provide that required capacity to deal with these matters. I think it is important to note that the Department of Community Safety for this time around the year under review has received a clean audit. I think it is important for Members to know this point that we are not looking for a clean audit, we are having a clean audit already. When the head of department left for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, she left me with a very good present of a clean audit. [APPLAUSE] Thank you very much, mam. She is sitting behind me. It's a very good thing during this August month of women for a woman, for the first time here in this department to have given this provincial administration a clean audit.

I think she deserves a very good round of applause. [APPLAUSE] I think it would be very proper for Hon Mphahlele to accept this budget, it's a budget of a department which was led by a woman who gave us a clean audit for us to be able to provide those liaison services. The resource capacity of the state to strengthen the policy is not a function necessarily of the budget of this department. This is for liaison purposes and liaison functions. Together with the national Minister, Hon Bheki Cele, we are working very hard based on the assessment that we have done of our police stations and their resource capacity to be able to unleash and release those resources required to strengthen our police stations in the province. We are looking forward to working together so that we can strengthen one another, but above all to serve the people of the province.

Finally, I think regarding this issue of mob justice once again let me highlight that it is important for us to call the people of the province to refrain from this type of an activity because it is totally illegal and unacceptable. Where there is evidence of wrongdoing, if communities know the perpetrators of whatever criminal activity that could have happened, we are looking forward to them giving us that information so that we can act and act swiftly and put behind bars those perpetrators. I think the MEC for Education will be able to report on the Zebediela situation that together we were able to handle.

It is true that she has been hard at work and our children are back at schools. She will be able to give us feedback regarding that area. Regarding other matters raised, we will prepare very elaborate reports for the consumption and attention of the leadership of the portfolio committee under the leadership of Hon Rebecca Seono. Ke a leboga mmagorena. Thobela. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

We are moving to the next item. I can see there is hand. What is the hand for Hon Buthane?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I rise on section 90(93) *[sic]* of our Standing Rules and Orders. We say it is very concerning that the Freedom Front Plus has not participated in the debate. The majority of members of this organisation is farmers. These farmers are responsible for the safety and transportation of our people. There has been a lot of reports on farmworker murders. Our black people have been murdered on farms, and we are told that they were mistaken for a baboon or something. Our people travel long distances without transport. We have Freedom Front Plus deciding to keep quiet on a matter like this, not requesting any form of assistance from the MEC and this government. We feel very worried that this organisation that just stole a seat from COPE and numbers from DA has just come here to collect salary. It does not have the best interest of our people at heart. I just thought I should raise that.

THE SPEAKER

Can you repeat the section that you used to stand?

MR BUTHANE

[Inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Buthane. You may take your seat. Honourable Members, I think I am not going to allow Hon Maritz to raise her hand. I should report that she has indicated to my office that she is going to come and then we will be able to assist her. You will remember that she wrote to my office indicating that she is alone and there are other committees that she might not be able to participate in. I think coming to this House, we should not throw her around the walls but allow her on behalf of her party to exercise her right.

Thank you for the concern. She came to my office even this morning and indicated that. We will continue giving you support where you need, Hon Maritz. Thank you very much. We are moving on. We are on consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Education on 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Department of Education. Can I request the committee chairperson to come to the podium please?

MS MATHYE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Mathye Susani Violet, rise on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Education to present the report of the 2019/20 APP and Budget of the Department of Education Vote 03 as tabled. I move accordingly Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Mdaka, you are recognised.

MR MDAKA

I, Falaza Mdaka, stand to second the presentation made by Hon Mathye.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We will then move and request the following Members to debate on the item: Hon Aphiri, Hon Manganye, Hon Smalle and Hon Mathye. Hon Aphiri can I invite you to the podium?

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker for this opportunity to debate on the Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the Department of Education, Vote 03 for 2019/20 financial year.

Allow me to begin my debate by reminding this honourable House of Tata Madiba's words of wisdom when he said: "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world." In the same vain, the Budget Appropriation of the Department of Education emphasises its importance in the province. This department gives platform to develop future leaders and drivers of the economy. Accordingly, the department has been allocated over R32 billion for this financial year, and this constitutes about 54% of the total provincial Budget. Of a serious concern is that out of the R32 billion allocated to this department, R26 billion is allocated towards compensation of employees and only R6,3 billion remains for operation which in the main talks to service delivery. Whilst we acknowledge the allocation, this committee calls upon the department to ensure that the allocated funds are efficiently and effectively used. The output should demonstrate value for money invested in the department. Accordingly, we also expect the department to improve its management of finances, have proper governance and achieve the targeted unqualified audit outcome as it has failed to do so in the past seven years.

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, the use of the South African Schools Administration and Management System for electronic provision of data is welcomed in this era of technology. However, despite this development, the department targeted to have 100 schools to be contactable via email. The department should work around the clock to ensure that in the near future all schools are contactable via email in order to improve efficiency in their operation. We also urge the department to ensure that they visit all schools for monitoring and professional support as lack of support has been a constant cry by many schools visited during the back-to-school campaigns.

The committee believes more work should be done with communities and all education stakeholders to ensure that there is more than 65% of 7 to 15-year old learners attending school in the province during the coming year. Like with many government programmes, it will be critical to conduct awareness to ensure that all parents with children of school going age take their children to school. This will not only assist in improving education and contributing to the economy, but also reduce the number of youths affected and involved in social ills such as crime and substance abuse. We appreciate the commitment by this department to ensure that 1,6 million learners in public ordinary schools benefit from no-fee school policy. This will go a long in encouraging education in the province whilst easing the burden on parents, especially since most will not afford to pay the school fees.

The issue of teacher-learner ratio is critical in maximising education output. We have witnessed during school visits that many classes are overcrowded. This committee, therefore, welcomes the commitment by the department to ensure that 50% of classes have no more than 45 learners. The filling in of vacant positions with qualified educators should be prioritised in all schools in order to ensure quality education. We also implore the department to ensure that learning resources such as learner-teacher support materials are provided in time. The committee has noted the commitment by the department to ensure 100% placement of the Funza Lushaka bursary graduates in schools upon completion of studies.

Equally, the committee has noted the commitment to ensure that the placement of all qualified Grade R to Grade 12 teachers aged 30 years and younger in schools is implemented. This will help in ensuring that invested financial resources benefit the province whilst contributing to abating the increasing unemployment rate, especially amongst the youth. It is well known that in order to achieve the targets on Grade 12 results, learners should be well prepared from lower grades. This committee, therefore, urges the department to also prioritise lower grades that were neglected due to the pressure that was put on Grade 12. Quality education and adequate necessary resources should be provided to the lower grades.

This government regulates and provides support to independent schools in line with the South African Schools Act. Hence the department plans to support 111 or 70% of independent schools through subsidies covering supporting 42 000 learners at registered independent schools. The committee recommends that the department should do rigorous monitoring of these schools and ensure that there is accountability and effective use of allocated subsidy.

The Constitution of South Africa as well as the South African Schools Act call for inclusive education. Therefore, this committee commends the department's commitment in ensuring improved quality of education in special schools through provision of support and resources to 34 schools with over 8 770 learners and 25 specialists in the current year. The plan to use 10 special schools as resource centres should be elaborated. It is the wish of this committee to see all schools having conducive learning environment in order to improve learner and educator output as also emphasised in the MEC's Budget Speech.

The committee has noted that infrastructure challenges in schools range from inappropriate, hazardous and unhygienic sanitation facilities, lack of proper security fences, old dilapidated buildings, storm-damaged schools, new residential settlements without schools resulting in overcrowding in existing neighbouring schools. Therefore, the plans for the department to provide ordinary public schools with water supply, sanitary towels, additional classrooms and additional specialist rooms are welcomed, but they need to be expanded to cover many affected schools. Provision of proper sanitation and eradication of pit latrines should be prioritised. This will require proper assessment of specific school needs and planning in order to ensure efficient use of resources. Regular oversight will be required. The committee, therefore, recommends that the department should complete the upgrades of 67 schools across the province.

As I conclude, let me raise this, I can't sit without raising it, I will be dead by tomorrow. It is with great pain to be one of the viewers of the video circulating on social media where an unexplainable and shameful act which was perpetuated by the principal Mr

Maisela of the Bopedi Bapedi Secondary School in Sekhukhune District. Mr Maisela revived all the pain that the nation went through during the struggle en route to democracy where black people were tortured and killed by white minority. It can't be correct in 25 years of democracy where corporal punishment was outlawed by this constitutional democracy to create a conducive environment for learners to learn and for teachers to teach. We witnessed Mr Maisela's shameful act. We commend all those who shared the video with us so that these tendencies are exposed and dealt with. We further commend the Department of Education for acting with speed on this matter to ensure that proper processes are followed. We shall continuously ask for progress on this matter at any given time available to ensure its conclusion.

I then move for the adoption of this report. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. I will now call upon Hon Manganye to come forward.

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to our visitors and honourable Members in this august House. The Budget allocation of R32,291 billion allocated to the Department of Education already has its destiny planned. This is one department that is never in the news for delivering quality education to our children, but it is always in the news for its corrupt relationship with the Mvula Trust and many other publicly known shenanigans. The money that is supposed to build decent toilets to restore the dignity of the learners is being corruptly siphoned to this NGO to fill pockets of politicians and friends.

It is heart-breaking because unless this improper and corrupt relationship between the Mvula Trust and the Department of Education ends, many more learners are still going to drown in pit toilets. The relationship between these two must be officially terminated in order to stop public funds from further wastage. Scholar transport tenders are allocated to friends and relatives who do not even own a single bus, or any mode of transport for that matter. Corruption in this department has also overlapped into the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) in the province, which has become an annual occurrence.

Tenders are awarded to celebrities from provinces like Gauteng whilst small businesses in Limpopo have been sidelined and suffocated. The exclusion of small businesses is a serious drawback for the economy of Limpopo because the money is being taken out of the province. Those who have been awarded such contracts do not buy their fruits and vegetables from smallholder farmers, but they buy from big retail shops such as Fruit and Veg City and Goseame. They take money to white monopoly capital instead of empowering up-and-coming young farmers, including small businesses owned by women.

The merging of schools is not done properly by the department. Small schools that qualify to be merged are left with a massive workload on the part of the educators. They are not merged because the merging process takes forever whilst teachers and learners continue to suffer. In the schools that have been merged, learners who qualify for scholar transport don't get it. We are not surprised because the people who have

been awarded contracts do not own a single bus. Learners have to walk more than 30 km to and from school every day being vulnerable to all sorts of dangers. Girls risk being kidnapped and raped on their way to school.

Whilst the ANC-led government provides scholar transport to learners who walk five or more kilometres to school, the EFF will provide scholar transport to all learners who have to walk more than two kilometres from schools.

The EFF will not allow a situation where learners come to school already tired and sweating, losing concentration in class because this will help address consequences to teaching and learning. Whilst we acknowledge the importance of being emphatic on Grade 12, lower classes also need equal attention because they are the foundation of learning. There is a need to channel and spread resources evenly across all phases in the schooling system in order to achieve maximum results. The EFF is concerned that the department continues to undermine Grade R and ECD practitioners. They are being paid a mere stipend on a monthly basis without a living wage and benefits. Under the EFF government all the ECD practitioners will be employed on a full-time basis with full pay and pension contribution by government. What could be wrong if the department emulates other provinces like Gauteng, benchmark and see how they treat these workers of the minds?

They leave them to idle at home even when there is a great need for teachers in our schools and they end up leaving the province to go seek employment elsewhere. Something is seriously wrong with the government because they don't seem to comprehend basic governance and visionary leadership thinking. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. I will now call upon Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We cannot talk about the future of our learners when government is unable to create an environment for learning. Our country is in a desperate state, a state in which more and more people find themselves unemployed or unemployable. About two million people in Limpopo want to work but cannot find work. It is against this backdrop that the Department of Education cannot fail our learners and all our educators as our country is fast running out of time. Improving infrastructure is one thing, but if we are not addressing the quality of our education, we have failed already. We want to increase the number of learners within the Science stream of education, but the last time we tested our learners against the ANA (Annual National Assessments) outcomes was in 2014.

We are more concerned about the pass rate of Grade 12 level but forget that we lose an average of 100 000 learners from Grade 1 to Grade 12 each year. Our 10 district offices that are responsible for monitoring and evaluation are not all up and running and in the cases of Blouberg and Tshipise are not in use or stand abandoned by contractors since 2012. The department needs to develop a plan for the over 200 schools that have been left abandoned due to mergers. These are the department's assets and must be utilised efficiently.

We promised our learners with disabilities that we will construct four new schools. This will happen during this financial year, either due to funding constraints or sites not yet being secured. Once again, this Executive has created expectations amongst our people of Limpopo which will not be met, and therefore, the frustrations that will come from the disgruntled communities will have to be dealt with by the honourable Members in this House. Limpopo ranks the highest against all other provinces of learners that do not have access to textbooks and poor teaching. If you evaluate the class of 2018 and the Grade 12 performance of 76 730 who wrote, only 9% of our Mathematics and 10% of our Physical Science learners passed level 4. Nelson Mandela once said, “Those who have access to cutting-edge knowledge hold advantage in all arenas of social, political and economic life today.” Honourable MEC, this province wants to prepare itself for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, but it finds itself wanting again as the department does not focus on building specialised schools in the field of engineering, aviation, marine world, ICT and coding, and hospitality. Although it seems it is a noble idea to give tablets to students of 400 schools, the department did not consider the risk factor it brings as well as the criminal element and the two-year life span these devices hold.

Textbooks have a longer shelf life, and therefore, remain a more realistic and sustainable alternative for cash-strapped department. It is a cause for deep concern that we still have 2 136 schools with inappropriate sanitation facilities and that the department will attempt to eradicate 508 schools of pit toilets. Let me remind the MEC, we still have 857 schools using pit latrines and three schools with no electricity at all, and they still are not prioritised. The Constitution specifically provides for the protection of our learners and 25 years into our young democracy, we continue to fail nearly one million of our learners in this regard. Zero tolerance to corporal punishment in our schools needs to be implemented.

Our learners need to feel safe in our classrooms and the effects of our learners be beaten and humiliated in front of their peers can no longer have lasting effects to their self-esteem and, more importantly, to their academic performance and their studies. A more concerted effort is needed in vetting teachers in order to keep a register of teachers guilty of serious transgressions. Whilst we are aware of the policy that learners need to stay more than 5 km away from their nearest school to receive scholar transport, we need to consider shorter distances in areas where the criminal elements negatively affect children’s safety. We should maximise our efforts to ensure how we roll out these programmes to safeguard our children from serious violations like rape. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. I know call upon Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

I am not going to apologise again. I did not prepare myself, as such I communicated that to the Speaker, and they are busy sorting out my situation. It takes a good leader to see other good leaders. For those in the House that respect me for being new and totally being unable to do everything in a short time, I thank you. Honourable Members, please just give everybody a space. I would like to speak on this issue to the MEC for Education, Hon Boshielo. I just want to convey a message that I am part of the

Education committee and very new there. I am still learning. However, I just want to say to the MEC that thank you for being available and for addressing the issues that I took to you in private the past two to three weeks, issues regarding education. Can you please tell that Member to stop laughing because this is my time now?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable Member, you can proceed. [INTERJECTION]

MS MARITZ

This is very disrespectful. I don't think it is very nice, really.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Are you done, honourable Member?

MS MARITZ

No, I am not done. Call them to order then so that I can keep on talking.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Can you proceed?

MS MARITZ

Honourable MEC, I would like to thank you for assisting me in Bela-Bela. Your office also contacted me. It is very good that you already are assisting me in a good manner because I am new. I hope we can hold hands as the Freedom Front Plus. I am not here for the salary; I am here to fight for the people and everybody's rights. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. I now call upon Hon Mathye Violet.

MS MATHYE

Hon Speaker, the Portfolio Committee on Education had a meeting with the department on 08 August 2019. The aim was to be briefed on the Annual Performance Plan and Budget for the 2019/20 financial year. For the 2019/20 financial year, the department has been allocated R32,2 billion which shows an increase of 5,2% from R30,036 billion in 2018/19. However, it must be noted that 80% of the total Budget goes to compensation of employees and the remaining 20% goes to day-to-day running of the core business of the department which is teaching and learning as well as provisioning of proper infrastructure and maintenance thereof.

As a way of dealing with overcrowding, the department has assured the committee that 60% which equals to 101 169 000 classes will have no more than 45 learners and that they will continue to fill posts in 90% of the schools which equals to 3 443. There

are allocated teaching posts and all learners in schools will be provide with required textbooks in all grades and all subjects. Furthermore, the department will ensure that qualified Grade R to Grade 12 teachers aged 30 years and younger are placed in all schools that have posts. Seeing that the budget was not enough to cover all the required tools for teaching and learning, the committee enquired on the budget for tablets since it was not indicated in the APP. The department informed us that once the tablets are secured, there will be no need for textbooks and all the subjects would be downloaded from the tablets.

Regarding broadband for 500 schools, the world is moving at a fast pace and the digital revolution is upon us. As a province, we are obliged to prepare our children to meet the demands of the modern world as we cannot afford to be left behind. We appreciate the efforts of the department whereby Wi-Fi would be provided to the head office, district and circuit offices. We understand that this will make communication faster, easy and effective. The department once had a teacher laptop initiative of which we don't seem to hear much about anymore.

We trust that the tablet initiative will be sustainable and achieve what it is meant to achieve. The interactive classrooms and mobile laboratories are mentioned by the MEC as deliverables for this financial year. We trust the MEC will furnish us with the list of targeted schools so that we can easily follow up on this project towards the implementation of e-learning. Given the expensive nature of ICT equipment, we are concerned given the risk of theft and vandalism in certain areas, but in the same breath, she will always remind our people that these schools are assets in the communities, and they should look after them. During SOPA by the Hon Premier and the Budget Speech by the MEC for Education, it was announced that the following four special schools will be built this financial year. They are Rivoni and Mhinga Special Schools in Vhembe District, Pfunanani in Mopani and Asiphumelele in Sekhukhune District.

Besides running the core business, the department will make sure that pit latrines are eradicated, scholar transport continues to benefit learners that walk a distance of ±5 km per day to the nearest secondary school, and plus or minus 3 km to the nearest primary school. It will also continue feeding the learners from quintile 1 and 3 schools. Hon Speaker, allow me on behalf of the committee to applaud both the Premier, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha and MEC Boshielo for having aligned the SOPA and the Budget Speech with the Annual Performance Plan of the department. We take this opportunity again to appreciate efforts by the departmental staff led by Ms Beauty Mutheiwana for working hard in taking out the department from a disclaimer to a qualified audit opinion. We encourage them to continue to work hard towards the achievement of a clean audit.

The committee will continue to monitor progress on all issues that were raised during the engagement with the department. In conclusion, I hereby submit that the 2019/20 APP and Budget for Vote 3 of the Department of Education be adopted by this august House. I so move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. I will now call upon the honourable MEC to respond to the observations made by the honourable Members.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. On the issue of the budget, let me highlight that it is true that R26 billion is for compensation of educators. Also, Members need to understand that education is a labour-intensive department. You need a teacher in front of the class, and you need a principal to run the school. There is no way in which you can leave schools without teachers and principals. We are just trying to manage it, but I know if a school does not have a teacher or a principal, honourable Members will be the ones to first kill me. It will not go down in anyway by now, but we will make sure that for every learner we have relevant teachers and that for schools we have principals. Unfortunately, that is the nature of the department.

In terms of the use of e-mails, I think it is the issue of the ICT. Yes, we said 100, but ultimately, we want all the schools to be able to do that. We said meanwhile we are going to negotiate with all the principals of the 3 870 schools to allow us to use their e-mails so that we can transfer the information meanwhile we are trying to deal with the issue of e-mails for schools. In terms of teacher-learner ratio, it is true some of the schools and classrooms are still overcrowded, and we have a target of 45.

On the other hand, we have schools where there are no learners, and they are the state-of-the-art schools. Like Masemola High School, it is a state-of-the-art school with 184 learners and only 18 in Grade 12. We will look at the issues and see how we deal with them because a mere less than a kilometre school, Rantobeng, has an overcrowding of 1 100 learners. We will negotiate if they can't use the facility, but you know negotiating is very hard.

In terms of Grade 12, honourable Members I think we have tabled in this House what we want to do and how we are going to ensure that we assist the Grade 12s. We also said it categorically that we as Limpopo, I know other provinces have also done it Gauteng and Free State, are going to prioritise our Foundation Phase and GET Phase. We elaborated what we are going to do in terms of making sure that our learners can read and understand what they are reading. That is our main aim, honourable Members should not be scared.

What we are appealing to Members is that when Grade 12 results come out, they must not panic and make us panic and go around as if we are losing focus. We expect it to be that we confess in this House that our foundation is not right that is where we are going. We will be concentrating on the issue. We want a stage where we will not even have the Grade 12 awards but have the Foundation Phase awards if this House will support us. In terms of the independent schools, we are monitoring them vigorously, but they also have their own challenges. We are on top of it to make sure that they do what the department wants them to do.

One of the issues that we are discussing at the CEM (Council of Education Ministers) level and the Department of Basic Education is that we need to have one examination board. As you know, the independent schools use IEB (Independent Examinations Board) and we use the NSC (National Senior Certificate). We are saying the independent schools have an advantage because their results come early and the learners there can secure space at tertiary institutions. Ours come late and that is a problem. We are saying we want to have one as one country because we are not two

countries. As one country, we want to have one examination board and not disadvantage our learners.

In terms of supplying water, sanitation and pit latrines, you know I have come to this House and raised the challenges but also said in terms of the pit latrines this is our priority. We will make sure that we eradicate them. I have heard Hon Smalle saying they are 857, I am not sure. If you can supply me with names of the other schools because we are sure of 507, then we will be able to also deal with that. So, it is our plan.

Also, we raised this issue sharply at the EXCO level. If you were listening to the Premier and MEC Masemola as the spokesperson of EXCO we have uplifted the issue, it's going to be agenda on EXCO every time we meet. It shows how serious we are. Hon Aphiri, on the issue of the principal of Bopedi Bapedi, I think you have got the statement from the department how disturbed we were. We acted immediately, but unfortunately the principal resigned. After a day, he withdrew the resignation. For us it was a plus because we immediately charged him and suspended him from the school.

That is because one of the worries is that corporal punishment is against the law and in terms of SACE (South African Council for Educators), it is punishable. Many teachers are dismissed because of that. Our worry was if he does not go through the disciplinary hearing, it means he can resign and move to another school and give children "warm klaps". We are happy that we can take the process and take him through the disciplinary issue. What is worrying is when you hear the social media is that some people for whatever reason think what he did is commendable. They are praising that he should even do it more.

I am not sure for whatever reason because as this country I know we are against children and women abuse. If that is not abuse, such that people can even praise him for doing that, it is a serious cause for concern. We need to be together to deal with this issue and will bring to this House a report after the finalisation. Hon Manganye, we are trying to deliver quality education. That is why we came to this House and said we are going start from Grade R and Foundation Phase. We also said we are going to give more attention to the ECD. That is what we want to do. We want our learners to come out of school being able to read and write but also reading with understanding. We have elaborated programmes on what we are going to ensure that. We also appeal to this House that they must stop judging us on the Grade 12s because anyway they will out of the system. We are going to build our foundation, and since we are starting our sixth administration, I think Members will give us support so that we are able to realise this goal. Ours is for quality education. Even our vision talks to that.

We want nothing less. I am not going to comment on the corrupt relationship with the Mvula Trust. I am not sure who is corrupt, whether it's myself who is corrupt with the Mvula Trust or the department. I am not even sure what you are referring to. However, what we said is that in terms of the service providers or the implementing agents that we have in the department, we are not happy with their work and we said Mvula Trust, IDT, Public Works and DBSA must go back and bring to us a bankable turnaround strategy where we are able to get value for money. I don't know what the corruption is all about, but I will be very happy if you can give me all the names of people who have corrupt relationship with this implementing agency that is busy siphoning money to fill their pockets, especially politicians and friends that you were referring to. I will wait for

the list from you, and I promise you we will act in that regard. In terms of scholar transport, as far as I know, we have almost 380 companies that have been awarded scholar transport tender. They are small SMMEs that have been given this. I have not received any complaints that the kids are not going to school because the scholar transport tenders were awarded to friends and politicians who don't even have a car. I will request you to give me a list, I promise you I will follow it up for those people who got the scholar transport tender without having any other thing. I will wait for the list from you.

In terms of the feeding scheme buying from Fruit and Veg City and Goseame and not empowering our farmers, the dilemma is, Hon Manganye, when we give you a tender for feeding scheme, we don't prescribe to you whether to go to Goseame or Fruit and Veg City because if we do that and you fail, you will be blaming us. It's a business. When you tender for sure you would have arranged how or where you are going to source your ingredients. We don't necessarily prescribe, but I think it's a good idea that people who get tenders should be able to support small businesses and be able to help the local economy to grow.

For your information, we are going to award four tenders, not to friends and politicians. We are going to award more tenders for feeding scheme to cooperatives and to parents of children who go to those schools. That is because if you do that, you have a guarantee that parents can monitor when a child is not being fed because it's their own children. Yes, we are still going to get complaints because we are going to cut from SMMEs and give to cooperatives, especially women. We are going to that without shame or doubt.

I want you to provide me with schools of learners who are walking more than 30 km. I have never come across that situation, and I think it's unacceptable. I will wait for the list of schools from you and the learners who were kidnapped and raped when they were walking the 30 km. I will also give the list to MEC Masemola to be able to assist to get the perpetrators to book. I will wait for you to give me the list. I think Grade 12 I have done. In term of benchmarking, Hon Manganye, I came here to this House on what should happen with the ECDs and what we are going to do. Remember I even said at the moment it is in the Department of Social Welfare, and we are busy ensuring that in terms of legal and budget-related issues, they will be transferred to the Department of Education.

I have said we are also training educators at North West so that they are ready when we receive the ECDs to teach them, but suffice to say at the moment we are providing support to the ECDs in terms of the toys that they use. When you see the ECD children or learners playing with toys, it is not just toys, it is educational toys. We still assist them in terms of the curriculum, but I agree with you. We are ready, we are preparing ourselves to receive the ECD, and we will be able to ensure that we do our best.

Hon Smalle, we are not neglecting Grade R, as I said. I have said what we are going to do. I am not sure; it seems Members don't go through the Budget Speech and the APP. I don't know what Hon Smalle means when he says we are neglecting Grade R. We are not. We are giving attention to the Foundation Phase, including the Grade R. We are on top of it, and we will still improve where we want to. In terms of Blouberg being abandoned and some schools being abandoned, I think I was upfront here accepting that we have problems in terms of the infrastructure, and I promised this

House that we are sorting the issue out and I will come back before the end of the year to table what we have found and then this Legislature will be taken into confidence. We accepted that there are challenges in terms of that.

In terms of preparing for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, let me start by thanking you Hon Smalle for the input. I would also like to say, remember in terms of the economic growth of the Limpopo province three pillars have been identified, that is mining, agriculture and tourism. I have already started talking with … [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Can you summarise, honourable MEC?

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

We have talked to them and we are going to introduce technical and vocational courses at our high schools. In terms of tablets, honourable Members, I know there is a lot of theft and other things. We said education should be a societal issue where all of us take care of this issue. We can't have honourable Members coming here and saying we can't give learners tablets; we must give them textbooks because they last for long. The tablet is not only about textbooks. It's unfair because most black learners are not exposed to technology and ICT. Most of them. It is the government that is trying to ensure that we pick them up and we put them on par with others. You can't come here Hon Smalle and say we can't give learners tablets; they must stick to the textbooks. There must be … [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable MEC, can you take a seat. Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

I stand on a point of order. The honourable MEC is misleading in some of her responses because I did not say that. I said that the department does not take into consideration the risk factor and the criminality that comes with the tablets. I have overseen certain things that you have said, and I understood that she hasn't got my speech in front of her. I just would ask her to refrain from putting words into my mouth.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Honourable Member, can you proceed.

THE MEC FOR EDUACTION

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Smalle knows he said textbooks are better than tablets. In terms of safety at schools, we said it's a concern. We were able to do that. I would also like to say we have said with MEC Masemola that we are going to join forces to make sure that our schools are safe. I don't have to go to that at length. As I conclude, Hon Speaker, I am going to say it again. We are going to take the budget of the tablet from the textbook budget because a tablet will be having the curriculum as a content inside. You can't have both. As we are trying to do the Fourth Industrial Revolution,

we will also let our learners have tablets. Yes, there will be theft, but we will ensure that we involve all our communities. I am going to appeal to all parties, Hon Buthane, in this House to assist us to talk to our communities in terms of safeguarding this ICT equipment that we are going to give them because at the end a black child must be able to rise ka nkane and also have equipment like others. Le rena re batho. I thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member, for that consideration. We will now move to another item, which is consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture on the 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan and Budget by the committee chairperson.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. On behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture, I Mahlodi Caroline Mahasela, present the report on the Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Legislature as tabled. I move accordingly.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thanks, honourable Member. Is there any seconder? Hon Mitileni, you are recognised.

MR MITILENI

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I, Wisani Goodman Mitileni, rise to second the motion by the committee chairperson.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We will then move to our Speakers' List for those that will be debating. We are going to have Hon Matlou, Hon Mohlala, Hon Phala and Hon Mahasela. Can I invite Hon Matlou to the podium?

MR MATLOU

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier in absentia; Hon Deputy Speaker; Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the ruling party in absentia; Members of the Provincial Legislature, representatives of Chapter 9 and 10 institutions, I greet you. Effective communicators understand that they grow up with a cultural bias for and against certain modes of communication because of this; an open-minded listener will work hard to focus on what the speaker is saying regardless of how they are saying it. I am quoting from the experience that I have just seen between Hon Smalle and our honourable MEC here. Cultural filters and frameworks may be useful later in the analysis of what someone said, but the starting point of effective listening should be the understanding of the perspective of the speaker as fully as possible.

The overall Budget for the department has increased from R472 million to R519 million. That shows an increase of 8,9% and 11,5% in terms of the equitable shares, and the conditional grant respectively shows growth, but really it is not enough. All

programmes received an increase except the programme on EPWP incentive allocation, which is stagnant at R2 million, which should cover the whole province. Therefore, there is a need to make sure that including EPWP within that department is taken into cognisance.

The department has alluded to the fact that the SMS (Senior Management System) team within the department will report on all outstanding AG's and internal audit findings for the department on a monthly basis so that they move towards an unqualified report audit opinion as planned for 2019/20. We want to move with the honourable MEC to explain to us in full detail how as a department they will move to make sure that that unqualified and clean audit report in terms of their forecast we are able to receive. In terms of the Fourth Industrial Revolution the department has embarked on a radio frequency identification system which they call RFID which will assess and link all our libraries in the province and make sure that we also maintain our asset register.

We want to applaud the department for such a move because it will also enable young and rural people of our province to make sure that they get access to this important milestone. Library is not just only a physical building or a room with a collection of books, it must be an asset that provides valuable service to meet the living needs of our people. Honourable Members, in her speech the honourable MEC outlined that the budget for the library services increased from R180 555 in in 2018/19 financial year to R181,354 in the year 2019/20, which is an increase of 0,4% due to a slight increase in the conditional grant.

Given the harsh condition relating to the existing libraries, the committee urges the department to provide libraries and information systems in line with the relevant applicable legislative and constitutional mandate. It is much disturbing to find libraries without basic needs such as water and sanitation. However, the committee applauds the plan to build the four new libraries during the 2019/20 financial year with a budget of about R25 million.

We are pleased because the construction has already commenced. Those libraries are in Runnymede, Seleteng, Dumela and Mavalani villages. We also want to applaud the honourable MEC for opening three state-of-the-art libraries at GaMaphalle, an area where I come from, Zamani and Mahlabathini villages. We are also appealing that it will be important for the department to continue to maintain the eight libraries as it alluded to. The minimum budget of R2,3 million can't be enough for the maintenance of those eight libraries across the province.

It is high time that government's noisy rhetoric audits initiatives aimed at bettering the lives our people must not be like popular deep house beats with no lyrics wherein we adopt policies with no clear implementation strategy and no evidence showing whether the so-called interventions are bearing fruits in the lives of our people. In terms of issues that relate to cultural affairs and linguistics, a young man on the social media platforms from the area of Modjadji, Adv Mischack Ramalepe saw an advert that spoke about issues of culture and linguistics and complained heavily to Members of this august House. We want to applaud the honourable MEC on swiftly intervening in making sure that the advert that is about Limpopo TV also includes a language group that is part and parcel of this province, the Khelobedu of the Balobedu nation where the rain queen comes from.

We want to applaud you honourable MEC for that intervention together with the Deputy Minister in the Office of the Presidency. Maintaining cultural sensitivity requires some basic open-minded listening and focus, suspending judgement and employing empathy wherever possible. There is a serious need for the revitalisation of Motumo Trading Post along the N1 in Botlokwa. The committee encourages the department to move as fast as possible to revive the centre and have a cultural village, a craft market, a food market, the statue of Charlotte Maxeke and other cultural aspects to enhance that particular value.

We also want to applaud the department that during the celebration of our historic and national days it was alluded to that there were more than 10 000 people that attended our Freedom Day celebration. That shows that massive participation and attendance of our historic day and national days should always be adhered to. We want to call on all communities in Limpopo, black and white, to continue to make sure that national and important historic days are celebrated for integrating our society in the entire province.

As I conclude, let me thank the role that has been played by the Ministry of Social Development for having done such a good work in making sure that the culture and language do get their full expression in this particular society. I move that we adopt the APP and the Budget as presented by the honourable MEC. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matlou. Hon Mohlala, you may take the podium.

MR MOHLALA

Hon Speaker, honourable Members and all protocol observed. The Budget allocated to the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture is R519,537 million for 2019/20 for the 2019/20 financial year. The EFF is, however, not impressed with this allocation because the previous allocation in this department has never touched the lives of our people on the ground. The moneys allocated are not always channelled for what they were intended to do, which is the delivery of services to the people of Limpopo.

The Mapungubwe Arts Festival has become a permanent annual vehicle to steal taxpayers' money. Officials and politicians spoil themselves with the public funds, Christmas comes very early for them before the calendar one can come to the rest of us. Despite the annual allocation, many communities around the province, especially the deep rural areas continue not having public libraries. The department has for many years failed to account for the number of books they have in community libraries. If they had a credible asset register, these kinds of things will not be happening because everything would be recorded in the stock register. It is clear that this government is not familiar with the concept of accountability which is an important virtue on both the public and private sectors.

Heritage sites in the province are not promoted enough for our people to be inspired by their own heritage and culture. To a large extent they remain a white elephant with few monthly visitations in the form of local people and tourists. More than 25 years into

democracy the symbols of apartheid are still defining our city and small towns around Limpopo. The coward ANC-led government has not even bothered to change the street names in the city of Polokwane and elsewhere around the province.

Our people continue to be traumatised by the name every time they walk and drive in the streets. It is clear that the ANC does not have the political power nor the economic power to change the lives of the people. Anthony Hamilton and Davido's scandals have not been resolved until today. The people of Limpopo are waiting for the forensic report that will never be released.

The tendency of the department to sideline and undermine local artists in the festivities and activities of the province will not go unchallenged. These artists are not given the platform to showcase their talents because preference is given to artists from Gauteng province. Local artists must protest every year in order to get recognition by the department.

The revitalisation of Motumo Trading Post on the N1 in Botlokwa is a complete disaster and the worst case scenario of wastage of public funds. The project has never opened its doors for the people since its construction, at one point it caught fire and it burnt down and no one took responsibility. The project remains a white elephant, nothing is happening there. Security companies are being hired to guard buildings that are not helpful to the people of Botlokwa and Limpopo at large. This is a day-light wastage of taxpayers' money and it cannot be accepted. The much-talked-about provincial theatre is no longer being mentioned by anybody, just like the relocation of the provincial Legislature, which is forever on the way to Polokwane, but never reaches there. It will take years before it is implemented.

Many young people in the province continue to be disadvantaged because of this delay of constructing the provincial theatre due to the ANC's incapacity to implement projects. This government is failing the people of Limpopo because it lacks compassion for the poor. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I allow Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. As we celebrate Women's Month and seek women empowerment, the department not only sang the song of women empowerment, but also appointed a capable HOD. This House needs to appreciate and welcome the appointment of the HOD, Ms Tsebe, a former HOD for the Department of Community Safety who left the department with a clean audit. One can have a bit of hope that perhaps we are finally headed to the right direction in fixing some of the long-standing ills of this department such as the challenges faced in the verification of movable assets in the register.

On the maintenance of libraries and museums, the department is lagging considering the challenges that it faces in this programme on issues of maintenance, security and refurbishment, especially in its museums across the province. One does not need not to look far, but to look at the Tjate Heritage Site which was proclaimed as a provincial

heritage site on 23 February 2007. It is currently reduced to just two mobile containers posing as offices with no access to water and electricity.

Security guards relieve themselves in the nearby bushes as the broken toilets have been turned into storerooms. The site is not fenced, allowing for stray animals to walk through it daily, causing more damage. Tjate Heritage Site is in a shocking state of disrepair, which is indicative of a department that is failing to take ownership of the site and fulfil its mandate.

It must be noted that the DA knows and agrees that museums play a crucial role, not only in educating our people about the history of our traditional kings and leaders, but also as a tourist attraction which in turn will boost the province's economy. However, when one looks at the state of the heritage site such as the Irish House, Polokwane Museum, it would be unfair to think that the department's concept of establishing a new museum in Lephalale called D'Nyala at an amount of over R30 million is a little too soon for the department while it still fails to maintain what is already established.

It is understandable that this D'Nyala Museum is a historical place where former President Mandela and FW de Klerk first met for peace negotiations, the very same peace that still reigns in this country today. However, one needs to admit that in maintenance the department is failing and should think out of the box and look at ways of preserving the good history rather that adding a museum that will add to those not being maintained.

In the 2018/19 Budget Speech, the then MEC spoke of the department's plan on the revitalisation of the Motumo Trading Post and the statue of Charlotte Maxeke, which has still not happened, this should still be a great concern as to how this revitalisation would be rolled out, considering the pending land claims.

Again, the declared renaming of the Olympic Towers after kgadi ya gaborena ya makgarebe, Caster Semenya that we take pride in has not yet been done, and the department could not explain but to say it will give progress on the renaming, which can only mean the department itself came to the committee uninformed.

As the department plans to build four state-of-the-art libraries, these libraries should live up to their name of being state-of-the-art libraries and realise that social cohesion goes beyond colour and build libraries that are disability-friendly, not only with ramps but friendly enough to accommodate the blind, and libraries should encourage our people to read and explore the world through books and not divide us, hence as a committee we recommend that the department should intensively consult before building libraries to avoid conflicts amongst our tribal authorities and communities.

The MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture stood on this podium pleading to the DA to assist with schools troubling her in participating in sport for social cohesion. Luckily, before I went out of the briefing to attend the Public Works meeting, I did ask the MEC to provide the committee with the list of these schools in Tzaneen and Makhado for the committee to do an oversight. All the parties seated here are democratically elected and we should all safeguard social cohesion and not pass on the baton of responsibility. However, the DA heeded the MEC's call and we are still waiting for that list.

The Mapungubwe Arts Festival that saw international artists being paid and not having pitched remains a pain to the committee. We spent a great amount of time discussing and phrasing the recommendations on this matter, all of us agreed that this matter has been there for a long time and that the department should wrap up and provide us with the recommendation report within three months and failure to do so we shall knock on the Premier's office door to seek clarity on how far the matter is.

If the department utilises its budget appropriately and implements its own audit action plan, that has the potential to achieve a clean audit. With the new HOD at the helm as the DA we are hopeful. We are a party in opposition that seeks to build one South Africa for all, and should our hope not be sustained in this House, we will unashamedly say so, as we have unashamedly declared our hope for this department with its new HOD. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Time up. Thank you. Hon Mahasela, the floor is yours.

MS MAHASELA

Speaker, Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya; Hon Premier, Stanley Chupu Mathabatha; Deputy Speaker, Hon Jerry Ndou; honourable Members of the Executive Council; Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Essob Mokgonyana in absentia; honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature; and members of our Chapter 9 and 10 institutions, I greet you all.

As I open this address, kindly allow me not to say much, but to quote Tata Nelson Mandela when he said, "Sport can create hope, where once there was only despair. It is so powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination."

In the process of recruitment, the committee finds it hard to understand the reason for not appointing on the level of managerial vacant posts. The department has been running with acting managers for the past financial year, and the question remains, what are the actual requirements to fill funded vacant posts? In the main, the department must seek clarity on what informs the possibility to fill the critical posts during the 2019/20 financial year. With the approval granted from the Provincial Personnel Management Committee (PPMC) which is constituted by Provincial Treasury and the Office of the Premier, the committee will be much pleased if the department can advertise those additional posts by the end of August.

The filling of critical posts, especially at senior management and management level is of paramount importance in order to bring stability and consistency in the department. The committee, however, applauds the MEC for the appointment of the HOD, who is also a woman. The increase in women participation is the result of two main factors, firstly, it is due to the work of the women in the African National Congress who have been actively involved for decades in the struggle for national liberation and social emancipation, and secondly, it is the result of the policies and affirmative action mechanisms adopted by the ANC.

The decision of roping in the Department of Treasury to assess the effectiveness of the identified mitigations will yield positive results in achieving clean audit. The committee encourages the department to conduct two assets verification during the 2019/20 financial year. The lack of skills in assets management, supply chain management and lack of proper internal control systems are amongst the main challenges which prevented the department from achieving an unqualified audit outcome.

As much as we support the initiative and the commitment made by the department, we are as well very worried about the constant corrupt activities in the department, in particular the Mapungubwe Arts Festival. The vision there needs to be the creation of an enabling environment for social cohesion and provincial building by:

- Establishing structures of civil society to improve levels of governance and administration with sport, arts, culture and recreation;

- Implementing inclusive programmes that enhance and retain Limpopo talent and capacity within sport, arts, culture and recreation as well as ensuring developmental pathways towards healthy lifestyles and excellence; and

- Promoting intra and inter participation and cooperation within all spheres of government.

Limpopo has seen the possibility of uniting our people's diverse cultures, but united in the love of a free and prosperous South Africa. Honourable Members, we must be under no illusion that we will have to work tirelessly to meet our obligations in the respective service delivery forums and to achieve key outcomes that will set out in the service delivery agreements that will soon be concluded. The main purpose of cultural affairs programme is mainly to conserve, promote culture and manage heritage resources in the province. They must further promote multilingualism and render language services in the province of Limpopo.

As the portfolio committee, we commit ourselves to the programme presented, mindful of the enormity of the challenges that are confronting the department. With the support and encouragement from all stakeholders, we have no doubt that we will succeed in our vision to champion social transformation.

As much as we applaud the MEC by supporting our PSL local teams, we must also continue to lobby further support for the Ndlovu Youth Choir from Moutse, Groblersdal, in the Sekhukhune District, that made everyone proud by going through the next round of *America's Got Talent*. The choir is one of the seven acts to have made it to the live show of the competition. It will be an honour for the Ndlovu Youth Choir if the department can fast-track construction of the arts centre in the area of Moutse, Groblersdal, under Kgoši Mathebe of the Bantwane Traditional Authority.

Members, our culture is made possible by our environment. The responsibility of preserving our environment is also part of our culture. William Mkufya, a famous Tanzanian writer in one of his book blamed the human being for destroying his own environment and if I may quote him, he says, "The presence of modern human on earth is only a few thousand years old and yet have destroyed a huge portion of what nature has preserved for millions of years."

It is high time for us to protect all that we have in our culture, and whatever is good should be taken to great heights and we should try all of our best to eliminate all those practices which are against human rights even if they have been practised in our culture for centuries.

The department received a budget injection that shows an increase from R47 million in 2018/19 to R78 million in 2019/20, which accounted as 65% increase due to allocation of R10 million for the provincial theatre construction and the transfer of payments to statutory and non-statutory bodies that have been resuscitated.

As highlighted in the Budget Speech, the Limpopo province is the gateway to Africa, whereby it borders three countries within the SADC region, and they Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. It is, therefore, of paramount importance for us as a province to embark on a cultural exchange programmes with these countries from the SADC region.

School sport remains the bedrock of the entire sport development. MEC, the Limpopo government will be pleased if you can pedal down on reintroducing school sport leagues in all public schools to ensure that all learners are provided with an opportunity to participate in school sport activities, thus creating talent identification. The leagues will expose learners to a variety of sporting codes. They will also create opportunities within which development and nurturing of identified talent in various sporting codes can take place. Through these leagues, vibrant school sporting code structures are created which are effectively and properly managed.

The committee noted that the department has planned to strengthen its strategies to support and monitor departments and public entities. The department has an annual target of 900 people to be trained in sport development. Cumulatively, the number of people that have already been trained in sport development as of 31 December 2015 is at 844. As it stands, 244 people were trained in sport development against a target of 300. This indicator assists in building capacity of technical officials, referees, coaches and athletes. The reason for not achieving a target of 300 is that there was a less turnout of the targeted coaches and managers in cricket that were supposed to be trained in basic administration.

As I conclude, honourable Members must note that we are driven by the belief that budget appropriations for services which are categorised as within the social cluster, are not mere expenditure, but investments in society and in individuals. The MEC must further note that as the ANC-led government, we are under no illusion that we will have to work tirelessly to meet our obligations in the respective service delivery forums and to achieve the key outcomes that will be set out in the service delivery agreements.

With the support and encouragement from all our stakeholders, I have no doubt that we will succeed in our vision to champion social transformation. After all, the famous Mohammed Ali said, “Champions aren’t made in gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them: a desire, a dream, a vision.”

As we are nearing the end of August, which has been dedicated towards women, I want to applaud and recognise the contribution made by women during the march against pass laws in 1956. We all know that women are the most important pillar of

societal development, and we wish all women across the world a blessed few days remaining during this Women's Month celebrations.

I move that this respectable House supports and adopts this report. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members for the issues. I now then invite the honourable MEC to reflect on the issues raised by Members. Hon Tandi Moraka, the floor is yours.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you, Hon Speaker and to the Members of the portfolio committee for the inputs and the observations that have been made as and when we went and appeared before the committee, in the spirit of making sure that we must always be held accountable as Members of the Executive Council by the portfolio committees and, to some extent, by this august House.

Let me start by first welcoming the progressive remarks about the appointment of the HOD, Ms Nchabeng Tsebe, who has officially commenced with her duties as the head of the department with effect from 01 August. It is not a coincidence that Ms Nchabeng Tsebe is just finding herself in the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. It is a well-considered view by myself as the MEC working together with the Premier of this province to ensure that we give Ms Tsebe an opportunity to come and help us to turn around the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in Limpopo.

We all know that the department has been stark on the qualified audit opinion for almost eight years, and it is something that we saw as an issue that warranted us to have someone of the calibre of Ms Nchabeng Tsebe to come and work and lead the department as the head of department. Indeed, MEC Hon Masemola, she has left you with a clean audit in the Department of Community Safety.

Let me assure you Speaker and honourable Members that Ms Tsebe has since assured me when she was resuming her duties in the department on 01 August, that she is going to work around the clock in the process of making sure that she turns the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture around even on issues of audit findings that will be coming from the Auditor-General.

We are sitting on a qualified audit opinion, and it has now become a norm in the department, and we are comfortable in that state of affairs. I believe that the commitment from the HOD towards making sure that at least we move from a qualified audit opinion to an unqualified audit opinion must be something that is celebrated by all of us if we are serious about issues of clean governance as a province.

Other honourable Members are well coerced and well-coordinated in the process of not appreciating what the department is doing. Hon Mohlala stands here and says that the department is doing nothing towards the support of artists in this province. I find that as an input or statement that is not well informed because we appeared before the portfolio committee with clear numbers of artists that we are supporting as a department. I believe that statement was seriously misplaced and, in a way, misleading the people of this province. It can't be correct that with the work that the

department is doing, honourable Members come here and grandstand for the sake of it and say things that are not even factual around the issue of support to the artists.

Every time when the department is having events in the province, the priority is given to the local artists that are in this province, even in the last year's Mapungubwe Arts Festival, we did not even have an international act coming to that particular event, and I believe that Hon Jossey Buthane will come and attest in that particular regard.

We made it a point that we give local artists a platform to come and perform at Mapungubwe, without us having to proceed and consider international artists at the expense of our local artists. It is so unfortunate that honourable Members come here and still refer to incidents of Mapungubwe that were in the media space for wrong things and choose to ignore what the department has done in the recently held Mapungubwe Arts and Cultural Festival that was a huge success in terms of attendance and in terms of making sure that all the artists that were in the lineup, were there to entertain our people.

I am saying we note the issues that Members are raising around the Mapungubwe alleged corruption and the negative publicity thereof. We will come and make sure that we keep the portfolio committee well updated in terms of the processes that the department is embarking on in the process of making sure that we bring all those officials who are implicated in the Mapungubwe's wrongdoings to book because we cannot afford a situation wherein this issue is left unattended. I am more focused on making sure that we evoke consequence management without fail.

The process of changing street names and other key nodal points in the province is well received, and we have clearly indicated in the Budget Speech that we are going to start with the renaming of the Polokwane International Airport after "Bra Ike" Maphoto, of course recognising the contribution that our veteran has made towards us achieving the democracy that we are celebrating here today. It is not only the Polokwane International Airport that we are going to be renaming, we are also going to be renaming the Hendrik Verwoerd Tunnel that is there in Musina. We are going to be renaming it. Through the mandate of this geographical names committee, part and parcel of their mandate is to make sure that they go around and identify these places that are not still reflective of a democratic state as a country and as a province, and make it a point that that they prioritise those areas and help us to rename them after whatever names of people we want them to be renamed after.

On the provincial theatre, I am really disturbed because the Budget Speech and the APP are explicit about the plans of the department on how we are going to be dealing with the process of building a theatre for the artists of the province. For Hon Mohlala to stand here and say that there is no mention of how the department will be dealing with the building of a provincial theatre, I take that as nothing else but an element of ignorance because the Budget Speech is very clear on how the department will be rolling out the project, even the APP is talking about it. I will take it that honourable Members are well coerced in making sure that they choose to ignore what the department is doing which is good for the people of Limpopo and the artists of Limpopo. Many focus more on the negative narrative that they seek to achieve as the opposition parties. We will never be deterred by these kinds of sentiments; we are going to keep our eyes on the ball and make it a point that we deliver quality services to our people.

Hon Phala is acknowledging the appointment of the HOD, and I want to assist Hon Phala that the people who are appointing HODs in line with the public service regulation is the MEC and the Premier – no one else. Even the DA does not have a say in the process of appointing heads of department. It is only the ANC-led government that has seen the need to appoint of the HOD of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, so that people must not come here and claim easy victories. It is the MEC and the Premier who have appointed the head of department for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

We are not going to apologise in this sixth administration because we have gone to the elections, and our people have rejected the manifestos of the opposition parties. They have since endorsed the manifesto of the ruling party, which is the African National Congress. We are going to make it a point that we implement the manifesto of the ruling party, which is the African National Congress, without fail. There is no government of the EFF that is going to see anything happening in this sixth administration. We are going to make it a point that we prioritise all the key priority areas that are being pronounced by the Premier and the President of the country in our day-to-day programmes of a department.

Let me share this information with you and all the Members in this august House that the department is fresh from the three-day strategic session that was recently held in Bela-Bela. Key to that strategic session was that as a department we are imbued with a sense of urgency as we continue to expedite service delivery to our people without compromise. All our programmes that we are implementing, which is Administration; Sport and Recreation; Cultural Affairs; and all the other programmes we are having in the department are going to be implemented without fail because the patience of our people is wearing thin on the ground. Artists in our province are saying, expedite service delivery, even athletes in Limpopo are saying that they need a high-performance centre. Those are the issues that we will ensure that we channel much of our energies to and ensure that we deal with them without any fear or compromise. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, MEC Hon Tandi Moraka. We are then proceeding to the next item. [INTERJECTION] Is that an order? No, no, which point of order are you rising on? You are not part of the Members that are debating.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I was just saying, Hon Speaker, that those libraries of the MEC … [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

You are not on the list of Members who were debating, Hon Buthane. You can sit down.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

I am sitting down.

THE SPEAKER

In the debate when the committee brings a report, make sure that you are part of the debating ... [INTERJECTION]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Let them use the libraries, it is difficult to hear what they are saying. It is difficult for them to read – she and Hon Mokone.

THE SPEAKER

Can I have the House in order between Hon Buthane and the MEC. We know you might be having a lot of things to still discuss from the youth league not in this House.

Hon Deputy Chief Whip, are there any announcements? Honourable MEC, you were given your time to speak.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Lunch will be served in the main boardroom.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Chief Whip. The House is adjourned to Friday, 23 August 2019 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you, honourable Members.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE

It's your voice, use it!

VERBATIM REPORT

OF THE

DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH PARLIAMENT

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

FRIDAY, 23 AUGUST 2019

It's your voice, use it!

VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
FRIDAY, 23 AUGUST 2019
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00

THE SPEAKER

Let us take this moment and observe a moment of silence as a way of prayer and meditation.

[SILENCE]

Thank you. You may be seated. Thank you, honourable Members. You are welcomed to the House this Friday morning. Do I have any motions without notice? Hon Selamolela, you may take the floor.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thanks, Hon Speaker.

THE LATEST POPULARITY SURVEY WHICH STATES THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL, ACE MAGASHULE IS THE MOST HATED POLITICIAN
(Motion without Notice)

- I rise on behalf of the African National Congress in this House to reject with the contempt it deserves the latest popularity survey which seeks to purport that our Secretary-General Ace Magashule counts amongst this country's most hated politicians;

- The research appears to have some ulterior motives of landing credence to a well-known agenda of abusing experimentation for sheer academic credence and peddling of lies with divisive intentions;

- This research to us is nothing but an insult to the intelligence of all peace-loving South Africans who despise hatred and embrace love for one another regardless of race, gender, creed and ideology;

- The people of South Africa must unite and expose such formations hell-bent on tarnishing the good image of our individual leaders hiding behind some research;

- The ANC was founded on the values of humility and will work tirelessly to pursue this virtue for the good of all without fail;

- The Secretary-General of the African National Congress is part of the leadership collective as elected on the 54th national conference and not in any popularity contest; and

- Our renewal and unity project demand that we all stay vigilant against such wedge drivers.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Do I have any seconder for that motion? Hon Mathe, you may take the floor.

MR MATHE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Simon Mathe, hereby second the motion as presented by Hon Selamolela.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there a hand for a motion without notice? Hon Matlou, you may take the floor.

MR MATLOU

Thank you, Hon Speaker

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE KREMETART CLINIC BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the African National Congress in this august House that this House note that:

- The Department of Health will today, Friday, 23 August 2019, officially open the refurbished Kremetart Clinic. The clinic was originally built for use by the white minority community during the then era of the Gazankulu government, who were residing in the area of Kremetart as a suburb;

- The new democratic government has increased the access of the people villages like Maswanganyi, Dzingidzingi, Bode, Dingamazi, Siyandhani, Mapuve and the Giyani township;

- Between 2016 and 2018 there was a need for the clinic to be revamped as other facilities were no longer conducive for use, and that led to the staff and patients being moved to the Giyani Health Centre;

- The department is officially handing over the facility to the people of Kremetart today. The facility has been in use since May this year; and

- It is situated some 3 km from Nkhensani Hospital and 8 km from Giyani Community Centre and is strategically placed to alleviate high volumes in both facilities.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Can I have a seconder? Hon Selane, you may take the floor.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

I, Hon Che Selane, hereby second the move made by Hon Joshua Matlou.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Do we still have a motion without notice? Hon Seshoka, you may take the floor.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

COURT RULING ON THE APARTHEID FLAG
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that the House notes that:

- The EFF welcomes the Equality Court ruling of the gratuitous display of the old flag as a prohibited speech, unfair discrimination and harassment;

- The order made by the court was sought by the Nelson Mandela Foundation while AfriForum and others opposed it;

- The EFF further notes that the ruling was a ground for all symbols that represent the pre-democratic South Africa such as statues and “die stem” version of the national anthem to be done away with;

- The EFF has long pronounced that the apartheid flag as well as other all apartheid symbols must be frowned upon and be rejected. Because of the coward nature of the ANC … [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Hold on, hold on, there is a hand. Is that a hand for order? You may take a seat Hon Seshoka.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

I am raising an order on the Member, because the very same motion that he is reading was read on Tuesday.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. You may take your seat Hon Seshoka. That was already read in the House.

MR SESHOKA

Okay, no problem.

THE SPEAKER

Okay. Thank you. Do we still have any other motions without notice? Hon Seono, you may take the floor.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO MME LETTA MBULU
(Motion without Notice)

- I rise on behalf of the African National Congress in this House to wish a happy birthday to Ms Letta Mbulu who was born on this day, 23 August 1942, in Soweto;

- As a teenager she joined the cast of the play King Kong and toured the US with other artists like Miriam Makeba and Hugh Masekela.

- At the end of the tour Mbulu returned to South Africa, but did not stay long because of the apartheid government policies. She returned to the US where she quickly became part of the exiled artist circles that included her future husband Caiphus Semenya who also celebrated his 80th birthday this week;

- Mbulu released several albums in the US and slowly made a name for herself as a singer, a song writer and an actor; and

- In 1992 Mbulu and her husband returned to South Africa soon after they worked together on the album, '*Not Yet Uhuru*', which meant not yet independent. They had introduced it to the South African audience.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Can I get a seconder? Hon Lekganyane, you may take the floor.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. I, Hon Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby second the move as presented by Hon Seono. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Do I still have any motion without notice? Deputy Chief Whip, you may take the floor.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF A FUNERAL SCHEME FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS
(Motion without Notice)

- [inaudible] that the African National Congress introduces a funeral scheme aimed at catering for the millions of people of this country;

- This is a first for any political organisation in this country and no other political organisation has ever done this for its supporters and members;

- This product will continue to demonstrate that the ANC is a caring organisation and will entreat its hegemony in our society;

- We call upon every Member of this House including the Members of the opposition benches to take advantage of this unique product as they await their organisation to introduce something similar; and

- The initiative is motivated by the desire to ensure that ANC members and supporters are after a lifetime of sacrifice and under conditions of ever escalating costs attached to the funeral industry, able to provide for a dignified burial of their loved ones.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? Hon Falaza Mdaka, you may take the floor.

MR MDAKA

I, Falaza Mdaka, stand to second the move made by the Deputy Chief Whip of this House. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Members, is there any notice of a motion in the House? There is none. We then move. Are there any Statements by Members? Hon Jacobus Smalle, you may take the floor.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

LEDA'S ROLE TO CREATE AND SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISES
(Members' Statement)

One of the goals of LEDA is the creation and support of sustainable enterprises and to assist government to create an environment where businesspeople find themselves thriving? LEDA has proven through its own investment like the Zone A Shopping Centre in Lebowakgomo which is currently a white elephant, and the Bindzulani Complex in Nkowankowa which is also vacant and is slowly becoming vandalised.

It clearly indicates that the LEDA Board is incapable in promoting its own investments and being self-sufficient. It is, therefore, unacceptable that LEDA is unwilling to relinquish its 151 shares or 17% in the Bopedi Shopping Centre. Since 2016 the main shareholder Mr Eddie Ratsoma had written to the Premier twice, the current and previous MECs in their respective portfolios four times, requesting assistance with the purchasing of the shares. His lawyers' attempts were also unsuccessful.

The bulk infrastructure investments incurred by Mr Ratsoma is to the amount of R10 million and he has also spent R400 000 on expert analyses without responses from LEDA. The unwillingness by LEDA to either be a committed and a continued shareholder or accept the R90 million payment offer, a counter proposal in exchange for LEDA's R9 million preferred shares and R5 million investment by LEDA is unjust.

The failure by LEDA to give appropriate responses in this regard since 2016 could see the Kaponong Centre at Atok valued at R130 million which will include 30 tenants like Pep, Shoprite, Edgars, Total Garage and creating 407 direct jobs in the area be at stake. The DA supports LEDA and LEDET's effort to uplift SMEs to commercial status.

We cannot support any effort by government to hinder the self-sufficiency of one's business. We, therefore, request the MEC and/or the Premier to urgently resolve this four-year delay by LEDA's Board within the next seven days. Government is best suited to its role as a regulator, so when an opportunity to relinquish its obligation arises, it should do so.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, you may the floor.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I just want to assure Hon Smalle that the matter will receive the attention it deserves. We have noted the matter, even the issue of the other shopping centres that are white elephants. We would in due course release a statement that will seek to address that problem and indicate how we are going to deal with that. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Are there still any Members' Statements? Hon Managa, you may the floor.

MS MANAGA

Ndo livhuwa Mulangadzulo.

LACK OF ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE IN WARD 28 BURGERSDORP, MOPANI DISTRICT

(Members' Statement)

The EFF brings to the attention of the House that the community of Ward 28 Burgersfort in Tzaneen do not have proper...

BACKGROUND

Burgersdorp [NOISE]

MS MANAGA

Can I proceed? Lack of roads in Ward 28 Burgersdorp, Mopani District. Thank you for the correction. The EFF… [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Okay. Hon “Leshoka”, is that a point of order?

MR SESHOKA

Seshoka is my surname.

THE SPEAKER

Yes.

MR SESHOKA

I have a feeling that you are not protecting the speaker on the podium, because other Members from the other side are busy making noise and distracting the statement. I think you must protect her.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Managa, you may continue.

MS MANAGA

Thank you. The EFF brings to the attention of the House that the community of Ward 28 Burgersdorp in Tzaneen do not have proper roads. They do not even have a well-mantained gravel road to take them to the main road. That is before we talk of the tarred road. Access to travel to other places by the community members is almost impossible in everything that they do there.

The level of frustration by this community has reached higher proportions and the prospects of them getting a road any time now and in future is zero. The province is being led by the government leaders who only care about feeding their own lifestyles with proceeds of corruption than serving the community. What did this community do to the ANC-led government that led it to be punished like this? Maybe there is something that we do not know that the ANC-led government knows. We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate the matter and provide solutions to the people of Burgersdorp.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, you may take the floor.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Burgersdorp that we are talking about here is the home of one of the veterans of the African National Congress, Cde Ignatius Mthebule. It is a place where development is taking place, where the roads which the honourable Member is raising here could not be that sufficient, but there is work that the government has started to do.

Unfortunately or fortunately, it is an area where I was handing over a house last week. We are trying as government to provide services. The issues that were raised by the honourable Member are issues that we are going to handle. Some of the roads which are connector roads are the responsibility of the capable MEC, Hon Monicca Mochadi with whom I will be sharing the responsibility to make sure that the people of that area receive services. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Are the still any Members' Statements? Hon Manganye, you may take the floor.

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I salute you, woman of substance.

SHORTAGE OF WATER IN WARD 40 IN GAMASHASHANE
(Members' Statement)

The people of Ward 40 in GaMashashane have been without water for the past two years. The heartless ANC-led government continues to deny our people water while they have enough in places where they stay. It cannot be that people continue to suffer to access water in this day and age. It shows a gross lack of capacity by the current administration to deliver water and other basic services to the people.

The government cannot think outside the box in order to meet the needs of the people. Water is life and therefore, it must be made available to communities for sustainable development. Any government that claims to be a developmental state, but fails to provide such a basic service like water is hypocritical and must be named and shamed. Because of this shortage of water in Ward 40 in GaMashashane, poor people are forced to buy water with the last cents they have.

The ANC-led government must be ashamed of themselves for subjecting our people to harsh and inhuman treatment. We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate the matter and make immediate provision for the people of GaMashashane.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Honourable MEC, you may the floor.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I think the areas that are being spoken of today are areas that we were physically there as the leadership of this province. I think you know that just recently we had by-elections in Ward 40 in Polokwane, GaMashashane area. Several issues even after the elections were raised with us. I must indicate that together with the district a water tank has been provided in that area, just to gather water for people to receive.

We are aware that the water that we are giving them is not necessarily enough. That is why there are several programmes which are working towards making sure that the community of Polokwane will receive water. The matter that you are raising is a matter we are on top of. As government we will come back and report. The challenges of water should also be linked with the challenge of drought that in some instances even when we drill boreholes, we do not necessarily get enough water to provide to our people.

This is a matter that we are working on. There are several programmes that at the right time we will be able to table them of what it is that we are doing in the whole province in terms of water provision. Thanks very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Do we still have Members' Statements? There is none. Thank you. Are there any Executive Statements? There is none. Are there any tabling of Committee Reports? There is none. We will than get into the Orders of the Day. We will then go to item 7.1: Motion on the Reconstitution of Committees and their Members. I will call upon the Deputy Speaker to the podium.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

RECONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES AND THEIR MEMBERS
(Motion without Notice)

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The report of the Rules Committee on the allocation of committees to Hon Matlou Leswafo Joshua. The Rules Committee has considered the allocation of committees to Hon Matlou Leswafo Joshua in its meeting held on 23 August 2019. Hon Matlou has been appointed as the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health. He will also serve in the following committees: Ethics and Members' Interests, Public Accounts, CoGHSTA and Education. The Rules Committee hereby submit the attached reconstituted committees and their members before this honourable House for adoption. I therefore move for the adoption of the reconstituted committees and their members by this honourable House. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? Hon Makoma, you may take the floor.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Nna, Makoma Makhurupetje, ke ema go thekga se se boletšwego gore Mohlomphegi Matlou a kgethwe e be modulasetulo wa komiti ye ba e bolelago. I, therefore, second the motion. [Khelobedu] [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We will then move to the Second Reading: Approval of Votes and Schedule of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2019. We are then going to start with our debate. This morning we will be starting with the Department of Public Works. I therefore call upon the chairperson to present.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

[LAUGHTER] Go a swana ga le nkwe. [Khelobedu:0: 24:15] Hon Speaker, I, Makoma Makhurupetje, hereby stand and present the report of the Portfolio Committee of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure on the 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan and Budget for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. I therefore move, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Can I get a seconder? Hon Deputy Chief Whip, you may take the floor.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Speaker. I rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Makoma.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you for the secondment. The honourable Members that would be debating on the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure will be Hon Mdaka Falaza, Hon Managa Lillian, Hon Phala Katlego and Hon Makhurupetje Makoma. You know that you are allocated time, utilise your time effectively. We are going to request Hon Mdaka to take the podium.

MR MDAKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I believe I can debate from here because I have done my maiden speech in the last term. Do not worry about the glasses … [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Member, you are aware that we have started to count your minutes.

MR MDAKA

Yes. No, no it is fine. Hon Premier in absentia, Members of the Executive present, Hon Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip; Leader of the Opposition in absentia and honourable Members of this august House, let me take this opportunity to greet you all this morning. Avuxeni!

BACKGROUND

Ahe.

MR MDAKA

Minjhani?

BACKGROUND

Hi pfukile, minjhani?

MR MDAKA

Hi pfukile. I stand before you on behalf of the Portfolio Committee for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure as well as representing the mighty African National Congress in this debate.

Let me begin my speech from the beginning by saluting the gallant women of our country who contributed immensely to the liberation of our people. August month is ending, but their bravery will stay with us for a long time. Malibongwe!

BACKGROUND

Igama lamakhosikazi!

MR MDAKA

Wathint' abafazi!

BACKGROUND

Wanthit' imbokodo!

MR MDAKA

Wena!

BACKGROUND

Uzakufa!

MR MDAKA

The 20 000 strong women's march of 1956 is something that we can emulate today, but in a different context. The strategic objective as in 1956 remains the same, but

tactically we have emulated that bravery in conducting our oversight without fear or favour.

As the Portfolio Committee for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and all of us gather here today, we are duty bound to remember those sacrifices made by our forebearers that delivered us to the freedom we enjoy today. There is no room for corruption whatsoever nor to put things under the carpet. That is not what they struggled for or what all of us struggled for.

The struggle for the emancipation of our people from inequality, poverty and unemployment continues. We, like the women of 1956 must mobilise our communities behind the programmes of our government and not against them as is reflected in some quarters.

As honourable Members and leaders in our own right we must be guided by the principles of integrity, respect, collective leadership, selflessness, constructive criticism and self-criticism, humility as well as unity in our approach and nation building. These must just not be utterances that we make in our political gatherings or organisations, but they must be the embodiment of our daily actions in us doing our work. In this way we shall be able to reduce the unnecessary protests that are engulfing our province and the country at large.

The expectations of our people out there are so huge to allow us time for political manoeuvring and cheap political scoring. Our people need services, not commissions. They need proper road infrastructure not court battles. Inasmuch as courts contribute immensely to our democracy in South Africa, they must just not be abused. Let us go out of the courts and go to the people.

The Freedom Charter says the people shall govern. We must stop targeting our leaders, the President in particular. I am not sure who is investigating the government. Instead, we must go out and work in our different constituencies together with our people to reduce the unhappiness that manifests itself in the service delivery protests.

In his State of the Province Address, the Premier, Hon Stanley Mathabatha said, “Infrastructure is the backbone of economic development. It is in this context that we have put socioeconomic infrastructure development high on the agenda of this government.”

In an effort to make a major dent in this regard, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure is currently implementing a total of 114 km of road network across the province at a cost of R1,064 billion. These roads which are being upgraded from the gravel to tar will be completed in this financial year.

Further highlights of the achievements made by the department as the implementing agents of our sister Departments of Education and Health and others is the 128 schools projects that were completed in the past five years of which six were the construction of new schools and 122 upgrading projects. All the 128 projects are 100% complete as we speak.

In the Health portfolio there was a target of 19 projects for clinics, upgrading of hospitals, of which 14 clinics were completed while the multi-year project of the upgrading of Maphutha Malatji and Letaba hospitals are still under construction.

The department also managed to deliver 30 library infrastructures, where 2 were new and 28 were upgrades. We are pleased to report that the department on behalf of CoGHSTA was able to build 13 traditional council offices using its internal in-house teams within the past five years. During the course of its work the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure contributed to the issue of empowerment. A total of R355 million was spent on local labour on roads infrastructure projects, while R527 million was spent on SMMEs with a total of 5 264 fulltime job equivalents created. Over this five-year term, the Limpopo Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) created 493 937 work opportunities in the four sectors, infrastructure, social, non-state and environment and culture

In conclusion, the portfolio committee notices some challenges in the department. One critical issue is the issue of RAL that has overcommitted its budget over the past MTEF period. As we speak there is very little that can be done in terms of new roads projects. Given the closure of the roads by our communities on a daily basis demanding tar road, it then poses a serious challenge that needs some wisdom to deal with. In fact, there is just no money now to embark on new roads. Our communities must be informed accordingly.

The other issue is roads priority lists generated by RAL in consultation with our municipalities, the district municipality in particular. Some of the district municipalities will go to an extent in saying almost 535 roads which are sort of hotspots are their top priority for this financial year. It is just not possible to implement 535 road networks in one year for one district. These are some of the issues that we have realised. There is a need therefore, to come up with a realistic approach than to raise expectations which cannot be met in the near future. Our people should be told the truth. Honourable Members without painting a gloomy picture, as I have already indicated, there is just no budget for RAL to deal with all the hotspots on road infrastructure and the continuous political commitments that are made on a daily basis, something that we are trying to refrain from doing, we as political leaders. We, therefore, recommend a holistic approach in dealing with the provincial roads, a master plan that the department is dealing with.

With these few words allow me to say to you let us go back and work, let’s make sure that we are always with our communities. Let’s find a new way of dealing with the issues and not necessarily misinforming our people. At all times we must tell the truth and not a lie. That is what we are saying on behalf of the committee. I so move, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Managa, you may take the floor.

MS MANAGA

Ndo livhuwa Mulangadzulo u dovha hafhu u n̤ewa tshifhinga uri ndi dzhenelele kha khanedzano hedzi dza d̤uvha l̤a n̤amusi.

Hon Speaker, the Department of Public Works has an important mandate of delivering infrastructure to the people of Limpopo for the economic growth and the general improvement of their lives.

However, the delivery of such infrastructure projects remains a huge disappointment in the province mainly, because of lack of political will to do or to execute projects for the benefit of the people of the province. We find it extremely difficult to define and understand the role of RAL as many communities continue to lack roads, despite the requests made countless times.

Promises are made to the people giving them false hope especially during the election period in order to win votes. As soon as they are elected, the promises also disappear, because they got what they wanted. It is for this reason that people march and protest for the delivery of services every year. For example, earlier this year we had the community around Pollen and Khala in Mogalakwena which protested and marched for lack of tarred roads in their area. The backlog of roads in this province dictates that the government aims high by covering more kilometres of roads per year than just small targets that do not impact on the majority of the people on the ground.

As an implementing agency, RAL must lead in the provision of roads to the people of Limpopo in order to make their lives easier. The EFF is concerned about leadership instability in this department, because those who came before did not stay or last longer. People at the strategic leadership positions come and go within a short space of time, and this implies that the department does not have a good retention strategy, if it exists.

This instability has a serious potential to affect service delivery to the people of Limpopo and everyone who visits the province, who rightfully deserves it. It is our view that the government should have its own buildings and office space instead of renting from individuals that charge them exorbitant fees.

This is a waste of taxpayers' money, because the money could be used to purchase or construct buildings that belong to the government or could be channelled to other worthy projects that could improve the lives of our people in the province. The failure by the department to collect arrear rental is a clear indication that officials sleep on the job at the cost of the people. More disappointing is that several residential properties were recorded in the housing register. It is scandalous, shocking and unbelievable.

The lack of such an important register exposes government property to theft and many of them will never be accounted for. The department must develop a housing register in the next 30 days and present it to the committee so that we have a clear understanding of how many properties does the government own, where they exist and who occupy them. Based on the current financial state affairs, we are forced to believe that the department does not have a clear property portfolio.

Further than that there is no firm follow-up strategy by the department to force those who owe rental fees to evict them for failing to fulfil their obligation. The "Operation Hakela" is not bearing fruits, because rental arrears owed to the state continue to grow day by day. What stops the department from strengthening this strategy even if it

means taking those who do not pay to courts? They should consider a more effective strategy that will force the people to pay their rental fees.

Clearly there is an urgent need to review the rental management policy in order to avoid these kinds of shenanigans from happening in the department. What is the role of risk management units in government when these types of things continue to happen? The department will end up acquiring the services of consultants to come and do the same job that these units are supposed to do. The department must confirm the existence of its properties and make sure that there is consistent maintenance to the buildings for sustainability.

Given the serious backlog in the delivery of infrastructure projects, we expect the department to construct more schools, more hospitals and more clinics for our communities to address this backlog. The House should note that the department continues to fail to attract professionals like engineers with rare skills to capacitate the department. This is one of the reasons why RAL continues to fail to deliver quality roads to the people of Limpopo. The political leadership of this department cannot be trusted in delivering infrastructure to the people, worse even complex projects. I thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Phala Katlego, you may the floor.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. This department plays a pivotal role in the success of this province as all the functions it covers are essential to the upliftment, empowerment and socioeconomic development of the people in the province. The financial and corporate governance of the department must therefore be a real concern for this House. In the 2017/18 PFMA report, RAL had irregular expenditure of R270 million, a deficit of R401 million and had creditors that exceeded cash at the end of the year. The entity could not pay creditors as they became due.

The key concerns identified included that the entity had a large amount of commitments and accruals. To date, it is still problematic, and it remains an ongoing concern on the operations of the entity. It is deeply concerning that RAL is overcommitted by an amount of R798 million which was highlighted to be largely due to amongst others, the political commitments not followed by the necessary funding. Politicians must stop making promises for roads that the entity cannot keep.

The Auditor-General also found that the Department of Public Works' senior management, accounting officer and executive authority did not ensure that regular reconciliations were performed and that stringent record-keeping controls were in the culture of the department. They continuously made these recommendations, but they were often disregarded as evidenced by the same qualification areas in the current and prior years. While road infrastructure must be prioritised, the systematic problems in the department and RAL must be addressed so that we get value for money spent and effectively start to address the road infrastructure backlog. The 2017/18 Auditor-General's findings must be addressed by the implementation of the Audit Action Plan

and perhaps it is time the department asks the Provincial Treasury to play a larger role in assisting with the financial affairs of the department and entity.

The problem that the RAL entity and the department are experiencing are surely connected to lack of senior leadership. The RAL Board of Directors has so far failed to appear in front of the portfolio committee and this raises concerns over the accountability of the board. The department needs to fill critical senior management posts in all areas especially in technical aspects of the department's operations as soon as possible to ensure the running of the department and its entity are not compromised.

This House should note that a kilometre in Limpopo under this department costs over R10 million while national recommends for R3,5 million to R9 million. Therefore, the department needs to start blacklisting and limiting the general use of subcontractors due to the impact of inflated costs, inferior and defective workmanship, delays and subcontractors' financial constraints have on the infrastructure projects. There must be standardised benchmarking of considering the most competitive pricing and amounting in appointing of contractors for the upgrading of roads to tar to start addressing the backlogs in a meaningful way.

The MEC and her department need to strengthen their approach and plan regarding consequence management for officials responsible for unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure and any other transgression on governance matters. The legal services and legal costs budget are also of concern as it seems insufficient when considering the claims brought against the department register of over R70 million, and an additional of over R40 million in claims over damage caused by potholes. If the department loses the claims and is expected to pay this could cause a great risk to the department.

We hope the new MEC is committed to turning around and addressing the programmes in the department and turning around its fortunes, if so, we will cooperate and support her in all her efforts. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Makhurupetje, you may take the floor.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

Hon Speaker; Hon Premier in absentia; MECs present; Chief Whip of the Majority Party; Leader of the Opposition and honourable Members of this august House, good morning.

The Portfolio Committee of Public Works, Roads and infrastructure was briefed by the department on 06 and 15 August 2019 on the 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan and budget. The purpose of the meetings was to scrutinise the APP for the department and service delivery intentions to the people of Limpopo. The department has been allocated a total of R3,6 billion for the financial year. It was noted that R1,2 billion is from the grants. Further, that R1,4 billion will be transferred to the Roads Agency Limpopo.

Under Administration, after the committee had scrutinised the APP and the Budget the issues that we have observed and want to make recommendations to are: Firstly, under Administration we want to take this opportunity to thank the honourable MEC that we can realise that after the concerns that were raised by the previous committee, finally, the Head of Department has been appointed. We officially congratulate his appointment. However, it was raised that his predecessors on this position did not last for six months. We hope this time this HOD will stay longer. We now want to request the department to consider filling two critical positions which we think this department cannot function properly without. The positions are Chief Director for Construction, Planning and Design and as well as Chief Director for Project Management, as they are key for core business to run properly.

On Property and Facility Management, the department indicated that it has prioritised the Operation Bring Back' programme through its stakeholder's related programme and liaise with the Department of Rural Development and Land Affairs. It was reported that the Limpopo provincial government represented by the Department of Public Works as the custodian of immovable assets, is taking part on the "Operation Bring Back" project, but for now it has a list of properties that were disposed of and illegal people that invaded the land. It was alluded that the department's Acquisition Unit is responsible for the investigation of all those immovable assets whose ownership vest with the province, and then have them registered in the name of the province.

The committee was still concerned about the arrear rental owed to the department. It was indicated that several residential properties were not recorded in the housing register. Further, that the debt continued to increase due to lack of eviction strategies implemented. The committee would continue to monitor the effectiveness and the efficiency of "Operation Hakela" as an intervention strategy to reduce and attempt to curb growing debt book to achieve improved management of rental collection and increase revenue.

In relation to payments of rates and taxes to municipalities based on devolved functions, the challenges found were the extent that municipalities' billing include properties on communal and private properties. We want to request the Department of Public Works to really assist in paying municipalities, because for municipalities to pay their services it is the Department of Public Works that must assist that all that are working with CoGHSTA and Provincial Treasury ensure that departments pay the municipalities to implement their services. [APPLAUSE]

The committee expects the department to continually revisit rental management policy and review the rental fees per rule taking into consideration the structure as approved by Treasury and the areas where the properties will be situated.

The committee has noted some progress made on the renovation of some houses in the Parliamentary Village. It was the view of the committee that enough consultation should be strengthened with the Internal Arrangements Committee of this Legislature so that Members when their houses are refurbished the issue is dealt with properly without challenges.

In respect of relocation of essential services from Lebowakgomo to Sekhukhune District, the committee has noted and would like to thank the Hon Premier, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha for his efforts working with his MECs that we have received a

report that finally the land has been found in Jane Furse. We want to thank the Premier for his good work with the MEC. We will continue as the committee to monitor the situation in that regard. [APPLAUSE]

The committee received a report that the Department of Public Works is working and continuing to implement projects as per submitted User Asset Management Plans by client departments. It should be noted that the department will continue to implement multi-year projects. In its interaction with the department, the committee found that the inability of the department to deliver infrastructure on behalf of client departments within the contract period and budget was attributed to client departments sometimes withdrawing projects due to a lack of budgets, and poor performance by the implementing agents. We are worried about this concern honourable MEC that while you have a memorandum of understanding with DBS and IDT you do not have a memorandum of understanding with the Mvula Trust. This is for us a big concern that the Department of Public Works must ensure that service delivery is provided to the client departments.

On EPWP, Limpopo province has set targets for the next five-year period at a minimum of 475 000 work opportunities for the EPWP phase 4. The committee noted the commitment by the department to lead and coordinate Public Sector-wide EPWP towards the creation of 550 work opportunities through EPWP Incentive Grant. It further noted that in the financial year, the department will create 1 050 work opportunities. Furthermore, it will create 301 fulltime equivalent jobs.

On Roads Infrastructure the department has R2,3 billion which is meant for road infrastructure. In terms of section 25(1) of the RAL Act, RAL is vested within the framework of government policy, with the power to perform all strategic planning with regard to the provincial road system, as well as the planning, design, construction, operation, management, control maintenance and rehabilitation of the provincial roads in the province.

The committee has however, noted that when you check in terms of the kilometres that have been planned and assessed in terms of the Technical Methods for Highways Manual and the kilometres that are planned for implementation there is some inconsistencies. We have requested the department to go back and reconcile the work that will be done by the department and the work that will be done by RAL.

The committee will encourage the department to continue to have regular engagements with the communities to outline the schedule and implementation plans. The MEC is requested to visit areas where commitments were made previously to avoid unnecessary protests which lead to vandalism and disturbing of schools at critical times. Our appeal is when the MEC is redoing the reprioritisation of all the communities that have received letters of commitment, they must be properly consulted to understand how the new priority list is done so that they understand how they fit within the municipal IDP in terms of the new priorities that they have been done.

Indeed, we must indicate honourable MEC that we had little challenges of communication when we were meeting and especially when engaging RAL. We want to encourage you and we will make sure that we will work with you as we have requested a first session with the whole compliment of the board of RAL as well as the Department of Treasury and the MEC so that we are able to understand what are the

financial difficulties and how do we assist you to continue to provide services to the people of the province. Our view is that the MEC can be able turn things around in RAL, and we will support the MEC in doing that work.

The committee having scrutinised the 2019/20 departmental Performance Plan and Budget recommends to this honourable House to approve the Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the department for the 2019/20 financial year. On behalf of the committee, I move that this report be adopted as a report of this House. I move accordingly. Thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I will then now call upon the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to respond to the observations made. I am not allocating you time, but I will tell you if you are taking too much time.

THE MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Thank you. Hon Speaker, the department's strategic objective of our programme is to assure that systems, processes and procedures are developed and implemented. Indeed, I would like to say that with the road that has been alluded to by Hon Managa, that road is tarred from Burgersdorp to Rita. The one which has been alluded to here is an access road which we will look at in the near future. We are going to re-gravel it and if it comes to a push, we will be paving that road.

All the protests which have been taking place in the province, as a department, we have taken a very conscious visit to all the development forums. We met with them; we have discussed lengthy with them. As I speak right now, the majority of the forums which were protesting after we met with them, we have alluded to them how we are going to change the way things used to be done. All backlogs, all the Bermuda roads, all the hotspots, and all principal pronounced roads, are there on the lists. We are committed as the department for now as we don't have money, that we are going to lobby so that we can be able to arrest those which are supposed to be completed by 2019/20 financial year. At this moment most of the development forums which were protesting, they have come to terms with our discussions as we do not have money, we do not want to lie to the people of Limpopo.

If we do not have enough budget, we cannot say to the people we have money. We have discussed with them and we have already spoken to the majority of the people especially in Vhembe and in Mopani. We visited most of those people, we have discussed with them and the forums have accepted. They understand the backlog, but they were not told that there is no money at that moment.

I would like to say with the posts with the strategic posts of technical manager and project manager, we are about to advertise them. By the end of this month, those two posts will be advertised and will be filled soon. The other thing the issue of buildings, I would like to say at this moment we have created a register that we are taking note of each and every Public Works building in the province and some of them are not provincial, they are national. We have two registers at this moment, and we are engaging with all those people who occupying those buildings and very soon I think we will report back on what will be the outcome of us following up all the buildings. We

have requested the most senior person who is a Chief Director to come and sit on the 26th. She will be overseeing the whole property and rental services because we are not doing well in collecting the rental moneys.

We believe with the new Chief Director who will be sitting and overseeing the properties of the Department of Public Works, we will very soon after three months bring in a better report on these properties.

I would like to say with RAL, we are busy at this moment bringing together all the members who were not there so that we finalise the entity. This entity has been doing well. We know that it has been delivering well, but we are quite aware of the shortfall. We say as the department together with the entity, we are rallying behind to make sure that we find out what happened and at the end of the day we will report back to the portfolio committee.

I would like to say that all the comments which have been laid today, we have noted them, and we are taking them as a department and entity. We will come and report back on all the findings which we are continuing searching for. Thank you, Madam Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC for the response on the observations. We are now going to do the consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. I therefore invite the committee chairperson to the podium.

MR SELAMOLELA

Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism to table the report on the APP and Budget for the said portfolio as it appears on the ATC for consideration and adoption by this august House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Can I get a seconder? Do you want to second Hon Smalle?

MR SMALLE

It does happen that political parties from the other side of the floor do support some of the recommendations or a full recommendation by the Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. [APPLAUSE] It is a very vibrant committee that one. I support the chairperson’s proposal for the support of that report. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Because I saw the paper up, I thought that you were stretching. Thank you. We are now going to the debate. We will then invite the following speakers who will be debating: Hon Mathe Simon, Hon Mohlala, Hon Phala Rudolph, Hon Smalle

Jacobus and Hon Selamolela Donald. You know your minutes that are allocated. I am going to invite Hon Mathe Simon to the podium.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Speaker, Hon Mavhungu Maureen Lerule-Ramakhanya Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha; Deputy Speaker, Hon Azwindini Jeremiah Dingaan Ndou; Hon Chief Whip in absentia; Hon Deputy Chief Whip; honourable Members of the provincial Legislature; Members of the Executive Council that are present here today.

Once again, we begin by saying the key to economic growth is not the acquisition of things by pursuit of monetary rewards, but the expansion of wealth through learning and discovery. Today, as we are gathered here in this Chamber as Members in general and members of the ruling party in particular, we are aware that there are changing economic power balances in favour of developing countries and new trends in economic partnerships. This view is well articulated in the strategy and tactics document of the African National Congress as adopted by the 54th National Conference in 2017.

Again, I would make reference to the manifesto of the African National Congress simply, because our task is to totally implement the referred manifesto as it was overwhelmingly endorsed by our people in South Africa in general and Limpopo in particularly. Our manifesto emphasises the need to transform the economy to serve all people through interventions that promote a developmental growth path to create more jobs and decent jobs.

This necessarily mean that we must address monopolies, excessive concentration and the growth inhibiting structure of the economy and advance industrial plan for localisation. Therefore, I want to confirm that the Budget Speech presented in this very same House by MEC Andrew Mokone speaks about issues that are wholly in line with the manifesto of the ruling party and also the Annual Performance Plan speaks about the issues as I have indicated above.

For example, the refurbishment of the Seshego Industrial Park, where I come from, will contribute towards localisation of the economy and in furtherance create decent job opportunities for our people. The manifesto of the ruling party further emphasises that we must drive innovation and digital revolution, increase levels of investment in the economy, accelerate the provision of infrastructure to support the economy and meet basic needs, and consolidate support for small businesses and cooperatives.

I stand with pride to further confirm that the department has all plans and vision to fulfil all of the above and surely the specific examples are reflected in the Budget Speech and the Annual Performance Plan for 2019/20. I am saying this because we will soon be rolling out broadband in various cities of our province including Polokwane. We have started with the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone which will bolster investment in our province. We are improving the database of our SMMEs and cooperatives, so that they are also afforded an opportunity to play a role in our economic growth and their very own economic emancipation.

The Premier in his State of the Province Address indicated that 20% of economic opportunities that exists in the province in this financial year will go towards the youth. Already steps are in place for the realisation of this commitment, because we all know that in 2018 the province adopted a youth development strategy which was aimed at addressing socioeconomic challenges confronting the youth. The department has since through its "Walala Wasala" intervention which targeted 9 400 young people and 83% of the target has been achieved.

While we acknowledge the fact that when we speak about structured unemployment, we refer to the mismatch that exists between the skills our economy demands, and the type of skills required by the labour market. We want to appreciate the fact that the department will be embarking on engagements with various TVET colleges in the province to ensure that they produce artisans which will be easily absorbed by the market particularly in our special economic zones.

We are venturing into tourism. We all know that the Limpopo Tourism Agency is an entity of the department. We are excited because the agency will during this financial year or later organise the Limpopo Jazz Festival which will be a replica of the Cape Town Jazz Festival. This will be done at no cost to the agency or the Limpopo government, but it will bring the returns for the province as the targeted audience also include patrons from SADC region. We will aggressively market our province through the Limpopo Tourism Agency and make sure that the people of the world, the continent and the country know that we have a Kruger National Park in Limpopo not in Mpumalanga.

The aggressive marketing of Limpopo will help us to increase the number of tourist visits in our province through the implementation of 5-in-5 Strategy that aims to receive 5 million visitors in 5 years. We will then be able to unlock the massive economic stimulation power of the tourism sector and continue to create more decent jobs. The 5-in-5 Strategy will also allow us to double the current 3% contribution of the tourism sector to the total national GDP. For your information and appreciation, note that Limpopo province is the second most popular destination for international tourists after Gauteng. This is reflected and confirmed in the tourism report by Tourism South Africa.

As we continue to venture into serious economics, we want to indicate that in Limpopo we have 147 mining projects that are operational and 8 more in the pipeline in both Capricorn and Sekhukhune Districts. These projects will create 3 000 jobs and bring about direct investment of about R2,5 billion. The mining forum in this province is at the centre of sustainable mining sector and the forum has 3 key focus areas which amongst others includes the following:

- Local manufacturing;
- Community development and social labour plans, and … [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

You have one minute remaining.

MR MATHE

- Skills for the economy.

The department is huge. We will need two hours to speak about the department, but we take pride about the plans of the Limpopo Gambling Board to sustain its audit opinion and enhance its compliance strategy. Many of our gambling centres in the province are fully compliant and the board will in this financial year continue to work with SAPS and other agencies to ensure that they reach 100% compliance target.

The Limpopo Gambling Board will continue to accelerate its corporate social responsibility initiatives which are mainly aimed at restoring the dignity of an African child. We are pleased that the Gambling Board has set out very realistic and achievable targets for this financial year as reflected in the Annual Performance Plan.

The department is also overseeing environmental affairs and for this financial year they are going to ensure the regulation and management of environmental and natural resources including biodiversity and conversation matters in a manner that will facilitate sustainable economic growth and development in the province. The Annual Performance Plan indicates clear strategic objectives which amongst others include sustainable environmental management, utilisation and regulation, protection and sustainable natural resource management and utilisation. Lastly it will provide environmental empowerment services.

We are generally appreciative of the fact that there is integrated economic development services and one of the main objectives is to facilitate the development of SMMEs and cooperatives through business development information, skills development, and access to resources and markets by 2019.

We know we have much to say, but we will pause here and give everybody on the left, that side, an opportunity to watch and see as we economically develop Limpopo, as we empower our youth, women and people living with disability. We want to move for the adoption of this Budget, and we thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Mohlala, you may take the floor.

MR MOHLALA

Thank you, Speaker. Greetings to you, the Hon Premier; colleagues in the House and our audience on the floor. Let me present our debate on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters.

The EFF government will ensure that capable and skilled personnel is employed by the state and its entities. This will avoid instances where cut and paste on reports replace logic and honest reporting. The department is referring us to the 2017/18 budget allocation, whilst our understanding as the Economic Freedom Fighters is that the amount of R1,722,710 billion is allocated for the year 2019/20.

It is no surprise that the department is unable to manage its three parastatals which have collapsed, noting the level of laziness and cut and paste on reporting. The mandates and responsibilities of these entities and the revival of LEDA should not

cause any duplication of responsibilities amongst the entities. This will increase the budget burned without benefit to communities.

We call upon the department to absorb all workers who are working on contracts and outsourced services. We call for insourcing of these workers as this will create job security and save the department lots of resources. How many suppliers have been paid within the 30 days period and how many were paid outside the 30 days period? Did the department exhaust all its Budget for 2018/19 financial year? As the EFF, we advocate for empowerment of women, youth and people living with disability. We, therefore, request the department to avail supply chain reports indicating demographics.

The department should lessen the conditions of availing financial intervention to SMMEs. It serves no purpose to have a bank lending model when you know the conditions of those who are historically disadvantaged. The current setup is denying an African child the opportunity to navigate the economic mainstream. Are there detailed procurement plans and targets on the empowerment of locals and SMMEs by the SEZs? We will appreciate quarterly reports on the matter of empowering of the historically disadvantaged individuals.

What are the plans to ensure that expansion of mining activities is beneficial to the people of Limpopo? The current arrangement of extracting raw material and sending them for processing overseas disempowers our potential to grow the economy and create jobs. The EFF government will establish an efficient and impactful state mining company to reposition the state as a central player in development, management and utilisation of Limpopo wealth for industrial growth and job creation.

Mining development and beneficiation of schools in mining must be opened in our province. We will further through state management control mineral wealth in the province. This mining projects which are paraded will mean nothing to the people of Limpopo if they do not create jobs and empower surrounding communities. The rate of unemployment is high in the province as a result it would be imperative for the department to share with the House how many jobs will be created through these new projects. The industrial development interventions should be linked with creation of real jobs. This will avoid a crisis of have unused structures being funded.

The Limpopo Liquor Act should make provision for entities which seeks to operate online on Sundays and those who seek flexibility on operating hours without compromising safety of residents and other bylaws. What are the measures undertaken by the department to ensure that emerging developments do not erode existence of protected areas and species in the various parts of our province?

Can the department familiarise this House with plans to control the emission emanating from the chemtrails which are often seen in our skies? Has the department conducted any study on chemtrails, their effects on the population, agriculture and the entire environment? The department should develop a quota system which will provide a limit to foreign tourism land ownership. This ensure participation of locals and SMMEs into this crucial economic sector. Illegal mining deprives our communities and province many economic opportunities and as a result it must be stop in its entirety.

The Limpopo Gambling Board (LGB) should avail the 2019/20 corporate social investment programmes. The LGB should provide a plan on how they are going to fill the remaining vacancies. You cannot have six vacant posts of compliance officers whilst our people are still subjected to mochaina and other illegal gambling activities.

We hope that the LGB is self-funding as it is expected to raise revenue. Can we also have the report on the 2017/18 research on gambling and betting prevalence in the province? Are there any statistics on illegal gambling prevalence and conviction rate of offenders? What are the reasons for reducing the budget of Limpopo Tourism Agency when we have not fully explored the tourism potential of this province which creates jobs to boosts the economy? Marketing of tourism should also target awareness locally. This will ensure that there is non-stop of tourism activities in the province.

GAAL should engage with tourism to establish the viability of regional flights to accommodate those who seek to use air travel during their visit to the province. We want LEDA to avail a report on deliverables based on the Limpopo Development Plan, from 2015 to 2019. The House should be clarified on the processes of the new board, its role, mandate and term limit as their restructuring process which is not complete. The economy of the province will never improve. This is precisely due to the fact that those in leadership forget that we are a mining and agricultural economy. We have no facilities to do mining beneficiation and agro-processing.

What are the economic activities and their input into provincial economy from the revitalised factors in the province, if there are any activities? The suffering and hunger experienced by the people cannot be prolonged any longer. Every financial year the department shifts goals. LEDA together with the Department of Transport should develop clear plans for Musina-Makhado and Moria high speed transport models.

The fact is that the collection of CVs from unemployed youth only serves to delay their dreams and gives them false hope as the department and government have no employment plans and they rely on recruitment agencies. We are being led by a bunch of losers. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mohlala. Hon Phala, you may take the floor.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker for giving me the opportunity to participate in the debate of the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism’s Annual Performance Plan and Budget, 2019/20.

Essentially, Hon Speaker, we are bringing a report to this House as a portfolio committee after we have been given a task by this Legislature to consider on behalf of and in the name of this Legislature the Annual Performance Plan and Budget. We are bringing you a report of what we have found when we considered the Annual Performance Plan and Budget

We held three meetings with the department and its entities. As Hon Mathe was saying, the department is very big with lots of entities. We held three meetings and we think that we are making progress. We are beginning to sing from the same hymn book, the portfolio committee and the department, as Hon Mathe has already indicated. One of the issues that we raised sharply there, is gender equity, gender parity, and gender representation. If you look at the top structure of the department it is essentially male dominated. If you look at the board of LEDA for example, of its 11 members only 2 are women. If you look at board of this new thing, which is called Musina-Makhado SEZ, of the 8 members, only 1 is a woman. If you look at the 7 chief executive officers of the subsidiaries and of LEDA, all of them are men.

If you look at the chairpersons of the board and their deputies both of LEDA and of the subsidiaries, all of them are male. We were saying to the department that, that can only happen in Swaziland. [LAUGHTER] In South Africa, in a government of the ANC that cannot happen. We can't have that. Twenty-five years of ANC rule you find a male dominated patriarchal institution like a male circumcision full in the mountain. You cannot have that. [APPLAUSE] [LAUGHTER] You cannot have that. [APPLAUSE] That is what is happening. We are not blaming MEC Hon Mokone. He is new there. He found them. Hon Seaparo Sekoati knows whom we blame [LAUGTHER] He knows whom we blame for the male dominated Swaziland-like department and entities. That is the first point that we raised.

Isn't it we are reporting back to the Legislature what we found? The second thing we found is that despite the work they have done at the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism for 25 years under various MECs and we have asked these questions for 25 years including the MDs of LimDev and now LEDA, the economy of the province is still a colonial economy. Colonial means that we still take materials raw as they are, only 3% of the economy of the province is manufactured.

Most of its raw materials that we take is either it is tomatoes from ZZ2 or avocados, mangoes and bananas from Vhembe or oranges from Zebediela and Groblersdal, raw as they are, they leave the province and return as orange juice, mango juice, tomato sauce and categories of things of that kind. It is colonial, colonial in the classical meaning, means that all colonialists have a railway road, whether it is in Kenya or Malawi no matter how rural they have a railway road. Once you mine or produce from your farm whatever you produce it must go to the shore. Colonial means that.

The economy of this province is colonial. A colonial economy, as colonial as we found it in 1994 and we want work to be done to turn that around and we are not blaming MEC Hon Mokone, he knows that. He knows whom we blame. [LAUGHTER] He knows whom we blame, and we do not blame Hon Sekoati. Hon Sekoati was just there for five years. [LAUGHTER] We are talking about 25 years of ANC rule.

One of the issues we raised now that we are reporting back, Hon Speaker, is the development of the mining community. In many of the areas where we are mining some of the most expensive things in the world, platinum, chrome and other platinum group metals, the areas are as you see Tubatse and Mogalakwena, just dusty, rural and backwards. What the mining companies do, is to deliver a tarred road to mošate and a school and a clinic. They say it is development, isn't that is what they need. If Hon Sekoati and Hon Mokone have said that, Tubatse must be like Johannesburg,

because what we mine there bring wealth to the Republic of South Africa because of the things that we get out of the world out there. When the things are finished that place will be like Penge. Is there anyone who knows what happened in Penge?

One of the things that we have discovered that we said must be dealt with in the province, particularly in Tubatse, mainly around chrome, is the issue around illegal mining. We have said that the department must work closely with the security forces of the Republic to ensure that they deal decisively with the challenge of illegal mining that is prevalent in the areas of Tubatse in Sekhukhuneland.

The other issue that we have noticed and raised which must be attended to, is the fact that this Makhado-Musina SEZ, which is coming off the ground already has a board and an executive who is the former Hon Lehlogonolo Masoga, but it does not have water. They, themselves do not know where to get water because when it comes to water, even in the areas of Musina-Makhado, there is no huge well of water which is readily available for that SEZ. Water is in Nandoni, which is 80 to 100 kilometres away, water is in Limpopo River which is 80 or so kilometres away. Therefore, this is an area that needs to be attended to. We will be meeting with the department over the SEZ and we will look into it.

The other issue is the black ownership in the casinos. The majority of the people who gamble at Khoroni and Thaba Moshate and also in Meropa Casinos are black people. Ge ba gotše ka di-15 ba tlala moo, megolo ya bona e felela kua. Eupša dikhasino tšeo tše tharo ke tša makgowa le batho ba bangwe. Go kgonega bjang? Akere ke tšhelete ya rena. Ke tšhelete ya bathobaso. Go tla bjang gore e be ya makgowa?

The department must work with the gambling board to increase black ownership of those casinos, Meropa, Khoroni and Thaba Moshate. Partly because 90% of the people who gamble there are teachers, nurses, social workers, honourable Members and other categories of civil servants. [LAUGHTER]

One of the issues we raised very sharply is the marketing of the Kruger National Park. If you are in Germany, in Portugal, in London, in Ulundi or in Bloemfontein, when you think of Kruger Park, you will think it is in Mpumalanga all of it. But in reality, and geographically, 80% of the Kruger National Park is in Limpopo, Mpumalanga is only 20%. When you are in Bloemfontein and think of Kruger, you think of Mpumalanga simultaneously. There is not enough marketing from our own bodies to ensure that people know actually when you come to Limpopo, via Phalaborwa and via Thohoyandou you are right in the bigger chunk of the Kruger National Park.

We talked about the huge progress made by the department on the high-speed train to Musina, which is commendable, and we have commended it as Hon Mathe was reporting on behalf of the committee. We then did say no, the first two Premiers of this province, Premier, Adv Ngoako Ramatlhodi and Premier, Sello Moloto had emphasised that we must build a railroad to Moria. If four million people gather at Moria every Good Friday and September, it will be useful that they leave their homes near Alexandra, Tembisa and Mamelodi and wherever they come from in a train and they arrive in Moria using a train. That is the clear story that Premier Ramatlhodi and Premier Sello Moloto, maybe because they are ZCC but that is what they said, that we must connect the railroad to Moria, so that the four million members of ZCC do not travel in buses and taxis and other categories of transport to reach the Moria city. They

will be able to leave their homes and wherever they come from using a train and they arrive in Moria.

Finally, we are talking about revenue generation and they said one of the bodies that is bringing revenue to the provincial government at this department is gambling. We are surprised because we have mining houses, and mining makes huge money. Why re sa hwetše tšhelete ye ntši kua dimaeneng re e hwetša ka mataeseng? Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members. Let me recognise Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Honourable chairperson, I would like to begin by saying that the committee must first look at its own diversity. There is maybe a problem there. Hon Speaker, Hon Premier and colleagues, thank you for today.

South Africa's economic growth continues to remain below its emerging markets peers in a per capita basis. Our first composition remains weak and sizeable deficit allows debt burden of R1 billion a day towards interests and a sizeable contingent liability largely tied to SOEs.

When we are referring to economic recovery plan it must boost investor confidence if we want to eliminate unemployment of the 43% discouraged work seekers or 2,2 million people seeking employment in Limpopo and nearly 10,6 million in South Africa.

The state of our municipalities is in such a nature that they are not coping in addressing the ageing infrastructure backlogs as well as the urbanisation of our towns. Many of them are facing liquidity problems and it is clear that local investment will not happen at a required growth percentage as required.

This brings me to LEDA, and the critical role it plays to stimulate industrialisation in the province and to provide a platform for economic growth within our municipalities. With 30 000 jobs at stake, we cannot allow a situation that any of the SEZ applications, for environmental impact assessments, water rights and Spluma are seen to be cutting corners in the interests of self-enrichment. Therefore, the DA supports the possible R155 billion investment into these areas, but cautions the department that MOUs with major companies from China must include local beneficiation.

Building a 4 600 megawatts coal fire station which is not yet approved must appear on the Eskom's Integrated Strategic Electricity Plan and for the access to generate electricity. The ISMO Bill (Independent System and Market Operator Bill) must be passed. Once again, the DA cautions the department not to create expectations and cut corners. Transparency is needed to keep communities at ease who are already up in arms wondering where the water will come from. The Musina-Makhado SEZ is water scarce area where people currently go without water for weeks.

LEDA has less than an impressive track record and has taken over profitable projects which they belly up under their management. The Great North Transport (GNT) now

under its management lost 12,3 million passengers due to ageing fleet, mainly due to lack of maintenance. The GNT is further bleeding passengers while making use of other modes of transport and it is ceasing to operate on routes that are not subsidised and profitable. A comprehensible plan to turnaround the GNT and not mere bullet points must be submitted by LEDA to the portfolio committee.

It is still unclear if the uptake agreement between suppliers and retailers to ascertain the Lebowakgomo abattoir would be successful, and after nearly 12 years of R100 millions of investment being utilised, one cannot help to be sceptic. Our province has a bounty of environmental beauty and this heritage must be utilised for job creation through tourism. Our provincial parks are neglected, and poaching continues unabated. The DA recommends that whenever this government hosts workshops or conferences that they be hosted at our own parks and we will request the portfolio committee to arrange oversight visits to Andover, Lekgalameetse, Letaba Ranch, Man'ombe and Nwanedi Provincial Parks.

When these parks perform optimally, it can be a great job booster for the rural job creation in our province. There is so much that this province has to offer in terms of tourism, not forgetting that there is a lot of activities in the private game breeding space to which Limpopo contributes much than 70% in the country's activity in this industry.

Finally, September is Tourism Month and the DA challenges all Members of this house to explore our beautiful province during our short recess and to educate people on the importance tourism has on our economy. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Let me call upon Hon Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

Madam Speaker and the leader of this hallowed House of our people; Hon Premier, Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive Council present in this House; colleagues in the House, in particular colleagues who have contributed immensely in this debate on the Budget of the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism; friends and fellow countrymen.

Thank you for this opportunity and the platform to close the curtain in a debate on the Annual Performance Plan for the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. As per the established tradition, practice and the course of logic; the presentation of the department's APP was preceded by the presentation of the Budget Vote by the MEC, Hon Thabo Mokone. I want to commend MEC Thabo Mokone for the horizon expanding and confidence inviting Budget Vote delivered in the sacred law-making Chamber.

If there has ever been a doubt about the commitment of this government to ignite the spark of economic growth, create jobs and ensure the equitable distribution of our province's resources, such a doubt should have been extinguished when the MEC was on this podium some weeks ago presenting his Budget Vote.

The committee welcomes the department's Annual Performance Plan as a clear, substantive and workable plan which will guide our effort to drive economic development, create jobs and reduce the unacceptable levels of poverty and inequality amongst our people. It is indeed our view as the committee that this Annual Performance Plan and vote are a concrete affirmation that out of the haunting dark shadows of poverty, Limpopo will rise.

Limpopo's economy will indeed rise to reclaim a position once occupied during the epoch of great kingdoms that preceded our modern-day interactions. These are the kingdoms such as the Kingdom of Monomotapa, the Kingdom of Thulamela and the great Kingdom of Mapungubwe.

In the same confluence of Shashe and Limpopo Rivers, over the great hills of the northern most part of our beautiful country many years ago, there existed a thriving Kingdom of Mapungubwe. Mapungubwe is not only the genesis of our modern-day civilisation but Mapungubwe was an epicentre of scientific innovation and the capital city of trade. In Mapungubwe, there was no want, and Mapungubwe was a home of abundance.

Today, through our special economic zone project, we are journeying back to the great days of Mapungubwe. We are revisiting Mapungubwe. In the very foothills of the once great City of Mapungubwe, in the same confluence of Shashe and Limpopo Rivers, a new city is conceived, and a new city will be born. The Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone project breathes life into the living vision of President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, echoed during his State of the Nation Address.

In his vision, President Ramaphosa says, "I dream of a South Africa where a first entirely new city built in a democratic era rises, with skyscrapers, schools, universities, hospitals and factories." It is in this context that as a committee we recommend Hon Smalle, a multi-sector approach to the delivery of the special economic zone project. We will be monitoring and providing necessary oversight to ensure that the province maximises returns from this project.

The SEZ project as we agree with you Hon Smalle, cannot be a one-horse race. For the successful implementation of this project, stakeholders such as DIRCO (Department of International Relations and Cooperation), the Department of Trade and Industry, Prasa and Eskom and many others should be brought on board. In the same vein, we shall call upon the department to ensure a speedy resolution on all the outstanding issues impeding the commencement of the works at the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone. As a committee we want to see skyscrapers rising, we want to see factories opening doors, Hon Mokone, for our young people to start to work. As a committee we equally call on the department to expedite processes relating to the Tubatse Special Economic Zone applications.

We also applaud the department on the 12 industrial interventions conducted through various industries across the province. We further appreciate the work done by the department with regard to the mining sector. Hon Phala, we agree, and we are calling on the department to do a great deal of work in stabilising relations amongst mining houses and the mining communities. The department should work with law enforcement agencies to arrest the destructive tendency of illegal extraction of mineral resources, particularly in the Sekhukhune area. We also support Hon Mokone, the

programme on black industrialist. It's our conviction as a committee that the programme on black industrialist will go a long way in inducting the deracialisation of the economy which is colonial, Hon Phala.

At times the demands for development may seem to brush with our inherent obligation to take care of our environment. In our quest and drive for development, we must never forget Hon Premier that our environment is our collective heritage priced above everything. We appreciate the work that the department is doing in handling the Environmental Impact Assessment application. We must continue on this path to create necessary synergy between developmental and environmental preservation. Without compromising the work done that should be done with these Environment Impact Assessment applications, it is however important that the department should reduce delays with these applications, Hon Mokone.

The committee is highly impressed by the work done by the gambling board in the province. We call upon this entity to strengthen and double its work in capping the illegal internet gambling. The department must give the necessary support to this entity. The committee implores the department to ensure a particular bias to historically disadvantaged groups in the awarding of the new casino licences as Hon Phala has earlier alluded to this fact.

We note the commendable efforts by the Limpopo Tourism Agency of attracting more tourists to our province. These efforts will ensure that the growth of our tourism sector and thereby contribute positively to our provincial GDP and boost our job creation efforts. Be that as it may, there is so much that the department can and must do with regard to attracting foreign tourists to the province. We need to truly leverage on our competitive edge of the majestic landscapes and the breathtaking fauna and flora. Hon Mokone, we must invite the world to come and see how we coexist with our big five, how we coexist with our elephants, our rhinos, our leopards, and indeed Hon Mokone how we coexist with our lions.

As Cde Phala has said, the committee has expressed itself strongly on what seems to be a disregard of women leadership in LEDA and across all its subsidiaries. This, Hon Premier, is certainly unacceptable. We want to see the situation changing. We want to see women and young people being given opportunities to lead some of these entities. We are also concerned about the lack self-sustainability in LEDA. The leadership of LEDA and its subsidiaries must get their acts together. The government will not continue pumping resources in what appears to be a bottomless pit.

Of great concerns to the committee is the developments about and around the Great North Transport. The role of the Great North Transport as a catalyst for socioeconomic advancement of our people cannot be overemphasised. The current state of the GNT leaves much to be desired. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

You have one minute remaining.

MR SELAMOLELA

On the positive note as we move towards concluding this debate, we welcome the inter-ministerial committee established by the Hon Premier to help resuscitate the GNT back to life. GNT is simply too important to fail or to be failed.

We welcome the efforts to reorganise and to make LEDA a more effective and efficient vehicle to propel our economy forward. We are persuaded that a re-established LIBSA will play a greater targeted role in providing nonfinancial support to SMMEs and cooperatives and we support this effort.

The committee is pleased with the strategic effort to position our province to participate effectively and meaningfully in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. In this regard, we support the effort around the Limpopo Connexion. It is our conviction that the broadband project will go a long way in creating an enabling environment for our youth to access information and compete on an equal footing with their peers the world over.

We are optimistic that LEDA has the necessary capacity to turn things around. The journey must start with improving on audit outcomes. This is one deliverable area we will be watching with an eagle's eye.

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, Hon Smalle, Hon Seshoka, we call on all of you to join hands across the political divide and join the Premier and MEC for Economic Development in their journey to make Limpopo a better place. We are indeed convinced Hon Mathe that we are tilting the balance of forces to favour the majority of the people in this province. The tide is turning, and the tide is turning for the better.

The committee having considered and scrutinised the department's Annual Performance Plan and Budget for 2019/20 financial year, moves that the report be adopted as the report of this honourable and august House and that the Budget Vote 6: Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism be passed. I so move. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member. We will then call upon honourable MEC to the podium. I am not allocating you time, but I will not allow you to take too much time.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Eka Manana Xipikara, eka Muphirimiya wa hina, eka Xandla xa Xipikara, eka tiMEC leti nga kona, na n'wina va ku ambala swo tshwuka, na n'wina ho ka hi nga swi tiveki leswaku hi swi vula yini, na vanhu hinkwavo lava nga kona laha, ndzi rhandza ku khensa nkarhi lowu mi nga ndzi nyika wona.

Eka murhangeri wa komiti ya ndzawulo ya hina, Tatana Selamolela, na vatirhikulobye va wena, hi khensa hi vuyelela, hi ba mandla, hi ku ku dya i ku engeta. Mitirho ya vulavula. Bo seka bo eja. Rena ba bangwe re na le mahlatse ka gore re hafohafo. Re no boelela ka mo, hala ha vulavula. Xichangana i xilungu. [LAUGHTER]

The Annual Performance Plan is a culmination of a rigorous engagement with both private and public stakeholders to guide the government on the programme that will

ensure maximum impact in the next five years. In preparation of the Annual Performance Plan, LEDET convened the Limpopo Economic Development Workshop in July and Tourism Stakeholders Forum, wherein experts were called to advice on key strategic programmes that the department will implement in the next five years, and they are as follows:

- Musina-Makhado and Tubatse SEZs;
- Knowledge-driven economy including Fourth Industrial Revolution and broadband infrastructure;
- Mining and Manufacturing;
- Agriculture and agro-processing;
- Tourism, biodiversity and waste management; and
- Entrepreneurship and enterprise development.

It is with these programmes that the department wants to facilitate the economy so that it can be on high growth trajectory from the high level of 2,2 growth that was attained in 2017 and reduce unemployment from the current levels of 20%. In a nutshell, LEDET and its agencies will intensify partnership to implement the following in the current financial year and beyond:

- Resource mobilisation to supplement the fiscus on the implementation of the enterprise development programme;
- Re-engineering of LEDA so that it can be able to implement its core mandate of industrialisation as directed by the Premier of the province;
- Establishment of Limpopo Business Support Agency (LIBSA) to support entrepreneurship and enterprise development in the province;
- Establishment of Limpopo skills academy, leveraging on the four accredited LEDA training concepts;
- Fast-tracking the implementation of Musina-Makhado and Tubatse SEZs,
- Commercialisation of Limpopo Wildlife Resort through a community public/private partnership;
- Intensification of waste management process across all five districts;
- Kick-start manufacturing through linkage with mining and implementation of sector support programme; and
- Revitalisation of industrial parks and support for black industrialist.

What we are saying is that the questions that have been asked and comments that have been made, have been taken into consideration with those broader programmes which have been outlined by the Premier’s Speech and the MEC’s Speech.

In terms of the GNT turnaround strategy, the Premier has directed that the three departments that is, Treasury, LEDET and the Department of Transport and Community Safety must come together. We have already come together. We have come up with a strategy to recapitalise the GNT, to deal with the ageing fleet. In the next two weeks we will be able to deal with that. We have to submit the turnaround strategy to EXCO for approval and we hope that the issue of GNT will be something of the past.

Indeed Hon Phala, the economy of the province has not changed. What we are saying as the African National Congress government, we are going to deal with

industrialisation. As you know, it was a conscious decision that we have the two SEZs primarily that we do not have to export jobs. When you have the minerals, we want to start beneficiating in the two SEZs.

The other honourable Member spoke about the issue of climate change. Already we are saying we do not have to wait for us to start because there you are dealing with a mathematical complexity, which will deal with the high industry. We do not want to wait for us to collude with business (inaudible). We have already put in place a mechanism to deal with that. We are also going to Lephalale, Burgersfort and Tubatse to deal with that. Those are the issues that we have already taking into consideration.

The issue of 30 days, the ANC has said one of the serious issues that we have to think about is entrepreneurship. Our people cannot manage to do work and then you do not pay them. This is in the agenda of the Cabinet. Every time when Cabinet meets this matter will be reported and there will be serious consequences. That is the directive of the Premier. We all know as the MECs that that's what we have to do.

I am saying that most of the issues that have been raised, have been taken care of in the issues that I have actually raised. Of course, our job is to assist entrepreneurship. Yesterday we had a meeting with Productivity South Africa. We were awarding awards. Our entrepreneurs are beginning to be effective and they are increasing their profits and we will continue to do that.

Hon Premier, well it was my friend Hon Sekoati, I do not think it was his making because of certain things, we were told by the committee that next time when we come, we must explain the issue of the gender balance. All of us, as I know I grew up with Hon Sekoati and he is my friend of 30 years, yes, it is true, he is committed to gender issues. He has grown up on that issue and we will deal with this matter. We have agreed that we will be able to address that leadership. For me what becomes important is that now we have a framework. Even in the department we will make sure that that issue is taken into consideration.

I guess that all the issues have been raised, we will come back as Hon Donald Selamolela has actually said, Doso, Early Childhood Development (ECD) that we all need to put our hands on deck. Limpopo needs all of us, there is no time for us to bicker. Our people need us, and we invite you to assist us on that route to make sure that Limpopo becomes one of the best provinces in South Africa.

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Now we will deal with the consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development. I therefore invite the chairperson to the podium.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Madam Speaker. On behalf of the Social Development Portfolio Committee, I, Nkome Sarah Monyamane, move for the consideration and adoption of

the 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of Vote 12 as it appears on the ATC. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable chair. Can I please get a seconder? I recognise Hon Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

I, Donald Selamolela, stand to second the presentation and the tabling. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We will then now go to the debate. I have the following honourable Members that will be debating; Hon Johanna Aphiri, Hon Phala Katlego, Hon Mohlala and Hon Sarah Monyamane.

Hon Aphiri, you may take the floor.

MS APHIRI

A ke go leboge, Mospikara sebaka se o nkadimilego sona; ke be ke go tamiše, ke tamiše le baetapele kamoka ba ba phuthegilego ka mo Ntlong ye kgolo go ya ka ditulo tša bona go ya ka go fapafapana ga tšona. The Department of Social Development in the province is mandated to ensure sustainable human development and to ensure comprehensive care and support of the vulnerable individuals and groups. This mandate is in line with the directive from our President, His Excellency, Hon Ramaphosa, who in his State of the Nation Address emphasised the need to prioritise the needs of the poor, unemployed and the marginalised, including children, youth and women through the creation of jobs, skills development and fighting poverty and violence against women and children.

We welcome the increased budget allocation as it will assist the department in achieving its mandate, especially since the main share is allocated towards the children and families as well as social welfare services. We urge the department to assure this House on the planned programmes and how they will impact the residents of Limpopo.

The committee also noted that there is an allocation of R3 million towards the training by the National Development Agency. The programmes need to be monitored to ensure that they yield visible impact. It will also be important to ensure that the trained beneficiaries productively utilise the training sessions.

This department had a bank overdraft at the end of the past financial year amounting to R29,3 million, accrual adjusted deficit of R132 million, and accrual adjusted net current liability of R204 million. The A-G cautioned the department that the decreasing cash position, coupled with the deficit and the net current liability may have a negative impact on the operations in the future if it is not managed.

The committee noted with a serious concern the department's accrual increase by 198% which will affect its cash flow. The A-G has sharply raised the deficiencies in the internal control on performance information and compliance with applicable legislation resulting from inadequate management's oversight.

The committee has observed lack of tracking and implementation of the A-G's resolutions by this department. We still have no answers of the A-G's resolutions on previous financial years' issues. Matters such as the R82 millions of unauthorised expenditure which resulted from the officials of the department tendering with the same department, officials of the department who were paid erroneously, the GaPhasha Selatole case where the department has built on a land which was not belonging to them, all these matters were raised by the A-G in the previous financial years and they were even served before Scopa but they are treated as by-the-way issues.

The A-G in his report of the past financial year sharply raised concerns on internal controls deficiency on the part of the management and its oversight, particularly on the financial statement, compliance with laws and regulation which are not properly monitored by the accounting officer. Such matters keep the department stagnant on its audit outcome.

We acknowledge and appreciate the Budget allocation of R2,1 billion and the overall increase of 9,7% and appeal to the department to properly utilise this allocation. We are concerned that the ECD grant was not properly spent previously for its intended purposes in accordance with the applicable grant framework.

The role of the department in taking care of our senior citizens has been noted by this committee and we support the plans to assist with building residential facilities. Equally, the planned provision of facilities and services for people living with disability will be of value. However, we are concerned that despite the committee's oversight and interventions in 2016/17 to improve Sekutupu Old Age Home in Capricorn District, has not happened accordingly. There are still challenges including vacant posts, lack of infrastructure maintenance and lack of kitchen equipment. This situation creates conditions that are not conducive for taking care of the elderly, and it therefore needs to be addressed urgently.

The role of the department in rendering the services to the children and their families cannot be overstated, hence we acknowledge the plans by the department to benefit over 77 000 families through the services to ensure stability in these families. The services also extend to place children in foster care or child and youth care centres, as well as provision of psychological support services to over 38 000 orphans and vulnerable children. The department should appraise this honourable House on the approach for the planned expansion of Isibindi Youth Care Centres as well as the progress on the recruitment of staff for Mtsetweni Children's Home.

The Department of Social Development should work with the Department of Education and relevant stakeholders to address transition of early childhood development centres. The committee appreciates the MEC's commitment to support victims of gender-based violence and crime as it has no place in our province. In the same vein, we would like the department to assure the House on the kind of support planned for the victim empowerment centres through the allocated R46 million budget.

The rate and impact of substance abuse amongst the youth and adults is of great concern to all of us as it robs us of economically active population that can contribute to the betterment of our province. It is against this backdrop, that we welcome the opening and operationalisation of the Seshego Treatment Centre, although the issue of vacant posts is still a concern. We also call upon the department to outline the specific programmes that will be implemented to deal with substance dependence.

The efforts of the Limpopo province in fighting poverty are well articulated in various policy documents, in line with national mandates and programmes. Accordingly, this department has allocated resources to support 20 poverty reduction programmes as well as providing training and marketing linkages to cooperatives, while benefiting over 5 000 household and 191 000 people in community centres which are targeted to benefit from the DSD food security programmes. The department should outline the cooperatives to be assisted and indicate how they will benefit.

With regards to partnerships with non-profit organisations in the provision of social welfare services, we urge the department to ensure that they elaborate on the identification of benefitting NPOs. The NPOs should be monitored to ensure delivery on commitments and accountability on the use of funds.

The committee having considered and supported the Department's Annual Performance Plan and Budget for 2019/20, moves that the report be adopted as the report of this honourable House and that the Budget for Vote 12, the Department of Social Development be passed. I move accordingly. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Aphiri. I now call upon Hon Manganye.

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Department of Social Development has never valued or appreciated the social challenges that the people in our province experience on a daily basis. The R2,1 billion allocated to this department will not make any significant improvement to the lives of the people mainly because despite all these annual allocations the people still continue to suffer. The government must stop giving money to this department until they begin to be accountable on what they do with the money that is being allocated to them each and every financial year.

Government allocations must transform the lives of the people from the remote villages like GaKibi in Blouberg and Mafefe in Sekhukhune, changing their lives for the better. Every taxpayer's money must be accounted for and services must go where it matters most, to the people. The massive social challenges the people experience on the ground on a daily basis need serious political will to change their lives.

It is a fact that Limpopo province is faced with a serious challenge of shortage of social workers and yet many qualified social workers are idling at home without employment. These are discouraged job seekers who have given up and have stopped looking for work and are considering seeking employment in other provinces or abroad. Some of

them are beneficiaries of government bursaries but are employed by other provinces upon completion due to the fact that they are not getting employment in Limpopo.

The department's absorption rate of social workers is too low to can seriously eradicate unemployment and make serious impact to the people. It is shocking to learn that 2 512 social workers were trained by the department and that only 1 112 were absorbed since 2008/09 to 2012/13 and 2017/18 financial years. This implies that 1 400 qualified social workers are loitering around looking for employment or are already discouraged and beginning to look elsewhere. Even more disturbing is the fact that the department had no plan to appoint 1 181 social workers bursary holders graduates during 2019/20.

The situation is so dire to an extent that our children are not interested in choosing social work as a career because they see the suffering of their brothers and sisters. The lack of vision by the ANC-led government is astonishing. The poverty of ideas is the order of the day. The EFF government will appoint a social worker for every ward in order to bring social services closer to the people. Under the EFF government, all children living in child-headed households will be placed in foster care homes.

The EFF is disappointed that the Masupatsela Youth Pioneers who were trained by the department as community development practitioners since 2009 were placed on internship until today. We expect that by now they should have been translated into permanent quality sustainable jobs. The fact that they are forever on intern programme means that they continue to forfeit benefits which other workers enjoy in the workplace.

We call upon the department to immediately absorb them in the current financial year and that such report of absorption should be brought to the committee in order to trace the progress. The legal dispute by the Departments of Health and Social Development with Jibeng Investment Pty (Ltd) regarding the GaPhasha one-stopcentre disrupts social work and community development services to communicate of that area because the court judgement was in favour of the claimant of the land.

The EFF is concerned about the projects that are not finished on time by the Social Development, while some are completed but remain white elephants, for example, Mookgophong, Gawula and Mankweng office projects, yes!

THE SPEAKER

You have one minute remaining.

MS MANGANYE

It boggles one's mind why a long-standing unauthorised expenditure amounting to R10 million at the Seshego Treatment Centre remains unresolved. This is testimony to the fact that the government does not care about hard earned taxpayers' money, hence the snail pace in resolving wastages.

The ANC-led government cannot be trusted in providing lasting solutions to the people of Limpopo. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I now call upon Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. It is with the backdrop of this large task the department has, that we are concerned that in the 2017/18 PFMA report the Auditor-General had concerns that the Social Development had committed more than 50% in their next three years' Budget. The department also has inadequate implementation of internal controls and risk mitigation measures. We need strong measures in place because for a department with such a critical role, we cannot afford to incur irregular, unauthorised, fruitless and wasteful expenditures or flout financial management processes. The department must also assist or better monitor NPOs (Non Profit Organisations**)** funded by the department to better manage their funds.

We welcome the Seshego Treatment Centre officially opening in October 2018, and the fact that it has already admitted patients, but this is a project that was opened seven years behind schedule. I can only imagine how many more people in this province could have been saved from drugs if it had been functional since 2011 as planned. The cost of the project was also largely inflated from the original R96 million set aside. The department must therefore develop a report around the circumstances that led to such a long delay and increase in cost as well as consequence management implemented against all department officials, contractors, and subcontractors involved.

It is commendable that since the inception of the scholarship programme, the department has managed to absorb over 1 100 social work bursary holders out of the 2 058. This is not enough taking into consideration the plight of the other 1 000 bursary holders who are not placed, and the other 300 bursary holders who are expected to graduate in the next three years. The department must actively seek to place these graduates in other departments or with NPOs that receive funding from the department. The department also updated the committee that there are talks with Treasury to freeze the bursaries in order to redirect the funds to absorb the current 1 000 unemployed social workers. At this point, any intervention to absorb our educated unemployed social workers will be welcomed.

The department has allocated R46 million for the victim empowerment centres across the province. With this high amount of money, as a committee we ask the department to furnish us with the report of these VECs (Victim Empowerment Centre) within SAPS and private ones, and the kind of services rendered so that as Members, we can do our oversight. Although the department aims to target 831 000 children for the ECD (Early Childhood Development) Programme in this financial year. I think it is unacceptable that the programme has only reached 153 children with disability from 2014 to date. More of this must be done to make ECD centres accessible for children with disability and make them disability friendly.

Of great concern was the R3 million allocated to the NDA (National Development Agency). The MEC told the committee that she was yet to meet this agency, as they could not be able to explain to us what this NDA was and its mandate, except that it was an instruction from national department to allocate R3 million to this agency. This House should know that as we adopt this APP for the betterment of our people in the

province, as a committee we do so in provision that the MEC takes us into confidence that she has met and satisfied herself with the NDA. We further recommend meeting this agency and the MEC soon together.

The department elaborated that the GaPhasha Centre that costed the department R6 million is in private use and benefits an individual after a claimant won a court case. The claimant won due to the Department of Public Works as the owner of immovable assets together with the Office of the Premier failing to attend the court to protect the R6 million building on land they claimed to have rights to. All individuals involved in the handling of this case should be held accountable. The APP states that over 200 000 households in Limpopo had run out of money to buy food in the twelve months before the latest community survey was conducted.

We need to increase households that have backyard gardens and look to include poultry and small livestock in these programmes. The provision of cooked meals in drop-in centres is commendable as an immediate relief, but we need to find more sustainable solutions. The R13 million to fund sustainable livelihood projects is not enough to address poverty alleviation and food security in the province.

As the DA, we wish the new MEC well in her term, and we will support her for as long as we are hopeful that she will see the Department of Social Development improve on the delivery of its mandate and of its service to our people. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Monyamane Sarah, it's over to you.

MS MONYAMANE

The Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council, Members of the Legislature, kgotsong.

The mission of the department is to build a caring and a self-reliant society. It is this department that ensures that our people are protected from the degradation and despair of absolute poverty. The department through provision of social grants and other services strives towards achieving a dignified life for our people.

According to Stats SA Limpopo and Eastern Cape remain the poorest provinces in the country. Many of our people who are in rural areas depend on the functionality of this department just to survive on a day-to-day basis. A vast majority of the residents in this province have through expressing their vote shown that they believe that this department under the curatorship of the policies of the African National Congress will deliver a better life for all.

As such, the role of the Department of Social Development in a situation of poverty and unemployment can never be underestimated. We applaud the department for achieving equity in SMS (Senior Management Service). This is a good development as we celebrate Women's Month.

We remain concerned about the department's challenge to absorb the social workers that it has trained. Of the 2 512 trained, 1 112 were absorbed by the department. This

is a persistent thorny issue that has been raised by the unemployed social workers who are frustrated that although they are trained, they are unable to find any work in the province. There seems to be no plan at all in place on how this situation will be managed. It is surprising that the department will spend so much money on the social work bursary scheme but does not seem to have any strategy in place.

In view of the challenge with regards to placement of social workers, it remains questionable whether there is any need to continue with the social work bursary in the department. At the same time, we are aware that some of the social workers have been placed to work as school social workers in various schools around the province. We call upon the MEC to prioritise this matter.

Drugs are a problem in our society, especially amongst the youth. We, therefore, commend the department for finally opening the Seshego Treatment Centre. This is a project that has long been in the pipeline. We would like the MEC to update us on the functionality of the treatment centre as well as report on its staff component and the functionality thereof.

We are seriously concerned about the legal dispute with the Jibeng Investment regarding the one-stop-centre at GaPhasha. The department lost the case and as such evicted from the building. The committee would like to know how the department lost the case, and what the new occupants are using that building for. MEC, it is really very difficult to understand how the department spent so much money erecting a building without first verifying issues of land ownership. What was done in terms of consequence management in relation to this case? It cannot be that R6 million was spent on this building only for it to later be claimed by private individuals.

In the same breath, the committee is not satisfied by the delay of completion in projects across the province such as Saselamani and Mookgophong. The department complains of office space, but it is not moving at a fast enough pace to finish projects that it has started. The department must also provide a quarterly report on progress in its other infrastructure programmes in Dzumeri, Tshilwavhusiku, Bela-Bela, Moutse and Mecklenburg.

We would like to believe that in the spirit of “Khawuleza”, we would like to see the department move with speed in ensuring that these projects are finished within the allocated time frame, and within the agreed upon budget.

We commend the South African National Defence Force for having relationship with the department who are assisting in various projects within the department. We want to encourage the department to continue with the partnership so that we may accelerate better services to our people.

We are aware as the committee that there were employees in the department who were apparently paid bonuses in error. How that actually happened in the first place is questionable. Of the 49 officials, only three paid back the money. The committee would like the MEC to furnish us with the names of these officials, their responsibilities and what corrective steps have been taken against the officials responsible for processing that wrong payment.

The ANC manifesto states very clear that we are working towards achieving universal access to two years of early childhood development, hence the migration of that age cohorts to the Department of Basic Education. We appreciate the value of this programme as it has been shown that the foundation phase is most critical in the intellectual and scholastic development of a child. We understand that this programme is a multi-year task. We will encourage the department to be in continuous contact with the Department of Education to ensure a smooth transition when the time arises. This allows for standardised guidelines, norms and standards across the whole country. We believe that this move will go a long way in closing the rural-urban divide in literacy and numeracy at foundation phase.

We have no doubt on the capability of the MEC to deliver. We encourage you to continuously monitor service delivery in your department, and not leave anything to chance. We believe that with the correct attitude, the correct fortitude and the correct focus, you should have no problem in moving from an unqualified to a clean audit.

In conclusion, the committee having considered the 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Department of Social Development, recommends to this august House that the Annual Performance Plan and Budget of Vote 12 be approved. I move accordingly. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monyamane. Can I then now invite the MEC to respond to the observations made by the honourable Members. MEC, it's over to you.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you so much, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Hon Premier, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Chief Whip, MECs and Members of the august House. Firstly, let me appreciate the comments, recommendations and the observations as made by both Members and the members of the portfolio committee. Let me indicate that as and when you were all making presentations, all of us I think are able to appreciate the fact that there are numerous challenges that we need to face and deal with, with regard to the department. If we say the department's mandate is to provide hope to the orphans, the elderly and the disabled, it means it is about the welfare of our people in the province.

I have noted all the comments from Hon Aphiri because in the main it's issues that have been identified by Scopa which we still have to look into, especially providing answers with regard to the issues as raised. Let me indicate that there was an issue regarding the NPOs. How do we identify the NPOs as a province? I think one should indicate that, with regard to the NPOs, we invite proposals from them and then get into contract with them for three years.

What I want to indicate also on the issue of the NDA is that we'll discuss its mandate at MinMec meeting. A number of provinces have raised concerns about the main mandate of the NDA. Currently, the R3 million will be utilised for capacitating the NPOs, because you will agree with me that we are transferring a lot of money to them. Surely, they require training on financial management and governance.

The Seshego Treatment Centre is a good story to tell and all of us must appreciate the work done by the province. Of course, we appreciate the fact that there are challenges in terms of how it was set and the years taken for building this facility – seven years.

All of us talk about the plight of unemployed social workers. It is a challenge for the department especially the users of Seshego Treatment Centre. These users of theis facility must first be identified by social workers, make an assessment before making referrals. If we continue having a shortage of social workers, this will remain a challenge.

Let me commit to the august House that we need to prioritise posts. My observation is that we seem to concentrate much on management instead of concentrating on the foot soldiers – our community development practitioners and social workers. These foot soldiers must continue identifying those that need assistance in terms of poverty, in terms of – re re ke eng, bana bale ba go hloka batswadi – orphans. In the main, we'll look into all the challenges that have been raised. We have made a commitment to the portfolio committee to update them on the issues raised.

Obviously, we need the assistance of the legal department in the Office of the Premier, because they are the ones handling the case of Phasha-Selatole clinic. It is embarrassing for government; because the report we have is that when the case was set down, none from government was there to represent it. That is why judgment was not in our favour; something which we still have to follow up and understand what happened. Remember, an amount of R6 million was spent on the construction of that building and yet we cannot access it.

Again, on the case of Gawula and Mankweng buildings, I wish to say that both buildings are comple; the challenge is furniture. We are working on this issue to ensure that these offices are fully operational in no time.

Office space is also a challenge to us. We will work closely with Public Works on the maintenance of buildings. To a certain extent, we take time to maintain the buildings. Some of the buildings I visited leave much to be desired. In terms of occupational health and safety policies and procedures, most of government buildings are not compliant and we are likely to experience injuries on duty.

There are but some of the issues we'll deal with, and from time to time we'll work with the portfolio committee to ensure that the issues raised are resolved.

There are engagements taking place at national level between the Minister of Basic Education and the Minister of Social Development regarding ECD transfers. A pronouncement was made and what is outstanding is reaching an agreement on the approach. We need to agree in terms of the transfers. Parents have begun applying in schools for next year's intake. We are talking about Grade R and Grade RR, which have to be transferred to the Department of Education. In no time, we will get a response in terms of how we are supposed to engage on the issues, because teacher training is a human resource issue. Grades R and RR are specialised type of classes and if the Department of Basic Education has enough classes to take over Grade R and Grade RR in the coming financial year, I think it is an issue that needs to be sorted out nationally between both Ministers. That is what I can say so far. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC for Social Development. We will then move to consideration and adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on CoGHSTA. Can I therefore invite the chairperson.

MS APHIRI

Madam Speaker, once more thank you for the opportunity. I, Mokgadi Johanna Aphri, in my capacity as the chairperson of CoGHSTA Committee, rise on its behalf to table the report on the APP and Budget for the financial year 2019/20 as it appears on the ATC for consideration and adoption by this august House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Can I get a seconder? Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Thanks, Hon Speaker. I rise to second the move that we adopt the APP and the Budget as presented by Hon Aphiri.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We will then go to the Speakers' List of the people that will be debating. I've got Hon Caroline Mahasela, Hon Mphahlele, Hon Smalle and Hon Aphiri. Can I then invite Hon Mahasela to the podium. [APPLAUSE]

MS MAHASELA

Speaker, Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya, our Premier, Hon Chupu Mathabatha, Deputy Speaker, Hon Jerry Ndou, Hon Chief Whip in absentia, our Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Molapo, honourable Members of this august House and distinguished guests, I greet you. Allow me to begin my debate by quoting Amilcar Cabral saying, "Always remember that people are not fighting for ideas, nor for what is in men's minds. The people fight and accept the sacrifices demanded by struggles in order to gain material advantages, to live better and in peace, to benefit from progress, and for the better future of their children …" Liberty, fraternity and equality are empty words for people if they do not mean a real improvement in the conditions of their lives. Cabral has captured the main message we want to convey today. What matters to us as the ANC -led government is those practical things, the real changes we make to the daily conditions in which people live.

The 2019/20 Budget for the department is bound to be an impressive Budget because it presents a vision that will take the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs to another level. The committee is concerned about allegations relating to departmental employees who do not report for duty, but continue to earn salaries in the department. Therefore, the MEC is urged to take all efforts ensuring that appropriate action is taken, and further encouraged to ensure that all employees are better utilised to carry the mandate of the department forward. In that regard, the

department will revamp its organisational structure to ensure that employees are placed in positions that match their skills and experience for the work in the department to be fulfilled and exciting so that employees continue to add value to the department.

The main purpose of administration is to provide effective leadership, management, and administrative support to the core functions of the department. This will ensure continuous refinement of corporate policies, skills development, efficient and effective financial management, structures and systems in compliance with legislation and best practice, and the championing of the Batho Pele principles and service delivery.

Hon Premier during the Budget presentation eloquently defined the actuality of the period we are in as a country and quite succinctly sketched the bright possibilities ahead, particularly the mission to grow Limpopo and create nothing but jobs, jobs and more jobs. The issue of unemployment remains a nightmare. The department had notably progressed on attempts to achieve 50% target on the employment of women in senior management positions. During the financial year 2018/19, the department achieved an overall of 56% of women representation with 45% representation at senior management level. MEC, mediro ya gago e a bonagala. It is not everyone who understands how difficult it was to be a woman back in the day. Women have been deprived of basic human rights not for years, decades or centuries, but for thousand years.

On Integrated Sustainable Human Settlement, according to the current performance of housing delivery, the committee is not convinced that the department will indeed achieve 80 600 units by 2019. Though the committee acknowledges the above cited commitments, the committee recommended that the department should put an annexure on quarterly housing performance. The annexure should clearly indicate annual target and actual number of houses built for each quarter, quarterly budget expenditure, number of units allocated to each contractor, shortfalls on targets, names of municipalities where the houses are to be built including timeframes for completion and remedial actions against underperforming contractors. This is as a result of wrong figure provided in the last term on the performance of housing programme.

The committee is further concerned with the numerous challenges facing housing delivery in the province. These are ranging from illegal occupation of houses at the expense of rightful beneficiaries whose houses were approved on the waiting list, allegations of some beneficiaries selling or renting their houses, vandalisation of houses, incomplete houses and poor performance by some contractors. According to the report of the department, out of a total of 14% units of Marapong CRU, 92 units are roofed, and internal finishes are being installed. The committee has noticed some challenges relating to late enrolments of units with National Home Builders Regulatory Council, relocation processes by original occupants which took longer than expected, and invasion of sites by some individuals who were originally not in the identified area.

In relation to military veterans housing, the department reported that 12 units were completed against 163 units in 2019/20 financial year. There are 36 wall plates and 12 foundations and 8 are at roofing level. The committee urges the department to indicate name of the municipality and physical location of these units for the purpose of oversight visit by the portfolio committee.

Honourable Members, the committee acknowledges significant improvement on the part of municipalities in terms of submitting annual financial statements to the Auditor-General in time. Despite the compliance, municipalities in the province still need substantial support to improve their audit outcomes as the province. The committee recommended that the department must make an effort to turnaround Limpopo municipalities to improve on weaknesses normally found in these areas: Financial management; Asset management; Poor record management; Lack of supporting documents for transactions; Wasteful and fruitless expenditure; Poor internal controls; and Noncompliance with supply chain management.

Many municipalities in the province are not able to reach 100% mark on MIG (Municipal Infrastructure Grant) spending, and this is largely attributed to lack of capacities in the municipalities. Considering Limpopo province as predominantly rural, municipal infrastructure development will be critical in addressing basic services, better roads, local economic development and job creation for the benefit of poor households. These challenges make it difficult for municipalities to spend the funds they obtain from national government for infrastructure development. In this regard, departmental intervention through capacity building programmes to assist ailing municipalities to improve MIG spending will be commendable.

The committee is further concerned by challenges relating to allocation of sites in traditional authorities which is not in line with Spatial Development Framework in municipalities contributing to poor spatial planning in some cases, negatively affecting municipal provision for services. The department indicated that the anomaly is the direct result of poor working relations between municipalities and traditional leaders.

THE SPEAKER

One minute remaining.

MS MAHASELA

On Traditional Affairs, the committee applauded the MEC on job well done by refurbishing almost all traditional council offices. With regard to construction of traditional council offices, the department indicated that the budget for such is huge with the average costing in the region of R9 million.

As I conclude, we must know what is expected by our people, and need to think big about the kind of communities we want to live in, not just for now, but for years to come. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Mphahlele, it’s over to you.

MS MPHAHLELE

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, protocol observed. I would like to greet you all. Madam Speaker, the EFF rejects the Budget allocation of R2,720,486 billion allocated for the 2019/20 financial year. The decrease on the Budget illustrates lack of commitment and planning by government. The mandate of the department remains huge, and it is

a pillar of development to resolve apartheid spatial development which was based on race and isolation of the African group. The reduction also reflects that our traditional leadership will never be given proper budget like those in the other provinces. We need to resource all traditional authorities and give them proper salaries with benefits.

The employees of this department will not take their duties serious as they learn from their leadership who always cannot wait to make excuses to perform duties. We need clear prove which indicates names of employees, and steps taken to remedy the situation within 60 days. The revamping of the institutional structure should not cause any job losses or render certain employees redundant. The department should also consider insourcing those workers who are in contracts and outsource projects. This will resolve the challenges faced by the department when contracts expire, or projects are terminated.

We can no longer wait for action or report without deadlines. The matter of the Tubatse-Fetakgomo land acquisition is being prolonged. This will complicate processes to recover the stolen money disguised as a land transition. We, therefore, want this House to ensure that in no more than two months, a comprehensive report is submitted on what transpired and the action taken to recover the funds, and handing over to prison those who are role players in the matter. When there is a lack of leadership and no vision, and leadership is forever travelling to China, you will experience situation like the anomaly and looting which occurred at the VBS.

The biggest day light heist was well orchestrated by the ruling party leaders who are the most merciless and heartless. They did dual damage to this province by double-stealing during the greatest heist as follows:

- Phase 1: robbing the state of service delivery money and bulk on developing of communities; and

- Phase 2: looting direct money of pensioners and poor people who invested their moneys in the bank.

Those moneys found their way in the purse of the ANC and its leadership. We will not be fooled by the relative punishment given to those who have been removed from their positions and being deployed to the same government they wanted to collapse. The rot which occurred at the VBS is bigger than those few individuals who have been used as scapegoats.

Mogalakwena is forever in the news for wrong reasons, be it killings in the area or the level of corruption at the municipality. To date, there is no one who is taking responsibility for the shenanigans at the municipality, hence the looting and killings will continue as long as the ANC is still in charge of the municipality. The EFF government will establish the state administration court to promptly respond to incident of corruption with the aim of finding and blacklisting corrupt state employees and private companies, and recovering moneys lost due to corruption. The department must tell us if there are any measures to protect councillors who are exposing and fighting corruption, noting the number of killings affecting those in municipalities without any arrests.

We should receive a report that the department has reached the target of 50% employment of women at senior management level, noting that it is Women's Month, and the department was led by various women. It is an insult to the people living with disability for the department to claim that the indicators to track and monitor if disabled persons are employed has caused underperformance.

THE SPEAKER

One minute remaining.

MS MPHAHLELE

As a matter of fact, underperformance is caused by those in the ruling party who continue to bypass established governance system by feeding their looting appetite. The department has a history of returning moneys to the national Treasury. It is farfetched to conclude that they will spend the whole money. The tendency of giving projects to nonperforming contractors must come to an end. I would like to applaud those who are building houses out of their own money without state intervention.

The progressive initiative by our people to beautify the villages and new developments should be rewarded with immediate installation of water, sanitation, electricity and roads without delay. The department must ensure that it is innovative and rewards this to reduce the housing burden from government. The ruling party deployment to the department continues to collapse the housing project hence for many years' targets could not be reached, and incompetent people are assigned to this crucial department. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Can I then invite Hon Smalle to the podium.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. It is time that corruption and the deliberate underperformance of this department must stop, while we are conned into believing that all is well.

Corruption has reached a stage that disciplinary processes and investigations are being used to avoid any forms of accountability and actions against those who have stolen from this government to benefit themselves at the expense of nearly 2 million unemployed people who are desperate for job opportunities. Once the flagship department of the province to the orphan child no one wants to talk about, this department has failed this province during the fifth term of Parliament. I want to say with the full support of the new portfolio we will see action this time around.

Human Settlement is a core programme for this department, and it is unacceptable for the department to achieve only 50% against their targets set of 80 600 units during the fifth Parliament. Building only 40 000 houses and handing out 14 500 title deeds is simply not good enough. The HDA support during this time also saw them building 3 500 units of the 5 000 houses, and irregular awarding and upfront payment to the tune of R33 million.

This department's annual target set for itself as per alignment 8 was to build 20 000 units per year to facilitates 600 000 housing units within the gap market for people earning R3 500 to R12 500, to deliver functional and equitable residential property market with a target of 110 000 units by 2019, and to deliver 900 000 title deeds over the years. Honourable MEC, in all of these three very important KPIs, the department could not even reach 10% of their target. If this malfeasance continues, many of our residents will be buried not knowing what a caring government is.

The support given to municipalities is not adequate and we cannot allow situations where municipalities support is 1 to 5 personnel overseeing administration. In certain cases, financial assistance, coupled with a financial recovery plan is needed where all movable infrastructure was lost due to maladministration.

Surely under section 139 intervention the province must support a municipality with replacing lost assets. Forensic audits compiled by the department can no longer be withheld from the committee, and it is for this reason that the DA fully supports the recommendation that the Tubatse land deal of R116 million together with other so-called questionable land deals be investigated, reported and the implicated held accountable for looting that took place. Crime and corruption cannot be tolerated, and the people must be held accountable for their role.

Honourable MEC, President Ramaphosa launched his latest attempt to improve township economy and curb unemployment this week. Project "Khawuleza" is based on a model to improve impactful service delivery in the 44 district municipalities. The problem is that three of our five district municipalities cannot even provide on their basic mandate. Mopani and Vhembe are classified by CoGHSTA as distressed. Unless the department intervenes and assist these municipalities back to financial stability, the residents in these districts will lose out on the opportunities that this project offer.

The DA agrees with President Ramaphosa when he said on Tuesday at the launch. "We don't just want our cities to be meccas of our economic opportunity, but our towns, villages and townships as well. It is in these areas where the unemployed youth of our country live."

The departments now need to take responsibility and realise that it holds the fate of our youth in their hands. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Smalle. I now call upon Hon Aphiri.

MS APHIRI

Once more, thanks very much, Madam Speaker. The department is allocated a budget of R2,7 billion for this financial year, which is an increase of about R6,4 million or 0,24% from the previous financial year. It is also noted that Human Settlement Programme, like in previous financial years, received the largest share of the budget.

This department in the fifth Parliament was known of underperformance and underspending of its budget. In the year under review it received an unqualified audit opinion which is progression compared to the last financial year. The committee commends the department for this achievement. The committee advised the department to ensure that funds allocated should be efficiently and effectively spent and ensure that the continued trend of underspending, rollover and returning of funds to national fiscus that we experienced in the previous Parliament should be the issue of the past.

In the meeting that I have attended and chaired and that spoke to the APP and the Budget, I have never seen Hon Mphahlele and we have never spoken or resolved on the rejection of this Budget. The committee found that the municipalities in the Limpopo province have over the years shown great weaknesses in the following: financial management; asset management; poor record management; lack of supporting documents for transactions; wasteful and fruitless expenditure; poor internal control; noncompliance with supply chain management and late submission of annual financial statements.

The financial management in our municipalities has been an enemy to the progress we are making at the grass root level. Looking at the previous audit outcome, some municipalities were in the ICU. If Hon Ramathuba was here, she was going to explain what the ICU is. The instability within all municipalities in this province is of a paramount importance for effective service delivery. The State of Local Government Report of the year 2009 expressed itself on the causes of instability in our municipalities which among others are internal conflicts between officials and politicians and access to municipal resources.

The portfolio committee is encouraged by the gradual increase in some municipal performance on Municipal Infrastructure Grant for the delivery of services. We have however, noted the persistent challenge by some municipalities to not adequately spend all their MIG. There were seven municipalities that were affected by poor spending and had some of their grants stopped in the 2018/19 financial year. Despite the stoppage, these funds were re-allocated to other municipalities within the province. Greater expertise and skills are needed in these struggling municipalities mainly in the field of civil engineering and experienced infrastructure project managers.

Most municipalities experience high vacancy rate which affect municipal performance. Moreover, lack of technical support, poor expenditure on capital budget, poor revenue collection and insufficient implementation of credit control policies and non-functional ward committees delay the efficient functioning of the majority of municipalities. The committee, however, acknowledges significant improvement by some municipalities in terms of submitting annual financial statements to the Auditor-General on time. Despite this compliance, municipalities in the province still need substantial support to improve their audit outcomes.

Madam Speaker, the committee appreciates the efforts made so far by the new MEC for visiting those municipalities that need attention. We further call all relevant stakeholders such traditional leaders, etc., to partake in searching for a long-term solution to resolve the difficulties that we are experiencing.

We are pleased that the department merged three indicators, number of rural and urban housing unit built; number of enhanced people's housing process completed, and military veterans' units built into one indicator. Number of houses built in order to ensure efficiency. The department has not done well in the past years on the Human Settlement Programme. The MEC conceded during the Budget Speech that although the department exceeded the target on housing units, this was in the main attributed to rollover of units from the previous financial year.

The department has committed to build more community residential units in Marapong, and build some in Tshikota and Talane. The department planned to create 6 000 job opportunities through the implementation of Human Settlements Development Grant. The portfolio committee will keep track on the developments in this programme.

As the portfolio committee, we are concerned about the zero target on land acquisition for development by the department, particularly in strategic economic zones areas. Informal settlements in mining towns is a matter of concern. Mining remains one of the key drivers of the economy in Limpopo and to the livelihoods of the surrounding communities. The 2019/20 Budget Speech only mentions funds for the bulk infrastructure in revitalising these mining towns.

The committee also urged the department to provide progress reports on outstanding forensic audit investigations regarding the irregular purchasing of land in Tubatse-Fetakgomo municipality and the irregular investment in Venda Building Society.

We have scrutinised the 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, and, thus move for their adoption by this honourable House.

I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I shall now call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to respond to the observations made by honourable Members.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thanks, Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, fellow Members of the Executive Council and the Members of the Legislature. I wish to indicate that from the chairperson of the portfolio committee and its members we accept the guidance you provide to the department and the scrutiny that you gave during our engagements with the portfolio committee.

I was also surprised when Hon Mphahlele said she is not supporting the Budget on the basis that all the issues that she raised that need to be attended to, require the very same Budget to be available for the department to be able to deal with that. There will be no money if they don't support this Budget Vote for us to perform the activities as outlined in the APP.

I must indicate that the first item raised on the issue of employees not honouring their responsibilities at work, it's a matter between myself and the HOD as the accounting officers to deal with. We have already started to institute investigations on some of the

employees that we were able to catch through our systems that they are no longer reporting. You will understand that the department is also responsible for people working in traditional offices which are not necessarily mainly the ones that are in the building, and that does not give them permission to go AWOL at work. We are busy working on those issues.

There are issues which were mentioned in terms of reallocation of responsibilities in the department. I think the department' slogan is multi-award winning department, and you will agree with me that the department has been winning several awards before. If I'm not making a mistake, about 60% of the senior management in that department is still the same one that was in the department when the department was doing so well. It could be that some of them have been shifted to particular responsibilities. The idea that we are bringing, which will be implemented in due course, is to reallocate them to positions in which they will be able to perform to the best of their ability.

Nobody is going to lose any of the benefits that they are supposed to get in their current positions. I must indicate that the department is doing well, and we continue to promise this House that we will continue to employ women in senior management. We still have vacancies. In terms of the plan, we have about 20 or so positions that we should fill during this financial year. We promise that women will be affirmed in such positions. It is not only in those positions, we also have contractors in the department which are almost 60 and out of those 60 contractors that are doing work, more than 50% of them are women contractors. We celebrated together with them this month for them being women in construction and they are doing well. They are not part of those that we are terminating their contracts because of poor performance. [APPLAUSE]

I accept the issue of illegal occupants, which requires all of us and the entire House to work together because in areas like Modimolle-Mookgopong we have illegal occupants. We have made commitments to the portfolio committee that we are going to establish a verification method to ensure that people who are supposed to occupy the houses should be the right ones. We have already started to engage because in some instances it requires us to have law enforcement agencies. We have already started discussions with Hon Masemola to assist us in that regard.

The issue of the construction of the CRUs in Marapong, Altro States, Tshikota, and Talane is a matter that as a department we have said in our Budget Vote that it has been there and we should be able to continue to make sure that we conclude on it. We have already had meetings and deployed people to assess the work that is remaining to complete this and we should be able to be dealing with that.

On the issue of the military veterans' houses, we have indicated even in the budget that the challenge in some instances is that with some veterans you will understand by their nature that they will have passed on by the time we want to deliver the houses, and we could not continue. In some instances, it could be that they could not necessarily accept the size of the houses that we were to provide them. But we are accelerating in providing houses to the beneficiaries that have been located

With regard to the submission of the annual financial statements, yesterday there was a Sitting, I was not present in the Sitting. I met with all the 27 Mayors of our municipalities in the province. The state of readiness in terms of submission of the financial statements has been presented and I can assure you Hon Premier, and Hon

Sekoati, MEC for Provincial Treasury that all our municipalities are ready to submit their financial statements for 2018/19 financial year and that will be reported to the portfolio committee and the House. [APPLAUSE]

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

The fact that we are not necessarily improving drastically in terms of the audit outcomes, the portfolio committee has been updated. Already we have established a team that will constitute the Office of the Premier, Treasury, Salga and CoGHSTA to be able to be assisting municipalities. The method of sending one field ranger to a municipality to provide a support is a thing of the past. As we do now, we will be sending teams from Treasury, CoGHSTA, Salga and Office of the Premier to assist municipalities. We have had a differentiated approach that we are going to support our municipalities.

If I were to give you, there are some municipalities which have been sitting on unqualified audit opinions for four consecutive years, and they are just candidates for a clean audit. An example of such could be the Capricorn District Municipality, which has been doing well in terms of the audit. They are even using their in-house personnel to prepare financial statements. We are continuing to provide support and can assure you that including the audit action plans of municipalities, which was done by the MECs and ourselves in isolation, we are assessing them collectively and will submit one particular report to the Executive Council.

I must indicate that the capacity programme we are bringing is a comprehensive one, and will start with councillors, especially members of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC). We are busy making a tailor-made type of support in order to make sure capacity is given. I must also indicate Premier that we have done assessments and we have seen an increase in the usage of consultants in the preparation of the annual financial statements. We have resolved as the forum with Mayors that we should be able to build capacity of our CFOs and reduce consultants in the preparation of financial statements. [APPLAUSE] It is a programme we are busy with.

I also wish to indicate that regarding the forensic audit reports that we are said to be withholding, I must report to this House that already we have taken the forensic audit report of Modimolle-Mookgophong to the Executive Council. The Executive Council has given the MEC for CoGHSTA to make sure that it is tabled in the council. There is no corruption that we are trying to cover, but at the same time we should be able to indicate – It is only that Hon Smalle has left the House. He spoke about our intervention in terms of section 139 in our municipalities. I must indicate that the Constitution of the Republic allows us to support municipalities in terms of section 154. Section 139 is used as the last resort in a municipality that is failing to perform a particular service. I must indicate that we are going to utilise section 154 which allows every sector department at the provincial level to provide support for that.

The issue of Mogalakwena is a matter that is with us. It is not the first, we have already done our assessment, which has got its own recommendations which would be tabled to the EXCO, so that we could get guidance at the same time. But to say it is the only challenging municipality in the province would not be correct. I have had discussion, there are some municipalities which are not necessarily in control where a council

sitting meeting ordinarily has never been held this year. We are also providing support, because it is our responsibility to make sure that Thabazimbi and Modimolle-Mookgophong operate like all other municipalities in the province. We will not leave them without giving them the necessary support. The issue of the councillors is a matter that we are discussing with Salga in terms of their welfare and their protection. As the department we are prepared to look into that matter. We condemn any killing of any councillor who raises a particular matter, be it corruption, and be it fraud or whatsoever ... [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Please conclude.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

As I conclude, there are number of things in terms of needs spending. I must report to this House that already all our municipalities are ranging between 88% and 100% in terms of needs spending, which is a sign of improvement. As a department, we continue to say we want to verify this spending, because we continue to see our people on the ground protesting whereas we are spending this amount of money, just to verify the projects which are been done on the ground.

Without wasting much time, Hon Speaker, I wish to say that we appreciate the guidance we get from the portfolio committee. We will continue to engage and make sure that we don't stay back and are able to deliver, including the delivery of houses. The fact that we have not returned money in the previous financial year, is a positive indication that we have started improving. In the fifth administration under the leadership of Hon Ndou, we did not return a single cent. Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC for the response. Honourable Members, you should note that you cannot participate in a debate of a committee that you do not serve in. You should know that there were some replacements that were done by other parties in terms of the debate, but as honourable Members have raised it. We are then going to do the consideration and adoption of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration on the 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Office of the Premier. I am inviting the chairperson of the Committee to the podium. [APPLAUSE]

MR MONAMA

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable Members of this august House, honourable Members of the Executive Council, on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration, we just want to take this opportunity to appreciate and commend the Hon Premier for taking his time now and then when we call him to appear before the committee. That is unprecedented. We also want to take this opportunity to move for the consideration and adoption for the report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration on the 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Office of the Premier, Vote 1. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Can I get a seconder? I recognise Hon Selane.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Ke nyaka go tšea sebaka se go thekga modulasetulo wa komiti ya Public Administration. Ke a leboga.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We will then go to the debate. I have got Hon Sibanda-Kekana Nakedi, I have got Hon Seshoka J, Hon Selane D, Hon Maharaj Risham and Hon Monama Rodgers. Can I then invite Hon Sibanda-Kekana Nakedi to the podium.

MS SIBANDA-KEKANA

Thank you, Speaker, Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya, the Premier, Hon Chupu Mathabatha, Deputy Speaker, Hon Jerry Ndou, honourable Members of the Executive Council, the Chief Whip of the Legislature and the Deputy Chief Whip, the Leader of the Opposition, Members of the provincial Legislature, and members of our Chapter 9 and 10 institutions. I rise to debate on the report of the Public Administration on the 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan and Budget of the Office of the Premier, Vote 1.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the August month, we continue to honour South African women for the role they have played in the struggle for national liberation and to reflect on challenges women continue to face.

As we celebrate, let us just think of women farmworkers who earn a living of seasonal employee. For them their main concern is to earn a wage for them to be able to put food on the table for their families. Hon Speaker, it is the plight and hardship of rural women that those elected in government should continue to highlight issues that daily impact on women. This can be achieved by the mainstreaming of gender issues in all the key performance areas of the departments, and always lobby for the gender-biased budget. The committee commended the Premier in his State of the Province Address by committing that 20% of government services will be directed to women and youth, while 7% will be to the disabled. In his Budget Speech, the Premier also highlighted the need to use power vested on us to push back the frontiers of poverty, create decent jobs and address the inequality in the society.

Madam Speaker, as much as we welcome the effort made by the Office of the Premier by filling 100 833 posts, the committee is not pleased with the outstanding 18 785 funded vacant posts, let alone failing to fill the internship on job creation for youth unemployment. Perhaps Members need to be reminded that the state of youth unemployment in our province remains one of the greatest challenges of our democracy.

While government has made significant strides in meeting the basic needs of the people, the legacy of colonialism and apartheid remains deeply entrenched in our society. Therefore, today more than ever, we require a programme of fundamental

and radical socioeconomic transformation to ensure in the words of President Mandela that political freedom goes side by side with the freedom from hunger, want and suffering.

As we said in the Reconstruction and Development Programme in 1994, I quote: “No political democracy can survive and flourish if the mass of our people remain in poverty, without land and without tangible prospects for a better life.” Attacking poverty and deprivation must, therefore, be the priority of a democratic government.

Madam Speaker, in his State of the Province Address, the Premier said: “The New Dawn demands that you must build an economy that grows at a higher rate, create jobs, provides opportunities for SMMEs to thrive and promote equitable distribution of resources.” The biggest reward for us in this august House is to ensure that we acknowledge as the committee to welcome the investors’ appetite in our special economic zones in Musina-Makhado and Tubatse.

We believe that it will come up with a goal to strengthen the local industries and to ensure job creation. Given continuous growth in the overall employment opportunities in SEZs between 2006 and 2017, indeed it is a tool that if implemented in its true spirit, it will help our province to take a giant leap and stand in the league of our country.

Madam Speaker, it is an open secret that one major disturbing factor having a bearing on the development plan, is an issue of corruption as a violator of departmental success. Good governance is not possible unless it is free from corruption? Almost all departments are faced with many challenges like risk management, persistent negative audit opinions, the culture of non-payment of service providers and suppliers within 30 days, debt reduction and revenue collection, spending of Municipal Infrastructure Grant, poorer reports from the AG, and let alone the bloated public service employees.

Madam Speaker, the land in Tubatse valued at R8,140 million, was purchased at a cost of R108 million and is highlighted as a fruitless and wasteful expenditure. As the ANC-led government, we are not going to allow or condone these types of operations. CoGHSTA must release a report, as it was commissioned by them and tell the people as to why and how this happened. Although there is a great achievement in both municipal and departmental infrastructure development, Members must note that the ANC-led government will not rest until we attain maximum service delivery to the people.

Madam Speaker, as outlined in the 1998 White Paper on Local Government, that it will be a building block on which the reconstruction and development of society is build, a place in which citizens could engage in a meaningful and direct way with the institutions of the state, allow me further to applaud and lobby support for the Department of CoGHSTA, following the budgeted plan to construct 7 000 RDP houses across municipalities in the province during the financial year 2019/20. It would not go unnoticed to steadily move with speed to reclaim back its status as a multi-award-winning department as the MEC has already alluded to. This is evidenced by the number of awards scooped during the 2016/17 financial year.

Hon Speaker, the portfolio committee found it disturbing the long-awaited reports regarding the Kgatla Commission and the Muyexe, and it needs a close-up report on

same. The committee recommended that the Office of the Premier should submit a progress report as to fast-track the construction of traditional offices by making use of in-house personnel to save the cost on tendering. It further urged the department to submit a progress report on the relocation of both the Legislature to Polokwane and Sekhukhune offices from Capricorn to Sekhukhuneland, though we acknowledge the speaker who came before me, Hon Makoma Makhurupetje, who alluded explicitly that the Office of the Premier is busy with the acquisition of land and the matter will soon be laid to rest.

Madam Speaker, it is important to see Limpopo government joining other organisations at the national and international level in fighting the pandemic of HIV/Aids. The committee applauds the Department of Health on difficult and decisive choices by educating the public that resulted in the reduction of HIV/Aids incidents by 24 738 to 16 879 accounting to 32% reduction.

As I conclude, Madam Speaker, the state of our provincial departments leaves much to be desired. The ANC is trusted by the people to bring a better life for all. This better life cannot be achieved if services that should reach our people continue to be hampered by gross maladministration and failing to apply good governance ethics and values we stand for as the ANC. Madam Speaker, mind you, no country or province can afford to close its eyes to this malice. As the committee we urge the departments to stick on bringing order, decorum and services to the people of Limpopo, just as we all can turn our shared provincial dream into reality. I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Sibanda-Kekana. I think the next speaker is Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to say to the Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council present today and all the honourable Members in this House, good afternoon. I am going to present on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters.

Hon Speaker, the Office of the Premier is a lame duck department which has drastically failed in its mandate to provide leadership to its sister departments. As a coordinating department, led by the Premier himself, we expect them to know better and lead other departments by example. However, as usual, the rhetoric is the order of the day with no outcomes and deliverables. The truth is that we are faced with a serious challenge of visionary political leadership in the Limpopo provincial government, institutions collapsing under the leadership of the Hon Premier.

This House should not forget that this Premier presided over an administration which stole money in the name of buying land in Tubatse. Under his administration, eight municipalities collapsed because of irregular VBS transactions and could not render basic services to our people. The Premier has ignored recommendations from various Chapter 9 institutions implicating his Cabinet members. There are remedial actions to be taken against some executive and there has not been any action taken. He too has

demanded that some of the Executive implicated must pay, and they have never done that, and he is quiet about it.

The EFF government will protect the Office of the Public Protector, the Auditor-General, including other crime fighting agencies and ensure maximum compliance with their findings and remedial actions. This is the leadership that is always in first class flights to China every year with an entourage of officials and politicians as if they are no other countries to do business with. We must put a limit to these trips which are not bearing any economic benefits to the struggling population of Limpopo.

These picnics disguised as state trips funded with public resources, have become a vehicle to benefit few political elites and a bunch of businesspeople who have been selected through nepotism while many deserving, honest businesspeople are being excluded. Hon Speaker, the EFF government will strive for a regional and continental economic integration in a manner that will qualitatively and quantitatively expand economic activities and intra-trade in South Africa, the SADC and the African continent.

The allocated Budget of R443,476 million to this department is a complete waste of the taxpayers' money. The unspent amount of R22 million from the previous financial year is an indication that this office is unable to execute its mandate due to a lack of leadership. This underspending happens when we have young men and women who are unemployed.

Entities in government departments have collapsed under the watchful eye of the Hon Premier, virtually meaning that service delivery in Limpopo has been gratefully affected. One such example is RAL which accounts to no one and cannot manage anything. Its role is to mismanage funds when many of our people continue to die due to bad roads.

RAL must be working together with Sanral to complete the N1 entrance point into Polokwane. People have died and Premier and his Executive see nothing wrong with that incomplete roads, and there is no proper coordination between RAL and Sanral. Furthermore, Hon Speaker, the provincial government departments continue to accumulate litigations on contingency liabilities, meaning that the bulk of their budgets is spent in courts and settlement of court orders. This matter of litigations should be investigated as government cannot continue to pay and employ people who are a liability to the state due to their incompetency.

As we speak now, his own – I mean the Premier – Legal Section in the Office of the Premier might lose a case against Mr Seloba, who went unopposed on 22 August 2019 at the Labour Court. Government departments do not fully implement their APPs; hence a lot of programmes and projects remain hanging forever. This laziness and incompetence come with a heavy price to the poor people because they do not receive the services they rightfully deserve. The concept of consequence management does not apply in the current administration of Premier Mathabatha. Politicians and officials just do as they wish, knowing fully well that nothing will happen to them because the plane is on autopilot, the province is leaderless.

Hon Speaker, we know that the ambitious priorities set by the Office of the Premier for the 2019/20 financial year will never be realised. We challenge you to compare this

APP with the previous financial years. A guaranteed disappointment is obvious when you do the comparison and the outcomes is “dololo”. It is equally important for this House to note that these priorities are not new. They appear in every report of the department every single year, but are never implemented or achieved, hence service delivery backlog in Limpopo will never be addressed.

Hon Speaker, according to the latest statistics released by Statistics South Africa in the first quarter of 2019, Limpopo has an official unemployment rate of 18, 5%. The Premier must tell this House as to what happened to his unemployed youth database which was used for electioneering. The expanded unemployment rate ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

One minute left.

MR SESHOKA

The selective use of the statistics by the Premier is misleading to the people of Limpopo because it paints the picture as if there is honey when it is public knowledge that all is not well in the province. Hon Speaker, the province is awaiting the much talked about provision of free quality sanitary towels. The provinces with leadership full of vision have started to walk the talk of insourcing, which is linked to the radical economic transformation, whereas in my home province nothing is being said. It’s just old rituals of coming to the Chamber, bow to the Speaker, go through the daily programme and leave.

Ever since your tenure, Hon Premier, we cannot explain what has happened to the economy of this province. We advise you to pay a special visit to your own comrade, Dr Zamani Saul, the Premier of Northern Cape, a visit which we think will revive your political consciousness and your approach to governance. Hon Speaker, the EFF government will not sleep on the job, but will strive to provide lasting solutions to our people on a daily basis. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We now call upon Hon Selane.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Hon Chief Whip, Deputy Chief Whip, Hon Premier, the DG, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. Let me take this colossal moment and opportunity to express my profound and revolutionary gratitude to you all in this majestic and august house.

This debate takes place in a month where 56 brave and courageous generation fearlessly demonstrated on the streets of South Africa to fight against the vexatious and draconian government. It is in that context and spirit that their call was for a just, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society.

We appreciate their efforts in making sure that the apartheid and colonial enterprise lose power to a democratic government that will lead the people of South Africa for the better. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa empowers the provincial legislature to play an oversight role in all provincial organs of the state and ensure that they are accountable to it. This requires all provincial organs to develop their annual performance plans in order to give practical expressions to their mandate.

Honourable Members, we believe that the sixth administration is the critical voice of the people of Limpopo, because it plays a central role in the advancement of representative and participatory democracy. This is obviously informed by the fact that we have a revolutionary obligation to involve the people on issues of service delivery. We have made a clarion call to our people under the theme of “Khawuleza” which we must define our work for the next financial year. Our people cannot wait anymore, and it is time to refuse to live in honourable air-conditioned offices, boardrooms meetings and comfort zones. The time is over because we have to deliver on our commitments we have made to our people.

In this sixth administration, we must ensure that all the alarming issues that were raised by the AG are coordinated from all provincial departments and resolved immediately in order to obtain a clean audit. It is our firm belief that the Office of the Premier can achieve clean audit only if it is determined to coordinate and implement the Auditor-General’s recommendations accordingly.

We appreciate the fact that the Office of the Premier has finalised and adopted a reviewed organisational structure which is aligned to the overall strategy of the provincial administration. This will help us to clear the confusions perambulating our provincial government, because it is designed to coordinate and empower the provincial government to provide the necessary leadership. It must be noted, Hon Speaker, that monitoring and evaluation is central for the proper functioning of the provincial government, because it will help us to ensure integrated approach and efficiency in strengthening policy development and coordination of our organisational capacity.

The portfolio committee is also not happy with the unfilled funded vacant posts in the provincial administration. The rate of unemployment is so high such that we cannot afford to perform poor whereas posts are funded and not filled, and majority of graduates are unemployed. We have urged all the departments to fill the necessary critical and funded posts in this financial year, so that we reduce the level of unemployment and increase capacity of the provincial government to perform certain duties. The departments that failed to offer the youth job opportunities through the internship programme that we have recommended, Hon Premier, these departments must be named and shamed, because they do disservice to the youth of this province.

As the Portfolio Committee we want to help this Provincial Administration to achieve equity targets in ensuring that all senior management level positions are occupied by females who have sound academic records and achievements. This must also, Hon Premier, start with the office of Youth Directorate in the Office of the Premier which must be occupied and led by a female because since the dawn of democracy, females were never considered and given space in that office to prove their skills and expertise.

We, therefore, encourage the Office of the Premier to engage in a broad consultation with the stakeholders to effectively reflect the true meaning of participatory democracy to meet their demands through consultation on issues that are affecting them. We need to ensure that more resources are put in place to implement the youth development strategy for youth to participate in the economic mainstream for the skills, education, jobs, business and development. We will seriously play our oversight role and hold the executives accountable in ensuring that 20% quota is allocated and given to the youth, women and people with disabilities by all provincial departments and its parastatals as per your resolution Hon Premier.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution requires us to live to realities of digital technology. We must actively participate in this new revolution by ensuring that all learners and children across Limpopo schools are given tablets and gadgets to use them in class to familiarise themselves with the new e-learning environmental model. This will help us to succeed in realising the kind of future we want. We have neglected the military veterans for 25 years. It is high time that we build them at least 30 houses in this financial year and complete all the outstanding houses that took years to complete. We cannot wait until they die to prove that we care about them. We need to demonstrate honour and recognition for the role they played in liberating this province and the country at large. We would indeed, Hon Premier go to make an oversight to check whether indeed the department has built those houses.

We commend the decision taken by the Office of the Premier to centralise the delivery of water into your office. However, we must strengthen the capacity and leadership of the Lepelle Northern Water board because it is so weak such that it cannot provide leadership on issues of service delivery. The board has hired unqualified, unskilled and unproductive people who will not assist this provincial administration at all costs. This made our people to continue to be always angry at our government because of poor management and leadership of the board. To a larger extend, forensic investigation must be conducted for mismanagement and misuse of resources in this particular board which resulted to poor performance and poor delivery of services to our people.

GAAL is our pride as the province. We appreciate the efforts made by MEC Hon Masemola in investigating the reason for the poor performance and malfunctioning of the board. We will appreciate if it is dissolved to allow experienced skilled and capacitated leadership to take over the affairs of the entity. This is precisely because the entity must assist this province in generating revenue and create more jobs for the people of Limpopo. It is politically and administratively wrong to allow the entity to be led by unqualified persons who are not even business minded and who are comfortable in earning a salary than development of our province.

Our committee mandated the Office of the Premier to furnish us with the outcomes of the forensic investigation report on the alleged corruption of Mapungubwe festival, feeding scheme, the land in Tubatse, the inconsistent pricing of agricultural fences, the VBS Forensic Report from the National Treasury. This report must be released before the end of first quarter 2019/20 financial year. We cannot wait any longer for departments to hold reports without releasing them. The public need to know how their resources were utilised or spent. If there is any embezzlement of public funds, immediate arrest must take place against the said culprits regardless of their political or any religious affiliations.

It cannot be correct Hon Premier that the Office of the Premier performs very well in terms of paying the suppliers within prescribed timeframes (30 days) as stipulated, whereas some provincial departments fail to comply with Treasury and EXCO directives … [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

One minute remaining.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPESON OF COMMITTEES

This shows that the office lack coordinating strategy, because what is done of the right side must be done on the left side to avoid departments do as they wish. We should want all the departments to pay all outstanding invoices before the end of the first quarter 2019/20 financial year. We are happy that the Office of the Premier is in a process to develop strategy for the executive to enter into service level agreement for non-performance of the executive's role, duties and responsibilities. This will ensure that the executives which fails to realise and achieve their strategic departmental objectives will be held accountable. This will help us to immediately remove the executives who sit in their laurels and enjoy the comforts of airconditioned offices whereas our people are poor and suffering.

Honourable Members, we appreciate enormous efforts made by our government that they will appoint 238 young people who were trained as traffic officers over the last years by the end of this year. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Member.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Premier, we must take a tactical retreat on the relocation of offices, particularly from Lebowakgomo to Sekhukhune and Legislature to Polokwane because our people will poorly judge us by the promise we made to them without delivery. Only when we have secured the land and have financial capacity, with all resources at our disposal to start with our work will pronounce ourselves in such decisions. We urge all departments from desist … [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Member, your time is up.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, what point is that? Which point are you rising on?

MR SESHOKA

I just want to make a plea with you. Can I just address you? I just want to make a plea with you to allow Hon Selane to continue because this man sounds like he is helping the province.

THE SPEAKER

Unfortunately, we work with a procedure. You should just ask your party to make you a member of the committee. I now call upon Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Good afternoon all honourable Members of this august House. All protocol is observed.

Hon Speaker, there is a very well-known Chinese proverb, and it goes as follows: “A fish rots from its head down”. In context it means that the Premier is the root cause for the failures of his departments, municipalities and other entities. It is not only the DA which notices it, in a News24 article dated 1 July 2019, the journalist states that: “Stan Mathabatha leads the most dysfunctional province in Africa.”

Hon Premier, corruption, incompetent government officials, and irregular and unauthorised expenditure underpinned by a culture of impunity is crippling this province. Sopa after Sopa our Premier advocates a zero-tolerance approach towards corruption and yet corrupt officials and politicians enrich themselves at the expense of the 43% unemployed in Limpopo who have no prospect of finding a job. The DA is grateful to the Zondo Commission who invited the implicated in the VBS scandal to come and testify. About 11 Limpopo municipalities deposited close to R2 billion of the public money in the VBS Mutual Bank. This was done in clear violation of the MFMA and Treasury regulations. Under the Premier’s careful watch, not a single crony has to date been arrested.

Hon Premier, has performance agreements now been signed by all your Executive to hold them to account? More than R15 billion has been lost in Limpopo across all spheres of provincial and local government as well as all other entities in unauthorised, irregular and fruitless and wasteful expenditure over the last five years. We are still waiting for the Premier and his office staff component of 542 to come up with one plan to recoup the money as per legislation. One can, therefore, draw no other conclusion that our Premier is a legislative delinquent who turns a blind eye to appease Frans Mohlala House. To regain the trust of the people Hon Premier, the DA recommends that you call for a commission of enquiry to investigate the Auditor General’s finding. The province has over R9 billion in outstanding litigation claims, and this is indicative of a lack of consequence management across the board.

Hon Premier, in your State of the Province Speech you allocated R900 million towards the building of 4 special schools. This is not confirmed in any APP, not one. One must guard against making empty promises, especially to the most vulnerable people of society. Hon Speaker, when one looks at the Premier's Office, one does have to acknowledge their unqualified audit by the Auditor-General for the last period under review. We further welcome the spending of 99% of the Budget, the payment of service providers within 30 days, which is critical for small and micro enterprises in terms of cash flow. We can only hope that the Premier will now start to enforce consequence management in other departments and entities in order for them to follow suit.

Speaker, as we celebrate women and their role in society this month, we call upon the Premier to correct the lack of gender equity in his office, specifically at senior management level.

Finally, Hon Speaker, Limpopo's local government is in trouble. The President launched the "Khawuleza" district coordination service delivery model this week, which will aim to turn plans into action and provide proper monitoring and planning on a local government level. Our failing and inept and distressed municipalities are on the brink of collapse. We urge the Premier to "Khawuleza", step up and hold up mayors and senior managers accountable to ensure that South Africa and Mandela's dream and others do not die, and are realised. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member. I now call upon Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Premier of our province Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, honourable Members of the Executive Council, our Whippery, honourable Members of this august House. On behalf of the portfolio committee and the African National Congress, our attitude is that in the spirit of "Thuma Mina", "Khawuleza" and the New Dawn, the integrity of any state lies in the ability to deliver on its mandate as given by its electorate. Building a cohesive, sustainable and careering communities with improved and other economic activities is a precursor for the development of our province, the Hon Premier.

Development must be understood in the context of social development and radical economic transformation, as well as meeting the objective of rolling back the quagmire of underdevelopment. Hon Premier, undoubtedly under your capable leadership and stewardship, our province is poised for development trajectory that reflect the steady progress in creating economic and job opportunities for our people. The dynamic nature of our province requires us to comprehensively address the overwhelming needs and expectations of our people. Collectively as the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration and mutual accountability, we must redouble our efforts to improve accountability and governance in our province.

We are indeed overwhelmed by the Hon Premier, on your progressive and realistic trends and vision to take the province to the highest trajectory and your tireless endeavour to change the socioeconomic landscape of our province. I am saying this precisely, Hon Speaker that Hon Seshoka is not a member of our committee. I If he

wants to go to stay in Northern Cape, he is at liberty to go there. In our case we are comfortable with your leadership, and we unreservedly welcome your initiative, Hon Premier.

For reconfigurations of our provincial administration, to meet the overarching challenges of our province collective responsibility, accountability to accelerate service delivery is one of the priorities that as the portfolio committee will closely monitor. In monitoring the provincial departments as the Portfolio Committee on Administration, having analysed and evaluated the APP and budget, we call upon the Premier to consider him signing performance agreement with his Executive Council members, who will in turn signed performance agreement with the accounting officers so that they are accountable in executing their fiduciary responsibilities.

This will be used as a diagnostic tool to access the performance of the MECs. We are saying this in the sense that if this is not done, the budget and the APP for the next five years will be seen as a just and oversold gimmick management panacea. In the world of wealth, that, that does not get measured does not get done. The days of the department to returning money to the national fiscus should be the thing of the past.

Hon Premier and Hon Speaker, the relocation of the Sekhukhune District offices from Capricorn to Sekhukhune is long overdue and cannot be overemphasised. The people of Sekhukhune cannot be deprived the access to quality services. This must be one of your legacy projects.

In fighting crime and corruption, Hon Premier, we urge you to re-establish and re-utilise the Provincial Anti-fraud Forum. We are saying this precisely because, we are quite worried about the brutal killings of our political leaders. The impression should not be created that criminals in our country are more sophisticated than our law enforcement agency. We are also worried about the accruals in the entire provincial administration. This is an eyesore that may have debilitating effects on the health of our business community. Contingency liabilities also is one of the situations that the stubborn administrative nightmare that if not well tackled will affect the liquidity of our provincial administration.

We are also urging our Hon Premier to consider reviewing the Limpopo Development Plan in order to incorporate massive developments of SEZ projects in Musina and Tubatse. We are also urging the Hon Premier to put drastic measures in place to ensure that the parastatals like LEDA, GMT, GAAL which are on the state of paralysis, are revived and therefore they are unable to propel or to assist the province to economic spin-offs so that our people get job opportunities. We will also want to state it here, Hon Premier, that the N1 by-pass block project is not the competence of this province and is not the competence of RAL as the Hon Seshoka deliberately misled this house. It is the competence of Sanral, and we are saying that the Hon Premier must liaise with his counterpart, the national department, to ensure that all these blockages are unblocked. The Hon Premier should unlock other projects like the Giyani bulk water supply.

Needless to say, if local government, Hon Makamu, fails, service delivery fails, and the province fails. We welcome your intervention on the differentiated approach in turning the situation around in the municipalities. We are quite worried the Thabazimbi and Modimolle-Mookgopong municipalities which are under the DA and are collapsing,

yet you are doing nothing about them. We must take charge there, intervene and evoke section 154 to ensure that the people of that area are not deprived their opportunity to access quality services. We are saying, Hon Premier, that you must use your PIGF (Premier's Inter-Governmental Forum) to strengthen and sharpen the internal control measures. We are saying this because this will assist us in trying to tackle the audit findings on irregular, fruitless, wasteful and unauthorised expenditure. We are saying that the issue of the poor financial management and corruption in municipalities is unacceptable. We believe that with your leadership and your vision, you will be able to tackle them.

As you have stated in the sixth administration, opportunities are far greater than the challenges. Indeed, under your capable leadership in the current political conjecture, today is better than yesterday and hopefully tomorrow will be brighter than today.

On behalf of the portfolio committee the Hon Speaker, having considered the Annual Performance Plan and Budget allocation of the Office of the Premier, the committee accepted the 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan and Budget. Hon Speaker, the Portfolio Committee on Public Administration recommends to the House to adopt the Annual Performance Plan and Budget for Vote1, allocation for 2019/20 financial year with the allocation of R443,476 million.

We also want to take this opportunity to inform the House that unlike other committees where MECs appear, in our case it is the Premier who appears before the committee. Always when we summon him, he comes and account on the responsibilities that have been bestowed on him. I therefore move accordingly. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Monama. I am then going to request the Hon Premier to respond on the observations made by Members. I invite you to the podium.

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Speaker, honourable MECs, honourable Members from the ruling party, the progressive African National Congress, honourable Members from my left-hand side, not on the left, but on my left-hand side. It must be very clear.

Hon Deputy Speaker, honourable Members, allow me Speaker to start with the issue of the economy. I must emphasise that we are being a bit overgenerous with words when we say in the past 25 years the economy did not change, because that is not correct. If we really understand what we are talking about when we talk economy, that is not correct. Bring a person who has been here in 1993, you take him to Tubatse. Bring a person who has been here since 1993, take him, use the R37 to Polokwane, and say to this person, the economy of this province has not changed. Get a person like Stan Mathabatha who has been a student in the University of the North in early 1980s, and bring him to today's Polokwane and today's Seshego, and say the economy has not changed. That in itself says we are being overgenerous on hitting ourselves too much.

The fact of the matter is that the economy has changed. The fact of the matter is that diversification is taking place. The Polokwane Smelter was supposed to have been

taken to Richards Bay. We insisted that it must be here. That is diversification. It is the change of the structure of the economy. It is not only that, this economy has produced massive jobs. It is just that, at the same time, due to the global trends of economic development, the global melt down, this economy is equally losing jobs. By the way in which the economy is responding to the harsh realities of our time, the Fourth Industrial Revolution in this country and in this province, we are happy to say we are making headways.

Hon Seshoka, Hon Maharaj, o tšhabile. [LAUGHTER] He knew I was going to respond. O jele fase. We are saying to you, yes, the unemployment rate is at 18%. That is correct. I don't know what you are talking about when you talk about misleading the public. Go to Google now, do you have your phone there? Check the official unemployment rate of this province, so that we can check as to who is misleading this House. It is the lowest unemployment rate in the country. If you look at the gradient of the slope of unemployment rate in this province, if you understand what the gradient is, if you look at that gradient, Hon Seshoka, through you Hon Speaker, our unemployment rate is increasing in a descending rate. If you do understand that, but let me leave you at that. [LAUGHTER]

I must agree with you Hon Sibanda-Kekana, that vacant posts must be filled. That is a very honest observation. They must be filled even though in big departments like Health and Education, we have got some form of misalignment of posts. It is where you have got an overbloated public service, but at the same time you have got a shortage of critical posts. So, that is something that needs the entire province to sit down, analyse and correct, but I do agree with you.

I equally agree with you that we must deal with corruption with vigour and zeal. We cannot afford to be talking about corruption all the time. The national and provincial government have proven to us that this ANC-led government is serious about dealing with corruption, the New Dawn. It is serious about dealing with corruption, hence the Zondo Commission and the Mokgoro Commission. All those initiatives have been made, because we are serious about corruption.

Unlike some of my colleagues on the left, when they were still Chief-of-Staff and some very senior officials in this provincial government, they collapsed this provincial government. They literally collapsed it to such an extent that they stole a tennis court. They put a tennis court in the middle of nowhere, Hon Makamu, in Giyani. Then Hosi Mahumani took me and said, Premier – fortunately I had visited him – let me go and show you where this tennis court is supposed to be. It is a bush, and some of them were in government that time occupying critical positions. It is not only that; they allege to have built a bridge in Giyani, and a bridge does not exist. There is no river where they claim to have built a bridge. Mo di a boa. Di be di boa. Ke dimasterpiece tša that time. [LAUGHTER]

Wait a bit, we are opening the case of On-Point. We are opening it, and I am serious about that. [LAUGHTER]

You are very right that the Kgatla Commission report, Hon Sibanda, has been released long ago, but we said we are going to release it to affected parties. We are not just going to release it recklessly to everybody.

It is surprising to hear you Hon Seshoka, through you Hon Speaker, saying that there is gross maladministration in this province, which is not correct. When we got this government in 2014/15, how many disclaimers did we have in government departments? Many, currently in this financial year that we are talking about, there is no single government department that got a disclaimer. All of them, the least that we got was a qualified audit opinion in the Department of Education. No more disclaimer, no more adverse, no gross, I don't understand what you are talking about.

Again, there is a difference between fact and rumour, honourable Members. Ke mahemhem; Hon Jossey wrote a statement to Hon Seshoka and Hon Buthane said in that text that Phuti Seloba's case is unopposed. Phuti Seloba's case is coming on the 27th; but because you take face value instead of getting into content, you think the case was unopposed. It was maliciously put on the roll of unopposed cases, but we withdrew that. We indicated that we are waiting for it on the 27th. It was withdrawn yesterday. Now what are you telling this Legislature? [LAUGHTER]

Hon Seshoka, Road Agency Limpopo, for the past three years they have been receiving unqualified audit reports. Even this year, the likelihood is that they are still going to get an unqualified audit report. So, this maladministration that you are talking about, where do you get it, what is your source? Because it is not the Auditor-General, the Auditor-General said they are running their books according to the law, and they are complying with all the statutes. Now, where do you get this, what is your source? You must be able as a Member of this Legislature to sift fact from rumour. Understand that it is not every glamour that is beautiful.

Yes, Hon Selane. I totally agree with you that there must be equity in senior management of all government departments including the Premier's Office. We must ensure that we appoint our women in senior positions, because that is one of the most critical things that we have been fighting for, hence we are talking about the National Democratic Revolution and the triple contradictions that it had to address. One of the contradictions was at the level of gender. Now that we are where we are currently, I totally agree with you that we need to address this matter as a matter of urgency. I am not sure, Hon Speaker, as to whether I need to waste time and deal with the so-called legislative delinquent from the DA, because he has proven what a real legislative delinquent is. He could hardly wait and listen to the responses because he is a delinquent. What he was doing is what you could refer to as verbalism. Probably, Hon Phala will be able to communicate to him.

Honourable Members, the relocation of the offices to Sekhukhune will remain a priority to this provincial government, hence, we have established a team now from the Premier's Office, CoGHSTA, and the people of Sekhukhune, the concerned citizens of Sekhukhune. They have established a committee which includes all stakeholders to deal with this matter and ensure that we move with speed. The problem that we were encountering was the question of land. Now Bauba'a Phaahla Kgoši ya Mamone, Kgoši Sekwati Mampuru has agreed to give us land. [APPLAUSE] So we think we are now making headways. Re rata go mo leboga Bauba'a Phaahla re a gole a kaake tlou, tšhukudu e be mošemane go yena.

Yes, chairperson of the committee, we want to thank you for your leadership of the committee. Yes, you are very right. When I come to this Legislature you lead me. When you come to the Executive, I lead you. When we talk provincial government, I

lead you, but here you lead me, and I must agree to be led. That is why I will always come when you invite me to the committee.

Anti-Fraud Forums, we take that as Council, as positive advice, we will follow it with the Director-General. We are in the process already of reviewing the Limpopo Development Plan. We are almost towards the finalisation of the review the Limpopo Development Plan.

The MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure has already started with this initiative of talking to Sanral to ensure that these unfinished projects are being expedited. We are in the process of finalising the performance agreements with MECs. I think by the end of next week, DG, if I am accurate, we shall have signed almost with all MEC's the performance agreements. [APPLAUSE]

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, I want to thank you. Gomme ke re le ka moso ge re etla mo, batho bale ba dutšego mola ba nyaka go kwa ditaba tša mohlodi. Ga ba nyake go kwa mahemhem. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Premier for the response on the observations that were made. We will then move with our programme to item 7.3. I will then invite the Deputy Chief Whip.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

I rise on the motion for the suspension of House Rule 173.

SUSPENSION OF HOUSE RULE 173
(Motion without Notice)

Hon Speaker, House Rule 173 provides that unless otherwise provided in these Rules, not more than one stage of a Bill may be taken on the same sitting day if objection to a further stage made by four or more Members. It has therefore, become necessary to invoke the provision of House rule guide to suspend the provision of House Rule 173 in order to allow the House to finalise the Limpopo Appropriation Bill [B01-2019] today. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Chief Whip. Can I get a seconder? Hon Selamolela, you are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, I stand to support the motion as presented by Hon Molapo. Thanks very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Then we will move to the next item where I will invite the MEC for Provincial Treasury.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Now that the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2019 [B01-2019] has gone through all the relevant stages of the legislative process of this House, I now move that the Bill be read for the third time in terms of the provision of House Rule 170. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Can I get a seconder? Hon Monama, you are recognised.

MR MONAMA

I, Rodgers Gannye Monama, rise to support the move by the MEC, Hon Sekoati. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We are then going to move to the next item where the Third Reading of the Limpopo Appropriation Bill, 2019, will then be read to the House. We are going to a vote by vote so that we can be able to adopt all the votes of the Bill from 1 to 13. We will be expecting the Members to respond when we go on a vote by vote. As per the Bill that is in front of you, Vote 1: Office of the Premier, can I get a “Yes” for the approval of the Budget and everything under the Office of the Premier?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members. The second vote is the Provincial Legislature.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

The third vote is the Department of Education.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

The fourth vote is the Department of Agriculture.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

The fifth vote is the Department of Provincial Treasury.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

The sixth vote is the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

The seventh is the Department of Health.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

The eighth vote is the Department of Transport.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

The ninth vote is the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

The tenth vote is the Department of Community Safety.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

The eleventh vote is the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human settlements and Traditional Affairs.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

The twelfth vote is the Department of Social Development.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

The thirteenth vote is the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members, we have then adopted all the votes. [APPLAUSE] We are then going to move to adopt the schedule by schedule of the Bill, schedule one up to seven. I will then request that you move with me to the Bill that is in front of you. Schedule 1 is definitions; can I get a “Yes”?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Schedule 2 is the appropriation of money.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Schedule 3 is the amounts listed as specifically and exclusively appropriated.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Schedule 4 is the conditions for appropriations.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Why is the “Yes” reducing? Do I take that Members are not voting? Okay, I should not get it wrong that Members are not voting. Schedule 5 is the authorisation of expenditure.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Schedule 6 is the spending before commitment of the Appropriation Act for the 2020/21 financial year.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

I will, therefore, call upon the Secretary to read the short title of the Bill.

MR NKOANA [ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY]

Thank you, Hon Speaker. This Act is called the Limpopo Appropriation Act, 2019. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Secretary. [APPLAUSE] We have then adopted all the schedules of the Bill. We will then move to our next item. Do we have any announcement? There is no announcement in the House. Deputy Chief Whip, do we have any announcement? In the absence of any announcement … [INTERJECTION]

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

Re hlapa kae matsogo?

THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

I am not sure.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

O re o nyaka go hlapa matsogo?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Speaker, this is a standing announcement. Food is at the same place. It doesn't change. When the House adjourns, they just go there.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members. Honourable Members, you will remember that we went for orientation. When we went for orientation of the sixth Parliament, I did not see any rule that says that if you did not vote, you do not eat. Members must not shout at the Speaker, because I can't be held liable. It is important that you listen. Honourable Members, this House is adjourned to Thursday, 29 August 2019 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE
It's your voice, use it!

VERBATIM REPORT

OF THE

DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH PARLIAMENT

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

THURSDAY, 29 AUGUST 2019

It's your voice, use it!

VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 29 AUGUST 2019
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00

THE SPEAKER

Ndi matsheloni. We are going to have a silent moment as a way of prayer and meditation.

[SILENCE]

Thank you. You may take your seats. You are all welcomed to this Sitting in our House. We will then move on to our next item, where I'm going to invite motions without notice. May I see the hands of those that want to raise them. Hon Chief Whip, you are recognised.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SERIES OF DEATH CASES THAT BEFELL SOUTH AFRICA IN THE PAST FEW DAYS
(Motion without Notice)

- I rise on behalf of the ANC that this House notes the series of death cases that befell this country in the past few days;

- This past weekend we heard of the passing of nine people who perished on the R579 road in the Zebediela area, in an accident that took place on Saturday evening;

- We are pleased with the government's endeavour of visiting the injured 27 people in hospital and maintaining contact with the deceased families as they prepare for the funerals of their beloved members;

- On Monday, we were met with the sad news of the passing on of David Kekana, a long-standing activist, sport journalist, presenter and analyst who had worked in the media industry for over 20 years;

- During his early years he heeded a call by the ANC leadership to render the oppressive apartheid government ungovernable by participating in a number of organised resistance programmes in his township;

- Despite his popularity and demanding profession, Cde David was always there when the ANC needed him. He was a disciplined comrade who was always active in all organisational programmes;

- Hon Speaker, as if this was not enough, we also got engulfed with the news of Cde Gavin Watson who died in a tragic car accident during the course of this very same week;

- Cde Gavin Watson together with his brothers Ronnie, Cheeky and Valance associated with the struggle for liberation at an early age and fought side by side with many compatriots against apartheid;

- The Watson brothers were well known activists in the United Democratic Front (UDF) and within the African National Congress's underground structures of their time;

- Honourable Members, we also want to send our heartfelt condolences to the family of Ben Said, the eNCA's director of news who passed on in Mozambique;

- Ben Said's passing on has robbed the media industry of one of its most committed and professional servants;

- We hope that the families of the deceased will find comfort in the knowledge that their loss is our loss and their grief is our grief.

May the souls of the departed rest in perfect peace!

I so move, Hon Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Radzilani.

MS RADZILANI

Hon Speaker, I, Fulufhelo Florence Radzilani, rise to second the motion as put forward by the Chief Whip. Thanks.

THE SPEAKER

May the House rise and observe a moment of silence in remembrance of those that have passed on.

[SILENCE]

May their souls rest in peace! Thank you. Hon Maharaj, you are recognised.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE TRAGIC AND UNACCEPTABLE SHOOTING AT THE POLOKWANE HOSPITAL

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance that this august House notes the tragic and unacceptable shooting at the Polokwane Hospital on Friday, 23 August 2019.

- Thizwilonde Mochatau from Thohoyandou, a patient receiving treatment for dialysis opened fire in the renal unit shooting and injuring a 32-year-old on duty male nurse, and subsequently turning the gun on himself where he succumbed to his injuries.

- The Democratic Alliance sends its deepest condolences to the deceased family and conveys its best wishes and speedy recovery to the injured nurse.

- The DA is further astounded by the fact that a patient is allowed to enter into the hospital with a firearm, despite the security presence on site.

- While we accept certain circumstances around this event given the fact that he was a regular patient and transported in a planned patient transport, the MEC and her department must implement some sort of security protocols to prevent this happening in the future.

- The Democratic Alliance calls upon the MEC to ensure that our patients and our medical staff are safe within the Department of Health premises and to ensure that on the finalisation of this investigation, all those responsible as a result of failure to comply with policy or negligence for this tragic incident are held accountable.

- We cannot jeopardise the safety and lives of our staff and patients when the province is spending millions of rands on security.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Chair. I rise to second the motion as read by Hon Maharaj.

THE SPEAKER

Are there still any motions? Hon Mphahlele, you are recognised.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

REFENTSE MAMABOLO'S ACHIEVEMENT
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move without notice that the House notes that:

- The EFF congratulates Refentse Mamabolo, a grade 10 learner from Bjatladi Secondary School in the Segopje village outside Mankweng under the Mankweng circuit for having recently attended the Harvard University's Pre-College Summer School in the United States, organised by the University of Limpopo's Rural Development and Innovation Hub in partnership with the circuit;

- Harvard is a prestigious and world-renowned educational institution with top notch curriculum that produces some of the best candidates in the world;

- Refentse was subjected to daily intense tuition programme including learning about financial markets. She also participated in a diversity of co-curricular activities including visits to museums;

- The learner is a top performer at her school and a role model to her peers. Her achievement is a classic example of how one can come from a village and achieve the best in life;

- Refentse has won numerous accolades in Mathematics and Physical Science. She is also assisting fellow learners in her school who are struggling in Mathematics and Physical Science;

- The EFF is impressed that this learner is able to share her knowledge with her fellow learners; and

We call upon the Department of Education to support Refentse and all other learners in order to maximise their potential to achieve greater heights.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? Honourable Member, you are recognised.

MR MOHLALA

I, Manamane Mohlala, rise to second the motion presented by Hon Mphahlele. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any other motions? I recognise Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

AN ALLEGED INCIDENT OF MOB JUSTICE
(Motion without Notice)

- Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the ANC to let the House know that we have learnt with dismay about an alleged incident of mob justice, where a 68-year

old man was stoned to death, and another 25-year old injured after being attacked in the GaMolepane village next to Jane Furse at Sekhukhune District;

- The two men were reportedly driving a herd of cattle in the village at around 08:00 on a Friday morning, when a group of community members confronted them and accused them of stock theft;

- They then started stoning the old man and thereafter set him alight. The deceased was burnt beyond recognition. The other man is currently being treated in hospital;

- According to reports, when the Police arrived at the scene, they also came under attack when some residents started throwing stones at them;

- This callous deed must be condemned in the strongest possible terms and any act that seeks to undermine the authority of the country's Police Service should not go unpunished; and

- We are expecting the Police to make more arrests in relation to this incident.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? Hon Kekana, you are recognised.

MS KEKANA

I, Nakedi Kekana, rise to second the motion as brought forth by Hon Seono. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Smalle, you are recognised.

MR SMALLE

Ndo livhuwa, Hon Speaker.

THE INABILITY OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE TO MANAGE ITS FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

(Motion without Notice)

- I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance that this House notes the inability of the Limpopo Legislature to manage its financial affairs regarding the support of political parties as well as Members.

- Furthermore, the House should note that Members from the fifth Parliament are treated differently to the newly elected Members of this sixth House.

- I call upon this House to resolve that the Internal Arrangements Committee investigates the reasons for the inability of the Legislature to make due payments to political parties and to support Members in a uniform and transparent way.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Maharaj, you are recognised.

MR MAHARAJ

I, Risham Maharaj, hereby second the motion by Hon Smalle. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there still any other motions? Thank you. In the absence of any other motions, we'll then move to the next item: Notices of Motions. There is none. We will then move to the next item: Statements by Members. I recognise Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand on behalf of the EFF to raise a statement that reads: "The heart-breaking death of a man caused by potholes on the road."

THE HEARTBREAKING DEATH OF A MAN CAUSED BY POTHOLES ON THE ROAD
(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, it is heart-breaking to see people unnecessarily dying on our roads daily due to the negligence of the government.

On Saturday night, 24 August 2019, Mr Joel Malapane of Namakgale was driving from Phalaborwa to Namakgale Township when his car got into a huge pothole. He lost control of the car and hit a tree killing him instantly.

This man who was full of life and dreams to contribute towards nation building and community development lost his life because of the failure of this heartless ANC-led government to get rid of potholes on our roads.

The communities around Phalaborwa have been raising concerns to the authorities about the state of roads in the area but it all fell on deaf ears. This is the same government that claims to listen to the people.

The roads in Limpopo have over the years been reduced to roads of death resulting in the deaths of many people on a daily basis.

While budgets are being tabled and adopted every financial year for the construction of roads, potholes continue to increase on our roads. The money allocated for this

purpose does not have a significant effect because it is used for other things rather than what it was intended for.

Millions of rands are being lost to corruption on annual basis instead of building decent roads for the people while the political elite are driving around with cars that are 10 times safer than those of the ordinary citizens.

We are not surprised that they don't care about fixing these roads because they are in a comfort zone and have lost touch with the people. The people do not matter anymore, only politicians and their families matter.

We call upon the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to investigate the state of roads around Phalaborwa and provide lasting solutions to the people.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. The honourable MEC is not here but there are other MECs. I notice MEC, Hon Makamu.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thanks, Hon Speaker. We have received the concern as raised. As we try to check, in the very same spot, this issue could also involve the municipality in terms of the powers and functions of the road you are talking about. The MEC will be tackling the matter together with the municipality and report back to this House.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there still any Members' Statements. I recognise Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

REPORT OF A DODGY LUCRATIVE THREE-YEAR CONTRACT AWARDED TO BUTHELEZI EMS AND FIM AVIATION
(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the Democratic Alliance is greatly concerned about the recent report of a dodgy lucrative three-year contract awarded to a joint venture including Buthelezi EMS, a private emergency medical services company which is under investigation by the Special Investigating Unit, the Hawks and National Treasury.

These tender recipients, Buthelezi EMS and their joint venture partner FIM Aviation, have thus far been unable to provide any services to the people of Limpopo, either leaving patients stranded or requesting the Department of Health to utilise other private sector providers based in Gauteng.

It is shocking that Buthelezi EMS was awarded the tender whereas they do not hold any certification required to provide an aeromedical service from the Polokwane base in the Limpopo province. The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) has confirmed that they have neither inspected nor certified a Buthelezi EMS or an FIM Aviation base in the Limpopo province.

The law requires strict regulations like storage of medicines, oxygen, and disposal of medical waste, which this joint venture does not have. Further to this, the FIM Aviation is only certified to provide services in Gauteng.

Despite Buthelezi EMS being awarded the contract, ER24 is now being utilised at the cost of R42 000 per hour by the Department of Health. This is clearly unacceptable as due diligence should have been done before engaging and entering into the tender with these service providers that do not comply with the requirements.

The DA calls on the MEC to ensure that a full investigation is undertaken on this tender irregularity and that the responsible persons are brought to book. The department is currently in a financial crisis and it is actions like these that lead to unbudgeted and wasteful expenses. We can only hope such matters will be brought up during the Scopa hearings.

Can the MEC also confirm if any money has already been paid or is still being paid by this department towards this aeromedical contract since no services have been rendered?

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, you may take the podium.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker and honourable Members. One must first just remind honourable Members that during our induction it has been clearly stipulated that the executing authority in terms of delegations end up with human resources. But, when it comes to issues of finances, it lies with the accounting officer. However, as an executing authority, having received the media query that you are referring to, together with the executing authority, Hon Sekoati, in Treasury, we have been able to put up a team to look into the matter.

Up to now, what we can tell you is that the proclamation that you are referring to by the President was to look into the Departments of Health of the Free State and North West in terms of what was happening in the two Departments of Health on procurement. It was not referring to any irregularity that was in Limpopo.

The said tender you are referring to, the current investigation has thus shown us that it has just been awarded and as such, no single cent has been paid by the department. Furthermore, we have been previewed to the supply chain documents as to what has

been happening not as part of interference, but as part of the concerns as the issue has been receiving media hype.

We can reassure you that in terms of the processes that were supposed to have been followed and all the allegations that they did not have these documents, this and that, that is not true. Up to so far, in terms of the procurement system, the processes have shown us that they have followed the proper processes. However, we have also written to the SIU so that they can clarify us in terms of that, because you cannot say persons cannot participate just because they are being investigated. It is only when one has been found guilty and has been blacklisted.

For now, we were not aware that there were such direct investigations on this company because it is not for the first time that the said journalist wrote an article about aeromedicine. Previously when we had a six months contract, an article was written alleging that the Department of Health has awarded a contract to two inexperienced gynaecologists from Limpopo. Each time when you have a Black person participating in that space you will find some of these concerns.

Be reassured Members, a full report will come and be tabled in this House. We are not going to protect anybody. Be reassured on that. We have put an outside team. I have even written to the Minister of Health and he said if there is any assistance, he can provide; he will definitely do that. The matter is being investigated but I just decided to give this other part that up to so far we have been able to find.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I recognise Hon Smalle.

MR SMALLE

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

INTERFERENCE OF THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE IN NCOP OVERSIGHT PROGRAMMES

(Members' Statement)

Provincial Week is a parliamentary oversight programme which occurs in all provinces. A provincial legislature cannot simply decide to interfere with the schedules of oversights which are based on the founding values of our democratic Constitution and the very role Parliament is mandated to fulfill.

The Democratic Alliance is dismayed by the Limpopo Legislature's decision to interfere with and block the agenda of the National Council of Provinces' provincial oversight programme for Limpopo.

In July, the Limpopo NCOP permanent delegates decided to visit the Mogalakwena Municipality as part of their oversight function, noting the irregularities that had taken place recently as per the Auditor-General's report. The DA has however, been informed that following the decision to visit Mogalakwena, this decision has been overturned due to the insistence of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature.

It is clear that the ruling party is doing everything in its power to keep the NCOP far away from Mogalakwena Local Municipality which has the second most unauthorised, irregular and wasteful expenditure amounting to R1,17 billion in the past financial year.

This municipality has been marred by ANC factionalism and consecutive political assassinations, with the latest being that of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee chairperson, Cllr Vaaltyn Kekana and ward 25 ANC branch member, Ralph Kganyane.

Furthermore, Mogalakwena faces extreme service delivery failures and is fast approaching its own day zero with water levels from its main water supply, the Doorindraai Dam standing at 12,7%.

It is clear that this municipality faces major problems which need every sphere of government's intervention to curb its current crisis with immediate interventions.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Member, to which department is your statement directed?

MR SMALLE

It's either the MEC for CoGHSTA that is going to respond to it or the Leader of Government Business or even the executive authority which holds the Speaker's Office which might be yourself as you are sitting there or the Deputy Speaker, Hon Jerry Ndou that is sitting across. It's either one of the three that wishes to respond.

THE SPEAKER

The Deputy Speaker, MEC for CoGHSTA, oh, we will start with the Leader of Government Business, Hon Sekoati.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is very surprising to hear that the ANC-led government has stopped public representatives from visiting Mogalakwena for whatever given reasons that they felt they should visit the municipality. However, I should assure this august House that it is none of the above. We have never refused any party visit to Mogalakwena. As a matter of principle, the provincial government of Limpopo has taken a decision that as the Executive Council we should be able to visit Mogalakwena and be able to investigate what is taking place within that municipality.

Therefore, it cannot be the same Executive that can bar other public representatives from visiting that municipality. So, I think these are actually unfounded allegations, if I may put it. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. It's over to you Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Speaker. As far as I know, the Legislature has not interfered in the programme of oversight by the NCOP. What we understand is that the special delegates who are Members of this House, who have been delegated by this provincial Legislature, as they want to do oversight – it has also been in the planning session of the NCOP, they underscored that there should be consultation between themselves and the provincial Legislature on areas which they feel and can agree upon on what they should do.

That process has taken place. There was a discussion between the Speaker and the NCOP. The programme that has been announced has been agreed upon between the two parties. There was no way that even when the suggestion that is being made that the provincial Legislature has interfered, we would have interfered. I want to assure the House that we will work with the NCOP and we will continue ensuring that the oversight role of the NCOP is enhanced and the work of the NCOP is not held back by the province.

Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there still other Members' Statements? Honourable Member, you are recognised.

MR MOHLALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I rise on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters to present a statement on incomplete water projects.

INCOMPLETE WATER PROJECTS
(Members' Statement)

Hon Speaker, the ANC-led government has a permanent incapacity of completing projects. If the community is fortunate that the project is completed, it will not be finished on time. The community of Phiring village in the Freistata section under the Greater Fetakgomo-Tubatse Municipality has been without water since 2006. The water project that was started by the Sekhukhune District Municipality in the area in 2011 is still not completed to date. The people are now drinking water with animals and their lives have become more and more miserable. Their dignity has been completely eroded.

Equally, the community of Dindela village between Monsterlus and Sehlakwana under Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality are experiencing the same difficulty. The construction of the Command Water Reservoir in this community started in 2011 but it is still not completed as we speak. This reservoir was meant to supply water to the surrounding reservoirs but there is no contractor on site and the project is far from being completed to provide water to the people.

It's even worse for the people of Sekhukhune, wherein the dam called the De Hoop was officially opened by the former President of South Africa J G Zuma which is still

not working and it is sitting at more than 100% to capacity. It has to be more than 100% because the water is being stored there but it is not supplied to the people.

Subsequent to that, the Stats SA report says that since the district municipality was given the water service authority, the piped water supply to the households has reduced dramatically.

Still in the Sekhukhune region of Limpopo, we have a new hospital called Jane Furse Hospital. The water is being supplied by trucks; meanwhile the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune had promised us in the previous State of the District Address that it was going to take the district three months to stop that decision of water being supplied by trucks to that hospital. But that hasn't changed to date. That is why some of the wards including the maternity wards do not have water.

Furthermore, the structure of the project does not equal the money spent and the municipality keeps on chopping and changing contractors as the strategy to embezzle the taxpayers' money. The ANC-led government continues to fail the people of Limpopo by denying them the services they so much need for sustainable livelihood.

The EFF has made it its business to expose the incompetence, lack of capacity and corruption in the implementation of the state projects. The EFF government will build state and government capacity on order to eventually do away with the tender system in order to minimise corruption in the execution of projects.

We call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA to investigate this matter and make sure that those who have hijacked and stalled these projects account and also make sure that projects are immediately completed.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Honourable MEC, you make take the podium.

THE MEC FOR COGHSTA

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Let me first respond to the issue of investigating any wrongdoing in municipalities. It is a process that we have started. I think by Monday I will be at Modimolle-Mokgophong Municipality tabling the very same report. I think the House should be able to accept from all and sundry whoever will be affected with wrongdoing in that municipality.

The matters which are being raised on these stalled water projects especially in the Sekhukhune District, we will be able to look at them. What we know of and, of course, are trying to resolve is the De Hoop water scheme multi-year project. We are in the process of resolving this problem in order to assist communities dependent on this project. You will understand that the water authority in Sekhukhune is with the district.

These other areas, we do not have a knowledge of them and we will investigate them together with the local municipalities of Elias Motsoaledi and Fetakgomo-Tubatse.

I think by now Members should be knowing that the President has announced the district model of service delivery which in our province the Waterberg District is the pilot project which will have to build capacity. We are not planning to devolve powers to local municipalities in this sixth administration. We will continue to build capacity in the districts as we investigate what you have just said and we will be able to come back and table a report of what we have found in trying to assist municipalities to get our people to receive water.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members. Are there any Executive Statements? There is none. We will then move to the next item of tabling reports, other reports and papers. I'm then going to invite the Leader of Government Business on the tabling of the departmental/institutional Annual Reports for the 2018/19 financial year. Hon Sekoati, you may take the floor.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Allow me to indicate to this august House that the Annual Reports are an important mechanism by which the Executive accounts to the provincial Legislature on its activities.

Section 65 of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No 1 of 1999) as amended provides that:

(1) "The executive authority responsible for a department or public entity must table in the National Assembly or a provincial Legislature, as may be appropriate –

(a) the annual report and financial statements referred to in section 40(1)(d) or 55(1)(d) and the audit report on those statements, within one month after the accounting officer for the department or the accounting officer for the public entity received the audit report."

Based on that Madam Speaker, I, Seaparo Charles Sekoati, as the Leader of Government Business in this House and on behalf of my colleagues in the Executive Council, do hereby table the Departmental/Institutional Annual Reports of the following departments for consideration by this honourable House:

- Office of the Premier;
- Department of Education;
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development;
- Department of Provincial Treasury;
- Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and its entities, the Limpopo Gambling Board and the Limpopo Tourism Agency;
- Department of Health;
- Department of Transport;
- Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and its entity, Roads Agency Limpopo;
- Department of Community Safety;

- Department of CoGHSTA;
- Department of Social Development; and
- Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

Madam Speaker, the outstanding Annual Reports are for the following entities: Gateway Airport Authorities Limited (GAAL) and Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA).

I thank you, Hon Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. The reports are referred to the relevant portfolio committees and Scopa for consideration and report back to the House. I'm going to invite the Hon Deputy Speaker for the tabling of the 2018/19 Annual Report of the Limpopo Legislature. Hon Deputy Speaker, it's over to you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, Azwindini Jeremiah Dingaan Ndou, rise to table the 2018/19 Annual Report of the Limpopo Legislature for consideration by this honourable House. This report is tabled in terms of section 60(1) of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2009.

I move accordingly, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. The report is referred to the Committee on Oversight Mechanism for consideration and report back to the House. We will then move to the next item on the Orders of the Day. I'm going to invite the committee chairperson for the presentation of the Motion on the Revival of the Limpopo Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Bill, 2018. Hon Aphiri, you may take the floor.

MS APHIRI

Thanks very much, Madam Speaker. I rise on behalf of the portfolio committee to table a motion on the revival of the Limpopo Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Bill, 2018. Madam Speaker, during 2018 the MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs introduced the Limpopo Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Bill, 2018 in the House. The Bill was referred to the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs in accordance with Rule 154 for consideration and report back to the House.

This Bill seeks to ensure an integrated and uniform approach to spatial planning and land use management in the province amongst other things. In considering the Bill, the committee engaged extensively with the department as well as the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders. The committee further facilitated public participation processes in accordance with section 118 of the Constitution in two districts which are Mopani and Vhembe.

The public hearings in the other districts namely; Sekhukhune, Waterberg and Capricorn were rescheduled at the request of the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders. As a result of this, the Bill could not be finalised in the 2018 legislative calendar. The committee is planning, Madam Speaker, to conclude the public hearings in the remaining districts in September and to table its report on the Bill to the House on its second reading shortly thereafter.

As the House is aware, Rule 176(2) provides that: “All Bills before the House, or any of its Committees, on the last sitting of the term of the Legislature or when the Legislature is dissolved, lapse at the end on that day, unless the subsequent House decides to revive the Bill.” Furthermore, subrule (3) provides that a Bill that has lapsed and which has not been revived by the House must be reintroduced.

Surely, Hon Speaker, this will have the effects of subjecting the Bill to the entire processes required by the rules, which include publication of the Bill, referral of the Bill to the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders and public hearings which without any doubt will be costly and time consuming.

In this regard, the committee convened to consider the matter on 31 July 2019 and resolved to recommend for the revival of the Bill to this House. Accordingly, I hereby move for the revival of the above-mentioned Bill in accordance with Rule 176 referred above.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Aphiri, the chairperson of the committee. Can I get a seconder? I recognise Hon Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

Madam Speaker, I stand to second the motion on the revival of the said Bill in line with the mentioned rules and regulations. Thanks very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We will then move to the next item: Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Health. I will then invite the committee chairperson, Hon Matlou, to the podium.

MR MATLOU

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, hereby table the Annual Report for 2017/18 financial year for consideration and adoption by this honourable House. I so move, chair. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Can I get a seconder? Hon Seono, you are recognised.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the chairperson, Hon Matlou.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. The adoption is seconded. We will then move to the Speakers' List. I've got Members that are going to debate on the report, Hon Rebecca Seono, Hon Managa Lilian, Hon Maharaj and Hon Matlou Joshua. You know your allocated minutes so I will request that Members stay within their minutes. Can I then invite Hon Rebecca Seono to start with the debate.

MS SEONO

Thanks, Hon Speaker. Let me start by greeting the Hon Premier in absentia, MECs present here, the Chief Whip, the Deputy Chief Whip in absentia, and the Deputy Speaker.

Hon Speaker, we stand here today debating the Annual Report of the Department of Health for the past financial year. Many of us may say we are new to this committee and say but these things are new. The reality of the matter is that we are not new to the living and health conditions of our people. We stand here not only as Members of the Legislature but also as members of society at large. Whatever we debate here affects us and the people of South Africa as a whole. This is actually a snapshot of the year that was.

We say congratulations to the orthopaedic team in Limpopo. It is proper to first acknowledge the special recognition given by the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) to the orthopaedic team in Limpopo for reducing the backlog on orthopaedic surgeries in the province. This team is led by Prof Steven Matshindza and has worked very hard in making quality health services a reality in our province. This is a special recognition coming from the HPCSA which is a body that governs health professionals all over the country. This is a historic feat and as such we congratulate the department for work well done.

Hon Speaker and Members, we also condemn in the strongest possible terms the shooting of a nurse at the Polokwane Hospital by a patient who later committed suicide. We stand together with you MEC and the people of the province in expressing our shock on this incident, and we hope it will not happen again. Our prayers are with the nursing staff in particular and we encourage them to never lose sight of the goal.

In the same breath, we continue to be humbled by our people who understand that all infrastructure built by the state belongs to the people of Limpopo. We again praise communities that continue to ensure our facilities and health professionals are protected from criminal elements.

On matters as raised by the Auditor-General, we say that the business of health is to deliver quality health services to our people. It is important therefore, that whatever tools of trade the medical professionals need, we should be able to provide and safeguard. The report of the AG raises matters of concern to us as Members, especially with regard to movable assets of the province.

The system of the verification in the department remains a thorny issue. The verification process talks to the reality of assets that should be in the department, but upon investigation cannot be accounted for. This we say taking into consideration the expensive machines that the department buys which are necessary equipment for the functionality of the department.

This we have to emphasise comrade MEC and the administrators in the department. These are working tools that health professionals need so that they are able to function at their best within the health sector. It is important, therefore, that we are able to account for them. MEC and your team, on behalf of the people of the province, we request that you tighten systems there. Having received a qualified audit opinion, we believe that moving forward this situation will improve.

On the irrecoverable debt, we say the department has written off debt of R445 million as it was no longer traceable. We trust that moving forward especially with the installation of e-filing in the department, this unfortunate turn of events will not repeat itself. For the public sector to be sustainable we do need our file management to be up to scratch.

While we are debating the Annual Report, it is also important that we get clarification from the department on how it manages debt incurred by foreign nationals especially on border towns such as Musina. We know that once immigrants enter our country, we cannot refuse them the right to health treatment. We are however concerned that the management of the bills may become a problem.

We welcome the training of data capturers by the department in an effort to better manage our revenue collection. We are assured that the new system will be able to ensure quality assurance, proper authorisation to lessen the risk of rejection by the department and the proper billing of foreign patients. This we do with an understanding that as a province we need to raise as much revenue as we can and at the same time maximise the use of whatever little we have as a province.

The availability of medicine was a challenge in the year under review. We believe that moving forward as indicated by the MEC in this honourable House, this will be a thing of the past. It has been reported that challenges of medicines that cannot be accounted for was a problem for the depot. We are looking forward to the introduction of the new system that will address this challenge.

By the same token MEC, we want to be clear that systems function well when they are operated by people who function well. It is all well to have systems, but if that is not matched by an equally dedicated and honest workforce, the system will be rendered dysfunctional. We therefore also urge you to act swiftly and decisively against those who are found to be compromising the system for their own nefarious ends.

In conclusion, we welcome the initiatives of the past year as we look forward to a better health service moving forward. Let us work together to move Limpopo forward. Therefore, I move for the adoption of the report, Speaker.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seono. Hon Managa, the floor is yours.

MS MANAGA

Ndo livhuwa Mulangadzulo. Nne ndi pfi Managa Lillian. Ndi khou bva ndi kha Economic Freedom Fighters. The EFF had indicated during the 2017/18 APP and Budget presentation that the budget should be rejected as it will not achieve the desired results. The department was able to spend over 90% of the allocated R18,6 billion yet the problems in Health multiplied.

Twenty-five years into democracy and office the ruling party deployees are unable to develop proper mechanism of asset management. The ambulances and other assets in the department will disappear continuously due to lack of solid systems of managing such assets. The EFF is demanding an immediate report on movable, tangible assets valued at R186,6 million which could not be accounted for by the department. The healthcare in the province is in distress. Those involved in violating the procurement processes are rewarded with senior and strategic positions.

The irregular expenditure of almost R190 million could not be condoned, hence, Hon Speaker, we need a report on steps taken as part of consequence management by the Department of Health. Non-payment of invoices continues even in this financial year. It is so disappointing that the employees continue to be paid yet they fail to implement decisions or do their work. The Department of Health should be given a timeframe of 30 days to comply with the provision of effecting payments within 30 days as per policy directive and provide a clear plan on how they will deal with all the accruals.

We further request for a report on procurement of medicines for the last three financial years which must include ordering processes, life span of the procured medicine and entities used to procure such stocks; and the model used from clinic to medical depot for access of medicines. The contravention of PFMA will never stop at the department. The annual report confirms that the HOD is comfortable condoning such violations in the name of deviations without convincing reasons. We furthermore note that this scheme of looting includes even quotations under R500 000 which are called through friendship, comrades and relatives as there are no processes followed.

The EFF is requesting a report on how many deviations were made and approved by the HOD and the reasons attached to each deviation for the last three financial years. This House deserves to get a report on the action plan which was developed to address matters raised by the Auditor-General during the period in question. As the EFF we are disappointed that whilst our people are overcrowded in bad conditions in hospitals and subjected to long queues at the clinics only to be told that there are no medicines, the medical depots are loaded with expired medication. This is cruelty to the masses of people and it confirms the distress of the health system if one may call it.

We are demanding that the department submits to this august House a report on human resource plan on the vacancies filled and outstanding posts. The health system and cases of negligence will accelerate due to doctors and nurses working under

severe pressure. The department must produce proof that there are limited doctors on the labour market which let to employment of only 34 out of 200 doctors and 17 out of 250 nurses.

The department should not be creative and give contradictory reports. How do you continue to owe suppliers and delay payments when you have used over 90% of your allocated budget? Can the department provide proof that the R445 million is only due to hospital fees which cannot be recovered from people who are not economically active? The 24-hour provision of healthcare at clinics is non-negotiable. Therefore, the department should establish serious security measures that will safeguard the staff and assist the community for 24 hours. This process should include literally searching everyone who enters healthcare facilities during entry and exit period.

More ambulances are required to service our people during the pre-hospital medical and rescue processes. Most of the EMS staff are not fully qualified, the majority of them possess only basic ambulance certificate. It is less than 10% of EMS personnel who have advanced life support qualification. As reported in various media on 27 August 2019 there is a dodgy aeromedical contract which has been awarded to the Buthelezi EMS. Let me not dwell much on this as the Member has already alluded to it and the MEC has responded.

In May 2018 the TAC released a report on the state of provincial healthcare system. The report indicated that this department is violating the Supreme Court of Appeal's judgement dated 10 November. The EFF calls on the department to prioritise safety of EMS personnel, doctors, nurses and all staff in the healthcare system of the province. It is regrettable that the patient shot the nurse before killing himself. What complicates the matter is that the patient used planned patient transport to get to the hospital fully armed. All necessary measures are required to avoid the repeat of this unfortunate incident.

The EFF notes with serious concern that no EMS training was provided and that the same department which has shortage of staff did not award bursaries. The EFF government will put more emphasis on health promotion and health education because prevention is better than cure. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member. Hon Maharaj, you are recognised.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The department received a qualified audit opinion in the 2017/18 financial year. In addition to this the Auditor-General found that they did not have adequate systems for recording assets, inadequate internal controls and inadequate record keeping systems. These are keys in ensuring that the performance of the department riches the planned target and must be improved urgently. Another concern is the huge number of medical claims. There is an urgent need by the department to curb medical claims that stand about R4,3 billion mainly caused by medical negligence claims.

There was a Scopa resolution for the department to devise a plan to reduce and deal with the medical claims as well as to ensure consequence management, but it seems that none of these have been implemented as yet. The poor management of the department is evident even more so by the fact that there is no budget to settle these claims in case the judgement goes against the department. The closing balance for unauthorised expenditure for 2017/18 amounted to R196 million, whilst irregular expenditure for the same period amounted to R1,3 billion and fruitless and wasteful expenditure for same period amounted to R19 million.

The habit of paying invoices after longer than 30 days must come to a stop by ensuring there are necessary funds available and updating the accounts payable system to ensure there are no delays in the processing of invoices. A number of irregularities have been sighted such as the flouting of the supply chain and procurement policies, failure to obtain the necessary three quotations, payment of overtime above the limit of 30% per monthly salary, and goods and services valued at about R500 000 being procured without inviting competitive bids.

These issues are a recurring problem and show the department's failure to adequately review and monitor compliance with applicable procurement legislation and the PFMA. The department's failure to hold on to skilled staff continues to be a great concern. In the 2017/18 financial year, there was a resignation of 96 medical doctors and 122 professional nurses. This has a potential to severely affect the quality of healthcare in the province if capable replacements are not sourced.

The recruitment of capable medical staff continues to be a weakness for the department. Whilst it is commendable that they have exceeded 2017/18 annual target in hiring medical specialists, they failed dismally in the target to acquiring medical doctors and professional nurses only managing to hire 34 medical doctors out of the planned target of 200 doctors and only employing 17 professional nurses out of the planned target of 250. This needs to be addressed and the plan needs to be implemented to make the province attractive to health professionals.

In the 2017/18 financial year, the department also under-delivered on its target for primary healthcare centres that open 24 hours, only managing 41 out of the 150 targets. Efforts to increase this number needs to be intensified to assist people especially in townships and rural areas. Other challenges the department struggled with and must look to improve in subsequence years was the EMS urban and rural response in under fifteen minutes and forty minutes respectively that stood at 23,2% and 34% instead of the targeted 72%. Although the department almost achieved its target in the TB MDR treatment success rate, there needs to be more work done to ensure more people complete the treatment. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier in absentia, honourable MECs present here, honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen and comrades. It's my pleasure to stand here and debate the annual report for the Department of Health for the year

2017/18. I may not have been a Member of the Legislature at that time the report was tabled, but the engagement I had with the department as a member of the portfolio committee and now as the chairperson has equipped me to be ready for this debate.

Our people are living longer with an average life expectancy increasing to 64 years in 2008 from a low 53 years in 2005. Progress in life expectancy reflects an improvement in the quality and reliability of healthcare.

The conditional grant received by the department has proved beneficial for the department to the implementation of effective response for HIV/Aids programmes. It is Women's Month and women's issues should not fall off the radar to commend the work done by the department in reducing maternal and infant mortality in the year under review. We have no doubt that the situation can only get better. As I quote our President, Cyril Ramaphosa: "A healthy nation is a successful nation. The transformation and effective resourcing of our health system is fundamental to our plans for building a just, equitable and prosperous society." Health is at the heart of the ANC. Generations upon generations of the ANC leaders both men and women were at the centre of provision of health services to our people. Charlotte Maxeke was a trailblazer in her own right as well as Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Mama Tambo, MaSisulu among many others. As we come to the end of this Women's Month, we can only close it off by ensuring that sustainable health services for women are provided.

Once we start laying a foundation for the National Health Insurance, the provision of basic quality health services for all regardless of the income is the vision of the African National Congress. This goes back to the founding fathers of the ANC in 1912 through to the basic tenants of the Freedom Charter in the Constitution today. According to General Kofi Annan: "Good governance is ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law; strengthening democracy; promoting transparency and capacity in public administration." In pursuit of operation clean audit for the Department of Health, I will give specific attention to Programme 1: Administration, which is the core of the department out of the eight programmes that the department has. This was also the main focus of the Auditor-General.

We are fully aware that the compensation of employees is our highest cost driver. As a province we are able to understand that the business of health lies in the capability of our employees. We therefore expect possible care by our health professionals. We also acknowledge the work that the MEC is doing in attracting the needed specialists in our province. In the same breath we need the MEC to fast-track the approval of the organisational structure.

The department obtained a qualified audit opinion in the year under review the same audit outcome was achieved in the years 2016/17 and 2016/15. The audit report by the AG shows the department's main challenges which are: movable tangible assets, immovable tangible capital assets, payment of invoices within 30 days and inadequate system for collecting revenue. Other issues raised by the AG include expenditure management, procurement and contractual management, and the entire control deficiencies.

Even though we are debating the financial year 2017/18, many of these issues were still currently being raised. Amongst the issues the department was battling with was the challenge of paying invoices within 30 days. At the end of the 2017/18 financial

year, the department had not paid around 35% of the invoices and this amounts to a billion. According to the AG, the unpaid invoices accumulate an interest of around R165 million. This is a contravention of Treasury regulation 8.2.3. The committee welcomes the MECs attempt to reduce the existing accruals and we hope the presented turnaround strategy will yield results in not so distant future.

For over a decade the department struggled with assets management and according to the AG's report available records did not facilitate easy identification of assets, where assets were not included in the accounting records and the value of the assets were not correctly captured. Despite the department using a system called BAUD to resolve asset management challenges, mistakes in the financial records are still found. In 2017/18 the department was allocated around R9,1 million under goods and services for the implementation of the revenue enhancement strategy. The department should fast track the appointment of asset managers and other personnel in districts to deal with these challenges once and for all.

Lastly, I would like to talk about procurement and contractual management. It is unacceptable that despite available guidelines and prescripts, flouting of regulations are still found by the Auditor-General. The A-G has found that there are still cases of procuring goods without inviting competitive bidders, contracts extended without proper approval, commodities designed for local content and productions are procured from suppliers that did not meet minimum requirements for local content. The committee has received reports that action was taken against employees and we hope that the department will continue charging employees that are found to be flouting these particular regulations.

It goes without saying that the presence of an effective governance function is the importance of overseeing and ensuring a clean administration. Clean audit outcomes are an essential indicator of a well-functioning or clean administration within the public sector. Throughout South Africa the talk has been how to achieve a clean audit outcome and how governments could enhance the processes required to achieve this outcome. If there is proper governance, this translates to successful delivery of services; and poor governance collaborates with wasting and stealing public funds which manifest to non-service delivery of basic services.

In conclusion, the portfolio committee would like to recommend the following as stipulated by the then chairperson of the committee:

- Matters raised by the AG should be put on the priority list of the department. A comprehensive plan with measurable targets should be developed and implemented as soon as possible.

- All revenue due to the department should be collected and the department should strengthen its patient administrative system.

- The department should fast-track the approval of structures which in turn will address the high compensation of employees' bill.

- The department should implement consequence management to employees found contravening supply chain policies, amongst others.

I so move. Malibongwe!

BACKGROUND

Igama lamakhosikazi!

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Matlou. We are then going to call on the MEC to respond to the observations made by the honourable Members.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Once more greetings to the House. One would want to welcome all the input by the members of the committee. We really appreciate their observations. It is like they have been part of this committee even during the year under review. As Hon Seono has indicated that in spite of the fact that they might be serving in this committee for the first time, they have always been members of the public and they can't pretend as if they don't know what is happening. We really appreciate and wish to say that Members understand the challenges that face the department and together we will work towards ensuring that we turn things around.

However, honourable Members, we can't talk of an imaginary government. We will talk about the ANC-led government that is currently leading the Department of Health. The fact that we call it the Department of Health and not the department of disease, it means ours will remain a preventative healthcare system. This department needs to do as much as possible to prevent people from getting sick. Even during our Budget Speech, we have called upon honourable Members to join different clubs and go to the gym and exercise regularly.

We even announced our eight-day cycle healthy menu for honourable Members to start leading by example. If they can get our menu and use it at home, we can reduce R1,6 billion that we are spending annually, which is not even enough for medicine in this province. In fact, we are complaining about this money, because we don't have it. We can save that money and divert it towards fixing potholes so that we prevent road accidents. It begins with us, especially members of that portfolio committee. We will be organising a health walk and are expecting members of that committee to lead and start the fun walk and go to the gym. We are also looking forward to the diet that we are going to eat. Even in this particular House, we have designed a menu and will be handing it over. Our nutritionists are busy working on it so that it becomes a healthy and a balanced diet. We will work together towards preventing these diseases. [APPLAUSE]

There are two issues that I know are very close to our hearts all of us. The first one is the issue of pharmaceuticals. We want to indicate that indeed we had a serious challenge, because of the introduction of a system called Intenda which by now we have worked on that and went back to our previous system called PDSX, which although we have seen the current stabilisation of medicine, because at least medicine can leave the depot and reach the clinic and the patient, we are at an advanced stage towards ensuring that we deal with the complete overhaul of the pharmaceutical depot. The other challenge was that running a pharmaceutical depot is like running a logistics.

Indeed, honourable Members are correct. Do we have the people with correct skills in running logistics or we took professionals because they qualified pharmacists and make them run a logistical system whereas their job and what they have been trained for is to dispense medicine and continue to advise patients on medicine care unless they would be further trained, which is what we are currently doing. Those who can assist us with the logistical part of it, must be trained. The long term strategy is there. We are starting to implement, but in terms of short term we have gone back to PDSX and we have seen medicine being delivered.

The last issue that I want to address is the issue of the provision of security services on our 24-hour clinics. Last week Tuesday I was here raising a concern about the attack on our nurses and security personnel and hardly 24 hours later the Hamutsha Clinic was attacked by thugs who came fully armed. When we are running health facilities, we need to be frank and honest. Is the Department of Health well equipped to deal with the current security threat in our facility? The truth is, we are not really trained. Even in the past, hospitals and clinics were always reserved. People would go on boycott and burn everything else, but nurses and doctors would be protected so that they can continue doing their work. But that is not what is currently happening. Actually, anyone who wants to attack now, they go to the clinic.

Last year when we visited Letaba Hospital with the Minister of Police, he saw for himself. People came fully armed with AK-47s to attack doctors' residence. For what? Because doctors don't keep money; they use their cards. So, you can see that this is not just an ordinary security that we are talking about. The same happened at Hamutsha Clinic. Heavily armed people came and attacked the security. Even if they did not attack the nurses, but the manner in which the security personnel was ambushed is shocking; and he is now recovering in hospital.

It makes it difficult for nurses to agree to work 24 hours. We can buy all the equipment, all the machines and have all the medicine, it means this current security threat in our facility requires all of us and all our efforts. The good thing is that the Minister of Police is working with the Minister of Health to come with a strategy. Are we really resourced enough for the police to be guarding all our facilities? It's going to be difficult and impossible. That is why we are also working with the traditional councils to be able to deal with that.

The second incident that happened on Friday evening – the complexity of running a security within the health system; you have your own people whom you know they are struggling and on a weekly basis they must come for renal dialysis in Pietersburg Hospital. What do you do because the patient will not be able to have transport to come here? For you to say the patient must have transport to go to the nearest hospital which is Tshilidzini which for that patient it could be 100 km from home. You then device a means for our PPT will come and collect you at home because the ANC-led government is a caring government. We will pick you at your doorstep and take you for dialysis and when you are done with it, we will drop you at home. When we are picking you at home, you are being picked up by an EMS personnel. The EMS personnel is not trained to search. You can enter that vehicle with a gun, because he is not trained to search. And when you arrive at the hospital gate, there is no way we can tell our security personnel to start searching ambulances when they come in. That means when they might be searching a Priority 1 patient, during the process of

searching that person, the status can convert into Priority 4, which is death. It is another litigation. We need to appreciate that complexity that we find ourselves in. In this incident the patient just arrived and a few minutes later he shot the nurse and committed suicide.

To us the lesson that we have learned on this case is to say when you are dealing with any person who has been diagnosed with a life-threatening condition like renal failure wherein you are a businessperson and are facing the stress of dialysis; or cancer, because next time it might be a cancer patient, probably we need our clinicians to do more of understanding the impact and the psychological burden impacting on that particular person. That could have been the reason we missed those signs that became suicidal.

But, honourable Members, let us support and assist each other on the issue of dealing with security, because we are operating in a sensitive and a completely different environment. It's not like in Shoprite where the security is searching people for shoplifting. Here there are lives of people that must be protected and there are lives of staff that must be protected and there is hospital or government equipment and property of that needs to be protected.

Lastly, in terms of training of EMS, yes, we didn't take them outside because we agree with you that we do have fewer advanced life supporters who have been trained. That is why for the first time we managed to open our EMS Training College; since we opened it, we started training basic ambulance assistants. We got the accreditation from the Health Professional Council. We are training them, and the first group will be graduating. We are doing it in-house, because taking them to other universities or other provinces was expensive for us. We will continue until we get accreditation on the advanced training. But the rest we are training them in-house. Thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC, for the response. Honourable Members, the next item is the response to questions as submitted and the next item is announcements. There is one announcement for honourable Members who are part of the Ethics Committee that immediately when we adjourn the Sitting you are expected at the Deputy Speaker's Boardroom. Are there any other announcements, Deputy Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Lunch will be served at the usual place. It is now 11:30, so we might need to wait for some time for preparations.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable Members. This House is adjourned. Thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

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VERBATIM REPORT

OF THE

DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH PARLIAMENT

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

TUESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2019

It's your voice, use it!

VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2019
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00

THE SPEAKER

Good morning, honourable Members and the members of the public who are in the gallery. Let us take this time and observe a moment of silence for silent prayers and/or meditation.

[SILENCE]

Thank you. You may be seated. Honourable Members, let me take this opportunity to welcome you back to the House after some time of extensive committee work. Let me also acknowledge the invited guests that we have in the House this morning. We have invited the following NGOs to be part of the sitting even though they are at the public gallery. We have got the following victim empowerment centres: Rinae Singani Foundation, Samaritan Centre, Umtapo Centre, Save the Children, FAMSA, Nkuzi Development, Women in Construction, Social and Economic, Fandisiwe Health and Welfare Centre, Joint Education Project, Progressive Women's Movement of South Africa and NICRO Please feel welcome.

Honourable Members, we will then go to item 2 of our Order Paper and consider the reports that have to be tabled in the House. On item 2.1, we have tabling of the 2018/19 Annual Report of the Gateway Airport Authority Limited. I am going to invite the MEC for Transport and Community Safety. Over to you, honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. The Department of Transport and Community Safety regrets the non-submission of the 2018/19 Annual Report of GAAL. This led to the entity failing to comply with section 65(1) of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999) as amended. The entity has been experiencing [inaudible] problems of management, lack of adherence, inadequate system control and poor financial management as well as governance issues not only limited to [inaudible] including labour unrest. These unfortunate events have led the resignation of board of directors, thus far the shareholder has appointed the interim board to stabilise the entity and start the process of ensuring the implementation of sustainable turnaround strategy for the entity.

Madam Speaker, the abovementioned account for failure of the entity to submit referred annual report for the 2018/19 financial year. I hereby, Hon Speaker, therefore, submit the annual report together with the A-G's report for GAAL for consideration and processing by this honourable House. I trust that the report will be accepted [inaudible] going forward. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. The report that has been presented is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety and Scopa for consideration and report back to the House.

We will then move to item 2.2: Tabling of the 2018/19 Annual Report of the Limpopo Economic Development Agency, together with the written explanation for non-submission on time. Over to the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism.

THE MEC FOR DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

[inaudible] to adopt the annual report [inaudible] for consideration by this august House. Madam Speaker, may I acknowledge that the abovementioned entity falls under the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and did not comply with section 65(1) of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999) as amended. The [inaudible] was that the Auditor-General [inaudible] financial statements of LEDA and its subsidiaries as at 29 August 2019.

I move accordingly, Hon Speaker. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. The report is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Tourism as well as Scopa for consideration and report back to the House.

We will then move to the next report: The tabling of the 2018/19 Annual Report of the Department of Education, together with written explanation for non-submission on time. I call upon the MEC for Education.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Allow me to withdraw the erroneously tabled 2018/19 Annual Report and financial statements for the Department of Education. This report was tabled on 29 August 2019, where we then later discovered that we omitted the Auditor-General's report and immediately asked the Legislature for its withdrawal. The reason why we were not able to submit on time is that by the time we were supposed to submit the A-G's report was outstanding. We did not have that report then.

The Limpopo Department of Education then compiled its Annual Report 2018/19 and submitted it to the AGSA on 21 May 2018 for audit purposes. The Auditor-General's report which needs to be included in the annual report was only received on 01 October 2019. This delayed the printing and submission back to AGSA for approval and final print. The report was submitted to AGSA for final approval on 03 August 2019, then the department got the final approval from AGSA on [inaudible] October 2019.

Madam Speaker, I acknowledge that the department did not comply with section 65(1) Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999) as amended. I, therefore, table before this Legislature the corrected version of 2018/19 Annual Report and the

financial statements of the department, together with the Auditor-General's report on those statements for consideration by this august House. I thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC for Education. The report is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Education for consideration and report back to the House.

Honourable Members, we will then move to the orders of the day. Item 3.1 is the First Reading of the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill, 2019. Let me call upon the MEC for Provincial Treasury.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

The Speaker of our Legislature, Hon Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya; the Deputy Speaker of the Legislature, Hon Jerry Ndou; Premier of our province, Hon Chupu Mathabatha, in absentia; Members of the Executive Council; Members of the Legislature of this august House; the Director-General of the province and all Heads of Department who are here, in particular the HOD of Treasury; NGOs that are in the House; comrades and friends; ladies and gentlemen, I greet you. It is my honour and privilege to stand before this august House to present the Provincial Adjustments Budget and the Adjustment Appropriation Bill, the first in our sixth provincial administration.

We are meeting here today when we are still overwhelmed by the joy that was brought by the national rugby team, Amabokoboko, for winning the Webb Ellis Rugby World Cup. We therefore join the rest of our country in congratulating and celebrating them for their hard-earned victory. [APPLAUSE] I can see Hon Moraka is still donned in Amabokoboko jersey.

The triple challenges of poverty, inequality, and unemployment remain an albatross on the neck of this administration and our people, particularly the youth, women, and people living with disabilities.

The Minister for Finance indicated in his Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement that: "It is time to make choices. Some of these choices may be difficult and some may not please everyone. In an economy that is not growing like ours, and when public finances are limited, we will definitely not be able to do everything at one time."

Responding to the need to have a strategy to come out of our economic woes, the Minister for National Treasury also issued an economic makeover paper titled, *Economic transformation, inclusive growth, and competitiveness: Towards an Economic Strategy for South Africa*, which draws lessons from fast-growing emerging and sub-Saharan African economies. It is important ladies and gentlemen that as the people of Limpopo we must start to engage on these policy proposals, provide alternatives where necessary and enrich its content where possible. But above all, we must engage with it so that we do not become spectators and recipients of our own destiny. Truly we must participate in its discourse to ensure that its final product should carry economic solutions that are responsive to our regional dynamics and context.

It is worth noting that our provincial economic growth maintained positive growth over the years, but remained under pressure due to external shocks such as weak global economic growth, low commodity demand, drought conditions and weak investor confidence. As we speak, the province requires economic growth to be at least at 3% to create the much-needed jobs and reducing the economic and income divide in our communities. Thus, the Limpopo Growth and Development Plan provides the policy fundamentals in taking the province's economy on a rising growth and development trajectory.

This Medium-Term Provincial Budget is tabled against a very tight and difficult economic situation. In February this year, our national GDP was projected to be at 1,5%, and it is also projected to strengthen moderately to 2,1% in 2021. The first quarter of 2019 however showed a negative quarter-on-quarter economic growth rate of 3,2%. The National Treasury has reduced its GDP growth forecast to 0,5%.

As a province we have great potentials of stimulating the economy towards a positive trajectory. This can be done by, amongst others:

- Provision of key economic infrastructure such as roads, water, and electricity;

- Providing incentives to attract foreign direct investment, particularly in our SEZs by providing public infrastructure and bulk services in those areas;

- Creating an enabling environment for the growth of the private sector as the engine for job creation, mainly the promotion of SMMEs by enhancing their management capacities and access to financial services including paying them within 30 days;

- Improving key economic infrastructure to ensure reliable energy, transportation, and communications services through investment in renewable energy, increasing the broadband network, and revitalisation of rail lines as the main carriers of goods;

- Growing the employment and improving the labour market prospects for younger working age people because their greater employment will raise average incomes, allowing the working population to invest in education;

- Increase international and domestic tourism in the province;

- Ultimately, reform the agricultural sector to enhance its productivity and profitability. Key reforms could include diversifying and modernising agricultural activities by promoting value addition [inaudible], hence building a resilient agricultural system to minimise climate change effects;

- We also need to expand the investments in other potential areas of comparative advantage such as tourism and mining.

Hon Speaker and fellow citizens of Limpopo, the Special Economic Zones programme in Makhado-Musina and Fetakgomo-Tubatse are major investment pipelines that are at the heart of economic growth trajectory for the province and the country in general. The future economic growth trajectory of the province looks promising with SEZ given

the multinational investment interest in beneficiating commodities the province is endowed with. Therefore, the Premier said in the EXCO Budget Lekgotla that the special economic zones cannot remain on planning and analysis stages forever. These two flagship projects are the impetus of the province's industrialisation programme for mineral beneficiation, general manufacturing and stimulation of light to medium manufacturing industries and therefore the EIA process cannot hold us at ransom. The people of Limpopo are eagerly waiting for the opportunities that will be brought by their implementation. I believe the message is very loud and clear.

Their multiplier effects on the economy is expected to change for better the prospects of the province and contribute to the socioeconomic transformation in the SADC region. We need therefore to move with a speed of a mirage. The provincial own revenue estimates over the MTEF is anticipated to increase to R1,535 billion in 2021/22 respectively.

However, there is continuous decline in the provincial equitable share due to national revenue shortfalls and this poses pressure to the provincial budget. As a result, it has necessitated the development of strategies and innovative ideas to increase the own revenue collection through identification of sustainable new sources and effective management of existing revenue sources.

Some of these challenges includes amongst others:

- Lack of integrated revenue information management systems in departments, wherein departments are using various systems, thus impacting on timeous collection of revenue; and

- Lack of structured mechanisms to manage and collect own revenue effectively by various departments.

Our province has serious economic infrastructure backlogs that are also subduing rural development, hindering access to markets and public amenities, and employment for the year under review As at the end of the second quarter in September, the overall provincial infrastructure expenditure stood at R2,338 billion which is 42% of the total budget of R5,6 billion compared to R2,3 billion which was 45% in 2018/19 financial year and R2,465 billion which was 49% in 2017/18 financial year. This expenditure is 8% below the straight-line projection of 50%. CoGHSTA is the only department which performed above the norm at 54%. All the other departments were below the norm. Social Development; Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure; and Health spent between 40% and 49% respectively. Sports, Arts and Culture; Public Works; and Agriculture and Rural Development spent between 30% and 39% respectively, whereas Education spent 24%; Transport spent 7%; and Economic Development, Environment and Tourism spent 6%.

Hon Premier, as at the end of September 2019, the province spent R33,4 billion which is 48% of the total original budget of R69,5 billion, and 49,3% was spent in the previous financial year. We have therefore registered a regression by 1,2%. This is in the main due to capital purchases which were not yet delivered to departments. The expenditure for conditional grants as at 30 September 2019 is R3,5 billion which is 39,4% as compared to 45,1% in the 2018/19 financial year.

In view of the current economic and fiscal constraints affecting the country, provincial departments are expected to consider these realities in the midyear adjustments without compromising the core of social spending and job creation priorities. The progress on the implementation of the approved budget by departments and public entities is evaluated during the mid-term reviews with a view to evaluate major policy developments and the management of resources holistically.

Controls around the increasing allocation for compensation of employees is still a priority for provincial government and funds identified from this project are reallocated to projects which have potential for job creation, reducing unemployment and inequality, and ultimately advancing the objectives of the Limpopo Development Plan.

In terms of section 31(3) of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 1 of 1999), the MEC for Finance in a province may table an adjustment budget in the provincial legislature. Therefore, for the period under review, budget expenditure has been adjusted upward to address budget pressures in line with the provincial priorities. The total adjustments for the 2019/20 financial year budget is R979 million which will adjust the total provincial allocation from R65,5 billion to R70,4 billion, which is an increase of 1,4%.

The Provincial Executive Council has been very prudent in approving additional funding from rollovers and reserves during the 2019/20 adjustment budget by focusing on adding funds to departments which show funding pressures and addressing provincial priorities. Additional allocations are as follows:

- Provincial Legislature : R26,9 million;
- Education : R147 million;
- Health : R135 million;
- Transport and Community Safety : R8 million;
- Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure : R330 million;
- CoGHSTA : R57 million;
- Social Development : R983 000; and
- Sport, Arts and Culture : R10,9 million.

The provincial own revenue target is adjusted upwards from R1,317 billion to R1,379 billion, which is an increase of R61,9 million in 2019/20 financial year. The increase in revenue is mainly from Provincial Legislature, CoGHSTA, Education, and above all Transport which also exceeded their revenue collection.

The adjustments per department are therefore as follows:

Vote 1: Office of the Premier: The allocation for the Office of the Premier is not adjusted and therefore the allocation remains as appropriated in the main budget.

Vote 2: Provincial Legislature receives an adjustment budget of R26,9 million as a reallocation to the Legislature in line with surrendered funds into the Provincial Revenue Fund as per section 22 of the PFMA and R37 million for political parties funding.

Vote 3: Department of Education receives an additional budget of R147 million of which R100 million will be allocated from equitable share to cater for the shortfall on compensation of employees and R47 million for conditional grant rollovers.

Vote 4: The budget for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is thus reduced by R36 million. National Treasury converted R6,1 million from Letsema to fund National Food and Nutrition Survey on food security forecasting done by Human Sciences Research Council. An additional R30 million will also be reduced due to material slow spending on compensation of employees.

Vote 5: The allocation for the Provincial Treasury is not adjusted at all and remains as appropriated in the main budget. The department will reprioritise and fund pressures on BAUD system, RFID and forensic audit projects within the allocated budget.

Vote 6: The allocation for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism is adjusted downwards by R8 million from compensation of employees due to material slow spending by Limpopo Tourism Agency. The department will declare savings of R12 million from revenue enhancement projects and relocate it to Limpopo Gambling Board for the purchase of operating management system and data analysis tool. The department of LEDET will further receive R270 million for capitalisation of bus company, Great North Transport, for it to be able to continuously commute our workers to and from their own destinations.

Vote 7: The Department of Health receives an additional budget of R135 million as follows: National Treasury has granted approval of conditional grant rollovers of R41 million comprised of comprehensive HIV/Aids amounting to R26 million and National Tertiary Services amounting to R15 million. An additional R31 million has been allocated to the human resource capacitation grant to alleviate a shortfall on the appointment of health professionals in the province. There is also a new allocation of R32 million which is for National Health Insurance grant.

Vote 8: The Department of Transport and Community Safety is allocated R12 million for procurement of police vans, which will be used to arrest all those who owe ticket fines and those who dodge child maintenance grants. The department will surrender R4 million savings under compensation of employees as result of the merging of the two departments.

Vote 9: The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure will receive an additional budget of R330 million from equitable share comprising R50 million for the purchase of office buildings; and R200 million for Roads Agency Limpopo to ensure that we are able to maintain all the roads in the province and ensure that we travel on tarred roads to our villages and other destinations.

Vote 10 is the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. I think it is important, Madam Speaker, to note that due to the amalgamation of Transport and Community Safety, the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture will henceforth become Vote 10. The department will thus receive the conditional grant rollover as follows: Mass Sport and Recreation Programme amounting to R3,3 million; and community library services amounting to R7,6 million.

Vote 11: CoGHSTA's budget is adjusted by an amount of R57 million as follows: conditional grant rollover of R72 million comprising R61 million of integrated and housing settlement development grant and R10 million for title deeds restoration grant; and R15 million is surrendered due to material slow spending on compensation of employees.

Vote 12: The Department of Social Development will receive conditional grant rollover of R983 000 for Early Childhood Development (ECD) grant. The equitable share baseline has been adjusted downwards by R337,9 million over the MTEF. The provincial equitable share was also reduced by R845 million which is 2% of the fiscal consolidation reductions on non-cost. In addition to the reduced equitable share as a result of the provincial equitable formula and fiscal consolidation, the following additions have also been made: For Department of Social Development to address the social and structural drivers on HIV, TB, STIs and gender-based violence; for Department of Education to cater for Sanitary Dignity Project; and the Department of Social Development has been allocated additional budget for the employment of social workers to deal with gender-based violence, substance abuse and issues affecting children.

The total provincial MTEF allocation in the 2020/21 financial year amounts to R72,6 billion which represents an increase of R3,1 billion that is 4,5% from the 2019/20 financial year allocation of R69,5 billion.

Hon Speaker, we are aware of the outbreak of the foot-and-mouth disease in some of our areas in the province, and as Treasury we shall continue to monitor the work done by our provincial Department of Agriculture and the national department to ensure that we augment any emergency funding to manage the outbreak whenever necessary.

The province continues to priorities its allocations towards service delivery projects and has ring-fenced an amount of R4,3 billion over the MTEF period. It is envisaged that implementation of these projects will go a long way in the eradication of unemployment, poverty and inequality in the province.

With these words I implore all of us that we dare not fail our people. Collectively we can turn the economic tide in our province. We have what it takes to do it, and we shall indeed win the battle against poverty, inequality and unemployment.

Madam Speaker I therefore table herewith the 2019/20 Adjustment Appropriation Bill and the Provincial Mid-Term Budget Policy Statement. I thank you. Ke a leboga. Ndza khensa. Ndo livhuwa. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Another round of applause for the honourable MEC for Treasury. Thank you very much, honourable Members. The speech, the Bill and other supporting documents are referred to the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury for consideration and to report back to the House. I thank you, honourable MEC.

We would then now move on to the next item, which is the Snap Debate on 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children. We have received the Speakers' List, and I am going to ask the honourable Members that have been

requested to debate to please stick to their time. If you exceed the time, I'll indicate and don't consider that as being rude. We are going to request Hon Violet Mathye to start with the debate. Let us welcome her. [APPLAUSE]

SIXTEEN (16) DAYS OF ACTIVISM FOR NO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

(Snap Debate)

MS MATHYE

Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Chief Whip, Hon Deputy Chief Whip, honourable Members of the Executive Council, ladies and gentlemen, avuxeni. We have gathered in this august House today when we are left with only three days towards the commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children, which starts from 25 November where we commemorate a national day for the elimination of violence against women until 10 December which is the International Human Rights Day. This period includes Universal Children's Day and World Aids Day.

Hon Speaker, 2019 is a year where we commemorate the milestone since the signing of the Women's Charter on 17 April 1954 in Johannesburg, 25 years of freedom and democracy in South Africa, and 10 years since Limpopo Legislature adopted the 16 days campaign as one of its intervention strategies towards creating a society that is free of violence.

Violence against women means any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. Violence against women and children that happens in the family includes battering, sexual abuse of female children, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women. This violence against women and children does not stop at home, it also goes out into the public sphere. It includes rape, sexual harassment, sexual abuse and intimidation at the workplace, educational institutions and elsewhere. It also includes women trafficking and forced prostitution.

All gender-based violence are human rights violation, heinous and immoral. Gender-based violence that is committed against women and children often emerges as an expression of power inequalities existing between men and women in communities and cultures around the world. As global citizenship expands, cultures overlap, resulting in conflicting ideas, hence these many foreign tendencies and beliefs such as men raping young children as a way of curing themselves from HIV/Aids.

Bibele yi ri: "Kombelani, mi ta nyikiwa; lavani, mi ta swi kuma, gongondzani, mi ta pfuleriwa." A yi ri tshova nyangwa u nghena. Hikokwalaho swa hi hlamarisa loko hi vona vavanuna na vana va hina vaxinuna kumbe vamajaha va sungula ku pfinya, hambiloko u ringeta ku vulavurisana na lava va ringanaka na vona, va pfumelelana, ku nga ri ku tirhisa matimba.

The aim of this campaign was to try and eliminate gender-based violence and to encourage society to acknowledge that violence against women and children is not a

government or criminal justice system problem, but a societal problem and that failure to view it as such results in all efforts failing to eradicate the scourge in our communities.

Hon Speaker, there are still people who blame unemployment for the high rate of domestic violence, some blame the victims of gender-based violence by saying they provoke [inaudible] which in the end prevents prosecution or punishment of the perpetrators. In our province, the number of young girls that are raped and killed is growing at an alarming rate. Women are killed by their partners and by unknown men for their body parts. Statistically it is said that every three minutes a woman is raped and in every four hours a woman is killed in South Africa.

Leswi swi hi komba kahle leswaku tiko ra hina ri borile, ri lava ku pfuniwa. Swi tlhela swi hi komba leswaku vavanuna lava hi nga na vona, a va xitwisisangi xilogene lexi nga vuriwa hi nkarhi wa ku macha ka vaxisati loku nga khomiwa hi 09 Mhawuri 1956, loko hi ku, “Wathint’ abafazi, Wathint’ imbokodo, uzokufa wena.” This slogan was not directed to our beloved husbands, brothers and sons, but was directed to the apartheid regime. I am saying this because our male partners are killing us as a way of trying to show-off their physical strength.

Loko ndzi ri karhi ndzi gimeta, ndzi pfumelele ku tsundzuxa vavanuna ni majaha ya xifundzankulu xa hina leswaku ku xanisa vamanana na vana hi swa masangu na ku va xanisa emiehleketweni na le emirini, a swi kombi vunhenha, kambe swo kombisa vuhari na vutoya hikuva vavanuna vaxiviri a va xanisi vamanana na vana. Na ku tlhela ndzi khensa matshalatshala hinkwawo lama mfumo wa hina wu ma endlaka ku sirhelela timfanelo ta vamanana na vana. Inkomu, Manana Xipikara.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I am therefore going to request Hon Regina Mphahlele. Can we please welcome her? [APPLAUSE]

MS MPHAHLELE

Hon Speaker and all Members present, good morning. Hon Speaker, South Africa has increasingly become an unsafe place for women and children to live in comparable to countries that are at war. In the past few months increasing incidents of women and children been killed especially by people known to them have been reported. Women and children have become endangered species in their own country of birth. It has been reported in recent times children disappearing only to be found dead after days of their disappearance. The EFF believes that the notion on 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children is misleading because it creates an impression that this violence only occurs 16 days in a year despite overwhelming scientific evidence on serious daily violations of women and children by barbaric, cowards and uncivilised men. Every single day of the year should be an activist day of no violence against women and children.

According to the 2018 Crime Against Women in South Africa Report by Statistics South Africa, a woman is murdered every three hours in South Africa. About 3 000 women were murdered last year or one every in three hours, which is more than five times higher than the global average according to the World Health Organisation.

Empty slogans and summits will not eliminate the scourge of gender-based violence in South Africa. It takes political will and determination to address pertinent issues such as this one in our communities. The statistics points towards a government and society crippled by an inability to protect women and children. The Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation also found that South Africa had the world's highest rate of rape estimated at 138 rapes per 100 000 women in 2017.

It has been revealed during the recent visit in Limpopo by the Minister of Justice, Ronald Lamola, that courts in Vhembe District are struggling to cope with alarming rates of gender-based violence. More than 13 000 cases were opened in Vhembe, these include rape, domestic violence, murder cases as well as assault, and yet Limpopo is being called the province of peace. No peace will ever prevail in the society were women and children's rights are violated by men on daily basis. The Mathabatha administration is largely known for sleeping on duty on many issues especially on this burning issue of gender-based violence. A new study by the Commission for Gender Equality investigating the policing of violence against women in South Africa has painted a bleak picture of the capacity of the police to effectively tackle domestic violence.

The study titled *Policing violence against women: Assessing local police station investigations (2018)* paints a disturbing picture on how our police stations are failing to deal with the issue of gender-based violence. The police stations sampled and surveyed for the study in Limpopo were Lebowakgomo and Seshego. The findings from the main report revealed that virtually all the police stations did not have clear, coherent and well-defined long-term programmes of action to tackle the scourge of domestic violence within their areas of jurisdiction. In many instances, the victim support centres were understaffed, some with only one volunteer staff member, or lacked basic furniture and office equipment for day to day operations. The report also found that police stations relied on ordinary SAPS officers to handle and investigate cases of gender-based violence in the same way they would handle any other crime. The police lack the required training and skills including thorough knowledge of the policy and legislative framework on gender rights as well as the rights of victims of crimes, hence the failure to decisively deal with gender-based violence. Shortcomings in institutional capacity included the availability of financial resources, equipment like police vehicles and other facilities necessary for police stations to operate effectively and fulfil their basic responsibilities.

The gruesome death of a 7-year old Boitumelo Matsekoleng from Sekhukhune, Serageng village, Nebo who succumbed to injuries and died after been raped by a 34-year old man will forever be a dark reminder of a system that continues to fail to protect women and children in this province. This year again, an 11-year old girl was found murdered after she went missing for a day at GaMarishane village in Jane Furse in Limpopo. She was raped before she was killed. A female teacher, Precious Magabane from GaMahlokwane village, in Tubatse was murdered allegedly by two Pakistani nationals last year in December. Magabane is believed to have been mutilated, with her body parts being disposed of in various areas around Tubatse. Her remains have not yet been buried to date while her family continues to be subjected to deep pain and trauma on daily basis.

While we acknowledge and appreciate the recent fact-finding visit by MEC Namane Masemola to the family, we need to see swift actions and justice been served, and the

family been afforded an opportunity to bury the remains of their loved one. The EFF believes that gender-based violence and related anti-social activities are re-enforced and even sustained by the deplorable general conditions of our people. Therefore, a key to female emancipation is the emancipation of all. The EFF government will emphasise transforming the lives of our people in the ghettos from one of generalised structural violence as a mechanism to end all violence including violence against women.

Lastly, we call upon traditional leaders, religious groups and businesspeople to unite and demystify the perception that body parts can be used to enrich selfish individuals. Such barbaric acts must be exposed and denounced, and perpetrators arrested and rot in jail. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I now call upon Hon Katlego Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. As we commemorate 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children between 25 November and 10 December, government has announced it will convene a series of dialogues on violence against women and children to focus on the problem, discuss the causes and to find appropriate solutions. This is noble, but the time for dialogue is over. The current culture of abuse of women and children, rape and femicide has to be stopped by decisive action.

The 2018/19 crime statistics paints a bleak picture and show rape increased from 3 301 cases to 3 501 cases. This high number of rapes in the province means that almost 10 women are raped per day in the province. This is an unacceptably high and scary number considering that sexual offences such as rape also have a very low report rate. Hon Speaker, the high number of sexual offences and abuse in Limpopo is also worrying considering the shortage of rape kits coupled by the lack of sensitivity and training in the police service to deal with victims of sexual crimes and abuse. The fact that there are only six social crime prevention programmes and 73 victim empowerment centre and shelters in the province, shows that our government has failed to sufficiently support women and children who have been victims of violence and abuse.

Such increases are a result of a law enforcement that are extremely under-resourced, under-staffed and under-equipped. Limpopo government needs to invest more in social programmes in schools and our societies, especially in townships and rural areas to change how men socialise with women and children. Hon Speaker, we need to ensure that our law enforcement officers are trained enough to handle cases properly, so that abusers and rapists do not go free on technicalities. We also need the general public to participate and our community policing forums to be well resourced to also assist to bring abusers to light that might go undetected or unreported. Premier Mathabatha must bring all relevant departments together so that they coordinate in effectively tackling these social ills.

Hon Speaker, inasmuch as the law enforcement has to ensure safety, it is also our responsibility as a society to ensure that our churches and women stokvels amongst

other gatherings become a safe place for victims to feel safe enough to open up and seek help without society judging them. As we take the girl-child to work and through other empowering programmes, we need to also remember the boy-child and teach him how to grow to be a man that our societies need.

Any form of violence against women changes the woman's life in a negative way and at times breaks her worth. It is therefore also needed by those who make false accusations of being abused, the law must also take its course against them. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Phala. I call upon Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Speaker and good morning honourable Members. Hon Speaker, indeed, we are living in a time where moral decay and violence in our societies are escalating to a point where we as normal citizens must declare a stop and end to this unacceptable situation. I want to commemorate the government, civil society organisations and business sectors who came up with active campaigns like the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children every year from 25 November to 10 December. It is however sad, that we should only use a certain campaign and a short time-table to draw attentions to the violence and aggression that occurs on a daily basis against innocent women and children because of their vulnerability to such attacks on them.

Hon Speaker, we should make awareness of this cowardly behaviour towards our women and children on daily basis and uplift and teach our society that we cannot allow this to happen in our modern society with human rights of today. We as citizens should feel safe in our communities, and we must encourage our police and legal systems to act with the full might of the law against perpetrators of this nature as we must stand up unite. I would like to call on our Premier, Hon Stan Mathabatha, fellow honourable Members, MECs and the whole province to unite against violence in any form or manner against women and children and to get actively involved with projects of this nature. Let us root out this evil amidst all our communities and make use of the law, education, religious institutions and many more to: bring to justice any perpetrators; make the reporting to the police easier and helping victims medically and psychologically; educate the society and especially men against this evil; send a hard and clear message that this crime will not be tolerated and accepted in our community anymore.

Hon Speaker, I support the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children wholeheartedly. I wish its organisers a success with this initiative. May we all have a blessed festive season. I thank thee very much.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Maritz. We shall then welcome to the podium Hon Mapula Mokaba-Phukwana.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Madam Speaker. NGOs present here, the Chief Whip, Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive Council and the opposition, kgotsong. The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children is an international campaign aimed at raising awareness and bringing an end to the abuse of women. In South Africa, we have localised this campaign and designed it to also speak against the abuse of children. It is for this reason that our campaign is called 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children. We have done this because in most cases, women abuse is linked to the abuse of children. Those who abuse women and children take advantage of the fact that in most instances, women and children do not have the muscular power to defend themselves against their abusers.

The abuse directed at women is also felt by their children, and again, the abuse directed to children is also felt by women as mothers. This is to raise awareness of the negatives and snowballing impact that violence and abuse have on women and children. The intention here is to permanently rid society of any abuse against women and children and hold those inflicting such horrendous abuse accountable for their actions. Violence against women and children happens when men abuse power and positions of authority in order to control women and children. We know that only people with low self-esteem will derive pleasure in abusing those who are vulnerable. The truth is that real men will never raise a hand against a woman or a child. Those who do so are not worthy to be called men.

Madam Speaker, this campaign, which is held from 25 November to 10 December annually, the message against the abuse of women and children is a year round message. No one should be made to think that we are only vigilant during this period of 16 days. Every single day is a fight against the abuse of women and children. For this to be successful, every single one of us must be a campaigner against women and children abuse. Violence against women and children undermines many of the constitutional rights of our people, including the right to life, the right to freedom of movement and the right to bodily integrity. The truth is that, in their confined spaces, women continue to suffer from untold sufferings of rape, sexual harassment, emotional, financial and physical abuse. At times women are subjected to these painful and shameful realities in the hands of the same people, who have publicly vowed to love, respect and protect until the moment of death.

Even more heart-breaking is the abuse that children suffer in the hands of the people who gave birth to them or those who legally undertook care for them. It is the time that all of us speak against the shocking behaviour of those mothers who abandon their children. If we know of a mother who is not providing her child with the necessary education, we must speak out. If we know of a mother who is not caring for her children, we must speak out. If we know of a mother who misuses the child support grant, and buys alcohol or gambles with it, we must speak out. We must do so because no child deserves to be with an uncaring mother. We must also speak out against cultural stereotypes that are often used as a weapon to perpetuate these evil deeds against women and children. As our late former President Nelson Mandela once said, we owe our children a life free from violence and fear.

Madam Speaker, on 24 November 2014, the Department of Safety and Security hosted a provincial summit whereby people committed themselves to working towards

a violence-free society. They have all accepted the necessary obligation to speak out and act against those fathers or male figures who default or simply ignore their maintenance obligation towards their children.

It is simply not acceptable that children should be directed to welfare lines for their food and clothing, while their fathers are gallivanting around in luxury cars, wearing designer clothes and drinking dated alcohol. Those who behave in this deplorable fashion must be exposed and the law must deal with them accordingly. We are also concerned about the plight of those women who are not working and are being denied the necessary financial means by their husbands for basic necessities. At times these women are forced to beg their husbands for money to buy food, sanitary products, and clothes for the children and other items for the household. Indeed, some stingy tendencies that border on spousal abuse must be stopped.

In conclusion, I want to urge all of you to be vigilant against all forms of abuse against women and children. We must all say, count me in, together moving a non-violent South Africa forward. Indeed, everyone must be involved. There should simply be no place to hide for those who violate the safety of women and children. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mapula Mokaba-Phukwana. That concludes our snap debate for today. We'll continue with the business of the House. The next item is the NCOP business. We'll deal with the Motion of the Ratification of Appointment of Special Delegates who attended the Joint Sitting of Parliament. I am going to request the Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. House Rule 226(3) provides for the designation and appointment of special delegates when the House is not sitting. In line with this rule, the following honourable Members were appointed to attend the below mentioned plenaries in Cape Town:

- 18 September 2019: Joint Sitting of Parliament: Debate on Gender-Based Violence: Hon Mokgonyana E M, Hon Mokaba-Phukwana M, and Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya M M;

- 10 October 2019: NCOP Plenary: Questions to the President: Hon Sekoati S C, Hon Ndou A J D, and Hon Monama G R;

- 29 October 2019: NCOP Plenary: Questions to Cluster 4A, Economics: Hon Mokgonyana E M, Hon Mahasela M C, and Hon Marule J B O;

- 29 October 2019: NCOP Plenary: Questions to Cluster 4B, Economics: Hon Lebea-Olaiya K, Hon Mdaka F P, and Hon Monyamane S;

- 31 October 2019: NCOP Plenary: Hon Mathe S M and Monyamane S;

- 05 November 2019: NCOP Plenary: Questions to Cluster 4B Economics: Hon Ndou A J D, Hon Mathe S M, and Hon Manyamane S;

- 07 November 2019: NCOP Plenary: Questions to the Deputy President: Hon Mathye S V, Hon Molapo R R, Hon Maseko F J;

- 12 November 2019: NCOP Plenary: Questions to Cluster 4D, Economics: Hon Mashamaite N V, Hon Aphiri M J, Hon Mahasela M C;

Hon Speaker, I hereby move that this House resolves to ratify the appointment of the abovementioned special delegates in line with the provisions of House Rule 226(3). I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. Can I get a seconder? I recognise Hon Matlou.

MR MATLOU

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, hereby second the motion as presented by the Hon Chief Whip.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We will then move to item 6 on the questions that have been submitted. Honourable Members, questions 1 and 2 of 2019 for written reply directed to the Hon Premier have been responded to and the answers have been published on the ATC dated Wednesday, 20 November 2019.

Item 6.2 question 21 and 22 of 2019 for written reply directed to the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and answers are published on the ATC dated Wednesday, 20 November 2019.

We'll then move to the next item. Are there any announcements? I call upon the Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

[inaudible] Hon Speaker, members of the portfolio committee on Treasury are invited to meet in the Committees Boardroom at 13:00. Secondly, Madam Speaker, we want to inform Members of the Legislature of the death case of Cllr Steve Mashabela, a Member of the Mayoral Committee of the Council of Polokwane. [inaudible] Ga-Mashabela Sekhukhune. The other announcement is a normal one.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Let's rise and observe a moment of silence for the honourable MMC who has passed on.

[SILENCE]

May his soul rest in peace! Thank you.

The last announcement from my side would be to wish all the teams that will be participating in the Interparliamentary Games in KZN well. We wish you well. We want to see the colours of Limpopo flying high. We request that you interact better and I hope to see all of you there.

The House is adjourned until Tuesday, 03 December 2019 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

LIMPOPO
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VERBATIM REPORT

OF THE

DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH PARLIAMENT

LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

TUESDAY, 03 DECEMBER 2019

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VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 03 DECEMBER 2019
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 14:15

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We shall now have a moment of silent prayers and/or meditations.

[SILENCE]

Please, be seated. Now, let me take this opportunity to welcome all of us and members of the public who are in the gallery to this session. The Limpopo Legislature participated in the sport games – the Interparliamentary Sport Games in Durban. We came back with some awards, and I think that we should congratulate those teams. Oh, there we are! We got two gold trophies on tennis and 5 km run respectively. We also got two bronzes on darts and netball. [APPLAUSE]

We want to congratulate all teams that participated and, in particular, all those that brought trophies home. We hope that at least next time the football team will do much better. Thank you very much. Are there any motions without notice? I notice Hon Mokaba-Phukwana.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker and all Members present here.

THE BRUTAL MURDER OF PRECIOUS RAMABULANA WHO WAS A STUDENT AT THE CAPRICORN TVET COLLEGE
(Motion without Notice)

Hon Deputy Speaker, we are saddened by the brutal murder of Precious Ramabulana – a young woman who was ambushed and raped in Botlokwa over a week ago.

- Precious, like many other young South Africans, left her family home in Nzhelele to pursue her studies in the Capricorn FET to attain the most sought-after commodity of our time – education.

- What is worrisome is that Precious's death came at a time when there are heightened calls throughout the country to fight the scourge of gender-based violence.

- She was maimed on the eve of the 16 days campaign of violence against women and children – a ferocious act that undermines society's concerted efforts to uproot the demon of abuse of women and children.

- The young woman met her untimely death in the comfort of her place of residence – the place that should presumably provide all forms of security and comfort to everyone.

- She was raped and stabbed 52 times, and it is our view that the justice system must use the perpetrator of this atrocious act, a certain Aubrey Manaka, as an example of how merciless the law can be when one is found guilty of such an act.

- We have just learnt of another horrendous act in which a four-year-old son was murdered by his father in a village called Ngwanamatlang within the Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality. It is reported that the Lesotho national bludgeoned his son to death and buried him in a shallow grave after taking him away from his mother in Johannesburg.

- This is another unfortunate incident where the might of the law should be demonstrated, and potential perpetrators should see that this country has no mercy on murderers. May their souls rest in peace!

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder? I notice Hon Mathye.

MS MATHYE

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Mathye Susani Violet, stand to second the motion as presented by Hon Mokaba-Phukwana. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Are there any further motions without notice? I notice Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker, for affording me this opportunity.

THE LAUNCH OF THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MODEL BY PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA
(Motion without Notice)

Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress in this august House to welcome the launch of the District Development Model by President Cyril Ramaphosa who was travelling in this beautiful province, Limpopo.

- The District Development Model is aimed at ensuring integrated planning, budgeting and development by all three spheres of government. The Cabinet-approved District Development Model is due for implementation in all of South Africa’s 44 municipal districts, and 8 metropolitan areas.

- Inspired by the “Khawuleza” call to action, the District Development Model aims to accelerate, align and integrate service delivery programmes under a single development plan per district or metro that is developed jointly by national,

provincial and local government as well as business, labour and community in each district.

- We welcome this initiative and view it as a quantum leap towards government efforts of improving the lives of our people. In ensuring that this becomes a reality, already the national government through the Office of the President has committed over R25 billion for projects within the Waterberg District.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I notice Hon Aphiri.

MS APHIRI

Thank you very much. I, Mokgadi Johanna Aphiri, stand to second the motion as read by Hon Mathe.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

I just want to make sure that what she is seconding is the motion on the district model not the first one. Is there any further motion without notice? I notice Hon Seono.

MS SEONO

THE ABSORPTION OF 238 TRAFFIC OFFICERS
(Motion without Notice)

Hon Deputy Speaker, I, Mmaishibe Rebecca Seono, stand on behalf of the ANC to welcome the absorption of 238 traffic officers by the Department of Transport who were formally inducted on Monday, 02 December 2018.

- The inclusion of these new members into the traffic force will go a long way in assisting the department with its road safety endeavours during this festive season. This is another example of the ANC-led government's efforts of making a dent towards the high unemployment levels in the country.

- This demonstrates our commitment to creating safer roads for all as there would be constant visibility on our roads at all times.

- This intervention does not only create decent and sustainable jobs for young people, but it will also create safer roads in our province.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? I notice Hon Mahasela.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Mahlodi Caroline Mahasela, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Seono.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Mahasela. Are there any further motions without notice? I recognise Hon Mphahlele.

MS MPHAHLELE

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker; Members of the Executive Council and all Members of the House.

THE BRUTAL MURDER OF PRECIOUS RAMABULANA WHO WAS A STUDENT AT THE CAPRICORN TVET COLLEGE
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move without notice that the House notes that:

- The EFF was shocked at the brutal killing of Precious Ramabulana, who was a student at the Capricorn TVET College. [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Mphahlele, are you not repeating the motion? Is it not about Precious Ramabulana?

MS MPHAHLELE

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Yes, there was a motion about Precious Ramabulana.

MS MPHAHLELE

But the content is not the same, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Let’s not repeat the motion. I think this is not what we are supposed to do. Is there any further motion without notice? I notice Hon Manganye.

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO LEARNERS WHO WROTE THEIR FINAL EXAMS

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move without notice that the House notes that:

- The EFF Limpopo would like to congratulate all learners who wrote their exams in various grades and institutions of higher learning.

- It is for your efforts that the future of this province will be a secure bright one which will boost the developmental agenda of improving the lives of our people.

- We call upon all communities to continue supporting all students regardless of their performance.

- Ours should be to encourage them to study and focus as you know that in Sepedi they say kodumela moepathuse ga go lehumo le tšwago kgauswi.

- We must desist from the tendency of putting pressure against students, especially when their performance was at its lowest.

- Our unnecessary pressure to students adds to their mental stresses and isolation from families and communities.

- We furthermore call upon the department of education to ensure that all systems are ready for the year 2020.

- These advance preparations will allow learners to enjoy schooling from the first day of the school term. All transportations, learner-teacher support material and nutritional logistics should be ready when schools reopen.

- We call upon our colleges and universities to ensure that all learners are accommodated in secure and safe residences.

- As the EFF, we still maintain that provision of free quality sanitary towels will help millions of our students.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I notice Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Jetrick Seshoka, rise to second the motion as read by Hon Manganye.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. You can rise and object, Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I would like to object to the motion as read by Hon Manganye.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

There is an objection to the motion, and the motion falls off. Is there any further motion without notice? There is none. Are there any notices of motions? There is none. Are there any Members' Statements? I notice Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Deputy Speaker and good afternoon honourable Members.

LACK OF ACTION AGAINST THE HOD FOR PUBLIC WORKS
(Members' Statement)

I hereby submit the Members' Statement about the lack of action by the Premier against the HOD for Public Works. The EFF notes with serious disappointment the lack of decisive action against the HOD for Public Works. The honourable House will note that there is instability in the Department of Public Works due to continuous operations of the self-serving HOD. As the EFF Limpopo, we are convinced that the current HOD does everything with the blessings and protection from the Premier.

Limpopo continues to lose millions of rands due to illegal travel claims by senior government officials. Our assertion that all frauds have high-level blessings is confirmed by how the Premier treated the scandal of his spokesperson, Mr Kenny Mathivha. It should be clear that this House is not ready to welcome people such as Kenny Mathivha who is treated very special and different from other employees. Why would other government employees not join the travel scams and other illicit means if Kenny Mathivha and Public Works HOD are allowed to enjoy themselves regardless of their corrupt actions?

Eighty-six per cent of fraud and corruption cases committed within this government have never been investigated. This honourable House knows this in monetary terms amounts to billions of rands. Noting the poor recordkeeping of the departments, we will soon be told that all paper trails for HOD and Kenny Mathivha's illicit acts have disappeared. Any favouritism disguised as mini punishment will never be tolerated. Mr Kenny Mathivha and the HOD for Public Works deserve to be treated like Phuti Seloba who continues to be subjected to the harsh weather conditions due to his stay at home.

Lack of action and selective protection by the Premier led to the collapse of SOEs in this province as people are comfortable misusing public funds. The same Premier who when questioned even in 2019 continues to blame his predecessors despite him being on the second term as the leader of government.

Lastly, we call upon the Premier of Limpopo to act decisively on the HOD for Public Works in Limpopo for alleged misconduct relating to travel claims.

The matter has been in the public domain and the Premier opted to be mute. We hope the matter will not be treated like the one of Kenny Mathivha who is treated with kid gloves by the Premier. The immediate suspension of the HOD for Public Works will save this government from further embarrassment and will further deter other crooks from defrauding the state.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Do we have any response from the Executive? The MEC is not here. I'm asking the Leader of Government Business, is there any response to that? Are there any further statements by Members? I notice Hon Managa.

MR MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

DYSFUNCTIONALITY OF THE ONCOLOGY RADIATION SECTION AT POLOKWANE HOSPITAL
(Members' Statement)

I, Managa Lilian, rise to present the Members' Statement on the dysfunctional oncology radiation section at Polokwane Hospital. The Department of Health in Limpopo continues to make headlines for all wrong reasons. We have now come to the conclusion that the department loves and enjoys being on the spotlight not so much for service delivery, but for scandalous behaviour.

Ms Lina Nkoana, a cancer patient from GaLegodi in Moletji was turned back by the Polokwane Hospital at the radiation oncology section and told that the machine was broken. She was told that she will receive a call as soon as the machines are fixed and up and running. To date Ms Nkoana has never received any call from any official at the hospital while her health situation continues to deteriorate drastically.

We have since learnt that there are many other cancer patients who are seriously affected by the dysfunctionality of these machines, and they continue to languish at home and dying slowly while their cancerous cells continue to metastasise.

Upon our inquiry at the hospital on this matter, we were taken from pillar to post while officials directly linked to the situation were afraid to speak out for fear of victimisation. The department has a tendency of concealing the truth instead of admitting and being honest about the situation and committing to urgently attend to the situation that needs to be addressed.

This hide-and-seek approach to governance and service delivery, especially by the Department of Health in Limpopo is disturbing and must be stopped as a matter of urgency. We call upon the MEC for Health to investigate this matter and provide the lasting solution to the cancer patients linked to this hospital. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thanks very much. I think it would be fair for us to refer the two statements to the relevant MECs so that in the next session they may respond unless there is somebody who wants to respond from the Executive. I notice Hon Moraka.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE [ON BEHALF OF THE MEC FOR HEALTH]

Thanks very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I rise on behalf of the MEC for Health who is not with us. I would like to furnish the honourable Member with the information that we are in the process of making it a point that the quality health services that need to happen in our healthcare facilities are in good order. That is why there was a process of consulting with our communities on the introduction of the National Health Insurance. So, the system itself is aimed at addressing all these other service delivery challenges that our people are confronted with on a daily basis.

I want to register here in this august House that in the province of Limpopo there has been some great improvement in the process of rendering good quality healthcare services for our people. However, we have noted all issues that the honourable Members raised. We are going to investigate, and we will come back and report to this august House. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further statements by Members? There is none. Are there any Executive Statements? I notice Hon Mokone.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

FAILURE OF STATE ORGANS TO COMPLY WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS
(Executive Statement)

Hon Deputy Speaker, while we notice that governance is generally felt to be coherent, particular challenges for government exist. The Department of LEDET conducted preliminary inspections and investigations which confirm that most organs of state do not comply with environmental laws. As we all know, the Constitution binds the legislature, the judiciary and organs of state.

Citizens in their quest to get service delivery now exercise their constitutional rights by approaching courts with requests to interdict and/or to compel organs of state to perform their duties. Areas of concern are landfill sites, waste water treatment plants and medical waste.

It is for the above statement that we as the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism have organised a summit called “The Limpopo Waste Summit 2019” which is scheduled to take place from 05 to 06 December 2019 at the Hayani Lodge in Polokwane. Honourable Deputy Speaker and Members, this summit hopes to encourage municipalities to comply with environmental legislation and eventually avoid a situation of state litigations.

These protracted legal battles have become too frequent and too costly for government and further frustrate officials with monitoring and implementing environmental laws.

The summit will provide the platform where the three spheres of government can share their experience, educate each other and create awareness with respect to the understanding of implications of dereliction, omission or commission by organs of state in implementing environmental regulations. This is in line with promoting the object and spirit of Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, 2005 (Act 13 of 2005). We convene this summit compelled by objectives to create safer and sustainable communities for ourselves and generations to come.

It is our view that when individuals and organisations ignore environmental requirements, they are not just hurting the environment, but they are also damaging the rule of law in that jurisdiction. According to investors, the probability of enforcement is the most robust predictor of economic growth. An effective compliance assurance programme promotes the rule of law, thereby helping foster an attractive investment climate.

Environmental harm has an adverse impact on tourism, which is positioned to become the largest employer and GDP contribution over the next decade. The largest figure shows that this view is neither idealist nor overoptimistic, but quite achievable. Our tourism and environmental sectors are the responsibility of all Limpopo citizens.

We, therefore, call upon the Members of this august House and the people of Limpopo at large, to heed our call towards creating safer and habitable environments in the workplace and their respective homes. I move accordingly. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

I take this opportunity to invite the leaders of political parties to comment on the Executive Statement. It’s over to you, the Freedom Front Plus.

MS MARITZ

Thank you very much, Deputy Chair. The Freedom Front Plus welcomes this announcement, and it would help and play that useful role and we can move forward. That will be for the best for Limpopo province. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

It’s over to you, the DA.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. At this stage the DA welcomes the initiative for the public, and we hope that whatever that will be discussed will be put into action and advantageous to our people.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

It’s over to you, the EFF.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The EFF welcomes the summit and hopes that whatever that will be discussed there will be good for the province. We also want to make an appeal that whoever that is found guilty must face the full might of the law. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

It’s over to you, the ANC.

MR MASEKO

Hon Deputy Speaker, the ANC would like to welcome the presentation by the honourable MEC. We hope that all organs of state will ensure that they comply with environmental laws.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable Member. Are there any tablings of committee reports, other reports and papers? There is none. We then move to the Orders of the Day. We are now on item 7.1: Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill, 2019 [B05-2019]. It’s over to you, committee chairperson.

MR PHALA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Kgolane Alfred Phala, rise to table in this House the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill, 2019 [B05-2019] for consideration and adoption by this august House. I thank you

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder?

MR MASEKOAMENG

I, Mmabogahla Isaiah Masekoameng, rise to second the motion as presented by the committee chairperson.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We will now go to the Second Reading Debate on the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill, 2019 [B05-2019]. We will refer to our Speakers’ List. The first Member on the Speakers’ List is Hon Maria Lekganyane. Please come and present your speech on the podium.

MS LEKGANYANE

Hon Deputy Speaker; honourable Members of the Limpopo Legislature present here; Members of the Executive Council; and members in the public gallery, kgotso. I, Hon Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby debate on the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill.

As the ANC, we welcome the additional allocation made to the Department of Health of the budget amounting to R135,4 million which includes a new allocation of R32,1 million for NHI; R31,2 million for Human Resource Capacitation Grant and Conditional Grant rollover amounting to R41,4 million; Comprehensive HIV/Aids amounting to R26,2 million; and National Tertiary Services amounting to R15,2 million.

The committee is concerned by the level of accruals which has become a challenge annually. During the previous engagement with Provincial Treasury on the issue of accruals, the committee had recommended that a diagnostic report must be made in the Department of Health in order to determine areas of concern. It also found that most accruals emanated from medical depots. However, Provincial Treasury indicated that it was busy stabilising such accruals and that together with the Department of Health they were managing the situation.

As the ANC, we urge both the Department of Treasury and the Department of Health to deal with this situation expeditiously. The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture will receive Conditional Grant rollover of R10,9 million on Mass Support and Recreation Participation Programme to the amount of R3,3 million; and Community Library Services to the amount of R7,6 million. As at the end of September 2019, the department spent 42,6% of its appropriated funds, and the committee was concerned about this slow spending trend.

Provincial Treasury indicates that was slow spending on the capital budget. The department is urged to spend funds to ensure service delivery takes place within our communities. The Department of Education received an additional budget of R147,1 million, of which R100 million will cater for compensation of employees to guard against projected overspending on implementation of equalisation educator pay progression; and R47,1 is a Conditional Grant rollover.

As the ANC, we are concerned about various calls that nongovernmental organisations and political parties pertaining to poor sanitation in schools nationally, and we are concerned about the provincial performance on the matter.

The lack of proper management infrastructure planning and management in the province is deeply concerning. We urge both the Department of Treasury and the Department of Education to get on top of this situation speedily. I so move. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, honourable Member. We shall now call upon Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The recent adjustments to departments and their entities are nothing else but a continuation to inspire false hopes to the people of Limpopo. The moneys allocated have never translated into anything tangible in terms of

changing the lives of the people. There have never been any guarantees that the money will be used for what it was intended for. Corruption continues to take place. For example, RAL uses its allocations for other things other than improving the roads for the people of our province. The government continues to pump money into the coffers of various departments, year in and year out, but there is nothing to show for it. The lives of our people remain the same.

Development and service delivery will never thrive in the environment where maladministration, mismanagement and bad governance is the order of the day. The ANC is running an incapable state which has proven in the last 25 years not to understand the concept of good governance and its benefits to the people. The latest Auditor-General's report on the 2018/19 PFMA clearly confirms and attests to what we submit to this House today. Of all the auditees in Limpopo, only the Department of Treasury and the Department of Community Safety obtained clean audits, while the rest of the departments continue to disappoint the people of Limpopo.

The government should stop allocating funds to departments and entities that continue to obtain unqualified audit outcomes and begin to demand accountability by firing all underperforming politicians and officials. The Limpopo provincial government incurred R2 billion of irregular expenditure which money could have built houses, provided water and electricity to the people and improve roads in the province. Government departments and entities continue to struggle with poor financial controls and a compromised dysfunctional supply chain unit. Vacancies in key strategic positions like that of the chief financial officer, heads of department as well as CEOs in entities are unnecessarily prolonged, resulting in poor performance. The majority of departments continue to fail to submit proper, sound and well-prepared financial statements to the Auditor-General for audit even though a template is available in this regard.

The EFF is not shocked that the provincial government continues to perform in the manner it currently does. The writing is on the wall for everyone to see. The administration of Premier Mathabatha is popularly known for lacking the political will to apply consequence management on dodgy, corrupt and underperforming officials who are in the main deployees of the ANC-led government. The cadre deployment policy of the ANC to party loyalists is the underlying cause of state capture in South Africa that resulted in the donation of our country to the Guptas. It has brought South African state to the brink of collapse. Departments continue to fail to implement House resolutions only to play dirty tricks when they are being called upon to account by Scopa. The government must show dishonest and dodgy Members of the Executive and officials the door in order to promote clean governance and accountability.

Litigation and claims continue to soar, putting pressure on the government fiscus, and there is no doubt that the recent adjustments will be channelled towards this course instead of addressing service delivery needs of the people. The risk and legal units of the Limpopo provincial government are literally dead. There is no value for money in relation to salaries paid to staff in these sections. The revelation by the AG that RAL has a R2 billion commitment while its budget is R1 million is shocking. This is a typical example of a government that cannot interpret and implement its own budgets. It is an application for RAL to be privatised like many other SOEs because this ruling party allows the entities to fail deliberately. Furthermore, it is an indication of how a revolutionary consciousness has departed from the ruling party to reactionary neoliberal agenda.

Unless the ruling party claims to be a discipline force of the left and does the right thing by making sure that there is accountability on corrupt activities by its deployees, the status quo will remain the same, and unfortunately, the working class and the poor will continue to suffer. Maybe you should adopt or borrow from the EFF cardinal pillar of building the capacity of the state to be able to do its own programmes like how Chinese government does, including what President Evo Morales did in Bolivia in 23 years of being in power. Tenderisation is a legalised corruption system in government because the standard of living went down since the introduction of this phenomenon trying to please the World Bank.

The EFF government will establish state administration courts to promptly respond to incidents of corruption with the aim of firing and blacklisting corrupt bureaucrats and private companies and recovering money lost due to corruption. It will further introduce a minimum sentence of 20 years for all public representatives and servants convicted of corruption. A developmental government with a clear vision will allocate impactful budget adjustments that will touch the lives of ordinary people on the ground. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We will now call upon Hon Masekoameng.

MR MASEKOAMENG

During the 2019 elections campaign, we recommended to our government to implement the policies and provide basic services to the millions of our people in the province. Today, we rise to debate the Money Bill. The purpose of this Bill is to appropriate adjusted amounts of money from the Provincial Revenue Fund for the requirements of the province in respect of the financial year ending 31 March 2020; and to provide for matters connected therewith, a further statement of the intention by our government to deliver services to our people. This appropriation will affect all the departments with the exception of the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury. These two Votes will remain as they were in the main appropriation. We note that LEDET's Budget will be reduced by R8 million.

The R8 million taken away from LEDET is a result of materially slow spending by the Limpopo Tourism Authority (LTA). This is concerning because it means that the agency has not been able to achieve some of its targets in terms of promoting the provincial tourism product. This is unacceptable, particularly at this time when the provincial economy is not doing well. In order to grow our provincial economy, we need all government agencies to perform in their respective areas of focus. As the committee, we considered it necessary that in future, detailed financial reports on allocation made to entities may require further scrutiny by the committee.

The committee is concerned about the increment in irregular expenditure in the province from R1,5 billion to R2,09 billion as highlighted by the Auditor-General. As the committee, we, however, commend the steps taken to address this problem, measures which include the establishment of a committee by Provincial Treasury to address matters of irregular expenditure. As the committee, we considered it

necessary that in future, detailed financial reports on allocations made to entities may require further scrutiny by the committee.

The finance of RAL is worrisome, and this makes it impossible for the entity to attract conditional grants. We welcome the engagements going on at strategic levels to resolve governance-related challenges at RAL. The infrastructure delivery departments and infrastructure implementing agents were being engaged on challenges facing the province in respect of infrastructural development. We commend the Provincial Treasury's efforts to strengthen Public Works and monitoring processes of project implementation and management.

In conclusion, I recommend the following:

- The principle of the Bill should be accepted by this House;
- The amounts reflected on the schedules of the Bill should be appropriated to departments accordingly and spent appropriately;
- Progress should be reported on infrastructure and management on sanitation in schools in the Department of Education;
- Performance of the committee responsible for addressing issues pertaining to irregular expenditure in the province should be monitored;
- There should be proper management of accruals in the Department of Health;
- There should be development pertaining to management on challenges in RAL; and
- Support should be provided by Provincial Treasury to Public Works on infrastructural development and management in the province.

The portfolio committee notes and supports, and recommends for approval the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill, 2019. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We will now call upon Hon Maritz.

MS MARITZ

Thank you, Hon Speaker, MECs, Members of the House and members of the public in the gallery. I rise on behalf of the Freedom Front Plus (FF+), and I would like to state our concern regarding the provincial adjustment budget and Adjustment Appropriation Bill of 21 November 2019. We understand the problems of economic growth in the province. Therefore, it is important to look objectively at the issues to help economic growth in the province. It is absolutely true that other departments are dysfunctional and continue to underspend their allocated budgets.

We are simply not doing enough to ensure that all departments run effectively and meet the demands of our people and start making a difference in the lives of the normal

people in this province. We call on the Department of Agriculture to assist the whole of the agricultural sector to ensure that problems are addressed, and that the backbone of our economy is managed properly. We urgently need the Department of Agriculture to invest in local farmers and focus on the ongoing drought. We need urgent intervention to help the affected areas and also declare the drought-stricken province a disaster area. I agree that the department can make a huge difference in the commercial as well as emerging farmers. The Department of Health does not serve the people of Limpopo as it should. The health sector is one of the key departments that should be serving the people of this province.

Money should be spent wisely to ensure effective management. We should encourage all departments to take responsibility and act with discipline and ensure that the people of this province are served with dignity and respect. The purpose of each department in this province should be to serve the people and not themselves. Gone are the days when irresponsibility is acceptable. We have to step up and eradicate corruption in this province. We should realise that no economic development will take place if corruption, mismanagement and overall dysfunctionality are not addressed as a matter of urgency. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now call upon the chairperson of the committee, Hon Rudolph Phala.

MR PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. Section 31 of the Public Finance Management Act 1999 prescribes that the MEC for Finance in a province may table an adjustment budget in the provincial legislature to provide for:

- the appropriation of funds that have become available to the province;
- unforeseeable and unavoidable expenditure;
- the shifting of funds between and within votes or to follow the transfer of functions in terms of section 42;
- money to be appropriated for expenditure already announced by the MEC for Finance during the tabling of the annual budget;
- the utilisation of savings under a main division within a vote for the defrayment of excess expenditure under the main division within the same vote in terms of section 43; and
- the rollover of unspent funds from the previous financial year.

Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable Members. We shall now call upon the honourable MEC for Provincial Treasury to respond to the observations made by honourable Members. Hon Sekoati, please take the podium.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to take cognisance of what Members of the committee said. We want to take into account what their observations are. However, I think it is important as well to thank the chairperson of the committee, Hon Phala, for actually stating the necessity of the Bill. It is very clear that the adjusted amounts required. It is only for that purpose and reason that we did the adjustment.

As for other imaginary governments, it will be very difficult to say how they will operate because the only government that exists is the ANC-led government. I would, therefore, say that we will continue to make sure that we follow the mandate; we show proper oversight in terms of how the money is going to be utilised; and we also ensure that there is accountability and transparency. They have to be utilised for the same purpose that they have been appropriated. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

That concludes the debate on the Second Reading Debate on the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill, 2019 [B05-2019]. Thank you very much. We will now go to Item 8, which is NCOP business. Hon Chief Whip, you may take the podium.

MR MASEKO [ON BEHALF OF THE CHIEF WHIP]

Thanks, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE RATIFICATION OF CONFERRAL OF FINAL VOTING MANDATE TO THE NCOP PERMANENT DELEGATES ON THE DIVISION OF REVENUE AMENDMENT BILL, 2019 [B15-2019]
(Motion without Notice)

On behalf of the Chief Whip, the Limpopo Legislature conferred the final mandate to the NCOP permanent delegates to vote in favour of the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill, 2019 [B15-2019] to be passed into law when provincial mandates were considered by the NCOP.

- The above-mentioned mandate was conferred by the Speaker while the House was not sitting.

- I, therefore, move that this House resolves to ratify the conferral of the voting mandate to our NCOP delegates in terms of House Rule 236.

I move accordingly, Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Matlou, you are recognised.

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga, Mospikara. Nna, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, ke ema go thekga polelo ye e boletšwego ke Mohlomphegi Maseko, legatong la Chief Whip mabapi le go thekga taba ya gore Molaokakanywa wo o kgone go phasišwa. Ke a leboga.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Matlou. Now we come to Item 9. Are there any announcements? Order! Order! If there are no announcements, on that note the House is adjourned until Thursday, 05 December 2019 at 10:00 in this Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]

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VERBATIM REPORT

OF THE

DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

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LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

THURSDAY, 05 DECEMBER 2019

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VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 05 DECEMBER 2019
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 14:15

THE SPEAKER

Ndi matsheloni. While we are still standing, let's observe a moment of silence by way of prayer before we sit down.

[SILENCE]

Thank you. Good morning everyone and welcome. I would not ask, how are we? We will move straight to our agenda items. Are there motions without notice that Members would want to present? We are now on motions without notice. Hon Mohlala, over to you.

MR MOHLALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

CONCERN OVER THE SUSPENSIONOF THE GREATER TZANEEN MUNICIPAL MANAGER
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the EFF to move a motion without notice that the House notes:

- The suspension of the Municipal Manager of Greater Tzaneen Municipality by the municipal council late last month did not come as a surprise to us knowing what the ANC has become of recently.

- Mr Serapelo Matlala was punished for terminating two multi-million rand contracts awarded to a Burgersfort-based company, Tshiamiso Trading 135 (Pty) Ltd, after it allegedly inflated prices halfway through the projects.

- He also saved the struggling municipality about R1,3 million by cutting the overtime budget from R3 million to R1,7 million.

- The invoices for the upgrading of the Codesa Street were inflated from R9,2 million to R16,9 million.

- The upgrading of the Mulati road was supposed to be R26 million, but the company submitted claims worth R57,5 million.

- The Municipal Manager terminated both contracts and was suspended for rooting out corruption and cleaning up the finances of the municipality.

- The court has since instructed the council to reverse the irrational and unlawful decision and allow the Municipal Manager to continue cleaning up the municipality.

- It is clear that the once glorious movement of the people has converted into a worshipper, adorer and lover of corruption.

- Once upon a time there was a revolutionary movement called the ANC which has now turned against its own people through its self-serving and self-centred conduct and attitude.

- The ANC has positioned itself as the biggest protector of corruption to an extent that those who get involved in corrupt activities are rewarded with promotions.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Monama, you may take the floor.

MR MONAMA

Hon Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable Members of EXCO and my fellow Members of the House.

CONCERN OVER THE SPATE OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE INCIDENTS
(Motion without Notice)

I rise without notice on behalf of the African National Congress in this august House to raise a motion without notice on:

- A collective concern over the spate of gender-based violence related to senseless killings that have come to define the 2019 calendar year.

- Gender-based violence (GBV) is a phenomenon deeply rooted in gender inequality and continues to be one of the most notable human rights violations.

- On Tuesday in this very same House a motion was raised on the unfortunate death of Precious Ramabulana, a Capricorn *TVET college stud*ent, who was killed in Botlokwa. In the past 48 hours alone, we have received unpalatable saddening news of women who have died in the hands of their supposed lovers.

- In Senwabarwana, the police are on the lookout for Mojalefa Sebashe who must assist them in their investigations regarding the death of his girlfriend, Sibongile Nkanyane. Her lifeless body was discovered in Mojalefa's residence, and it is alleged they had a quarrel over their child's support grant.

- In Xihosana, Sarah Makhubele was discovered buried in a shallow grave where she was reportedly buried by her lover. She was first reported missing on Wednesday, 20 November 2019 by her family, and was never seen again alive.

- We have just been alerted to fresh information from Mphanama village within Fetakgomo-Tubatse, where police are on the lookout for a certain Sello

Makaung in relation to his lover's death. He apparently shot and killed Olive Diphofa and has since been on the run.

- Unfortunately, these gruesome killings are happening within the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children.

- GBV is a profound and widespread problem in our country and impacting on almost every aspect of life.

- As men of this country, we must stand up against the malady of wanton killings of the people we are supposed to love and protect. We must all strive for safer communities in which women and children should feel safer.

I so move, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Can I get a seconder? Over to Hon Monyamane.

MS MONYAMANE

I, Sarah Monyamane, stand to second the motion. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Can we also get a seconder for the second motion? Over to Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, I stand to second the motion as presented by Hon Mohlala. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I saw the hand of Hon Kekana.

MS KEKANA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya; Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana and the House at large.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO THE ANC FOR RETAINING THE EXECUTIVE MAYORSHIP IN THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC to table a motion without notice for the august House to note:

- That the ANC congratulates the ANC in Gauteng for retaining the Executive Mayorship of the city and having Cde Geoff Makhubo assuming the position of the Joburg Executive Mayor.

- What makes this a sweet victory is that there are DA councillors who have also voted for Cde Makhubo Geoff to become the Executive Mayor, shunning their own candidates in the process.

- This process has seen the City of Joburg being brought back into the hands of the people. We are confident that the ANC in Gauteng will not undermine this mammoth task of continuing to improve the lives of our people. The ANC in Joburg will use the remainder of this current term of the municipal council to fortify its hegemony and ensure that the people remain central to all its service delivery stride.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Can I get a seconder? Hon Maseko, you are recognised.

MR MASEKO

I, Maseko Funani, rise to second the motion.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I see the hand of the Hon Premier.

THE PREMIER

Hon Speaker, I raised my hand a long time ago when the EFF was presenting their motion. The idea was to object to that motion, not because I am objecting to the contents thereof. I objected to the way the motion was presented. It can't be the ANC which suspends the Municipal Manager in the council and that is a fact. So, I object to it.

THE SPEAKER

Hon Seshoka, you were the one that seconded the motion. Before I make a ruling – no, no I am giving you an opportunity to speak, because your hand was up.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I was also checking with you if it is procedural in this House that we allow motions to be seconded and at a later stage be objected to. I do not think it is procedural that once it is seconded somebody would then stand up and object to it, and even after the presentation of other motions.

THE SPEAKER

Remember on every secondment there can be an objection. When we started with this sixth term, we once experienced it where we had a debate around a motion when some Members wanted to object to it and so on. I saw the hand of Hon Rudolph Phala.

ADV PHALA

[inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

As I have indicated before when I gave Hon Seshoka a chance, I said I will make a ruling. I think the motion has been objected to. I might not want to start very early to divide the House. Can I get a seconder for the objection? Hon Phala, you may take the floor.

ADV PHALA

[inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. The objection has been seconded. Is there any issue? Please refer me to which issue is making you to raise your hand more than once Hon Seshoka before I request you to sit down?

MR SESHOKA

[inaudible] My question was on the procedure. I was not objecting about how this should be done … [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

You can take your seat.

MR SESHOKA

I was asking you if it was procedural to do that … [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

It is. You can take your seat, Hon Seshoka. You are going back to the same issue. Can you please take your seat? I am requesting you to take your seat, Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

I am going to take my seat obviously [inaudible] but I am not going to do it on their request but on your request.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Can the Members behave? I have made a ruling that Hon Seshoka should sit down. You will not sit because people are howling, you will sit because you are a Member of the House. The Speaker has said so. Please take your seat.

MR MAHARAJ

Point of order, Hon Speaker. [INTERJECTION

THE SPEAKER

I am not going to recognise you, Hon Maharaj, because I have said it is procedural that if there is an objection, the objection will be listened to. Thank you very much. Do we still have any further motion without notice? Honourable Members, can we have one meeting? Hon Mahasela, you are on the floor.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier, honourable MECs, honourable Members in the House.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS ON THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S BIGGEST RECRUITMENT DRIVE
(Motion without Notice)

I rise to present a motion without notice about the improvements made by the Limpopo Department of Health.

- In a quest to continuously strengthen and improve health service delivery, the Limpopo Department of Health has concluded one of its biggest recruitment drives in the longest time.

- The department has issued 774 appointment letters to successful candidates for positions which include: 303 ward attendants who will also assist in ensuring hygiene in our facilities; 105 operational managers for primary healthcare facilities in order to strengthen management and smooth running of public healthcare facilities; 85 administrative clerks who will ensure that patients do not wait for too long at outpatient departments; and management positions including 16 nursing managers and 13 senior clinical managers have also been filled to strengthen leadership and clinical governance at the level of hospitals. This is in addition to medical specialists and registrar positions which have also been filled recently.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Do I have a seconder? Hon Mathe, you may take the floor.

MR MATHE

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, Simon Mathe, on behalf of the African National Congress second the motion presented by Hon Mahasela.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Honourable Members, do we still have further motions without notice? In the absence of any, I will then move to the next item. Are there notices of motions? There is none. We will then move to item 4 on our Order Paper. Are there any Statements by Members? I have got an indication that there are Members' Statements. We will start with Hon Managa at the back.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Managa Lilian, wish to present a Members' Statement on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters.

NO JUSTICE FOR MR REMEMBER KWENA MABELA
(Members' Statement)

People with disability in this province are not taken seriously as they are constantly being undermined by the police and the justice system. It has become clear to us that they are deliberately being excluded hence, they have lost hope on the entire police and the justice system.

Mr Kwena Mabela, a blind man confined to a wheelchair from Extension 71 in Polokwane has since opened a case of assault on behalf of his partially blind son, Dignity Mabela, against a crèche that assaulted him and has to date never found justice on this matter. Furthermore, he also opened a case of assault two years ago against his wife who has since left him and has also not found justice on this matter. When he enquires about the progress on these cases, he is being mocked and called all sorts of names by police officials.

The message which is being communicated here by SAPS Limpopo is that justice is not for people with disability, but for certain individuals in the community.

This government treats people with disability the same way they treat our children with disability in special schools. Clearly, the ANC-led government has no place for people with disability.

We call upon government to stop treating people with disability like outcasts in society by violating their rights and dignity. We further call upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety to investigate this matter and make sure that justice is served.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there a seconder to the motion? Honourable Member, you may take the floor.

MR MOHLALA

I, Manamane Mohlala, stand to second the motion. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. You may sit down. I am advised that it was a Members' Statement and did not warrant a seconder. Is there any other Members' Statement? Honourable Member, you may take the floor. Honourable Members, let us respect the Member on the floor.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

[inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

I am not going to recognise your point of order. Hon Manganye, you are on the floor.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

You can't, you can't.

THE SPEAKER

Are you taking the floor to speak, or should I pass you?

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

[inaudible]

THE SPEAKER

No, I am not recognising your hand. I am not going to recognise you. I am reserving my right not to recognise you. Honourable Member, you are the floor to speak.

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

CONCERN OVER THE RISE OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN LIMPOPO
(Members' Statement)

The EFF believes that gender-based violence and related anti-social activities are reinforced and even sustained by the deplorable general conditions of our people, therefore a key female emancipation is the emancipation of all.

Just this past Tuesday, the EFF tabled a motion on the killing of Precious Ramabulana in this House. Given the recent reports it is clear that this House should engage on the matter beyond slogans and rallies.

As we are sitting here, a number of women and kids are reported missing and unaccounted for. The body of Sibongile Nkanyane was discovered at Vaalwater 2 in Sekgosese. She was discovered by her boyfriend's father in the yard.

The lifeless body of Mapula Muleya from Tshituni Tsha Fhasi was dumped by her boyfriend at her brother's house. In Ngwanamatlang, a child was killed and buried in a shallow grave by his father.

May I be protected, Hon Speaker. [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Member, can we please respect the Member on the floor? Can you please switch off your mic? I have not recognised you. On which point are you raising your order, because the Member is on a Members' Statement and I did not see anything that needs an order? The statements are directed to the Executive. Can we respect the Member? You are on the floor, please proceed.

MS MANGANYE

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

All these brutalities and many others, which are underreported, indicate that violence against women and children is on the rise. We need a paradigm shift in terms of how we are going to put a stop to these acts.

We need a compulsory gender education and training for all be it at schools, workplace, family, church, legislative, executive and civil society. The education interventions should be taken to the ghettos, villages and everywhere across the province.

The EFF submits the need to engage custodians of tradition, faith-based leaders and other cultural practitioners to collectively find solutions to these inhuman acts perpetrated against women and children.

We further call upon the MEC for Transport and Community Safety to investigate as a matter of urgency this rise in the killing of women and children and provide lasting solutions.

Inkomu.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Premier, Leader of Government Business and the MECs, two Members' Statements have been presented; can we please get a response? Hon Sekoati, over to you.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker. [inaudible]

We believe that women and children are a vulnerable section in society which needs protection at all times and hence beyond what we have achieved through the Joint Sitting, both the President and the Minister for Finance have set aside resources that are going to mainly focus on those kinds of issues. I believe that we should be able to

understand that as much as we want to make sure that we eradicate violence against women and children, it is a problem of socialisation of society which all of us are responsible for. Surely, there cannot be a policeman in every household to police them.

It is not about the police, nor it is about what the law is saying. We have got the laws; we have got the police. It is a societal problem that all of us need to be socialised differently, so that we can start understanding as to why people should be treated in a proper manner and with respect and dignity. It is not about a police officer; it is about all of us imparting the education we have acquired through to our communities and starting with our own families. It cannot necessarily be blamed on the ANC-led government. In fact, it is this ANC-led government that is worried about issues pertaining to gender-based violence.

Equally, whenever these kinds of issues are taking place, we cannot resort to mob violence like what other people are trying to do. We must not resort to mob violence, because we suspect this one has done this or that. We must abide by the laws and assist law enforcement operators in doing their work properly.

Once again, we believe that the police are pursuing all the cases that were raised in this House. We are witnessing progress on the issue of Precious Ramabulana and we hope that justice will be served on this matter. We hope that all these other issues will be resolved also. This gender-based violence remains a societal and not an individual responsibility. In fact, in most cases these perpetrators are being arrested. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Leader of Government Business and MEC for Provincial Treasury. Hon Boshielo, you may take the floor.

THE MEC FOR EDUCATION

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I think it is untrue to say that this government does not take care of special schools. This government has budgeted money to revamp all the special schools. We are also coming up with a concept of inclusive education whereby we are making normal education user-friendly to people with disability.

For the first time, this government introduced examination for the sign language this year. There were students who were writing sign language paper during matric examination.

Also when we were having our Budget Speech in this House, we brought in Setotolwane choir, the very same party, the EFF, said they did not want them, when we were showcasing that as disabled people, they are able to sing, they even competed at the national level. Instead of supporting them, you condemn them and even asked why they were in this House. Yes, you did. Your leader stood up and asked what they were doing. We were just showcasing that they can be disabled, but there are other things that they can do well. It cannot be true that this government is not taking care of the people living with disability. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much to the Premier and the Members of the Executive Council. Let us then move to the next item. Are there any Executive Statements that you wish to put to the House? Hon Moraka, you may take the floor.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO THE SPRINGBOKS FOR WINNING THE 2019 RUGBY WORLD CUP
(Executive Statement)

I rise on behalf of the ANC-led government in this august House to congratulate the South African Rugby team, the Springboks, for winning the 2019 Rugby World Cup that was held recently in Japan. The sportsmanship and character shown by our players, the technical team and support staff was remarkable. The team included a diverse group of South Africans and we were well-represented in that world cup. The result has been that South Africans from all walks of life came together and celebrated this historic achievement by our national team, the Springboks. The social cohesion and nation-building agenda has been driven forward by this tremendous win, very much like the creative scrum dominance in the overwhelming win of 32-12 against England in the final in that particular world cup.

I also want to take this opportunity and thank the people of Limpopo province from all walks of life for heeding our call when we called on them to rally behind our Springboks. People of this province showed support from the first day to the last day of the world cup. They made it a point that they donned their Springboks jerseys every Friday and filled up all public viewing venues that were arranged by the provincial government of Limpopo. The support that the people of this province showed to the Springboks was nothing else, but a remarkable one indeed.

We are also calling for calm to every Limpopian after the province was left out in the first Springboks Rugby World Cup trophy tour. The call comes after the majority of people from the province of Limpopo raised concerns about Limpopo’s exclusion from the Springboks Rugby World Cup trophy tour.

We have since engaged the Minister and the South African Rugby Union for us to be considered as a province that supports the rugby sporting code. Indeed, I want to assure the people of Limpopo that the response that we got from the Minister and SARU is that Limpopo would be prioritised in the second leg of the Springboks World Cup Tour that is going to happen sometime in January 2020.

I hereby submit, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Moraka. Is there any party that wants to comment on the submission of the Executive Statement? Hon Seshoka, you may take the floor.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand on behalf of the EFF to acknowledge the victory by the Springboks. However, I want to make this note that as the EFF, we are not happy with the composition of the squad that went to Japan to participate in that world cup. Our feeling is that the composition of that squad was a signal and a perpetuation of the old regime which has seen other people of other races, particularly Africans, excluded from this.

We are even not surprised as to why the Springboks trophy tour, which was exposed to the public, was not brought to Limpopo. It was taken to Cape Town and other cities where white people are, because that victory was not meant for us. It was meant for a particular race only.

As EFF, we stand here to reject that victory, because it does not represent the aspirations of all South Africans. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Seshoka. Can we allow Hon Phala to speak on behalf of her party?

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. As the DA, we welcome the MEC's efforts to ensure that the cup comes to this province. Secondly, the support that was given to the rugby squad shows that Limpopo people, especially the youth, have interest in playing rugby. We hope that from now on going forward the department will ensure that schools in rural areas and townships are supported with sporting resources to play rugby.

I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I now call upon the Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. We stand to acknowledge and support the statement by the MEC. We are also elated that the cup will be brought to Limpopo. As the African National Congress, we are convinced that the squad was representative of all South African races. We are comfortable with that and we celebrate that victory. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Chief Whip. Are there still any Executive Statements? Hon Rakgoale, you may take the floor.

THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Greetings to the Hon Premier, Members of the Executive Council, Chief Whip of the Majority Party and honourable Members, good morning.

CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY
(Executive Statement)

As we are gathered here today, we must remember uTata Mandela, the first democratic President of our country who died on 5 December 2013. The former President is one of many freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives and ensured that we are liberated from the dark hands of apartheid. The very freedom that they fought for, has seen South Africans starting to enjoy their democratic rights that also include the rights for people living with disability.

On Tuesday this week, I was given an opportunity by the Premier, Hon Chupu Mathabatha, to address the International Day for Persons living with Disability gathering held at Jim Jones, in Collins Chabane Local Municipality on his behalf. The provincial government used this day to highlight the significant strides made in addressing challenges faced by people with disability since 1994.

This year's edition of the International Day of Persons with Disability was celebrated under the theme: Together building a South Africa inclusive of disability rights. This theme tells us that we cannot celebrate our freedom and democracy if persons living with disability remain excluded and marginalised. We can only be truly free once we all respect the rights and the dignity of all citizens.

This theme also focused on empowering persons with disability for an inclusive, equitable and sustainable development as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The agenda pledges to leave no one behind. It is therefore our considered view that all our people should benefit from our processes of transformation and at the same time lead such processes.

The International Day of Persons with Disability was also used to culminate the Disability Rights Awareness Month which was marked by a number of activities across the five districts of our province. This was mainly done to conscientise our communities to continue caring for and giving the necessary support to persons with disability.

The ANC-led government remains committed to caring for persons with disability. It is important to note that although a lot has been done in addressing the challenges faced by persons with disability, government is moving with speed to dealing with the remaining grey areas in the disability sector.

Through our interaction with communities during the Disability Rights Awareness Month, we have learnt with shock that some of the victims of gender-based violence are people with disability. It is very sad to comprehend that there are men who perpetrate gender-based violence to vulnerable people of our society.

Honourable Members, I want to implore all of you to go back to your constituencies and help us to further educate our people about the dangers and effects of gender-based violence. The violence meted out against women and children is tearing apart families and leaves devastating effects on the victims. The province is still mourning the senseless and inhumane killings of Precious Ramabulana from Ndzhelele, Sarah

Makhubele in Xihosana outside Malamulele, Sibongile Nkanyane in Sekgosese and the latest discovery of the body of a five-year old boy in a shallow grave in Jane Furse, allegedly murdered by his father. My heart is bleeding for the fact that those brutal killings happened at a time when we are observing 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children. The fact that the launch of the commemoration of this very important observation on our country's calendar happened right here in the province is supposed to be a wakeup call for all of us to stand up and say enough is enough.

These incidents will not deter the Department of Social Development from continuing with the social crime prevention, education and awareness campaign. We are in fact redoubling our efforts in the fight against the scourge of gender-based violence.

We want to reiterate our call to the justice system not to grant bail to the perpetrators of gender-based violence and that if found guilty they must be given harsher punishments.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, allow me to highlight that the Department of Social Development is continuing to give all the necessary support to the people with disability where we are funding 22 simulation centres, 58 protective workshops and 2 homes of disabilities. All in all, the number of disability centres that we are funding is 82 and this is done to ensure that proper care is given to disability centres.

I also want to take this opportunity and appreciate the assistance that comes from state entities such as Eskom and the Limpopo Gambling Board as they walk side by side with us in caring for our people. They helped us by donating wheelchairs, toys, learning equipment and other necessities to early childhood development centres and victim empowerment centres. We are also encouraging the private sector to come on-board and help government to care for people with disabilities and other vulnerable citizens. Let's all "Khawuleza" in servicing our people and communities. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Is there any party that would like to comment? I recognise Hon Maharaj.

MR MAHARAJ

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The Democratic Alliance hereby acknowledges, welcomes and supports the statement made by the honourable MEC and we look forward to turning those words into actions as well. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Honourable Member, you are recognised.

MR MOHLALA

I am Manamane Mohlala. As the Economic Freedom Fighters, we welcome the statement. However, we are saying that we must not only celebrate this month; but

government must ensure that public transport system and buildings are accessible to people living with disability. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Is there any other party that would like to comment? There is none. Thank you. Those were the Executive Statements. Thank you very much, honourable MECs. Hon Moraka, do you still have an Executive Statement? Okay.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker.

UPDATE ON THE UPCOMING ANNUAL MAPUNGUBWE ARTS FESTIVAL
(Executive Statement)

Once more I rise on behalf of the ANC-led government in this august House to give an update on the upcoming annual Mapungubwe Arts Festival. I want to take this opportunity, Hon Speaker, and assure the people of Limpopo, South Africa, the continent and the whole world that it is all systems go for the festival which is set to take place from 12 to 16 December 2019.

The annual Mapungubwe Arts and Cultural Festival is the flagship programme that is jointly implemented by the Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. Hon Speaker, as we always term it the Melting pot of Africa's culture and traditions, Mapungubwe Arts and Cultural Festival is intended at fostering social cohesion and nation-building through a collective celebration and embracing of great art, cultural heritage and lifestyle.

The city of Polokwane will be brought to a standstill during the spectacular cultural street carnival parade set to take place on 12 December 2019. The parade will begin from SABC Park and will end at Jack Botes park. The carnival parade, which will showcase Limpopo's cultural diversity through the performance of traditional groups and cultural exhibition, will be followed by the Mapungubwe fashion show and the beauty pageant that will take place in the evening of that very same day at Jack Botes Hall. The event will also be utilised to showcase the richness of Limpopo's creative industry.

Hon Speaker, on 13 December 2019 it is going to be Mapungubwe divas and comedy night at Polokwane Rugby Club from 18:00 and the entrance fee is R150.00 only and all these tickets are available at computicket outlets countrywide. I hope Hon Seshoka is paying attention to these details.

Hon Speaker, on 14 December 2019 it is going to be Mapungubwe Music Festival at the Old Peter Mokaba Stadium from 10:00 and the general access tickets are also R150.00 and those who want to be VIPs are free to go to Shoprite computicket outlets and procure a VIP ticket for only R1 500.00.

Hon Speaker, on 15 December 2019 we are going to implement family day at the Polokwane Cricket Club and the event is aimed at creating an atmosphere for family outing and relaxation. We have the following artists who will be entertaining our

families. We shall have Nolo from Mokopane who reached the semi-finals of the South African Idols talent search show that took place in Pretoria, Gauteng province recently. We shall also have Sneziey Msomi who also qualified for the finals of that very same show. We shall also have the Morning Breeze, a band that comes from GaMphahlele here in Lebowakgomo.

Let me assure the people of Limpopo that the entrance fee that family picnic is going to be free and you are all urged to bring along your family members including children to come and celebrate with us.

On 16 December 2019 we are going to have the Mapungubwe Soccer Cup Challenge at Seshego Stadium. Hon Speaker, for this tournament we are not utilising the department's budget to host it; instead there are some private people who have approached the department and we said to them the idea is good, but we don't have the budget. They are continuing implementing it for us and we'll pilot it as a flagship project and make it a point that after assessing the turnout of this pilot project, we'll then come in and plan appropriately for it.

I want to urge the honourable Members of this House and the people of Limpopo that the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture in Limpopo and the Premier don't have complimentary tickets. Members are urged to procure their tickets at the Shoprite outlets countrywide. I hereby submit. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable MEC. Is there any party that would like to comment on the Executive Statement? Honourable Member, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you. We would like to welcome the statement as presented, but more importantly acknowledge the MEC, especially on this programme of unearthing local talent. We wish that the programme continues the way it is and let's continue digging down and unearthing local talent. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you.

MR SESHOKA

Why? I don't need the hands.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Hon Phala, you are recognised.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. As this House welcomes and appreciates the MEC's Executive Statement, we should also appreciate that this festival plays its role in social

cohesion and nation-building. However, as this House we should note that the festival is failing to play its role in terms of economic development. During the Fifth Term of the Legislature, the A-G addressed the then committee on Sport, Arts and Culture that this festival is a high risk to this province.

Hon Speaker, it would be nice in the future for this festival to take place on the Mapungubwe landscape which has been recognised as the world heritage site and not in Polokwane city. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Honourable Members, we'll then move to item 6: Tabling of Committee Reports, Other Reports and Papers. Today we don't have any report. We will then move to Orders of the Day where will then consider the Third Reading of the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill. I now invite the MEC for Provincial Treasury.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Madam Speaker and Hon Premier. Now that the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill, 2019 [B05-2019] has gone through all the relevant stages of the legislative process of this House, I now move that the Bill be read for the third time in terms of the provision of House Rule 170. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much MEC, Hon Sekoati. Can I get a seconder? Honourable MEC, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

I, Thabo Andrew Mokone, stand to second the Third Reading of the Bill as presented by the MEC, Hon Sekoati. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, Hon Mokone. We'll then move to item 7.2 and vote for schedule 1 to schedule 4 of the Bill. Are there Members who say "Yes" to schedule 1?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there anyone who says "No" to schedule 1? There is no one. Thank you. Those who are saying "Yes" to schedule 2?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. I take that if I didn't get a "No" on schedule 1, I'll not get a "No" here also. Those who are saying "Yes" to schedule 3?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. Can I get those who are saying "Yes" to schedule 4?

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Members. We have just voted and adopted the Bill. I'm now going to call the Secretary to read the short title.

MS MAKGATO [ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY]

Thank you, Hon Speaker. This Act is called the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Act, 2019. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. You can give yourselves a round of applause. [APPLAUSE] We shall now move to the next item on responses to questions. The following parliamentary questions have been responded to and the responses have been published in the ATC of Wednesday, 4 December 2019:

- Questions directed to the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development;
- Questions directed to the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture;
- Questions directed to the MEC for Health; and
- Questions directed to the MEC for Provincial Treasury.

Thank you very much. Those that need more information on these responses will then go to the said document.

We will then move to the Snap Debate on the Commemoration of the passing on of the late Nelson Mandela. I now go to the Speakers' List, and hope Members are aware that as they debate there will be time allocated. You do not need me to be your timekeeper; we have been doing this for a long time. I'm now inviting Hon Katlego Phala to start with the snap debate.

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSING ON OF THE LATE NELSON MANDELA

(Snap Debate)

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Today marks the passing on of a South African who was an anti-apartheid politician, lawyer, philanthropist and the first black President elected democratically. A South African who believed that South Africa is made by all who live within this great country of ours. His words continue to live on in the form of a deep well full of wise and inspirational quotes.

Hon Speaker, all of us know the kind of a man he was, and perhaps it is time for us to remember his words. Allow me to mention a few of his many famous and wise quotes. On doing what is right, “We must use time wisely and forever realise that the time is always ripe to do right.” This quote should serve as a reminder to those with governing powers and will to realise that it is forever a ripe time to do right to the citizens of this province and always a ripe time to deal harshly with corruption.

Hon Speaker, on keeping silent, “Fools multiply when wise men are silent.” It is by these wise words of the great Nelson Mandela that the DA in this House will continue to be a positive and nation-building opposition party that listens to the voices of our people, by not being silent but continue to call for accountability when state resources are corruptly and unfairly used. The DA shall take courage from these words by ensuring that this Legislature plays its role of values of integrity, transparency and reconciliation amongst others and its mandate of a fair law-making, public participation and oversight on the executive.

Hon Speaker, when corruption and bad departmental leadership rises its head the DA shall not be silent. As I further quote him, “After climbing a great hill, one only finds out that there are many more hills to climb.” These words need to be a wakeup call that after the great hill of apartheid that we as South Africans climbed, there are many more hills to climb such as unemployment rate that stood at 18,5% in the first quarter of 2019 released by Stats SA, more hills such as the violence against women and children need to be climbed also and accepting that summits and decorated executive speeches are failing our people looking at the unemployment rate, rape and murder statistics. All these hills that we face as a province cannot be climbed without proper and strategic solutions.

On poverty the great Nelson Mandela says, “While poverty persists, there is no true freedom.” While many citizens of this province feed on the fruits of freedom, one cannot deny that there are still many out there, especially child-headed homes that continue to live in poverty and until this government addresses the roots of poverty, to many, freedom will continue to be untrue.

Hon Speaker, as we are within the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children, as a Legislature and society we should strongly root some of Madiba’s thoughts from his many speeches regarding women. Amongst such quotes included the following: “For every woman and girl violently attacked, we reduce our humanity” and “Freedom cannot be achieved unless the women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression.” It is with these words that government should now more than ever work together with communities to wipe any form of crime against women and further direct attention to the boy-child to ensure that they are well-groomed to live in

a society with women and appreciate them as society partners rather than a gender that need to be preyed on.

Hon Speaker, if we all find and commit to one of the many quotes of Nelson Mandela, they can be a great guidance in governance and moreover, a guard of the conscience of those in power to serve well. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Phala. I shall now call upon Hon Managa.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Madam Speaker, Hon Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, honourable Members in this august House, our researchers and staff members in the public gallery, I feel honoured to participate in today's snap debate.

Hon Speaker, on this day South Africa was robbed of one its greatest icons of our struggle, a hero admired and respected by the nations of the world. It was on this day that our nation and the world mourned the death of uTata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela who was such an inspiration to the people of our land and the globe. Nelson Mandela was the epitome of peace and love that transcended even beyond our borders touching millions of people across the world.

Madiba is remembered amongst many of his virtues as a selfless leader who put the interests of others first and was prepared to die for his ideals of freedom for black people and equality. This international icon and the freedom fighters of his generation were prepared to put their lives on the line for the freedom we attained today. It is not enough to just attain political freedom, because indeed such freedom is incomplete. The ANC in the absence of Nelson Mandela failed to attain economic freedom for the people of South Africa, which is why our people continue to live in abject poverty and suffering.

The elevation of Jacob Zuma by the ANC to the position of the President of the Republic of South Africa was the worst thing that has ever happened to this country. In the two terms of his administration, Zuma plunged the country through corruption into the worst economic crisis ever, donating our country to the Guptas over a plate of curry. A reminder of 1652 where our forefathers were robbed off their heritage by the settlers who gave them mirrors in exchange of cattle. As a result of love and obsession with corruption, the ANC even went to an extent of protecting him from being removed from office while the country was going down the drain. Ubaba kaDuduzane and his friends were on rampage sending a clear message that "it is our time to eat".

Nelson Mandela frowned upon, condemned and despised corruption wherever it existed because such conduct is anti-revolutionary. Under the current ANC government, the rich have become richer and the poor have become poorer. White monopoly capital is deeply entrenched in society in pursuit of profit instead of partnering with government to improve the lives of the poor.

Under the ANC-led government, maladministration, corruption and mismanagement have become a norm in our society to disadvantage the poor. The people of Limpopo

are forever traumatised by the stale, superficial and half-hearted programmes which have nothing to do with economic emancipation of our people. We have entities like GNT (Great North Transport), RAL (Roads Agency Limpopo), mining corridors and GAAL (Gateway Airports Authority Limited) which have literally collapsed.

Any organisation that claims to have a revolutionary character and revolutionary consciousness would design and implement policies that would ensure that our people achieve economic freedom and clearly the NDP (National Development Plan) and LDP (Limpopo Development Plan) are not geared towards achieving this noble goal. The EFF government is the only hope for the people of South Africa. Under the government of the EFF, economic freedom in our lifetime will be achieved.

Nelson Mandela was the greatest gift that no one in this House can dispute and he continued to inspire people until his last day on earth to date. His death prompted people to conduct numerous memorial services around the world in his honour. Nelson Mandela chose unity and peace, where others would have chosen revenge and vengeance.

When faced with unemployment … [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES [PRESIDING]

Hon Managa, can you take your seat? Hon Moraka, is that an order?

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I just want to request the Member to appreciate the fact that uTata Nelson Mandela died a member of the ANC in good standing. She must not come here and mislead the public by trying to suggest otherwise. Thanks very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Managa, you can continue.

MS MANAGA

Thank you. I don't remember anywhere in my speech where I condemned Nelson Mandela. I'm not sure whether the honourable MEC understands my line of debate. When faced with unemployment, inequality, Nkandla, Marikana, Guptagate, VBS, Bosasa shenanigans, murder of women and children, sex scandals with crush and many more challenges, we miss Mandela the most. For we know under his watch none of these unfortunate and dishonourable events would have found the light of day.

For the EFF there is no better mission than that of economic freedom. There is no better way to honour his legacy, to protect it and to advance it than to pursue the struggle for economic freedom in our lifetime. Mandela's contribution to the emancipation of our people from political bondage remains a great heritage we are very proud of. As a generation, Nelson Mandela and his peers chose a mission of attaining political freedom in their lifetime. This mission they pursued with determination and bravery until they attained it in 1994. I thank you, Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Managa. I now call upon Hon Joshua Matlou.

MR MATLOU

Hon Speaker; Hon Premier of our province, the most progressive province in the country; honourable Members of the Executive Council and the august House, today, 5 December 2019 marks six years since one of the world's greatest icons left the world of the living. Nelson Mandela passed away on this day in 2013 after living an illustrious and selfless life that we are all beneficiaries of today.

Born in the rural village of Mvezo on 18 July 1918, an anti-apartheid revolutionary, activist, political leader and a philanthropist who served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999, he was the country's first black head of state and the first to be elected in a fully representative democratic election.

As we are all aware, he studied law at the University of Fort Hare and the University of Witwatersrand before working as a lawyer in Johannesburg. He then became involved in the anti-colonial and African nationalist politics joining the African National Congress in 1943 and co-founding the Youth League in 1944. Dalibunga was instrumental in the formation of the militant uMkhonto weSizwe because it became the only possible vehicle to match the evil forces of the apartheid government.

He was arrested and imprisoned in 1962, and subsequently sentenced to life imprisonment for conspiring to overthrow the illegitimate apartheid regime following the Rivonia Trial. Madiba was a devout believer in democracy and understood that leadership is about drawing a mandate from the people you lead.

Presiding over the transition from apartheid minority rule to a multicultural democracy, Mandela saw national reconciliation as the primary task of his presidency. Introducing measures to encourage land reforms, combat poverty and expand healthcare services, Mandela advocated for the ultimate establishment of a classless society, and was openly opposed to capitalism, private land ownership and power of big money.

Mandela was influenced by Marxism, and during the revolution he advocated scientific socialism. Mandela became an elder statesman and focused on combating poverty and HIV/Aids through the charitable Nelson Mandela Foundation.

Hon Speaker, through the imaginary government of the EFF that we squashed in Johannesburg yesterday, I don't believe Hon Managa will be able to stand here and confirm the good things that Mandela did an icon, except today.

By the time of his death, within South Africa Mandela was widely considered as both the father of the nation and the founding father of democracy. Outside South Africa he was a global icon, with the scholar of South African studies Rita Barnard describing him as one of the most revered figures of our lifetime. One biographer considered him as the modern democratic hero. It is this icon that continued to lead his country, lead the African National Congress to where we are today. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Matlou. We shall now move to the motion for the appointment of the Hon Speaker and Hon Chief Whip to the pension fund.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE APPOINTMENT OF A TRUSTEE AND ALTERNATIVE TRUSTEE TO THE POLITICAL OFFICE-BEARERS PENSION FUND
(Motion without Notice)

The Political Office-bearers Pension Fund provides retirement benefits and associated insurance benefits to all Members of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures.

Rule 12.3.1 of the Fund requires that a Trustee and an alternate Trustee be elected from a provincial legislature.

I therefore move that the Speaker, Hon Lerule-Ramakhanya M M, be appointed as a Trustee and the Chief Whip, Hon Mokgonyana M E, as an alternate Trustee. I move accordingly.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Moraka.

THE MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I, Anna Tandi Moraka, rise to second the progressive motion tabled here by our Hon Chief Whip. I move accordingly.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Moraka. Hon Chief Whip, I think there is one motion that you have omitted. Can you please assist the House accordingly?

THE CHIEF WHIP

I did not ... [inaudible]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Hon Chief Whip, can you amplify your voice supersonically so that the Speaker can hear you.

THE CHIEF WHIP

I was saying I did not pass any motion. Hon Speaker, the National Council of Provinces will be having a plenary on 06 December 2019 to deal with the Taxation Laws Amendment Bill, Tax Administration Amendment Bill, Rates and Monetary Amounts

and Amendment of Revenue Laws Bill and the Adjustments Appropriation Bill. These Bills will be subjected to a vote and provinces have been requested to send a full complement of Special Delegates.

It against this background that I move that this House resolves to appoint the following Members as Special Delegates to attend the NCOP Plenary on 06 December 2019: Hon Rebecca Seono, Hon Caroline Mahasela and Hon Jerry Maseko. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Mokgonyana. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Mathe.

MR MATHE

I, Simon Mathe, on behalf of the African National Congress hereby stand to second the motion as presented by the Chief Whip.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Mathe, the best player in this august House. [LAUGHTER] We shall now go to the closing remarks by honourable Members and refer to the Speakers' List. We have Hon Katlego Phala, Hon Jetrick Seshoka and Hon Essob Mokgonyana. We will then start with Hon Phala.

MS PHALA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. This august House saw two Legislatures, one being the Fifth Legislature which saw the House losing some of its honourable Members who served diligently. After the May elections this House saw many of its new honourable Members of the Sixth Legislature. It has been a year filled with many service delivery protests for roads and water amongst many issues. A year that saw Great North Transport bus drivers putting down their tools due to unroadworthy buses. As the DA we look forward to a thorough analysis of these bus depots to ensure that the R270 million allocated for the purchase of 70 buses is utilised accordingly and that such buses are purchased and distributed to areas that face a need of roadworthy buses.

It is sadly a year that many social work graduates remained unemployed, and sadly a year that this province saw a rise of brutal killings to the young and old women of this province.

Hon Speaker, on the bright side, it has been a year that saw our golden girl Caster Semenya win the 800 m in Doha, Sho Madjozi winning the BET Award and the Ndlovu Youth Choir doing us proud as a nation.

Hon Speaker, it has been eight months since all of us took oath to serve our people, a few returning to their executive posts and many new within their departments. The DA strongly hopes that when we return the 'I am still new in this department as the appointed executive' will remain in 2019 and responsibility will be taken onwards.

As the DA we welcome the appointment of over 200 provincial traffic officers. As they do their best to reduce road fatalities, we hope that none of them will lose their lives to reckless drivers as they do their jobs. Well wishes and strength to the health emergency personnel both in blue and brown uniform.

The staff of the Legislature a happy deserved break to you. To the honourable Members of this House and the Members of the Executive Council a happy, safe and blessed festive season. May God and gods be with you till we meet again 49 honourable Members as we are in the coming year.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

Thank you, Hon Phala. I'll now call upon Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, it is an honour for the EFF to be accorded an opportunity by the people of Limpopo to represent them in this august House. We would like to reassure all citizens of this province that we will continue to represent them, fight for their needs and ensure that developmental initiatives undertaken are tracked, corruption is fought holistically, and we remain their servant.

Hon Speaker, we are closing this year without anything to celebrate, precisely because the ANC deployed a Premier who specialises in blame games and is afraid to act on corruption and other shenanigans. We have written to this House on several occasions asking questions and hoping that the Premier and his MECs will reply and act in the interest of the people; however, it is a norm to him and his executive to ignore all our letters. The ANC must remind the Premier that this is his second term; when he fails to deliver, he must desist from hiding with administration which was imposed on political expediency. He must account for all his failures.

The A-G reported that in the last few years of Premier Mathabatha ascendency to office over R12 million was never accounted for. In fact, that money will never be traced or recovered as there are no efforts initiated to make people account and face consequences. It is a fact that all SOEs have collapsed under the watchful eye of the forever delegating ANC deployee, Premier Mathabatha.

We want you to tell us if you did not see if there are serious problems and high level of disregard of the PFMA and MFMA in various SOEs, departments and municipalities. The collapse of VBS happened in your presence; you were never on leave. Municipalities, pensioners and various investors lost their moneys whilst ANC people were enjoying the benefits received through commissions and other means. The illegal exorbitant land transaction at Tubatse and the illegal IT tender are amongst many unlawful transactions authorised by the ANC government.

We want to challenge this House that all Mayors who deposited funds to VBS and their investments were returned, equally deserve to be removed from their offices. This is informed by the fact that every deposit has a price tag in a form of monetary commissions, hence all of them did not hesitate to ignore legal prescripts governing such investments.

The level of looting and corruption in this province continue to contribute to job losses and unemployment rate. There is no hope for job seekers as the ANC has no plan to resolve this rising number of unemployment.

Hon Speaker, the Department of Health remains the most troubled institution. Contrary to what the MEC portrays to the media, the shortage of mobile clinics remains a reality. It is under the ANC that patients with chronic conditions continue to suffer, subjected to risky long distance travelling to Polokwane only to find that equipment are not working.

We are demanding that specialised services offered at Polokwane and Mankweng Hospitals be decentralised to other districts as a matter of urgency. Our people are suffering beyond the limits. Clinics do not have medication, even Panado syrup or similar medication were never provided since January. It is disappointing that clinics do not have cough mixture, vitamin B complex and other medication, yet the department always presents a misleading picture.

At Levubu, the medication fridge is not working as they don't have electricity and they are dependence on generator is exhausted and they run out of diesel. This clinic cannot even do basic immunisation as they have no places to store medication. Hon Speaker, we have requested that Seshego Zone 1 clinic be opened. The same should apply to all clinics which have been closed. This will assist patients not to travel long distances and reduce the long queue at the clinics.

As and when departments make appointments, they must not overlook qualified South Africans by placing and patronising their cadre deployment setup. We call upon the MECs and Mayors to know that women cannot be subjected to PAs and reception positions only. Hon Speaker, we need a special programme to deal with rising rate of women and children abuse in this province. We are disturbed by the recent reports that indicate that everyday not less than ten women and children are killed by those they trusted. We need separate prison cells and extreme harsh treatment for those who kill women and children. Why should they enjoy protected rights when they have done such horrible acts?

Hon Speaker, the Department of Transport should investigate how these overloaded trailers are getting into Limpopo causing traffic disruption and accidents. It is important … [INTERJECTION]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

I now call upon the Chief Whip, Hon Essob Mokgonyana.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. For some of us to make issues here, we must win elections so that we can govern. The African National Congress has won the elections and we are governing. The opposition must do their job. Thank you, Hon Seshoka. You played a very good game in the absence of Hon Buthane and Hon Raphela. You closed the space and you must do that. It is an opportunity and you took it very well today.

Hon Premier, Hon Speaker, Hon Deputy Speaker, Members of the Executive Council and honourable Members, let me start by sending my heartfelt condolences to the families of victims who met their untimely death due to gender-based violence. We are calling on the law enforcement agencies to ensure that these perpetrators face the full might of the law. They do not have space in our communities. Hon Speaker, enough is enough. The saddest thing about this is that it happens during the period of 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children. I call upon and encourage our society at large to work closely with our law enforcement and create safer communities.

Hon Speaker, it is worth noting that the sixth administration responded positively to the “Khawuleza” call made by our people that we serve. Work is indeed underway. As we have all witnessed in the past seven months of this sixth administration, various portfolio committees have made an extensive progress on oversight and ensuring that departments present their Annual Performance Plans on time. I know without a doubt that we will continue with the same energy or even more going into the year 2020.

Let me also acknowledge Scopa for the good work they are doing in holding us accountable and ensuring that we use public funds accordingly. I encourage Members of the Executive Council to respect this committee and attend to it when they are called and equally attend to the queries raised by the A-G as this is of paramount importance.

Hon Speaker, in the 2019 Presidency Budget Speech, the President, Hon Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, identified the pattern of working in silos as a challenge which led to lack of coherence in planning and implementation and has made monitoring and oversight of government programmes difficult. The President then called for the rolling out of a new integrated district-based approach to address our service delivery challenges and localise procurement and job creation, among other things. Hon Speaker, we welcome the District Development Model initiative simply because it brings to action the “Khawuleza” approach which is a call to accelerate service delivery. Under this model, district municipalities will be properly supported and adequately resourced to speed up service delivery.

Talking about service delivery, Hon Speaker, I encourage the spirit of working together in this House with the sole interest of ensuring that our people get better services. We need to do away with political showboating and rhetoric debates that do not in any way help our people – the people that we are all here to serve. Let me thank the MEC, Hon Masemola in absentia, who, as part of launching safer festive season operations, appointed 238 traffic graduates permanently. We hope and believe that the appointed men and women will serve the people of Limpopo with integrity and respect. I humbly request all of us across the province to be patient with one another on the roads and cooperate with our officers who will be on duty in ensuring that everyone arrives home safe. Hon Speaker, let me also acknowledge the good work that is being done by the Department of Education under the stewardship of MEC, Hon Polly Boshielo, in

ensuring that our schools across the province receive textbooks for the academic year 2020, so that when schools re-open in January, lessons will start and continue unabated. Hon Boshielo indeed we are getting ready for 2020 without hiccups. Konke ku-right.

Let me also thank the Legislature support staff for their diligent effort in ensuring that the business of the Legislature runs effectively. May they use this festive break to rest, come back refreshed in the New Year and continue with their undivided support.

Hon Speaker and honourable Members, as I conclude, I would like to encourage all of you to support the good work done by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture under the leadership of MEC, Hon Moraka, in organising this prestigious event of Mapungubwe Arts Festival, wherein we will be celebrating arts and culture. The festival will kick-start on 12 December and will run until 15 December. Please, let us buy tickets and support this event.

In her own words, Hon Moraka said, “We promote Mapungubwe as a renowned world heritage site in our province because of the rich history in this area. Events such as this festival positively contributes towards improving the economic growth of the region through tourism and job creation.” Hon Speaker, the department aims to bring people together in a national building exercise to showcase the best of this province. Hon Moraka further indicated that, “Our aim is not to make profit from the festival, but to market our province and show our talent. The money we collect from this event will help to reduce some of our expenditures”.

Lastly, Hon Speaker, let me thank Members of the opposition for their constructive criticism and the positive manner in which they conduct themselves during debates. Their contributions are significant and drive us as the ANC-led government to work even harder. Honourable Members, let us use this time to re-energise ourselves and come back more energetic so that we can continue to serve our people better. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2020. Long live the undying revolutionary spirit of President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, long live. I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, those were the closing remarks by the honourable Members for us to be able to close and conclude 2019. I will then call on the Chief Whip to move for the motion that the House when it rises today it ceases until next year. Hon Chief Whip, over to you.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Madam Speaker, I hereby move that when this House rises today it shall sit again on Thursday, 27 February 2020 at Jack Botes Hall, Polokwane. I move accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you, can I please get a seconder. Hon Selamolela, over to you.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Speaker, Donald Selamolela of the ANC, the majority party in this House and the ruling party of South Africa, stands here to second the motion as presented by the Chief Whip of this House and the Chief Whip of the majority party. Thanks very much. I so move.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you. We are then coming to the next item. Can I have your attention honourable Members, we have not yet adjourned the House. I can see you are already thinking that it is February next year. We have not yet adjourned the House. Before I ask the Hon Premier to give us his Christmas message, allow me to congratulate the Limpopo Legislature staff and Members who participated in the inter-legislature games. We have got the trophies and when time allows, we'll come and display them. We congratulate our staff for the hard work and dedication they have put in. Those Members that took time to coach or play and at the end got injuries, they look better now. Those of us who participated in the 5 km run and came out last, we also congratulate you. But Hon Premier, the staff really represented us well. Let's give a round of applause to the Premier as he takes the floor to give us his Christmas message. [APPLAUSE]

THE PREMIER

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Honourable Members, I think we will all agree in unison that we had a very good year – a very wonderful calendar year that we had together. Of course eventful in one way or another, but at the end of the day the robustness of the debates, the amicable way in which we interact with one another, and the kind of maturity that we have seen expressed in this House, we would want to say thank you to all of you, especially on behalf of this executive that one is leading. I would want to thank you and commend you, both from the opposition side and the ruling party, for the robust manner in which you keep us to account. That is democracy at work. That is exactly what we were looking forward to when we fought for this revolution. When we said we are not just going to be another banana republic, but are going to be a democratic state, and democracy is currently at work, and it is working. We have seen it working in Johannesburg yesterday. [APPLAUSE] We will see it working again in Tshwane, and that is democracy at work. But all in all, I want to wish all of you a merry, merry Christmas and a very prosperous 2020. I hope you are going to freshen up. I hope you are going to refresh. I hope you are going to rest and not exhaust yourself, Hon Seshoka. We would also want to wish you a wonderful and a successful conference because we know the EFF is going to its conference next week. We would want to wish you a successful conference. We also want to also wish a wonderful conference to those of the South African Communist Party who will be going to a conference also next week.

Ladies and gentlemen, honourable Members, a re yeng gae and enjoy this Christmas festivities. Remember that when we hit the road, we must always buckle up. Don't drink and drive. Observe all the rules of the road, K53 everywhere you are going. Observe the rules and regulations of the road, and never ever try to take shortcuts and defy the instructions of traffic officers. Gobetse'a Phogole will be there with his men and women, and for those who are found to have disobeyed the rules of the road,

please don’t call us in the early hours of the morning. Our cell phones will be off. Please don’t call us. Just make sure that you become exemplary as leaders and enjoy your Christmas with the family. Enjoy your New Year with the friends. Thank you and thank you to the officials also. Go and enjoy yourselves and have a good rest. Re a leboga. [APPLAUSE]

THE SPEAKER

From the presiding officers as an office and our Secretariat, we wish you all a happy Christmas and a good year. Let’s rest, next year we have got a lot of work ahead of us. You might have observed that we are concluding our year, and some committees could not sit and from where we are sitting as presiding officers we are looking forward to maximum participation from all Members in the House as we start our year. I am not sure if there are any other announcements, Hon Chief Whip?

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker. The first announcement is that honourable Members are given the approved programme for 2020 for them to synchronise their diaries and familiarise themselves with. The second announcement, which everybody has been waiting for, is that lunch will be served at the usual spot after adjournment. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER

Thank you very much. The House is adjourned until Thursday, 27 February 2020 at Jack Botes Hall, Polokwane at 10:00. Merry Christmas, thank you.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]