

BUDGET VOTE SPEECH OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THABO MOFUTSANYANA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY DR B.E. MZANGWA AT THE OCCASION OF THE TABLING OF THE BUDGET VOTE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2013/2014 IN QWAQWA

31 MAY 2013

As I stand in humility and respect of this august house of the Thabo Mofutsanyana District Council, let me first and foremost extend my hands towards heavens from whence cometh my help and give thanks to God, the Almighty, for granting me strength and wisdom to lead this municipality to yet another successful financial year.

Indeed the Lord has been my guide and shield. He has been my source of inspiration and the strength I need every day of my life. He is my Lord and shepherd; I shall therefore not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for he is with me; his rod and his staff, they comfort me.

Ha ke rialo ke ema ka ho howa madume le ho fetisa ditumediso tsa ka tse tletseng mofuthu le lerato ho lekgotla lena le kgabane la Setereke sa Thabo Mofutsanyana, mme ke simolla pele ka ho hlompha wena Mohlomphehi Motsamaisi wa dipuisano, Councillor Mbothoma Maduna, ke boele ke hlomphe balekgotla ba kgabane le ba hlomphehileng ba le lekgotla lena le kgabane le hlomphehing la Setereke sa Thabo Mofutsanyana.

Ke dumedise le hona ho ananela boteng ba Majoro wa Phethahatso wa Maluti-a-Phofung, Councillor Sara Moleleki le Chief Whip ya Maluti-a-Phofung Councillor Vusi Tshabalala.

Ke boele hape ke we ka mangwele ho lebisa tlhompho le tlotla ho Marena hammoho le ntlo ya borena kahare ho Foreistata. Ha ke rialo ke se ntse ke leboha Ntlo ya Borena kahare ho Foreistata ka ho hlompha Setereke sa Thabo Mofutsanyana ka ho tla bulela selemo sa 2013 hona mona seterekeng sa rona maqalong a Hlakubele.

Ke boele hape ke hlomphe baruti le dikereke tse fapaneng ka le reng: Morena a le boloke mme a le kgantshetse sefahleho sa hae.

Ho baeti bohle ba rona ba bohlokwa, ke rata hore re le neha bohle kamohelo e mofuthu e tletseng mosa le lerato.

Ke dumedise le ho ananela boteng ba borakgwebo, ba maemedi ho tswa mafapheng a fapaneng a mmuso, mekgatlo eo e seng ya mmuso, kemedi tsa setjhaba

Nka lebala jwang ho fetisa ditumediso tse tletseng mofuthu ho setjhaba se kopaneng kwano e leng sona kamehla yohle se etsang bonnete ba hore se re beha pusong ka kgetho e nepahetseng ya sona. Re tshepa ke hona hore le selemong se tlang sona setjhaba sena se tla boela se beha mmuso ona o ntseng o busa ka ho etsa kgetho e nepahetseng.

Nka boela ka lebala jwang basebetsi ba Mmasepala wa Setereke sa Thabo Mofutsanyana ho qala ka Motsamaisi wa Mmasepala, Ntate Bennet Molotsi, botsamaisi bohle hammoho le bohle basebetsi.

Baqolotsi ba ditaba ba leng teng kwano le lona ke le ananetse ka diatla tse pedi ke se ntse ke le leboha haholo fela ka boikitlaetso boo le bo entseng ka hore le etele diprojeke tsa rona tsa Thabo Mofutsanyana ho ilo inwesa ka nkgo hore efela re phethisa kamoo re tshepisiseng setjhaba kateng.

Mohlomphehi Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano, ke sa le bale hape ho le bisa tlhompho le tlotla ho mokgatlo wa ka wa African National Congress ka ho tshwara seboka sa mokga se bileng le katleho e kgolo mane Mangaung ka kgwedi ya Tshitwe ngwahola, mme ke lebohise Mopresidente Jacob Gedleyehlekisa Zuma ya ileng a boela a kgethwa hape jwale ka Mopresidente wa Mokgatlo. Ekasitana le bohle ba ile ba kgethwa hammoho le yena ho etella pele mokgatlo le bona re ya ba lebohisa.

Ke boele hape ke lebohise Tonakgolo ya Foreistata, Ntate Ace Magashule, ka ho boela a kgethwa hape jwaleka Modulasetulo wa African National Congress mona Foreistata mane

Welkom bekeng tse tharo tse fetileng. Ke lebohise le bohle ba kgethilweng hammoho le yena ho etella pele mokgatlo kahara profensi hammoho le yena.

Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano, ke boele ke nke monyetla ona ho fetisa melaetsa ya matshediso ho bohle ba ileng ba anngwa ke tsenene ya lefu ka hore ba lahlehelwe ke beng ka bona, mme ka ho qolleha k eke lebisa melaetsa ya kutlwelo-bohloko malapeng ana a latelang:

*Lelapeng la ha Maringa ka ho lahlehelwa ke e mong wa basebetsi Ntate Robert Maringa, eo e neng e le Environmental Health Practitioner ya rona a sebetsa mane Phumelela.

*Lelapeng la Security Officer ya rona Thabang Motlounng ya e ileng a lahlehelwa ke mofumahadi wa hae bekeng ena e sa tswa feta.

*Lelapeng la ha Khumalo ka ho lahlehelwa ke Ntate Jabu Khumalo.

*Lelapeng la ha Mbuli ka tahlehelo ya sebohodi sa lenaneo la Televishini la Morning Live le sa SAFM, Vuyo Mbuli, Mr Sharp! Sharp!

In expressing our heartfelt sympathy to these families, Honourable Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me quote words of the Poet Margaret Read in her poem *Burial Song*. She writes:

The earth does not get fat. It makes an end of those who act swiftly as heroes. Shall we die on earth?.....

The earth does not get fat. It makes an end of the chiefs. Shall we die on the earth?.....

The earth does not get fat. It makes an end of the nobles. Shall we die on the earth?.....

The earth does not get fat. It makes end of the common people. Shall we die on earth?.....

Listen O earth. We shall mourn because of you.

Listen O earth. Shall we all die on earth?

Listen O earth. The sun is setting tightly.

We shall all enter into the earth.

May the souls of the departed rest in peace.

Honourable Speaker, several weeks ago The Office of the Executive Mayor received a call from a B. Com Accounting student at the University of the North West by the name of George Motaung, whose home is right here in the District of Thabo Mofutsanyana in Qwaqwa. His reason for the call was just to express his gratitude to the Executive Mayor and the municipality for granting him the opportunity to pursue his studies.

Honourable Speaker, a simple Thank You might seem too simple to be acknowledged but to us this simple call of appreciation by this student is a strong indication and stamp of approval that our very simple acts of service delivery are acts of faith and hope, that reignites our people's hopes that their today is better than yesterday, and their tomorrow will be much better than today. Every single word that we speak brings torrents of faith and hope, and every campaign that we embark is an avalanche of faith and hope.

The call by this student also brings to mind the words of Former State President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela addressing the joint session of the House of Congress in Washington, DC, in the United States in 1990 when he said, "We must also make the point very firmly that the political settlement, and democracy itself cannot survive unless the material needs of the people, the bread and butter issues, are addressed as part of the process of change and as a matter of urgency. It should never be that the anger of the poor should be the finger of accusation pointed at all of us because we failed to respond to the cries of the people for food, for shelter, for the dignity of the individual."

Ladies and gentlemen, this is indeed a demanding and genuine call by our Statesman that as the local government of the day we shall have failed to make democracy meaningful to many of our people if we fail to respond to their cries for food, shelter and for the dignity of the individual.

In the case of George Motaung and many other students, who have benefitted from our bursary scheme, we are glad that we have at least responded to the needs of the poor for education and a better life.

Not only have we responded to the calls of these poor and disadvantaged students, but also to many of our people in our district through our various projects, programmes, activities and campaigns spanning across our municipality.

Fellow Councillors, it is inherent of me to reiterate that “it is by our actions of service delivery and accountability to our communities that we inspire faith and hope. The more they see us in action the more they believe that their tomorrow will indeed not be the same as yesterday; it will be better and better.”

Honourable Speaker, it is of utmost important to mention that the guiding tool for the tabling of this budget vote is the African National Congress’s January 8 statement that sets tone for the policy direction to be taken a year ahead. It is also informed by the Local Government Election Manifesto.

This budget vote is furthermore in line with the State of the Nation Address as delivered by State President Jacob Zuma in February this year, and it is again informed by State of the Province Address by the Premier of the Free State Ace Magashule.

As an implementation tool of our Integrated Development Plan for 2012 – 2016, the budget takes into account our key priorities, which are: Sustainable infrastructures, Local Economic Development, Job creation and Tourism, Agriculture and Rural Development, Social Development, Sports, Arts and Culture, Good Governance and Community Participation as well as Financial viability.

As we continue to roll-out this budget in the next financial years, Ladies and Gentleman we shall also take into account the National Development Plan guidelines and follow on the national and provincial government’s implementation plan.

Delivering the National Development Plan last year, State President Jacob Zuma, clearly articulated that the plan offered a roadmap for tackling the problems of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

He said: "It is a roadmap to a South Africa where all will have water, electricity, sanitation, jobs, housing, public transport, adequate nutrition, education, social protection, quality healthcare, recreation and a clean environment."

Motsamaisi wa dipuisano ya hlomphehileng mathwasong a selemo sena se kodumelang sa ditjhelete sa 2012/2013, re ile ra etsa boitlamo le boikitlaetso ba ho sebetsa ka thata ho bona hore setereke sa rona ha se tjhetjhele morao empa se a ntlafala letsatsi ka leng. Kajeno ha re sheba morao selemong sena se kodumelang sa ditjhelete re etsa jwalo ka diteboho ho Modimo wa bo Ntata rona le rona ka ho re etsa ngatana nngwe re le makhanselara, botsamaisi ba Mmasepala le basebetsi. Ha ho tikatiko le qeaqeo hore Masepala wa Thabo Mofutsanyana ke lehae la rona bohle moo ho tletseng thabo, lerato, mofuthu le moya wa tshebetso.

Re motlotlo ho toboketsa ntlha ya hore katleho eo re kgonneng ho e fihlela jwaleka Setereke sa Thabo Mofutsanyana ke ka bonngwe le tlamathata ya makhanselara, basebetsi le setjhaba sa Thabo Mofutsanyana ekasitana le dimmasepala tsa selehae tsa rona e leng: Maluti-a-Phofung, Dihlabeng, Setsoto, Phumelela, Nketoana le Mantsopa.

Ho sebetseng mmoho ha rona re kgonne ho fihlela tse ngata tse jwaleka ntlafatso ya meralo ya mantlha e kenyeleditseng ntlafatso ya ditsela, ho kenya mabone a strateng a kgantshang ka matla a mahlasedi a letsatsi (solar panels), ho theha marang-rang a tsamaiso ya dikgwerekgwere le ho aha matlwana, dithuso tsa ditjhelete bakeng sa baithuti ba dikolong tsa thuto e phahameng, ho fana ka monyetla wa tsebo ya mosebetsi ho batjha, ekasitana le ho kgothaletsa ho thehwa ha dikoporasi tsa kgwebo le kwetliso ya batjha.

Honourable Speaker and the house at large, it once more brings much delight to confidently announce that as we table this budget vote for financial year 2013/2014, our municipality has received yet another unqualified audit report. This is indeed needs to be heralded as a great achievement and motivation as we look forward to yet another challenging year. It is also a call for us to work harder and press forward towards attaining a clean audit.

TAKING STOCK OF SERVICE DELIVERY

As we present our plans and budgets for the coming year, we also at the same time take stock of our actions of service delivery in this ending financial year and also account for our spending of the public funds entrusted to us for the development of our own people.

Honourable Councillors, ladies and gentlemen, despite limited resources at our disposal, our efforts to respond to a variety of needs of our communities are clear and evident. From the smallest town of Thaba Phatchoa on the far south to another small town on the far east, our district has made a meaningful contribution towards the improvements of the lives of our people, and in support of our local municipalities.

To showcase our progress and successes in delivering services, and to also broadly communicate our achievements, last week the Communications Unit in the Office of the Executive Mayor accompanied by the Infrastructure and Transport Directorate organised a media tour of our projects to give members of the media first-hand account of our delivery of services in the district.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT TOPPING THE LIST AS A KEY JOB CREATOR

Mr Speaker and Fellow Councillors, amongst our successes in our municipality, infrastructure development is on the uppermost of the list. This is because infrastructure development has been identified as one of the key job drivers by our government. The other key job drivers include tourism, agriculture, mining and beneficiation, manufacturing and the green economy.

To exert emphasis on the importance of infrastructure development as a key job driver, last year the government adopted a National Infrastructure Plan that intends to transform our economic landscape while simultaneously creating significant numbers of new jobs, and to strengthen the delivery of basic services.

It is for this reason that infrastructure development will remain the driving force behind our integrated development plans and local economic development strategies.

As a job creator infrastructure development is able to employ people through construction and maintenance. In addition to that there is a lot of work that is being done in infrastructure development such as the supply of construction material, equipment, chemicals and so forth, and this also offers a platform for the growth of local economy as we encourage that all these products be produced or bought locally.

I am therefore glad to announce that in the financial year 2012/2013 Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality was able to employ a total number of 242 people through our infrastructure development projects which included, among others, upgrading and paving roads, construction of sewer networks and oxidation ponds, installation of street lights and construction of toilets.

The municipality even went further to employ 80 more on a 12-months contract through Expanded Public Works Programme, of which 40 of those people are in Petsana, Reitz, in Nketoana Local Municipality while the other 40 are right here in Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality. They are mostly placed in environmental and infrastructural services of these municipalities.

We are also very much delighted as district municipality to have offered four (4) civil engineering graduates a chance to gain skills and experience by placing them on an internship programme for a year. They were placed in water engineering, road construction and building construction projects across the district.

Mohlompheni Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano re motlotlo haholo ka sena re se entseng hoba re kgonne ho thiba lephako kahare ho a mang a malapa a baahi ba rona. Re ya tseba bohle hore bofuma le tshotleho di ntse di jele setsi haholo kahare ho setjhaba sa rona sa rantsho.

Having committed ourselves to prioritise infrastructure development, we are much delighted to have finished the projects of paving of roads in Ladybrand, Ficksburg and Hasethunya (Qwaqwa).

The total expenditure for the three road paving projects was R11 million and what is most interesting with these road construction projects is that they were not only able to provide jobs, but have ensured better road facilities.

We were furthermore able to complete the following sanitation projects:

- Desludging of oxidation ponds in Thaba Patchoa in Mantsopa Local Municipality, of which for years and years residents of that area were using flush toilets but with no sewer treatment plant in place. The existing oxidation ponds were thus a stream of pollution with pungent smell hanging in the air in that area and the environment being polluted ceaselessly.
- Construction of sewer network connections and building of 300 toilets for communities of Platberg in Ladybrand.
- Construction of oxidation ponds was done in Memel in Phumelela Local Municipality.

The good news about the three sanitation projects is that they were initially budgeted for R7 million but the total expenditure went down to R5,8 million, thus leaving us with a surplus of R890 000 – 00. This spelt good news for the municipality as the savings have been put back into the municipality's coffer to be used for other community uplifting programmes. It also dispels a notion within certain quarters and among opportunistic oppositions that the ANC-led government is extravagant in spending public funds.

Esteemed Councillors, we are also happy to have taken part in the greening of the environment by installing solar street lights in three towns of Mantsopa, namely Thaba Phatchoa, Hobhouse and Tweespruit and also two towns of Warden and Vrede in Phumelela Local Municipality. We spent R8.9 million on this project.

Solar street lights are part of renewable energy and an attempt to reduce the production of greenhouse gasses, and with the global warming just on us the solar energy has become one of the most viable forms of energy to replace fossil fuels. The solar street lights will further augment the stressed grid energy for the local authorities.

Se thabisang haholo motsamaisi wa dipuisano ka diprojeke tsena ke hore nakong eo di ntse di rerwa e bile di etsahala, baahi ba rona metseng e fapaneng ba bile le kemedi kahare ho dikomiti tsa tsamaiso tse diprojeke tsena. Sena se thusa haholo hore dintho di se ke tsa etsahala baahi ba sa kenyeletswa. Ona ke mmuso wa demokrasi wa setjhaba ka setjhaba mme seo re se etsang re tlamehile ho se etsa le setjhaba. Re mona pusong ka thato ya setjhaba, mme setjhaba se buile, le selemong se tlang setjhaba se tla bua hore mmuso wa batho o nne o kgutlele pusong.

STIMULATION OF LOCAL ECONOMIC AND PROMOTION TOURISM

Honourable Speaker, our pursuit in every project that we undertake is to stimulate local economy by encouraging the procurement of local products and promotion of local businesses, as well as formation of viable co-operatives that will expand the employment base and generate income for many households.

As government we believe that the formation of Co-operatives should be a way to go in order to ensure that it is not just an individual benefitting but many families. Co-operatives have the potential of creating and developing income generating activities and sustainable decent employment as well as developing human resource capacities and knowledge while at the same time strengthening competitiveness, increasing savings and investment, and improving social and economic well-being.

Last year October we thus held a Co-operative Summit in conjunction with the Office of the Free State Premier, Honourable Ace Magashule, and Service Seta to put an emphasis on the importance of the formation of these business structures as well as to identify training needs for them.

The summit was followed earlier this year by Co-operatives Expo, which was organised in collaboration with the Department of Social Development, to showcase the work of various co-operatives from our district and other parts of the province.

Motsamaisi wa mosebetsi, re dumela hore dikoporasi tsena tsa setjhaba di tla bapala karolo ya bohlokwa haholo ho thuseng ho nyolla moruo wa selehae le ho thuseng ho lwantsha bofuma bo jeleng sitsi kahare ho metse le metsana ya rona, ekasitana le yona tlala ya boja

dikate e siileng malapa a mangata a dikojwana di mahetleng a bile a itlhopere. Bahaeso ha ho na ntho e bohloko jwaleka tlala. O lape o se ke wa tseba le hore sengwathananyana sa bohobe o tla se fumana kae.

Ladies and gentlemen, involvement of our communities in their own development is what has been encouraged by our government and it also encapsulated in the National Development Plan, which states that, “Active citizenry and social activism is necessary for democracy and development to flourish. The state cannot merely act on behalf of the people – it has to act with the people, working together with other institutions to provide opportunities for the advancement of all communities.”

As the municipality we have also undertaken to procure some of our services and products from our own Co-operatives, because it could be illogical to encourage their formation and then go out somewhere to procure something which they can produce or provide and even do. We also want all of our Co-operatives in Thabo Mofutsanyana District to be included in our supply chain management database.

Ke mosebetsi wa rona hape ho etsa bonnete ba hore ba ba teng ho database le hore re ba ela hloko ha re kopa batho ba ka re etsang mesebetsi kapa hona ho re rekisetsa thepa e itseng.

Ho tloha hona jwale ho ya pele hammoho le Kantoro ya Tonakgolo ya Foreistata re ikemiseditse ho bona hore beng ba dikoporasi tsena ba fumana thupello hore ba be le tsebo hobane tlhokeho ya tsebo ke e nngwe ya dintho tse etsang hore batho ba bangata ba haellwe ha ho tluwa tabeng ya ntshetsopele ya maphelo a bona.

Fellow Councillors in view of the fact that tourism has also been regarded as another key driver of job creation, our district has taken part in major tourism promotion activities and exhibition with the aim of putting our district on the map in order to attract more tourists and encourage local tourism. Once such event is the annual International Tourism Indaba in Durban, which was held earlier this month. We set up our stall to showcase the irresistible beauty of our landscape and what is on offer for tourists.

Our LED and Tourism Department has furthermore published Travel Guide Brochure which carries information on our places of interests, restaurants and accommodation establishments. The guide is a wonderful source of reference to any traveller or tourist, who has interest in exploring our area and provides fresh information to those, who are regular explorers.

SOUND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENCE

Mr Speaker, sound financial management lays a solid foundation to financial prudence and realisation of our goal of a clean audit. The unqualified audit reports we have so far attained for three years in a row are a good motivation and an indication that we are in a good direction.

Our finance department is also making major strides in improving our financial systems and maintenance of our assets in that in this financial year it has managed to convert the assets register to be compliant with the standard of generally acceptance - GRAP 17.

The department has also successfully implemented the finance management internship programme and contributed towards the creation of jobs by employing three finance interns and with the intention of expanding the programme by recruiting five more finance interns.

In order to improve the municipality's financial performance and overall performance, we have ensured that our internal audit is accorded its necessary role and function, and thus was able to develop required audit charters, plans and methodologies. We are thus able to promptly respond to queries raised by the auditor general during the auditing process.

Our District Audit and Performance Committee has been functioning very well and was also able to develop required charters and plans. This has been a shared function with Phumelela and Nketoana Local Municipalities. We are however delighted to report that our district committee has assisted Nketoana to finally establish its own Audit and Performance Committee.

An establishment of Municipal Public Accounts Committee is another milestone in our municipality. Chaired by Councillor Malefu Vilakazi, the aim of this committee is to promote good governance, transparency and accountability on the use of municipal resources.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY STUDENTS

Writing in his Column – “This is the Business” - in the Business Times of 19th of May 2013, Columnist Stephen Mulholland stated that: “Given a decent education, there is no reason why anyone of any race should not be productive member of society, attractive as an employee and fitted to participate in the market as an owner and employer.”

This is what we aspire as the district municipality. It is our dream and desire to see all our children, even the poor of the poorest, getting decent education in order for them to be active participant in the economy of their own country as attractive employees, and also to participate as owners and employers.

Our children cannot be defined by their own circumstances. Being poor or being born from a poor family does not mean being dumb or stupid. Our children possess talents; abilities, desire and willingness. All they need is an opportunity and support to empower themselves with knowledge and skills.

Liberian refugee and founder of “Vision Awake” African For Development, Karrus Hayes, attests to this when he says, *“to define people by their conditions rather than their abilities is dehumanizing. When you look past the poverty, you see abilities, resources and desires. The poor are extremely hard-working and entrepreneurial – they must be just to survive. They don’t want or need to be rescued. They want an opportunity to create a better life for their families.”*

It is for this reason that as the district municipality we decided to grant this poor of the poorest an opportunity, and not just an opportunity for the sake of an opportunity, but an opportunity of acquiring decent tertiary education. This we do by offering them bursaries. It

is students like George Motaung, who greatly value this opportunity by just saying “Thank You”.

In pursuant of our goal to give poor students an opportunity to receive decent education, in this financial year we have granted bursaries to 32 qualifying undergraduate students and three postgraduate students to the tune of R941 000 – 00.

What brings more happiness is that seven (7) students, who have been receiving financial assistance from the municipality, have completed their studies in the fields of engineering, accounting, science and technology.

These students are:

1. Kentse Mpolokeng – Bsc Human Science
2. Mpheng Mokoena - Bsc Information Technology
3. Reabetswe Ramonotsi - B.A Psychology
4. Manana Mofokeng - National Diploma Electrical Engineering
5. Pretorius Marlene – B. Accounting Honours
6. Lebusa Matsuma - National Diploma Mechanical Engineering
7. Makae Fumane – National Diploma Biomedical Technology

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Furthermore honourable speaker, through our community services we have been able to create awareness among people on issues of environmental health, HIV/AIDS and moral regeneration through education campaigns and celebratory events in collaboration with communities and sector departments as stakeholders in our endeavour to better lives of the district citizenry.

Our Environmental Health Practitioners continue to play a vital role in ensuring quality, clean and hygienic environments and eatables. They have also been instrumental in conducting awareness campaigns on matters of health and hygiene. They have furthermore

been involved in blitz operations with other stakeholders, such as SAPS, Liquor Board, SARS, Home Affairs, to determine compliance with relevant health legislation.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

To reinforce our workforce and to ensure that the municipality is staffed with the necessary skills and expertise to deliver services, we have filled 10 vacancies, that of the Municipal Manager, Chief Finance Officer, Budget Manager, Municipal Health Services manager, Security manager, Security Officer and four cleaners. In addition to that, we have also offered two of young people an opportunity to gain skills and experience as interns. Lehlohonolo Tolo is placed in the Communications Unit and Mpheng Mokoena, who is one of those who have completed their studies through financial assistance from this municipality, is in our Information Technology section.

PLANS FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR 2013/2014

Mr Speaker as we look forward to the next financial year 2013/2014, as well as outer years 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 we are mindful of the fact that our district, as much as the rest of the country, is still faced with triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality.

Addressing these challenges requires a strong public, private and social think-tank and formulation of innovative strategies. With limited resources municipalities alone cannot address these challenges. Hence, a need for a robust engagement with businesses, investors, multinational corporations, community based organisations and philanthropists.

However, fellow Councillors, with the very same limited financial resources at our disposal we will do our utmost best to deliver quality services to the community of Thabo Mofutsanyana. We will not rest on our laurels and dwell on the limits, but we will focus on the unlimited benefits we can provide through our good works.

Honourable Speaker, the budget we are presenting today is document compiled through collective efforts with our local municipalities, sector departments, traditional leadership, communities and officials after we have consulted them during IDP and Budget roadshows.

Budget is mostly prepared with a degree of uncertainty due to non-static economic environment globally and as a result guidelines and past events or historical performance is always taken into account when compiling the budget. Also taken into account when estimating revenue anticipated are the National Treasury Budget Circulars and Division of Revenue Act. This is very much important to note because bulk of the revenue of the district municipality is dependent on grants from the provincial and national government. These grants are made up of equitable shares, financial management grant, municipal system improvement grant and EPWP incentive grant.

These grants must be optimised and used effectively for the betterment of communities.

Fellow Councillors, the advantage of adopting three-year budgets linked to longer-term IDPs, is that of allowing municipalities to take more forward-looking and better-informed approaches and make better judgements about future priorities for capital development and service delivery in their communities.

Honourable Speaker, at this point allow me to announce that for the financial year 2013/2014 our projected total income is standing at R 110 826 000.00 (million rand), which also translates into the total operational expenditure of the same amount of R 110 826 000.00 (million rand) for the financial year 2013/2014. And, as for infrastructure development we have allocated an amount of R 30, 8 million rand. The rest of the budget will therefore be for general expenditure.

Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano e tla dula e le maikemisetso a lekgotla lena la setereke sa Thabo Mofutsanyana a ho tsitlallela kahohle-hohle hore re sebeletse setjhaba ka ho sebedisa tjhelete ena ka tlhoko e kgolo, ka tshebedisano mmoho le ka kutlwisiso ya hore bonyane boo re nang le bona ke molemong wa sona setjhaba se re kgethileng, se tla boela se re kgetha hape selemong se tlang le dilemong tse tlang ho tla.

Re tla etsa bonnete ba hore re ntshetsapele ka hohlehohe kahong ya meralo ya mantlha e kang ditsela, marangrang a tsamaiso ya dikgwere-kgwere, mabone le tse ding jwalo-jwalo, e tle e le hore re kgone ho theha mesebetsi bakeng sa setjhaba sa rona.

As we present this budget today, work is underway to pave roads in Bolata in the Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality and Petsana, Reitz, in the Nketoana Local Municipality. Both roads are of a length of 2,3 kilometres combined.

Honourable Speaker, work to develop infrastructure in the next financial year 2013/2014 and the next two outer years will still be spread across the district with a view of also considering our emerging farmers.

Among other projects for 2013/2014, we are planning to install Solar Home System in the farming and rural areas to provide the families with solar-electric power to the homes for lights and small appliances, as well as installation of solar street lights. This infrastructural development will also be done as part of our agriculture and rural development programmes as well as the greening of the environment.

We will also continue with our project of upgrading of roads in various areas of our district, such as in Qwaqwa in the Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality as well as in Nketoana and Mantsopa Local Municipalities. We have also made an allocation the maintenance of rural roads.

Our plan is also to install high-mast lights in Lusaka, Qwaqwa, while at the same we will also continue installing solar street lights in other parts of the district.

Other capital projects will include sanitation projects as well as rehabilitation of sporting facilities in some of the areas in our district.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to also touch on a few allocations on our key priority programmes:

- For SMME development we have set aside R750 000 – 00. SMME development, with focus on formation and development of Co-operatives, is crucial in our goal of stimulating job creation in our area.
- One million rand has been allocated for Expanded Public Works Programme with the intention of creating jobs for our communities.
- With our area being prone to disasters such as veld fire and road accidents, swift response to such incidents becomes critical, hence we have allocated R2,5 million for disaster equipment. One such long outstanding and much awaited equipment being the jaws of life.
- Arts and culture will receive R500 000 – 00
- One comma five million rand (R1,5 m) has been set aside for the purchase of vehicles.
- Education of our poor students remains one of our key interventionist and community development programme and as such we will continue to offer financial support to the tune R850 000 – 00 for financial year 2013/2014.
- Development of youth remains a challenge, which we never wish it away and turn a blind eye. Our youth are seriously challenged with lack of skills, training and opportunities. We have therefore made an allocation of R500 000 – 00 for youth development.

Honourable Speaker as we roll out this budget in the financial year, let us do so with much vigour and eagerness to see the lives of our people being better and better each day.

We will work hard and always fight for what is best for our communities irrespective of perpetual opposition from whosoever is undermining what our government has made and continue to make to change the lives of its own citizens.

Our struggle has been and will always be for the better life for our people. Hence, we need not lose track of where we come from and where we are going as a nation. It is for this reason that as part of reviving the spirit of the struggle and showing our people the road to

freedom was never easy, and also as part of our district's stakeholder engagement programme, we shall arrange a tour for a certain chosen group from our community to Robben Island to have a taste for themselves of the hardships of our struggle and the understanding of the pain that our liberation fighters have gone through. During his inauguration as the first black President of South Africa, Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela stated that: "We understand it still that there is no easy road to freedom."

Fellow Councillors, speaking of a great gift called family Jim Stovall says, "Some people are born into wonderful families. Others have to find or create them. Being a member of a family is a priceless membership that we pay nothing for but love."

I fully agree with this author as I wholeheartedly express my dearest gratitude and appreciation to my wife and children for their continued support in my work. They are indeed an apple of my eye. They are love of my life, and foundation of my success as a leader.

Honourable Ladies and gentlemen, I will also forever more cherish the collective support I always get from Members of Mayoral Committee, fellow Councillors, including that of the Speaker and Chief Whip and former Chief Whip Councillor Sarah Moleleki, former Acting Municipal Managers Mme Takatso Lebenya and Advocate Teboho Moloi, our current Municipal Manager Mr Bennet Molotsi, the management and the staff of Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality. "May your ship always sail! May your stars always shine! May your dreams always come true! God bless you all!"

Ladies and gentlemen, how can I forget to thank my organisation, the African National Congress for their continued trust in my leadership capabilities and political support in this responsibility of leading the district of Thabo Mofutsanyana. Viva, ANC, Viva!! Long Live, ANC, Long Live!!

Fellow Councillors, let me conclude by quoting the words of one of the greatest thinkers and liberations fighters, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior when he said, "One of the great liabilities of history is that all too many people fail to remain awake through great periods of

social change. Every society has its protectors of status quo and its fraternities of the indifferent who are notorious for sleeping through revolutions. Today, our very survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant and to face the challenge of change."

Honourable Speaker, having presented to this dignified house the state of our municipality, I therefore recommend that the Council approves and adopts the following:

- a) The annual budget and budget related policies of the municipality for the financial year 2013/2014 and the multi-year and single-year capital appropriations as set out in the following tables:
 - Budgeted Financial Performance (revenue and expenditure by standard classification)
 - Budgeted Financial Performance (revenue and expenditure by municipal vote),
 - Budgeted Financial Performance (revenue by source and expenditure by type), and
 - Multi-year and single year capital appropriations by municipal vote and standard classification and associated funding by source

- b) The financial position, cash flow budget, cash-backed reserve/accumulated surplus, asset management and basic service delivery targets as set out in the following tables:
 - Budgeted Financial Position
 - Budgeted Cash Flows
 - Cash backed reserves and accumulated surplus reconciliation
 - Asset management, and
 - Basic service delivery measurement

- c) Budget related policies as listed below:
 - Financial Management Policy
 - Tariff Structures

- Budget Related Policy
- Cash Management and Investment Policy
- Fixed Assets Management Policy
- Supply Chain Management Policy
- Supply Chain Management Code of Conduct, and
- Subsistence and Travelling Policy

Thank you.

