



MAYOR, CLLR. MM MBEDLA TABLING THE STATE OF THE LOCAL ADDRESS OF MATATIELE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY DURING COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 30TH OF MAY 2014 AT THE MATATIELE TOWN HALL.

SOMLOMO WEBHUNGA OBEKEKILEYO, CLLR JACKIE BOSMAN - MAGANGANA

CHIEF WHIP, CLLR POLELO MOHALE

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

AMALUNGU EBHUNGA EWONKE

INKOKHELI ZOMTHONYAMA NEZAKWALIZWI

MUNICIPAL MANAGER DR. TSEPANG NAKIN AND MANAGEMENT

AMAGOSA KARHULUMENTE EWONKE

AB AHLALI BASE MATATIELE

OONONDABA BETHU (PRINT & ELECTRONIC)

ABAPHULAPHULI BE ALFRED NZO COMMUNITY RADIO

FRIENDS AND COMRADES

Masibambe ngazo zozibini kuqala kwabo basiphulaphule kunomathotholo wesikhululo seAlfred Nzo, kwindawo ngendawo nakumakhaya eniphulaphule nikuwo. Lixesha eli Somlomo lokuba nathi singuloMasipala sizeke mzekweni silandela uMongameli, iNkulumbuso yePhondo kunye nosoDolophu woMasipala ombaxa Alfred Nzo xa bebesenza iintetho zobume. Lixesha eli lokuba sinike ingxelo yemisebenzi eyenziwe nguRhulumente kwindawo yaseMatatiele sijonge ukuba Sisonke siqhubeka njani ukuya phambili.

SOMLOMO OHLONIPHEKILEYO

Chief Albert Luthuli once said **“a man really has only one speech to make. He may cover it in different words, but in essence it is the same speech. Those of us who are in the freedom struggle in this country have really only one gospel. We may possibly shade it in different ways, but it is a gospel of democracy and freedom.”**

The outgoing cabinet agreed on a set of twelve outcomes (or priorities) to provide a strategic focus for government, building on the five priorities in the ruling party's election manifesto namely: **improving education, improving health care, fighting crime and corruption, creating jobs and rural development and land reform** . I would like to give a highlight of each priority since it has been our focus in the past 5 years.

HONOURABLE COUNCILLORS AND TRADITIONAL LEADERS

Let me firstly thank thousands of the people of Matatiele who practiced their right and voted in the fifth democratic elections that we've just had. The day went relatively smoothly, and there were no forms of violence reported. One can affirm to the world – democracy is alive, well and prosperous in SA. We appreciate the tolerance, dignity and patience with which voters conducted themselves as they waited to cast their vote.

It is further noted that if one compares the number of registered population against those who voted it is not a good picture, I therefore call upon all the people of Matatiele to exercise their hard fought right to vote in the upcoming 2016 local government elections and in 2019 National and Provincial elections.

SOMLOMO

Njengoko sazibophelela kunyaka ophelileyo ka 2013 okokuba siza kuqhubeka sisebenzisana neSebe leZemfundo kwinginqi yaseMaluti. Siyazibona iziqhamo zalentsebenziswano kuba kulonyaka uphelileyo kwibanga leShumi sibe kwindawo yesiThathu ePhondweni ngento engaphaya ko70%. uRhulumente wabeka umgomo wokuba izikolo zodaka zipheliswe ukuze kuphucuke izinga lemfundo.

URhulumente eMatatiele wokhe izikolo ezilishumi elinesixhenxhe (17) zexeshana (prefabricated classrooms) kwindawo ebezifudula zifundela phantsi kwemithi nakumagumbi angekho mgangathweni, ezi zikolo zinamagumbi angamashumi

amahlanu anesibini (52) zokhiwe kwindawo ezifana nase Polokong JSS, Queens Mercy JSS nezinye.

URhulumente we ANC uthe wakha izikolo eziyi 16 zesitena apha eMatatiele ezinamagumbi angamaShumi aliThoba aneSihlanu (95). Phakathi kwezo zikolo singabalula iMvenyane SSS ethe yaxabisa iR46 yezigidi zeerandi, equka ilaboratory, workshops kwakunye ne computer room enobuxhakaxhaka belixesha. Nesikolo saseMpofini JSS esikumgangatho ophezulu ulwakhiwo lwaso lugqityiwe.

Luyaqhubeka ulwakhiwo lwesikolo esikwizinga eliphezulu iBokamoso Senior Primary School esixabisa iR19 million. Luqalile ulwakhiwo lwesikolo esixabisa iR200 million eCedarville esijongene nabantwana abakhubazekileyo.

Ngokunjalo sikhuphe ibursary eZine (4) kubantwana abasuka kumakhaya angathathi ntweni abazowenza izifundo zobuNjiniyeli, Ezolimo kunye nabeAccounting. Ngelixa icandelo lethu lakwa Special Programmes Unit lithelancedisa ukufunela abantwana abangathathi ntweni izikolo kwidyunivesithi zethu, baze babhatalela abantwana abangaphaya kwamaShumi amaNe (40).

Kusenjalo amawaka abantwana bafumana ukutya ntsuku zonke kwizikolo zethu fele-fele behlawulelwa ntsuku zonke ngurhulumente wabantu. As the Municipality we support 8 Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDs) and we will continue supporting other Centres in the upcoming financial year.

Indeed we have a good story to tell as this government.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

IMPROVING HEALTH CARE

The major R302-million Khotsong TB Hospital infrastructure project is underway and running smoothly. The project involves demolition of some of the existing structures to make way for the new facility and part of the project includes converting the pediatric wards to administration offices. The new facility is made up of a 120-bed hospital with general TB and multiple drug resistant (MDR) TB wards. The two phases are expected to create 350 jobs.

As government working together with our state owned entities we must make sure that this project is a catalyst for socio-economic development in our area, thus benefiting the communities through: access to health care, the creation of job opportunities, ensuring training and development take place as well

together with the SMME support and development that comes through our infrastructure development programmes.

The Department of Health will build Nyaniso Clinic and has renovated the following clinics so that they provide quality healthcare services: Afsondering, Mt Hargreeves, Mparane, Madlangala, Thabachicha, Queens Mercy, Mthumase and Mzongwana.

Our people were complaining that our local Hospital, Tayler Bequest do not have X-Ray machines, however their cry was responded to by this government.

BAHLALI BASE MATATIELE ABAZIMASE LENTLANGANISO NAMHLANJE NABO ABASIPHULAPHULE KWI ALFRED NZO COMMUNITY RADIO,

ISebe Lezempilo eMpuma Koloni lizama ngandlela zonke ukusabela kwingxaki yokushokoxeka kogqirha kulenginqi yethu apho sibone Isebe lisibonelela ngokuqashwa kooQgirha abathathu eTayler Bequest kulonyaka ka 2014. There are also additional Clinicians, Pharmacist, Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists. Kulindeleke into yokokuba uGqirha wamazinyo a qale engekapheli uJune lo esiya kuye.

Tayler Bequest Hospital was one of the Institutions that were assessed by National Department of Health for "Baby Friendly Initiative" (Breastfeeding) and the hospital has passed and awaiting certificate from the Health Minister. This Initiative will decrease Malnutrition in Matatiele ensuring that children are healthy. Therefore the institution is a "Baby Friendly Hospital".

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

In response to shortage of Doctors in our Area, the Department of Health has initiated a programme to identify the poorest of the poor students, who intend on progressing to study medicine after completion of their matric and are unable to pay for their tuition. Five pupils have left for Cuba coming from Matatiele.

This shows that Matatiele is a better place than it was before 1994.

COMPATRIOTS,

ON FIGHTING CRIME AND CORRUPTION

South African Police Services continues to play a critical role in fighting crime in our Area. Nevertheless, we are still faced with a challenge of stock theft with 586

reported cases, 635 cases for assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm, burglary at residential areas at 399 reported cases to mention but a few. This picture shows that we have to work together going forward to address these challenges. We have to reform our Community Safety Forums and make sure that they are well capacitated.

It is a well-known fact that a country where corruption reigns will fail in its endeavours to create just and prosperous dispensation for its people. Corruption is not only bad for a government and reputation of the country but it is also harmful to the growth of the economy, job creation and the country's overall development.

Government is committed to a clean, accountable public service as government officials involved in corruption are dealt with irrespective of status or rank. We need to fight the culture of corruption. Let us promote the culture thinking hard, working hard, and of finding innovative ways of making money.

We call on all sectors in Matatiele Local Municipality to not turn a blind eye to corruption, or in any way encourage it to take place because if we do so, we are ultimately doing our Municipality a disservice and threatening the future we want to build for our children.

CREATING JOBS

National statistics shows that unemployment rate is still high. Matatiele Local Municipality Area also faces the same challenge; conversely, the Municipality has worked towards creating job opportunities for Matatiele community through Nkhoesa Mofokeng Programme and EPWP. These Programmes are aimed at maintaining municipal access roads and has benefited more than Six Thousand (6000) people around Matatiele.

In addition to this number, the Municipality has created the following number of jobs:

Job Creation	Beneficiaries
Food for Waste	290
Youth Environmental Services (Wild lands)	30
Park Establishment Matatiele Town (To be completed by end September	50
Youth in waste jobs	9
Nature Reserve Gateway office	100
EPWP ANDM	50

Ukuzama ukulwa nentswela ngqesho kubantu abatsha, sathi satyikitya isivumelwano nenye ye arhente ebizwa ngokuba yi Local Government Sector Education Training Authority (LGSETA) kunye neSebe leMfundo ePhakemeyo apho ithe yabeka abantwana abaliShumi elineSibini (12) kuloMasipala wethu ukuze bafumane ulwazi oludingekayo xa beyofuna imisebenzi esisigxina.

Through our major infrastructure projects, a number of jobs were created for Matatiele community, these projects include the construction of the new state of the art Correctional Services Centre in Matatiele.

ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LAND REFORM

SinguRhulumente siqhubela phambili nephulo lokuphucula amakhaya, ulimo nemfuyo kwilali zethu, lento ke iqinisekisa ukuba uqoqosho lwethu luyaphucuka kwindawo esihlala kuzo nokulwa nendlala kunye nentlupheko.

The Municipality has entered into a partnership with local grain farmers, Old Mutual Masisizane Development Fund, Grain Emerging Development Farmers Association and Omnia. This partnership will support all grain farmers focusing on grain production and Agro-Processing. The Municipality will provide land and private sector to provide funding. Government is also assisting local farmers in rural development on grain production by giving them a loan.

Zimbabwean President His Excellency Robert Mugabe on the issue of land he once said and I quote **“Having restored land to the people, we have learnt a host of lessons, all pointing to the challenge of ensuring food security for the people.”**

Isebe likaMasipala lwakwaEconomic Development kuleminyaka idlulileyo lisebenzisa namanye amaSebe kaRhulumente liphucule ubomi babahlali baseMatatiele oluhlobo:

WARD NO.	PROGRAMME/PROJECT	STATUS OF THE PROJECT
19, 26	Review of Land Use Management System	2013 Land Use Management System adopted by Council and functional
19, 26	Land Use Management System By-Law	Land Use Management System By law Gazetted
19,26	Functional Land Use Management	Land Use Register is

	System	functional
19, 26	Bed and Breakfast and Tent Policy	Completed
19,26	Municipal Land Management Plan	Completed
All	GIS and Training	Completed
All	Matatiele Land Audit	Project Completed

02	Khuthalani Sinosizo Poultry Project	Completed
19	Matatiele Tourism (Tourism Marketing Material)	Completed
19	Music Festival	Completed
26	Matat Training Centre	Ongoing
19	Informal Trading Taxi Rank Facility (First Phase)	Completed
19	Mokhosi Milling	Completed
26	Cedarville Emerging Farmers	Ongoing
All wards	Tourism Marketing Material	Completed
19	Feasibility Study for the Municipal Entity	Completed
26	Construction of Training Centre	Ongoing
19	Matat Fees	Completed
20	Matatiele Music Festival	Completed
19	Construction of LED Offices	Under Construction
All	Develop 26 LED Ward Based	6 LED Ward plans done.
All	NHBRC to train local building contractors	local contractors were workshopped and trained

Matatiele Local Municipality economy has transformed over the past two decades. Despite the significant problems we continue to face, Matatiele Local Municipality is today a wealthier society, with greater economic opportunity and reduced levels of poverty.

HONOURABLE COUNCILLORS

Kanti sisebenzisana neSebe loKuhlaliswa koLuntu (Human Settlements) sikwiphulo lokwakha izakhiwo zoluntu ezisemgangathweni, eli Sebe lokha iThusong Service Centres sebakeng sa Thabachicha ukanti kuzokwakhiwa izindlu ezingaphaya kweThree Thousand Three Hundred (3300) kwindawo zalapha eMatatiele. Ezi zindlu ziza kokhiwa kwezindawo nakwezinye: 1,500 units eMaritseng kwa Ward 2, 500 Thabachicha kwa Ward 14, kunye ne 500 eMvenyane kwa ward 21, Maluti 200, Mafube 300. Izindlu ezingu Eight hundred

sithetha nje ziyokhiwa Kwa-Masakala nase Queensmercy. Ukulungiswa kwezindlu eCedarville, Matatiele naseHarry Gwala kuzakuqhubeka.

BA-AHI BA HLOMPHEHILENG BA MATATIELE

Masepala wa le hae wa Matatiele, ho tloha selemong sa 2011 ha khansele ena e ne e kena tshebetsong, re fihlelletse ho atleha diprojekeng tsena tse latelang:

Project	Status
Electrify 400 houses in Harry Gwala Park extention	Completed
Electrify 183 houses in Harry Gwala Park extension	Completed
Electrification of Ramafole village	In progress
Felleng Access Road	Completed
Diaho Great Place Access Road	Completed

Project Name	Status
Zingcuka-Madlangeni Access Road & Bridge	Construction
Nyanzela Access Road	Construction
Kuyasa Poultry Project Access Road	Construction
Sekhutlong Access Road	Construction
Cross to St. Johns Access Road	Construction
Lukholweni Access Road	Complete
Ntlola Access Road	Construction
Paballong Access Road	Construction
Cedarville Internal Streets Phase 2	Construction
Masupa Access Road	Construction
Manzi Access Road	Construction
Mnqayi Access Road	Construction
Sabasaba Access Road	Construction
SL Novuka Community Facility	Complete
Moriting Community Facility	Complete
Moaneng Community Facility	Complete
Ngcwengane - Sifolweni access road	Complete
Berdivalle – Mahlehleng access road	Complete
Moliko access road	Complete
Thabaneng access road	Complete
LED Offices	Construction
Lunda Community Facility	Construction
Khaue Community Facility	Construction
Finance offices	Construction

SOMLOMO

The Community Services through its Public Safety Unit has successfully managed to purchase Rescue Equipment. The Unit has also managed to license eight hundred and ninety six (896) vehicles from October to December 2013. Matatiele Local Municipality bought four (4) brand new traffic vehicles to try reduce the number of people who do not obey traffic rules.

Isebe lakwa DSRAC lisebenza nomasipala sele lakhe amathala encwadi (libraries) ntoleyo ebingasokuze yenzeke kurhulumente wengcinezelo, njenge thala lase Maluti. I- Mvenyane library will soon be constructed.

Capital Project	Status
Re-surfacing of testing grounds	Complete
Upgrade of test station	In progress
Shelters erected at animal pound	complete
Vehicle shelters/carports	complete
Fencing at public safety offices	Complete
New traffic vehicles	Complete
Traffic signals (Robots)	Complete
Harry Gwala Donga Rehabilitation (Dea Funding) (R4 Million) 50 employees	Complete
Tree Planting (arbour) Matatiele Town (Residential) 300 Trees	Complete
Fencing of Maluti & Cedarville Cemetery	Complete
Fencing of Open Grounds Matatiele	Complete
Grading of Sgoga Sport Field	Complete
Renovation of Town Hall	Complete
Renovation of Zibi Meyu, Mateleng, Masakala Community Hall	Complete
Reconstruction & Completion of Civic Centre & Maluti Library	Complete

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA

The total backlog of electricity around Matatiele amounts to more than R1,2 Billion. We are working tirelessly to address this backlog, as we speak we are in negotiations with the Department of Energy and ESKOM that on the budget adjustment to be tabled in September by Department of Energy, as Matatiele we request R74 Million for intervention projects. This amount if approved will only be available in January 2015.

The former MEC of Local Government and Traditional Affairs Honourable Mlibo Qoboshiyane has been in negotiations with the National Treasury to address the challenge of Alfred Nzo District backlog on electricity, as such the District would need more than R3 Billion from the National Treasury. I urge the people of Matatiele to be patient with us because these are requests so we shall await their feedback if our demands will be met. We will inform our communities on any developments around this issue.

HONOURABLE EXCO MEMBERS

Kwinkonzo yamanzi ntoleyo esiyaziyo ukuba yenye yemfuno zabantu bethu ephambili, uMasipala oMbaxa wesithili iAlfred Nzo uqhubela phambili ukufakela amanzi, ukanti siqhubela phambili ukumilisela ezinye inkqubo ezizakuqinisekisa ukuba uluntu lwethu lonke lufumana amanzi acocekileyo maxesha onke.

Masixolise kubahlali abathe bachaphazeleka kuphazamiseko lwenkonzo yamanzi kwindawo ezohlukeneyo zase Matatiele. Sithe sathumela itruck ezihambisa amanzi saze safaka namatanki khonukuze nifumane amanzi ngelixa silungisa lengxaki.

Siyazi ukuba ingxaki yamanzi iqatsele kwindawo yethu, kodwa siyaxoxa neSebe lezaManzi ukulungisa lemeko kwaye kuleminyaka mihlanu izayo siqhubela phambili singuRulumente ukusa inkonzo yamanzi ebantwini.

Umama uDiko uthe “kwindawo ezingakafakelwa amanzi masiqinisekise ukuba senza zonke inzame zokuba kufikelele amanzi kuluntu lonke lwaseMatatiele.”

Njengalapha eMatatiele kuzakufakelwa amanzi kweziWard 5, 7, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22.

BAHLALI

ISebe loMzantsi Afrika elijongene nokhuseleko lezentlalakahle (SASSA) linikezele ngeenkono zokutya kumakhaya angathathi ntweni kuba singuRulumente okhathalayo. Kunikezelwe ukutya okungaphaya kwe One Million Three Hundred and Ten Thousand Eight Hundred and Twelve rands Ninety Three (1 310 812. 93) kumakhaya angaphaya kweOne Thousand One Hundred and Four.

On Social Grants we have spent more than Six Hundred Million to deserving families to fight poverty and this has benefitted more than Six Hundred and Sixty Thousand beneficiaries.

Isebe lezeNdlela neMisebenzi yoLuntu (Roads and Public Works) liyazi ukuba indlela zethu zikwisimo esibi kwaye iingxoxo kunye neSebe ziyaqhubeka. Nathi singuMasipala sisebenzisa oGanda-ganda bethu ukulungisa ezindlela kwaye

sizeqhubeka sisenza njalo. Sele silungise iindlela kwezi Wards zilandelayo: 5, 6, 7, 20, 26, 22 and 14.

Sele inkampani ezizawulungisa ezindlela zilandelayo zikhethiwe, kumele kungekudala ziqale ulwakhiwo: **DR08015, DR08245, DR08646, DR08069, DR08015, DR18017, DR08013, DR08503**

Isebe leZothutho lithe lakha I depot zakwa AB350 apha eMatatiele nelithe lavelisa amathuba omsebenzi angamashumi amane anesihlanu (45) kuluntu lwalapha.

BAHLALI

iSebe lakwa Social Development and Special Programmes eMatatiele liqhubela phambili ukuncedisa iprojects eziyi 75 ngemali engaphaya kwe R12 million, eziprojects zancedisa ukugxotha indlala, zancedise ukuqinisa uphuhliso noqoqosho.

FELLOW COUNCILLORS

I would like to agree with the former UN General Secretary Dr Kofi Annan when he was saying **“People of different religions and cultures live side by side in almost every part of the world, and most of us have overlapping identities which unite us with very different groups. We can love what we are, without hating what – and who – we are not. We can thrive in our own tradition, even as we learn from others, and come to respect their teachings,”** in this sense, as the Municipality we continue to engage with all our stakeholders including Traditional Leaders, Council of Churches and youth formations in order to find ways of developing our Municipality as we continue working together.

The President of the Country Honourable Jacob Zuma has recently established a new Ministry of Communications, which will be responsible for overarching communication policy and strategy, information dissemination and publicity as well as the branding of the country abroad.

He said “Improved communication and marketing will promote an informed citizenry and also assist the country to promote investments, economic growth and job creation.” I therefore recommend that we strengthen our Communications Unit and we all become government communicators especially as we approach 2016 local government elections so that our people are well informed of our successes.

COMPATRIOTS,

Let us join hands and congratulate three Councillors from this Council who are now deployed to the National Assembly, Cllr Lulama Ntshayisa and Cllr Mahlubanzima Jafta representing AIC. The African National Congress has elected Cllr. Zama Munyu as the member of the NCOP. We believe that they will continue with good working relations that we have with them. We wish them all the best.

Allow me to also congratulate our Miss Matatiele Ms Nicole Potwana who has been nominated as a finalist for Miss SA Teen. Let us all vote for her by SMS-ing "Nicole Potwana" to 42899.

I would like to urge our communities to be patient with this government and acknowledge that they have a right to protest but not to vandalise the existing government infrastructure because that is taking government backwards. I advocate everyone to work together with the Municipality and government to move Matatiele forward.

The former President of the country Honourable Thabo Mbeki in his resignation he said, **"I would like to say that gloom and despondency have never defeated adversity. Trying times need courage and resilience. Our strength as a people is not tested during the best of times. As we said before, we should never become despondent because the weather is bad nor should we turn triumphalist because the sun shines."** Ndithi sonke masiqhubele phambili sisebenzisana ukwenza iMatatiele engcono, singavumeli nanye into ime phambi kwethu, kumele sitsho ngazwi linye okokuba Sisonke siqhubela uMzantsi Afrika phambili.

BUDGET

Madam Speaker, Fellow Executive and Honourable councillors, allow me to table to you our 2014/2015 budget as follows:

Tariff charges will increase by 5% for all other services except the following:

- Electricity charges will increase above 5% by 7.39%, this is because of the control by National Electricity Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) who controls such increases.
- Property rates Randages will be decreased as follows:
 - Residential properties from 0.0150 to 0.00827 i.e 45% reduction
 - Commercial properties from 0.0180 to 0.0099 i.e 45% reduction
 - Farm properties from 0.0037 to 0.0020 i.e 45% reduction

- For other categories of properties like vacant land, mining land there will be no changes to what was charged in the budget year of 2013/2014.

Further to these reductions madam speaker, the following exemptions and rebates will be provided to our rate payers as a relieve,

- First R55 000 of the valuation roll value will not be charged rates to all residential properties,
- Further 35% discount on values of residential properties will be provided and 15% discount on values of all commercial and industrial properties will be provided.
- And 65% discount on all farms properties will be provided.

The above reductions, rebates and exemptions madam speaker have been considered after engagements with the rate payers representatives and local government representatives. Because we are a caring municipality, we have seen it important to listen to the requests and proposals of the community hence members we have agreed to reduce rate Randages from rates of 2013/2014 and this has resulted us to reduce our draft budget revenue of rates by R10 million.

This then Madam Speaker gives us the revenue of the municipality to be R375, 4 million including grants and subsidies from National and Provincial Governments as follows:

Property Rates – R30, 7 million

Municipal Services charges – R58, 4 million

Grants – R231, 1 million

Other revenue – R54, 9 million

On general expenditure madam speaker allow me to table budget of R257, 8 million operating, repairs and maintenance as follows:

Staff Salaries – R90, 3 million, this includes filled posts, vacant posts to be filled and new post.

Councillors allowances – R17, 1 million

General expenditure – R137, 8 million, this is for day to day operations of the municipality to ensure that services are delivered. This includes our strategic projects like music festival, special projects, LED projects, Indigent Support, electricity smart metering, revenue enhancement etc.

Repairs and maintenance – R12, 2 million, this is for all maintenances of Infrastructure projects and buildings.

On Capital Budget Madam Speaker, allow me to table the budget of R117, 5 million as follows:

Office of the Municipal Manager – R221 thousand

Corporate Services – R2, 1 million

Budget and Treasury Office – R1, 8 million

Community Services – R7, 3 million

Economic Development & Planning - R915 thousand

Infrastructure Services – R81, 7 million

Electrical Services – R23, 3 million

Madam speaker, the following projects will be implemented from the above capital budget, surfacing of Matatiele town streets and Cedarville streets, community halls, access roads of Manzi, Sabasaba, Mnqayi, Paballong, Masopha, sport fields of Mahangwe, Afsondering, Nkau, Nice Field, Majoro, Epiphany, LED Fresh Produce Market, Rolweni bridge and continuation of Budget and Treasury Offices, rural electrification, replacement of electrical cables and 5 high mast lights.

Madam Speaker it is important that I must also table that, on the Capital Budget we have budgeted an amount of R20 million to construct new council chambers and offices and this has been awarded to commence soon.

The tabled Capital Budget of R117 million is funded as follows:

MIG – R45, 2 million

Electrification grant – R19, 3 million

Council funding from Capital Replacement Reserve – R59, 4 million.

Madam Speaker, Honourable EXCO members and Honourable Councillors, allow me therefore to table to you the Matatiele Local Municipality total operating and capital budgets for 2014/2015 as follows:

This therefore Madam Speaker gives me an opportunity to table to this Council for approval a total budget of R375, 4 million for 2014/2015.

Let me assure the council madam speaker, that, the budget tabled today has been prepared according to the issued guidelines, legislations and priorities of the people of Matatiele.

Public consultative meetings have been conducted and draft budget was publicized for further comments and suggestions as required by law and I want to inform council today that, no written comments from communities or stakeholders were received on draft budget and only those comments were raised in consultative meetings were received and considered for the finalization of this budget.

Provincial Treasury Budget comments on Draft Budget were received and all necessary corrections were done as per their advice.

Madam Speaker requests and suggestions received from Rate Payers Association with regards to General Valuation Roll during the engagements between municipality, local government officials were considered and we have made reductions of almost 45% on rate Randages. I further advise madam speaker that, Rate payer feeling aggrieved with their property values as per valuation roll must follow requirements of law and appeal to appeals board who will look at their objects and make final ruling.

Madam Speaker, let me quote from Calvin Coolidge the 30th President of United States of America when he said, **“All growth depends upon activity. There is no development physically or intellectually without effort, and effort means work.”**

As I have tabled this budget, I want us all sitting here in this house to remember our responsibilities and political mandates that, we are here to work and provide better lives to all our communities. We must put more efforts and work hard through implementation of this budget and if we don't work hard then we will put no effort to achieve our mandates. I say this Madam Speaker also to the Management, our performance needs to improve on service delivery and our expectations are that, by Mid Term assessment of performance, only performance of above 50% will be accepted.

As our father of the nation the late President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Said, **“Real leaders must be ready to sacrifice all for the freedom of their people”** we must all of us today leave this house and put all our dedications and efforts to free our people from poverty and non services.

Honourable Members of Council, Management and Communities let me extend a word of gratitude to you all for your efforts and cooperation on the preparation of this budget and hope that this will be delivered as planned to improve the lives of our people.

I thank you.

MAYOR: CLLR. MOMELEZI MBEDLA