

2009

Randfontein Local Municipality



[BUDGET SPEECH: 28 MAY 2009]

Budget Speech of the Executive Mayor

**BUDGET SPEECH OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR ALDERMAN ZEPH
MHLONGO ON THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2009 AT 13H00 IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

HONOURABLE SPEAKER

EXECUTIVE AND COUNCILLORS

ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER AND DIRECTORS

MEDIA

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

IT IS AN HONOUR FOR ME TO STAND HERE TODAY TO PRESENT THE 2009/10 FINANCIAL YEAR BUDGET SPEECH AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

A MONTH HAS PASSED SINCE OUR NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS, WHERE THE ANC WON WITH OUTRIGHT MAJORITY.

SOME OF US ARE STILL IN THE CELEBRATING MOOD. HERE AT HOME WE HAVE MUCH MORE REASON TO CELEBRATE. ONE OF THE FIRST REASONS IS THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF OUR PROVINCE, WE HAVE AS THE PREMIER A WOMAN, AND SHE IS NOT JUST ANY WOMAN SHE HAILS FROM OUR DISTRICT.

SECONDLY, OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKENDS WE HAVE BEEN CELEBRATING THE WIN OF THE IBF LIGHTWEIGHT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BY THE SON OF RANDFONTEIN SOIL, MALCOLM KLASSEN WHO HAS ONCE AGAIN PLACED OUR TOWN ON THE MAP OF THE WORLD.

AND AS IF THAT WAS NOT ENOUGH, THERE IS A LOCAL SOCCER TEAM KNOWN AS TRAPZON, MANAGED AND COACHED BY SIPHO KHUSE, WHICH HAS RECENTLY QUALIFIED TO BE IN THE MVELA LEAGUE.

ALL THESE SUCCESSES CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING ABOUT OUR PEOPLE. THAT IN THE MIDST OF THEIR EVERYDAY STRUGGLE, THEY WORK HARD TO TURN WHAT OTHERS SEE AS AN UNTENABLE SITUATION TO BEAR POSITIVE FRUITS.

THEY DO NOT THROW IN THE TOWEL WHEN LIFE GIVES THEM LEMONS, THEY MAKE LEMONADE. THESE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR REGION REPRESENT THE PERSISTENCE AND DETERMINATION THAT CHARACTERISES OUR COMMUNITIES.

CALVIN COOLIDGE POINTS OUT THAT 'NOTHING IN THIS WORLD CAN TAKE THE PLACE OF PERSISTENCE. TALENT WILL NOT; NOTHING IS MORE COMMON THAN UNSUCCESSFUL PEOPLE WITH TALENT. GENIUS WILL NOT; UNREWARDED GENIUS IS ALMOST A PROVERB. EDUCATION WILL NOT; THE WORLD IS FULL OF EDUCATED DERELICTS. PERSISTENCE AND DETERMINATION ALONE ARE OMNIPOTENT. THE SLOGAN "PRESS ON" HAS SOLVED AND ALWAYS WILL SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE HUMAN RACE'

FROM THESE ACTS OF BREVITY AND COURAGE DISPLAYED BY ORDINARY MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY, WE NEED TO BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE AND CONTINUE TO BE STEADFAST IN OUR RESOLVE OF MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BETTERMENT OF OUR OWN LIVES AND THOSE OF OUR COMMUNITIES.

MADAM SPEAKER, EVERYONE KNOWS THAT THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE WORLD IS CRUMBLING, AND THIS UNFORTUNATELY APPLIES TO ALL OF US. OUR PEOPLE ARE LOSING JOBS IN UNPRECEDENTED HIGH NUMBERS. SMALL COMPANIES ARE CLOSING DOWN AND THE MORALE OF PEOPLE IS SLOWING DOWN.

BUT OUR MOVEMENT IS NOT WAVERING IN ITS PROMISE FOR A BETTER LIFE, AND SINCE 2006 WE SAID WE HAVE A PLAN TO MAKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORK. ALL HANDS ARE MORE THAN EVER ON DECK TO MAKE THE PLAN WORK FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE. BUT THIS TIME WE INSIST THAT ALL OF US NEED TO WORK TOGETHER BECAUSE WE KNOW WE ARE ABLE TO DO MORE.

THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF OUR COUNTRY KGALEMA MOTHLANTHE, SAID DURING HIS FIRST AND LAST STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR *"WE SHOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE CHALLENGES WE FACE. THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC MELTDOWN DOES POSE SERIOUS DANGERS FOR OUR ECONOMY IN TERMS OF JOB LOSSES AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF OUR PEOPLE."*

THIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY OUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT REQUIRES US TO HEED THE WORDS OF THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, MR. ABRAHAM LINCOLN, WHO ONCE SAID, *"YOU CANNOT ESCAPE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TOMORROW BY EVADING IT TODAY."*

THEREFORE, THIS CALLS ON US TO LOOK AT OUR FUTURE RESPONSIBILITIES BY FOCUSING ON WHAT CAN BE DONE TODAY. FOR THAT REASON, THIS BUDGET BRAVES TO FACE OUR CURRENT SITUATION AND TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR SHORTCOMINGS, AS WELL AS COMING UP WITH BETTER STRATEGIES.

MADAM SPEAKER AS A RESULT OF THIS, OUR STRATEGIES ARE BASED ON A VIEW OF THE FUTURE, MEANING WHERE WE WANT TO GET – AND ON STRATEGIC GUIDELINES – HOW THE TOWN WANTS TO GET THERE. AFTER THAT WE TRANSLATE THESE GUIDELINES AND VIEWS INTO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES.

THOSE OBJECTIVES ARE MADE COMPATIBLE TO ALL, INCLUDING THE BUDGET SO THAT THESE CAN JOINTLY TARGET THE EFFORTS AT THE SAME FOCUS. THESE STRATEGIES ARE REPRESENTED BY OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED IN THE MEDIUM AND LONG TERM AND ARE ORGANIZED IN THE IDP AND STRATEGIC DOCUMENT WHICH WE CALL THE SDBIP.

ALL OUR OBJECTIVES ARE SUPPORTED BY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS WHICH ARE MEASURED BY INDICATORS, HAVING ASSOCIATED GOALS, WHICH ALLOWS THEM TO BE IMPLEMENTED AND MONITORED.

LOOKING BACK

LAST YEAR THE MUNICIPALITY HAS FACED MANY CHALLENGES OF ITS OWN. THIS AMONG OTHERS, INCLUDING THE RESIGNING OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR.

THIS ALMOST TOOK US OFF GUARD AND ALMOST DERAILED US, BUT AS YOU ALL KNOW, SOMETIMES IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS MEN OF HIGH STANDARDS AND CALIBER SHOW THEIR STRENGTHS.

IN THIS SITUATION WE WERE ALSO REMINDED THAT NO ONE IS INDISPENSABLE, BECAUSE WE FOUND A COMMITTED AND DEDICATED COMRADE OF OUR MOVEMENT TO TAKE THE STRUGGLE OF A BETTER LIFE FORWARD, WITH ACCELERATED MOMENTUM AND ENTHUSIASM. TODAY WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK MR. SESHOKA ONCE MORE FOR THE SPLENDID WORK DONE IN SUCH A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

AMIDST ALL THESE CHALLENGES, WE ALSO HAVE SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE ABOUT. LAST YEAR, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS WE KNOW IT, OUR MUNICIPALITY RECEIVED A QUALIFIED REPORT INSTEAD OF THE USUAL DISCLAIMER IN THE FINANCIAL AUDIT BY THE AUDITOR GENERAL. FOR THIS WE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE HARD WORK OF OUR EVER EFFERVESCENT CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND HIS STAFF.

MADAM SPEAKER, LAST YEAR WHEN I STOOD IN THIS PODIUM IN FRONT OF THIS CHAMBER ON THE OCCASION OF THE BUDGET PRESENTATION, I COMMITTED THIS MUNICIPALITY TO IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS THAT WERE MEANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THIS TOWN:

SOCIAL SERVICES.

LAST YEAR WE COMMITTED R23, 449, 698-00 FOR THIS DEPARTMENT AND SO FAR, THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND OTHERS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING FINALIZED:

- TO UPGRADE THE CURRENT STATE OF ALL MUNICIPAL HALLS INCLUDING THE IEC HALL, RAMOSA BOXING HALL, MOHLAKENG ARTS AND CULTURE HALL AND TOEKOMSRUS COMMUNITY HALL;
- FURNITURE HAS BEEN PURCHASED FOR RAMOSA HALL;
- ALL SPORTING FACILITIES HAVE BEEN FENCED;

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

OUR CLINICS ARE CLEAN AND SERVICE DELIVERY IS IMPROVING. WE HAVE CONDUCTED CAMPAIGNS THAT INCLUDE CANCER AWARENESS, DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS.

HIV AND AIDS

WITH REGARDS TO HIV AND AIDS, THE MUNICIPALITY SEES THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS AS PART OF THE INTEGRAL STRATEGY TO FIGHT THE SCOURGE OF AIDS AND ITS REMNANTS.

AS WE ALL KNOW THAT SHORTAGE OF HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH CONTINUES TO BE A FORMIDABLE OBSTACLE IN PROVIDING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO HEALTH. FOR THIS REASON, THIS DEPARTMENT HAS RENEWED THE CONTRACT OF THE HEALTH WORKERS SO THAT THEY CAN CONTINUE THEIR SERVICE WITHOUT BEING HASSLED BY EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT ISSUES.

JUST TODAY, I WENT TO OPEN THE FIRST EVER HIV LEKGOTLA WHOSE THEME IS SCALING UP PREVENTION, TREATMENT, CARE AND SUPPORT AND WHOSE OBJECTIVES IS TO CAPTURE THE PROGRESS OF THE HIV/AIDS PROGRAMMES, CHALLENGES AND SUCCESS AND TO OUTLINE THE STANDARD AT WHICH SERVICES ARE RENDERED.

WE NEED TO REITERATE THIS, IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERYONE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY TO FIGHT THE AIDS PANDEMIC, WHETHER AS A GROUP IN CHURCHES OR AS ORGANIZED WOMEN WITHIN OUR WARDS, BUT ALL OF US HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR PEOPLE WHO ARE LIVING WITH THIS CONDITION. IT IS SIMPLY CALLED UBUNTU.

WE NEED TO GO BACK TO OUR ROOTS OF WHO WE ARE AND DIG DEEP IN OUR HUMANITY TO SHOW COMPASSION AND SUPPORT TO BOTH THE INFECTED AND AFFECTED. WE ALSO NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT WE PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE SO THAT THOSE WHO ARE NOT INFECTED, REMAIN THAT WAY.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

ONLY LAST YEAR WE OPENED THE NEW EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE IN EXTENSION 7 OF MOHLAKENG. AS YOU WOULD KNOW, PERSONALLY I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT EDUCATION.

I HAVE SAID DURING THE OPENING FUNCTION OF THIS ECD, EDUCATION MEANS A CULTURE OF MOTIVATING, UNDERSTANDING, APPRECIATING AND ENCOURAGING CHILDREN FROM AN EARLY AGE TO ASPIRE TO A BETTER FUTURE, NOT ONLY FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES BUT FOR THE COMMUNITIES WHERE THEY COME FROM.

THE MAIN REASON WE BUILT THIS FACILITY WAS TO VEHEMENTLY DEAL WITH THE SOMETIMES UNHEALTHY STANDARDS OF THE GARAGE AND BACK ROOM CRÈCHES THAT EXIST IN OUR TOWNSHIP. THE INTENTION WAS TO CLUSTER THESE INTO ONE MODERN FACILITY THAT CAN ACCOMMODATE A VERY HIGH NUMBER OF OUR CHILDREN. INSTEAD, WE WERE CONFRONTED WITH RESISTANCE FROM THE TARGETED CRÈCHES AS ALL OF THEM DEMANDED TO BE PRINCIPALS.

WE THINK THIS THINKING IS NOT PROGRESSIVE AND DOES NOT ASSIST THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CHILDREN, BUT IS INDIVIDUALISTIC AND BORDERS ON MAINLY SERVING SELF-INTEREST AND NOT THOSE OF THE CHILDREN AND THE COMMUNITY.

I CALL ON THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO ARE ASSISTING US BY NOT ONLY LOOKING AFTER OUR CHILDREN BUT CONTRIBUTING TO THEIR EARLY DEVELOPMENT TO ASSIST US IN THIS ENDEAVOUR, FOR WHEN WE BEGIN THE NEW ECD TO FULLY CO-OPERATE SO THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF CLUSTERING THESE CENTRES FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE LIVES OF OUR KIDS CAN BE REALIZED.

SECONDLY, THIS DEPARTMENT IS STILL ASSISTING THE MUNICIPALITY AND THE PEOPLE OF RANDFONTEIN TO FIGHT POVERTY BY PROVIDING FOOD GARDENING IN CLINICS, BECAUSE WE ALL KNOW THAT THE MIRACLE OF THE SEED AND THE SOIL IS NOT AVAILABLE BY AFFIRMATION; IT IS ONLY AVAILABLE BY LABOUR. WE REALIZE

THAT OUR PEOPLE MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SOIL AND WHAT IT CAN DO TO BRING THEM DIGNITY BY FIGHTING POVERTY.

CHALLENGES

ONE OF THE MAJOR CHALLENGES WITHIN THIS DEPARTMENT IS THE NUMBER OF AREAS WHERE ARV DRUGS ARE SUPPLIED. THE CHALLENGE IS THAT OUR PEOPLE GO TO A PARTICULAR CENTRE AND THEY ARE LABELED. MEASURES NEED TO BE TAKEN TO ADDRESS THIS MATTER.

THE ENVIRONMENT UNIT AS IT IS CURRENTLY PLACED, DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE TOWN AND AS A RESULT, THEY SEEM TO FOCUS ON ONE AREA OF TOWN AND NEGLECTING OTHER VERY IMPORTANT PARTS.

IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT AS THE MUNICIPALITY WE LACK TO SUPPORT OUR SPORTING CODES. I HAVE LEARNT THAT THIS DEPARTMENT WILL RE-ALIGN THE MANNER IN WHICH IT PROVIDES SPORTING SUPPORT AND THIS WILL RESULT IN MAKING A MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPORTING HISTORY AND FUTURE OF OUR TOWN.

WHEN IT COMES TO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, ONE OF OUR MAJOR CHALLENGES IS THAT THE CLINIC IN ELANDSFONTEIN IS NOT UTILIZED TO FULL CAPACITY. THIS BECAUSE OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE COMMUNITY IT IS MEANT TO SERVICE. OUR PEOPLE ARE SCATTERED ALL OVER THE RURAL AREAS AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO REACH ALL OF THEM. HOWEVER, THE MOBILE CLINIC IS UTILIZED TO REACH SOME OF THE AREAS.

PUBLIC SAFETY

AS WE SAID LAST YEAR, THE HIGH RATE OF CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN OUR TOWN COULD UNDERMINE GROWTH, THREATEN HUMAN WELFARE, AND IMPEDE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

CRIME IMPACTS BUSINESS AND IS A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO INVESTMENT, AND AS A RESULT OF THIS, WE ALLOCATED **NINETEEN MILLION, EIGHTY ONE HUNDRED**

AND EIGHTY FOUR THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND SIXTEEN RAND TO THE DEPARTMENT DEALING WITH PUBLIC SAFETY IN A QUEST TO CONTRIBUTE TO A CRIME FREE TOWN.

THE FOLLOWING WERE THE PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN TO ASSIST THE BUILDING OF SAFER COMMUNITIES AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT:

- ESTABLISHMENT OF A RADIO ROOM SO THAT A CLEAR COMMUNICATION LINE BETWEEN THE OPERATIONS CENTRE AND THE OFFICER ON THE ROAD IS CLEARER.
- INSTALLATION OF PARKING METERS
- A TOTAL OF 5056 TRAFFIC OFFENCES WERE ISSUED IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS
- ESTABLISHMENT OF POLICING FORUMS IN ALL WARDS.

CHALLENGES

THIS DEPARTMENT FACED CHALLENGES RANGING FROM MINIMAL UTILIZATION OF THE PEACE OFFICERS TO THE LACK OF APPROPRIATE RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT ITS DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES.

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

LAST YEAR WE HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THIS DEPARTMENT AS THE ENGINE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND THE AGENTS OF CULTURAL AND POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION.

AS A RESULT WE ALLOCATED **EIGHT MILLION, FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY NINE THOUSANDS AND SEVEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY SEVEN RANDBS ONLY (R8,459,737)** FOR THE 2008/09 FINANCIAL YEAR FOR IT TO CONTINUE BRINGING THIS HIGHLY WANTED ECONOMIC GROWTH, FOCUSING ON:

- SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK, GIS AND LAND USE
- MUNICIPAL PROPERTY AND VALUATION ROLL
- MUNICIPAL HOUSING SECTOR PLANS AND
- DEVELOP PLANS LEADING TO ECONOMIC GROWTH.

SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS FOR THIS DEPARTMENT IN THE 2008/9 FINANCIAL YEAR WAS THE FOLLOWING:

- OPENING OF THE YOUTH ADVISORY CENTRE;
- COMPLETION OF THE FIRST PHASE OF FOUR HUNDRED HOUSING PROJECTS IN BADIRILE;
- NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN TOEKOMSRUS;
- TWO HOSTEL BUILDINGS THAT ARE CURRENTLY BEING CONVERTED INTO FAMILY UNITS AND THE PROCESS OF HANDING OVER THE OTHER EIGHT TO THE CONTRACTOR TO COMMENCE WORK BEFORE THE END OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR.
- CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST PHASE OF FIVE HUNDRED HOUSES IN EXTENSION ELEVEN IS UNDERWAY;
- ADMINISTRATION PROCESS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SECOND PHASE OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE HAS BEEN COMPLETE AND THE CONSTRUCTION WILL BEGIN BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.
- THE LAUNCH OF THE ANNUAL SMME EXPO WHICH WOULD SERVE AS THE PLATFORM FOR SMME'S IN THE GREATER RANDFONTEIN TO SHOWCASE THEIR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES IN AN OPEN MARKET.
- MUNICIPALITY HAS AVAILED FOUR HECTRES OF LAND FOR THE FOOD SECURITY PROJECT IN MOHLAKENG WHICH WOULD CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMS, THE PROJECT COSTS R500 000.

CHALLENGES OF THIS DEPARTMENT RANGES FROM LAND AVAILABILITY TO THE UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE EXTENT OF THE ROLE THAT THE MUNICIPALITY PLAYS IN THE PROVISION OF HOUSES AS WELL AS THE RELUCTANCE OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS TO MOVE SO THAT DEVELOPMENT CAN COMMENCE.

INFRASTRUCTURE

LAST YEAR, WE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AS THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IN URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IS THE

AVAILABILITY OF ADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES LIKE WATER, ELECTRICITY AND SANITATION, GOOD ROADS, SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

THIS IS THE SAME REASON WE ALLOCATED A SIZEABLE PORTION OF THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET TO THIS DEPARTMENT. THE TOTAL BUDGET FOR THIS DEPARTMENT WAS **TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY FOUR MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED AND NINETY THREE, NINE HUNDRED AND TWENTY SEVEN RAND (R244,893,927)** IS ALLOCATED IN THE OPERATIONS BUDGET.

THE FOLLOWING ARE KEY PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN AND COMPLETED BY THIS DEPARTMENT:

- MIDDELVLEI AND DROOGEHEUWEL BULK WATER, THE PROJECT COST WAS R69 MILLION AND IS STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION. THE DATE OF COMPLETION IS ENVISAGED TO BE 30 JULY 2009.
- MIDDELVLEI OUTFALL SEWER IS ALSO STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION, THE TOTAL COST OF THIS PROJECT IS R14 242 000. AND BY THE END OF THIS WEEK IT SHOULD BE COMPLETED AND HANDED OVER TO THE MUNICIPALITY.
- BADIRILE BULK SEWER IS ALSO UNDER CONSTRUCTION. THE TOTAL COST WAS R15 526 984 AND WAS COMPLETED IN FEBRUARY 2009.
- WE ARE STILL IN THE PROCESS OF RESURFACING ROADS IN THE ENTIRE RANDFONTEIN, AND THESE INCLUDE: MAIN REEF, RALERATA IN MOHLAKENG, DIAMOND STREET IN TOEKOMSRUS. THE CONTRACTORS ARE CURRENTLY BUSY WITH THE EXCAVATION OF STORMWATER CHANNELS IN TAFELBERG STREET AND TAMBOTIE STREET IS BEING SEALED. THE TOTAL COST OF THIS WORK IS R9.6MILLION AND WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF JUNE 2009.
- CONSTRUCTION OF INTERNAL STREETS IN MOHLAKENG EXTENSION 7. THESE INCLUDED KABELO, NGQONYELA, NHLAPHO, BAFANA, ARSENAL, CELTIC, RABALI, WARRIOUS, BLACK LEOPARDS AND COSTA DE SOL STREETS. THE TOTAL COST FOR THIS WORK WAS R8.2 MILLION;
- UPGRADING OF EIKEPARK ROADS WHICH COSTS THE MUNICIPALITY R1.5 MILLION.

- REGRAVELLING OF 3KM OF AGRICULTURE HOLDING ROADS TO THE COST OF R3.4MILLION;
- REPLACEMENT OF THE PAVING BLOCKS AT R559 AND R28 INTERSECTION;
- THERE IS CONTINUAL WORK THAT IS DONE IN TERMS OF THE SEALING OF ROADS.
- FINALIZED MOHLAKENG AND FINSBURY SUPPLY ZONES;
- COMPLETION OF PEACEHAVEN SUPPLY PIPELINE;
- COMPLETION OF RING MAINS TO ROBINSON HOSPITAL;
- REHABILITATION OF SEWER IN REKALE AND SEME STREETS;
- BADIRILE AND MIDDELVLEI OUTFALL SEWER;
- INSTALLATION OF SIX HIGHMAST LIGHTS IN TOEKOMSRUS TO THE VALUE OF R750 000.
- UPGRADING OF ELECTRICAL NETWORKS IN MOHLAKENG EXTENSION 4 & 7 TO THE VALUE OF R2 MILLION;
- REFURBISHMENT OF THE EXISTING LINES IN TEN ACRES TO THE VALUE OF R3 MILLION.

CHALLENGES

THE MOST GLARING CHALLENGE OF THIS DEPARTMENT IS LACK OF ADHERENCE TO THE COMPLETION DEADLINES. THIS IS MOSTLY CAUSED BY THE CONTRACTORS THAT WE PROCURE TO PROVIDE THESE SERVICES. THIS DEPARTMENT IS WORKING ON TIGHTENING MEASURES FOR CONTRACTORS SO THAT THEY ADHERE TO AGREED DEADLINES AND GOOD QUALITY FOR THE PROVISION OF THESE SERVICES.

TOEKOMSRUS SPORTS COMPLEX CONSTRUCTION REMAINS A MAJOR CHALLENGE, NOT ONLY FOR THIS DEPARTMENT, BUT FOR ALL OF US. THIS PROJECT WAS APPROVED IN 2006 FOR AN AMOUNT OF R5M. SINCE THAT TIME, COSTS HAVE ESCALATED AND TRIPLED. THE MUNICIPALITY IS HOWEVER LOOKING AT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD GRANT TO COVER THE SHORTAGE OF COSTS.

IT WILL HOWEVER NOT HELP US TO HAVE THIS MONEY AVAILABLE IF THE COMMUNITY OF TOEKOMSRUS CONTINUES TO THREATEN TO DISRUPT THE START OF THIS DEVELOPMENT.

I WANT TO URGE MEN AND WOMEN OF PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN THIS AREA TO STAND UP AND ADVISE US HOW WE CAN MAKE SURE THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT IS IMPLEMENTED IN THIS TOWN WITHOUT INHIBITION.

IT SADDENS US AS GOVERNMENT TO SEE THAT DEVELOPMENT IS HELD TO RANSOM BY A FEW PEOPLE.

CORPORATE SUPPORT SERVICES

IN LAST YEARS BUDGET PRESENTATION WE HAVE ALLOCATED CORPORATE SUPPORT SERVICES AN AMOUNT OF **NINETEEN MILLION TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY RANDS (R19,241,320)** TO CARRY OUT THE MANDATE OF BEING AN AGENT OF IMPLEMENTING THE KEY PRIORITY AREA OF OUR PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, THAT OF BEING A CARING GOVERNMENT.

WE HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT OPERATING ENVIRONMENT FOR COMPANIES HAS BECOME MORE CHALLENGING, NOT ONLY THROUGH SCARCITY OF SKILLS AND HARDER COMPETITION, BUT ALSO DUE TO OUR GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION AND LEVELS OF REMUNERATIONS.

WITH THIS BUDGET WE UNDERSTOOD THEM TO SAY THAT THEY NEED TO IMPLEMENT AN URGENT PLAN OF MAKING SURE THAT WE HAVE ENOUGH RESOURCES, HUMAN, SKILL AND MATERIAL, THAT WOULD CARRY OUT WHAT THE OTHER DEPARTMENTS HAVE PLANNED TO ACHIEVE.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE PROJECTS COMPLETED BY THIS DEPARTMENT ACCORDING TO THE ALLOCATED BUDGET:

- IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMS;
- DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMPLOYMENT EQUITY PLAN WITH TARGETS FOR EQUITY;

- DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCE POLICIES, PROCEDURE MANUAL AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY;
- IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TIME MANAGEMENT SYSTEM;

CHALLENGES

- MAJOR CHALLENGES OF THIS DEPARTMENT INCLUDE THE FINALISATION OF THE ABSORPTION OF THE VUKUZENZELE PROJECT WORKERS.
- THE CONSTANT FAILURE OF THE IT SYSTEM THAT HAVE MAJOR NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE GENERAL WORK OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS.
- THE LACK OF STRATEGY FOR THE RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT OF SKILLED EMPLOYEES.

FINANCE

THE ENTIRE BUDGET AND SMOOTH OPERATION IN TERMS OF BUDGET AND FUNDING OF ALL THE HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS DEPEND ON THE EFFICIENCY AND CO-OPERATION OF THIS DEPARTMENT.

WE STILL MAINTAIN THAT THIS DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOT JUST BE OUR GUIDE ON SPENDING PATTERNS BUT OUR CONSCIENCE AS WELL.

IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR WE HAVE ALLOCATED **R31, 495 ,502** TO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT TO BE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES, WHICH INCLUDE AMONG OTHERS.

- THE MANAGEMENT OF THE BILLING SYSTEM
- REVENUE COLLECTION
- SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT
- IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INDIGENT POLICY

2009/10 FINANCIAL YEAR BUDGET

MADAM SPEAKER ALLOW ME TO PRESENT TO THIS HOUSE THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2009/10 FINANCIAL YEARS.

BUT BEFORE I DO THAT LET ME SHARE WITH YOU HOW THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS UNFOLDED IN THE PREPARATION FOR THIS BUDGET.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES WERE UNDERTAKEN DURING NOVEMBER 2008 WITH RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS BY MEANS OF IDP ALIGNMENT SESSIONS AND FORUM MEETINGS, INCLUDING MAYORAL ROADSHOWS CONDUCTED IN EACH AREA OF THE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.

BEFORE THAT THE SPEAKER HOSTED ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY WHERE WE SAW A VERY STRUCTURED MANNER OF PARTICIPATION.

THE YOUTH DESK IN THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR HELD A YOUTH AND IDP WORKSHOP IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE WERE FIRST EDUCATED ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTICIPATION, AND LATER THEY WERE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CREATION OF ITS IDP.

LAST WEEK THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF THE MUNICIPALITY TOGETHER WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT HELD A STRATEGIC WORKSHOP THAT MADE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

IN TERMS OF ELECTRICITY:

1. THAT AN APPLICATION BE MADE TO ESKOM TO SUPPLY ADDITIONAL DEMAND POWER FOR THE 4 SUB-STATIONS IN RANDFONTEIN – AT A RISK OF HAVING POWER OUTAGES SHOULD THERE BE AN ELECTRICAL PROBLEM IN ONE OF THE TRANSFORMERS, AS THE ADDITIONAL CAPACITY IS OUR BACK-UP SUPPLY.
2. THAT AN APPLICATION IS BEING MADE TO WESTONARIA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY TO TEMPORARILY ASSIST US WITH ADDITIONAL CAPACITY OF ELECTRICITY TO BOOST THE MOHLAKENG SUB-STATION.
3. THAT FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENHANCING SERVICE DELIVERY THE FOLLOWING STRUCTURAL RE-ORGANIZATION NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED:

- THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION TO BE LINKED WITH DIRECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE (WASTE MANAGEMENT).
- THE BUILDING SECTION TO BE LINKED WITH THE DIRECTORATE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING.
- THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT TO BE LINKED WITH THE DIRECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE.
- THE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT AS WELL AS THE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS UNIT TO BE LINKED WITH THE DIRECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE.
- PROMOTE INDEPENDENCY OF THE VALUATION SECTION.
- REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECTORATE INTO A MANAGABLE UNIT.

THE SAME MEETING TOOK THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS TO FURTHER ENHANCE SERVICE DELIVERY AND REDUCE SPENDING:

1. THAT IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC MELT DOWN EXPENSES NEED TO BE DRAMATICALLY REDUCED.
2. THAT THE USE OF CONSULTANTS (PROFESSIONAL SERVICES) BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM.
3. THAT OUR MUNICIPALITY LIAISE WITH THE WRDM AND OTHER ADJACENT MUNICIPALITIES TO DEVELOP THE NEW LAND USE MANAGEMENT SCHEME PLAN IN LINE WITH COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES.
4. THAT THE COMMUNITIES WHO ARE THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE OLD HOUSING SCHEMES BOTH IN TOEKOMSRUS AND MOHLAKENG BE ISSUED WITH CLEARANCE CERTIFICATES AT NO COST BECAUSE OF THE EXTINGUISHED LOANS BY PROVINCIAL HOUSING DEPARTMENT.

2009/10 FINANCIAL YEAR BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

DELIVERING ON OUR COMMITMENTS OF BRINGING A BETTER LIFE BEGINS WITH AN UNRELENTING DEDICATION TO SOUND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.

THIS IS NOT JUST GOOD ECONOMIC OR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, IT IS GOOD COMMON SENSE. IT CREATES THE DISCIPLINE OF PAY AS YOU GO, NOT SPEND AS YOU LIKE. IT ENSURES THAT THE DECISIONS WE MAKE TODAY DO NOT BECOME THE DEBTS THAT OUR COMMUNITY WILL HAVE TO BEAR TOMORROW.

WITHOUT WASTING TIME MADAM SPEAKER, ALLOW ME TO TAKE THE MEETING THROUGH THE BUDGET.

THE PROPOSED OPERATIONS EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2009/10 FINANCIAL YEAR IS R503,038,922-00.

THE COMPILATION OF THE BUDGET IS INFLUENCED BY THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:-

- 34% ELECTRICITY TARIFF REQUESTED BY ESKOM FROM NERSA (FINAL PERCENTAGE INCREASE TO BE ADVISED BY NERSA)
- 8,3% TARIFF INCREASE BY RAND WATER
- PROVISION OF 12 % FOR SALARY INCREASES FOR EMPLOYEES (FINAL % TO BE ADVISED BY SALGA) AFTER NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNIONS.
- INFLATION THAT IS BETWEEN 8% AND 10 %
- FLUCTUATING FUEL PRICES
- ECONOMIC DOWNTURN
- AFFORDABILITY

THE PROJECTED BUDGET FOR EACH DIRECTORATE IS AS FOLLOWS:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| • MUNICIPAL MANAGER | R15,707,854 |
| • CORPORATE SUPPORT SERVICES | R26,001,737 |
| • INFRASTRUCTURE | R323,916,308 |
| • SOCIAL SERVICES | R23,768,439 |
| • FINANCIAL SERVICES | R45,511,360 |
| • DEVELOPMENT PLANNING | R14,661,233 |
| • COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE | R29,971,699 |
| • PUBLIC SAFETY | R23,500,292 |

THE FOLLOWING IS THE REVENUE SOURCES:

• ELECTRICITY	R219,976,515
• WATER	R54,150,000
• SANITATION	R18,239,130
• CLEANSING	R19,177,597
• PROPERTY RATES	R77,530,138
• EQUITABLE SHARES	R54,337,000
• OTHER GRANTS	R10,086,850
• OTHER REVENUE / INCOME	R49,541,692

IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE PROJECTED REVENUE BUDGET OF R503,038,922-00 THE FOLLOWING TARIFF ADJUSTMENTS ARE PROPOSED:

- ELECTRICITY – 34 % TARIFF ADJUSTMENT
- WATER – 8,3 % TARIFF ADJUSTMENT
- PROPERTY RATES – IMPLEMENTATION OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY RATES & ASSESSMENTS
- REFUSE – 15 % TARIFF ADJUSTMENTS
- SANITATION – 15 % TARIFF ADJUSTMENTS
- SUNDRY TARIFF – 10 % AVERAGE TARIFFS ADJUSTMENTS

THE TOTAL CAPITAL BUDGET IS 2009/2010 IS R78,616,100-00 AND WILL BE FUNDED FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES:

• MIG	21,580,100
• PROVINCE / NATIONAL	20,240,300
• OWN FUNDING	35,796,000
• NATIONAL LOTTERY	1,000,000

ADDITIONAL PROVISION OF R14,000,000-00 FOR THE 20 PRIORITIZED TOWNSHIP PROJECT HAS BEEN MADE BY PROVINCE. THE PROJECTS ARE MANAGED BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

MADAM SPEAKER, LET ME NOW TAKE THE HOUSE THROUGH THE DEPARTMENTAL BREAKDOWN OF THE BUDGET:

INFRASTRUCTURE

LIKE WE ACKNOWLEDGED LAST YEAR, INFRASTRUCTURE IS THE CATALYST FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH. WE HAVE ALSO LEARNT THAT INFRASTRUCTURE IS A KEY FACTOR IN RESPONDING TO THE CURRENT GLOBAL ECONOMIC DOWNTURN. IN ADDITION TO THIS, IN THE DRIVE TO INCREASE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REDUCING POVERTY LEVELS TO MEET OUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVE OF MEETING MILLENNIUM GOALS, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PLAYS A PIVOTAL ROLE.

THEREFORE DEVELOPING TOWNS LIKE OURS NEED TO FOCUS MORE ON INFRASTRUCTURE THAT IS ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND, SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE, AND FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE. WE NEED TO DO THIS FOR THE LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY AND GROWTH OF OUR ECONOMY.

OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT WILL BE ACHIEVED BY:

- MAINTENANCE OF THE EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS;
- ENSURING DELIVERY OF PROJECTS THAT REMAIN OUR PRIORITY;
- SUPPORTING PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (PPPS) IN INFRASTRUCTURE;
- SUPPORTING NEW INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION BY PROVIDING ADEQUATE FINANCING AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT SKILLS.

AS YOU WOULD ALREADY KNOW, WE HAVE ALLOCATED **R323,916,308** FOR SOME OF THE CAPITAL PROJECTS THAT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE TO REALIZE THESE OBJECTIVES IN THE 2009/10 FINANCIAL YEARS

ROADS	R9.900.00
NEW OFFICE BUILDING & REFURBISHMENT OF EXISTING BUILDINGS	R5.000 000
DROOGEHEUWEL BULK WATER	R10 000 000
MIDDELVLEI BULK WATER	R2,000 000
ELECTRICITY	R7,000 000
WATER & SANITATION	R3,000 000
COMPACTORS	R3,000 000
PARKS & CEMETERIES	R1,500 000
WASTE MANAGEMENT : UPGRADING OF LANDFILL SITE	R1,000 000
UPGRADING GREENHILLS CEMETERY	R4,751,900

FROM THE OPERATIONS BUDGET THE FOLLOWING IS GOING TO BE DONE IN INFRASTRUCTURE:

STREET MARKINGS	R300, 000
STREET LIGHTING	R436,6000
TRAFFIC LIGHTING	R530,000
MAINTENANCE OF CEMETERIES	R750,000
ROAD MAINTENANCE	R2,000,000
STORM WATER	R2,000,000

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE LEARNT THAT IT TAKES MORE EFFORT FOR US AS A TOWN TO ATTRACT AND SUSTAIN BIG BUSINESSES, DUE TO THE HIGH LEVEL OF COMPETITION PROVIDED BY THE THREE METROPOLITAN NEIGHBOURS IN OUR PROVINCE. THE GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF OUR AREA DOES NOT ASSIST OUR ENDEAVOURS IN THIS REGARD EITHER.

WE HAVE ALSO LEARNT THAT A CLEAR ECONOMIC STRATEGY, SHAPED THROUGH ENGAGEMENT WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES AND THE PEOPLE RIGHT FROM THE START, TOGETHER WITH THE INFRASTRUCTURE READINESS AND CAPABILITIES OF HOLDING SUCH BUSINESSES ,SELLS THE TOWN WITH MUCH LESS EFFORT.

THE MUNICIPALITY HAS ALLOCATED **R14, 661,233** FOR THIS DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT ITS MANDATE WHICH INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING PROJECT:

BDC PHASE 2

R2,500 000

SOCIAL SERVICES

ALL SOCIETIES HAVE TO LIVE WITH THE STRAINS AND STRESSES CAUSED BY DIVISIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE ARE IN ALL SOCIETIES DISPARITIES OF WEALTH BETWEEN RICHER AND POORER PEOPLE. WHEN THESE DISPARITIES ARE EXCESSIVE, OR TENDING TO INCREASE, COHESION IS PUT AT RISK.

IN OUR CASE AS SOUTH AFRICANS AND RANDFONTONIANS IN PARTICULAR, THE MAIN REASON FOR LACK OF THIS COHESION WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES IS LEVELS OF EXTREME POVERTY, WHICH IS THE DIRECT CONSEQUENCE OF THE APARTHEID SYSTEM WHICH AMONG OTHERS CAUSED DISPARITIES IN EDUCATION AND HUMAN SETTLEMENT.

HAVING SAID THIS, NO SOCIETY IS WITHOUT CLASS, ETHNIC AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY. THE QUESTION IS HOW TO MANAGE DIVERSITY SO THAT IT BECOMES A SOURCE OF MUTUAL ENRICHMENT RATHER THAN A FACTOR OF DIVISION AND CONFLICT.

WE NEED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CLOSING OF THIS GAP BY TAKING ACTION TO REDUCE INEQUALITIES AND RESTORE EQUITY SO THAT THESE VARIOUS DIVISIONS REMAIN MANAGEABLE AND DO NOT GROW SO AS TO THREATEN THE STABILITY OF COMMUNITIES.

NO SOCIETY IS FULLY COHESIVE. SOCIAL COHESION IS AN IDEAL TO BE STRIVEN FOR RATHER THAN A GOAL CAPABLE OF BEING FULLY ACHIEVED. IT CONSTANTLY NEEDS TO BE NURTURED, IMPROVED AND ADAPTED.

SOCIAL COHESION IS NOT ONLY A MATTER OF COMBATING SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND POVERTY, IT IS ALSO ABOUT CREATING SOLIDARITY IN SOCIETY, SUCH THAT EXCLUSION WILL BE MINIMISED.

AS THE MUNICIPALITY WE WORK TIRELESSLY THROUGH OUR HEALTH, SPORT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES TO MINIMISE THE GAP BETWEEN THE HAVES AND THE HAVE NOTS TO CLOSE THE CLASS DIVISION AND ENCOURAGE BETTER SOCIAL COHESION.

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR OF 2009/10 WE HAVE SET ASIDE A BUDGET OF **R23,768,439** FOR THIS DEPARTMENT TO CONTINUE WITH OUR EFFORTS OF SOCIAL COHESION AND BRIDGING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DIVIDE.

OLD AGE HOME	R12,000 000
EARLY CHILD HOOD	R5,000, 000
TOEKOMSRUS SPORT COMPLEX	R5,361,200
UPGRADING MOHLAKENG TENNIS COURT	R500, 000
RANDGATE LIBRARY RESTORATION	R800,000
NEW LIBRARY MOHLAKENG	R1,700, 000
FINSBURY SPORT FIELD	R500,000

PUBLIC SAFETY

THE TOTAL BUDGET FOR PUBLIC SAFETY IS **R23,500,292 TWENTY THREE MILLION, FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND , TWO HUNDRED AND NINETY RANDS.**

THIS BUDGET AMONG OTHERS WILL IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

PUBLIC SAFETY : STORAGE FACILITY	R165 000
PUBLIC SAFETY : VEHICLE POUND	R10,000
PUBLIC SAFETY : SECURITY ROOMS	R400 000
PUBLIC SAFETY : GUN SAFES	R70 000

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

INSTEAD OF RESTRICTING THE WAYS OF POPULAR PARTICIPATION TO DEMANDING FROM GOVERNMENT THE DOING OF AN ACTION, FOCUSING ON GOVERNMENT BUDGET ALONE, IT IS ALSO NECESSARY TO INCORPORATE SOCIETY'S POTENTIAL TO DISCOVER AND DEVELOP ITS OWN ASSETS AND MAKE ITS POTENTIALITIES MORE DYNAMIC.

NOT ONLY DEMAND, BUT ALSO PROPOSE. NOT ONLY WANT, BUT ALSO DO. INSTEAD OF ONLY ASKING FOR RESOURCES, MOBILIZE AND FOSTER NEW RESOURCES THAT MAY NOT BE OBTAINED AS OTHER SOURCES, BUT THAT MAY BE FOUND AT THE BASE OF SOCIETY.

INSTEAD OF STRUGGLING TO GET A GIVEN ACTION OR PUBLIC SERVICE FROM GOVERNMENT, MAKE PUBLIC A SOCIAL SPHERE OF INITIATIVES, ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITIES AND BRINGING TOGETHER UNPRECEDENTED COMPETENCIES.

IN ADDITION TO PARTICIPATIVE BUDGET, WE SEEK PARTICIPATIVE PLANNING, LOCAL HEROISM, COLLECTIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND PARTNERSHIPS AMONG THE SEVERAL TYPES OF AGENCIES LIKE GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE ENTERPRISES AND CIVIL SOCIETY FOR SOLIDARITY GOVERNANCE.

HAVING SAID THIS, WE NEED TO GEAR UP OUR SUPPORT THAT WE GIVE TO WARD COMMITTEES SO THAT THEY CAN REACH FULL FUNCTIONING CAPACITY. ONE OF THE MANNERS IN WHICH WE CAN ACHIEVE THIS, IS TO MAKE SURE THAT IN THEIR MEETINGS WE ENSURE THAT AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF THE MAYORAL COMMITTEE

IS AVAILABLE SO THAT IF THERE ARE IMMEDIATE RESPONSES REQUIRED, THEY CAN BE PROVIDED IMMEDIATELY.

FURTHER, THE CONTENTS OF THESE REPORTS THAT ARE WRITTEN REQUIRE EXECUTIVE INTERVENTION; THEREFORE, A COPY OF SUCH REPORT, AFTER BEING SUBMITTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER, MUST BE FORWARDED TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR SO THAT APPROPRIATE FOLLOW UPS AND REPORTING BACK CAN BE DONE TIMEOUSLY TO THE WARD COMMITTEE.

IN RELATION TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKERS, WE NEED TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIP SO THAT THERE IS SYNERGY IN THE MANNER IN WHICH WE WORK. BEFORE THESE REPORTS ARE SUBMITTED TO PROVINCE, AS LOCAL GOVERNMENT WE NEED TO HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE AREAS THAT REQUIRE OUR INTERVENTION TO CURB UNNECESSARY RED TAPE.

LASTLY, ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, FOR US TO BE ABLE TO GET MAXIMUM BENEFIT OF THE SECTOR PARTICIPATION, WE NEED TO STREAMLINE OUR ENGAGEMENT TO AREAS WHERE THEY HAVE VESTED INTEREST.

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) THAT COGNIZANCE BE TAKEN OF THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR REGARDING THE 2009/2010 BUDGET AND THE 2010/2011 AND 2011/2012 MEDIUM FORECAST;

(b) THAT THE CAPITAL BUDGET OF R78,616,600 AS CAPTURED HEREUNDER BE APPROVED.

R21,580,100	-	MIG FUNDING
R20,240,300	-	PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL
R35,796,000	-	OWN FUNDING
R 1,000,000	-	NATIONAL LOTTERY FUNDING

(c) THAT THE OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2009/2010 BE APPROVED AS FOLLOWS:-

REVENUE - R503,038,922
EXPENDITURE - R503,038,922

- (d) THAT COGNIZANCE BE TAKEN THEREOF THAT A MEDIUM TERM BUDGET 2010/2011 AND 2011/2012 HAVE BEEN COMPILED AS PART OF THE BUDGET;
- (e) THAT IN ORDER TO ENABLE COUNCIL TO MEET THE BUDGETED EXPENDITURE OF R503,038,922 AND NOT TO HAVE A DEFICIT, THE FOLLOWING ADJUSTMENTS TO THE TARIFFS BE APPROVED;
- (i) THAT THE TARIFFS FOR REFUSE REMOVAL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2009/2010 BE ADJUSTED BY 15% EXCLUDING VALUE ADDED TAX;
- THAT REFUSE REMOVAL SERVICES BE RENDERED FREE OF CHARGE TO REGISTERED INDIGENTS;
 - THAT COGNIZANCE BE TAKEN THEREOF THAT THE PROPOSED TARIFF ADJUSTMENT ARE PART OF THIS REPORT;
- (ii) THAT THE TARIFFS FOR BASIS SEWERAGE AND ADDITIONAL SEWERAGE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2009/2010 BE ADJUSTED BY 15 % EXCLUDING VALUE ADDED TAX;
- THAT THE SEWERAGE SERVICING BE RENDERED FREE OF CHARGE TO REGISTERED INDIGENTS;
 - THAT COGNIZANCE BE TAKEN THEREOF THAT THE PROPOSED SEWERAGE TARIFFS ARE PART OF THIS REPORT;
- (iii) THAT THE TARIFFS FOR THE PROVISION OF WATER FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2009/2010 BE ADJUSTED BY 8,3 % EXCLUDING VALUE ADDED TAX;

- THAT THE 6 KL FREE BASIC WATER BE ACCORDED FOR ALL DOMESTIC CONSUMER OF RANDFONTEIN EXCEPT FOR INDIGENT HOUSEHOLDS;
 - THAT INDIGENT HOUSEHOLDS BE ACCORDED 10 KL FREE BASIC WATER PER MONTH;
 - THAT COGNIZANCE BE TAKEN THAT THE PROPOSED WATER TARIFFS ARE PART OF THIS REPORT.
- (iv) THAT THE ELECTRICITY TARIFFS FOR THE 2009/2010 FINANCIAL YEAR BE INCREASED BY 34 % SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICITY REGULATOR, BE PROMULGATED AND IMPLEMENTED EXCLUDING VALUE ADDED TAX. INDUSTRIAL USERS USING MORE THAN 1000 KVA'S BE GIVEN A CHALLENGE DISCOUNT OF 4 %.
- THAT THE 50 KWH FREE BASIC ELECTRICITY BE ACCORDED TO ALL DOMESTIC CONSUMERS OF RANDFONTEIN EXCEPT FOR INDIGENT HOUSEHOLDS.
 - THAT INDIGENT HOUSEHOLDS BE ACCORDED 100 KWH FREE BASIC ELECTRICITY PER MONTH;
 - THAT COGNIZANCE BE TAKEN THEREOF THAT THE PROPOSED ELECTRICITY TARIFFS ARE PART OF THIS REPORT.
 - THAT THE ELECTRICITY TARIFFS ADJUSTMENT REPORT IS ATTACHED AS PART OF THIS REPORT.
- (v) THAT IN TERMS OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT MUNICIPAL PROPERTY RATES ACT, 6 OF 2004 AND REGULATIONS ON THE RATE RATIO BETWEEN THE RESIDENTIAL AND NON RESIDENTIAL

CATEGORIES OF PROPERTIES. THE PROPERTY RATES BE DETERMINED AND APPROVED AS FOLLOWS:-

DETAILED CATEGORY	TARIFF	EXEMPTION	REBATE
AGRICULTURAL	0.0025	0	CAN APPLY
COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL	0.018	0	40%
GOVERNMENT	0.018	0	0%
INSTITUTE	0	0	0%
MINING	0.018	0	0%
MULTI PURPOSE	0.01	15000	10%
PUBLIC SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE	0.0025	0	0%
PUBLIC OPEN SPACE	0	0	0%
PARKING	0.01	0	0%
RECREATIONAL	0.01	0	0%
RESIDENTIAL	0.01	15000	10%
SECTIONAL TITLE	0.01	15000	10%
VACANT STANDS	0.04	0	0

- THAT RATEPAYERS CHOOSE BETWEEN PAYING RATES ANNUALLY IN ONE INSTALLMENT ON OR BEFORE 30 SEPTEMBER OR IN TWELVE EQUAL INSTALLMENTS ON OR BEFORE THE SEVENTH OF THE MONTH FOLLOWING ON THE MONTH OF WHICH IT BECOMES PAYABLE;
- THAT THE RATES BE BASED ON THE MARKET VALUES OF ALL RATEABLE PROPERTIES CONTAINED IN THE RANDFONTEIN LOCAL MUNICIPALITY GENERAL VALUATION ROLL AND SUPPLEMENTARY VALUATION ROLL.

- THAT THE AMENDED PROPERTY RATES POLICY ATTACHED AS ANNEXURE "A" BE APPROVED;
 - THAT THE PROPOSED PROPERTY RATES BY-LAWS ATTACHED AS ANNEXURE "B" BE APPROVED AND PROMULGATED.
 - THAT THE PROPERTY RATES TARIFFS REPORT IS ATTACHED AS PART OF THIS REPORT.
- (f) THAT SUNDRY TARIFFS BE ADJUSTED AS PER ATTACHED ANNEXURE "C";
- (g) THAT THE AMENDED TARIFF POLICY AS PER ATTACHED ANNEXURE "D" BE APPROVED;
- (h) THAT COGNIZANCE BE TAKEN THAT ALL TARIFFS ARE EXCLUSIVE OF VALUE ADDED TAX;
- (i) THAT INTEREST AS IT IS CHARGED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN REVENUE SERVICES FROM TIME TO TIME BE CHARGEABLE ON ALL ACCOUNTS IN ARREARS IN RESPECT OF CURRENT ACCOUNTS AFTER THE DUE DATE OF THE ACCOUNT AND DEFAULTERS BE LIABLE FOR LEGAL PROCEEDINGS FOR RECOVERY OF SUCH AMOUNTS PLUS INTEREST AND LEGAL FEES.
- (j) THAT ALL RATEPAYERS WHO DO NOT RECEIVE ACCOUNTS BE ADVISED TO INFORM THE FINANCE DIRECTORATE, AS THE NON-RECEIPT OF ACCOUNTS DOES NOT RELIEVE THEM FROM A LIABILITY FOR PAYMENT.
- (k) THAT TARIFF INCREASE BE ADVERTISED AND PUBLISHED IN TERMS OF THE MUNICIPAL FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT (ACT NO 56 OF 2003).
- (l) THAT ALL INDIGENTS HOUSEHOLDS WHO HAVE BEEN REGISTERED, VERIFIED AND APPROVED BE ACCORDED ASSISTANCE AS FOLLOWS:-

- ✓ 10 KL FREE WATER
 - ✓ 100 KWH FREE ELECTRICITY
 - ✓ FULL SUBSIDY FOR PROPERTY RATES
 - ✓ FULL SUBSIDY FOR SANITATION
 - ✓ FULL SUBSIDY FOR REFUSE REMOVAL
- (m) THAT ALL OTHER NON-INDIGENT DOMESTIC CONSUMERS RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING BASIC SERVICES:-
- ✓ 6 KL BASIC WATER
 - ✓ 50 KWH BASIC ELECTRICITY
- (n) THAT THE RAND FOR RAND PRINCIPLE WILL CONTINUE IN THE 2009/2010 BUDGET YEAR;
- (o) THAT PROVISION OF 12 % HAS BEEN MADE IN THE BUDGET FOR SALARY INCREASES AND INCREASES AS APPROVED BY THE BARGAINING COUNCIL BE IMPLEMENTED WITH EFFECT FROM 1 JULY 2009.
- (p) THAT THE GRANT AMOUNT RECEIVED FOR FOSTER CARE SHOULD NOT FORM PART OF THE TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR INDIGENTS STATUS;
- (q) THAT TWO COMPACTORS BE PROCURED FROM THE CURRENT BUDGET AMOUNTING TO R1,5M, BY TERMINATING THE MAINTENANCE LEASE WITH FLEET AFRICA OF THE VEHICLES AND DOING AN OUTRIGHT PURCHASE AND THESE BE INCLUDED IN THE ASSET REGISTER.
- (r) THAT THE FUNDING FOR THE TRANSACTION ABOVE BE FROM THE PROVISION THAT WAS MADE IN THE CURRENT CAPITAL BUDGET FOR NEW OFFICE SPACE AND THE FINANCE DIRECTORATE AMEND THE CURRENT BUDGET ACCORDINGLY;

- (s) THAT COGNIZANCE BE TAKEN THAT THE 2ND DIRECTIVE HOUSING STOCK OF THE MUNICIPALITY IS CURRENTLY IN PROCESS TO BE TRANSFERRED (IN TERMS OF THE RETRO PROGRAMME) IN THE NAMES OF BENEFICIARIES THAT ORIGINALLY CONTRACTED WITH THE MUNICIPALITY IN TERMS OF THE VARIOUS HOUSING SCHEMES, AND THAT THESE SCHEMES ARE MAINLY LOCATED IN TOEKOMSRUS, MOHLAKENG AND KOCKSOORD;
- (t) THAT THE ACCUMULATED ARREARS ON ALL THE PROPERTIES LISTED PER ANNEXURE "E" HERETO ATTACHED, BE WRITTEN-OFF, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-
- i) THAT THE ACCUMULATED ARREARS BE WRITTEN-OFF AGAINST PROVISION FOR DOUBTFUL DEBT;
 - ii) THAT ARREARS ONLY BE WRITTEN-OFF FOR PROPERTIES IN THE PROCESS OF TRANSFER IN TERMS OF THE RETRO PROGRAMME AND AS PER THE ATTACHED ANNEXURE.
 - iii) THAT CREDIT CONTROL MEASURES BE APPLIED IN ALL INSTANCES WHERE FURTHER ARREARS ACCUMULATE FOR THE DEBTORS MENTIONED ABOVE.
- (u) THAT THE AMENDED INDIGENT POLICY ATTACHED AS ANNEXURE "F" BE APPROVED.

CONCLUSION

A COMMITMENT TO SOUND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IS NEVER EASY—AND IT IS NEVER OVER. IT IS NOT SOMETHING TO BE DONE ONCE—OR JUST FOR A WHILE—AND THEN BE SET ASIDE.

IT REQUIRES THE STEADY, UNRELENTING APPLICATION OF RIGOROUS DISCIPLINE AND VIGILANCE—AT THE MACRO LEVEL OF BALANCING OUR GOVERNMENT BOOKS OVERALL, AND AT THE DAY-TO-DAY MICRO LEVEL IN HOW PROGRAMS AND SERVICES GET DELIVERED.

THIS PERFORMANCE, EVEN IF IT IS NOT IN THE STANDARD WE EXPECT IT TO BE, THE RECORD THAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED LAST OF A DISCLAIMER , TELLS US THAT WE ARE ON THE RIGHT PATH AND FOLLOWING THE RIGHT POLICIES.

BUT OUR GOAL IS NOT TO ACCUMULATE STATISTICAL BRAGGING RIGHTS. OUR GOAL IS TO USE THE FRUITS OF OUR SUCCESS TO SOW THE SEEDS FOR A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL.

AS WE LOOK DOWN THE ROAD, WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF THE RISKS AND CHALLENGES, BUT WE CAN NEVER ALLOW THESE TO PARALYZE US. RATHER, WE MUST PLAN ACCORDINGLY AND CONTINUE TO KEEP OURSELVES IN A POSITION OF FINANCIAL STRENGTH AMIDST THIS ECONOMIC CRISIS.

FOR THE COMPILATION OF THIS BUDGET REPORT I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CFO AND THE ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER AND THE ENTIRE LEADERSHIP OF THE MUNICIPALITY FOR TAKING US TO THE PROGRESSIVE MANNER OF PLANNING.

WITH THOSE WORDS, I THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS.

