

DEBATE BY THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM, MRS YN PHOSA, MPL, TO THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE AT RIVERSIDE ON VOTE 6: POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH (2013-2014)

Tuesday, 28 May 2013

Honourable Speaker;

We appreciate the comments and recommendations made by Honourable Members during the debate on our budget vote. We acknowledge that the road ahead is still long, but we draw solace from the fact that they continue to hold our hand as we walk this road. ***Esase indelendlela esihambayo!***

It is our commitment as the ANC-led government, under the stewardship of the Honourable Premier, to continue to steer the economic activities of the Province. Through the budget that we are requesting this afternoon, we commit to realise our Programme of Action for the financial year ending March 2014. As ***team dedet***, we will continue to be the symbol of hope for a brighter tomorrow. We believe that today, will be better than yesterday, and tomorrow, will be better than today.

As indicated, support to SMMEs and Co-operatives will remain high on our developmental agenda. We will thus continue to forge partnerships with social and business partners to realise this objective.

Indeed, ***working together, we can do more*** to reduce poverty, unemployment and inequality.

Honourable Speaker;

We appreciate that this august House has approved the budget we have requested, which is **R821 million, 567 thousand**.

We further commit to continue to update the House through our Portfolio Committee, on a quarter basis, on the progress made in implementing our Programme of Action. The Portfolio Committee continues to be a beacon of guidance, as we strive towards economic growth and development.

Once more, our profound gratitude goes to the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development; Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Honourable Member Refiloe Mahlobogoane, and her team for the thorough work and dedication in overseeing the complex work of our Department.

As I close Honourable Speaker;

I would like to share with you three (3) anecdotes:

The first one goes like this: Once, all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of the prayer, all people gathered but only one boy came with an umbrella.

That's FAITH!

In the second one:

When you throw a one year old baby in the air, he/she laughs because he/she knows his mother or father will catch him.

That's TRUST!

In the third and the last one:

Every night we go to bed, we have no assurance that we will wake up alive the next morning, but still we set alarm on to wake us up the next morning.

That's HOPE!

The moral of the three (3) anecdotes, our people have **FAITH, HOPE and TRUST** in our ability as the ANC-led government, to afford them a better life as we have over the past 19 years of our administration.

We dare not fail them!

Working together we can do more to reduce poverty, unemployment and inequality.

I thank you!