

## **Mayor's Political overview to the Strategic Planning**

**Venue: Mzamba Wild Coast Sun**

**Date : 24-27 October 2016**

Madam speaker

Honourable Chief Whip

Executive Committee members

Honourable councillors

Municipal Manager

Directors and Managers

Receive warm and revolutionary greetings

***I wish to open this strategic session with these words by Josh S. Hinds who said  
"Key to success.....Research your idea, Plan for success, Expect success, and just  
plain do it! It amazes me how many people skip the last step! Practice being a doer  
and success will follow you every step of the way".***

From the date of the council inauguration which is 18<sup>th</sup> August 2016 to date is only 2 months and 3 days which is characterised by leadership development and capacity development which is so important to address the leadership turnover.

One may argue that nothing or less has been delivered by the council so far but to me a lot has been achieved as all council committees are properly orientated to achieve the success Hinds talks about.

We are convened in this strategic planning session not because it's fashionable or we have money to do so but to present our researched ideas, analyse them, develop plans and programmes and lastly budget as the mSCOA dictates.

Leadership turnover and transition always pose a challenge in an institution and it needs to be properly managed. Without taking anything away from anyone, it is important for the leadership to be taken through induction and series of orientation programmes as a way of sharpening their tools.

Out of 75 councillors in this council we have 33 new councillors including traditional leaders which therefore succumb to the words of a revolutionary Amilcar Cabral who said "Let those

who know more teach those who know less, learn from books, learn from others but continue to learn”.

We will do all in our power to empower, capacitate leadership in order to accelerate service delivery using all Local government structures and agencies within our reach.

I think we have reached a stage where we are done with technocrats and academics to plan for us so it is time for us to plan for ourselves, for the people we represent and their needs.

### **International Balance of forces**

It is important for us to understand the international dynamics as they influence the balance of forces economically and politically.

We are part of the Global village or unipolar world which is engulfed with imperialist agenda characterised by greed and violence as a way of accessing the natural resources in the second world and third world countries.

This agenda is being led by United States of America which is sponsoring civil wars as way of getting into those countries on the pretext of intervening and supporting the people.

There is a serious contestation of the space between the Western countries led by USA and Eastern Countries led by Russia and China through BRICKS which is the only hope and solution to us as African countries and South Africa in particular.

The current crisis in Assyria, Palestine and Sudan pose a threat to international peace and stability as our country has to pronounce its stance on these issues and then we find ourselves under pressure.

The example is that of President Ouma AL Bashir whom our country was instructed to arrest but took a strategic diplomatic decision to let him go as that would have compromised country to country relations and African relations in general

### **National dynamics**

It is important to note that the political chemistry confronting the national discourse has a direct impact or bearing in all the spheres of governance including the level we operate.

The current parliamentary challenges since 2014 have jeopardised chances of economic growth as the investor attitude has turned to be negative based on the presumption of the collapse of the state.

The prophets of doom have predicted the end of the black democratic majority rule after 20 years of Democracy, this was based on their experiences in other African countries.

Our country is faced with a multiplicity of challenges like economic recession, drought, electricity shortages and rise, threats of the overthrow of the state by the inside and outside forces as funded by the right-wing (regime change).

We must be able to analyse these events in relation to the new form of imperialist agenda which creates civil wars in all the African countries in order to access the means of production.

The other challenge which our country is faced with is corruption which has ruined chances of economic growth as it posed a threat to investors. There are structures in place like Corruption watch which have been established to deal with this cancer which shows there is a ground covered to deal with this.

The call for the free education had serious negative impact on the budget allocation in all the spheres of governance as there had to be cuts on certain grants.

All the above issues have negative bearing on the economic growth as investors respond by pulling out of our country' to invest in countries with stability and friendly environment.

The 2012 ANC National Congress resolved on the radical phase of economic transformation but we have to ask ourselves as to how much ground have we covered in achieving that? What are the obstacles in achieving that?

Secondly our government introduced the Department of planning and development which includes monitoring and evaluation but there are serious challenges confronting that.

As local state we must familiarise ourselves about the plan and its challenges so as to start monitoring our work in a correct way

Thirdly we agreed and adopted the National development Plan as key / major policy but we are yet to start implementing the underpinning principles.

NDP 2030 vision projects what government targets are and how we need to achieve that, so our responsibility is to have a long term planning even beyond 2030 so as to be able to access our vision from time to time.

This will also be accomplished through short term, medium term planning which will be making it easier for us to reach our destiny.

We need to pay attention on this policy by organising workshops on the 14 principles of NDP so as to make a take-off.

Some political analysts believe that our country has good policies but lack leadership and intellectual property. Professor Somadoda Fikeni call it leadership deficiency.

Professor Fikeni furthered his argument by saying our leaders lack political will to act on some challenges like corruption, state capture, Labour Broking and Etolls.

### **Local Environment**

As the black democratic government we inherited a government and a country with serious infrastructure backlogs especially in the deep rural towns as a result of apartheid economic policies.

Allow me to make a reflection on our population statistics and demographics in our operational area. This information is important as it influences our planning and budgeting.

As per 2011 report by Statistics South Africa Ingquza Hill has a population of 278 481 people with 201 539 youth, 76 942 adult between 31 years to 120 years of age. 149 507 of these people are women and 128 974 are males.

This calls to all of us to tilt our budget to look into the youth and women development programmes as they constitute the majority of our population.

Our country is faced with triple challenges of Inequality, unemployment and poverty but our government is making strides to counter these by introducing some initiatives like Expanded Public works programmes and community works programmes.

Our response to the triple challenges is to identify Mega projects to be developed in our area of operation which will see most our people benefiting. That alone need a politically stable environment with a backing from the community through a well-researched plan including resource mobilisation.

The serious challenge in our area of operation is the stakeholder involvement, participation and attitude towards the municipality which can be attributed to a number of reasons.

I can classify our stakeholder in to 2 categories i.e. those which are revenue based and those that are community based but contributing to the development of our societies.

All of them have got a pivotal role in the development of our societies but we have to make plans to create space for them to play their role and contribute towards achieving that objective.

Furthermore we need to see how best we deal with the organs of people's power in advancing the transformation of our government and societies at large.

These include School Governing Bodies, Hospital Boards, and Clinic Committees. We must see how we integrate their programmes to those of Local government and benefit our communities.

As we speak we are on the verge of launching War rooms in a form of Operation Masiphathisane which encourages working together and accountability of all departments from the ward level.

This operation will strengthen the organs of people's power therefore create a platform for them to engage on the envisaged transformation agenda.

Our area has been and is still engulfed with endless violent protests which are always on the national roads and have a potential to drive away investors and tourists as they get frustrated due to delays. We therefore need a strike management strategy and rapid response which must be more inclusive of all the governance structures and organs of

## **KEY TARGETS 2011 -2016**

The 2011/16 term of office was a turning point in the diplomatic struggles of our local government politics and organisational politics. One President of America once warn us of outside influence and armed minorities who always want to cause chaos for them they exist where and when there is crisis.

The calls for unity of purpose yielded positive results regardless of the negativity by some doubting Thomas's.

To us as leadership it is important to make it a point that there is political stability organisationally which will translate to stability in Administration.

When we got to office in 2011 we went for a strategic planning session and we agreed on 5 key priorities:

- Accelerated service delivery
- Tourism
- Changing the face of our towns
- Agriculture and forestry development

Our SDBIP's, IDP and budget were done based on these priorities and we pride ourselves about our achievements over the 5 years being in power. This is a real good story to tell

The report by Municipal manager and the entire management will dwell much on the specific achievements we had over the term but I must highlight a few which include

- Construction of roads to a tune of 300 km which is way above our targets
- Construction of community halls in all the 31 wards which existed before 2016
- Building of Offices in Flagstaff
- Driver's license testing centre in Lusikisiki
- Electrification
- Provision of houses at Xhopozo, Ingquza , Mpoza etc
- Shopping complex at Lusikisiki ( Plaza)

Amongst the greatest achievement of our lifetime is the clean audit we obtained in 2014/15 financial year.

Thanks to the administration and workers in general but there is one question we need to ponder with, which is how do we maintain the clean audit without compromising service delivery?

We call all of us to acclimatise with the new way of budgeting which is called municipal Standard Chart of Accounts (mSCOA). People are always scared of change but I appeal to all of us to work together as a unit towards maintaining and sustaining clean audit by being ready to implement mSCOA.

There are 3 serious challenges we have to deal with; is how we mobilise our communities to be behind the vision and mission of our municipality so as to create ownership.

How do we brand and market our municipality within, beyond borders and abroad so as to create ownership to all our people globally. We need to develop a website that is reflecting all our achievements and successes including tourist destinations.

### **NEW key priorities 2016 TO 2021**

- Explore Ocean Economy initiatives
- Develop eco-Tourism
- Sustaining Magwa Tea Corporation
- Face-lifting of our towns ( building town halls ward 6& 15, building offices in Lusikisiki and tared roads in our Sub-Urban areas and townships).
- Traffic and population congestion

- Improve cleaning of our towns and solid waste recycling
- Capacity building to SMME's and Co operatives
- Agriculture and forestry Development

One of the key priorities is the population of the organogram to strengthen the administration so as to achieve all the above priorities. This also goes with necessary provision of skills and training to the current personnel to cope with the changes like mSCOA

As we agree that we need to populate our organogram we also need to pay attention to organisational design and development as the institution has grown immensely.

## **Conclusion**

As I conclude I wish to call for the end to us working in silos and also end to competition amongst workers and councillors but to complement each other for us to achieve all our wishes or our plans to become a reality.

This needs all of us to work tirelessly, closely and focused on our strategic plan which is the IDP and SDBIP.

What has assisted the municipality in all these years was the collective united, cohesive leadership. Leadership from time to time has to be decisive whether it means being unpopular. All of us have to take collective responsibility of decision not to be shaken by those with ulterior motives

I wish that it can resonate in our minds that we are the hopes of the thousands of people out there as they desperately want service delivery at all costs. This means we must always be where people are, listen to their cries, needs and provide solutions where possible.

Thank you