

**EXECUTIVE MAYOR, CLLR DIKELEDI TSOTETSI'S BUDGET SPEECH
AT THE EMFULENI LOCAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 31 MAY 2007, 09H00
AT MPHATLALATSANE HALL - SEBOKENG**

Madam Speaker of Emfuleni- Emfuleni Local Municipality
Madam Speaker of Sedibeng – Sedibeng District Municipality
Executive Mayor of Sedibeng – Sedibeng District Municipality
Chief Whip of Council – Emfuleni Local Municipality
Members of Mayoral Committees
Leaders of Political Parties
Honourable Councillors
Municipal Managers
Distinguished Guests, Friends and Comrades
The Beloved People of Emfuleni Local Municipality

When they overwhelmingly voted for their beloved people's movement by a landslide majority in 2006, the people of Emfuleni Local Municipality, gave the African National Congress, their movement, an unambiguous mandate and authority to lead a new democratic revolution to better their lives and give meaning to the herd earned freedom they regained in 1994!

They understood that this freedom was the fruit paid for by the struggles of liberation icons such as Inkosi Albert Luthuli, Oliver Tambo, Nelson Mandela, Lilian Ngoyi, Steve Biko, Robert Mangaliso Sokukwe as well as supreme sacrifices paid at the Sharpeville Massacre, Soweto Uprising, Boipatong Massacre and other landmark struggles monuments of our cherished freedom.

As the custodians of this prestigious mandate, madam Speaker, the leadership of Emfuleni Local Municipality under the baton of the ruling African National Congress, we present to this Council a Budget and the IDP that gives expression to this mandate in our quest to advance the aspirations of the people of Emfuleni Local Municipality towards a better quality of life for all those who live in Emfuleni Local Municipality.

We cannot Madam Speaker discharge this mandate without recognizing that 2007 marked the year of the passing of one of our distinguished struggle icons, the daughter and mother to the people of Emfuleni Local Municipality, Mama Adelaide Tambo, to whom we shall dedicate this budget speech. We remain steadfast Madam Speaker to initiate through this Council dialogue and a process that will culminate in us, the people of Emfuleni Local Municipality, identifying a befitting monument to immortalize the spirit of this giant of our freedom struggle in her own place of birth for generations to come!

Madam Speaker, the African National Congress has declared in its January 8th STATEMENT that the year 2007 shall be "The Year to Intensify the Struggle Against Poverty As We Advance In Unity Towards 2012".

This declaring forms the rallying call to the ANC-Led Emfuleni Local Municipality to mobilise and redirect all resources at its disposal to fight poverty by unleashing the economic potential of our area to create jobs, accelerate service delivery, to fight crime and to improve the living conditions of the people of Emfuleni Local Municipality by providing decent housing, providing health services, improving refuse removal and advancing sports and recreational facility.

Madam Speaker allow me to highlight firstly the key service delivery milestone achieved by the municipality in the foregoing financial 2006/7, to record our consistency in the delivery of our popular mandate:

MILESTONE IN 2006/7 FINANCIAL YEAR

- Water
- Electricity
- Public Safety
- Peeping Democracy (Speaker)
- Housing
- Health
- Infrastructure Development Plan
- LED
- Job Creation

OUR KEY CHALLENGES

Whilst we celebrate these millstones, we should be the first to acknowledge our municipality faces enormous challenges in its quest to fulfill the mandate of our people, key amongst these challenges are:

- The need to eradicate pockets of the dehumanizing bucket system (sanitation) in areas such as Zone 6. In line with the targets of our Gauteng Provincial Government, those will be eradicated before the end of this year.
- The condition of road network remains unacceptable in many parts of our municipality, even though we continue road rehabilitation programmes in all our areas, including through the support of Provincial Government and Sedibeng District Municipality.
- The effectiveness and extension of our public lighting remains a challenge in most of our former black townships.
- The high levels of poverty and unemployment amongst our people remains a daily challenge that preoccupies our minds and should remain a priority as we all-out our Extended Public Works Programme.

- The scourge of HIV and AIDS in our community continues to inflict scar in social fabric of our society and families.
- The plight of our youth, people living with disabilities, our elderly and abandoned children remains a constant sad visitor to our moral fabric and public conscience.
- The huge infrastructure backlog continues to impede our local economic development and service delivery programmes.
- The culture of non –payment for services is a constant threat to the recovery and sustainability of municipality’s capacity to improve the quality of life of our people.
- The institutional capacity of our municipality, particularly relating to its technical and financial skills shortages, disadvantages our municipality to utilize resources like grants to rollout service delivery and infrastructure development projects that are provided by our government to benefit our people.

OUR INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP)

Madam Speaker in tabling the Emfuleni Local Municipality’s Integrated Development – 2007/8 as the cornerstone of our budget that I am about to place before this Council and the people of Emfuleni Local Municipality in a short while, allow me to premise it on the Programme Of The Democratic Movement (The ANC) for 2007, as a rallying call for our public accountability and popular people participation programme as the key mandating process of our democratically elected Council:

“As we prepare for the centenary of movementas a nation” (see page 3 of statement of NEC)

Our IDP is indeed a product of an extensive public participation process that covered the length and breadth of our municipal constituencies ranging from wards, ward committees, business and bulk service providers, local NGO’s and CBO’s, professional bodies, inter-governmental structures, political structures, interest groups, residents and our municipal practitioners in their respective professional domains.

Madam Speaker it is the collective wisdom, sacrifice and guidance of these contributors, that we are able, as a municipality, to emerge with an IDP that is a credible representation of the needs and aspirations of the people of Emfuleni Local Municipality, as a united collective.

It is from these contributions and inputs that we are able, for the first time, to present an IDP that is ward-based and resources to provide services as they are directed and prioritized according to the will of the people, by the people and for the people of Emfuleni Local Municipality! I shall later demonstrate, during the presentation of the budget, how this will of the people finds expression in the allocation of resources through our people-centered budget. Amandla!

Madam Speaker, we would not have achieved a ward-based IDP, in accordance with the doctrines of the ANC-Led government had it not been for the dedication of:

- Our Speaker and her office staff
- Our Chief Whip
- Our IDOP Steering Committee
- Our IDP Representative Forum
- Our Ward Councillors
- Our Ward Committees

Allow me Madam Speaker to acknowledge that the wonderful work executed by these structures that I mentioned, would not have found fruition had I not had a committee of dedicated Mayoral Committee members, supported by my Municipal Manager and her staff in interrogating, collating and producing this final product that is presented to our Council today!

Our collective challenge remains not only in implementing this IDP through our budget but shortly re-embarking on a collective process to review this IDP and improving on it so that we have an even better product in the next financial year as a true demonstration to continuously seeking to deepen our democracy through continuous improvement of our delivery objectives.

Madam Speaker, I hereby place before this Council our Emfuleni Local Municipality Integrated Development for 2007/8 for approval!

OUR BUDGET

Madam Speaker, let me from onset inform this Council and the people of Emfuleni, that this budget is our very first balance, cash-based budget that is homegrown! This budget was exclusively conceived and developed by our own staff, politicians and the people of Emfuleni Local Municipality through their participation in IDP, as I have outlined earlier! No consultants, no outsiders only us!

Before I continue with my presentation, I wish to draw the attention of Council and the house that the detailed Budget is provided to you in the package, with supporting narrative and analysis documents for your perusal. In my presentation I shall focus on the budget highlights so as to provide Council and our budget.

Madam Speaker, this Council, adopted the ANC-Local Government Election Manifesto, as the founding mandate of our political term. As Councillors will remember, this Manifesto was adopted amid high political drama, contestation and political posturing in this very same Council!

Today, I stand before this Council to deliver the very first budget that is the first practical demonstration of our collective resolve to deliver on this Manifesto that attracted overwhelming support of the majority of voters in Emfuleni Local Municipality that I referred to at the very beginning of my speech today.

Through this budget I ask Council and the people of Emfuleni Local Municipality, to test for themselves that we are indeed committed on delivering on their mandate and that they should judge for themselves whether indeed the resource allocation from this Budget reflect their mandate.

However, I hasten to caution that the Budget as only as good as its implementation, and to this end I challenge our Councillors, Mayoral Committee Members, Section 80 Committees and our Municipal Manager to ensure that we dare not fail the people of Emfuleni Local Municipality in this regard! We cannot afford the embarrassment of unspent funds and unachieved targets when we stand here and account at the end of out financial year!

Madam Speaker I present to you Emfuleni Local Municipality Budget 2007/8 as follows!

Our Budget Process and Legal Compliance

(see page 1 item 2007-2008 multi-year Budget)

Our Budget Summary

(page 2 up to Tariff Increases on page 4)

Our Budget Highlights

Madam Speaker, borrowing from a quote by Will Hutton, the writing on the wall, 2007; where he advances the notion that "Human life has equal worth...." Our Minister of Finance in his budget speech this expatiated on this theme, he contends: "Motho ke motho, ga ana bosehlana (a human being is a human being, there is no lesser human being)" and he continues:

“The idea, that human life has equal worth, and that this is the core value that unites us, unites us to ask whether we have done enough to give practical effect in South Africa today to our chares humanity.

Have we acted in a manner that shows that human life has equal worth? Or do we still live in a society where the shadow of history dominates over the opportunities of an open society?”

Well in Emfuleni Local Municipality, we share this perspective on the fellowship and common destiny of our human kind. That is why Madam Speaker, the flagship project f our budget today is:

“OPERATION RESTORE DIGNITY”

This flagship project, which will first start at the basic household and neighboring level by doing the most basic things that our people aspire to like a clean, healthy and livable environment by removing refuse and rubbish that has become a daily experience for the masses of our people, and doing so we will practically demonstrate to our people that indeed “WE CARE AND THEY BELONG” in the hearts and minds of their elected leadership.

Madam Speaker, this project of our term but an informed political response to the call made by our State President in his state of the Nation, when he could have easily have been referring to the living conditions of our people in Evaton, Sedibeng, Tshepiso, Boipatong, Broeketlong, Sharpeville, Palm Springs, when he described South Africa before the advent of our democracy as:

“It was a place in which squalor, the stench of poverty, the open sewers, the decaying rot, the milling crowds of wretchedness, the unending images of a landscapes strewn with carelessly abandoned refuse, assumed as an aspect that seemed necessary to enhance the beauty of another world of tidy streets, and wooded lanes, and flower4s’ blossoms offsetting the green grass, and singing birds and houses fit for kings and queens, and lyrical music, and love”.

In this budget Madam Speaker, we have committed R.....to kickstart this programme to impact, as a priority, on these conditions clearly articulated by our State President, in the State of the Nation Address. We will then later intensify to impact on all our municipality’s IDP’s, Budgets, Business Plan and Implementation.

OPERATION RESTORE DIGNITY must be seen as an all-embracing framework in the execution of our mandate and in our respective administrative function as our underlying work ethos in the spirit of BATHO PELE!

Our second priority focus area in this Budget is our commitment to intensify our fight against poverty as the clarion call of the ANC-led Government, through the directive of our movement’s January 8th STATEMENT that I referred to earlier on speech.

“THE YEAR TO INTENSIFY THE STRUGGLE AGAINST POVERTY AS WE ADVANCE IN UNITY TOWARDS 2012”

In this budget, Madam Speaker, we have committed an amount of R133m towards direct subsidization of our indigents to guarantee them access to the following basic services:

- ✦ 6 kiloliter free water (all families)
- ✦ Provide an additional 14kl of water to registered indigent families (households)
- ✦ 50kwh electricity to registered indigent families (households)
- ✦ Free refuse remove to registered indigent families (households)

- ✦ Free sewer to registered indigent families (households)
- ✦ Free Rates and Taxes to registered indigent families (households)

We are currently verifying 36000 applications of indigent families (households) so that they can get legitimate free access to these services that are provided by their government. In implementing this mammoth task we will require a further R142m. We will then access R77m which comes as grant from our central government as their contribution to the fight against poverty, the balance we will obtain from our internal departments, being R81, 7m from Water and R13, 6, from Electricity.

Madam Speaker allow me to communicate to the people of Emfuleni Local Municipality, that the total amount provided by our central government towards poverty alleviation to the people of Emfuleni Local Municipality has been increased by 51,2% to an annual grant of R237m in this financial year! The ANC has indeed declared this year:

“THE YEAR TO INTENSIFY THE STRUGGLE AGAINST POVERTY”!

Our third key priority area focuses on our resolve to improve the quantity and quality service delivery to better the lives of the people of Emfuleni Local Municipality. In this regard Madam Speaker we have set aside an amount of R33m to intervene decisively on Service Delivery backlogs experienced by our municipality. This in addition to an amount of R.....set aside to improve maintenance of our water and sanitation network, our roads network, refuse collection, public safety and health as well as our electricity network.

The Emfuleni Local Municipality and our central government are agreed that service delivery infrastructure is also old and it needs to be rehabilitated and extended to meet the every growing demand of the people of Emfuleni Local Municipality.

To this end, we have made a joint contribution of R..... toward the development and rehabilitation of our service delivery infrastructure, in the form of MIG and our own funding.

Let me point out that a total of R52m is set specifically set aside to improve the maintenance of our roads, which remains a daily eyesore to our commuting public.

Madam Speaker, at this point, it is opportune for me to address our Ward Councillors and ward Committees alike. I said earlier in my speech, that his budget takes decisive step towards the implementation of our WARD BASED IDP. In this budget the ANC-led Council of Emfuleni Local Municipality, pledges R50m towards WARD BASED projects! AMANDLA!

Let me warn Ward Councillors Madam Speaker that this R50m will be accessed by Wards on a first-come-first-served basis! A ward Councillor that identifies projects, that area already in our IDP, conducts public participation and submit a business plan, will definitely receive an allocation from this R50m. If we don't receive projects and business plans, within the first four months of this budget, this money will be reallocated towards institutional capacity building.

**SO WARD COUNCILLORS AND WARD COMMITTEES, YOU ARE WARNED....
YOU SNOOZE YOU LOOSE!!!!**

In future Madam Speaker, we aim to investigate an incentive-based ward based IDP, where WARDS will be rewarded with additional funding as a proportion of their efforts to increase payment for services in their wards. In other words we will give WARDS more funding if they increase payment levels for municipal services from these people who can afford to pay!

Madam Speaker, this balanced, cash-backed budget will also ensure that increase resources to other sectors of municipality as follows:

- ✦ Local Economic Development receives an allocation R..... to create municipal capacity to implement our Local Economic Strategy and Regional (Sedibeng) Growth and Development Plan. This function is critical towards stimulating our economy to create jobs and sustain our campaign to half poverty by 2014. A further allocation will be made to this function from the National Treasury restructuring Grant.
- ✦ Our housing function continues to receive generous support from our Gauteng Provincial Government in our quest to accelerate housing delivery to restore the dignity of our people. In this year we expect to deliver the following projects:
- ✦ Madam Speaker, our health department continues to provide sterling work in our fight against HIV and AIDS, TB, Malaria etc. The support we continue to receive from the Province and Sedibeng District Municipality remains generous.
- ✦ We will further set aside R.....to increase our fleet, especially in support of our public safety department to give it ammunition to fight crime in Emfuleni Local Municipality.

ADDITIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT

Madam Speaker, in addition to the figures mentioned earlier I wish to communicate to the people of Emfuleni Local Municipality the generous support that we continue to receive from our Central Government, Provincial Government and our Sedibeng District Municipality.

- ✦ Emfuleni will on this year continue to be the beneficiary of the Evaton Renewal Project spearheaded by the Department of Housing in our Provincial (Government).
- ✦ We should this financial year see the completion of the upgrading of George Thabe Stadium in preparation for the 2010 WORLD CUP.

- ✦ The majority of our former black-township will be beneficiaries of the TOP 20 Township Project that aims to improve the living conditions of our people in these areas.
- ✦ As mentioned earlier we should witness in the coming.....an intensification of housing delivery in our area.
- ✦ Sedibeng District continues to play a crucial role in the rehabilitation of our main road networks to complement our own efforts in this regard.
- ✦ Sedibeng District has taken a leadership role in supporting Emfuleni Local Municipality to raise funding for the construction and rehabilitation project of our region sewer scheme, which requires funding in the amount of R600m. We have already received commitment of support from our Gauteng Provincial Government and the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.
- ✦ The Department of Local Government in our Province, has committed funding to support Emfuleni Local Municipality, to implement a Customer data cleansing project that will see us issuing accurate billing to all our customers. They have also committed technical staff to support us with our service delivery challenges.
- ✦ We have received an additional R10m from DWAF to support Mets-a_ekoa waterless reduction programmes.

TARIFF REVIEW

Madam Speaker, the mammoth task faced by our municipality as outlined in my speech, must be funded by the revenue that we collect on a monthly basis from the people of Emfuleni Local Municipality.

Let hasten to add Madam Speaker, that despite of our challenges, Emfuleni Local Municipality has turned the corner, we are no more reliant on our government grants to fund our operations! Although grants remain critical component of our service delivery, we can fund our operational budget without grants. Our government grants form only 21% income.

In order to sustain our turnaround, Madam Speaker, we rely on tariff generated revenue to fund our service deliver. In this budget, Madam Speaker, I present for approval of Council, the following tariff increases, which generally remain within inflationary increase targets, except for cemeteries, which have not been increased over the past two financial years:

- Rates and Taxes 5.5%
- Water 5.5%
- Electricity 5.6% subject to NERSA approval
- Sewer 5.5%
- Cemeteries 7%
- Sundries 5%

Madam Speaker with these modest tariff increases we remain challenged as the collective leadership elected by our people, to lead the campaign for payment for services from those who can afford to pay in communities. If we look at our revenue base it reflects an affective 24.15% increase, which is clear demonstration that our areas have become an attractive area for affluent people to settle and thus improving our economic viability. We need to seize this opportunity by improving payment for services from our own people so that we can reduce the cost of service delivery and extend services to all those who don't have access in WARD 25!

CONCLUSION

In conclusion Madam Speaker, allow me to restate my earlier submission in indeed a people centered budget as per the mandate of the ANC-led Government and the overwhelming majority of the people of Emfuleni.

Allow us therefore Madam Speaker, to dedicate this Budget to the Living Memory Of The Late Icon Of Our Struggle For A Non-Racial, Nonsexist South African; Our Beloved Daughter of Top Location;

MAMA ADELAIDE TAMBO

Through this budget, allow us Madam Speaker to start a debate in this Council on our proposal to consider the remaining Boy Louw Road In Honour of The Legacy and Memory Of This Giant Of Our Struggle, A Heroine For The Struggle For The Emancipation of Women and Africa In General.

Let Her Own Home Soil Immortalize Her Gallant, Selfless And Courage Stand Against Tyranny With a Noble Ideal To Live A Dream That:

“Motho Ke Motho, Ga Ana Bosehlana (A Human Being is A human Being, There is no Lesser Human Being”

Let Us All Dream Of A Dat When The masses Of Our People Will Daily Relieve Her Memory When They Travel Between Vereeniging, Sharpeville, Sebokeng, Evaton, Boipatong, Steel-Park and Tshepiso.

The Day, Madam Speaker, When Boy Louw Road Will Be Known As

ADELAIDE TAMBO AVENUE!!! AMANDLA!

PULA!!!