

SOMA SPEECH 2017 delivered by Hon Cllr Mayor J.P Mdingi

Honourable Speaker,

Leadership of the ANC, Alliance and other political parties

His Excellency the King of AmaMpondo

Members of Parliament and Provincial Legislature,

Her Worship the Executive Mayor of OR Tambo

All Mayors, Speakers from neighbouring Local Municipalities,

Chief Whip and all the Chief Whips of Sister Municipalities

The Executive Committee Members and MMC's of Sister Municipalities,

Ingquza Hill Councillors,

Traditional Leaders,

Ingquza Hill Veterans,

The Ward Committees,

Families of Ingquza Hill Fallen Martyrs, Heroes and Heroines of the Pondo Revolt,

Ingquza Hill Business chamber,

Ingquza Hill Council of Churches,

Leadership of Trade Unions (SAMWU & IMATU),

Youth formations,

Community at large,

Municipal Manager, other Senior Managers from all spheres of

Government and State owned Entities,

The workers of Ingquza Hill Local Municipality who work tirelessly towards the achievements and successes of our institution,

Comrades and compatriots,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Receive warm greetings on behalf of Ingquza Hill Local Municipality council!!!

SoMA is convened as per the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa act 108 of 1996 chapter 7 section 152 on objects of local government which are

- To provide democratic and accountable government for Local communities
- To ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner
- To promote social and economic development
- To promote a safe and healthy environment and
- To encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in matters of Local government

It is also convened through the Municipal systems act 32 of 2000, section 16,17,18,19,20 &21 which encourage community involvement in the activities of the municipality.

Honourable Speaker, let me remind everyone that during the SoNA 2017 the President declared this year as the year of O.R Tambo. We are celebrating posthumously the life and times of this international political icon who sacrificed his family, social life and all the beauty of this country to serve our people. If he was still alive he would be turning hundred years in October 2017.

Our SoMA is held during just after the workers month and Africa day which is significant to all of us. We are also converged on our last month of our financial year which pose a challenge as we have to measure our achievements against the target we set when we got into the office in August 2017.

We are convened just few days after the commemoration of the Mpondo Revolt Massacre which we remind the masses of our country about the liberation route around the Eastern Mpondoland. As Eastern Cape we fought nine frontier wars defending our land and properties against daylight robbery in a form of buttering. President O.R Tambo's homestead was burnt into ashes and most of the leaders were killed, executed, tortured, hanged and buried in various places.

We are converged after workers month, few days after 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.

Compatriots

We are also meeting few days before the youth day internationally known as June 16 or youth day, just 41 years since 1976 Student uprising which brought about a new phase in the South African Revolution. Our students were massacred for protesting against the usage of Afrikaans

as a medium of instruction undermining our own language. We are calling the youth of today to prioritise education so as to play a pivotal role in the economic growth of our country.

Our country is encountering a serious war ever under the democratic dispensation that of violence against women and children and this is a national crisis. During the apartheid era we had what we called triple oppression which we fought against. Women played and continue to play a pivotal role in the existence and development of our societies so they deserve respect.

The constitution of the republic of South Africa act 106 of 1996 chapter 2 bill of rights talks about right to life and respect of human dignity to all. We must all of us fight this cancer as it has a potential to create instability, compromise peace and stability which might impact negatively in the economy of our country. In all our gatherings and structures we must intensify the gender struggle until violence against women is eradicated.

The world is under serious economic downturn or upsurge and as part of the Global village we are not immune.

Ours is to remain calm but focused in changing the conditions to be favourable to us using the available resources at our disposal which is land.

Honourable speaker

KEY TARGETS 2016 -2021

When we got to office in August 2016 we convened a strategic planning session in October 2016 which was a sort of orientation which was followed by a planning one in March 2017 and we agreed on the following key priorities:

- Accelerated Basic Service Delivery
- Organize funds for O.R Tambo Centenary Celebrations
- Facilitate the development of Ocean Economy
- Agriculture development and agro processing
- Cleanliness of our towns
- Strengthen Safety and security

Our SDBIP, IDP, PMS and budget have all been drafted, presented and adopted by the council and that shows our commitment to change the lives of our communities.

Fellow Councillors

Allow me to make a brief synopsis of the current situational analysis as reflected in our IDP as a way of informing our plans and projects.

As per 2016 Statistics South Africa the Ingquza Hill population stands at Three Hundred and Three thousand, three hundred and seventy nine (303 379) people living in 4,277 km². The youth is constituted by two hundred and forty eight thousand, one hundred and fifty three (248 153) which is eighty one comma eight percent (81,8 %), fifty five thousand two hundred and twenty six adult people between 35 years to 120 years of age.

One hundred and sixty thousand five hundred and forty nine (160 549) of these people are women and one hundred and forty two thousand eight hundred and twenty nine (142 829) are males.

To complement the low employment levels, our government is has introduced some initiatives like Expanded Public works programmes and Community works programmes.

Despite all the challenges our government is making strides and significant achievements to improve lives and conditions of our communities. 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

1. Basic Service delivery

Service delivery is the core function which clearly defines the existence and establishment of Local government sphere.

On Infrastructure

Roads

During our term of office as per our resolution of the strategic planning session we targeted to build 200 km of new access roads and rehabilitate 500 km of the existing ones.

Between 2011 and 2016 we have completed 266 km of new access roads and this is a significant improvement as we exceeded our target.

We have manage to maintain and rehabilitate roads which constitute 380 km. This implies that our rural areas are connected to the towns and there is high level of accessibility and communication.

Office space

We are continuing with the building of our offices at Flagstaff and this project is a multi-phased one. Regardless of the challenges of labour unrest and bad weather, we remain optimistic to complete and open the project by October 2017.

We have invested twenty million rand (20 m) to start the construction of offices in Lusikisiki which is 7440 m2.

Driver's license Testing Centre and Vehicle testing Centre

We are on the course on the construction of the Driver's License and Vehicle testing centres. We have invested R21 million rands during 2015/16 and the last two million rands was committed in 2016/17 to finish the project. In the SoMA 2016 we promised to finish the construction by September 2016 and to open it in October 2016 but due to capacity of contractor we could not though we are finishing it now.

Electrification

In 2016 SoMA we promised the Electrification of the following wards: 13, 14,17,30,23 at a cost of eighteen million rand and we have done that. We have installed 10 High mast lights at ward 6, 15 & 19 to curb the high rate of crime. In 2017/18 we are going to install another 10 high masts in all the crime prevalent areas. We will also improve 5, 6 km of street lights in both towns.

We have established an Electricity committee to deal with challenges of delays in the electrification which some are Eskom related and some attributed to rough terrain and Environmental Impact assessment (EIA).

Community Halls

We are currently building two community halls at ward 10 and 28 at a cost of four comma four million (4,4m).

In 2016 SoMA we promised to build 2 town halls in Flagstaff at ward 6 and ward15 /19 in Lusikisiki at fifteen comma six million rand (15, 6 million and we are glad to say that we have started building those halls.

2017/87 new infrastructure projects

Honourable Speaker, we continue to deliver quality Access roads to improve the socio-economic conditions of our people.

We have purchased and awaiting delivery of an additional plant which has costed fourteen million (14 m) which is comprised of four tipper trucks, Grader and TLB which will make things easier as we shall dedicate one plant in road maintenance and one on road construction

We shall utilize thirty five million, three hundred and seventy seven three thousand, three hundred and eighty three rand (R35, 373,383).

We are going to construct multipurpose sport fields in identified clusters which will assist both out of school and school youth.

By 2017/18 we will build new community **halls** at ward 6 and ward 27 at Five Million Five, hundred Rand (5, 5 m)

We shall continue to electrify households utilizing fourteen million, five hundred thousand rand (R14 500,000m) from Intergraded National electrification Program (INEP) grant. We are targeting to electrify six hundred and thirty eight (638) households. This may seem to be a small number but due to our terrain and sparsely populated villages the cost per household is high.

We shall also put 10 **High Mast lights** in the crime prevalent areas which will cost us six million, five hundred thousand rand (R6, 500, 000m)

2. Institutional Transformation and Organisational Development

2016 was the year of Local government elections and that necessitated us to embark on intensive trainings for councillors and Ward committees as there was a leadership turnover. We also conducted trainings and workshops for employees through the workplace skills plan of the Municipality, the study assistance in the form of bursaries, assistance from OR Tambo District Municipality and SALGA.

These had a positive impact as it resulted in the improvement of leadership, management and performance of both councillors and employees.

We have reviewed our organisational structure so as to ensure that it responds to the IDP objectives and strategies. All posts have Job Descriptions and the evaluation of those jobs is continuing through the OR Tambo District Evaluation Committee.

We continue to maintain sound Labour relations through the Local labour forum and the platform between the management and Labour unions.

We have introduced the Performance Management System which is meant to improve the functionality of our systems and assisting in the oversight role of the council. We are targeting to extend the PMS scope to officers and all workers by 2019.

We have a sound administration through proper recruitment methods, worker support programmes like developmental programmes which have capacitated and motivated the workers.

Our municipality continues to develop new policies and review some existing to strengthen internal controls as observed by Auditor General.

We have fully functional Employee assistance programme as we see the improvement in the productivity and performance and behaviour of our workers which has drastically improved.

Through this programme, employees managed to get the services of financial counselling, improving health and diet, chronic related diseases and fitness. We have secured the services of a clinical psychologist to beef up our EAP.

We have successfully implemented our customer care standards which resulted to a drastic improvement in the management of the Presidential hotline.

We have internship program to ensure that our young graduates accumulate necessary skills and exposure to a work place environment through Internship and Experiential training. We have exposed 36 interns from 2016 and we have 33 trainees in these beneficitation programmes.

We shall continue with the good work that is cited above even during 2017/18 with more emphasis on induction and training of councillors and ward committees.

We have worked under immense pressure due to management vacancies and in levels below but we have achieved a lot. We have gone through that stage as we have advertised most of the posts in quarterly bulletins and the process is yielding positive results.

Honourable Speaker

3. Local Economic Development

The Municipality adopted the Spatial Development Framework that directs the planning and development of the municipality. Together with LED strategy they direct the LED in the form of Agriculture, Tourism, SMME development, forestry, ocean economy and eco-tourism etc.

Regardless of serious land challenges our towns continue to grow towards the peri-urban areas and we also increase our effort to improve the conditions of our towns through renovations and face-lifting. We are expecting the construction of the second mall at Flagstaff ERF 260 by September 2017/18.

We are working towards the removal of restrictions that were imposed by the Apartheid ordinances affecting this ERF 260 as it has delayed the construction. The process is at the gazetting stage as we speak.

2017/18 the Municipality will intensify implementation of the bylaw on Spatial Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA) together with traditional leadership. We have since established the SPLUMA tribunal together with Port St Johns Municipality as the law requires.

Fellow community members

Agriculture and Forestry

We pride ourselves about Massive food production initiatives which have begun in Lambasi ward 23 and approximately 11 other wards proving that we prioritised Agriculture. This is made possible by the intervention of Department of Rural development, Agrarian and Land reforms (DRDAR) and Anglo Gold Ashante.

This is in the form of maize and beans production, feedlot, dipping tanks etc. we are looking for land for the extension of the forestry development with the assistance of Eastern Cape Rural Development Agency (ECRDA) and South African Paper and Pulp Industry (SAPPI)

N2 road construction

Since the announcement by the Excellency the President of the Republic of the N2 road, we have organised all stakeholders that stand to benefit as SMME's. This is to ensure that they play a meaning role on the economic development of our country as direct beneficiaries. We are engaging with SANRAL so as to sign a proper document that will be outlining the beneficiation of our SMME's.

We are going to do this task with full involvement of our traditional leadership through our Kingdom for land acquisition and zoning so as to meet the standards.

The construction of the bridges has since been started though at an initial stage and local contractors and co-operatives are involved.

The municipality has been identified by DEA, Department of Public of Works and DAFF to revive the Port Grosvenor Harbour along the coast. There is a plan by government 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 which is also linked to the marine resources and ocean economy.

Partnership with TUT

As we reported in 2016 that we have partnership with Tshwane University of Technology, we have developed and submitted Workplace Skills plan for them to streamline areas of support. We have also collated the profiles and areas of development for councillors, managers and officers which expect to take place by 2017/18 financial year. In those areas where they do not have trainings for they have promised to source out some service providers for us.

Though there is a slow progress on the implementation of these developmental programmes we are still committed to our memorandum of understanding and commitments we made.

Tourism development

As we have achieved very little on tourism over the past 15 years we shall now make strides to overcome some challenges and develop the sector.

We are going to focus on tourism education, marketing and exposure of Small and medium enterprise to this sector.

We will deal with the issues of Mkhambathi trust through Ministerial engagement to unlock all the bottlenecks and we will focus on implementation of tourism development plan.

For 2017/18 financial year we shall focus on the following LED projects

- Agri park development and agri processing
- Support for 31 projects with inputs,
- Fencing of fields,
- Maize production projects support for projects with irrigation schemes,
- Facilitate the shopping centre development in Flagstaff on erf 260,
- Heritage Development for economic development,
- Facilitate the revival of the Harbour development at Port Grosvenor at ward 23 in partnership with National Government Departments such as Department of Public works
- Ocean economy linked to coastal development, and
- Meaningful support for the benefits in the proposed coastal N2.
- Transfer of land from Department of Public works to Municipality
- Property development and land disposal for local residents, business and light industrial.

4. Financial viability and Management

Our Municipality as we know is one of the small, rural, underdeveloped one that has low revenue base. It relies heavily on grants from National fiscus and has property rates and refuse removal charges as their main revenue. We are still struggling to get Electricity distribution licence from National Energy Regulator of South Africa.

We have established a revenue collection committee which will assist in increasing our own revenue. This committee will also look at possibilities of the writing off of debts. O.R Tambo has also called for all those owing water rates to come forward and offered to decrease their debts by 70 %.

Despite all these challenges cited above, the Municipality was able to deliver services to its citizens. This has been made possible by the austerity measures that were implemented by the council, and the fact that there were savings that were made through the general expenses, that were avoided as they could not bring down the Municipality even if they were not incurred.

We had ensured that we plan our activities properly and avoided the implementation of the programmes that were outside our plans and powers and functions of the Municipality.

The Municipality has been able to pay the creditors within 30 days. The municipality has a reliable and credible fixed asset register. We have been able to collect revenue through the implementation of debt collection and credit control policy.

The municipality has always ensured that it has a credible budget that is cash backed no matter how small it is. This has assisted the municipality to implement all projects and programmes that it had planned to do, as reflected in the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP).

The Municipality has ensured that it has credible and reliable monthly, quarterly and annual financial reports. This has resulted in our Municipality getting four consecutive unqualified audit opinion with findings and the fifth and sixth ones 2014/15 and 2015/16 consecutively being the unqualified audit opinions with no findings which is called a Clean Audit.

Our Municipality has been always having no findings on Supply Chain Management for the last 4 consecutive years.

Honourable Speaker we shall continue with this good work in striving to sustain the Clean Audit despite the challenges of Directors and Managers going for greener pastures and new budget approach mSCOA which we are working hard on through trainings and workshops for both councillors and employees as promised in the last SoMA in 2016. We shall put our

mSCOA budget on the system by 1st July 2017 together with our procurement plan deduced from the SDBIP which were all adopted by the council.

We will continue with the good work as we employ qualified, educated and capacitated managers who are responding to the challenges of the time. We also provide trainings and capacity building programmes for our managers to be financially conscious through a programme called CPMD.

We are appealing to businesses, government and ratepayers to honour the payments of their bills. As this municipality we are owed by the rate payers, government departments and businesses an amount of Seventy Million Rand which is a very big money which can make a significant impact in revitalising our towns. If this can happen we can deliver the services needed by them very easily.

Honourable Speaker

5. Good Governance and Public Participation

Council support and its functionality

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

Over the past 3 years our municipality has been getting a high rating or scores on all the key performance areas during the IDP assessment and we are still awaiting 2016/17 scores from the Provincial COGTA.

We also pride ourselves of having functional and capacitated standing committees and section 79 oversight committees which are convened without fail as per the calendar. This has assisted a lot in ensuring the oversight function of the council and its committees as mandated by the statutes.

We have ensured the seating of the ward committees monthly and that they submit their reports. We will also ensure that ward councillors do convene ward mass meetings at least once a quarter so as to enhance public participation and participatory democracy. We are going to have awareness campaigns to our communities on the elections of ward committees as there were serious challenges in certain wards.

These were complemented by the EXCO outreaches, taking council to the people and IDP & Budget roadshows that were embarked upon by the council. We have witnessed the growing rate of enthusiasm amongst our people on the municipal and government programmes.

Communication, Marketing and branding of our institution

As our country is growing on the digital space we have to be in par with such developments hence we are exploring some initiatives to heighten our communication strategy which will market our institution. We appreciate the relationship we have with the Local Media houses and developing professional bodies, and the role they play in marketing us in the community locally and beyond our borders.

We are implementing the National Government programme called Back to Basics holistically with all its elements and reporting is done monthly in all its elements

We are also engaging our local media houses electronic and print media for their constant support.

On Youth

We pride ourselves for having established the working and capacitated Youth and Sport Councils regardless of the financial constraints.

We have a Mayoral week which is currently at its final stages and shall be having a closing function on the 28th June 2017. This a platform where we engage in the promotion of sport, youth in business and career exhibition that is given to our youth in schools.

We have also assisted destitute children with school uniform and resources for early childhood development programmes in various wards though we have very little resources.

We are also participating in community development programmes like safe circumcision to curb the death rate of our kids and we pride ourselves that Ingquza Hill had no deaths in the last season.

Intergovernmental Relations

We are making all departments within our area of jurisdiction to account for all their current programmes and plans to make communities aware of such developments in their areas.

We commend some departments that have improved in their attendance and reporting on the programmes and projects within their operations. This has improved the communication and understanding of government programmes by communities.

However, there remains a challenge where in some departments do not attend or report, but we are engaging with them. There is a wrong perception as some think IGR is co-management of their departments or we are a department so they are not supposed to account to us but to the Provincial Departments and Legislature.

Local government is the sphere which is closer and accountable to the people which has an obligation to provide services in a healthy environment and information of government to the people.

In 2016/17 we promised to embark on the war room programmes called Masiphathisane. We have launched the war room structures in all the wards except for ward 13 where there were serious issues which are being attended to by the Speaker.

This will be done to improve communication amongst communities, foster ownership of government programmes and inculcate a culture of responsibility on communities where they will respect the government properties and engage the government without resorting to violent protests and vandalism.

By 2017/18 we will ensure the functionality of war rooms through constant monitoring

6. Social Services

Fellow councillors remember our priorities

Education

The government of the day in its election manifesto prioritised education in its 5 priorities which also include crime and health. Our government continues to build schools and eradicate mud schools in this area through Accelerated Schools Infrastructure development (ASIDI).

Ninety percent 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 are deeply concerned by the continued poor performance by our district in the matric results nationally despite the hard efforts by our educators and commitment by learners through extra classes. We believe that something has to be done as a joint programme to lift our standard.

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

The continuous changing of boundaries and service delivery model poses a challenge for our area as there is endless frustration for the leadership and educators taking time to acclimatise to the transition.

On safety and security

2017 has been a challenge to the safety of our people especially the business community, women and children as there were a series of criminal activities but because our government prioritise fight against crime we managed to bring back order and stability. 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 (CPF's) and community safety forums (CSF) and to report crime whenever witnessed.

Our security is doing patrols in all the towns in a way to deal with crime of every form which guarantee safety of our people and their assets. We have employed additional law enforcers as peace officers and who are well equipped to do the enforcement of bylaws.

Solid waste and refuse removal

Honourable Speaker, We want to improve on waste management by constructing a landfill site that will be compliant with the environmental laws. We have budgeted four million (R4m). We are still engaging the traditional authorities of Xhura administrative area at Lusikisiki and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes are continuing at Flagstaff and this four Million is meant for it.

We have employed additional permanent solid waste workers to show our commitment on cleanliness of the towns.

We have procured skip bins and protective clothing to make it a point that this becomes a reality and dirtiness be the thing of the past.

CHALLENGES facing our Local Municipality

Water and sanitation

Water and Sanitation remains a challenge in our area as there are no dams which are operating but there are strides which are made by our district municipality.

The two are interlinked as one cannot exist without the other but land becomes a challenge when it comes to the sanitation issues.

On Conclusion

Honourable Speaker, we thank you and all the councillors of Ingquza Hill for the commitment and the sterling work they have done to put our municipality to where it is.

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

To all our workers, thanks for the courage and zeal to work to uplift the institution regardless of challenges.

We wish to dedicate this good work and image to the role played by tata Oliver Reginald Tambo who moulded us through his views and principles.

We have to preserve his legacy by showing unity and cohesion at all material times but it must not be cosmetic and mechanical.

Let us remind each other that we have a long way to go and to always remember our mandate which is enshrined in our vision.

Ours is to plan and implement according to the needs and situational analysis which we have reflected above so as to have achieved people's needs.

Phambili ngamadoda angahlukumezi omama nabantwana phambili!

Down with criminals down!

Umntu ngumntu ngabantu, umanyano ngamandla.

Siyabulela