

Health dept budget increases in the 2012/13 financial year

Limpopo News Service

THE overall budget for the health department has increased by 2,4%. Equitable share grows by 0,9%, 1,4% conditional grants and 5,6% own revenue.

In monetary terms this means a growth from R11,6 billion this financial year to R11,9 billion in 2012/13.

The infrastructure budget however, has been reduced by 39% to R566 million.

This allocation will be used mainly for hospital revitalisation programmes, building and upgrading clinics, EMS stations and the extension of TB wards.

Allocations:

- Strengthening district health services

(primary healthcare) and district hospital delivery systems: R5,7 billion. This shows an additional R490 million from the current budget of R5,2 billion.

- R520 million has been set aside for the running of emergency medical services in the province.

- In an effort to improve the provision of tertiary services, an amount of R1 billion has been provided for this programme.

- An amount of R67 million has been set aside for the expanded public works programme.

- Bursaries for health professionals: R105 million.

- R85 million has been provided for a multi-drug resistant TB service programme.

- Comprehensive HIV/aids: The budget for this priority has been increased by R88 million to R713 million. This is an increase of 14% from the current budget of R624 million.

- Medicine has been allocated R464 million.

- R107 million has been provided for vaccines to reduce infant and child mortality.

- R301 million has been allocated to the hospital revitalisation programme.

- The provision of accommodation to health professionals plays a critical role in their retention to this province.

An amount of R58 million has therefore been provided for this.

- An amount of R88 million has been provided to prevent and control malaria in the affected areas of the province.

Time to deliver on health care - MEC

Limpopo News Service

THE new MEC for health, Dr. William Mabasa has promised his department will be accountable for every rand spent.

He said the department's share of 26% of the provincial budget will not only be spent wisely but account for every rand will be given while ensuring that wasteful, fruitless and unauthorised expenditure is eliminated.

Mabasa promised this at legislature when he presented the budget speech for the department on Friday.

"The R11,9 billion allocated for the 2012/13 financial year will enable us to tackle a number of priorities outlined within the department, which include the implementation of the National Insurance Scheme, the fight against HIV/aids, TB, malaria and cholera, as well as the recruitment and increasing of the number of professionals, through building more nursing colleges.

"As a department we are conscious of the fact that these are public funds that need to be utilised for the intended purposes. We therefore commit that we will not only spend this budget wisely but also account for every rand while ensuring that wasteful, fruitless and unauthorised expenditure is eliminated.

"We will do everything in our power to make sure all assets in our trust on behalf of the people of Limpopo are safely and jealously guarded against any form of misuse, mismanagement, fraud and corruption," said Mabasa.

In this regard, he welcomed the announcement by the minister of finance, Pravin Gordhan who said: "We will review the competencies and capabilities required to perform the procurement functions and as said by the president, there will be strict vetting of all the procurement officers to be appointed".

"We have been allocated a budget that gives effect to Vision for Health 2030, in which we envisage that the South African life expectancy will be increased," said Mabasa.

"We will make sure that health promotion and wellness is strengthened among our people as it remains the most critical component of prevention and the management of lifestyle diseases that account for too many deaths," he said.

According to him there is clear evidence that preventive interventions work and improved access to quality and affordable public healthcare can reduce the burden of morbidity, disability and premature mortality.

"Unfortunately, many of us, when we think about weight loss, exercise and living healthy lifestyles, we think like Mark Twain who once said: 'The only way to keep your health is to eat what you don't want, drink what you don't like, and do what you'd rather not'.

"Let us stop focusing on negatives for we believe the real joy and benefit of good health comes from focussing on the possibilities of health; what we gain through living well. Now is the time and season for action. Now is the time to deliver on health care," Mabasa said.

Community rises against sangoma

Story and photos:

Nyambeni Mandiwana

MAKHADO - Eight people were arrested in connection with arson and malicious damage to property after a house and vehicle were set on fire at Madombidzha village on Thursday.

The house belongs to a sangoma who they believe was involved in the disappearance of an 11-year-old boy.

Theophilus Tshivhi went missing in January and the villagers say he was last seen going to the Maname mountain with a group of traditional healers.

The Sangoma, her husband and three other traditional healers were accused of kidnapping Tshivhi, but the case was withdrawn at the Tshilwayhusiku magistrate's court recently after the director of public prosecution decided there was insufficient evidence.

"The community was angered by the withdrawal of the case, and this led to the burning of the sangoma's house," said a leader of the community, Victor Ratshibaya.

He said they believed the investigating officer in the case against the sangoma was biased, and they had reported the issue to the MEC for safety and security, George Phadagi.

He said they are awaiting a response.

The spokesperson for the Tshilwayhusiku SAPS, Const Musiwalo



A sangoma's house and car were set on fire at Madombidzha village last Thursday evening.

Mahuwa confirmed the police opened arson and malicious damage to property cases against the eight suspects, but they were later released without charges as they could not be linked to the burning of the house.

CAPRICORN VOICE

NEWS FOR THE REAL PEOPLE



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NOTICE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Application for authorization has been submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs, in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010 for the following project.

Project Name: Proposed BOYNTON PROJECT: DEA REF NR 14/12/16/3/1497; NEAS REF DE/VEA/0001056/2012

Project Applicant: Eskom Distribution Northern Region

Listed Activities for a Basic Assessment Process: GN R544/2010 Activity 10, 11 and 23: GN R546/2010 Activity 3 and 4.

Project Description: The construction of a new proposed 132kV power line from Lebowa Substation to Dithabang Substation; the construction of new proposed Loop-in 132 kV lines from Middelbunt-Dithabang 132 kV power line to the proposed Boynton Substation; and a new proposed 132 kV power line from Dithabang Substation to Voorspoed Substation.

Project Locality: The project is on the farms Rooiboklaagte 112 KS, Voorspoed 458 KS (Remainder), Locatie van Mpatiele 457 KS, Voorspoed 458 KS (Portion 4), Voorspoed 458 KS (Portion 6), Voorspoed 458 KS (Portion 2), Voorspoed 458 KS (Portion 16), and Doornvlei 456 KS in the Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality in the Limpopo Province. Alternative routes are considered for the lines. (Final property descriptions will be confirmed in the draft Basic Assessment Report that will be submitted to all interested parties).

In order to register as an Interested and Affected Party, any queries, comments and/or concerns should be submitted in writing together with your name, contact information and interest in the matter to the environmental consultant within 40 days from the date of this notice:

Texture (Ria Pretorius); PO Box 36593, MENLOPARK, Pretoria, 0102; Tel 082 568 6344 & Fax 086 675 4026; E-mail Address: riap@peopletexture.net