

BUDGET VOTE 1: OFFICE OF THE PREMIER - PRESENTED BY PREMIER OF LIMPOPO DR
PHOPHI RAMATHUBA TO THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE, 08 APRIL 2025

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 Executive Council
Members of the Legislature
Leaders of political parties
Members of the Religious fraternity
The Director General and all Heads of Department
Members of the media
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning,
Ndi matsheloni,
Avuxeni,
Goeie More

As I stand before you today to present the Budget Vote for the Office of the Premier, I am compelled to address a matter that weighs heavily on our hearts and minds: the pervasive issues of rape and gender-based violence that continue to plague our society. It is deeply troubling that individuals entrusted with the responsibility of safeguarding our communities - principals, police officers and others - have been implicated in heinous acts of violence, including chilling cases of rape, murder, robbery and fraud.

We take pride in the strong stance taken by the teachers' union, which has unequivocally distanced itself from the actions of such principals and we commend the swift accountability measures taken against police officers involved in these crimes. These developments should serve as a rallying cry for all of us to intensify our fight against these injustices.

As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Freedom Charter and commemorate the legacy of Chris Hani, we must remain resolute in our commitment to eradicating these despicable acts from our society. Together, we must work towards a Limpopo where every individual can live free from fear and violence, and where justice prevails for all.

Honourable Speaker the office has been allocated R554 million for the 2025/26 financial year. While this allocation may seem modest compared to others, it has sparked a vital conversation within our social media communities - one that demands clarity on the essential role the Office of the Premier plays in our province.

The Office of the Premier does not exist in isolation; rather, it serves as the nexus of leadership, coordination and support for the provincial administration. That is why the 63% of the R554 million allocated shall be spent on Compensation of Employees whilst 37% shall go to goods and services.

It is through our three programmes - Corporate Management, Institutional Development Support; and Planning, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation that we will strive to fortify the fabric of governance in Limpopo.

Our aim is to empower all departments, ensuring that together we deliver compelling and impactful services to the people we serve.

Corporate Management

Honourable Speaker, for the Premier and the Director General to fulfil their legislative oversight function they would require strong and effective administrative support under Programme 1 which is Corporate Management, hence an amount of R163 million is allocated to this programme.

On 14 August 2024, during the tabling of our budget, we made a commitment that in our journey to modernise public service provision, we shall extend the running of the Electronic Recruitment System across all departments which was launched in the previous financial year.

We are thrilled to announce that not only is the Office of the Premier that utilises this transformative tool to streamline recruitment processes whilst promoting transparency and ensuring that we continue to select the best candidates based on merit; but all departments are able to use this system.

Honourable Speaker, in our office alone, through this transformative tool which has improved our turnaround time in recruitment processes, we have managed to reduce and maintain an average vacancy rate below 10%. We should, Madam Speaker, hasten to say that we will continuously enhance and upgrade system, especially the downtime rate that seem to be an inconvenience to some of the users.

Additionally, our commitment to gender equity is demonstrated by 52% of women occupying senior management positions. Equally, 2.96% of our positions are filled by people with disabilities. This achievement can never be celebrated if our departments lag, despite most of them being labour intensive.

Of course, the question we are often asked by oversight committees is to what extent are we working towards making sure that the entire provincial government achieves equal or more of these results. We shall ensure through our coordination role that this practice permeates into the fabric of the provincial departments.

Planning Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation

As we forge ahead with the 7th Administration, we reaffirm our commitment towards our core business, that is, a coordinated governance agenda. In the allocation provided R121 million has been set aside for the 2025/26 financial to support the execution of its functions.

Honourable Speaker we are pleased report to the legislature that we have finalised the Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) 2025-2030. This is the last iteration of the National Development Plan 2030 and it is aligned to the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP).

To this effect, we developed a comprehensive Five-Year Strategic Plan, aligned with the LDP priorities, that will serve as the guiding document for transformation, service excellence and economic growth. This plan embodies values of accountability, inclusivity and innovation, guiding our collaboration with departments, municipalities and stakeholders as we work to enhance institutional capacity and accelerate socio-economic development.

Our Annual Performance Plans will emphasise good governance, accountability and a relentless pursuit of service provision excellence. We will intensify our skills development efforts, enhance financial management practices and embrace digital transformation to increase our efficiency. We will also strengthen our performance monitoring and evaluation to ensure our initiatives yield measurable impact, fostering a culture steeped in ethical leadership and integrity.

Honourable Speaker, at the forefront of our agenda is the Provincial Water Working Group, a collaborative effort with ten Water Services Authorities, the Departments of Water and Sanitation and COGHSTA.

To date, the Premier's Water War Rooms on Polokwane, Mopani (Greater Tzaneen) and Vhembe (Makhado) have been established.

This initiative is crucial in addressing the regression in water provision across our province. Access to clean and reliable water is not just a basic need; it is essential for public health, economic growth, environmental sustainability and social equity. We are investing in water infrastructure to ensure that every resident, regardless of their location or socio-economic status, benefits from this vital resource. This is a testament to our dedication to building a more equitable and prosperous Limpopo.

Madam Speaker, on Saturday, 12 April 2025 we will be celebrating your academic achievements and of many others at our very own University of Limpopo. Let me start by congratulating you for this remarkable achievement, attainment of Doctor of Philosophy.

In the same breath, let me invite you to join us in contributing to the growing body of new knowledge that this province requires to address some of the socio-economic challenges. Your contribution and that of many others will assist in making sure that the Limpopo Research agenda continues to make significant strides by generating knowledge and providing practical solutions in sectors such as water provision, agriculture, healthcare and governance.

Institutional Development Support

Honourable Speaker, Institutional Development Support, Programme 2, is the cornerstone of government support. It is for this reason that R270 million has been set aside for its functions.

One of our tasks is to make sure that departments are headed by qualified and capable heads of department. This has not been an easy task, especially in Departments of Health, Education, Agriculture and Rural Development and Social Development. However, we want to commit to this house that the process will be finalised in the first quarter since it is already in motion, adverts have closed. The position of the Head of Department for Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure has since been filled.

In pursuit of agile governance, we are allocating significant resources to our Information and Communication Technology (ICT) initiatives. This year alone, we will invest over R80 million in critical areas such as email security, digital signatures, electronic content management and disaster recovery. These investments are essential as we prepare our government for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, ensuring our readiness for a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Additionally, we are excited to announce our partnership with the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA) to launch the Limpopo Public Sector Skills Plan. This initiative will ensure coherent skills development that aligns with the National Development Plan's mandate for a capable state, adept at fulfilling its transformative role.

Honourable Speaker, as we progress, we want to highlight our commitment to empowering youth entrepreneurs through the Limpopo Youth Fund. In our first phase, we have empowered over 94 young entrepreneurs with R5.266 million. The second phase of the fund has now closed with approximately 412 applications for business support. We are committed to ensuring these processes are both efficient and effective.

The Director-General has been directed to finalise the strategy for revitalising the Premier's Economic Growth and Advisory Committee (PEGAC). This committee will play a pivotal role in shaping our economic policies and ensuring sustainable growth as well as streamlining our relations with stakeholders within the economic development realm.

Our commitment towards the support we are giving to Military Veterans, including housing them in the Office of the Premier has received a major boost by concluding the protocol agreement between the OTP and the Department of Military Veterans.

The Jane Furse township establishment has been a long-standing issue Honourable Speaker. We recently convened a meeting to address the challenges and assess the appropriateness of the available land. An Inter-Ministerial Committee has been revitalised to tackle these issues and ensure progress.

To attract investment, we are convening an investment workshop to reposition Limpopo's role in the global economy. We have already led several trade missions and commitments made during these missions are beginning to bear fruit. I have asked the Director-General to convene a session with stakeholders to develop an integrated Limpopo investment strategy, focusing on mining, agriculture and tourism.

As we recently demonstrated during our appearance before the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA), we successfully accounted for all previous resolutions. We have pledged to the SCOPA that we, along with the Provincial Treasury, will intensify our efforts in providing strategic support and oversight. This cooperative approach will help us promote sound financial management and good governance across the spectrum of government institutions.

As we take pride in reclaiming the clean audit within our office in the 2023/24 financial year, we recognise that this milestone is not the ultimate in what we want to achieve, given the small size of our budget, it must be a norm that is maintained without fail every year. In its highest form, it is a clarion call to extend our commitment to excellence throughout all departments and municipalities.

Together, we must foster a culture of financial discipline, transparency and service provision. Our expectation is clear: every department and municipality must align their operations to this principle. Our goal is to create a Limpopo where every government institution proudly achieves a clean audit - a good sign to our dedication to public trust and sustainable development.

Moving forward, our office will harness its coordination capabilities to ensure the effective implementation of all recommendations from the forensic reports commissioned in Limpopo, as well as those from statutory bodies such as the HAWKS, the Special Investigating Unit (SIU), the Public Service Commission, the Human Rights Commission and others.

Madam Speaker, we will not give up the fight against corruption. The Limpopo Anti-Corruption Forum which has been instrumental in our pursuit of clean governance will be repealed and replaced by the Premier's Ethics and Advisory Council, as per the advice of the Auditor General.

Honourable Speaker, we must also provide an update on the implementation of SCOPA resolutions. Currently, there are four outstanding resolutions that are transversal in nature. These pertain to the reconfiguration of 3D entities, addressing issues of fruitless and wasteful expenditure, implementing recommendations from statutory bodies and enforcing consequence management.

Regarding our 3D entities, we have established a technical committee to assess their feasibility and sustainability. Reports have indicated concerns about the sustainability of entities like Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA), Limpopo Connexion and the Great North Transport (GNT). In response, we have decided to establish an

Inter-Ministerial Committee to provide political and strategic focus, ensuring these entities fulfil their mandates effectively.

We will ensure that with each quarterly report, we provide clear progress updates in these areas, develop necessary policies and propose effective turnaround strategies.

Our focus is on driving accountability and transparency, ensuring that we fulfil our responsibilities to the people of Limpopo.

We wish to emphasise consequence management, which is pivotal in maintaining accountability. Should a Head of Department fail to act against transgressions in their department, the MEC shall ensure that actions are taken within the legal framework.

The Office of the Premier remains committed to prudent financial management and the efficient utilisation of public resources. We are pleased to report that we have successfully spent 99.2 per cent of our allocated budget, demonstrating our ability to implement planned programmes while maintaining fiscal discipline. This achievement reflects our strong governance, accountability and commitment to value for money.

For the 2025/2026 financial year, the Office has been allocated R554.810 million, including R109.568 million earmarked for provincial priorities. We will continue to strengthen expenditure management, enhance financial oversight and improve service provision outcomes, ensuring that our budget remains a powerful tool for development and transformation.

As indicated by the MEC for Finance during the Provincial Budget Speech, we might be the mogodu of the beast that has been slaughtered, without it the cow cannot metabolise the grass and leaves that it eats daily. In its finite sense, people may not get to enjoy the delicacy of the slaughtered beast if this vital part is missing. Together, we will nurture our province, ensuring that every citizen is fed and nourished by the fruits of our labour.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Director General and all staff in the Office of the Premier for the work they continue to do and, as we commit these plans, it is in them that we entrust this responsibility. The responsibility of monitoring and evaluation, to ensure that the 7th Administration is on track in implementing the LDP rests with them.

In closing, I urge all of us to remain steadfast in our commitment to serving the people of Limpopo. With unity and purpose, we will build a government that is responsive, transparent and dedicated to meeting the needs of our citizens.

Honourable Members, I hereby table the budget for Vote 1: Office of the Premier, 2025/2026.

Thank you.

Table 1.2(a) : Summary of payments and estimates by programme: Office of The Premier

R thousand	Outcome			Main appropriation	Adjusted appropriation	Revised estimate	Medium-term estimates		
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24				2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Programmes									
Administration	142 856	152 452	153 551	151 507	160 902	160 902	163 066	170 562	177 993
Institutional Development	149 007	183 272	196 680	237 305	235 856	235 856	270 602	283 056	286 151
Policy & Governance	91 192	104 909	104 867	117 382	113 638	113 638	121 142	125 866	126 063
Total	383 055	440 633	455 098	506 194	510 396	510 396	554 810	579 484	590 207

Table 1.2(b) : Summary of provincial payments and estimates by economic classification: Office of The Premier

R thousand	Outcome			Main appropriation	Adjusted appropriation	Revised estimate	Medium-term estimates		
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24				2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Current payments	368 718	417 251	441 273	501 242	503 106	503 106	549 138	569 494	585 756
Compensation of employees	291 690	287 862	296 622	331 844	323 844	323 844	350 461	366 617	383 508
Goods and services	76 969	129 389	144 651	169 398	179 262	179 262	198 677	202 877	202 248
Interest and rent on land	59	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transfers and subsidies to:	10 955	16 385	6 226	1 195	3 088	3 088	1 291	6 504	761
Provinces and municipalities	20	20	22	49	49	49	49	49	49
Departmental agencies and accounts	9	5 013	9	27	27	27	27	5 027	27
Higher education institutions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Foreign governments and international organisations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public corporations and private enterprises	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-profit institutions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Households	10 926	11 352	6 195	1 119	3 012	3 012	1 215	1 428	685
Payments for capital assets	3 364	6 997	7 599	3 757	4 202	4 202	4 381	3 486	3 690
Buildings and other fixed structures	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Machinery and equipment	3 338	6 659	7 599	3 757	4 202	4 202	4 381	3 486	3 690
Heritage Assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Specialised military assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Biological assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Land and sub-soil assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Software and other intangible assets	26	338	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Payments for financial assets	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total economic classification	383 055	440 633	455 098	506 194	510 396	510 396	554 810	579 484	590 207

Programme 1: Administration

Table 1.3(a) : Summary of payments and estimates by sub-programme: Programme 1

R thousand	Outcome			Main appropriation	Adjusted appropriation	Revised estimate	Medium-term estimates		
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24				2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
1. Premier Support	16 183	19 204	15 583	14 080	17 573	17 573	19 261	20 013	20 801
2. Executive Council Support	5 882	5 453	4 426	4 624	3 038	3 038	3 656	3 822	3 995
3. Director General	23 632	27 045	33 022	32 848	35 846	35 846	35 667	37 280	38 997
4. Financial Management	85 091	88 485	88 985	87 681	91 899	91 899	91 382	95 944	100 222
5. Programme Support Administration	12 068	12 265	11 535	12 274	12 546	12 546	13 100	13 503	13 978
Total payments and estimates	142 856	152 452	153 551	151 507	160 902	160 902	163 066	170 562	177 993

Table 1.3(b): Summary of payments and estimates by economic classification: Programme 1:

R thousand	Outcome			Main appropriation	Adjusted appropriation 2024/25	Revised estimate	Medium-term estimates		
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24				2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Current payments	137 115	145 365	147 073	149 594	158 492	158 492	161 370	168 128	176 415
Compensation of employees	105 921	108 315	103 574	113 340	111 650	111 650	122 119	127 747	133 634
Goods and services	31 194	37 050	43 499	36 254	46 842	46 842	39 251	40 381	42 781
Interest and rent on land	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers and subsidies to:	4 849	6 065	2 840	413	1 510	1 510	396	1 298	388
Provinces and municipalities	20	20	22	49	49	49	49	49	49
Departmental agencies and accounts	9	9	9	27	27	27	27	27	27
Higher education institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Foreign governments and international organisations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public corporations and private enterprises	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-profit institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Households	4 820	6 036	2 809	337	1 434	1 434	320	1 222	312
Payments for capital assets	874	1 022	3 638	1 500	900	900	1 300	1 136	1 190
Buildings and other fixed structures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Machinery and equipment	874	1 022	3 638	1 500	900	900	1 300	1 136	1 190
Heritage Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Specialised military assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biological assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land and sub-soil assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Software and other intangible assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments for financial assets	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total economic classification	142 856	152 452	153 551	151 507	160 902	160 902	163 066	170 562	177 993

Programme 2: Institutional Development Support

Table 1.4(a) : Summary of payments and estimates by sub-programme: Programme 2: Institutional Development

R thousand	Outcome			Main appropriation	Adjusted appropriation 2024/25	Revised estimate	Medium-term estimates		
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24				2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
1. Strategic Human Resource	50 857	67 245	62 221	74 480	70 146	70 146	76 654	75 112	73 241
2. Information Communication Technology	48 461	63 331	70 964	108 878	100 130	100 130	136 947	148 919	151 234
3. Legal Services	18 699	11 072	17 309	18 563	23 381	23 381	16 796	17 298	18 046
4. Communication Services	22 513	29 812	35 234	28 099	31 914	31 914	28 102	29 368	30 714
5. Programm Support Institutional Development	8 477	11 812	10 952	7 285	10 285	10 285	12 103	12 359	12 916
Total payments and estimates	149 007	183 272	196 680	237 305	235 856	235 856	270 602	283 056	286 151

Table 1.4(b) : Summary of payments and estimates by economic classification: Programme 2

R thousand	Outcome			Main appropriation	Adjusted appropriation 2024/25	Revised estimate	Medium-term estimates		
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24				2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Current payments	143 305	174 079	190 179	234 701	232 241	232 241	267 106	280 570	283 514
Compensation of employees	99 675	96 130	107 232	121 034	116 891	116 891	125 499	131 217	137 261
Goods and services	43 571	77 949	82 947	113 667	115 350	115 350	141 607	149 353	146 253
Interest and rent on land	59	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers and subsidies to:	3 212	3 218	2 540	347	313	313	415	136	137
Provinces and municipalities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Departmental agencies and accounts	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Higher education institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Foreign governments and international organisations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public corporations and private enterprises	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-profit institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Households	3 212	3 214	2 540	347	313	313	415	136	137
Payments for capital assets	2 490	5 975	3 961	2 257	3 302	3 302	3 081	2 350	2 500
Buildings and other fixed structures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Machinery and equipment	2 464	5 637	3 961	2 257	3 302	3 302	3 081	2 350	2 500
Heritage Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Specialised military assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biological assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land and sub-soil assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Software and other intangible assets	26	338	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments for financial assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total economic classification	149 007	183 272	196 680	237 305	235 856	235 856	270 602	283 056	286 151

Programme 3: Policy and Governance

Table 1.5(a) : Summary of payments and estimates by sub-programme: Programme 3

R thousand	Outcome			Main appropriation	Adjusted appropriation 2024/25	Revised estimate	Medium-term estimates		
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24				2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
1. Intergovernmental Relations	13 406	15 127	17 592	15 143	14 993	14 993	15 379	16 069	16 754
2. Provincial Policy Management	48 916	49 003	49 594	63 314	58 476	58 476	63 032	60 584	63 558
3. Programme Support Policy & Governance	11 831	8 866	11 153	11 876	12 076	12 076	13 742	13 927	14 495
4. Special Programmes	17 039	31 913	26 528	27 049	28 093	28 093	28 989	35 286	31 256
Total payments and estimates	91 192	104 909	104 867	117 382	113 638	113 638	121 142	125 866	126 063

Table 1.5(b) : Summary of payments and estimates by economic classification: Programme 3

R thousand	Outcome			Main appropriation	Adjusted appropriation 2024/25	Revised estimate	Medium-term estimates		
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24				2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Current payments	88 298	97 807	104 021	116 947	112 373	112 373	120 662	120 796	125 827
Compensation of employees	86 094	83 417	85 816	97 470	95 303	95 303	102 843	107 653	112 613
Goods and services	2 204	14 390	18 205	19 477	17 070	17 070	17 819	13 143	13 214
Interest and rent on land	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers and subsidies to:	2 894	7 102	846	435	1 265	1 265	480	5 070	236
Provinces and municipalities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Departmental agencies and accounts	-	5 000	-	-	-	-	-	5 000	-
Higher education institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Foreign governments and international organisations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public corporations and private enterprises	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-profit institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Households	2 894	2 102	846	435	1 265	1 265	480	70	236
Payments for capital assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buildings and other fixed structures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Machinery and equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heritage Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Specialised military assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biological assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land and sub-soil assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Software and other intangible assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments for financial assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total economic classification	91 192	104 909	104 867	117 382	113 638	113 638	121 142	125 866	126 063