

ADDRESS BY MECABRAHAM VOSLOO (MPL) FOR FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM TO THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE ON THE TABLING OF THE 2023/24 BUDGET VOTE FOR PROVINCIAL TREASURY

## 22 June 2023

Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker

Honourable Premier — Dr Zamani Saul

Colleagues in the Executive Council

Chief Whip of the Majority Party and Leader of the Official Opposition

Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature

Director-General, Head of Provincial Treasury

Senior Management and Treasury Officials

The Leadership of Trade Unions

Fellow Northern Cape Citizens

Ladies and Gentlemen

Molweni, Goeie Middag, Good Afternoon!!!!

Madam Speaker, the tabling of this budget takes place when the country commemorated to the National Youth Day. The festivities of the day saw many young people accessing services coupled with financial support towards ensuring that their dreams and aspirations are being realized in the society we are entrusted to assist in building towards a modern, growing and successful Northern Cape province. The catalytic Infrastructure Projects identified by the province are being processed through the Infrastructure South Africa (ISA). Treasury and NCEDA have been engaged to secure funding to deliver these strategic projects that will create much needed jobs for the youth and change the economic landscape of our province, more especially in the

economic corridor where we are positioning the Northern Cape as the Green Hydrogen Hub.

We observed with keen interest welcoming of the media attaches by our Premier in deploying personnel in areas of communication and media space, to respond to media and communication cases in strengthening reporting of government intervention strategies in dealing with the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality that bears the face of youth and women in our province.

This government has also made great strides in the building of a socially inclusive and cohesive nation. However, despite these changes, there are many of our citizens who still live in poverty, and racism and inequality continue to remain a stubborn developmental obstacle to the achievement of socioeconomic equity, in our country.

The study however does caution that the levels of inequality in our country remain high. It is for this reason that as a government we are implementing the programme for radical socio-economic transformation aimed at ending poverty, unemployment and inequality.

We are advocating a change in our definition of Social Transformation, we endeavour for Social Transformation that prioritizes the rights of children, the creation of national identity, creation of an inclusive society, as spelt out in the freedom charter and subsequently the constitution.

As government, we have implemented the programme consistent with our objective material developmental analysis post-1994, which states our democracy will not thrive and be entrenched, if the majority of our people continue to remain in poverty, without equitable access to land, security of tenure and resources.

Thus the objective of attacking poverty, inequality and unemployment, remains the key priorities of the democratic government, led by the ANC.

## Madam Speaker,

Some of our key policy and programme interventions related to the achievement of the objectives of social transformation includes amongst others, the comprehensive social security policy and programme, a comprehensive basic education policy and programme, the comprehensive programme for the development of integrated human settlements, a national health policy and programme, the national integrated transport policy and programme and national policy and programmes for environments and social cohesion.

Honourable Speaker, our primary role as Provincial Treasury, is to ensure public financial management through the promotion of sound budgetary practices and the enforcement of transparent and effective management in respect of revenue, expenditure, and assets and liabilities in the Provincial Administration. The legislative responsibilities entrusted unto us empowers us to pursue the vision of the Sixth Administration in a responsible and transparent manner, in light of the available resources allocated to us. This compels us to exercise leadership in the management of public resources for efficient, effective and economic service delivery.

**Honourable Speaker**, as the MEC responsible for this important Ministry, I stand here to present my last Vote Speech as part of the Sixth Administration. The speech therefore continues to respond to the vision anchored by the Honourable Premier, Dr Zamani Saul to improve the lives of the people of the Northern Cape. Let me therefore

also take this opportunity to reflect briefly on some of the achievements and challenges during the tenure of this current Administration:

- We have drastically reduced unauthorised expenditure compared to what we inherited in 2019;
- Recruitment processes have improved in the context of fiscal discipline and have allowed executive authorities to play a more active role in the strategic direction of the Department;
- As opposed to silos we have funded only priorities linked to the ultimate objectives as articulated in 2019;
- 4. As part of the Provincial Macro Organisation of Government (PMOG), we have aligned priorities with departmental mandates, i.e. ECD located in the Department of Education, Ministry for Women, Youth, People living with Disabilities and e-Governance in the office of the Premier, the remodelling of Public Works (ongoing) to allow the Department to reclaim their legal mandate which is to plan and implement infrastructure projects on behalf of provincial government.
- 5. We have managed to negotiate a settlement with the Sol Plaatje Municipality in relation to our rates and taxes debt which will be settled in the next financial year. This will also decrease our accruals as a Province.
- 6. Lastly, we will leave the provincial government with a sustainable financial position.

Honourable Speaker, this does not imply that there are no challenges, however it is the political will that exists that will ensure that we ultimately triumph over these challenges. Irregular Expenditure, accruals and medico-legal claims continue to increase unabated and this poses a serious concern for the provincial government. The current measures to overcome some of these challenges will not bear fruit overnight, however, with persistent implementation we will be able to improve over a period of time.

Honourable Speaker, the Northern Cape Provincial Government managed to maintain a healthy provincial liquidity status as a result of fiscal discipline. It is worth noting that the provincial government has consistently closed with a positive bank balance since 2019 to date. To this end, the Provincial Treasury commits itself to maintain a positive provincial bank balance, however, this cannot be achieved without enhancing potential revenue streams and sources. Consequently, a Revenue Enhancement Strategy, aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of revenue collection measures by departments was developed by the Provincial Treasury and approved by the Executive Council (EXCO). The strategy's development was guided by an environmental scan and benchmarked against other provinces to correct weaknesses and inefficiencies in the current revenue generating systems.

Honourable Speaker, the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa provides for the protection and advancement of persons or categories of persons disadvantaged by unfair discrimination. Accounting officers and accounting authorities of provincial departments, public entities and municipalities must ensure that procurement opportunities are advanced to people of the Northern Cape Province that were historically disadvantaged and excluded from opportunities and discriminated against on the basis of race, gender and disability. The vulnerable groups in the Northern Cape Province, namely women, youth and people living with disabilities must be

afforded opportunities to participate in procurement processes to achieve the objectives of economic growth, eradication of poverty and the creation of jobs.

The provincial government is the province's biggest single buyer of goods, services and construction work which has the potential to redress the economic imbalances of the past and to stimulate and promote local economic development especially amongst women, youth, people living with disabilities and small and medium sized businesses. During the 2022/23 financial year the Northern Cape Provincial Government has spent an amount of R4,5 billion on public procurement of goods and services with a total number of 3841 suppliers used in the procurement process.

During the 2022/23 financial year the Northern Cape Provincial Treasury spent an amount of R62 million on goods and services. This includes inter alia, rental for office accommodation, travel and subsistence.

**Honourable Speaker and Members**, due to its operational nature, Provincial Treasury's top 3 commodities is operating lease (buildings), audit fees and substance and travel, specifically, accommodation which translated into the following:

- R52 million on 237 suppliers in the 2022/23 financial year. Black owned companies amounted to R 31 million with 60 per cent on 136 suppliers,
- R5 million on woman owned companies with 10 per cent on 50 suppliers,
- R1 million on youth owned companies with 3 per cent on 26 suppliers,
- R188 thousand on people living with disabilities. Procurement opportunities for people living with disabilities remain a challenge in provincial government and will have to be radically addressed.

Honourable Speaker, sound financial governance remains a cornerstone towards building a modern growing and successful province. In our pursuit to realise the

provincial vision, financial governance continues to promote transparency, accurate and credible reporting in the province aimed at inspiring confidence of the citizenry of the province on how the Northern Cape Provincial Government is managing its financial resources.

In navigating the pivotal role of guiding the provincial departments to effective, efficient and transparent financial reporting we are committed to ensuring that good financial management practices are implemented that will further strengthen its efforts in ensuring that provincial institutions prudently make use of their scarce resources for improved service delivery. In the current financial year, we will be advocating for proactive implementation of controls that should lead to credible, high quality financial statements.

**Honourable Speaker,** we are well aware that the roadmap to credible financial reporting is long and winding. However, through the targeted support and coordinated efforts and partnerships between all stakeholders and support from our regulatory bodies and stakeholders, the journey to accurate and transparent financial reporting will be a success resulting in improved audit outcomes.

Honourable Speaker and Members, payment of creditors within the legislated time, prevention and reduction of the unauthorised, irregular and fruitless & wasteful expenditure were identified as key priorities by the Sixth Administration. Provincial Treasury will provide guidance through issuing instruction notes, conducting trainings and engaging responsible officials about the steps to be taken. We have engaged with the Office of the Premier in this regard to issue standardised transversal deliverable indicators to form part of performance reporting by departments. This will further ensure that departments take responsibility of the compliance actions whilst provincial

treasury provides guidance and support. In collaboration with the Office of the Premier, the progress in achieving these targets will be monitored quarterly.

Honourable Speaker, payment of suppliers within 30 days is one of the measures for efficient and effective government systems. It also serves as the enabler for economic growth by ensuring that businesses keep positive cash flows after providing goods & services at a cost to departments. In the 2022/23 financial year, the province recorded an average rate of 6% non-compliance in terms of late payment to suppliers which is an improvement from the 9% reported in the 2021/22 financial year. This is indicative of an overall improvement from most of the provincial departments.

Honourable Speaker, Provincial Treasury's ability to render relevant support to its clients hinges greatly on the availability of a strong, competent and skilful workforce. It therefore gives me great honour to inform this august house that the organisational structure that was approved last year is in the implementation phase. This structure, which is responsive to the District Development Model, has been clustered to enable timely and accurate engagement with municipalities for maximum impact. The new structure promises better efficiencies for the Department and enhanced support to especially municipalities as greater capacity will be available on the ground.

Honourable Speaker, implementation of the new organisational structure will positively impact on our ability to assist and capacitate local government officials towards the achievement of clean audit outcomes. With enhanced support and timely assistance, municipalities will receive the necessary guidance and expertise to improve their financial management practices, ultimately reducing the demand for the appointment of consultants in municipalities.

**Honourable Speaker**, we currently have 45 officials that are spread out across the three clusters and head office responsible for municipal support and we are anticipating to advertise 27 posts to ensure adequate capacity to perform our functions.

Honourable Speaker and Members, the Provincial Treasury thus heeded the Premier's call to promote prudent financial management and sound governance at a local government level. The desired outcome is to navigate the ten identified municipalities, comprising of the five district municipalities and five biggest local municipalities in each district, towards the attainment of audit opinions which are financially unqualified without matters, commonly referred to as clean audits. In line with this, the Operation Clean Audit (OPCA) programme, which is in collaboration with Coghsta and SALGA, and headed by the Office of the Premier, has been resuscitated to provide strategic support intervention to these municipalities. The programme has been extended to include the four disclaimer municipalities in the province. The OPCA committee has commenced with visits to all identified municipalities and will be monitoring the process and reporting progress to EXCO on a regular basis. Critical to attainment of clean audits is the submission of quality and reliable annual financial statements (AFS) that are free from misstatements.

Honourable Speaker, the issue of non-compliance with legislative prescripts is a huge challenge. In some instances, this leads to financial losses to the municipalities. As such, this has led to material irregularities, as per the requirements of the Public Audit Act. Based on the Auditor General (AG) presentation to the Office of the Premier in May 2023, during the 2021/22 audit cycle, there were fifteen material irregularities (MI) issued, four of which has since been resolved. Our concern is that from 2022/23

AG will be implementing the material irregularities process to all thirty-one municipalities.

Honourable Speaker, the debt owed to Eskom has spiralled over the years due to a combination of challenges, which include amongst others, a consumer culture to not pay for services, inefficiencies in municipalities and Eskom's inability to assist municipal revenue collection in their areas of supply. Efforts by government to rescue the municipal debt spiral, through various support initiatives and robust engagements with relevant stakeholders, has not yielded the desired outcomes.

Honourable Speaker and Members, the reality is that our municipalities are financially gridlocked and require radical change towards their insolvent trajectory. This is evident due to huge outstanding amounts owed by our municipalities to Eskom and other creditors. To date, municipalities in the Province owe Eskom a hollering R4,2 billion. All hope is however not lost as National Treasury is embarking on a debt relief programme which is conditional and application based, and it targets all municipalities with outstanding debts owed to Eskom. This programme will see Eskom writing off the debts of all successful applicants over a three-year period, including interest and penalties.

Honourable Speaker and Members, the write-off, however, comes with very stringent conditions which municipalities will have to comply with for twelve consecutive months, and only then will Eskom effect the write-off of one third of the debt per year. This means that the municipalities must be fully compliant for a period of 36 months to qualify for a full debt write-off. The Provincial Treasury is fully committed to this process and has already facilitated a workshop whereby the National Treasury workshopped all municipalities through the specifics of the programme. The

workshop resolved that all municipalities in the province must submit their applications for the debt relief by 20 June 2023 to Provincial Treasury. Our officials are available to assist with the applications and will be strictly monitoring the adherence by municipalities upon approval of their applications. **Madam Speaker** to date, we have received five applications for the Debt Relief from the following municipalities:

- Nama Khoi Local Municipality,
- Renosterberg Local Municipality,
- Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality,
- Ricthersveld Local Municipality and
- Siyancuma Local Municipality.

Honourable Speaker, as Provincial Treasury, we derive our strength and our focus from the words of Napoleon Hill, the late famous American author, who once said and I quote "It is literally true that you can succeed best and quickest by helping others to succeed". Our success as provincial government should also be mirrored by the success of our local government. It is our commitment to assist our municipalities to succeed.

**Honourable Speaker**, it is our undeterred plan to attain clean audit outcomes for this financial year as a Provincial Treasury. This enables us to set the tone in our endeavour to support the Northern Cape Provincial Government to work towards a clean administration.

## BUDGET BREAKDOWN PER PROGRAMME

Honourable Speaker, allow me to highlight the allocation of the budget to six programmes that will enable the implementation of the Provincial Treasury's priorities distributed as follows:

Programme 1: Administration has been allocated an amount of R131 million. Programme 1 renders strategic and administrative support and leadership to the core Programmes within the Department. There is a greater demand for the filling of vacant funded posts due to the implementation of the approved organogram. This programme is also responsible to provide administrative support to the Ministry which enables the MEC to provide strategic direction to the Department.

Madam Speaker and Honourable members, in an effort to promote policy coherence and integrated planning, the Provincial Treasury just completed the Organisational Functionality Assessment (OFA), as per the Public Service Regulations, 2016 Chapter 3, to assess the effectiveness of the department's internal systems and processes in order to assess the Annual Performance Plans of the Department to ensure that they are aligned and responsive to service delivery needs of our people.

**Programme 2: Sustainable Fiscal Resource Management** has an allocation of **R36 million.** This programme is essentially responsible for the implementation of the budget process, through the monitoring and execution of the provincial budget. The focus area in the current financial year includes identifying inefficiencies in departments to ensure elimination of wasteful expenditure and improving value for money. This entails working with sector departments to identify areas of inefficiencies and develop programme of action to address them, and reprioritize towards areas of meaningful impact.

Honorable Speaker, the province has been faced with persistent reductions on the equitable share due to Cabinet's effort to reduce the budget deficit. Notwithstanding these reductions we can report that departments have been able to contain these reductions without necessarily affecting core programmes of government. Once more this is a clear demonstration where there is political will progress prevails in the midst of challenges.

Honourable Speaker, Provincial Treasury, will continue to provide the necessary oversight on infrastructure budget spent and provide technical assistance to our provincial and local government infrastructure counterparts to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of our infrastructure. Case in point is our efforts in providing technical support in the frontloading process and the application for Budget Facility for Large Infrastructure (BFI). This will be facilitated in conjunction with our infrastructure stakeholders and the utilisation and the implementation of the respective infrastructure reforms such as the Framework for Infrastructure Procurement and Delivery Management (FIPDM) that have been developed at a national and provincial level with the view of utilising infrastructure and the respective funding reforms for infrastructure as the economic catalyst for the provinces development.

Honourable Speaker and Members, allow me to mention that the province will be submitting a BFI application amounting to R1 billion to the National Treasury as part of our contribution towards the Namaqua SEZ. This will allow us to lay the bulk infrastructure while the Department of Trade and Industry will invest in excess of a billion towards top infrastructure.

Programme 3: Supply Chain Management, Assets and Liabilities has an allocation of R35 million. The program provides policy direction, facilitates the

effective and efficient management of physical assets, ensure sound supply chain management policies and procedures, maintain and manage financial systems as well as banking and cash flow management.

Honourable Speaker, data integrity is a crucial element of sound financial management to ensure that credible financial information is used in related processes. Provincial Treasury has appointed 6 unemployed graduates to embark on a data clean-up process on the transversal systems namely BAS, LOGIS and PERSAL at the Department of Health. This process will bring about improved credibility and reliance on systems information which is currently a shortcoming in the department. The support intervention project will further assist the Department in addressing budget and expenditure management challenges.

Honourable Speaker, Irregular Expenditure, symbolic of non-compliance with relevant prescribed laws and regulation remains one of the key focus areas for the Provincial Treasury. After following due processes, the Provincial Treasury has condoned an amount of R2 billion of irregular expenditure of the total cumulative irregular expenditure of R19 billion. We would have liked to condone a bigger value; however, investigations must happen first. PT and OTP are in the process of appointing an experienced project manager to coordinate data collection from the affected departments to expedite the investigations. This official and support will start on the project in the second half of the financial year. The Provincial Treasury will actively continue to pursue the reduction of irregular expenditure in the current financial year and further support Departments and Entities to put measures in place for the prevention of new irregular expenditure as articulated in its Service Delivery Improvement Plan (SDIP) for the remaining two years of the MTSF.

Programme 4: Financial Governance been allocated an amount of R25 million. Honourable Speaker and Members, as part of our plans, a Provincial Governance and Accountability Symposium will be held, aimed at raising awareness regarding good governance, accountability and sound financial management. For the 2023 inaugural year of the Symposium, the proposed theme is "ethical and effective leadership towards the achievement of good governance and accountability". The theme is taken from the King IV definition of Corporate Governance and it is inspired by the resuscitation of the Operation Clean Audit (OPCA) campaign whose objective is to ensure that departments attain clean audits.

**Honourable Speaker**, in light of the digitization drive, the Office of the Provincial Accountant General aims to procure a Risk Management Software which will allow Risk Managers to produce risk intelligent reports to respond to risks timely.

In terms of capacity building, **Honourable Speaker**, we will continue to foster partnerships with relevant stakeholders to ensure the development and implementation of programmes that will address identified organizational gaps. We have approached National Treasury and FASSET to fund the programme for training unemployed BCOM graduates to become professional accountants, which will broaden the pool given the scarcity of this expertise both in provincial and local government.

Programme 5: Municipal Finance has been allocated an amount of R45 million.

Honourable Speaker, one of the key strategies is to designate Operation Clean Audit

Champions who will provide focused interventions and support to the identified municipalities as part of our commitment to support municipalities to improve audit

outcomes and ensure timeous submission of AFS by all municipalities in line with the legislated timeframes i.e. 31 August.

Honourable Speaker, with regard to SCM and Asset Management we have identified two major contributors to the negative outcomes in municipalities which are, inefficiencies in contract management and poor interpretation of applicable legislative prescripts. In our drive to address this, we are embarking on capacity building programmes as well as focused support to address all SCM and Asset Management related issues.

Honourable Speaker, coupled with all our efforts, we have started engagements with the Sol Plaatje University to embark on a tailor made academic programme that will be offered to finance and SCM officials in municipalities. To this end, I would like to thank National Treasury, through its Municipal Finance Improvement Programme (MFIP) for seconding technical advisors in all five game changer areas (budget & revenue, asset & SCM, MSCOA & audit) to our province. Provincial Treasury will further continue to assist municipalities in their internal control mechanisms so that they mitigate this risk of material irregularities.

Honourable Speaker, Unauthorised, Irregular, Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure (UIF&WE) continues to be a huge challenge in local government. To this end, Provincial Treasury has been providing support to municipalities which were listed as the top ten contributors to Unauthorised, Irregular, Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure (UIF&WE). With the new cluster approach, the number of municipalities supported will increase to fifteen, comprising of five municipalities per cluster. The support will be focused on the implementation of the Unauthorised, Irregular, Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure reduction strategies as well as capacity building to improve investigations

of these unwanted expenditures. Furthermore, the National Treasury will be providing capacity building support specifically in relation to the processing of Unauthorised, Irregular, Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure in the province.

In addition to this, **Honourable Speaker**, Nama-Khoi Local Municipality has been selected to fast track the processing of Unauthorised, Irregular, Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure and consequence management. The municipality was selected based on their current efforts in dealing with their unwanted expenditure. The Provincial Treasury will continue to work together will all relevant stakeholders to achieve the 2024 Medium-term Strategic Framework (MTSF) goal of eliminating fruitless and wasteful and reducing irregular expenditure in the public sector.

Honourable Speaker, we are mindful of the reluctance of municipalities to participate in the municipal debt relief programme due to the stringent conditions, which include amongst others, being able to ensure sufficient cash flow to meet monthly obligations. The Provincial Treasury will be embarking on a revenue enhancement project that will enable municipalities to improve on the revenue value chain in turn improving cash flow. The project will be rolled-out over a period of four years, to all local municipalities in the province. We are highly committed to working with all the municipalities to ensure that they adhere to the set conditions. However, the success of this programme is dependent on the level of commitment and dedication of our local municipalities.

**Programme 6: Provincial Internal Audit** programme has an allocation of **R39 million. Honourable Speaker**, the PFMA section 38 (1) (a) (ii) requires accounting officers to have a system of internal audit under the direction and control of the audit committee, however, due to the configuration of the Province we have opted for a

shared services approach in line with section 3 paragraph 3.2.2 of the Treasury Regulations.

Honourable Speaker and Members, the shared internal audit unit continues to add value by performing risk-based audits and assisting departments and entities towards achieving clean audit outcomes. The unit will conduct audits for improvements in governance, risk management and internal controls. Internal audit is facilitating combined assurance to ensure proper assurance coverage and limiting duplication of audit effort. The unit is part of major projects to provide independent assurance and consulting to provincial departments and public entities. The Provincial Audit Committees will continue with their oversight and advisory function to improve governance within the provincial administration.

**Honourable Speaker**, the total allocated budget for 2023/24 for goods and services is R62 million. Total budget allocated for 2023/24 financial year amounts to R311 million which reflects a decrease of R8 million or 3% which is as a result of a once off allocation in 2022/23 financial year relating to additional funds to cater for identified Municipal priorities. There will be an increase of 3% for 2024/25 and 5% for 2025/26 for the next coming financial years respectively. This translates into R311 million in 2023/24, R319 million in 2024/25 and R334 million in 2025/26 in monetary terms.

In line with the mandate of Provincial Treasury, the department is personnel driven and therefore compensation of employees constitutes 76 per cent of the department's total budget allocation for the 2023/24 financial year. Consequently, the increase over the MTEF is due to the anticipation of filling of the vacant funded critical posts and the 1.5 per cent pay progression.

Honourable Speaker and Members, we are in the penultimate year of the Sixth Administrations tenure, thus this speech is an attempt to provide a collective accountability in regards to the objectives set in 2019. The Northern Cape Provincial Treasury remains resolute, dedicated and committed to the execution of all its programmes in contributing meaningfully to realising "A modern, growing and successful province" for Northern Cape and her people.

Honourable Speaker, the lack of consequence management in departments and government as a whole is crippling our initiatives to change the current state of affairs. I would like to implore all my Colleagues to be cognisant of the damning effect that maladministration has on the reputation of government and the confidence of our people in our ability to create a better life for all.

**Honourable Members**, as I close, I would like to mention something I found very profound in relation to the accountability cycle during my tenure as MEC that the expectations that Provincial Treasury must correct the system is misplaced. Whilst Provincial Treasury has a specific role, I am of the understanding that the first level of accountability is in inherently assigned to the accounting officer in line with the PFMA. Furthermore, the role of Treasury has changed with the affirmation of the PFMA which devolved power to accounting officers, most importantly, with that power comes responsibility for accountability.

Honourable Speaker and Members, in closing, allow me to extend my appreciation to the Honourable Premier, Dr Zamani Saul for his continued leadership, my Colleagues in the Executive Council, the Portfolio Committee on Finance, Economic Development and Tourism and the entire Legislature under your leadership for their support.

**Honourable Speaker**, I would also like to acknowledge the Provincial Treasury, under the headship of Dr Moses Gasela for their consistent and steadfast support to ensure that we serve with passion and deliver our services on time.

In closing I wish to quote Karl Marx, one of the outstanding German Socialists and Philosopher, and I quote; "We should not say that one man's hour is worth another man's hour, but rather that one man during an hour is worth just as much as another man during an hour. Time is everything, man is nothing: he is at the most time's carcass".

I hereby table the budget vote for Provincial Treasury.

I thank you!

