

THE 2012/13 BUDGET SPEECH PRESENTED BY ACTING EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF LEJWELEPUTSWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, CCLR. XOLILE TOKI AT THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER IN WELKOM ON THE 29 MARCH 2012.

Honourable Speaker

Members of the Mayoral Committee

Councillors

The Municipal Manager and staff

Leaders of Political Parties

Members of Ward committees

Distinguished Guests

Friends and Comrades,

Mr Speaker, it is a great privilege and honour to address this sitting of our Council on this important meeting- the presentation of the reviewed & revised Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and the Budget for the financial year 2012/13. These strategic and policy documents are now presented for consideration and approval. Mr Speaker, in this municipality we see the budget as an instrument through which we manage and use public funds to improve the quality of life of the people we serve.

The government adopted five key priority- areas for service delivery, which are:

- Good Governance and Public Participation
- Municipal Financial Viability and Management
- Local Economic Development
- Municipal Transformation and Institutional Development
- Basic Services and Infrastructure Investment

These priorities, as set out by government, are not only the responsibility of the national and provincial government, but must be tackled and realised by all spheres of government, more so local government. It is therefore more critical for local government service delivery plans and programmes to be in line with these priorities, as the people at ward-level must be able to identify and experience it.

2012/2013 Integrated Development Plan

Mr Speaker, the year 2012 is significantly in many respects. Our IDP's as a family of municipalities in the district are significantly amongst the top in the province of Free State. We wish to develop this attainment and be counted among the best in the country. We worked well with the IDP Representative forum as capable led by Tumelo Makofane, for this we thankful to all of you.

We conducted community consultation meetings/road-shows during the month of April 2011. These meetings were meant to get community inputs on the draft IDP and Budget, this was achieved well. Mr Speaker, all those inputs were accurately recorded and considered. Hence, we are now ready to recommend the approval of this IDP by Council.

2012/ 2013 BUDGET

In terms of Chapter 57 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, Act no 56 of 2003, I wish to table before this house, our 2012/2013 budget for approval.

Mr Speaker, we see the budget as an instrument through which we manage public funds in a way that ensures that we improve the quality of life of our people. We see the budget as an instrument of development. We do this through planning, budget allocation, control and proper accounting for every cent entrusted to this municipality.

The total budget we are presenting here before this house amounts to R105,594.00 million with a R3,842.00 capital and a R99,874.00 operational budget. Indeed, this budget has been declining steadily, which is therefore not in line with our developmental mandate.

Mr Speaker, the people of Lejweleputswa gave this council, alongside our local municipalities a clear mandate to deliver services, grow the economy and to help build a better life. I stand before you to present critical highlights of our budget we have made since then and to outline our programme of action for 2012/2013 under the theme: **Working together to ensure effective & efficient service delivery.**

The district is not immune to economic crisis hence we experienced job losses with some mining shafts closing down. Mr Speaker, we are however, encouraged by the efforts of national government at reducing the effect of job losses, amongst other things, and we need to compliment such efforts through our programmes at the district level.

Conclusion

Mr Speaker, Lejweleputswa municipality will continue to strive towards higher and quality standards of service delivery. I think you will agree with me when I say that the roadmap is clear. The Budget is however in line with our vision and commitment that we have made to the citizens of this district.

We have demonstrated that the path to the attainment of better communities all remains within reach.

Together working to ensure effective & efficient service delivery

I thank you

Cllr X. Toki
Acting Executive Mayor
Lejweleputswa District Municipality