



COGHSTA

**Department of Cooperative Governance
Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs
NORTHERN CAPE**

BUDGET VOTE 9 (COGHSTA)

12 SEPTEMBER 2024

NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

BY HONOURABLE BENTLEY VASS (MEC FOR COGHSTA & DTSL)

Deputy Speaker of the Legislature, Mr Mangaliso Matika,

Honourable Premier Dr Zamani Saul,

Honourable Chief Whip, Dr Norman Shushu,

My Fellow Colleagues – the Members of the Executive Council,

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Honourable Joubert,

Leader of the Opposition Party – Honourable Harold Mc Gluwa,

All Members of the Provincial Legislature,

Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Provincial House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders,

Kgosikgolo Pelonomi Toto and Kgosikgolo Pule Bareki, Dikgosi le Dikgosana Present,

Chairperson of SALGA Northern Cape, Councillor Michael Segede,

Executive Mayors, Mayors, Speakers and Councillors present,

Partners and Stakeholders in the Local Government, Human Settlements and Traditional Institutional Development sectors,

Members of the Media,

Invited Guests, all residents of the Northern Cape listening to this Budget Vote on all the Community Radio Stations in the Province,

Comrades and Friends,

Accept my Sincere Greetings and Appreciation for your attendance.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, as we start the Seventh Administration after the May National and Provincial Elections, we must all have a collective resolve to advance the interests of the people of this Country and the residents of this Province in particular.

All of us sitting in this August house today, have taken an oath to respect and uphold the Constitution. This means that at all times we must serve our communities, diligently, honestly and with dedication and commitment. No political expediency shall build a united South Africa.

The will of the people has put us in this situation, and responsible governments cannot overlook this and organize themselves against the spirit and letter of the Constitution. We must refuse to align ourselves on narrow tribal and racial lines. All we need to do is renew our country and improve the quality of life for our communities. Our Constitution is our heritage and our supreme law.

Deputy Speaker and Members, we welcome and embrace the decision of the University of the Western Cape, to award posthumously, an Honorary Doctorate to the Hero of the Liberation struggle Chris Hani, on the third of September, this year.

Hani was assassinated in April 1993 by the convicted assassins and those who were working with them intending to plunge South Africa into a civil war.

However, the nationwide anger in response to Hani's assassination compelled the apartheid regime to concede to the demand for and set the date for the first democratic election, which was held in April 1994.

We are free today, because of many struggle stalwarts like Chris Hani, who laid their lives down for our Freedom and we dare not fail them in our pursuit to change the lives of the people of South Africa.

September is also Heritage Month. Heritage Month in 2024 is putting a spotlight on the Resistance & Liberation Heritage Route Programme which focus on selfless struggle heroes and heroines who sacrificed their lives for liberation.

Deputy Speaker, with this budget vote, we wish to account for and recommit ourselves to improving the quality of life in our community by reducing inequality, poverty, and unemployment.

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Honourable Members,

I stand before this House to present Budget Vote 9 for adoption. One of the key areas of work of the Department I am leading is ensuring that the people of the Northern Cape live in integrated, sustainable human settlements and facilitating and managing infrastructure development for effective service delivery – which is Programme Two – Human Settlements.

It is for this reason, Deputy Speaker, that the Provincial Government could launch the Human Settlements Development Grant (HSDG) Pledging Project facilitated through the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) on 18 January 2024, co-led by President Cyril Ramaphosa and Honourable Premier Dr Zamani Saul, which seeks to address the housing backlog of our Province in a short space of time.

This project is funded through a loan by the Development Bank of South Africa amounting to 600 million rand, repayable in three financial years, with a capital repayment of 200 million rand per year.

This project is going to benefit all districts in this Province and the department has a period of 12 months to complete this project.

A second phase of the project will kick-start in the next financial year with the amount of 400 million rand.

In order to pay this loan, the allocation for the HSDG will be reduced to pay the loan.

Deputy Speaker, I am happy to inform this House that work to build around 2500 houses across the length and breadth of this Province has begun in earnest.

We have thus far appointed a total of 18 main contractors to build quality houses for the people of the Northern Cape.

From Jacksonville and Ganspan here in the Frances Baard District, to Pella and Bergsig in the Namakwa District.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

The total baseline allocation for human settlements for 2023/24 was three hundred and seventy-million rand (R370 191 000). The allocation for the Human Settlements Development Grant (HSDG) was two hundred and eighty-five million rand (R 285 336 000) while the allocation for the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant (ISUPG) was eighty-four million rand (R 84 855 000).

The original target for serviced sites was 1884 of which 819 was for ISUPG and 1065 was for HSDG. During the budget adjustment period, the department revised the business plan and increased the target for serviced sites to 2953 of which 1300 was for ISUPG and 1653 was for HSDG.

The original target for the number of houses delivered was 568. However, it is important to note that the annual target for houses was subsequently reduced to 340 in the revised business plan. A total number of 106 houses were delivered against a target of 340.

The Department had a target of eight thousand, eight hundred and eight (8808) title deeds for the 2019-2024 MTSF, however, three thousand seven hundred and eighty (3780) were registered. This leaves a backlog of five thousand and twenty-eight (5028) title deeds which must be registered over the next Medium Term Development Framework (MTDF).

Agbare Speaker, ons het op 1 April 2023 'n paneel van Aktebesorgers aangestel. Die paneel bestaan uit 12 Aktebesorgers. Die Aktebesorgers word gemonitor deur maandelike prestasievergaderings. Tydens die 2022/2023 finansiële jaar, het die departement een honderd drie en twintig (123) titel aktes geregistreer. Ons het drie honderd ses en tagtig (386) titel aktes geregistreer tydens die 2023/2024 finansiële jaar. Die departement het dus twee honderd drie en sestig (263) titel aktes meer as die vorige finansiële jaar geregistreer. Die departement werk hard om 'n verdere verbetering te bewerkstellig.

Honourable Members, the department has allocated two municipalities per conveyancer for the period ending on 31 March 2026 to transfer all the properties to respective beneficiaries. However, several challenges are still being experienced by the department, these include township establishments for projects not completed; lack of cooperation in the signing of Power of Attorney, SPLUMA certificates and rates clearance certificates, and approved Housing Subsidy System (HSS) beneficiary deviations found on the ground during physical verifications.

Through the "Title Deed Friday"- programme, the Department has been able to accelerate title deed delivery to beneficiaries. Municipalities must continually issue all title deeds in their possession.

In the current financial year 2024/25, the human settlements grant allocations are as follows:

1. Human Settlements Development Grant (HSDG) allocation of two hundred and sixty-nine million two hundred and ninety-eight rands (R269 298 000) of which two hundred million rands (R200 000 000) will be for the repayment of the capital loan to the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA). The department will build a total of 2687 houses inclusive of 2500 units of the six hundred million rands (R600 000 000) loan obtained from DBSA. The department will further install 108 serviced sites.
2. The ISUPG of sixty-four million one hundred and twelve thousand rands (R64 112 000) was allocated towards serviced sites. The objective of this grant is not to build houses. Its purpose is to formalise informal settlements with approved upgrading plans by providing security of tenure and access to basic services.
3. Provision for the registration of title deeds and opening of general plans are now part of the HSDG. The budget allocation is 3 million rands (R3 000 000) with a target of 743 title deeds in the 2024/25 financial year. Opening of Township registers has been a challenge and the Department has commenced to register some of the General plans.

Due to the exceptional performance of the Department, an additional allocation of two hundred and fifty million rands (R250 000 000) was received from the Provincial Treasury to ease the pressure on conditional grants.

The additional funding placed the department in a position to yield three thousand three hundred and sixty-seven (3367) completed serviced sites and procurement of one land parcel in the Tsantsabane Local Municipality.

ROODEPAN LAND PARCEL

In the previous financial year, the department purchased a land parcel in Roodepan, Portion No. 70, to relocate tenants of the Roodepan flats. The Roodepan flats are structurally unsound and poorly maintained due to neglect for many years.

The land parcel will be used to accommodate tenants from the Roodepan flats that qualify for Breaking New Ground (BNG) units. The land parcel will spatially expand the area of Roodepan. In total, exactly 403 residential erven will be yielded with 2 supporting land uses for business sites.

To date, all the town planning processes have been completed by the department. The installation of services will commence in the near future and will be followed by the construction of houses.

It must further be noted that numerous payments were made to professional services on other projects, township establishment, Town Planning services and National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC).

COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE

Deputy Speaker, as I turn my attention to Programme Three of our Department, which is Cooperative Governance, there can be no doubt that the local sphere of government is the most important sphere of our governance system.

Local government is instrumental in providing communities with essential services such as clean water, proper sanitation, reliable electricity, effective waste management, and well-maintained roads and municipal infrastructure.

Municipalities are at the coalface of service delivery. I agree with our Auditor-General, Ms. Tsakane Maluleke, when releasing the Consolidated General Report on Local Government Audit Outcomes 2022 – 2023, in August 2024, when she said and I quote ‘I remain convinced that service delivery improvements in local government will be enabled by stable, capable, cooperative, accountable and responsive municipalities delivering on their mandates, and by leadership creating a culture that values excellence and continuous improvement to bring about positive change in the lives of all South Africans’ close quote.

Deputy Speaker, the AG when releasing these Audit Outcomes for Local Government notes and I quote ‘The overall audit outcomes for the Province have improved slightly from last year due to two municipalities improving their outcomes and one regressing’ close quote.

Three of the province’s 31 municipalities managed to achieve clean audits due to stability and skills at the senior management level, while two received disclaimed audit opinions illustrating the need for further intensified intervention.

MUNICIPAL PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES (MPACS)

Municipal Public Accounts Committees and other key stakeholders have to perform their oversight and related responsibilities as elected members. The aim is also to improve accountability, transparency as well as the economical, effective, and efficient use of public resources in executing municipal functions giving effect to service delivery.

The oversight committees and officials serving in the local government sphere have critical roles to play in nurturing and maturing democratic institutions by exercising proper oversight of public funds and government programmes in a transparent and accountable manner. The legislative and regulatory framework provides for different layers of oversight, national, provincial and local. Internal and external audit processes also contribute to giving public the confidence in the democratic system.

Deputy Speaker, let this house take note that we have done an assessment on the functionality of the municipalities in the province. The assessment is based on the criteria that includes, putting people first, good governance, sound financial management, delivering basic services, building capable local government institutions, and LED.

The status of municipalities in the province with regard to functionality is as follows - 4 municipalities are stable, 9 municipalities are dysfunctional and 18 municipalities are at risk of being dysfunctional.

We have however afforded an opportunity to all dysfunctional municipalities to reassess themselves utilizing the Municipal Performance Assessment Tool (MPAT) indicators and submit their portfolios of evidence for verification, which may lead to the change of their status.

MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND FREE BASIC SERVICES

Honourable Members, on the Municipal Infrastructure and Free Basic Services, our Province was allocated just over 467 million rand (R467, 839 000.00) from the initial 500 million rand (R501 370 000) for the 2023/24 financial year after re-gazetting in October 2023.

As of March 2024, the allocation was revised due to stopping and re-allocation to an amount of just over 508 million rand (R 508, 889 000.00) which is an additional 41 million rand to the initial allocation.

About 68 MIG projects were initiated in 23/24 Financial Year, and implementation is at different stages.

Twenty municipalities were identified as perennial since 2020/2021 to 2022/2023 financial years, further assessment were done in 2023/2024 financial year and 10 municipalities improved while other 10 are still regarded as perennial, these are the Ubuntu, Siyathemba, Kareeberg, Emthanjeni, Thembelihle, Kamiesberg, Nama Khoi, Khai-ma and Gamagara Municipalities. Three municipalities, Kareeberg, Emthanjeni, and Khai-ma spent 100% and two municipalities Siyancuma and Ubuntu, spent above 90%) in the 2023/2024 Financial Year.

For 2024/2025 financial year, four municipalities are identified for cost reimbursement due to poor performance and use of conditional grants for other purposes these are the Thembelihle, Siyathemba, Kheis, and Tsantsabane Municipalities and two of these municipalities are perennial.

FREE BASIC SERVICES

All local municipalities in the Northern Cape have Indigent policies. However more needs to be done to strengthen recruitment and the submissions to the department.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Appointment of Senior Managers is an area of concern because this affects service delivery in the municipalities. It is important to note that the role of appointing senior managers is not the function of the Department but that of the local council.

Notwithstanding the above, I wish to report that the recruitment of senior managers is improving as municipalities are filling vacant positions. Sixty percent of the posts are now filled.

In filling these positions municipalities must prioritise the 50/50 gender equality as it is of concern that women appointed as senior managers occupy a limited space of 17% in local government.

COALITION OF MUNICIPALITIES

The Constitution vests legislative and executive authority in the municipal councils. The effective exercise of these functions is crucial for capable and developmental local governance. As the highest decision-making body, the council must steer the municipality, determine its strategic direction and take crucial decisions. In coalitions, this requires close cooperation between coalition partners to ensure that the responsibilities of the council are carried out effectively. Instability in a local coalition have severe impact as it compromise the municipal administration's ability to adopt policies, pass by-laws, make senior management appointments, adopt a municipal budget and ultimately to deliver services to local communities.

THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MODEL (DDM) APPROACH

Deputy Speaker, when President Ramaphosa launched the District Development Model (DDM) in 2019 it was to address the lack of coordination between national and provincial governments, between departments and particularly at local government level, to ensure that collectively we serve the interests of our citizens better.

Honourable Members, I am happy to report to you and this House, that on 22 August 2024, we hosted the District Development Model (DDM) Provincial Roadshow for the Northern Cape in Kimberley bringing together all three spheres of government and other social partners.

The working session was to source inputs from the invited participants on the draft updated DDM Implementation Framework and Guidelines as Gazetted on 10 May 2024.

The review of the drafted One Plans of all Districts is currently underway and will be finalised soon, to address some of the challenges with the One Plans that were raised during the Provincial Roadshows.

SPATIAL PLANNING

In 2023/2024 supported the review of 5 Municipal Spatial Development Framework of the Umsobomvu, Siyancuma, Renosterberg Ubuntu and Phokwane, through the MSIP programme amounting to R1.9 million.

The 5 SDF's in the 2023/2024 Financial year were completed, approved by municipal councils, and gazetted.

For this financial year we will support the review of 2 SDF's of !Kheis and Magareng Local Municipalities - we are currently in the SCM process.

Standard Transfer Specification (STS) / TOKEN IDENTIFIER (TID).

Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the Department working with SALGA and the Office of the Premier is currently busy with ensuring that our province is ready to have all our Standard Transfer Specification (STS) prepayment meters rolled over on 24 November 2024.

Honourable Members, the Standard Transfer Specification (STS) is the global standard for the transfer of electricity and other utility prepayment tokens.

It secures message protocol that allows information to be carried between a point-of-sale (POS) and a prepayment meter and is currently finding wide application in electricity metering and payment systems.

Distributors (Municipalities and Eskom) use the STS technology in their electricity and water utilities business to measure and charge water and electricity. The STS was first introduced in South Africa in 1993 and subsequently published by the International Electro-technical Commission as the IEC62055 series of specifications.

The province has just over 180 thousand (180 118) municipal pre-paid meters with hundred and thirty-one thousand (131 932) prepaid meters reset thus far.

This represents 73% of the reset prepaid meters. As at end of August, there are still forty-eight thousand, one hundred and eighty-six (48 186) meters still outstanding representing 27%.

Deputy Speaker and Honourable Members, with less than 3 months left to the TID rollover deadline, we anticipate that all municipalities will have completed the key change for their prepayment meters.

Our Communication Unit at the Department of COGHSTA, is working closely with SALGA, the Office of the Premier, and Local Municipalities to ensure increased awareness and to mobilise all our communities to do the necessary rollover before the deadline.

Failure to perform this function will result in an electricity crisis because the prepayment meters will stop dispensing electricity and stop accepting new tokens.

WARD DELIMITATION

Deputy Speaker, note that the Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB) has started with the municipal boundary re-determinations process and the deferred cases.

The MDB has decided to initiate an education and awareness campaign before the commencement of ward delimitation in the current period.

This campaign is included as part of the broader ward delimitation programme and is planned to take place between July and September 2024.

Prior to the commencement of the ward delimitations, the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) is required, in terms of the Municipal Structures Act, to determine and publish a formula for determining the number of councillors for each municipality by notice in the Government Gazette.

After the formula is published by the Minister, I must then determine the specific number of councillors for each municipality, and to then publish the same in our provincial gazette.

This process will be prioritised immediately after publication of the formula by the Minister.

As a collective, we must all support this process of the MDB to its logical conclusion and ensure that the preparations for the upcoming Local Government Elections 2026 are without challenges.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRES

Deputy Speaker and Honourable Members, last month, I led the Executive Management Committee of the Department to the COGHSTA Portfolio Committee of this Legislature, to present our Annual Performance Plan (APP) and Budget.

The Honourable Members of that Portfolio Committee raised serious concerns about the issues of climate change and whether our Province is ready to deal with the impact of such occurrences.

I agree that indeed the effects of climate change cannot be ignored in our Province.

The Provincial Disaster Management Centre have developed both the Provincial Disaster Management Plan and the Framework. The Provincial Disaster Management Plan is informed by the provincial hazard profile which is implemented by the PDMC to ensure that Northern Cape communities are safe from various disaster incidents occurring in the province.

As we all know that our province is prone to Drought, Veld Fires and Flood, the PDMC have developed the Summer Contingency Plan to ensure that mitigation measures are implemented to lessen the impact of disaster incidents.

In order to deal with the devastating veld fires in the province, the PDMC will be procuring 15 Fire Skid Units which will be donated to local municipalities. This follows the distribution of twenty-six (26) water tank trailers in the past financial year to twenty-six (26) local municipalities in the Province.

Due to the impact of Climate Change the PDMC will continue to collaborate with the Department of Agriculture, Environment, Rural Development and Land Reform to implement the Provincial Northern Cape Climate Change Strategy to minimize the impact of disaster incidents in the province.

The Province received Humanitarian support in the form of the procurement of food parcels, livestock feed and assisted 5 district municipalities which experienced veld fires and drought. This Humanitarian support was received from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter –Day Saints. The department have entered into the memorandum of understanding with the Church and during the disaster incidents in the province they are activated through the PDMC.

We also thank both the Gift of the Givers and Red Cross for their continued support with disaster relief materials during disaster incidents. The collaboration with government shows that Disaster Management is everybody`s business.

TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

Deputy Speaker, the Traditional Institutional Development is Programme Four, of our Department.

Traditional leadership in South Africa and other parts of the African continent dates back to many years before colonialism and the Apartheid era and has been an acceptable way of governance among South Africans. Colonialism and apartheid diminished the status and existence of traditional leadership and governance systems.

Traditional Leadership Institution is the key governance system closest to and recognized by many in the rural areas.

Our Provincial Government, under the stewardship of Premier Saul, hosted a summit of the Northern Cape Provincial Government and Senior Traditional Leaders on 04 April 2024 in Kuruman, in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District.

It was at this occasion that the Premier, corrected the status of 8 Dikgosi from Senior Traditional Leaders to Principal Traditional Leaders and elevate all headmen/women to Senior Traditional Leaders. The correction of status and elevation of traditional leaders event took place in Batlharos and Manyeding in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District in May 2024.

This historic event of the re-recognition of the Traditional Leadership structure of governance was to correct the historical distortions perpetrated by colonialism and apartheid systems of governance.

We congratulate all who were elevated and trust that they will individually and collectively strengthen the hand of government to serve our communities, especially those that are staying in traditional communities.

RECONSTITUTION OF TRADITIONAL COUNCILS

Deputy Speaker, the increase in traditional council membership from 10 to 18 members has been finalized and is currently being implemented across various traditional councils.

The 8 recognized Senior Traditional Leaders discussed the formula and approved the 2017 formula of 18 members in January 2024.

This expansion, Honourable Members, aims to improve inclusivity and representation within the traditional councils, ensuring broader participation from community members which is inclusive of women and youth.

The implementation phase is progressing well, with all relevant councils expected to have adopted the new structure by the end of 2024.

Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act, enacted in 2019, was designed to recognize traditional and Khoi-San communities, leaders, and councils.

However, in May 2023, the Constitutional Court ruled that the Act was unconstitutional due to insufficient public participation during its processing.

The court has suspended this ruling for 24 months, giving Parliament until May 2025 to amend the Act in line with constitutional requirements.

As a result, funding for initiatives under this Act has been affected, with a focus on ensuring compliance and enhanced public participation in its re-enactment.

Deputy Speaker we recently concluded the Winter Initiation season, and I am happy to report that all 28 graduates left the schools in good health.

As we prepare for the Summer Initiation period, we are going to ensure that we maintain our good record so that everything goes according to plan.

To achieve this, we are planning a training of 60 Traditional surgeons and Principals in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District in September 2024.

Deputy Speaker, Traditional Affairs is one program that needs much attention as it comes with its own challenges financially.

The strategic role of the Traditional Leaders program is to coordinate the traditional affairs of the department at the provincial and local government levels. This relates to service delivery, developmental needs, governance etc.

This programme in our Department also deals with the recognition of traditional leaders and commissions of inquiry into dispute matters by traditional leaders. This does not only have financial implications but it has to do with livelihoods, peace, stability, social cohesion and nation building.

This program is also expected to reconstitute three Traditional Councils and the elevation of some traditional leaders. With the support of Premier Dr Zamani Saul, the department has already done substantial work in this regard in that some traditional leaders were elevated in May 2024 as mentioned earlier.

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

Deputy Speaker, we have recently received the departmental audit outcome, and it is important to note that, the department received an unqualified report. We are committed to the program of operation clean audit.

Of importance to note is that while we are expected to render services, there are austerity measures, otherwise referred to as cost containment.

As a result of these measures, the baseline for the department will be reduced by 31, 9 million rand. This budget cut will have a negative impact on the possible savings on the budget as of the end of July 2024.

Deputy Speaker, the department has a shortage of professional and technical staff in the Service delivery Programmes. This remains a concern as it will affect and impact negatively on service delivery.

On the other hand, the challenge relates to the support to be provided to municipalities through secondment of contracted officials. To intervene meaningfully, the department in many instances cut costs from goods and services to make provision for these employees on the PERSAL system.

The other means employed by the department is that of embarking on a vigorous cost-saving drive to ensure that funds are available for salaries on a monthly basis. In a long term, the department is to engage Provincial Treasury who is also having the same function of rendering support to the municipalities, to mitigate this challenge.

The suspension of the twenty-three million rand of Equitable share will itself have a negative impact on the compensation of employees.

The share of current payments total budget is set to increase by 3.8 percent in 2025/26 and by 4.2 percent in 2026/27 respectively. The total budget for current payments of the department increases consistently over the MTEF due to the improvement of conditions of conditions of service (2023 wage agreement) and inflationary adjustments.

In the 2024/25 financial year, the main budget increased from seven hundred and ninety-seven million rand (R797.501) to one-point 3 billion rand, largely due to the allocation of the Provincial Housing Program through HSDG Pledging. The additional allocation of R600 million in the 2024/25 financial year does not have a carry-through effect over the MTEF, henceforth the growth in the budget for the outer years of the 2024 MTEF remains stagnant compared to 2023/24.

Goods and Services slightly increase over the MTEF due to inflationary adjustments. The main cost drivers of expenditure include payments for operating leases, fleet services, security services, and external audit fees.

The department will continue to manage expenditures to align with national and provincial priorities, ensuring cost-containment measures are in place while supporting core programmes.

Deputy Speaker, compensation of employees, which is the department's largest area of spending under current payments constitutes 24 percent of the total departmental budget.

Compensation is largely driven by changes in the number of employees and changes in remuneration and the budget is aligned to cater for such.

General economic conditions that impact compensation is the inflation rate, changes in the cost of living, pay progression, etc.

Expenditure on the compensation of employees increased from three hundred and nineteen million rand (R319.059 million) in 2023/24 to three hundred and thirty million rand (R330.919 million) in 2024/25 due to funds received for the improvement of conditions of service.

Resources are allocated to machinery and equipment under Payments made for Capital Assets to fund tools of the trade, the installation of IT infrastructure as well as fleet amounts to eleven-point-two million rand (R11.244 million) in 2024, eleven point seven million rand (R11.748 million) in 2025, and twelve-point-two million rand (R12.289 million) in 2026. The allocation over the MTEF is mainly for inflationary price increases.

Deputy Speaker, I present the following Budget for adoption for the MTEF period:

The Budget allocation for 2024/2025 financial year amounts to 1,631 billion rand and broken down as follows, over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF):

PROGRAMME 1

Which is for Administration, a total of just over one hundred and ninety-four million rands (194 879 million rands) for this financial year and estimated to two hundred and five million, two hundred and five thousand rands (205 205 million) and increase to just over two hundred and fourteen million rands (214 646 million) for 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 financial years respectively.

PROGRAMME 2

Is Human Settlements at one-point-two billion rands (1 257 577) for 2024/2025 and dropped to four hundred and four million rands (404 208) in the 2025/2026 year and to an estimated three hundred and seventy-four million rand (374 435 million) in the 2026/2027 year.

PROGRAMME 3

Is Cooperative Governance at one hundred and forty-five million rands (145 228 million) this financial year and one hundred and fifty-one million rands (151 105) and one hundred and fifty-seven million rands (157 778) for 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 financial years and lastly

PROGRAMME 4

Traditional Institutional Management at thirty-three million, eight hundred and thirty-seven thousand rands (33 837) for the 2024/2025 financial year and thirty-five million, two hundred and eighteen thousand rands for the 2025/2026 and to a slight increase of thirty-six million, eight hundred and thirty-seven thousand rands (36 837) in 2026/2027.

Deputy Speaker, we will continue using the limited fiscal resources at our disposal, judiciously to maintain a balance between public expenditure and revenue, ensuring that the government does not spend beyond its means.

Honourable Members, despite the doomsayers, wanting to project our Country and Province, as that which we must lose Hope in, I say to all, we dare not be hopeless.

We are celebrating 30 years of Freedom and the strengthening of our Institutions supporting our Constitutional Democracy, because we are a resilient Nation.

We overcome adversities and we always rise, when we work together to confront challenges that we are faced with.

Let us stay focussed, let us keep our eyes firmly on the Project.

The Project deals with the triple challenges of Poverty, Unemployment, and Inequality.

Deputy Speaker, I wish to thank the COGHSTA Team led by HOD Bafedile Lenkoe,

The Portfolio Committee on COGHSTA, for the advice and support since the start of the 7th Administration.

The support staff at the Ministry, led by HOM Mayenzeke Mbekushe,

The continued support and trust of the movement that deployed me to this position, the African National Congress,

Last but not least, my Wife and Two boys, and all my extended family for the love and unwavering support and prayers.

Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the Department of COGHSTA Budget Vote 9 for your consideration.

I thank you for your attendance and attention.