

SPEECH PRESENTED TO THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE BY THE MEC FOR FINANCE, MR J.L MAHLANGU, MPL, ON THE OCCASION OF ALLOCATING ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO VOTE 14 (HOUSING) FOR THE 2008/09 FINANCIAL YEAR

Wednesday, 25 February 2009

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, we the people of South Africa committed ourselves through the Freedom Charter, that **“There shall be Houses, Security and Comfort; that all people shall have the right to live where they choose, be decently housed, and to bring up their families in comfort and security; that unused housing space will be made available to the people.”** We further committed ourselves when adopting the Constitution of our country, that we will **“Improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person.”**

When we presented our 2009 Election Manifesto as the ruling African National Congress, we re-iterated our commitment that **“There shall be Houses, Security and Comfort”** for all. We are **“Proud of our past, and confident of the future.”** Despite our impressive track-record of service delivery in the province, we acknowledge that much still needs to be done; hence we strongly believe that **“Working together we can do more!”**

Our commitment in the Manifesto is very clear and achievable. As the ANC government, we will **“Continue to protect and strengthen the gains we made over the last 15 years. Through our programmes for housing, social security, sport and recreation, we aim to continue to build a better life for all. Housing is not just about building houses. It is also about transforming our cities and towns and building cohesive, sustainable and caring communities with closer access to work, social amenities, including sports and recreation facilities”.**

In the next five years, we plan to:



- **Increase access to secure and decent housing for all through government's newly adopted housing programme;**
- **Strengthen partnerships with the private sector and the banks to increase access to decent housing;**
- **Accelerate public rental and social housing;**
- **Support community-self building efforts and housing co-operatives; and**
- **Ensure that land close to urban centres is made available for low cost and public housing.**

Madam Speaker, as a sign of our continuing commitment to ensure that our people receive decent houses, we allocated a total amount of **R65 million** in the Adjustment Budget last year, towards the completion of incomplete houses in the Province and **R35 million** towards the storm-damaged houses in the Bushbuckridge area. I'm also thrilled to inform the house that the National Department of Housing has further allocated an additional amount of **R50 million** for the current financial year (2008/09) towards the same course. This has enabled the Department of Housing to review its target from **10.436 to 14.813** housing units to be delivered during the current financial year, 13.682 of which are the incomplete houses and 1.131 emergency houses.

The additional funding to our province, was done in terms of Section 26 of the 2008 Division of Revenue Act (Act No. 2 of 2008), because we have demonstrated capacity to spend our housing delivery budget. The National Department of Housing has already amended the payment schedule and the entire additional funding of R50 million has been transferred to the Mpumalanga Provincial Revenue Fund last Friday, 20 February 2009.

May I request the house to commend the MEC for Local Government and Housing, Mrs K.C Mashego-Dlamini, and her team at the Department of Housing for being committed to the course of our movement, that of ensuring that **"There shall be Houses, Security and Comfort"** for all. Well done MEC and your team.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, the implications of this transaction is that the 2008 Mpumalanga Adjustment Appropriation Act will be amended in order to revise the adjusted baseline of the Department of Housing from **R868.879 million to R918.879 million**. The provincial fiscal framework that was approved on the 18 November 2008 is therefore adjusted upwards from **R20.466 326 billion to R20.516 326 billion**.

TABLING OF THE REVISITED ADJUSTMENT BILL

It is my pleasure Madam Speaker, to table the revised **2008-2009 Adjustment Budget Bill in terms of Section 31 of the PFMA, Act 1 of 1999 (as amended by Act 29 of 1999)**.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion Honourable Members, we commit as the caring ANC-led government, to continue to put our people first. We owe it to all our people, irrespective of political affiliation, to provide a better life for them. A roof over one's head, is not a privilege, but a human right in terms of the Constitution of this country - hence we will leave no stone unturned, to ensure that our people are housed decently. The ANC lives, and the ANC leads, there is no doubt about that. As we approach the 2009 general elections, it is significant for all our people to go to the polls, to extend the People's Contract. We will never let you down!

"Hi Ku tirhasana hinkwerhu, hi nga endla swo tala!" (Working together we can do more); and further **"Protect the Gains of our National Democratic Revolution."**

Ha khensa!