



Mayor's Status Quo Report on Service Delivery

Madam Speaker, Cllr Nomasomi Mshuqwana,

Chief Whip, Cllr Sonwabile Mngenela,

Honourable EXCO members;

Municipal Manager and your Team,

Members of the Media (print and electronic),

Matatiele community listening to this session on Alfred Nzo Community

Programme Director,

Molweni, Dumelang!

It is my pleasure to be given this opportunity to engage with members of the media during this very important month - the Human Rights Month.

The 21st of March is one of the most important days in the history of South Africa. It is a day that gives us an opportunity to pause and reflect on the status of Human Rights in the country. Unfortunately, despite our collective effort to curb human rights associated ills, our people are still subjected to serious human rights violations. The month of March, takes us back to the year 1960, when the selfless heroes and heroines of our Country sacrificed their lives in pursuit of human dignity.

Nathi singuMasipala waseMatatiele sizeka mzekweni ngokubekela bucala lonyaka ka2018 njengonyaka wokukhumbula ongasekhoyo uTata uNelson Mandela. Sithembisa abahlali okokuba egameni lakhe sizimisele ukuguqula iimpilo zabo sisonke sibambisene.

Baphulaphuli beAlfred Nzo Community Radio, uMongameli weli loMzantsi Afrika uCyril Ramaphosa kwintetho yakhe yokuvula iPalamente he said and I quote "We are determined that everyone in public service should undertake their responsibilities with efficiency, diligence and integrity. We want to instil a new discipline, to do things correctly, to do them completely and to do them timeously," close quote.

He went on to say a new dawn is upon us and it is time for all of us to say “Send Me” / Thuma Mina. “Now is the time to lend a hand, our country has entered a period of change, together we are going to make history, he said.

In spite of the challenges that we are facing as Matatiele Local Municipality, including the state of roads, electricity, potholes and refuse removal we are today saying a new dawn has come and we will indeed take necessary measures to ensure that today is better than yesterday and tomorrow will be better than today. Now is the time for all of us to work together, in honour of Nelson Mandela, to build a new and better Matatiele for all.

Members of the Media,

Matatiele Local Municipality notes with gratitude the working relations and the coverage we receive in your newspapers and radio. Through your platforms we are able to profile our achievements and communicate with the residents of Matatiele.

Our work would not be possible without the unspoken and explicit support and encouragement from our stakeholders, in this case yourselves, the local media.

As political leadership, it will always be impossible to say that we have all the answers; as such we continue to seek answers to complex challenges we constantly experience.

Colleagues,

You will recall that in my inaugural speech in August 2016, I made commitments to the people of Matatiele that, we will take this municipality forward in transforming their lives, I further indicated that this Council shall invest our efforts in making Matatiele a better place to live in.

We have from 2016, managed to reduce our electricity backlog – in 2015 our electricity backlog was sitting at 45%, I can now proudly say that we are sitting at 34%, which we are working tirelessly to reduce the number even more.

Through electrification projects, about two thousand, nine hundred and fifty households are being connected to the national electrification grid and close to three hundred and fifty jobs for local people are being created. These life changing projects are almost in final stages, at the following areas, Chibini, Pamlaville, Nkali, New-Resh, Thotaneng, Nyaniso – Nkalweni, Bubesi, Mahareng, Madlangala, Mahangwe, Edrayini, Kwa – Mbobo. We will invite media when we officially switch on these projects.

Siqhubela phambili nephulo lethu lokukhanyisa indawo zaseMatatiele. ngolweSihlanu kwiveki ephelileyo, sikhuphe kumaphephandaba iziniki

Maxabiso zokufakelwa kombane kwezi ndawo zilandelayo: Black Diamond, KwaMatias kunye ne Goxa, Nice Field kunye nase Mateleng, eNkungwini, Pamlaville kunye nase Khohlong nase Tsitsong. Zizindlu ezingaphaya kwe 1625 ezizakulayita kulo nyaka-mali kwezindawo sizikhankanyileyo ngasentla zidibene.

Baphulaphuli emakhaya

Ndizakube andithethanga ncam ukuba ndingangathethi ngomba weendlela zethu singu Masipala neziluxanduva lesebe lakwa Raods and Public Works, ngumba otshisa ubunzi kwindawo yethu sithetha-nje. I-Matatiele iye ya thwaxwa zimvula ezingamandla kusukela ngoJanuary, that caused a lot of damages on our roads and bridges. Our communities continue to raise their frustrations when it comes to potholes in and around town, nakwindlela iziya kwilali zabo. They have raised unpleasant concerns through our Municipal Facebook account and some through our Customer Care Section and also via the word of mouth. We share the same sentiments with them, indeed most of our roads are not in good conditions.

Siyayazi okokuba ezindlela mva-nje zingunobangela weengozi. Asoze siyeke ukuxoxa nesebe lezendlela nemisebenzi ukufumana isisombululo kwingxaki yezendlela. After consulting the Department of Roads & Public Works, the road from Matatiele to Maluti will be resealed in the next financial year (2018/19). The project is at planning stage and a Consultant has been appointed.

Kunyaka-mali ozayo isebe lithembise okokuba they will regravell DR08065 and D655, DR08017 and surfacing of the road between Mvenyane and Cedarville. The in-house plant will also be used to fix some of the badly affected provincial roads.

Re di fumane di tletlebo tsa baahi mabapi le ditsela tse mpe. Re ile ra kopana re le masepala le lefapha la Roads and Public Works.

Kuyo yonke imigwaqo ethe yamoshakala ingakumbi le ejongene noMasipala siyaqhubeleka nokungenelela nge-machine zethu. In Cedarville we have done a 25m of kerbing; in Matatiele town we have done pothole patching in Balloon Street, West Street, Long Street, Green Street and Fleet Street.

We have also done storm water drains in Mzingisi where 7 pipe crossings were cleaned, Khorong Location – 2 pipe crossings were cleaned and in Cedarville CBD - Stone pitching have been done in 4 pipe crossings. Furthermore, the Black Diamond Bridge in Ward 26 a 9x900mm diameter concrete pipes have been delivered on the 15th of February 2018.

An excavator and TLB are now working on this project to lay pipes and diverting water from an overflowing dam and at Cedarville town a TLB has been hired on the 20th of February 2018 for 5 days. It started operations on the 21st of February 2018.

In Maluti: Blading has been done by our grader as from the 14th of February to the 20th of February 2018.

A TLB has been hired to unblock storm water drains for 3 days. It started on the 20th of February 2018 next to the graveyard in Maluti.

Four (4) Loads of gravel material have been tipped using our own dumper trucks on the 19th and 20th of February 2018 and were spread by our grader on the 21st February 2018.

Siyayazi okokuba asikagqibi kwaye olu ngenelelo alwanelanga futhi asilibanga. Umonakalo ubalelwa ngaphaya kwe Three Million. After the assessments, the most critical roads that require urgent intervention are: Linotsing AR, Magongqolweni AR, Thotaneng AR kunye neMaputseng AR.

Bahlali,

Matatiele local municipality has a total of 678km of access roads, some of these were constructed prior to the formation of this municipality in 1996. These access roads have deteriorated over time, the municipality has started to fix some.

In intervening with condition of roads, the municipality purchased a set of plant for maintenance of roads, however our roads do not just need maintenance, they need re-construction therefore it required sufficient funding. The municipality had acquired services of external service provider to construct new roads, using conditional grant and acquired savings that we use to do reconstruction of dilapidated access roads. Some of our work is currently felt at the following areas: Ward 8 Nchodu 2,7km, Ward 9 Siphola to Afsondering 2,9km, Ward 13 Thababosiu 3.9km, Ward 17 Sigoga 5.1km, Ward 18 Rolweni to Fiva 3,4km, Ward 19 Harry Gwala 2km, Ward 11 Mapfontein 4km. We continue with our access road assessment in and around Matatiele for urgent interventions using the municipality grader.

The tender for Epiphany and Nomgavu Access Roads was published on local papers and municipal website and is closing on the 09th of April 2018 where Supply Chain Processes will unfold and appoint a contractor as soon as possible.

Members of the media, On Audit Outcomes

As you would recall that Matatiele LM has been doing so well in terms of handling its finances and ensuring compliance is not compromised, this municipality obtained unqualified audit opinions for six consecutive years and further obtained clean audit opinion for two financial years. We applaud our management team and our Council for making us proud, for ensuring that we counted amongst the best municipalities in the Province.

It is unfortunate to announce that 2016 / 2017 Financial Year; our books did not receive favourable outcomes from the Auditor General. The Audit report issued by Auditor General in November 2017, is a qualification audit opinion – for the first time ever.

Many would ask, what went wrong this time? I will today respond to such questions. The Auditor General conducts their audit on a risk based sample, it happened that the focus was more on accounting of retentions. Property Plant and Equipment (PPE) was audited towards the end of the audit in November and that led to identified audit queries by AGSA not adequately resolved by the municipality due to limited time because of the information which related to prior years which we could not retrieve on time.

General Recognised Accounting Practices (GRAP) 17 requires that PPE be accounted for 100% on each transaction, Non capitalization of retentions on payment basis but only done at year end resulting to year under review PPE understatement and prior years' balances being understated. Due to inconsistencies of the amounts accounted for in the Annual Financial Statements (AFS) that lead to an understatement of PPE, VAT receivables, Payables from exchange transactions and an overstatement of depreciation.

Furthermore, incorrect calculations of payables led to incorrect accounting of payables from exchange transactions disclosed in the Annual Financial Statement which also resulted to incorrect accounting of PPE and depreciation.

Our main challenges were amongst others: -

During the attendance of matters raised by auditors, all other adjustments were done and auditors were in agreement with the management and have accepted such adjustments except the adjustments in relations to Property Plant and Equipment.

- Prior year population review and adjustment due to supporting documents relating as far back as 2011, management found it difficult

retries payment invoices for the past years especially those relating to 2011 and 212 financial years.

We have also from the beginning of this quarter (January to March) managed to appoint the General Manager for Economic Development & Planning, Ms Thabiso Ntsalla who has once worked for this municipality.

Under the Local Economic Development, we have set aside a budget of R 350 000 for Grant in Aid Funding. This is the 100% grant fund for co-operatives and SMMEs in Matatiele who lodge their innovative business plans for funding opportunities so as to support the economic growth of Matatiele. We have further considered our SMMEs under a programme called SMMEs Development of Co-operatives where a budget of R550 000 has been set aside. This one talks to training of local cooperatives and local contractors. The objective of pursuing this target nurture our local youth and women by upskilling them, to be competitive entrepreneurs, and to be attractive to investors.

In closing honourable members, I will touch briefly on projects that we have completed - to uplift the lives of Matatiele community.

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT (ISD) PROJECTS IN RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT STATE OF OUR ROADS

Project / Programme Name	Project status	Number of Jobs created if any	Ward
Maluti Internal Streets Phase3	Complete	15	01
Thlakanelo Culvert Bridge	Complete	11	13
Soloane Access Road	Complete	14	24
Manase Access Road	Complete	11	03
Kamorathaba - Tshepisong Access Road	Complete	14	03
Sandfontein Access Road	Complete	13	26
Mabheleni Access Road	Retention	16	21

