

**ADDRESS BY MEC BASIKOPO RODGERS MAKAMU ON THE
OCCASION OF THE BUDGET VOTE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND
TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS TO THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL
LEGISLATURE, LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS**

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Premier Stanley Chupu Mathabatha

Colleagues in the Executive Council

Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature

Chief Whip of Majority Party

Leader of the Official Opposition Party

Honourable Members of Parliament

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee

Comrades, Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning, Thobela, Avuxeni, Ndi matsheloni, Goeie more

Honourable Speaker,

As noted by colleagues before me, we are tabling this Budget Vote 2020/21 in an extremely difficult environment after President Cyril Ramaphosa declared a National State of Disaster on 15 March 2020 to combat the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The country and the world at large is at war with the Corona Virus hence we presenting our Budget to this august house on a virtual basis. With all our efforts as led by the National and Provincial Command Councils, one has no doubt in mind that we will defeat the spread of this virus to our vulnerable people. In the same breadth, we continue

to call on all of us to adhere to the regulations that have been put together to get us safe from this virus.

Honourable Speaker,

As we tabling this budget vote, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of those who continue to succumb to this virus.

Honourable Speaker,

In tabling this budget the Department would like to realise the four components entailed in the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan aligned to Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) which provides the following priorities: spatial integration, human settlements and local government; A diverse, social cohesion with a common identity and capable, ethical and development state.

Key and of central and cardinal importance to the above objects, is realising the departmental mandate of:

1. Providing effective leadership in strategic planning of the department, management and administrative support to the core functions of the department.
2. Ensuring spatially transformed human settlements by providing access to adequate accommodation in relevant well located areas, access to basic services and access to social infrastructure and economic opportunities;
3. Providing technical and oversight support to municipalities in terms of implementing their mandates.
4. Supporting the institution of Traditional Leadership to operate within the context of Co-operative Governance.

In giving effect to these mandate and objects, the department intends to fast track the implementation of all housing programmes as per the Multiyear Housing Development Plan for the Province. The following delivery outputs per each human settlements programme are planned for the 2020/21 financial year.

1. The Department plans to reduce the housing backlog by completing 5 998 new housing units across all human settlements programmes.
2. The Department also plans to acquire 30 hectares of strategically located land in an effort to increase the delivery of housing units in the province.
3. There is an intention to service a further 1 687 sites in the province

Honourable Speaker,

In our last year budget speech, we made a number of commitments especially in the human settlements component of our department. Amongst some of these commitments made was to build and handover 5 579 low cost houses in the province. I am delighted to announce that we were able to deliver on this promise. As at the end of March this year we had built and handed over 8 764 low cost houses to beneficiaries in the province.

Honourable Speaker,

The introduction of the District Development Model is a mechanism for ensuring integrated and well-coordinated, regional planning, budgeting and implementation. This is in line with the spirit of the 1998 White

Paper on Local Government that envisioned district municipalities as centers of regional planning, infrastructure provision and economic development. This is key for maximizing public and private development initiatives for sustainable social and economic development. To date, the model has been launched in Waterberg, which is a national pilot site, Capricorn and Vhembe District Municipalities. Our focus will be to roll-out the implementation of the model in all the districts. This will require intensifying targeted support to build the capacity of districts to play this role.

Audit outcomes are a measure of sound financial management. We have registered an overall improvement in audit outcomes as we managed to reduce the number of adverse and disclaimer audit opinions, with an improvement of outcomes in 07 municipalities. I therefore take this opportunity to congratulate Capricorn District Municipality for obtaining a clean audit, a first in a number of years.

Honourable Speaker,

As we prepare for the 2021 Local Government Elections, transitional measures to ensure a smooth transition from the current local government to the coming after the elections remains important.

The Provincial Government resolved to place Mogalakwena Local Municipality under Section 139(1) (b) of the Constitution in order to stabilize the municipality. Since the intervention the municipality has stabilized. I therefore would like to extend my special appreciation to the Council and other partners for the support provided to the intervention team deployed by the provincial government to the municipality.

Honourable Speaker,

On support to local government, the Department has signed agreement with the Development Bank of Southern Africa to support both the Provincial Government and municipalities to discharge their mandates. Municipalities will be supported in various areas such as spatial planning, infrastructure planning & delivery, asset management, revenue management, and others. This will augment current support offered by Government Technical Advisory Centre (GTAC) and the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA).

Honourable Speaker,

Since the outbreak of the Covid- 19 pandemic, the province has been working towards minimizing the spread of the infections guided by the integrated contingency plan approved by Executive Council during March 2020. The Contingency Plan includes a coordination framework for all activities at both provincial and local government levels. The Department, through the Provincial Disaster Management Centre continues to play a critical role of coordinating the Provincial Disaster Management Forum, which is constituted by both government and non-governmental partners to ensure proper coordination of the response as per the Disaster Management Act. The Centre also has a responsibility of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of various Regulations and Directions by different sectors, and reporting progress to the Provincial Command Council, while also providing daily reports to the National Disaster Management Centre. To this effect, let me pass my appreciation to the team working at the PMDC, as well as municipalities and other partners for providing regular updates.

To date, progress on the interventions implemented include among others:

1. Ensuring compliance to various Regulations and Directions in public and private institutions. Government will continue to monitor compliance to regulations by both public and business sectors under level 4 of the risk adjusted strategy
2. Work streams are currently developing socio-economic recovery plans to address the impact of the pandemic
3. Identification and assessment of quarantine facilities both in Public and Private sectors to ensure that the Province is ready to respond when a need arise.
4. Establishment of shelters for the homeless in all districts and related services thereof.
5. Provision of food parcels to distressed families as part of social relief measures. I would like to take this opportunity to thank business owners and other social partners for their continual support to families in distress during this difficult time.
6. There has been concerted efforts to fast-track water provision in communities. Department of Water and Sanitation working in partnership with municipalities has provided water trucks and water tanks to ensure that communities have reliable supply of water. Municipalities have also reprioritized their budgets to address water challenges in response to the pandemic. Work is continuing with Water Service Authorities to align the initiatives to ensure sustained provision beyond the pandemic.

Honourable Speaker,

I will have failed in my task in this budget presentation if don't congratulate Kgošikgolo Thulare Victor Thulare III, Bauba A Hlabirwa on his recognition as Kgošikgolo of the Bapedi Nation by the President. The Department, will support the institution so that it is fully established to discharge its mandate and responsibilities.

The President has, on 28 November 2019, assented to the Traditional Leadership and Khoisan Leadership Act No3 of 2019, paving way for the constitution and reconstitution of traditional councils. Our priority for this financial year is therefore to constitute and reconstitute traditional councils in compliant with the legislation.

In response to the Premier's pronouncements for the purchase of vehicles for five(5) Senior Traditional Leaders that have not been provided with vehicles previously, we have started the process of purchasing these vehicles as a tool of trade to enable them to fulfill their responsibilities.

In the same breadth Honourable Speaker, we implore on all Traditional Leaders in the province to assist us in implementing the decision we took to suspend initiation school season this year as a result of COVID 19. We expect total compliance to this decision and therefore Traditional Leaders remains central in having this decision implemented.

Honourable Speaker,

As I conclude, let me extend my sincere gratitude to the Honorable Premier Ntate Chupu Mathabatha for the support he continues to give CoGHSTA and the Members of the Executive Council.

To members of the Portfolio Committee, SALGA, IEC, Mayors, the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders and my colleagues in the Executive Council for the support and guidance you give to the department. May I also acknowledge Team CoGHSTA led by the Head of Department, Ms. Ngaka Dumalisile for the sterling work they continue to do in the department.

Honourable Speaker,

It is therefore my pleasure, to present to you and the House, Budget Vote 11 of the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Budget for the year 2020/21. Coupled with this budget is the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and the Annual Performance Plan.

The Budget I am tabling today is composed of four components; Administration which is mainly support, Human Settlements, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs. The budget allocated to these components are as follows: a total of R2.5 billion (R2 466 516 000) broken down as follows: Administration three hundred and ninety-six million (R 396 966 000), Human settlements, R1, 2 billion (R 1 231 750 000), Cooperative Governance two hundred and ninety-six million (R296 385 000) and Traditional Institutional Development five hundred and forty-one million (R 541 415 000).

I thank you.