

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS – IDP/BUDGET ADOPTION

MAYOR. CLLR M.Y. MMAKOLA

EPHRAIM MOGALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

DATE: 29 MAY 2015 VENUE: MOGANYAKA (WARD 9) TIME: 14H00

Honorable Speaker, Cllr. Modisha,

Honorable Chief Whip, Cllr. Ratau,

Members of the Executive Committee,

Chair of Chairs, Honorable Cllr. Ranoto,

Chairperson of MPAC, Honorable Cllr. Phala

Chairpersons of Various Portfolio Committees,

Fellow Honorable Councilors,

Maaparankwe.

Municipal Manager and Directors,

Representatives from Organized Labour (Unions),

Various Communities in the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality,

All Stakeholders of the Municipality – [Traditional Leadership, Traditional Healers, Business, NGOs, CBOs and Various Faith Organizations, Community Members],

The Media Fraternity, Taxi Associations,

Distinguished Guests.

Dumelang, Lotshani, Goeie Middag, Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Hon, Speaker, Please allow me to start by intensively quote former State President Hon. Thabo Mbeki when he said “Today it feels good to be an African,

"I am born of the peoples of the continent of Africa. I am of a nation that would not allow that fear of death, torture, imprisonment, exile or persecution should result in the perpetuation of injustice. Among us prowl the products of our immoral and amoral past - killers who have no sense of the worth of human life, rapists who have absolute disdain for the women of our country, animals who would seek to benefit from the vulnerability of the children, the disabled and the old, the rapacious who brook no obstacle in their quest for self-enrichment. I am of a nation that would not allow that fear of death, torture, imprisonment, exile or persecution should result in the perpetuation of injustice. The great masses who are our mother and father will not permit that the behaviour of the few results in the description of our country and people as barbaric".

One is starting with those words, Hon Speaker to reflect on the current political and socio-economic environment that took place in the last few months whereby our brother and sister from the Continent of Africa has experienced barbaric attacks in the name of South Africa. This came to mind Hon Speaker that those barbaric actions happen in the eve of when South Africa, hosted the most important gathering of African People, the Pan African Parliament (PAP). Talking of PAP, this municipality would like to congratulate PAP for its prompt discussion and resolutions mostly regarding being proud to be African, their commitment to work towards uniting Africa and in celebrating African day on the 25th May 2015.

We should all strive for peace and strengthen our political education on us being African mostly during this time as we celebrate African month. The country celebration of the 21st years of democracy was nearly overshadowed by those barbaric activities. It is important Hon Speaker that we work hard as State President Hon Jacob Zuma alluded during the State of the Nation Address "to unite in action to advance Economic freedom by working extra miles in building a united democratic, non-sexist, non-racial and prosperous South Africa through rededicating all of us to eradicate racism, xenophobia and all related intolerance in our country". Hon J Zuma further challenged all of us to invest more on educating our children and the youth about the rich heritage of this country and

African continent and practice the African Union anthem as part of our commitment to celebrate ourselves as African.

One further agrees with former President Hon. Thabo Mbeki, when he concluded that whatever the setbacks of the moment, nothing can stop us now! Whatever the difficulties, Africa shall be at peace! However improbable it may sound to the sceptics, Africa will prosper. All this I know and know to be true because I am an African”

As Dr Mandela once said “no one is born hating another person because of colour of his skin or his background nor religion. People learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate , they can be taught to LOVE, for Love come more naturally to the human heart than its opposite” We should therefore, Hon Speaker condemn this barbaric action of Xenophobic in the country and teach our communities to love their neighbours as they Love themselves.

Despite all those setback, Hon Speaker, we feel with great honour to stand before this August Gathering, to account on our performance over the past financial year [2014/2015] and present the IDP, which is our strategic plan and the Budget, which is our financial plan, for the 2015- 2016 Financial year of the Ephraim Mogale Municipality. We will continue to celebrate the country 21st anniversary of democracy since the first democratic election in 1994. We are already looking forward to the upcoming Local government election which will take place during the upcoming financial year as part of strengthening democracy. We further commit as municipality to assist the IEC by creating enabling environment in preparing the upcoming election.

Hon. Speaker, fellow Councillors, ladies and gentlemen and distinguished guests; please allow me to remind everyone that It has now become a wrong and intolerable culture, that when we present the IDP and budget, be under a heavy black cloud over our heads. The country has lost committed young cadres and veteran of our struggle who the nation has entrust trust on them to carry and lead

our struggle to deliver the services of our community in our commitment to make a better life for all.

We are presenting this Budget/IDP while the country has lost Minister of Public Services – Hon. Collins Chabane and his bodyguards, in a horrified car accident in our provinces while on duty deployed to by the South African nation, it was with sadness that the country and Limpopo Province to be specific while celebrating the achievements made by the 2014 matric Learners, the province lost its MEC of Education Thembu Nwendamutswu, who was the driver and captain of the 2014 Matric ship, Comrade Ntate Nelson Diale, the veteran of our struggle and the former Tsimanyane Circuit Inspector Mr. Mohlapamaswi and many more.

The country is now celebrating the life of stalwarts, isithalandwe, moswarathipa ka bogaleng, Mme Ruth Mompoti, a leader of the ANC Women League who led the 1956 Women's league fight a just war of liberating us through the historic march of against women in caring the pass.

Road carnage is becoming our daily bread, within the municipality as our community members are dying through road accident. While most of the accident took place on both National and Provincial roads, our municipality cannot fold arms, but engage the relevant road agencies to assist in improving the road infrastructure as part of our commitment to provide better road services to our communities. Hon Speaker, during the financial year under review, the municipality also lost its own sons and daughters - *Leaders, Officials and Community Members* - who were bestrewn with a calling, a commitment and a responsibility to contribute in changing the life of people in this municipality. We just lost 11 people on the road between Marble Hall town and Siyabuswa just last week. It is upon all of us to pick-up the spears of all fallen Comrades and continues with the struggle of making a better life for all the people in the country and a peaceful world. May their souls rest in peace!

Hon. Speaker, fellow Councillors, ladies and gentlemen and distinguished guests; the municipality was faced with the same challenges we experience in a financial year before this. This includes the high vacancy rate in critical positions which contribute towards our poor spending on Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG). As we speak, Hon. Speaker the municipality is standing the lowest in the province. In correcting this, the municipality has employed the Municipal Manager to steer the administration ship and strengthen the accountability. We have further strengthened the Supply Chain Management Unit (SCM) and Project Management Unit (PMU) which are the two key units to improve spending on MIG. We have also advertised positions in the remaining strategic areas such as strengthening Internal Audit and Risk Management, filled positions such as Integrated Development Plan (IDP) Manager and Local Economic Development (LED) Manager in Planning and Economic Development which has been vacant for a long time. We believe that strengthening of those critical areas will bear fruits we all want, strengthening services delivery and economic growth to our communities.

The filling of all strategic positions, Hon. Speaker, the municipality will improve in performance in relation to the audit outcome. The municipality has further received a poor audit report by the Auditor General of DISCLAIMER for the 2013/2014. One will like to repeat what I said during the last budget day on the municipality in Dicheung that as Council, we need to take responsibility and work with the administration to urgently correct this audit outcome as we have committed to have a clean audit.

On the 31 March 2015, the municipality council adopted the draft Budget for the upcoming financial year of 2015-2016. We further went on the community consultation as required by laws between 23 April 2015 and 08 May 2015. During that process, our communities and stakeholders such as Sakerkamer raised some challenges and recommend that we shift certain projects in order to address those challenges we have noted them with great appreciation. Where

possible the budget will address some of those concern and comments made. In responding to issues raised by Sakerkamer, the municipality will make sure that on matters of Education, Health, Social Welfare, Safety and Security, SASSA, and Post office & Telecommunicationwe all matter are communicated with the relevant department for them to improve their services. The relocation of Hawkers, the municipality has engaged them and the process of relocating to the hawker's facility. The municipality is further engaging Transnet on the envisaged establishment of railway line. The municipality will also continue engaging the COGHSTA on the number of allocated houses within the municipality. While water and sanitation are the responsibilities of Sekhukhune District Municipality, we will continue working with SDM to solve all challenges relating to both water and sanitation. Other issues raised such as Roads and stormwater in extension 6, the municipality will address them with the present budget.

Hon. Speaker, fellow Councilors, ladies and gentlemen and distinguish guests, it is important to take into consideration and remember that in his state of the nation address, Hon President Jacob Zuma, has declared 2015 as the year of Freedom Charter and Unity in Action to Advance Economic Freedom. A year of going to extra mile in building a united, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous South Africa, a year of rededicating ourselves to eradicate racism and all related intolerances in our country. As we celebrate 21st anniversary of the country freed, Freedom Charter remain the guiding developmental documents of our lifetime, the document that will remain the Bible of democracy and future development. In developing and drafting our budget for the coming financial year, the municipality was guided by few documents, The municipal Vision and Mission **“Viable and sustainable municipality that provides quality services and enhance economic growth”** and commit **“to involve all sectors of the community in the economic and social development whilst improving service delivery to become a prominent agricultural, business, and mega industrial growth point in Sekhukhune District for the benefit of the residents and province”**; Freedom Charter, the manifesto of the Ruling

Party [the ANC; National Development Plan (NDP), and Limpopo Developmental Plan (:LDP) in consultation with broader communities and stakeholder

The Municipality budgeted just over **257 174 350.69** million in the upcoming financial year of 2015-2016 to address the needs and services of our communities. The municipality income is characterized by a total of over 60% Grants which are as follows:

| ITEM DESCRIPTION | BUDGET 2015/2016 | Percentage | FORECASTT 2016/2017 | | FORECAST 2017/2018 | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| EQUITABLE SHARE | 118 546 000.00 | 46% | 121 000.00 | 195 000.00 | 120 000.00 | 142 000.00 |
| GRANT: MIG | 32 405 000.00 | 13% | 33 588 000.00 | | 35 360 000.00 | |
| GRANT: MSIG | 930 000.00 | 0% | 957 000.00 | | 1 033 000.00 | |
| GRANT: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT | 1 675 000.00 | 1% | 1 810 000.00 | | 2 145 000.00 | |
| EPWP INCENTIVE GRANT | 1 157 000.00 | 0% | 0.00 | | 0.00 | |
| GRANTS & SUBSIDIES | 154 713 000.00 | 60% | 157 000.00 | 550 000.00 | 158 000.00 | 680 000.00 |

OPERATING REVENUE BUDGET

| ITEM DESCRIPTION | BUDGET 2015/2016 | PERCENTAGE | FORECAST 2016/2017 | FORECAST 2017/2018 |
|--|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| GRANTS & SUBSIDIES | 154 713 000.00 | 60% | 157 550 000.00 | 158 680 000.00 |
| REVENUE GENERATED FROM OWN SOURCES | 102 461 350.69 | 40% | 108 609 031.73 | 115 125 573.63 |
| PROPERTY RATES | 26 766 355.15 | 10% | 28 372 336.46 | 30 074 676.64 |
| ELECTRICITY | 50 356 628.20 | 20% | 53 378 025.89 | 56 580 707.45 |
| REFUSE | 4 171 395.01 | 2% | 4 421 678.71 | 4 686 979.43 |
| INTEREST RECEIVED | 4 692 135.18 | 2% | 4 973 663.29 | 5 272 083.09 |
| LICENCES & PERMITS | 12 271 573.54 | 5% | 13 007 867.95 | 13 788 340.03 |
| RENTAL FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT | 197 429.90 | 0% | 209 275.69 | 221 832.23 |
| OTHER INCOME | 3 321 422.27 | 1% | 3 520 707.60 | 3 731 950.06 |
| TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE GENERETED | 257 174 350.69 | 100% | 266 159 031.73 | 273 805 573.63 |

Hon Speaker, fellow Councilors, Ladies and gentleman, the municipality is still faced with great challenges with regard to revenue collection. The municipality depend more on Grant as 60% of the municipality income comes from grants. In the process of improving the revenue collection, the municipality has finalized the cleansing of data in areas such as Elandskraal and Leeufontein to pave the way for community to pay for their services. The municipality still believe that revenue collection in the two areas will contribute towards the improve in service delivery

The following are the proposed tariff increases after taking into consideration the guidelines from National Treasury:

- **Assessment Rates:** 6%
- **Electricity:** 12.20% as determined by NERSA
- **Cleansing:** 6%
- **Other income:** 6%

Salary Bill and Council Allowances

Hon Speaker, fellow Councilors, Ladies and gentleman, the municipality has managed to keep the salary bill within the limitations of the law of not more than 35% of our total operating budget. This include the allocation of the envisage 6% salary increase for all workers. The municipality has allocated R60 672 803.66 for the total employees salary and wages related cost and R10 765 458.50 for total Councilors allowance cost during the 2015/2016 financial year which is 5% of what the municipality envisage as upper limit to be proclaimed by the Minister of Corporative Government and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) in the new financial year of 2015/2016.

Madam Speaker, as a municipality, we are proud of the fact that, a few years ago, we were able to achieve the millennium development goal on electrification as per our Electrification Program with Eskom. I simply mean that all villages under this municipality are electrified. At the same time the municipality is faced with challenges of electrifying the extension of villages. During the last financial year we committed to electrify some of the extensions in the villages.

Hon. Speaker, fellow Councillors, ladies and gentlemen and distinguished guests; the electrification program of Eskom within the Ephraim Mogale Municipality is in progress. Already electrification was finalized in Vaalbank (92) Mmotwaneng (42) Toitskraal Agricultural Holding (12), and Phetwane (31). Contractor is busy in Rathoke (86). Eskom completed designs for the following village extensions, Leeufontein Keerom, Dicheoung, Letebejane and Rakgoadi (Mohlalaotwane) and we believe that they will start with implementation during the coming financial year.

Hon. Speaker, fellow Councillors, ladies and gentlemen and distinguished guests; during our consultation with communities and stakeholders, it has becomes clear that water remain the first priority of all communities within this municipality. Meanwhile this municipality does not have water authority as it lies with Sekhukhune District Municipality, it is important that we acknowledge progress made in providing water to all communities within the municipality. We acknowledge the challenges we still face but also take note of the revamp of purification at Leeufontein which will reduce the water challenges in the area, and the expansion of the main water purification with the Flag Boshielo Dam. This process goes with challenges for communities not accessing water on daily basis, but on ad-hoc days/basis. We humbly apologies for the inconvenient this is causing to our communities, but at the same time we are aware that this will provide long-term solution on the challenges of water provision. We are recommitting to work with Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) in improving the provision of water, within the boundaries of our municipality and confront our current challenges of provision of water, and ensure that our communities have clean running water.

Hon. Speaker, fellow Councillors, ladies and gentlemen and distinguished guests, during the last financial year, we committed to continue building Community centres across the municipality. Indeed, this municipality has

finalized the construction of the two, being Mabitsi and Morarela and the construction of the hall in Moomane and Driefontein will be finalised before the end of financial year. The municipality still commit to the idea to, in the future, convert these halls into centres of artistic and cultural excellence as part of creating facilities to be utilized by the young people. This is part of our commitment to contribute towards building the nation as Dr. Nelson Mandela once said “our children are the rock of which our future will be build, our greater asset as a nation. They will be the leaders of our country, the creator of our national wealth, those who care for and protect our people”.

Hon. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, during the last financial year, we committed to improve on access roads as part of our responsibilities to provide better road network services to our communities. As the Limpopo Premier, Hon Mathabathe said “Road infrastructure is a strategic stimulant for economic growth and development. It is in this context that we are investing more resources to roads infrastructural development and maintenance”. This municipality has identified bus routes as part of our commitment to improve access roads to our communities and all roads to the Magoshi.

Hon. Speaker, the contractors are on site in developing the following bus routes and access roads, in Mmakgatle, and Mogalatsane, and at the following, Elandskraal, Puleng and Mmatilu contractors are appointed and will resume duties before the end of the financial year. The municipality has also finalized the design of Rakgoadi (Mohlalaotwane) and Dicheoueng access roads to both Kgoshi MM Matlala and Kgoshi Lehwelere Matlala respectively, which will be implemented during the coming financial year, while busy designing Phetoane and Ditholong-Letebejane and will start with construction of the road in the next financial year 2016/2017.

Hon. Speaker, fellow Councillors, ladies and gentlemen and distinguished guests; the process of implementing the High Mast Lights Project was disrupted by lack of capacity to energies them, by Eskom. The municipality has resolved to

hold on all the planned High Mast until Eskom has improved its capacity to energize them. We will finalize the energisation of those already in existence, meaning Rakgoadi (Mohlaoatwane), Dicheoueng, Morarela-Mbuzini; Mohlotsi and Tshikanoshi. As the country is faced with the challenges of load-shedding, we are calling on all the lovely citizen of our municipality to contribute in saving energy by switching off all the unused electrical appliances.

Hon. Speaker, fellow Councillors, ladies and gentlemen and distinguished guests; Extended Public Work Program (EPWP). EPWP plays an important role and contribute largely towards job creations in this municipality. As Premier Mathabathe once said “EPWP is one of government’s strategic initiatives aimed at addressing challenges of poverty, unemployment and shortage of skill”. The municipality has created 435 job opportunities through EPWP and projects during the past financial year.

Hon Speaker, the introduction of bursary scheme and the Top Learners Awards is bearing fruits within the education sector of our municipality. “Our commitments in assisting our learners, schools and circuits has created a healthy competition. Hon Speaker, this year our best performing learners emerges from Rakgwadi Circuit in the name of Makola Otto, from Mokoneamabula Senior Secondary School, who obtained a total of 79.14% and is a BSC student at Wits University. It has swing from Moutse West to Rakgwadi Circuits, while Moutse is still topping all circuits within our municipality, what a healthy competition!

This municipality has heard the words of our first democratic President Dr. Nelson Mandela when he said “Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world”. In making sure that our young people are ready to conquer the world, this municipality is busy arming them with that powerful weapon through the provision of bursaries, the municipality has assisted a total of **18 Learners** during the current financial year with a total cost to the municipality of **R770 055, 88**, which included the special awards for the best top

performing learners. We congratulate all the matric learners and wish them the best in their new endeavors. Once again, this municipality wants to thank both Mr Makofane of Classy Funeral Brokers and Focus Business Consultant for their continued commitment to community development as part of their social responsibility, “le ka moso”.

As a nation we clearly understood when former and long service President of the African National Congress, OR Tambo says “the children of any nation are its future. A country, movement and anybody who does not value its youth and children does not deserve its future. Indeed this municipality value the children and youth of this country, in particular young people from its municipal boundaries.

Hon. Speaker, while the municipality is moving slowly towards achieving and addressing the issue of equity and employment of people living with disabilities, national target 2%, with 0.95, it is my pleasure to report that the municipality has achieve over 60% of women employment at strategic or senior management level. The municipality has filled the position of Municipal Manager, CFO, and Director for Infrastructure with female officials and Director of Corporate services with a male. We have two vacancies that of Director of Community Services and Director of Planning and Economic Development which we have advertised and will be filled soon.

Hon Speaker, despite the little income envisaged for the municipality during the incoming financial year, the municipality remains committed to provide infrastructural capital project from its two main sources that is; from its Internal Revenue Source and Municipal Infrastructural Grant (MIG).

Hon Speaker, allow me to present the 2015/2016 Infrastructural Budget; funded from internal and MIG which are projects which will be implemented in different villages:

| | PROJECT NAME | SOURCE OF FUNDING | BUDGET 2015/2016 | WARD |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------|
| DEPT | | | | |
| 220 | MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT | INTERNAL | 400 000.00 | ALL |
| 220 | EXTENSION OF OFFICES | INTERNAL | 800 000.00 | ALL |
| 220 | PALISADE FENCE | INTERNAL | 500 000.00 | ALL |
| TOTAL FOR REGISTRATION AUTHORITY - COMMUNITY SERVICES | | | 1 700 000.00 | |
| 260 | MOBILE TOILETS | INTERNAL | 100 000.00 | ALL |
| 260 | DICHOEUNG HIGHMAST | INTERNAL | 250 000.00 | 14 |
| 260 | PURCHASING OF LIGHT VEHICLE | INTERNAL | 350 000.00 | ALL |
| 260 | MOHLOTSI HIGHMAST | INTERNAL | 250 000.00 | 13 |
| 260 | MOHLALAOTWANE HIGHMAST | INTERNAL | 300 000.00 | 11 |
| 260 | MBUZINI/MORARELA HIGHMAST | INTERNAL | 300 000.00 | 15 |
| 260 | TSHIKANOSHI HIGHMAST | INTERNAL | 300 000.00 | 5 |
| TOTAL FOR ELECTRICITY -INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES | | | 1 850 000.00 | |

| | | | | |
|------------|--|-----------------|---------------------|----------|
| 425 | MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT | INTERNAL | 636 339.20 | |
| 425 | LANDSCAPING& GREENING PROJECT | INTERNAL | 1 200 000.00 | 7 |
| 425 | EXTENSIONS TO CEMETERY | INTERNAL | 500 000.00 | 7 |

| | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------|---------------------|------------|
| TOTAL FOR PARKS AND CEMETERIES - COMMUNITY SERVICES | | | 2 336 339.20 | |
| 500 | INSTALLATION OF FIRE DETECTORS | INTERNAL | 407 712.00 | ALL |
| 500 | PURCHASE OF FURNITURE | INTERNAL | 700 000.00 | ALL |
| 500 | FIRE DETECTORS RECORDS & ARCH | INTERNAL | 56 162.00 | ALL |
| 500 | ARCHIVES | INTERNAL | 350 000.00 | ALL |
| TOTAL ADMINISTRATION - CORPORATE SERVICES | | | 1 513 874.00 | |

| | | | | |
|------------|--|-----------------|---------------------|------------|
| 650 | DUMPER X2 | INTERNAL | 650 000.00 | ALL |
| 650 | MOGANYAKA SOUTH INTERNAL STREET | INTERNAL | 8 500 000.00 | 9 |
| 650 | CONSTRUCTION OF N11 | INTERNAL | 5 000 000.00 | 7 |
| 650 | STORMWATER EXT 6 | INTERNAL | 7 000 000.00 | 7 |
| 650 | SAWCUTTER X2 | INTERNAL | 120 000.00 | ALL |
| 650 | BOMAG ROLLER | INTERNAL | 500 000.00 | ALL |
| 650 | MOBILE TOILETS | INTERNAL | 240 000.00 | ALL |
| 650 | ROAD & STORM WATER MASTERPLAN | INTERNAL | 1 000 000.00 | ALL |
| 650 | LETEBEJANE&DITHOLONG INT ROAD | INTERNAL | 1 500 000.00 | 7 |
| 650 | DICHOEUNG INTERNAL ROAD | INTERNAL | 7 000 000.00 | 14 |

| | | |
|---|----------------------|--|
| TOTAL FOR ROADS AND STORMWATER | 32 010 000.00 | |
| TOTAL INTERNALLY FUNDED CAPITAL PROJECTS | 39 410 213.20 | |

| DEPT | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------|
| 650 | ELANDSKRAAL INTERNAL STREETS | MIG | 14 000 000.00 | 15 |
| 650 | UPGRADING OF ROAD MATILU | MIG | 5 000 000.00 | 11 |
| 650 | UGRADING OF ROAD PULENG | MIG | 5 000 000.00 | 11 |
| 650 | MOHLALAOTWANE INTERNAL STREET | MIG | 6 805 000.00 | 11 |
| TOTAL FOR MIG FUNDED CAPITAL PROJECTS | | | 30 805 000.00 | |
| TOTAL CAPITAL BUDGET FOR EPMLM | | | 70 815 213.20 | |

In conclusion

Hon. Speaker, the challenges of services and needs of our community are more than the income this municipality have. It is so imperative that we work together to distribute and share the little budget we have and implement la mogologolo la gore” “Bana ba motho ba kgetlogana hlogo ya tsie”. Faced with the difficult task of service delivery ahead of us, the budget will never be enough. As the municipality we have committed ourselves to implement all these projects expeditiously to avoid roll-overs; except those planned for three financial years. One still believe that working together as Councilors, officials, the labour movement and all municipal stakeholders, we will achieve all our set target.

Hon. Speaker, please allow me to pass my sincere gratitude to EXCO Members, Hon. Speaker and the Chief Whip for their support during this financial year as they always do, the Portfolio Committees, the Council and administration in general.

Sincere gratitude to communities in the municipality for their patience as they eagerly await the provision of basic and other services that should result in economic development and social cohesion. We also appreciate your acknowledgement and understanding of the limitations of the municipal budget. Thank you for your support during public participation activities, IDP, Budget Consultation processes and any activity of the municipality.

Special thanks to my family for all the support given to me to perform this task of leading the municipality in a responsible manner.

Hon. Speaker, allow me to conclude with the wise words of President Zuma that “we need to continue building a caring, effective, and responsive state that will priorities the developmental need of our communities, that continue advancing and improving the lives of our communities and working together we can do more”.

It is an honor for me to table the IDP, the Budget, budget related policies and tariffs before the Honorable Council, community members and various stakeholders for consideration.

I thank you.

Kea leboga.