



**COGHSTA**

**Department of Cooperative Governance  
Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs  
NORTHERN CAPE**

## **COGHSTA BUDGET VOTE 9**

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

No.	ITEM	PAGE
<b>1</b>	<b>Protocols and Salutations</b>	<b>2</b>
2	Introductory Remarks	3
<b>3</b>	<b>Corporate Management</b>	<b>3</b>
4	Vacancy Management	3
5	Compensation of Employees	4
<b>6</b>	<b>Human Settlements</b>	<b>4</b>
7	Title Deeds	4 – 5
8	Title Deeds Friday	5
9	Human Settlements Development Grand (HSDG)	5
10	Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant (ISUPG)	6
11	1 Billion Rand Housing Project	6
12	Roodepan Land Parcel	6 – 7
13	First Home Finance	7
<b>14</b>	<b>Cooperative Governance</b>	<b>7</b>
15	White Paper on Local Government Review	8
16	Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG)	9
17	Municipal Governance and Administration	8
18	District Development Model (DDM)	9
19	Public Participation	9 -10
20	Community Works Programme (CWP)	10
<b>21</b>	<b>Traditional Affairs</b>	<b>10</b>
22	Construction of Dikgotla & Royal Palaces	11
23	Reconstitution of Traditional Councils	11
24	Commission of Inquiry	11
25	Winter and Summer Initiation Seasons	12
26	Traditional and Khoisan Leadership Act	12
<b>27</b>	<b>Budget 2025/2026</b>	<b>12 – 13</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>13</b>

## **BUDGET VOTE 9 (COGHSTA)**

**29 JULY 2025**

### **NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE (KIMBERLEY)**

**BY HONOURABLE BENTLEY VASS (MEC FOR COGHSTA)**

Honourable Speaker of the Legislature, Ms Newrene Klaaste,

Honourable Premier Dr Zamani Saul, Honourable Chief Whip, Dr Norman Shushu,

My Fellow Colleagues – the Members of the Executive Council,

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Honourable Joubert, and all Members of the Provincial Legislature,

Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Provincial House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders, Kgosi Pelonomi Toto and Kgosi Pule Bareki, and your entourage,

Chairperson of SALGA Northern Cape, Councillor Nkumbi,

Executive Mayors, Mayors, Speakers and Councillors present,

Partners and Stakeholders in the Local Government, Human Settlements, and Traditional Institutional Development sectors, Members of the Media,

Invited Guests - all residents of the Northern Cape listening to this Budget Vote on all the Community Radio Stations in the Province, and watching on our social media platforms. Comrades and Friends,

**Accept my Sincere Greetings and Appreciation for your attendance.**

**Honourable Speaker**, it is an honour to stand before this esteemed house today to present the budget vote for the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA) in the Northern Cape.

This budget is more than just figures on a page; it is a declaration of our unwavering commitment to building a more equitable and prosperous future for all citizens of this province.

On **cooperative governance**, we continue with strengthening the foundational structures of our local municipalities to deliver essential services effectively and transparently and on **human settlements**, our focus remains steadfast on ensuring that every family has access to safe, dignified, and sustainable housing as enshrined in Section 26 of our Constitution.

Whereas on **traditional affairs**, we recognise and uphold the vital role of our traditional leaders in fostering social cohesion and preserving our cultural heritage and we are grateful that we have both the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Provincial House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders, with us today.

This budget reflects our dedication to tangible progress, fostering an environment where communities thrive, traditions are honoured, and governance truly serves its people.

## **CORPORATE MANAGEMENT**

**Honourable Speaker**, sound administration of the Department and ensuring that we are able to use all our resources efficiently is the responsibility of **Programme One** – Corporate Management. An amount of TWO HUNDRED AND THREE MILLION AND FOURTY FIVE THOUSAND RAND, is allocated to Programme One. This represents an increase of only 4 **percent** year on year.

I am happy to report that the Department complies with all DPSA reporting requirements and deadlines. Annual online reporting on the implementation of the Operations Management Framework (OMF) is conducted in line with DPSA directives. The **OMF Status of Implementation Questionnaire** (online survey) was successfully completed and submitted to the DPSA and the Office of the Premier (OTP) on **15 April 2024**.

**Honourable Speaker**, we are currently implementing the Department's organisational structure which was approved on 03 May 2023, we are amending the structure as and when a need arise with the primary objective of enhancing service delivery. However, all amendments follow a formal consultation process involving relevant stakeholders, prior to approval and implementation.

## **Vacancy Management**

**In line with the above, posts are also abolished** when necessary to support the Department's efforts in maintaining a **low vacancy rate**. The Department ensures that **no duplication of posts** occurs on the approved organisational structure, which further contributes to effective vacancy management and optimal resource utilisation.

## CoE

**Honourable Speaker**, due to **budgetary pressures on our Compensation of Employees (CoE)** allocation, the department is **maintaining a 0% vacancy rate**. This will remain in effect until the CoE baseline is adjusted to account for the **28 million rand** reduction incurred during the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 financial years.

## HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

**Honourable Speaker**, allow me to shift my focus to Human Settlements. This is Programme Two of the Department and is allocated an amount of **SIX HUNDRED AND NINETY-SEVEN MILLION, FIVE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINE THOUSAND RANDS**. This represents a decrease of 80 percent year on year. This reduction is largely due to the allocation of the Provincial Housing Program through the HSDG Pledging and a provincial allocation of **250 million rand**, which was a once off allocation.

The total baseline allocation for human settlements for 2024/25 was **three hundred and thirty-three-million four hundred and ten rands**. The allocation for the Human Settlements Development Grant (HSDG) was **two hundred and sixty-nine million rands two hundred and ninety-eight rands**, while the allocation for the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant (ISUPG) was **sixty-four million one hundred and twelve rands**.

The original target for serviced sites was 712, of which 604 were for ISUPG and 108 were for HSDG. The department managed to deliver 9571, of which 5731 were delivered against the HSDG and 3840 were delivered against the ISUPG.

The original target for the number of houses delivered was 2758 of which 2500 houses was the allocation for the accelerated housing project funded by the Development Bank of Southern Africa. However, it is important to note that the annual target for HSDG houses was subsequently reduced to 209 from 258 in the revised business plan. A total number of 178 houses were delivered.

## TITEL AKTES

**Agbare Speaker**, die Departement het 'n teiken van 8808 titelaktes vir die 2019-2024 medium-termyn strategiese raamwerk gehad; 4796 is egter geregistreer. Dit laat 'n agterstand van 4012 titelaktes wat oor die volgende Mediumtermyn-ontwikkelingsraamwerk (MTDF) geregistreer moet word.

Tydens die 2023/2024 finansiële jaar, het die departement drie honderd, ses en tagtig (386) titel aktes geregistreer. Ons het een duisend en sestion (1016) titel aktes geregistreer tydens die 2024/2025 finansiële jaar. Die departement het dus ses honderd en dertig (630) titel aktes meer as die vorige finansiële jaar geregistreer.

Die departement het twee munisipaliteite per oordragbesorger toegeken vir die tydperk wat eindig op 31 Maart 2026 om al die eiendomme aan die onderskeie begunstigdes oor te dra. Die departement ondervind egter steeds verskeie uitdagings. Laat my asseblief toe om die belangrikste uitdagings en huidige remediërende stappe wat deur die Menslike Nedersettingsprogram geneem is om die waardigheid van ons gemeenskappe te herstel deur die registrasie van titelaktes te verduidelik:

- Dorpsvestigings vir projekte wat nie voltooi is nie: Ons wil 'n beroep doen op ons suster-departemente, wat saam met ons aan hierdie projekte werk, om hierdie prosesse te bespoedig.
- Gebrek aan samewerking met die ondertekening van Volmagte, sertifikate ingevolge die Wet op Ruimtelike Beplanning, Grondgebruiksbestuur (SPLUMA) en Tariefklaringsertifikate: Ons moedig steeds Munisipaliteite aan om te verseker dat die aangevraagde dokumente betyds onderteken word om onnodige vertraging in die proses te voorkom.

## TITLE DEEDS FRIDAYS

Deur die "Title Deed Friday"-program kon die Departement die aflewering van titelaktes aan begunstigdes versnel. Munisipaliteite moet voortdurend alle titelaktes in hul besit uitreik.

Agbare Joubert, u onthou dalk dat toe ek vroeër vandeemaand voor die Portefeuljekomitee van COGHSTA verskyn het, ons breedvoerig gepraat het oor die uitreiking van titelaktes aan die begunstigdes. Dit is inderdaad 'n program wat my na aan die hart lê.

'n Titellakte bied talle voordele vir eiendomseienaars. Dit dien as definitiewe bewys van eienaarskap, fasiliteer eiendomstransaksies - verkope en oordragte, verseker finansieringsopsies en bied 'n wetlike basis vir die oplossing van eienaarskapsgekke. Dit is in wese die fondament van eiendomsregte en regsekerheid, wat gemoedsrus bied aan huis- en grondeienaars.

## HUMAN SETTLEMENTS GRANT ALLOCATIONS

**Honourable Members**, in the current financial year 2025/26, the human settlements grant allocations are as follows :

1. Human Settlements Development Grant (HSDG), allocation of **two hundred and seventy-nine million and thirty-three rands of which two hundred million rands** will be for the repayment of the capital loan to the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA). The Department will build a total of **2625** houses, inclusive of the **2500** units of the **600 million rand** loan obtained from the DBSA. The Department will further install services at 82 sites.

2. The ISUPG of **fifty-four million six hundred and twenty-three thousand rands** was allocated towards serviced sites. The objective of this grant is not to build houses. Its purpose is to formalise informal settlements with approved upgrading plans by providing security of tenure and access to basic services.
3. Provision for registration of title deeds and opening of general plans is now part of the HSDG. The budget allocation is three million rands with a target of 700 title deeds and the registration of three general plans in the 2025/26 financial year.

## **1 BILLION RAND HOUSING PROJECT**

**Agbare Lede, die 1 Miljard Rand Behuisingsprojek wat van stapel gestuur is om ons behuisingsagterstand in die Provinsie aan te spreek, wat tans tussen 79 en 80 000 is, is op koers.**

**'n Totaal van 13 van die 26 Plaaslike Munisipaliteite in hierdie Provinsie is begunstigde munisipaliteite van die eerste fase van hierdie Projek.**

**Van Calvinia in die Hantam Munisipaliteit tot Pofadder in die Khai-Ma Munisipaliteit, beide in die Namakwa Distrik, van Rosedale tot Opwag in die ZFM MCGawu, Jacksonville en Lerato Park in die Frances Baard, in Heuningvlei en Segwaneng in JTG of Britstown en Douglas in die Pixley Distrik, dring ons al ons aangestelde kontrakteurs aan om goeie gehalte huise vir ons mense te lewer, gouer eerder as later.**

We acknowledge that we started very slowly due to various factors, but we have since picked up speed across most of the Projects under the **1 Billion Rand Project**.

We are meeting regularly with contractors to ensure that we deal with challenges from time to time and address these before they negatively impact this groundbreaking project.

We have recently terminated three contracts of contractors who are part of this 1 Billion Rand Project, because despite the many commitments of these contractors to step up, they failed and thereby we were left without much choice but to terminate them.

We have many other housing projects in different parts of our Province, that are not part of the **1 Billion Rand Project**, and we are working diligently on these projects as well, which is part of our mission to house the nation.

## **ROODEPAN LAND PARCEL**

**Honourable Speaker**, on 25 June, together with the Premier Saul and other MEC's we introduced the contractor that will install services for the new Roodepan Housing Project.

This project will be completed in three phases; namely town planning, - which is already completed; the second phase is installation of civil services the third phase will be the construction of top structures - BNG houses.

The project is currently in the second phase and a service provider has been appointed for installation of Grade A services, which is Sewer; Water infrastructure; Electricity; Stormwater drainage and Paved or Tarred Roads.

An additional amount of **50 million rand** has specifically been earmarked for the Roodepan Infrastructure Project and has been allocated to the Department, by the Northern Cape Provincial Treasury.

This funding will be used for the construction of the internal services mentioned, currently underway. The total project cost is estimated at just over twenty-five million rand, with the balance earmarked for the construction of houses as part of our efforts to relocate qualifying beneficiaries of the old Roodepan Flats.

## **FIRST HOME FINANCE**

**Honourable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen**, the First Home Finance subsidy program aims to support eligible first-time homebuyers by providing financial assistance to make homeownership more accessible. For the 2025-2026 financial year, the program has set a target to award 20 subsidies. To achieve this, a budget of **one million, two hundred thousand rand** has been allocated, ensuring sufficient funds are available to help qualifying applicants with their housing needs.

This initiative is designed to promote sustainable homeownership and improve living conditions for individuals and families entering the property market for the first time. Our Department will step up marketing and communication efforts to ensure that as many people know about First Time Finance, formerly known as FLISP, so that we can assist those that are normally referred to as the missing middle, earning between **R3500.00 and R22.000** per month.

## **COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE**

**Honourable Speaker**, Cooperative Governance is **Programme Three** of our Department. The allocation for this Programme is ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTY THREE MILLION, THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY TWO THOUSAND which is a decrease of 1 **percent** year on year.

This is the programme that is playing an instrumental role in ensuring that all 31 Municipalities across this Province, are providing communities with essential services such as clean water, proper sanitation, reliable electricity, effective waste management, and well-maintained roads and municipal infrastructure. We are working very closely with all Municipalities to ensure that we provide better support within our limited financial resources.

## WHITE PAPER REVIEW

**Honourable Members**, last week Thursday, we hosted the Deputy Minister of COGTA, Dr Masemola, at our special MUNMEC in Kimberley attended by 29 of the 31 municipalities of this Province, and other key eco-systems stakeholders like SALGA, Provincial Treasury, Water and Sanitation, Provincial House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders, to put heads together on the process of the review of the White Paper on Local Government. Municipalities are at the coalface of service delivery.

One of our key focus areas is the comprehensive review of the 1998 White Paper on Local Government, a crucial step towards a focused and fit-for-purpose local governance structure, which will result in efficient service delivery.

The review aims to create a modern local governance structure that fosters capable, ethical, and innovative municipalities, ultimately improving lives and strengthening democracy. The initial submission deadline of June 30, 2025, was extended to 31 July in response to requests for more engagement.

As we draw closer to the end of the extended deadline for submission, let me take this opportunity to thank all the people and entities from the Northern Cape, who have submitted their inputs, because Local Government is Everyone's Business, and we must commit to ensuring that Every Municipality Works!

## MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

**Honourable Speaker, for the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) the Province was allocated, 485 million, 281 thousand rands for the 2024/25 financial year, including ring-fenced funding for Sports Infrastructure of 39 million rand representing 8% of the allocation.**

We received a revised allocation of **FIVE HUNDRED AND NINE MILLION, ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-THREE THOUSAND RAND (R509 173 000.00)** as Gazetted in March 2025.

For the 2024/2025 Financial Year an allocation of just over **74 million rand** was received for the IUDG. A revised allocation of **75 million 856 thousand rand to Sol Plaatje Local Municipality was gazetted in March 2024**. Expenditure as of the end of June 2025 is at just over **four hundred and 19 million rand**, which translates to **86.41%** and the IUDG expenditure at the end of June 2025 was **94,99%**.

**Honourable Speaker**, I am happy to report that a total of **77 MIG projects** have been implemented across the Province in the 2024/2025 Financial Year.

Our allocation for this financial year for MIG allocation for 2025/2026 is **five hundred and four million, 630 thousand rand** and the IUDG is **seventy-eight million, 371 thousand rand**.

We continue to work with all municipalities to strengthen indigent policy recruitment and implementation.

## **MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**Honourable Speaker**, the Appointment of Senior Managers is an area of concern because this affects service delivery in the municipalities. Last year in September, when I reported to this august house, I said we had a 40% vacancy rate across all our 31 Municipalities.

I am happy to report that we have moved the needle a little bit in the positive direction. However, this house must note that the responsibility of appointing senior managers is not the function of the Department but that of the Municipal Councils.

The Municipalities across the Province has a total of 148 Senior Managers positions and 98 of these positions are now filled representing 65% percent and the current vacancy is now 35%. We encourage Councils to ensure that these vacancies are filled so that we have Municipalities that has skilled, qualified and competent managers that are up to the task of delivering good quality services to our communities.

## **THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MODEL (DDM)**

**Honourable Speaker**, when President Ramaphosa launched the District Development Model (DDM) in 2019 it was to address the lack of coordination between national and provincial governments, between departments and particularly at local government level, to ensure that collectively we serve the interests of our citizens better.

I am happy to report that President Cyril Ramaphosa, and Premier Saul, have appointed National and Provincial Champions that will drive the breaking down of silos approach in the 5 Districts of the Province.

In the interest of time, let me only share the names of the National Champions appointed by President Ramaphosa for our 5 Districts.

For Frances Baard District, is Deputy Minister Nonceba Mhlauli, the Champion for JTG District is Deputy Minister, Alvin Botes, for Namakwa is Deputy Minister Sello Seitholo, for Pixley ka Seme the Champion is Dr Pieter Groenewald and the National Champion for the ZF Mgcawu District is Deputy Minister Samantha Graham-Mare.

The Provincial Champions will work closely with these National Champions and our District Executive Mayors who are District Champions to ensure effective implementation of our catalytic and developmental projects.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Honourable Members**, public participation in community based-governance processes is not only a reference to participation by our communities in the IDP and Budget Consultations.

Councillors at the start of their term sign a code of conduct and committed to meet their wards quarterly and to have monthly ward committee meetings as prescribed by legislation. The trust deficit is growing as councillors are either not doing what is expected from them or not reporting on these Councillor meets the ward meetings and the concerns that communities are raising in these meetings.

Councillor meets the ward meetings are crucial as it provides communities with feedback on council initiatives and provides a platform for communities to share their concerns. Councillors are encouraged to have street and block meetings in areas where communities are not able to converge in community halls.

We will be requesting Speakers to provide monthly updates on the performance of councillors with regards to these legislated meetings and support the Speakers to implement consequence management within the framework of the legislation.

## **CWP**

**Agbare Lede, die Gemeenskapswerkprogram (CWP) is belangrik om 'n veiligheidsnet vir werklose individue te bied, by te dra tot gemeenskapsontwikkeling en die lewens van diegene in gemarginaliseerde gemeenskappe te verbeter. Dit bied gereelde, deeltydse werk, bevorder gemeenskapsdeelname en verbeter openbare bates en dienste.**

**U is dalk bewus van die onlangse ontwikkeling en uitdagings van hierdie program, maar die Nasionale Departement van COGTA werk dag en nag om sommige van die uitdagings wat ons in hierdie program ervaar het, uit te stryk.**

## **TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS**

**Honourable Speaker, Programme Four** of the Department is the Traditional Institutional Development, and it is allocated an amount of TWENTY SEVEN MILLION, THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-TWO Rands, which is a reduction of 24% year on year.

Honourable Members, the traditional leadership plays a multifaceted and significant role in South Africa, particularly in our rural areas in the JTG District, where a large percentage of the population resides under their authority.

Despite the advent of modern democratic governance, traditional institutions continue to hold considerable influence and legitimacy due to their deep historical roots and connection to customary law and culture.

As a Province, we acknowledge and appreciate the important role that traditional leaders play in the system of cooperative governance and our adopted District Development Model plan.

## CONSTRUCTION OF TRADITIONAL COUNCILS AND PALACES

On the occasion of the opening of the Provincial House of the Traditional and Khoisan Leaders, the Premier, Dr. Zamani Saul, on behalf of the Provincial Government, committed that in the next financial year, 2026/2027, this government will construct five traditional councils at an amount of **three point five million rand** each.

These traditional councils will include a **Kgotla**, and a fully furnished administrative office. We will work with the designers to ensure that these traditional councils meet the needs of the specific councils.

Further, the Premier also committed that the Provincial Government is going to build **eight** palaces for the recently elevated Principal Traditional leaders during the 2027/2028 Financial Year at a value of **4 million rand** per palace.

These commitments will serve as a blueprint for the upcoming recognition of our Khoisan leadership by the Commission on Khoisan matters.

## RECONSTITUTION OF TRADITIONAL COUNCILS

**Honourable Members**, I am happy to report that in the Northern Cape, we have concluded the reconstitution of Traditional councils. Members were inducted and took oath of office.

Our Traditional councils are now operational and are able to attend to issues, including resolutions of their respective traditional communities.

The implementation of the reviewed formula by the former Minister of COGTA, Minister Thembi Simelane, for 10 to 18 members per Traditional council, was concluded on 30 January 2025, we have gazetted the names of all Traditional councils members as at 4 February 2025.

## COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

**Honourable Members**, in the recent past, we had to deal with a number of traditional leadership disputes from time to time. The Office of the Premier and the Department of COGHSTA, has been inundated with disputes on traditional disputes.

Some of the disgruntled have resorted to take government to court over these issues.

**Honourable Speaker**, I am happy to announce that the Premier established a commission of inquiry into traditional leadership disputes in the JTG District, led by Professor Mandla Maseko.

This 8-member commission hosted its first meeting on 15 July 2025 to draft its itinerary and discuss its operations. We trust that they will diligently work towards ensuring a fair platform for all disputants and claimants and to produce a report at the end of the 24 months provided for in the gazette, so that in areas where there are disputes, our traditional communities can live in harmony and foster a spirit of co-existence.

## **WINTER AND SUMMER INITIATION SEASON**

**Honourable Premier, Honourable Members,** it gives me joy to report that for this winter initiation season that concluded on 20 July 2025, we had no injuries, and no deaths. So all our 124 initiates that we had in three of our District, came back safely from this important practice.

Unfortunately and tragically, I have to report that in the last summer Initiation Season, in December last year, we had one death in Paballelo, Upington, in the ZF Mgcawu District, and one amputation in De Aar, in the Pixley Ka Seme District.

We are maximising our efforts in monitoring the schools as well as the capacitation of traditional surgeons, traditional nurses, and principals, and the compliance of the Customary Initiation Act 2 of 2021.

## **TRADITIONAL KHOISAN LEADERSHIP ACT**

**Honourable Members,** at the end of May 2025, the Constitutional Court has further extended the Traditional Khoisan Leadership Act 2 of 2019, to ensure that we continue with the important work of the Khoisan community recognition process and implementation of the legislation.

The Traditional Leadership Institution must be respected, and in the spirit of cooperative governance, all spheres of government must work with and assist traditional leaders in our shared vision of developing our communities for shared prosperity.

## **BUDGET 2025/2026**

**Honourable Speaker,** as I conclude - our roadmap as a Country – the National Development Plan (NDP) highlights the need for well-run and effectively coordinated state institutions with skilled public servants who are committed to the public good and capable of delivering consistently high-quality services, while prioritising the nation's developmental objectives.

The above statement needs to be supported by the necessary financial resources to ensure the department implements an effective, efficient and economical utilisation of the funding allocation within the 2025/26 financial year.

To this end, we have established the Financial Misconduct Committee this year. This committee is fully operational to address any matters of unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure that might occur. Its main purpose is to implement punitive measures for any financial misconduct.

The departments' main sources of funding are equitable shares and conditional grants. The equitable share funding constitutes 56 per cent of the total departmental budget, while conditional grants account for 44 per cent.

In the 2024/25 financial year, the adjusted budget increased from **eight hundred and fifty eight million, nine hundred and fifty four thousand rand** to **one billion, 631 thousand rand**, largely due to the allocation of the Provincial Housing Program of **600 million rand** once off, through HSDG Pledging and a provincial allocation of **250 million rand**. The additional allocation of **850 million rand** in the 2024/25 financial year does not have a carry-through effect over the MTEF, therefore a drastic reduction in the 2025/26 allocation amounting to **eight hundred and 69 million, six-hundred and thirty-nine thousand rand** is attributable to that.

The overall budget of the department reduces by **53.3 percent** from the 2024/25 appropriation amount of **1.63 billion rand** in the 2024/25 financial year to **seven hundred and 61 million, 882 thousand rand**.

**Honourable Speaker**, the share of current payments total budget decreases by 8.1 per cent or **thirty-three million, 854 thousand rand** in the 2025/26 financial year and increases by 4.3 per cent in the last year of the MTEF. The total budget for current payments of the department increases steadily in the two outer years of the MTEF due to the inflationary adjustments.

We will use our limited financial resources as maximally as possible to render good quality services to our people across the Province, and to contribute towards the attainment of a Modern, Growing and Successful Province.

## **CONCLUSION**

**Honourable Speaker**, as I conclude our presentation, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Head of the Department, Mr Lenkoe, and Team COGHSTA, for driving our vision and mission.

The Portfolio Committee on COGHSTA, led by Honourable Joubert, all Members of the Provincial Legislature, and all our eco-system partners, for their commitment to the principles of cooperative governance

**Honourable Speaker**, I submit to this esteemed House Budget Vote 9 for the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs for the 2025/2026 financial year.

I thank you.