



2013/2014 MAYORAL BUDGET SPEECH



Honourable Speaker
Chairperson of MPAC
Council Whip
Mayoral Committee Members
Distinguished Councillors

Fellow Colleagues for other Municipal Councils

Municipal Manager together with Staff of Dihlabeng
Officials from Sister Departments

Baruti ba hlomphehang and Leadership of the ANC

Community Based Organizations and Business Fraternity

Dumelang Bohle, le hlomphehile;

Revolutionary History, Unity, Africa's Development, Freedom and Democracy

Hon Speaker thank you, time has come again when every resident and non-residents have come to listen and witness with huge expectation and hope the approval of both the IDP and Budget, which in my view represents continuity and steadfast commitment of our municipality towards radical change for socio-economic transformation in this second phase of transition.

Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate my comrade and leader, Premier Ace Magashule and the entire ANC PEC on their recent re-election. Their election demonstrates clearly that leadership and popularity in ANC are earned and not decided outside its internal democratic processes. We wish them all of the best and success in the term.

As a servant of the good people on whose behalf I speak here today, as I have been privileged to do so in previous years, I feel it befitting that I share with you teachings from one of the profound leaders of our revolution, Chairman Mao when he spoke about serving the people, that I find very appropriate to today's occasion;—

“Our duty is hold ourselves responsible to the people, every word – every act and every policy must conform to the people's interests and if mistakes occur they must be corrected – that is what being responsible to the people means”

Mr Speaker this event takes place when the world of revolutionaries' remembers the 28th May 1976, when the South African Student Movement held a conference in Roodepoort where Aubrey Mokoena delivered a speech about Black Consciousness, in which he raised the issue of Afrikaans as a point concern. During this conference student delegates passed a resolution, proposed by V. Ngema and seconded by T. Motapanyane, against the use of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction and expressed support for students boycotting classes as a sign of rejection.

Moments like this one reminds us of the role played by young people during the struggle against hideous regime of anti-democracy and illegitimate minority rule which will be

commemorated few days from now when the country will be entering a month of the young lions. As a municipality we need to play our part in honouring bravery of many young leaders and martyrs; such Tsietsi Mashinini, Steve Biko, Aubrey Mokoena, Murphy Morobi, Rapu Molekane, Solomon Mahlangu, Benny Molokoane, Tshediso Keele, Joseph Mbhele, Fedile Moloi, Mamoya Moloi, MP Mohono, TP Mosia & S Moeleso.

In honour of these martyrs, office of the Executive Mayor working together with private sector partners and young people in the municipality, will be embarking on service delivery projects such as building of paved road, side-walks and development of a Park in the name of youth development and empowerment.

We also want to call upon young people – The Born Frees – stand up and emulate leaders of the progressive youth formations like Nelson Mandela, O R Tambo, Walter Sisulu, Anton Lembede and many others by defending hard earned democracy & Freedom through their vote and energies.

Like I said last year when I was in front of this August house, Mr Speaker; Unity is and has always been a key factor in the life of our movement, and the only weapon at our disposal for creation of a prosperous South Africa. So we make a clarion call to all stakeholders, role-players and those who have been standing on the side-lines to transcend our racial, cultural and linguistic stereotypes and build a United South Africa defined by a common dream – a dream of a Completely Free Society – Free from Poverty – Free from Joblessness and Free from Inequality.

As we head towards 20 years of Freedom and Democracy, we must act as one; we must mobilize all sectors of our society for consolidation of our Democracy and Freedom. 2014 General elections are around the corner and many of us will be wearing our political party regalia calling for the people to vote us, but let me hasten to say to all; let's go out and campaign responsibly, let us not seek to win elections at the expense of the hard work of the past 19 years and our growing democracy. Solidified - deepened democracy and visible – holistic freedom one of the most precious inheritance we can leave or give to future generations.

Hon Speaker and fellow councillors in consolidating our democracy and freedom, we must as a municipality, work harder to roll out the much awaited programme of social cohesion and standardization of names and as well as naming and renaming of our streets, public buildings and other sites of historical importance, and high on our list must be De Villiers street, Reinecke street, Muller Street, naming of the Town Hall and the very hall we are in at this very moment as well as commemoration of the centenary of the land Act 1913 by unashamedly and boldly making available land to the previously disadvantaged individuals and cooperatives to better their lives.

On Saturday the 25th May, the entire continent celebrated 50 year Anniversary of the OAU which today is known as AU. The leadership of the country, continent and the ANC reaffirmed its commitment towards building of a peaceful and better Africa free from civil wars, lack of democracy and under-development. The celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the OAU/ AU called on us as a municipality to undertake a process of educating fellow South Africans about the journey travelled by the continent over the last fifty years, mainly focusing on the liberation of every piece of the African soil from colonisation and racial domination. Guided by “Ready to Govern: ANC policy Guidelines for a Democratic South Africa” the ANC led government shall remain committed to Pan African solidarity. Whist I am on still on the African agenda, Mr Speaker let take this opportune moment, and send our heartfelt and deepest condolences to the families of the 14 members of SANDF who fought bravely in CAR in pursuit of the mandate of our

country, “May Their Souls Rest in Perfect Peace” – and again wish to send our words of honour to all Members of our Army who were in CAR, including those who were coming from our own Bethlehem 2 Field Regiment.

Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika

Mr Speaker and fellow Councillors, our 2013/2014 IDP and annual Budget seeks to take forward the achievements of the democratic government since the dawn of freedom in 1994 as correctly outlined in the 2011 census report and also enhance our capacity to speed up delivery of quality service to meet the remaining challenges as stated in the same census report and well as in the National Development Plan 2030.

The NDP 2030 and the draft Free State Growth and Development Strategy provides a clear direction to all of us – for radical reversal of the impact of high levels Unemployment, Inequality and Poverty. The Municipality of Dihlabeng under the leadership of African National Congress will mobilize all stakeholders and resources for realization of its objectives as well as those of the NDP 2030.

Forward with the National Development Plan 2030 Forward!!!

Building Capacity of the Municipality

Mr Speaker let me hasten to take this moment to congratulate the entire team of Dihlabeng local Municipality and residents who love progress and embrace achievements, for the award bestowed to them by Europe Business Assembly for being the best municipality in the world. No amount of misinformation and distortion will demobilize us to celebrate this achievement, and for that I want to thank all who have played part in making us turn the corner. The only price we have paid for getting this honour and award is our commitment and hard work – we will not disappoint the public of Dihlabeng and the majority party leading this municipality but we will continue working hard and live up the honour.

Mr Speaker and residents; this is not the only accolade we have received with regard to our outstanding and excellent performance, we have received resounding applause from all members of the National Council of Provinces who visited our province, across political lines all members declared Dihlabeng Municipality as Best Municipality in the Province, so this International praise and award is not the only one we have received.

Compatriots, this reminds me of the words of wisdom from the Holy Bible;

From the Book of Proverbs Chap 27:1-2

“1. Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.”

“2. Let someone else praise you, and not your own mouth; an outsider, and not your own lips.”

Mr Speaker heading the counsel of the word of God, even though evidence of accomplishment and the human instinct demand otherwise, I will not gloat. I am nonetheless pleased to say that we have indeed done much to implement the commitments we made to the people in 2012 – however, and not unexpectedly, it is obvious that we shall have outstanding work further to do in this regard.

What we have been doing and decisions that we have taken have always being guided by our responsibility towards the people we are here to serve, and where we have faltered we have to pause, honestly reflect and find solutions to correct as guided by teachings of Chairman Mao.

Last year I stood in front of you and pledged to work tirelessly to realign and strengthen our internal systems and structures of which we some we have realized and some we are still pursuing with earnest, we remain steadfast in our commitment to transformation of state machinery and creation of developmental local government as an on-going programme.

In line with objects of the National Development Plan 2030, capacity building of both our political and administrative structures and strengthening of our internal systems shall continue to form part of our agenda in the next financial year. The revised organizational structure shall be aligned to our strategic objectives and the programme to populate the structure shall firmly be in line with Local Government Municipal Systems Amendment Act regulations.

The municipality must seriously look into endeavours necessary to beneficiate all MOU's available at its disposal for enhancement of its capacity to render services in an effective, sufficient, economical and sustainable manner. All these MOU's will be revisited and office of the municipal manager shall advice the Mayoral committee accordingly during the first quarter of the new financial year.

We are envisaging filling all critical vacant positions by end of June 2013 and some by latest July 2013, so that we commence the new financial year on much more stable condition, I once again gratified to declare that there are skills development programmes for both Councillors and officials as well as training programmes for senior officials in line with National Treasury Minimum Competency Requirements, we have extended the contracts of all our Graduates after realizing an immense contribution they are making at our various departments and we intend expanding this programme so that we cater for all our municipal units.

Youth Development remains our main priority as a ruling party and the municipality hence we have implemented learnership programmes for skills development and preparation of young people for both labour and entrepreneurship market.

In pursuance of this strategic objective of building a core of future leaders of our country in all aspects of our human life, we restructured the manner we have been approaching and conducting Matric Winter Enrichment Programme after realizing that the expected impact on outcome was could not 100% realized, - the 2012 matric results specifically on Maths, science and accounting did not show a significant improvement, which led to a drop from position 1 spot. As a result two locally based centres were established, namely; Tiisetsang High School in Bohlokong which has 720 leaners and Ipokelleng senior Secondary School in Mashaeng with 82 leaners. This year's programme is more intensive because the duration has been increased from the previous year 5 day sessions to 28 days long sessions to ensure high impact and intensive learning in preparation for final examinations.

In the new financial year we are going to intensify also, our tools of implementation and monitoring of IDP and budget, to improve our pace in providing services to the people. The IDP and budget we are going to approve today will go a long way in enhancing our capacity as a municipality – members of Mayoral Committee shall be the champions of their departmental projects and programmes and play hands on oversight and monitoring on implementation of these projects.

The Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plans for each department and offices with budget allocations, shall be finalised 7 days after the approval of both IDP and Budget, and this shall be led by political heads of each department, 15 days after the approval of both IDP and Budget the Municipal Manager shall submit the draft SDBIP to the Executive Mayor and Mayco shall convene to approve the SDBIP which will be made public before commencement of the new financial year.

The SDBIP from each service delivery departments shall have specific targets on youth empowerment and economic transformation as part of dealing with the triple challenges facing our society – Poverty – Unemployment and Inequality.

We have strengthened the capacity and structure of our section 80 committees and further intend capacitating them through councillor development programmes so that they are able to play their role of setting service delivery agenda and oversight.

The municipality has established the Municipal Public Accounts Committee which will strengthen adherence to internal controls and accountability of both political and administrative arms of the municipality, towards attainment of a clean Audit.

I wish to congratulate the municipality, especially the Accounting officer and his team and the members of the finance committee for an achievement of getting an Unqualified Audit report for the year 2011/2012 financial year. This is a milestone and giant step towards realization of the National Operation Clean Audit 2014.

Our commitment of establishing the Mayoral Economic Development and Investment Promotions Advisory Committee to advocate for sustainable local economic development and advise the Executive Mayor and the department of LED on matters of economic development is still on-going.

We will expand more when we talk to Local economic development for radical economic transformation and advancement of the objectives of the second phase of our transition.

Integrated Development Plan

Dihlabeng Integrated Development Plan (IDP) underwent an extensive internal and external consultation, wherein households were visited to capture their socio-economic status and identify their service delivery needs. We also embarked on a program led by Executive Mayor to directly meet and engage stakeholders such as youth, business community, and community based structures, farming communities and sector departments, to solicit their inputs and support.

In pursuance of the mandate given to us by the majority of voters, the ANC led municipality today will be approving its IDP and budget for the next twelve months of accelerated service delivery.

Building on the foundations we have laid down, we must, once more set ourselves the necessary realistic tasks for the year. Mr Speaker this 2013/2014 budget is inspired by our vision and mission as well as our strategic objectives.

The municipality, in its endeavour to improvement in service delivery is guided by the following strategic objectives:

- Provide democratic and accountable government for local communities
- Be responsive to the needs of the local municipality

- Ensure the provision of services to the communities in a sustainable manner
- Promote social and economic development
- Promote a safe and healthy environment
- Encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in the matters of local government
- Facilitate the culture of public service and accountability amongst staff, and
- Assign clear responsibilities for the management and co-ordination of administrative units and mechanisms

Implementation of our IDP and Budget by all our workforce and councillors propelled by a war call – “Everyone – Every Household – Every Entity – A Testimonial of our Excellent service!!!

Honourable Councillors, this IDP represent continuity from 2012/2013 IDP and budget and seeks expand our revolutionary gains leading to 20 years of democracy and freedom.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mr Speaker, it is once more with great pleasure to announce that we will be working with business community in and outside of our boundaries to roll out community development programmes, with a sole aim of improving their livelihood and pushing back the frontiers of poverty.

On the 24th of May 2013 – last week Friday – the municipality together with Nestlife, B3 Funeral Services and KR Communications hosted an event for distribution of Wheelchairs, blankets and life covers for the children living with disabilities from Phedisang Bana centre for the disabled. This event culminates from the Annual Mayoral fundraising golf tournament which is organised in partnership with KR Communications.

Tintswalo properties and Investec who are developers of recently opened Dihlabeng Mall donated 500 My Maths Buddy – Mathematics dictionaries which will be distributed by office of Executive Mayor to various schools that participated in a Maths workshop held earlier this year. This partnership will also roll out programmes on Drug Abuse and youth development – learning how to learn and communication skills as part of corporate social responsibility.

217 deserving students were awarded bursaries funded from Mayoral bursary fund and the total budget allocation was R1.5 Million - in addition, 3 students as continuation from last year’s allocation plus 4 additional students for 2013 to the tune of R962 000 and R538 000 was also allocated for corporate social investment initiatives through Frontier Inn Dihlabeng Community Trust which the municipality is a trustee. For the new financial year another R1.5 million is allocated for Bursaries.

We further distributed blankets to luncheon clubs in Bohlokong – R67 000 was also donated to Bohlokong Luncheon Club for their transport to Cape Town. In our new financial year office of Executive Mayor will continue providing support to other community based organizations after assessment of received requests with the set municipal criteria.

Our municipality was struck by tornado which cause severe damage to properties and fatal injuries to some of our residents, in response to this unforeseen misfortune, we have provide all affected families with welfare support and also provided them with building material for restoration of damaged houses.

Honourable Speaker, before commencement of the new financial year, we shall review our policy on pauper burials, to reflect our sensitivity towards the plight of the poor. Our policy shall address our intention and new approach towards the so called pauper's funerals, with an intention of restoring the dignity of the poor and those families who cannot afford a respectable funeral.

Lastly on this matter, today as part of second session of our day long programme, we are going to host the community awards, with which we will be honouring various people who have worked tirelessly and selflessly to shape better livelihood and conditions within the community. These awards are going to be an annual event and its logistics and will be reviewed and rearranged to extensively touch all aspects of our daily life. In advance I want to congratulate all the recipients of these awards.

This is because we are a municipality led by an organization that cares!!!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Fellow councillors, the second phase of our transition is characterised by bold and interventionist approach premised on people-centred and people-driven change, and sustained development based on high growth rates, restructuring of the economy and socio-economic inclusion as its main strategic orientation.

Our economic vision rests on the Freedom Charter's call that the people shall share in South Africa's wealth. Through economic transformation we intend to build an equitable society in which there is decent work and prosperity for all.

Therefore as an integral part of the second phase of our transition from apartheid to a national democratic society, we need to accelerate growth and intensify our programme of economic transformation through decisive and bold allocation towards local economic development initiatives.

On the 28 March 2013 we officially opened the Dihlabeng Mall with significant decent job opportunities created, working together with Investec and Bethlehem Taxi Association we facilitated establishment of a mini taxi rank at the centre for easy access and transport. I wish to take this moment to thank the developers – Mr. Keith Batchelor, Oom Ernest and Evert du Plessis for their support and confidence they shown on our municipality and its investment capacity.

Mr Speaker in the current year we have embarked on various economic development initiatives and programmes to promote and boost our local economy, some of these projects includes;

Nkoko Project : A broiler production starter packs that comes complete with chickens, feeds and a poultry structure and 22 households across various wards in Dihlabeng

University of the Free State Entrepreneurship Development Programme

The Municipality in partnership with the University of the Free State capacitate local businesses through training on entrepreneurial skills - wherein 22 local SMME's were taken through basic accredited business training.

International Slalom Championship

The Municipality hosted the South African Open Championships whereby six international athletes participated (five from central Europe and 1 from France) who brought along 30 family members and that boosted the local tourism and created possible investment attractions into Dihlabeng. Two of the Dihlabeng residents that participated took second and third positions.

Swiss Tourism Awards

The municipality won a Swiss Tourism Awards (Tourism Destination to be discovered) in the city of Lugano, Switzerland.

We also hosted a successful Clarens Centenary Celebrations wherein the Mayor of Montreux Switzerland graced the occasion and a memorandum of understanding was concluded between the two municipalities.

Remmoho Sewing Project (Rosendal)

The municipality assisted this women owned initiative by purchasing machinery and material

Ratanang Sewing Project (Bethlehem)

Purchase of Machinery and material

Shows and Exhibitions

The municipality yearly sends SMME's to different shows and exhibitions in order for them to better market their products, increase their visibility and allow them to view new technology.

- Eskom SMME expo (Johannesburg)
- Cherry Festival (Ficksburg)
- Nampo Show
- African Farmers Expo
- And other district shows and exhibitions

Dikgeleke Cultural Event

The municipality sponsored the yearly event in Mashaeng with the aim of promoting tourism in the town as well as promoting culture in the greater Dihlabeng area and part of Lesotho. The show has been a success and is growing annually.

Kgwebong Centre

Dihlabeng Local Municipality in partnership with the Office of the Premier, SEDA and Service Seta will be opening a business support Centre which will serve as one stop information and advisory centre for emerging businesses and SMME's. The centre will also host various funding and development institutions to support and provide financial assistance to emerging business and SMME's.

In pursuance to our commitment to radical and bold intervention towards economic development and transformation, the LED department together with Mayoral Economic Development and Investment Promotions Advisory Committee shall embark of the following projects and programme in line with the reviewed LED strategy of an amount of R7 Million was set aside;

- Industrial Development projects for Manufacturing
- Township Tourism and Marketing
- Expansion of conference and Hospitality capacity

- Agriculture – Agro processing and land use
- Annual Tourism Event: Hot Air Balloon Show, Air Show – Tourism Expo
- Trade & Investment promotion and Business development : Revival of CBD's
- SMME Development

SPORTS, ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION

Mr Speaker and honourable councillors, the municipality has completed building two community stadiums in Fateng and Mashaeng, started with construction of over R10 Million Kgubetswana Sports ground, We hosted the annual Nkosana Maseko Easter Tournaments, and we further saw the launch of Dihlabeng Mayoral league in partnership with Local Football Association which is an affiliate of SAFA, we have made available an amount of R118 000 as our commitment to this initiative.

An amount of R1.6 Million was used to refurbish and upgrade Bethlehem Swimming pool, which will be used in partnership with schools and swimming SA for life skills programme and promotion swimming as a growing sport.

Free Stars FC remains our strategic partner in promotion of professional sports and sport tourism, on the same breath I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Team, its Management and the supporters for finishing within the Top 8 level of the PSL, we will jointly with the team continue to solicit funding for upgrading Goble Park stadium and Bohlokong stadium to accommodate the official games of PSL.

With regard to promotion of Arts and Culture we organized a workshop for artists in partnership with renowned national music Production Company, and also organised a successful gospel festival in partnership with Teboho and friends for promotion of local talent.

In the new financial year the municipality will also be embarking on a programme of building parks and upgrading of entrances as part of its neighbourhood development programme.

A total of R1.578 Million is allocated for sports, arts, culture and recreation for 2013/2014 financial year.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Mr Speaker this municipality has undertaken major projects during the 2012/2013 fiscal year, hence we are proud to have completed and started the following projects;

Water and Sanitation

- Construction of 2ML Reservoir Pressure Break Tank and Pump Station to the tune of R10 million and the construction is 95% complete
- Construction of Bulk Pipeline from Bethlehem to Paul Roux to the tune of R40 million and construction is 95% complete
- Repairs and Re-alignment of outfall sewer Line in Kgubetswana-Clarens to the tune of R3,5 million – To commence in June
- Supply delivery and installation of pumps and motors for Saulspoort Water Treatment Works to the tune of R1,3 million. 100% complete
- Refurbishment of Bethlehem Wastewater Treatment Works to the tune of R2,4 million and project is 100% complete
- Installation of sewer Network in Fateng Tse Ntshu to the tune of R16 million and the project has already begun and is 40% complete

- Construction of Paul Roux Wastewater Treatment 45% Complete
- Connection of water and sewer reticulation pipes for 204 stands at Old Bohlokong hostel : R6 Million : 90% complete

Roads and Storm-Water

- Construction of new 1.4 km Bohlokong Paved Roads(Reinecke Street) to the tune of R8,2 million.100% complete
- Upgrading of gravel roads and construction of a storm water channel in Mashaeng to the tune of R8,3 million.100% complete
- Bohlokong construction of new 1,5 km paved roads(Bibi , Tumane,Taung,Selepe and Kheuene Streets) to the tune of R9,5 million : 75% Complete
- Kgubetswane construction of new paved roads to the tune of R8, 2 million. 90% complete

Vehicles, Plant and Equipment

Mr Speaker in partnership with the office of the Premier and the government garage we have procured vehicles, plant and equipment for acceleration of service delivery. The following service vehicles and trucks were acquired;

- 6 refuse compactor trucks and 4 LR 16 trucks for transfer stations all this to the tune of R29,0 million
- 1 Sedan and 4 LDV's, a fire water tanker, 1 LDV for disaster management to the tune of R5, 5 million.
- For the provision of proper traffic law enforcement services we have acquired a fleet of 7 sedans and 1 LDV to the tune of R4,3 million

For 2013/2014 financial year we are going to continue with the same vigour and commitment to expedite provision of quality services to our people through the support of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant, Water Services Operating Subsidy Grant, Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant and EPWP Grant as well as our internal capital contribution;

- Municipal Infrastructure Grant	: R49.0 Million
- Water Services Operating Subsidy Grant	: R 2.5 Million
- Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant	: R 20.0 Million
- EPWP Grant	: R 1.0 Million
- Internal Capital Contribution	: R18.0 Million

Total Capital Expenditure for 2013/2014 : **R 91 Million**

Continuing from our previous capital programme 2013/2014 capital expenditure shall focus on addressing basic service requirements raised by our communities during our door to door and other public engagements such as; poor roads and storm water infrastructure in our townships and areas such as Bergsig in Bethlehem, phase 7 sports and recreation facility and many others.

Sena ke karolo eo lekgotla lamotse le tlang ho e bapala ho fihlella tse ding tsa ditsetlebo tsa baahi – haholo mabapi le ditshenyehelo tsa bona ka lebaka la metsi a kenang ka matlung.

Expanded Public Works Programme initiatives will see us extending the number of 210 job opportunities currently created to at least 500 in 2013/2014; this is against the backdrop of national fiscal challenges due to contraction of the economy. Placement

and deployment of EPWP workforce will be reviewed and be aligned to critical areas of focus for service delivery.

We have increased our general maintenance budget to cater for increased asset base due to completed infrastructure projects and degradation of our aging infrastructure.

Mr Speaker I am once more 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 commitment of bettering the lives of our people, and we will also monitor closely the implementation of capital infrastructure programme to contribute to local economic development and as a result our Supply chain Management policy must assist the municipality to empower local and emerging businesses.

2013/2014 ANNUAL BUDGET

The 2013/2014 Budget takes in to account that spending plans must continue to support government's commitment to broadening service delivery and expanding investment in infrastructure, while taking into cognisance the constrained fiscal environment.

Fellow Councillors are reminded that the economic outlook is, however constrained by a difficult global environment and domestic restructuring. Due to lower-than-projected economic growth and revenue underperformance, the municipality has adjusted its spending plans as presented in the 2013/2014 annual budget.

In line with National Treasury advice the accountability cycle of local government, municipalities are urged to carefully consider the objectives of the NDP and National Growth Path. As a sphere of government, municipalities are required to incorporate the objectives of these initiatives after consideration of the Spatial Development Frameworks (SDF) into their Integrated Development Plan (IDP) which should directly inform prioritised budget allocations within the medium-term revenue and expenditure framework (MTREF) of each municipality.

A notice must be taken that in future the local government equitable share formula shall be revised in line with the report of a working group comprising representatives of the National Treasury, the Department of Cooperative Governance and the South African Local Government Association, in partnership with the Financial and Fiscal Commission and Statistics South Africa as part of Local government review process, hence a need to intensify and strengthen our own internal capacity to generate and collect revenue.

This budget reflects our unwavering commitment towards change and development for the betterment of the lives of all the people within our community. It also reflects our quest to completely eradicate the challenges of poverty, unemployment and legacy of inequality.

The 2013/2014 annual budget revenue is estimated at R 555 million, which is an increase of 8.41% from the previous year's budget of R 512 million, and the estimated total expenditure is also estimated at R 555 million, which is an increase of 8.41% from the previous year's budget.

Throughout the consultation process, there was an outcry for the tariffs of the municipality to increase only in accordance with Treasury Guidelines. The first Draft Budget depicted a 9% increase in accordance in services, but through fiscal discipline we were able to reduce the tariff increase to an acceptable level as per the overwhelming requests from the community.

As a result the 2013/2014 proposed tariff increases are as follows;

Water, electricity, refuse, sewerage and assessment rate for both residential and business properties is 7%. The sundry tariffs proposed increase is 10%.

The municipality will employ resources internally and other legal mechanisms to collect and reduce our debtors. Another strategic decision that the Council is taking, is to abolish the practice of allowing property owners to open tenant accounts and thereby placing the burden on the municipality to collect their tenants' consumer accounts on their behalf. By taking this decision we will reduce the accounts on our system from approximately fifty to thirty thousand. This will free up our officials to focus more on collection from the remaining thirty thousand debtors.

Updating and cleansing our indigent registers shall be an on-going programme which will go parallel with consumer education on responsible use of water, especially the indigent customers.

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 households also helps the municipality to get the true picture of how many households are able to pay for services and how many cannot afford to pay for services due to their economic status.

Baahi bohle ba kopuwa ho itlaleha dikantorong tsa lekgotla la motse bakeng sa boingodiso ba dithuso mabapi le ditefello tsa ditshebeletso.

Re ya tshepa hore moralo ona wa ditjhelete o tla re thusa ho ntshetsa pele di tabatabelo tsa setjhaba le ho kgutlisa tshepo ya sona ho mmuso wa bona. Re tla sebetsa ka thata ho matlafatsa taolo ya tshebediso ya ditjhelete tsa setjhaba le honka boikarabelo taolong ya disebediswa kapa thepa ya ntshetsopele ya ditshebeletso.

Stringent internal controls shall be implemented to improve our financial and non-financial performance for attainment of a complete clean Audit.

CONCLUSION

Mr Speaker in conclusion, I would like to remind this august house of the huge expectation placed on us by the electorate and the parties we represent, as we are about to complete the second decade of democracy and freedom.

We also need not end this centenary year of the land Act of 1913 without having made recognizable strides in restoring the dignity of our poor masses through redistribution of land for their socio-economic enhancement, this historical injustice must be addressed in order to complete our freedom.

In the words of former ANC President Dr AB Xuma, when he outlined the importance of land in his December 1941 Presidential address; he said;

"The fundamental basis of all wealth and power is the ownership and acquisition of freehold title to land. From land, we derive our existence. We derive our wealth in minerals, food, and other essentials. On land we build our homes. Without land we cannot exist. To all men of whatever race or colour, land, therefore, is essential for their wealth, prosperity and health. Without land rights any race will be doomed to poverty, destitution, ill-health and lack of all life's essentials".

In line with national government strategy and targets for land redistribution, the municipality will politically take bold decisions to sell, alienate and make available land for development in a well-co-ordinated and well informed manner. No piece of land will be sold or given out, for any development without proper strategy and political vision.

As part of knee-jerking our endeavours for radical economic transformation, we urge all communities to unite behind the National Development Plan, to drive its implementation and to work with our government to eradicate poverty, reduce unemployment and eliminate inequality.

We shall never be demoralized by any sort of negative criticism which seeks to defocus and make us doubt our potential and achievements, instead we will soldier on hopeful and optimistic that we have in us the capacity to live up to the expectations of the electorate and general public.

Mr Speaker lot of people find it easy to be pessimistic and think of the negatives that can arise out of a situation.

Learning from the father of our freedom and democracy Dr. Nelson Mandela that; thinking positive is the only way to go, the more positive you think, the more positive the outcome will probably be, and I quote him when he said;

"I am fundamentally an optimist. Whether that comes from nature or nurture, I cannot say. Part of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward. There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair. That way lays defeat and death"

Allow me to send my gratitude to the entire team of finance and IDP lead by the Municipal Manager and tireless commitment of MMC Job Tshabalala for holding my hand during the entire processes of both IDP and Budget preparation and consultation, you have immensely contributed to the success of this municipality when many thought that we can never make it to this end. Ke ya leboha ho menahane.

Ho boetapele ba mokgatlo wa ANC kere tshepo ya lona ho bohle ba ikemiseditseng ho ntshetsa maano a mokgatlo pele e tla dula ele naledi e re eteleletseng pele ka nako tsohle.

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 inputs, my family and relatives for unwavering support – Ke re ha seabi sa mahlohonolo – tlatlambatjholo – mmupi wa mahodimo le lefatshe a mpolokele lona ho ka ho sayeng kae.

I therefore present 2013/2014 IDP and Budget as well all related policies and the proposed tariffs for approval by council.

Khotso, Pula, Nala

I thank you