

**BUDGET SPEECH 2010/2011: BY THE MAYOR OF ELIAS MOTSOLEDI LOCAL  
MUNICIPALITY**

This year 50 years ago more than (8) eight African Countries gained their independence from colonial rule. They were closely following in the footsteps of Ghana which had done so only 3 years earlier. Independence from colonial subjugation meant that these countries could establish through popular will their own governments which were to work with them and for them. It was not just a prophecy that British Prime Minister Harold MacMillan had foreseen the changes during his winds of change speech. Africans fought for freedom from colonial rule to ensure self government and since politics is about resource allocation for development, they wanted political power to remediate poverty which was caused by the relocation of their resources to develop colonial capitals in Europe. Five years before these major political events in these various African countries, the people of SA gathered in Kliptown on June 26 to talk about their vision of a free South Africa. The Freedom Charter was adopted as a blue print of a new SA order.

Fierce and protracted struggles ensued between the oppressed black majority and the white minority regime of South Africa. The nature of colonisation in SA was different from that of other countries. Both the coloniser and colonised were SA citizens and that is why the situation was better defined as a “colonialism of a special type”. These struggles were heroically ended when both parties themselves discussed their own future without any foreign mediation. The Constitution of the Republic of SA, a product of previously warring patriots, was adopted as a consequence in 1996. It defined the kind of government to be established and its structure having three spheres namely national, provincial and local spheres of government.

Constitution of SA 1996 drew inspiration from Preamble of the Freedom Charter:

“SA belongs to all who live in it united in our diversity.”

“...adopt this constitution as the supreme law so as to:

Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice, and fundamental human rights;

Lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people.....”

The objects of local government are,

- (a) to provide democratic and accountable government for local communities.
- (b) to ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner.
- (c) to promote social and economic development.
- (d) to promote a safe and healthy environment.
- (e) to encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in the matters of local government.

Municipalities must strive, within their financial and administrative capacity to achieve these above objectives. It is not only the responsibility of elected public representatives to ensure involvement of communities and organs of civil society but the duty of the whole municipality to ensure compliance with Chapter 3 (19) of the Municipal Structures Act 117 of 1998.

Madam Speaker it would definitely be an act of negligence if councillors and/or managers think and behave as if the IDP review is somebody else’s responsibility and not their core business. The municipal administration led by the accounting officer/municipal manager must be part of the IDP review not as observers but rather as active participants providing technical support to elected representatives.

Despite little support from the administration, councillors were able to execute their constitutional obligations with distinction during the IDP-Budget Review public consultation process.

In all the wards except for 5, public meetings were held to discuss issues in terms of Chapter 3(19) of the Local Government Municipal Structures Act 117 of 1998.

In all these meetings, people were not hypothetical when raising issues that are problematic in the communities.

In 70% of the meetings held, water features prominently as the key priority. It is important, therefore to work with the Sekhukhune District as the water authority to strengthen plans that are geared towards sustainable water provisioning that should improve people's living conditions on a daily basis.

Madam Speaker the workmanship / quality of houses built for the poor is one problem that should not be allowed to blur our people realisation of the Freedom Charter's call that "there shall be housing, security and comfort." Developers are accused of providing poor quality housing. In Laersdrift, for example, Mrs. Sara Nduli complained about her house which leaks consistently each time it rains. There are a few more concerns that were raised about poor quality of houses. The problem is not necessarily general however and the matter has been reported to housing officials to deal with it urgently as the department.

Madam Speaker the Municipality has successfully implemented road construction projects that link up villages such as in Tafelkop, Ramogwerane, Thabakhubedu, Thabaleboto and Magukubjane. During the IDP review it was apparent that a lot still has to be done in terms of building internal streets in almost all the villages. It is important after acknowledging this that our focus going forward should be to build internal streets that will improve our road networks within villages and localities. The road to Maganetswa in Ward 24 is still a major challenge.

The challenges around electricity are mainly on extension of the service to new settlement except for Phooko which we hope Eskom will expedite and implement in this calendar year.

The public participation process was not just about communities presenting needs. In some instances the government was applauded for having done so much and further encouraged to do more. In Ward 16 for example, the community thanked Government for the MPCC built in their ward and

applauded the good work that the Police Station and the CPF are doing to rid the area of crime. They thanked the Ward committee for the role they played in ensuring that a housing developer works better with the community. There are many more examples of these efforts to work together that make people to achieve more in other wards. It therefore has proven very important for the municipality to continue to close the communication gap with its communities when it executes its functions. This will not only deepen democracy but will also make sure the 1955 pledge in Kliptown of striving together to realise the aspirations and vision of the Freedom Charter that “the people shall govern” are being realised.

Groblersdal Belastingbetalers Vereniging led by Mr Shaun Muller submitted formal inputs from ward 13 and copies are attached to our council package. In addition to acknowledging the inputs we wish to indicate that some of the issues raised should be further discussed with our finance department as they have far reaching implication going forward.

Madam Speaker all municipalities in the country were instructed by the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) to develop tailor-made Turnaround Strategies. These are plans that not only tell where you will like to go as a municipality but where are you and what your precise challenges are. On the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> March 2010 the Executive Committee of EMLM and various provincial departments, the premiers office included, convened at Loskop Valley to embark on developing the strategy. Attached is a copy of our strategy still as a draft for Council to consider.

Four problem areas were identified as issues that the Turnaround Strategy should focus on. Institutional capacity, service delivery and infrastructure planning, financial management and viability and LED and planning. The intention of the Turnaround Strategy is to ensure that out of all the challenges identified we should build strength through implementable plans to turn the situation around. The provincial sector departments together with the Sekhukhune District Municipality and ourselves should improve on our Inter Governmental Relations (IGR) to ensure improved service delivery at this Level of Government. The turnaround strategy also proposes a need to

pre-plan settlements that are formal and are provided with infrastructure well in advance. This will discourage the mushrooming of informal settlements and the demand for infrastructure as informal settlements grow. One of our portions of land in Groblersdal should be identified for this development. The private sector cannot solely lead the development of sustainable human settlements. We have to as a government lead the process because we are the ones who know what our people need and how we can better provide their needs. The private sector will partner us on our own terms. Perhaps we should look at not less than 2000 houses as part of this development. The IGR support will be necessary for their input as well.

Today on the 02<sup>nd</sup> June 2010 I have the honour of presenting to Council of Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, a budget for 2010/2011 which for all intents and purposes seeks to add value to the vision of a developmental state which besides putting people at the centre of decision making ensures that their lives improve for the better. We have done a bit last year, and working together with them we will do more.

The total budget for this is R232 m and R80m is for infrastructure development. The priorities of this budget are infrastructure development, improvement of institutional capacity to improve performance, improved IGR structure, LED and planning and financial management and viability.

**Infrastructure:** We will for this year construct tar roads in Makgopeng, Ramogwerane, Moteti, Groblersdal, Nyakelang, Zaaiplaas and other areas. We intend to establish a roads management team to gravel roads.

**Institutional capacity:** We will upgrade our IT systems to the value of R1, 4m.

**IGR:** We will close the gap between the District and the Province and Province to ensure better co-ordination of services. We have learnt to do more with less previously and we intend to do just that.

The time for endlessly consulting our people with giving back to them result of our consultation is over. Now is time for action.

## **Tariff charges**

- Tariffs on building plans will be favourably considered as per Groblersdal ratepayers' request.
- Refuse removals will increase by 15%
- Electricity will increase by 20%
- Sewer will increase by 6.5%
- Water will increase by 6%
- There will be no increase on property rates for this financial year. Tariffs will remain at 6 cents.

Our projected revenue growth is at 10%

Motetema, Groblersdal, Monsterlus and Roosenekal will be affected by these charges.

We have since the inauguration of this municipality, been able to do more with less. Our needs are historical and huge but our resources are very limited for us to create a dent on poverty. We have managed over the years to do more with less and will continue to do so with increased efficiency. When we established this council we vowed that, however hilly the road and dark the night dawn must break. The road is still hilly, the darkness of the night is competing with the break of dawn for domination, and as a result the road surface is gradually becoming visible but still difficult to travel. Armed with the mandate of our people whose quest for a life free of poverty and disease is historical but still relevant, we will see the break of dawn just as the children of Israel struggled but ultimate arrived in Canaan. Leaders are tested during tough times and their triumph over difficulty defines their quality. Like the children of Israel we will reach Canaan. However hilly the road and dark the night dawn must break.

Madam Speaker I present this MTERF 2010/2011 IDP-Budget Review and accompanied budget resolutions, Turnaround Strategy Document and the SDBIP Document to Council for approval.