



MAYOR'S POLITICAL OVERVIEW TO STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION 09 - 12 MARCH 2021 AT MZAMBA CASINO

Madam Speaker

Chief whip

Executive Committee members

Section 79 committee chairpersons

All Ingquza Hill Councillors

Employees from various levels

Sister departments

State owned enterprises

Business Chamber

Labour Unions (SAMWU & IMATU)

Invited Guests

Management as led by Acting Municipal Manager

I greet you on behalf of the Ingquza Hill community.

This is the first strategic planning session since the passing away of the former chair the Mayor Hon Cllr Goya and Cllr Nqeto, May their souls rest in peace.

2020 was a year with a difference and has costed us as a people the lives of people we loved.

We are convening here after the American presidential election which saw Joe Biden elected as a president defeating Donald Trump who was anti blacks and Latin America.

America was never a friend of the oppressed people especially Africans and will never be close to them but Donald Trump was the worst.

The relation between America and China became very worse during the COVID 19 outbreak as there were allegations of China being responsible for the spread of the virus.

This caused the Brics to be under siege as the western forces were under threat of trade competition with China which seeks to be occupying that space.



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The African Continent suffered economical setbacks during corona as is composed of third world countries whose economy is depending on European countries

Country to country relations have become affected which were exposed at the sport arena when South African teams playing in African Champions league were refused entrance to certain countries whereas the teams in those countries were accepted.

South African Economy was deeply affected by the Corona pandemic as retrenchment became so rife and increased unemployment.

Our country was found wanting as it had to borrow money from the international monetary fund which will lead the country to more problems however the country has a turnaround strategy on economy.

To deal with poverty, government introduced social relief of distress and assistance to small businesses, entrepreneurs, sport, arts and culture people.

At a local sphere we had to purchase food parcels and distribute them to needy people like hawkers who were affected by the pandemic.

The pandemic has unveiled challenges at the Post office which include the staff shortages and resources to serve our communities.

Emergency procurement led to the manipulation of procurement to be open to corruption as some mischievous elements saw an opportunity to loot state resources.

As a municipality we are not immune from the challenges of corona as we had to adjust our budget twice in one financial year to accommodate the disaster consequences.

This pandemic was used by lumpens to advance their interests wherein we saw crime and burglary increasing in schools and villages.

This has led to Ingquza Hill area to be in the top 3 of the areas with high crime statistics nationwide which is a very serious challenge for all of us. We need to deal with this quickly.

In the SONA and SOPA some projects to be implemented locally have been reflected by the President and Premier which are Ngqungqushe campus building.

TVET colleges are supposed to be skill based however we need to check if that happens with Ngqungqushe and what can we do to improve the situation



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The state is in a process of rolling out the COVID 19 vaccination however we need to have a plan as a municipality to see how best we assist including dealing with other natural disasters.

As Ingouza Hill we have lately been accused and associated with a Jobs for money scandal which remains an allegation as we have not been provided with evidence but we need to do something.

As an institution we have an Anti-fraud and Anti-corruption policy which needs to be workshopped and then there be a consequence if the fraud and corruption continues.

As the municipality we have some ongoing programmes which we need to monitor very close:

- Sanral N2, Magwa local spatial development framework, Flagstaff mall, Small town revitalisation, Spaza retail support programmes, Construction of Home affairs and Ngqungqushe which is at completion stage.

Challenges confronting municipality

- Water shortages and cut
- Land invasion in both towns which need a strategy to deal with this as soon as possible
- Landfill site – we have to come with a quick way to deal with this
- By pack centre
- Seawerage and storm water drainage in our towns
- R61 and T roads not drivable
- Delays by EIA and ESKOM
- Delays by interference by Business sector
- Diesel theft and abuse of municipal fleet has become a daily occurrence. Where are we in terms of installing trackers in our fleet?
- Traffic congestion in towns against continuous employment of traffic officers. Is it the indicator which is wrong or there is something we are doing wrong?
- Containers in the Lusiksiki streets which cause congestion and crime as criminals are able to escape
- Governance issues – for the past 2 financial years we have been operating without Municipal Manager, Chief Financial Officer and Director Infra structure hence the disclaimer audit outcomes.



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We are proud to say we have employed the CFO and we are in the process of employing both the municipal Manager, Director Infra structure and Director Planning and Development who left us in December 2020.

This issue acting on critical posts has to be avoided at all costs as it compromises the operations of the institution and service delivery.

There is an issue of illegal strikes by the workers which affect the service delivery as offices close down on some days. We need to deal with this immediately and be vigilant in consequent management in line with labour laws of the country.

We have to improve our oversight role through all the governance structures so as to improve our performance,

There are newly proposed projects which have just been identified by our people and government which are:

- Higher Education institution re establishment
- Cannabis development
- Support to Education system especially GET and FET where we need to have awards for best performing schools educators and learners for motivational purpose to increase pass rate.
- We also need to adopt the poor performing schools, find their challenges and assist where possible.

I wish to commend the 2021 class matriculants, educators and parents for their performance even though conditions were very much unfavourable due to corona.

We need to have a programme to address the matric failures as our area is said to have high illiteracy rate as per statistics South Africa report.

In conclusion, I wish to request you to apply your mind to the whole work which we shall be doing for the next 3 days as this is the year of elections

People on the ground would be in need of workable solutions and answers to the challenges they face.



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We need to combat ready to deal with service delivery protests which will be there especially during the time close to elections

We need to conduct intense voter education so that our people register and vote in numbers as that has an influence in ward delimitation and equitable share.

As we come out of this strategic session we must be different people as we must show capacity and capabilities to drive service delivery.

I Thank you