

Strategic Planning Mayor's Political Overview 2017

Programme Director
The Honourable Speaker
Honourable Chief Whip
The Honourable EXCO members
Honourable Chairperson of Section 79 Committees
All Honourable councillors
Honourable Councillors from sister municipalities
Labour Unions
The Municipal Manager and Officials
Management from sister municipalities
Management from Sector Departments
Officials from State Owned Enterprises

The management and support staff receive warm and sincere greetings on behalf of the council and three hundred and three thousand (303 000) people of Ingquza Hill.

Madam Speaker

It is important to reflect on the International and National Balance of forces as this has a direct influence in our existence and operations in pursuit of developing the lives of our communities. The imperialist forces as led by America continues to dominate the Western agenda to exploit African continent and African people.

The ascendance of Donald Trump to the presidency has disclosed to all of us that the Western forces are on the offence as they also defy the rating agencies. The rise and fall of Chinese economy has a direct impact as we are members of Bricks which suffices to say we have to lean towards BRICKS as our partners. The economic meltdown in these international forces impact negative on us as this impose heavy burden in a form of import and export tariffs.

Honourable Councillors

Our government has declared this year as the year of Oliver Reginald Tambo where in there will be various festivities as to honour him posthumously as if he was still alive

would be 100 years. His character, behaviour, credentials, sacrifice and dedication towards the total emancipation of the African black majority in general which we have to preserve to be made a living testimony through goals and objectives which are realistic.

As this municipality we have to plan what projects and programmes we have to embark on to emulate what national government has started to preserve OR Tambo's legacy. President Tambo was a Maths and Physical Science teacher and our government has resolved to assist our learners to develop on these subjects.

He also studied at Holy Cross Mission School and Palmerton High School which have since been declared as heritage sites which calls us a local sphere to do something which talk to these sites. President Oliver Tambo understood that Political freedom without economic freedom is meaningless hence the ruling party declared this term as the time for Radical Economic Transformation.

Business sector

The financial sector is one of the critical elements in the radical economic transformation and he would have loved to see an independent black owned Reserve bank which would be able to deal with credit ratings which would be in favour of our people.

O.R Tambo would have loved to see a country where all people enjoyed human rights as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa holistically and would have made quick wings. We must align our programmes on how the national government has done allocating a programme to each and every month of the year as O.R Tambo was and would be pursuing those.

We would have called as a society in general to adopt all high schools in the ward in order to improve the situation of education as this will improve the livelihood of our societies. OR Tambo was an advocate of right to life and dignity and he would have loved to see Holy Cross and Health system run properly with permanent health care, hospital boards and clinic committees and enough staff compliment

As an advocate of peace and stability, he crisscrossed the world and would have made strides to fight against crime in a form of amavondo which is affecting our communities who are leaving in fear.

O.R Tambo would have loved to see our people with decent jobs especially youth and women and our strategic plan must pronounce on how we are going to create conducive environment to provide for employment. The radical economic transformation in O.R Tambo would have meant that Land must be given back to the rightful owners for extensive food production, employment and access to economy.

As he was born in deep rural areas, O.R Tambo would have loved to see an accelerated Rural Development where people would be having access to free basic services, clean water, housing and electricity.

Compatriots, let us look at the economic environment critically as this is going to inform our strategy moving forward.

The SONA, SOPA, National and Provincial Budget speeches have spoken on a number of issues which amongst them the critical issue is the economic situation. The economic and fiscal outlook in the country is heavily influenced by the global economic challenges thus leading to slow economic growth rate. Our country is faced with triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality which continue to affect our societies but we have to find strategies to deal with these challenges.

The current growth is less than 1.2% per annum and does not meet the 5% set in the National Development Plan. This simple means unemployment rate is far above economic growth and affecting youth and women. Revenue estimates by SARS which do not meet expectations and impacts negatively in the economic growth as it is one of the major sources of revenue collection in our country.

There is one question we need to ponder with which is why do we continue to implement neo liberal policies against the background that we are a member of BRICKS with China and Russia as key dominant leaders against America and the west who are champions of Neo liberal tendencies?

Will this approach of being conformists assist us in implementing the radical economic transformation which will address the triple challenges? This calls all of us in this strategic session to craft strategies to deal with this serious challenge by thinking of big initiatives

Honourable Councillors

I wish to remind you that this is a strategic planning session which has a responsibility to build in a political flavour on what technocrats have done so as to benefit our people. We have to look very close to our vision of our municipality as it needs to be.

With the advent of N2 Highway we are seeing the increasing land invasion around towns and the sea. Some people are misleading the headmen's purchasing hectares of land for selfish interests. This is tantamount to recolonization of our country and this will not benefit our people but few elite individuals who have got no people's interests for an organisation to function it needs policy so our gathering is to give a guide in policy, strategies and tactics to fulfil our mandate.

In our first strategic session in 2011 we agreed on key priorities and programmes to embark on which would measure our successes and failures.

These included the following;

- Accelerated Service Delivery
- Tourism
- Changing the face of our towns
- Agriculture and forestry development

Fellow Councilors

We are proud to pronounce that we have achieved all our targets, thanks to the outgoing Council and community at large. Below are the achievements:

- We constructed 457 km new access roads against the 200 km target
- We constructed 31 community halls in all wards and we are planning to add 10 community halls in 2016-2021 term of office.
- We facilitated the construction of Lusikisiki Plaza and Flagstaff Square which employed more than 300 people.
- We are currently building Municipal offices at Flagstaff which costed fifty million rand (50 000 000).
- We committed twenty one million rand to build Drivers Licensing Testing Centre and Vehicle Testing Station which is about to be completed.
- We achieved to secure one Agri-Park at Lambasi Administrative Area
- Wetlands protection and Vulture Colony in progress at Lambasi

- Above all we received Clean Audit opinion which is attributed to the sound administration and political support (unqualified audit 3 consecutive years and 1 clean last year)

2016-2021 Key priorities

As the council and delegates from Ingquza Hill Stakeholders, in our recent strategic planning held at Casino resorts from the 24 - 27 October 2016 we identified the following 5 years key priorities:

- Face-lifting of the towns
- Magwa Teas Rescue Plan
- Eco-tourism
- Ocean's Economy
- Agriculture and Forestry
- 200 km new roads construction
- 500 km access road maintenance

Basic Service delivery

There is a serious challenge we have experienced over past few months as there was a delay in completion of projects due to lack of supply of fuel due to closure of Excel garage as a result of crime. We have roads which we are doing with our own internal plant which we bought in June 2016 and that is showing signs of acceleration in construction and maintenance of access roads.

To ensure the Youth Development, we are currently constructing a sport field at Ward 06 which is at 50% and we also want to upgrade the standard of the Mayoral Cup. On Community halls – due to the new demarcation process the following wards have no community halls: wards 10 and 28. The office has already awarded contractors about to start building. The contractors have also been awarded for the construction of the 2 town halls in ward 6 and 19 about to start building process soon.

On Electricity installation

Madam Speaker, We are continuing with our program to make the lives of our people better through provision of electricity to every household but there are challenges of slow pace by ESKOM in connections as is the case at Mantlaneni areas.

The installation of 10 high masts in both Flagstaff and Lusikisiki has been completed and another 10 high masts will be installed 2016/17 financial year and this will assist in combating crime. We will continue to fight for the electricity distribution license which will assist us in assisting our communities in various ways as we shall also be able to speed the supply of electricity to indigents.

Water and houses: this remains a challenge in our operational area as they are not our competence. The Ludiwana dam has not been functioning due to the lack of enough energy to the hydrostatic pressure. Housing projects at Xhopoza, Ingquza and Mpoza have not been completed due to the challenges posed by the lack of capacity on appointed contactors.

Institutional Transformation and Organizational Development

Leadership development

We have conducted series of leadership development and capacity building programs since the inauguration

- Induction of all Councilors by both our municipality and district municipality
- Induction of EXCO and Section 79 committees
- EXCO Lekgotla to prepare for the Strategic planning session
- Strategic Planning session which took 4 full days from 24-27 October 2016
- EXCO outreach as way to report to our communities

As a council through Speakers' office we have established and inducted all the 320 ward committee members.

Organogram review

We will also prioritize filling of vacancies so as to have a full complement of dedicated and capacitated workforce to take the institution to the greater heights. We have issues bulletins in every quarter including those of Directors and Managers which shows our zeal to have a stable administration. We are looking forward to fully implement the performance management system and cascade to the lower levels of employees. This will have an impact on human resources as well budgeting.

We engaged on ways and means to improve worker morale and productivity so as to maintain and sustain clean governance and clean audit with improved service delivery.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

On Land Disposal

In the 2016/17 financial year we have advertised and sold 104 residential sites and 20 industrial sites in Lusikisiki as there is a growing demand from our community.

The land invasion is a big challenge as it both derail development and costs us exorbitant funds as the cases are in the courts of laws.

We have managed to establish and orientate SPLUMA tribunal which will assist in interpretation and application of the SPLUMA as policy on land issues.

Small Business Empowerment

Over the past few years we have been engulfed with a challenge of the provision of the decent place for street vendors and it has been a serious threat to our existence as it led to closure of towns.

We have purchased and distributed Hawker stalls for both towns, and but there seems to be another challenge as some rent out those stalls and continue using their tables.

As the municipality we are committed to empower the informal business through infrastructure and training.

We are committed to assist business people to form the business chamber in a correct approach which will benefit us all. There remains a challenge of foreign business people who do not attend our engagement meetings but we have to impose penalties for their non-compliance.

Financial Viability and Management

It is with pride to mention that we have received the Clean Audit opinion in 2014/15 and 2015/16 financial years and we have been receiving an unqualified audit opinions for 3 consecutive years. We are currently operating with an adjusted SDBIP Budget which were adopted by the Council and advertised in both e print and electronic media for community access and comments. It is our wish to rebuild the relations with the Rate

Payers of Ingquza Hill as the payment of rates will assist in accelerating the service delivery.

Recently, we organized a business breakfast which spoke on a number of issues which amongst others insisted on the enforcement of by-laws. We are owed large sums of money by the national departments, business and residents. Government is owing an amount of R 16 285, 069, 00 (**sixteen million, two hundred and eight five thousand and sixty nine rand**), Business R30 607,655.44 (**thirty million, six hundred and seven thousand, six hundred and fifty five rand forty four cents**) and Residents R18 131,611.21(**eighteen thousand, one hundred and thirty one thousand, six hundred and eleven rand, twenty one cents**)

Revenue committee has been established and will ensure its effectiveness revenue collection committee in dealing with debt collection strategy and writing off of debts.

Good Governance and Public Participation

Our Premier launched Operation Masiphathisane/ War Rooms in May 2016 in Mbizana which has to be cascaded in all local municipalities. War Rooms seek to integrate organs of people's power, civil society and government departments so as to create ownership of government programs. We have launched war rooms in almost all the wards except for wards 1 and 13 and we are going to launch the main war room on the 29th March 2017.

The reason for us not to launch ward 13 is because there is non-cooperation between Ward Councilor and Ward Committees and this has also affected the recently held EXCO outreach program. We have organized Council meetings to adopt reports and refer some to our Municipal Public Accounts Committee as one of the oversight structures.

We have increased the number of the Audit Committee members from 4 to 5 members of to enhance its performance. We have appointed the Performance evaluation committee to evaluate the performance of Municipal Managers and managers reporting to him which would have been extended to all workers by 2019.

Social Services

We are embarking on beautification of towns which includes the cleanliness of towns. The purchase of skip bins doesn't seem to eliminate the illegal dumping, though we have

planted skip bins in hot spots there is still a need to purchase more in order to manage the waste.

We have committed to procure more bins and another tipper truck. We are also committing to construct a waste management site (landfill site). We are committed to fight the scourge of HIV and AIDS as we are facilitating the launch and strengthening of the Local Aids council which will assist in the plans and strategies

We are committed to fight crime through awareness, facilitate the formation of street committees and Community Policing forums so as to have peace, order and stability in our area of operation.

On Education: It is so unfortunate that in our lifetime our area is a worst poor performing district and that calls all of us to create space, program and resources to assist in improving the performance. Masiphumeni ekubizweni as “umkanja”.

CONCLUSION

I wish to conclude by raising what Amilca Cabral said in 1965 “always bear in mind that the people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in anyone’s head.They are fighting to win material benefits, to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children...’

Ours therefore is to satisfy the 303 000 people whom we are leading who have trust, faith on us to fulfil their wishes and aspirations. This require dedicated, capable, willing men and women who at all material times would remember the vision and mission of their own institution.

I hope this session for the next 4 days will deliver realistic goals, objectives and programmes which will be implemented and monitored to their logical conclusion

Together let us move South Africa Forward in the spirit of O.R Tambo

Thank you