



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY



2024-2025
BUDGET VOTE
PRESENTATION

MEC Florence Radzilani

Date: 19 March 2024

Time: 10h00

Venue: Polokwane Council Chamber



LEAVE NO
ONE BEHIND



The heartland of southern Africa - development is about people

2024/25 BUDGET PRESENTATION – VOTE 8.

Department of Transport and Community Safety - Limpopo Province.

Tuesday, 19th March 2024.

Limpopo Provincial Legislature - Polokwane Municipal Council Chamber.



MEC Florence Radzilani

Honourable Speaker of the Provincial Legislature, Mme Rosemary Molapo.

The Deputy Speaker, Hon Matibe Tshitereke.

Honourable Premier, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha.

Colleagues in the Executive Council.

The Chief Whip, Hon Essob Mokgonyana.

The Chairperson and Members of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety.

The Chair of Chairs Hon Sarah Monyamane.

Honourable Members of this August House.

The Management of the South Africa Police Services in Limpopo, under the Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant- General Thembi Hadebe.

The leadership of the Department's fraternal organisations,

- The South African National Taxi Council.
- The National Taxi Alliance.
- The Road Traffic Management Corporation.

The Leadership of the South African National Small Bus Operators Council.

The Chairperson of the Community Policing Forums and Community Safety Forums.

Our distinguished guests and Government Officials in the public gallery.

The people of our beloved Limpopo Province, who are accessing this Sitting through various platforms.

Members of the Media.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

This being a year of elections, which happens on the 30th anniversary of our democratic state, it is imperative that we must start from where it all began.

In doing so, it would be impossible not to draw on the inspiration from the fond memories and guidance of our forebears who laid the foundation stone to the freedom and democracy we enjoy today.

The memory and spirit of Tata Nelson Mandela, Albertina Sisulu, Mama Lilian Ngoyi, Peter Nchabeleng, Elias Motsoaledi, Happy Joyce Mashamba, Pharephare Mothupi, and many other gallant freedom fighters, on whose shoulders we stand - remain a singular lodestar to the future we seek for our children.

As descendants of these great heroes and heroines – the great grandchildren of King Hintsa, Sekhukhune, Makhado, Nghungunyane and others who resisted conquest and dispossession, we commit ourselves never to betray their legacy.

In their names and in the name of the cause for which they dedicated their lives, we promise to stay true to the ideals of our battle call, by forever emulating their vigour and indomitable spirit.

As we conclude 'what was an illustrious' term of Office, it can only be correct that we use the significance of this occasion to highlight the strides that have been underscored, since 1994.

I invite you Honourable members, to Join me in this journey as I try to narrate the road we have traversed together, and how we negotiated its high-pitched bends and descending slopes, together.

As I begin doing so, allow me, to replicate what the Honourable Premier Chupu Mathabatha did, on the occasion of his State of the Province Address, when he reminded

all of us, about the decisive steps which this ANC Government took since 1994, in the face of high levels of squalor and dilapidation, we found upon taking the reins of power.

May I again remind you that we took over Government in 1994 at a time when all of its focus and services were dedicated and tilted in favour of the white minority. Through sheer force of legislative power and persuasion we managed to broaden the scope of the inherited state to work inclusively for the benefit of all its citizens, black and white.

Honourable Speaker, it is not a secret that during apartheid, the majority of Government services were tailor-made to benefit the chosen minorities, hence we are not surprised that to this day, they still have a warped sense of entitlement, and would do everything possible in their powers, to cast doubt and aspersion on the commitment of this government to serve of our people.

In the past 30 years, we have connected more households to the electricity grid, than the Apartheid Government had, in the more than 300 years that it ruled this Country.

Today, we are confronted with power generation challenges, only because we have increased access to electricity for the majority of our citizens. This was a privilege only to white people.

We have widened water provision to our communities, like never before, and where there are challenges, we are always the first to interface with our communities, to untie possible bottle-necks.

The narrative of creating an equal society, has also helped us, in the fight against gender-based violence, because our children are no more viewing the world through the eyes of masculinity.

During his State of the Nation Address, President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, impressed upon us the several measures that Government has introduced to combat gender-based violence, and how it provides better support to survivors of such violence.

We are gradually eradicating gender stereotyping, not as an act of a favour towards women, but because we believe in the fundamental ethos of social justice.

Like never before, our collective actions have led to a greatly transformed public service in terms of gender, as today we have more females occupying senior management positions in both Government and the parastatals.

Over time, the number of women lawmakers have also increased in our Legislature. Our Executive Council consist of nearly fifty percent representation of women. This by any standard cannot be a mean feat, as we are counted head and shoulder above some of the so-called matured democracies in the world, when it comes to gender representation in society.

We have crossed the rubicon, and we can hear the sounds of the bleating goats, the wailing cows and the barking dogs, because our destiny is on the horizon.

The winds of economic growth are starting to blow, and all the boats are set to start sailing, as we focus on a trajectory of rebuilding the economy.

Together, we have seen the worst, and together we have seen the best, and in all of these, we held each other's hand, and sang, "We shall overcome".

As we cast our eyes behind us and reflect on the insurmountable challenges that we have conquered, we all agree that this ANC led Government has outdone itself, to serve this Country and her people.

Despite the enormous challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment, that confronts our people, we have built sound socio-economic policies, that are meant to cushion our people, from these hardships.

Through our numerous efforts, of stabilising the economy, by crafting bespoke policies, we have caused some serious dents on the country's poverty levels.

Under an ANC Government, our people have borne witness to an unprecedented roll-out of services, irrespective of their residential location or socio-economic background.

During the years of Apartheid, rural communities would have been very privileged to have a tar road or a telephone line, because by sheer luck, it would have been passing through their village to a farm owned by a Meneer Van Tonder or Meneer du Plessis.

We inherited a Province that was demarcated according to ethnical lines, because the Apartheid Government's spatial arrangement had thought that, by discarding us into tribal homelands, we would grow apart and dislike each other.

The Apartheid Government had made all mannerism of attempts, to confine black people in spaces and pockets of land, which were deemed not arable for any form of development.

This also, we overcame.

Despite managing this Country's transition, flawlessly and peacefully, our detractors are still adamant that we can't run a successful election, after the many editions that we have conducted in the past 30 years.

Our evolution and transition would have taken a different posture and format, if it was not for the ANC's distinct leadership.

Today, as we forge ahead with the process of reclaiming back our land, and reversing the ill-fated thuggery that was the 1913 Native Land Act, we do so with boundless joy and little remorse.

We have witnessed the ramifications of land dispossession towards the welfare of our people, and we rely on the sacrosanct wisdom of the ANC Government as we discharge a process to correct this crime against humanity.

We have built the most solid Constitutional Democracy, with its founding principles being non-racialism, non-sexism and the yearn to create an equal society for all.

Our democracy counts amongst the best in the world, usurping even some of the Countries that have gained their independence from the aggressive colonialists, decades before our 1994 watershed moment.

We are unflinching on these achievements, of building a free and democratic society, that is the envy of the global community.

It is our wish that the same freedom and democracy that we are currently basking in, should be experienced by other nations throughout the world.

It is for this reason, that we are unrepentant in our stance that the people of Palestine and the Western Sahara, must also be reprieved from the same oppression that we experienced, many years ago.

In the words of former American President - Abraham Lincoln, 'those who deny freedom to others, do not deserve it, for themselves'.

The peace and stability that we have crafted over the years, is the envy of the global community, and it is our desire - in the interest of the realisation of African Renaissance,

that our sister Countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, could also attain the same levels of tranquillity.

Indeed, we shall overcome.

Honourable Speaker, we are not only good story-tellers, who craft virtuous speeches to narrate and soothe the ears of our listeners, but we are notable implementers of change, in the lives of our people.

Our service delivery record speaks volume, is unmatched and second to none.

Where we made promises, we will sure deliver, at the right time, to the deserving citizen, at the right cost to Government.

Our efforts of building an inclusive economy were hugely undermined and dealt a severe blow, by the advent of the Covid 19 pandemic.

We are still reeling from this disruption, and just like many other trepidations that we have endured, this one too, we overcame.

Honourable Speaker, last year we came into this August House, to give an account, as the Department of Transport and Community Safety, on how we intend to serve the people of Limpopo.

Today, almost a year later, we have convened in this Legislature precinct, to report back to our people, about the strides we made, in our resolve of creating safer roads and communities.

With an estimated allocation of R 2. 611 Billion, which is a reflection of a growth of 5.1% from the 2023/24 financial year, this Department has been charged with the mandate of

overseeing and managing the Gateway Airports Authority Limited, coordinate public transport operations, promote road safety and supervise Police functions in the Province.

The increase in the 2024/25 allocation is an intervention mechanism, to inject funds into the bus subsidies programme, and assist the Gateway Airports Authority Limited in its management of the Polokwane International Airport and adjacent facilities, in the Province.

As the main contributor to the Provincial Revenue, we envisage to collect in excess of R 2. 794 Billion over the 2024 Medium Term Expenditure.

The inception of the new registering authorities in Lephalale, Polokwane, Makhado and Tzaneen, will be a 'jerk in the arm', towards the realisation of this goal.

We are alive to the challenges that are confronting our people, of poverty, inequality and unemployment, and we have tailored our programmes to wage a battle against these anomalies.

We have made a special provision of R 25 Million for the Expanded Public Works Programme, as a way of fending our people against poverty and unemployment.

As a Department, we have curated a myriad of EPWP opportunities, in the fields of Records Management, Road Safety Ambassadors (Point Duty Officers), Young Civilians on Patrol and the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design programme, as a way of creating employment for our youth.

We made a huge dent against unemployment, and we can only hope that the little wages drawn from these programmes, will help our young people to look for other jobs or develop themselves, further.

PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION

Honourable Speaker, with an allocation of R 600 Million, this Programme is the heart-beat of the Department, as it oversees its 'day-to-day' management. This equates to 23% of the total budget of the Department. R 330 Million of this, goes towards compensation of employees, which is a growth of 5% from the 2023/24 financial year.

This is mainly due to our ability to fill most of the vacant positions from the 2023/24 financial year.

Last year, in this august house, we made a commitment that all the critical vacancies, which are key towards the realisation of the Department's service delivery objectives, will be filled.

This is a moving target, because with each employee that gets promoted to a senior position, they leave a vacancy behind.

Around April last year, we commenced with a recruitment process to identify a 150 Learners to be included in the Traffic Learnership programme.

This process was conducted meticulously and it succeeded in identifying candidates from the 'poorest of the poor' backgrounds, who are now at the Limpopo Traffic College, in Manenu, in the Vhembe District.

Upon completion of this learnership programme, these learners will - in all likelihood, be absorbed as part of the workforce of this Department.

This injection will positively impact on our endeavours of heightening road safety, as it is likely to increase Officials' visibility on our roads.

In order to create a capable state, that will discharge its service delivery mandate to our people, with distinction, we will not overlook skills development avenues and initiatives for the Department's workforce.

We constantly workshop our senior management personnel, and fine-tune their administrative prowess, to assist them to implement fundamental policy directives.

Our recruitment endeavours are biased towards women and people with disabilities, because we are alive to the existing barriers that have shaped the workplace to be unfavourable for them.

We continuously assess the targets that we have set for ourselves, and there has been a remarkable progress that has been made, to this end.

We have set aside an amount of R 192 Million for contractual obligations, such as cleaning services, security management, office space, procurement of machinery and equipment, government vehicles and other transversal services.

An amount of R 8 Million has also been set aside, for maintenance and repairs, to ensure that our buildings are compliant and fit for human occupation.

PROGRAMME 2: TRANSPORT OPERATIONS

The budget for this Programme increases from R 932 Million in 2023/24 to R 1. 065 Billion in 2024/25, which represent a growth of 14.2%.

This significant growth is due to the funding of the bus subsidies programme and transfers to the Gateway Airports Authority Limited.

For the 2024/25 Financial Year, GAAL has been allocated an amount of

R 127 Million, which is also allotted towards the attainment of the targets set within its Turnaround Strategy.

R 74 Million of this is for Capital Expenditure, for the repairs, maintenance and upgrade of the airport's infrastructure.

This will also assist the Airport to comply with the regulations of the South African Civil Aviation Authority, and to improve services to attract more users and operators at the airport.

Honourable Speaker, we have held several engagements in the Executive Council, to ponder various ways and means, to assist GAAL to attain a state of financial sustainability.

A turn-around strategy has been formulated, and it is our firm view that, if properly implemented, this Entity will attain an optimal level of self-sustainability, and become a dominant player within the Provincial aviation space.

We shall continue with our engagements with the Maruleng Municipality, the National Department of Transport, the Department of Defence and Military Veterans, and other critical stakeholders to re-purpose the Eastgate Airport in Hoedspruit.

Engagements are at an advanced stage, to acquire an international operating license for this Airport.

Once concluded, this will open a seamless flow, for both passengers and agricultural products, between Maruleng and other parts of the globe.

We will also, in the 2024/25 Financial Year, review and update the Provincial Freight Strategy, which was last developed, over a decade ago.

Honourable Speaker, we have also made an allocation of R 16 Million for the remedial work on the Thohoyandou Intermodal facility.

This funding should help us unlock a long-standing stand-off, between Government and the public transport operators in Thulamela, who could not use this facility because of structural defects.

We have resolved to continue work on this facility, while a litigation process is underway, to recoup the monies that Government paid to the Contractor.

The subsidies we provide, within the public transport fraternity, have lessened the burden of transportation costs on our people as they traverse between their homes and workplaces.

We are doing this, Honourable Speaker, because we are dealing with the ramification of Apartheid's spatial planning, which has thrown our people on the periphery of economic zones.

Without this subsidy, millions of our people, would not afford transport services, which are essential to their livelihoods.

We have spent around R 2. 8 Billion on bus subsidies, in the past 5 years, and we remain committed to continue with this programme to assist our people, in these tough economic times.

We have set aside an amount of R 833 Million, for the bus subsidies programmes, for the 2024/25 Financial year.

This industry has helped in the creation of around 2 000 jobs, in the form of drivers, cashiers, dispatchers, bus washers, inspectors and clerical staff, within the 18 bus companies involved in the subsidy scheme.

There are more jobs which are also created within the value chain, like petrol attendants, security personnel and vendors at bus terminals.

In our quest to transform this bus subsidy regime, to allow new entrants and create a more healthier competition within the market, together with the Council for Science and Industrial Research, we will finalise and implement the new service contracts, and rationalise the old contracts.

The Department has set aside an amount of R 5, 3 Million, in the 2024/25 Financial Year, to promote openness and transparency in the processing of applications for public transport operators.

Through the Provincial Regulatory Entity, the Department will continue to oversee and monitor Public Transport affairs in the Province, and ensure a fair balance between the need and demand for public transport services in specific areas.

As we discharge this function, we do so with diligence and utmost care, to ensure that there will be no tensions and conflicts between operators, across the Province.

We are sustaining our relations with the South African National Taxi Council, because we are alive to our commitment of ensuring a peaceful taxi industry. It is these good relations we have maintained with the taxi industry that have yielded to positive tranquillity in the industry, thus far.

Honourable Speaker, may I dare reiterate that the issuing of new operating licenses is dependent and directed on the conclusion of Integrated Transport Plans, by Municipalities.

These plans spell out demand and the supply imperatives, modes of transport, networks and flows, terminals, economic nodes, including route descriptions, which are informed by the actual movement of people and goods, within a defined Municipal area.

For more route based operating licenses to be issued, it is therefore critical for all municipalities to speedily conclude their Integrated Transport Plans. We are therefore making a clarion call to Municipalities to set aside resources to prioritise the development of their ITPs.

For the 2024/25 Financial Year we have allocated an amount of R 5 Million to assist the Maruleng Local Municipality in the Mopani District, to develop its ITPs.

We have also received financial assistance from the National Department of Transport, to develop plans for the Greater Sekhukhune District Municipality. This must be concluded before the end of March 2025.

A process is underway between us and the Polokwane Municipality, because they also have approached the Department, with the view to finalise their ITP processes.

We will work hand in glove with all municipal councils in the Province, to finalise this process, because they are the planning authorities.

PROGRAMME 3: TRANSPORT REGULATIONS

The budget for this programme increases to R 881 Million, which represents a growth of 3.7%, for the 2024/25 Financial Year.

This growth caters for the Expanded Public Works Programme – social sector grant to fund the stipend for Point Duty Officers, revenue enhancement projects, revitalisation of

the Limpopo Traffic Training College, and the revamping of the K53 projects in Seshego and Thohoyandou.

Our core mandate, as a Department, is to promote and ensure road safety, for road users.

Honourable Speaker, we have decreased road fatalities by 9%, from 1 238 in 2021/22 to 1 164 in 2022/23, and we are hopeful that this number will drastically reduce as we conclude our report for the 2023/24 financial year.

But I must forthrightly register our concern, in this August House, that we have seen a spike in the number of passengers and pedestrians that are becoming victims of road accidents.

This is a worrying observation, and as a Department we shall be amplifying and heightening our road safety messages, towards passengers and pedestrians, as they are the hardest hit members of our society.

We have also seen a pattern of motorists who wantonly fail to stop, after hitting pedestrians on our roads.

We have adopted a strategy of placing traffic officials on systematic intervals, to ensure maximum police visibility, as a way to mitigate against road fatalities.

Our attempts continue to yield results, but there are some unfortunate instances, where human behaviour by road users, defeat our efforts.

We have multiple crashes that led to numerous fatalities, in this previous financial year, and most of them are a result of human behaviour.

Speeding accounts to the majority of crashes on our roads, which means that some of these crashes were avoidable.

Sometime around September 2023, we lost over 20 lives at once, in an accident that involved workers of the Venetia Mine, in Musina.

There had been several others, which resulted in multiple fatalities, and what is more saddening is that, in some incidents, family members perished together.

In the 2023/24 Financial Year alone, we have conducted over 13 000 speed operations, over 3 000 drunken driving operations and over 600 000 vehicles were weighed at our Weighbridges.

Honourable Speaker, we are a Department at work, and we have stopped over 2 Million vehicles on the provincial roads, to ensure that they adhere to the traffic regulations and their drivers are also fit for purpose.

To ensure compliance with the National Road Traffic Act 93 of 1996, we have conducted 450 compliance inspections, in all the testing centres.

Our road safety campaigns are putting concerted efforts on interactions with schools.

We have conducted over 4 700 awareness campaigns in the 2023/24 financial year, to educate road users about road safety.

To improve the living conditions of traffic officers, undergoing training at the Limpopo Traffic College, we have completed the construction of the 37 bed Block B dormitory.

Progress on the Block C dormitory, Kitchen and Canteen is also underway, and we have also impressed upon the Contractor, the importance of having these facilities, concluded timeously.

The Department will continue to implement the National Traffic Contravention Management System, to capture traffic summons.

An amount of R 8 Million has been set aside for the implementation of technology in traffic law enforcement.

This innovation includes the utilisation of hand-held devices which will be linked to the National Traffic Contravention Management System.

In other words, Officers will no longer issue traffic summons by hand, instead they will use gadgets which will automatically transfer the information to the system.

This will eliminate human errors, possible acts of corruption and will also reduce the time spent to capture the infringement notice.

We will also implement a programme called Radar Speed Solution, in all the major Provincial routes.

This solution will be omni-present, it will capture speed without Officers and will increase voluntary compliance by motorists.

We are in the process of appointing an additional 128 Road Safety Ambassadors, who will be deployed to minimise pedestrians' accidents and assist in alleviating traffic congestion in busy intersections.

This will add to the current 178 to make the total number of Road Safety Ambassadors to 306, throughout the Province.

In monetary terms, we have set aside close to R13 Million, for the finalisation of the Block C dormitory, the Kitchen and Canteen at the Limpopo Traffic College.

An additional R25 Million has also been set aside, for the construction of the K53 Centres in Thohoyandou and Seshego.

R 6 Million has also been allocated for the continuous maintenance of all traffic facilities, with the Groblersbridge Weighbridge and Lephalale Provincial Traffic Station, getting the bulk of this allocation.

PROGRAMME 4: PROVINCIAL SECRETARIAT FOR POLICE SERVICES

The programme increases from R 56. 6 Million in 2023/24 to R 63. 7 Million in 2024/25, which represents a growth of 12.6%.

This Programme monitors and oversees the effectiveness and efficiency of the South African Police Service, and how it administers its compliance with the Domestic Violence Act and reacts to incidents of Gender-based Violence.

The allocation caters for the stipends of community structures such as Community Police and Safety Forums, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design and Young Civilians on Patrols. The stipends are funded through conditional grants and equitable shares.

The department has on its records over 400 Young Civilians on Patrol (YCOP), distributed throughout the province, at all police stations.

This is an Expanded Public Works Programme whereby the young people conduct patrols in their respective residential and business areas, under the supervision of SAPS members.

An amount of R 4. 5 Million was budgeted for the project, and the participants receive R400 per patrol as a stipend.

We have also made an allocation of R 3.161 Million for the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design programme. This programme focus on mitigation factors to eliminate security risk, of environmental design.

Honourable Speaker, the Department also conducts regular crime awareness campaigns in the form of workshops, throughout the Province to address Rural Safety, with emphasis on stock theft, drug abuse and crimes against vulnerable groups.

Together with our community structures, we continue to wage a ferocious war against drug trade and use, within our communities.

The only way to nab drug peddlers, is to swell ground with community structures, such as Community Police and Safety Forums, in order to identify the traders, and intercept their operations.

Through the assistance of these structures, the Police have registered impressive successes and have arrested numerous king-pins, and the conviction rate is also notable.

Our fight against gender-based violence, will never cease until we record a complete state of zero occurrence, where women and children will always feel safe.

We are reengineering our approach in the fight against crime and drug use in the Province.

As we draw towards the end of the 6th Provincial Administration, I want to take this opportunity to thank the people of Limpopo, for placing their trust in the ANC as a leader of their Government.

Together we have walked this journey, and we have turned darkness into light.

We have dreamt together, cried together, laughed together, created memories together, and together we will stroll this journey towards building a better life for all mankind.

In conclusion, I also want to thank Honourable Chupu Mathabatha, for the 11 years that he held the fort, as the Premier of this Province.

A lot has been said, about his impeccable leadership, and we can all wish him the best in his future endeavors.

To my colleagues in the Executive Council, just like Paul in the Book of 2nd Timothy, 'we fought a good fight, we finished the race and we have kept the faith.'

To the Chairperson and Members of the Portfolio Committee, receive my warmest messages of gratitude on this occasion, for being the guiding light and a constant reminder that, at the heart of our services, must be a yearn to spend public funds in a transparent and accountable manner.

To Members of this August House, let us continue to utilize the Legislature as a site of struggle, to help our people to attain a better life.

To my Political Party, the African National Congress – a leader of this society, I want to send my sincerest gratitude for being honoured with this deployment, and in the true spirit of servanthood, I surely hope that I executed this task, to the best of my ability.

To the Head of Department, Mr. Stephen Matjena, Members of his Executive Management and the entire workforce, our job will remain incomplete, until we reach a state of no fatalities on the roads.

Pending that, we will have to 'keep on, keeping on'.

To my family, my husband Apostle A.S. Radzilani and our children, you remain the wind beneath my wings.

We operate by hope and faith, for a better tomorrow, Honourable Speaker.

As long as we have hope, we shall not despair, and renege on our commitment of building a better life for our people.

When everything seems hopeless, hope becomes our only strength.

There is no medicine like hope, no incentive so great, no tonic so powerful, as an expectation of something tomorrow.

Great hope makes great men and women.

Hope is praying for rain, but faith is bringing an umbrella.

Honourable Speaker, I therefore table this Budget Vote 8, of the Limpopo Provincial Department of Transport and Community Safety, for the 2024/25 Financial Year.

I thank you.



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Department of Transport & Community Safety

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