

BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY, VOTE 08, DELIVERED BY THE HONOURABLE MEC MAVHUNGU LERULE-RAMAKHANYA, MPL DURING THE LEGISLATURE SITTING OF THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE AT LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER

DATE: 07 MAY 2020



Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker

Honourable Premier,

My colleagues in the Executive Council,

Chief of Whip of the Legislature,

Chairperson of Committees,

Leaders of the Opposition Parties,

Honourable Members of this August House,

Head of Department,

Honourable Speaker, let me appreciate the opportunity to stand before this very honourable house to table the budget vote of the now merged Department of Transport and Community Safety. I do so as part of living up to the commitments we have made last year when we said it would be the last time we tabled two speeches for two departments. The merger of the two Departments has demonstrated the visionary leadership of Premier, Stan Chupu Mathabatha. So far the results of the merger are highly impressive with tangible delivery to the masses of our people.

Honourable Speaker

In line with time restriction given to us in delivering this budget we would go directly to our plans for the financial year 2020/2021. This by no means does not suggest that our major achievements recorded for the past financial year are not significant. We would have loved to detail major achievements to demonstrate progress in our fundamental mandate of providing safe, sustainable, integrated transport infrastructure and overall safer communities.

Honourable Speaker

ON BUS SUBSIDY

For the 2020/2021 financial year the Department has set aside an amount of R814.695 million, which will indeed go a long way in ensuring that we cushion our commuting public in fare subsidy. An estimated thirty million (30 000 000) passengers will be benefitting through the passenger subsidy system during the 2020/2021 financial year. Companies that are receiving government subsidy manage to create and sustain an average of 2 085 permanent jobs in the form of drivers, dispatchers, administrative and financial clerical staff.

Hon. Speaker, the Department has appointed the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to redesign the bus subsidy networks and service contracts to ensure that subsidized services are equally spread across the province and ensuring more effective and efficient service delivery. An amount of R17m has been budgeted in the 2020/2021 financial Year to complete the project. The Department aims to start replacing the old order subsidy contracts with new contracts in the 2020/2021 financial year.

Honourable Speaker

TRANSPORT PLANNING

The Department has set aside an amount of **R4.5m** to commence with the development of comprehensive Integrated Transport Plans for Mopani, Sekhukhune and Waterberg District municipalities during the 2020/2021 financial year. These are multi-year projects, which will only be completed in the 2021/2022 financial year.

LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL REGULATORY ENTITY (LPRE) AND OPERATING LICENCE ADMINISTRATION

In the year under review, the Entity will ensure that the high backlogs on operating license applications in the Vhembe and Sekhukhune districts are addressed. The Department received and processed an estimated 29 000 operating license applications during the 2019/2020 financial year. Due to the high demand of operating licenses, we have since established satellite part-time services and will continue to render those services in Waterberg, Mopani and Capricorn Districts to ensure easy access for our clients, and additional to those we will sustain the satellite services at the Groblersdal Cost Centre and the Dilokong Traffic Station. An amount of **R9 Million** has been allocated to aid the work of the Entity.

Honourable Speaker

TAXI INDUSTRY

The Department has set aside an amount of **R7.25 Million** for Limpopo Provincial Taxi Council. We hope that the money will improve the work of the taxi council its efficiency and its operational responsibilities.

GATEWAY AIRPORT AUTHORITY LIMITED (GAAL)

The Department will be transferring an amount of R54, 953m to Gateway Airport Authority Limited (GAAL) for the 2020/2021 financial year. The funds are allocated to manage and maintain the operations of Polokwane International Airport (PIA) and to sustain the airport license. We have initiated engagements with (ACSA), Airport Company South Africa for

collaborations and management, as well as the SACAA, South African Civil Aviation Authority as we seek to strengthen systems for aeronautical and non-aeronautical services.

Honourable Speaker

TRAFFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT

We have been able to live up to our commitment of absorbing the 238 traffic officers who had been on internship upon completion of training and awaiting permanent placement. They started working as traffic officers in December 2019 and this has since increased visibility on the roads of the province. This will strengthen traffic law enforcement activities in the Province.

TRAFFIC SYSTEMS

In the financial year under review, the Department is piloting the implementation of the NTCMS (National Traffic Contravention Management System). From the 1st of April 2020 the Department has started capturing traffic summons on the NTCMS (National Traffic Contravention Management System) and migrated from the spreadsheet recording system. About twelve (12) institutions have been provided with NaTIS equipment, users have been trained and 10 institutions are participating in the pilot project. The system will assist the Department in accounting for management of traffic summons. This system is linked to NaTIS, and it will assist in dealing away with human errors in the capturing process and financial reporting which will have positive impact on the departmental financial statement.

REGISTRATION AND LICENSING SERVICES

The services of registration and licensing have been extended to four Provincial Traffic Stations: Polokwane, Makhado, Lephalale and Tzaneen. The Registering Authorities will manage to collect an estimated revenue of **R80 Million** per annum. The new Registering Authorities will also assist in alleviating the pressure from the existing ones.

TRAFFIC FACILITIES

The Department is going to construct Driving License Testing Centers in Thohoyandou and Seshego. Both institutions will cost about R30m each. In this financial year five million (R5mil) is budgeted to begin this multi-year project. These institutions will bring services closer to the people and also alleviate the pressure in the existing testing centers.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARIAT FOR POLICE

The Department will continue to perform its oversight functions on the South African Police Service. All 103 police stations will be monitored in terms of their compliance to policies, prescripts and instructions.

RESEARCH AND POLICING POLICIES

The Department will be embarking on a research project focusing on “Factors that contribute to police brutality in Limpopo Province.” This research will examine the root causes of police officers exercising undue or excessive force against civilians, as well as explore ways to address these anomalies. These anomalies include, but is not limited to, physical or verbal harassment, physical or mental injury, property damage and death.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Of the seven priorities set by the President, priority number six on building *a capable, ethical and developmental state* dictates that we ensure sound financial management, as such the budget allocated to the department will be managed properly in the interest of services to the people of the province.

We will equally continue to invigorate revenue collection and ensure that the department continues to contribute 47% and possibly more to the total 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 Department is estimating

to collect **R 651,293 Million** in 2020/21, **R 684,189 Million** in 2021/22 and **R 717,094 Million** in 2022/23.

CRIME PREVENTION

The Department will continue to implement 5 Social Crime Prevention Programmes that is Rural Safety, Violence against Vulnerable groups, Volunteers programme, Anti-Substance abuse programme and Public Participation programme. The murder, rape, assaults and domestic violence of women and children has prompted the Minister of Justice to open a sexual offences court in Sibasa outside Thohoyandou. This is one of the 94 sexual offences courts in the country.

HONOURABLE SPEAKER

A total of 600 participants will be recruited from the community policing and safety structured, that is 120 from each District. A budget of **R 2 million** is received from the Integrated Grant. During the year under review, many of the contact hotspots were cleared and cleaned in the Mahwelereng cluster in the Waterberg District, Burgersfort cluster in Sekhukhune District, Giyani cluster in the Mopani Cluster, Seshego cluster in Capricorn District and Thohoyandou Cluster in the Vhembe District, mainly through our crime combating machinery of Operation Swara Tsotsi.

HONOURABLE SPEAKER

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

In an effort to contribute to youth development in the sector, the Department will recruit 375 participants from the Youth Against Crime participants from all the police stations. These youths will be patrolling and as a results increasing police visibility. 85% (318) of the current **Young Civilians on Patrol Service (YCOPS)** will be retained and 15% (57) new recruits will be appointed. Twenty (20) over-aged (above 35 years) have been identified from the current pool participants for skills development training during the 2020-2023 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). AN overall budget of **R 3.7 million** has been set aside for this projects in the 2020/21 financial year.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Department will continue to capacitate the statutory and mandatory community structures and continuously assess them on their functionality. In partnership with the SAPS, the Department will introduce the Community Policing Forum/ Community Safety Forums Community-in-Blue project to heighten involvement of communities and strengthen civilian intelligence.

Border control work: The Border Management Authority Bill is in the process to be enacted. This will ultimately pave way for the establishment of the Border Management Agency which we so much require in the resolve to manage and secure the sovereignty of our country. The interim arrangement at the two commercial ports of entry are the SAPS who coordinates the Beit Bridge Port of Entry and the Department of Home Affairs who coordinates Grobler's Bridge.

Honourable Speaker

The total budget for 2020/21 is **Two Billion Four Hundred and Fifty-Five Million rand, R 2,455 billion (R 2 454 549 000)** which is 4.7% increase from 2019/20 budget, **Two Billion Five Hundred and Eighty-Four Million rand (R 2,584 billion)** in 2021/22 which is 5.3% increase and **Two Billion Seven Hundred and Five Million rand (R 2,705 billion)** in 2022/23 which is 4.7% increase.

Included in the allocation, is Public Transport Operators Conditional Grant amounting to **R 402,035 million** in 2020/21, **R 424,147 Million** in 2021/22 and **R 422,338 Million** in 2022/23.

The overall allocation of the Department reflects positive growth of 4.7 percent in 2020/21, 5.3 percent in 2021/22 and 4.7 percent in 2022/23.

The budget per programme is as follows:

- Administration	R681,827 million
- Transport Operations	R982,096 million
- Transport Regulation	R726,968 million
- Provincial Secretariat of Police Service	R64,658 million
TOTAL	R2, 455 billion

The budget per economic classification is as follows:

- Compensation of Employees	R 1,119 billion
- Goods and Services	R 391,147 million
- Transfers and Subsidies	R 884,133 million
- Payment for Capital Assets	R 60,723 million
TOTAL	R 2,455 billion

In Conclusion Honorable Speaker

Our Department continues to play a critical role in enforcing compliance of Covid-19 regulations both in the public transport sector and in the Police sector. We have moved into level 4 of Lockdown and more people are returning to work under revised operating hours for all road-based public transport modes. I'm aware that majority of our people are aware of the revised regulations, however, I believe it is important to mention a few key ones for the safety of our people. To mention but a few, taxis and buses must not carry more than 70% of their maximum licensed passenger carrying capacity. All passengers and drivers must wear a face mask or an item covering his/her nose and mouth. No person will be allowed to use any form of Public transport if they do not wear a mask. Public transport is permitted to operate from 05h00 to 19h00 and the driver must ensure that the drop-off is completed by 19h00. It is important for our people to know that it is law for all citizens to wear face mask at all public places. You are therefore encouraged to wear three-layer cloth mask as failure to comply with this regulation will result with dire consequences.

Honourable Speaker

May I take this opportunity to appreciate the capable stewardship of the Premier, as his visionary leadership. To the Chairperson and members of the Portfolio Committee, we really appreciate the guidance and support we receive and wish for the continuation of the cordial relationship, going forward. Colleagues in the Executive Council, thank for your continuous support and comradery.

May I also acknowledge the support of the Head of the Department, Ms Hanli du Plessis, her management team and the staff for the continued hard work and dedication.

Madam Speaker

It is my pleasure, to present Budget vote 08 of the Department of Transport and Community Safety for appropriation.

Thank you

Baie dankie

Re a leboga

Ha khensa

Ndo lihvuwa

Siyabona

Pula!

