

Budget Vote 1:

Office of the Premier - Presented by Premier of Limpopo Dr Phophi Ramathuba to the Limpopo Legislature

13 August 2024

Speaker of the Legislature Honourable Makoma Makhurupetje

Deputy Speaker of the Legislature Honourable Tebogo

Mamorobela

Chief Whip of the Legislature

Chairpersons of various Committees

Members of the Legislature

Leaders of political parties

Members of the media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Ndi matsheloni,

Avuxeni,

Thobela,

Silotshile

Goeie More

Good morning,

Madam Speaker, we are presenting Vote 1 budget during August month, which in Tshivenda it is called Thangule, and Sepedi is Phatho while in Xitsonga it is Mhawuri. The simple interpretation, which is common amongst our 3 languages is, the month of dispossession and the month of getting rid of old chuff in preparation for rebirth in the subsequent months of September and October.

The wind that is associated with August often signifies a process of renewal and being re-energised. Legend has it that in Thangule, Phato, Mhawuri there were great expectations that change will happen, if it doesn't come naturally through the leaves falling, the wind will help in the process to speed up change.

It is not a coincidence that we celebrate women's month in August because we have come to associate it with women, our torch-bearers as change-makers of our society, bo-matswara-thipa-ka-bogaleng. *Tsa etwa ke ya tsadi de ya mafolong...*

The role of Office of the Premier is to provide strategic, ethical and innovative leadership. This is achieved through through the mandate of the Office of the Premier to coordinate and support the provincial administration. We do this through key programmes which are Corporate Management, Institutional

Development & Support, and Planning, Coordination, Monitoring & Evaluation.

This is a crucial task that for the next five years we should be able to point out as a hallmark of our administration.

Madam Speaker,

We have made significant strides in financial management, I am proud to announce that the Office has resolved all the matters of emphasis which were raised by the Auditor-General and Internal Audit during the 2023/24 audit cycle.

The 360-degree turnaround strategy has yielded a positive outcome as there were no issues raised during the recently completed audit for the 2023/24 audit cycle which the Auditor-General is yet to announce the audit outcomes. The Office has also cleared all unwanted expenditures for prior years. On the other hand, all the SCOPA resolutions for the office have been implemented.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Director General, Mr Nape Nchabeleng, the Executive Management team, and all staff for their dedication to excellence and good governance. This team of women and men has done a sterling job and deserves a round

of applause. I believe that the team has the capacity and will spare no effort in sustaining and improving the good governance displayed so far.

During the reporting period, the Office successfully spent over 98.5% of its allocated budget and ensured that 100% of supplier invoices were paid within the prescribed timeframe of 30 days.

This consistency in ensuring that funds allocated are spent accordingly and suppliers are paid within the stipulated timeframe need to be sustained without compromise and be extended to the entire administration.

We have also made strides in employment equity, with women representing 51% of senior management positions, an improvement from 48% and people living with disabilities at 3,2% exceeding the 2% target as stipulated by the employment equity legislation. As the Office of the Premier, there is a need to ensure that provincial department are assisted to meet the same targets.

As part of digitising the Province, the Office has introduced the electronic recruitment and leave management systems. The electronic recruitment system will streamline the processes and improve turnaround times in filling vacancies. The system is

finalised and is currently being rolled out for the entire provincial administration.

This system not only saves time but also reduces the financial burden on applicants. Several departments have already advertised posts using the electronic system and it has proven that our youth are excited about the system.

We are no longer seeing long queues for submission of applications as applicants are now applying in the comfort of their own homes as we move towards the realisation of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). The born before technology mindset era has passed and all are encouraged to utilise this system to make life easier.

The electronic leave management system is being rolled out to all provincial departments in the 2024/25 financial year. The system will do away with paper-based applications for leave and will yield positive outcomes regarding audit matters.

For the 2024/25 financial year, the Office has been allocated R506,2 million, a 10% increase from the previous year, with R84 million earmarked for provincial priorities.

Esteemed Members,

The role of monitoring and evaluation in our administration is nothing short of crucial and this cannot be over emphasised. It is through consistent monitoring that my office can keep a close eye on the progress of our government programmes and initiatives, ensuring that every step taken is measured, every resource is used effectively, and every challenge is identified promptly.

In this Financial Year, the Office of the Premier is prioritising water provision programmes, recognising the importance of water security for our communities and economic growth. The #HiNwaMati Friday programme will find expression and be implemented as pronounced during the opening of the Legislature for the 7th Administration.

Additionally, we will evaluate the implementation of the Musina Makhado Special Economic Zone, a project that holds significant potential for driving economic transformation and job creation to eradicate poverty in our province.

Through these evaluations, we aim to ensure that these critical initiatives are delivering the intended benefits and where necessary, we will make the adjustments required to maximise their impact. This includes the Fetakgomo Tubatse Industrial

Park to realise its full potential and transform it to a Special Economic Zone as we battle the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment facing our communities.

Our commitment is clear: we will not rest until these vital needs are met and our province continues its path to sustainable development and prosperity for all.

I want to emphasise that monitoring and evaluation is not merely about looking back at what we have achieved. It is about fostering a culture of continuous improvement within our administration and the community benefitting on service provision.

Through the integration of these processes into the very fabric of our governance, we encourage innovation and proactive problem-solving. We should not just be content with meeting targets but strive to exceed them. This approach ensures that our administration remains agile and responsive to the ever-changing needs of our people.

The Office of the Premier will continue to fulfil its strategic role in overseeing the implementation of government priorities across all departments.

Madam Speaker,

It is with great privilege and responsibility that I stand before you today outlining our commitment to building a capable and developmental state in line with the priorities of the 7th Administration.

Central to our mandate is the imperative to enhance the capacity of the state, ensuring that our public service is equipped to deliver efficient and effective services to the people of Limpopo.

The Cabinet approved the framework for Professionalisation of the Public Sector on 19 October 2022 which seeks to create a state that better serves its citizens, one free from excessive political meddling and one where appointments are based on merit.

The framework recognises the importance of a professional and competent public sector in addressing complex societal challenges, promoting transparency and accountability, and fostering public trust. It emphasizes the need for continuous learning, career development, and the adoption of professional standards and codes of conduct.

To ensure that Limpopo Province is able to fully implement the framework the Office of the Premier has commenced with the development of an implementation of the professionalisation of the public sector framework.

The Office of the Premier plays a pivotal role in building state capacity through various initiatives and partnerships aimed at strengthening the skills and capabilities of our public servants.

One of our key focus areas is the induction of Members of the Executive Council, their Offices, and critical officials, providing them with the necessary tools and knowledge to accomplish their roles effectively.

In collaboration with the Public Service Education and Training Authority (PSETA), we have engaged the University of Stellenbosch to develop the Limpopo Public Service Sector Skills Plan, which will serve as the foundation for the Limpopo Human Resource Development Public Sector Plan/Strategy.

This strategic approach will ensure that our province has the requisite capacity to meet the demands of public service delivery.

Furthermore, we have initiated a scientific study to understand the factors driving the size of the Cost of Employees (CoE) in

Limpopo, with the aim of implementing shared services to streamline operations and reduce costs.

Consequence management directives and guidelines have been issued to strengthen accountability and build capacity within departments. The collaboration between the Office of the Premier and Provincial Treasury is geared towards supporting departments in executing their mandates effectively, while ensuring that vacant Head of Departments positions are filled promptly.

The five (05) vacant Heads of Department positions have been advertised and closing on the 17th August 2024 thus enabling them to be filled promptly.

Additionally, we are conducting a comprehensive ICT Infrastructure Assessment to inform the implementation of an ICT Infrastructure Improvement Plan over the next five years. Prioritising ICT security and cybersecurity is paramount to safeguarding information and ensuring uninterrupted service delivery through digital transformation.

As we forge ahead in our mission to build a capable and developmental state, I urge all stakeholders to join hands in realising our vision of a more efficient, transparent, and responsive public service. Together, we can propel Limpopo towards a brighter future where every citizen benefits from a government that is equipped to meet their needs.

Honourable Members

It is worth mentioning that as the Premier, I have made an undertaking that come 2025 the Old Giyani College of Education which is soon to be the Tshwane University of Technology satellite must have its first cohorts of student intake. We can no longer wait for this realisation of a University in the Mopani District part of Limpopo.

There are further plans to explore the creation of additional higher education institutions across Limpopo and an announcement will be made at the right time.

In our quest for economic sustainability, we have focused on ensuring that our Provincial Business Enterprises, or Schedule 3D Entities, are self-sustainable. Following the adoption of SCOPA resolutions, we have developed and implemented a turnaround strategy, guided by a multi-stakeholder steering

committee chaired by the Director General. This strategic approach is crucial for reducing dependency on provincial fiscal allocations and promoting economic viability.

Honourable Members,

Our office has been actively working towards enhancing the quality of life for vulnerable groups, including women, youth, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and military veterans.

Efforts to support military veterans have also been intensified, with the military veterans' development plan being a focal point in our agenda.

The Department of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities has launched a programme to empower young women in rural areas, particularly through training in the installation, maintenance, and repair of solar panels and lighting systems.

This initiative, which emerged during the 2023 South Africa Chairing of BRICS, has sent 10 youth from the province to India to enhance their skills in solar development, contributing to the resolution of the country's load shedding challenges.

Madam Speaker,

The importance of international relations in advancing the socio-economic development agenda of the Limpopo Province cannot be overemphasised. As we navigate the complexities of a globalised world, it is imperative that we leverage strategic partnerships and collaborations to unlock opportunities for growth and prosperity.

The province remains committed to promoting the African Agenda and fostering regional socio-economic integration, particularly in light of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

In this spirit, we are dedicated to strengthening our ties with the Matabeleland North, South, and Bulawayo Metro Provinces of Zimbabwe, as well as the regions of Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena, and Oshikoto in Namibia. These collaborations present avenues for enhancing economic development, agriculture, SMMEs development, cultural heritage, and various other sectors for mutual benefit.

Furthermore, our province will continue to work closely with the People of Gaza Province in Mozambique to advance regional economic integration efforts. By deepening these relationships,

we aim to create a conducive environment for private sector participation in driving socio-economic progress and fostering sustainable development.

In consolidating South-South relations, we are maximising opportunities for collaboration with the Provinces of the People's Republic of China, particularly Henan and Hubei.

Our ongoing support for initiatives such as the Green Technology Confucius Institute at the University of Venda, in partnership with Hubei University of Technology, underscores our commitment to innovation and knowledge exchange.

Additionally, we are dedicated to enhancing health diplomacy with Cuba, drawing on their expertise and solidarity to advance the National Health Insurance (NHI) agenda.

The invaluable contributions of Cuban professionals in our healthcare system and infrastructure development are deeply appreciated, and we stand in solidarity with the people of Cuba as they continue to exemplify the spirit of global solidarity.

Looking towards the Global North, we are eager to revitalise discussions and collaborations with strategic partners in Italy, France and Spain. By fostering industrialisation and

beneficiation initiatives, we aim to create job opportunities and drive economic growth for the benefit of our people.

As we embark on this journey of international engagement and cooperation, I call upon all stakeholders to join hands in realising our shared vision of a prosperous and interconnected Limpopo Province. Together, we can harness the power of global partnerships to build a brighter future for all our citizens.

The establishment of AIDS Councils across all districts and municipalities, in alignment with the South African National AIDS Council guidelines, demonstrates effective local governance and community engagement towards a HIV free generation and stand against stigma.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to announce that the province has concluded the development of the 30 Year Review Document.

Equally important, we have commenced with the administrative process of crafting Limpopo Development Plan, with a clear roadmap in place to guide us through this crucial endeavour. The process is set to conclude in February 2025.

In parallel, the Office of the Premier has spearheaded the development of the Limpopo Renewable Energy strategy, aimed at promoting the deployment of renewable energy technologies and services.

In a concerted effort to respond to community outcry, the implementation of the District Development Model (DDM) remains high in our priority. We are committed to joint planning and service provision across our districts.

We are working hard to address issues raised in our previously held DDM Outreach in Sekhukhune District by the President of South Africa Mr Matamela Ramaphosa and in Capricorn District by the Limpopo Administration.

We look forward to interacting with various stakeholders on service delivery provision challenges, and effectively addressing the gaps in other districts in this financial year.

South Africa is a water scarce country and Limpopo is no exception. We will continue to have engagements with the current Minister of Water and Sanitation to implement an integrated programme to deal with water challenges in Limpopo. I therefore commit that as a province we make a promise to

implement the Hi Nwa Mati Friday. Our people have waited long enough for this service. Water is life and sanitation is dignity.

Additionally, we will forge ahead with acquiring water from Zimbabwe to support water requirements for the Vhembe District, including the Musina-Makhado SEZ for sustainable development.

In conclusion, our journey towards a more efficient, accountable, and service-oriented public administration is on course. The initiatives outlined today are a testament to our commitment to the people of Limpopo and we shall strive to making each a reality to improve the lives of our people. As we work together to do more, let us all focus our minds and energies to build a better Limpopo. Let us continue to shape Limpopo that is prosperous, inclusive, non-racist, non-sexist and, most importantly, reflective of the aspirations of all its citizens.

Madam Speaker,

It is my honour to table before this August house, the 2024-2025 Budget Vote 1 for the Office of the Premier for appropriation:

BUDGET SPEECH 2024/25

Table 1.2(a) and 1.2(b) below provides summary of programme and economic classification

R thousand	Outcome			Main appropriation	Adjusted appropriation	Revised estimate	Medium-term estimates		
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24			2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
1. Administration	146,823	142,856	152,452	152,872	155,083	155,083	151,507	159,118	167,907
2. Institutional Development	144,951	149,007	183,272	180,533	200,542	200,542	237,305	241,161	246,753
3. Policy & Governance	90,746	91,192	104,909	104,979	110,029	110,029	117,382	115,171	118,855
Total payments and estimates	382,520	383,055	440,633	438,384	465,654	465,654	506,194	515,450	533,515

Table 2.2 : Summary of provincial payments and estimates by economic classification: Office Of The Premier

R thousand	Outcome			Main appropriation	Adjusted appropriation 2023/24	Revised estimate	Medium-term estimates			% change from 2023/24
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23				2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	
Current payments	372,110	368,718	417,251	435,534	451,604	451,604	501,242	509,571	526,361	11.0
Compensation of employees	295,189	291,690	287,862	315,384	304,383	304,383	331,844	345,118	358,922	9.0
Goods and services	76,921	76,969	129,389	120,150	147,221	147,221	169,398	164,453	167,439	15.1
Interest and rent on land	-	59	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers and subsidies to:	6,946	10,955	16,385	433	6,833	6,833	1,195	2,048	3,640	(82.5)
Provinces and municipalities	29	20	20	49	49	49	49	49	50	0.0
Departmental agencies and account	10	9	5,013	87	87	87	27	27	27	(69.0)
Higher education institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Foreign governments and internatio	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public corporations and private ente	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-profit institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Households	6,907	10,926	11,352	297	6,697	6,697	1,119	1,972	3,563	(83.3)
Payments for capital assets	3,366	3,364	6,997	2,417	7,217	7,217	3,757	3,831	3,514	(47.9)
Buildings and other fixed structures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Machinery and equipment	3,366	3,338	6,659	2,417	7,217	7,217	3,757	3,831	3,514	(47.9)
Heritage Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Specialised military assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biological assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land and sub-soil assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Software and other intangible assets	-	26	338	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments for financial assets	98	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total economic classification	382,520	383,055	440,633	438,384	465,654	465,654	506,194	515,450	533,515	8.7

Earmarked Funds

PROJECTS	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	R'000	R'000	R'000
SHARED DISASTER RECOVERY DATALINE	3,553	3,730	3,917
ENTERPRICE CONTENT MANAGEMENT - ECM	20,000	34,278	33,911
DIGITAL SIGNATURE - ECM	3,244	3,498	3,655
SHARED EMAIL (EMAIL SECURITY AND CONTINUITY)	10,661	13,244	13,840
PROV ICT INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT AUDIT			
DISASTER RECOVERY AS A SERVICE (DRAAS)	19,770	12,000	12,000
IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPING A SHARED SERVICES UNIT	2,500		
PROVINCIAL EVALUATION PLAN (PEP)	2,200		
PROVINCIAL CUSTOMER SURVEY	1,800		
GARTNER - IT INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES	5,252	5,916	6,183
REVIEW OF THE LDP FOR THE 7TH TERM OF THE ADMINISTRATION	2,500		
PROVINCIAL ENERGY STRATEGY	664		
COMMUNICATION	5,000		
LIMPOPO SMS CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME	7,000		
TOTAL ALLOCATED OVER THE MTEF	84,144	72,666	73,506

THANK YOU!