

NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Budget Speech

Tebogo Chaane

2017

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**Budget Speech
2017**

Speaker of the North West Provincial Legislature

Hon Sussana Rebecca Dantjie

11 May 2017

Honourable Deputy Speaker
Honourable Premier S.O.R Mahumapelo
Members of the Executive Council
Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature
Leaders of Political Parties
Esteemed Traditional Leaders
All Mayors and Speakers of Municipalities
Church and Business Leaders
Media Houses
Distinguished Guests
Comrades and Friends
The People of Bokone Bophirima

I greet you all: Dumelang : Goeie More.

Honourable Members, it gives me a great pleasure once again to stand before you to present the Legislature's vote for 2017/18 financial year. This happens at the time when our country is facing tough economic challenges ahead. It is in this situation that we call upon the Almighty to give strength to our leaders.

As we pass through the valley of hardship, let us take encouragement from the words of Apostle Paul in the book of the Philippians 4;12-14 when he said;

“ I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation.....I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength”.

Let us take refuge in the Lord for he is refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

Our movement, the African National Congress has declared this year, a year to celebrate the life of our leader, stalwart, visionary, comrade Oliver Reginald Tambo.

Many things are fast happening within our country and the propaganda machinery of the enemy is grinding fast misleading our masses. We are in the period where we need to be vigilant, cautious and question the source of every piece of information to establish the real truth. In the midst of mistruths, distortions and populist tendencies, we should remember the words of wisdom from Oliver Tambo when he warned us many years ago that ***“the facts are not always obvious, they often have to be looked for”***.

Honourable Members, in period like this, when our politics are so polarised, comrade Tambo would be the first to call us to deepen unity. He would remind us that;

“We must seek to create a united, democratic and non-racial society in order to achieve the vision of South Africa in which black and white shall live and work together as equals in conditions of peace and prosperity”.

Honourable Members, the year 2017 mark 20 years since the implementation of our democratic Constitution. It also mark 20 years of the existence of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP). There will be celebrations in Parliament and across all Provincial Legislatures. We have established a team that would develop a plan on how we will be celebrating these important milestones in the Province. Details of such plans will be communicated with Members in due course.

Hon Members, last year we made commitment to move with necessary speed to bring about changes that will help improve our performance as an activist Legislature. We promised to keep a watchful eye on the

Executive and to hold them accountable in line with our Constitutional mandate. We promised our people that through our oversight work, we shall ensure that plans and promises of service deliveries made to our people are implemented without any fail. All these required of us to change the way we had been doing things, make time and resources available for Members to perform optimally and to make the environment conducive for the achievement of our dream for better life for all. To that extend, I wish to express my appreciation to the Premier and the Executive for making efforts to avail themselves to all Legislature activities and Sittings when required to do so. This is a demonstration of your commitment to remain accountable to the people of Bokone Bophirima.

Honourable members, the National Development Plan (NDP) requires that all sectors of society, including the Legislature and Judiciary, ensure that the fruits of development accrue to the poorest and most marginalised. It requires of us to guard against exploitation and possible attempts by the rich to protect their own interests at the expense of the less powerful communities.

The National Development Plan provides that ;

“Provincial Legislatures need to be particularly robust in their accountability function to ensure that provinces perform their core function in the delivery of basic services equitably, effectively and honestly..... They need to shine a light on issues of poor and uneven performance”.

This finds expression in the statement made by the Premier during his State of the Province Address when he said that;

“government would focus on the implementation of practical programmes for radical economic transformation ; therefore the 2017/18 budget plays a central role in transformation by affirming these directives through redistribution and redirecting scarce resources towards programmes that support the implementation of the five concretes, in

particular ACT and VTSD in the context of Rebranding, Repositioning and Renewal (RRR)'.

Honourable Members, in ensuring the implementation of the NDP, the Legislature has and will continue to ensure effective oversight and accountability on the implementation of the Provincial Government's Reposition, Rebranding and Renewal policy anchored on the five concretes, namely, Agriculture, Culture and Tourism (ACT); Villages, Townships and Small Dorpies (VTSD); Reconciliation, Healing and Renewal (RHR) ; Setsokotsane and Saamtrek Saamwerk Philosophy.

In this financial year, we plan to strengthen oversight function even further by ensuring effective and efficient allocation of resources to the work of members. Through our committees, we will ensure ongoing engagement with the Executive and communities to enhance service delivery.

We will continue to hold the Executive accountable for the implementation of all plans adopted by this House in line with the Sector Oversight Model (SOM). We will continue to strengthen the relationship between Members of the Legislature and Members of the Executive Council without compromising our different roles.

Honourable Members, our partnership with local municipalities supported by the Executive towards building strong and viable local government is beginning to yield positive results. During our recent Speakers Forum, the Department of FEED reported that both national and provincial departments paid R118 million as monies owed to municipalities in the province for services rendered. We commend the Provincial Government as that has assisted municipalities to also pay their debts and improve service deliveries.

In order to improve coordination of our events and to harmonise our relations, we have resolved that Committees of the Legislature would hence forth use Wednesdays for ordinary committee meetings, to interact with municipalities and conduct public hearings. The programme of the Legislature will also be circulated to municipalities so that they can plan properly.

Honourable Members, the North West Provincial Legislature remains a strong voice of the people of Bokone Bophirima and continues to afford ordinary people the platform to express their views and make submissions through Public hearings, Sectoral Parliaments, Petitions, O Re Bone Re Go Bone programme and the Speakers outreach programmes. I am pleased to report that we have reached all our set targets on all our programmes for the 2016/17 financial year. The challenge that still remains is to provide feedback to our people and to ensure that most of the issues they raised find expression in Departments' Annual Performance Plans.

Honourable Members, in order to achieve our constitutional mandate, we need a strong and stable administration. We need an administration that is responsive to the needs of Members. One of the milestones during the previous financial year is the appointment of the Accounting Officer (Secretary to the NWPL), Mr Oageng Mosiane. Mr Mosiane took over the reign from the then Acting Secretary Mr Ikhutseng Kekesi. We wish to extend our appreciation to Mr Kekesi for holding fort so well during his tenure as an Acting Secretary and for ensuring a smooth transition.

Honourable Members, it is my pleasure to announce that we are entering the third year of implementing the GRAP basis of accounting and with the continuous concerted efforts to stabilise the oracle system, we are on the path towards the highly sought improved audit. In essence to the latter, we intend to prioritise critical posts within the finance and supply chain management branches.

As part of our resolution to recruit people with skills and who better understand the Legislative Sector, we have appointed the new Chief Financial Officer and an Accountant in Finance Branch and the Executive Manager for Legislature Operations Branch. The appointment and filling of these key positions will create stability and strengthen our administration team. We are gradually building capacity so that we ultimately achieve our dream of operating without consultants.

Honourable Members, the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislature Act of 2009, as amended, requires a lot in terms of financial management of the legislative sector. We have made significant strides in terms of policy reviews and implementation to ensure alignment to the new Act. We are certain that our plans for 2017/18 will improve financial management of the legislature.

It is important for members and the citizens to note that the Legislative Sector is transforming itself as another arm of the state. The National Speakers Forum has sanctioned the development of Legislative Sector Bill that would ultimately become a law governing this sector. The Bill has been in circulation and we implored on all members and parties to make their inputs on the Bill and no submissions were received. Political Parties have also been given the opportunity to comment on the Regulations governing Party Political Funding, also no feedback came forth. The National Speakers Forum has adopted a draft bill and mandated the Speaker of the National Assembly to table it before Parliament.

Hon Members our rules makes provision for the establishment of the Office of the Integrity Commissioner to regulate ethics and conduct of members. I am pleased to report that the Office of the Integrity Commissioner has been established and Ms Fazela Mahomed has been appointed as a Commissioner for a period of three years.

We have also managed to review our rules in line with the resolution of this House. The 8th Edition of our standing rules covers various new aspects which includes conduct of members in the house, removal of members from the Legislature precincts, dress code and guidelines on dealing with disruptive behaviour in the house. I am also mindful of the fact that there are some issues raised with regards to submission of statements and time frames regarding motions and questions.

We reported last year that the legislature will take over the maintenance role of Public Works and Infrastructure development. We are proud to report that construction for the extension of the East Wing side of the legislature has commenced. The new wing will make provision for offices for all members and political parties, conference hall, gym, members lounge, committee rooms and parking area to mention just few.

The building is due to be handed over in 2018 if all goes according to plan. The official opening and occupation will be communicated once the contractors have communicated the definite date of handing over the project. We wish to express our appreciation for the support, guidance and cooperation that we continue receiving from the Department of FEED on this project. The oversight role by the standing Committee on Legislature Affairs is greatly welcomed.

Honourable Members the upgrading of Oracle system will be completed, in this financial year, we managed to implement Phase 3 A which entails stabilisation of the system, software upgrade and installation of Disaster Recovery System. The final Phase 3B entailing the Resolution Tracking System (Document Management) and Performance Management System will be implemented this financial year.

Hon Members, in the last financial year, the Legislature took part in the Youth and Women's Month Celebrations held in Gauteng Province. We used both events to expose our people from the previously

disadvantaged communities to parliamentary processes as well as to gain experience from their counterparts at national platforms. About 28 Youth and 20 Women from all districts attended both events.

We also hosted the High Level Panel public hearings on the 2nd March 2017 in Rustenburg. The Panel was established by Parliament to review the impact of laws adopted since 1994. Our people attended in numbers and participation was very good. On the 23 March 2017 we hosted the Public Protector road-show wherein she interacted with stakeholders within the Province.

Our Members and Staff participated in the Inter Legislative Games held in Kimberly in November 2016. The Northwest Provincial Legislature will host the games this year in November and we implore on our Members to take part in this event.

On international platform the legislature participated in the following events;

- the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Africa Region Conference held in Mauritius;
- The 62nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association International Conference held in London,
- and the 8th Commonwealth Youth Parliament held in Canada. In this Youth Parliament the Legislature was represented by Dikeledi Sekese, a youth from Bojanala and she performed very well. She qualified to participate in the debate and was chosen to act as a Minister of Education in the debate.

Hon Members, we have reviewed our Annual Performance Plan(APP) and aligned it to the vision of building a united, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous democratic South Africa as per the revised Strategic Plan. We have scaled down on many Key Performance Indicators that were too administrative and operational in nature. Members would

realise from our APP that Key Performance Indicators are aligned to focus on the legislature's core business as our main deliverables.

Honourable Members, in order to strengthen our parliamentary democracy and empower women parliamentarians, the Legislature will soon launch a Multi-Party Women's Caucus, CPA branch, Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Chapter (CWP) and establish a Gender Desk. These branches will deal with broad national and international issues affecting women at various platforms. We encourage all male MPLs to participate in gender activities. We applaud the interest shown by both Honourable Mc Gluwa and Elisha in taking part on the gender issues.

In this financial year, we will implement a new programme called, Legislature's Stakeholder Dialogue replacing the RHR. The dialogue will afford opinion makers, organised business, churches, media and the intelligentsia platform to robustly engage with the legislature on issues that are of great importance to the public like environmental issues and social cohesion amongst others. The dialogue will be held four time a year.

Honourable Members, women in their numbers have showed interest in the Basadi re Aga Setshaba. The programme encourages young women to actively participate in politics. The programme will now be held twice a year to cover events of international women's day.

Honourable Members, we will further continue with our efforts to strengthen our relations with the North West University around capacitation and strengthening of our research unit. We are happy with work done thus far and our Researchers are showing some great improvement. We are however beginning to experience high turnover of Researcher leaving for greener pastures. The Accounting Officer is been instructed to investigate this matter broadly and come up with innovative ways of resolving this challenge.

The Accounting Officer has further been mandated to review the approved interim structure of the institution to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. This will include exploring the possibilities of also partnering with the North West University along similar lines as with research to capacitate the Human Resource Division. The Deputy Speaker has also been mandated to engage the North West University on capacity building programmes for members.

The Legislature working together with SITA has completed the ICT Strategic Plan 2017-2020. This plan will be implemented in phases starting with ICT security from this financial year.

We will also ensure that the production of Kgotla and Hansard is done in Setswana and English.

As we move towards digitisation, we have planned to improve our library by installing the SABITNET system this year. The system provides library products and services, digitisation facilities and access to legal information services, journals, news and research online. Honourable Members let's use the Library as one of our resource to enhance our knowledge and to strengthen our oversight.

We have identified some limitations in our security systems as they were last installed in 2009. In this financial year provision has been made to upgrade the entire electronic security system to be in line with the requirements of the National Key Point. We will further strengthen our protection services at the Legislature events particularly those held outside the precinct.

Honourable Members, the process of condoning irregular expenditure is at an advanced stage and we foresee to condone at least R40 million of this undesirable expenditure. Going forward, as part of my commitments to the Auditor General, we have resolved to establish Consequence Management Advisory Committee (CMAC). The establishment of this Committee was also discussed and supported by the Rules Committee. The Committee will be responsible to investigate irregular, wasteful and fruitless expenditure, and advise the Speaker on the action to be taken against those found to have acted in contravention of the law. I will be announcing the names of members of the Committee once consultation processes are completed in the next 14 days.

Towards, conclusion, honourable Members, allow me to present to this House, the 2017/18 budget vote for the Legislature, on the backdrop of hard-hitting budgetary constraints that have an inherent risk to hinder the institutions effective oversight role. The challenges will prevail if additional funding is not availed and if we are unsuccessful in implementing allocative efficiency measures.

For the 2017/18 financial year, the Provincial Legislature is allocated R449.484 million which is 1.15 per cent of the total provincial allocation that amounts to R39 billion. The 2017/18 budget shows an increment of 15.6 per cent as compared to the 2016/17 adjusted allocation of R388 million. However, when the infrastructure budget is discounted from the total allocation, we realise a minimal growth of 0.31 per cent and an average growth of 4.85 per cent over the medium term. It is evident that the growth is far less than the projected inflation rate of 6.2 per cent for 2017/18.

Honourable Members, a request for additional funding will be submitted to the Provincial Treasury, however, this should not prevent us from implementing stringent austerity measures without materially compromising service delivery.

For the Legislature to be able to implement its constitutional mandate it needs more resources. To give effect to the provisions of our rules and the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislature Act, we have agreed on the process of consultation on matters relating to the budget allocation for the legislature. This process will be led by the Secretary to the Legislature and the Head Of Department of FEED and will be approved by the Speaker and the MEC of FEED.

Honourable Members, the allocated budget is divided as follows:

Programme	2017/18 Budget Allocation	
Programme 01: Administration	R 329.134 million	(Three hundred and twenty nine million, one hundred and thirty four thousand)
Programme 02: Members Salaries	R 31.999 million	(Thirty one million, nine hundred and ninety nine thousand)
Programme 03: Parliamentary Operations	R88.351 million	(Eighty eight million, three hundred and fifty one thousand)
Total Allocation	449.484 million	(Four hundred and forty nine million, four hundred and eighty four thousand)

Honourable members, the allocation for Programme 01: Administration includes compensation of employees for all Legislature officials amounting R140.4 million as well as an allocation for infrastructure development and maintenance.

Honourable Members, I present our plan as a strategic roadmap for achieving our vision and mission. We will at all time remind each other of our core mandate of Oversight, Effective Law-making, Enhancing public Participation and promoting Good Governance to avoid the temptation of encroaching in the space of the Executive. The plan also reaffirms our core values as Integrity, Accountability, Responsiveness, Openness and Teamwork.

Honourable Members, President Nelson Mandela once said “***A journey of thousand miles start with one step***”. Indeed with the little steps we take every day there is hope that we shall overcome our challenges and conquer the world. Let us all remember that we are the representatives of the people and we have a duty not only to serve but to do so with integrity, honesty and absolute dedication and love.

Madam Deputy Speaker may I take this opportunity to congratulate all Members who succeeded in their studies and obtained their graduation certificates in Governance and Leadership at the graduation ceremony held in Wits on the 20th April 2017 as well as those who have registered for Post Graduate Diploma with Wits and the University of Johannesburg.

In conclusion Honourable Members allow me to extend my greatest gratitude to my mentor, role model, former Speaker, the Chairperson of my beloved organisation African National Congress, Premier Mahumapelo for his excellent support and guidance during these tough times and to Members of the Executive Council for allowing yourselves to being held accountable.

- My Special gratitude to the Deputy Speaker, The Chief Whip, Chair of Chairpersons and the Chairpersons of Committees and Members of the Legislature for working tirelessly in ensuring that our people get better services.
- I thank all Political Parties represented in this house especially my party, the African National Congress for their continued trust in me to lead the Legislature.

- I thank the members of the Provincial Speakers Forum for ensuring that municipalities understand their responsibilities in so far as reporting to the Legislature in terms of the law. There is a lot of improvement with regard to the submission of the annual reports as compared to 2014/15.
- We thank the Auditor General for always guiding us with honesty and integrity;
- The Audit Committee chairperson Ms Jean-Marie Brown and all members of the Audit Committee for their professional support and leadership.
- My gratitude to the members of the Joint Planning Committee (JPC) and the Risk Committee for their hard work.
- I further express my utmost appreciation to the Secretary Mr Oageng Mosiane, his Executive Management and all staff members of the Legislature for their hard work and dedication.

Allow me to conclude by thanking my husband Rre Dantjie and my family for their unfailing support, advises and guidance.

Apostle Paul in Colossians 1:11 says, “***May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy***”. So even when we face the storms in our lives, God will always strengthen us and give us the endurance and patience with joy that we need.

May God Bless South Africa