



LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

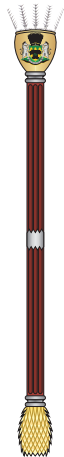
It's your voice, use it!



**BUDGET
SPEECH**
2021/22



Speaker: Hon. Molapo RR



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BUDGET SPEECH 2021/22

Limpopo Legislature Budget Speech Delivered by the Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature, Hon. Molapo RR, to the Sixth Limpopo Legislature at the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber, Lebowakgomo.

23 March 2021

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

Ke a le dumediša.

It is an honour and privilege to be afforded an opportunity to table the Limpopo Legislature 2021/2022 Budget Speech before this honourable House.

Today marks exactly two days after our country has celebrated the Human Rights Day. This is a significant occasion in our history and represents the restoration of our human dignity. It is commemorated annually in order to reflect on progress made in the promotion and protection of human rights.

The 2021/2022 budget speech is presented when our country and the world is fighting the battle against a global pandemic. Covid-19 has taken the precious lives of our friends and relatives, and still continues to cause havoc in our society.

Coronavirus poses serious challenges to all sectors of our society. It has led to an increase in unemployment and brought economic as well as social hardships to our communities. It has further brought a new normal of learning, working and socialisation.

We, unfortunately, have to adjust and adapt to the new normal of doing things. We have to conduct our business virtually so as to minimise social interactions. All these efforts are done to save lives.

As Members of this House, we should not despair, but rather gather more strength to defeat this deadly virus. This requires us to commit ourselves and do everything within our means to save the lives of people of Limpopo. It further necessitates a need to come up with unprecedented measures to minimise and suppress Covid-19 transmission.

We should commend our healthcare workers, led by the MEC for Health: Dr Phophi Ramathuba, for their sacrifice and resilience in the fight against the Coronavirus. It was through your leadership Hon. Premier that we avoided the worst as a Province.

We further applaud President Cyril Ramaphosa, the National and Provincial Command Council teams for the progress made thus far with the acquisition of Coronavirus vaccine, despite numerous challenges.

The vaccine rollout in our province brings hope to humanity. It brings a sigh of relief to the society. Our task, as an institution, united in our diversity, is to demystify the myth around the vaccine, and support its full rollout to the people of Limpopo. Working together, across our political spectrum, we can overcome this global pandemic.

Our task as an oversight body is even more complex and demanding due to the fact that it is carried out in the midst of a raging pandemic where there are competing interests. Striking a balance in terms of managing these competing interests could be tricky. As an oversight institution, we will do our best to oversee the rollout of the vaccine and other government programmes. We should also ensure that there is effective accountability to the people of Limpopo.

Honourable Members,

The complexity of the situation in which we find ourselves has been captured clearly by the Premier of Limpopo: Hon. Mathabatha who alluded in his State of the Province Address that ***“the balance between saving lives, the economy and livelihoods was always going to be a difficult task”***.

While we strengthen efforts to control and contain the spread of the virus, we should also be mindful that our economy is in a precarious position. Jobs have been lost, poverty and unemployment continue to be the key challenges confronting the people of Limpopo.

In the light of the challenges facing us, it will be crucial for our Committees, especially in the economic cluster, to ensure that the departmental plans have targets aimed at creating jobs and revitalising the local economy.

The revival of the local economy can be realised inter alia by supporting small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) and cooperatives, effective local economic development strategies, the revitalisation of our local industries and investing in projects that are likely to yield sustainable growth of the economy.

We also need to increase the ease of doing business so as to facilitate the establishment and growth of new businesses. It is also vital that we promote the procurement of locally produced materials and products.

The implementation of the identified strategic mega-projects, as outlined by the Premier during the State of the Province Address, will go a long way in attracting further investments and creating job opportunities. Our Committees have to ensure that the identified projects are indeed implemented. Oversight visits and monitoring remain critical to ensure the successful implementation of development programmes. The Legislature will need sufficient resources to carry out these functions.

Honourable Members,

The year 2021 marks 150 years anniversary for our struggle stalwart, Mama Charlotte Maxeke. Mama Maxeke was a women rights campaigner and the founding President of the Bantu Women's League. She led the women's march against apartheid laws in 1913.

She was an activist who devoted her time to the fight for women rights and equality. She was a pioneer of women's movement and the struggle for a non-sexist society. We should dedicate this year in honour of her exceptional contribution to the struggle for the liberation of women and non-racial society.

Our Committees should use this year to evaluate progress made by the provincial government with regard to women emancipation. By so doing, we will be honouring her and many other women in our country who continue to wage the struggle for survival today.

Honourable Members,

Although we have made great strides in building a non-racial society, the resurgence of racial tendencies in certain quarters of our society is worrying us. It clearly shows that there are certain individuals who are still struggling to come to terms with the reality of a democratic and non-racial society. We won't give up our goal on the basis of few individuals who want to take us back to the dark days of apartheid.

We are taking courage from the words of wisdom by our struggle hero former President Nelson Mandela when addressing the United Nations General Assembly. He alluded that ***"In all we do, we have to ensure the healing of the wounds inflicted on all our people across the great dividing line imposed on our society by centuries of colonialism and apartheid. We must ensure that colour, race and gender become only a God-given gift to each***

one of us and not an indelible mark or attribute that accords a special status to any”.

In honour of Tata Mandela, we should all contribute to a non-racial society. We should not tolerate any racial remarks or practices within our society. We should fight against racism in all its manifestations.

We should do anything within our means to lay the scourge of racism to rest. Those who perpetuate racist tendencies in our society should be prosecuted. We should heed the call by Tata Nelson Mandela and create a free society in which we can live together in harmony and with equal opportunities.

Honourable Members,

Corruption has become one of major developmental challenges in South Africa.

During his State of the Nation Address in 1999, the former President Nelson Mandela had this to say: ***“Our hope for the future depends also on our resolution as a nation in dealing with the scourge of corruption.”***

As Members of this House, we must fight corruption because it robs the future of the current and future generations by perpetuating generational poverty. We have to uproot corruption in whatever manner it manifests itself.

We will continue in the current financial year to work closely with all relevant institutions in our quest to eliminate corruption.

Honourable Members,

Our mandate, as enshrined in section 114 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, is to oversee the implementation of government programmes, to hold the Executive accountable for the use of public resources and to ensure that there is effective public participation and engagement in legislative processes.

Our priority for the year under review is to strengthen oversight and accountability over the Executive, enhance public participation and involvement as well as strengthening law-making processes.

Our Standing and Portfolio Committees play a critical role in ensuring that there is effective oversight and accountability over the Executive. This is essential in ensuring that quality services are delivered to the citizens of Limpopo.

The outbreak of Coronavirus compelled us to hold our sittings and meetings virtually. We are amongst the first legislatures to hold our sittings and meetings virtually. We are also amongst the first legislatures to hold successful hybrid sittings. We should therefore applaud ourselves for succeeding in this technological venture despite the limited resources.

Though we have been successful with regard to holding virtual sittings and meetings, the oversight visits to government projects were negatively affected due to the complexities created by the pandemic. Most of our oversight visits had to be postponed in compliance with Covid-19 lockdown regulations.

As part of ensuring that the public receives quality service, we will in the current financial year develop safe mechanisms to oversee the implementation of government projects and programmes.

In an effort to strengthen oversight over the Executive, we will also continue in the current financial year employ hybrid sittings and meetings until the situation dictates otherwise.

As part of strengthening accountability as well as quick feedback mechanism to the electorates, we have in the previous financial year sent questions to the Executive for written responses. We are concerned that the departments are not responding to parliamentary questions despite several reminders sent to them. We will also in the current financial year introduce question sessions to afford the Executive to provide oral responses in the House.

Honourable Members,

The Limpopo Legislature will continue to engage communities in the legislative processes in a manner deemed safe in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The citizens of Limpopo need to get involved in decision-making processes on matters affecting them. In this way we will be deepening our participatory democracy. Our democracy requires that citizens should be engaged continuously on matters of their interests.

In the midst of the pandemic, we have relied on technology to hold virtual public hearings. We will continue to hold virtual public hearings until it is safe to hold physical gatherings. We will explore practical ways of ensuring that the public connect to our virtual platforms without any hindrances.

Honourable Members,

Finding solutions to the petitions referred to the Legislature remains our priority, and it has proven to be a critical vehicle towards addressing challenges faced by the citizens of Limpopo.

Despite the outbreak of the virus, we have received and processed **13** petitions. When we resolve petitions, it brings public confidence in government, and enhances the delivery of services to the electorates.

The following are some of the petitions that the Legislature has resolved successfully in the previous financial year:

- Mr Ngoasheng Pitsi requested an urgent intervention to speed up his surgery after he was involved in a car accident and had a broken hip. After the Committee has engaged the CEO of Mankweng Hospital, his emergency surgery was approved and expedited.
- Mrs Madie waited for almost a year for her child to get a birth certificate. After the Committee has engaged the Department of Home Affairs, the birth certificate was issued.

We are impressed by the work of our Committees and the confidence that communities are demonstrating on the Legislature. Our Standing Committee on Public Participation and Petitions, as led by Hon. Mdaka, will continue its work of ensuring that petitions referred to the Legislature are resolved speedily.

Honourable Members,

We are the representatives of the people and should therefore not rest until the interests of children, youth, women, workers, people with disability, and elderly are adequately advanced. As an institution, we will champion their interests through the implementation of sectoral parliaments.

Our approach to sectoral parliaments revolves around citizens playing a major role in their own development. However, the outbreak of Coronavirus affected the implementation of most of our sectoral

parliaments. We were compelled to cancel all our physical sectoral parliaments, but where possible, the virtual platform was employed to host some of our events. This was done to avoid the spread of the virus and to save the lives of the people of Limpopo.

With regard to Youth Sectoral Parliament, we have created a platform for youth to raise issues directly affecting them, share practices and experiences on issues affecting their lives. It is also an ideal platform for youth to propose solutions to the current societal challenges.

In recognition of youth contribution to our democracy, the Limpopo Legislature hosted a virtual youth summit to provide feedback mechanisms on the implementation of previous resolutions. This was also a platform to reflect on the progress made thus far by the Executive in empowering young people of Limpopo.

The empowerment of young people will continue to be our priority in the current financial year. Our Committees should continue to hold the Executive accountable on the implementation of youth programmes.

The implementation of Workers Sectoral Parliament also remains one of our interests. This is due to the fact that workers are the key drivers of production and a cornerstone for economic development. Workers are also the main contributors for social cohesion and motive forces for strengthening democratic processes.

In recognition of the contribution of workers to our democracy, and in the light of the outbreak of Covid-19, we held a virtual workers' summit in the previous financial year. We will continue in the current financial year to provide workers with a platform to raise issues confronting them.

Furthermore, Women Sectoral Parliament remains one of our key priorities. We annually hold women parliament in recognition of women contribution to our democracy. Through the use of virtual platform, we held the Provincial Review on Women Charter. This was an in-depth review of the systemic weaknesses in the National Gender Machinery. This was done to effect the necessary improvements towards an effective and fully functional gender machinery.

Our role as Members of this House is to ensure that the resolutions in the Women's Charter are implemented fully in all spheres of government. By doing so, we will be affirming the principles of women empowerment and gender equality, and further recognising the prevention and reduction of Gender-Based Violence as a catalyst for attaining an environment that is conducive for peace and security.

In the interest of saving lives, we will in the current financial year explore technological means to host our sectoral parliaments using virtual platforms until it is safe to host physical events.

Through our Standing Committee on Quality of Life, Status of Women, Youth and Disability, as led by Hon. Mokaba-Phukwana, we will track the implementation of resolutions taken during our sectoral parliaments until they are implemented fully.

Honourable Members,

In the previous financial year, our plan to host the Provincial Speakers Forum was affected by the outbreak of Coronavirus. We will in the current financial year explore ways to host the Provincial Speakers Forum in a safe manner.

As announced by President Ramaphosa, this year is the year for local government elections. We will partner with the Independent

Electoral Commission (IEC) during voters registration programme. The partnership programme is essentially aimed at educating and encouraging the people of Limpopo, particularly the youth, to register and vote during the local government elections.

Honourable Members,

During the previous financial year, we have trained all honourable Members on the rules, oversight and accountability as well as public participation framework. We remain committed to the empowerment of all Members through training and professional development programmes with recognised institutions of higher learning.

Honourable Members,

We have reported in the previous financial year that our Block 3 offices will be refurbished by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. We are happy to report that the refurbishment has been completed and the building has been handed over to us. Our staff will occupy the renovated offices as soon as all necessary resources have been put in place.

Furthermore, due to budget cut, the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure has deferred the implementation of the National Key Point project from 2020/2021 financial year to the current financial year. We will engage continuously with the department until we comply fully with the National Key Point requirements.

Honourable Members,

The outbreak of Coronavirus propels us to use technology during our operations. In our quest to align our operations to the Fourth Industrial Revolution, we have rolled out fibre network to promote faster, reliable and efficient connectivity to the internet. As we speak, there is WiFi access at the Legislature precincts.

We are gradually moving away from paper-based to electronic distribution of documents in line with the requirements of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and Covid-19 regulations.

At the moment, Order Papers, Minutes and other reports are provided to honourable Members and staff electronically. This implies that we have to enhance our IT infrastructure and human resource capacity in order to withstand the growing demand on the use of technology in our daily operations.

Furthermore, in an effort to be abreast with technology, the institution has to purchase a chamber system to replace the current old and outdated system. The procurement and deployment of the system will be done after the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure would have completed the refurbishment of the Chamber.

The past experience prescribes that we should urgently insure the lives of all our honourable Members and staff. We will in the current financial year introduce a Group Life Scheme for all our Members and staff. This scheme will allow us to secure more benefits at a reasonable cost as compared to the cost of an individual policy.

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

Honourable Members,

The audit outcomes for the Limpopo Legislature continue to improve on a yearly basis. This stems from control measures that we have put in place, which have proven to be effective in addressing the Auditor's findings.

In the previous financial year, we have reported before this House that **“we will work hard to improve our audit outcome”**. We are happy to report before this House that we have, for the first time in the history of this institution, obtained a clean audit. We will work even harder in the current financial year to maintain our clean audit status.

The 2020/2021 budget was cut and reprioritised accordingly to assist in the fight against Coronavirus. As the institution, we contributed **R21 million** towards the Covid-19 fiscal response support package through the baseline reprioritisation. We have also been advised by the Provincial Treasury to ring-fence **R1 million** for Covid-19 related expenses. We have to embark on this journey in this manner in order to save the lives of the people of Limpopo.

We table the 2021/2022 budget being conscious and awake to the reality of the financial challenges ahead when considering our needs against the allocated budget, especially in the light of the economic meltdown triggered by the Covid-19 situation. The virus has also put enormous pressure on public finances and health services.

This propels us to apply prudent financial management measures in pursuing of our core mandates as stipulated in the Constitution.

It further propels us to reprioritise our plans in accordance with the funds allocated to us. We need to use the allocated funds effectively and efficiently in realising our constitutional mandate.

The Limpopo Legislature has been allocated a total budget of **R395.5 million** in the 2021/2022 financial year. The allocation represents an increase of budget by **2.7%** in the 2021/2022 financial year as compared to the 2020/2021 main appropriation budget. The budget has been allocated to our three programmes as follows:

Programme 1: Administration

Programme One: Administration has been allocated **R116.1 million** in the 2021/2022 financial year in order to provide strategic leadership by the Office of the Speaker and administrative support by the Office of the Secretary.

Programme 2: Facilities for Members and Political Parties

Programme Two: Facilities for Members and Political Parties has been allocated **R189.5 million** in the 2021/2022 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, a total of **R125 million** has been allocated to political parties represented in the Legislature during the 2021/2022 financial year. The funds are for constituency allowance and political party support. The amount included **R44 million** which was prioritised for political party funding.

However, President Ramaphosa has announced during the State of Nation Address that the Political Party Funding Act will come into operation as from the 01st of April 2021. The Act establishes funds to be provided to political parties represented in the Parliament and Legislatures. It further regulates funding mechanisms for parties.

The implementation of the Act implies that Legislatures will only release funds for constituency allowance and political party support, but will no longer be responsible for political party funding. The political party funding will be allocated by the Independent Electoral Commission.

The announcement by the President therefore compels the

Legislature to engage the Provincial Treasury on how the R44 million earmarked for political party funding will be reprioritised. Political parties represented in this House need to be fully prepared for this new political party funding system.

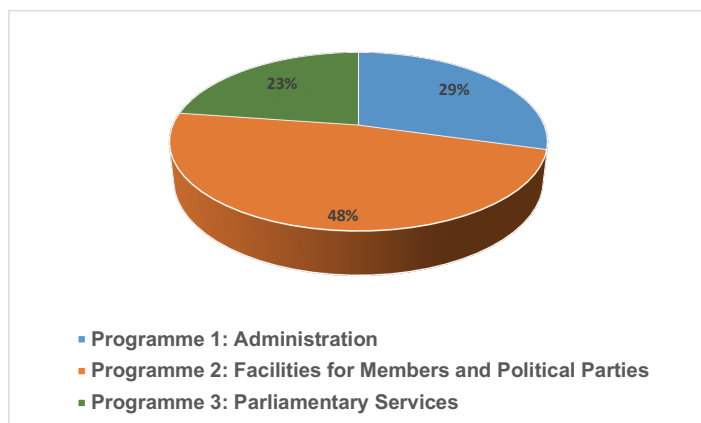
Programme 3: Parliamentary Services

Programme Three: Parliamentary Services has been allocated a total of **R89.9 million** in the 2021/2022 financial year to provide services related to oversight, public participation and law-making.

Final Budget Allocation for the financial year 2021/2022

PROGRAMMES	Main Appropriation 2019/20 (R'000)	Main Appropriation 2020/21 (R'000)	Main appropriation 2021/22 (R'000)	Increase between 2021/22 and 2020/21 main appropriations (R'000)
Administration	128 868	131 051	116 106	-14 945
Facilities for Members and Political Parties	148 300	153 238	189 478	36 240
Parliamentary Services	98 587	100 848	89 895	-10 953
TOTAL	375 755	385 137	395 479	10 342

Percentage Budget Allocation per Programme in the 2021/22 Financial Year



Honourable Members,

If we have to count the cost and loss brought by Covid-19, we may be tempted to lose faith and hope given the negative impact the virus has had on our economy and society in general. But, if we are united, we can rise again and rebuild our economy.

We can rise again and together defeat this deadly virus.

We can rise again and create jobs for the people of Limpopo.

We can rise again and ensure that quality service is delivered to the citizens of Limpopo.

We can rise and fight against racism, corruption, inequality and injustice.

We can rise again and defend humanity against the challenges facing not only our country but the globe.

The electorates have elected us to represent their interests in this House. We need to work together to build the Limpopo Legislature that responds to their needs and aspirations.

Working together, despite our different political affiliations, a better life for the people of Limpopo can be realised.

I express my thanks to the Deputy Speaker of the Limpopo Legislature: Hon. Jerry Ndou for the unwavering support. He ensures that daily operations of the Legislature runs smoothly.

I also express our gratitude to the Members of the Oversight Mechanism, as led by Hon. Maria Lekganyane, for their dedication and commitment towards ensuring that the Limpopo 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 2021/2022 Budget Vote before this august House.

I Thank You

**Ke a leboga
Ndo livhuwa
Ndza khensa**

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