



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

*The heartland of Southern Africa -
development is about people*

BUDGET SPEECH 2006/2007



H. J. Mashamba

MEC for Provincial Treasury

PROVINCIAL BUDGET SPEECH

Honourable Speaker
Honourable Premier
Colleagues in the Executive Council
Honourable Members of the House
Members of the National Assembly
Executive Mayors and Mayors
Traditional Leaders
Captains of Industry
Labour-Leaders
Religious Leaders and the Media Fraternity
Stalwarts and Veterans of our Glorious Struggle
Distinguished Guests
Comrades and Compatriots
Fellow South Africans

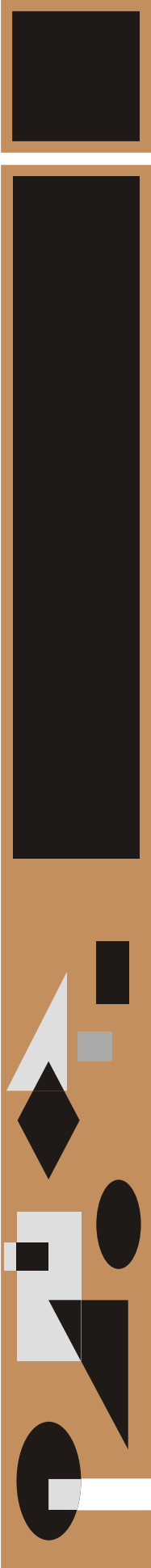
Thank you for joining us as we table our Provincial Budget for the 2006/2007 financial year. You are heartily welcomed to this occasion, an occasion that gives insight to the choices that we have made in allocating public funds.

Minister Manuel asserts that, "...to budget is to choose. Democracy and freedom have laid on this House the solemn duty of safeguarding the transparency and integrity of these choices."

Honourable Speaker, the budgetary choices we have made give life and meaning to the strategic direction we wish to take as government and to our programme of social cohesion. These choices place particular emphasis on prioritising the needs of the poor and improved service delivery.

For more than three hundred years we were silenced: forced not to see, not to hear, and not to think about what we were experiencing; we were allowed nay, forced only to see, to hear and to think what our masters wanted us to; to talk therefore as they would have us talk.

Our languages were stunted, stifled, constricted, as were our physical, spiritual, moral and intellectual growth and development. A radical negation of those conditions of our existence was therefore called for and, in due course, honest men and women of our country, black and white, rose to the challenge. Many paid the highest price for this, losing their dear lives in the battlefields and the gallows of the apartheid fascist regime.



Honourable Speaker, Comrade Premier, Comrades and Compatriots, it is common cause that in 1994 our people were delivered from the shackles of political bondage, of political silence, and spoke loud and clear about their burning desire to be free not only politically, but also socially, economically and ideologically, they accordingly voted themselves and their liberators into institutions of political power, of state power.

The terrible ages of colonial conquest and dispossession, of defeat and subjugation, of intolerable suffering and agony, of heroic battles and struggle thus came to pass, like dew before the morning summer sun. There was great joy and jubilation across the land for our country was free at last, democracy, equality and justice were at hand!

But, Nelson Mandela, our liberator, our first ever President and icon of the new South Africa warned even then that:

The truth is that we are not yet free: we have merely achieved the freedom to be free, the right not to be oppressed. We have not taken the final step of our journey, but the first step on a longer and even more difficult road. For, to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others. The true test of our devotion to freedom is just beginning. [Mandela, N., Long Walk to Freedom, page 617]

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Premier, Honourable Members, Ladies & Gentlemen, the first step that Comrade Mandela alluded to was the first into the Age of Reconciliation, the Age of institutional restructuring, the Age of Re-establishing linkages and relations continentally and internationally.

In our province it was the Age of Reconciliation between black and white people, and between the African ethnic groups previously ghettoed in the Apartheid Bantustans; it was the Age of economic stabilisation in the areas of paying off the inherited debts of the former Bantustans and the former 'white' areas, of bringing about integration in the economic activities of these areas; it was the Age of institutional restructuring aimed at creating an integrated institutional framework and structures at the provincial and local levels, and of establishing effective relations with local structures, other provinces and the national structures of governance and administration.

We do accept that we have not achieved everything that we had set out to achieve in the past eleven years. For one thing, much of the legacy of our apartheid past is still very much with us, it remains embedded in many of our

institutions, in our mental habits, ideas, attitudes, values, morality, and in our race, gender and social relations and activities.

This legacy manifests itself in our family lives, in our schools, in communities, in our work situations in both the private and public sectors. Hence our Batho Pele campaigns, our anti-corruption campaigns, our moral regeneration campaigns, our culture of learning, teaching and service campaigns still leave much to be desired.

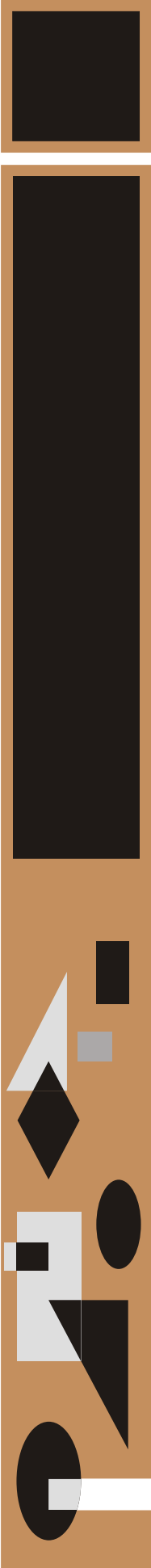
Honourable Speaker, all these matters notwithstanding, the assertion by the President of our Country, Comrade Thabo Mbeki, that we are now entering the Age of hope is valid and correct not only for the country generally, but for our province in particular.

The uninformed and the doubting Thomases may smear and laugh at this apparent hearsay. But, who can deny the fact that we, today, have far much better racial relations and ethnic harmony than ever before witness the “toe-nadaring” between black and white alluded to by the Premier in his state of the province address.

Who can deny that roads, electricity, water, telephone and education infrastructure has picked up a hundred fold since the days of apartheid? Who can deny that mining activities and tourism have picked up as never before in our province? Who can deny a concern and efforts of the current government in relation to the question of improvement of the conditions of the quality of life of the poorest of the poor, of the aged, the youth, and children and of the working people and the alleviation of hardship on the weak and the helpless?

Honourable Speaker, the threatening waves of the red sea are far behind, the terrible suffering and agony of the land of our bondage sound like a story now to the borne free of our time; but the hustly roar of the lions and the howling noises of the hyena in the desert lands of the Sinai are terrifying. The “Amagwala” want to go back to the land of the Pharaohs while some with the opportunist streak in their makeup are busy erecting statues of baal and other deities, and cursing those who led them out of slavery!

New gods and new messiahs are mushrooming by the dozen! But lo and behold! Over there is the river Jordan and yonder the promised land of milk and honey. Will the brave, men and women of integrity and of conviction in the people's course to genuine and lasting freedom please stand up! The



age of hope is indeed high!

The economic fundamentals of our country and province are in place; the international community is prepared to invest in our economy, and in the economy of our province in particular. The labour laws of our country guarantee healthy industrial relations and our developmental state is a caring state, making the necessary intervention to make both our economy work and to take care of those who cannot take care of themselves, the sick, the aged, the young, the disabled, etc.

In terms of Stats S.A 64.81% of the provincial households were electrified. 77.62% had access to private treated water reticulation system and relatively easy access to public water supply against 22.38% who had no easy access to water. This current year more than 897 000 household receive free basic water and 524 000 indigent households have access to water at RDP standards. Furthermore, more than 127 000 indigent households receive free basic electricity. Mr/Madam Speaker, during this current year alone and as at the end of December 2005 additional 2 878 houses have been completed while 15 200 houses were under construction. In the last four years to 2004/05 this province spent R32 billion on education, R13 billion each on both Health Services and Social Development. This province continues to produce good results in higher grade mathematics and science at matric level. Morbidity and mortality rates in terms of general diseases are declining. The prevalence of HIV continues to grow at a marginal rate though below national average. More than 1.5 million people benefit from the social security grant while more than 1.1 million needy children benefit from the school nutrition system.

In strengthening the institutional efficiency of government significant resources have been allocated in this second year of the implementation of the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy to refine implementation plans so as to increase the pace of delivery according to the strategy. Particular attention has been paid to the improvement of capacity in both the provincial administration and local government and further strengthening our system of our intergovernmental relations which is critical to the success of the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy implementation.

The growth rate of the provincial economy averaged 3.5% over the last eight years to 2004 against the national average growth rate of 3.1 over the same period. The growth rate per annum dropped from 4.24% in 2002 to 2.67% in 2003 before recovering to 2.71% in 2004. This recovery is likely to gain momentum over the medium term expenditure framework as the implementation of the PGDS intensifies.

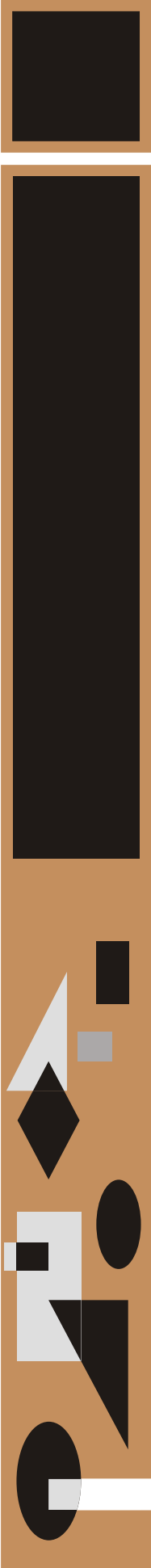
Major declines has been recorded in the primary industries which declined from 7.71% in 2002 to 2.99% in 2003 and further declined to 1.02% in 2004. The decline in the primary industries which constitutes 25% of the provincial economy impacted significantly on the economic growth prospects. These declines have been due to the protracted draught and also external shocks in terms of the decline in the rand price of export due to the strengthening of the South African currency.

Protracted draught resulted in the contraction of the agricultural sector which recorded negative growth rates in both 2003 and 2004. In the latter year the growth rate in the agricultural sector declined by 7.12%, while mining grew at just below 2%

The secondary industry which constitutes 8% of the provincial economy recorded 5.04% growth rate in 2004 which has been an improvement from the 1.04% growth rate recorded in 2003. The Manufacturing, Electricity, gas and water and the construction sectors recorded growth rates of 4.78%, 4.21% and 6.99% respectively. In line with the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy stronger growth rates are expected to continue in the secondary industries over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period and beyond.

The provision of requisite infrastructure for the strengthening of industrial cluster formation will inspire growth in the secondary industry. The construction of De Hoop Dam to supply water in Sekhukhune District, the pipe lines construction to supply the Waterberg District with water the investment in the energy sector in Waterberg District and the construction of road networks to enhance the formation of the seven industrial clusters of the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy will certainly improve growth rates in the construction sector. 758 km and 1 800 km of roads will be tarred and repaired during the MTEF period respectively.

The Tertiary Industries which constituted 57% of the provincial economy



recorded an average of 3.05% growth rate in 2004, a slight improvement from the 2.8% recorded the previous year. The tourism related sector, The Wholesale and retail trade, hotels and restaurants grew at 3.25%, an improvement from 1.5% growth rate recorded in 2003. The Transport and Communication sector declined from 3.94% in 2003 to 2.25% in 2004. Finance, real estate and business services sector improved from 4.98% in 2003 to 4.87% in 2005. Personal Services and the General Government Sectors grew at 1.2% and 1.4% respectively.

Growth in the Tertiary Industries will be enhanced by investment in the tourism related clusters. The investment in the Capricorn District in the development of the International Convention Centre, Peter Mokaba Stadium and the logistics hub in Polokwane, the development of City of Morija as a tourism icon constitute few of the key projects that will contribute to growth in the Tertiary Industries.

Honourable Speaker, you may recall that we spoke strongly against under-spending during the previous Budget Speech. With your permission, we would like to take this opportunity and account for the previous financial year's Budget, and further indicate what has been done to reduce under-spending.

Close monitoring of budget utilisation during this year enabled the province to timeously re-direct R300 million for spending on the provision of water and electricity as well as building of roads. Like we said, The age of hope is indeed nigh!

Honourable Speaker, the road to hell is broad and lined with beautiful flowers, and the road to Heaven is narrow and full of thorns, the Great Books tell us. We, therefore, are choosing the narrow and thorny road and do hereby present to your good-selves and the people of Limpopo a budget of hope to help us remove the thorns and pave the way to a better life for all people in our province and country.

According to Nelson Mandela:

We have walked the long road to freedom. We have tried not to falter. We have made mistakes on the way. But we have discovered the secret that after the climbing a great hill one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. We have taken a moment here to rest, to still a view of the glorious vista that surrounds us, to look back on the distance we have travelled. But

we can rest only a moment, for with freedom there comes responsibilities, and we dare not linger for our long walk to freedom is not yet ended. The age of hope is upon us, and we therefore table the provincial budget to fund the age of hope as follows:

The 2006/07 budget framework

Honourable Speaker, our budget framework is as follows:

The total estimated receipts for the province consist of:

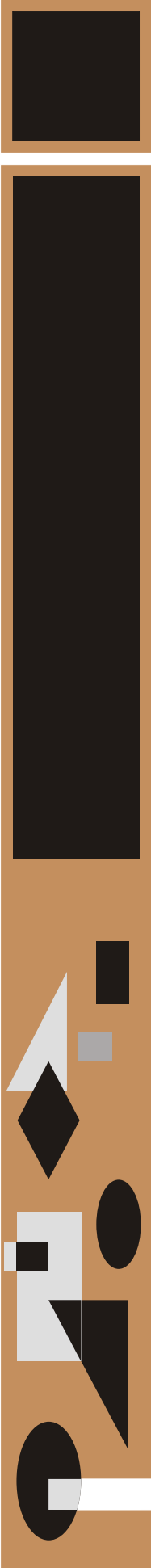
Equitable share	R20,616 billion
Conditional Grants	R 1,996 billion
Own Revenue	R 0,396 billion
Total	R23,008 billion

Honourable Speaker, the provincial budget will decline by 17,7% in the 2006/07 financial year. The decline is due to the shifting of the social security grants from the provincial department of Health and Social Development to the South African Social Security Agency [SASSA] which takes full responsibility with effect from April 2006. Based on the MTEF baselines, the provincial revenue will pick up again by 11,8% in 2007/08 and by 11,4% in 2008/09.

The equitable share comprises the bulk of the provincial allocation at 89,6%, the conditional grants 8,7%, whilst own revenue accounts for 1,71%. The provincial own revenue is mainly from motor vehicle licenses [R145 million], interest dividends and rent on land [R84 million] and sale of goods and services [R106 million].

Expenses by Economic classification

Honourable Speaker, and Honourable Members of the House, as already indicated, the Bill before this House seeks to appropriate R22, 899 billion for the 2006/07 financial year. The MTEF estimates for allocation reflect R23,008 billion for this year, as well as R25,720 billion and R28,648 billion for the two subsequent years respectively. The total provincial receipts amount to R23,008 billion. This includes an amount of R109 million for the Government Employee Medical Scheme [GEMS] which will be appropriated during the adjustment estimates. Therefore, the amount to be appropriated less GEMS is R22,899 billion.



The current expenditure accounts form the largest year on year allocation. It accounts for R18, 585 billion, which is 81% of the total expenses proposed for the 2006/07 financial year. In this proposed budget allocation, compensation of employees receives an allocation of R14,270 billion, that is, 62,31% of the total provincial budget.

Transfers and subsidies receive an allocation of R2,577 billion which is equal to 11,25% of the budget.

Current budget proposes capital expenditure of R1,736 billion which is 7,6% of the total proposed budget. This amount represents an increase of 12,8% on the baseline of the 2005/06 financial year. Included in the R2,577 billion for transfers and subsidies is an amount of R1,266 billion consisting of infrastructure budget of R745 million and R521 million for road and housing construction respectively. This then brings the total capital expenditure budget to R3 billion.

An amount of R810,626 million is allocated to the Social Cluster to build 22 circuit offices for the Department of Education, 24 offshoot schools, repair 138 schools which were damaged by storms, 3 comprehensive schools, to provide 60 mobile classrooms, to install water, electricity and ablution facilities in schools and recapitalise 7 further education and training colleges [FET].

The amount will also be used to upgrade and build new clinics, to build welfare facilities, and staff houses, and to increase the number of 24 hour operating clinics for primary health care.

Honourable Speaker, the Economic Cluster gets an allocation of R1,048 billion mainly for the revitalization of 38 small holding irrigation schemes, and to cover 26 municipalities across all districts with regards to integrated agricultural and rural development plans. There is also the implementation of the comprehensive agricultural support programme where 61 land reform projects have been earmarked for 2800 beneficiaries. This allocation will also assist in farmer support programmes by providing dipping tanks, crush-pens, mobile scales, fencing, dairy and fishing infrastructure, as well as other training facilities in the Department of Agriculture.

Honourable Members of the House, the budget will deal with the tarring and maintenance of roads in the province and continue with the upgrading of the Gateway International Airport.

The allocation will also be used for the upgrading of the water reticulation at the Thohoyandou government complex; the repairs and upgrading of electricity infrastructure at the Giyani, Thohoyandou and Lebowa kgomo government complexes; as well as the installation of lifts at the Giyani and Thohoyandou government complexes.

Lastly, the allocation will be used to construct residences for the MECs and district offices for the Bohlabela and Waterberg districts as well as the refurbishment of office buildings in all districts [leaking roofs etc.] and the implementation of the expanded public works programme.

Honourable Speaker, the Governance and Administration Cluster gets a capital budget allocation of R625 million of which R521 million is classified under transfer payments to cater for the integrated housing and human settlement and the purchase of office buildings.

EXPENSES ALLOCATION PER SECTOR

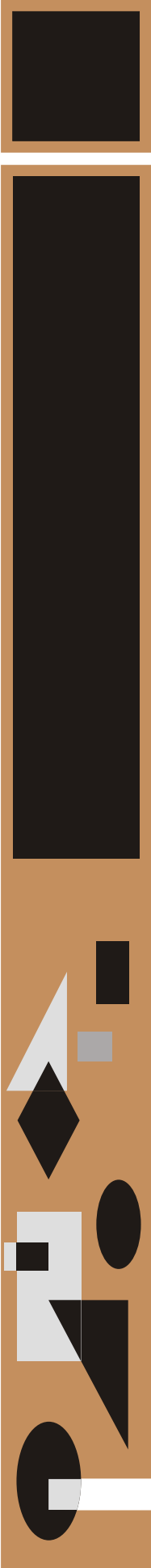
Social Sector

The social sector accounts for R16,975 billion, that is, 74% of the equitable share. Of the R16,975 billion equitable share, Education accounts for R11,066 billion, Health R5,448 billion, Social Development R432 million and Safety and Security R29 million.

Education

Education gets an allocation of 48% of the total budget which is R11,066 billion. Included in the R11,066 billion are conditional grants amounting to R558 million [R292 million for provincial infrastructure, R202 million for national school nutrition programme, R43 million for further education and training and R22 million for early childhood development].

The budget for Education will also be utilized to develop programme guidelines and training manuals for 29 national curriculum statements for the implementation of OBE in grade 11 in January 2007 and grade 12 in January 2008. It also provides learner teacher support materials to all learners and educators in grades 8, 9, 10 and 11 as well as the development of professional educators and school managers in compliance with the national curriculum statements.



Special attention will also be paid to Grades R to 9 and the newly developed curriculum statement for the FET bend [Grades 10 to 12] and outcomes based education.

There is also a dire need to improve learner performance and teaching in mathematics, science, technology, languages, economics and management sciences, and the training of curriculum advisors and FET educators on the implementation of the national curriculum statement.

Adult education and training and the expanded public works programme will also receive special attention. All the aforementioned demand a proper information management system [EMIS] in order to plan more effectively and to complement sustainability.

Health

Honourable Speaker, Health gets an allocation of R5,448 billion or 23,7% of the total provincial budget, which includes the conditional grant of R509 million. The breakdown in terms of service provisioning is R176 million for HIV/ AIDS, R102 million for provincial infrastructure and R72 million for the training and development of health professionals. Another R72 million will be utilized for the redistribution of specialized health services, R48 million for hospital rehabilitation and R38 million for forensic pathology services as well as R31 million for the building of clinics.

Honourable Speaker, the increase in the allocation to Health is mainly to enhance human resource management and the recruitment of health professionals, the expansion of emergency medical service and the implementation of a new ambulance services model. Furthermore, to expand primary health care, improve services in rural areas and modernise tertiary services, including staff accommodation.

There is also a dire need to cater for an increase in the stock levels of certain critical drugs in order to protect our people against curable diseases such as malaria and cholera as well as to promote awareness of the risk of contracting these diseases.

We also need to reduce HIV/AIDS prevalence by improving access to anti retroviral treatment and increase the TB cure rate. As mentioned above, we need to increase 24 hour service in 250 clinics across the province. We also have to intensify our expanded public works programme in this sector.

Social Development

Social Development gets an allocation of R432 million or 1,8% of the budget. The budget is to cater for the delivery of social welfare services, which is critical for the sustainability of communities, while gearing up for the implementation of the children's bill, older persons' bill, and child justice bill. The allocation also caters for the expansion of existing programmes, such as community health workers, home/community based care, and early childhood development; and it provides for the training of practitioners, food and basic health care, through the expanded public works programme. The Social Security Conditional grant of R8,003 billion will be shifted to the South African Social Security Agency [SASSA] with effect from 1 April 2006.

Safety, Security and Liaison

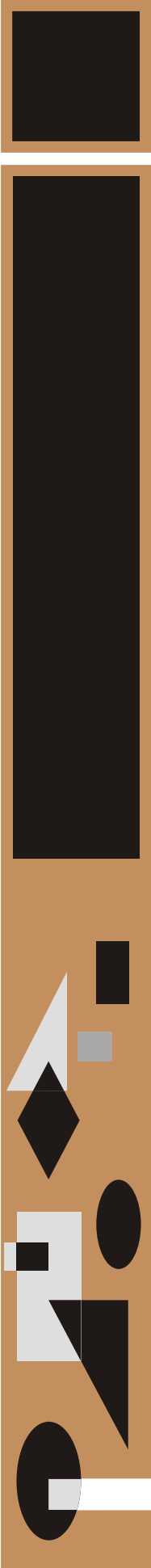
Safety, Security and Liaison is allocated R29 million or 0,1% of the budget. The budget is mainly to coordinate the implementation of the provincial crime prevention strategy, the youth at risk projects [600 youths in the Manyeleti academy will be enlisted to the programme], community and Safety Forums, monitor and evaluate 21 police stations in the coming year, conduct 6 road shows on violence against women and children and conduct research and studies towards reducing incidences of domestic violence and sexual offences. The department must work tirelessly to drastically curtail the incidences of domestic violence and sexual offences in the province. Community police forums must be strengthened, and re-established where they may have collapsed.

Economic Sector

The Economic Sector accounts for 18,3% or R4,196 billion. Of this amount Economic Development, Environment and Tourism accounts for R675 million, Roads and Transport accounts for R1,780 billion, Agriculture accounts for R1,029 billion, Public Works accounts for R589 million and Sports, Arts and Culture accounts for R123 million.

Economic Development

Economic Development is allocated 2,9% or R675 million of the total budget. The budget will be used to establish cooperatives, increase the market share for the products of the cooperatives and cooperatives



education. In this financial year, twenty-four (24) cooperatives will be established with the potential to create about 1000 new jobs.

The allocation will also assist with the development and support of SMMEs, including the driving of the provincial SMME strategy, provision for housing for professionals in rural areas, the development of industrial clusters in terms of the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy, trade regulation, and implementation of micro-economic reform strategy. These activities will bring about increased economic growth-rate and sustainable job creation. Furthermore, the allocation will cater for sustainable development through sound environmental management as well as improving required infrastructure within nature reserves.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Premier and Honourable Members of the House, because our province has opted to apply an integrated approach to deal with our economic challenges, the promotion of industries, mining development, agro and forestry processing, investment promotion, and a development framework to market the international convention centre should be intensified. The expenditure on these endeavours will come to the tune of R56 million.

As we are also faced with the critical challenge of managing our environment R7 million will be used for environmental impact management services, while R11 million will be used to promote the sustainable utilization of the bio-diversity resources of our province, provide environmental information in support of effective environmental management and public participation in environmental governance, and waste and pollution management.

As a fast developing province, we need to increase provincial gross geographic product from 4% to 8%. This demand of us to work vigorously on the conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources within the protected areas; oversee provincial nature reserves focusing specifically on the management and development of 22 nature reserves, and the commercial development of 15 provincial parks.

Roads and Transport

Roads and Transport is allocated 7,7% or R1,780 billion. This includes an amount of R100 million from the infrastructure reserve, and R282 million infrastructure conditional grant. The allocation will be utilized to conduct

feasibility studies on the provincial rail infrastructure, refurbishment and upgrading of the regional airports, tarring and repairing of roads development of transport hubs and the provisioning of scholar transport.

Public Works

The Public Works allocation is 2,5% of the budget or R589 million. The budget will cater mainly for the maintenance and refurbishment of government offices and the intensification of implementation of the expanded public works programme, which undoubtedly serves as one of the vehicles to reduce poverty.

This department will assist other departments in the implementation of capital/infrastructure projects, e.g. the building of schools, hospitals and clinics; the provisioning of water and electricity as well as the acquisition and maintenance of government offices and other immovable properties. An amount of R24 million has been allocated to make the above possible. This department must also deal with the planning and design of the provincial legislature which must relocate to Polokwane at the cost of R6 million.

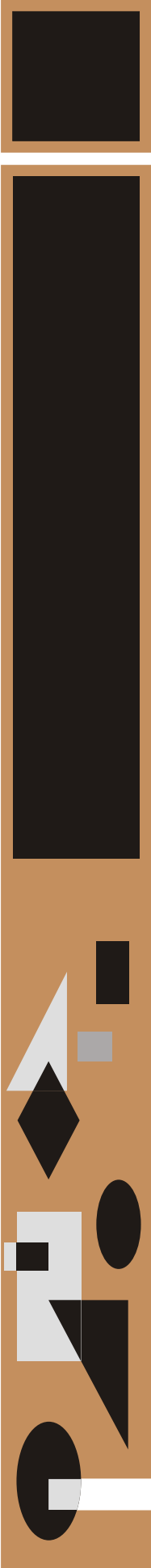
Lastly, the Department will be responsible for the construction of 11 MECs' houses at a cost of R31 million and the compilation of asset registers in all districts which is estimated to cost about R10 million.

Agriculture

The department is allocated 4,4% of the budget or R1,029 billion. The budget will cater for small holding irrigation schemes as follows: Bohlabela 4 projects, Capricorn 9 projects, Mopani 1 project, Sekhukhune 10 projects, Vhembe 7 projects and Waterberg 3 projects. All these projects demand the allocation of R361 million.

Over and above these projects, we have integrated Agricultural and Rural Development plans in 26 municipalities and 6 districts, support for all farmers and the implementation of 61 land reform projects. These projects will have a positive impact on 2800 beneficiaries under the Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme and the land reform poverty alleviation projects. The allocation for these is R171million.

Further, there is a need for rural development for communal farmers which will amount to R74 million. Our two agricultural colleges, Tompi Seleka and



Madzhivandela, also need upgrading, the building of new blocks and fencing. This will cost R15 million.

Sport, Arts and Culture

Honourable Speaker, Sport, Arts and Culture is allocated 0,5% or R123 million, of which R15 million is a conditional grant from Sport and Recreation South Africa. The budget will cater for compensation of employees, the annual Mapungubwe Arts Festival and the erection of statues, construction of the archives building, establishment of integrated sport, arts and culture desk, strengthening school sport programmes, implementing provincial language policy, sport and cultural programmes targeting women and the youth, both the physically challenged and able bodied. A programme will be put in place to promote the visual performing arts and culture as well as support, nurture and preserve our rich heritage.

Governance and Administration cluster

The Governance and Administration Cluster accounts for 8% of the budget which is R1,837 billion. From this amount, the Office of the Premier accounts for R510 million, the Provincial Legislature gets an allocation of R97 million, Local Government and Housing receives R834 million and the Provincial Treasury gets R396 million.

Office of the Premier

As stated above, the Office of the Premier gets 2,2% of the budget or R510 million which includes R104 million to acquire office building and the planning for the provincial growth and development strategy [PGDS]. The allocation is aimed at funding the implementation of the Traditional Leadership Governance and Framework Act, improving the coordination of the Executive Council, the clusters, and the provincial donor funding.

Legislature

The Legislature is allocated 0,4% which amounts to R97 million. The budget will be utilized for the running of the Provincial Legislature, strengthening public participation and the oversight functions.

Local Government and Housing

The department of Local Government and Housing is allocated 3,6% or R834 million, of which R521 million is a conditional grant for Housing and Human Resettlement. The budget will be utilized to offer planning support to municipalities, demarcation of sites, support for municipal elections, the erection of disaster management centres and the purchase of equipments.

Provincial Treasury

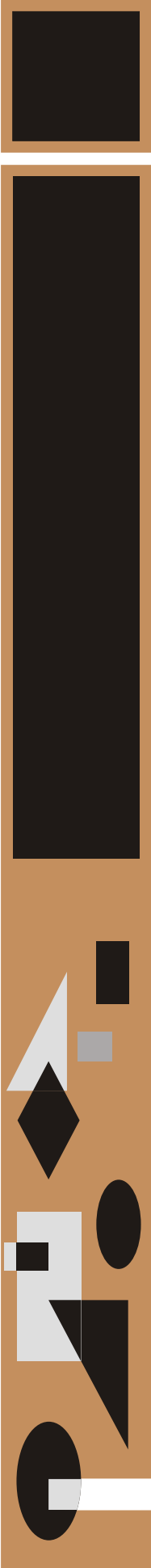
Treasury is allocated 1,2% or R287 million. Over and above this allocation R110 million had been set aside for Government Employee Medical scheme [GEMS] in the province, bringing the total to R396 million. This amount will be allocated to provincial departments once allocation guidelines are communicated to the province by National Treasury. The budget for the Treasury will be utilized for the implementation of the PFMA and MFMA, offer support to departments in terms of the in year monitoring, capacity building on financial management in provincial departments and municipalities as well as the coordination of provincial financial management matters .

Honourable Speaker, Premier and Honourable Members of the House, comrades and friends, the preparation of this budget relied on hard work and inputs from a number of stakeholders and role players. It is particularly dependant on the goodwill and tireless participation of EXCO, and most especially the leadership of the Premier.

We further wish to extend our sincerest gratitude to the people of Limpopo, especially the valued stakeholders who are in attendance this morning for the overwhelming support we continue to receive.

I would like to thank the management and staff of the Provincial Treasury under the leadership of the HOD, Mr Ben Mphahlele for their sterling contribution to the success of this budget, which as we indicated earlier is tabled much earlier than expected.

To the media, we say thank you for working with us to keep the citizenry informed about the programmes and priorities of this government.



Our Traditional Leadership and other community leaders, you are the torchbearers of our various communities. Continue to inculcate in our people the spirit of Vukúzenzele and Letsema so that we continue to stand united in a people's contract to create jobs and fight poverty.

I also wish to acknowledge the contribution of all the churches and church leaders for our province. Please continue to spread the gospel which will enable us all to build a winning nation, united in our diversity.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Premier, Honourable Members of the House, it is my honour to table before this Honourable House.

The Appropriation Bill 2006

Estimates of Receipts and Payments

The Citizen Guide to the Provincial Budget

The Provincial Budget Speech for 2006/07

I sincerely thank you all!

