

**MAYOR'S SPEECH TO OPEN COUNCIL HELD ON THE 30TH APRIL 2019 AT
FLAGSTAFF SPORTS GROUND DELIVERED BY THE MAYOR CLLR GOYA**

Madam Speaker

Honorable Chief whip

EXCO Members

IHLM Councilors

Traditional Leadership

District executive Mayors

Mayors from all neighboring LM's

Speakers from all neighboring LM's

The chief whips from the neighboring LM's

Political organizations and unions

Ward committee members

Managers of sector departments

Municipal managers

Municipal workers and workers in general

Non-Governmental organizations

Community based organizations

Business fraternity

Community Development workers

Community at large

Receive warm and revolutionary greetings on behalf of the council and entire municipality in the spirit of Thuma Mina.

Thuma Mina is a concept which aims at reviving and reminding us that we voted and sent by the people according to their needs and aspirations.

Madam Speaker

This Open Council is held after a number of significant political events which have an influence in our sphere of government. These include amongst others the State of the Nation Address, Budget Speech, State of the Province and Eastern Cape Budget Speech. As I continue with my report I will reflect on salient features from these events.

This council is held a month after a successful strategic planning session which was held to draft strategies and objectives as a way and means to finalize our 10 months implementation of the IDP and budget process plan. I am grateful that we have achieved such a milestone even though we adopted the process plan very late.

In our municipality we have witnessed some changes in both the Political and administrative leadership which were unavoidable.

This is a democratic, constitutional state and no institution and person is above the law, organizational principles, discipline and morality.

It is always important to listen to the cries and calls of the people as they are the ones who voted us into power.

We have a new Mayor Hon Cllr Goya, new Chief Whip Hon Cllr Nkungu and Acting Municipal Manager, Mr Gqada. I call upon the community, workers, Labour unions and management to work together to steer the ship so as to attain our strategic objectives as pronounced by the strategic planning session.

This council is held 2 days after the Freedoms Day celebrations where in our country was turning twenty five years of democracy and black democratic government as led by the African National Congress.

A lot has been achieved through this political breakthrough like non sexism, non-racialism, democracy, upliftment of the standard of living of our people though provision of basic services like water, electricity and houses which were a benefit of the white minorities.

Madam speaker allow me to make a brief synopsis on the current economic trends in our country and internationally

Our country South Africa is faced by serious socio political challenges which have a negative impact on the economic growth.

The 2016/17 fees must fall campaign by tertiary education students and subsequent pronouncement by the former president on free education in the NASREC conference of the ruling party saw the budget decrease by 2 percent in all government spheres and departments. As a local state we lost some millions of rand which were part of national grants and in 2019/20

financial year we shall lose the INEP grant which has drastically been reduced as per the Division of Revenue bill.

Our country is faced with load shedding however our government is making strides to fix the problem in various ways which include amongst others outsourcing of certain functions to reduce government bailout and provision of reliable energy.

There are ongoing debates around the energy provision which include the nuclear power deal, increasing and strengthening solar power and inventions of bio fuels.

Regardless of the above, the President of the Republic of South Africa has established investment committees which shall go around the world lobbying investors to come and invest in our country.

This has some positive spin offs as more than 10 big companies globally have pledged to invest billions in our economy and amongst them is Mercedes Benz which has invested billions in the Eastern Cape.

Compatriots

As a way of showing commitment to fight corruption the President of the Country President Cyril Ramaphosa has established the Zondo Commission which is exposing some criminal financial activities which collapsed our financial sector including State owned enterprises like ESKOM.

Those doubting thomases who thought it was a lip service or a rhetoric are now surprised by the progress made by the President and the ruling party.

Fellow councilors allow me to reflect on the key strategic objectives which we resolved on in our strategic planning session held at Margate on the 12th – 15th March 2019. We resolved on the following priorities:

- Informal trading support
- Support and regulate SMME's
- Annual Mpondoland Marathon
- Investment packaging
- Diversification of agro processing
- Formalization of Informal settlements
- Youth, Women Development and all vulnerable groups development

- Land Summit
- Strengthening Local labour forum
- Stakeholder mainstreaming and reregistration
- Increase Revenue collection
- Cleaning and greening of our towns
- Reliable ICT and Financial Systems
- Improve Good Governance, Communication and Public Participation

These strategies need vibrant, vigilant, dedicated decisive men and women in both political and administrative arm who shall from time to time able to purge themselves in tandem with IDP and SDBIP.

We need a well-educated, skilled, capable, motivated and zealous workforce to assist in achieving our mission and vision which we have set for our institution.

Honourable Chief Whip, it is important that we reflect on the achievements which we have made as an institution since 2017 as we could not give a report either in a form of open council or State of the Municipality.

I wish to place an apology for all those mishaps which were as a result of the struggles of our people on the ground.

As I present my report, I will focus on our key performance areas which shall make a clear reflection of our performance over time.

Fellow councilors allow me to dwell much on our key performance areas as they determine our existence especially number 1 which is basic service delivery.

1. Basic service delivery

Basic service delivery is the core function of the local municipality and the most important key performance area which municipality are measured with in terms of their performance.

In 2017/18 financial year we completed 68, 8 km of new roads in the following wards: 05, 08,9,10,13, 18,20, 26, 27,29, 31& 32.

In the current financial year we are constructing 12 new roads to a tune of 65, 3 km in the following wards: 3, 6, 12, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 27.

For 2019/20 financial we have committed thirty four million rand (R34 Million) to construct new 12 access roads in the following wards: ward 6, 12, 16, 19, 21, 22, 25,26, 29 and 32

To accelerate road networks we have purchased a new plant, grader, Low bed, 4 new trucks with an amount of Fourteen million rand (R14 million) which shall be used in the maintenance of roads and also assist in new roads when the need arise.

Community member and business fraternity allow me to talk to Small town revitalization

In 2017/18 financial year the Premier of the Eastren Cape Province Hon Pumulo Masualle committed thirty eight million rand towards Flagstaff revitalization project which shall be utilized in the manner below.

Through small town revitalization we shall embark on the surfacing of Flagstaff R61 streets with a tune of Fourteen million rand (14 Million), install 12 high mast lights in high schools with eight Million rand(R8 million)using municipal infrastructure grant and four high mast lights in Flagstaff streets.

Electrification projects and progress

We shall continue with the electrification of rural areas with a tune of Three Million, one Hundred and eighty two thousand rand (R3,82 000) in the following wards and villages:

- Ward 30 – Debese, Khathazweni, Nonkonyana,
- Ward 31 – Cumngce,
- Ward 8 – Mkhumeni, Zadungeni

In 2018/19 financial year we are installing electricity in one thousand six hundred and forty four households (1,644) the following wards:

- Ward 4 in Mbilikati,
- Ward 8 at Luthulini,Mkhumbi, Mtshekeleni, Ngcungeni & Gcinilifu,
- Ward 9 at Sgubudwini & Ngqayimbana,
- Ward 15 at Mdikana,
- Ward 18 at Fama, Ntongwana and Vabetsho,
- Ward 30 at Jaca, Lupandlasi & Mhlanjeni
- Ward 31 at Bala,Ntlakweskolo,Gqina extension, Kumathe

10 high mast lights have been installed in the following high crime areas or wards: Ward 5, 7, 9,14,17,21,27,30 & 31.

We are currently installing 10 more high mast lights in the following high schools in these wards :Mayibenye-ward 5, ben mali-19, Siwali ward 21, Palmerton S.S. ward 17, Botha Sgcau ward 18, Flagstaff Comprehensive ward 7, Vulindlela Ward 2, Mdutshane ward 8, Sangoni ward 13, Zwelibongile ward 32.

This will impact positive in both improving matric results and low crime rate as these are the 2 apex priorities which is education and fighting crime.

Madam speaker

Community Halls, Town Halls and Municipal Offices

In the 2016/17 Soma and strategic session we committed to build 2 New community halls in ward 10 and 27 which were affected by the new demarcation process. We are proud to say we have completely constructed them.

In 2018/19 we pledged the Construction of 2 new town Halls in ward 6 and 19 which is currently underway and are about to be completed.

In 2019/20 financial year we are constructing 1 new community hall in Gabajana in ward 6

In a move to address infra structure backlogs, facelifting, licensing & testing of cars and addressing office space we are finalising Municipal Offices and DLTC.

We are proud to say that we have started with the designs for the Municipal offices in Lusikisiki

2. Institutional and Organizational development

We are proud to announce that our Payroll is properly managed with positive spin offs of low expenditure as there is a turnaround strategy on overtime management.

All directors' posts have been filled by September 2017 which were a cause for concern but Chief Finance Office position later became vacant in March 2018 when the incumbent left for greener pastures however we are finalising recruitment processes.

We have appointed 19 interns in different departments as a way of experiential training and we are proud to say that most of interns which we normally appoint are capable and are employable anywhere.

We have appointed 93 Expanded Public Works programme employees as part of job creation and alleviation of poverty.

We are continuing with the population of the organogram as we issue quarterly bulletins but of course guided by Job evaluation unit and budget and treasury department.

In the current financial year and going forward we are providing bursaries to first year students and we shall increase this bursary.

As a concerned municipality with the illiteracy rate we have embarked in opening of a night school but the targeted group has to register with department of education so as to write matric.

We have secured a Skills development grant to a tune of one hundred and thirty seven thousand rand, three hundred and fifty one rand forty nine cents (R137,351.49) for the skilling of both councillors and workers.

Our EAP and Case Management are progressing well dealing with worker issues as to motivate them and create a conducive working environment.

As an institution that cares for its workforce we conduct Cancer awareness campaigns and on all other chronic illnesses are held continuously

We are concerned with labour peace as a result we have Local Labour forums which have been resuscitated after there was a stand-off between unions and management and are expected to be held quarterly to deal with labour relations matters

For the institution not to have placement challenges and organogram which is bloated we have Job evaluation for all the posts is currently underway and is yielding positive results

As a way of capacitating workers we conduct CCMA Labour law workshops which are held to deal with code of conduct and disciplinary procedures to minimise or to eliminate whatever form of misconduct as knowledge is power.

Study assistance is in place to skill our workers so as to meet the standards of the day

We have since established a Batho Pele Championship committee to accelerate customer care and service delivery.

We have a functional Presidential Hot line where people report challenges

Municipal systems like MUNSOFT and PayDay are continuously monitored.

Honourable Chief Whip

3. Local economic development

As a way of developing Local economy we have embarked on trainings of famers, Cooperatives and SMME's on tourism marketing, agro processes and cooperative registration.

Ingquza Hill Local Municipality has been part and will always be part of Tourism Indaba and Mangaung Cultural Festival where our craftsmen display and sell their products

We have started the naming of of places, towns and streets as we are now consulting the communities.

We have a prepared supplementary valuation which addressed the query of the market value of houses against the rates charged.

As a Municipality we have a Spatial Development framework and Land use management system which will address the issues of development and land use zones.

We are in the process of consulting communities on the naming of streets and areas of utmost significance.

In 2017/18 we have provided production inputs to the following projects in the following wards

- ✓ Mangquzu Vegetable and Pultry at ward 11 with a borehole,
- ✓ Vusisizwe Vegetable project in ward 8 with irrigation scheme
- ✓ Siyalima Maize production in ward 10
- ✓ Mkhabela Maize Production in ward 25
- ✓ Ndukudeni Maize production in ward 9

- ✓ Masakhiwe Agri Cooperative in ward 7 with borehole, fencing and irrigation scheme.

For 2018/19 financial we are provide or embark on the following projects:

- Preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment studies; Coastal and Landfill site
- Supply delivery and installation of land invasion sign boards
- Training of SMME's and contarctors
- Preparation of feasibility study for IHLM waste recycling
- Provision of Grant funding support for IHLM enterprises
- Implementation of informal trading licencing; Development of Licencing cards
- Implementation of IHLM Hiking trail and Marathon event
- Marketing of IHLM; Tourism trade shows
- Development of Tourism marketing Video
- Preparation of the Heritage Study Phase 3
- **Land Audit** – Ingquza Hill has a number of land ownership discrepancies. This originated from the poor records management from prior years. In trying to resolve this, a land audit project is implemented for to verify ownership per plot, land that is not surveyed; land that is surveyed but not registered; land that is registered but not billed and incorrect billing amongst others.

Following the National Developnmet Plan which encourages long term planning we are busy with the municipal 2035 vision with the assistance of Eastern Cape Socio Economic Consultative Council (ECSECC).

4. Financial viability and management

We are proud to pronounce that the Annual Financial Statements are prepared and submitted within the stipulated time.

Ingquza Hill is one of the municipalities which are in full swing in the Implementation of mSCOA and transacting on the new system with low challenges.

We are on the verge of effecting some Amendments to the SCM policies in line with treasury regulations and Auditor general regulations not negating local economic development and beneficiation.

We continue with the Payments of creditors within 30 days so as to be a reliable and credible institution without unnecessary backlogs.

We are owed millions of rands by the following entities:

Government departments owe us fourteen million, one hundred and forty eight thousand rand, thirty rand fifty six cents (R14,148,030.56)

Business sector owes us twenty eight million rand, two hundred and twenty six thousand rand, eight hundred and eighty eight rand ninety five cents (R28,226,888.95)

Residential owes us seventeen million rand, eight hundred and seventeen thousand rand, three hundred and fifty two rand eight cents (R17, 817,352,08)

Agricultural activities owe us Five hundred and seventy two thousand rand, eight hundred and ninety three rand sixty six cents.

We are calling to those affected by this debt to come forward and negotiate with the municipality as this amount of money can drastically change the lives of our people and also address some service delivery backlogs.

We humble ourselves before you as your servants to appreciate that we are rendering services in your business places and we are patient with you, to therefore pay your debts.

Below are the municipality sources of income are as follows:

- ✓ Grant funding like Integrated National Electrification Programme, EPWP, Municipal Infrastructure grant, Budget and treasury management grant.
- ✓ Own income/ revenue which is from rates, licencing, traffic fines
- ✓ Equitable share

Challenges

- Low revenue collection due to unsound relations with the rate payers which we are working on through engagement and a task team to look at terms of reference.
- Non sitting of bid committees which results in slow pace or late appointment of service providers
- Poor workmanship by service provider as a result of lack of monitoring but soon that will be history
- Non-payment of debts by government departments.
- Regression from clean audit to qualified audit opinion

5. Good Governance

On Performance Management: there is a constant reviewal of quarterly reports and present them to council for noting and further review by the MPAC.

On IDP review: IDP representative foras are held to present a concrete and collated report on deliberations made by both committees with regards to the situational analysis.

Internal Audit – Documented System description for records management are submitted to Internal Audit and continue with the reviewal of the Quarterly report

Risk Management: risk management committee meetings are held quarterly to review the quarterly risks and the risk management charter.

We have a functioning Legal Services unit which review all Contracts and provide the legal opinion.

The Council and its committees seat as per the adopted council calendar except for extra ordinary circumstances to review the draft quarterly reports and the MPAC oversight reports.

We have a well-established, resourced communications unit which is constantly disseminating information to our communities using WhatsApp, Facebook page, website, newsletter, Radio and Television services where necessary.

The municipality has purchased a bakkie which was purchased through a donation by O.R Tambo District Municipality.

Our Public participation is fully functional as it continues to engage communities through stakeholder engagement forums, sectoral meetings, voter education and capacity building on petitions.

We have launched ward committees who are assisted with monthly transport stipend who are reporting every month and also call community meetings in villages.

We have launched war rooms which are the launching pad for the acceleration of service delivery and integrated service delivery model.

We have since employed a youth coordinator to deal specifically with youth development issues working with the elected Youth Council structure which will go for elections soon.

We have assisted youth in various skills like beauty pageants as one of our own won Mr Tourism South Africa and that is Mr Mandlonke from Flagstaff.

We assisted Mr Hobo in his endeavour to be the best radio presenter though he did not make it but he was in the last 2.

We are always represented in Miss O.R Tambo beauty pageant as we always look for those talented young girls but our endeavours are thwarted by academic commitments.

We had a very successful Mayoral cup which is comprised of career exhibition and ward based sports tournament.

We shall continue with the mayoral week however we need to focus on youth below 19 years as the district and province allow that age to compete at those levels.

6. Social Services

We have launched a functional Local Aids Council at the level of the municipality and we are on the verge of launching ward councils.

We are embarking on crime awareness and HIV/AIDS awareness campaign as we held one in December 2018 at Ndzondeni location which is engulfed with violence on women and children.

On Free Basic Services –we are having an updated indigent register which is the source of supply of free basic electricity by Eskom and also a service provider giving out paraffin to those without electricity.

We have procured and delivered skip bins to townships close to town and litter bins along R61 in villages closer to towns.

We have also procured and delivered protective clothing for workers in aboth Flagstaff and Lusikisiki units.

We have purchased two trucks to deal with waste removal and collection

We are continuing with the provision of the protective clothing though it is not enough.

As a caring municipality in line with the National Development plan we have prioritised the provision of educational material to Early Childhood centres every year.

Our youth is being encouraged to sharpen their skills through sport, arts festivals which are meant to identify talent and nurture it.

We host maskandi, gospel and sport development programmes like referees courses and under 13 youth development in soccer and Netball.

We are proud to say that we continue doing patrols in the beaches and towns during pay days and festive season respectively.

We have a working circumcision council which has saved the lives of the youth from circumcision related deaths and we have zero death rate in 2018/19.

Conclusion

Let me say unequivocally without fear or favour that this is a very good story to tell and Ingquza Hill is a place to live and invest as is filthy rich with both human and material resources but we just need a coherent strategy to exploit the riches so as to grow the economy to improve unemployment, poverty, inequality and crime which is a cancer.

As I step down I wish to remind everyone here present that in eight days' time we shall be having National General Elections on the 8th May 2019.

We need to remember that we have an obligation to defend the hard fought earned democracy over more than 300 years.

In Eastern Cape alone we fought more than nine wars which were called frontier wars defending our land and cattle from the voortrekkers.

Many people especially chiefs, Heroes and Heroines of our struggle lost their lives inside and outside the country like Maqoma, Sarili, Makana, Bambata Ka Manciza, Hintsa, Robert

Sobukwe, Chris Hani, Lillian Ngoyi, Ruth First, Bertha Gxowa, Dorothy Nyembe and many unsung heroes.

Remember the brutality and covert operations by the apartheid Government which led to the Stroke which attacked the long serving president of the ANC, Tata Oliver Reginald Tambo from Mbizana.

Today we are reaping the fruits which were planted by those gallant fighters who never sold out the revolution for the total emancipation of our people.

I therefore call that we go out in numbers to defend the gains of our revolution by voting right vote ANC "Umkhonto nevili"

I thank you