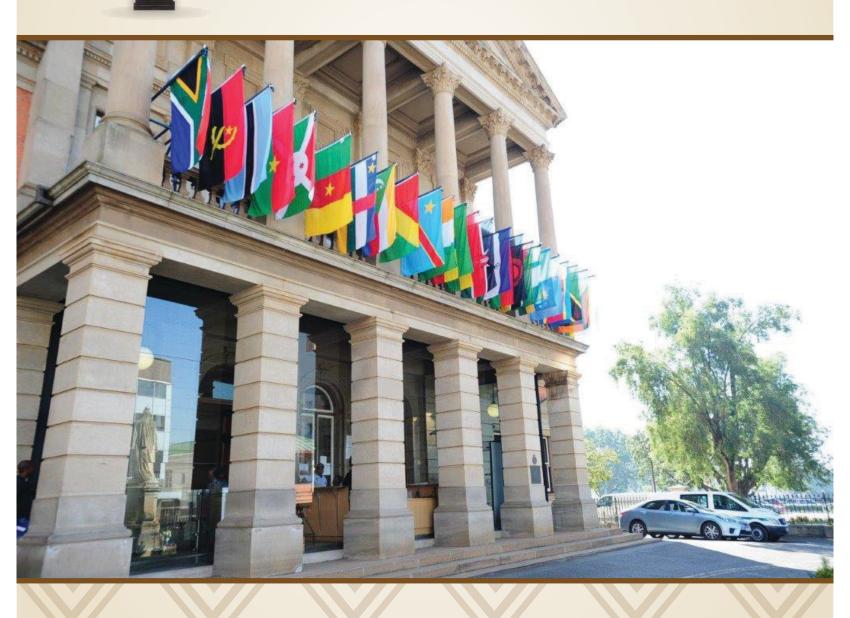


KWAZULU-NATAL LEGISLATURE

AN ACTIVIST, PEOPLE-CENTRED LEGISLATURE



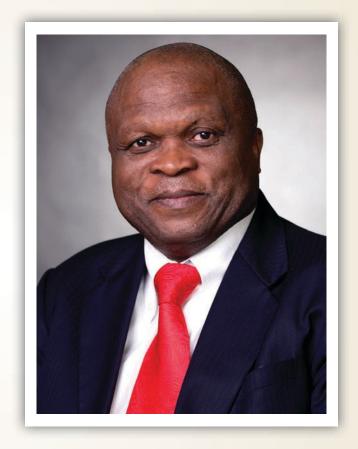
BUDGET VOTE SPEECH-

13 MAY 2021

KWAZULU-NATAL LEGISLATURE

AN ACTIVIST, PEOPLE-CENTRED LEGISLATURE





Honourable Nontembeko Nothemba Boyce (MPL)

Speaker of the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature

Honourable Richard Themba Mthembu (MPL)

Deputy Speaker of the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature



KWAZULU-NATAL LEGISLATURE

AN ACTIVIST, PEOPLE-CENTRED LEGISLATURE

Speech by Honourable Nontembeko Boyce (MPL)
Speaker of the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature

On Budget Vote 2: KwaZulu-Natal Legislature
13 May 2022

Honourable Deputy Speaker

Honourable Premier

Members of the Executive Council

Members of the Provincial Legislature

Secretary to the Legislature

Senior management of the Legislature

Senior managers of all government departments

Invited guests

Ladies and gentlemen

1. INTRODUCTION

Chairperson, this is the fourth Budget Speech of this term. We present it right in the middle of the term which comes to an end in 2024. The past three years were almost lost to this Province due to three major setbacks, namely: -

- (i) The Covid-19 pandemic and its lockdowns,
- (ii) The July 2021 unrest, and
- (iii) The April 2022 floods.

Lives were lost, the economy and businesses suffered, unemployment increased and, at a social level, daily community routines were disrupted. Despite such prolonged calamities, this Legislature maintained its decorum. It quickly embraced the dictates of a new paradigm and continued as a well-oiled and functional machine. The different political ideologies and classes represented in this House could have paralysed our operations, yet we stood united in action. Credit goes to various leaders of political parties in this House whom we cannot thank enough for their demonstrated wisdom.

As a caring government, we identify with those who grieve. Some are still reeling from the shock of losing their loved ones in the recent floods. In some instances, entire livelihoods were swept away, along with critical infrastructure such as roads, water pipes, powerlines, etc. Our hearts have been touched by the heroic deeds of those who stretched out their hands to assist whomever they could.



Some volunteers and dedicated employees got injured. Some lost their lives. Our disaster management frontline workers, our police, our health and social services personnel, our engineers, our water and sanitation personnel, our government at large and our public in general - words of thanks do not do you justice. To all these heroes, we stand and take a bow. This homage also extends to this Legislature, both Members and Staff, for being there when called upon and for donating in a time of need.

Adapting Strategy

As we continue to provide humanitarian services where required, it is clear to all of us that the aftermath has its own resource implications. As a government, we must brace ourselves for further budget cuts. The tightened belt will not be loosened anytime soon.

Honourable Members, in 2019, when we crafted our strategy, we had hoped that the global and our own national economy would improve to create an environment for better strategy implementation and delivery. The fundamentals on which we had built our strategies have since shifted mostly in a manner that emphasises a need for: -

- (i) speedy recovery initiatives, as well as urgency in providing basic services;
- (ii) effective and efficient redeployment and utilisation of scarce resources;
- (iii) improved compliance, oversight and governance;
- (iv) better communication and collaboration between government, civil society and other strategic stakeholders; and



(v) enhanced security, especially of government buildings as we draw lessons from the gutted National Parliament and vandalism against the Constitutional Court.

The advent of the District Development Model (DDM) has implications for our strategies. The DDM compels us to embrace three-sphere planning with national, provincial and local government acting in unison and complementing each other. As we remain true to the implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP) and the Provincial Growth Development Plans (PGDP), integration and urgency in action is critical.

Honourable Members, circumstances dictate that 2022/23 should be a year of improved turnaround times. Whatever we do, we must do it with speed, with fewer resources and yet deliver uncompromised quality service. This is putting pressure on improved and more efficient administrative support processes, as well as a better focus on delivery against Committee Annual Oversight Plan (AOP) priorities.

Royal Household and the Monarchy

Honourable Chairperson, we are still reeling from the shock of the untimely passing away of both His Majesty, King Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu and Queen Regent Shiyiwe Manftombi Zulu. Recently, another senior member of the Royal Household, Princess Thembi Zulu-Ndlovu who is a sister to the late King Zwelithini Zulu, has since passed on and been laid to rest. Our sincere condolences to Indlunkulu ka Zulu and the entire Zulu nation.



Honourable Members, in terms of Rule 10(2) of our Standing Rules, the head of the Zulu Monarchy plays a role in the opening of the Legislature. Since the departure of the Queen Regent Shiyiwe Manftombi Zulu, the Monarchy has not been in a position to play this role. The traditional and legal processes of crowning the King Misuzulu kaZwelithini Zulu are still underway. We sincerely appreciate and applaud the attendance of the King Misuzulu kaZwelithini Zulu and the Royal Household at the 2022 Official Opening of the Legislature. We recommit that, as soon as every requirement has been met for His Majesty to address this august House, an opportunity will be created for him to do so.

A Point of Learning

Honourable Members, His Majesty King Misuzulu Zulu's succession process to the throne is an invaluable civic education opportunity for many of our people. The criterion for choosing a successor to the throne and the role of the state in recognising the successor was openly demonstrated. More importantly, this process showed how the African customary and Western judiciary systems can and do harmonise to achieve a common goal.



On this note, we want to recognise the strategic role and manner in which the state managed this process. All the way from the President, the Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, our own Provincial Government, led by Premier Sihle Zikalala, did a commendable job. We will forever be grateful.

2. PROGRESS ON LAST YEAR'S BUDGET SPEECH COMMITMENTS

Budget Cuts and Innovation

New Business Operating Model

The Legislature had to take its proportional share of the provincial fiscal consolidation budget cuts of R62 million, R88 million and R93 million over the MTEF, of which at least 68% of the total cuts were applied against *Compensation of Employees* and *Members' Remuneration*. The balance of the cuts was applied against *Goods and Services*. These cuts and the economic challenges that have been worsened by the recent floods, will test the resilience of the Legislature.

The vacant critical research posts are therefore not likely to be filled anytime soon. This is a challenge we have discussed with Provincial Treasury. We hope that we will soon register a positive response to this matter.

To supplement the research and human resource capacity in general, the Legislature continues to partner with tertiary and constitutional institutions which support democracy.

While the Covid-19 lockdowns had a negative effect on some Legislature activities, the Legislature's response was to develop cheaper operating models such as hybrid meetings. The temptation is that with the now relaxed lockdown protocols, the Legislature will slide back into the relatively costly pre-Covid-19 operating model. Such a move will worsen the Legislature's financial position.

Process Mapping

As indicated last year, a business process mapping project is underway to radically re-engineer the Legislature's business process architecture. This will clearly define the Legislature's new Business Operating Model (BOM) built on shorter, effective and cheaper business processes.

Linked to the above is the customisation of the Sector Oversight Model (SOM) project. This has dovetailed into the process mapping project to digitalise our SOM processes and link them with the KZN Legislature App.



Office Accommodation and Remote Working

One of the strategic lessons of the hard Covid-19 lockdown protocols was that a digitised environment and ICT tools provide opportunity for Members and employees to effectively work remotely. We are now reaping the benefit of our investment in ICT infrastructure and tools. We developed and approved a policy to officialise remote working as from the first quarter of 2022/23. This will alleviate the current need for additional office accommodation.



Honourable Members, it is true that this Legislature is fast becoming a smart institution. We therefore have no choice but to diligently attend planned ICT workshops to prepare ourselves for the Digital Parliament Era.

Amendment of Money Bills & Subordinate Legislation

Honourable Chairperson, last year we reported that a draft concept paper had been developed that would herald the drafting of a Bill on the *Amendment of Money Bills*. We are happy to report that a Bill has since been developed and we are therefore looking forward to moving fast into intense political and administrative consultations with a view to formally tabling the Bill in the House before the end of the 2022/23 financial year.

Similarly, the Bill on *Subordinate Legislation* intended to be processed and led by the Portfolio Committee: Office of the Premier, remains on our top list of things to do. This therefore says both these Bills are to be processed and passed during this coming year.

Provincial Speakers' Forum

Honourable Members will recall that we indicated last year that, while we remain committed to the revival of the Provincial Speaker's Forum, we would "mark time" until the 2021 local government elections have ushered in new local government leadership. We are happy to report that engagements with the new local government leadership, especially at SALGA level, have begun. The target is to launch the aforesaid Speakers' Forum early on in the 2022/23 financial year.

New Government Precinct

Honourable Members will recall that on the 31 May 2002, a resolution of this House was that "it would be economical, effective and efficient to have the Legislature ordinarily sit in Pietermaritzburg". Related to this resolution, on the 25th October 2006, a Cabinet resolution was taken to build a New Legislature Complex. Furthermore, this Provincial Government, through the honourable Premier, committed in 2019 to prioritising a government precinct that will accommodate the Legislature.

The Legislature remains resolute in seeing this dream materialise. We are happy to report that the Department of Public Works has already presented the project design and implementation plan to Stacov. We will continue to work closely with this Department and Treasury in pursuit of this outcome.

Amendments to Standing Rules

Having committed to continuous innovation, the Legislature has approved its updated Standing Rules. A two-day workshop on the updated Standing Rules is planned, firstly, for the Rules and Programming Committees before it is rolled out to all Members. The amendments have an impact on the work of Committees and the House. We therefore urge Members to familiarise themselves with the Rules for them act confidently based on the authority of the Rules.



In-Sourcing of Services

Honourable Chairperson, last year we stated that the Legislature has a constitutional obligation to use its mandate to protect, respect, promote and fulfil the rights of all persons, as set out in the Bill of Rights (South Africa, 1996). This is a solid policy position of the governing party that can be achieved through carefully planned in-sourcing.

We are happy to report that as we committed last year, the required administrative modalities for insourcing have since been completed. The recruitment process for the cleaning and internal audit services in this regard is underway.

3. **NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Outcomes-based Oversight

The advent of the District Development Model (DDM) is forcing all three spheres of government to work in an integrated fashion to ensure better government planning and execution to achieve promised outcomes. We view the work of the Action Working Groups (AWGs) as a strategy of pursuing outcomes-based performance by our Executive.

This year this Legislature commits to introducing a more structured and focused outcomes-based oversight and the AWG will be one point of learning. We now want to directly monitor the impact that our oversight is making as we pursue outcomes expressed in the manifesto and NDP/PGDP.



Honourable Chairperson, we are fully aware that the pursuit of outcomes-based oversight means more research capacity for which we do not even have adequate funding. However, our engagements with Chapter 9 and 10 institutions indicate that cheaper research capacity can be drawn from these institutions.

As a starting point, this year we will establish a Provincial Engagement Platform (PEP) with government-funded research institutions. These will include Chapter 9 and 10 institutions, the Human Science Research Council and academic institutions such as local universities. We want to use this platform to: -

- (i) develop and maintain a research-based Provincial Service Delivery Baseline (PSDB) on NDP/PGDP targeted outcomes;
- (ii) develop applicable oversight outcomes indicators and data to inform Committees' AOP priorities;
- (iii) collect data required to monitor and measure Committee and state performance at an outcomes level;
- (iv) conduct applicable impact assessments and evaluations on government's performance against manifesto, SOPA and NDP/PGDP aspirations.

Without disrupting the design and structure of our current portfolio committees, we need to review how we are currently utilising our committee clustering system. We can achieve more if our clusters can be structured to directly draw benefit from the proposed Provincial Engagement Platform.

4. OVERSIGHT

The Implementation of SOM

Analysis of Performance Plans and Reports

Honourable Members, the Provincial Priorities in the 2022 State of the Province Address (SOPA) as pronounced by the Premier, honourable Sihle Zikalala, remain a plate from which our Committee Annual Oversight Plans should derive their priorities.

It remains critical that committees ensure that state resources and budgets are structured and spent primarily to achieve the stated provincial priorities. The analysis of Departmental Strategies, Annual Performance Plans, as well as Quarterly Performance Reports, should therefore reflect these priorities.

Oversight Visits, FIS, and Functionality

As part of oversight work, oversight visits and the rollout of Focused Intervention Studies (FIS) will continue. However, we need to ensure that such oversight visits are: -

- (i) equitably spread across the province; and
- (ii) informed by AOP priorities and targets.



Honourable Chairperson, we congratulate Chairpersons of Committees, the Office of the Chairperson of Committees and Office of the Chief Whip in complying with the SOM and ensuring that committee reports are tabled in the House. As indicated last year, we are producing publications of FIS and Functionality Oversight Programmes, as well as multiparty reports. These will be available in our Library and on our website.

NDP/PGDP and Functionality Programme

The functionality programmes continue to be an effective tool of oversight. We ensure that all functionality programmes report in the same manner as the TLtP's Multi-Party and School Functionality Programmes which report on NDP/PGDP implementation. We will also track progress at those schools which the Legislature has visited in the past three years to assess impact. The same methodology will be used for the health institutions and police stations functionality programmes.

Tracking of Resolutions

One of the indicators for effective, impactful oversight lies in effective Committee resolutions and tracking thereof. Honourable Chairperson, through Committee and House resolutions, the Legislature should demonstrate that it is genuinely focused on delivering the aspirations expressed in the SOPA and the manifesto.

On this note, committees are to insist on quality and better crafted committee resolutions and minutes. This is an area in which the competence of Members and committee support staff should not be found wanting. These are documents that should stand audit, public and legal scrutiny. Resolution tracking is one area that is identified for digitisation.

Floods & Covid-19: Expenditure and Oversight

Honourable Chairperson, as we did when Covid-19 first struck, we continue and remain focused on our oversight work in the face of national disasters. We pay homage to and applaud once again the dedicated and committed public servants, including Legislature staff who have displayed principles of *Batho Pele* and what it means to be a capable state in the manner in which they responded and continue to respond to the disasters. We will be tracking the Auditor-General's real-time audits and exercising due scrutiny through the relevant committees.

5. LAW-MAKING

Impact of Bills

Our resolve to pursue impactful and consultative lawmaking processes and our commitment to assessing the impact of at least one Bill that we have passed, remains. We are happy to report that we have since developed a concept paper on this project. We are looking at taking this project forward in partnership with the Public Service Commission.



6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation remains the heart of our democracy. The low voter turnout in the recent local government elections greatly concerns us. We need to urgently boost our civic education, particularly on voter education. The constituency and sectoral work that we do can be better channelled to address this gap.

We have strategically planned to run at least a two-day workshop in August 2022. We hope to deliberate, within the public participation context, on how constituency offices can be platforms for legislative work. Civic education and formidable partnerships with communities and civil society organisations can be achieved through these offices.

Africa Day Commemoration

South Africa remains a member of the African Union (AU). We need to remodel our Africa Day Commemoration to raise our people's interest in AU programmes. The Legislature is a platform where African citizenship is both promoted and utilised. Socially, economically and politically, AU programmes expressed by the AU-2063 Agenda seek to ensure the prosperity of Africans. We have therefore planned to bring in knowledgeable people on African Affairs to grace this year's commemorations.

Sector Engagements

The Sectoral Parliament mechanism supports the implementation of section 118 of the Constitution and facilitates public involvement in legislative processes. A project to assess the effectiveness of sector parliaments and recommend improvements is scheduled to conclude in the third quarter of 2022. We look forward to engaging with the recommendations in order to ensure meaningful public involvement.



We appreciate the efforts of the KZN Legislature Women Caucus, Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians, and the Committee on Quality of Life in supporting and addressing the gender agenda. We will continue in prioritising programmes that support marginalised groups. We have extended our public involvement programmes to the LGBTQI+ sector, those in sex work. We also targeted domestic workers in the Commonwealth Women's Parliamentary engagement.

Honourable Members, the beauty of our constitution is that it seeks to ensure protection of our minorities and the vulnerable groups. Even little voices must heard and their contributions and rights can't be trembled upon. No sector will be ignored as we partner with civil society to address social biases inherent in society.

7. LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Governance

Audit Outcomes

Honourable Members will recall that we opened this term in 2019 with a qualified audit opinion for 2018/19 financial year. True to



our commitment, this was reversed in the 2019/20 financial year when we received an unqualified audit report. Honourable Chairperson, we stand tall today as we report back to this august House that the Legislature's upward trajectory has rewarded us with a clean audit opinion for the 2020/21 financial year.

It is our belief that, with continued support and honest feedback by Stacov and the Audit and Risk Committees, we will stay on this level of audit outcomes going forward.

International Programmes

Honourable Chairperson, the KZN Legislature influences the strategic direction of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association through its participation in conferences and programmes, both on the continent and internationally. We shall continue in our endeavour to transform parliaments across the globe and learn from each other. With a more relaxed Covid-19 management protocol, we only have this year to resume our international empowerment and capacitation programme and we will assist the Chairperson of Committees in overseeing the development of a plan that will achieve the objectives of this programme. We also remain steadfast in taking advantage of webinars to achieve the same outcomes.

Speaker's Social Responsibility Programme

The Speaker's Social Responsibility Programme has not wavered from making interventions in communities, especially in schools, farms and community-based formations. In the past financial year, at least 770 complete sets of school uniforms were distributed to a

total of thirteen schools in six districts (eThekwini Metro; uMgungundlovu; uGu; Zululand; uMkhanyakude and Harry Gwala) within the province.

While the Speaker's Social Responsibility Programme will continue donating to identified needs, the 2022/23 financial will focus on: -

- (i) installing boreholes at care facilities (homes), especially in districts that experience water crises;
- (ii) assisting informal traders; and
- (iii) back-to-school campaigns targeting at least ten schools, as well as making follow-up visits to those schools that received laptops to check effectiveness.

A further fifteen laptops, computer desks and chairs were distributed as well as installed a network booster at Mabomvini Combined School. Amongst other things donated were wheelchairs for the disabled, Fridges; Beds; Stove; Furniture; Groceries; Electricity units.



As part of the Workers Month activities, the programme had an outreach function to appreciate Covid-19 pandemic frontline workers particularly healthcare workers at Ladysmith Provincial Hospital.

8. LEGISLATIVE SECTOR

Legislative Sector Bill & FMPPLA Amendments

Honourable Members, the Legislative Sector Bill remains one of the most important Bills that will strengthen the sector and help to create common norms and standards. Unfortunately, the processing of the Bill has not moved as fast as was anticipated. At a level of the National Speakers' Forum (NSF), we will continue to push for its urgent processing.



We will also be pushing for the processing of FMPPLA amendments as well as the enacting of its Regulations. This is long overdue and very soon, we may be fighting compliance findings by auditors. The long-awaited amendments seek to address some aspects of FMMPLA that are either no longer relevant or impractical. We will therefore, as this Legislature keep these matters on the top of the agenda for the NSF.

Sector Collective Bargaining Council

We are happy to report that the Sector Bargaining Council has remained operational and through it, the 2021/22 salary increases were concluded accordingly.

The process of harmonising Conditions of Service for all sector employees remains outstanding. The Speakers' Forum Reference Group will soon be tabling a progress report on this complex, yet critical project.

Sector Oversight Summit

This year's sector oversight summit, initially planned to commence in March 2022 with a continued online seminar programme is now being planned to commence in August 2022. The rescheduling was necessitated because of the burning of the Parliament building which was the initial venue. The summit is targeting capacitation and empowerment of Chairpersons of Committees and we request committee chairpersons to participate and engage meaningfully in this summit as we influence the national oversight agenda.

9. THE 2022/23 BUDGET

Honourable Chairperson, I now present the 2022/23 budget of the Legislature which is as follows:

Allocation by Programmes

Administration R220, 628 million

Parliamentary Business R333. 852 million

Members' Remuneration R89. 842 million

Total R644. 322 million

Allocation by Economic Classification

Compensation of Employees R258. 546 million

Members' Remuneration R89, 842 million

Goods and Services R161, 311 million

Transfer and Subsidies R125. 787 million

Payments for Capital Assets R8. 836 million

Total R 644. 322 million

Honourable Members, we need this budget for the effective execution of our constitutional mandate. We also pray that all our stakeholders and partners will rally behind us as we create a non-discriminatory, equal, and peaceful society.

While tomorrow is important, it is what we do today that will determine the type of future for the generations to come. If we invest correctly today and delay gratification, we should be looking forward to a better future for our next generations. Just as our struggle heroes invested themselves in the past, so that we, today, may enjoy the fruits of their sacrifices, we are to do the same for our next generations by committing to use this budget wisely. It is our wish that the spirits of our departed, as well as our living heroes and heroines of the struggle will be with us as we endeavour to deliver on what they sacrificed and fought for. As we conclude this Budget Speech, we want to say that we are indebted to the National Speakers' Forum headed by the Honorable Speaker Mapisa Ngakula. We draw a lot of

lessons from that Forum as well as guidance in the work of the sector. Tribute also goes to the former Speaker, Thandi Modise who is now our Defence Minister for her leadership of the Forum in her times.

We want to unreservedly thank the unwavering support given the Deputy Speaker, Hon T Mthembu, the Office of the Chairperson of Committees as well as the Office of the Chief Whip. Behind all of us, is the administrative support team led by the Secretary to the KZN Legislature, Ms Nerusha Naidoo. Her entire management team, and all the employees of the Legislature have made us shine and our work is much easier.

Political Party Leaders

Honourable Chairperson, we stand here proud that the decorum of this Legislature is one of the most protected and respected in the country. This has become an invaluable tradition and culture that defines us amongst our counterparts in the sector. Our differing political persuasions have not led to a situation where the programme of the Legislature suffers.

This can only be attributed to the quality of political party leaders in this House. We take a bow and pray that your cooperation and leadership continue to spread even outside the confines of this House. Without you, we would not be this shining beacon of hope. We appreciate the guidance and support that political party leaders give in the party leaders meetings.

How can we not thank our glorious movement, the ANC and all its alliance partners for both entrusting and guiding us in this work. If we faulter in our endeavour, the ANC and this House will pull us back online. That is why we will continue pursuing our task and do what we believe in rather than merely saying it. As we work together, we will achieve much more. And if we remain united, we will always be able to walk that much further.

Lastly, there is a family behind me, particularly my children who support me and understand my calling as the Speaker of this House. I really appreciate what they are and who they continue to become to me. They are really one of my strong pillars of strength.

We thank you.





THE 6th KZN LEGISLATURE

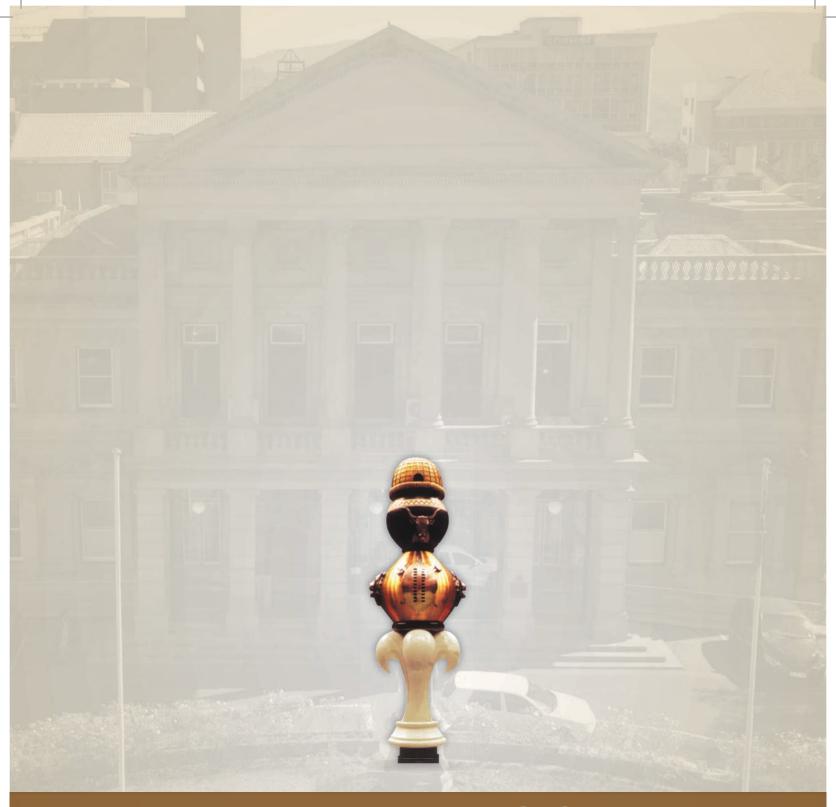






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