

**ADDRESS BY FINANCE MEC, MRS MMATHULARE COLEMAN
TO THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE DURING
THE TABLING OF THE ADJUSTMENT BUDGET FOR 2004/2005
Friday, 26 November 2004**

**Honourable Premier, Mr. Thabang Makwetla
Madam Speaker, Mrs Pinky Phosa
Members of the Legislature
Mayors and Councillors
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen**

“Success breeds its own responsibilities. And one of the greatest responsibilities of our time, is to end the obscene reality of endemic poverty for millions, when the means and know-how exist within human society to achieve the goal of a better life for all.”

Madam Speaker these are the words of the President – Mr. Thabo Mbeki, addressing the European Union early this month, on behalf of the African Union.

Today on the dawn of the 21st Century we are preparing for the beginning of the second decade well in advance while still enjoying the fruits of the ten years of freedom and democracy.

Five months have passed since I tabled the Appropriation Bill in this Legislature that came with the challenges and opportunities that will take this Province to greater heights.

New strategic decisions were agreed upon to consolidate the achievements gained in the last five years by strengthening the national and provincial priorities that complements one another.

Madam Speaker, allow me to remind this house once again that this financial year began with the introduction of several reforms, among them was the re-alignment of Departments for better focus, integration and well coordination of service delivery.

The re-alignment of Departments was achieved and budget allocations transferred according to voted funds.

The Provincial Treasury as a norm, managed to provide guidance and support to the Departments, as per its mandate of promoting sound and prudent financial management.

To fully succeed in performing our provincial mandate, we have to continuously strive to create a conducive socio-economic and political environment to enable the role-players to have a level playing field.

Since our standards are based on that of the National Government, we have to ensure that we too, manage our resources accordingly.

Within the first decade of freedom, to date, national is operating under sound and in a rising economic growth which owes its strength to the Rand, increased investment and strong business confidence.

As a province we are really priding ourselves with the above facts and we have committed ourselves to do what is within our ability and resources to support that.

We came up with aggressive strategies that will see the province within the coming five years alleviating the challenges that were brought about by poverty and under development.

We commit and acknowledge that concerted efforts will be made to redress poverty and inequality through a substantial redirecting of public spending towards key social and economic programmes. Within the five months since resources were allocated, we have successfully launched the Expanded Public Works Programme to increase jobs.

Forty-five learnerships under the EPWP construction sector were appointed.

Madam Speaker, as we know that tourism is our gold mine and one of our economic booster, we had to continuously nurture and encourage greater economic participation. This we did by hosting the Tourism Indaba including the Industrial Development summit and the Taxi Indaba.

In the pipeline, is the Agricultural Summit, the Roads and Mining Indaba, and the launch of the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy which will culminate into the Provincial Growth and Development Summit.

The successful implementation of these programmes, will give clear direction to all stakeholders and the entire community on the direction we are taking.

In the procurement sector we are still awaiting the repeal of the Tender Board Act by this house, to further enhance the reforms in this sector.

A conference on Supply Chain Management was held where the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on best business practice by both Government and organized business took place.

I hope that this process would lead to the promotion of transparency and fairness in the procurements of goods and services from now onwards.

Madam Speaker, we cannot talk of improved services without recognizing the needs and responsibilities of our employees- the civil servants. Funds have been allocated to conduct the skills audit and the implementation of the Provincial Performance Monitoring and Evaluation system.

At the same time, we have to, at all times attempt to create a labour friendly environment in our institutions at all levels. That is why there is an allocation to pay salary progression for educators from 1996 to 2002.

ADJUSTMENT BUDGET ALLOCATION

Madam Speaker, let me remind the House that the budget I tabled earlier this year was R13, 1 billion. The adjustment budget will increase the original budget by R709.9 million. The revised total budget is R13, 8 billion. The province received additional funding from National Government amounting to R299, 8 million. The unspent funds from the 2003/04 financial year that were approved as rollover, amount to R264, 1 million and R145, 9 million is from the provincial surpluses.

The Provincial Adjustment Budget for 2004/2005 is as follows:

VOTE 1: Office of the Premier

The Department received additional allocation amounting to R18, 3 million. The funds will be used amongst others to conduct the skills audit and to launch the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy. The Department also received R2, 1 million from the Legislature and transferred R16, 9 million to Local Government and Housing due to function shifts. **The revised budget is R111, 8 million.**

VOTE 2: The Provincial Legislature

The Legislature received additional allocation amounting to R1, 8 million. The funds will be used to strengthen their oversight function. **An amount of R1 million was approved as rollover.** The revised budget is R51, 4 million.

VOTE 3: Department of Finance

The Department received additional allocation amounting to R40 million. The funds will be used for writing off the yester year's unauthorized expenditure. An amount of R19, 5 million was approved as rollover. **The revised budget is R191, 2 million**

VOTE 4: Department of Local Government and Housing

The Department received additional allocation amounting to R54, 7 million. The funds will be used amongst others to pay for the eradication of the bucket system, water reticulation and other infrastructure projects at various municipalities. An amount of R24, 5 million was approved as rollover. **The revised budget is R551, 4 million.**

VOTE 5: Department of Agriculture and Land Administration

The Department received additional allocation amounting to R4, 2 million. The funds will be used to finance drought relief, the degradation of natural/agricultural resources, and to improve the socio economic status and food security of rural communities. An amount of R8, 7 million was approved as rollover. **The revised budget is R500, 7 million.**

VOTE 6: Department of Economic Development and Planning

An amount of R6, 4 million was approved as rollover. **The revised budget is R175, 2 million.**

VOTE 7: Department of Education

The Department received additional allocation amounting to R66, 4 million. The funds will be used amongst other to complete the Mpumalanga Hospitality and Tourism Academy Institution and pay salary progression for educators. An amount of R49, 7 million was approved as rollover. **The revised budget is R5, 2 billion.**

VOTE 8: Department of Public Works

The Department received additional allocation amounting to R15, 7 million. The funds will be used to pay for the shortfall in goods and services. The Department also received R1, 5 million from the Roads and Transport Department for maintaining the government fleet due to the split of the two departments. An amount of R9, 4 million was approved as rollover. **The revised budget is R290, 7 million.**

VOTE 9: Department of Safety and Security

The Department received additional allocation amounting to R1 million.

The funds will be used to finance community safety programmes and shortfall in goods and services. **The revised budget is R36, 3 million.**

VOTE 10: Department of Health and Social Services

The Department received additional allocation amounting to R236, 8 million. The funds will be used amongst other to fund the rapid growth of Social Security grants. An amount of R85, 5 million was approved as rollover. **The revised budget is R5, 8 billion.**

VOTE 11: Department of Roads and Transport

The Department received additional allocation amounting to R2, 5 million.

The funds will be used to pay for the shortfall in goods and services. The Department also received R12, 8 million from the Local Government and Housing, and transferred R1, 5 million to Public Works for maintaining the government fleet due to the split of the departments. An amount of R56, 9 million was approved as rollover. **The revised budget is R834, 9 million.**

VOTE 12: Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation

The Department received additional allocation amounting to R3, 4 million. The funds will be used to pay for the shortfall in goods and services. An amount of R2, 6 million was approved as rollover. **The revised budget is R72, 8 million.**

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, allow me to quote Martin Luther King when he said:

I quote:

“I have the audacity to believe that people everywhere, can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their mind, and dignity, quality, and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centred men have torn down, other-centred men can build up”.

Close quote.

As we close for the festive season, Madam Speaker, allow me to wish the Premier, members of the Executive Council, members of the Legislature all our invited guests and Government stakeholders, a Prosperous and Happy New Year.

Remember, Don't Drink and Drive, Speed Kills.

I thank you for your support.