

Closing statement to Strategic planning session 2018

Madam Speaker

Chief whip

Executive committee members

Section 79 committee chairpersons

All Ingquza Hill Councillors

Deployees from various levels

Sister departments

State owned enterprises

Business Chamber

Labour Unions (SAMWU & IMATU)

Invited Guests

Management led by Municipal Manager

Officers and workers here present

Thomas Sankara (Burkina Faso revolutionary) once said “Our revolution is not a public speaking tournament. Our revolution is not a battle of fine phrases. Our revolution is not simply for spouting slogans that are no mere than signals used by manipulators trying to use them as catchwords, as code words, as foil for their own display. Our revolution is, and should continue to be, the collective effort of revolutionaries to transform reality, to improve the concrete situation of the masses of our country”. This means our statement and words must translate into action as theory without practise is doomed.

Let me acknowledge the detailed, informative presentations made by SANRAL, ESKOM, ECSECC, Dr Ndabeni, HEG foundation, Kleva Nkeva as they have contributed positively towards our strategy development and future plans.

Madam Speaker in order to evaluate the relevance of the work which we have done allow me to explain what a strategy is in terms of the corporate world as planning and strategy formulation developed from the corporate world.

It is unfortunate that this is not described according to indigenous African Value systems as our values and practices are not written nor recognised.

According to Saylor J. Michaels:

A strategy formulation is the process by which an organisation chooses the most appropriate courses of action to achieve its defined goals. The process is essential to an organisation's success, because it provides a framework for the actions that will lead to the anticipated results. Strategic plans should be communicated to all employees so that they are aware of the organisations objectives, mission and purpose. Strategy formulation forces an organisation to carefully look at the changing environment and to be prepared for the possible changes that may occur. A strategic plan also enables an organisation to evaluate its resources, allocate budgets, and determine the most effective plan for maximizing return of investment.

A company that has not taken the time to develop a strategic plan will not be able to provide its employees with direction or focus.

Rather than being proactive in the face of business conditions, an organisation that does not have a set strategy will find that it is being reactive, the organisation will be addressing unanticipated pressures as they arise, and the organisation will be competitive disadvantage.

Strategy formulation requires a defined set of six steps for effective implementation and those steps are:

- define the organisation
- define the strategic mission
- define the strategic objectives
- define the competitive strategy
- implement strategies
- evaluate progress

As we go home today we must ask ourselves as to, have we achieved the goals as defined above if not why can we not be charged of fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

A policy is a deliberate system of principles to guide decisions and achieve a rational outcomes. A policy is a statement of intent, and is implemented as a procedure or protocol.

The strategy informs policy formulation and are all informed by the contextual factors prevailing on the ground at that particular moment in time and are subject to change as conditions change which then suffices to say that we are also reviewing some existing policies.

We gathered here over 4 days to develop strategies and policy which we shall implement for the next twelve calendar months until we meet again in 2019 for review.

We need to reflect on key strategic resolutions and targets which we have agreed to do which we shall use as our compass and also measure our performance.

As it has been pronounced by President Cyril Ramaposa that this is the year of Dr Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu we have agreed to integrate our programmes across the key performance areas as we do not have additional funding.

As a result of Low revenue collection we have embarked on the intensification of the Revenue enhancement strategy which we have already endorsed a task team including Rate Payers as a way of building relations and chat way forward.

As a way to accelerate service delivery we shall embark on the intense update of our systems which will connect us to the external stakeholders which include ICT, Munisoft, and Records Management and Job evaluation.

The improved systems will spare us from bribery, corruption and manipulation of any system by neither workers nor the outside people as there are signs of hacking of our email systems.

There is a global challenge of Climate change which impact negative in Agricultural development and human livelihood, we therefore resolved that we embark on an awareness campaign on veld and forest fires, use of relevant chemicals and cosmetics which are ozone free.

Tourism development, we have a number of tourist destinations like Magwa Falls, Mbotyi, Msikaba, Mkambathi and Vulture colonies which need development and be put on the map to attract tourists.

Planning department has to work with Communications in the project of branding and marketing of these areas.

Agricultural development and Agro- processing, we need to accelerate our speed all the projects like farming, one cow one household and abattoir.

We also need to forge links with government departments and all other entities in that sphere as that may create food security and employment.

Furthermore we need to invest in agricultural infrastructure to ensure that our farmers have adequate infrastructure. It is also important to shift our focus to diversification of agricultural commodities that have high impact and that can build village economies.

Oceans economy development, support and develop aquaculture enterprises, solicit partnerships for youth development i.e. South African Maritime Safety Authority program.

We have to embark on a political engagement with department of Public works so assist in terms of the implementation of their plans.

Enterprise Development and Support is one of the critical key strategic projects which need our attention working with the department.

Thomas Sankara once said “Comrades, there is no true social revolution without the liberation of women. May my eyes never see and my feet never take me to a society where half the people are held in silence. I hear the roar of women’s silence. I sense the rumble of their storm and feel the fury of their revolt”.

For we have done very little or nothing on women development we have therefore agreed to convene a Women’s conference or summit which shall lead to the birth of a Women’s Strategy, plan and programmes. This will also lead to a formation of a women’s movement which shall champion all women programmes.

As part of heading to a call for youth employment and development we have decided on the development of a Youth development strategy which shall unpack some projects which must unfold soon.

As part of youth development we shall develop a bursary policy for students from destitute families in tertiary institutions as this will also address the both level of education and triple challenges.

Having noted the large number of stagnant cases, we have resolved on an intense Land awareness campaigns and appointment of a senior legal practitioner so as to have access to the courts of law.

We shall also have to intervene political to have the sitting of the case flow management sessions by the senior legal practitioners in both towns.

Municipality must be at the centre of protecting coastal land along N2 Sanral route as to avoid reversing the motion on expropriation of land without compensation.

We must strive for the Filling of vacancies in key and strategic areas, as well as provision of working tools is key in order to accelerate implementation of resolutions of the Council and service delivery like legal services, internal audit, engineering services etc which will increase our performance in the key strategic points.

Commented [TTG1]: can we request a bit of flash from Miss Tobia

Commented [ZZM2R1]:

The capacitation of workers, councillors is so paramount to address career pathing and exit management strategy.

We have to embark on the Review of Performance Management System policy so as to be able to be cascaded to middle management, officers and general workers as the current policy does not talk to that.

Political interventions in key strategic projects like housing, SANRAL, Eskom and Water projects is a must happen to unlock the challenges.

Political arm to consider the issue of requesting a grant in kind from O.R. Tambo District Municipality for the Basic Service delivery programmes of Ingquza Hill Local Municipality.

Commented [TTG3]: where ?

Small Revitalisation project shall soon be unveiled but it requires our zeal and energy to work tirelessly so that we do not lose the grant. This will play a significant role in changing the face of our towns especially Flagstaff and the lives of our people.

Water is a basic service or right which our people are entitled to however we need to embark on high level strides to achieve this against the fact that we have two hundred and seventy million rand.

We need to strive for the Implementation of the National Health Insurance scheme as we have been identified as a nodal point and also affected by high mortality rate, Pandemics and decreasing life expectancy.

Our area is a crime prevalent area and therefore we call for the Launching of Community Police Forums, Village and street committees which shall work with security forces.

This needs a political intervention and also our representatives to the district municipality need to dirty their hands on this matter.

We shall have to consider getting into a legal binding service level agreement which shall assist in monitoring the implementation of the provision of water to our people.

We are proud to have 82% of our households having been connected but we have a mammoth task to deal with issues of terrain and delayed approvals by Environmental Impact Assessment which delay implementation of projects and this need political intervention.

We have noted with serious concerns the poor performance by the Department of Human Settlements however we must consider partnerships with the municipalities which are doing good so as to share best practices.

As we come out of this session we must be cognisant of the fact that we shall be running in a high speed to accelerate service delivery as in the next month is the last quarter of the financial year.

We must also come out of this session re invigorated to embark on community involvement through IDP and Budget Roadshows which shall talk to budget and policies.

Chis Hani had this to say “Socialism is not about big concepts and heavy theory. Socialism is about decent shelter for those who are homeless. It is about water for those who have no safe drinking water. It is about health care, it is about a life of dignity for the Old. It is about overcoming the huge divide between urban and rural areas. It is about a decent education for all our people. Socialism is about rolling back the tyranny of the market. As long as the economy is dominated by an unelected privileged few, the case for socialism will exist”.

Our strategies, policies, programmes and budget therefore should go along the provision of constitutional basic services to our people.

I wish to thank all those who participated and contributed through various ways to the success of this strategic planning session.

I also wish to thank all the attendees for their commitment and zeal to work tirelessly in improving our people's lives for the past 4 days.

You have sacrificed and leaved your families and loved ones for, the duty called.

Thanks to the Management for the thorough preparations for this august occasion as there were very little glitches if any which we encountered.

I want to call to the management and workers in general to work tirelessly towards implementing the resolutions of this session which include reporting to those not here for ownership

We must have taken tune from our President Cyril Ramaphosa who said “I wanna be there, send me” taking from the song by the late Hugh Masekela.

Safe Journey Home, Till we meet again.