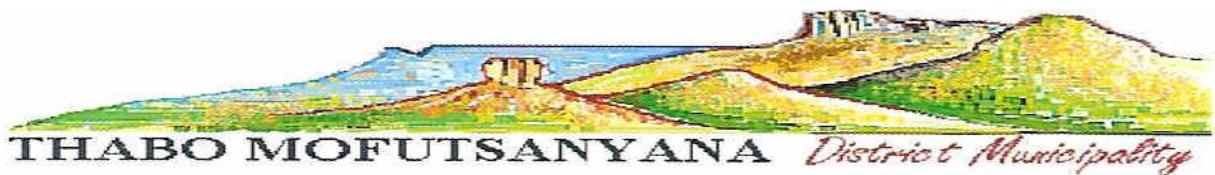


**BUDGET SPEECH 2015/2016**

**EXECUTIVE MAYOR MALEFU VILAKAZI**



**29 MAY 2015**



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND OPENING REMARKS**

Let me first of all thank you Honourable Speaker, Councillor Mbothoma Maduna, for giving me this opportunity to present before this Council the state of our municipality and budget vote for the financial year 2015/2016.

Allow me to express my warmest greetings in the name of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, to you the Honourable Speaker, Chief Whip Councillor Mandla Radebe, The Chairperson of Municipal Public Accounts Committee Councillor Mama Motloun, Executive Mayors and Mayors from our local municipalities, Councillors, Marena, Pastors, Businessmen and businesswomen, Distinguished Guests, Representative from government departments and parastatals, the Municipal Manager and the staff of Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality, Municipal Managers from our local municipalities, Media, and to our community members gathered here today.

I would like to thank all of you for having accepted our invitation to the tabling of this budget vote today.

Honourable Speaker, present here today amongst us is my family, who are here to support me at the tabling of this budget vote. I would like to acknowledge and thank them for their presence.

Also, amongst my guests of honour today is the family of the late icon Thabo Mofutsanyana, whom this district municipality have been named after and who played a pivotal role in the struggle against apartheid. He served both in the African National Congress and the Communist Party of South Africa. He was also the editor of the Communist Party of South Africa's newspaper called *Inkululeko* during the 1940s.

Thabo Mofutsanyana also played an instrumental role in the underground work of fermenting battles against apartheid regime. He went into exile in Lesotho in 1959. In 1992, he returned to Qwaqwa, where he died in 1995 shortly after our country attained democracy. May his soul rest in peace.

Also as my guests of honour today are learners from Thiboloha School, who are accompanied by the principal and their sign language interpreter.

I have also invited a learner from Ntsu Secondary School in Bethlehem. Her name is Nthabiseng Tshabalala, who is a Grade 12 learner and President of the learners' council at the school. She is accompanied by her Principal, Mr Masiteng.

Ntsu is a school that I have adopted following the launch of Adopt-a-School campaign by the Free State Provincial Government to

encourage politicians and businesses to adopt schools in their areas in order to help those schools in one way or the other.

In our midst we also have some of our bursary holders, who have completed their studies through financial assistance from our municipality of Thabo Mofutsanyana.

We also acknowledge the presence of the team from Ingula Power Station, who have also brought along their mobile health clinic to do health screening services. We are very much appreciative of their kindness.

Also present is the mobile health clinic from the Department of Health. We also highly appreciate this kindness.

Motsamaisi wa dipuisano, ke eme mona ka thomo ya African National Congress, e leng wona mokgatlo o moholo kahare ho Afrika Borwa mme hape ke wona mokgatlo feela o bileng le matla le bokgoni ba ho fetola maphelo a batho. Ke bua ke sa lobe letho motsamaisi wa dipuisano hore ke motlotlo ho ba moromuwa wa African National Congress.

Hape ke ka mohau wa Ntate Modimo ke emeng mona hobane mohau wa hae ke kweetsa e kakaang, and today I really want to thank God for His grace on my life. All I can say today is that:

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.*

*Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Honourable Speaker, I feel very much humbled and in respect of this august house of the District Council of Thabo Mofutsanyana to have been granted such an opportunity to present my maiden budget speech since my election as the Executive Mayor of this municipality.

Honourable Speaker, the coming financial year will be the last one for this current Council as our term will be coming to end next year. We all know that next year is the year of local government elections and I can declare with confidence that the African National Congress will continue to govern Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality and all municipalities in the Free State, come 2016.

The people of Thabo Mofutsanyana District have shown much confidence and faith in the African National Congress in that for the past 20 years of democracy they have again and again and again voted the party into power. They will do the same again next year to ensure that the party that has changed their lives remains in power.

Honourable Speaker, South Africa of today is much better than the South Africa of pre-1994. All this is because of the African National Congress. Many of our people today have their own houses; they have access to electricity, water and toilets with sewerage system. Our children have access to free basic education and lots of study opportunities and bursaries. Our elderly people, people with disabilities and children from poor families have access to social grants. Our people today have access to free health services. There also so many growth and development opportunities that are open for our people of which they never had access before.

Our people are so much proud of their own country because they know that South Africa is indeed a better place to work in and live in than it was before 1994.

Honourable Councillors, our role as the Council of Thabo Mofutsanyana District is to ensure that we maintain and sustain these already mentioned and many other gains made by the ANC

government since 1994. We have to ensure that our budgets and our service delivery programmes continue to inspire hope and instil our communities' confidence in our government.

Honourable Speaker, in serving the people of our district the Freedom Charter remains our most fundamental guiding tool. All of our plans, policies and programmes are based on the principles and ideals of the Freedom Charter, which clearly spells out that the people shall govern, and indeed ours is a government of the people.

Honourable Speaker, the budget vote we are tabling today takes cue from the State of the Nation Address presented by our State President, His Excellency President Jacob Zuma in February this year. It also follows on the State of the Province Address by our own Premier of the Free State Province Honourable Premier Ace Magashule.

The budget takes into account the National Development Plan and Back to Basics approach.

Our budgets and programmes as district municipality have been designed to meet and carry out the priorities of the ANC's 2011 Local Government Manifesto by which we have committed ourselves to:

- Build local economy to create more employment and sustainable livelihoods,
- Improve local public services and broaden access to them
- Build more united, non-racial, integrated and safer communities
- Promote more active community participation in local government
- Ensure more effective, accountable and clean local government that works together with national and provincial government.

Honourable Speaker, as we bring the financial year 2014/2015 to close, we can safely say that this ANC-district municipality has a good story to tell. We have worked hard to ensure that we push back the frontiers of poverty through various poverty alleviation programmes such as distribution of food parcels, Expanded Public Works Programme, learnerships, intenships and SMMEs developments. We have also completed a number of infrastructure development projects, through which we were also able to create jobs.

## **POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

Bomme le bontate, ka baka la ho angwa ha bohloko ke ho bona tshotleho kahare ho malapa a mangata kahare ho setereke sa rona

ke ile ka etsa qeto pelong ya ka ya ho thakgola letsholo la ho kenya letsoho twantshong ya bofuma le tlala.

Ha bokgoni bo ne bo le teng le ditjhelete di ne di re dumella ke ne ke tla kena lelapeng le leng le leng le itllhopereng kahare ho Thabo Mofutsanyana ho tliša phaphang maphelong a bona. Empa ka bonyenyane boo re nang le bona re ile ra finyella malapa a ka bang 1 500 moo re faneng teng ka mephako le dikobo.

Re boetse hape ra kena kahare ho dikereke tse fapaneng moo teng re ileng ra hlwaya haholo maqheku mme ra wa abela mephako le dikobo.

Mohlomphehi Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano, ke ile ka iphumana ke tletse thabo haholo ebile ke hlohonolofetse Keresemeseng ya selemo se fetseng ha ke ne ke kena kahare ho bomasepala ba fapaneng ke aba mephako le dikobo, ke fana le ka dibapadiswa ho bana ba tswang malapeng a kojwana di mahetleng. Re finyelletse malapa a fapaneng Thaba Phatchoa, Mantsopa, ra finyella malapa a baahi ba mapolasing Setsoto, Phumelela le Nketoana. Ra boela ra finyella malapa kahare ho Maluti-a-Phofung le Dihlabeng.

Haele letsatsing la Keresemese le New Year ebile thabo ho nna ho etela dipetlele Bethlehem le Ficksburg ho ilo fana ka dimpho ho

masea a hlahileng matsatsing ao, mme tsena ke kgonne ho di etsa ka thuso ya borakgwebo ba fapaneng. Ke ya leboha ho lona borakgwebo ka tshehetso ya lona.

Honourable Speaker, as our communities are faced with the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality, in the next financial year we will intensify our efforts to push back the frontiers of poverty through our poverty alleviation programmes. For this purpose we have set aside R1, 5 million to try and put hunger at bay in many of our households.

Talking of poverty our late icon, former State President Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela once said: "Massive poverty and obscene inequality are such terrible scourges of our time--times in which the world boasts breathtaking advances in science, technology, industry and wealth accumulation--that they have to rank alongside slavery and apartheid as social evils."

Honoured Councillors, our people should acknowledge and remember us for having touched their lives and for having brought meaningful changes to their living conditions. Our communities cannot continue to live in perpetual poverty, which Mahatma Gandhi compared to violence when he said, "poverty is the worst form of

violence.” It is a call for us to massify our programmes and come up with creative ways to fight poverty. It also calls for partnerships with businesses and investors. Furthermore it calls for the unlocking of the economic potential of our district in streams like tourism and agriculture.

## **JOB CREATION**

Honourable Speaker, job creation remains one of the top priorities of our government and as the district municipality we are also playing our part in the creation of jobs through our infrastructure development programme and the Expanded Public Works Programme. So far in this current term of Council we have been able to create 644 jobs through various infrastructure projects that we have undertaken in our local municipalities. These jobs benefitted 236 women, 281 youth and 2 disabled people.

Our continued compliance with the requirements of Expanded Public Works Programme have ensured that our municipality continues to receive EPWP incentive grant and out of this grant we have been able to create 456 jobs for the past three years of which 210 women and 288 youth benefitted. The beneficiaries of these programmes are based in our own local municipalities.

## EDUCATION

Motsamaisi wa dipuisano, masepala ona wa African National Congress wa Thabo Mofutsanyana o kgathalla thuto ya bana ba rona.

Ke kahoo maqalong a selemo sena sa 2015 re ile ra etela dikolo tse mmalwa kahare ho setereke ho kgothalletsa bana ho tshwara ka thata dithutong tsa bona le ho kgothatsa mesuwehlooho le matitjhere mosebetsing o kgabane oo ba o etsang ho bopeng bokamoso ba bana ba rona.

Ho eteleng ha rona dikolo re kgonne ho fana ka diaparo ho bana ba sekolo sa Kholokoeng le sa mapolasing kante ho Bethlehem, hape le sekolong se Clarens.

Ra boela hape ra fana ka diaparo tsa dihlopha tsa drum majorettes, netball le soccer hona sekolong sa Kholokoeng.

Haele sekolong sa Ntsu teng re kgonne ho bokella tjhelete e kalo ka R120 000 – 00 ho tswa ho borakgwebo le ho batho ba ikemetseng (individuals) ho tla thusetsa baithutwaneng ba Grade 12 nakong eo ba tlabeng ba ya Camping ya bona ya ho itukisetsa dihlahlobo tsa mafelo a selemo.

## **BURSARIES**

Our bursary scheme remains a good story to tell and is also another evidence of the service delivery track record of the African National Congress. For the past four years in this current term of this Council we have managed to take 146 students from poor backgrounds to various tertiary institutions.

Our budget for bursaries stands at R2 million in the coming financial year as we have made a resolve to continue building a better tomorrow for our children. Our Premier Honourable Ace Magashule is always setting an example for us in matters of education with his passion to have our children educated. Every year without failure he grants bursaries to many students in our province. This is a real motivation for us to emulate his good work.

## **INTERSHIP PROGRAMME**

Honourable Speaker, furthermore our municipality was able to enroll 127 youth in an internship programme with the support of Service SETA to offer them knowledge and work experience, which will assist in their job hunting pursuits. They have been receiving a stipend of R3 000 per month.

Five (5) more interns were appointed in the Internal Audit, Risk Management, PMS and IDP units by our Finance Department through financial management grant.

Our municipality furthermore recruited 4 Civil Engineering graduates on the Rural Road Assets Management Systems programme and we are planning to increase the number to 7 in the next financial year.

Other projects and programmes that we successfully completed in this financial year are:

- \* Roads Paving in Reitz in Nketoana Local Municipality and in Qholaqhwe, Qwaqwa, in Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality to the tune of R7, 8 million.
- \*Assisting of Phumelela Local Municipality with Memel/Zamani outfall sewer to the tune of R6, 5 million.
- \*Repairing of houses, which were destroyed by the windstorms last year, in Excelsior, Bethlehem in Dihlabeng, and 4 in Comet, Qwaqwa.
- \*Assisting farms that were devastated by the veld fires with fodder and high protein animal food amounting to R20 million through the help of Department of Agriculture.

\*Establishment of Disaster Management Centre.

\*Completing Phase 1 of the Procurement of Disaster Communication System and Two Way Radio Communication System to the tune of R1, 1 million. This system is currently covering Maluti-a-Phofung and Phumelela Local Municipalities.

\*Successful hosting of Community Sports Awards whereby 16 participants in community sports received awards in various sporting categories.

\*Successful hosting of Sports Indaba two months ago during which the new District Sports Council was elected.

\*Reviving of Initiation Schools Committees to avoid illegal initiation schools and to lessen number of initiates dying at these schools.

Honourable Speaker, in December last year to January this year, there were three thousands three and thirty three (3 333) initiates, both males and females, who attended initiation schools in our district. There five deaths during this initiation period. Two in Nketoana and three in Maluti-a-Phofung. The deaths were as a result of natural causes.

Honourable Speaker, another notable success is that of our municipality achieving another unqualified audit opinion. We are

very much happy to have maintained this achievement for five years in succession. We are proud to have received an award in this regard,(which will be presented to us today.) The award is in recognition of improved financial performance. Our target is now the clean audit.

We appreciate the work done by the Municipal Manager and the team in steering our municipality to this achievement.

Honourable Speaker, we are currently busy with two infrastructure projects of paving roads in Lindley in Nketoana and Ladybrand in Mantsopa. The two projects have been budgeted R14 million. In the two projects we have employed 107 people of which, 31 are women and 76 are youth.

Motsamaisi wa dipuisano, re ya dumela le hona ho ananela hore leha mmuso wa rona o ikitlaeditse kahohle-hohle ho ntlafatsa maphelo a setjhaba sa bo rona empa diphephetso di sa le ngata tseo re shebaneng le tsona. Ke ka hona le selemong sena se tlang sa ditjhelete re tla leka ka bonyane boo re nang le bona ho ntshetsapele maphelo a setjhaba sa Thabo Mofutsanyana.

Selemong se tlang sa ditjhelete re behelletse ka thoko tjhelete e kalo ka R800 000 bakeng sa ntshetsopele ya dipapadi le boithapollo.

Bakeng sa ntshetsopele ya batjha re tla sebedisa R1 million. Re ya tseba bohle hore diphephetso tse shebaneng le batjha di ngata hakakang. Di kenyeditse kahare tlhokeho ya mosebetsi, tlhokeho ya tsebo (skills), dithethefatsi, tahi le ho ba mmeleng ho eketsahang letsatsi le letsatsi.

Sena se tliša kgatello e kgolo matloleng a mmuso wa rona. Ke kahoo re hlohang ho sebetsa mmoho le dikgwebo ho theheng mesebetsi bakeng sa batjha ba rona le hona ho thuseng batjha ba rona ho ithehela dikgwebo tseo e leng tsa bona.

We will continue with transversal programmes, which are HIV & Aids, Gender and Disability, awareness campaigns, as well as moral regeneration activities for which we have set aside R800 000-00.

As other means of fighting HIV/AIDs, we have partnered with Eskom's Ingula Power Station and Department of Health in encouraging and campaigning for voluntary counselling and testing.

We have also initiated Community Sports for the Youth in order to engage their minds on things that can help them focus on positive things in life.

Honourable Speaker, with regard to infrastructure development, our district municipality will receive a funding of R2,2 million from the

Department of Transport for the implementation of Rural Road Assets Management System in the next financial year.

We will furthermore install 65 000 solar geysers in several homes in all our six local municipalities in the ensuing financial year. Fifteen thousand (15 000) will be installed in Maluti-a-Phofung and 10 000 in each of the other five municipalities.

Honourable Speaker, Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality has secured a funding from Transport Education Training Authority for the financial year 2015/2016. Through this funding we will give accredited training to 35 youth from our district on National Certificate on Professional Driving (NQF Level 3).

Currently, Honourable Speaker we have embarked on Informal Traders Upliftment Programme whereby 30 tuckshop and shisanyama owners are receiving training. After the training, beneficiaries will receive a stipend of R9 000 – 00. Twenty (20) percent of the stipend will be used to buy more stock for their businesses and 80 percent will go towards the development of their business infrastructure.

The Council has already approved the Entrepreneur Support System policy to allow for the financial support of qualifying SMMEs and

they have been invited to apply. 127 applications have been received and are awaiting screening.

Honourable Speaker, we are also in the process of assisting farm schools around Thabo Mofutsanyana with Jojo tanks for drinking water.

Through our Agriculture and Rural Development department we are also envisaging to assist emerging farmers to become commercial farmers and also to train them. We also want to set up community gardens as part of our food security programme.

Honourable Speaker, having presented the State of our District Municipality let me announce that the total budget for the financial year 2015/2016 is standing at 108 million eight hundred and forty-four thousand three hundred and thirty three rand (R108 844 333 – 00). This is our total operating revenue and total operating expenditure.

Ha ke qetella motsamaisi wa dipuisano ke rata ho leboha bohle ba ntsheheditse mosebetsing ona o boima oo ke neng nkeke ka o balehela ha qeto le kgetho e se e entswe ke mokgatlo wa ka wa African National Congress.

Ka sehlohong ke leboha Ntate Modimo ka ho mpha matla le bohlale ba ho etella setereke sena pele.

Ke lebohe lelapa la ka, molekane wa ka, bana ba ka, mme motswadi le bohle ba lapeng ka tshehetso ya bona le mamello ya bona ho hlokeng ha ka nako ya bona ka baka la mosebetsi ona oo ke o etsang.

Ke boele hape lebohe mokgatlo wa African National Congress tlasa boetapele ba Ntate Ace Magashule mona profensing ya Free State ka ho ntshepela mosebetsi ona wa ho etela pele Setereke sa Thabo Mofutsanyana.

Ke boele hape ke lebohe Rasephadi e moholo, Councillor Mandla Radebe, Motsamaisi wa dipuisano, Councillor Mbothoma Maduna, Modulasetulo wa MPAC, Councillor Mama Motlounq, Ditho tsa Komiti ya Majoro, le Makhanselara wohle ka tshehetso ya lona le dikeletso le dikgothatso tsa lona.

Ke lebohe Bomajoro ba BoMmasepala ba selehae ka tshehetso ya bona le ka tshebedisano-mmoho ya bona.

Ke lebohe Motsamaisi wa Masepala, Mme Takatso Lebenya, botsamaisi le basebetsi bohle ba Thabo Mofutsanyana ka mosebetsi o kgabane oo ba o phethileng selemong sena sa ditjhelete.

Ke lebohe mafapha a fapaneng a mmuso ka tshebedisano-mmoho eo re bileng le yona selemong sena se kodumelang sa ditjhelete.

Ke lebohe hape Marena, baruti le borakgwebo ka tshehetso ya bona mosebetsing wa ho ntshetsa setjhaba sa rona pele.

Ke lebohe le setjhaba sohle sa Thabo Mofutsanyana ka tshehetso ya bona.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, let me request this august house to adopt and approve the Municipality's annual budget for the financial year 2015/16; and indicative allocations for the two projected outer years 2016/17 and 2017/18 and related policies.

Thank you

