



STATE OF THE LOCAL MUNICIPAL ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE MAYOR CLLR RS MAMEKOA, MAELEBE PRIMARY SCHOOL, 18 JUNE 2016

Programme Director

Madame Speaker

Chief Whip

Members of the Executive Committee

Ba Swati Bengwenyama Traditional Authority

Magoshi a rena

Councillors

Municipal Manager and other Section 54 Managers

Support staff

Distinguished guests

Media

Setshaba ka moka

We are gathered here today to present the State of the Local Municipal Address and the 2016/17 IDP and Budget. This is a historic moment for us as we are the last Council to present the state of affairs of Greater Tubatse Municipality as the institution will cease to exist after the Local government elections to be held on the 03rd August 2016.

We are proud to have been given the responsibility to lead in the past Five years and have managed to change the lives of our people.

It has been the journey full of challenges, trials and tribulations and have emerged from all this with experience that has shaped all of us. We are confident that the next cadre of leadership will be able learn from our experience and take the baton forward. Local government is at the coalface of service delivery and as such we must make sure that the expectations and aspirations of the communities are taken serious and fulfilled where possible.

We would like to applaud members of this Council for the good work done during this tenure. We must acknowledge that this term was characterised by a serious wave of service delivery protests that brought much attention and focus to the Municipality. This came as a result of the impatience from our communities in terms of the pace at which government provide services and we fully understand the frustrations. As the government of the day, we shall make it our priority to accelerate the pace at which services are delivered to the people.

However we must voice our disappointment at the behaviour displayed by protesters in marches. Most of our roads are in bad state as a result of the burning of tyres and barricades that have developed into potholes. Our people have lost their lives due to those potholes that have been created by us. These are type of actions that must be condemned in strongest terms and we cannot remain silent when properties are destroyed and lives ruined. We would like to call upon our people to respect infrastructure laid by government and social partners and to show any form of dissatisfaction in a dignified and respectable manner.

BACK TO BASICS

In 2014 the then Minister of Cooperative Governance Pravin Gordhan and President Jacob Zuma launched the `Back to Basics` as an approach to improve service delivery and to work things differently. This means that government officials should not take time in repairing potholes, street lights, leaking taps and refuse removal. We have taken this into consideration to make sure that were respond timeously to what is reported to us.

In the light of the above, we have appointed a contractor to fix potholes and to maintain all our urban and rural roads. We have advertised bids to increase our yellow machinery to augment the current fleet. This will assist us grade our access roads which are in a bad state. Our Public works unit is doing a great job in responding to requests to grade roads however we are experiencing a continuous breakdown of our Machines as a result of the bad state of our roads. Acquiring the new fleet will assist the Municipality in placing one grader per cluster to expedite the maintenance of the rural roads.

ECONOMY

In his 2016 State of the Province Address Premier Chupu Mathabatha said` We have also reduced dependency index from 8 (eight) in 2006 to 6 (six) in 2014. This means that in our province, for every one person employed, there are, on average, 6 people who depend on the income of that person. Although this drop in dependency signifies progress, it is still unacceptably high and we must therefore work much harder to reduce it to at least 3 (three). This will significantly improve household income`. In case of our Municipality the dependency rate is 8 which is still very high.

The global economic meltdown and the low commodity price have affected us in a negative way. The Mining industry which is the biggest contributor to our GDP has slashed many jobs which have pushed the number of unemployed very high. We must remember that retrenchments are affecting other sectors like Retail which is forced to lay people off and to increase the prices of food.

As government we are also affected because unemployment increases the number of people who are unable to service their Municipal accounts and rely on free basic services to survive. This will need the collective effort of government, business, civil society and communities to devise means to survive the economic crisis.

We mentioned in 2015 that our Municipality together with Musina have been earmarked as Special Economic zones. We can report that Musina SEZ has been approved and the various industries are been set up.

LEDA is assisting the Municipality to finalise the plans and we are confident that before the year end we shall have been awarded the SEZ status.

This is the kind of investment needed because it will assist in growing our economy, increase the capacity of infrastructure, rail and road network and importantly create many job opportunities. This can only happen if we restore investor confidence in our region by creating an atmosphere conducive for investments. Barricading on national roads and burning of trucks will scare investors away and we must learn to sit around the table and settle matters amicably without resorting to violence.

MINING CONTRIBUTION

Our Municipality is blessed by the abundance of raw minerals which have contributed positively in changing our landscape. As indicated Mining industry have emerged as the biggest contributor in terms of employment and business opportunities to local SMME`s. Since May 2015, we have witnessed stand off between the Mines and the communities especially at the Eastern Limb around issues of employment, skill training, community development and procurement.

This has caught the attention of National government where the Minister of Minerals and Resources has taken a keen interest to see sanity prevailing. However we are not happy that the leadership of the communities are divided on the mandate of the Task team and this is affecting us badly. We are busy facilitating the dialogue between the groups and are confident that the matter will be settled to the satisfaction of everybody.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mining houses for the role played in assisting government to deliver basic services to our communities. We need partnership between government and private sector to accelerate the pace of service delivery especially in areas where the Mines are operating. The following Mines have made huge strides in our villages;

- ✓ Glencore Mines
- ✓ Two Rivers Platinum Mine
- ✓ Dwarsrivier
- ✓ Rhino Minerals
- ✓ Samancor chrome
- ✓ Modikwa Platinum Mine

- ✓ Twickenham Platinum Mine
- ✓ Marula Platinum Mine

Most of the projects implemented by Mines are on income generating and infrastructure. Due to the challenges faced by the communities especially electricity, we are in negotiations with the Mines to review the SLP's and cater for electrification of households.

YOUTH MATTERS

This year marks 40 years since the 1976 Student uprisings. As we mark this important milestone in the history of our country, we must remind our youth to define their own struggle as the class of 1976 did. The resilience of the young people then was able to change the apartheid education system into the present one which is inclusive. They paid with blood for us to be here today and enjoying many benefits from government and private sector.

We call upon young people today to define their course and confront the biggest enemy which is unemployment and abuse of drugs. The theme of this year's celebration is 'Youth taking South Africa forward' and indeed the youth must take responsibility of their own destiny. There are so many opportunities that government has exposed to young people to exploit in various sectors. It cannot be right for young people to complain that government is not doing enough to address their plight while opportunities exist.

We are fortunate as Greater Tubatse because in May we hosted LEDET roadshow where opportunities in the department were presented especially to young people and women. On the 10th June we hosted the Sekhukhune Youth expo at Thaba Moshate with a view to bring business and the young people. Our struggle today is economic emancipation and we want to see youth with innovation coming forward and playing an active role in that space.

On the 16th June 2016 we hosted a successful Provincial youth day celebrations at RibaCross where the Premier addressed young people of this Province. We would like to thank all young people who graced the occasion and the manner at which they celebrated the day. This has shown that young people have confidence in the government of the day and we hope that they will heed the call made to strive for economic freedom

We must shift from a mindset that opportunities exist in the Mining sector only. There are many opportunities in Agriculture and Tourism sector that youth can tap into. We want to take this moment and encourage you to come out of the shell and show your creativity in establishing businesses that can grow the local economy. In that way we will be creating legacy that will be celebrated in the next 40 years by the next generation.

One of the priorities of the current government is Education and we must emphasise to the youth that they must go to school and get educated in order to create a better future.

On the 06th June 2016 we hosted the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training Mr Mduzizi Manana at Ga-Motodi and Ga-Manoke where he spoke to Matriculants about careers in the Universities and TVET colleges. There are about 100 top jobs that Industries in the country are in need of and most are in the engineering sector. The objective of government now is to create Black industrialist and we are cannot achieve that if we do not have enough Artisans.

We will continue in the next financial year to award bursaries to deserving and poor learners who wish to further their studies. Up to date more than 100 learners have benefitted from our scheme and we would like to encourage especially those in Matric to apply on time to avoid disappointment. We shall engage the Mines to pull resources together to enable us to assist many deserving learners.

2015/16 PROGRESS REPORT

Programme Director, allow me to present the progress report of the projects that we promised to deliver under the period review. We must acknowledge that the Council still have a long way to go in addressing the service delivery challenges facing our communities. We would like to applaud the role played by Sector departments and social partners in assisting the Municipality to provide basic services.

We shall outline in detail the projects implemented by social partners especially the Mining Houses operating in our jurisdiction. We have indicated in the past that due to geographical terrain of our Municipality, our focus was on the construction of the access bridges to connect villages to each other.

This has made a significant improvement in the lives of our people as they are able to travel with ease to various destinations. Up to date we have managed to do the following;

- ✓ Praktiseer hawkers stall
- ✓ Burgersfort hawkers stalls
- ✓ Burgersfort flea market
- ✓ Fencing of rural cemeteries
- ✓ Mafarafara access bridge
- ✓ Leboeng access bridge
- ✓ Bothashoek access bridge
- ✓ Mabocha access bridge
- ✓ Tubatse High mast lights
- ✓ Renovation of community halls at Tjate, Moeng and Leboeng
- ✓ Ohrigstad sports complex
- ✓ Burgersfort storm water drainage

We must mention that other access bridges at Ga-Motshana, Diphale/Makhwaya and Mpuru will be completed at the end of the first quarter of the 2016/17 financial year.

OPERATION MABONE

In 2014 we announced electricity acceleration programme called Operation Mabone targeting 13 000 households without electricity in 21 villages. The main objective of the programme was to reduce the high backlog of electricity in our Municipality. Since 2015 after announcing the resuscitation of the programme, we have experienced a serious wave of protests from communities who wanted us to expedite electrification in their villages. Through our engagements with the affected communities we were able to explain the challenges faced especially in areas that are covered by the Addendum. We can report that up to date the following villages have been energised;

- ✓ Leboeng
- ✓ Mapareng
- ✓ Malaeneng
- ✓ Pidima
- ✓ Sekopung
- ✓ Makotaseng

- ✓ Matokomane
- ✓ Vodaville
- ✓ Mountain view

In addition Eskom has assisted in implementing electrification project in Mashifane Park, Legabeng and Ga-Komane.

Studies have shown that there are almost 23 000 households which are in dire need of electricity. I have indicated that our Municipality is experiencing emergence of new settlements at areas with no services and which by its nature dictate government to provide basic services like electricity. We have gone in a two way approach where we are engaging Eskom to increase the number of households in their allocation and also the Mines to review their Social and Labour Plans to accommodate electrification of households especially in villages like Ga-Kgoete, Manyaka and Ga-Masha extension 4 and 5.

CONSULTATIVE FORUMS

As indicated our purpose today is to present the plans and the programmes that the Municipality would like to implement in the 2016/17 financial year and to report on the progress made in terms of the promises made in the 2015/16 financial year. We have embarked on a process to engage our communities on the kind of services they need to be implemented in respective wards.

It was not an easy assignment to consult with our communities to solicit inputs and comments as most consultative meetings had to be rescheduled due to various reasons ranging from poor attendance to protest action. However in summary we can indicate what our communities wish to see happening in their wards;

- Quality RDP houses
- Water provision
- Fencing of cemeteries
- Poverty alleviation projects
- Paving of streets
- Community halls
- Libraries
- Bursaries

- Access roads
- Role of the Mines in the upliftment of the communities
- Grading of sports fields
- Electrification
- Learnerships and internships
- Clinics

The above are what our communities wish to see implemented in their villages and it is our responsibility to do so. However we must acknowledge that our area is experiencing an upsurge in terms of the influx of people which is having a huge bearing on the infrastructure. The backlog in basic services is higher than most Municipalities in Sekhukhune District if not the entire Limpopo Province.

As such we call upon our communities to be patient and allow us to plan properly for the new emerging settlements.

2016/17 BUDGET AND PROJECTS

Programme Director, on the 27th May 2016 the Council of Greater Tubatse Municipality approved the 2016/17 IDP and Budget which is as follows;

- Total expenditure R 578, 109, 189 Million
- Operating expenditure R 372, 685, 990 Million

The total revenue budget for 2016/17 is projected to be R483 million, with total expenditure of R578 million, resulting in a deficit of R94 million, reducing to R25 million in 2017/18 and with a projected surplus of R1.4 million in 2018/19.

The deficit of R94 million for 2016/17 is before taking into account the projected cash reserves of R146 million at the end of June 2016. The Municipality should be in a position to fund the deficit based on the cash reserves projected.

The total deficit over the MTREF period is R118 million,
The total cash reserves are estimated to be R146 million at the end of June 2016, and

The reconciliation below between the cash reserves at the end of April 2016 indicates that despite the deficit in the first two years of the MTREF the Municipality will still have R28 million.

The total expenditure for 2016/17 of R578 million is broken down as follows:

- Operating Expenditure R372 Million (64%),
- Assets from Integrated National Electrification Programme (INEP) R80 million (15%),
- Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) spending R60 Million (10%), and
- Funding of capital expenditure using own funds R65 Million (11%).

Total Revenue for 2016/17 of R483 Million is broken down as follows:

- Capital Grants and Subsidies R142 Million (29%),
- Operating Grants and Subsidies R 207 Million (43%), and
- Own revenue R134 million (28%).

This budget will go a long in addressing the needs of our communities and we must mention that due to the terrain of our Municipality, our concentration was on improving rural mobility where most investment was done on the construction of the access bridges. The following capital projects are going to be implemented;

- Tubatse High mast lights
- Bothashoek access road
- Rehabilitation of waste facilities
- Mafarafara access bridge
- Fencing of rural cemeteries
- Burgersfort Flea Market
- Mapodile sports complex
- Motodi sports complex
- Legoleng access bridge

Planning for the following projects will commence

- Praktiseer Library project
- Makua Library
- Leboeng Library
- Ga-Malwane access bridge
- Tjate access bridge
- Morokadieta access bridge
- Ga-Malwane access bridge
- Dithamaga access bridge
- Lefahla access bridge

As indicated, the project of Operation Mabone has started and up to date 9 villages have been energised. We are not happy with progress registered thus far and have agreed with the service provider to increase the pace of the project. We shall continue with the acceleration project in the following villages;

- Kutullo
- Koppie
- Buffelshoek
- Dibakoane
- Maputle
- Kampeng
- Mandela Park
- France
- Dithamaga
- Taung
- Makofane
- Mareseleng
- Praktiseer
- Barcelona

HOUSING

One of the challenges facing our Municipality is the issue of housing to the community. Every year our waiting list keeps on growing as a result of the huge demand.

At the present moment, we are assisted by the Department of Cooperative Governance, human settlements and traditional affairs in giving houses to the people. For the 2016/17 financial year, our allocation is 550 units which are divided proportionally in all the 31 wards. Additional 50 have been allocated and will be distributed to poorer families at the discretion of the Mayor.

We shall establish a team that will assess the state of affairs at the identified houses before making final determination.

In addition the department has donated portion of land around Burgersfort which will be utilised for human settlement. We are still worried about the scale of land invasions on strategic land and servitudes. This is hampering the plans of government on the usage of the affected area.

We cannot realise our vision if people continue to occupy every space without authorisation. With the promulgation of SPLUMA we are positive that our planning with the traditional authorities will be coordinated and well managed.

WATER AND SANITATION

South Africa today is experiencing drought as a result of the heatwave and the dry season. As Greater Tlhatse we are also highly affected by drought which has reduced the levels of dams and the scarcity of the ground water. In March the Minister of Water and Sanitation visited the Municipality to donate 2 x 80 000 litres mobile water tankers to bring relief to distressed area especially Ward 13 and 30. This was part of nationwide campaign for drought relief.

We would like to thank Sekhukhune District Municipality by assisting with the provision of water in our area. There is a great improvement in the provisioning of water and the turnaround time taken to address theft of pumping machines, pipes and general maintenance. The following projects are going to be implemented;

- Lebalelo central
- Ga- Maphopha reseivoir
- Praktiseer water reticulation

- Ga-Malekane and Ga-Masha upgrade and water reticulation
- Mooihoek to Burgersfort Phase 4

These schemes will assist greatly in the identified areas and with the completion of De Hoop dam, the challenge of water will be the thing of the past.

On the same breath, we applaud the District Municipality by continuing with the construction of VIP toilets. This has brought dignity to our people who can now access sanitation services with ease. This financial year 3250 households will benefit from the project.

ROADS

We have indicated that as part of Back to Basics principle declared zero tolerance to potholes on our roads. We have seen a great improvement in towns and townships where potholes are attended to as a matter of urgency. We are in the final stage of procuring additional heavy machinery that will assist in grading access roads in villages. Most of complains that come from our villages are the conditions of the roads especially during rainy season. We will strive by all means that all our roads are in good condition in partnership with the Department of Public works that is responsible for District Roads.

In the State of the Province Address Premier Chupu Mathabatha declared that the Provincial government is going to concentrate on the roads that were half done. This include

- Ga- Malekane to Tukakgomo road
- Ga-Riba road

There are many roads which still need attention and they are of strategic nature. We would like to thank our social partnership for collaborating with Road Agency Limpopo in improving the state of the following roads;

- Lavino to Longtill road by Samancor Chrome
- Hackney to R37 road by Twickenham Mine
- Makgopa to Seelane road by Twickenham Mine

We are awaiting the finalisation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the RAL and the Mines and then the construction will commence.

ENVIRONMENT& CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is already a measurable reality and is primarily as a result of rising concentration due to a human induced cumulative emissions of greenhouse emissions in the atmosphere since the industrial activities in our area is projecting further trends of marked temperature increases and rainfall variations as well as frequency of severe weather events

The municipality is engaged on a process of developing a vulnerability assessment and adaptation needs framework to support response planning and implementation.

There will be an intensive engagement with our communities on these processes in keeping our commitment to progress on contribution to district and provincial efforts to mitigate climate change

The key challenge for the municipality is to catalyse at the wide scale developing green economy in support of waste management by extending the refuse removal service to the entire communities and cleaning of our polluted streams We have also started to emphasise on the importance of recycling of waste and invest in building capacity of our recyclers in partnership with National Department of Environmental Affairs and Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism These are few of the sector mitigation plans aimed at enhancing environmental conservations, ecosystems and ecosystems services.

We have identified 62 recyclers both informal and formal within our municipalities and working jointly with Youth Jobs in Waste and EPWP Programmes in engaging unemployed youths on intensifying cleanliness of our areas. We will be engaging on Echo Schools programme with our partners and recycling Initiative campaigns' in our schools with Sekhukhune District Municipality on the importance of cleaning the environment and contributing to pollution control and management

COMMUNITY STRUCTURES

We take this opportunity to thank all our community structures for the support shown to the Municipality. Most of them are doing voluntary work but their dedication to the development of the community is much appreciated. This is the kind of partnership that will take our country forward. There is no government without people and your contribution has made this government to be effective and pro active to the concerns of the people. Let us continue supporting each other and the doors will always remain open for engagements.

MAGOSHI

We are operating the jurisdiction that is under Tribal authority and as such we need to respect that institution. Re leboga thekgo yeo re e humanang go Magoshi a rena gomme ke yona yeo e re thusang go ka tlisha ditirelo mo bathong. Go Maaparankwe ka moka re tlisa ditebogo fela gomme re re nke kgwerano ya rena e tswele pele gore ditshaba tsa rena di holege.

CONCLUSION

Programme Director let me take this opportunity to thank our Administration for making our lives easy in implementing the decisions of Council to deliver service to our people. We must mention that after a long period of instability our Municipality was able to fill all critical senior positions with personnel. Our Administration is functioning well because we have a full time Municipal Manager and other Section 54 Managers. It was difficult to operate in the past because most officials were acting and they could not discharge their responsibilities effectively.

We would like to thank CoGhsta and Sekhukhune District Municipality by deploying officials who steered the ship during difficult times. We are hopeful that our Audit outcomes will be favourable as we are having people in critical positions.

It has not been an easy road but we were able to traverse through all the challenges because of the cooperation received from our stakeholders. This is the journey that we need to travel together as we are entering the new chapter and working together we can do more.

I thank you