



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
HEALTH

BUDGET AND POLICY SPEECH 2019/2020



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**Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker,
Honourable Premier,
Honourable Members of the Executive Council,
Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature,
Leadership of all political formations represented in this House,
Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health,
Traditional Leadership,
Ministers of Religion,
Hospital boards and clinic committees,
Departmental Stakeholders, and
Honoured Guests,**

Good Afternoon to you all. I am humbled by the opportunity to present to this august House, the Eastern Cape Department of Health's 2019/20 Budget and Policy Speech.

Introduction

Honourable Speaker, the tabling of this policy speech is in the month of July, which according to the Health calendar is Mental Health Month. The African National Congress' election manifesto highlights mental health as one of the key focus areas in the current administration and further in my speech, I will elaborate on the department's plans to mark mental health month.

Our blue print for the coming 5 years is the overwhelmingly accepted manifesto of the Ruling Party, the African National Congress. The apex health promise in the manifesto is that as government, we will take immediate steps to improve the state of hospitals and clinics to achieve universal coverage by 2025. The emphasis on the word “*immediately*” aligns well with the call by our Honourable Premier to “*Khawuleza*” in delivering the much needed services to the people of our province.

To give effect to this call Honourable Premier, I want to assure you and this House that I have hit the ground running. In my first 100 days in office, I will be delivering on the following:

1. I will ensure that all our hospitals strictly adhere to the approved menu to prevent adverse events like those that were circulating on social media recently;
2. I will drive the delivery of services to the door step of communities through Thuma Mina outreach campaigns in the 3 districts of Alfred Nzo, Buffalo City and Chris Hani;

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3. I will deal with the overcrowding at Butterworth Hospital Casualty department including addressing the challenge of patients who sleep over at the hospital overnight;
4. I will ensure improved access to health services in our largest district, OR Tambo through the opening of 8 clinics, one of which will be opened by the Honourable President of the Republic of South Africa on 25 July 2019; and
5. I will hold a Provincial Health Summit as a follow up on the National Health Summit which will look at how we will position the provincial health services in preparation for the National Health Insurance.

Honourable Members, as the Health department we can look at the last 25 years of democracy with pride, when we reflect on the strides that our government has made to improve the quality of life of the people of the Eastern Cape. We are not blind to the challenges that continue to beset us, but know that it is imperative that we reflect on what we have achieved and the lessons learnt as we move forward in our quest to deliver quality health services for all.

Service delivery highlights

Honourable Deputy Speaker, over the immediate past 5 years, the department of Health made significant progress in achieving the key targets of Chapter 10 of the National Development Plan 2030; to achieve a life expectancy of 70 years from birth for all South Africans, as well as an AIDS free generation of 20 year olds.

We have increased universal access to health services as part of the readiness to implement the National Health Insurance (NHI) and our focus in this regard was on the national pilot site of OR Tambo and provincial site of Alfred Nzo. The readiness programmes were premised on the 4 elements of Ward Based Outreach Teams (WBOT's), Integrated School Health Programme (ISHP), Contracting of General Practitioners, as well as Central Chronic Medicines Dispensing and Distribution (CCMDD) programme.

Honourable Speaker, the department has appointed a total of 706 WBOT's and have at least 1 team in each of the 677 municipal wards in the province. These teams were able to visit households for registration as well as tracing and following up on treatment defaulters. On the Integrated School Health Programme, we have collaborated with the Departments of Education and Social Development and Special Programmes to implement school health programmes across the province. A total of 179 646 and 84 152 Grade 1 and Grade 8 learners respectively were screened for learning and other disabilities and were referred to

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health facilities and social services where necessary. In addition Honourable Speaker, the school health teams administered Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) 1st and 2nd doses to a total of 243 890 and 100 190 learners in order to prevent cancer of the cervix among young girls.

The District Clinical Specialist Teams (DCST's) are also a key component of the NHI readiness programme. Whilst the department experiences challenges with the attraction and retention of these specialist in the rural districts, commendable work has been done by the current team of specialists especially on the reduction of maternal and child health mortality.

To improve access to chronic medication, de-congest health facilities and improve waiting times, the department also implemented the national programme of CCMDD. A total of 120 external pick up points which include Clicks retail stores, private pharmacies, and the SA Post Office were established. Furthermore, the department has 738 facilities with dedicated fast lane queues for stable chronic patients and our plan over the 2019 MTEF period is to have all health facilities to have these dedicated fast lanes.

The piloting of GP contracting was done in the OR Tambo district through the National Department of Health and at the end of the March 2018, the function was devolved to provinces and the department is contracting the GP's through the normal recruitment processes.

Honourable Members, our emergency medical services received a boost wherein the ambulances fleet increased from 306 to 419 ambulances, and a contract was secured for 3 helicopters who provide aeromedical services. In addition, the department procured 141 replacement 4X4 ambulances to improve access to the most rural areas of the province. We opened new EMS bases at bases at Greenville, Somerset East and Port St Johns in a bid to bring services closer to communities. Furthermore a state of the art EMS base was opened in Port Elizabeth and boasts the latest technology for efficient and advanced response to emergencies in the metro.

I must admit Honourable Speaker that our efforts to improve response times to emergencies are significantly compromised by the poor state of our rural roads and this leads to frequent vehicle breakdowns and long turnaround times in repairing these vehicles. **Mandiyithethe ngokuphandle Somlomo Obekekileyo ukuba le ngxaki yokugcinwa kwe nqwelo zezigulane ixesha elide kwindawo ezilungiswa kuzo iwenza nzima umsebenzi wethu silisebe. Lomba siyawuqwalasela sidibene nesebe lezendlela nezothutho.**

Honourable Speaker, our fight against HIV/AIDS and TB was relentless. We tested 8.4 million clients and by end of March 2019, we had 493 879 clients remaining on Antiretroviral Therapy

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(ART). These successes were made possible through effective partnerships and collaboration with Eastern Cape Aids Council, community forums and sector departments. The TB treatment success rate remained stable around 80% due to the introduction of the new treatment regimens i.e. Bedaquiline and Linezolid as well as the decentralised treatment approach to TB.

In a bid to improve availability of drugs in our health facilities, we have also implemented a stock visibility system (SVS) in all clinics and community health centres. The system scans medicine barcodes and records stock levels for critical drugs including Antiretroviral drugs (ARVs), Tuberculosis (TB) medicines, as well as vaccines, and this brings visibility to medicines in health facilities.

Honourable Speaker, a professional and competent health force is a key requirement for successful delivery of quality health services. A total of 545 bursaries have been awarded to medical students of which 103 are part of the Nelson Mandela – Fidel Castro Cuban Medical Programme, and the rest are training in local universities. In addition Honourable Speaker, a total of 1 750 nurses were trained at the Lilitha College of which 528 were in the speciality areas including Advanced Midwifery, Child Nursing Science, Primary Health Care, Orthopaedics, and Ophthalmic Nursing Science.

Honourable Members, as government we have a responsibility to provide training opportunities for the youth to prepare them for formal employment post training. A total of 4 613 young people went through our learnership and internship programme which covers the Graduate Internship Programme; TVET Experiential Training Programme; Learner Basic Pharmacy Assistant Learnership; Nursing Learnership; Artisan Learnership and Artisan Apprentices. These youth development programmes are designed to benefit mostly youth coming from disadvantaged areas and do not only provide youth with skills, but also an opportunity to improve their livelihoods through the stipend they receive. We further welcome the expressed intention by the 6th Administration to advocate for waiver of years of experience in recruitment for entry level jobs, as this impacts the ability to absorb many beneficiaries of the above health programmes.

Madam Speaker, we have made good progress to reduce maternal and child health mortalities in our province. From the R317 million additional allocation received from Treasury, the department was able to procure 1 516 critical clinical and support staff for the 26 targeted hospitals where the significant number of medico legal claims come from. Medical equipment amounting to R20.8 million was also procured to assist in the monitoring of labour and detection of foetal distress in pregnant mothers at these high priority hospitals. Because of these interventions, the following hospitals: St Barnabas, Uitenhage Provincial, St Patricks, Dr

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Malizo Mpehle, Aliwal North, Taylor Bequest (Mt Fletcher) Madzikane KaZulu, Bhisho, Madwaleni, Butterworth, Humansdorp, Graaf Reinet, Settlers and All Saints, now have functional neonatal units with the necessary critical neonatal equipment. The DCST's have commenced with training of doctors and nurses on safe and effective maternal and child services.

We strive to ensure that the bond created between the mother and the unborn child is not broken because of bad outcome and experience during delivery. **Akukhonto siyinqwenela nesiyithanda njengokubona uncumo novuyo kumama oqala ukufunqula usana lwakhe olusandulukuzalwa.**

Honourable Members, we have made progress in increasing access to specialist services in the province. We have invested in major infrastructure upgrades at Frere Hospital, thus providing patients with access to world-class care with high end, cutting edge medical technology. The 2 new paediatric theatres made possible through the partnership between the Department and the Carte Blanche Trust, have given over 3 000 children access to urgent and emergency care and now lead better lives. Frere Hospital has also expanded access to specialist care and boasts the only adult and paediatric infectious disease as well as neurology services in both public and private sectors in the region. The multi-disciplinary world-class Frere stroke programme has received national and international acclaim for the rapid response to patients who present to the Casualty with symptoms and signs of stroke, thus achieving an average door-to-needle time of under 60 minutes. The efforts of the department to turnaround service delivery at Frere received the Dr Kwang Tae Kim Grand Merit Award from the International Hospital Federation in Australia. This meritorious achievement demonstrates that it is possible to improve the quality of care we provide to compare with the best-in-class on a global platform.

The opening of the state of the art Cecilia Makiwane hospital comes with possibilities for new services like orthopaedics, day theatre and 6 chair renal dialysis units. The hospital boasts a new renal dialysis unit; high care unit; modern maternity unit; radiology department; day theatre; orthopaedic unit; paediatric ICU; burns unit as well as a state of the art health resource centre. The hospital is now also the heritage centre for the first black healthcare professional in Africa. A museum, Cecilia Makiwane's statue, an amphitheatre and nurses tower have been commissioned. Furthermore, the hospital has been formally adopted as a provincial oath taking site for all nurse training institutions in the province.

Livingstone Tertiary Hospital has made strides in Electrophysiology services for both adults and paediatrics and the hospital is now receiving referrals from provinces such as Gauteng, whereas in the past, the province was referring patients out to other provinces. The hospital

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boasts the first Paediatric Electrophysiology unit in the country with a state of the art Gamma Camera. The hospital has also established a Paediatric oncology unit and is performing stem cell transplant. Dora Nginza Regional hospital has seen a massive growth in Paediatrics with the neonatal unit growing from 16 to 26 beds and the ICU growing from 4 to 8 beds. The hospital has also produced a number of in-house trained sub-specialists in scarce areas such as Paediatric Oncology, Surgery and Neonatology.

Honourable Members, the appointment of specialists including an Intensivist, Rheumatologist and Paediatric Cardiologist at the Nelson Mandela Central Hospital, has resulted in improved access to highly specialized medical care as well as the reduction of up-referrals. The hospital has also installed a 128 slice CT scanner to improve diagnostic services and reduce waiting times. In a proud collaboration with Walter Sisulu University, the hospital is now able to manufacture prosthesis. The appointment of an Orthopaedic Specialist at Bedford hospital has also enabled the hospital to commence with Spinal and Arthroplasty services leading to reduced referrals to Inkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital in Kwazulu Natal province.

Honorable Members, as a response to the tragedy of botched circumcisions, Nelson Mandela Central Hospital has initiated a penile reconstruction project which has saved the lives and restored the dignity of many young men. A new Cochlear implant unit has also been established and had its first and successful operation in December 2018. A young 3 year old deaf Qiqi Njiva heard her mother call out her name for the first time following this successful operation. Qiqi's mother, Sinovuyo Njiva said, ***“This is a whole new world for my child who has been born into silence, but can now hear me calling her name. We are so grateful to the doctors and the hospital for this breakthrough in the child's life.”***

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the department will expand the chemotherapy basket of oncology care for communities in the eastern region of the province, by commencing the commissioning of the radiotherapy unit at Nelson Mandela Central Hospital. This is a response to the reality of the distances that these patients have to travel to access services in East London or Port Elizabeth. We further appreciate the commitment made by the Premier to source funding for the much needed Linear Accelerator machine for the hospital. **Noko sekela Somlomo, lo mbutho usithumileyo kulawulo lweliphondo uyakhathala yaye okwethu kukuqinisekisa ukuba siyayibonisa loo nkathalo xa sizisa iinkonzo ebantwini.**

Honourable Members, we also made great progress in showing accountability in spending the more than R20 billion per annum appropriation and this is shown by the fact that the

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department received unqualified audit opinions in the last 3 financial years. We are working hard to make sure that we also improve on performance objectives and are addressing the challenges that inhibit us from also achieving better audit outcomes in these areas as well.

Challenges

Despite all these achievements, the last 5 years have not been without challenges. We continued to be fiscally constrained because of the rising demand for health services against a declining fiscal envelope. The above inflationary cost of medical services as well as the increasing medico legal claims undermine our efforts to provide uninterrupted quality health services. Furthermore, the department has a massive infrastructure backlog dating back to the time of the homelands. To eradicate all these backlogs and get all the health facilities ready for the NHI will require significant investment.

2019/20 service delivery priorities

Honourable Premier, for the 2019/20 financial year, we will indeed not re-invent the wheel, but build on the gains made in the last 5 years to achieve the key health priorities outlined in the election manifesto of the Ruling Party. Our plans carry the department's pledge to deliver quality healthcare services as this has a far reaching impact on our people and communities, thus highlighting health's importance as a priority.

For the 2019/20 year, we will continue to strengthen the re-engineering of primary health care as a cornerstone of the NHI. We will leverage on lessons learnt from OR Tambo and Alfred Nzo pilot sites as we roll out the readiness programmes to the rest of the districts. We will strengthen and rapidly scale up the NHI streams including our WBOT's and provide them with additional training as well as tools of trade. The Integrated School Health Teams will continue to provide school health programmes with special focus on reproductive health and prevention of teenage pregnancies. The DCST programme will continue to provide training and outreach programmes to improve maternal and child health across the province.

Honourable Members, our infrastructure programme will focus on supporting health facilities to improve clinical outcomes in the most cost effective manner. We will provide for 72 hours Observation Psychiatric Units in identified district hospitals; effect minor renovations to clinics and Community Health Centres; procure basic diagnostic equipment and maintain existing medical equipment at primary health care facilities; upgrade water treatment plants and sewerage systems for rural facilities; electrify and provide water connection for clinics;

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eradicate mud and inappropriate structures; as well as renovate accommodation units for health professionals.

The department will maintain its policy decision not to build new infrastructure, but to maintain the existing infrastructure stock. Accordingly, the infrastructure budget will be shifted from building new mega structures to minor refurbishments as well as implementation of a comprehensive and proactive maintenance program for health technology and ICT infrastructure.

Honourable Speaker, ensuring the safety of pregnant mothers and safe delivery of babies at our facilities is and will continue to be top priority. We will continue to have dialogues with community structures and traditional healers on the risks of herbal intoxication and their contribution to premature births, maternal deaths, paediatric mortalities and malnutrition among infant babies in the most rural districts of the province. We will roll out education programs and support for mothers on antenatal care, postnatal care as well as exclusive breast feeding. We will also ensure that all HIV positive patients (women and children) eligible for treatment are initiated on ART; and reduce mother to child transmission rate. We will also embark on a vaccination drive to ensure that children are vaccinated and monitored for growth.

Honourable Speaker, we have to continue with our relentless fight against HIV and AIDS and TB. Our interventions in this regard will be premised on the 90-90-90 strategy which aims to diagnose 90% of all HIV positive and TB patients, provide antiretroviral therapy and TB treatment to those diagnosed, and achieve viral suppression and treatment success to 90% of those treated by 2020. We will therefore be testing 1.7 million clients for HIV, and have 635 706 patients remaining on life saving antiretroviral drugs by the end of March 2020. We will also distribute 108 million condoms to strategic public areas in order to prevent the spread of HIV, unwanted pregnancies and STI's.

Honourable Members, the World Health Organisation is raising alarm bells on the rise of TB infections and deaths across the globe. In this regard, we are targeting a TB client treatment success rate of 85%, whilst also reducing patients lost to follow up to 7%.

We will therefore implement initiatives such as Treatment Retention Acceleration Plan (TRAP) and Welcome Back Campaigns in 95 prioritized facilities across the province in order to improve patient retention and minimize the risk of patients lost to follow. Additionally, we will work collaboratively with support partners and various stakeholders in the HIV/TB management response platforms to enhance improvement of the HIV and TB management outcomes.

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Honourable Speaker, as indicated earlier in my speech, this being a Mental Health awareness month, the department will focus on strengthening mental health services by improving the functionality of psychiatric hospitals. The appointment by the Minister of Health of a provincial mental health administrator, Professor Mkhize is a positive step in highlighting the importance of mental health services. Working with Professor Mkhize, we are strengthening the functionality of our mental health services as well the functionality of our mental health boards. We have commenced the implementation of recommendations of the Health Ombudsman and will be discussing progress made in this regard during a Mental Health Dialogue which I will host as part of the commemoration of the Mental Health Month.

Honourable Speaker, we are concluding all the remaining aspects in preparation for the implementation of the department's new organogram. This organogram is aligned with an improved Service Delivery Model and emphasises the Primary Health Care (PHC) approach. Furthermore, the organizational realignment process that the department embarked on is an intentional action to respond to the needs and demands of providing patient-centred quality health care services to the people of the Eastern Cape. Therefore, this new organogram focuses on developing strong districts and hospital management teams in line with the envisaged NHI districts and hospital authorities, and ensures that districts and facilities are capacitated to function optimally.

Additionally and in line with your commitment Honourable Premier, we will be augmenting our workforce by appointing 500 nurses before the end of December 2019 thus strengthening the front line services and filling critical vacancies in our facilities. Our 2019/20 annual recruitment plan also prioritises critical support posts including general assistants, porters and ward clerks.

Honourable Speaker, alongside our interventions to strengthen maternal and child health services, we will continue our fight to reduce medico legal claims through the implementation of our integrated medico legal strategy. The current levels of claims against the department are unsustainable and pose a serious threat to the provincial fiscus. We have been relentless in our bid to ensure that we root out elements of corruption in the medico legal claims lodged against the department, hence we welcome the recent developments. We have also made progress in the defence of medico legal cases through the use of a consortium of medico legal experts who since their appointment in October 2017, have had 10 matters amounting to R186.6 million withdrawn by litigating attorneys and 20 cost orders awarded against the plaintiffs.

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Honourable Members, we will be extending the 90-90-90 strategy to non-communicable diseases as well. We will scale up awareness campaigns to promote health and wellness, with special focus on screening and treating breast and cervical cancers; mental health disorders; as well as prevention and reduction of risks of lifestyle diseases. For the 2019/20 year, we are therefore targeting to conduct 1 million pap smears, 2 500 procedures to remove pre-cancer, as well as 1 200 breast cancer biopsies. We further target to screen 3.2 million clients for mental health disorders as part of our increased interventions to strengthen mental health services.

Honourable Members, I cannot over emphasise the need to maintain healthy lifestyles in order to reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases. For the 2019/20 year, we will be testing 1.5 million patients for hypertension and diabetes respectively. I challenge everyone present here today that we do our best to maintain a healthy lifestyle, but doing basic things such as reducing salt and sugar intake; drinking plenty of fluids; and engage in physical activity or exercise.

We will continue to provide specialist services at our regional hospitals focusing on our Accident and Emergency units and developing a quick response to the increased burden of trauma and injuries. In the 2019/20 year, we will open Accident & Emergency wards at Frere and Frontier Hospitals and these will boast the latest technology needed to stabilize and resuscitate emergency patients. We will also increase the capacity of the paediatric unit at Frontier hospital with an additional 15 beds that include ICU and High Care beds. We will also shortly be commissioning the new high-end Cathlac at Port Elizabeth Provincial Hospital.

Honourable Members, the department will leverage on ICT to expand the e-health and digital connectivity strategy and invest in the development of essential technology and applications to achieve high levels of service delivery coordination across the health service delivery platform. The department will explore innovative means to “leap frog” universal access to modern diagnostic, treatment and clinical interventions to the most remote rural communities by linking specialist, diagnostic procedures between urban centres and the rural periphery.

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2019/20 BUDGET AND PROGRAMME ALLOCATION

Madam Speaker, allow me then to table the 2019/20 budget appropriation for the Eastern Cape Department of Health of Twenty Five Billion, One Hundred and Eighty Nine Million, Six Hundred and Thirty Two Thousand Rands. The table below gives a breakdown of the budget per programme and economic classification:

| PROGRAMME | ALLOCATION R'00 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Administration | 714 361 |
| 2. District Health Services | 12 862 682 |
| 3. Emergency Medical Services | 1 393 057 |
| 4. Provincial Hospital Services | 4 090 782 |
| 5. Central Hospital Services | 3 626 551 |
| 6. Health Sciences and Training | 929 809 |
| 7. Health Care Support Services | 125 835 |
| 8. Health Facilities Management | 1 446 555 |
| Total | 25 189 632 |
| Economic Classification | Allocation |
| Compensation of Employees | 19 962 268 |
| Goods and Services | 6 292 808 |
| Transfers and Subsidies | 296 705 |
| Payments of Capital Assets | 1 637 851 |
| Total | 25 189 632 |

As usual Honourable Speaker, the biggest allocation of this budget goes to District Health Services to achieve the Reengineering of Primary Health Services, ensure compliance with the Office of Health Standards (OHS) as well as attainment of Ideal Clinic standards by facilities. We want to ensure that through strategic collaborations with local government, districts are able to achieve PHC and district health care coverage for 80% of our communities.

Provincial and Hospital Services receive the next biggest allocations respectively, and these are aimed at strengthening access to specialist services and facilitate in-reach and outreach services and to complement the district health systems as envisaged in the NHI.

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Health Facilities Management also receive a significant budget allocation to refurbish and maintain infrastructure and medical equipment at health facilities across the province.

Conclusion

The African National Congress has made a clarion declaration to all South Africans to participate in the growth and development of the country this year. This call is made on the basis of a comprehensive interaction with the people of South Africa and their expectations. Taking stock of what the ANC government has done in first 25 years of democracy, Health continues to play a critical role in ensuring that we reduce the burden of disease in the province by providing an efficient healthcare service to our patients regardless of their socio economic status. Our obligation is to achieve the country's health targets as outlined in the National Development Plan (NDP) and the Ruling Party's manifesto.

This year we rise on the shoulders of our liberation heroines, heroes and martyrs whose revolutionary contribution to freedom and peace laid a foundation for our democracy. Our freedom is born out of sacrifices of freedom fighters who played various roles in the liberation struggle to usher in the democratic dispensation. We are now called into action to wage a war of resistance of a different kind; that of fighting the social ills that contribute to the disease burden and lifestyle diseases that lead to chronic illnesses. Ours is to continue surging forward and make sure that people of the Eastern Cape live a healthy lifestyle which will make them to be able to contribute to the growth and development of the province.

Amade ngawetyala mawethu, umsebenzi mawuqale kuba abantu bafuna ukuphila!

As the Eastern Cape Department of Health we commit to achieve the ideals of the Freedom Charter; "a preventative health scheme shall be run by the State," "free medical care and hospitalisation shall be provided for all, with special care for mothers and young children."

As I close, Che Guevara said, "If I lose, it will not mean that it was impossible to win."

Enkosi Kakhulu, Thank You Very Much!!!!