



**STATE OF THE LOCAL MUNICIPAL ADDRESS DELIVERED BY
THE MAYOR OF GREATER TUBATSE MUNICIPALITY,
COUNCILLOR NKOSI JOSIAS MAHLAKE, NGWAABE
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, 09 JUNE 2012.**

Programme Director
Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Cllr Mogobo Magabe
Speaker of Council
Chief Whip
Members of EXCO
Leaders of all Political Parties
Councilors
Magoshi arena
Municipal Manager: Lemon Phala
Directors, Managers and officials of Council
Distinguished guests, community leaders and business leaders
Ward committee members
Members of the Community
The Media
Comrades, friends, ladies and gentlemen:

Programme Director, It is a great honour and humbling experience to present to the community the 2012/13 Greater Tubatse Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Budget.

When commemorating 20 years of Nelson Mandela's freedom In his 2010 State of the Nation Address, President Jacob Zuma challenged the nation, to pursue the ideal for which Madiba has fought his entire life – the ideal of a democratic and free society, in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. This visionary message should serve as a source of inspiration and guidance to all of us the citizens of Greater Tubatse

Municipality to continue on a path of strong developmental local government, focussed, working harder and faster for the attainment of the goal of a society free of poverty and underdevelopment.

Programme Director, as we enter 2012/13 financial year, “the year of action”, we do so taking stock of the revolutionary gains we have made since taking office in June 2011 to date, in advancing the struggle for a better life for all. The ideals for transformed society free from poverty, corruption, discrimination, economic and social injustices characteristic of the apartheid regime remains central to our collective efforts.

The year 2012 provided us with the opportunity to commemorate the 100 years of the existence of the African National Congress. This is the organization that has liberated the oppressed black masses and as we celebrate the 18 years of democracy we must do that in memory of those who lost their lives in order to create a free society. I also want to pay my respects to our fellow fallen Councilor Magapa Martha who passed away during term of council. She was a humble servant of our communities and champion of development. We salute her for her tireless effort to create a better life for all. May her soul rest in peace

Programme Director , in 15 days to come we will be also celebrating 35 years of the June 1976 Soweto uprisings which had change the political landscape of our country. We must salute the bravery of the youth of this country who stood up against the oppressive system and as we are here today we must salute them and encourage the youth of 21st century to carry on with the struggle for educational development.

Programme Director, in April and May the Municipality embarked on the public participation programme to consult the communities on IDP/ Budget review. For the first time we visited all the 31 wards for inputs and comments on the draft 2012/12 IDP/Budget. The inputs of the community have been considered and some will find expression in the current IDP and some will be taken into consideration in the Midterm budget review. We would like to thank our Makgoshi, stakeholders and communities for taking part in the consultative forums and we are humbled by the support and confidence which you have shown in us.

This augurs well for the pursuit of the municipality vision that is “to develop Tubatse as a Platinum City for the benefit of all”.

Programme Director, as the municipality, we view the IDP and Budget as a mechanism through which development and better quality of life is progressively brought to our communities. We are also glad to report that the 2012/13 Greater Tubatse Municipality IDP is aligned to the priorities of National Government as contained within the medium strategic framework and 2009-2014 Limpopo employment, growth and development plan.

Working together we have registered major advances in service delivery. We must therefore continue to build the momentum for further advances in the future that would leave a good sustainable legacy for the future generation.

Programme Director, the delivery of basic services remains a huge challenge for the municipality despite the significant achievements in this area. Over a period the municipality has experienced township development growth of over 200% which impacted positively on our revenue base. These

investments in excess of R5 billion in our local economy have so far created more than 5000 job opportunities (both temporary & permanent) in the area since 2006 to date despite the challenges of recession that the country has experienced in recent times. Most notable investments during this period are Xstrata investment in ferrochrome smelter of approximately, the construction of 3 shopping malls in Burgersfort town, the relocation of Segorong and the erection of the Warehouse.

Programme Director we also want to acknowledge the contribution of Marula Platinum, Two Rivers, Dwars River, Mototolo, ASA Metals, Modikwa, Twickenham, Xstrata and Samancor mines to the growth and development of our local economy.

Programme Director, we must indicate that more still needs to be done by these mining companies particularly in the areas of local community empowerment in the form of local employment, ownership and access to procurement opportunities.

Furthermore, taking the rural nature of our municipality we are proud to report that more than 73% of our total households of 66 661 live in cement/brick houses at RDP standard and above, which a good indicator of social progress in the municipality.

Programme Director the rollout of basic service delivery to our communities has seen access to water reaching 72.5%; access to basic sanitation at 14.9%; access to electricity at 63%; refuse removal at 8%; and improved traffic management services.

There are some areas in the Municipality that needs further attention. Today we are proud to celebrate our achievements and to announce that we are on track in terms of accelerating service delivery.

Programme Director, the municipality ability to address the basic service backlogs is constrained by the fact that it does not have the authority to perform certain key functions such as water, electricity, fire fighting and district roads. This status, constrains the pace of property development in the area. Going forward and working together with other spheres of government we believe these challenges should be addressed as part of the municipality local turnaround strategy for accelerated development and service delivery to our communities.

Programme Director, the Greater Tubatse Municipality has experienced a population growth of 27% against the provincial growth of 4% over the past 5 years. This population is mainly propelled by in-migration due to economic activities taking place in the area. This situation has further put huge financial and non financial constraint on the ability of the municipality to keep up with these changes due to limited budgetary, bulk infrastructure and human resources constraints.

Over and above these gains that the municipality has achieved since 2006 to date, we are proud to have attracted and harnessed the following major public infrastructure development investments in the area:

- Construction of De Hoop Dam in excess of R2 billion and currently 85% completed
- Road infrastructure Upgrading of R555 & R37;
- Construction of Mankele bridge and 12km road which have been completed
- Upgrading of bulk water & sewerage infrastructure

- Upgrading of Road infrastructure in Praktiseer, Ohrigstad and Burgersfort.

Programme Director, over the past year, the municipality has been involved in the institutional re-engineering where the Council took a resolution to reduce the number of Municipal directorates from 7 to 5 and allowed the Municipal Manager to place staff according to the needs of the organisation. This has paid dividends because the Municipality was able to save costs and place staff in critical positions.

We have embarked on the Organisational design process which after completion will be able to address all the administrative challenges. We will continue to strengthen the capacity of our Oversight committees to play their roles without fear and favour. Our Municipal Public Accounts and Audit Committees are functional and we are satisfied with the work they are doing.

During our strategic planning session in January, the Municipality drafted a long term strategy called Vision 2030 which is going to drive all the developments in Tubatse. This is going to assist us to steer all the developments into the same direction to achieve our vision of “creating a Platinum City for the benefit of all”. Our major task is to lobby support from all stakeholders and our communities to contribute towards the success of the Vision 2030. The IDP and budget presented today is the first step of the journey we are taking towards 2030.

It is worth mentioning that the economic growth of our Municipality has attracted National and Provincial attention. In his State of the Nation Address on the 09th February 2012 President Jacob Zuma indicated that the National government will invest heavily on the rail, road and water

infrastructure in the Steelpoort area. This will help to ease the stress on our roads and water resources.

The Premier of Limpopo, Mr Casell Mathale reiterated what was said by the President in his State of the Province address by saying” The reality is that Burgersfort will be one of the cities to be build by our African National Congress led government. We are certain that the people of Sekhukhune and Tubatse in particular will be encouraged to rename the city that would have been constructed by the people and for the people. We cannot afford to keep a city name that bears the name of a person who perpetuated the killing and oppression of the masses of our people without any mercy.

We are pleased with the pronouncements made during the State of the Nation Address around the creation of bulk water and sanitation infrastructure in Burgersfort and Lephalale to aid in the creation of job opportunities for our people and unlocking another part of our industrialization ambitions.

This commitment is necessary to unchain water as a socio-economic driver for our economy and we are thrilled about the Olifants River Water Development Programme.

The commitment of the private sector, including the formulation of strategic partnerships is very important to support this infrastructure development in our province.

We have already signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Transnet Freight Rail to create logistics and consolidation hubs for agriculture, mining products and other commodities that must be railed from the province to other parts of the country and also for export to the international markets.

The creation of the Polokwane, Musina, Burgersfort and Lephalale logistic hubs will be a significant intervention that will reduce the number of heavy goods on the roads and most significantly, an important intervention in the creation of jobs and sustainable livelihoods”.

This is a clear indication that as Greater Tubatse Municipality we are on course to achieve our vision of being “a developed Platinum City for the benefit of all” and our communities should be ready for such kind of investments.

It is worth mentioning Programme Director that this time last year the Municipality was in a serious financial distress where we even battled to honour our financial obligations and resorted to look for support from other authorities likes the District Municipality and COGHSTA. This year we are happy to announce that our situation has improved and we are going to end the financial year with a positive balance. We must thank all our debtors including government departments who met their financial commitments hence we are in a better situation to continue with the operations of the Municipality.

Programme Director please allows me to present the summary of projects that were undertaken by this Council in 2011/12 financial year;

The following Villages were electrified and energized Maahlashi, Kgotlopong and Maepa. We even piloted the Alternative energy through Solar panels to over 1200 households in Ward 1. We will continue to provide such source to areas that will be electrified in the next 2 to 3 years. In addition contractors have been appointed to provide electrification projects at Mafarafara, Moraba, Malepe, Motshana, Mokgotho and Maretlwaneng. We will also appoint a service provider for Mankele. We would like to

remind our communities that the provision of electricity is the competency of Eskom and our wish is to see every community having electricity.

Our programme of providing rural areas with mobility is going well and in a faster pace. We have in the past experienced situation where most of our villages we cut off from each other due to heavy downpour. We are proud to announce that in the 2011/12 financial year we managed to erect access bridges at the following villages; Alverton, Dresden, Mokobola, Marapong, Molawetsi and Motlolo. We will continue in the new financial year to provide such service to areas that are still lagging behind. Most of the projects are still in a construction phase and hopefully they will be completed before the end of the financial year.

During our interaction with the communities and the complaints brought to the Municipality through walk ins we discovered most of our young people are frustrated by the lack of sporting facilities. We have taken upon ourselves to respond to the needs of the youth by embarking on project to erect sports complexes. In the current financial year we have started at Ga-Mapodile and we are to continue in Ohrigstad and Praktiseer in the following financial years.

Programme Director, in the past 2 financial years the Municipality has taken a resolution to improve the status of our urban roads to ease traffic congestion. We have completed roads projects in Burgersfort, Praktiseer and Ohrigstad not forgetting our phase 4 road project at Ngwaabe. We also embarked on a programme to fence rural cemeteries. Each ward has chosen one cemetery to be fenced and the roll out will continue in the 2012/13 financial year.

Programme Director, we are satisfied that the projects implemented will have a positive impact in our communities and leave footprints for many years to come. Our contribution towards the reduction of poverty and unemployment is bearing fruits because most projects were labour intensive following the guidelines of the Expanded public works programme.

Allow me to reflect on some of the key issues raised during the IDP/Budget consultative forums. The issues are genuine and must be taken into cognisance. They are common in nature which is an indication that they are central in the lives of our people.

- Water and sanitation services;
- Electrification and post connections;
- Access roads and maintenance ;
- Housing
- Fencing of cemeteries,
- Job creation and local economic development projects
- Health services
- Sporting facilities
- Skills Training
- High mast lights
- Agriculture
- Beneficiation in mining sector

Programme Director, let me take this opportunity to present on behalf of the Greater Tubatse Municipality the 2012/13 IDP/Budget..

In the financial year 2012/13 the municipality have planned total budget of TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTY ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTY THOUSANDS FIVE HUNDRED AND FOURTY SEVEN RANDS (R271,

140,547). This reflects 4,2.% increase from 2011/12 budget, which should be the reflection of the municipality's commitment to expansionary fiscal model. This incremental percentage will also ensure that our budget is able to absorb the inflationary effects of our economy in terms of spending patterns and nominal increase in charges for municipal services

Programme Director our budget is planned to be funded as follows in terms of the anticipated revenue.

We planning to receive amount of ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIVE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED AND NINETY EIGHT THOUSANDS AND FOUR HUNDRED RANDS (R135,498,400) from the government in form of various grant for both operational and infrastructure grants.

The budget will also be funded through own revenue to amount of EIGHTY TWO MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED AND FORTY ONE THOUSANDS SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN RANDS (R82,841,615). This will come from various revenue sources in form of property rates, waste removal, traffic management fees. We want to encourage our residents at this point to pay for their municipal consumed services to make revenue collection a reality.

We have also ensured nominal increase in our service charges and tariffs to ensure affordability for our services

Programme Director the budget expenditure is as follows:

The total planned operational expenditure is TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY FIVE THOUSANDS FIVE HUNDRED AND FOURTY SEVEN RANDS (R220,725,547). This expenditure is necessary for among others to enhance service delivery

capacity of the municipality. The following key service delivery programs are identified:

- Maintenance of Rural Roads through capacitating of Public works program
- Facilitation of post electrification connections in various identified wards
- Improvement of traffic management within our towns, especially in our busy towns of Burgersfort, Steelpoort
- Capacitating of ward management committees through training and expense allowances
- Implementation of special programs for identified groupings, among others the elderly, youth, women, children and disabled.
- Enhancing internal administrative capacity within the municipality through staff training, skills retention and recruitment to enhance service delivery
- Improvement of good governance within the municipal administration. Key to this is prioritization of Risk management, clean audit and performance management
- Prioritisation of Expanded Public Works Program to enhance government priority to create jobs
- Prioritisation of Local Economic Development in our communities
- We have factored in special effort to deal with issues of Spatial Planning in the municipality. This will include formalization of settlements and special programs to deal with invasion of government land.
- The operational budget has also considered forward planning for various municipal programs to ensure that all our projects are implemented well in time.

Key to this forward planning are the issues of PPP waste management, Operation Mabone to eradicate

electrification backlog, and medium term Infrastructure projects.

- This operational budget includes medium term planning of regional cemeteries in all the municipal clusters and we pledge for the support of our Magoshis on this endeavour to preserve the heritage of our dead.

We believe this operational budget will go a long way in ensuring proper planning to facilitate our service delivery mandate.

Programme Director we have planned total of FIFTY MILLION FIVE HUNDRED AND FOURTY THOUSANDS RANDS (R50,540,000) for capital budget and will focus on the following key Infrastructure programs:

- Upgrading of roads from gravel to tar in various wards
- Construction of access bridges in our rural areas
- Electrification of villages
- Fencing of rural cemeteries
- Development of sports facilities
- Development of Hawkers stalls

There is cosseted effort to improve infrastructure in our townships to effort them their deserving status. This included upgrading of roads and construction of high must lighting in both Praktiseer and Mapodile townships. we believe this will be encouragement enough for our communities in the township to reciprocate by paying for their municipal services.

The program of high must lighting is planned for all other areas in the medium term planning. We believe night lighting is key to ensuring safer communities and fighting crime.

Programme Director this budget has taken into account other infrastructure projects to be implemented by our sister municipality the Sekkhukhune District Municipality. We are banking on the district for the implementation of water and sanitation projects in our water shortage areas.

Programme Director, I would like to put on record to say that this Council is celebrating 1 year since inaugurated in June 2011. I must mention that when we assumed office there were lot of skeptics who predicted that we would not last and here we are today delivering services that our communities desire. All this was made possible by the good reception that we received from the Administration and the community at large. We are humbled by the confidence and trust shown in us and this is making us to work harder to speed up the provision of services.

We also take pride in the fact that we have successfully established ward committees which are assisting our Councillors to execute their daily responsibilities. We are one of the few Municipalities who are paying stipends on monthly basis to our ward committee members. We acknowledge that in some wards we do receive reports of misunderstanding but there is still a room for improvement. We also have other committees who are assisting the Municipality in the areas of HIV/AIDS, Sports, arts & culture, disability, moral regeneration and gender. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their volunteerism and we are glad your involvement has let us to participate in many events.

Programme Director, the youth are future of this country and we must make sure that their aspirations are taken into consideration. In May 2012 the Council adopted a policy containing guidelines on the formation and the operations of the Youth Council. We have visited all wards in the past

month to establish the ward based youth forum. In this Youth Month we are going to convene a conference which will culminate in the launching of the Municipal Youth forum. This will be vehicle that young people will utilize to communicate their ideas to the Municipality.

Programme Director, allow me to seize this moment to appreciate the role by all Councillors, our traditional leaders, the administration and all our stakeholders for making Greater Tubatse Municipality work effectively. I would like to reiterate that the support which we got when we assumed office has been tremendous and has energized us to deliver on the mandate given by the electorates. Going forward we are assured of your continuous support.

Our appreciation goes to the administration under the leadership of Mr. Phala Lemon who assumed the role of being the Municipal Manager during this term. It has been a smooth transition and as the Political wing we rely on your support and visionary leadership to assist to achieve our mandate of providing basic services to our people. We convey our gratitude to your team of Directors, Managers and all staff members that they must continue with the good work. At the end of the day we will all be proud with the fruits of our labour on our journey to create a developed Platinum city for the benefit of all.

Ke a leboga