GAUTENG PROVINCE
PROVINCIAL TREASURY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SPEECH BY GAUTENG MEC FOR FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HONOURABLE LEBOGANG MAILE, ON THE OCCASION OF TABLING THE MEDIUM-TERM BUDGET POLICY STATEMENT AND THE ADJUSTMENT BUDGET, GAUTENG PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE, 02 DECEMBER 2025.

Madam Speaker and Deputy Speaker
Premier Panyaza Lesufi
Fellow members of the Executive Council
Chief Whip of the Majority Party
Leaders of Political Parties
Members of the Provincial Legislature
MMCs of Finance and Councillors
Representatives from the Auditor General's Office
Senior Officials of Government and Municipalities
Representatives of Business, Organised Labour, and Civil Society
Distinguished guests
Comrades and Friends

INTRODUCTION

It is an honour and a privilege to stand before you in this august house, on this occasion of the tabling of the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement of the Gauteng Provincial Government. This event takes place during an important period in our country's calendar – the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign. This global campaign which aims to raise awareness and combat gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) is more than an annual commemorative event. It is an opportunity for us to reflect on the state of GBVF in our country and to measure the efficacy of the interventions that we have in place.

The decision by the President of the Republic, Honourable Cyril Ramaphosa, to declare GBV a national disaster, is a progressive step in the right direction towards investing significantly in a fight that, if unattended to, threatens our civilisation as we know it. GBV is not only a social, political and public health emergency, it is also an economic crisis. It has substantial direct and indirect costs to individuals, communities, businesses, and national economies. Studies by the International Monetary Fund and numerous researchers have found that an increase in violence against women can significantly reduce overall economic activity in a country.

A 2019 study by the World Bank found that violence against women can cost up to 3.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in some countries, with South Africa estimated to be losing between 0.9 per cent and 1.3 per cent of GDP annually. And yet, high as these figures may be, most of these studies use accounting methods to estimate some direct costs related to such violence but do not take into account other factors that can affect the economy.

This event takes place just a week after South Africa hosted a successful G20 Leaders' Summit. The historic meeting, the first to be hosted on African soil since the founding of the G20 in 1999, will be remembered in history as a gathering that reaffirmed the importance of multilateralism in an increasingly polarised world.

As a multilateral global forum, the G20 represents 85 per cent of the global GDP, 75 per cent of international trade and more than two thirds of the world's population. The meeting at Nasrec was particularly significant because our government, which held the G20 Presidency, extended a special invitation to African leaders to participate in the Summit alongside Member States, providing a platform for industrialised and developing economies to discuss international development and inclusive economic and cooperation.

The adoption of the G20 Leaders' Summit Declaration at the start of the meeting was a significant milestone, occurring after all countries reached a broad and sufficient consensus to, amongst other things, work in partnership to advance the agenda of the Global South through strengthen disaster resilience and response, ensuring debt sustainability for low-income countries, mobilising finance for a just energy transition, and harnessing critical minerals for inclusive growth and sustainable development. These issues were also key points of engagement at the COP30 meeting which took place in Brazil just days before the G20 Summit in Johannesburg.

Honourable Members, by welcoming the G20 visitors into the province and successfully hosting them, Gauteng has once again demonstrated its capacity and strength for facilitating high quality events. According to the National Department of Tourism, early data indicates that the province generated more than R1 billion from hosting the G20 Summit. This is a significant injection into the fiscus, coming at a time when resource constraints continue to pose a significant challenge to public services for our country's increasing population.

We have no doubt that through targeted and deliberate strategic investment in the bidding and hosting of catalytic signature events, conferences and exhibitions, we will massively increase visitors into the province, generate revenue, build sustainable small businesses within the sector and create much needed jobs for the people of Gauteng. A huge congratulations to Team South Africa for achieving such a great feat, cementing in the eyes of the world that our country is an equal and important partner in the geo-political arena.

A deserved congratulations too, to Team Gauteng, particularly the City of Johannesburg, supported by the City of Ekurhuleni and the City of Tshwane, for demonstrating that this province can successfully provide the infrastructure, services and logistics necessary for a global event. We must take this opportunity to further strengthen and fast-track service delivery to our communities, whose assertion that our government proved its capacity to rise to the occasion of service delivery and infrastructure maintenance is undebatable in its legitimacy.

Madam Speaker, it is an honour and a privilege for me to present this year's Medium Term Budget Policy Statement to this House. This is the 20th edition of the MTBPS of the Gauteng Provincial Government, and the 2nd budget policy statement of the 7th Administration constituted as a Government of Provincial Unity under the leadership of Premier Panyaza Lesufi.

Let me start by tabling the following documents for consideration by this House.

- The Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement 2025 (20th Edition).
- The Adjusted Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure 2025.
- The Adjusted Estimates of Capital Expenditure 2025; and
- A copy of my Speech.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Honourable Members, the global economy has stabilised following a period of volatility in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. In its latest economic update released in October, the International Monetary Fund stated that the world economy grew by 3.3 per cent in 2024 before slowing down slightly to 3.2 per cent in 2025. The Sub-Saharan Africa region recorded moderate growth levels of 3.6 per cent in 2023, with countries that relied heavily on the export of basic commodities, particularly oil, recording sluggish growth rates because of low commodity prices. This mixed performance for the region's economies is forecast to continue going forward, with the growth rate of the Sub-Saharan Africa region predicted at 4 per cent in 2025 and 4.3 per cent in 2026.

Locally, the South African economy has once again proven its resilience amid challenges such as high electricity costs and an improved but still challenged logistical sector. These challenges, amongst others, have weighed on confidence. As a result, investment was subdued in the first half of the year. However, despite these challenges, economic growth gained better-than-expected momentum in the second quarter of 2025, and economic indicators broadly suggest that this momentum will continue into the third quarter.

As a result, the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) has forecasted growth of 1.3 per cent in 2025, 1.4 per cent in 2026, and 1.9 per cent in 2027 and 2028. Moreover, other positive economic developments in 2025 are the reduced unemployment rate. Although unemployment remains high in South Africa, the inroads that we are making are notable. Other significant developments include a stronger Rand, lower inflation, a lower interest rate and continued support from strong consumer expenditure.

In addition to this, South Africa recently received its first credit rating upgrade in nearly two decades from S&P Global which raised our foreign currency long-term sovereign credit rating to 'BB' and local currency rating to 'BB+' with a positive outlook. This upgrade was driven by an improved fiscal outlook, stronger growth prospects, and better performance from state-owned entities like Eskom. The government has demonstrated fiscal consolidation and restraint in spending, including a decision to reduce its borrowing requirement, which signals underlying discipline.

The Gauteng economy

Turning to Gauteng, the size of the province's economic output reached R2.4 trillion in 2024. This means that the province remains by far the economic hub of South Africa, responsible for R33 out of every R100 the country's economy produces. The economy of Gauteng is larger than the economies of KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape combined. Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and Western Cape contribute significantly to economic growth, together accounting for approximately 63 per cent of South Africa's GDP. However, we understand that the economy of this province must record far higher growth rates to lift South Africa's GDP, accelerate the creation of much needed jobs and reduce poverty.

It is for this reason that the provincial executive council recently approved the Gauteng City Region Economic Growth and Development Plan (GCR EGDP). The GCR EGDP is intended to contribute to the three strategic priorities of the 7th Administration, namely: inclusive economic growth and job creation; improved living conditions and enhanced health and well-being; and a capable, ethical, and developmental state.

The strategy is anchored on the following 10 main pillars: re-industrialisation through sector support: the promotion of trade and investment; spatial transformation and integration; economic and social infrastructure development; sustainable economic development; entrepreneurship and small business development support; skills of the future and workforce development; building state capacity; safety and security; and the development of corridors of regional integration

The cross-cutting pillars of the strategy are innovation and digital transformation; women, youth and people with disabilities; township procurement; and Research and Development (R&D). It is supported by 12 sector master plans to enable policies and strategies which include, amongst other things, the Township Economy Development Act (Township Economy Revitalisation Strategy), the Informal Business Upliftment Strategy, the Tourism Master plan, the MSMEs Strategy, the Trade and Investment Strategy and Green Hydrogen.

The Department of Economic Development is currently hosting several sector roundtables which will culminate in the establishment of the 12 Sector-Specific Action Labs. These Action Labs will act as multi-stakeholder collaborative and solution-oriented platforms to enhance the effectiveness and implementation of the strategy

Honourable Members, the provincial government is confident that the effective implementation of this strategy will set Gauteng on a positive economic growth path and create much needed jobs, amid global headwinds and domestic economic challenges. Through this Plan, we are working in partnership with all key stakeholders to accelerate efforts to facilitate economic infrastructure development; trade and investment promotion; improve the ease of doing business; and empower micro, small and medium enterprises, particularly those owned by previously disadvantaged groups. This will go a long way in enabling the province to close the current output gap, enhance production and significantly increase our participation in international markets.

Furthermore, Honourable Members, we convened a successful inaugural Gauteng Investment Conference in April this year. The conference resulted in global and local companies in both the public and private sectors pledging more than R300 billion in investment commitments. Working with our partners, we are making progress to turn these pledges into realistic and implementable projects that will assist us in enhancing infrastructure service delivery in the province, growing the economy and creating much needed jobs for people.

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FISCUS FOR THE GAUTENG PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

Honourable Members, the national fiscal framework is aimed at ensuring a responsible balance between government spending, tax revenue, and borrowing to prevent unsustainable debt to create a stable environment for long-term growth, job creation and investment financing of public services. As the provincial government, our fiscal trajectory reflects these national issues. That is why our focus is on debt management, revenue strategies, and spending restraint, while seeking alternative funding sources to meet increasing public service demands amidst weak economic performance.

In this regard, the provincial five-year budget approach that we introduced in the previous financial year will be continued for the 2026 MTEF Budget with the aim of addressing high-level provincial risks and stabilising public finances. In line with this, the principles that will guide the 2026 MTEF Budget include, amongst other things:

- Protecting vulnerable members of our society.
- Realisation of efficiencies in the provincial procurement processes.
- Focusing on “ready-to-deliver” infrastructure projects.
- Funding accruals as a first charge against the department’s budget allocation.
- Reprioritising existing baselines to fund provincial priorities budget pressures or new funding requirements.

- Compensation of Employees budgets must remain within the limits set in the 2025 Budget.
- Ensuring long-term fiscal sustainability through own revenue collection, alternative funding sources, trade-offs, downscaling or stopping programmes.

The goal of these principles is to stabilise provincial public finances by maintaining fiscal discipline and credibility and ensure impactful service delivery. We must respond appropriately to prevailing key fiscal risks for the province including unfunded public sector wage agreements and provincial debt obligations. We must be bold and introduce, test and implement immediate, short-term, and medium-term budget reforms over the 2026 MTEF to ensure prudent management of provincial resources.

REVENUE ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY

Honourable Members, as part of our plans to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability, we have developed the new GPG-Wide Revenue Enhancement Strategy. This strategy was approved by the provincial executive council in October 2025. It will enable the provincial government to increase own revenue collection which will be used towards resourcing our priorities.

The strategy has six pillars which include robust debt collection, the optimisation of revenue collection processes and systems, new sources of revenue, the use of alternative sources of funding and implementation models, strategic investments/quasi fiscal investment and regulatory reviews that support the introduction of new revenue sources to expand the provincial revenue base.

Gauteng's fiscal trajectory must be addressed through a combination of active debt management strategies and aggressive revenue strategy and spending restraint. It is important to find ways to strike a balance between the growing demand for public services and the fiscally constrained economy. One option for achieving this is to explore alternative sources of funding to supplement the existing constrained revenue streams and thus enhance fiscal sustainability over the medium to long-term.

We have learnt valuable lessons from implementing the previous revenue strategy in the 6th Administration. These experiences and knowledge gained during that time will be used to ensure the successful implementation of the new strategy, including establishing a Revenue

Enhancement Forum, introducing revenue incentives, and building the necessary capacity to implement and manage key interventions.

The Provincial Treasury plays a critical role in driving the success of the strategy by providing leadership and fostering a conducive environment for its implementation. I therefore call on all revenue generation departments to work in partnership with us to ensure that we significantly increase revenue growth in the province over the next five years because this is necessary to maintain the resourcing of key delivery priorities.

Honourable Members, following a period of intensive and robust engagements, we have finalised the process of drafting the Gauteng Gambling Amendment Bill. This critical legislative process underscores the province's commitment to transformation, enhanced revenue collection, and the long-term sustainability and integrity of the gambling industry. This development takes into consideration how the industry has evolved and will go a long way in strengthening the legislative framework in our country and promoting responsible and accountable gambling practices.

DIGITISING PROCESSES TO IMPROVE OPERATIONS

Madam Speaker, when re-tabling the 2025/26 Main Budget to this house on the 3rd of June 2025, I emphasised our commitment to enhancing our internal processes to achieve operational efficiencies, and fight fraud and corruption in government by digitalisation our procurement ecosystem. Today, we are launching the pilot phase of TendaSwift - Gauteng's new comprehensive e-procurement platform that has been developed in partnership with the Gautrain Management Agency to automate and digitise the entire tender management process in the province.

TendaSwift, which is available on the e-tender website of the Gauteng Provincial Treasury, is a modern e-procurement platform designed to streamline processes, strengthen oversight, and provide the functionality needed for effective public procurement in the digital era.

One tender from Provincial Treasury has been advertised on TendaSwift, while another, from the Gauteng Growth and Development Agency, will be advertised on the 5th of December 2025. This demonstrates our commitment to transparency, open competition, and a modernised procurement system.

For many years, government procurement systems relied heavily on manual, paper-based submissions that created inefficiencies, delays, and opportunities for malpractice. Thus, this is not merely a technological upgrade. It is a strategic intervention aimed at ensuring that every supplier, regardless of size or location, has equal access to opportunities.

Importantly, TendaSwift will also help curb corruption by reducing manual processes, strengthening oversight, and ensuring that every step of procurement is transparent, traceable, and accountable. Through this platform, we are reinforcing our determination to build a procurement system defined by integrity and fairness.

TendaSwift builds on the Open Tender Process, a key intervention that the Gauteng Provincial Government introduced in 2014 to strengthen our procurement processes. With TendaSwift, we are taking it a step further by digitising the entire value chain of the procurement process - from tender creation and advertising, through bid submission and evaluation, to adjudication, probity audit and contracting.

Honourable Members, in line with our commitment to modernise and innovate in the public sector procurement space, we are also automating the paper-based Request for Quotation (RFQ) and RLS01 (Remaining Line Structure) processes. These systems which have been developed in partnership with National Treasury and the Department of e-Government respectively, are aimed at integrating and automating budgeting and procurement processes, as well as improving the turnaround times and overall processing efficiency in the province.

We are currently piloting the automation of both the RFQ and RLS01 processes at the Gauteng Provincial Treasury, the Gauteng Department of Community Safety and the Office of the Premier. We have also started piloting the RFQ at the Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport.

Our early observation is that the automation and integration of these processes has led to a reduction in manual processing time and improved turnaround on approvals, enhanced compliance with National Treasury procurement regulations, improved audit trail completeness, data integrity, and real-time procurement visibility.

Furthermore, as part of our ongoing commitment to strengthening supply chain management and ensuring that the procurement is done in a fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost-effective manner, we have introduced the Market Research Price Data Solution to combat the manifestation of overpricing in the province. This will significantly protect the public purse, ensuring that resources are channelled towards public services that benefit the residents of our province.

This innovative system is now fully functional and is being used in departments including the Office of Premier, Economic Development, Social Development, e-Government and Infrastructure. The system currently accounts for 51 per cent of the total catalogue items, and enables real-time access to commodity price information, facilitates informed decision-making, and enhances price negotiation capabilities across various departments and entities in the Gauteng Provincial Government.

I must report that the Invoice Management System that we introduced in April this year to provide suppliers with a simple, user-friendly portal to submit and track invoices is performing well. A significant number of all invoices of the provincial government are uploaded through this platform.

In the year to November, more than 8 000 suppliers interacted with the Invoice Management System and submitted 165 000 invoices valued at R35.6 billion. A total of 83 per cent of these invoices were paid within 30 days province wide.

Lastly, Honourable Members, as part of our initiatives to support small businesses, we are operating the Purchasing Card (P-Card) platform that offers an additional economical participation option for transactions under R30,000. In the current financial year, more than 500 merchants have benefited from this facility, with nearly R3 million in total spend processed through the P-Card system on average per month. This initiative has played a key role in supporting SMMEs to remain economically active within Gauteng. More options are being explored to make this mechanism to reach a wider spectrum.

The successful piloting and implementation of these digital projects demonstrate that the solutions we are introducing are both effective and scalable, providing a strong foundation for long-term sustainability. We are confident that this digital transition will go a long way in enhancing transparency, improving compliance, and drive operational efficiency across the entire provincial government

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Turning to local government, Honourable Members, we are deeply concerned about the challenge of municipalities tabling unfunded budgets. Based on the budget assessments that we conducted in recent months, only Rand West City, the West Rand District Municipality and Merafong City were able to revise their budget funding plans.

The implications of municipalities tabling unfunded budgets cannot be minimised. Unfunded budgets are a primary cause of the non-delivery and deterioration of essential services such as water, sanitation, electricity, and waste management. Furthermore, the adopting of unfunded budgets contributes to ongoing financial distress, resulting in high levels of unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure. At a macro level, unfunded budgets and municipal financial distress have a negative impact on regional economic growth, as a lack of stability and services stifles investment and innovation.

That said, Honourable Members, I wish to recognise the City of Johannesburg, City of Ekurhuleni, City of Tshwane, Midvaal Local Municipality and Mogale City Local Municipality for tabling funded budgets from the onset, demonstrating commitment to prudent financial management.

As the Provincial Treasury, we will continue to support and strengthen the capacity of municipalities to manage their financial affairs. We will ensure that our capacity-building programmes are aligned to financial management challenges faced by our municipalities. This will go a long way towards addressing financial management and reporting challenges at local government.

ADJUSTMENT BUDGET

Madam Speaker, let me now talk about the elements of the 2025/26 Adjustments Budget that we are tabling in this House today, and which formalises the rolling over of funds from the 2024/25 financial year.

The recommendations and priorities reflected in this Adjustments Budget are the culmination of an extensive consultation process beginning from the Medium-Term Expenditure Committee (MTEC) Hearings, Bilateral engagements between Members of the Executive Council and myself, and the Premier's Budget Committee. This collaborative approach ensures that our budget is not only technically sound but also responsive to the needs of Gauteng's people.

This Adjustments Budget also addresses pressures in frontline services, as a means of equipping GPG to continue responding to the provincial imperatives underpinning the 2024 – 2029 MTDP and the G13 priorities.

The total under-expenditure for the 2024/25 financial year was R1.922 billion or 99 per cent per cent of the allocated budget of R168.7 billion, of which conditional grants amounted to R381.5 million and the equitable share was R1.3 billion. Of significance is that R295.7 million of the unspent conditional grants have been approved for rollover, and only R85.8 million will be surrendered to the National Revenue Fund, whole of the R1.3 billion underspending in equitable share, R211.6 million will be rolled over, the balance not being lost to the province but retained in the Provincial Revenue Fund. As a matter of fact, R888 million was re-appropriated to provincial priorities in the Budget that I tabled on 03 June 2025.

Provincial Treasury runs a rollover process with well-defined criteria such as unpaid invoices or tangible proof of commitment of funds at year-end. The difference between the underspending and the amount of equitable share funds approved for rollover is because some departmental requests are unsuccessful due to legislative limits such as not more than 5 per cent of Goods and Services allocations being eligible for rollover, or insufficient documentary evidence as per the established criteria.

The total adjustment is R3.3 billion which includes the rollovers, national and provincial funding. In terms of injections to the fiscal envelope, a total of R2.2 billion is being added to the 2025/26 Main Budget, as follows:

- **The Office of the Premier** will receive an additional amount of R43.9 million, of which R40.8 million goes towards honouring outstanding claims from the Life Esidimeni Mental Health Users project, and R2.8 million for the filling of critical posts.

- **The Department of Health** is allocated R1.1 billion towards offsetting the pressures in the Goods and Services baseline, and a further R90 million towards its infrastructure programme.

- **The Department of Education** will receive R507.8 million, of which R200 million is to alleviate pressures in the Compensation of Employees line item, and the balance to Scholar Transport, School

Nutrition and School safety, which are key Goods and Services cost drivers.

- **The Department of Social Development** is allocated R103.9 million, of which R35.5 million is for augmenting the infrastructure programme allocation and the balance towards Goods and Services items exhibiting pressures.

- **The Department of Community Safety** is allocated R92.6 million to alleviate pressures facing various items under Goods and Services.

- **The Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation** will receive R10 million, of which R6 million is towards the Summer Games that will be taking place in December 2025. This initiative keeps communities constructively engaged and active in various ways during the festive season. A total of R3 million will be allocated towards Goods and Services, and R1 million for the Compensation of Employees.

- A total of R400 million is allocated to **eGovernment** of which R200 million is to address the looming obsolescence of equipment for the Gauteng Provincial Network (GPN), and the balance of R200 million towards offsetting pressing commitments under Goods and Services.

- **The Department of Infrastructure Development** is allocated R20 million to alleviate pressures in Goods and Services, and R13 million for the Compensation of Employees.

The Adjustments Budget process remains the primary mechanism for addressing unforeseen and unavoidable expenditure, expenditure that could not be anticipated at the time of the Main Budget.

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICE DELIVERY

Madam Speaker, infrastructure investment continues to play a pivotal role in economic development, job creation and contributes directly to the quality of life of our citizens. This is why we strongly believe that we must increase our investment in infrastructure and improve on robust infrastructure systems that support all our provincial services including transport, health, education and social development.

The Provincial Treasury has already introduced various measures to improve on the efficient and effective use of financial resources allocated for infrastructure projects. Instruction Notes have been issued as promised with the aim of responding to the needs of the intended beneficiaries and to prevent wasteful expenditure. When we fail to deliver projects on time, within budget and to specifications inclusive of legislative compliance, we compromise on value for money.

Due to funding constraints, we must also intensify our efforts to secure alternative resource financing models. The high level of dependence on the provincial fiscus to fund infrastructure projects must also be addressed through the strengthening of cost recovery and exploring alternative funding sources. We are also placing more focus on consequence management of poorly performing service providers.

All provincial departments and entities are encouraged to work with the Provincial Treasury and other relevant stakeholders to prepare bankable applications for infrastructure projects that qualify for Budget Infrastructure Fund funding. As the Provincial Treasury, we are also focussing on Public-Private Partnerships as a vehicle to attract additional resources for infrastructure projects.

WATER SECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Over the past few months, water insecurity challenges in the province have led to service delivery protests in some of our communities. The frustrations by our residents and businesses in the province are valid. In his 2025 State of the Province Address (SOPA), Honourable Premier, Panyaza Lesufi, not only apologised for the water crisis, but he also went on to outline several measures for water security, focusing on infrastructure repair, demand management, and inter-agency collaboration.

In this context, we welcome the recent launch of System 5A, yet another construction feat by bulk water utility, Rand Water. Rand Water is executing its augmentation programme through the construction of the said water purification facility. System 5A will add 600 million litres a day to Rand Water’s capacity, of which 150 million litres a day is already in use, with the full commissioning and handover expected by the end of December 2025. This water will be purified at the bulk water purification plant, which can now purify up to 1.2 billion litres of water a day.

Of significance about System 5A is that it will ensure that there is enough water in Gauteng and the parts of surrounding provinces, including Mpumalanga and the North West - areas that have been water-stressed for decades, despite being South Africa’ industrial and economic heartland. The implications of System 5A are significant and go beyond ensuring water availability until 2031. The economy of Gauteng and South Africa, broadly, is heavily reliant on water resources.

We regard System 5A as a significant water infrastructure intervention, especially as it happens alongside the now completed 210-megalitre Vlakfontein Reservoir in Germiston. The project is a multi-million-rand investment designed to increase water storage capacity for the growing demand in its areas of operation. It won the 2022 Fulton Award for Engineering Excellence as the largest post-tensioned circular concrete reservoir in the world.

The leadership of Rand Water, led by its Group Chief Executive Officer, Sipho Mosai, must be commended for the significant work that it is doing to ensure that the Gauteng Province addresses its water security challenges. But this work depends on the commitment of municipalities to strengthen their own water governance, which is a key requisite for ensuring that households and businesses in Gauteng can continue to function optimally. As the logistics, manufacturing and economic nerve-centre of the South African economy, Gauteng's reliance on sustainable water supply is incalculable.

CONCLUSION

Honourable Members, the Minister of Finance, Enoch Godongwana emphasised during his MTBPS speech that, and I quote: ***"We are choosing growth, stability, and reform".*** I would like to affirm that as the Gauteng Provincial Government, we remain singularly focused on protecting social services, supporting inclusive growth, and ensuring that every Rand derives tangible value and benefits to the people of Gauteng.

It is critical that at this juncture of the policy statement, I must thank the Honourable Premier, Mr Panyaza Lesufi and the Executive Council, for the commitment that they have demonstrated in prioritising inclusive economic growth and development in the Gauteng Province. I am thankful to the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Finance, Honourable Mosai, and the entire committee, for the phenomenal work that is being done to strengthen financial governance and accountability in our province.

The Speaker, Honourable Mosupyoe, and the Deputy Speaker, Honourable Mhlakaza-Manamela, are deeply appreciated for the support that they are providing to the work of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature and the broader provincial government. I would also like to thank the

Chairperson of Committees, Honourable Adams, and the Deputy Chairperson of Committees, Honourable Kunene.

Gratitude must also go out to all Members of the Legislature who make sure that checks and balances are in place, ensuring that we do not deviate from our program of action. A special thanks to the Head of Department of Finance, Ms Ncumisa Mnyani, and the team that she competently leads, for providing strategic leadership on financial and fiscal matters in support of the province's social and economic development agenda. I am also grateful to officials in the Gauteng Provincial Treasury for their role in the architecture of this Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement.

I would like to thank all MMCs of Finance in our municipalities for continuing to work with the Provincial Treasury to find ways to stabilise economies in our municipalities under challenging circumstances, thereby ensuring that we continue to build an economy that grows in the hands of our communities.

My gratitude also goes out to the media for its commitment to ensuring that the work of the department and the broader Gauteng Provincial Government is communicated to the residents of our province. And finally, I would like to thank the residents of Gauteng, our primary stakeholders, for their resilience and commitment to making our province work. I wish to conclude by reiterating the words of the Professor of Public Policy, Geoff Mulgan, who correctly asserted: "***The responsibility for good government lies not just with governments themselves but also with every other part of the system they operate in, including media, non-governmental organisations and the public***."

Thank you.