

Honourable Speaker of the Provincial Legislature,
Honourable Premier, Rre Supra Mahumapelo,
Honourable Members of the Executive Council,
Honourable Members of the Legislature,
Your Worship Executive Mayors and Mayors of our Municipalities,
Honourable Leaders of Political Parties,
Our Esteemed Traditional Leaders,
The Director General of the Bokone Bophirima Provincial Government, Dr
Lydia Sebege and Other Heads of Administration in Government,
Acting HOD, Rre Vuyo Mbulawa,
Leaders of Labour Federations, Academics, Civil Society, Faith Based-
Organizations and Business,
Distinguished guests,
Comrades and Friends,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Baagi ba Bokone Bophirima,
Bagaetsho Dumelang!

Honourable Speaker and the House; it is always a great pleasure to serve our people. This assertion is born of the African National Congress' (ANC) "Ready to Govern" which is an ANC policy guideline for a democratic South Africa. It is the ANC's Ready to Govern affirmation that first said, the

provision of equitable health care should be guided by the aspirations of our people as enshrined in the Freedom Charter and by principles which reflect the Primary Health Care approach adopted by the World Health Organisation and the United Nations Children`s Fund at Alma Ata in 1978. Our glorious movement further asserted that, the primary health care approach is essentially that of community development. It aims to reduce inequalities in access to health services, promotes equitable distribution based on appropriate technology and integrates the many sectors of modern life such as education and housing. Further, it is based on full community participation.

Access to health care is a basic human right. This right is now incorporated in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights because of the ANC. So I say, it is always a great pleasure to service our people because this is what I stand for and it is what the ANC has taught me.

I stand here today to commend the radicalization of the ANC of the times of Nelson Mandela and other struggle icons which ensured all South Africans are equal before the law. Earlier this year, on the 11 February 2018 to be precise, we marked the 28 years since the release of President Nelson Mandela from the Victor Verster prison in 1990. The ANC President and the President of the country, Ntate Cyril Ramaphosa has declared that the ANC

has decided to use this whole year to honour Nelson Mandela because we want to reconnect with our people and go back to the roots of our movement. At the roots of this gigantic movement we find men and women who always found it to be a great pleasure to serve our people. These are men and women who were ready to die for our liberation.

In this year of Nelson Mandela, we salute him and a number of heroes and heroines of that first generation of the ANC Youth League. Together with the likes of Sisulu, Peter Mda and Lembede they founded the ANC Youth League and radicalized the ANC, forcing it to adopt the militant 1949 Programme of Action. Together with the Tambos and Sisulus he was in the forefront of the Defiance Campaign and the Freedom Charter. So this year, in line with President Cyril Ramaphosa's call, we need to work hard to inculcate the values that Mandela stood for, the values of selflessness, batho pele, Ubuntu and to build a non-racial, non-sexist South Africa.

Our desire to serve the people is first and foremost also informed by the need to listen to their views and suggestions. It is for this reason that in 2017, we embarked on community imbizos across the Province as part of obtaining feedback from our people about the services we provide. This is over and above the engagements we have with our governance structures in hospital boards and clinic committees which represents our people. I

must say I am humbled by the kind of engagements we had with our people. Others made meaningful inputs and contributions on how we can improve health services. We are sure to incorporate their ideas and suggestions in our plans for 2018/19.

I hereby present the Final Budget allocation for 2018/19 and Indicative Figures for the MTEF period which is shared by eight (8) key Departmental programmes as follows:

MTEF ALLOCATION 2018/19 - 2020/21

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
PROGRAMME	"000"	"000"	"000"
Administration	344 922	363 415	383 655
District Health Services	5 662 214	6 140 773	6 682 833
Emergency Medical Services	335 873	358 518	387 780
Provincial Hospital Services	1 726 655	1 879 496	2 023 661
Central Hospital Services	1 678 819	1 813 960	1 934 139
Health Science and Training	422 143	450 970	478 279
Health Care Support Services	291 673	305 592	338 556
Health Facilities and Maintenance	691 269	621 314	655 501
Total	11 153 568	11 934 038	12 884 404
Budget increase	5,22%	7,00%	7,96%

Honourable Speaker and the House, this is a total budget of Eleven Billion One Hundred Fifty Three Million, Five Hundred Sixty Eight Thousands (11 153 568). This budget is a 5% increment from 2017/18 budget. The projection for the remainder of the MTEF stands from 7 to nearly 8%. This will however be diminished by accruals.

We are determined to use this budget for what it is meant for. The Department will ensure that most of the accruals are paid by the end of second quarter. Focus will be on prioritizing contractual obligations to ensure continuous service delivery at a level of health institutions. We plan to equip financial staff members to ensure uniformity in rendering services. We are in the process of reviewing current contracts. The principle of value for money will be strictly adhered to while we also strengthen monitoring to ensure good governance.

We welcome a decision by Cabinet to place our Department under Section 100(1) (b) of the Constitution. In the face of the challenges we faced in recent times, this intervention is needed. The Department is aware of the implications and we will together with a team from National review our plans and some of the commitments made in this Budget Speech as they guide us. We are more than ready to work with a team of professionals and specialists who I have no doubt are capable of assisting us to turn the

situation around. We already had a few meetings and engagements with the teams that will assist us and I must say the commitment and eagerness to get going shows how serious this government of the ANC is about ensuring quality health care services reaches our people.

The Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development and the Public Accounts Committee have played their role to hold us accountable. As you are aware, the Honourable Premier has handed a forensic report on Mediosa contract. We will proceed to formulate charges and institute disciplinary actions against those who are found to have flouted the rules. The Department will continue to cooperate with law enforcement agencies and forensic investigations instituted to get to the bottom of all wrong doing in relation to all the other contracts which are questionable.

The current labour unrest has severely affected health services in the Province. We have seen disruptions of services at about six clinics around Mahikeng. Lehurutshe and Zeerust hospitals were also disrupted and patients had to be evacuated. The result of this was overcrowding at Mahikeng Provincial Hospital. Subsequent, the services at Mahikeng Provincial Hospital were also disrupted leaving patients with no service point. Unprecedented acts of intimidation characterize the current situation with nurses being intimidated and patients removed from wards in

hospitals. We have seen this escalate to Taung, Bloemhof and now Klerksdorp and Jouberton. The medical depot was also severely affected leading to shortage of essential drugs and medical supplies. The Provincial Head Office has been rendered ineffective since our employees decided to embark on illegal and unprotected protest action.

As we emerge from this difficult period, I wish to thank the South African Military Health Services for having responded to the call for duty when our people desperately needed them. The SANDF came in and stabilized the situation particularly at Mahikeng Provincial Hospital and the Medical Depot. They will continue to be with us until our facilities are back to optimum health care provision. Doctors without Borders are also now on board providing care in critical wards at Mahikeng and Job Shimankana Tabane Hospitals.

The Task Team of Three (3) MECs appointed by the Premier to investigate and bring the Department and Nehawu to develop interventions is welcomed and applauded.

I must commend the Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi for promptness and eagerness to find a solution to our challenges. The Minister had a number of fruitful meetings with Nehawu and ourselves. Now that National

Government is on board, I have confidence in all of us having a combined wisdom to address the demands of our workers and the challenges before us.

We emerge from a difficult period as a Department but I have no doubt we can reclaim our glory years. You will remember that just a few years back the North West Department of Health was second best to only the Western Cape in terms of good governance (audit outcome) and service delivery. This is the Department that was the first to cure XDR TB patient and that recently performed the first ever heart operation in the Province in partnership with Netcare. Our successes are indisputable! Since 2014, and just to name a few this Department has also succeeded in achieving, among others, the following:

- Four (4) milk banks established in the province(one in each district)
- Human Papilloma Virus vaccination campaign for grade 4 girl learners preventing cervical cancer has been introduced at all public schools in the province and is continuing. Human Vaccination has recorded an achievement of 81.6% against a target of 80%.
- The Province managed to have all the four district having decentralized MDR units
- Through partnership with the AURUM Institute funded by Global fund, all Correctional Centres in the province are receiving TB services.

- This Department introduced the Central Chronic Medicine Dispensing and Distribution (CCMDD), a programme that provides alternative chronic medication access for public sector patients. CCMDD makes a six months prescription for stable patients on chronic medicine. Patient collects the remaining prescription at pick up point at two months interval. This has drastically reduced queues at facilities particularly clinics.
- The Department of Health managed to conduct operations whereby cancers in the brain, spine, stomach were done and we saw patients improved quality of life and care. This has reduced referrals to Chris Hani Baragwanth hospital.
- The Department is making progress in developing Tertiary services.
- Cardiothoracic surgery where patients with different diseases of the lung cavity were operated except the heart.
- Pediatric Surgery whereby children are now operated in the hospital
- In 2017/18, the Province saw the expansion of chemotherapy services that was achieved through renovating ward 8, converting it into a chemotherapy suite with increased capacity to accommodate demands. Treatment of various categories of cancers is now achieved without delays.

Despite the successes and strides we made, we still believe that there is

more to be done for our people. It is for this reason that we continue to build decent health facilities closer to where our people live as we broaden access to health care. Projects that were completed in 2017/18 are: New Weltevrede clinic and Bophelong Psychiatric Hospital Staff Accommodation. Projects that will be completed in 2018/19 are: New Mmakaunyana Clinic, Replacement of Madikwe Clinic, New Mathibistad CHC, Upgrading of Boitekong CHC, Brits Staff Accommodation, New Sekhing CHC and New Jouberton CHC.

The construction of the following multiyear projects will be started in 2018/19: Replacement of Motswedi Clinic, Installation of new Boiler at Mahikeng Provincial Hospital (MPH) and Replacement of water supply network at Itsoseng CHC.

President Cyril Ramphosa has set out clear marching orders in the State of the Nation Address which include:

- Scaling up our testing and treating campaign and to initiate an additional two million people on Antiretroviral treatment by December 2020;
- To confront lifestyles diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes, cancers and cardiovascular diseases;
- Launch a huge cancer campaign similar to the HIV counselling and

testing campaign;

- Implementation of universal health coverage through the National Health Insurance.

Honourable Speaker and Members of the House, we provide health care services in four approaches being prevention of diseases, diagnosis, treatment and control. Male Medical Circumcision (MMC) is one of our prevention programme which we have been implementing and have seen great success. We are planning to have an MMC summit in 2018. The intention is to engage stakeholders and develop a strategy on an integrated model. MMC achieved a target of 29 891 against 25 275. Clients totaling 777 977 were tested for HIV in the year 2017/18. Male condoms distribution rate is at 32,6% against a target 28%.

Maternal deaths have been reduced to 116/100k against a target of 120/100k whilst early neonatal deaths were reduced to 7.9% against a target of 9%. Cervical cancer screening has been increased to 68.5 against a target of 65% and this will further improve with the implementation of the new cervical and breast cancer policy guidelines. Maternal child transmission of HIV has reduced to 1% against a target of 1.5 towards reaching the 2030 vision of an HIV free generation.

We are also doing well in the diagnosis of diseases. With TB as a leading cause of death along HIV and AIDS in South Africa and around the world, it should be pleasing to know that we are now able to do a rapid test, scan or diagnosis of TB. The Province has acquired machines that are able to detect TB quicker. You will also know that we recently acquired an MRI scan which gives us the capacity to perform very complex operations. In one case, a 3d picture was taken by use of the CT Scan machine which was able to show a whole sharp side of the knife was impacted and buried into the brain of patient with only the handle side of the knife sticking outside. This led to yet another successful operation.

As part of up-scaling treatment of diseases, we now have a dialysis machine at Mahikeng Provincial Hospital. You will remember that we used to have it only at Klerksdorp-Tshepong and later at Job Shimankana Tabane Hospital.

I take this opportunity to applaud Taung District Hospital which has reached 200 patients cured of MDR. This attests to our ability to not only prevent and diagnose diseases but also to treat and cure them. I also commend the work done by our TB Research team at Klerksdorp led by Dr Ebrahim Variava. Research done in North West has shown a high yield of both TB and HIV contacts of TB patients and we are now doing clinical studies to determine the best way of preventing drug resistance.

The Honourable Premier has in the State of the Province Address emphasized the need to improve on healthy lifestyles. We will continue to improve on healthy lifestyle campaigns reaching more people at the work place and in our communities. The Department will also continue with revitalization of the HCT campaign with the implementation of HIV self-screening in order to reach the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets. We have since established a Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) site at one of the NUW campuses. We will host a summit for Medical Male Circumcision with all relevant stakeholders such as Dikgosi, RHR unit, traditional health practitioners and communities in order to increase the uptake of MMC and incorporate traditional practices with modern medicine. Our plan is to integrate TB and ART electronic systems in 75% of the facilities so as to manage both conditions better.

Re ikemiseditse go fedisa dintsho tsa baimana le masea.

The Department will therefore implement the integrated plan for reducing mortality among mothers, newborns, and under-fives. The plan will form part of the new 5 year Maternal, neonatal and Child Strategic Plan that is aimed at the country meeting the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 targets as well as global strategy that targets elimination of avoidable

deaths. The strategy is building on the extensive work done to date by the three Ministerial Committees. MomConnect is implemented in all facilities providing antenatal care.

Our diseases control strategies are also effective. Whilst Listeriosis has become a serious threat to the lives of our people, we are working around the clock to contain it. The North West Province has 30 confirmed Listeriosis cases. Eight of these cases died, meaning that the case fatality rate is 26.6%. District Environmental Health Practitioners (EHPS) and Provincial EHPS teamed up, investigated Listeria cases, took samples from affected households, and food handling industries such as Abattoirs. Community awareness raising was done through various radio stations, handing out of posters and pamphlets and visits to schools and early learning centres. The EHPS also ensured the smooth running of the recall of affected processed foods. Vigilance has been continuously exercised, and an effective surveillance put in place. Weekly reports are sent to NDoH and outcomes of cases captured. WhatsApp has been extensively used to communicate between all provinces and NDoH EHPS. Currently a marked decline in the number of cases has been witnessed. The recall of affected products is believed to have greatly reduced the incidence of the disease. We will continue to spread education, awareness and prevention messages.

We are engaged in assessing and intervening to reduce the high litigation bill of the department which if left unmonitored, have the ability to create serious shortfalls in the budget allocated. The Honourable Premier in his State of the Province address has stressed the need for combined and coordinated approach to deal with this challenge.

Our emergency medical rescue services have been on the spotlight. We will in 2018/19 procure an additional 40 ambulances and 20 planned patient transport vehicles. Currently we are operating 60 ambulances in the Province. The Province has 49 ambulances from Private EMS service providers doing Inter-facility Transfers. The Province has a plan to scale down the use of private EMS service providers and upgrade the service going forward. We will therefore capacitate the government EMS service to ensure that we have adequate resources to respond to emergencies across the Province.

We are committed to ensuring availability of essential drugs and medical supplies in all our facilities all the time. I am happy to report that a hospital dashboard has been rolled out to all hospitals to monitor availability of medicines at hospital level. Availability of medicines has improved to 86% (before the labour unrest and community protests) although supplier challenges such as delayed and short supply are still experienced. Material

handling equipment i.e pallet jacks, electric stackers, steel ladders have been procured and have improved operations in the warehouse.

In 2018/19, we will ensure continued monitoring of availability of hospital level medications through the dashboard and implementing interventions where availability challenges are experienced. We will also fast track implementation of direct delivery of medicines to the hospitals by ensuring that 70% are directly delivered by the end of the financial year.

Jaaka ele taelo ya Mopresidente Ramaphosa, Lefapha le tla dira ka thata go itlhaganedisa lenaane la National Health Insurance (NHI) gore baagi botlhe ba fitlhelelwe ke direlo tsa maemo tsa boitekanelo go as kgathalesege letseno LA bona.

We know that a lot has been done already to put systems in place and to get some work implemented in phases at the NHI pilot site but we will do an assessment of the work done thus far. Guided by the National intervention team, we will establish urgent areas that need intervention as we continue to fast track implementation of universal health coverage through the National Health Insurance in response to the President's call.

Honourable Speaker and the House, we are in dire need of qualified and a

committed health workforce. It is for this reason that, a total of four hundred and twenty (420) professional nurses have been produced in 2017 from College and North West University. One hundred and sixty eight (168) Post basic nurses graduated in 2017. Two hundred and two (202) nurses were certificated as Enrolled and Auxiliary nurses in 2017.

A total of 30 (thirty) students graduated in medicine in 2017/18. The breakdown is as follows: eighteen (18) in the Nelson Mandela/ Fidel Castro programme and 12 (twelve) in the local universities. A total of 22 (twenty two) students graduated as Allied Health Professionals during 2017/2018.

Jaaka motsogapele a kile a bua a re “gaabo motho go thebephatwa”, re solofetse palo ee kgotsafatsang ya bana ba rona ba re ba rometseng kwa Cuba. Bao ba feditseng ba boela gae go tla go direla bagaetsho.

In July of this year, more than 700 medical students, will be leaving Cuba to come and do their final 6th year of their medical degree course in SA. The integration programme for these 6th year students will take place in a period of 18 months. 65 of these students come from this Province. In the following year, 2019, another estimated 100 or more of the 6th year integration programme will be expected from this Province. At the end of next year, we will have 65 new interns, and at the end of 2020, we will be

having another estimated number of over 100 new interns in our hospitals. These are students who were born and grew up in this Province. We are going to be able to staff our hospitals and clinics with medical officers who come from those communities that these hospitals and clinics serve. This demonstrates that our long term plan to deal with shortage of health professionals especially doctors is finally beginning to bear fruits. I believe the time is coming in this country and Province when our health workers will speak the same language with our patients.

As I move towards conclusion, I want to take this opportunity to thank all our developmental partners, the private sector, the mining companies and the academic institutions for their contributions in providing health care to our people. May you continue to partner with us in 2018/19.

I thank the Portfolio Committee and the Public Accounts Committee for their oversight. May you continue to be even more vigilant in 2018/19. The Office of the Auditor General and the Provincial Treasury has also been assisting us to better manage our limited resources, I appreciate your role. We want to continue to strengthen intergovernmental relations and the role of all our sister departments is highly appreciated.

I thank the African National Congress for the faith in my abilities and will

continue to serve the ANC as a party that deployed me.

As always, my family remains my backbone and I thank my wife and the children for their support.

As we honour our struggle icon and former President Nelson Mandela, I am reminded of his words, when he said, "the greatest glory in living, lies not in never falling but in rising every time we fall".

We had challenges and setbacks but we are even more determined to work harder and with your support we will no doubt take the health of our people to a higher level!

Bagaetsho, "letsema le thata ka mong". A emeng ka dinao re direle bagaetsho! Fa o re, "Roma Nna", o be o ikemeseditse go dira le rona go direla setshaba sa rona ka boineelo.

I thank you!