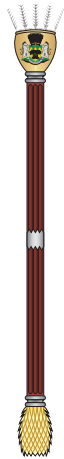




Hon. ADJ Ndou Deputy Speaker



# LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

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## BUDGET SPEECH 2020/21

# **Limpopo Legislature Budget Speech Delivered by the Deputy Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature, Hon ADJ Ndou, to the Sixth Limpopo Legislature at the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber, Lebowakgomo.**

**07 May 2020**

The Presiding Officer,  
Premier of the Limpopo Province, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha,  
Members of the Executive Council,  
Chief Whip of the House,  
Leader of Government Business,  
Leaders of the Opposition Parties,  
Chair of Chairpersons,  
Chairpersons of Committees,  
Chairperson of Oversight Mechanism, Hon Maria Lekganyane  
Honourable Members of this House,  
The Secretary to the Limpopo Legislature, Mr Simon Mothoa,  
Officials of the Limpopo Legislature,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Media Houses,  
Ladies and Gentlemen, I greet you.

I feel humbled and privileged to be afforded the responsibility of tabling the Limpopo Legislature Budget Speech before this honourable House. I present this Budget Speech when South Africa and the world is battling with the fight against the global pandemic. The outbreak of Coronavirus is currently a social and economic challenge to the majority of people in South Africa. We are however grateful to the bold and decisive decisions that our President and the command team had to make in order to save mankind from this dangerous disease.

We remain hopeful that we will triumph over the ravages that this enemy of mankind has left.

### **Honourable Members,**

The year 2020 marks 30 years anniversary after the release of our first democratically elected President: Tata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. This year, we continue to remember his contribution to the liberation struggle, humanity and freedom for all. We also remember the contributions of Oliver Tambo, Govan Mbeki, Chris Hani, Joe Slovo, Moses Mabhida, Moses Kotane, Edwin Thabo Mofutsanyana, J.B. Marks, Bra Ike Lesiba Maphoto, Mark Shope, Charlotte Mannyamaxeke, Frans Mohlala, Alpheus Malivha, George Phadagi, Pandelani Ramagoma and many others to the democracy and freedom we enjoy currently. They have fought collectively against the brutal apartheid system and dismantled a racial system that divided us for many years.

It was through their persistent pressure and efforts that the United Nations declared that ***“Apartheid is a crime against humanity and that inhuman acts resulting from the policies and practices of apartheid and similar policies and practices of racial segregation and discrimination, as defined in article II of the Convention, are crimes violating the principles of international law, in particular the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and constituting a serious threat to international peace and security.”***

Apartheid system has inflicted pain and suffering to the majority of people. As we remember our leaders, we should commit ourselves towards building an equal society, which will all admire and cherish.

We need to have courage, like our leaders, to drive the transformation agenda for the sake of future generations.

We need to be united, in our diversity, in fostering social cohesion and reconciliation amongst the people. We must instil and promote a culture of sharing and giving with those who are underprivileged.

Nation-building should be our priority during the current term. Every role player needs to be mobilised and participate effectively in the growth and transformation of our economy.

In that way, we will be responding positively to the Thuma Mina call by President Ramaphosa.

**Honourable Members,**

In one of his books entitled ***“A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy”***, ***Karl Marx contends that “It is not the consciousness of men that determines their being, but, on the contrary, their social being that determines their consciousness”***.

***President Mandela further resonated that “Poverty is not an accident. Like slavery and apartheid, it is a man made and can be removed by the actions of human beings”***.

As alluded to in the Budget Speech by the MEC for Finance, Hon. Sekoati, poverty and unemployment are still a challenge in Limpopo. As the Legislature, we will support the provincial government’s efforts aimed at recovering the economy as well as alleviating poverty and unemployment. In executing our constitutional mandate, we will ensure that the Executive plans and programmes address poverty, unemployment and inequality.

For us to win the fight against poverty and unemployment, we need to deal decisively with corruption because it discourages investment.

Corrupt activities further cripple service delivery and economic development. Members of this House should lead by example in the fight against this scourge. All of us need to contribute towards a corrupt-free society. Those involved in corruption should face the full might of the law.

## **Honourable Members,**

We are in this House to represent the hopes and aspirations of the electorates. We therefore have to conduct ourselves in an ethical manner and take decisions that benefit the public, whom we represent.

Section 114 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 accords the Legislature with powers to pass laws, conduct oversight and promote public participation in the law making processes. It is also our responsibility to hold the Executive accountable for decisions they have taken when spending public funds.

The Standing and Portfolio Committees of this House play an essential role in ensuring that there is effective oversight and accountability over the Executive. This is critical in ensuring that quality service is delivered to the people of Limpopo.

In the previous financial year, we held sittings, meetings and oversight visits as part of strengthening oversight and accountability in line with the Sector Oversight Model. We shall continue in the current financial year engaging in similar legislative initiatives in our quest to enhance accountability. We shall further increase the number of oversight visits to projects so that we can monitor effectively the implementation of government projects and programmes.

Our researchers will continue producing proactive and reactive research reports to strengthen oversight and accountability as conducted by our Committees.

In compliance with our Rules, we shall in the current financial year, introduce question sessions during the sittings of the Legislature. These sessions are essential in strengthening accountability and good governance. They will afford the Executive an opportunity to report consistently to the electorates on progress made in implementing programmes and projects of government.

### **Honourable Members,**

The Constitution entrenches public participation as a crucial element of democracy. It makes it a key requirement of government decision-making and oversight processes for both the Legislature and the Executive. It affords citizens an opportunity to get involved in decision-making processes on matters that concern them.

In the previous financial year, the Legislature has facilitated successfully public hearings to enhance effective public participation in law making processes. We shall continue in the current financial year to afford the public an opportunity to have a voice in decisions that affect their wellbeing.

Members of this House are also entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring that public concerns are addressed. This is done through the petitions process. A petition is a viable mechanism to address service delivery and related challenges faced by the people.

In previous financial year, we have received and processed 47 petitions from all the regions of the Limpopo Province. The more we resolve the issues raised in these petitions, the more our communities will have confidence in our abilities to address their problems and challenges. Our success in resolving petitions tells a good story. We feel proud to have succeeded in addressing the following petitions amongst others:

- We assisted in the readmission of 11 learners who were unlawfully expelled from Mpatatla Secondary School in Bolobedu area.
- Mrs Malemela's employment status was changed unfairly from permanent to temporary. However, after the adjudication of the petition, she was reinstated to her permanent position.
- Mrs R.V Medie, applied for her daughter's birth certificate, but her application was not attended to for more than 2 years. The matter was brought before the Committee for intervention and a birth certificate was issued within a week.
- Mrs Maluleke K.C and Others (Nurses in Vhembe District were underpaid for more than a year. They reported the matter to the Department of Health, but did not find any help. When the matter was brought before the Committee, they were graded appropriately in line with their professional training and all their outstanding money paid within two months.

These are amongst the great works we do to address problems facing our communities. In this regard, we should applaud the Members of the Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions as led by Honourable Mdaka.

Our contribution in resolving petitions referred to us puts a smile on petitioners, and that is what we have to do as public representatives. We are the voice of the people and we must continue advancing their interests and aspirations. We shall continue even in the current financial year to ensure that petitions referred to the Legislature are resolved speedily.

With regard to outreach programmes, we have facilitated 25 outreach activities in the previous financial year in order to educate the public and stakeholders on the roles and functions of the Legislature. In the current financial year, we shall devote our time in strengthening community outreach programmes so that we can build trust and strengthen relations with our communities.

### **Honourable Members,**

It is our responsibility to advocate and advance the interests of children, youth, women, people with disability, and elderly people. Our mechanism to champion their interests is driven through sectoral parliaments. Sectoral parliaments are therefore an integral part in strengthening our democracy, and further facilitating public education and awareness.

During the previous financial year, we have hosted the Women's Parliament and Senior Citizens' Parliament. In the current financial year, we are planning to host the Children's Parliament, Workers' Parliament, Youth Parliament, Women's Parliament, Senior Citizens' Parliament, Parliament for People with Disabilities and the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children.

President Mandela believed that ***“Youth of today are leaders of tomorrow”***. ***Tata Mandela further asserted that “The working youth is critical to our future. The economy depends on you.***



***With your hard work and efforts at improving your skills, you can make ours one of the most prosperous nations in the world”.***

We concur that investing in youth is essential for the future development of any country. We need to ensure that departmental plans encompass youth programmes. Our youth need to be afforded an opportunity to participate in the economy.

As the Limpopo Legislature, we will continue to set aside funds for the empowerment of youth. If all goes according to plan and the situation is stabilised in our country following the challenges brought by the Corona pandemic, it is our intention to hold the Youth Parliament in June to empower youth in law making processes, public engagement and participation.

Last year, as part of our contribution towards humanity, we have celebrated the Mandela Day with learners at BB Matlaila Primary School in the Waterberg District. We contributed by cleaning and painting the school and further donated sanitary towels and stationery to the school. We shall continue in the current financial year to celebrate the Mandela Day as a gesture to humanity.

We have also initiated the internship programme to empower young people with work skills. In the previous financial year, 11 interns were trained in finance, ICT, human resources, research, and supply chain management. We have prepared them well for the job market.

In partnership with our local universities and TVET colleges, we are open to assist youth requiring in-service trainings. This is another programme, which exposes youths to vocational training, while waiting for their qualifications.

As the Legislature, we commit ourselves to continue with internship and in-service trainings so as to provide a platform for young people to acquire the much-needed work experience. Accordingly, we shall continue empowering young people by recruiting a new group of interns in the current financial year.

### **Honourable Members,**

We have identified that there is a need to strengthen our relations and interactions with the people of Limpopo. We have realised that this can only be achieved through initiating the ***“Taking the Legislature to the People”*** programme. This programme is essential because it provides the people of Limpopo with direct access to their public representatives. It further affords them an opportunity to raise fundamental issues, which get immediate responses from the Executive.

We are happy to report before this House that Limpopo Legislature will for the first time host *“Taking the Legislature to the People”* programme in the current financial year.

Towards the end of the financial year, we shall hold a feedback session to monitor progress made by the Executive in addressing issues raised by the people. In addition, our relevant committees will continue monitoring the implementation of resolutions taken during the Taking the *Legislature to the People* event. We have no doubt that the successful implementation of this programme will enhance service delivery to the people.

## **Honourable Members,**

All of us should be united in the fight against gender-based violence. We need to stand together to liberate women from patriarchy, oppression and inequality.

The brutal killings and suffering of women in the hands of people pretending to be their soulmates has reached unbearable proportion. This irresponsible behaviour cannot be tolerated any longer in our society. Those involved in the killing of Precious Ramabulana, Doctor Sbongile Nkhwashu and others should face the full might of the law. Those involved in these criminal activities should be prosecuted and serve their full sentences behind bars. No parole should be granted to cold-blooded cowards who abuse women and butchering innocent children instead of protecting them. Members of this House need to play a leading role in confronting violence perpetrated by men against women. We should set an example that Limpopo does not tolerate social ills of this nature. Men should respect and protect women.

In the current financial year, we commit to host a summit with key stakeholders to raise awareness on gender-based violence. This will further assist us in assessing the extent of gender-based violence in Limpopo as well as finding long-lasting solutions.

Members of this House should be united in the fight against gender-based violence and femicides in our communities. We need to take a stance as political parties to fight social ills in our communities. Our law enforcement institutions need to take harsh action against the perpetrators of gender-based violence and femicides.

## **Honourable Members,**

We have been entrusted with the authority to make laws. We shall in the current financial year pass laws that contribute positively towards the improvement of the wellbeing of the people. We are currently in the process of enacting the National Health Insurance Bill and the amendment of section 25 of the Constitution. The enactment of these Bills will contribute positively towards addressing socioeconomic challenges faced by the people of Limpopo.

## **Honourable Members,**

We have established the Provincial Speakers' Forum as a platform for all Speakers in Limpopo to share best practices with regard to presiding and legislative matters. The meetings of the Provincial Speakers' Forum are held on rotational basis per district and in the current financial year, it will be hosted by the Sekhukhune District Municipality. During our last Provincial Speakers' Forum held at the Bolivia Lodge, Polokwane, we reached a consensus that all Chairpersons of Municipal Public Accounts Committees (MPACs) should form part of the Provincial Speakers' Forum.

Our training intervention to municipalities is yielding positive results. We shall continue providing capacity building needs for Municipal Councils, Municipal Public Accounts Committees (MPACs) as well as free training on Rules, Ethics and Integrity and Protocol whenever the need arises.

## **Honourable Members,**

As required by the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act (FMPPLA), we have migrated successfully

from Modified Cash to Accrual Basis. This was achieved through the implementation of the ERP system. The Legislature has begun using its own financial system from 01 April 2019. We shall continue strengthening our capacity to manage the ERP system. We have in the past financial year eliminated most of the audit findings, and will in the current financial year work hard to improve our audit outcome.

### **Honourable Members,**

We remain committed to empower all Members through trainings and professional development programmes. During the current financial year, we have trained Members as part of the induction to sharpen their oversight and accountability skills. We will continue with these trainings even in the current financial year. In collaboration with the Legislative Sector Support, as championed by the Speakers' Forum, we have assisted 20 Members financially to register with the University of Johannesburg and University of the Witwatersrand respectively to study towards a Certificate in Governance and Leadership.

### **Honourable Members,**

We have reported before this House that our Block 3 offices will be refurbished by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. We are happy to report that refurbishment is underway and will be completed in the current financial year.

We are all aware that the Legislature has been declared as a National Key Point (NKP). This requires us to comply fully with the National Key Point requirements. In this front, we will work together with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure in ensuring that funds are allocated for the implementation of the National Key Point project.

In the past financial year, we committed to rolling out a fibre network and WiFi access at the Legislature precincts. We are pleased to report that the fibre network has been connected and honourable Members and staff have access to WiFi. We are working on modalities on how the public can access our WiFi network.

In response to the Fourth Industrial Revolution, we have embarked on technological advancement to allow Members and staff to have faster, reliable and efficient connectivity when doing their work. We will gradually move from paper-based to electronic distribution of documents in line with the requirements of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Honourable Members are aware that our current Chamber system is outdated and requires a total revamp. The MEC of Finance, Hon. Sekoati, has responded to our request by allocating funds to revamp our Chamber system. The implementation of the new Chamber system will be done in the current financial year. The new system will have various options such as audio and video recordings of the proceedings of the House, online voting platform, instant messaging, electronic attendance register, just to name but a few.

We have also identified a serious and urgent need to secure a life cover for honourable Members and staff of the Legislature. This is an essential provision which, if left unattended, may have negative impact on their families. The process with regard to this is underway, and will be concluded in the current financial year.

In the current financial year, we will also ensure that the process of reviewing and approving our organisational structure is finalised. This will assist in addressing various human resource-related challenges.

## Honourable Members,

We table the 2020/2021 budget before this House being mindful that our economy is not at a state that we all desire. We are facing economic hardships as a nation and Limpopo is not immune to these unfortunate realities. The outbreak of the Coronavirus has put enormous pressure on public finances and our economy. This propels us to strictly prioritise our plans in ensuring that funds allocated to the Limpopo Legislature are spent effectively and efficiently in realising our constitutional mandate.

The Limpopo Legislature has been allocated a total budget of **R385.1 million** in the 2020/2021 financial year. The allocation represents an increase of budget by **2.5%** in the 2020/2021 financial year as compared to the 2019/2020 main appropriation budget. The budget has been allocated to our three programmes as follows:

### Programme 1: Administration

Programme One: Administration has been allocated **R131.1 million** in the 2020/2021 financial year in order to provide strategic leadership by the Office of the Speaker and administrative support by the Office of the Secretary to the Legislature.

### Programme 2: Facilities for Members and Political Parties

Programme Two: Facilities for Members and Political Parties has been allocated **R153.2 million** in the 2020/2021 financial year to provide compensation and support for Members.

In compliance with the requirements of section 34(5) of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2009; a total of **R80.6 million** has been allocated to political parties represented in the Legislature during the 2020/2021 financial year. The funds are for constituency allowance, political party funding and political party support. The support that we provide to political parties is critical in enhancing and deepening multi-party democracy.

### Programme 3: Parliamentary Services

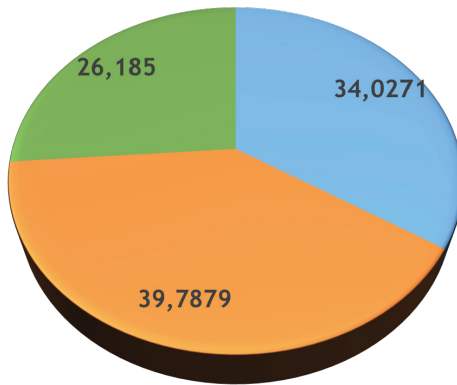
Programme Three: Parliamentary Services has been allocated a total of R100.8 million in the 2020/2021 financial year to provide services related to oversight, public participation and law making.

### Final Budget Allocation for the financial year 2020/2021

PROGRAMMES	Main Appropriati on 2018/19 (R'000)	Main Appropriati on 2019/20 (R'000)	Main appropriati on 2020/21 (R'000)	Increase between 2020/21 and 2019/20 main appropriations (R'000)
Administration	131 696	128 868	131 051	2 183
Facilities for Members and Political Parties	140 619	148 300	153 238	4 938
Parliamentary Services	88 612	98 587	100 848	2 261
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>360 927</b>	<b>375 755</b>	<b>385 137</b>	<b>9 382</b>

### Percentage Budget Allocation per Programme in the 2020/21 Financial Year





- Programme 1: Administration
- Programme 2: Facilities for Members and Political Parties
- Programme 3: Parliamentary Services

## Honourable Members,

As I draw towards conclusion, I wish to express that freedom and democracy should be enjoyed by all people. The people of Limpopo have elected us as public representatives to represent their needs and aspirations. It is not about us, but the people of Limpopo, who have elected us to be in this House. They should come first in all our priorities. We should commit and recommit ourselves to serve them better. The people of Limpopo deserve quality service from their government. We must ensure that they receive such quality services.

Karl Marx asserted that ***“Society does not consist of individuals but expresses the sum of interrelations, the relations within which these individuals stand”***.

In the same Marxist ideology, we should be united in our political diversity in restoring public confidence in government. Our actions as a collective can assist greatly in addressing developmental impediments faced by our communities.

We need to work together in addressing the socioeconomic challenges facing the people of Limpopo. With our concerted efforts, a better life for all can be realised.

We will continue building a capable legislature that responds to the needs of the people.

We will continue deepening democracy and freedom to the people without fear or prejudice.

I would like to thank the leaders of all political parties represented in this House for their dedication and commitment in serving the people of Limpopo.

Members of the Oversight Mechanism as led by Honourable Maria Lekganyane are appreciated for their support and assistance in ensuring that the Legislature realises its constitutional mandate.

The support provided by the Secretary to the Limpopo Legislature, Mr Simon Mothoa and Team Legislature, is highly appreciated.

It is my honour and privilege to table the Limpopo Legislature 2020/2021 Budget Vote before this august House.

I Thank You.