

SOMA SPEECH 2016 delivered by Hon Cllr Mayor J.P Mdingi

The honourable speaker,

The Executive Mayor of our District

The MP and MPL's

All mayors, speakers from the OR Tambo and neighbouring Local Municipalities

IHLM Councillors

Traditional Leaders

Families of Ingquza Hill Fallen Matyers or heroes- Pondo Revolt Matyers

Ingquza Hill Bussiness chamber

Political organisations and UNIONS

Youth formations

Community Development workers

Ward Committees

Community at large

Municipal Manager

The entire Management

The workers of Ingquza who are behind our successes

Receive warm greetings on behalf of Ingquza Hill Local Municipality council

To start with let me remind everyone that this is our last financial year and our last year or months in our term which started in 2011. It is therefore important to reflect on what have we done and also answer a question which was once asked by a Russian philosopher, leader which said "what is to be done?"

We are convened just few days after the workers day celebrations, few days before Africa Day. This Africa day is one of the most Significant days as it call to all Africans to unite regardless of monetary, language, cultural and boundary differences.

Hon speaker I wish to state categorically that this is our last term of office and it was a very long journey from 2011 to 2016. Despite all trials and turbulences we sailed smoothly and we reached our destiny

We also converge 56 years after the Ingquza Hill Massacre which is recognised internationally by United Nations and Nationally by National Heritage council as Pondo Revolt. We lift our banners to all our forbearers who saw it fit to resist any form of oppression and repression which was imposed in a form of land reforms.

Compatriots

We are also meeting 40 years after the 1976 Student uprising which brought about a new phase in the South African Revolution. They were so dedicated and disciplined as they avoided at all costs any destruction of property.

The world is under serious economic downturn or upsurge and as part of the Global village we are not immune. As 3rd world countries we are at the receiving end as plans to rescue 1st world are always focusing on exploiting our resources and imposing high rates on loans.

The 2016-2017 budget speech talked to the budget cut by 2,4 % in 2018- 2019 which is huge cut but it's a long term plan to save the country .

Honourable speaker

KEY TARGETS 2011 -2016

When we got to office in 2011 we agreed on 5 key priorities:

- Accelerated service delivery
- Tourism
- Changing the face of our towns
- Agriculture and forestry development

Our SDBIP's, IDP and budget were done based on these priorities and we pride ourselves about our achievements over the 5 years being in power. This is a real good story to tell

Fellow Councillors

Allow me to make a reflection on our population statistics and demographics in our operational area. This information is so important as it influences the way we think and we do things.

We have a population of 278 481 people with 201 539 youth,76 942 adult between 31 years to 120 years of age. 149 507 Of these people are women and 128 974 are males.

Our country is face by triple challenges of Inequality, unemployment and poverty but our government is making strides to counter these by introducing some initiatives like Expanded Public works programmes and community works programmes.

These includes some internship programmes and learner ships programmes which capacitate and prepare youth for real work situation with stipend.

Fellow community members let us share with you the key Milestones and our success stories which make us to say Ingquza is a very good place to be and invest

Clean audit

As reflected in the 2015 SOMA that we wanted to have clean audit, indeed we achieved that. We attribute that to the stable, committed and focused political leadership, administration and workforce with a zeal to break new ground. In Eastern Cape there were only 8 of those with clean audit out of 45 municipalities. Thanks to all of those who made us to get that including service providers, community through constant support

Service delivery

Service delivery is the key function and the key element for the existence of Local government sphere or Municipalities which aimed at improving people's lives who have been impoverished by the apartheid regime and colonialist rule for more than 300 years

Infrastructure

Roads- out of our target of 200 km we have managed to construct km new roads and this is a significant improvement.

We have manage to maintain roads which constitute km. this implies that our rural areas are connected to the towns and there is high level of accessibility and communication. This also implies access to other services like health

New roads 2016/17

We are committing to construct 15 new roads in the 2016/2017 financial year in the following wards:

Ward 1, 5,7, 8, 10,12,13,14,26,27, 29

Office space

We have started building our offices in Flagstaff and we hope to finish by end 2016.

Driver's license Testing centre – we are the verge of finishing the Drivers Licensing Testing and we hope to open it formally by October 2016.

Lusikisiki Plaza – we are proud to report that we have managed to facilitate building of Lusikisiki Plaza against the prophets of doom and is fully operational. It has positive spin offs as there is high employment and decrease in traffic and human congestion

Electrification

Today we pride ourselves about significant improvement as 4500 households are now having Electricity . We have manage to construct 3 electricity power stations which are Thafabanzi, Cabekwana and Taweni this necessitated electrification of deep rural areas of Mantlaneni, Makhwaleni, Mfinizweni, Gwexintaba and Holly cross areas.

For 2016/17 financial year we shall put light to the following villages ward 28 – Sidakeni 65 houses, ward 15 – Mdikane 95 houses, Ward 17 –Kanana 100 houses from INEP costing about R one million six hundred and twenty five thousand rands(R 1,625, 000.00).

We shall also put High Mast lights at Flagstaff and Lusiksiki towns which will cost us R 4 million from the MIG

Community Halls

Ever since we moved away or changed our approach of building hall through 100 % tender process to a Municipality centred approach there was a high acceleration in hall construction.

We have built Halls in every ward at a very low cost as compared to what we spent in the first constructed community halls like Bisi.

We have also managed to purchase chairs for those community halls and we are in the process of procuring for those not yet supplied with chairs.

By 2016/17 we will build 2 town halls in Flagstaff ward 6 and ward 19/15 in Lusikisiki

Agriculture and Forestry

We pride ourselves about Massive food production initiatives which have begun in Lambasi and in ward 30 which are a proof that we prioritised Agriculture

There are forest plantations in ward 16 and ward 18 which we have started and taking shape. We have started a programme on preservation of Natural forests which has just been launched by the Minister of Agriculture, forestry and fisheries at Mkambati

Changing the face of our towns

The period between 1990 and 2001 has been a difficult one as was characterised by land grabs and encroachment of illegal dwellers, shacks and lawlessness in our small rural towns.

This created a situation where in the municipalities had difficulties in planning for urban development. There have been no laws which regulating buildings in our rural towns especially those of Transkei area

We have constructed a plaza in Lusikisiki which is operating as we speak and has dealt with overpopulation, traffic jam and also unemployment levels.

We are finalising the issues with Qunza pertaining the land next to the post office

We have managed to build a complex in Flagstaff which is under Rhino and is operating

We are going to build chain stores opposite Khephe motors in Flagstaff area by 2016 – 2017 financial year

Education

As education is an apex priority of our government we had to make strides to champion that through programmes.

Our government has built 10 new schools in this area through Accelerated Schools Infrastructure development(ASIDI) which were mud schools or community built schools like Ntlavukazi and Ndimbaneni.

80 % of our schools have been electrified to give space for education programmes to take place and those schools have been allocated funds for Municipal rates.

We re noting with great concern the deteriorating performance of our district and our province and we feel something has to be done by all as we regard Education is a societal matter.

We need to strengthen and re orientate all the support structures like SGB's, District education Forums, RCL's, worker formations like NEHAWU and SADTU to dedicate their resources and energy to learning and teaching.

On Disability, Gender, Rights of Children and HIV/Aids

We are providing support in various ways to the vulnerable sectors and Disabled people. We have provided resources to 5 Early Childhood centres and also provided uniform to 4 schools Buhlanyanga, Twazi, Mvubu and Thembalethu to 80 vulnerable and orphanage learners in this financial year.

We have upgraded our Lusikisiki Library according to White paper 6 of 2005 on Inclusive Education by introducing programmes and services like brail to accommodate deaf and blind society.

IGR – we are making all departments within our area of jurisdiction to account for all the programmes they are doing and are about to do so as to make communities aware of such developments in their areas.

Sanral N2,

Several meetings held with South African National Roads Agency to facilitate the development of the coastal N2. Consultations have been made with the local traditional leaders for land acquisition. There will be community meetings to gather community resolutions as legally required. Local SMME's will be trained by SANRAL to ensure relevant skills are harnessed. The municipality will ensure benefits during construction and post construction will be done. The construction of the bridges will be the first phase expecting to start before the end of the year 2016. The advert calling for the service providers has already been done and the closing date is the 21 June 2016.

Harbour Development,

The municipality has been identified by DEA, Department of Public Works and DAFF to revive the Port Grosvenor Harbour along the coast. There is a plan by government to revive all the harbours that once existed along the coastline of the Indian Ocean. The harbour for Ingquza Hill Local Municipality was linked to the revival of the harbour in Port St Johns. This plan is also linked to the marine resources and ocean economy.

Resort of Mkhambathi,

The private investment of the resort development in Mkhambathi has been finalised. It is expected that this will enhance the local economic development. This development is done in partnership with the Mkhambathi Trust. This is linked to the proposed coastal N2.

Partnership with TUT

The municipality has partnered with Tshwane University of Technology to gather support. This partnership is expected to assist in capacity building, research and innovation. Site visits were concluded and the Memorandum of Agreement has been finalised. This will ensure that local communities, municipality leadership get training and skills which are needed in our area

Led Projects

We have these women and youth projects which are running as we speak which are funded by the Municipality and some funded by Social development and some by Department of agriculture, Fisheries and some by Department of Rural development and Agrarian reforms

All the wards have funded projects which vary from ward to ward but include poultry, vegetable, old age homes, paralegal centres, vulture colony, sewing projects and many others.

For 2016/17 financial year we intend focusing on the following projects

- Capacity building for SMME's
- Seminars for SMME's
- Support for 31 projects with inputs
- Fencing of Fields
- Maize production projects support for projects with irrigation schemes

Community services- safety and security – in partnership with SAPS we have been going around the villages doing advocacy on crime prevention and safety in our villages. Furthermore we encouraged our communities to launch Community Police Forums and to report crime whenever witnessed.

Traffic cops – we have 21 trainees on

solid waste – we have closed a number of pounds due to health hazards and other environmental problems but we have also opened some.

We had some transport challenges but we are moving faster to address them as we have just purchased a tractor to assist in solid waste removal in all the towns

Good Governance and institutional Transformation

We pride ourselves of our strides towards achieving Good governance and institutional transformation by not complying but producing good implementable documents like SDBIP, IDP, and BUDGET which were all adopted by our council.

We also pride ourselves of convening all our standing committees and section 57 committees without fail which played an oversight role. These culminated in successful IDP and Exco roadshows, budget processes where communities participated as part of public participation

Communication, Marketing and branding of our institution

We are exploring some initiatives to heighten our communication strategy which will market our institution. We have started a programme called talk to your councillor through Inkonjane and was well received by communities.

We are on the verge of clinching deals with national radio stations, television and Provincial Newspapers like Daily Dispatch and National Newspapers like Mail and Guardian. We will also capacitate our councillors in media handling through the Government Communication Information system.

CHALLENGES

Housing, sanitation,

High initiates death – as this area we are always confronted with high death initiates which we have to deal with as soon as possible. We need all the stakeholders in that a

Drought and water- Drought is the serious challenge in our country and continent at large and Ingquza in particular. Drought is as a result of the failure by first world industrialised countries to implement Climate change conferences decisions like Montreal, Kyoto protocol and 2010 Durban conference. Third has resulted in serious water shortages which pose a threat to human kind.

We make a clarion call to stop veld and forest fires as that impact negatively in the level of rainfall as it hinders evaporation which lead to rainfall. This also pose a threat to our natural species which attract tourism

On one hand this create an opportunity for us as a coastal agricultural municipality with favourable climate. Ours is to get advice or warning signs and weather or climate predictions for the next 3 years so that we explore our opportunities. This implies that we must concentrate on massive food production and animal husbandry as the interior of the country is experiencing unprecedented persistent drought.

NEW key priorities 2016 TO 2021

- Explore Ocean Economy initiatives
- Develop eco-Tourism
- Sustaining Magwa Tea Corporation
- Face-lifting of our towns (building town halls ward 6& 15, building offices in Lusikisiki and tared roads in our Sub-Urban areas and townships).
- Traffic and population congestion
- Improve cleaning of our towns and solid waste recycling

As we step down from the Podium we wish to call our communities to support all our endeavours and initiatives which have a potential to improve peoples lives.

We call on traditional Leaders and councils to capacitate themselves with SPLUMA and begin to talk to our communities so as to avoid collusion with the councils and or municipalities

Our special thanks to all the 278 000 people of Ingquza Hill who are always behind us in various ways including constructive criticism in social networks and all other media sources.

To our workers we say success come as a result of hard work and hard work come as a result of confusion, confrontation and cooperation. This is an indication that it was a very long way characterised by cliffs, steep roads, sharp curves and dangers but you made us to survive. Thank you so much for your courage and zeal to work, keep on keeping on.

Siyabonga, **siyabulela, thank you**