



Office of the Premier Departmental Budget Vote 2019/20

Hon. S.H Ntombela
Premier of the Free State

Date: Wednesday, 17 July 2019

Time: 09:00

Venue: Fourth Raadsaal, Bloemfontein

**Theme: "Let's grow South Africa together as we
celebrate 25 years of freedom"**



the premier

Office of the Premier
FREE STATE PROVINCE





Premier of the Free State
SH Ntombela

**Speech by the Premier of the Free State Province,
Honourable S.H. Ntombela**

**Office of the Premier
Budget Vote Speech
17 July 2019**

Honourable Speaker of the Legislature
Honourable Deputy Speaker
Honourable Members of the Legislature and the Executive Council
Executive Mayors, Mayors and Speakers of Municipalities
Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders and our Traditional Leaders
The Director-General and Heads of Department
Chairpersons of our Public Entities and Chief Executive Officers
Leaders of the African National Congress and the Alliance
Leaders of Faith Based Organisations
Leaders of Civil Society Organisations
Leaders of the Business Community
Comrades, Compatriots and Friends

Introduction

Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano,

Re ka lebala jwang hore ka letsatsi lena la la 17 tsa Phupu (July) 1951, dilemong tse mashome a tsheletseng le metso e robedi (68 years) tse fetileng, ke ha mmuso wa bohanyapetsi o kenya tshebetsong molawana o sehloho wa kgethollo, Black Authorities Act, o ileng wa nyenyefatsa puso ya borena ba setso le ho fehla karohano ya merabe.

Ona molaonyana e bile sona sesosa sa lehloyo le karohano pakeng tsa merabe ya batho batsho. Basotho ba ile ba iswa Qwaqwa, Batswana Bophuthatswana, MaZulu Zululand, jwalo jwalo. Ho tloha ka 1912, African National Congress ha e sale e lwantshana le kgodumodumo ena.

Twenty-five years later since our democracy, great progress has been made in the direction that defines the essence of our struggle for freedom.

People now have access to free healthcare, houses, drinking water, electricity and education. Racial job reservation and wage discrimination are no more. All people enjoy equal access to hospitals, clinics and other public facilities

As we set in motion our sixth democratic government, there is no doubt that, just like our country, the Free State is now standing at the cross roads. The future ahead of us is filled with dreams of opportunities and prosperity.

Tomorrow, the 18th of July, we will proudly celebrate **Mandela Day** to honour the legacy of Nelson Mandela. I call on all the people of the Free State to volunteer their time in changing someone's life, as we continue to build our future, on the foundations laid by the iconic father of the nation, uTata Madiba.

Honourable Speaker,

As I mentioned in the **State of the Province Address**, the following priorities will shape the work of the provincial government for the coming five years, I repeat for emphasis:

- *Economic transformation and job creation*
- *Education, skills and health*
- *Consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services*
- *Spatial integration, human settlements and local government*
- *Social cohesion and safe communities*
- *A capable, ethical and developmental state*
- *A better Africa and World*

Based on these priorities that shape the **Medium Term Strategic Framework** imperatives, the **Office of the Premier** is responsible for the carrying out of the plan of action by all departments. This role will entail the planning, coordination and monitoring of government programmes and projects.

Not only does the **Office of the Premier** embody the values of the Constitution, it is also the centre of management of government operations.

These roles locate the success of the overall performance of government in the **Office of the Premier**. We will perform this function in close collaboration

and consultation with provincial government departments. Importantly, we will mobilise all our social partners in transforming the landscape of our province.

Given the leadership role entrusted in the **Office of the Premier**, this centre of government, will hold. Failure will be no option for us. We were not elected to fail. We will never fail our people. **#Building the Free State We Want.**

Programme 1: Administration

Honourable Speaker,

For **Programme 1**, alignment of human capabilities, structure and strategy is an important aspect of creating a better life. Democracy demands of us to be effective, transparent and accountable. After all, we are the guardians of their dreams, the keepers of democracy and carriers of their hopes.

Administratively, I will be assisted by a strategic management team led by the Director-General in coordinating the activities of the provincial government.

In overseeing the performance of the provincial government departments, my **Office** will drive integrated planning, coordination, implementation and monitoring of government programmes and projects.

Identified priorities will inform the activities of the **Cluster Management** component, to drive integrated service delivery implementation. Clusters have been reconfigured and enhanced with focus on capacity and functionality.

Engagements by the Executive Council, Clusters, Forum of Heads of Department, and Premier's Coordinating Forum will continue to instil government's strategic planning, alignment and collective action.

The ultimate success of government depends on the effective functioning of these different platforms. These forums are instruments of collective wisdom and good governance. They foster shared understanding and commitment.

Honourable Speaker,

Emphasis of our **Security Management** unit will include physical security, fraud prevention and anti-corruption measures. Moving forward, we will implement innovative ways that use new technologies to improve our security.

The dream of **#Building the Free State We Want**, will never be realised if we cannot eliminate corruption. My **Office** will take the lead in this fight. We will ensure that we conclude the vetting process of all senior managers and officials that are involved in supply chain management.

Conflicts of interest undermine the credibility of government and enable corruption to flourish. To eliminate these risks, the **Office of the Premier** will work with all the departments and the **Public Service Commission**, to ensure that all those required to submit their declaration of interests, do so and in time. We will maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct and integrity.

For years, my **Office** has led by example as the champion of clean audits. The 2018/19 disclaimer audit opinion by the **Auditor-General** is worrying.

To mitigate this situation, we will bring in the necessary capacity to conclude previous audit findings to regain our sound financial management standing.

As a result, sound financial management will guide the work of our **Financial Management, Risk Management and Internal Audit** components.

Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano

Selemong sena sa ditjhelete re tla tlameha ho etsa bonnete ba hore re etsa ho hongata ka bonyane boo re nang le bona ba tjhelete.

This financial year, we will have do more with less. We will not waste any cent. We will account for every cent we use to fulfil our people's aspirations. We will strictly adhere to the cost-cutting measures.

Programme 1 has been allocated **seventy one million, eight hundred and twenty-eight thousand rands (R71 828 million)** to fulfil its role.

Fifty four million, eight hundred and seventy-thousand rands (R54 870 million) is for compensation of employees, and goods and services has been allocated **sixteen million and eighty thousand rands (R16 080 million)**.

Programme 2: Institutional Development

Honourable Speaker,

The existence of a capable, ethical and developmental state, is all too important for us to provide efficient and effective public service. **Programme 2** renders transversal services to build the capacity of government.

We have already started working with the **Public Service Commission** to entrench the Constitutional values and principles in the public sector.

We recently had a successful **Africa Public Service Day** in Metsimaholo to encourage adherence to the Batho Pele principles.

Part of this work to ensure professionalism, ethical and developmental public service will be driven by our **Strategic Human Resource Management** unit.

We will in this financial year absorb all contract workers who have been part of the structure of the **Office of the Premier** for a considerable period.

Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano

Basadi ba ntse ba fokola maemong a tsamaiso a phahameng mme selemong sena re tla potlakisa khiro ya basadi.

Honourable Speaker,

Investment in human resource development will also be a priority. Both the **Free State Training and Development Institute** and the **Provincial Skills Development Coordination** units will be at the centre of our skills revolution.

We opened the doors of work experience and learning through the provision of learnerships, internships and job opportunities to many graduates.

Of the **three thousand, one hundred and thirty-seven** youth we committed to prepare for life in the work place, **two thousand, two hundred and ninety** have already been placed at various private and public workplaces.

Out of the **two thousand, two hundred and fifty** young people we said we would place in graduate internship programmes, **eight hundred and twelve** have so far been placed. A further **nine hundred and sixty nine** young learners are participating in various learnership and short skills programmes.

Honourable Speaker,

Provision of bursaries and support to our students will continue. This will be accompanied by performance monitoring measures to ensure that students comply with the conditions of their bursaries, and complete their studies.

An important element of our duty this financial year will be the establishment of a team to explore ways to rationalise the functions of the provincial government, to improve operational effectiveness and efficiency.

As the **4th Industrial Revolution** approaches, we will need new technologies to enhance public sector effectiveness and efficiency. Our **Information and Communication Technology** unit will prepare us for this coming change.

We will co-host the **4th Industrial Revolution** summit with universities and businesses to explore benefits of this phase of development. Most importantly, we will create a shared service centre on ICT located in the **Office of the Premier** to position government for the coming **4th Industrial Revolution**.

Legal Services unit will continue to provide legal services to the Premier, Members of the Executive Council, departments and officials.

Attention in this financial year will be on reducing high legal claims against government. In particular, we will deal with major cases from municipalities to prevent possible collusion between municipal officials and businesses.

Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano

Re tshwenyehile haholo ke tthekefetso ya bomme le bana, holoholo bahlolohadi le dikgutsana:

- ba nkelwang ditokelo le dithepa ka mora ho hlokahala ha bontate
- ba nkelwang matlo
- ba nkelwang mangolo a dikgwebo le dipalangwang
- le bana ba utsuwang e be ba ya rekiswa (human trafficking)

Re kopile Advocate Kuni Ditira Ofising yaka ho shebana le ditaba tsena.

Timely and clear government communication is essential for the sustenance of democracy. Citizens have the right to know what their government is doing. Effective communication will therefore be the responsibility of our **Media Strategy and Liaison**, and **Corporate Communication** components.

For all these, **Programme 2** is allocated **three hundred and seventy two million, eight hundred and ninety-five thousand rands (R372 895 million)**.

Of this total allocated amount, **eighty million, nine hundred and forty-one thousand rands (R80 941 million)** is for compensation of employees and **eighteen million, six hundred and eighty-three thousand rands (R18 683 million)** is set aside for goods and services.

Programme 3: Policy and Governance

Honourable Speaker,

Future growth and development for our province is reliant on the successful formulation and implementation of policies. These are shaped by a common vision that describes pathways to expected outcomes. All this work is underpinned by good governance as the hallmark of our democracy.

Steering these functions is **Programme 3**. Aspects of this role includes planning, research, alignment, integration and coordination of the activities of the three spheres of government, to realise our development priorities.

Long-term planning to **#Build the Free State We Want** will be prioritised. The **Free State Growth and Development Strategy** will be reviewed.

To encourage mutual actions, we will assist municipalities to align their **Integrated Development Plans** with the **National Development Plan, Free State Growth and Development Strategy** and the **Medium Term Strategy Framework** priorities. The credibility of municipal plans will be improved.

We will work with the **Offices of the Premier** of Gauteng, North West, Mpumalanga, and the **Department of Rural Development and Land Reform** to develop a **Spatial Development Framework** for the Vaal River/Dam Area.

The **Strategic Infrastructure Projects** unit will ensure integrated planning and reporting on strategic projects. Based on the **Investment Book**, viable projects will be considered and packaged for funding and implementation.

Interventions by the **Special Programmes** unit is a testimony to our commitment to support women, children, HIV and AIDS, older persons, persons living with disability and the youth.

Honourable Speaker,

We held an exciting **Free State Youth Expo** titled: **25 Years of Democracy: A Celebration of Youth Activism**, to create opportunities for young people.

Knowing that the future growth and development of our province belongs to the youth, we will establish a dedicated **Youth Directorate** in the **Office of the Premier**. The **Directorate** will advance the interests of young people and monitor the implementation of youth programmes by provincial departments.

Honourable Speaker,

A better Africa and World will in this financial year be our agenda in our international engagements with likeminded provinces in others countries. We will support **Agenda 2063** for an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa.

We will review our memoranda of understanding with other provinces to reflect the objectives of **Agenda 2063** and our development priorities.

A total amount of **fifty five million, nine hundred and thirty-six thousand rands (R55 936 million)** has been made available for **Programme 3**.

Forty six million, one hundred and seventy thousand rands (R46 170 million) is for compensation of employees. Goods and services allocation is **nine million, one hundred and sixty-one thousand rands (R9 161 million)**.

Programme 4: Provincial Monitoring and Evaluation

Honourable Speaker,

Programme 4: Monitoring and Evaluation is an important aspect of building a capable and developmental state. We can only achieve success when we measure what we do. This role is therefore intended to help us better manage government service delivery programmes and projects.

Reporting on progress on the implementation of the **National Development Plan** and **Medium Terms Strategic Framework** outcomes will be the responsibility of the **Sector Monitoring and Evaluation** component.

Assessment of the extent to which departments are reaching their performance targets will also feature prominently as part of our monitoring and evaluation work. This is necessary to attain the desired targets. This function will also serve as an early warning mechanism to deal with likely challenges.

Emphasis will be on the improvement of service delivery by municipalities. Intervention in this regard will include compliance with the implementation of the **Local Government Management Improvement Model**.

Very soon, I will engage municipalities to determine their service delivery needs, and help them implement the monitoring and evaluation function.

People expect nothing less than good and professional service from us. That is why frontline service delivery monitoring is important for us. Besides our people's expectations, this is similarly about attaining value for money.

Work to strengthen our frontline service delivery monitoring will therefore take precedence. Particular activities will include visits to frontline offices to determine the extent of compliance with identified service delivery standards.

Honourable Speaker,

We will use **Community Development Workers** as the channel between government and the people on the ground. Working with **Transnet**, we will establish offices in each ward where **Community Development Workers** and **Ward Councillor** will work together to bring government closer to the people

Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano

Ha ho jese ditheohelang hore ka mora dilemo tse mashome a mabedi a metso e mehlano a tokoloho, batho ba bo rona ba mapolasing ba ntse ba tshwerwe jwalo ka makgoba a senang ditokelo naheng ena ya bo bona.

Ha ba na metlakase, ba kga metsi matamong, ha ba na matlo, ha ba na matlwana, ba nkelwa diphoofolo tsa bona ke ba bang ba borapolasi ba bahanyapetsi. Ke ka hoo re tliilo matlafatsa Intervention Unit ya rona.

Re boyetse hape re kopile Advocate Kuni Ditira ho shebana le ditaba tsa badudi ba mapolasing, a sebetsa mmoho le Lefapha la Temo.

Ke kgothalletsa setjhaba se nang le mathata ho letsetsa mohala o latelang, 17737, ho kopa thuso. Re mothating wa ho theha mohala o sa lefelloweng Ofising ya ka ho thusa setjhaba ka ditletlebo tsa sona.

We have made available **one hundred and twenty five million, and twenty-three thousand rands (R125 023 million)** to **Programme 4**. This includes earmarked funds for **Community Development Workers**.

Compensation of employees has been allocated an amount of **one hundred and twenty three million, three hundred and nineteen thousand rands (R123 319 million)**. **One million, three hundred and ninety seven thousand rands (R1 397 million)** is for goods and services.

Conclusion

Honourable Speaker,

In conclusion, we know that great things happen to those who do great things. Excellence will be reflected in all the things that we do and our story of democracy will continue to inspire. We therefore look ahead to great things.

Our people have been with us from the beginning of this democratic journey. **Twenty-five** years later, they are still with us. Together we will continue to travel the path of development in our endless search of a better life for all. Our people will remain our great partners in **#Building the Free State We Want**.

I am grateful and honoured to work with the team of passionate and committed MECs and Members of this House. I truly appreciate and applaud your support. Your contribution will be invaluable in transforming our province.

My gratitude also goes to the Director-General, senior managers and all staff members of the **Office of the Premier**. There is no doubt that your hard work and dedication will be central in **#Building the Free State We Want**.

I therefore table the **Office of the Premier's** budget for the 2019/20 financial year as summarised in **Annexure A** for members' consideration.

Annexure A

The Total Budget Allocation for the Office of the Premier

Programme	2019/20 R000.
Programme 1: Administration	71, 828
Programme 2: Institutional Development	372, 895
Programme 3: Policy and Governance	55, 936
Programme 4: Monitoring and Evaluation	125, 023
Total	625, 682