



# 2012/2013 MAYORAL BUDGET SPEECH



Madam Speaker  
Members of the Mayoral Committee  
Chairperson of MPAC  
Council Whip  
Fellow Mayors & Executive Mayors  
Speakers

Municipal Manager & his Team  
District Director Cogta  
Officials from Sister Departments

Baruti ba hlomphehang  
School Principals and Learners

Veterans and Leaders of our Movement

Community Based organizations and  
Business Fraternity

Dumelang Bohle, le hlomphehile;

## **Centenary, Unity, Freedom and Nation Building**

Madam Speaker let me thank you for the opportunity given, and hasten to declare that it is not an opportunity that one gets used to, it is always psychologically draining to try to say what all people would want to hear, even if you don't know what, they would want to hear.

Compatriots, as a municipality we have traversed through the highs and lows of our existence without abandoning the responsibility given to us by the electorate, which is why we are still here today, and being fortunate to be part of momentous celebrations of our time, the centennial celebrations of the oldest Liberation Movement in the continent, the African National Congress.

My deepest and humble gratitude goes to all heroes and heroines of the world who made this giant movement what it is today. The contribution of many of our local unsung heroes like; Ntate Bennett Mokhosi, Rev Mokhitli Dijalo, Wilson Majola, Eric & Yvonne Tsiu, Lucy Lebenya, Raymond Mabuya, Lucy Mosia, Thomas Hatla and Thabo Mofutsanyana in making the African National Congress a glue that binds the oppressed masses together can never be under-mentioned.

Today amongst us we have relatives and close families of these stalwarts as well as few of them who are still being blessed to see the centenary celebrations and also be with us at this glorious moment – Mohapi Hatla, Busisiwe Dlamini and Violet Nhlapo, of whom I would like to SALUTE!

Unity has been and remains to be a key factor in the life of this glorious movement, hence we, the current generation will forever be indebted to founding fathers of this movement such as Dr Pixley ka Isaka Seme who once said in 1912;

*"it is conclusively urgent that this Congress should meet this year, because a matter which is so vitally important to our progress and welfare should not be unnecessarily postponed by reason of personal differences and selfishness of our leaders. The demon of racialism, the aberrations of the Xhosa-Fingo feud, the animosity that exists between the Zulus and the Tongaas, between the Basutos and every other Native must be buried and forgotten; it has shed among us sufficient blood! We are one people. These divisions, these jealousies, are the cause of all our woes and of all our backwardness and ignorance today"*

United and prosperous society has been the ultimate destiny envisaged by this revolutionary movement and its great leaders which therefore make Unity and discipline a sacrosanct character which defines us as a country.

Madam Speaker in pursuance of the centenary celebrations, we earlier in this current financial term resolved as council to also celebrate within the context of local contribution made towards attainment of freedom and democracy. To this end, we have committed this municipality to the process of naming and renaming our streets, public buildings and other sites of historical importance to honour and celebrate the role played by our heroes in the course of building a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society, championed by African National Congress.

This process of standardization of names should serve as a tool and platform to build a united society defined by a common dream and bridge the racial divide which existed for so many years. Names that we are going to give to our streets, public buildings and other sites of importance should reflect our common objective as a society to build a nation and enhance social cohesion.

Working together with provincial committee on geographical names and Prof Andre Keet from the University of Free State, my office is going to host a social cohesion lekgotla in July 2012, where strategies and programmes to advance social cohesion will be developed and also devise methods to speed-up the process of naming and renaming, tapping from the work done such as the **LOVE ROSENDAL FESTIVAL** which was held in Mautse from 10 -12 February 2012 where residents and compatriots, both black and white relegated their racial divide and enjoyed together as South Africans. It is against this background that we also appreciate the speedy and amicable resolution of tension caused by the distasteful, disrespectful and undesirable portrait of the President at the Goodman Gallery. We also thank the parties involved for focusing on what makes us tick as South Africans.

Fellow Councillors during the Month of March, April and May we have seen and felt honoured by attention and interest shown on us by both national and provincial leadership of our country, which saw us hosting many high profile events and our municipality becoming further known to many people.

Whilst I am still on the same joyous matter, let me thank the Honourable Premier Ace Magashule and his Executive Committee for choosing us as a place of their choice and hope, and further thank the Municipal Manager and the team which organised all these events for the work well done. We add our voice to the commitment made that the challenges rose then needs to be addressed urgently.

On the 25 May, the continent celebrated the Africa Day, as we celebrated this important historic day, many of us kept thinking of the challenges we are facing as a country at local level where there is tension between our local residents and the foreign nationals who are living with us. Recently our municipality saw painful incidents of attacks on foreign nationals and their business sites, the big question which remains to be answered is whether these attacks were informed by xenophobia or by frustrations emanating from our national challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality?

As we celebrate 100 years of struggle for unity, democracy and prosperity for all and also celebrate the revolutionary gains of the past 18 years, we need to deeply reflect on the role played by anti-apartheid activists and countries, and also resolve on how can we lend a helping and caring hand to assist those in need of the support we received when we needed it, without compromising on our commitment towards citizens of our country.

Let Africa be a Home to all Africans!!!

Madam speaker, as part of our commitment towards stability and continuity, we have recently retained the services of the Municipal Manager and Directors and also appointed people who were once part of this establishment. Social, political and administrative stability provides an environment conducive for economic development d growth and enhanced service delivery as well as institutional memory. To this end I want to repeat what I said during my inaugural speech in May 2011 that in Mr Tsoaeli , Dihlabeng has the best Municipal Manager ever. Credit must also go to all our Directors and Managers for their cooperation, commitment and support to the Municipal Manager and the Institution.

We also appreciate those employees who go out of their way to contribute to the productivity and outstanding performance of the Municipality and also hope that all other employees will shape up and contribute to the common good. To this end let me single out the road marking team for their unwavering commitment and excellence in the execution of their work. We hope they will be exemplary to all our work force.

### **Institutional arrangements and Alignment**

Madam speaker let me prelude my input on Institutional arrangements and alignment by borrowing a quote from one of the best philosophers I have ever known; Karl Marx,

*“Everything which exist, exist of necessity. But equally everything which exists is doomed to perish, to be transformed into something else, thus what is “necessary” in one time or place becomes “unnecessary” in another”*

Transformation of state machinery and creation of developmental state is a programme which is on-going, and this municipality is also part of it. This is why every year when we review our developmental plans and budget we also re-look at our strategic direction and necessity for our existence.

What was necessary last year when we approved our IDP and Budget may or may not be necessary today, hence it is important to look at our capacity as an institution annually in order to be sure of our readiness to proceed ahead and evaluate level of our competence for smart implementation of the electoral mandate.

Setjhaba se hlomphehang re lokela ho bopa sehlopha se nang le boiphihlelo le tsebo ho phethisa thomo ya lona lele setjhaba le ho fihlella ditabatabelo tsa lona.

Mme ka hoo re motlotlo haholo ka qeto ya rona ya ho kena selekaneng le University of Free State ho matlafatsa bokgoni le boiphihlelo la balekgotla le basebeletsi ba masepala.

Memorandum of understanding concluded between municipality on the one hand, University of Free State, Four Paws, Free State Stars Football Club, Frontier Inn Casino and other stakeholders on the other will go a long way in enhancing the capacity of our municipality and improving levels of competency of our staff component in order to speed up service delivery in an effective and efficient manner, and also creating awareness to animals and promotion of tourism.

I am proud to announce that currently there are skills development programmes and courses that are being rolled out by the university for both councillors and officials and more are still to come.

Organizational structure of our municipality is currently being reviewed to fit the strategic direction we envisage to undertake in the new financial year. We are going to need willing and committed workforce and leadership if we are to religiously implement the IDP that we are going to approve today. Discipline, dedication, sacrifice and accountability should be values that we are all going to live by, if we are to perform to the best of our ability and to the satisfaction of all the people we lead.

We are going to improve on our performance and monitoring capacity, because of the establishment of the municipal public accounts committee, which is going to strengthen the capacity of council to play its oversight role and ensure accountability.

We also need to strengthen the role played by the ward committees and community in general with regard to performance management and monitoring. Madam speaker, I am very humbled to announce that, from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July we are going to provide adequate resources and stipends to our ward committees. This will help them to perform their legislative functions without any hindrances.

To add more on our commitment to listen to our constituency and residents, we are going to establish a fully operational customer care help desk in the office of the municipal manager and petitions and grievance committee, so that every query, complaint, suggestion and complements are acknowledged and attended to, and feedback is also communicated.

In strengthening our capacity as councillors to lead and champion service delivery, as well as improving coordination and effectiveness, we are going to introduce clustering of departments and portfolios wherein a cluster approach will be introduced when implementing some of the projects and programmes.

Working together with all parties represented in council we are going to strengthen the role played by section 80 committees and their relationship with the Mayoral committee. Mayoral committee as a principal committee in support of the Executive Mayor needs to be hands on providing leadership to all departments and the municipality as a whole, which means necessary measures needs to be taken to strengthen and support it. Municipal system of delegation will also be finalized for implementation in July 2012 to assist in fast tracking decision making and service delivery.

Office of the Executive Mayor is also going to establish Economic Development and Investment Promotions Committee to advocate for sustainable local economic development and advise the Executive Mayor and the department of LED on matters of economic development.

Also we are going to establish Community Support Task Team, which will assist the municipality to handle and deal with social challenges facing our communities, such as domestic violence, family feud, abuse of women , children and disabled and many others.

Madam speaker for us to work smarter and faster, we need to be smart and have a sense of urgency. Patience of our people has been stretched to the limit, as demonstrated, by the service delivery protests, though some are orchestrated, there is a need for us to change the manner we have been doing things.

In all our endeavours to transform this institution, we will continuously engage with all stakeholders, draw from their wisdom but remain responsible and accountable to the mandate given to us by the electorate.

ANC 2011 Local Government Manifesto;

*“To make local government work better for our communities requires effective cooperation and strong support by both national and provincial governments. Without eroding the powers of local government, and seeking to strengthen municipalities, National and provincial government will be far more active in supporting local government. The ANC government, working together with the people – communities, business and workers – has been hard at work implementing the priorities of its mandate and addressing people’s concerns”*

### **Integrated Development Plan**

Dihlabeng Integrated Development Plan (IDP) is a super plan for the municipality, which gives an overall framework for development. It aims to co-ordinate the work of local and other spheres of government in a coherent plan to improve the quality of life for all the people living in the municipality. It takes into account the existing conditions and problems and resources available for development. It is a plan that looks at economic and social development for the municipality as a whole and sets a framework for how land should be used, what infrastructure and services are needed and how the environment should be protected.

In pursuance of the mandate given to us by the majority of voters, today we are going to approve a new path for the next five years.

This new path will be guided by the following vision to be adopted here today;

***“To be a people-driven, people-centred and self-sufficient municipality committed to provision of effective and quality services to its community”***

Madam Speaker it is through our sacrifice, dedication as well as our commitment in implementation of our mission that we will be able to realize this vision.

We embarked on intensive public participation programme to get inputs and solicit a buy in from the community and various stakeholders, in line with chapter 4 and 5 of the Municipal Systems Act, so this IDP Madam Speaker and colleagues is a collection of inputs, programmes and projects forwarded by the community and processed thoroughly by the steering committee. To this end I want to thank MMC Lemako and IDP Manager Justice Potsane and his team for their undying commitment during the public participation processes.



## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Working together with community based organizations and private sector, the municipality is going to roll out programmes and projects that are aimed at promoting better life for all.

We have joined hands with partners such as University of Free State, Four Paws, Afripalm Resources, Peermont, Bhm Bricks, Investec and Tintswalo , developers of Dihlabeng Mall as well as Kgalapa Training Centre to bring closer services, resources and implement programmes to the benefit of the people, especially women, children, youth and people with disabilities.

Madam Speaker, It is with pleasure to announce that we have since appointed the Youth Development Officer who is managing a fully resourced Youth Advisory Centre .We hope our youth will take advantage and make good use of that facility for youth development.

We are also proud to mention that during the current financial year we have allocated and already honoured payments in respect of 211 bursaries to deserving students of our municipality across all units to the tune of R2, 1 million. These students are pursuing studies at various Universities, Universities of Technologies and Colleges for studies in Management Sciences, Sciences, Agriculture, Law, IT, Education, Engineering, Media Studies, Accounting and Medicine.

The council approved this year intake of 41 unemployed graduates under the Graduate Development Programme, 28 of which are already in the system. These graduates will shall have gained the necessary experience upon completion of their 12 months internship programme and prepared them for employment opportunities that may be available for them anywhere including here at the municipality.

This year we will be opening a state of the art sporting facility in Mashaeng as well as a Community Hall in Bohlokong which is equipped with a multi-purpose court

I wish to thank the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture by intervening in a long standing outcry of a Public Library in Kgubetswana in that during this coming financial year construction will resume.

We are also looking forward to a completion of Operation Hlasela projects in Fateng tse Ntsho. We also thank the district council for the construction of a paved road in Mautse which was handed over to our municipality on 11 April 2012.

We also acknowledge the role played by the Dihlabeng Frontier Inn Community Development Trust. This trust has contributed meaningfully to various community based organisations, schools and individuals. Phedisang Bana School for the Disabled, Maluti Hooglandskool, Charlie Theron Orphanage, SAPS, Ratanang Old Age Home and individual bursary holders are some of the beneficiaries of this trust.

We also acknowledge the role played by MOT Consultants in purchasing school uniforms for 211 destitute farm and local school children.

The following social programmes will be implemented in order to develop our communities and fight the triple challenges facing our communities;

- Extension of Mayoral Bursary Scheme to cater for more deserving and well performing students.
- Extension of Graduates development programme for applicants to gain experiential training.
- Maths Buddy programme to encourage more learners to study Maths and science;  
**Madam Speaker whilst I'm still on this issue of Maths and science, let me take this moment to congratulate the President and the country for being awarded an opportunity to construct a Square Kilometre Array Radio Telescope. This is an indication that, our country has a place at the international arena.**
- Contribution to churches in pursuance of the course of moral regeneration
- Community support programmes to fight poverty, abuse, domestic violence, orphans and needy children as well as communicable diseases.
- Fight against drug abuse and making people understand their human rights
- Learning how to learn programme.
- Lower primary schools renovation project in partnership with Bhm Bricks and Kgalapa Training Institute.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Compatriots, tourism and agriculture remain the key drivers of our economy and more efforts will be invested to stimulate them, and together with both private and public partners, we will embark on programmes and projects such as township tourism, sports tourism and agro-processing and farming to ensure that they grow further. With the assistance and support of the Free State Department of Agriculture a new extrusion facility will be established in Bethlehem to the tune of R16 million with an estimated job creation of 44 permanent staff.

Dihlabeng is located strategically to tap from the economic activities taking place in the province and the country. A much talked about development corridor presents opportunities for us in this area, so it is important to task with immediate effect the department of LED and to be established advisory committee to make an in-depth study and strategy to channel these opportunities for development of our economy.

Our Industrial area will be made available to manufacturing factories, packaging, and assembling and agro-processing initiatives as part of our industrial development strategy.

Attraction of more investments to add into current developments such as Dihlabeng shopping Mall, extension of Hoogland Medi-clinic and Vogelfontein Township development will also be on top of our agenda in the New Financial Year.

Hosting of events such as Hot-air Balloon Show, Air Show, Vintage Car Show, Power-Boat, Tour de Free State and Tourism Expo will also serve to promote tourism, develop local economy and empower local businesses.

Lastly in our emphasis towards economic development, a specific grant will be established in the department of LED to assist in facilitating investments and forging partnerships for economic development.

## **SPORTS**

Our municipality proudly hosted the Slalom Canoeing African Olympics Qualifiers at Ash Riverl in Clarens wherein our local canoeists participated and one, namely Master Cele qualified for the Olympics. Building on the achievement of producing one Canoeing Olympian for 2012 London Olympics, we need to work harder to host more activities and make the Slalom Canoeing project a success. We also take this opportunity to wish our local canoeist well in the upcoming Olympics.

We also congratulate Free State Stars on the sterling performance during this past season which saw them finishing in the top eight and reaching the semi-finals of Nedbank Cup at the expense of big name in local football , namely Orlando Pirates and Kaizer Chiefs. We hope they will work harder next season and bring a silver medal home. We commit ourselves to continue supporting the club and also ensuring that we bring Gobble Park up to standard in line with the PSL requirements. We also congratulate coach Steve Khompela for the job well done and his appointment to the Senior National Team as assistant coach. Our hats go off to the Club Chairman, Mr Mike Mokoena and the management of club for sober and visionary guidance and leadership.

The appointment of Manager Sports will assist the municipality to focus on supporting other sporting codes e.g. cycling, swimming, soft ball, cricket , chess , rugby , indigenous games and many more.

## **SAVING TOMORROW TODAY**

Madam speaker, we will also be strengthening our efforts to lend a helping hand in the global course of reducing the carbon emission, to preserve our environment for posterity.

2012/2013 will see Dihlabeng implementing green energy projects by converting our street lights into solar energy lights, installation of solar heating geysers and converting our traffic light to use a source of energy which is environmentally friendly.

One of our major green energy projects to be implemented in the new financial year, that we are very much proud of is, Turning Waste to Electricity Project which will be located in Bethlehem.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**

Madam speaker directed by 2011 local government elections manifesto of the ruling party, which said;

*“The ANC government, together with the people, will speed up the provision of municipal access roads, water infrastructure, sanitation and electricity, especially in the rural areas, expand provision of free Basic Services - presently covering water and electricity - to include refuse removal to all poor households and invest in maintenance and refurbishment of municipal infrastructure - bulk water and electricity distribution, waste-management and roads”*

Our municipality will work hard to realize this mandate.



Our capital programme is meant to address the challenge of poor roads infrastructure, due to aging and unintended consequences of development, backlog of sanitation and provision of water to all our people including people living in rural areas and farms.

Comrades and colleagues I feel humbled and excited to stand before you today to announce that, our municipality is equal to the challenge, thanks to the partnership and support from Development Bank of Southern Africa, which made available a facility for us to access funding to the tune of **R67 ,200,000.00** for the following infrastructure projects;

- Installation of waterborne and sanitation system in Fateng & Paul Roux
- Upgrading of water supply network in Fateng and Paul Roux
- Upgrading of water treatment works in Clarens
- Construction of roads and storm-water channels in Bohlokong, Rosendal and Mashaeng

This is over and above projects to be implemented from our internal capital allocation and projects that are still under way such as the **R 80,6 million** water related projects between Bethlehem, Paul Roux and Rosendal, implemented in partnership with the Department of Water Affairs over the next three financial years.

We have also set as our priority, the achievement of Green and Blue drop status with regard to water treatment.

Our Expanded Public Works Programme initiatives will see us extending the number of 210 job opportunities currently created to at least 800 in 2012/2013 and 1000 in 2013/2014.

All infrastructure projects taking place in the municipality and projects implemented by private sector in our municipality will be linked to our EPWP initiative.

Working together with private stakeholders we will also upgrade our parks, nature reserves, resorts and sport and recreation facilities as part of our commitment towards provision of quality infrastructure for healthy and active community.

We also need to partner with the community and ward committees, as well as environmental groups to deal with the scourge of illegal dumping and untidy open spaces and cemeteries which poses health and safety hazard to residents.

A by-law will also be finalized and implemented to assist in dealing with this problem. In this regard we will work closely with the law enforcement agencies and justice department to enforce this by-law.

**Hlokomela molao ona o se qale ka wena moahi, kahoo hare sebetseng mmoho ho tlisa bohleweki metseng ya rona.**

We have also procured new trucks for management of solid waste, especially refuse removal. These trucks will be made available for use as from the 01<sup>st</sup> June 2012 and it is expected of their driver and users to take good care of them, and we also call upon the public to be our eyes and ears to curb any misuse of these vehicles.

Ntlafatso ya metse ya rona ke boikarabelo ba rona bohle, mme kahoo masepala o tla thakgola lenane la ho ntlafatsa makeishene a rona. Mmuso o bohareng o nehelane ka diranta di le dikete tse makgolo a mahlano ho ntsafatsa metse ya rona.

The neighbourhood development grant of R500 000 that we have received from national government will be used to improve the face of our townships, entrances to our townships will be upgraded to reflect our character as a municipality.

Madam speaker I am confident that the team we have in our institution under the leadership of the Municipal Manager , Mr Thabiso Tsoaeli, is ready, willing and able to take forward this plan, of course with necessary tools, resources and support they will receive from all of us as councillors and the public in general.

This plan needs all of us to put our shoulder to the wheel, for it to succeed and benefit all our people, from a child to young person, from a boy to a girl and from man to woman.

*Let everyone, every household and every entity be a testimonial of our excellent service*

## **2012/2013 ANNUAL BUDGET**

This budget reflects our commitment towards change and development for betterment of lives of all the people we lead. It also reflects continuity and conscience intention of our municipality to take head-on the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality in respect and realization of the vision conceived by our fore-fathers in 1912 in Bloemfontein, and later reduced into a charter of our freedoms in 1955 at Kliptown.

Beneficial implementation of this budget should be seen through empowerment of local business which will lead to development and growth of local economy, creation of decent jobs, eradication of poverty and better livelihood.

Through structures such as MPAC, Audit committee and the mayoral committee, a closer monitoring of implementation of good and accountable financial management will be achieved, which will enable us to improve from a qualified audit opinion we received in the previous financial to an unqualified audit opinion, long before the target date of 2014.

The budget that we are going to approve today is accompanied by budget related policies, which will be made known to all residents of this municipality as per request and also made clearly understood to officials and councillors to ensure their unwavering implementation. The budgetary consultative process has not been a smooth sailing with attempted incidences of disruption, but we managed to consult broadly and got valuable inputs. To this end I want to thank MMC Job Tshabalala, CFO Raymond Provis and Manager Budgets Pule Khiba and their team for the job well done.

Madam speaker our annual budget for 2012/2013 is R 512 million increasing from R 462 million in the 2011/2012 financial year and estimated to increase to R 561 million for the 2013/2014 financial year and further increase to R 616 million for 2014/2015 financial year.

Through the consultation process, there was an outcry for the tariffs of the municipality to only increase in accordance with treasury guidelines. The first draft budget depicted a 9% increase in services, but through fiscal discipline we were able to reduce the tariff increase to an acceptable level. An increase of 6% has been applied to the sewerage, water, refuse and assessment rates, whilst the national electricity regulator of South Africa's guideline of 11, 03% was applied to the electricity tariffs. Sundry tariffs were increased by 10%.

2012/2013 total income is estimated to be R 512 million with the estimated total expenditure of R 512 million.

We have managed to reduce our salary budget from 30% in the adjustment budget for the 2011/13 financial year to 29% in the 2012/13 budget. This type of discipline is necessary to ensure the financial stability of the municipality going forward.

We have also managed to increase the repairs and maintenance budget by 20% from R 24 million in the 2011/12 budget to R 28, 5 million in the 2012/13 budget.

We have also managed to increase the contribution by 17% from R 62 million in the 2011/12 budget to R 72 million in the 2012/13 budget year. This contributes towards the budget becoming more funded and cash backed.

Total capital budget for 2012/2013 is R 84 million of which R14, 5 million will be funded internally and included in the total expenditure of R512 million.

The sources of funding for the R 84 million capital budgets are as follows:

Internal contributions	= R 15 million
MIG	= R 45 million
Neighbourhood project	= R 0, 5 million
Department of water affairs	= R 22, 5 million
EPWP	= R 1 million

The capital budget for the next two financial years will be as follows:

2013/14	2014/15
R 96 million	R 109 million

The budget per strategic object is as follows:

Strategic Objective	Capital 2012/13	Capital 2013/14	Capital 2014/15
Roads	R 12 million	R 7 million	R 31 million
Sports	R 10 million	R 6 million	R 6 million
Electricity	R 4,5 million	-	R 4,1 million
Water	R 22,5 million	R 38 million	R 43 Million
Sewerage	R 25 million	R 38 million	R 13 Million
Township establishment	R 6 million	-	-
Other	R 4 million	R 8 million	R 11 million

Our MIG allocation for 2012/2013 is R52 Million, 2013/2014 is R55 Million and for 2014/2015 is R58 Million.

MIG projects to be implemented per town are as follows:

Area	2012/13	2013/14	2014/5
Farm dwellings electrification	R 0,4 million	-	-
Bethlehem / Bohlokong	R 18 million	R 13 million	R 17 million
Clarens / Kgubetswana	R 17 million	R 16 million	R 13 million
Fouriesburg / Mashaeng	R 1 million	R 10 million	R 13 million
Paul Roux / Fateng	R 20 million	R 8 million	R 9 million
Rosendal / Mautse	R 0,8 million	R 14 million	R 9 million

Our EPWP grant for 2012/2013 is R1 Million which can be increased in the next financial year depending on the number of job opportunities created.

In the 2011/12 financial year the municipality adopted a local economic development strategy to plot the way forward with regards to our municipality's economic development. A budget of R 7 million has been set aside for the local economic development projects in an attempt to kick start the implementation of the strategy.

A total of R 2, 1 million was spent on Local Economic development projects in the 2011/12 financial year. The following companies benefited from this initiative:

<b>SMME's Projects</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Ratanang Creations	R 14 000
Lujanda Distribution	R 18 000
Ucedisano Cc	R 20 000
Muhlabathini Building & Welding	R 4 000
Chilla Nathi	R 85 000
Poultry Projects ( Feeds)	R 47 000
Poultry Projects (Chicks)	R 23 000
Broiler Production	R 130 000
Hopolang ke Nako	R 45 000
Tractor	R 13 000
Pheellang Broiler and Veg	R 9 000
Upgrade of Existing Structures	R 1 216 000
Ucedisano Cc	R 8 000
Zim for Arts and Craft	R 20 000
Ankies Metal and Steel	R 50 000
Kwavulamehlo arts and idies	R 164 000
Sekgutlong Trust	R 50 000
Vulamehlo Food Garden	R 47 000
Vulamehlo Food Garden	R 5 000
Re Tentsha Bana	R 30 000
Mathousands	R 128 000

R 800,000 has been set aside for the development of our women, youth and the disabled.

The Councillors remuneration of R 11 million will be subsidised through the equitable share allocation. An amount of R 4, 8 million has been included for the special support for Councillors remuneration and ward committees.

Madam speaker it is required by legislation that, our budget should be funded primarily by our own revenue generated from collection of rates and taxes as well as tariff levied for services rendered by the municipality. Currently grants only account for 28% of the municipal revenue.

So it is important that as a municipality, we intensify our strategy to collect what is owed to us without fear or favour. We must be bold enough to lead this campaign as councillors and be pro-active and exemplary in our endeavours to encourage the culture of payment of services.

We need to work with various stakeholders and the community to increase the rate at which we are collecting what is owed to the municipality, such that we can be able to expedite service delivery.

We also call upon all indigent households to register, and those who have registered to come forward to update their status in our register in order for them to qualify from the municipal indigent subsidy scheme. Registration of indigent household also helps the municipality to know exactly how many households are able to pay for services and how many cannot afford to pay for services due to their economic status.



## CONCLUSION

Madam speaker in conclusion, I would like to say, we are inspired by our fore-fathers who in the face of repression and oppression, recognised the need for unity of all the people of South Africa and creation better living conditions for all.

We are committed as ever to ensuring that mechanisms are put in place to implement and continuously evaluate our work. We have a clear roadmap for delivery - both in the immediate, short term, as well as the long term.

Excellence remains an inimical and irreplaceable characteristic defining feature of our overall approach to our mandate as bestowed upon us by our residents. In terms of what it means to strive for excellence as we rightly proclaim ourselves to be, this is what Aristotle, the eminent ancient Greek philosopher and encyclopaedic, had to say:

“Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those [virtue and excellence] because we acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.”

This is of cardinal importance and perhaps we should borrow and paraphrase the words of another towering intellectual of his time, the German philosopher, Karl Marx, when he said:

“There is no royal road to excellence and it is only those who do not dread the fatiguing climbs of its steep paths that stand a chance to reach its luminous summits!”

We aim to make service excellence an enduring habit of our approach to service delivery that should be stubbornly and single-mindedly pursued. This and only this attitude will help ossify the foundational pillars of our endeavours to cultivate fine traditions of quality, superiority and distinction in our commitments to our people.

Whether or not we succeed in our pursuit of excellence will be attested to by the history of the term unfolding before our own eyes. As for those of us in the crucible of the service machinery striving for this goal, we remain resolute in our commitment to imbibe and internalise the values and ethos of excellence.

We remain acutely aware that the road ahead will be long, hard and full of potholes and therefore harbour no unjustifiable illusions about the impending difficulties to be traversed.

We are also clear that our role is merely that of enabling, facilitating and coordinating; for the success of our vision, the bulk of the responsibility resides with the residents. They hold the key to surmount an incredibly diverse set of challenges and obstacles on our road to get there.

I want to thank my office staff for their loyalty and support, Members of the Mayoral Committee for their advice and commitment, the Speaker and all fellow councillors, officials, members of the Community for their support and constructive criticism , all our strategic partners and stakeholders , We also appreciate the role played by our religious community, The Bethlehem Ministers Fraternal, Tyrannus Apostolic Church and many other religious congregations and the ANC on whose mandate I serve.

Khotso, Pula, Nala