



Member of the Executive Council for
Cooperative Governance and Traditional
Affairs
FREE STATE PROVINCE

BUDGET VOTE SPEECH FOR THE 2019/2020 FINANCIAL YEAR

VOTE 8: COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

**PRESENTED BY THE HONOURABLE THEMBENI SKULLY NXANGISA,
MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR COOPERATIVE
GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS, 11TH JULY 2019, 4TH
RAADZAAL BLOEMFONTEIN**

Speaker, Honourable Sifuba

Premier of the Free State Province, Honourable Ntombela

The Leaders of Government Business, Honourable Bulwane

Honourable Members of the Executive Council

Honourable Members of the Free State Legislature

Leadership of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA)

Traditional Leaders of our province

Leadership of all our municipalities

The Director General and Heads of Department

Representatives of our security forces

Stalwarts of our liberation struggle

Municipal Managers and all other officials across the three spheres of government

Comrades and friends

Ladies and gentlemen

All residents of our province

Ke hoa madume! Good day! Goeie dag! Molweni!

Honourable Speaker

I stand before this august House today, emulating the following gentle giants of my movement, the African National Congress, who had the opportunity, like myself, to lead this department as MECs:

- ✓ The late cde Vakele Mayekiso;
- ✓ The late cde Mantsheng Ouma Tsopo (nee Motsumi);
- ✓ Cde Itumeleng (Benny) Kotsoane;
- ✓ Cde Lechesa Tsenoli;
- ✓ The late cde Joe Mafereka;
- ✓ Cde Mosebenzi Zwane;
- ✓ Cde Motlagomang Qabathe;
- ✓ Cde Olly Mlamleli;
- ✓ Cde Premier, Sisi Ntombela; and
- ✓ Cde. Oupa Khoabane.

I want to say to them today, both the departed and those alive, even those that are in this House today, “please lead us”. We also ask the Almighty and our ancestors, to allow the spirit of our departed leaders to guide us in this difficult but necessary job we are doing.

To those of them still alive, we say, “we know you are watching us jealously as we march in this path of turning our municipalities around, you understand the drill, teach us to master it. We know that what we want to claim today as our own achievements, is actually the fruit of the tree you have planted since the dawn of democracy in our land”.

“We humbly ask this of you because we know it is on your broad shoulders that we stand, as we make a call to make sure that local government and traditional affairs work better for the benefit of all our people. We will move forward with the speed and pace you have determined. We will not fail you”.

Honourable Speaker

The NDP envisions that by 2030 our country will have a state that is capable of playing a developmental and transformative role in the political and socio-economic advancement of South Africa.

Drawing from Chapter 13 of the NDP, we envision a developmental local and traditional government that is accountable, focused on the priorities of citizens and is capable of delivering high-quality services.

In this scenario, cooperative governance, particularly at the local sphere, must be at the forefront of inclusive development planning and implementation. The NDP however, cautions that such a developmental state cannot materialise by decree, nor can it be legislated or waved into existence by declarations.

It has to be consciously built and sustained from the grassroots, cognisant of the fact that society has the capacity to self-determination. Local governance is at the centre of human development, but to achieve the aspirations of a transformed and effective system of local governance will require ethical leadership through a clear and consistent, long-term strategy.

Honourable Speaker

At the recent government Lekgotla, the Honourable Premier was doing the rounds and asking all MECs only two important questions: who are you and what are your plans for the Free State Province?

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to those questions as an abstract to this budget vote speech. I think this will assist us Honourable Speaker, even if we do not finish this speech in the next forty minutes (40), people of the Free State would have heard who we are and what our plans are, in the short-term, for the Free State Province.

Honourable Speaker

On Clean Environment

We are the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs

Our plans for the Free State are as follows:

- We will be engaging across the different spheres of government, and we also take this opportunity to request all members of this house to assist us in lobbying and advocating in the different platforms they participate, to ensure that both the CWP and CDWs are located under the provincial department of CoGTA;
- We are going to undertake random cleaning campaigns, to that effect, we have launched the **Andy Sefohleho** cleaning campaign today
- We are going to visit all towns in the Free State: every Friday is a town cleaning day, as we leave the town, we would request that the municipality maintains the cleaning.

SALGA

- The time has come for SALGA to participate in the affairs of the legislature, this will ensure that the legislature, as an oversight body, also benefits from the perspectives of organised local government and becomes effective in IGR;
- SALGA's Municipal Audit Support Programme requires our un-divided attention and support, if we are to turn things around in the important local sphere of government
- We are going to support the SALGA-initiated Karoo Development Programme whose conference will be held in the month of October in the Free State Province.
 - The Xhariep District will host the conference and the theme will be around our plight to grow the economy together.

National Tourism Month Launch

- The National Tourism Launch Month will be hosted in the Free State Province during this month of July 2019 in the Thabo Mofutsanyana District.

WATER MANAGEMENT

We are the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs

We acknowledge that water is a human right

Our water management plans for the Free State Province are as follows:

- Water is a scarce resource, we don't have an abundance of water due to climate change;
- We need water management teams, which include: MMs, Technical Directors and/or Infrastructure Directors;
- We need advanced technology to pick up leakages and follow-ups for purposes of speedy response;
- We need to cut water losses and thereby increase revenue and save water; and
- Our people need clean, healthy water and easy access to water.

We acknowledge that our people deserve decent sanitation

Our sanitation plans for the Free State are as follows:

- Our sanitation must meet all norms and standards of a decent sanitation;
- Eradicate the remaining bucket toilets;
- Provide water-borne ablution facilities;
- Improve water treatment plants;
- Replace aged infrastructure; and
- Maintain existing infrastructure

Auditor General's Audit Outcomes

We are the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs

Our plans for the Free State Province are as follows:

- We are going to strive for a clean, transparent, capable and accountable government working closely with the Provincial Treasury, AGSA, SALGA, municipalities, Chapter 9 and 10 institutions, labour unions, political parties, treasury and communities, we are going to strive for clean audits in all our municipalities;
- To improve municipal corporate governance, we will have regular engagements with the leadership of local government;
- We will have quarterly meetings with the troika of all municipalities in the province, wherein we will discuss broader governance issues and the municipal performance within a particular quarter, against their pre-determined objectives;
- We will ensure that this is replicated at the administrative level;
- We will, from time to time, rope in relevant stakeholders like the AG, we believe this intervention will yield positive results;
- All senior municipal officials that do not implement audit remedial actions and consequently result in the municipality losing or wasting money, we will institute consequence management. Our attitude is ***“Asijiki, and no amount of threats, insults or bad-mouthing will deter us. Life goes on!”***

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

We are the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs

Our plans for the Free State Province are as follows:

- We have had engagements with different stakeholders including the LG SETA, both IMATU and SAMWU and we still need to meet with the CUT, UFS, the Motheo TVET College and municipalities to ensure continuous training for those in the employment of municipalities, including councillors;
- Plans are at an advanced stage to ensure that the money allocated for training in the previous financial year does not get redirected, but it is brought back and spent in and by the province.

TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

Our plans for the Free State are to ensure:

- They must have a role in the improvement of social cohesion
- Their role will be underscored in infusing Ubuntu-Botho
- Our plan is to support our institutions of traditional leadership to fulfil their mandate.

Honourable Speaker

Traditional leadership is the form of governance that has always existed in South Africa before colonialism and the systematised government.

In our endeavour to give the necessary support to the institutions of traditional leadership in the Province the following achievements were realised:

- 1) The Free State Provincial and Local Houses of Traditional Leaders Act was enacted in September 2017 and came into operation in March 2018, repealing the previous legislation as a whole including its Schedule. Section 9 of the Act makes provision for establishment of Local Houses of Traditional Leaders within a District municipality where more than one Traditional Councils exists.

Where only one Traditional Council exists within a district or metropolitan municipality, the Act provides that the Premier should confer powers to such a Traditional Council to perform the functions of a local house of traditional leaders.

- 2) In implementing the provisions of the Free State Provincial and Local Houses of Traditional Leaders Act, the Premier conferred powers to the Barolong Boo Seleka Traditional Council to perform duties of the Mangaung Local House of Traditional Leaders on the **24th April 2019**.

We wish to acknowledge the appointed Members of Mangaung Local House, led by the Acting Senior Traditional Leader of Barolong Boo Seleka, Kgosi Moutloatsi Setlogelo,

Members: Kgosana Mapogo Joel Moroka;
Kgosana Kopano Petrus Mokake;
Kgosana Kelopile Constance Moletsane; and
Kgosana Lefu Daniel Sesing.

- 3) On the **30th April 2019**, the Premier established the Thabo Mofutsanyana Local House of Traditional Leaders according to the provisions of the Provincial and Local Houses Act.

Honourable Speaker

The Free State Provincial and Local Houses of Traditional Leaders Act provides that the first meeting after the constitution of a local house, must take place at a date and place to be determined by the MEC, and that the MEC or a person designated by the MEC must chair that meeting.

We are pleased to report to this House, that last week, we were able to fulfil this mandate of the Legislation, and the following traditional leaders were elected to office:

I.	Morena Napo Charles:	Chairperson
II.	Mofumahadi Clara Ramaili:	Deputy Chairperson
III.	Mofumahadi Sandra Masabatha Mopeli:	Executive Member
IV.	Mofumahadi Lebohang Letisia Sekonyela:	Executive Member
V.	Morena Moeti Jeremiah Moloi:	Executive Member

- 4) In keeping with the Free State Traditional Leadership Governance, the Premier issued certificates to all recognised Senior Traditional Leaders in the Province.

Honourable Speaker

In the spirit of developmental local governance, Traditional Leadership and the three spheres of government should strive for cooperation and promotion of good and harmonised relations.

Honourable Speaker, in our continued support function to the Institution of Traditional Leadership in the Province we undertake to do the following:

- 1) Provide necessary human capital and other support to the newly established Local Houses of Traditional Leaders to enable them to fulfil their legislative mandate of advising the district or metropolitan municipality on matters pertaining to customary law, development of planning frameworks that impact on traditional communities, development of by-laws that impact on traditional communities, and participate in local programs and initiatives;
- 2) All Headmen/women will also be issued with recognition certificates in keeping with the Free State Traditional Leadership Governance Act;
- 3) The Free State Traditional Leadership Governance Amendment Act makes provision for the establishment of Principal Traditional Leadership Councils. During this financial year we will be establishing two Principal Traditional Councils for Morena Moremoholo Motebang Mopeli of Bakoena Ba Mopeli and Morena Montoeli Dugaard Mota of Batlokoa Ba Mota.
- 4) The President will soon enact the Traditional and Khoisan Leadership Bill into law, I will be tabling before this House the amendments of the Free State Provincial and Local Houses of Traditional Leaders Act, so as to make provision for matters of the Khoisan leadership.
- 5) The Principal Traditional Leader of Bakoena Ba Mopeli, Morena Moremoholo Motebang Mopeli has partnered with The Free State Black Business Chamber and Nedbank to bring a much needed service to the people, water. To this end they have drilled a borehole at Tseki Clinic in Tseki Village, Qwa-Qwa.

In commemoration of Nelson Mandela Day, on the 18th July 2019, the Principal Traditional Leader of Bakoena Ba Mopeli will be handing over this borehole and special water wheelbarrows to the community of Qwa-Qwa.

In the same vein, the Principal Traditional Leader of Bakoena has found this project to be a short-term solution to his traditional communities, to invest in the long term solution to water shortage, he has awarded bursaries to two young people from his community who are pursuing their studies in the field of Geology at University of the Free State in Bloemfontein.

These are the young persons who will graduate and come back to assist this traditional community in finding longer lasting solutions to this plight of water shortage in Qwa-Qwa.

Honourable Speaker, we have pledged the Department' support to the Principal Traditional Leader of Bakoena Ba Mopeli in all these initiatives he has undertaken for the communities of Qwa-Qwa.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Honourable Speaker

Chapter 7 of our Constitution establishes local government. This Constitution has also ensured that it elevates local government from being a mere tier to a sphere of government, in cooperation with national and provincial spheres. Local government has further been empowered through the suite of legislation and policies enacted from the Constitution.

What constitutes a municipality?

In South Africa, a municipality is understood to be constituted of the following important components:

- community;
- council; and
- administration.

The order is important in this regard. For those who have a good understanding of business, the community can be understood as shareholders in the company called a "municipality". The Board is the municipal council and the administration is made up of all employees from the municipal manager to the most elementary employee.

What is the role of a municipal council?

The role of government across the world is mainly two-fold: the service and the political function. Emanating therefrom, the role of a municipality, particularly in South Africa, can also be understood as that of strategic interface and service delivery.

This therefore means that the primary role of local government is the strategic interface to ensure both representative and participatory democracy. A purely functional approach to local government, which concentrates on any other thing than the democratic interface will lead to the so-called “democratic deficit”.

Honourable Speaker

We believe that this little background is important because we sometimes tend to confuse the role of a councillor. Can we assume that economies of scale are more important than the democratic interaction? I bet not.

Provincial Supervision and Intervention of Local Government

The Constitution and subsequent legislation empower the provincial government take corrective measures where local government does not fulfil its constitutional mandate.

In line with the Constitution, the following three municipalities are still under provincial intervention in the form of section 139 (1) (b) of the Constitution:

- a) Masilonyana;
- b) Mafube; and
- c) Maluti A Phofung.

As MEC, I have been furnished with a report on all three municipalities and we will be going through it so that we know what the challenges are and what possible action we would have to plan next.

Honourable Speaker

My predecessor had initiated section 106 interventions in terms of the Municipal Systems Act in the following three municipalities:

- a) Matjhabeng;
- b) Letsemeng; and
- c) Kopanog

We are also in possession of a report from the Department, which outlines clear recommendation on how preliminary investigations should be conducted to inform the process of a section 106 investigation.

What is very clear in terms of this report is the capacity constraints within the Department of CoGTA. We will apply our minds on this report, and if needs be, we will approach the Executive Council for a resolution thereto.

Honourable Speaker

We provide continuous support to all our municipalities in the province. What has emerged to be a challenge is also the department's oversight or monitoring and evaluation capacity. We will have to beef these important aspects of our work.

Achievements

Last year during the budget speech, we promised to hold speakers accountable by monitoring the extent that councillors account to their constituencies. To this extent all Municipalities have been able to quantify their community concerns and report to the MEC regularly on the number of community feedback meetings convened by Ward councillors.

However there remains many challenges with regard to councils providing oversight responsibilities over ward councillors continuously engaging meaningfully with their communities. In many instances the meetings convened by ward councillors are not informed by material challenges confronting our communities.

During this financial year, we will zealously ensure that ward councillors prioritise community concerns during their community report back meetings, in particular issues affecting vulnerable groups.

During 2018/2019 the department assisted with the review of the LED Strategy for Masilonyana Local Municipality and the Nala LED Strategy. The Letsemeng LED strategy was developed in partnership with MISA.

Currently the department is in the process to assist with the review of the following LED strategies: Xhariep District, Phumelela LM, Setsoto LM, Mantsopa LM, Dihlabeng LM and Tswelopele LM.

The Lejweleputswa and the Phumelela Business Forums are operational as well as the Masilonyana Business Forum.

The department is leading a programme of Revitalization of Mining Town, whereby in our province the pilot is Matjhabeng Local Municipality. The programme basically has to investigate means to have alternative economy because the region relied on mining, and the deposits are depleted. The alternative economy will also have to look at:

- Enhancement of the Township Economy, that will include Township Revitalization Programme; and
- Development of Intermediate Cities through Integrated Urban Planning

We successfully conducted and facilitated District IDP Engagement Sessions across all four district municipalities in the province, including the Metro municipality to lobby and solicit support from sector departments for all 23 municipalities during the review of IDP for 2019/2020 financial year.

As an endeavour to reduce fire incidences, we have undertaken one fire campaign in the Xhariep District.

We have partnered with the University of the Free State and Free State Umbrella Fire Protection Association (FSUFPA) to coordinate Incident Command System (ICS) training and associated simulation exercises termed "**Ntja-Pedi**". The main objectives of the ICS training were to:

- train a core group of people to be capable of managing disaster response operations at provincial and local level in the Free State Province;
- uncover and identify the shortcomings in terms of facilities and support systems;
- test current contingency plans and identify potential lack of contingency plans in all relevant sectors in the Free State;
- implement corrective actions and build resilient province.

The National Treasury allocated additional funds to Moqhaka Local Municipality to the amount of R4m and Metsimaholo Local Municipality to the amount of R6m as a result of our continued support.

2 786 temporary jobs were created through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant of which 943 was towards adult males, 366 towards adult female, 1 023 towards young men and 20 towards disabled men and women.

In the previous financial year the department ensured that systems were put in place in all municipalities for the purpose of facilitating all land developments. All municipalities in the province have municipal planning bylaws, tariff structures and Municipal planning tribunals.

The department will ensure that in this financial year all municipal planning tribunals hold their inaugural meetings. The result of this is more development in our municipalities as well as creation of much needed job opportunities.

As promised in the previous financial year, the department supported various municipalities with the drafting of spatial development frameworks (SDFs). The department will continue do so in this current financial year.

The spatial development frameworks are intended to give expression of the National Development Plan by promoting sustainable, functional and integrated human settlements, maximise resource efficiency and enhance regional identity. The SDFs

intends to give spatial expression to the social, economic and environmental aims of the municipality.

One of the priorities that the State President outlined as an area of focus in his state of the nation address (SONA) was spatial integration and human settlement. The Land Use Schemes and Spatial development frameworks through which the department is supporting the municipalities, will achieve this priority.

The department has completed the Provincial Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Bill which was drafted in line with the national spatial planning act. All necessary public participation has been completed. Honourable Speaker we request the house to consider this Bill in this financial year.

- We have completed a project of Master Plans for Mohokare and Letsemeng Local Municipalities and they have been handed over to the Municipalities in May 2019. The benefits of these Master Plans shall guide Municipalities when planning for development in their area of jurisdiction. R15m was used to implement this project.
- The Free Basic Services Programme is one of those programmes that have been launched by government to eliminate poverty. The programme is aimed at ensuring that Indigent households that cannot pay for basic services have access to Free Basic Services such as water, refuse removal, sanitation and electricity by indigent households.
- All municipalities in the province have Indigent policies that are reviewed on an annual basis. The province has assisted municipalities to develop Indigent policies and Indigent Registers that are updated on a regular basis.
- Currently there are 190 000 indigent households that are registered in municipalities. The challenge is to register indigent households that qualify by supporting municipalities in their communication strategies. Support is also provided on the updating of Indigent Registers to avoid provision to those households that do not qualify.
- The Department provided support in the implementation of the Community Work Programme (CWP) and created 24 016 job opportunities in the previous financial year.

In the 2018/2019 financial year, 17 municipalities were supported to comply with the Municipal Systems Act Regulations on the appointment of senior managers, institutionalisation of the Performance Management System and towards developing their annual performance reports in terms of Section 46 of the MSA.

Despite the challenges of high litigation bills and in an effort to mitigate and manage this status the Department is in the process of establishing the Provincial Free State Municipal Legal Advisor's Forum with the following functions:

The Department has also developed the Free State Municipal Litigation Management Strategy and will soon embark on the process of consultations with municipalities on the Strategy. The Department has managed to make an impact on the litigations against municipalities. The Department is also responsible in assisting in the management of litigation of municipalities through its legal services.

Honourable Speaker

We have noted the recently published report by the Office of the Auditor General. This does not paint a good picture at all. Our supporting role as pronounced in the Constitution leaves us with no choice but to firstly, assess our capacity whether we have all what is required to meet our obligations in terms of section 154 of the Constitution.

Secondly, to do some re-engineering in all our efforts to support our municipalities, both Provincial Treasury and CoGTA will in the 2019/2020 financial year refocus and dedicate their combined efforts at arresting and turning around these undesirable audit outcomes.

The Department has provided financial assistance to the struggling Municipalities to the tune of R 63, 2 million during 2018/2019. The Department will continue to harness the resources, skills and expertise of its strategic partners to maintain support of this nature to turn-around the financial fortunes of Municipalities and to keep up and consolidate progress made.

The Department will continue to support municipalities in line with our legislative mandate.

2019/20 OUTLOOK

Honourable Speaker

In the coming few months we will put more effort to ensure that all municipal speakers and accounting officers provide more practical support to ward councillors and ward committees by regularly convening ward forums to discuss challenges confronting ward committees and communities.

As part of our effort to prepare for the establishment of developmental ward committees after the 2021 Local Government elections we will put more effort to ensure that our communities take a more central role in developing Ward-Based Plans.

As a build up to the 2021 Local Government Elections (LGEs), we will strengthen our relations through Inter-governmental platforms, with various stakeholders and sectors

across the province to ensure that we reach out to those sectors of our communities that have become disinterested in our democratic electoral processes.

In line with the Thuma Mina Injunction and the spirit of citizen activism, we will also utilise various platforms including social media to mobilise and encourage the participation of young people in both government and electoral processes. The recent election result has indicated a disturbing trend of young people staying away from participating in the voting process. We must leave no stone unturned to reach out to this important constituency. As a province we must commit to increase voter turnout in the next Local Government Elections.

We will also work with the National Department of Cooperative Governance to support the roll out of GOVCHAT in Matjhabeng and Dihlabeng Local Municipalities. GOVCHAT is a Social Media Platform for Community Engagement aimed at contributing towards a responsive and accountable local government. The platform makes it easy for communities to interact with government services.

Honourable Speaker

Our “song” on Radical Economic Transformation is the same from the praise book as that of the National Sphere of Government. We sing it with a range of measures that we would initiate to set our Province on a new path of growth, employment and transformation. COGTA will lead the Presidential local economic impetus by supporting the:

- implementation of growth enhancing economic reforms such as the land prioritization. We will encourage municipalities to develop and review their Local Economic Development Strategies to cater for incentives where necessary
- reprioritising the public spending to support job creation. This will be achieved by keeping a close monitoring mechanism on the spending of Grants which ought to encourage prudent spending on all projects and programmes articulated in the 2019/2020 Integrated Development Plans of all 23 municipalities in the Province.
- Monitoring the social infrastructure improvement by all the municipalities.
- We will encourage measures of interventions to ensure that growth is labour intensive and that young people in particular are drawn into the labour market. This will be done through Community Works Program and other related measures

Honourable Speaker

We commit to strengthen Intergovernmental Relations with other development role-players. This is in essence the meaning of Local Economic Development (*an approach towards economic development which allows and encourages local people to work together to achieve sustainable economic growth and development thereby bringing*

economic benefits and improved quality of life for all residents in a local municipal area).

During this financial year, we will provide support to municipalities in the following areas in order to promote economic development within municipalities:

- Functional LED units within municipalities
- Updated LED strategies for Municipalities
- Establishment of operational Business Forums

The province has been nominated to host the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDR) on the 13th October 2019, and Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality in our province has been identified as the host.

This day is intended to celebrate the way that people and communities around the world **reduce** their exposure to **disasters** and raise awareness about the risks that they face.

Honourable Speaker

We will also be hosting the Annual Fire Seminar, which is a national event wherein disaster managers and fire services practitioners engage one another to foster better coordination of planning and implementation of fire management strategies.

*The **Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG)** will continue to contribute towards municipal service delivery in the Province during the 2019/2020 financial year as the amount of R754m was allocated to municipalities.*

Furthermore the MIG funds of Masilonyana Local Municipality for 2019/2020 financial year will be managed by the Lejweleputswa District Municipality on behalf of the local municipality.

I am pleased to report that the department will continue with the Provincial Performance Management Forum for the 2019/2020 financial year, with the objective to assist and support municipalities towards complying with legislation relating to the municipal performance management system (PMS) i.e. institutionalisation of PMS and conclusion of performance agreements and employment contracts).

At this stage the challenge facing municipalities as far as by-laws are concerned is the implementation of by-laws. As the passing of municipal by-laws without enforcing them serves no purpose and failure by municipalities to enforce their by-laws amounts to a failure to give effect to the obligations imposed upon municipalities by section 152 of the Constitution.

The department will provide support and capacitation to municipalities on Fraud and Anti-Corruption matters. The Department will also monitor the extent to which anti-

corruption measure are implemented in municipalities and to identify challenges and make recommendations.

The Department will continue to provide support and coordination services to the Municipal Demarcation Board in terms of the Local Government: Municipal Demarcation Board Act No. 27 of 2018. This entails assistance with the ward delimitation process and the assessment of municipal powers and functions.

BUDGET APPROPRIATION

Honourable Speaker

For the financial year 2019/2020, the Department has been allocated an amount of R456 135 000 of which:

- R149 331 000 (33%) is allocated to Programme 1: Administration;
- R143 590 000 (31%) is allocated to Programme 2: Local Governance
- R 86 728 000 (19%) is allocated to Programme 3: Development Planning;
- R 61 956 000 (14%) is allocated to Programme 4: Traditional Institutional Development; and
- R 14 530 000 (3%) is allocated to Programme 5: Provincial House of Traditional Leaders.

Honourable Speaker, I table Vote 8 for the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

CONCLUSION

Honourable Speaker

We have made a conscious decision not to concentrate on negative things in this vote speech. We hoped that the positivity will infuse all members of the House, across different political parties, to understand that whilst we may have contested elections in 2016 as different parties and interests, our people have decided to put us together in the different Council Chambers to listen to them, and represent their views and aspirations.

Ours is a multi-party democracy, the electorate have decided, in their collective wisdom, that this is the correct combination for our law-making houses. It is us as political parties and interests who have decided on the composition of our committees and different office-bearers, through our very democratic practices. Let us not betray the trust bestowed on us, let us not disappoint.

We will have to take collective ownership and responsibility of what is happening in our governance structures. I am ready to fold my sleeves and engage in the work of cleaning our system of local government.

Let's join our hands together as we transform our municipalities into effective institutions of governance and service delivery. We are open to all advice and engagement, the dire situation of our people requires a collective effort on our part.

Honourable Speaker

Allow me to conclude by thanking my wife and pillar of strength, Lerato. I also want to thank my siblings, extended family and children, all of whom deserve a special mentioning for the support they have given me, even at times I would have to travel the length and breadth of our province, doing political work.

I must also thank the office I have just joined and established as MEC, they are my extended family and I spend most of my time with them, as they expertly take my hand through the different processes. I believe the only way forward is through effective engagement.

The HOD and all employees of the Department of CoGTA also deserve a special mentioning. They are the ones that have carried us up on their shoulders up to here. It is still them that will have to ensure that the commitments we make here today become implemented.

Lastly, let me take this opportunity to thank the ANC, my organisation, whose ordinary foot soldier I am, for trusting me with the honour and responsibility to be one of its representatives in this House.

I also want to thank the Premier for honouring me with a burden and burdening me with an honour, of making me a Member of her Executive Council.

Honourable Members, I also thank all of you and would like to request you that we engage in constructive discussions and deliberations as we strive to develop the province of the Free State. We look forward to robust debates both in the House and in the Committees.

We thank you for listening to us as we present our minimum programme. This is who we are, and this is our plan for the Free State Province.

I thank you.