

***POLITICAL OVERVIEW BY THE MEC FOR FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM, MS NE HLOPHE, MPL, DURING DELIBERATIONS WITH THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PREMIER'S OFFICE; FINANCE; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM HELD AT THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE, RIVERSIDE PARK, CITY OF MBOMBELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY***

***Friday, 18 November 2022***

Chairperson and Members of the Portfolio Committee;

**Good Morning/ Lotjani!**

1. Chairperson, let me start by thanking you and the members of the Portfolio Committee for affording us this opportunity, to engage with the Committee on the work of our Department.
2. As a norm, I am accompanied by the capable and committed members of *the dedt* family, led by the acting Head of Department, Mr Nathaniel Sebitso, Chairpersons of the Boards and CEOs of our Public Entities, as well as their respective senior management teams.
3. Once I have concluded my Political Overview, the team will provide the Committee the details regarding the performance of the Department and its Entities.
4. Chairperson; our Public Entities, which are our Department's implementing agents, continue to perform our mandate successfully. This is even evidenced by the significant improvement on governance

issues, as evidenced by the MTPA having now joined their sister Entity, MER, in achieving a clean audit outcome. All is not lost with MEGA and the Department, as there are signs that they too, will soon achieve this elusive clean audit.

5. The MTPA continues to market and promote our Province as the tourist destination of choice, domestically and internationally, as well as preserving our fauna and flora for posterity.
6. The MER continues to diligently regulate both the gambling and liquor industries in the Province, and further collects all gambling levies and liquor license fees due to the Provincial Revenue Fund.
7. On the other hand, MEGA continues to promote and market Mpumalanga as the investment destination of choice, including providing financial support to SMMEs and aspirant business people, amongst others.
8. Chairperson, in relation to strengthening support to rural and township economies, we continue to roll-out the MEC's SMME Roadshow, which provides a platform for small businesses, including informal businesses, to interact with the MEC directly. During those Roadshows, we invite government's development finance institutions to join us, so that they could provide onsite and instant services to business and aspiring business people.
9. In addition, we have provided tools of trade, like business starter-pack equipment, such as industrial sewing and embroidery machines to

women cooperatives; baking ovens and equipment to baking cooperatives; salon and carwash equipment to youth-owned and women-owned businesses. It is our intention, to continue with this initiative throughout the entire financial year.

10. I must also indicate to the Committee that significant process has been done in recruiting and filling the vacant post of the Head of Department, as interviews have already been held. A recommendation is now ready and awaiting approval of the Executive Council. Let me also clarify that the mandate to appoint Accounting Officers of our Departments rests with the Office of the Premier, and as such, we do not have control over the recruitment process, as the Department.
11. Chairperson, before I close, I need to inform the Portfolio Committee that there's a difference of opinions between Organised Labour and the acting CEO of MTPA, which has resulted in the acting CEO being removed from his office by Organised Labour. Working with the Board, we're currently attending to the matter, and we will apprise the Committee once the matter is resolved.
12. Chairperson, once more, thank you very much for affording us this opportunity to engage with the Committee, on the work of *the dedt* family.
13. ***Let's grow the economy of Mpumalanga together!***

**I thank you Chairperson!**