

FOREWORD



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 well-being of the households will do this.

The 2006 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 2006 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 fulfill 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.

**Mrs E.M. Coleman, MPL
MEC FOR FINANCE**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Budget Statement 1: Budget Overview

1.	Budget strategy and aggregates	6
1.1	Introduction	6
1.2	Summary budget aggregates	7
1.3	Financing	7
2.	Budget process and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework	7
3.	Socio-economic outlook	9
4.	Receipts	13
4.1	Overall position	13
4.2	Equitable share	14
4.3	Conditional grants	14
4.4	Total Provincial own revenue	15
5.	Expenditure	16
5.1	Overall position	16
5.2	Expenditure by vote	17
5.3	Expenditure by economic classification	17
5.4	Infrastructure expenditure	18
5.5	Transfers to public entities	18
5.6	Transfers to local government	19

Budget Statement 2: Departmental Estimates

1	Introduction	21
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Votes

VOTE 1: Office of the Premier 22

1.	Overview
2.	Review of the current financial year
3.	Outlook for the coming financial year.....
4.	Revenue and financing.....
5.	Expenditure summary.....
6.	Programme description

VOTE 2: Provincial Legislature 44

1.	Overview.....
2.	Review of the current financial year.....
3.	Outlook for the coming financial year.....
4.	Revenue and financing.....
5.	Expenditure summary.....
6.	Programme description.....

VOTE 3: Finance**57**

1. Overview.....
2. Review of the current financial year.....
3. Outlook for the coming financial year.....
4. Revenue and financing.....
5. Expenditure summary.....
6. Programme description.....

VOTE 4: Local Government and Housing**71**

1. Overview.....
2. Review of the current financial year
3. Outlook for the coming financial year.....
4. Revenue and financing
5. Expenditure summary.....
6. Programme description.....

VOTE 5: Agriculture and Land Administration**100**

1. Overview
2. Review of the current financial year.....
3. Outlook for the coming financial year.....
4. Revenue and financing.....
5. Expenditure summary.....
6. Programme description.....

VOTE 6: Economic Development and Planning**163**

1. Overview.....
2. Review of the current financial year.....
3. Outlook for the coming financial year.....
4. Revenue and financing.....
5. Expenditure summary.....
6. Programme description.....

VOTE 7: Education**178**

1. Overview.....
2. Review of the current financial year.....
3. Outlook for the coming financial year.....
4. Revenue and financing.....
5. Expenditure summary.....
6. Programme description.....

VOTE 8: Public Works**228**

1. Overview.....
2. Review of the current financial year.....
3. Outlook for the coming financial year.....
4. Revenue and financing.....
5. Expenditure summary.....
6. Programme description.....

VOTE 9: Safety and Security**241**

1. Overview.....
2. Review of the current financial year.....
3. Outlook for the coming financial year.....
4. Revenue and financing.....
5. Expenditure summary.....
6. Programme description.....

VOTE 10: Health**264**

1. Overview.....
2. Review of the current financial year
3. Outlook for the coming financial year
4. Revenue and financing
5. Expenditure summary.....
6. Programme description.....

VOTE 11: Roads and Transport**305**

1. Overview.....
2. Review of the current financial year.....
3. Outlook for the coming financial year.....
4. Revenue and financing.....
5. Expenditure summary.....
6. Programme description.....

VOTE 12: Culture, Sport and Recreation**339**

1. Overview.....
2. Review of the current financial year.....
3. Outlook for the coming financial year.....
4. Revenue and financing.....
5. Expenditure summary.....
6. Programme description.....

VOTE 13: Social Services**352**

1. Overview.....
2. Review of the current financial year.....
3. Outlook for the coming financial year.....
4. Revenue and financing.....
5. Expenditure summary.....
6. Programme description.....