

FOREWORD

It is our vision as the Provincial Government of Mpumalanga that we strive for a better life for our people through ensuring that we have a safe environment for our tourists, that we provide health care, education, safety and security and employment opportunities. It is our endeavor to build a lasting social contract with our people.

We are committed to promoting and mobilizing investment, creating decent work opportunities for all, ensuring economic empowerment of black people, people with disabilities, women and youth. We are also concerned about eradicating poverty targeted to improve nutrition, education and the well-being of the households.

The alleviation of poverty is one of our primary strategic objectives, which compel all our provincial departments to exercise prudent financial management.

The 2008/09 budget aims to provide more resources to the poor through community infrastructure, such as water and sanitation, access to education, health care services and roads infrastructure. The drive of this budget is underpinned by the principles of performance budgeting and the spirit of the PFMA of improving expenditure outputs to take us onto the desired accelerated shared growth path.

The Provincial Government is committed to promoting co-operative governance in all spheres of government. The 2008/09 budget provides a detailed account of the Provincial Government's service delivery commitment and key policy developments over the 2008 MTEF and allows for improved accountability, monitoring of and reporting on service delivery output targets to the Provincial Parliament and society as a whole. These are described in the individual chapters of the thirteen votes.

Our mandate is to ensure that public funds are well managed and that both National and Provincial priorities are funded from the limited resources. The citizens of this province expect that the fiscal policy of government will allocate the necessary resources to improve their living standards.

We therefore have to ensure that all departmental strategic plans and budgets are aligned to achieve the provincial objectives.

MRS E.M.COLEMAN, MPL

MEC FOR FINANCE

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