

Madam Speaker;

The Chief whip;

The members of the Executive Committee;

Councillors;

Senior officials;

Opposition parties;

The media;

Members of public;

I greet you all this afternoon which marks a beginning of a very important epoch in our quest as Ingquza Municipality to change lives of the poor and the vulnerable; to improve the manner in which we have done things; to start a new journey towards bringing a 'Better Life for All'. This mission to change lives of the poor and make our towns to be more appealing; to create an environment that shall encourage investment and consequently creating sustainable job opportunities we dare not fail on mission. It is indeed the reason why we are in this council; in fact I am confident of the resolve and unity that has been demonstrated by councillors and officials in the past few months that success is indeed at our reach; we can indeed reiterate the words the President of the republic that this indeed is an 'Age of Hope'. We do hope that tomorrow shall be better than yesterday and the next day to come shall even be much better. It is this hope that continues to drive us; it is this hope that inspires us; it is this hope that makes us to double our effort to bring about a 'Better Life for All'.

Madam speaker; I urge all councillors from all political parties; business people; unions; managers; staff members; Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) other spheres of government and everybody else to unite behind this

vision of a 'Better Life for All' by providing and giving hope for a better tomorrow.

### **Integrated Development Plan**

To day we shall be tabling to this council Madam Speaker two important documents in compliance with chapter 5 of the Municipal Systems Act, No. 32 of 2000 and chapter 7, section 53 (c) of the Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003. Madam Speaker; I can confirm to you that all the provisions of the act have been followed, however there has been a few challenges that we still need to improve on.

The consultant that was hired by council to lend assistance in the process particularly before we had a full complement of senior managers; did not always avail himself, case in point was the steering committee of the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2007. However, EXCO members, the speaker, the Chief whip and other government department (though only a few); did a sterling job which gave me hope of a better tomorrow and better things to come in terms of our administrative support.

Madam Speaker; it has been particularly difficult to realise the provisions of chapter 5; section 24 of the Municipal Systems Act No. 32 of 2000 due to poor communication between us as the municipality and other spheres of government. Whilst a provision is made in the constitution in sections 41 and 153 (b) and recently the Inter Governmental Framework Act; in practice there is little that is happening to realise the noble intentions of these legislative provisions of cooperative governance. I am raising these matters so as to say as we will be going for our annual reviews an terms of the Systems Act; we

must strengthen our actions on these issues. My office and the office of the Municipal Manager shall take this as a major issue that must be followed up.

Madam speaker; and the house at large allow me to table this IDP, that councillors have participated in, that our communities have participated in and some government departments have participated in formulating. As I have already indicated that the product is owned by all of us but there are some areas that still need attention and we are certain that we shall be able to do so within the provisions of the annual IDP review process.

Lastly on the IDP Madam speaker; this IDP lays a firm foundation for budgeting as we are confident that this municipality shall not be spending on anything that is outside the IDP that this council will adopt a few minutes from now.

Madam speaker, I must indicate that this IDP has taken into consideration the outcomes of the IDP/Budget outreach which we held for two weeks during the beginning of May 2007. We have learnt valuable lessons from our people and indeed we shall make necessary attempts to ensure that their aspirations and wishes are covered in the IDP with the given meagre financial resources. The lessons we have learnt have also shaped the vision of the IDP which shall be presented by the accounting officer.

### **Budget 2007-2010**

Madam speaker, on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007 you convened a council that considered and adopted the first draft budget in terms of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) as required by National Treasury. As we went out on the first two weeks of the IDP/Budget outreach; our people agreed with the budget that was presented to them. This is important to note as our people said the budget is far less than what has to be done; however the available

budget must be utilised efficiently, effectively and prudently to achieve some of the issues raised in the IDP.

There is no departure from the first draft budget that was tabled to here on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007, the only thing is that the Municipal Manager and his technical team are busy at work to finalise the Service Delivery Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP); this is done in terms of section 69 (1) (a) of the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) No. 56 of 2003. This is a significant stride forward to ensure that municipal finances are managed properly. We must commend the effort of the Municipal Manager and his team for this effort. In fact; Madam Speaker our management is ahead of schedule to complete the SDBIP.

About R 13 million goes to infrastructure (roads)

R 1,8 million to LED

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Madam Speaker, allow me to table this budget for adoption by your council as a reflection of what the people of Ingquza Hill Municipality want.

In conclusion Madam Speaker, the journey to liberation of our people from poverty, diseases, underdevelopment and other social discomforts like the pandemic of HIV/aids; has started and all of us we have to roll our sleeves and get down to work. This must involve sacrificing time on our weekends when a need arises; working extra long hours; support to our management and councillors alike. I am certain about it; victory is certain.

I thank you all.

# Vision

“A developmental, economically viable and responsive municipality where communities enjoy equitable access to services in an environmentally sustainable manner”