



FOREWORD

Paul Mashatile

MEC for Finance and
Economic Affairs

We are tabling the 2005/06 Gauteng Provincial Government Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) Budget during the year of popular mobilization to advance the vision of the Freedom Charter. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Freedom Charter, which embodies a vision of the kind of society we seek to build - a society that is fundamentally different to that which we inherited. It is this vision, so eloquently articulated at the Congress of the People in 1955, which will continue to guide our activities as government.

As we celebrate 50 years of the Freedom Charter, we have through this budget; allocated resources in a manner that will further advance the broad objectives of the Charter. We seek to deepen the gains we have made so far in expanding access to a better life.

Since 1994, we have succeeded in putting in place a solid foundation upon which we can advance towards our strategic objectives. The results of our work are beginning to show with increased access to social services, improved service delivery and a growing economy. Indeed, we are making decisive breakthroughs in our ongoing endeavour to build a better society founded on equality and dignity for all.

The priorities outlined in the Gauteng Provincial Government's Five Year Strategic Programme, which forms part of our vision for 2014, seek to pursue the broad objectives of the Freedom Charter and to further improve the quality of life of our people.

Our priorities for the current term of government are:

- Enabling faster economic growth and job creation
- Fighting poverty and building safe, secure and sustainable communities
- Developing healthy, skilled and productive people
- Deepening democracy and nation building, and realizing the constitutional rights of our people
- Building an effective and caring government

This budget sets out just how these priorities will be met through the various programs and projects of the Gauteng Provincial Government over the next three financial years. As we pursue our objectives we will be making choices. This we will do in order to find the correct balance between funding

short-term needs and long term goals and objectives. This is crucial given the enormous challenges facing our province and country and the limited resources at our disposal.

We will continue to pursue sustained and higher levels of economic growth as an effective response to the dual challenges of poverty and unemployment. The Gauteng Growth and Development Strategy is in line with our commitment as a province to contribute towards addressing these challenges.

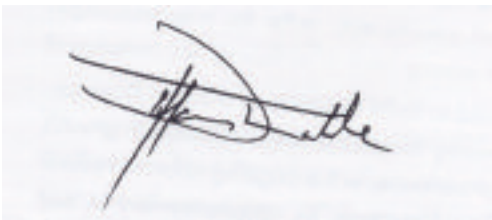
Equally, we will continue to pay attention to the challenges of the second economy through the promotion of small, medium and micro enterprises and by broadening access to economic opportunities.

Our commitment to building a caring government has found expression in this budget through the allocation of R 29,7 billion towards health care, R 33,2 billion towards the provision of education and R 24,4 billion towards social grants over the MTEF period. The provision of these services constitutes 81% of the total expenditure budget. This level of expenditure reflects our commitment towards the delivery of quality social services to all the citizens of Gauteng.

In addition, we will continue to allocate resources to infrastructure projects and provincial initiatives that stimulate economic growth, create jobs and contribute in the fight against poverty. Resources are also made available to fund critical infrastructure projects for the 2010 Soccer World Cup.

The quality of information both financial and non-financial contained in the budget statements demonstrates our efforts to improve transparency and accountability. It adds to the quality of the analysis and discussions on policies and the choices we make.

I trust that you will find this document useful in contributing to the understanding and analysis of the Gauteng Provincial Budget for the 2005 MTEF period.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Mashatile', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Paul Mashatile
Gauteng MEC for Finance and Economic Affairs

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