

Budget Speech by the Mayor of Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, Councilor Wendy Matlakalane Matemane, at Council Chamber in Groblersdal on 28 May 2013

Mr. Speaker

Members of EXCO

MAGOSHI

Fellow Councillors

Residents of EMLM

Colleagues from the media

It has been eight months since cabinet endorsed the National Development Plan 2030 titled “Our Future – Make It Work” and five months since it was subsequently adopted by the African National Congress in its 53rd National congress at Mangaung – as a blue print of government's program to development.

This document is potentially the most important government policy directive in recent history. It comprises fifteen chapters covering a range of developmental issues broadly aimed at accelerating progress on economic emancipation, general improvement of the living conditions of our people, deepening democracy and building a more active and inclusive society.

The brief plan of this plan is to:

- Reduce the number of people who live in households with a monthly income below R419.00 from 39% to zero
- Reduce inequality as measured by the Gini Coefficient from 0.69 to 0.6

The brief plan will be achieved through the actualization of the following enabling milestones:

- Increase employment from 13 million in 2010 to 24 million in 2030
- Raise per capita income from R50 000 in 2010 to R120 000 in 2030
- Establish a competitive base of infrastructure, human resource and regulatory framework
- Ensure that skilled, technical, professional and managerial post better reflect the country's racial, gender and disability make-up
- Broaden ownership of assets to historically disadvantaged groups
- Increase the quality of education so that all children have at least two years of pre-school education and all children in grade 3 can read and write
- Provide affordable access to quality health care while promoting health and wellbeing
- Establish effective, safe and affordable public transport
- Ensure all South Africans have access to clean running water in their homes
- Broaden social cohesion and unity while addressing the inequality of the past
- Play a leading role in continental development, economic integration and human rights.

I am speaking to this document precisely because its implementation will be performed at our level, at the local sphere of government and it is important that we should all know our government's programs and be part of them.

Speaker, in response to these challenges, the agenda of this Council and Administration is to live up to our mission. I am enticed to recite the mission of our municipality, but I will not, for I believe we all know it and will never forget it even in our sleep.

Fellow Councillors, I hope you are as optimistic as I am on the audit report of our municipality for the current financial year for we can only build on what we got and can never go back.

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPERATIVES AND PROGRAM OF ACTION

Speaker, from the 02nd to the 4th May 2013, council representatives and administration management of the municipality went to a strategic session to

map a way forward on how best we can move forward, from the session we reaffirmed the vision and mission, set priorities for the municipality.

BILLING AND TARRIFS

Fellow councillors it is imperative that where things are not properly done, we should accept and put in place proper mechanisms to rectify the wrong. I'm saying this because over the entire financial year we witnessed problems with our billing, be it billing late, bills not sent to recipient and a lot more. We however promise that the matter will receive attention.

Speaker, we all know that provision of service comes at a cost. I am saying this precisely to caution residents that certain increment are unavoidable as we all are aware NERSA gave permission to Eskom to increase electricity and that increment will unfortunately be cascaded to users in communities. The increase will be done in line with NERSA guidelines.

PROVISION OF ELECTRICITY

Over the past financial year we completed the electrification of Waalkraal phase 2 and this budget should speak to how we conclude the electrification of the entire village as there is still part of the village outstanding.

I am delighted to announce that by the end of this term of Council all our residence would have access to electricity and this is said in context of existing settlements

REFUSE REMOVAL, ILLEGAL DUMPING

The most important thing for us to do is that we must strive to keep our communities clean and environmental friendly at affordable cost. I'm raising this because of submission made by SAMWU with regard to model we can utilize to perform this service.

When I began my speech on enabling milestones of National Development Plan one was that as a government we need to increase employment from 13 million in 2010 to 24 million in 2030, we therefore need to be mindful of this and other enabling milestones as we resolve on this. Speaker, we need to resolve as well on how to recuperate costs incurred as a result of illegal dumping.

POTHoles, REPAIRS AND MAINTAINANCE

Our resolve to improve our infrastructure and maintain existing ones is mainly done by our officials, but as council we must make sure that the necessary plans and budgets are there.

We have made a meaningful stride in connecting our communities to main roads with our program of tarring access roads to main roads in all wards.

Speaker, in our 2012/13 financial year we completed projects or phases of projects to that effect and are as follows:

- Ramogwerane Phase 05
- Ward 01
- Nyakelang road
- Zaaiplaas Police Station road

And apart from tarring of the mentioned roads, we did maintenance and regravelling to many others.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

In line with our LED strategy we have given support to various LED Projects within the Municipality, one of which is NALA poultry project in Thabakhubedu ward 12. This support is in line with our promise to do more to develop SMMEs as they are at the centre of community based economic emancipation to our people.

ON BUDGET

Speaker the budget we are presenting seeks to address the service delivery challenges that were raised by our communities during the IDP/Budget consultation meetings.

This budget accords as an opportunity to assess our service delivery performance and challenges, check our planning patterns for efficiency and effectiveness.

Speaker, The underlining principle of this budget will amongst others include:

- Getting value for money
In short this speaks to procurement of goods. We can never be purchasing a loaf of bread for R50 as reported in the media that certain government does.

- Ensure that there is financial accountability
- Ensure that over time we achieve financial sustainability and abolish our reliance on grants to operate.

Operational Budget

Fellow councillors, our operating budget for the financial year 2013/14 is R291 068m which is an increase of 13.75 percent totaling R38 354m compared to 2012/13 adjustment budget. It is our role to ensure that we get value for money when implementing this budget.

Capital Budget

R59 996m is the amount appropriated for our capital budget for the financial year 2013/14 as compared to the R57.412 million for 2012/13 financial year which indicates the growth of 5%. The capital Budget is summarized as follows:

10.6 million for electrical projects

1.5 million for Municipal equipments

3.99 million Highmast Lights

1.8 million for town plannings

42.106 million for infrastructure projects (which includes amongst others upgrading of roads, fencing of cemeteries and LED projects etc).

Speaker, our total budget for the 2013/14 financial year is **R351 064m**.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion speaker, let me take this moment to express a sincere gratitude to our rate payers for paying their services and wish to motivate those that are supposed to be paying but not paying to do so.

Speaker, the former president of the Republic of South Africa Dr Nelson Mandela says 'it's a long walk to freedom', and the seating President Jacob Zuma would put it better in song that the road we are travelling in is very long, indeed' **inde le ndlela e sihambayo.**

In the middle of this long road we need not despair but draw inspiration from the love we posses to work tirelessly for the emancipation and upliftment our people

and the confidence bestowed on us by our people should motivate us even further.

Thank you!