



economic development & tourism

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# Policy & Budget Speech

2024/2025



**05** AUGUST  
**2024**  
Monday



**Ms. MC Masilela, MPL**  
MEC: Economic Development and Tourism



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## **VOTE 6: DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM – POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH 2024-2025 PRESENTED BY THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM, MS MAKHOSAZANE MASILELA, MPL, TO THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE, RIVERSIDE PARK, CITY OF MBOMBELA**

***Monday, 05 August 2024***

### ***Salutations***

Honourable Speaker, Ms. Lindi Masina;  
Honourable Premier, Mr. Mandla Ndlovu;  
Honourable Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Ms. Eva Makhabane;  
Colleagues in the Executive Council;  
Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature;  
Chairperson and Members of the House of the Traditional and Khoi San Leadership;  
Acting Director-General in the Office of the Premier, Mr Peter Nyoni;  
Acting Head of Department, Mr. Lemmy Mdluli and all other HODs present;  
Chairpersons of the Boards and CEOs of our Public Entities;  
Representatives of the governing party in the Province, the ANC;  
Organised Labour and Private Sector Partners;  
The people of our Province, Mpumalanga – *the Place of the Rising Sun*;  
Esteemed guests;  
Members of the Media;  
Ladies and gentlemen.

***Sanibonani!***

## Introduction

1. Madam Speaker; I feel honoured and privileged, indeed, to present our Policy and Budget Speech before this August House, on the month in which we celebrate the hard-earned rights of women in the country.
2. This is a very special month where we not only remind ourselves about the struggles that we waged as women against the triple oppression meted out on us, but also to celebrate the rights that we obtained thus far. Our struggles are far from over. Iseyinde lendlala. ***Wathint'abafazi, wathint' imbokodo. 'Igama lamakhosikazi malibongwe'***
3. Honorable Members; in his State of the Province Address on Wednesday last week, the Premier extended his gratitude to the people of Mpumalanga for casting their votes in favour of the African National Congress, to lead them not only for the next five years, but also to continue with its mission of creating a future society underpinned by the principles of democracy, respect for the rule of law and the Constitution of the country.
4. I, therefore, wish to echo the same sentiments of the Premier and also say to the people of Mpumalanga, thank you very much for entrusting us with this huge responsibility of soldiering on with our endeavors to improve your life for the better. We are definitely grateful and feeling humbled indeed. We will continue to be your committed servants as always.
5. During our campaign trail for election, our people not only commended us for the significant progress that we have achieved thus far in our march to a future society that is democratic, nonracial, nonsexist and prosperous but also pointed out those areas where we fell short to address.



6. They reminded us that unemployment, poverty and inequality continue to be thorns in their flesh. They told us that the cost of living is too high and unbearable, particularly for the poor and vulnerable. They further stressed the point that crime and gender based violence continue to devastate them on daily basis.
7. Therefore, Madam Speaker; it is with a great sense of humility and privilege to appear before this August House to, once again, re-assure our people that, as the governing party, we remain committed to continue addressing their aspirations as clearly expressed in our Manifesto. Indeed, we remain resolute and committed to work very hard towards finding better and pragmatic mechanisms to translate our Manifesto into reality.
8. As we move forward, we promised to continue to provide proper thought leadership on policies that must guide us, in our endeavors to change the lives of our people for the better.
9. With respect to my mandate, in the next five years, one commit to provide a clear economic policy direction and better future plans, aimed at turning around the current ailing provincial economy towards an inclusive growth trajectory that creates more opportunities for our people in the Province.
10. Let me hasten to point out that such plans and programmers will be built on the foundation that has been laid down by my predecessors, since the inception of the new dispensation in 1994, until the end of the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) administration.
11. Fortunately, President Cyril Ramaphosa, and Premier Mandla Ndlovu, have already guided us on key areas that we have to focus on during the term of office of the Seventh Administration.
12. As the Department, we are expected to drive inclusive economy that leads to the creation of more job opportunities for our people. We were further guided that, in order for us to realise the outcomes of this priority, government together with the private sector, will have to, among other things, direct our joint efforts and capital investment on:

- economic infrastructure development;
- economic sectors that are labour intensive; and most importantly,
- intensify reindustrialisation and diversification of the economy.

### *Mpumalanga's Economic Landscape and Outlook*

13. Madam Speaker; before one zooms into the programmes and interventions that the Department will be pursuing to breathe life into this priority, allow me to firstly paint the future *Economic Landscape and Outlook* of the Province.
14. The latest studies are all showing that the South African economy is performing far below par, basically failing to respond to the challenges that are confronting our people. According to STATSA, the average annual economic growth for South Africa and Mpumalanga was **less than 1% in the 2019-2023 period and the first quarter of 2024.**
15. The forecast of the average annual economic growth for Mpumalanga between 2024 and 2027 is around 2%, of which, is a positive development although it remains below the targeted economic growth of 5% per annum, if we are to make a serious dent on the challenges of unemployment and poverty. Of critical importance is that this forecast is built on the assumption that the energy supply and our logistics system will be more stable, reliable and efficient.
16. Madam Speaker  
One wishes to inform this August House that, according to our own analysis, Mpumalanga has the potential **to grow the economy by more than 4%** - a rate of growth that we enjoyed in the period before the 2008/09 global financial crisis which placed our economy on a downward spiral ever since. As if that was not enough, the covid-19 pandemic added salt to the wound.
17. Without going into details about the negative effects of these two recent shocks to our economy, suffice to say that, over the past five (5) years, we recorded huge job losses, particularly between the years of 2020 and 2021.

18. However, looking at current figures on the performance of the provincial economy, one is encouraged to see that we are now definitely turning the tide. **According to the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey of Statistics South Africa**, for the past 2 years, we have been on a recovery path.
19. The Province has recorded 160 000 new jobs, between the first quarter of 2022 and the second quarter of 2024. We are really proud that the Province has made this significant net jobs gain amid extremely difficult economic circumstances.
20. Notwithstanding our recovery trajectory in this regard, our provincial unemployment rate remains relatively high, despite the declining trend recorded last year. The high provincial unemployment rate of the youth between 15 and 34 years of age remains a huge area of concern.
21. It is therefore incumbent upon us, working in partnership with the private sector, to redouble our efforts in addressing this challenge with more vigor than ever before.
22. Madam Speaker and Honourable Members;  
Mpumalanga must create around **100 000 new and sustainable jobs every year**, if we are to achieve the Mpumalanga Vision 2030 employment target of 2.1 million by 2030.
23. Evidently, as a Department, we are called upon to continue to prioritise labour intensive economic industries, programmes and projects in order to create the much-needed jobs for our people, with special emphasis on youth, women and people with disabilities.
24. Together with our Public Entities, we must and will continue to play a leading role in creating an environment conducive to inclusive economic growth and development, as well as job creation in the Province, including the implementation of the prioritised catalytic projects that span across the main economic sectors of the Province.

## Growing the economy through re-industrialisation and localisation

25. Madam Speaker and Honourable Members;  
As the Department, our response to challenges of slow economic growth and high level of unemployment, will continue to be guided by the Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Path, the Mpumalanga Industrial Development Plan and the Mpumalanga Economic Recovery and Reconstruction Plan.
26. Therefore, the 2024/25 Budget allocated to the Department will be utilised to set in motion the implementation of the targets set out in the Medium Term Development Plan of government. We will continue to build on the relevant programmes and strategic initiatives effected by my predecessors during the sixth administration without limiting ourselves to come up with new priorities that are aligned to our current Manifesto.
27. To qualify this latter statement, as things stand right now, the Department is seized with the task of implementing few strategic initiatives that emanated from the Mpumalanga Industrial Development Plan. One refers to, *inter alia*, the establishment of the **Petro-Chemical Industrial Park in Secunda, the Forestry Industrial Technology Park in Sabie and the Nkomazi Special Economic Zone in Komatipoort**. All these game changer projects are at different levels of development.
28. Therefore, it is incumbent upon this administration to ensure that we take these catalytic projects to their successful conclusion. Going forward, we commit ourselves to address all the bottlenecks that placed these projects in a sluggish mode. We have to unlock the issues of section 53 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development act 28 of 2002 so that the development of the Park can proceed with ease. The Minister of the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources will be engaged in this regard.



29. We further commit ourselves to finalise the implementation of the Nkomazi SEZ Interim Phase, so that the development of the zone could commence without any further delays. Similarly, we are going to pay more attention on the Forestry Industrial Technology Park. We are going to confront the identified challenges head-on because our people cannot wait any longer. They expect our economy to grow and create more job opportunities for them, particularly the youth and women.
30. Madam Speaker and Honourable members  
One also wishes to bring to the attention of this House that the Department has taken a deliberate resolve to play a meaningful role as far as the coordination and facilitation of the implementation of the **Mpumalanga Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (MERRP)** is concerned.
31. It is our considered view that the full implementation of the economic recovery blueprint will change the socio-economic landscape of the Province for the better. Without doubt, for us to realise the targets of the MERRP, more financial resources and requisite skills will be required.
32. We are, therefore, going to utilise our partnerships with the private sector and international twinning agreements to attract more foreign investment into the Province. We expect the Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency and the Nkomazi SEZ to play a vital role, in this regard.
33. It is high time that we focus on the implementation of the Provincial Trade and Investment Promotion Strategy in full force. We believe that the provincial economy has a huge potential for private capital to earmark as a lucrative destination for their investment.

## *Investing in the Green the Economy*

34. Honourable Members;

Coupled to these initiatives, we are also committing to continue exploiting the opportunities presented by the green economy, particularly the Just Transition Programme. We intend to continue capacitating the **Mpumalanga Green Cluster Agency (MGCA)** so that it is fit for purpose.

35. We expect this Agency not only to facilitate the implementation of the Mpumalanga Green Economy Development Plan, but also to play a central role in providing a platform where business and academia can join hands with government in its quest to build a strong green economy industry that delivers green jobs to our people. The Agency is also seen as an institution that must unblock bottlenecks for companies that might be frustrated by the bureaucratic red-tape of government, of which in the main, slowdown the implementation of strategic projects in the green economy space.

36. In addition, the Department further views the Green Cluster Agency as a “lighting rod” for catalytic projects that are already setting up their operations in the Province. One refers to, among others:

- The **Carbon Capture and Storage Project** in Leandra. The Council for Geoscience is the project owner and they have already completed phase one of their project plan;
- **Umbila Emoyeni wind farm** in Bethal where Seriti Green is the investor that is injecting an amount of approximately **R4.8 billion** and the construction of first phase is about to commence in few months to come;
- **Hydrogène De France Energy (HDF)**, a hydrogen project at Tutuka and Majuba power stations with a project value of **R54 billion** investment;
- The **Manganese Metal Company (MMC)** here in the City of Mbombela; an expansion programme to manufacture batteries for electric vehicles. It is project that is looking at **R500 million** investment;

- The **Natural Gas project** in Amersfoort, pursued by an Australian company, Kinetiko Energy with an investment value of **R155 million**; and finally
- the **Hyshif- Aviation Fuel project** through a consortium constituted of Sasol, Enertrag, Linde and Hydrogen.

37. Honourable Members;

These projects will not only contribute to economic growth of the Province and create more green job opportunities, but they will also assist in mitigating the impact of climate change and ultimately setting the Province on a path of driving a low carbon economy.

38. It must also be emphasised that these catalytic projects offer more opportunities for community development and SMMEs in steel fabrication, manufacturing, sustainable agriculture, tourism, supplier development, and professional services.

39. The Department further appreciates the support which is provided to the Cluster Agency by all local and international allies, particularly the embassies that are partnering with the Agency to promote the work on the Green Economy in the province. These partners include, among others, the German Embassy, British High Commission, Royal Danish Embassy, and Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand Embassy and French Embassy.

40. We really wish to commend the Green Cluster Agency for upholding the Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Path principles; namely, the principle of partnerships with the private sector because together we can do more.

41. Madam Speaker, we extend our gratitude to the President of South Africa for his recent signature of the Climate Change Act. It is a critical piece of legislation that will guarantee the decarbonisation of our economy and the preservation of our planet.

42. Accordingly, as the Department, we plan to engage more with our people about the Just Energy Transition Programme because we have realised that most of them are already left behind on the developments that are unfolding in the Province, regarding

this JET programme. Therefore, as government, we have to ensure that the roll out of this programme is just in the true sense of the concept.

### *Re-igniting tourism: The Province's biodiversity gold mine!*

43. Madam Speaker;

The importance of the tourism sector for the provincial economy cannot be overemphasised. It is also one of these main sectors with huge potential to contribute meaningfully to the growth of the provincial economy and job creation. Therefore, as the Department, we will continue to support the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) in its quest of making Mpumalanga a tourist destination of choice.

44. In addition, we will expect MTPA to pay special attention on these areas that remain untapped in this sector, especially the development of new tourism products or attractions.

45. To this end, the Entity is already looking at their nature reserves, as a potential area to create new tourism products through medium and long-term concessions, to attract both local and foreign investments. The private sector and small enterprises will be invited to take advantage of these golden opportunities.

46. As we speak, MTPA is already on an aggressive drive of revitalising their nature reserves; namely, the Mdala Nature Reserve, Ohristad Dam Nature Reserve, Mthethomusha Nature Reserve, Lopskop Dam Nature Reserve, Manyeleti Nature Reserve, Mabusa Nature Reserve, Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve and Songimvelo Nature Reserve, with a view of attracting both foreign and domestic tourists into these nature reserves.

47. As part of our crusade to reignite tourism in the Province, MTPA aims to bring to life the Zithabiseni Resort and the Conference Centre at Mabusa Nature Reserve. They intend to establish a tourism belt linking Mdala and Loskop Dam Nature Reserves. Undoubtedly, the revival of these resorts will stimulate domestic travel, with particular focus on tourists from Mpumalanga, Limpopo and Gauteng.

48. Honourable Members;

I am pleased to inform this August House that the MTPA has already managed to secure and partnered with the Aspinall Foundation, and We-Wild Africa, to upgrade the Loskop Nature Reserve to a big five status.

49. Evidently, this strategic partnership will unlock the conservation and tourism potential of the nature reserve for investments in accommodation, such as lodges, tented camps and hotels and also adventure, such as game drives, water park, bush walk and picnic sites.

50. Honourable Members;

The Department will also continue to pursue the plans of developing the high impact projects aimed at stimulating inclusive growth and job creation in the tourism sector. This includes catalytic projects such as the Barberton Makhonjwa Mountains World Heritage Site; the Blyde Canyon Cable Car, and further conduct feasibility studies to explore possibilities of another cable car at Mariepskop mountain near strydom tunnel.

51. Madam Speaker, these are huge projects and require adequate financial resources to realise them. Obviously, as the Department, we will be go down to our drawing table, with a view of coming up with better and efficient mechanism to mobilise funding to support these game changer initiatives.

52. Honourable Members; while we will be paying much attention on the creation of new tourism attraction products and attracting investment into our nature reserves, we cannot afford to lose sight of one of the key focus areas of the MTPA; namely, the marketing of the Province as a preferred destination of choice.

53. One will come closer to this issue. I believe there is room for improvement on the current marketing strategy which MTPA is currently pursuing. For the strategy to be effective, tackling the challenge of crime has to place high on our agenda.



54. I am informed that foreign tourists have already started to shun away from visiting our attraction through road travel. They are now flying direct into Kruger National Park, and to those hospitality facilities with private landing strips. This does not augur well for our tourism industry.

### ***Strengthening support to small business development***

55. Madam Speaker and Honourable Members  
Economic transformation remains close to the heart of the governing party in this Province. We still hold the view that SMME development remain the appropriate vehicle to drive the economic transformation agenda. The participation of the previously disadvantaged people in the mainstream of the economy cannot be postponed anymore.
56. As government, we are duty-bound to open up equal opportunities for our people without any fear of contradictions. All the main sectors that we have prioritised, as a Province, to grow the provincial economy and create jobs, SMMEs must feature high on initiatives driven by government.
57. Therefore, I wish to commit myself to strengthen the support provided to SMMEs and Cooperatives to develop them. The Department will continue to provide an enabling environment for SMMEs and Cooperatives to grow through the provision of financial and non-financial services in all the districts.
58. We are going to intensify our partnerships with all the government institutions established to support the development of SMMEs. This includes the various Development Finance Institutions, training and skills development institutions such as SEDA and the SETAs, including the South African Bureau of Standards.
59. We commit to implement government policies designed to support SMMEs and cooperatives development such as the set-aside policies on designated products. The time has come to start to monitor very closely the utilisation of government

procurement to promote the development of SMMEs. The 30 days' payment compliance issue is not adequate enough to promote SMMEs development. We need to do better than that. If it calls for the review of the entire procurement value chain, let it be.

60. The support to small enterprises operating in Township and Rural Areas is one of the priorities that the Department will pursue going forward. I have already tasked the Department to look at better and efficient ways to promote sustainable SMMEs in the township and Rural areas. One hopes that this new framework will assist the Department, as well as the Province, to develop sustainable and viable small businesses in these targeted areas.
61. I have further assigned MEGA to provide me with their revitalisation programme of the industrial parks found largely in the former homeland areas. There are many small businesses that require factories to operate their business. Unfortunately, the state of the infrastructure of Parks is appalling and not business friendly. It is our intention to work with MEGA on the revitalisation of those Parks.
62. Madam Speaker and Honourable Members;  
In our quest to drive inclusive economic growth and job creation, the Department will facilitate the implementation of the Broad – Based Black Economic Empowerment in both public and private sectors.
63. We will continue working with the Provincial B-BBEE Advisory Council, whose mandate is to advise the Mpumalanga Provincial Government and to support the overall implementation and monitoring on the state of B-BBEE.
64. Furthermore, the Department will also foster partnerships between organs of state and private sector that will advance the objective of the B-BBEE in the provincial economy.
65. In line with our legislative mandate, the Department will further support black owned enterprises to participate in key sectors such as mining, green economy and manufacturing.

66. Accordingly, we will continue supporting black industrialists, through working with the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, to increase the uptake of Black Industrialists in the Black Industrialist Scheme.
67. The Department will strengthen partnerships with municipalities to ensure that the regulatory environment in the township and rural areas is conducive for business to thrive without experiencing cumbersome red tape.
68. To this end, the Department has developed a **Red Tape Reduction Strategy** to provide support to municipalities to ease the way of doing business by SMMEs and the broader informal sector.
69. Madam Speaker, the Department will continue to support municipalities on local economic development frameworks. This commitment is prompted by the fact that municipalities are at the coalface of implementation, whatever initiative that has to be implemented, is done in their space. We intend to add value in the development of the one-plan for the District Development Model considering that is now the new way of driving key initiatives that will have a district-wide impact on the lives of our people.

### **Business Regulation and Governance**

70. Honourable Speaker; modern economies and societies need effective regulations to support growth, investment, innovation, market openness and upholding of the rule of law. To realise this, the Department **continues to work with Municipalities to review street trading by-laws**, and has hosted a number of workshops to ensure proper coordination and support for development of the informal sector.
71. In this regard, we are in the process of finalising the Provincial Informal Sector Policy. We have already concluded consultations with Municipalities, Informal sector players, including the Department of Small Business Development and the University of Mpumalanga. Currently, we have just consolidated the inputs of the different stakeholders and have subsequently subjected the policy to the approval processes.

72. The completion of the Provincial Informal Sector Policy will ensure seamless support of the informal sector and provide the necessary intervention for growing the sector.
73. Madam Speaker; as one alluded earlier, radical economic transformation is not an empty rhetoric; it is a fundamental political command of the electorate to government.
74. Therefore, we have a collective responsibility to place more emphasis on economic transformation through continued support and nurturing of the informal sector, which is the backbone of our economy.
75. The Informal Sector plays a crucial role in the alleviation of poverty through the creation of the much needed jobs to reduce unemployment. Accordingly, as a Department, we commit to continuously provide support to this sector.
76. Madam Speaker: our continued interventions to support the Informal Sector finds expression in the clarion call made by President Cyril Ramaphosa, in that government must transform the economy and ensure inclusive growth.
77. We are mindful of potential abuses the consumers might suffer, especially during these trying economic times. We have therefore strengthened our efforts in ensuring protection and enforcement of their consumer rights.
78. Through advocacy initiatives, we shall continue to protect consumers from unfair business practices and timeously resolve their complaints.
79. Accordingly, during the current financial year, in order to curb unscrupulous business practices, we shall embark on unannounced trade inspection to deal with counterfeit and illegal goods.
80. Madam Speaker; I am happy to announce that the Province has been nominated by the National Consumer Commission to host the 2025 National World Consumer Rights Celebrations in March 2025. This will boost the provincial economy and investor confidence in the Province.

81. Regarding the intention to award the fourth casino license, it should be noted that the process to request proposals did not bear fruit as there was no successful applicant from the proposals received.
82. However, our Entity, the MER will re – assess market conditions to determine the current level of readiness for inviting new proposals. This process will involve the analysis of the market demand, industry interest, and economic factors to ensure that the timing and conditions are optimal for attracting viable and competitive bids.
83. The promotion of responsible trading practices within the liquor retail sector remains a cornerstone of our policy agenda. Through the MER, we are intensifying efforts to enforce compliance with liquor license conditions, reflecting our unwavering commitment to consumer safety and public health.
84. Moreover, in our quest to enhance the efficiency and responsiveness of our services, we aim to conduct a Customer Satisfaction Survey during this financial year. The survey is a key component of our strategy to ensure that our services meet the highest standards of excellence and are aligned with the needs of those we serve.
85. The feedback obtained from the survey will inform our policies and guide future improvement, and will also help us to better fulfil our mandate and support the economic development of Mpumalanga.
86. We remain committed to our key priority this financial year, which is to deepen our engagement with stakeholders across the liquor licensing value chain. We will actively invite participation from key industry players, community representatives, and other relevant parties to build stronger partnerships and collaborative efforts.
87. Undoubtedly, stakeholder engagement and collaboration are critical in creating a more sustainable and responsible liquor industry that benefits both the economy and the communities.



88. Through these engagements, we aim to foster a collective responsibility for maintaining a well – regulated and ethical liquor industry that supports economic growth while safeguarding the well-being of our communities. By working together, we can ensure that our policies are effective, inclusive, and reflective of the diverse needs of our society.
89. To this end, the Department and MER, **will host a Provincial Liquor Indaba this year.** Our goal is to enhance communication, share best practices, and work together to mitigate the adverse effects of gambling and alcohol abuse.
90. This historic Indaba will serve as a critical forum for dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders in the liquor industry, including policymakers, business owners, and community leaders. The Indaba will provide an invaluable platform to discuss and address a range of social and economic issues that impact the liquor industry and our communities.
91. As part of our ongoing commitment to public education, we will intensify our awareness programmes aimed at promoting responsible trading and consumption of liquor. These programs will provide valuable information to traders about compliance with regulatory standards and educate the public on making informed choices regarding gambling and alcohol use.
92. Madam Speaker; our efforts will include targeted outreach initiatives, community workshops, and multimedia campaigns designed to raise awareness about the importance of responsible gambling, alcohol consumption and the potential consequences of misuse.
93. It is our firm believe that by empowering both liquor traders and consumers with knowledge, we hope to foster a safer and healthier environment for all residents of Mpumalanga.

## **Budget Allocation (per Programme)**

94. Honourable Speaker; the planned targets we have just tabled require accompanying funding for them to be realised. In this regard, the six (6) Programmes of the Department are proposed to be funded as follows:
95. **Programme 1:** Administration will receive an amount of **125 million, 430 thousand rands** in order to enable effective operational support to the programmes of the Department and Public Entities.
96. **Programme 2:** Integrated Economic Development will receive **517 million, 626 thousand rands**. Included in this amount, is **280 million, 508 thousand rands** to fund the requirements of MEGA; and **167 million, 700 thousand rands** to fund the Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market (MIFPM).
97. **Programme 3:** Trade and Sector Development will receive an amount of **81 million, 746 thousand rands**. Included in this amount, **45 million, 835 thousand rands** for the Nkomazi SEZ.
98. **Programme 4:** Business Regulation and Governance will receive **147 million, 516 thousand rands** which includes **124 million, 785 thousand rands** to fund the requirements of the MER.
99. **Programme 5:** Economic Planning will receive **20 million, 605 thousand rands**.
100. And lastly, **Programme 6: Tourism** is allocated **520 million, 605 thousand rands**, which includes **511 million, 940 thousand rands** to fund the MTPA.
101. The total amount to be transferred by the Department to its public entities is **917 million, 233 thousand rands**.
102. As the Executive Authority of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, I now request the House to consider and appropriate the total allocation of

**One billion, 413 million, 528 thousand rands** to fund the requirements of the Department (Vote 6) for the financial year ending March 2025.

### **Appreciation**

103. Madam Speaker; let me extend my sincere gratitude to the African National Congress, the revolutionary movement of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela for entrusting us with the task of implementing the electoral mandate during the term of the 7<sup>th</sup> Administration.
104. I also wish to extend my gratitude to the Honourable Premier, Mr Mandla Ndlovu for his encouragement, guidance and support.
105. My appreciation also goes to my colleagues in the Executive Council; the Chairperson, Honourable Lucky Mbuyane and Members of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development and Tourism, for their support.
106. Many thanks also go to the entire *dedt* family, which incorporates our Public Entities, the support staff in the Office of the MEC, marshalled by the acting Head of Department, Mr. Lemmy Mdluli, for their commitment towards realising the mandate given to us by the ANC-led government.
107. Let me also thank my family for allowing me to continue to serve our people.
108. Madam Speaker; let me end by thanking all our social partners, including organised labour, the private sector, and the people of our Province, for partnering with us in this noble crusade towards inclusive economic growth.

Together, let us grow the economy of Mpumalanga to benefit all its residents.

***Leave No One Behind as We Grow the Economy of Mpumalanga Together!***

***Ngiyabonga!***









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# Policy & Budget Speech

2024/2025

