

FOREWORD



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MEC FOR FINANCE

As Mpumalanga Provincial Government we are committed to promote and mobilize investment, creating decent work for all, ensuring economic empowerment of black people, people with disabilities, women and youth. We are also concerned about eradicating poverty and the legacy of under development. Reinforcing the social wage benefit targeted to improve nutrition, education and the wellbeing of the households will do this.

The 2005 budget provides more resources to the poor through community infrastructure, such as water and sanitation, schools, clinics, community multipurpose centres and roads. Our budget also allows us to continue to provide quality education and health care to equip people with the basic skills required to enter the labour market and to improve the health profile of the province.

This budget will also see the reduction in the level of crime, particularly violent crime so that our people can feel secure when they go to school, play sports and go to work. The 2005 budget will also broaden the base of ownership of the means of production away from the historic pattern of white male ownership to the one that is more representative of the population as a whole.

The Provincial Government is committed to promote co-operative governance between itself and local government. We will also do this so as to fulfil the requirements of chapter 3 of the Constitution which among other things require that we assist and support one another. Further to this constitutional requirement additional duties were assigned to provincial treasuries to monitor and support municipalities in the area of financial management and capacity building. The above-mentioned additional duties of provincial treasuries are the requirements of chapter 5 of the Municipal Finance Management Act (Act 56 of 2003).

The budget is an expression of the provincial priorities, it is also a tool by which the performance of the government can be measured.

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