



Member of the Executive Council  
for Finance  
**FREE STATE PROVINCE**

# **2022/23 ADJUSTMENT APPROPRIATION BUDGET SPEECH**

**Hon. Gadija Brown**

**MEC for Finance: Free State Province**

**22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022**

Hon. Speaker Sifuba;

Hon. Premier Me. Sisi Ntombela;

Members of the Executive Council;

Members of the Free State Legislature;

Executive Mayors, Mayors and Councilors;

Director-General of the Province, Heads of the respective Departments,  
Chief Executive Officers and leaders of our public and private  
institutions;

Municipal Managers;

Special Guests;

Esteemed Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good morning!

Dumelang!

Goeie more!

Molweni!

Sanibonani!

## **INTRODUCTION**

During this month we have 16 days of activism in focus, the review of the womans charter and report back in Bothshabelo, South Africa marked the disability rights awareness this month, presentations and outcomes of the Cop27 Climate Summit, National assembly passes the Division of revenue bill, proposed changes on procurement regulations 2022 tabled on the 4 November 2022 the finalization of the Public procurement Bill, which will empower the minister of finance to set preferential procurement, the 2022 Regulations will repeal the 2017 regulations and will come into effect from 16 January 2023. The 2022 regulations are a placeholder whilst we finalise the Bill.

Given the diverse environment and changes within the country we have to also consider the macroeconomic conditions whilst we present our adjustments.

## **OVERVIEW OF MACROECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND FORECASTS**

Madam Speaker, the deleterious effects of the global pandemic exert a significant dent on the world economy which recorded a negative growth of -3.1 percent in 2020. However, it is encouraging to see a notable rebound in the global economy with a growth rate of 6 percent recorded in 2021 underpinned by the gradual removal of the stringently enforced Covid-19 lockdown regulations, increased vaccination uptake and considerably lower Covid-19 infection rate, allowing cross-country/transatlantic movement.

The global economic recovery remains fragile due to growing geopolitical tensions, most notably the Russia-Ukraine conflict, rising global inflation accompanied by aggressive interest rate hikes by Central banks across the world (among others, led by the U.S Federal Reserves, and European Central Bank (ECB), volatile global oil prices, tight financial condition, sharp exchange rate movement (evinced by strengthening of the US\$ against other domestic currencies—increases dollar-denominated debts) and supply chain bottlenecks. Given this status quo, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects a much lower global economic growth of 3.2 percent for 2022, and a further decline further to 2.7 percent in 2023.

Across the globe, it is noteworthy to stress that the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict continues to exacerbate the negative spill-over effects of the widespread Covid-19 pandemic, as trade flows (especially shipping of grains and wheat from Ukraine to the rest of the world), and global oil price becomes volatile (a resultant effect of low production and export of oil because of international sanctions imposed on the 2nd largest producer of oil, which is Russia to curb its aggressive intrusion in Ukraine). The development of these undesirable global events triggered a higher-than-expected increase in prices of commodities, food and energy—in effect causing global inflation.

Madam Speaker, although regional economies experienced growth expansion the shocks from global upheavals would likely halve growth gains. For instance, growth in Advanced Economies reached 5.2 percent in 2021 but is expected to fall to 2.4 percent in 2022. While, the Emerging Market and Developing Economies expanded by 6.6 percent in 2021, and 3.7 percent growth is anticipated for 2022. Unlike these

regions, Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) grew by 4.7 percent growth in 2021, with a slight fall to 3.6 percent anticipated in 2022. The projected favourable growth forecast for SSA affirms the growing (strong) resilience of this particular region to unwanted global shocks.

Madam Speaker, if we take a closer look at the South African domestic economy, the spill-over effects of the emergent global developments, geopolitical tensions, higher-than-expected global inflation, and exchange rate volatility, to mention a few, put severe constrain on our economic growth.

SA's domestic economy rebound from a negative growth of 6.3 percent in 2021 to record real positive growth of 4.9 percent in 2021, however, significantly lower growth of 1.9 percent is projected for 2022 by National Treasury, in the recently tabled Budget Statement. Speaker, it is important to share with the members of this honourable house, that the country's domestic growth is likely to weaken further due to the impacts of some pervasive unfavourable structural shocks, which include,

- Rising inflation, which threatens to breach the upper bound of the 3 to 6 percent inflation targeting range, and led to a 275 basis point hike in the domestic interest rate by SARB since November 2021;
- Contractionary monetary policy stance by SARB using aggressive interest rate hike to tame growing inflation;
- Weak Rand exchange rate;
- Intermittent (unexpected) natural disasters linked to climate changes, for example, the recent KZN flood, and encroaching drought in Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality; Jagersfontein in the Free State.

- Industrial strikes and social tensions, e.g., the recent Transnet strike, and impending public workers' Union strike; and
- Continued load shedding by Eskom.

Madam Speaker, coming closer to home, the economic performance of the Free State Province, although provides a glimpse of hope, yet the global and domestic events discussed previously, continue to dampen the economic activity level. Our provincial economy grew strongly from a negative growth of -7.1 percent (recorded at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic) in 2020 to attain a real growth of 3.6 percent in 2021, nevertheless, this growth rate is anticipated to markedly contract to 1.2 percent in 2022.

Honourable Speaker, it is imperative to quickly highlight the drivers of the projected provincial growth from a sectoral perspective during the current financial year. On average, for 2022, the construction sector has been projected as the largest driver of provincial growth in the Free State with a contribution of 4.7 percent, followed by Finance and Manufacturing, with respective growth contributions of 2.9 percent and 2.1 percent.

In contrast, a negative growth of -5.3 percent is projected for the mining sector, which can be partly associated with the ongoing nationwide frequent electricity interruption (i.e., load shedding).

Notwithstanding, the strong performance of the agriculture sector remains the mainstay of the provincial economy, as it yields a growth

rate of 11.9 percent in 2021, and an increase in economic activity level is expected in this particular sector in 2022, in the absence of adverse natural disaster or climate changes.

Honourable Speaker, the domestic and provincial economic outlook begs the question: *what should we do to effectively stimulate growth in the provincial economy; tackle the prevailing high unemployment rate of 34.1 percent, acute poverty rate and the extremely unequal income distribution (with the Gini-coefficient of 0.64)?*

In this light, the executive committee resolved that it is expedient to strenuously emphasise that we must intensify efforts on improving public infrastructure investment (with a focus on undertaking one massive construction project with high multiplier effects), revitalization of productive sectors such as agriculture (develop upstream and downstream value-chain, including agro-processing), mining and manufacturing--which has the propensity to absorb the bulk of the obsolete skills underpinning the high rates of unemployment and poverty in the province, as well as the cumulative impact of creating transitory jobs that provide decent income (or earning) streams for the poor.

## **2021/22 AUDIT OUTCOMES**

Hon. Members, I am delighted by the recognition given by the Auditor-General in sighting the year-on-year improvements made in terms of PFMA audit outcomes in the province. The overall audit outcomes showed a gradual upward trend. The province obtained four (4) clean audits for the 2021/22 financial year compared to the two (2) clean audits obtained in the 2020/2021 financial year.

Madam Speaker, Free State Provincial Treasury and COGTA improved from an unqualified with findings audit opinion in the 2020/2021 financial year to an unqualified with no findings audit opinion in the 2021/2022 financial year. Fleet Management and the Housing Fund retained their respective clean audits for the 2021/22 financial year.

Hon. Premier, we have also noted improvements by the Department of Social Development and Free State Gambling, Liquor and Tourism Authority. The two improved from qualified with findings audit opinions to unqualified with findings audit opinions.

To acknowledge the changes in more detail Madam Speaker, because the audit for FDC is not yet finalised, I will exclude them from the following statistics. In the 2018/2019 financial year, the province had forty-four (44) qualification paragraphs across all departments and entities. Since then, we have noted a steady improvement. The number of qualification paragraphs improved from forty-four (44) in the 2018/2019 financial year to twenty-four (24) in the 2019/2020 financial year, fifteen (15) in the 2020/2021 financial year and eleven (11) in the 2021/2022 financial year. That is a 75 percent improvement from the 2018/2019 financial year to the 2021/2022 financial year.

However, non-compliance with laws and regulations is still a big concern for the province, and in some instances, it is the only matter preventing departments from obtaining “clean audits”. We did however see an improvement in the number of non-compliance paragraphs by departments and entities. For departments, there was a 29 percent

improvement from 112 non-compliance paragraphs during the 2020/2021 financial year to 79 non-compliance paragraphs during the 2021/2022 financial year.

Hon. Members, the Provincial Treasury held three sessions with the Audit Committee members in the province in a venture to enhance good governance. All the chairpersons of the Audit Committees signed pledges on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 to enhance quality service delivery, good governance and fiscal and financial management to further promote the improvement of the audit outcomes in the province. This was in addition to the pledges signed by the Executive Authorities, Accounting Officers, Chief Executive Officers and Chief Financial Officers of departments and entities in November 2021.

Provincial Treasury in partnership with the Office of the Premier is determined to eradicate poor financial management in the province through implementing fraud and corruption awareness sessions and education. As part of fraud deterrence initiatives, we are delighted to announce that we successfully hosted the International Anti-Fraud Awareness Week (IFAW) Seminar on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 under the auspices of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), with the aim of further strengthening measures to prevent and deter fraud and corruption.

Hon. Members, I must emphasize that the province is progressing well with the implementation of programs geared towards the achievement of objectives of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy.

Madam Speaker, as part of engaging our stakeholders, the province

rolled-out supply chain management roadshows during the months of September and October. The province collaborated with institutions such as South African Revenue Services and Small Enterprise Development Agency in assisting SMMEs with matters of tax compliance and development of credible business plans.

Madam Speaker, our resolve as Free State government to pay service providers within thirty days remains intact. We are monitoring all departments and public entities in this regard and they report on monthly basis to Provincial Treasury. However, I must mention that there are still challenges with regard to compliance to thirty day payments; we still receive grievances from suppliers. We are working very closely with the affected departments with the view to find sustainable solutions. We must congratulate the department of health for reducing their accruals by half during this first part of the financial year.

Madam Speaker, we continue encouraging departments to work closely with the private sector through creation of Public Private Partnership projects. The province has thus far registered six PPP projects our own Provincial Treasury will continue playing its oversight role and monitor the progress being achieve by these projects.

Madam Speaker, the Department of Health is currently busy with the exit strategy of the Pelonomi and Universitas Hospital complex PPP arrangement. We will work together with the department in ensuring that the exit is executed smoothly.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Madam Speaker, a number of municipalities remain in severe financial distress. We will continue to work closely with the vulnerable municipalities to manage risks and improve their financial stability through the provincial municipal support programme of action. However, we will not hesitate to take action against any municipalities if there are allegations of corruption and maladministration.

Madam Speaker; we continue to encourage municipalities, and even provincial departments, to strengthen partnerships with the private sector and civil society given the prevailing fiscal constraints and the needs for service delivery.

A closer integrated planning with other spheres of government, particularly includes the implementation of the District Development Model with specific focus on the *One Budget, One Plan concept* at the local sphere. Technical support in this regard will be provided to identified municipalities on revenue and debt management.

In terms of municipal financial management, there will be continued focus on improving technical support to delegated municipalities on supply chain management, internal audit and the preparation of multi-year budgets as well as the monthly outcomes of those budgets.

Moreover, to also deepen our support to improve audit outcomes, mainly assisting, supporting and monitoring municipalities on the in-year systems controls and prior year audit findings.

MOU between Cogta and Treasury is to be finalised by the end of this month to enhance synergy and reduce overlaps of programmes and intervention initiatives.

## **THE 2022/23 MID-YEAR EXPENDITURE REVIEW**

Madam Speaker, on the third week of October this year we had a very successful Provincial Medium Term Expenditure Committee meetings. All departments and public entities attended the three day sessions and we had very candid discussions on in-year spending and revenue collection as well as challenges facing the respective departments. We agreed on remedial actions presented by departments and we will monitor progress in the implementation of these plans.

Madam Speaker, allow me to briefly touch on the mid-year provincial financial performance. The total fiscal framework for the current financial year as tabled in March amounts to R40.9 billion. Included in this budget are the following— R31.1 billion which relates to provincial equitable share; R8.7 billion allocated as conditional grants and R1.1 billion emanating from provincial own revenue.

Hon. Members, by end of the second quarter the province recorded expenditure of R19.7 billion or 48.2 percent of our total fiscal purse. This spending is marginally below the benchmark of 50 percent and is mainly attributed to slow spending on grants and infrastructure projects. Madam Speaker, though the spending is below the benchmark, there is however a projected overspending of R500 million by end of the financial year— this is mainly driven by compensation of employees, goods and services as well as transfers and subsidies.

I must indicate, Madam Speaker, that we are very concerned about this trend of spending, moreover on grants and infrastructure. The Executive Committee led by Hon Premier will continue to monitor the affected departments and they have already presented their respective remedial plans to expedite implementation of programmes and projects.

### **Own Revenue**

Madam Speaker, during the tabling of the 2022 Medium Term Budget Policy Statement, the Minister of Finance alluded to the upward adjustment of revenue estimates by R83.5 billion, to R1.68 trillion. He also indicated that this better than expected revenue performance will assist in narrowing the 2022/23 budget deficit and other fiscal risks.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to share with this august house that we have also experienced better than expected revenue performance for the province. As end of the second quarter the province generated a total of R686.8 million or 60.1 percent of the total revenue estimates, mainly supported by collections from the Department of Health. Hon. Premier, our ongoing engagements with Lesotho government continue to yield positive outcomes. In the current financial year Lesotho government have paid more than R100 million for specialized healthcare services received.

Similarly, Madam Speaker, we have decided to adjust our provincial revenue estimates upward by R121.8 million, to R1.2 billion. This adjustment is supported by the current revenue collection trends and the positive outlook presented by the various departments and the public entity (FSGLTA).

Madam Speaker, our commitment to increase revenue remains intact. We will continue to work with departments and public entities in enhancing revenue streams for the province, and to that extent, we have asked departments to strengthen their respective revenue systems and take advantage of the Revenue Enhancement Allocation for funding of projects and programmes that can enhance revenue collection.

### **Cost Containment Measures**

Honourable Speaker, the cost-cutting measures are still in effect and are essential for identifying areas where we may improve productivity in our daily work. The Province must keep implementing extensive cost-cutting plans for non-essentials and reinvest the savings in vital service delivery initiatives. Our entire budget must be devoted to providing services. When setting priorities for their budgets for employee compensation, departments must avoid locking money away from the provision of essential services to our citizens. We will continue to monitor this as Provincial Treasury.

### **2022/23 ADJUSTMENT BUDGET**

Madam Speaker, as indicated in the previous years, the 2022 adjustment budget is guided by Section 31 of the Public Finance Management Act and thus provides for, amongst others—(i) allocation of funds earmarked for in-year-salary adjustment, (ii) allocation of approved conditional grants' rollovers and (iii) appropriation of reprioritized funds towards key provincial in-year budget pressures.

I must indicate Madam Speaker that we are not yet out of the woods, and the 2022 adjustment is set within the very constrained fiscal space. In the current financial year, we only have R6 million that remained unallocated when we tabled the 2022/23 budget in March.

Madam Speaker, the fiscal space we found ourselves in is very tight, however, we have to overcome this challenge. Our collective determination, our resilience as a province, and our commitment to push back the challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality must remain the tailwind in all that we do as a province. Our commitments as presented in our previous speeches remain, thus the 2022 adjustment budget will continue to be guided by the following agreed principles:

- Identification of inefficiencies within departments and entities and re-channelling of resources towards high impact programmes/ priorities;
- Scaling down on the implementation of non-core programmes;
- Promotion of trade-offs within and between the provincial departments;
- Reprioritization of budgets to fund key provincial priorities and pressures.

Madam Speaker, the increasing budget pressures which surpasses the available resources requires tough and bold decisions, calls for prioritization of key projects and programmes that deliver tangible services to our communities.

Madam Speaker, the in-year budget pressures amounted to R2.1 billion—and almost 60 percent is attributed to municipal services budget pressures. The remainder of the budget pressures relate to, inter alia,

compensation of employees, goods and services, provision for statutory obligations for children, disabled and elderly persons.

As I have indicated earlier, in our deliberations we agreed on prioritization of key budget pressures, amongst those is municipal services. Madam Speaker, some of the budget pressures presented by departments are catered for through spending reviews and internal reprioritization implemented by the departments themselves. The 2022 adjustment is therefore the culmination of those fruitful deliberations.

In the absence of additional discretionary funds, we had to dive deep into the current baselines to identify possible savings. In doing so, Hon. Speaker, we identified a total of R145.3 million from various departments—the exercise excluded Departments of Health, Education as well as Police, Roads and Transport due to projected overspending in these departments.

I must emphasize that we exercised caution in the reprioritization of these funds, we avoided by all means reprioritization of funds that are already committed and have impact on service delivery. Thus the funds are reprioritized from slow spending projects and there are still available budgets in those programmes and projects.

Madam Speaker, allow me to give details of the aforesaid reprioritization of R145.3 million.

- R48.9 million is from the Office of the Premier;
- R2.5 million is from Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs;
- R2.6 million is from Provincial Treasury;

- R719 thousand is from Social Development;
- R13.8 million is from COGTA;
- R345 thousand is from Public Works and Infrastructure;
- R11.5 million is from Agriculture and Rural Development;
- R48 million is from Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation; and
- R17 million is from Human Settlements.

Hon. Speaker, in the month of June 2022 we were faced by budget pressures for municipal services and we had no alternative but to reprioritize from the current baselines.

Additional to the aforesaid amount of R145.3 million, in June 2022 the province reprioritized R91 million to address pressures brought by municipal services accounts. The funds were reprioritized from Office of the Premier (R62.3 million), Provincial Treasury (R1.8 million), Health (R5 million), Education (R3.4 million), Social Development (R250 thousand), Public Works and Infrastructure (R5 million), COGTA (R4.8 million) and Police, Roads and Transport (R2.4 million), Agriculture and Rural Development (R1.7 million); Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (R2.1 million) and Human Settlements (R2.4 million). The whole R91 million is allocated to Department of Public Works and Infrastructure for municipal services.

Hon. Members, in addition to the reprioritization implemented, we have received R619 million earmarked strictly for in-year salary adjustment. The allocation emanates from the final offer of 3 percent made by government at the Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council and will be implemented through the payroll and backdated to April 2022.

The 3 percent in-year salary adjustment includes Senior Management Service (SMS) members and is additional to the 12-month non-pensionable cash gratuity received by officials at salary level 1 to 12. The SMS members will also receive the non-pensionable cash gratuity backdated to April 2022.

Madam Speaker, in the last financial year the province underspent by R613.9 million on conditional grants and thus requested a rollover of the whole amount. The province received a rollover of R587.3 million to be spent in the current financial year. At provincial level, an amount of R16.1 million which relates to equitable share is rolled over to the current financial year.

## **IN-YEAR ADJUSTED ALLOCATIONS**

### **NATIONAL**

Madam Speaker, the aforesaid allocation from national government is allocated as follows:

- R619.8 million is added to the provincial equitable share for in-year salary adjustments; and
- R587.3 million is added to the following departments as approved rollovers:
  - ✓ R18.3 million to Agriculture and Rural Development;
  - ✓ R65.9 million to Education;
  - ✓ R271.3 million to Health;
  - ✓ R195.5 million to Police, Roads and Transport;
  - ✓ R26.4 million to Human Settlements; and

- ✓ The R9.6 million approved for Social Development relates to Early Childhood Development grant and thus it will be allocated to Education following the transfer of the function.

The details of the approved rollovers per grant are included in the Appropriation Bill and the 2022/23 Adjusted Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure publication.

## **PROVINCIAL**

Hon. Speaker, these proposed allocations of reprioritized funds are a result of thorough consultation and deliberations with all the affected departments through the Forum of Heads of Departments. The recommendations of Forum were presented to the Executive Council for consideration and approval.

- An amount of R224 million is allocated to the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to address municipal services pressures. This amount includes the R91 million that was reprioritized in June this year; and R133 million during this adjustment process
- R10 million is allocated to DESTEA to cater for Enterprise Support commitments and budget pressures within Free State Gambling, Liquor and Tourism Authority;
- R20 million is allocated to the Department of Social Development to cater for ENGO payment;
- R5 million to Provincial Treasury for SITA budget pressures;

- R18.2 million to Office of the Premier; this allocation relates to inter-departmental claims for provincial events hosted;
- R19.5 million to Police, Roads and Transport:
  - ✓ R15 million for infrastructure delivery support; and
  - ✓ R4.5 million for security and operational budget pressures at Registration Authorities as well as catering for
- R3 million to Agriculture and Rural Development to assist with Foot and Mouth disease challenges;
- R12.7 million to Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation towards goods and services budget pressures; and
- R4.7 million to Human Settlements to cater for audit fees budget pressures

Madam Speaker, the following departments will receive R16.1 million as part of approved equitable share rollovers—Provincial Treasury (R946 thousand), COGTA (R876 thousand), Public Works and Infrastructure (R8.3 million), Agriculture and Rural Development (R4.4 million) and Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (R1.6 million).

Hon. Speaker, as alluded to earlier, the 2022/23 revenue estimates have been adjusted upward by R121.8 million. However, to mitigate fiscal risks of under collection only R80.3 million of the adjusted estimate is allocated.

Madam Speaker, in total the 2022/23 provincial budget is adjusted upward by R1.3 billion, this include national and provincial adjustments

of R1.2 billion and R137.9 million respectively. Thus the 2022/23 budget increases from R40.9 billion to R42.3 billion.

In this adjustment budget we have also appropriated R6.5 million to the Provincial Legislature. Madam Speaker, this appropriation emanates from the retained revenue by the Legislature as per section 22 (1) of Public Finance Management Act. Therefore, there is no cash flowing from the Provincial Revenue Fund to the Legislature.

Madam Speaker, in addressing the in-year budget pressures some of the departments implemented internal reprioritization of their respective baselines. Department of Agriculture reprioritized R11 million from Glen Upgrade project towards addressing Foot and Mouth disease challenges. Provincial Treasury also reprioritized R4 million from Municipal Support Programme towards payment of SITA lines for provincial systems (BAS and Persal).

## **2023 MEDIUM TERM EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK**

Madam Speaker, the 2023 MTEF period remains fiscally tight and the focus at national level is on restoring service delivery and improving economic growth. The indication is that the fiscal consolidation course will be maintained throughout the MTEF period and is likely to be ease in 2024/25 and is dependent on the attainment of stabilization of fiscal deficit and government debt. The provincial fiscal framework is thus expected to remain under pressure over the MTEF period ahead.

Taking note from the 2022 Medium Term Budget Statement speech, it is clear that the largest allocations over the MTEF period are for Health

and Education sectors. Added to these allocations are provisions for compensation of employees carry-through effect, infrastructure investment, safety and security. Madam Speaker, there is still an urgent need to steadfastly do more with less resources at our disposal. We must thoroughly evaluate our programmes and projects, we must do away with non-core programmes and projects, and we must encourage trade-offs within and between departments.

Let us all strive to put Free State on a fiscally sustainable trajectory. It can be done!

## **CONCLUSION**

Madam Speaker, I wish to extend my word of gratitude to the Hon. Premier, Me. Sefora Ntombela for her unwavering support, guidance and leadership in these fiscally trying times. My sincere gratefulness to my esteemed Provincial Executive Council colleagues for their support in putting together this 2022/23 adjustment budget. Your support and commitment keeps us motivated and I really thank you for that.

I would also like to extend my deepest appreciation to Members of the Provincial Legislature, the Chairperson and Members of the Provincial Public Accounts Committee for their support, continuous engagement and demand for accountability in the utilization of government resources.

Thank you to all the Accounting Officers of the departments and public entities, the Chief Financial Officers and all officials for their respective roles in ensuring that we attain fiscal sustainability for the province, A

special appreciation goes to the HOD Me. Sasing and the dedicated team Treasury for the excellent work in putting together this budget.

To the people of the Free State—I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the opportunity and honor given to us, as Members of the Executive Council, to implement government policies and priorities aimed at improving the wellbeing of our communities within the province. Our decisions are based on your public participation, your voice is heard.

Lastly, a sincere thank you to the organization that I belong to; your political guidance keeps this ship on the right track.

Hon. Speaker, I hereby table the 2022/23 Adjustment Budget together with the associated Adjusted Appropriation Bill.

**I thank you Madam Speaker.**