



FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Mayor`s budget statement at the presentation of the 2020/21 IDP/BUDGET, VIRTUAL SPECIAL COUNCIL, 28 MAY 2021

Madame Speaker

Chief Whip

Members of the Executive Committee

Magoshi

Chairperson of MPAC

Councillors

Municipal Manager

CFO and other Senior Managers

Officials

We are here today to present the 2021/22 IDP and Budget to the house and the communities of Fetakgomo Tubatse Municipality which is the last one in this term of Council. It also signals the end of the Five year IDP cycle that was adopted by Council in 2016 after the local government elections. It has been a journey characterised by many incidents of which many were achieved and still our road is long to satisfy all the needs of our communities.

Since presenting the 2021/22 IDP and Budget on the 29th May 2020, our Municipality has moved some steps to improve governance, financial sustainability and the general provision of services to our communities. Under the period review, we managed to appoint an Accounting Officer which brought stability to our administration. On the flip side, we lost the services of Director Infrastructure and technical services and we can report that the filling of the vacancy is at an advance stage.

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We are still busy with matter of the Director Corporate Services and in no time the issue will be finalised. It is always important for the Municipality to have a full complement of Senior Managers as this strengthen the administration and expedite service delivery.

Of great importance is that the Council has approved the purchase of the Municipal offices in Burgersfort and it is huge relief as now the building is ours permanently.

We started our 2020/21 financial year when the Country was still under hard lockdown and this has destabilised the Municipality in many ways. The Council had to approve the rebates on rates and taxes as many of our regular customers were highly affected by Covid 19. We would like to use this opportunity to call upon all of our affected residents and businesses to take advantage of the offer at hand pay for rates and taxes due to the Municipality.

We want to remind our communities that Corona virus is real and it is our collective responsibility to flatten its spread. We have seen the devastation caused by the second wave that occurred between December 2020 and February 2021 where many of our beloved brothers, sisters and parents succumbed to the disease. The country now is on the verge of third wave of infections and it is only us who can stop it happening by observing all Covid 19 health protocols at all times.

The country now is on the second phase of vaccination targeting people over 60 years and it is our responsibility as leaders to encourage our senior citizens to go and register to get the jabs. As local leaders we must show leadership by being at the forefront of the fight against Covid 19 by getting information and assisting our people to register and also know the sites where vaccination is to be done when other phases are coming in.

Our Covid 19 compliance programmes have taken us to all corners of the Municipality where visits were conducted in schools, churches and businesses. We have realised that many were complying and practising health protocols and we want you to continue doing so in a quest to flatten the spread of the virus.

The advent of the Fourth Industrial revolution has played a critical role in how the Municipality conducted its affairs as a measure to reduce the spread of the Corona virus and to save the lives of our community. We have conducted most of our engagements on virtual platforms and we are happy that most of our stakeholders have embraced that as the safest way of doing things.

During the IDP and Budget consultation phase, we have resorted to use digital platforms to source comments and inputs from our communities. We recognise the fact that our network coverage is limited to certain extent but besides that, people participated in the process by submitting their comments and inputs into the IDP

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We would like to thank all those who participated in the phone-in programmes that were conducted at Thobela, Tubatse and Sekhukhune FM's respectively to voice their concerns and robust engagements to improve the provision of basic services. Some have brought written submissions, send emails, smses and whatsapp containing constructive submissions and suggestions. All your inputs have been consolidated into the final IDP and many will be met subject to availability of resources at our disposal.

We want to thank the department of Budget and Treasury under the leadership of Cllr Mamogale MI as the political head and Mr Makgata the CFO by embarking on a drive to collect much needed revenue for the Municipality. Our revenue enhancement strategy is in full swing and it is bringing positive earnings into the coffers of the Municipality. **Cfo to add more flesh**

I would like to highlight that the Municipality is facing challenges to speed up the provision of basic services like electricity, access roads and bridges, portable water, decent housing and sanitation to the standard we want. Most of these services belong to other spheres of government and our role is to facilitate their provision. We are having sleepless nights in terms of electrification due to reasons which are beyond our control. Recently Eskom told us that they are facing capacity challenges and this make other finished projects not to be energised. We are hopeful that the issue will be resolved soon in order to stop vandalism that is taking place on our infrastructure .

Road infrastructure still remain a challenge which requires the cooperation of all stakeholders to resolve. We welcome the construction of R37 road expansion which has been in the pipeline for many years. The construction of the road will ease congestion and contribute positively into the local economy as it will make travelling easier for trucks and other commercial vehicles. We also like to thank the contribution which the Department of Public works and road infrastructure has made to prioritise strategic roads in our Municipality. Some communities have brought complains regarding unfinished routes and the department is looking into that and we are pleading for your patience in this regard .

Madame Speaker, allow me to present the 2021/22 IDP and budget for the consideration by the Council. We must mention that the budget is based on cost containment measures and the rate of collection from our communities. The Municipality is not out of the woods yet as we are still feeling the pinch of the loss of the investment made with VBS Mutual bank. Our budget is funded from Grants and own revenue sources. We are still worried by the high level of debts from our consumers and government departments hence we have approved rebates to ease the burden.

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