

GAUTENG PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tuesday, 30 July 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS

none

TABLINGS

none

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **The Chairperson of the Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Portfolio Committee, Hon. M E Khumalo, tabled the Committee's Oversight Report on the Detail of the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) Budget Vote 07 of the Provincial Appropriation Bill [G001-2024] for the 2024/25 FY, as follows:**



GAUTENG

LEGISLATURE

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Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) Portfolio Committee

Committee Oversight Report on the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Budget (Vote 7) for the 2024/25 FY

Committee Details		Department Details	
Name of Committee	Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Portfolio Committee	Name of Department	Department of CoGTA
Which Financial Year	2024/25 FY	Dept. Budget Vote Nr.	
		Vote 7	MEC Jacob Mamabolo
Committee Approvals			
	Name	Signed	Date
Hon. Chairperson	Mr. Mzi Khumalo		29 July 2024
Adoption and Tabling			
Date of Final Adoption by Committee		Scheduled date of House Tabling	
29 July 2024		31 July 2024	

ACRONYM

ABCD	Asset Based Community Development
AFS	Annual Financial Statements
AGSA	Auditor General of South Africa
AU	African Union
APP	Annual Performance Plan
B2B	Back-2-Basics
CDWs	Community Development Workers
CWP	Community Work Programme
CoE	City of Ekurhuleni
COGTA	Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
CoJ	City of Johannesburg
CoT	City of Tshwane
CPI	Corruption Perception Index
DCOG	Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
DLARRD	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
DDM	District Development Model
EPWP	Expanded Public Works Programme
FY	Financial Year
GBVF	Gender-Based Violence & Femicide
GCR	Gauteng City Region
GGT	Growing Gauteng Together
GPD	Gauteng Planning Division
GPG	Gauteng Provincial Government
GPL	Gauteng Provincial Legislature
GPT	Gauteng Provincial Treasury
GSDF	Gauteng Spatial Development Framework
HH	Household
HSRC	Human Sciences Research Council
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IEC	Independent Electoral Commission
IGR	Inte-Governmental Relations
IUDG	Integrated Urban Development Grants
MDB	Municipal Demarcation Bill
MEC	Member of the Executive Council
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MFMA	Municipal Finance Management Act

MIG	Municipal Infrastructure Grants
MISA	Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency
MPRA	Municipal Property Rates Act
MSA	Municipal Systems Act
MSR	Municipal Staff Regulation
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
MTSF	Medium Term Strategic Framework
NDP	National Development Plan
NERSA	National Energy Regulator of South Africa
NPA	National Prosecuting Authority
NQF	National Qualifications Framework
OPCA	Operation Clean Audit
PCC	Provincial Coordinating Committee
PEBA	Programme Evaluation and Budget Analysis
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act
PMS	Performance Management System
PSOM	Public Sector Oversight Model
SALGA	South African Local Government Association
SDF	Sustainable Development Framework
SERO	Socio-Economic Review and Outlook
SETA	Sector Education and Training Authority
SMMEs	Small Micro-Medium Enterprises
SMS	Senior Management Service
SOM	Sector Oversight Model
SONA	State of the Nation Address
SOPA	State of the Province Address
TI	Transparency International
UIFW	Unauthorized Irregular Fruitless & Wasteful Expenditure
USDG	Urban Settlement Development Grants
WECONA	Women Economic Assembly

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Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Portfolio Committee

01 August 2024,

The Chairperson of the Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Portfolio Committee, Hon. Mzi Khumalo tables the report on Budget Vote 7 of the Provincial Appropriation Bill for the 2023/24 MTEF, as follows:

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The battle of South Africa's economic challenges has caused Gauteng's 2024 budget to prioritise the constant provision of critical services while ensuring the long-term sustainability of public finances.

The financial viability of municipalities is crucial for service delivery in communities and also for credit worthiness for investment opportunities which ultimately contribute to the Gauteng's economic growth. Nonetheless, the Gauteng City Region (GCR) could remain a far-fetched dream should municipalities fail to get the basics right.

The Portfolio Committee observed that each municipality has its own unique economic outlook that is influenced by various factors such as its industrial profile and job market. However, these economies are also affected by national and international factors such as loadshedding, weak global demand for goods and services, low commodity prices, and trade policies. The Gauteng government responds to these challenges by tabling the budget of R1 016 812 000. 00 for the 2024/25 FY.

Conditional grants was allocation an amount of R2 000 000. 00 for the fiscal year (inclusive of the total appropriation mentioned above).

The Department is forging ahead with the establishment of the single tier of local government. The plan is to strengthen the capacity of the two (2) districts through Section 154 of the Republic of South Africa (RSA) Constitution (1996), empowering them to perform their legislative functions. A legislative framework will be developed to establish metros in the two districts.

The District Development Model (DDM) will be implemented through the Centre of Government (Office of the Premier (OoP), Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) and Gauteng Provincial Treasury (GPT)) to drive intergovernmental planning, budgeting, implementation and tracking progress.

2. INTRODUCTION

The 2024 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) outlines the Gauteng Provincial Government's (GPG) vision of Growing Gauteng Together (GGT 2030), and from which the five elevated priorities are derived. Since South Africa faces economic challenges such as high unemployment rates, and inequality, the 2024 budget prioritises the sustained provision of critical services while ensuring the long-term sustainability of public finances.

The focus remains on accelerating economic recovery, combating crime and corruption, enhancing living conditions in marginalised communities, prioritising healthcare, and strengthening the capacity of the state to deliver effectively. The Gauteng government has considered a firm position by ensuring that the allocation of resources protects frontline services while promoting fiscal sustainability.

3. PROCESS FOLLOWED

- On the 25th of March 2024, the Office of the Speaker referred the Budget Vote 7 of the Provincial Appropriation Bill of the Gauteng Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (GDCoGTA) for the 2024/25 financial year in terms of Rule 153 of the Standing Rules, to the Portfolio Committee of CoGTA and Human Settlements for consideration and reporting.
- On the 25th of July 2024, the Committee Researcher presented an analysis on the Budget Vote 7 of the Department of GDCoGTA for 2024/25 financial year. Subsequently, the Committee sent written questions to the Department for response.
- On the same day 25th of July 2024, the Department presented the Budget Vote 7 of the Provincial Appropriation Bill of the GDCoGTA for the 2024/25 financial year.
- On the 29th of July 2024, the Portfolio Committee deliberated and Adopted on the draft Committee Oversight Report on the Budget Vote 7 of the GDCoGTA for the 2024/25 financial year.

4. OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF BUDGET VOTE 7

The Department plans to build capacity in municipalities through strengthening the following areas: distinctive roles on powers and functions of local and provincial governments; strengthening and improving the state of municipalities; strengthening the roles of traditional leadership; resetting the Community Development Workers Programme (CDWP); as well as clean audits.

In the quest to create a metro system of government, the implementation of the roadmap on powers and functions remains a focus for the Department. A capacity assessment is currently underway in the two (2) districts, in collaboration with the Demarcation Board, to develop an evidence-based business case to meet the requirements of Section 2 (a) (ii) and (b) of the Municipal Systems Act (MSA).

In terms of development and planning, the Department (in collaboration with the Gauteng Planning Division (GPD) and Gauteng Provincial Treasury (GPT) made a commitment to initiate the process of assessing provincial sector plans in line with the Gauteng Spatial Development Framework (GSDF) 2030 to better plan budgeting synergy across all government spheres. The Department also emphasised that there needs to be greater alignment between municipal and provincial plans and strategies, in line with the district delivery model.

Service delivery interventions include improvement of access to water, sanitation, electricity, housing, and roads in deprived areas, including completing the urban renewal projects. This will be done through municipalities being supported with technical skills capacity through Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency (MISA)/ CoGTA/ multidisciplinary teams of experts in engineering and town planning. The needs of municipalities will be assessed, and experts deployed. This is a multi-year project.

Above all, the Portfolio Committee of COGTA will play a purposeful oversight responsibility to keep the executive in check during the implementation of the mentioned targets for 2024/25 FY.

5. POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

This section provides an overview on how the Gauteng Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs' programmes and sub-programmes as interpreted into planned activities and outputs will be responding to various strategies and policy priorities during the 2024/25 FY. The municipal performance will be monitored in accordance with the national policy known as the Back-to-Basics (B2B) principles and Section 154 & 155 of the Constitution.

The Portfolio Committee should note that in addition to the application of the SOM tools while analysing the 2024/25 FY budget vote 7, the following policy and strategic documents were also considered:

- The State of the Nation Address (SONA) by the President of the Republic of South Africa, Hon. Cyril Ramaphosa, February 2024.
- The State of the Province Address (SOPA) by the Gauteng Premier Hon. Panyaza Lesufi, February 2024.
- Budget Speech, Finance Minister, Hon. Enoch Godongwana, 2024.

- Gauteng Finance MEC Budget Speech, Hon. Jacob Mamabolo, 2024.
- The National Development Plan (NDP) (2030): Our Future-Make it Work.
- Gauteng Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs' Annual Performance Plan (APP) (2024-2025).
- Gauteng Province Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure, 2024.
- Gauteng Province: Socio-Economic Review and Outlook, 2024.

NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTAL PRIORITIES

State of the Nation Address

In his State of the Nation Address (SONA), his excellency Honourable President Ramaphosa observed with great concern that many municipalities are failing on governance, financial and service delivery measures. These constraints affect every aspect of people's daily lives. The government has introduced several measures to address this problem by providing support to local government, including professionalising the civil service, and ensuring that people with the right skills are appointed to key positions. Stakeholders involving the Presidency, National Treasury and COGTA will continue to collaborate to enhance technical capacity in local government and to improve planning, coordination, and fiscal oversight.

The President confirmed that through the Presidential Izimbizo that have been held across the country, the implementation of the District Development Model (DDM) has brought together all spheres of government and key stakeholders to address service delivery challenges in communities. The government will continue to broaden and deepen this process, since the DDM has proven to be an effective instrument to enhance cooperative governance and collaboration.¹

National Budget Speech

The Minister of Finance, Hon. Enoch Godongwana committed an additional R1, 4 billion earmarked for the municipal disaster recovery grant to fund the repair and reconstruction of infrastructure damaged by the tragic floods of 2023. Municipalities are the coalface of service delivery. However, Finance Minister made mention that several municipalities are experiencing weaknesses in governance, financial management, and service delivery. The government have adopted a multi-pronged approach to transform municipalities into engines of growth. It focuses on tightening budget processes, ramping up oversight in maintaining and building infrastructure.²

¹ President Cyril Ramaphosa|2024| SONA| Cape Town, City Hall.

² MEC Finance Jacob Mamabolo| 2024| Budget Speech| Gauteng Provincial Legislature.

State of the Province Address

The Gauteng Premier, Hon. Panyaza Lesufi recognises the significance of strengthening the role that traditional leadership plays in nation-building. The province is nearing completion on the work of the commission on traditional leadership, led by Professor Mziwoxolo Sirayi, which will resolve rightful leadership in Gauteng. The Premier is also concerned about the state of municipalities, particularly in matters relating to financial management. He notes that three (3) of the metros and some of the local municipalities have been given letters by the National Treasury on their inability to spend their capital infrastructure grants. Provincial intervention in a form of strengthening local government capacity is required where municipalities cannot render services to communities.

Gauteng government is about to achieve an important milestone that will lead to signing an agreement with Pickitup so that wherever there is uncollected refuse and dumping the province will step in and collect. This also goes to flowing sewerage and water where both Rand Water and Rand West municipality will be asked for assistance.³

Provincial Budget Speech

Finally, the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Finance, Hon. Jacob Mamabolo has indicated that the current allocation of R1 billion and R2, 3 billion over the MTEF will enhance the existing raft of initiatives outlined in the State of the Province Address (SOPA). This includes energy projects in collaboration with the national energy committee, local government, and energy experts.⁴

6. EXPENDITURE AND ESTIMATES OF BUDGET VOTE 7: 2024/25 MTEF

This section deals with budget allocation of the Department during the 2024/25 FY as well as the projected budget allocation over the MTEF period.

Percentage share per programme: 2024/25 FY

The Portfolio Committee noted that in relation to programme payments and estimates, **traditional institutional development's** budget has recorded a sharp budget decline of -16% from the previous financial year to the current financial year. **Administration** has followed suit in its allocation from R174 544 000. 00 to R162 790 000. 00 (-7%) for the year under review.

Under **development and planning**, the budget has been reduced by -6% for this year's share. Finally, **local governance** also encountered a budget reduction of a mere -4% from R287 942 000. 00 in 2023/24 FY to R277 620 000. 00 in 2024/25 FY.

³ Premier Panyaza Lesufi| 2024| SOPA| Gauteng, Pretoria.

⁴ Finance Minister, Enoch Godongwana| 2024| Budget Speech| Cape Town, National Assembly.

7. PAYMENTS AND ESTIMATES ON PROGRAMMES: 2021/22 – 2025/26 MTEF

The Portfolio Committee noted the following on the budget allocation per programme from the 2021/22 FY to 2025/26 MTEF period (*as shown by the application of the Budget Variance Study Tool*):

PROGRAMME 1 - ADMINISTRATION

This programme is responsible for strengthening and aligning the Department's organisational capacity and capability to deliver on its mandate. It also enables the Department's business units to perform efficiently by providing corporate support.

The Portfolio Committee noted that the **Office of the MEC's** budget allocation decreased from R5 625 000. 00 in 2023/24 FY to R3 780 000. 00 for 2024/25 FY. **Corporate services** being the major business function from the office of the MEC has seen an allocation of R159 010 000. 00 (budget cut of 6%) from R168 919 000. 00 in the previous year. Over the MTEF period, the budget allocation will be reduced by 1% of the current appropriation and also pick up by 5% in 2026/27 FY.

The Portfolio Committee also noted that the programme will continue to cater for departmental data communication costs; staff bursaries; G-fleet services; audit fees; legal costs; security and cleaning services; and municipal services.

REPORTING ON SERVICE DELIVERY MEASURES 2024/25 FY

The Department highlights that 50% of Employment Equity target will be reached for women in Senior Management Services (SMS) positions.

- With the Department's policy on recruiting women for SMS, the target should be achieved to address gender disparities. This will ensure that more women are recruited to the executive level of the organisation. It should be noted that the Department attained 35% for the mentioned outputs in the previous financial year.

The Department reports that 6% of Employment Equity is targeted for people with disabilities.

- One of the challenges confronting the Department from realising this target is lack of applications from people living with disabilities. The Department should be encouraged to broaden the scope of the recruitment process and partner with strategic organisations representing people with disabilities to attract suitably qualified candidates.

In 2021/22 FY, the Department reached 2, 5% out of the target of 4% that was set in place. It is reported that the challenges are related to lack of appropriate office space which places limitations in terms of recruiting people living with disabilities. The Department should address the long outstanding matter of office accommodation to deliver on its mandate and set up the appropriate infrastructure conducive for disabled people.

The Department commits that 100% of invoices are to be paid in 15 days.

- It assists small medium and micro enterprises to flourish and expand in the business community. The inception of the township economic development bill⁵ should also be an instrument used to support local economic development. The entire previous financial year has seen the Department struggling to process payments within fifteen days rather thirty days due to system downtime. The entire previous financial year has seen the Department struggling to process payments within fifteen days rather than thirty days due to system downtime by Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETA). The Portfolio Committee should keep the Department in check to ensure that payments are done on time to service providers.
- In terms of the provinces, the total number of invoices paid after 30 days by provincial departments amounted to 48 478 to the rand value of R5.9 billion, whereas these provincial departments recorded 90 935 invoices to the value of R9.9 billion in the first quarter of 2023/24 FY.
- Although these invoices were paid, it should be noted that payment after the prescribed period constitute non-compliance.
- Although Government is under financial austerity measures, invoices for services rendered must be paid and Accounting Officers should apply consequence management where necessary to address these challenges (Public Service Commission, 2024).

The Department outlines that 40% of procurement is earmarked for women owned companies.

- It is a great initiative aimed at expanding economic opportunities for women. The private sector, civil society and women's organisations, businesswomen and government have partnered to form the Women Economic Assembly (WECONA), an initiative to facilitate the participation of women-owned businesses in core areas of the economy, says the Presidency.⁶
- Recognising that women-owned businesses still account for 1% of public procurement, while Agenda 2063 of the AU calls for this allocation to be at least 25%, the Women

- Economic Assembly sets out to contribute substantially to easing the plight of vulnerable sectors of our economy.⁷

The Department shares that one (1) capacity building initiatives will be conducted.

- The Department's constitutional mandate through section 154 mandates this sphere of government to support and build capacity of municipalities to deliver basic services. This includes institutionalising performance management system so that officials can meet the prescribed minimum competency requirements. Councillors could be equipped to fulfil their governance obligations in terms of providing services to the communities.

The Department indicates that it will award ten (10) bursaries to learners with disabilities.

- This is a positive initiative in making sure that people living with disabilities are prioritised on the award of bursaries. Once capacitated, they will possess the right skills and expertise to compete in key business sectors.

The Department highlights that it will conduct four (4) capacity initiatives on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) amongst Community Development Workers (CDWs), ward committees and officials.

- The drive behind this initiative will empower the CDWs, ward committees and officials with more knowledge of the required tools to attend to issues of gender-based violence. It remains significant to acknowledge the need to train the deployed officials on how to manage and report on GBVF issues.

The Department plans that two (2) municipalities will be monitored on the implementation of GBVF responsive programmes (final Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan for National Strategic Plan (NSP) on GBVF) (Pillar 2: Prevention and Restoration of Social Fabric).

Finally, the Department further plans to undertake two (2) anti-GBVF intervention/campaigns for traditional leadership (Pillar 2: Prevention and Restoration of Social Fabric).

- Violence is deeply entrenched in the socio-cultural fibre of families, communities, and societies, and the success of this pillar is dependent on systematic interventions that reach individuals and institutions to influence values, social norms, and belief systems.

- Further, the Portfolio Committee should track progress by focusing on the Department's ability to strengthen delivery capacity of municipalities to implement effective prevention programmes.
- The success of this initiative will be evaluated and monitored when it addresses the restoration of human dignity, builds caring communities, and responds to historic and collective trauma. This should ultimately lead to public spaces that are safe and violent free for all women and children.

PROGRAMME 2 –LOCAL GOVERNANCE

This programme seeks to strengthen the developmental state by enhancing participatory governance and institutional stability as well as building the capacity and capability of local government to achieve its constitutional mandate. Further, this programme aims to promote and facilitate viable and sustainable local governance in conjunction with Pillar 4: transformation of the state and governance

Programme 2 is regarded as the Core Business service delivery outputs that carries out the implementation of the key mandate for COGTA.

This programme used to enjoy the biggest chunk of the allocation since the Department's inception in 2014. It was regarded as a service delivery output given its role in terms of municipal finance support and capacity building for the Gauteng municipalities. However, this has changed amidst the 2023/24 FY budget adjustment that witnessed a massive allocation over programme three, e.g., development and planning. The allocation for programme three has pushed the Department's budget to just over a billion due to the energy project implementation across the province.

Against this background, the Department reports a slight budget decrease from R287 942 000.00 in the 2023/24 FY to R277 620 000.00 for the 2024/25 FY.

The budget variance study further reveals that the substantial amount of the budget for programme two is allocated to **public participation** at R199 728 000.00 (share of 72%); followed by **municipal finance** with a total figure of R22 479 000.00 (8%); then **municipal administration** with an allocation of R19 508 000.00 (7% share); this is followed by **capacity development** with a budget of R18 142 000.00 (7%); and finally, **municipal performance, monitoring, reporting, and evaluation** received a budget of R17 763 000.00 (6%).

REPORTING ON SERVICE DELIVERY MEASURES 2024/25 FY

Number of research studies (three) produced on key local policy issues.

South Africa's local government is very dynamic and changing. Local government is a highly contested and legislated terrain; therefore, it requires high level of innovation and strategic approach to enhance service delivery.

Research studies should focus on policy development for local government that translates into good governance practices of municipalities. Most fundamentally, the Department plans to undertake a study on coalition government to ensure stability in municipal governance and administration.

The Department reports that six (6) municipalities will have their powers and functions and the single-tier system of local government pillars implemented in line with the approved implementation plan (new indicator).

- The Department argues that to strengthen the capacity of the two districts, it will develop a legislative framework to establish metros in Sedibeng and West Rand. The Municipal Demarcation Bill will be utilised to accelerate the implementation of a metropolitan system of governance within the constitutional context.
- Further, the Department in collaboration with the Demarcation Board to develop an evidence-based business case to meet the requirements of Section 2 (a) (ii) and (b) of the MSA).

The Department indicates that it will ensure eleven (11) municipalities have functional municipal councils and related committees (new indicator).

- In this case, the Department should ensure that given the political and administrative instability in municipalities such as the City of Johannesburg, City of Tshwane, City of Ekurhuleni, West Rand district as well as Mogale City, municipal councils and oversight committees are always restored urgently.
- The functionality of these municipal councils and related committees are crucial to approve the municipal budgets and full implementation of IDPs.

In terms of ensuring political and administrative stability in municipalities, the Department plans that 100% mediation requests from coalition type municipalities will be processed (new indicator).

- Addressing both political leadership and administration should remain a priority of the Department, because it collapses service delivery and the governance structures.
- It is reported that the Department will introduce a process to amend Section 12 Notice (Establishment Notice) in accordance with the applicable legislation. Central to this is to facilitate and advocate for the implementation of the provision of the Municipal Structures Act (Section 12 Notice). This entails changing the current Mayoral Executive System to the Collective Executive System.
- The Department is also planning to resuscitate the MEC-Council Speakers Forum to strengthen good governance and the functionality of councils and its committees.

The Department highlights that three (3) capacity building partnership agreements will be concluded in 2023/24 FY (new indicator).

- It can be mentioned that the Department should institutionalise capacity building for municipalities so that officials can meet the prescribed minimum competency requirements, and councillors can fulfil their governance obligations in terms of providing services to the communities.

Number of municipalities monitored on the extent to which anti-corruption measures are implemented (Linked to MTSF 2019 – 2024, Priority 1).

- Anti-corruption measures should focus on fighting fraud and corruption, maladministration, embezzlement as well as non-compliance of supply chain management processes in municipalities.
- The Department should ensure that municipalities reduce unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, particularly in the metros.

Number of municipalities supported on ethics and integrity management.

- Public service is public trust; citizens expect fairness and management of public property; fair and reliable public services inspire trust; and public service ethics underpin public trust and are keystone for good governance (Institute of Directors Southern Africa, 2016).

The Department indicates that a total number of twenty-Five (25) of voter education stakeholder engagement sessions are to be implemented in provincial regions.

- The general voter turnout has declined significantly from 89.3% in 1999 to 65.34% in 2019. This is not a good thing in a participatory democracy and must be addressed urgently. The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) together with its stakeholders must devise strategies to boost the declining voter turnout and ensure that the country's democracy develops on a sustainable basis (Parliament, 2020).

Based on capacity to implement the simplified revenue plans, the Department has essentially targeted two (2) municipalities (Mogale and Merafong).

- This target is essential hence it aims to address poor revenue collection affecting Gauteng municipalities. Lack of revenue management has a direct effect on service delivery of municipal infrastructure such as water, sanitation, refuse removal and electricity.
- This situation is likely to increase levels of indebtedness and default on payments for municipal services. The deteriorating revenue collection rates limit the ability of the

municipalities to provide essential services and constrains their capacity to expand investment necessary for economic and social development⁸.

The Department reports that two (2) municipalities, i.e., Emfuleni and Midvaal are to be provided with capacity to undertake data enrichment of large power and water users.

- In the previous financial year, the Department targeted the West Rand district municipalities. The Department highlights that both district municipalities will be provided with capacity to undertake viability assessments and develop viability plans.
- Over the years, the Gauteng municipalities have been confronted with inaccurate billing system that fuelled apathy from the consumers. According to the Inter-dependent priority study, building institutional and administrative capacity should entail that municipalities must be supported to bill large power users while also being provided with infrastructure support which will assist in the provision of meters that will ensure that correct bills are generated.

In the quest to reduce Unauthorised, Irregular, Wasteful and Fruitless expenditure (Linked to MTSF 2019 – 2024, Priority 1), the Department targeted two (2) municipalities.

- The AGSA has highlighted an escalating trend in UIFW expenditure in municipalities over recent years, evident in audit opinions and summarised in the annual general reports on local government. Once the project is implemented, it should result in improved internal controls and overall management of UIFW expenditure.

The Department indicates that four (4) municipalities are to be provided with capacity to undertaken viability assessments and develop viability plans.

The Department outlines that two (2) of Operation Clean Audit (OPCA) Provincial Coordinating Committee (PCC) are to be convened to provide advisory support to municipalities on the implementation of audit response plans.

- Such project is quite significant precisely because most Gauteng municipalities are currently exposed to poor audit outcomes, specifically for the 2021/22 FY. Municipalities have regressed in respect of audit outcomes in contrast with the 2020/21 FY, of which there was no municipality that received a qualified audit opinion or a disclaimer.
- One can argue that the Department has a mammoth task ahead of assisting municipalities with capacity initiatives to realise positive audit outcomes in the year under review. This target ensures that expenditure management is adhered to through MFMA.

The Department shares that nine (9) municipalities will be supported to promote participation in community based local governance processes (Priority 1: Capable, Ethical and Developmental State).

- Since the Department is referring to the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD), there should be clear guidelines for public participation and citizen engagement. This should include the possible ways the government can engage and use delivery to build social and human assets, leading to the growth of social cohesion and capital.

The Department commits that Gauteng municipalities will be supported to resolve community concerns.

- The Portfolio Committee should track specifically service delivery issues raised by communities and the steps considered by the provincial executive authority in charge to have those resolved.

The Department has outlined that nine (9) municipalities will be supported to maintain functional ward committees (Linked to MTSF 2019-2024, Priority 1).

- As part of strengthening participatory democracy, the functionality of ward committees promote participation in community based local governance processes.
- Ward committees should be capacitated to the current political dynamics (coalition governments) to play a meaningful role in holding the municipal councils accountable.
- The Portfolio Committee should consider inviting the ward committees across the Gauteng regions to monitor their roles in pursuing accountable government.

It has been highlighted that the Department will provide capacity building in four (4) municipalities (Linked to MTSF 2019-2024, Priority 1, B2B Pillar 5).

- Capacity building is one of the significant pillars of the B2B that aims to provide essential skills such as finance, leadership, and critical skills to councillors. It remains key hence it empowers municipal officials with the necessary tools to perform their responsibilities.
- Building institutional and administrative capacity at the local level intends to address skills deficit which is quite prevalent in municipalities. Skills shortages includes finance, engineering, and supply chain management, to mention but a few

The Department reports that it will place two (2) experts to support and provide capacity on legal and labour matters in municipalities.

- Given the nature and complexity of municipalities, they are prone to deal with both legal and labour matters that involves service delivery of municipal infrastructure and bargaining issues of employees.
- It is worth considering that municipalities should have fully fledged units that addresses any legal and labour matters.

The Department states that Gauteng municipalities (eleven) will be supported to fill Section 54A and 56 and other critical technical positions within 6 months of being vacant (previous year)

The Department indicates that all Gauteng municipalities will be supported to comply with Municipal Staff Regulations (MSR) in terms of appointing senior managers (Linked with MTSF 2019-2024, Priority 1).

- This will address competency gap occurring in Gauteng municipalities. The filling of critical vacancies, especially municipal managers and senior managers will ensure that the key service delivery outputs are achieved. The appointment of senior managers will ensure leadership stability in municipalities.

- *“Section 54A of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000, provides for the appointment of municipal managers and acting municipal managers”.*

- *“Section 57(6) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000, provides that the employment contract for a municipal manager must be for a fixed term of employment up a to maximum of five years, not exceeding a period ending one year after the election of the next council of the municipality”.*

The Department reports that Gauteng municipalities will be supported to institutionalise the performance management system (PMS) (Linked to MTSF).

- Performance management systems are vitally crucial to ensure municipal performance in relation to service delivery. The implementation of PMS for municipal Senior Managers will enhance municipalities’ basic service delivery and infrastructure, municipal institutional development and transformation, local economic development, municipal financial viability, and management.

In terms of ensuring compliance with MSA Regulations on the appointment of senior managers (Linked to MTSF 2019 – 2024, Priority 1), eleven municipalities are targeted (previous financial year).

The Department stresses the need for municipalities to comply with MSR Chapter two (2) Staff Establishment (Linked to MTSF 2019-2024, Priority 1).

- As mentioned earlier on, the appointment of senior managers as per the MSA Regulations should result in the recruitment of highly skilled personnel and therefore strengthen capacity across municipalities.
- A strong emphasis should be made that those appointed in municipal administration are impartial and their roles and responsibilities are not hampered by party political dynamics (e.g., coalition governments). This can be achieved through a thorough recruitment process that involves vetting of candidates and historical backgrounds.

The Department plans to develop one (1) annual municipal performance reports compiled as per section 47 of the Municipal Systems Act.

- The target aims to identify service delivery challenges that the municipalities would have been experienced during the implementation stages and develop key measures against non-performance areas. The Portfolio Committee processes the annual municipal performance report by way of examining the performance of municipalities and therefore make substantive recommendations where applicable.

In relation to monitor the implementation of indigent policies (Sub-outcome 1) (B2B Pillar 2), the Department targeted nine (9) municipalities.

- The implementation of indigent policies is vitally important for poverty alleviation in disadvantaged communities of Gauteng. This is centred on the provision of basic services such as water, electricity and refuse removal. Municipalities are required to be legally compliant with the introduction of indigent policies.

The Portfolio Committee noted that four compliance reports in terms of Municipal Finance Management Act, Municipal Property Rates Amendment Act, Municipal Systems Act and Remuneration of Public Office Bearers Act will be produced.

The Department states that nine (9) municipalities will be guided to comply with the MPRA (Linked to MTSF 2019 – 2024, Priority 1) (B2B Pillar 4).

The Department cites that one reports on the issues raised by the Auditor General in audit reports in terms of section 131 of the MFMA is to be initiated.

- Municipal performance reports on key performance areas are meant to identify bottlenecks and areas of improvement at the local sphere of government. This includes submission of accurate annual financial statements (AFS) as well as the annual municipal audit outcomes.
- Further, monitoring and evaluation needs to be applied in order to ascertain the achievement of bulk municipal infrastructure project and Gauteng City Region.

The Department plans to ensure that four (4) Inter-Governmental Relations (IGR) structures are functional in accordance with the framework.

- The functionality of the IGR structures is crucial for integrated service delivery masterplan such as water and electrical bulk infrastructure amongst the three (3) spheres of government. This addresses a silo element of working which exacerbates poor communication and facilitation of government projects.

PROGRAMME 3 - DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

This programme seeks to coordinate, facilitate, and promote integrated development and planning in Municipalities to ensure that varieties of services are delivered in an integrated and sustainable manner.⁹

The Department reported that the 2024/25 FY budget for development and planning programme is R555 963 000.00. This has marked a substantial increase from R593 781 000.00 since the 2023/24 FY budget adjustment period. With this in mind, programme three (3) has yet become the key service delivery output. In terms of the allocations per sub-programmes, the application of the budget variance study illustrates the following:

- **Land Use Management sub programme** received an allocation of R10 712 000.00 in 2024/25 FY, in comparison with R10 517 000.00 of 2023/24 FY, a slight increase of 2%.
- **Municipal Infrastructure sub programme** experienced a slight budget reduction from R479 532 000.00 in the previous year to R459 974 000.00 (-4%) for 2024/25 FY.
- The **IDP Coordination sub programme** has witnessed its budget being slightly increased from R31 503 000.00 in 2023/24 FY to R31 765 000.00 (0, 8%) in the year under review.
- **Disaster Management sub programme** has recorded a budget reduction from R72 229 000.00 during the previous year to R53 559 000.00 (-25%) in 2024/25 FY.

REPORT ON SERVICE DELIVERY MEASURES 2024/25 FY

The Department indicates that it will finalise the Gauteng Spatial Development Frameworks.

- The finalisation of the Gauteng Spatial Development Framework 2030 should confront the sprawling racially, economically, and functionally separated settlement pattern that is environmentally wasteful, stretching from Pretoria in the north via

Johannesburg to Vereeniging in the south. The proposed framework should also locate housing development closer to economic regions for easy accessibility.

As in the previous financial year, the Department reported that six (6) business cases will be assessed for level of compliance to statutory Town Planning legislation.

The Department targeted nine municipalities with legally compliant and responsive IDPs.

- As part of fulfilling section 154 of the Constitution, the Department should ensure that municipal IDPs are supported to respond to the basic and service delivery needs of the community. In terms of Section 35(1) of the MSA an IDP is adopted by the council of a municipality. It is the principal strategic planning instrument which guides and informs all planning and development, and all decisions regarding planning, management, and development, in the municipality.
- IDP is a legislative requirement, it has legal status and supersedes all other plans that guide development at local government level. Municipalities should adopt their IDPs by end of May 2023.

The Department outlines that 21 000 work opportunities will be created through Community Work Programme (CWP) (MTSF 2019-2024, Priority 2).

- This initiative is crucial in ensuring that unemployed young people are exposed to job opportunities to learn and develop certain skills required by the market. The Portfolio Committee should monitor progress during the implementation of such a programme.

The Department indicates that five (5) District/Metro will be supported to develop One Plan (MTSF 2019 – 2024, Priority 5: Spatial integration, human settlements, and local government).

- It is worth noting that the Department targeted two (2) districts in the previous financial year. One can concede that this is prudent to better plan budgeting synergies across all spheres of government in the province and align projects/initiatives with provincial priorities. Budget alignment and planning within the three spheres of government (including departments and entities) are exposed to silo planning that leads to lack of communication and co-ordination.
- The DDM has been introduced to ensure that government planning is aligned with all relevant stakeholders (as well as the affected parties).

The Department indicates that nine (9) municipalities will be monitored on the implementation of infrastructure delivery programmes (Outcome 9, Sub-outcome 1) (B2B Pillar 5).

- Through its municipal infrastructure sub-programme, the Department monitors the Municipal Infrastructure Grants (MIGs) expenditure by the municipalities under category B and C.

Five (5) districts/regions will be monitored on the spending of National Grants.

- This will enhance accountability and answerability on project implementation of municipalities throughout the financial year. Both the Department and the Portfolio Committee should monitor the infrastructure expenditure and its implementation. The Department should report progress in terms of infrastructure rollout and its financial performance on a quarterly basis.

The Department highlights that six (6) municipalities will be supported with technical skills capacity through MISA/ COGTA/ Multidisciplinary team of experts in engineering and town planning.

- According to the study on the state of municipalities in Gauteng, most municipalities lack skills in the areas such as finance, engineering, and supply chain management, amongst others.
- Emanating from pillar four of the B2B, building institutional and administrative capacity in municipalities will see the realisation of project implementation. This will enable municipalities to plan appropriately with the limited resources at their disposals.

The Department indicates that nine (9) municipalities are to be monitored on implementation of adaptive measures to climate change in water supply infrastructure and use.

- This is part of renewable energy initiatives implemented as part of a process of promoting the green agenda within the province, with initiatives to include implementation of water harvesting tanks.

The Department states that nine (9) municipalities are targeted for the implementation on the water security interventions.

- Gauteng municipalities have been losing water for years. For instance, the Department did not realise the target of reducing water losses by 15% in 2021, with Metros being the most affected. During the committee's focussed intervention study, Gauteng municipalities have admitted to having lacked effective water security intervention.

The Department indicates that one (1) municipality will be supported to implement online metering system for large power users and commercial customers meters in Merafong.

Electricity losses contribute significantly to lost revenue for the municipality and is threatening its viability. Online metering will remove the human interface, and thus increase the reliability and integrity of metering data.

The Department outlines that level three (3) of disaster management plans is earmarked for the year under review. The Department further reports that five (5) municipalities will be supported to maintain functional Disaster Management Centres. The Department further shares that four (4) municipalities are targeted for Fire Brigade Services.

- It should be noted that the functionality of the municipal disaster management centres is essential to mitigate both natural/man-made disasters. Since Gauteng is now exposed to disasters such as sinkholes, water, pollution, floods, to mention but a few, the functioning of the municipal centres is imperative for disaster risk management. Part of the disaster risk strategy lies in mitigating fire outbreak in informal settlements, noting the poor structures and lack of town planning.

The Department shares that nine (9) municipalities will be supported to develop implementation plans for the approved National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) tariffs.

- This approach would allow NERSA to set each municipality's tariff based on its cost of service. Municipalities should update physical asset registers with asset replacement costs, useful lives, and depreciated replacement costs. They need to correct sales and purchase metering data, general ledger accounts need to be corrected to reflect correct data.

PROGRAMME 4- TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This programme seeks to promote and facilitate viable and sustainable traditional institutions and to support and enhance the capacity of traditional authorities as well as local governance institutions in line with Pillar 4: Transformation of state and governance.

The Portfolio Committee noted The **Traditional Institutional Development programme** has seen the budget trimmed from R24 228 000. 00 in 2023/24 FY to R20 439 000. 00 in 2024/25 FY. The Gauteng Department of COGTA has a constitutional mandate to support the two (2) houses of traditional leaders.

In terms of sub-programmes allocations, the budget variance study reveals the following:

- **Traditional Institutional Administration** experienced a budget reduction from R14 948 000. 00 in 2023/24 FY to R11 527 000. 00 in 2024/25 FY.
- Whereas under **Traditional Resource Administration** portrays another budget cut from R7 217 000. 00 in 2023/24 FY to R7 176 000. 00 in 2024/25 FY.
- **Rural Development Facilitation** is allocated R575 000. 00 in 2023/24 FY, showing a sharp decline of R200 000. 00.
- **Traditional Land Administration** has a budget of R1 488 000. 00 for the previous year to R1 536 000. 00 in the year under review.

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As guided by its constitutional mandate, the Department will support two Traditional Councils to perform their functions.

- The Gauteng Department of COGTA is constitutionally mandated to support two (2) Traditional Houses, *i.e.*, Amandebele Ba Lebelo in Sokhulumi and Amandebele Ndzundza in Hammanskraal to perform their customary duties.
- It includes capacity building, adequate support of cultural/traditional events commemoration, develop management system for effective administration of traditional land as well as prepare and submit the annual financial records.

The Department reports that 100% of Traditional Leadership succession claims/ disputes received will be processed.

- The Portfolio Committee through its oversight visits in Tshwane found that land disputes are an impediment to community development and there is a strong need for a concerted effort to address the land ownership phenomenon. Land ownership battles delay development and service delivery in the affected jurisdictions.

The Department highlights that it will conduct two (2) training programmes to strengthen collaboration between local government and the traditional councils.

- The Department should address issues associated with lack of participation of traditional councils in the City of Tshwane. Although the legislation provides for clear guidelines of participation, the Portfolio Committee revealed that such involvement remains ineffective and inadequate.

SUMMARY OF PAYMENTS & ESTIMATES BY ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION: 2022/23 – 2026/27 MTEF

The budget variance study tool indicates that the allocations of the Department as from 2023/24 FY to 2024/25 FY increased from R1 080 495 000. 00 to R1 016 812 000. 00 (-6%). Conditional grants in the same financial year have increased from R1 769 000. 00 to R2 000 000. 00 (12%). However, the total appropriation of the budget will be reduced by -40% in 2025/26 FY and is projected to increase to R636 552 000. 00 (5%) over the MTEF period. In a nutshell, the final appropriation mentioned above will fulfil the organisation's constitutional mandate of strengthening and building capacity of the province's municipalities¹⁰.

The Portfolio Committee noted that on **current payments**, the budget shrinks from R1 062 356 000. 00 in 2023/24 FY to R1 000 697 000. 00 for 2024/25 FY. The **goods and services**

are granted the lion's share of this budget which amounted to R588 465 000.00 (58%) for the year under review from R667 488 000.00 in the previous FY. **Compensation of employees** have been awarded an increased budget of R412 232 000.00 in 2024/25 FY from R394 868 000.00 during the 2023/24 FY.

In terms of **transfers and subsidies (provinces & municipalities)**, the Department has allocated R12 000 000.00 in the current financial year, as compared with R13 369 000.00 in the last financial year. It should be noted that the allocation is likely to change during the budget adjustment, depending on the demand for municipal services.

Under **households (HH)**, the Department allocated R1 645 000.00 for the year under review, in contrast with R1 578 000.00 of 2023/24 FY. The budget will cater for the electrification of informal settlements together with the municipalities' own revenue.

On **payments for capital assets**, the budget allocation has been lessened from R3 192 000.00 in 2023/24 FY to R2 470 000.00 in 2024/25 FY. The Portfolio Committee also noted that the allocation is directed for **machinery and equipment**.

TRANSFERS FOR CATEGORY B & C MUNICIPALITIES: 2018/19-2022/23 MTEF

The Department reported that local government transfers have dwindled by R3 600 000.00 (30%) from the previous financial year to the year under review. The Department did not make further allocation over the MTEF period. **One would argue that an explanation should be provided in view of the lack of the financial projections for the period in question.**

The Department highlights that the amount will be utilised to improve fire and rescue services response capabilities and to deliver on the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

Category C municipalities (Sedibeng and West Rand districts) did not receive any allocation during the year under review.

The Department reported that the amount will be utilised to improve fire and rescue services response capabilities and to deliver on the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

The application of "Needs Budget vs Availability Budget" is as follows:

Despite economic estimates for the regions in Gauteng pointing to a recovery in 2021 and 2022, the emergence of new COVID-19 variants could extend the pandemic and cause economic disruptions.

In relation to labour market overview, Sedibeng District Municipalities has an unemployment figure of 49%. Of these numbers, Emfuleni municipality has the highest unemployment rate of 53%, followed by Lesedi at 44% and Midvaal at 30% being the last one.

West Rand District Municipalities' labour market overview for the same period highlighted above was recorded at 39%. Rand-West City consists of the high unemployment rate of 53%,

followed by Mogale City at 41% and finally Merafong City with 15%. One can argue that delivery of services to date compared to the actual need; budget constraints and allied financial problems (e.g., conditional grants) and other problems (e.g., huge unemployment rate in District municipalities) makes this target a needs budget.

PERSONNEL NUMBER OF THE GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF COGTA

The Portfolio Committee noted that the number of personnel under **administration** was 163 in 2022/23 FY and 167 for the year under review (an increase of 4 personnel). The Department further reports an increase on the personnel number for **local governance programme** from 458 in the previous financial year to 460 in 2023/24 FY. **Development and planning** had 82 personnel numbers in 2022/23 FY and increased to 85 for 2023/24 FY. On **traditional institutional development**, the personnel number was 12 during the previous year and has risen to 13 for the year under review.

Above all, the Gauteng Department of COGTA increased the personnel numbers from 712 in 2022/23 FY to 725 in 2023/24, which reflects an additional number of 13 for the new employees.

8. TRANSVERSAL/CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

The Portfolio Committee noted that in terms of job creation, the Department commits that 21 000 of work opportunities will be initiated through Community Work Programme (CWP) (MTSF 2019-2024, Priority 2). The Department's commitment to create employment opportunities is positive in addressing the widening gap of inequality, which ultimately result in poverty. Creating these opportunities is also significant for skills development for young people.

The Department committed to monitor the implementation of GBVF responsive programmes in three municipalities. GBVF responsive programmes should tackle the scourge of violence against women and children. Undoubtedly, gender-based violence has become one of the social issues affecting the country's social fabric. The introduction of responsive programmes should aim to resolve the root causes of violence against women and children.

9. CONCLUSION

The Portfolio Committee noted that the 2024/25 FY budget of the Gauteng Department of COGTA has been allocated to ensure that it provides support to municipalities, leaves a permanent footprint on municipal performance, expenditure management, revenue collection, IDP implementation as well as skills and development (through performance management systems). Whilst national and provincial governments have broadly used several policy and legislative instruments to provide support to the respective municipalities in each province in the spirit of cooperative government, such support has not been consistent, as it varied from one municipality to another.

The implementation of support provisions is contained in sections 154(1) and 155(6) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996. Together, these provisions place an obligation on national and provincial governments (Gauteng COGTA) (through legislation and other measures) to support and strengthen the capacity of municipalities to manage their own affairs, exercise their powers and perform their functions¹¹.

In order to ensure that local government works for citizens where participatory democracy and effective governance fosters economic development, financial viability, sustainability and a better life for all, the Department should utilise the allocated resources to realise efficient service delivery. This includes the realisation of Gauteng City Region (GCR) (Smart Cities) Integrated Urban Development Framework, while enhancing the capacity of the institution of Traditional Leaders.

The Portfolio Committee welcomes the Budget (Vote 7) of the Gauteng Department of COGTA for the 2024/25 FY; and considers the oversight findings, concerns, recommendations, and questions emanated from the report.

10. STAKEHOLDER SUBMISSIONS

Due to time constraints, the Portfolio Committee could not invite stakeholders to the Committee meeting. This therefore implies that the Portfolio Committee could not record written or oral submissions from the Stakeholders.

11. PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE CONCERNS

The following are the Portfolio Committee concerns on the Budget of the Gauteng Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs: 2024/25 MTEF:

11.1 The budget on local government transfers has been reduced by R3 600 000. 00 (30%) in the year under review.

11.2 In the face of political instability due to coalition formations in hung municipalities, the Portfolio Committee is concerned about the lack of progress on the amendment of Section 12 Notice. This will bring about facilitating and advocating for the changes in the current mayoral executive system to the collective executive system.

11.3 The land disputes within Amandebele Ba Lebelo Traditional Council in Hammanskraal which caused the delays in development and service delivery in the affected jurisdiction.

11.4 The reduced budget under Disaster Management sub programme from R72 229 000. 00 during the previous year to R53 559 000. 00 (25%) in 2024/25 FY.

12. PROPOSED PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Department should provide responses to the following as raised by **31 September 2024**:

12.1 The Portfolio Committee recommends that the Department should appeal for an adequate budget on local government transfers. This is precisely because the current allocation is insufficient to support the municipalities' to meet the challenges of economic growth at local level.

12.2 Since the introduction of the process to amend Section 12 Notice (Establishment Notice) in accordance with the applicable legislation occurred towards the end of the 6th government administration, the Department should provide the status update of the implementation thereof.

12.3 The Portfolio Committee recommends that the Gauteng Department of CoGTA should seek intervention from the National Department of CoGTA in addressing the land disputes within Amandebele Ba Lebelo Traditional Council which cause the delay in development and service delivery.

12.4 The Portfolio Committee urges the Department to ensure that adequate budget is allocated to the Disaster Management sub-programme. This will provide essential support in instances where unforeseen disasters strike the Province.

13. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, wishes to thank the MEC for CoGTA Hon. J Mamabolo, the Head of Department, Dr. D Barclay, and his team.

The Chairperson wishes to appreciate the diligence, dedication and commitment shown during deliberations on the detail of Vote 7 of the Gauteng Provincial Appropriation for the 2024/25 FY to all Members of the Portfolio Committee: Hon. A Mosai, Hon. N Mogobe, Hon. S. T. Msimanga, Hon. K Rasilingwane, Hon. B. Makhene, Hon. M. Masoleng, Hon. N Delebi, Hon. S. Nyathi, Hon. N. De Jager, Hon. L. Masilela, and Hon. F. R. Ngobeni.

The Committee's gratitude is extended to the following support staff: Group Committee Coordinator Ms. Z. Pantshwa-Mbalo, Senior Researcher Dr. S. Nenweli; Committee Coordinator Ms. J. Nyembe, Researcher Mr. S. Nene; Media Officer, Ms. P. Bulasigobo; Information Officer Mr. L. Ncume, Committee Administrators Ms. N. Mthembu, Service Officer Ms. C. Mnethwa and Hansard Recorder Mr. N. Mbonane.

14. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

In terms of Rule 117 (2)(c) read with Rule 164, the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs tables its Oversight Report on the Budget Vote 7 of the Gauteng Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (GDCoGTA) for the 2024/25 FY for adoption by the house, taking into consideration the concerns and proposed recommendations made in the report.