

LDM BUDGET SPEECH BY EXECUTIVE MAYOR CLLR. SEBENZILE NGANGELIZWE - 2017/2018

31 MAY 2017

Madam Speaker of Council;
Chief Whip of Council;
Members of the Mayoral Committee;
Fellow Councilors;
Distinguished Guests
Municipal Manager and Senior Managers;
Members of the Media;
Comrades and Friends

BACKGROUND

As we conclude the Africa Month in which South Africa is celebrating it under the theme: “***The Year of OR Tambo: Building a Better Africa and a Better World***”. The month is an opportunity to promote African unity, deeper regional integration and recommit Africa to a common destiny.

A focal point of this year’s Africa Month programme is to create discussion platforms for South Africans, in particular local communities, to engage in conversation within the broader theme of decolonisation.

This year Africa Month celebrations coincide with the centenary of struggle stalwart Oliver Reginald Tambo who epitomised the struggle for liberation. Tambo was instrumental in rallying support, assistance and solidarity against the oppression of colonialism and apartheid on the continent.

The conceptualisation of Africa month is informed by a number of initiatives aimed at the **decolonisation** and **regeneration** of the continent. For Africa to regain its rightful place in the world, many initiatives were taken by mainly Africans both from the continent and in diaspora. South Africans are found amongst those earlier generations who made enormous contribution towards this effort. The speech of Pixley Ka Isaka Seme in 1906, on the Regeneration of Africa, and the later contribution in the efforts of African cause, those efforts have put us on par with peers in the continent and elsewhere in the world.

The current initiative on Africa Month is aimed at pursuing that agenda set out by our predecessors, an agenda to make Africa a better place to be and to live by 2063. It will be an Africa that will occupy its rightful place in the world. If we agree with the notion that, the current challenges are founded on definite historical origins, then it must follow that the future is formed and derives its first impulse in the womb of the present.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Speaker, I am greatly honoured to be afforded this opportunity to deliver this noble budget speech for the 2015/2016 financial year. It is the Municipality's first budget speech after 2016 local government elections. It is with great gratitude that we appreciate the overwhelming support by our masses to go out in numbers and vote.

We are honoured because this occasion is indicative of the fact that, in our service delivery race, we have moved a step forward by putting systems in

place. As this term commences, it presents an opportunity for us not to reinvent the wheel but to continue with work that the previous Council has started and also improve on it.

As a developmental municipality, we continue with our drive to be close to the people through mobilization, information, education and empowerment. This we do because we want our communities to hold us accountable on issues that affect their lives and their well-being. We do this guided by the principle that we have put community participation and communication at the center of our activities.

Motivated by our passion to deliver come the end of the term, we have embarked on vigorous and open consultations with our communities. We have heard the cry of our people after travelled from length and breadth of the region and listen to the needs of the people. It is safe to say our mandate is clear.

The undeniable and compelling triumph of the democratic forces led by the ANC is an irretrievable testimony of our people's attitude to the meaning of the past twenty-three years of democratic governance under the leadership of the ANC government.

Madam Speaker,

The NDP sets a target of creating 11 million jobs by 2030, of which some 90 percent is expected to be created in small and expanding firms thus

highlighting the growing role small and medium-sized firms will come to play in supporting the country's overall growth goals.

Taking a key from NDP, our LED is doing a tremendous work in coordinating and developing the small medium businesses. We are busy organizing an Investment summit which aims to change economic outlook of the district. We have also advertised for potential investors to register on the LDM database and indicate their areas of interests in terms of investment in the district.

Vision 2030 provides us with the lessons learnt from both the successes and failures of the past 23 years of democracy. This should inform our priorities to build a truly non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa free from discrimination.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

An exciting feature in our tenure is a recognition of the performance that our municipality received from the national government of being one of the best run municipalities in the country. As much as bragging is dangerous, however we should be proud of these accolades. That also calls on us to strengthen this performance and work harder than before.

DISTRICT INFRASTRUCTURE

As part of the mandate and obligations of the Executive Mayor in the Municipal Implementation Protocol on Phase 3 of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) that the Executive Mayor must ensure compliance with the requirements for disbursing the EPWP incentive grant. The Extended Public Works Programme is a key government initiative which contributes to government policy priorities in terms of decent work and sustainable livelihoods.

In line with the mandate, we have received a budget allocation of R1m for 2016/2017. Out of this allocation, work opportunities were created resulting in 80 full time equivalents.

We are also proud to announce that we are in the final year of conducting Rural Road Asset Management System (RRAMS). This study entailed the collection of road data in line with the road infrastructure strategic framework for South Africa. The district has a responsibility to ensure that all roads in our district are accessible for transport and business purposes.

HEALTH SERVICES & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

We need to intensify health services in the district and ensure that fire-fighting equipment are readily available to assist where there could be eruption of fire within the district. On that score we have not moved satisfactorily for us to assist the underprivileged municipalities in the district. We need to mobilise funding to overcome this challenge.

EDUCATION AND YOUTH

The 2016 Grade 12 students have passed well, and I want to congratulate them including those who did not do well. I appeal to them to not give up. Education is the weapon of our kids and the nation's development. More than ever before, our responsibility is to support academic excellence, nurture talent, and in this regard the Municipality is providing Bursary assistance in helping needy students. Career Expo will play a pivotal role in directing our youth to choose relevant career that will shape the economy of our country.

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

In line with the provisions of the Constitution, the municipality had undertaken to deal with special programmes which contribute to nation building.

Therefore, we have recently revived District Local Aids Council. Our district is in an unpleasant state with regards to HIV/AIDS prevalence. We therefore have lined up programmes or activities to be conducted to try and bring these figures down. In partnership with private sector, we have supported senior citizens' activities; mobilizing financial support for the development of Early Child Development Centres (ECDs) and helping persons with disabilities.

Madam Speaker,

This 2017/18 budget is therefore intended to address the service delivery backlogs. However, let me say without a doubt that it will need all of us here to put our heads together if we want to make an impact in changing the lives of the people. Bearing in mind that we are experiencing limited resources.

Budget

With the acute rate of unemployment this has a negative effect on the advancement of our reconstruction and development, and transformation agenda as guided by our vision and strategic objectives.

Positively, as part of managing costs, reductions were made on those costs necessary to incur immediately.

Total Budget (2017/2018) - R125.8m

Total Income (2017/2018) R 122,3 million.

Total Operating Expenditure (2017/2018)- The operational expenditure allocation is R 122,3 million.

Total Capital Expenditure (2017/2018) - The total capital expenditure is R 3. 25 million

Madam Speaker

Our EPWP which sees participants from indigent households visibly playing a role in the remaking of the Capital through both our capital and operational projects has uplifted a number of households from dire poverty to a state where they can become active participants in our economy. EPWP has accordingly been allocated R 1.2 million.

The following constitute the key budget focus areas:

- **Economic growth and poverty alleviation;**
- **Creating a space with which a caring society is economically, spatially, environmentally and socially integrated and developed.**
- **Intensification of job creation activities through the implementation of capital projects and the expanded public works programme;**
- **Good governance and clean administration;**

LDA allocated R3.8m for operations

Recommendations are as follows:

- That Council adopts MTREF of budget estimates for 2017/2018 financial year as prescribed in terms of MFMA Section 16(1), 24(2) & 53(1)(c(i)).
- That the budget for 2017/2018 financial year be submitted to National Treasury, Provincial Treasury and COGTA.

Conclusion

Madam Speaker, we are the soldiers deployed to make these successes possible and ours is to guard jealously the gains of our democracy. We therefore propose that the budget & IDP we table today be adopted