



**Provincial Adjustments Budget Speech
By Mr Sikhumbuzo Kholwane, MPL
MEC for Finance, Economic
Development and Tourism
25 November 2016**



provincial treasury
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SPEECH BY THE MEC FOR FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM, MR SIKHUMBUZO KHOLWANE (MPL) DURING THE OCCASION OF THE TABLING OF THE PROVINCIAL ADJUSTMENTS BUDGET FOR 2016/17 AT THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE, MBOMBELA

25 November 2016

- Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker
 - Honourable Premier, Mr DD Mabuza
 - Honourable Members of the Executive Council
 - Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature
 - Members of the Mayoral Committees for Finance and Local Economic Development
 - Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders, Kgoshi ML Mokoena
 - Director-General, Mr Thulani Mdakane
 - Head Official of Provincial Treasury, Ms Nombedesho Nkamba and other Heads of Departments
 - Chairpersons of Boards and Chief Executive Officers of our Public Entities
 - Business Executive of the Office of the Auditor-General in Mpumalanga
 - Representatives of Labour, Business, Civil Society and the Media
 - My special guests from various communities who have joined the proceedings this morning
 - The People of Mpumalanga
1. I am greatly honoured to table before this respectable House the third (3rd) Provincial Adjustments Appropriation of the fifth (5th) term of the ANC led Government.
 2. This Appropriation seeks to reaffirm the party's commitment to confront structural fault-lines of the economy as an integral part of the radical second phase of our transition from apartheid to a national democratic society.
 3. Notwithstanding the fact that today is better than yesterday, it remains our considered submission that the progress made in eradicating the legacy of more than 340 years of socio-economic oppression must continue to set the tone and context of our budget processes.
 4. Our budget adjustment decisions must therefore be guided by an urgent need to stimulate inclusive growth which is the nexus of equitable redistribution of economic assets and job creation.
 5. The call made by the Freedom Charter that ***“the people shall share in the country's wealth”*** remains relevant to this day.

Honourable Speaker,

6. This Appropriation also seeks to consolidate and advance ***“the people's power for people's economy”*** as underlined by the following imperatives amongst others:

- 6.1 Enhancement of revenue generation to strengthen the Provincial fiscal and financial position underpinned by inclusive economic growth.

The logic is simple, if the country remains in a low growth trap, there will not be adequate resources to meet the electoral mandate and legitimate expectations of our people;

- 6.2 A need to institutionalise long term planning, integration and coordination capacity within Provincial and local government administrations to modernise and re-industrialise the Provincial economy; and

- 6.3 Elimination of corruption and promotion of good governance and fiscal discipline;

7. The continued implementation of the National Development Plan should help to address binding constraints of the economy guided by the Nine (9) Point Plan, which directs, amongst others, that we must:

- 7.1 revitalise Agricultural Infrastructure, production and agro industries;

- 7.2 Fast track the implementation of the Industrial Action Policy Plan;

- 7.3 Encourage investment and access to credit in the production sectors of the economy, and

- 7.4 Unlock small business potential, with specific focus on youth and women-owned enterprises.

8. Madam Speaker, implementation of the Youth target set-asides can no longer be deferred to a later date. Now is the time for action. Sixty (60) per cent of jobs on new infrastructure projects must be set aside for young people.

9. On Trade and Investment, we must continuously assess our resource deployment options with regards to inbound and outbound missions to protect the national interest and to fight poverty, unemployment and inequality through a responsive positive trade account.

ECONOMIC AND FISCAL ENVIRONMENT

Economic performance

Honourable Speaker

10. We live in a highly unequal and yet inter-connected world, where global economic development impacts on developing countries such as ours (South Africa).

11. The economic data indicates that global growth has slowed to 3.1% this year and is forecast at 3.4% in 2017.
12. In the same way, the growth rate in Africa is expected to decrease to 1.4% in 2016.
13. There are also signs of distress in other large emerging markets caused by falling commodity prices, amongst other factors.
14. The reality is that our transition to a just society is impacted by global developments such as (but not limited to) the *Brexit* in Europe and low growth in China.
15. Accordingly, the national growth rate is expected to be relatively low around 0.5% this year and rising to only 1.7% in 2017.
16. Our economy is projected to perform at a rate of 0.3% this year which is in line with the national growth rate prospects.
17. In this context, Martin Luther King Jnr. reminds us that, and I quote:

“Our survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant and to face the challenge of change”.
18. These socio-economic challenges therefore are here to test our resilience as a nation.
19. They are a catalytic invitation to all stakeholders to work together to achieve our shared goal, for ***together we move Mpumalanga and South Africa forward.***

Provincial Job Creation and Unemployment

Honourable Speaker,

20. The labour data survey results of Statistics South Africa which were released on 22 November 2016, are not painting a positive picture from a job creation point of view.
21. The provincial unemployment rate increased from 28.8% in the second quarter to 30.4% in the third quarter of this year. We have the third highest unemployment rate among the nine provinces.
22. Our Province recorded a net job creation of only 3 000 jobs on a quarterly basis which are negated by the job losses in important industries such as agriculture, trade, transport and finance.

23. On an annual basis, the highest losses were in manufacturing which is one of the key industries of our economy hence the need to fast track our strategic economic interventions which I will reflect on later in this address. The construction industry was the top job creator in this period.
24. The Honourable Minister of Finance indicated, in his 2016 Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS), that the economic environment this year is unusually difficult and that we are facing extraordinary challenges.

MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Honourable Speaker

25. We have made progress in implementing the budget priorities outlined in the Main Appropriation speech of March 2016. I will briefly comment on some of the developments.

Expenditure outcome

26. The Provincial Government spent **49.3 %** which equates to **R20 352 224** of the budget as at 30 September 2016.
27. This represents a marginal expenditure increase when compared to the same period in the 2015/16 financial year.

Impact of expenditure

28. To better understand the socio-economic influence of our budget, we commissioned a study in the 2015/16 financial year on the economic impact of Provincial Government expenditure.
29. The study revealed that our spending resulted in an expenditure multiplier of 1.39, which means that for every R1 spent, the Provincial economy gained an additional 39 cents.
30. The multiplier for infrastructure expenditure was even higher at 1.44, which means for every R1 spent by Provincial Government on infrastructure, our economy gained an additional 44 cents.
31. Departments of Education and Public Works, Roads and Transport, recorded high multipliers of 1.85 and 1.77 for their infrastructure expenditure, respectively.
32. We are indeed making an economic impact with our expenditure.
33. However, the socio-economic benefit of our public expenditure will be greatly boosted if all Provincial Departments and Public Entities purchase and source goods and services from within the province, and ensure that developmental projects have linkages with several industries and sectors of our economy.

34. The Provincial Treasury will commission this economic impact study every three years as part of the measures to contribute to knowledge-based decision making on budget and expenditure and to enhance the quality of public accounting on the use of public resources.

MEDIUM TERM BUDGET POLICY STATEMENT

Honourable Speaker

35. There will be a reduction to the expenditure ceiling of **R10 billion** in 2017/18 and **R16 billion** in the 2018/19 financial years nationally, as highlighted by the Minister of Finance.
36. We must therefore share the burden of this extraordinary challenge to ease the pressure on future generations while ensuring the continuity of our programmes to improve the socio-economic conditions of the poor.
37. Over the medium term we will reprioritize funds from the equitable share and own Provincial Revenue, in order to finance our service delivery priorities.
38. We will continue to protect the budget of Departments of Education and Health by funding them at 48% and 27% over the Medium Term Period, respectively.
39. However, there is a need for both departments to institute some budget efficiencies.
40. We will continue with the reduction of the operational grants of MTPA and MEGA over the MTEF period as the public entities are expected to be self-sufficient.
41. With regard to infrastructure delivery, all projects that are due for funding must be identified two years in advance.
42. This will allow planning to be undertaken with less pressure, land and related services to be secured and ensure necessary approvals are obtained timeously.
43. This will also bring the cost of socio-economic infrastructure to manageable levels in the short term. Overall, it will also improve implementation of infrastructure projects.

BUDGET REPRIORITISATION AND FISCAL CONSOLIDATION

44. During our main budget we presented a Joint Action Plan between ourselves and national government to address the expenditure management and service delivery improvements which includes the following:
- 44.1 containment of administrative personnel expenditure while protecting education and health services;

- 44.2 improving revenue collection;
 - 44.3 rationalisation and closure of redundant and under-performing programmes and entities, and
 - 44.4 intensification of cost containment measures.
45. These are difficult but necessary decisions to help the country in general and our province in particular to overcome the current economic challenges.

Containment of administrative personnel expenditure

Honourable Speaker

- 46. Compensation of Employees through bloated organisational structures remains the highest expenditure item in our budget, hence the introduction of a moratorium in 2015/2016.
- 47. The Department of Education will however continue to fill posts for educators, and administrative support staff requirements will be filled through the normal rationalisation process while any other post will require Executive Council approval.
- 48. Current professionals who may leave the Department of Health through any form of attrition should be replaced with immediate effect.
- 49. However, filling of any other funded vacant post should be halted until the end of the financial year in order for the Department to conduct a personnel needs analysis and budget appropriately for those posts in 2017/18.

Improving revenue collection

- 50. The Provincial Revenue is comprised of three components, that is, equitable share; conditional grants and own revenue.
- 51. It is important to note that for the purpose of this Adjustments Appropriation we did not receive additional funding from national government, except for conditional grants related expenditure.
- 52. We have collected approximately **R600 million** in Own Revenue as at 31 October 2016 against the annual target of **R864 million** for the 2016/17 financial year.
- 53. While this indicates a higher collection rate, this does not take into account the annualised target on the 2016 MTEF Own Revenue estimate of **R4.2 billion** as proposed in March 2016.
- 54. We are however optimistic that this Own Revenue target remains within reach.

55. We have already provided tools of trade to support the work of revenue officials; we have also taken over the licensing function from the following six (6) municipalities: - that is: Chief Albert Luthuli; Emakhazeni; Lekwa; Govan Mbeki; Mkhondo and Thaba Chweu and the licencing process of Bingo by MGB has also commenced.
56. As part of the review of the Revenue Enhancement Policy, we will explore the possibilities of investment and retention strategy.

Rationalization of programmes and entities

57. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism has concluded the study on the possible merger between Mpumalanga Gambling Board and Mpumalanga Liquor Authority, and the process for the establishment of an Economic Regulator will commence in December 2016.
58. In this regard, proposals will be forwarded to this August House for possible amendment to the enabling legislation.
59. The Department should also explore the possibility of shared services for the public entities for more efficient utilization of personnel and budgets.

Improving budget efficiencies

60. We have identified cross cutting commodities where we want to improve efficiency, and derive benefit from economies of scale, while facilitating and promoting the creation of employment and job opportunities.
61. However, this will require the Provincial Treasury to improve its capacity to implement transversal contracts.
62. Honourable Speaker we will require the support and cooperation of all departments to implement this strategic intervention.

2016 PROVINCIAL ADJUSTMENTS BUDGET

Fiscal framework

63. I will now comment on some of the details of the 2016 Provincial Adjustments Appropriation Bill.
64. The 2016 Provincial Fiscal Framework will be adjusted by **R403,205 million**, which is made up of **R344,192 million** from the Provincial Equitable Share and rollovers on Conditional Grants, amounting to **R59,013 million**.
65. Accordingly, the 2016 Adjustments Appropriation Bill increases the Provincial budget from **R41,301 337 billion**, to **R41,704 542 billion** for the year ending 31 March 2017.

66. To ensure that the department stays within this adjustments budget the system of budget blocking and expenditure freezing will be introduced.

Technical adjustment - Function Shift

67. This Bill also effects a function shift of Operation *Vuka Sisebente* from the Office of the Premier to the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs as well as Security Services from Provincial Legislature to the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison.

ADJUSTMENTS BUDGET PRIORITIES

Economic development intervention

Honourable Speaker

68. The 2016 State of the Province Address remains the anchor of government programmes for the rest of the year.
69. Our strategic orientation to transform the economy and change the social circumstances of our people, is firmly entrenched in the policy decisions that inform this Adjustments Appropriation.
70. We are in agreement with the strategic choices of the African National Congress led Government that bold and decisive steps must be taken to progressively address the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.
71. To this end, we will intensify our Provincial growth and job creation initiatives to respond to the economic challenges of our province.
72. Initiatives across all sectors that are aimed at broadening participation and enhancing economic development especially targeting the youth and women will be vigorously implemented.
73. We will implement the Mpumalanga Industrial Development Plan (MIDP), which proposes the establishment of a Mining and Metals Technology Park in Emalahleni/Steve Tshwete, Petro Chemical Technology Park in Secunda and Agriculture and Forestry Parks in the City of Mbombela and Thaba Chweu.
74. The Provincial Trade and Investment Strategy will be finalised before the end of the current financial year.
75. The establishment of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Nkomazi is currently awaiting the designation by the Minister of Trade and Industry.
76. We will ensure that township and rural development initiatives stimulate economic growth and development and promote social transformation within our Municipalities.

77. Working with our Municipalities and informal traders' organisations, we will review by-laws and regulations with a view to reduce the red tape which hampers our efforts to promote the growth of township and rural economies.
78. Our success as Mpumalanga is dependent on extensive collaboration between Government, Business and Civil Society.

Social cohesion

Honourable Speaker

79. Social cohesion and nation building are critical components of the democratisation project.
80. Our experiences during the hosting of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup have confirmed the long held view that sport is capable of uniting all South Africans irrespective of race or status in society.
81. As part of creating patrons of social cohesion at the young age of our learners, an additional **R20 million** is provided to augment the required funding to implement the Provincial School Sports League.

Local government

Honourable Speaker

82. The 2016 Provincial Adjustments Budget takes into account the revision in the allocations to the Local Government as contained in the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill (DORAB).
83. The Bill provides for the changes in the descriptions for ring-fenced sports infrastructure projects in our municipalities as follows:
- 83.1 Allocation of **R7,232 million** towards the construction of the Silobela sport field in Chief Albert Luthuli;
- 83.2 Provision of **R10,128 million** to refurbish the Mpumalanga stadium in Weselton township and the combi courts in Msukaligwa;
- 83.3 The upgrading of Sakhile combined sport facility in Lekwa is allocated **R11 million**;
- 83.4 The Bill also provides **R6.6 million** for upgrading of existing municipal facilities in Victor Khanye municipality, and
- 83.5 It also provides **R8 million** towards multi-purpose sport ground including the construction of a soccer/rugby field, ablution facilities, completion of a pavilion, and athletic track in Emalahleni Municipality.

Electrification programme

84. Despite the views of our critics, we are a responsive government which listens to its people and uses all available avenues to meet their service delivery needs.
85. The 2016 Community Survey records that Mpumalanga is one of the provinces with the largest proportion of households with access to electricity of more than 90 per cent.
86. To build on this momentous progress made during the term of honourable Premier Mabuza, the Executive Council has approved an additional budget amounting to **R55,500 million** for the electrification programme in:
- 86.1 Madala and Nkanini settlement (Emakhazeni);
 - 86.2 Sakhile extension 8 (Lekwa),
 - 86.3 Mashishing (Thaba Chweu);
 - 86.4 Phosaville settlement (Nkomazi);
 - 86.5 The storm damaged electricity services in Victor Khanye Municipality will also be restored.
87. We will not rest until each and every household has electricity in our Province.
88. In addition to these projects, the City of Mbombela and Eskom will be commissioning electrification projects in Khutsong, Sibuyile and Riverview in Matsulu at the end of February 2017.

Water and sanitation services

Honourable Speaker

89. While there is a general improvement in access to safe and portable water in the province, some communities still experience inadequate supply of this precious commodity.
90. To address the challenge of bulk water and sanitation in various municipalities, an additional amount of **R155,638 million** is allocated to the Department of Human Settlements as follows:-
- 90.1 **R11 million** of a total required **R16 million** is provided to cover the cost of detailed design & studies for the proposed water reservoirs and a project of extracting raw water from Loskop Dam to Thembisile Hani;

- 90.2** **R6 million** is allocated for planning and designs for the project of augmenting water supply and extraction of raw water from Rust De Venter Dam to Dr JS Moroka;
- 90.3** **R9.1 million** is set aside for Bulk Water and Sewer Infrastructure in Standerton Extension 8, Lekwa;
- 90.4** The project which entails drilling of boreholes and laying of bulk infrastructure pipes in Thaba Chweu is allocated **R8 million** of a total **R15 million**;
- 90.5** To enable the refurbishment and installation of bulk water pipeline and steel reservoirs for delivery of portable drinking water to thirty (30) villages in Bushbuckridge, an additional **R65 million** is made available in this adjustments budget;
- 90.6** There is also provision of **R6.5 million** for phase one of the civil works to commence **at Embalenhle, extension 9** (Govan Mbeki) in order to address sewer spillage;
- 90.7** **R25 million** out of the required **R31 million** is provided for the installation of bulk water infrastructure in **Emjindini** Integrated Human Settlements Project (City of Mbombela); and
- 90.8** **R25 million** out of the required **R30 million** is allocated for the construction of an Outfall Sewer from **Tekwane South** to the Sewage Treatment Plant in the City of Mbombela.

Disaster management

Honourable Speaker

- 91.** We are aware that Mpumalanga is a disaster-prone Province. The destructive consequences of natural disasters force many of our people out of their homes and also affect our social and economic infrastructure.
- 92.** To respond to this unfortunate natural occurrence, R30 million is allocated to the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs for Disaster Relief Intervention in the Province.
- 93.** A further R26 million has been allocated as an indirect grant (under the Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme Grant) on behalf of the province to mitigate the effects of the current drought which we continue to experience as a country.

FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE

Irregular; fruitless and wasteful as well as unauthorised expenditure

Honourable Speaker,

- 94.** Allocated budgets should be used prudently and accounted for in line with all legislative prescripts.
- 95.** Therefore, necessary steps to address the cases of irregular, fruitless and wasteful as well as unauthorised expenditure must be taken and reports submitted to the Provincial Treasury on a monthly basis who will in turn report to the Executive Council quarterly.
- 96.** We will monitor the implementation of this decision which is aimed at improving financial accountability and also the audit outcomes of the Provincial Government.

Improving audit outcomes

- 97.** There was a regression in some institutions during the 2015/16 audit outcomes when compared to the 2014/15 financial year.
- 98.** All Votes and Public Entities have compiled remedial action plans on the audit management letters and audit reports.
- 99.** Members of the Executive Council will be accountable for implementation of remedial action plans and to report quarterly to Executive Council on progress made in addressing the audit issues highlighted by the Auditor General.
- 100.** As part of the support programme we will subject ten auditees to an interim audit namely:
 - 100.1** Departments of Education;
 - 100.2** Health;
 - 100.3** Culture, Sport and Recreation;
 - 100.4** Public Works Roads and Transport;
 - 100.5** Community Safety, Security and Liaison,
 - 100.6** Human Settlements;
 - 100.7** MRTT;
 - 100.8** MTPA;
 - 100.9** MLA, and
 - 100.10** MEGA.
- 101.** It is encouraging that the Provincial Legislature has also expressed an interest to participate in this exercise in order to improve your audit outcomes going forward.

ADJUSTMENTS ALLOCATION PER VOTE

Honourable Speaker,

102. I will now outline the changes in the allocation to the Departments as informed by the following developmental principles:

- 102.1** Ensuring inclusive growth;
- 102.2** Value for money by setting limits to consumption on goods and services in favour of a higher level of investment in sustainable socio-economic intervention;
- 102.3** Total withdrawal of roll overs funded by equitable share in order to encourage aggressive and timeous implementation of delivery plans, and
- 102.4** Contain the growth in the wage bill and shift funds to capital budget which is equally capable of creating a massive number of sustainable jobs.

VOTE 1: Office of the Premier

103. The Budget of the Office of the Premier is increased from R245, 071 million to R263, 071 million. A net addition of R18 million is provided to enhance the system of public accountability.

VOTE: 2 Provincial Legislature

104. The allocation of the Provincial Legislature increases by a net addition of R24, 119 million, from R298, 360 million to R322, 479 million.

VOTE 3: Provincial Treasury

105. The Budget of the Provincial Treasury remains unchanged at R287, 466 million.

VOTE 4: Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs

106. The budget of the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs increases from R498, 106 million to R616,606 million which is an increase of R118,500 million as a result of a function shift, electrification projects and tractors and implements for Traditional Leaders.

VOTE 5: Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs

107. The allocation to the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs remains at R974, 133 million.

A saving of R6.6 million from goods and services allocation has been reprioritised towards the rehabilitation of the Nooitgedacht Research farm.

VOTE 6: Economic Development and Tourism

- 108.** The Department of Economic Development and Tourism receives additional R8 million which is re-allocated to MGB thus increasing the total allocation from R994, 142 million to R1, 002 142 billion.

VOTE 7: Education

- 109.** The budget of the Department of Education increases by a net R20, 504 million, from R17, 916 783 billion to R17, 937 287 billion.

VOTE 8: Public Works, Roads and Transport

- 110.** The budget of the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport decreases from R4, 647 031 billion to R4, 599 828 billion.
- 111.** The net decrease is R47, 203 million. The Department reprioritised R43, 585 million from goods and services towards the construction of roads during the current financial year.

VOTE 9: Community Safety, Security and Liaison

- 112.** The budget of the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison increases by R112,389 million from R1,069 370 billion to R1,181 759 billion.

VOTE 10: Health

Honourable Speaker

- 113.** While the budget of the Department of Health decreases from R10, 642 144 billion to R10, 606 328 billion which is a net decrease of R35, 816 million, the core functions including medicine were protected.
- 114.** The reduction in the allocation of the Department of Health is in fact funds that are relinquished to the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison for the enhancement of the security services in the health care centres.

VOTE 11: Culture, Sport and Recreation

- 115.** The budget of the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation increases from R451, 907 million to R497, 500 million, which means the department receives a net increase of R45, 593 million.

VOTE 12: Social Development

- 116.** The budget allocated to the Department of Social Development will be reduced from R1, 454 716 billion to R1, 436 091 billion, which is a net decrease of R18, 625 million.

VOTE 13: Human Settlements

- 117.** The budget of the Department of Human Settlements increases from R1, 822 108 billion to R1, 979 852 billion, which is a net increase of R157, 744 million.

CONCLUSION

- 118.** Honourable Speaker, the proposed Adjustments budget lays a fiscal foundation on which the departments and public entities should build on the progress made since the beginning of this financial year.
- 119.** It is possible that the appropriated funds, when utilized effectively, will expand opportunities for the achievement of our delivery mandate for the year ending 31 March 2017.
- 120.** This proposal demonstrates our determination to ensure that budgets are allocated and spent prudently and in the right areas.
- 121.** As I conclude, allow me to borrow a passage from Karl Marx who said, and I quote:
- If we have chosen the position in life in which we can most of all work for mankind, no burdens can bow us down, because they are sacrifices for the benefit of all; then we shall experience no petty, limited, selfish joy, but our happiness will belong to millions.***
- 122.** We chose to make adjustments to the budget now so that the burden of the day is not passed onto the next generations.
- 123.** We had to make unpopular choices, cutting the frills in the administration because our happiness belongs to over a million people who are still trapped in dishonourable poverty.
- 124.** We must intensify the dialogue to seek common solutions and concrete actions to our low economic growth and high poverty and inequality in Mpumalanga.
- 125.** This is our struggle, this is our challenge, and we must step up and face this economic reality and ensure that tomorrow becomes even better.




- 126.** I would like to extend my warm appreciation to the African National Congress for entrusting me with the responsibility to prepare and table this Adjustments Appropriation for our government.
- 127.** Honourable Premier, Mr. DD Mabuza thank you for your dedication to the people of Mpumalanga which we continue to experience through your guidance and advice on matters of governance and leadership.
- 128.** To my colleagues in the Budget and Finance Committee and Executive Council, thank you very much for your support throughout the process of preparing this Adjustments budget.
- 129.** Many thanks to the Chairperson, Honourable Fidel Mlombo and Honourable Members of the Portfolio Committee on Premier's Office, Finance, Economic Development and Tourism for providing political guidance and support to the Provincial Treasury.
- 130.** I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the Director-General, Mr. Thulani Mdakane and other Heads of Department in steering the administration course through this very difficult Adjustments Appropriation process.
- 131.** To the Head Official, Ms. Bede Nkamba and the officials in the Provincial Treasury, your dedication and commitment throughout this tough adjustments process is warmly welcomed.
- 132.** Last but not least, allow me to convey my appreciation to my family and children for their understanding and for releasing me to perform this public duty on behalf of our people.
- 133.** Honourable Speaker, I now have the honour to table:
- 133.1** *Mpumalanga Adjustments Appropriation Bill for 2016/17;*
 - 133.2** *Mpumalanga Adjusted Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure 2016, and*
 - 133.3** *Provincial Adjustments Budget Speech for 2016/17* that we prepared to communicate the decisions of the Executive Council for your kind consideration.

I Thank You.

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