



**Mopani District
Municipality**



2026/2027

BUDGET SPEECH

29 MAY 2026

DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE



**Executive Mayor
Cllr Pule Shayi**

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SPEECH BY HIS WORSHIP, THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, CLLR. PULE SHAYI, DELIVERED DURING A SPECIAL COUNCIL SITTING ON THE OCCASION OF THE ADOPTION OF THE IDP AND BUDGET FOR THE 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEAR ON 29 MAY 2026

Madam Speaker, Cllr. Martha Maswanganyi;

Whip of Council, Cllr. Lewele;

Members of the Mayoral Committee;

Our royal leaders present here; Matswarathamaga, Maaparankwe,ba ka mafateng a matelele, Va Ndabezitha na milosa;

Chair of Chairs and All Chairs of our Section 79 Committees;

Chair of MPAC, Cllr. Mothomogolo Phetole Samuel;

Leaders of Opposition Parties;

Va-Vukosi Tatana Shilowa, the acting MM, your team of Senior Managers and All Staff of Council present;

Chair of the Audit Committee, Vho Tshikhobi;

Fellow Councillors;

Ladies and gentlemen

Disclaimer: Odas Ngobeni did not contribute to writing the budget speech, as he chose to move on to become the Mayor of Greater Tzaneen. To address this dilemma, I entrusted both Thulani Twala and Dr Seshoene to assist. The first draft came with the following: ***Takhala tiri panjira iyi kale - a Chichewa adage, meaning that we have been doing this before, and we will continue.***

Ka kgotlelela, but when I came across the following quote: 'A gegewe perd mak nie 'n mens in die hak nie'. This is an Afrikaans adage

which means that one should appreciate only what is given unto you... Ka nama ka re ke kgopela go ngwala.

We take this opportunity, with the utmost humility, to wish Hon. Mayor Odas Ngobeni all the best in his new responsibilities.

We meet today with the humble privilege of standing before this august House of the District Council to deliver the Medium-Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework of the District Municipality for the 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29 financial years, through which we seek to continue bringing about the much-needed change in the lives of our people and improving the social well-being of our communities.

Madam Speaker, beyond Mamelodi Sundowns being crowned African champions for the second time, and Bafana Bafana qualifying and playing their opening match against Mexico — while we proudly say RE BAFANA KAOFELA and wish them well tonight against Nicaragua — the achievement that resonates most with our Council is that of Ezimnyama Ngenkani, Fasa Ndoda emnyama. After 14 years, they succeeded in securing the league title. Although our budget is affordable and shows much improvement, we missed a funded budget by narrow margins. I am confident that we have a credible and implementable funding plan that should enable us to adopt a funded budget before the 2028 financial year, as directed by Treasury. Like Kaizer Chiefs, we seem to be improving.

As councillors, we are gravitating towards the end of our term of office, and most of you might feel anxious, stressed, and perhaps already depressed.

In his book *The Honour to Serve*, MK combatant James Ncgulu, in describing the character of an MK soldier, uses a quote from Black Panther leader George Jackson in his book *Soledad Brother*, which says: **I don't care how long I live. Over this I have no control, but I do care about what kind of life I live, and I can control this. I may not live another five minutes, but it will be five minutes definitely on my terms.**

We can use the last five months of our term to deliver services on the terms of the people we are serving, and not worry about what we do not control, but rather take advantage of what we do control — the budget to serve the people.

The month of May is also celebrated as Africa Month, and this year we commemorate it under the theme: **“Assuring sustainable water availability and safe sanitation systems to achieve the goals of Agenda 2063.”** The main event was held on 25th May 2026 in Mfoa Plenary Hall in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo.

Coinciding with this theme, God and our ancestors have been gracious to us as the people of Mopani District and the neighbouring communities of Vhembe District by filling the N’wamanungu Dam (formerly known as Middle Letaba Dam) to beyond 100% for the first time in over two decades, as a result of the recent rainfall. This has brought great relief to our people along that belt.

The celebration of the dam levels was also followed by the release of the Independent Investigative Panel Report on Middle Letaba Dam by the Minister of Water and Sanitation on 13th May 2026 in Ndengeza village.

The report, in its context, places additional responsibilities on us as the District Municipality to collaborate with other sector departments and stakeholders to ensure that the much-awaited water resources of the dam benefit our communities directly, and permanently resolve the challenges of water provision, while creating new ecological, water, and tourism economies in the beneficiary communities of Greater Giyani and Greater Letaba Municipalities.

During this year’s State of the Nation Address and Budget Speech respectively, both the President of the Republic and the Minister of Finance emphasised the need to prioritise infrastructure investment and development as a catalyst for the socio-economic growth of our country.

The President’s and the Minister’s sentiments were also echoed by our MEC for Public Works and Infrastructure and the MEC for Treasury respectively in their budget speeches, reaffirming direct budget funding for infrastructure delivery in the Province, despite the limitations of our financial resources.

Minister Godongwana also made the following observations, among others, in terms of our economic and fiscal outlook:

- **That our economic outlook will have an average growth rate of 1.8% in the medium term, and it is expected to reach 2% only in 2028;**
- **That in terms of our Fiscal outlook, the deficit has narrowed to 4,5% of the GDP in the 2025/26 financial year, and it is projected to fall by 4% in 2026/27 and 3,1 in 2027/28; and**
- **That the Infrastructure delivery spending is expected to exceed 1 trillion rand over the medium term.**

Equally, in terms of our national trajectory, we must also take note that for the 2026/27 financial year, the overall direct allocations to local government amount to **R182.3 billion**, made up of **R110.1 billion** in the local government equitable share, **R54.7 billion** in direct conditional grants, and **R17.5 billion** in the general fuel levy shared with metros. These allocations alleviate some of the financial pressures, particularly in basic services, where the costs of providing services are rising. The overall direct allocations to local government grow by an annual average rate of 3.1 per cent, and the local government equitable share and related allocations grow by 4.4 per cent over the 2026 MTEF period.

Following on the instructive approach by the President, as a District Municipality, we are also delivering a budget that largely prioritises water infrastructure development within our service delivery mandate, notwithstanding our limited budget that is solely grant dependent.

This situation reminds us of an episode in George Orwell's satirical book *Animal Farm*, where the animals were supposed to be supplied with milk, but it was allegedly reported not to be enough. Napoleon had to remind the other animals: *"Never mind the milk, comrades; the hay is waiting. Comrade Snowball will lead you, and I will follow."*

Now I say to the people of Mopani: never mind the limitations of the budget we are passing; services are not only awaited, but are already being rolled out in our communities, and we dare not fail you.

Madam Speaker, we want to confirm to this Council and the people of Mopani that we have reached this stage of our budgetary processes through the support of all our strategic partners, just as in the previous IDP and budget engagement sessions.

We engaged all of them at various levels, and what we are tabling before this august sitting is the product of that collaboration. We met with executives from our local municipalities, the Local House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership, and various stakeholders and interest groups across all municipalities. We also thank and congratulate our local municipalities for the successful sessions we held. This was DDM in action, and it must be strengthened in future. In the weeks ahead, we will deliver the State of the District Address, which Councillor Mabasa is eagerly anticipating. He accuses me of keeping silent despite the visible progress this Municipality has made. I told him to list those achievements, and he has already submitted 21 of them, with more still to come, so that I do not keep quiet.

Therefore, Madam Speaker and Honourable Councillors, in compliance with Section 24 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 56 of 2003, we are pleased to announce in this august House a total budget of **R2 651 665 billion** for the 2026/27 financial year. For the two outer years, the budget amounts to **R2 795 003** for 2027/28 and **R2 852 824 billion** for the 2028/29 financial year respectively.

Of the total budget of R2.651 billion for the 2026/27 financial year, **R2.052 billion (77%)** is allocated to the operating budget, **R523 602 million (19.7%)** to the capital budget, and **R84 000 000 (3.1%)** is budgeted towards servicing the historic debt of LNW and DWS.

It will thus be observed that our total annual budget increment is gradual, from the approved total budget of **R2 575 099 936** in the 2025/26 financial year to the coming one, while still increasing in the two (02) outer years, and this has positively affected the municipal grading.

The positive effect on our municipal grading also implies that our discipline in financial management has earned a vote of confidence from the oversight bodies. We will therefore have to maintain the same fiscal discipline of the past years in this financial year as well, cutting our coat according to our cloth.

Madam Speaker, Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to borrow from the metaphor of the water droplets drilling through a rock as used by President Xi Jinping in his book: **Up and Out of Poverty**, and I quote:

“Rock and water are two opposing elements that are used to symbolise dogged stubbornness and gentle fluidity, yet despite being gentle, water drills through solid rock over time. A single drop of water is small and insubstantial....it will die a cruel death in any battle with a rock, yet in a brief moment of sacrifice, even though it cannot see its own value and achievements, it is embodied within the countless drops of water already fallen, and the triumph of finally drilling through the rock...” close quote.

We are therefore presenting this 2026/27 Municipality budget, fully aware of the stubbornness of the scourge of inequality, poverty, and unemployment that still persist in our District, but encouraged by the fighting spirit of the water droplets through the rock.

I therefore, Madam Speaker, present the MTREF allocations in line with our Key Performance Areas:

1. Municipal Transformation and Organisational Development:

Fellow Councillors, in the recent past our work has been hamstrung by the frequent breakdown of our fleet in the water and sanitation department, and this has negatively affected our efficient and rapid response to water provision services.

We have therefore resolved to budget an amount of **R20 000 000.00** to resolve this challenge and restore our agility in responding to and attending to water supply queries and services.

In line with the Determination of Upper Limits, Councillor remuneration is increased from R24 million to **R26 million** to cater for the increment based on the determination of upper limits.

Employee-related costs will thus amount to **R621 687 million**, which equates to **30.29%** of the total operating budget. The 2025/26 cost-of-living increase, as per National Treasury MFMA Circular No. 130 (**CPI 5.01%**), was used when calculating the 2026/27 COE budget.

These costs have been increased by 4.75% as per the SALGA Collective Agreement, with effect from 1 July 2026, representing an increase based on the average CPI percentage plus 0.75%. In the event that the average CPI percentage for the period is less than 4% and/or higher than 7%, the CPI will be deemed to be 4% and/or 7% respectively.

2. Basic Service Delivery:

The Inventory Consumed amount will be **R371 580 million**, which is **18.1%** of the OPEX allocated for the purchase of bulk water from suppliers i.e. Lepelle Northern Water and the Department of Water Affairs & Sanitation and other materials /Repairs and Maintenance.

Bulk purchases will amount to **R280 million**, which is **13%** of the OPEX allocated for the purchase of bulk water from suppliers i.e. Lepelle Northern Water and the Department of Water Affairs & Sanitation. This will be used to service the current accounts with the institutions.

Repairs, Maintenance, and Bulk Purchases of Inventory Consumed will be budgeted at **R439 million** in the year under review. This is informed by the high value of the asset register and ageing infrastructure, which require extensive maintenance,

as well as high bulk water purchases from Lepelle Northern Water, including the historical debt owed to LNW and DWS.

A total of **R4 800 000.00** is budgeted for the repair and maintenance of our sewer network. This will also be supplemented by our commitment to ensure that we spend 10% of MIG to resolve the sewer network crisis in our townships.

As part of our road safety work, we have set aside an amount of **R700 000.00** to install roadside monitoring cameras in high-risk areas such as Bindzulani Cross on the R36, the Lifestyle Centre traffic lights on the R71, Giyani Entrance on the R80, as well as the Lebamba four-way stop on the R40 in Hoedspruit.

Madam Speaker, we are putting aside a budget of **R10 000 000.00** for disaster relief support in the District, up from **R1 million** in the previous financial year. The recent flooding has exposed the high level of vulnerability of our communities during times of disaster. This will include the purchase of a 12 x 7 steel-structure tent fitted with a movable ventilation system for the evacuation of people during disasters.

Even though no amount of money will ever be sufficient to support this work, we believe that ten million rand will, by and large, cover a greater number of affected people when disaster befalls our District.

Ladies and gentlemen, capital projects are at the core of our basic service delivery mandate on water and sanitation infrastructure and its maintenance. Some of these projects are multi-year and are therefore budgeted as such. The projects are budgeted using a zero-based budgeting approach based on the National Treasury gazetted funds and the approved technical reports from the Department of Water and Sanitation.

The following, therefore, are our budgeted capital projects for the MTREF:

In Tzaneen: Ritavi 2 Water Scheme sub-scheme 2 has **R103 157,481** set aside for the construction of bulk mains to various service reservoirs, refurbishment of booster pump stations, internal reticulation, and commissioning.

Lephepane Bulk Water Project will be funded with **R23 796,396** for internal reticulation, a borehole augmentation system, and refurbishment of existing bulk mains, while the **Tours Water Project** will receive **R34 782.608** for internal reticulation to villages and the installation of elevated tanks.

Thapane Regional Water Scheme will receive **R25 771.550** for the refurbishment of the water treatment works and bulk lines, including the construction of a command reservoir.

In Letaba, we have set aside **R17.603.004** to complete the long-outstanding work for the **Sefotse Ditshosing Bulk Water Supply** and reticulation.

In Maruleng, Mametsa Sekororo Regional Water Scheme will receive **R170 416 000** in RBIG funding to continue bulk water supply.

In **Ba-Phalaborwa**, we will complete the **Lulekani Water Scheme (Benfarm)** using **R10.035,440** for internal reticulation connected to boreholes, including commissioning. **The Makhushane Water Scheme** will receive a boost of **R17 391,304** to continue internal reticulation to villages and the construction of bulk lines to service reservoirs.

1. Under Rural Household Sanitation:

- ✓ An amount of **R43 478 261.00** is budgeted for the 2026/27 financial year; **R52 278 239.00** and **R52 278 239.00** for the 2027/28 and 2028/29 outer years respectively for Greater Giyani Municipality.
- ✓ For Greater Letaba Municipality, we set aside an amount of **R42 745 444.00** for the 2026/27 financial year.
- ✓ **R40 329 634.00** is set aside for Greater Tzaneen Municipality.
- ✓ **R8 673 385.00** is set aside for Maruleng Municipality. And

- ✓ An amount of **R1 294 603** is budgeted for implementing Rural Household Sanitation in Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality.
2. Infrastructure projects remain our ultimate solutions to the sustainable provision of water to our communities. In this regard, the following will be our budget allocations:
- ✓ **R11 345 100.00** is budgeted for the Giyani WWTW repairs and maintenance for the year 2026/27; **R11 345 100.00** for both 2027/28 and 2028/29 financial years respectively;
 - ✓ For Nkowankowa WWTW repairs and maintenance, we have set aside **R16 785 367.00** for the 2026/27 financial year, as well as **R16 785 367.00** for both the two (02) outer years;
 - ✓ We will use **R17 352 328.00** for the repair and maintenance of Kgapane WWTW in 2026/27, and **R17 352 328.00** for both the 2027/28 and 2028/29 financial years;
 - ✓ In Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, an amount of **R11 354 808.00** will be set aside for the repair and maintenance of both the 2026/27, 2027/28, and 2028/29 financial years. Another **R12 682 525.00** will be used for the repair and maintenance of the Namakgale WWTW in 2026/27 and also 2027/28, 2028/29 outer years. A further **R7 608 494.00** will be budgeted for the Lulekani WWTW repairs and maintenance in 2026/27, 2027/28, and 2028/29 financial years respectively; and
 - ✓ **R7 267 734.00** is also set aside for the Lenyenye WWTW repairs and maintenance in 2026/27, and an additional **R7 267 734.00** for both 2027/28 and 2028/29 outer years.

I am also pleased to announce that in supplement to our work and commitment to sustainable water supply in the District, we are now ready to implement **Phase 2A Giyani Ministerial Intervention Water Project**, implemented in terms of the WSIG Schedule 6B indirect grant.

An amount of **R1, 5 billion** is approved by DWS for the 2026/27 financial year to continue with the project in the total of 15 villages in Greater Giyani Municipality. And

the Deputy President of the Republic has already communicated with my office indicating his intention to visit us for monitoring of the progress on this intervention project in a very foreseeable future.

Furthermore, in tapping on the positive developments around N'wamanungu Dam and the envisaged government work there, as the District Municipality we will also allocate an amount of **R23 702 786.00** in the outer year of 2027/28 to refurbish the Middle Letaba Water Treatment Plan. This will be a great boost to the sustainable supply of water services in Greater Giyani Municipality.

3. Local Economic Development:

Ladies and gentlemen, in response to the flood disasters that affected our district in the last month of last year and at the beginning of 2026, the Provincial Government deemed it appropriate to redirect the budget allocated for hosting the Marula Festival in Ba-Phalaborwa and use it to supplement disaster relief programmes.

It is against that background that, as the District Municipality, we will set aside an amount of **R400 000.00** to support the re-hosting of this important social cohesion and economic tourism programme in 2027.

An amount of **R3 500 000.00** is budgeted to establish a corporate GIS infrastructure. This will go a long way in revolutionising our approach to LED support, as well as ensuring real-time data on our systems.

Honourable Councillors, we are pleased to announce that an amount of **R15 000 000.00** is budgeted for the 2026/27 financial year to employ **291** EPWP borehole operators. In the two (02) outer years, the budget will be **R15 750 000.00** and **R16 537 500.00** respectively.

This will not only go a long way in creating the much-needed employment opportunities for our people but will also ensure the efficiency of our water provision service, particularly in the rural villages of our District.

In terms of our work to uplift the lives of young people in the District, the Municipality has signed a five-year Memorandum of Agreement with the NYDA for the sole purpose of establishing a Mopani Youth Fund that will prioritise support for youth entrepreneurs in the District. This fund will be capitalised by an equitable contribution from both the District Municipality and the NYDA.

The fund will be launched in June during Youth Month celebrations, and we have set aside an amount of **R2 000 000.00** as the Municipality's contribution to the initial **R4 million** available for the 2026/27 financial year.

The Municipality will increase its contribution to the Fund to **R2 100 000.00** and to **R2 205 000.00** in the 2027/28 and 2028/29 outer years respectively.

4. Spatial Rationale:

Dr Monakedi, we will avail a total of **R2 100 000.00** in the next financial year to support the township establishment of Maphalle and Meidingen in Greater Letaba, and Majeje in Ba-Phalaborwa respectively.

We are also setting aside **R300 000.00** to implement our climate change projects. Additionally, an amount of **R1 000 000.00** will be availed for the Disaster Recovery Plan Review.

This will assist us in moving from current reactive mitigation approaches to more effective and efficient preventive measures.

5. Municipal Financial Viability:

Madam Speaker, to ensure our continued financial viability as a Municipality, we will enforce cost-containment measures to enable us to generate a surplus to service historic debts.

Therefore, the Municipality's interest on investment is budgeted at **R30 million** for the 2026/27 financial year, which is the same amount as the adjusted budget for the 2025/26 financial year.

The **Debt Impairment and Depreciation** allocation of **R389 286 million**, which equates to **18.97%** of the total operating budget, is influenced by the budgetary treatment prescribed in the GRAP 1 Accounting Standard.

Based on the audited outcomes for Depreciation and amortisation in 2024/25 financial year of **R236 million** and the budget amount of **R300 million** in the 2024/25 financial year, the Depreciation is budgeted at **R285 million** for the 2026/27 financial year.

In terms of the 2026/27 projections, water revenue will be **R388 million** and sanitation revenue will be **R70 million**. This is based on the tariffs as approved by the District Municipality in consultation with all locals. On average, all municipalities' basic tariffs have been increased to be cost-reflective.

Therefore, for the next financial year, the tariffs per municipality will be as follows: GTM will be **R11.33 per KL**; BPM **R10.47 per KL**; GLM **R11.33 per KL**; GGM **R11.33 per KL**; and Maruleng will be **R6.94 per KL**.

In determining these standard tariffs, we have taken into consideration a balance between affordability and cost-reflectiveness to ensure that the service is sustainable and that healthy payment levels are maintained for all local municipalities.

Contracted services are budgeted at R381 million due to high litigation register and security services.

Finance charges have been reduced from R30 million in 2025/26 to **R20 million** in 2026/27 due to our ability to honour both historic debts and current accounts with our major creditors.

Contracted services amount to **R460 500 million**, which equates to **22.44%** of the operational expenditure. This item includes payments for security services, legal services, water tankers, consultants (financial and technical), and contractors for the repair and maintenance of infrastructure. This expenditure is linked to existing contractual commitments.

Madam Speaker, we have driven successful Hin'wa Mati programmes in many of our villages as part of Operation Fix All. But despite these successes, many of our boreholes are not energised.

In this regard, we are setting aside **R45 000 000.00** for Eskom to energise our boreholes and electrify our plants. This will be supplemented by **R60 000 000.00** and **R65 000 000.00** in the outer years respectively.

On reflection, we are very conscious that in our 2026/27 budget, we continue to have a budget that is not fully funded in terms of the prescripts of the Municipal Finance Management Act. We remain fully aware, despite all forms of ignominy and chagrin, that from 2020/21 to date, our budget as the District Municipality has never been funded. We are also fully aware of the directives by National Treasury that all municipalities should pass fully funded budgets by the year 2028.

As we table this budget today, we do so having developed a concrete funding plan to fill the gaps, and we continue to engage Provincial Treasury for guidance and support in this regard.

Additionally, it should be encouraging to note that we are currently signing the Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with local municipalities which will ensure efficient repayment on agreed provisioning of water services, thus also assisting in filling the much-needed funding gaps in our budget.

Our budget funding plan is also alive to the following facts: that we have signed repayment agreements with DWS and Lepelle Northern Water; and that we are signing repayment agreements with local municipalities. All these monies will be ring-fenced solely for reinvestment in water infrastructure maintenance and improvements.

In addressing this, the Municipality has put aside **R84 000 000** to reduce LNW historic debt for the 2026/27 financial year. The Municipality has also been approved for a debt relief programme with DWS for historical debt, on condition that we continue to honour the current account. We anticipate that one-third of the **R365 000 000** historical debt will be written off by DWS on 30 June 2026.

6. Good Governance and Public Participation:

Madam Speaker, as part of reinforcing our reporting and accounting systems, we have budgeted an amount of **R6 000 000.00** for mSCOA Implementation, and this amount will increase to **R6 500 000.00** and **R7 000 000.00** in the two (02) outer years.

Investing in the mSCOA system will elevate the level of the Municipality's quality of data collection, thereby strengthening our transparency and accountability in this multi-dimensional classification system of record management and transactions reporting in local government.

Equally important to our good governance and public participation is the active involvement of the institution of the Local House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders in our systems and structures of governance. How we as Council support their work will speak volumes in ensuring their sustainability and effectiveness.

In this regard, the House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders in the District had earlier requested that we use their previous allocation to purchase printers for their offices. We are pleased to report, Madam Speaker, that the first batch of printers has been delivered to the sites. This also includes the installation of Wi-Fi where it was not previously available.

Therefore, in the 2026/27 financial year, we have also set aside a budget of **R1 700 000.00** to support our Tribal Authorities, and this will increase to **R1 785 000.00** and **R1 874 250.00** in the outer years.

I am fully aware that these amounts are not sufficient when compared with the critical work our Traditional Authorities do in leading our communities and serving our people, but we trust that, with their support and guidance, we will be able to close critical gaps in areas of need.

We have also set aside an amount of **R50 000.00** for Gender Forum as well as **R50 000.00** for the District Disability Forum respectively to support the work of our Special Programmes and the Multi-Party Women Commission in general.

MPAC remains our primary watchdog as a Municipality, promoting clean administration and protecting public funds. It is through the work of MPAC that the Municipality has been able to make progress in reducing unauthorised, irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditure. We are therefore allocating an amount of **R1 000 000.00** to support and strengthen the work of MPAC.

Honourable Fellow Councillors, I must remind you that this is our final budget as the sixth democratic local government administration, and it must therefore speak to the realities of our communities while also striving to meet the expectations of our people. To that end, we are confident that the IDP and Budget we are presenting today reflect the aspirations of our people.

Equally, today we are passing a budget that will also be implemented by the next Council of 2026–2031. We therefore must be meticulous in our consideration of it, thinking beyond our political lines and interests. Our present actions will create irreversible ripple effects across time. Failing to carefully lay a solid foundation for the next Council risks depleting vital resources, exacerbating the existing socio-economic

challenges in our District, and burdening the upcoming Council with insurmountable economic and developmental liabilities.

Therefore, being careful in our consideration of this Medium-Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework today will ensure intergenerational equity and a habitable, prosperous Mopani District Municipality.

On this note, Madam Speaker, allow me to register our profound appreciation to the people of Mopani who have participated in the process leading to the tabling of the budget today. We know what our people want and, once again, they have been very emphatic throughout our public participation programme.

Our people want water; our people want proper roads. We have noted that we still have many households without proper sanitation, especially in Greater Giyani and Maruleng Local Municipalities. But we have also noted that our people remain hopeful about the future and do appreciate the limitations that exist.

Let me also assure our people that all issues raised during our IDP/Budget public participation meetings, including those that are outside our mandate as a District Municipality, have found expression in the planning processes of our local municipalities, as well as the departments concerned, as we move forward in the context of the District One Plan.

We further commit that all future Council sittings will receive feedback on the implementation of the MTREF budget, including performance by other sectors operating in the District. This is a legislative requirement. Other platforms that must be considered for such feedback include the District IDP Representative Forum, the Local House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders, and the District IGR Forum.

The public participation report will also be tabled at various platforms, including the District Council of Speakers. We are going to take our DDM approach to the next level,

and it must start with us internalising it through our existing structures, which must drive these processes.

Honourable Speaker, times of great calamity and confusion have often called forth the greatest resolve, and this is equally true for us as the people of Mopani. Like water droplets, our unique strengths, our optimism and work ethic, our spirit of resilience, and our diversity give us everything we need to secure prosperity and stability for generations to come.

In fact, it is that spirit that enabled us to succeed, even in the dark days of our disclaimer audit opinions, and to reach the progress we experience today. But surely, that progress was not inevitable; it was the result of choices we made together. And we must continue to make such choices right now in order to recover from the scourge of an unfunded budget.

Ladies and gentlemen, please allow me to thank our Municipal Manager, Mr Tshepo Mogano, for the work and commitment of Team Mopani. As always, we have managed to develop and distribute an equitable budget that, like droplets of water, will crack open the stubborn rock of water and sanitation challenges in our District.

To my colleagues in the Mayoral Committee, thank you very much for your continued support and cooperation.

And to my staff in the Office of the Executive Mayor, thank you for holding the fort.

I also wish to thank, once more, the people of Mopani for their resilience, for understanding that there are no shortcuts, and for recognising that we must focus on the long term by turning quantitative change into qualitative progress.

Let us indeed become like the dripping water that drills through hard rocks....

Honourable Speaker, I therefore wish to humbly table before this august House, for consideration and approval, the 2026/27 Medium-Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework, together with the following items:

- i. OMR/12/2026: Draft IDP;
- ii. MR/13/2026 - Public participation Report;
- iii. MR/19/2026 - Anti-Corruption Policy;
- iv. MR/20/2026 - Draft Access Control;
- v. MR/21/2026 - Security Policy;
- vi. MR/21/2026 Special Adjustment Budget for 2025/26; 2026/27; 2027/28;
- vii. OMR/22/2026 - Special Budget Adjustment;
- viii. OMR/23/2026 - Final MTREF Budget for 2026/27; 2027/28 and 2028/29; and
- ix. OMR/24/2026) – The Budget related policies : namely

I hereby present these items, together with all their recommendations, to Council for adoption.

Kea leboga..... Na khensa