



**LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE**

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

LIMPOPO PROVINCE

**VERBATIM REPORT
[HANSARD]**

OF THE

DELIBERATIONS AND DEBATES

OF THE

SECOND SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE

THURSDAY, 03 DECEMBER 2020

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL [CABINET]

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Social Development	Ms N C Rakgoale
Economic Development, Environment and Tourism	Mr T A Mokone
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Agriculture and Rural Development	Ms N A Ndalane
CoGHSTA	Mr B R Makamu
Sport, Arts and Culture	Ms T A Moraka
Provincial Treasury	Mr S C Sekoati

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The Deputy Chairperson of Committees	Mr C B D Selane
The Leader of Government Business	Mr S C Sekoati
The Leader of the Opposition	Mr M J Buthane
The Secretary of Limpopo Legislature	Mr S Mothoa

MEMBERS OF THE LIMPOPO LEGISLATURE (in alphabetical order)

PARTIES REPRESENTED IN THE HOUSE:

African National Congress (ANC)
 Democratic Alliance (DA)
 Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF)
 Vryheidsfront Plus (FF+)

1. Aphiri, Mokgadi Johanna	ANC
2. Boshielo, Shela Polly	ANC
3. Buthane, Modikane Joseph	EFF
4. Kekana, Nakedi Grace	ANC
5. Lebea, Kedibone Margaret	ANC
6. Lekganyane, Nakedi Maria	ANC
7. Lerule-Ramakhanya, Mavhungu Maureen	ANC
8. Maharaj, Risham	DA
9. Mahasela, Mahlodi Caroline	ANC
10. Makamu, Basikopo Rodgers	ANC
11. Makhurupetje, Makoma Grace	ANC
12. Managa, Lilian	EFF
13. Manganye, Tinyiko Florence	EFF
14. Maritz, Marcelle Frieda	FF+
15. Marule, Jacob Boy Otto	ANC
16. Maseko, Funani Jerry	ANC
17. Masekoameng, Mmabogahla Isaiah	ANC
18. Masemola, Namane Dickson	ANC
19. Mashamaite, Nkhohlo Victor	ANC
20. Mathabatha, Chupu Stanley	ANC
21. Mathe, Simon Matsobane	ANC
22. Mathye, Susani Violet	ANC
23. Matlou, Leswafo Joshua	ANC
24. Mdaka, Falaza Philemon	ANC
25. Mitleni, Wisani Goodman	ANC
26. Mochadi, Sekutu Monicca	ANC
27. Mohlala, Manamane Charles	EFF
28. Mokaba-Phukwana, Mapula Annah	ANC
29. Mokgonyana, Essob Mmanoko	ANC
30. Mokone, Thabo Andrew	ANC
31. Molapo, Reneiloe Rosemarry	ANC
32. Monama, Gannye Rodgers	ANC
33. Monyamane, Nkome Sarah	ANC
34. Moraka, Anna Tandi	ANC
35. Mphahlele Selaelo Regina	EFF
36. Ndalane, Nandi Annah	ANC
37. Ndou, Azwindini Jeremiah Dingaan	ANC
38. Phala, Katlego Suzan	DA
39. Phala, Kgolane Alfred	ANC
40. Radzilani, Fulufhelo Florence	ANC

41. Rakgoale, Chritian Nkakareng	ANC
42. Ramathuba, Phophi Constance	ANC
43. Raphela, George	EFF
44. Sekoati, Seaparo Charles	ANC
45. Selamolela Selelo Donald	ANC
46. Selane, Che Bonnie David	ANC
47. Seono, Mmaishibe Rebecca	ANC
48. Seshoka, Jetrick	EFF
49. Smalle, Jacobus Frederik	DA

PERMANENT DELEGATES TO NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

1. Mamaregane, Mmamora Lilliet	ANC
2. Mathevula, Brenda Tirhani	EFF
3. Matibe, Tshitereke Baldwin	ANC
4. Nchabeleng, Mamagase Aleck	ANC
5. Shaikh, Shahidabibi	ANC
6. Smit, Christiaan Frederik Beyers	DA

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- a) Rules Committee
- b) Internal Arrangements Committee
- c) Programming Committee
- d) Whippery
- e) Disciplinary Committee
- f) Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests
- g) Committee of Presiding Officers
- h) Public Accounts Committee
- i) Public Participation and Petitions
- j) Quality of Life and Status of Women, Youth and Disability

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- c) Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure
- d) Economic Development, Environment and Tourism
- e) Agriculture and Rural Development
- f) Transport and Community Safety
- g) Sport, Arts and Culture
- h) Education
- i) Health
- j) Social Development
- k) Public Administration
- l) Oversight Review Mechanism

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Ndala, N T (Ms)
Netshamulivho, A J (Mr)

**VERBATIM SPEECHES OF THE
LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THURSDAY, 03 DECEMBER 2020
MEETING OF THE HOUSE: 10:00**

1. PRAYERS/MEDITATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We shall now have the opportunity for a moment of silence for prayers or meditation.

[SILENCE]

Thank you. Please be seated. Honourable Members, welcome to this last Sitting of the session of the Sixth Parliament. Normally we are told that Members are free to be themselves and not be uptight with suits and ties. Having said that, we are going to proceed with the Orders of the Day. But, before that we should emphasise that when we come to the voting for the Bill, Hon Chief Whip, we will need the House to quorate. It will be difficult for us to pass the Bill if we do not quorate.

2. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? Hon Seono, you are recognised.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

**REVAMPING OF THE SINGLE WAY CARRIAGE STEEL BRIDGE IN
STEELPOORT, SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT
(Motion without Notice)**

I rise on behalf of the ANC in this House, to welcome government efforts to revamp and improve the iconic single way carriage bridge in Steelpoort within the Sekhukhune District.

The collaborative efforts led by Roads Agency Limpopo saw eight mining companies operating in the area committing to the construction of the new refurbished bridge which will connect the R555 road towards Middleburg and the D2219. For the benefit of those who do not have an idea of the steel bridge, it is a dilapidated single way structure where cars take alternating turns to cross and this results in serious congestion during peak hours. Upon completion of the bridge there will be less traffic congestion on the road and there will be improved access by the commuters using the road.

I so move, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? Hon Lekganyane, you are recognised.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, hereby second the motion as presented by Hon Seono. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Are there any further motions without notice in terms of House Rule 145? Over to Hon Mahasela.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, Members of the Executive Council present here, and all Members who are in this House, I greet you.

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO REGINA NESENGANI FOR OBTAINING A
PHD DEGREE**

(Motion without Notice)

We rise on behalf of the ANC in this august House to congratulate Regina Nesengani who plays the part of Vho-Masindi on Muvhango on SABC 2 for being conferred with a PhD degree from Unisa. Her doctoral dissertation was on gender-based violence and was written in her native language, Tshivenda.

We also applaud her bravery and ability to embrace her native language as her thesis has been written in vernacular language in its entirety. She is 65 years old. This goes to prove that age is certainly not a factor if you want to achieve anything in life.

I so move. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? Hon Mdaka, you are cognised.

MR MDAKA

I, Falaza Mdaka, stand to second the motion as moved by Hon Mahasela. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Any further motions without notice? Hon Managa, you are recognised.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

**A WORD OF DEDICATION TO ALL CATEGORIES OF FRONTLINE WORKERS
DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**
(Motion without Notice)

The EFF Limpopo takes this opportunity to dedicate a moment of respect to all frontline workers. These are the workers who kept the fires burning when all of us were hiding from the pandemic of COVID-19. Despite their imbalance [inaudible] they continued to serve the people of this province. We dedicate a moment of respect to the home-based care workers, house keepers, gardeners, nurses, teachers, security officers, doctors, refuse removers, police officers, soldiers and other categories of workers who were engaged in various services.

It will be under the EFF government that all the above-mentioned categories of jobs will be amongst the best paying jobs. It will be under the EFF government that they get the necessary tools and support to help them execute their mandate diligently. The EFF Limpopo salutes you for the dedication and discipline you displayed during the most difficult period of our history.

The EFF Limpopo further salutes your families for allowing you to continue working in all the exposed environments, whilst millions of people were locked in hiding from the COVID-19 pandemic. Our province requires such men and women who are selfless and love their province and their people.

We call upon the government to continue absorbing those who are on contract and upgrade the salaries and working conditions of all the workers. As the pandemic is likely to rise on infection, we still have hope that with your interventions all lives will be safe.

We call upon the government to ensure that all those who deserve overtime and other risk-related allowances are paid accordingly.

We call upon all employers who stole UIF money to return such moneys to the Department of Labour.

I so move, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? Hon Seshoka, you are recognised.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I stand to second the motion as presented by Hon Managa.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any further motion without notice? Honourable Member, you are recognised.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER

[inaudible]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

The motion is objected to, then it falls off. Any further motions without notice? Hon Sarah Monyamane, you are recognised.

MS MONYAMANE

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Members of the Legislature, good morning.

**CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF SIX PEOPLE WHO
PERISHED IN A ROAD ACCIDENT IN MOKOPANE**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC to move a motion without notice that this House notes that an accident has happened last night in the town of Mokopane wherein six people lost their lives. Reports indicate that a truck failed to apply breaks and rammed into five cars and crashed into a building on the corner of Thabo Mbeki and Retief Streets, killing four pedestrians in the process.

It is reported that the building caught fire instantly and both the driver and his passenger burned in the inferno bringing the total number of fatalities to six.

This is a second accident where people are burnt beyond recognition in less than a week. It is worrisome that a few days into the month of December we are already recording such enormous number of fatalities on our roads.

Let us all drive with caution and save lives on the roads. One death on the roads is one too many.

I so move. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? Hon Selamolela, you are recognised.

MR SELAMOLELA

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I stand to second the motion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. May we rise to observe a moment of silence?

[SILENCE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any motions without notice? Hon Lebea, you are recognised.

MS LEBEA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Greetings to you, Hon Premier.

**OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE EASTERN RING ROAD PROJECT IN
POLOKWANE BY THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise without notice on behalf of the ANC that this House notes that as part of launching the Arrive Alive Campaign this festive season, the Minister of Transport, Hon Fikile Mbalula, is in the city of Polokwane to also officially launch the gigantic ring road project that borders the eastern parts of Polokwane.

It is public knowledge that the first company that undertook this project went into a voluntary business rescue whilst on-site and this has brought a lot of delays on the project.

But we are now happy to pronounce that the project is complete and is ready for use. This will alleviate the unnecessary delays from the N1 South into the city as most cars will be able to travel right around the city without getting into the CBD.

The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic has also brought additional challenges to the project, and we are confident that it will be able to carry the big volumes anticipated for the festive season.

I so move. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Phala, you are recognised.

ADV PHALA

I rise to second the motion as tabled by Hon Lebea.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Are there any further motions? Hon Mathe, over to you. [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

Hon Speaker, I need to be clarified on the allocation of motions per political party because I think the ANC might have exhausted their allocation. I need to be advised by you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

The motions that the ANC has submitted is six. The EFF's motion without notice is one. The DA is nothing. [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

Allocations per Sitting?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

There are no allocations per Sitting. We determine motions as they come. Hon Mathe, you are recognised.

MR MATHE

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO POLOKWANE SOCIAL DERBY NETWORK
FOR HOSTING THE KILIMANJARO SUPER CUP**
(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC to congratulate the Polokwane Social Derby network for successfully hosting the Kilimanjaro Super Cup, which was in honour of Mr Sarel Nong who for three consecutive years climbed Kilimanjaro Mountain up to the roof top. Mr Sarel Nong is a resident of Seshego township of the Polokwane Local Municipality in the Limpopo province.

I so move. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there any seconder to the motion? Hon Seono, you are recognised.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Speaker. I raise my hand to second the motion as presented by Hon Mathe.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Are there any further motions without notice? Hon Monama, you are recognised.

MR MONAMA

Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, honourable Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members of this august House, the Chief Whip of the majority party, ladies and gentlemen, I greet you all.

**APPOINTMENT OF DR MOHUBETŠWANE ALEX MASHILO AS A SPECIAL
ADVISOR TO THE PREMIER**

(Motion without Notice)

I rise on behalf of the ANC to move for a motion without notice for this august House to extend its profound sense of gratitude on the inclusion and appointment of Dr Mohubetšwane Alex Mashilo as a special adviser to the Premier, Hon Chupu Stanley Mathabatha. Dr Mashilo's role is mainly focused on economic development, communication, and stakeholder relations.

Undoubtedly, coming with his requisite expertise, outstanding and unparalleled capabilities, he is tasked with closely working with the Executive Council in supporting the Premier to expeditiously execute his constitutional mandate.

Dr Mashilo holds a PhD degree from the world-renowned University of Witwatersrand and his academic research thesis is focused on economic and social upgrading in global production network. He is a scholar of note. He also holds a Master of Arts degree from Wits University in addition to his implacable academic accomplishments and distinguished work experience in the global manufacturing industry. Dr Mashilo is a seasoned communications practitioner, a prolific writer, a policy development advocacy activist with a background in the working-class movement.

As the ANC, we seize this rare opportunity to wish him well in his new responsibilities. Without any fear of contradiction, we are unequivocal that his wealth of experience will propel the province of Limpopo to greater heights.

I so move. Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Mahasela, over to you.

MS MAHASELA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Mahlodi Caroline Mahasela, stand to second the motion as raised by Hon Monama.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Are there any notices of motions in terms of House Rule 146? There is none.

4. MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Are there any Members' Statements? Hon Managa, you are recognised.

MS MANAGA

Ndo livhuwa, Hon Deputy Speaker.

**LACK OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY IN VILLAGES IN THE
MAKHUDUTHAMAGA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**
(Members' Statement)

Hon Deputy Speaker, many villages in Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality in Sekhukhune region still do not have water and electricity for more than 25 years into the democratic dispensation.

People continue to suffer due to lack of basic services whilst those who have been entrusted in changing their lives do not care at all. They only care during elections when they would be distributing T-shirts for campaigning. If only they were delivering services with the same vigour which they have when distributing the T-shirts during elections our people's lives could have been much better.

The people of Makhuduthamaga, especially at GaMoloi new stands ...
[INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Managa, can you hold it there for a second? What is the point, Hon Phala?

ADV PHALA

You will guide me on what the point is, Hon Deputy Speaker, because you oversee the rules. If a Member is making a statement that is totally false and untrue, what do we do because in Makhuduthamaga all the villages have electricity? There are a few villages that have challenges with regards to water. That's what we know.

If a Member makes a statement in the House that is totally false and untrue, what do we do? Tell us.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Let the Member continue with the statement. After the statement there is going to be a response.

MS MANAGA

It is so surprising that I am disrupted before I even finish the statement. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The people of Makhuduthamaga, especially at GaMoloi new stands, which has been existing for five years, still do not have water and electricity.

The people of GaManyaka do not have electricity. They too have been living in the area for more than five years, and yet they do not have water to date. We could spend the whole year listing all the villages without water and other basic services in the province. There is just no political will in the government to change the lives of our people for better. The only political will ... Am I still protected?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Yes, continue. Hon Monama, please put your hand down. You know a statement is a statement. There is going to be a response to refute what the statement says. Continue, Hon Managa.

MS MANAGA

Can I be protected please? I am being intimidated.

BACKGROUND

[NOISE]

MS MANAGA

How many speakers do we have in this House?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Managa, wait. Honourable Members, can we have order so that we can move swiftly and conclude the proceedings in peace, please. Continue, Hon Managa.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. The problem is, we have many Speakers who were not appointed by this House. [INTERJECTION]

BACKGROUND

[NOISE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Honourable Members, let's have order. Hon Managa, don't make the situation worse. Order Members! Hon Selamolela, please! Honourable Members, can you allow us to run the House. Hon Managa, there is only one Speaker elected by the House. Don't allege that others are Speakers who are not elected. It is not in order. Hon Seshoka, I am not talking to you. I am not addressing you. [INTERJECTION]

MR SESHOKA

But Hon Speaker, ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Do you want your Member to continue with the statement? On what point are you rising?

MR SESHOKA

I am rising on a point of order because you seem not to be protecting the speaker. You seem not to be protecting the Member on the floor, instead you are entertaining those that are disrupting her. We ask you to take your position and rule on those people, because they are busy disturbing the Member on the podium.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Alright, sit down.

MR SESHOKA

I am going to sit down, but you must also do your work.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Managa, continue with your statement.

MS MANAGA

Deputy Speaker, it is a constitutional right for people to get basic services such as water, electricity, housing, and roads.

We call upon the government to stop violating the constitutional rights of the people and deliver services to communities.

Finally, we call upon the MEC for CoGHSTA, Hon Basikopo Makamu, to investigate this matter and provide a lasting solution to the people of Makhuduthamaga.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Are there any further statements? If there is none, can we hear from the Executive if they want to respond? The Leader of Government Business, you are recognised.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Let me clarify things for Hon Managa, because she is not aware of what she is talking about. Perhaps, let me start by saying that if you want to win elections you go and work, mobilise communities so that when people win by-elections, it is not because they are given T-shirts, but because the people have got confidence in them and therefore, they get voted into office. The fact that you have lost by-elections and then you come here and tell us we are giving people T-shirts will not change anything.

Secondly, you yourself have already alluded to the fact that you are talking about a village that is new and a village that still has got to wait for its turn to get water. Just to

clarify you, the village you are talking about in GaMoloi is in Sekhukhune in the Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality. It is supposed to be getting water from De Hoop Dam. There is a water treatment package in that area which is supposed to take water to the village. There is nothing about waiting for five years. If you don't have a source of water, there is nothing that you can reticulate to communities. Just to clarify you that, our district municipality is in the process of reticulating water to those villages. Also, for the fact that they are still new, we have got many villages that did not have water before and now they are having water because the municipality is busy reticulating.

Thirdly, I am sure you are aware that the village you are alleging does not have electricity is not far away from GaMashishi and Motlolo just behind the Marula Mine and is along the R37 road as you travel to Burgersfort. When you pass there at night you will think it is in the City of Johannesburg. I don't know which village you are talking about that does not have electricity. If one family has just built a house today and is yet to connect their house with electricity, you can't say there is no electricity in the whole village when everyone has electricity. Surely you are talking about a village you have never been to. If you have been to that village, you will know that it looks like a city in the evening. Please find out where GaManyaka is situated and visit that village during the day and again during the evening, then you will know what you are talking about.

When Members come to this House to make Members' Statements, it should be based on facts and not hearsays. Because if your facts are based on hearsays, you will come here and embarrass yourself by saying things which are totally untrue. It is important for Members to confirm their sources first before coming here and making wild allegations.

Hon Deputy Speaker, if Members come here without facts and embarrass themselves, I don't know how we are going to help them from this angle. We would like to help, but when there is nothing factual about what they are saying, it is very unfortunate.

I thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you, honourable Member.

5. EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

Are there any Executive Statements in terms of Rule 201? There is none.

6. TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Are there any tabling of reports, other reports and papers? Leader of Government Business, you are recognised.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Seaparo Charles Sekoati, in my capacity as the Leader of Government Business table the 2019/20 Annual Report for the Department of Transport and Community Safety. I thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

The Annual Report is referred to the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Community Safety and Scopa for consideration and report back to the House.

7. ORDERS OF THE DAY

- 7.1. Consideration and adoption of the 2019/20 reports of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury. Committee chairperson, you are recognised.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the performance of the Department of Provincial Treasury for the first quarter 2019/20 be adopted as the report of this honourable House. I move accordingly, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Selamolela, over to you.

MR SELAMOLELA

I, Selaelo Donald Selamolela, stand to second the move by Hon Phala.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

- 7.1. Consideration and adoption of 2019/20 reports of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury

Committee chairperson, you may go ahead.

ADV PHALA

I move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the performance of the Department of Provincial Treasury for second quarter 2019/20 be adopted as the report of this honourable House. I move accordingly, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? Hon Matlou, over to you.

MR MATLOU

Ke a leboga, Mospikara. I, Leswafo Joshua Matlou, hereby second the move as proposed by the chairperson of the portfolio committee. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Committee chairperson, over to you.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Speaker. I move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the performance of the Department of Provincial Treasury on third quarter for 2019/20 be adopted as the report of this honourable House. Thanks very much, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I call upon Hon Makhurupetje.

MS MAKHURUPETJE

I, Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, stand to second the report. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Committee chairperson, you may go ahead.

ADV PHALA

I move for the fourth quarter report accordingly. Thanks very much, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I call upon Hon Monama.

MR MONAMA

Thanks, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Monama Rodgers, from 'new stands' in Makhuduthamaga, Sekhukhune rise to support the motion presented by Hon Phala. [LAUGHTER] Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. We shall now refer to the Speakers' List. The first on the list is Hon Selamolela Donald. Your time starts now.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, in absentia ... [LAUGHTER]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

I know when you were preparing the speech you thought the Premier won't be here, but he is here.

MR SELAMOLELA

Hon Premier, welcome and greetings to you on this important day of our [inaudible], Members of the Executive Council here present, chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury, Hon Kgolane Rudolph Phala; friends and compatriots, we once again greet you in the name of our people as we reflect on this performance report for the financial year 2019/20 of our Provincial Treasury.

The prudent management of our limited financial resources and efficient and effective use of such resources is a necessary condition for service delivery that our people are yearning for. As we entered the contract with our people which our people have been renewing every five years since the democratic victory of 1994, we knew and have always known that our people expect from us nothing but the best in managing their resources and repaying them in manner that facilitates socioeconomic development of the country that pushes back the frontiers of poverty liberating our people from the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

It is with this basic understanding and appreciation that as we conduct oversight to this portfolio of Provincial Treasury as a committee, we do that with the outmost commitment it deserves for it is about nothing else but our people. The very people in which name we call ourselves here today, honourable Members. We are pleased as a committee that over the four quarters that we are reflecting about here today the department was able to ensure that specific programme targets are met with necessary adjustments being made from quarter to quarter where specific quarterly targets were not met.

On Corporate Management Services, it was found that during the first quarter there were underperformances in the programme mainly attributed to delay in the filling of posts which was later addressed during the second quarter. In the third quarter no gaps were identified until the quarter under review thus leading to a 100% achievement of planned targets in the programme which is highly commendable the committee.

On Sustainable Resources Management, the committee found that most of the targets were achieved to an extent, however, as highlighted, preceding financial years of 2019/20 quarterly performance on SIPDM (Standard for Infrastructure Procurement and Delivery Management) to municipalities was a necessity the functionality of the infrastructure hub in the province the financial performance of Bela Bela, Mogalakwena, Modimolle, Mookgophong and Fetakgomo-Tubatse including compliance level by municipalities on submission of section 71 reports was noted.

During the Budget Speech of the 2019/20 financial year, the MEC for Provincial Treasury highlighted 10 key interventions that the Provincial Treasury intended to embark on to capacitate the municipalities. Further that to advance such interventions the Provincial Treasury was intending to capacitate municipal financial units. We,

therefore, implore on the MEC and the department to keep the committee and the House abreast of developments in this regard and the committee will continue to monitor the progress in this regard.

On Assets and Liabilities, the programme is very critical in that it provides policy direction, and it facilitates the effective and efficient management of assets, liabilities, and provincial supply chain. We, in this regard, have noted over the four performance quarters that inefficient asset management assessment, cash management assessment, supply chain management assessment and contract management assessment were conducted as planned in all the departments and entities, which is a commendable development. We however noted that according to the 2019/20 first quarter report all assessments made revealed that there were findings which needed attention by some client departments. We in this regard, implore on the Provincial Treasury to provide quarterly feedback on how departments were intending to address such findings.

As far as Financial Governance is concerned at the end of the fourth quarter the finding made by the committee was that action plan assessment were conducted to departments and public entities, financial statements assessments were also conducted as planned and audit committee meetings were given the necessary support. The committee on several occasions raised concerns on compliance-related challenges that existed in the department and entities and measures to put in place to curb such challenges from recurring. It was found that challenges were mainly on noncompliance with the Public Finance Management Act, Treasury Regulations and Supply Chain prescripts, particularly on material misstatements in the annual financial statements, performance information consequence management not implemented, unwanted expenditures not prevented, procurement and contract management and revenue collection.

On measures to curb such challenges Provincial Treasury has since reported that it has amongst others established a financial reporting accounting forum to publicly share any new reporting requirements and address the issue of material mismanagement in the annual financial statements. We will continue to draw our serious interest in this regard, and we will continue to monitor development as we move into the current financial year. The four quarters performance reports of 2019/20 as reflected and as tabled above indicate that the department is hard at work to turn the tide in the province so far as efficient and effective use of our resources is concerned. We strongly hold that such a recorded success might be translated to sister departments if we are to thrive as a province. Surely if we are to fulfil this contractual obligation that our forebears have entered with the people of South Africa. We strongly believe as a committee that working together and working side by side we surely should achieve more. Ndza khensa. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thanks very much, Hon Selamolela. I have been informed that Hon Raphela George is replaced by Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Greetings to you Hon Premier, the MECs present here and all honourable Members. The incapacity of municipalities like Fetakgomo-Tubatse on the spending of conditional grants is disappointing and unacceptable. This cannot happen especially when we have a serious backlog of service delivery in the province. We can't have municipalities behaving as if our people do not need services whilst most of our people continue to suffer. Many of our people are still not able to make sense of the new dispensation because it has brought nothing to them. Municipalities continue to fail to submit section 71 reports and refuse to cooperate with Treasury in defiance for reasons known only to them.

We demand that these reports must be submitted and be presented to this House before the official closure of the Legislature. These reports will be dealt with next year in the first week of the official opening of the Legislature. Equally, entities in departments like LEDET also fail to cooperate with Treasury. It cannot be business as usual, something drastic must be done to correct the current situation. Whilst this happens the people continue to suffer. This kind of madness must come to an end and municipalities must be held accountable. A serious punitive decision must be taken against non-complying or non-cooperative municipalities and entities; unless if we are comfortable in creating a banana republic where people just do as they wish. By refusing to cooperate the municipalities will ultimately refuse to cooperate with the Treasury even on programmes meant to give them capacity. They have made non-compliance and non-cooperativeness and defiance fashionable. Municipalities, departments, and entities still do not comply with PFMA, MFMA, Treasury Regulations and other applicable prescripts.

Furthermore, the EFF is concerned that municipalities can't service their water and electricity bills because as it stands, many of them still owe Eskom and they can't pay. Litigation against the state continues to rise across all provincial departments especially in departments like Health and Education. The province spent a big chunk of its Budget on litigation arising from lack of capacity in sections like legal and risk management. The state must be given the capacity to be able to perform its own functions and avoid utilising the services of consultants to do the work that could be done by officials who are employed to do similar work. The EFF is disturbed that targets are not achieved in the quarter for which they were planned but deferred to other quarters. This is a serious and unacceptable injustice to the people who should be receiving such services, but they are postponed instead for reasons known only to the ANC government. The government is entrenching a wrong culture of postponing services which may create opportunities for people to steal money.

It is a shame that the Department of Education only spent 12% of allocated conditional grants meant to support Maths, Science and Technology subjects. The idea of achieving an 80% pass rate in Grade 12 results as outlined in the Limpopo Development Plan will only remain a dream. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Phala, you are recognised.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I was not going to contribute initially because Hon Selamolela spoke very well; talking about the four quarters that we impacted in the department here. He represented what happened in those quarters very well.

The department we are dealing with is called the Department of Provincial Treasury. It is the best performing department in the entire provincial government whether you look at it from compensation of employees, how it runs its affairs internally, audit outcomes because it's been receiving clean audits for a few consecutive years; if I am not wrong this may be a fourth consecutive year in which this department receives a clean audit.

It is the best performing department in the entire provincial government of Limpopo, and it is one of the best performing provincial Treasuries in the Republic of South Africa. [APPLAUSE] I don't know what other people are talking about because in relation to cooperation into Treasury, in the VBS matter that happened two years ago, the Provincial Treasury enhanced its mechanisms to oversee the municipalities and cooperation with the Treasury has been enhanced and municipalities are cooperating also including their performance in terms of implementation of Municipal Finance Management Act. to that extent, there is no problem of cooperation between the Provincial Treasury and municipalities. That is why in Provincial Treasury there is a section called Municipal Finance of senior managers who look at the financial performance of municipalities working with CoGHSTA to ensure that municipalities perform well, their books are better, they can deliver services again but also most importantly they are able to account when the Auditor-General comes for the services they have delivered.

With regards to cooperation with entities the provincial Treasury is the one that gives budgets to provincial departments and entities. In our meetings and all oversight that we have done, we have never had of a situation where entities or departments were not cooperating with provincial Treasury because it is impossible if you get the logic right, not to cooperate with someone who gives you money every year. If you don't get the logic right it's fine, but if you get the logic right it is impossible not to cooperate, if you are a department or entity, with the Provincial Treasury that has got the purse of the province. The best for you as department or entity is to cooperate to the best of your ability so that once you need more money you can get it. If you get the logic right, if your head is on the shoulders, you will understand that it is impossible for someone to say no cooperation with Provincial Treasury. Let's clear that.

Compliance with Public Finance Management Act and Municipal Finance Management Act in this province, I am sure the MEC, as Leader of Government Business has just tabled one report now and they will all come; you will see that the provincial government has improved performance in relation to Public Finance Management Act. That is the point that the Premier emphasises when you engage from time to time. There is that improvement. This thing of saying departments or whoever is not complying with is both false and untrue.

On compliance by municipalities with Municipal Finance Management Act, municipalities in the province as I have said, since VBS that happened three years ago have themselves enhanced their ability to implement the MFMA and its regulations and you will see that through the audit outcomes that in this province, only

one municipality got a disclaimer audit opinion which is a municipality that we don't rule as the ANC. It is ruled by them in alliance with others. [APPLAUSE]

All the municipalities that we rule, got various categories of audit opinions, but none of them got a disclaimer audit opinion. And that is an improvement of compliance. If you want to get any evidence of compliance with monies, you will get it at the end of the financial year when you get audited. You don't thumb suck or dream at night. When you get audited, the Auditor-General will tell you if municipalities are complying very well and that will be shown by the audit outcome. You will see in this year that municipalities in this province have improved generally, except for one municipality that we don't rule as the African National Congress in which we are in opposition.

The issue of litigations against the state is a big matter that we raised with the Provincial Treasury and the Scopa chaired by Hon Goodman Mitileni. We have raised it sharply with all departments particularly the Department of Health, the Office of the Premier and Provincial Treasury because this a matter that is called contingent liability by auditors. But let's get it right, litigations against the state are not controlled by the state. If an individual has a problem in a hospital somewhere and choses to go a lawyer and sue the state. What will the state do, Hon Speaker?

If a person gets puncture on the road and then after that, that person goes to the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and wants to claim against the state, we can't stop a person from doing that. The issue of litigations against the state hangs on the decisions of provinces themselves stating their rights and the state will defend itself where it can in instances where it is taken to court. This is not a huge challenge here in the province, they are dealing with it even nationally. The MEC for Health has talked about it and that there are measures that are being taken nationally because the issue of contingent liability was a big issue in the Department of Health.

Those are all the issues that I rose to clarify because Hon Selamolela spoke so well, and I was not supposed to be standing if something else had not happened. Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thanks very much. Honourable MEC, do you want to respond now, or you will respond after the next quarter report? We shall now proceed to the next item.

7.2. Consideration and adoption of 2020/21 reports of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury.

I now call upon the committee chairperson.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I move that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the first quarter performance of the Department of Provincial Treasury for the financial year 2020/21 be adopted as the report of this House. I move accordingly.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Mdaka.

MR MDAKA

Ndza khensa Xandla Xa Xipikara. Vito ra mina i Falaza Mdaka. Ndzi yimela ku seketela leswi boxiweke hi mutshamaxitulu wa Komiti ya Treasury, Tatana Rudolph Phala. Ndza khensa.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We are going to item 7.2.2 and call upon the committee chairperson.

ADV PHALA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. On item 7.2.2 for the second quarter, I move accordingly. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Mokaba-Phukwana.

MS MOKABA-PHUKWANA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I, Mapula Mokaba, rise to second the motion as presented by Hon Phala. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We shall now refer to the Speakers' List and call upon Hon Lebea Kedibone to open the debate.

MS LEBEA

Hon Deputy Speaker; the Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha; honourable Members of the Executive Council, honourable Members of this august House, ndi matsheloni.

Hon Deputy Speaker, allow me to borrow few words from Karl Marx when he said: "It is not the consciousness of men that determines their being, but, on the contrary, their social being that determines their consciousness." Hon Speaker, in a quest to revitalise, reignite a sense of consciousness, morale and constitutional obligation as the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury of overseeing the overall performance of the institution we have therefore interacted with the Department of Provincial Treasury in line with the first and second quarter performance reports of the year under review.

In the first quarter we noted and hereby commend the achievement of payment of suppliers within 30 days and further applaud the provincial departments for an

achievement of 98,10% during the quarter under review and only one department performed below 80%.

Hon Deputy Speaker, during the fourth quarter of 2019/20 financial year we duly made our recommendations on an extensive need for quarterly progress report on the Standard for Infrastructure Procurement and Delivery Management (SIPDM) in municipalities. During the first quarter, the committee found that municipalities we provided with training on how to implement supply chain management policies. During the second quarter performance report, a detailed report on section 139 intervention in some municipalities was presented to the committee mainly highlighting amongst others, resolutions by the Limpopo Executive Council to invoke intentions, development, and implementation of financial recovery plan in those municipalities.

When one of her greatest sons, Mother Africa, that is, Thomas Sankara said: "You cannot carry out fundamental change without a certain amount of madness. In this case, it comes from nonconformity, the courage to turn your back on the old formulas, the courage to invent the future." He continued: "It took the madmen of yesterday for us to be able to act with extreme clarity today. I want to be one of those madmen. We must dare to invent the future."

That means there will be no time for complacency. We will not be sleeping on duty. We are going to hold every cent accountable as this is in line with the resolution of the ANC of mitigating and combating all sorts of overnight two legged vultures that want to quench their thirst for bling at the expense of service delivery through corruption. And to further ensure that consequence management is at the helm of our institutions.

In terms of government departments, one of the main concerns of the committee was with respect of the support offered by Provincial Treasury to the Department of Education, particularly spending on mathematics, science, and technology grant. It was reported that spending of 12,2% on the grant was as the result of delayed delivery by service provider as part of its support function rollover from National Treasury which approved an amount of R36 million at the time of reporting. The grant performance was at 5% mainly due to the impact of COVID-19 lockdown.

While such measures were commendable, the committee was concerned about the anticipated underspending on other conditional grants and the plan to save the province from such an envisaged loss. According to the Provincial Treasury such a loss was inevitable but with the necessary support of technical advisers, it could be addressed at the later stage. According to Provincial Treasury, the provincial claims to date amount to R33 million and contingent liabilities to R11,5 billion mainly in the Department of Health for medico legal claims. The other claims were in relation poor service delivery or negligence by public servants and the outcome was awaiting court judgement.

Upon further engagement on the matter, the committee established that the Judge President had been consulted on such legal-related matters and his office has made a commitment for provision of workshops to provincial government management team to curb or avoid future unnecessary legal routes. We cannot talk about the public purse without make mentioning the very tiny yet destructive and troublesome three letter word PPE.

Hon Deputy Speaker we are saying this as the country has been on a turmoil where self-made covidpreneurs lined their pockets with shame and painful disaster relief funds meant to mitigate the scourge of COVID-19 which has literally put the world on its knees. As the committee we sharply raised and interrogated the expenditure on COVID-19 procurement where we asked questions like, did the companies follow proper SCM prescripts? Did all items that were paid for duly delivered to the departments? And safe to say honourable Members we receive an excellent health bill in our province.

I believe it is worth noting with capital letters that over 70% of the suppliers honourable MEC are youth, women and companies owned by previously disadvantaged individuals. Safe to say the ship is still sailing in the direction of the swift wind and progressive under the stewardship of the Premier, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha. One of the greatest philosophers to have ever graced this side of Heaven, Friedrich Engels once said: "The emancipation of woman will only be possible when woman can take part in production on a large, social scale, and domestic work no longer claims anything but an insignificant amount of her time." That, MEC Sekoati, is to say at the end of the current financial year, we will hold you accountable on how many female-owned entities have youth; have played a significant role in the economic terrain of the province. The very progressive Eden of Africa, that's our province of Limpopo.

We will not be doing justice if we don't state it here today that for the very first time in the provincial administration, eight provincial departments have received an unqualified audit opinion. This, Hon Premier, is a clear indication that in the next financial year, the province will be celebrating a clean audit opinion. Continue leading us and the province with profound diligence.

In one of his speeches Nelson Mandela said: "For every woman and girl violently attacked, we reduce our humanity. For every woman forced into unprotected sex because men demand this, we destroy dignity and pride. Every woman who has to sell her life for sex we condemn to a lifetime in prison. For every moment we remain silent, we conspire against our women." Freedom cannot be achieved, unless the women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression. Let's all join hands beyond political and racial lines in the fight against violence against women and children, as this is equal to the state of emergency.

In conclusion, as we head towards festive season, let's take good care of ourselves and for those who will be travelling to different parts of the country, may we adhere to the rules of the road and bear in mind that COVID-19 is still opportunistically roaming amongst us. Let's continue to sanitise, maintain proper social distancing and all other strict regulations to protect ourselves and our loved ones. May the good Lord keep and bless us our families, the province, the country, and the world at large so we can cross over to the year 2021 in good health with renewed hope and strength. Aa. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable Member. Can we have Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Greetings to the Hon Premier, honourable MEC and honourable Members of this House. Hon Deputy Speaker I think I'm going to give something else again for people to be able to debate again. It is indeed disappointing again that during the period under review CoGHSTA fails to achieve 100% on the policy of paying suppliers within 30 days period, achieving only 77%.

This is a gross and unacceptable behaviour, and this House should be provided with a full report detailing what consequence management was applied to officials involved before the official closing of the Legislature. This report should be dealt with during the first week of the official opening of this Legislature next in 2021. We do not understand why government must suffocate small emerging businesses like this and violating regulations at any given time.

It cannot be that black businesses should be undermined like this resulting in many of them shutting down. This also affects the livelihood of all workers employed by these businesses. Underspensing in most government departments, including Treasury, must be corrected as a matter of urgency because it undermines service delivery.

The EFF is worried that in the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture there was no target to implement radio frequency identification model in their libraries. It is for this reason that books and other similar assets continue to be unaccounted for. The lack of planned targets on such an important intervention is a sign of a weak government that lacks vision and foresight on how to govern.

The contingent liability of R11,5 billion in the Department of Health for medico legal claims is a serious concern. This House must be furnished with a full report with a clear breakdown of each claim given the background of how the claim came about. Money spent by government to pay claims against the state could be used for service delivery purposes to improve the lives of our people. We demand a full report regarding COVID-19 corruption and how implicated officials and companies were dealt with.

This report must be provided to the Legislature before the official closing, and it must be looked at during the first week of the official opening of the Legislature. Hon Deputy Speaker, the EFF is not happy in the way the provincial government deals with provincial audit queries. Government departments don't pay attention to details hence so many audit findings by the Auditor-General. Low spending on conditional grants by the provincial government is unacceptable because it compromises service delivery, and thus making mockery out of our hard-earned democracy.

This is the reason why the money allocated to this province ends up being given to other provinces that need it. This province acts like all is well in terms of service delivery when our people cry out loud for service every day. Such conduct by the ANC government is a crime against humanity and the voters of this province must review them. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I now call upon Hon Phala.

ADV PHALA

Thanks very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. The way in which Hon Lebea spoke so well about these two quarters for the financial year 2020/21, I was not going to speak, until something else happened. Let's go into it. Other departments such as CoGHSTA and Sport, Arts and Culture have their own line of functioning, including their portfolio committees and their MECs. Here we are not with the Budget of the province, but we are dealing with the line function, Department of Provincial Treasury, as a department itself.

Therefore, this department does not run other departments, each department has its own HOD, and they have their own MECs. Provincial Treasury does not run other departments. It is not their responsibility to go and fix what is happening in other departments, they oversee not overseas. To oversee means they watch over others, how they perform, how they run their budgets, how they run their finances. They don't run them. If there is something happening there, you go and address it there. They are departments on their own. Treasury doesn't have extra powers over other departments, if you get that logic right. Hon Yvonne Lebea spoke so well about the issue of contingent liability, which is a big challenge we are facing, and she also indicated the measures that are being taken as the MEC briefed us, particularly from the side of health. You will remember that the honourable MEC for Health briefed us, particularly with the contingent liability in the Department of Health because at some stage the contingent liability was at R13 billion and out of that R13 billion, R9 billion was from the Department of Health.

There are measures that are being taken by the health fraternity nationally and Hon Lebea spoke about them. Regarding COVID-19 expenditure, Hon Lebea also spoke well on COVID-19 expenditures and the allegations of COVID-19 corruption that may have happened where tenderpreneurs and covidpreneurs of all kinds take a chance to make money. She also spoke about the measures that the Treasury and other departments are taking. She also indicated that investigations are being done by an authorised state organ with all the necessary skills and capacity and resources to investigate, and it is called Special Investigative Unit (SIU).

The SIU is doing COVID-19 investigations not just in this province, but throughout the Republic of South Africa as instructed by the President, Hon Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, to investigate the COVID-19 expenditure. In relation to the general matter of service delivery in the province, it's a matter that we always discuss in this Legislature as we were discussing earlier about the issue of water and electricity in Makhuduthamaga. We discussed this with an understanding that this province of Limpopo like the Eastern Cape and other provinces, is one of the provinces that have huge backlogs from where it comes from, because of apartheid. Where apartheid was developing urban areas of the republic, the Western Cape, Gauteng, and some parts of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, and Pietermaritzburg.

But the apartheid system was not interested in developing these areas, and that is why it was only after 1994 that most of our people are enjoying electricity, water and

roads and free housing and hundreds of other things that they enjoy because of this democratic dispensation.

We are working on the basis of backlog that is there piled up because of where we come from. We think since 1994 as a provincial government of the ANC there has been work that we have been doing which built in one administration after another to ensure that the people of this province also enjoy a better life as better people elsewhere. Those were the four points that were raised, and Hon Lebea spoke so well, and I was not going to debate, until something happened. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I now call upon the honourable MEC.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Thanks, Hon Deputy Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to thank the Members of this august House for the comments that they have made. I also want to take this opportunity and thank the members of the portfolio committee as led by Hon Phala in terms of guiding us within Treasury.

I would like to say that indeed we have been able to realise a quantum leap in terms of the audit outcomes of the province. As Members have alluded to the fact that there are real improvements in that regard. When the time is right, we will come to this august House and make a presentation in terms of that quantum leap that we are talking about; so that those that are relying on hearsay can understand how the provincial government has been able to improve in terms of its working. Particularly with regard to reducing matters that are coming from the A-G and in terms of the level of performance by various departments, which is not thumb sucked, which is a reality that comes from a qualified institution as it has been asserted by the chairperson of the committee.

We have also seen an improvement in terms of municipal performance, particularly in terms of reporting mechanisms and in terms of the quality of reports and making sure that there is compliance in terms of the submission of reports and the fact that our municipalities have ultimately, and through the support of the Provincial Treasury, been able to submit their reports and take resolutions and pass their Budgets.

We have also gone further to strengthen the work of supporting municipalities and initially it was a little bit difficult for the department due to the insufficient human resource capacity that the department had. Now that we have strengthen that we believe that local municipalities should be able to follow suit in terms of improvement in their audit outcomes.

I don't think I should speak more because I will end up spoiling the comments that fellow Members of this House have already expressed and with those remarks I would really like to take this opportunity to thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. That closes the debate on the report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury.

7.3. Consideration and adoption of the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill, 2020

I call upon the committee chairperson.

ADV PHALA

Thanks, Hon Deputy Speaker. I move that the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Provincial Treasury on the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill, 2020 [B04-2020], be adopted as the report of this honourable House. I move accordingly, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there any seconder? I recognise Hon Selamolela.

MR SELAMOLELA

I, Selaelo Donald Selamolela, stand to support the motion as presented by Kgolane Rudolph Phala.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Apologies honourable Members. We have sorted the glitch.

7.4. Second Reading Debate on the Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill

We shall now refer to the Speakers' List and call upon Hon Maria Lekganyane to open the debate.

MS LEKGANYANE

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Premier, the Chief Whip, Members of the Executive Council, chairpersons of different portfolio committees and all honourable Members present here and members of the public in the gallery, kgotso ya Modimo ga e be le rena.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I, Nakedi Maria Lekganyane, stand before this august House to debate on the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill, 2020 [B04-2020]. The Bill was introduced in this House on the 26 November 2020 by the MEC for Provincial Treasury, Hon Sekoati. The Limpopo Adjustments Appropriation Bill is a money Bill and seeks to appropriate adjusted amounts of money from the Provincial Revenue Fund for the financial year which will be ending on 31 March 2021.

Let me present an overview of the Adjustments Budget to this honourable House. The total adjusted budget in July 2020 which catered mainly COVID-19 allocations

decreased the Provincial Budget from R72,8 billion to R71,6 billion. Equitable Share remained unchanged at an amount of R62,3 billion, whereas Provincial Conditional Grants were reduced by R543,2 million from the main allocation of R9,89 billion to R9,3 billion.

During the adjustment under review, it was found that conditional grant rollovers amounting to R220,5 million and R578,4 million of unspent funds from the previous financial year were surrendered. An amount of R182,6 million was added for the Presidential Employment Initiative and R18,6 million was added for drought relief in agriculture. A reduction of R24,9 million was contributed to rescue the South African Airways.

On Equitable Share, a reduction of R3,76 billion was made on compensation of employees to effect government wage bill and R987,8 million was added to the Department of Education for Presidential Employment Initiative and R57,8 million for food relief in the Department of Social Development. An amount of R378 billion will be mainly funded by R800 million from compensation of employees' savings and R686 million from Special COVID-19 adjustment surplus and R1,1 billion from COVID-19 unspent funds in Health and Education. An amount of R119,4 million surrendered from the previous year.

The Provincial Own Revenue was reduced by R119,6 million from R1,38 billion to R1,268 billion. The Limpopo Legislature will receive a rollover of R16,7 million. Provincial adjustment allocation reduced the Budget from R71,6 billion to R71,3 billion. The provincial adjustment allocation reduced the Budget from R71,6 billion to R71,3 billion and this is a concern for us because we are a province that is already constraint financially.

The reduction of the provincial revenue will have negative impact on the provincial purse. As the committee we urge all departments to spend whatever they budgeted for in consideration of this fact. This adjustment allocation shows us that we really must consider that we are under a very tough economic situation, and we cannot afford to waste even a single cent. It is therefore very important Hon Premier and honourable MEC for Provincial Treasury that we must deal decisively with departments that continue to misappropriate government funds.

I would like to consider the provincial allocation and focus on health, education and social development and others will follow if time allows me. We want the funds to be used to ensure that the province delivers what is due to its citizens. We must continue to raise our voice regarding spending of funds in accordance with legislation. I'm now going to deal with Vote 7: Health. The Department of Health will surrender an amount of R706,6 million from COVID-19 unspent funds and R19,8 million from HIV, TB, Malaria, and community outreach grants. An allocation of R35,4 million will fund early retirement penalties.

The department received Conditional Grants rollover amounting to R7,8 million for comprehensive HIV/Aids. Allocations of R53,9 million for the Presidential Employee Initiative. We have ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Honourable Member, you are left with two minutes.

MS LEKGANYANE

From our findings as the committee, we have found that there were pensionable employees in government whose ages had been drastically reduced. Overcommitments in RAL were receiving necessary attention. The committee recommended that applications of early retirement penalties should also cater for categories of pensionable personnel within the state. That means employees whose ages are drastically reduced. The principle of the Bill should be accepted by this House and amounts reflected on the Bill should be appropriated to the department accordingly.

In conclusion, we would like to thank Treasury and that they must continue to play their role of overseeing the provincial purse. The committee considered and acknowledged adjustments made and hereby moves that this report be adopted as the report of this House and further that this Bill should proceed to its next stage. I thank you. Re a leboga. A e be kgotso. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Re a leboga. I now call upon Hon Seshoka.

MR SESHOKA

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. Greetings once more to the Premier, the MECs present here and honourable Members. Hon Deputy Speaker, allow me to present something else on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters. This Bill is not radical and developmental enough to change the lives of our ordinary masses of our people on the ground. These monies that were allocated to departments will not be used to change the lives of our people. But will further advance personal corruption with interest. The Department of Education and the Department of Health must be held accountable on why they did not spend R1,1 billion which was COVID-19 funds allocated as expected to change the lives of our people.

There is no doubt in our minds that this madness has led to an increase in infections in the province. Consequence management must apply regardless of which politician or official is found to be involved in this shameless and scandalous act. When departments request additional funds, they request them to incur fruitless expenditure. The maladministration and mismanagement will further erode the allocation, resulting in cash flow problems, instead of it being spent to change the lives of our people.

The cash is flowing into the pockets of corrupt politicians and officials who in most cases collude with contractors to steal from the poor. There is also no logic reason on why some clinics are not operating for 24-hours implying that our people only get sick during the day. The shortage of doctors and nurses is a painful reality in this province because the Department of Health has no retention strategy resulting in brain drain.

The quality of roads in Limpopo is not in line with the value for money. Meaning that taxpayers are being short-changed. Our roads are riddled with potholes resulting in many people getting involved in many serious accidents and many instances dying. Bridges are not being built to promote easy mobility and access by community.

Money is being allocated to LEDET and yet we continue to see dilapidated old and dangerous buses on our roads. They use old deadly buses as a public transport putting the lives of our people in danger. But equally the government that hates its own citizens steal from them with the intention of making them poor. They only love the people during the elections when they need their votes to put them into power.

Our people are trapped in an abusive relationship with the ANC and the sooner they jump out of this relationship the better. The EFF is the only hope for the people of South Africa. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. I now call upon Hon Phala.

ADV PHALA

Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I think Hon Lekganyane presented the discussions we had in the department very well in the meeting we held where the department briefed the portfolio committee on the Adjustments Budget. And I was not going to speak.

Let's start at the beginning, this Appropriation Bill we are dealing with is called an Adjustment Budget and it means a Budget where the provincial government is adjusting the main Budget by moving money from other programmes. This happens both in national and all the provinces and even in municipalities in the middle of the year if there are areas where money is not going to be spent, it does not reside in under expenditure at the end of the financial year where money is returned to national government.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we are talking about Adjustments Budget. We are not talking about something else; we are talking about an Adjustment Appropriation Budget which is just adjusting the main Budget that the honourable MEC tabled in February. Adjusting means taking money from areas where it is not going to be used before the end of the financial year. An Adjustment Budget precisely means that, not what other people are talking about.

The story that this Budget will not bring radical impact on the lives of the people of the province. There is no such a thing because this is an Adjustment Budget. The main Budget was passed in February. Regarding the lives of the people of the province, we were celebrating here in the provincial Legislature and elsewhere on how we worked together including the Department of Health in this province to ensure that there are not many fatalities in relation to COVID-19. The work that was done by the government, the MEC, the Mayors and everyone else particularly the health professionals in a form of nurses and doctors and pharmacists who ensured that we

have few fatalities. That is what we are talking about when we talk about radical impact on the lives of our people.

Regarding the allegations of corruption that we are talking about, usually as the Legislature or its committees we refer those to the necessary bodies that will investigate properly. If indeed if there's someone in the provincial government either a manager, or a CFO or even an office-bearer in a form of an MEC or HOD is found to be involved in corruption, that person will be taken to task. Because none of us here has both the capacity and the resources to do the investigations on corruption. We give that to those bodies and police are there, the Hawks are there, the SIU is there and many other investigating agencies.

That information must be brought forward so that any person who is involved in any shenanigans of any kind wherever. Whoever the person is whoever the person is, action is taken against that person and taken to task. This year you will remember that we have been talking about this matter and we are in December. Essentially, our people in this province and country were facing four interrelated pandemics that are closely related and interwoven. It is an economic calamity even before COVID-19 came into force in March in a big way, our economy was already in doldrums and rating agencies were already raising flags about South Africa and that employment levels were already not good. That pandemic is still on. If you look at the statistics that Statistics SA is releasing on unemployment and job creation, the fact that 4 million people lost their jobs and during COVID-19 between 2 and 4 million people lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 lockdown is a cause for concern.

That is one pandemic on its own, but it is not isolated; it is interrelated to the other pandemics. The other pandemic is the obvious one of COVID-19 which came into force as the country had to be locked down in various categories of lockdown from March. To date we are on level one of lockdown, and it seems like there is some tightening of this or that area of the lockdown that came in December, Christmas, and New Year holidays. That is a pandemic on its own. We have already lost more than 20 000 people as a result of COVID-19 as a country. Those that are in the health sector talk of additional deaths that happened and the figure goes higher if you count those.

That is a pandemic that is not running parallel but is interrelated with the other pandemics. There is also a pandemic of gender-based violence and femicide, where women and children of our country are being attacked and killed and all that is also because of the challenges of **lumpen** patriarchy where uninitiated men of all kinds, take actions of all kinds in relation to gender-based violence and femicide. It is a pandemic that goes together with the other pandemics, and we have lost a lot of people in that regard also.

There is a forced pandemic that Hon Kedibone Lebea talked to. It is a pandemic of COVID-19 corruption where covidpreneurs and tenderpreneurs, scoundrels and other categories of chance-takers were taking a chance to make quick bucks because of this challenge of COVID-19. It is a matter that is attended to by the state institutions and now that we are ending the year with this Adjustment Appropriation Bill, it is a pandemic on which we think we will get a report on.

One of the things that we raised ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

You have one minute left.

ADV PHALA

... from our side is a point that is not there in the Bill, and that is the issue of political party funding which we thought would be paid attention to by the Executive because as a Legislature, we do not have an Act that empowers us to amend a Money Bill. Parliament has passed an Act in that regard, on Money Bill and Related Matters Amendment Act where they can.

But in our situation, when a Money Bill comes the way, it looks and we either adopt it as it is as parties or as a whole and because we come from the ruling party, we are not in the business of rejecting Bills that come from the Executive of the ruling party, the ANC, we will go in that regard.

To that extent Hon Speaker, because this is the last sitting, we say to you and honourable Members and the people of Limpopo, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, arrive alive, drive safely, and look at all the ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Your time has expired.

ADV PHALA

I thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Honourable MEC, you may take the floor.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

Hon Speaker, let me once again express words of gratitude for the comments that have been made by the honourable Members, particularly members of the portfolio committee led by Hon Phala. I think chairperson under the stewardship of the Hon Premier here we have been able to navigate a very, very difficult situation as a province. If it was not for the savings that we have made from the Department of Education and the Department of Health, particularly in terms the COVID-19 spending, we would presently be in a very difficult situation as a province in terms of the availability of resources. We would not have any option, but as a province to contribute towards the fiscal consolidation and mitigation as well.

Therefore, we needed to find the resources. We really welcome those savings. Just to clarify that the department could not just spend, we had to spend in terms of needs. If there is no need, there was no need for the department just to spend just, because

there is money allocated for COVID-19 spending. That would be what we call corruption, but also wasteful expenditure. Honourable Members that did not understand why the money was not spend. We welcome that because that saved you and we really welcome that as a province.

Otherwise, it would have meant that we would have to part even in areas where it makes it impossible for departments to be able to operate. I think just to emphasise on what honourable chairperson of the portfolio committee said in terms of the economic situation, just for you to understand, the honourable Member who said that this Bill is not radical. It cannot be radical firstly, because it is an adjustment Budget that came from the main Budget when it was submitted here. Secondly, the same main Budget was made under an economic situation which was already deteriorating when we already had a technical recession as a country. COVID-19 only compounded the situation. Yes, because you do not understand that situation. You can only have a radical way of allocating resources only if you have reserves. In this case as a country, we did not have reserves.

We had to go and borrow from the savings, the domestic savings which equally are critically linked to the economic situation. If the economy is declining savings will also go down. Our savings have gone down from 15 [inaudible] we are borrowing from savings that are already declining which clearly tells you that there is no way that you will have any reserves when we are already borrowing. Where do you find the resources for you talk about radical changing and so on? What we are managing now is to try and make sure that the economy starts reviving and we can start seeing investments and are starting to see people getting job opportunities and so on. Savings will start to go up again. Government will also have enough funds that will be collected from taxes for it to be able to allocate so that there can be radical change in the country. Under the circumstances you will not have anything that you would be able to use so that when you go home after the schooling from Hon Phala, I thought it would be important just before school goes out so that I am able to clarify you further. It is important for you to understand, why the borrowing?

Hon Speaker, we have also made sure that even under these difficult economic conditions, LEDET has gone out to purchase new busses. More than 17 new buses are already being delivered in the province and they are already bussing our people from Polokwane and various areas. Just to say that it is important for you to understand that we are just not sitting, we are indeed working even though it is under a very difficult economic situation. We continue to navigate and make sure that our people continue to get the expected services.

The political funding indeed, we are aware that there is a need for political funding, Hon Speaker. We will expedite the process of finding a way in which we can be able to properly deal with this political funding under this economic situation. We will have to look at that. We are compelled to do that. It is only that we realise that we need to deal with these adjustments, and we will further deal with other projects as we continue with monitoring the process. We believe that under that process when you look at various areas in terms of Treasury, we should then be able to look at the political funding as well equally.

Once again, I would like to join my colleagues here that as we go on a Christmas recess let us take care particularly on the roads, but also make sure that we do take care of ourselves, because COVID-19 is still here. Let us go out and spend wisely, because we need to make sure that as we come back as Members, we can lead by example; we are not necessarily spending even when it is not necessary, just because it is Christmas. Let us make sure that we remember that there are still days. January is there we will be spending on our learners in terms of schooling, but also just to make sure that we take care of ourselves and our loved ones. Once again, I thank you, Hon Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, honourable MEC. That closes the debate on the Second Reading Debate on the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill. Hon Chief Whip, you may take the floor.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Thank you, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

We did not hear anything, Hon Chief Whip. There was a problem with that mic Hon Chief Whip. We did not hear anything. Maybe you must come to the podium.

THE CHIEF WHIP

MOTION FOR THE SUSPENSION OF THE HOUSE RULES
(Draft Resolution)

Hon Speaker, I move that House Rule 174 be suspended to allow the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill, 2020 [B04-2020] to proceed to the next stage of the Third Reading in this Sitting. I so move. I hope I was audible.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Is there a seconder? Hon Mdaka, you may take the floor.

MR MDAKA

I, Falaza Mdaka, stand to second the move as made by the Hon Chief Whip. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. MEC for Provincial Treasury, you may take the floor.

THE MEC FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

I thank you, Hon Speaker. I move that the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill, 2020 [B04-2020] has gone through all the relevant stages of the legislative process of this House.

I now move that the Bill be read for the third time in terms of the provision of House Rule 170. I move accordingly, Hon Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Is there a seconder? Hon Seono, you may take the floor.

MS SEONO

Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. I raise my hand to second the move as tabled by the MEC, Hon Sekoati. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much.

Third Reading of the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Bill, 2020 [B04-2020].

We shall now vote clause by clause. Clause 1: Definitions. When we vote, those who agree with the clauses will say 'Yes' and those who are against will say 'No'. No, no, no, I am looking everywhere. I must look everywhere. Let us vote clause by clause. Clause 1: Definitions? Those who agree, say yes.

BACKGROUND

'Yes'.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Those who are against will say 'No'.

BACKGROUND

'No'.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

The 'Yes' have it. Clause 2: Appropriation of adjusted amounts of money for requirements of the province. Those agree will say 'Yes'

BACKGROUND

'Yes'.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Those who are against will say 'No'.

BACKGROUND

'No'.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

The 'Yes' have it. Clause 3: Appropriation listed as specifically and exclusively appropriated. Those who agree will say 'Yes' and those who do not agree will say 'No'.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Those who are against will say 'No'.

BACKGROUND

No.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Clause 4: short title. Those who agree with the short title will say 'Yes'.

BACKGROUND

Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Those who are against will say 'No'.

BACKGROUND

No.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

The 'Yes' have it. Secretary, please read the short title of the Bill.

MR MAPHAHA [ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY]

Thank you, Hon Speaker. This Act is called the Limpopo Adjustment Appropriation Act, 2020. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much for that. We have managed to complete our work on the Act.
[APPLAUSE]

8. SNAP DEBATE OF WORLD AIDS DAY

We have two speakers. We will start with Hon Managa, I am told that you are replacing Hon Mphahlele. Order please.

MS MANAGA

Thank you, Hon Speaker, Azwindini Jeremiah Ndou. Greetings to you, Premier Hon Mathabatha; Members of the Executive Council present, the Leader of the Official Opposition, Hon Joseph Buthane in absentia; chairpersons of committees present here, the Chief Whip as well as all honourable Members present in this august House.

Debate on World Aids Day, which is the international day, 1 December. It is about four decades now of the HIV/Aids pandemic in South Africa. Limpopo has over half a million people living with HIV/Aids. Statistics show that young people are the ones who are at risk than any other group. In our province, we are not even sure if the province has initiated any research or studies on finding the cure for HIV/Aids.

An EFF government's approach to healthcare will be based on its seven non-negotiable cardinal pillars. The pillars speak about quality care, health prevention as well as health promotion. What are interventions in place to care, support and minimise infections and reinfections amongst communities? What are the educational projects that seek to create awareness on the subject matter? It is worth noting that our province has been quiet in this regard. HIV/Aids has created orphans and child-headed families, yet government does not have any clear plan to support such families apart from providing them with food parcels.

The search for vaccines should integrate African medicines with proper support and clinical trials. An EFF government will build consulting rooms for traditional and indigenous health practitioners, traditional healers as well as traditional herbalists to be used for free in all districts to hospitals to approach healthcare holistically. It is clear that Western interventions have failed since the discovery as we also suspect that it might be for economic reasons that there is a delay on vaccination.

Honourable MEC, the role of civil societies has diminished due to lack of funding. Such entities have been helpful in communities on matters of HIV/Aids and other related diseases. An "EFF government" will adopt a national healthcare system that focusses on primary healthcare, quality clinics and disease profiling through public healthcare facilities. The educational initiatives should be relevant to target audience, to avoid miscommunication and wasting of resources.

Honourable MEC, as EFF, we have a few questions: How many families are child-headed in Limpopo because of effects and the impact of HIV/Aids epidemic in Limpopo? What is the cost of ensuring that there is proper healthcare to those infected? How often and for how long do patients wait for medicines from clinics and hospitals? What support is the province providing to HIV patients during this era of

COVID-19 pandemic? Can the department provide the latest demographics on the latest HIV/Aids trends? Of the over half a million HIV-infected patients, how many people are receiving consistent, uninterrupted medicine and support by the department? Are the programmes that deal with stigmatisation of the infected in various communities available?

As I conclude, MEC, Hon Ramathuba, as you are focussing on COVID-19 do not neglect other conditions like HIV/Aids, malaria, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, CKD (chronic kidney disease) and many more as well as other acute and minor conditions that are prevailing in our society. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Hon Ramathuba Phophi, you may take the floor.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Hon Speaker. Hon Premier, colleagues in the Executive Council, Chief Whip, honourable Members, good morning. Ndi matsheloni. Avuxeni. Thobela.

Thank you once again, Hon Speaker, for allowing us to participate in this debate that commemorates and reflects on the fight against HIV/Aids, the pandemic that has left millions of our children globally being orphaned. This year the international community commemorates World Aids Day under very difficult conditions. This is the year in which we were supposed to have come to this august House and register a lot of progress and strides that we have made in so far as fighting HIV/Aids. However, due to another pandemic, the COVID-19, we saw ourselves regressing in some of our indicators within the first quarter due to the level five lockdown restrictions. Also, at the same time we have seen ourselves progressing in other indicators because of the very same level five lockdown.

It is on this very important day within our global calendar that we pause to reflect and commemorate the lives lost due to HIV/Aids. We also remember those who are infected and those who are affected by this incurable disease. We reflect deeply on the impact and extent of our campaigns against these phenomena – HIV/Aids. Government has continuously ensured that all those who are living with HIV/Aids receive treatment without failure. In the same breath we continue to amplify our preventative message and create awareness. We have not ignored HIV/Aids, we have not ignored malaria, we have been fumigating and we came and account to this august House that malaria is still critical.

We are not ignoring diabetes mellitus; we have been in this august House accounting. We are not ignoring cancer patients. We are not ignoring patients with surgical backlogs. We have been moving in the third districts that we are coming from now starting with Sekhukhune, Mopani, and Vhembe. Where we are dealing with surgical backlogs of patients. We cannot, because of COVID-19 ignore other diseases.

We have also reminded this august House every time that people who die of COVID-19 are those with comorbidities. It becomes fruitless for us to focus on COVID-19 without making sure that those who are infected with HIV/Aids or those with diabetes

do not take their medication. I think it is important for us to present and say things that are factual and not come with things that are not factual. We are confident to say that HIV/Aids is no longer a death sentence. It is one of those preventative chronic and manageable diseases maybe even better than any other deadly diseases.

Although much still needs to be done, we can safely say that we have indeed registered positive strides in our fight against HIV/Aids. Working together with our communities as Limpopo Aids Council, we have our own Premier, we will continue to fight against HIV/Aids – no infection. Government alone cannot win this battle. We need to register a meaningful victory. We are hopeful that community by community, person by person, we shall indeed overcome. The fight against HIV/Aids is the fight against TB. We need to fight and defeat this opportunistic disease called TB.

Let us offer the same support to all infected diseases either TB, HIV/Aids, whether it is COVID-19 whether it is diabetics or any other diseases the same and similar support. They are all diseases, and they take lives. We are commemorating this year's World Aids Day as South Africans under the theme: "We are in this together. Cheka Impilo". The august House will agree with me that the theme binds all of us to collectively wage a battle against this relentless epidemic. As a province and indeed as a country, as a nation, we have an obligation to bring about an HIV/Aids-free generation. The road that I have towards that HIV/ Aids-free generation is still painfully long. We must keep doing the work and educating the communities about the deadly impact of the epidemic.

We are, however, comforted that by the fact that as a province, we are one of those provinces that has got a fully functional Aids Council which is led by the Premier himself. That is also reported by the South African National Aids Council. All MECs are part of the council. Business and civil society in this province are part of the Aids Council. There are issues of funding, and they are being discussed in the very same Limpopo Aids Council. We have partners that have come on board that are supporting and assisting civil society. The council meets according to plan. This year the council will be having three meetings that are chaired by the Premier. The council at the same time held its 2020 World Aids Day Celebration virtually and the highlight is that the people of Limpopo received a message of hope from the Premier which was broadcast not only on the social media and on all our radio stations. Three of our district municipalities, I must report to this House, have also functional Aids councils and of course the two remaining municipalities are receiving the support from the Premier himself. He has already met with the two Executive Mayors and a plan to re-establish and strengthen the district Aids councils in those two districts are already underway. We need to intensify our awareness campaign.

This will help us towards raising the most fundamental awareness about HIV/Aids. The other most important factor is for us to mitigate against the stigma that exist amongst our communities which is delaying people to seek treatment or to be tested early, because they are afraid that people will be talking about them. We commemorate our World Aids Day also by observing a candlelight moment. The purpose of this candle lighting was to reflect and remember the many lives that we lost due to Aids. We use it as an opportunity to honour those who dedicated their lives helping people living and affected by HIV and continue to mobilise our communities in solidarity. The importance

of knowing one's health status cannot be overstated. We need to take responsibility for our health.

We are at advanced stage towards meeting the 1990 UNAids target. This first target has been achieved already in the fourth quarter and we managed to sustain it in the first quarter. This is 90% of people living with HIV to know their status. We do have those figures. We do not have enough time to come and explain how many people are living with HIV in the province. I can tell you more than 90% of people who live with HIV/Aids in the province know their status.

In terms of those who are living with HIV whom we have already initiated in the fourth quarter we have initiated 85%. However, we regressed in the first quarter which was under level five lockdown. If you remember many of our patients were afraid to come to the hospital, because they were told that if your immune system is low, you might get infected by COVID-19, and you will die. That is what makes people to be reluctant until we corrected that misunderstanding ... [INTERJECTION]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

You have two minutes left, honourable Member.

THE MEC FOR HEALTH

When you have those other conditions, you need to take steps and take your medication. We do have several catch-up programmes to be able to address that. In the last 90 of people whose viral load is suppressed, we have improved from 84% to 86%, so we are left with 4% to reach the 90% target. We have all the catch-up strategies that we can present if time permits, but time does not permit for us to deal with it, including for us to initiate TLD regimen (Tenofovir, Lamivudine, and Dolutegravir). This is a new drug that we are using which has minimum side effects and we are giving our patients a 90-day package, which we call a holiday package so that they do not have to come to the hospital in the next three months.

It is also important for us to remind Members that we have a MINA campaign. This is a campaign focussing on men to come and test and know their status, because most of our men believe that once a wife or a girlfriend knows their status than it is guaranteed that your status will be addressed by that. We are calling on men to say your wife might be negative and, you are positive. We will be testing men and focussing on them.

I cannot conclude this, Hon Speaker, without raising the concerns that we are having. I am glad that the speakers that spoke before me raised this matter. Let me just give an example and illustration. On 1 December, South Africa registered 2 295 new cases within 24 hours, as a province, we registered 40. When you look at the previous day, we had registered 15 a province. The second day we registered 40. Yesterday, South Africa registered 4 173 new cases meaning they have doubled. As a province we have registered 65 new cases. Those who think that the talks of resurgence are just a talk show.

We need to wake up to say while we are still at 4,4 per 100 000 population in terms of looking at the resurgence indicator, we are worried, especially when you come to municipalities Lephalale and Thabazimbi. They have already registered 12,4 and 10,7 respectively. That means that they are on an alert stage. I want to re-emphasise what was said by all honourable Members who spoke before me, it is high time that we provide leadership. So that we do not spend that money that we do not have, because as a province we believe in the push back strategy which is cheaper.

We do not believe in building all the field hospitals, we do not have money for that. We believe that people must not get infected, people must not get into hospital. We will never win the battle of COVID-19 or any other disease in our hospitals or in our ICU. We can only win them within our communities, within our streets, because that is where the diseases are. When they come to the hospitals, they have already complicated matters. Let us remember to wear our masks, washing of our hands and sanitising with an alcohol-based sanitiser and practising social distance. Let us also remember to take care of our health before you get into your car to drive check your blood pressure it might be elevated. You will have blurred vision on the road, and you will be involved in an accident. Check your blood sugar also, check your cholesterol level. If you are tired or fatigue, please rest.

We are tired as healthcare workers; we have never had a break. We are now wanting to prepare for another surge. If you get involved in an accident you are just going to cost the most serious burden on the already overburdened system. Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you. I did allow you to proceed because it was important information. The information that you were imparting was important, that is why we have allowed you to go over the time that was allocated to you. Thank you very much for that, I think it was important. Honourable Members, we will then invite political parties to give their messages as we close the calendar year. We will start with the EFF.

CLOSING REMARKS BY POLITICAL PARTIES

MS MANAGA

Ndo livhuwa, Hon Deputy Speaker. This year was one of the hardest years in the whole world, because we have experienced a major blow of COVID-19. Limpopo was not excluded; hence we suffered the blow too. Most of our people lost their jobs due to this pandemic. Their houses were repossessed, some lost their cars which left them stranded with no money to cater for their family needs. Many properties were repossessed which left people with a financial burden. This Christmas is not going to be like the usual Christmas to many families.

The EFF in the province is aware of that. However, we are wishing a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all the people of Limpopo and to you the fellow colleagues. We would like to say to the people of Limpopo; have a safe festive season, do not drink and drive. Remember speed kills. Arrive alive to your destination. Do not overspend like all the other honourable Members have said already. Most importantly

do not forget the kids school needs in the beginning of the year that will be needed. A wise parent settles his/her kids fees for the coming year when he/she receives his/her bonus to those who get their bonuses year end to avoid frustrations in the beginning of the year.

To all males out there, let us protect our women and children. Say no to domestic violence and silence and say not in my name. God be with you and stay blessed colleagues until we meet next year. I thank you. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. ANC representative, you may take the floor

THE CHIEF WHIP

Hon Deputy Speaker, Hon Premier, Members of the Executive, honourable Members of this august House, we have reached the end of the calendar year, 2020, which ushered in a period that has taught us to scale up our game to provide leadership, continue to provide the much-needed service delivery for our people, but also to display humility and appreciate everything that we have as a people.

We have seen, Deputy Speaker, the devastating consequences of the economy and ravaging implications which have been brought about by the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic to most of our people. We remain grateful on how this government has put up effective measures to mitigate against the enormity of the impact of the pandemic on the lives of our people and the economy at large. Honourable Members, as we conclude this calendar year, we must take stock and reflect on our constitutional obligations imposed on us as legislators, on whether our being here has been a stimulus in our people towards attaining a better life or not.

In his speech at the inaugural ceremony of the Organisation of the African Unity (OAU) conference in Addis Ababa in 1963, Kwame Nkrumah said: "On this continent, it has not taken us long to discover that the struggle against colonialism does not end with the attainment of national independence. Independence is only the prelude to a new and more involved struggle for the right to conduct our own economic and social affairs; to construct our society according to our aspirations, unhampered by crushing and humiliating neo-colonialist control and interference."

The succession was relevant then as it is now. It is in this same breath that honourable Members, I implore you to measure the effects of this freedom and democracy. Engage if it brought a sudden change of fortunes in the blood of our people in the political, cultural, social, economic, and even psychological aspects of their being. We can only have the dipstick to gauge our impact in society if we use all the arsenal at our disposal. Our role as Members of this august House allows us to play oversight over the work assigned to our colleagues in the Executive. This is both a political and moral obligation to our people and those who will come long after our time.

There is no excuse for anyone of us to abscond from this all-important electoral assignment. Anything to the contrary would be a betrayal of their trust and confidence on our capabilities. Honourable Members, let us treat our roles like the biblical Moses.

A man who was close to God's heart, who understood that his assignment was to take the Israelites out of bondage, and he did exactly that. For 40 years that Moses spent with the Israelites, he was a good shepherd to them despite the numerous challenges he was faced with. Of course, there were challenges on the journey, but the Israelites had trust in Moses, the same way that our people have trust in an ANC-led government. It is for that reason that we owe a great allegiance to paying back their faith by being of good service to them.

The occasion of this break is marked by a great sense of uncertainty but let us continue being their beacon of hope. Let us all stay safe on the roads and continue to spread the positive message of healthy living with the challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic. I thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker. [APPLAUSE]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon Chief Whip, you may take the floor. The motion is there. You are still coming next? Will you come back here again? We move to the Motion for the House to rise, Hon Chief Whip.

THE CHIEF WHIP

Apologies, Hon Deputy Speaker. I did not want to anticipate your next move. Hon Speaker, I, Essob Mokgonyana, in my capacity as the Chief Whip of the House move that this House rise today and resume its business on 25 February 2021, here at Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. I so move, Hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much, Hon Chief Whip. Is there a seconder? **Sepedi 05:39** Hon Matlou, you may take the floor.

MR MATLOU

Sepedi 05:51

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Thank you very much. **Sepedi 06:04**.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements? You do not give food to the people when it is the last day? I am told that they have cut the budget now you cannot get food. [LAUGHTER]

Honourable Members, thank you very much for giving us the cooperation to enable us to run the House so smoothly throughout the year even during the times when we have held our Sittings virtually. I speak on behalf of the Speaker and other presiding officers, as we say as we enter this period let us take care of ourselves. We want to come back as one so that we continue the work of ensuring that our people get the services that they deserve.

We want to wish all of us a Merry Christmas and a good new year. Arrive alive, let us not drink and drive and let us respect the COVID-19 protocols and take care of ourselves. If it means that we put ourselves as individuals under level five, let us do it for the sake of our own health, because it is important. Thank you very much again.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The House is adjourned to Thursday, 25 February 2021 at 10:00. Thank you very much.

[THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED]