

POLITICAL REPORT TO THE GAUTENG PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE BY PREMIER DAVID MAKHURA

27 November 2020



GAUTENG
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

GGT2030
GROWING GAUTENG TOGETHER

Acknowledgement of Protocol

- Madame Speaker, Honourable Lentheng Ntombi Mekgwe
- Deputy Speaker, Honourable Nomvuyo Mhlakaza-Manamela
- Chief Whip of the Governing Party, Honourable Mzi Khumalo
- Members of the Executive Council
- Leaders of Political Parties represented in the Legislature
- Honourable Members of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature
- Compatriots and fellow residents of Gauteng

The context of the Political Report

- It is a distinct honour and privilege to serve the people of Gauteng over the past as the sixth Premier.
- This is the First Political Report of the Sixth Provincial Administration to the Provincial Legislature. Most importantly, this Report is to you, the people of Gauteng, at whose pleasure and behest we serve. We have to be accountable for what we are doing to fulfil your mandate and vision.
- Since May 2019, what has the sixth administration been doing to implement the mandate? How has COVID-19 impacted on our province? What lessons have we learnt? How do we move with urgency and determination to build a post-COVID-19 Gauteng City Region?

The impact of COVID-19

- Globally, more than 60 million people have contracted Coronavirus and over 1.4 million have succumbed to COVID-19.
- The pandemic has disrupted lives, damaged economies and destroyed livelihoods in a way not seen since the 1918 Spanish Flu and the 1929 Great Depression. It has also significantly changed the way we live our lives.
- No part of the globe has been spared or left unaffected. Every jurisdiction had to undertake serious measures to contain or prevent the spread and impact of coronavirus on society and the economy. These include beefing up healthcare systems, strict non-pharmaceutical interventions as well as vaccine research and development.

The impact of COVID-19

- The pandemic has also changed the way government, business and civil society work – access to modern technologies made it possible for more people to work remotely from home with some convenience, but prolonged working hours.
- Fear of contracting the virus, lockdowns, loss of jobs and closure of businesses had a negative impact on people's mental health and general well-being.
- By the second quarter of 2020, the country lost **2.2 million jobs, 661 000 of which were in Gauteng**, as a result of the pandemic. Gauteng's overall **labour force participation rate decreased** from **71.3%** to **57.6%**, while that of **municipalities** fell below **60%**.

Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic

- One of the basic lessons that the COVID-19 pandemic teaches us is that human solidarity and global multi-lateral cooperation is crucial for the collective survival and success of the human species and the planet, especially when dealing with existential threats and civilisational crises such as pandemics, global economic meltdowns/depressions, climate change, poverty, inequality and hunger.
- Access to digital technologies can enhance service delivery (online education and healthcare services) and lead to the exponential growth of e-commerce.
- **There is however still a significant number of people who have no access to the digital technology.**
- Governments were forced by the conditions of the COVID-19 emergency to embark on a coordinated and integrated response to managing disaster and fast-track the delivery of basic services, infrastructure and food relief measures.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and accentuated other epidemics and pandemics – inequality and hunger; crime and corruption; unemployment and poverty; gender-based violence and femicide; mental illness and other morbidities, economic and financial meltdown, etc.



Our mandate is to Grow Gauteng Together through the TMR

- In February this year, we unveiled the plan of action to Grow Gauteng Together (GGT2030) at the State of the Province Address, based on the electoral mandate we got from the 2019 elections.
- Whilst the mandate to Grow Gauteng Together through the programme of Transformation, Modernisation and Re-industrialisation of the Gauteng City Region, COVID-19 has profoundly changed the context in which our vision and programme is to be implemented.
- GGT 2030 was based on the research and scenario planning work, **Indlulamithi Scenarios 2030**, led by a group of researchers and experts from universities and NGOs, under the auspices of the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA).

Indlulamithi – Three Scenarios 2030

Gwara Gwara

This is the worst-case scenario where things get worse on every development indicator, leading to a total breakdown of public order fuelled by anger at a dysfunctional and self-serving state, rising poverty, increasing inequality, rampant corruption and an unrelenting climate crisis

Isbhujwa

This scenario represents where we are right now. There are flickers of hope and moments of despair as the country zigzags forward and backwards. Change is happening but not fast and deep enough. People can get exhausted, lose hope and retreat into their own enclaves of either privilege or poverty. Unless something drastic and urgent is done, this scenario can lead to Gwara Gwara.

Nayi le Walk

This is the best-case scenario where South Africa recovers from the current socio-economic, political and moral crises. Drastic and far-reaching interventions are made in all sectors. A better life for all becomes more tangible. Unemployment, poverty and crime are reduced drastically. The state implements the NDP vigorously and regains credibility through high ethical standards and the ability to deliver.

There was very little anticipation that there will be such a disruptive pandemic at the dawn of this new decade. We anchored our GGT2030 vision and TMR programme on Nayi le Walk, Scenario Three.



Growing Gauteng Together through Transformation, Modernisation and Re-industrialisation

- A well-governed province.
- Building a sustainable and inclusive future for all.
- Creating a society based on human solidarity, where no one is left behind.
- A province that cares for the poor and the most vulnerable and empowers women, youth, people with disabilities.
- A radically transformed and constantly industrialising economy that grows in an inclusive, innovative and sustainable manner, creating jobs and promoting development of SMMEs, driven by an increasingly educated, skilled and healthy population.
- A spatially transformed urbanism that connects people to modern infrastructure and economic opportunities, where economic development protects the environment.
- Eliminating all forms of discrimination: racism, sexism, xenophobia and homophobia.

Building a Capable, Ethical and Developmental State

Economy, jobs and Infrastructure

Education, Skills and Health

Safety, Social Cohesion and Food Security

Integrated Human Settlements & Land Release

A better Africa and World

- One Country, One Plan, **One Province, One Plan, One District, One Plan** that is based on a common set of priorities at national, provincial and local government through the District Development Model.
- One vision for the Gauteng City Region to unlock the full potential of high growth sectors to contribute to GDP, employment, empowerment and exports.
- A capable, ethical and developmental model of governance is central to achieving our vision, programme and priorities.

On building a capable, ethical and developmental state

- Madame Speaker, prudent financial management, clean governance and accountability as well as active engagement with communities have been the hallmarks of our administration.
- Between 2013/14 and 2017/18 financial years, the Auditor General's Reports demonstrate that audit outcomes improved drastically from 56% to 65% clean audits.
- Audits conducted under the leadership of the late Auditor General, Kimi Makwethu – may his soul rest in peace.
- The Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury have been the principal champions of clean governance and both have demonstrated power and force of example by achieving clean audits for eight consecutive years – from 2012/13 to 2019/20 financial years. (6 out of the 8 financial years were during 5th and 6th administration)
- In the 2017/18 all GPG Departments received unqualified audit opinions.
- The Open Tender System and the Anti-Corruption Civil Society Panel improved financial transparency, accountability and clean governance.



Building a capable, ethical and developmental state

- There are signs of regression on clean governance practices in some departments and agencies, and corruption is showing stubborn resurgence.
- One of the instruments we have put in place to ensure clean governance is the relocation Provincial Forensic Audit Unit to the Office of the Premier.
- **COVID-19** related corruption is an indication of this resurgence and stubbornness of the corruption pandemic.
- The Provincial Forensic Audit Unit has finalised 73 forensic investigations and 66 cases have been referred to law enforcement agencies for criminal prosecutions and recovery of public funds. The Provincial Forensic Audit Unit is working with the SIU and other law enforcement agencies.
- Last year, **during the State of the Province in July 2019** I made a commitment that all senior managers and supply chain officials will be vetted by the relevant state security organs and I am glad to report that 65% have already been vetted.
- The fight against corruption will never be easy but we will not surrender!



Building a Capable, ethical and developmental state

- The state security agency is also finalising the lifestyle audits on Members of the Executive Council. These lifestyle audits will be extended to all senior officials and members of supply chain management committees in Gauteng.
- Through the Back to Basics Programme and the District Development Model, we are improving provincial government oversight on and support of municipalities to ensure that they fulfil their obligations to residents and meet our expectations of clean governance and integrated approach to development. We have instituted forensic investigations and section 139 interventions in those municipalities that face challenges.
- We will not sit back and watch when municipalities fail to perform their functions and fulfil their obligations. However, our preference is always cooperative governance and we will only use drastic measures when there is no cooperation.



On the Economy, Infrastructure and Jobs

- Our over-riding strategic approach is to transform, modernise and re-industrialise the Gauteng City Region through the development of a network of Special Economic Zones (SEZ), Industrial Parks and Agro-processing Hubs which will house clusters of high-growth sectors of the economy and integrate township-based businesses. This is the road to turning the entire Gauteng City Region into a single, multi-tier and **integrated mega Special mega Economic Zone**.
- Tremendous progress is being made at the Tshwane Automotive SEZ. The initial R4 billion investment has injected the much-needed jobs and business activity in Mamelodi, Tshwane and Gauteng. Another significant investment into the Tshwane SEZ will be announced by Ford Motor Company in January 2021.
- We are working with the DBSA and DTIC to fast-track on the Vaal SEZ, West Rand Special Agro-processing Zone and Lanseria Smart City development. By 2025, the Gauteng-City-Region will see three fully operational Special Economic Zones in Ekurhuleni, Tshwane and Sedibeng, and a Special Agro-Processing Zone in the West Rand.

Economic opportunities for targeted groups

- Procurement spend targets on companies owned by women, youth, People with Disabilities and companies based in townships were achieved and exceeded by 10.1%, 3.9%, 0.7% and 0.5% respectively.

Promoting Inclusive Urban Agriculture and Agro-processing

- Agriculture is the only sector that created additional new jobs during COVID-19 – more than 2000 jobs in our province. As Gauteng, we are elevating the importance and unlocking the potential of urban agriculture and smart farming and ensure that Black farmers and small-scale farmers participate in Agri-food value chains.
- The **Commercialisation of Black emerging farmers and support for smallholder farmers is being done through:**
 - Access to land
 - Agricultural production inputs
 - Agricultural infrastructure
 - Agricultural extension and advisory services
 - Market access
 - Agro-processing facilities
- The entire government can do more to buy from emerging Black farmers and small-scale producers and agro-processors, including supporting community-based food gardens.

Policy to enable the Revitalisation of Township Businesses

- As per the commitment in the first State of the Province Address in July 2019, we have now gazetted the **Draft Gauteng Township Economic Development Bill**.
- The primary objective is to empower and support local township-based businesses by creating enabling environment for the growth of township businesses.
- Although COVID-19 caused some delays, public consultations are taking place and the debate on the Bill has generated a lot of enthusiasm in the SMME and informal sector.
- The Bill will be introduced in the Legislature before the end of March 2021 and it will hopefully be passed by the end June 2021.



Infrastructure development

- We remain committed to using economic and social infrastructure programmes to create jobs and empower Black and women-owned businesses as well as enterprises owned by youth, people with disabilities and military veterans.
- Gauteng is working closely with national government to leverage the opportunities and align our plans with the Presidential infrastructure initiatives. In the next five years, we will spend R56 billion on infrastructure development.
- We have ramped up the health infrastructure upgrades as part of the health response to COVID-19. This will create additional 3000 beds and dramatically improve the conditions of health facilities in Gauteng.
- The Transport Infrastructure House will resolve the notorious delays in the building of roads and will further unlock major investments in development corridors.
- Although COVID-19 caused some delays in the school-building programme, this is now back on the pipeline.
- The hijacking or stopping of infrastructure projects by criminal elements continues to cause delays in meeting deadlines. However, the interventions by the law enforcement agencies and engagement with communities is proving fruitful.

Public Transport infrastructure development

- In keeping with our commitment to **improve public transport**, we have established the **Gauteng Transport Authority**.
- The Transport Authority will give life to all our transport plans developed over the last decades which include introducing a **single-ticketing system** and **improving intermodal facilities**.
- We remain committed to achieving an **integrated, reliable, affordable, safe, efficient and smart mobility transport system** across the Gauteng-City-Region by 2030.
- The **public transport improvement plan** for major transport nodes in the five development corridors has been developed.



Human Settlements Infrastructure development

- COVID-19 caused significant delays in the rollout of the **Rapid Land Release Programme** and the human settlements in general due the impact of the lockdown on the construction sector.
- We are ready to handover serviced sites in Sedibeng, West Rand and Ekurhuleni so that people can build houses for themselves.
- 976 Legacy project housing units have been completed; 2 037 Mega Project units have also been completed with 1 332 Mega Projects serviced stands developed. The renovation of hostels and their conversion into family unit's is back on track - **229 units** have been constructed and are awaiting water and sewer connections at Rethabile LTA hostel and several upgrades will take place in Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni.
- **Resuscitated the Urban Renewal Projects** in Alexandra, Evaton, Winterveld, Kliptown and Bekkersdal is also back on track.
- We have handed over **1111** post-1994 title deeds registered and 453 pre-1994 title deeds registered.

Providing quality education

- One of our priorities is **providing quality education** and investing in **relevant skills for all learners** in our province, **especially those from working class, poor and vulnerable households**.
- Education was one of the areas severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Over the years, the Gauteng Government's visionary leadership was correct to invest in the modernisation of education system and ICT. This investment paid dividends during COVID-19.
- Since the beginning of the year, over **10 000 classrooms were ICT enabled** and over **10 000 LED Boards** have been installed in classrooms with over **20 000 laptops distributed to teachers**.
- In addition, **over 200 000 tablets** have already been **distributed to learners**.
- **Teachers** have been **reskilled and trained on Digital Platforms**, to ensure they are able to use available digital content resources.

Access to healthcare

- We have tested 1 778 467 people for HIV to ensure that the province achieves the first 90% target of the (90/90/90) strategy. Improvements in the TB treatment success rate is up to 80%, however it is still below targeted 90% (90/90/90).
- From April to June 2020, we have enrolled 887 966 patients on Central Chronic Medicines Dispensing and Distribution Programme.
- The case fatalities for under five years childhood illness declined to below 3% of admitted children dying from Diarrhoea and Pneumonia.
- The performance of our health facilities led by capable men and women of high ethical and professional disciplined have performed exceptionally well.
- We prioritised the filling of vacancies of CEOs in hospitals and community health centres across Gauteng. CEOs in most hospitals apart from Thelle Mogoerane and Rahima Moosa hospitals.
- Despite this progress, the PPE procurement corruption underlines the reality that the Department of Health has serious structural and systemic problems that undermine the clean governance and effective delivery public healthcare services in Gauteng. The Executive Council has appointed an Intervention Team to rebuild the Department.

Crime Prevention Operations

- Crime undermines our efforts to foster both economic development and social stability because it robs families and communities of well-deserved peace and harmony.
- COVID-19 has also helped the law enforcement agencies to step and collaborate in crime prevention and enforcement of compliance with regulations. Police visibility has improved tremendously.
- The provincial government is supporting the law enforcement agencies with 55 new high performance vehicles whose delivery is being eagerly awaited. These vehicles will enhance police visibility.
- The 'O kae Molao' continues to prove its effectiveness in promoting visible policing and crime prevention. This is an intelligence led operation by law enforcement agencies and private sector.
- There was a significant decline in crime during the lockdown. However, gender-based violence and femicide increased drastically.

Response to Gender Based Violence and Femicide

- We have developed a Provincial Integrated Emergency Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Response (GBVF) plan to deal comprehensively and decisively with the pandemic of gender-based violence and femicide.
- We have also established a Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Provincial Coordinating Unit to coordinate and monitor all efforts of Gauteng GBVF campaigns and structures.
- We have recruited 600 GBV Brigades who conduct outreach for increased community mobilisation and assess cases to determine the intervention required and referred to institutions for assistance.
- Since January 2020, 2 988 Gender-Based Violence (GBV) victims and survivors have received support and active intervention from the state.
- Police have also established specialized teams to deal with crimes against women and children, including the scourge of human trafficking.



Dealing with Hunger And Urban Poverty

- COVID-19 has accentuated and brought into bold relief the fact that more than one third of Gauteng residents do not have food security and income to meet their daily nutrition needs.
- The Gauteng Government adopted a comprehensive programme to deal with hunger and urban poverty.
- Between April and September, more than 2.8 million people were assisted with relief in our province. The private sector and NPOs also support almost an additional 1 million people in Gauteng. This is the biggest food relief intervention ever undertaken by the government.
- Almost 3000 more young women are participating in the Welfare to Work programme and more than 7 000 work opportunities were created in Home and Community-Based Care (HCBC) through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).
- As part of our COVID-19 response, 2 344 homeless people were provided with shelter, 3 meals on a daily basis plus psychosocial support, medical assessments and treatment for substance abuse.
- 1 304 857 girl children have benefited from the Sanitary Dignity programme.
- The COVID-19 income relief for the unemployed reached more than 600 000 people.

Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation

- The creative and cultural industries and the sporting community were hardest hit by COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdown.
- The Gauteng Government has created a, SMME Fund for small business and a Relief Fund for creative industries and sport people.
- As the Premier, I am quite unhappy that onerous regulatory requirements have delayed the disbursement of these funds to those who sorely needed financial assistance. This is one of the most frustrating things about government –rules can take precedent over saving lives, jobs and small businesses.
- The provincial government used technology to reach to communities in the most creative way, including hosting events online and promoting e-library services.
- The provincial government also worked with Gauteng the Premier Soccer League to ensure the completion of the remainder of the 2019/20 season, with strict observance of the health protocols.
- Mass participation and school sport programmes could not be undertaken due to COVID-19. All these programmes will resume in 2021.



COVID-19 epidemiology – status in Gauteng

- Various indicators show the COVID-19 pandemic is stable compared to the peak of the 1st surge.
- The number of new weekly cases are significantly lower than numbers at the peak of the first surge.
- We have been witnessing a stable 7-day rolling average of between 5% and 6% positive tests in the last few weeks.
- Experts are predicting low case numbers due to anticipated decrease in mobility in the province in the last few weeks of December.
- The prediction is that the number of cases may remain low till the middle of January 2021.
- The bad news is that due to the expected mobility increase in January when people return from holiday, we are likely to experience an increase in cases.
- The pandemic in Gauteng is not yet under control. Transmission is on-going, the new cases are still significantly higher than levels seen before the first surge.

The current trajectory of COVID-19 in Gauteng

- The Provincial Advisory Committee on COVID-19 is projecting that the **risk of transmitting the virus** from person to person **will increase during the festive season** because of these factors that are known to increase spread:
 - **Increased inter-provincial travel** which will result in greater contact between infected and susceptible.
 - **Festive season gatherings** between family and friends, the vulnerability of older persons being visited by their children and grandchildren have a potential of becoming amplifying events or super-spreading events if we do not take the necessary safety precautions.
 - **Crowded and poorly ventilated spaces** particularly where people talk, shout or sing are perfect conditions for the virus to spread.
- Although the increase in infections is currently moderate, we are concerned that Gauteng will face a possible resurgence or second in January/February when people return to the province. This will have an impact on the plans we have for 2021.



Play your Part. Stop the Spread

- Unless each and everyone of us takes steps to prevent a resurgence that may be much bigger than the first wave in June/July, we will all be in serious trouble in December/January/February.
- We call on the people of our province to be more vigilant now more than ever before, in order to contain the surge of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We must make it loud and clear that COVID-19 is still with us and the virus is looking for opportunities to spread as we approach the festive season and more people travel. Those cannot avoid to travel must also take extra measures to protect themselves and others.
- Let us avoid big family gatherings and parties during the festive season.
- Gauteng law enforcement and health authorities will be conducting roadblocks, testing and screening in December and this increase after the festive season in January.
- **Wearing masks** every time we leave home, **washing hands** regularly with water and soap or **using an alcohol based sanitiser**, and **keeping a physical distance of 1,5 metres** from other people.

Conclusion

- Madame Speaker, this year 2020 will go down in human history as one of the most trying times since the outbreak of Spanish flu in 1918-19, the 1929 Great Depression and possibly the Second World War.
- The people of our province has done a great deal of work to contain the spread of coronavirus and mitigate the impact of COVID-19. We must remain resolute in containing and slowing down the spread of the virus because the pandemic is not gone. In fact, it may get worse in the next few months. It is within our power to stop it.
- We take our hats off and salute all our healthcare workers who continue to put their own lives on the line to save more lives. I want to assure healthcare workers that we will do everything in our power to enhance their resource capacity to deal with the pandemic.
- I would like to assure the residents of Gauteng that we will do everything in our power to hold those involved COVID-19 corruption and any acts of malfeasance accountable



A safe, peaceful and restful festive season

- We are absolutely committed to Grow Gauteng Together and build a province of our dreams. Although COVID-19 has slowed us down, we are unstoppable in pursuing our dreams. Together, we shall transform, modernise and re-industrialise Gauteng. Together, we shall achieve clean governance and defeat corruption pandemic. Together, we shall overcome the COVID-19 pandemic.
- I would like to conclude by thanking Honourable members of our Legislature, Members of the Executive Council, the Director-General, Heads of Departments, Special Advisors, all ethical and hardworking Government officials for their service and loyalty to the people of Gauteng, especially during this most difficult time of COVID-19.
- May you all have a safe, peaceful, and restful Festive Season, while ensuring that you observe all the health protocols.
- Thank you and God Bless you all!