



**SPEECH BY ALDERMAN Z.I DUMZELA
EXECUTIVE MAYOR: JOE GQABI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
DELIVERED DURING THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THE 27th of MARCH 2018**

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Mayors and Speakers from local municipalities

Chief Whips from the District and local municipalities

Members of the Mayoral Committee

Honourable Councillors

Traditional Leaders

Municipal Manager, Directors and officials

Leaders and Members of Civil Society,

Distinguished Guests, Comrades and Friends,

Esteemed members of the Community present here today,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Mr Speaker,

Beginning next week Christians will celebrate the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross. The offices will be closed during this celebration of Jesus bringing life to the world.

I can still feel the atmosphere of Human Rights Day celebrated on the 21st of March by all free South Africans in this Democratic Country and I am humbled to be a leader of a progressive District Municipality against all the challenges we are faced with .

I would like to quote the great leader, Mahatma Gandhi who said, that “You must be the change you wish to see in the world”.

Let us all gathered here today then be the change we wish to see in our communities.

We must stand together to shape the future of our community members who are pining for a better place to live and work.

South Africa is going through difficult times. We are threatened by an alarming crime rate targeting women, children and the elderly. Investors are skeptical to invest here and this is affecting job security

It is our responsibility as South Africans to bring back its glory days post 1994.

South Africa should once again be a beacon of hope for the rest of the world.

Honourable Speaker, President Cyril Ramaphosa during his State of the Nation Address, emphasized that economic development, expropriation of land and job creation are key components to fight poverty and to create employment, in particular for the youth.

As we celebrate the former President Nelson Mandela’s

centenary if he was to be alive, we need to remember his ideals for human dignity, peace and harmony in our land. As a nation, we should implement the freedom charter programmes which are integrated in our constitution to share the wealth, minerals and the land.

This year the ANC led government has once again committed itself to fight poverty, create job opportunities as well as improve infrastructure to expedite service delivery to our communities.

As a District we are not immune to the national priorities.

STRATEGIC SESSION

Two weeks ago we held a strategic planning session to map out best practices in order to improve service delivery in the District.

The meeting resolved amongst other strategic programmes for the 2018/19 financial year.

The sewer spillages in Burgersdorp and Aliwal North are concerning and is prioritized as it holds serious health issues to the community and animals.

Mr Speaker, the institution is experiencing a huge financial setback as a result of illegal water connections and poor water revenue collection.

Mr Speaker, if we are not taking action against the individuals who are doing illegal connections our efforts on revenue collection and water conservation is a recipe for failure.

A strategy for revenue collection should be developed to also include rural areas. It is also important to target big water consumers for revenue collection.

The District should continue with its water demand and conservation management to improve water losses through aging infrastructure.

Our District is a tourist destination with many well established attractions. Tourism creates jobs and will attract investors into our District. We need to strengthen our Local Economic Development around tourism initiatives.

JoGEDA catalytic projects are beginning to take off the ground.

The Aliwal Spa has attracted some potential investors and the license for the development of a private hospital in Aliwal North has been approved and the site has been identified.

Mr Speaker, the draft budget I present to the council today is tailor made to meet the needs of the District Municipality. It highlights the differences in Revenue identified between the approved Adjustment budget and Draft budget.

REVENUE SUMMARY DRAFT BUDGET 2018/19

The revenue summary of the draft budget is over R770 m for the 2018/19 financial year. Several grants and subsidies are captured as well interest earned on external investments. These include outstanding debtors as well as service charges.

Mr Speaker, the Equitable share has been increased with R19 million.

However, according to the Division of Revenue Bill no Rural Bulk Infrastructure Grant has been allocated to JGDM for 2018/19.

Cogta allocated an amount of R40 million for 2018/19 to assist the municipality with drought relief.

The Transfers and Grants further include donation income

amounting to R1,43 million.

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

The draft budget highlights the expenditure differences between the approved Adjustment budget and the Draft budget.

The total expenditure for 2018/19 financial year amount to R551 million. This is an increase of R15.6 million in comparison to the 2017/18 Adjustment Budget.

The employee related costs, comprising of salaries and wages have provisionally been increased by 7% and included in the budget, awaiting an agreement between the trade unions and SALGA.

Grants and subsidies will cost our municipality R9.3 million in the next financial year of which JoGEDA has been allocated an amount of R8,9 million.

Mr Speaker, as the District we need to support programmes within as part of development and empowerment of our communities.

Amongst these are the RAFI project for which an amount of R4.2 million was allocated.

R 2 million has been allocated to the Sondela Festival and R 2 million to the Wi-fi roll out project.

Since the inception of the Expanded Public Works Programme, numerous jobs have been created. An amount of more than R2,2 million has been allocated to this programme.

In order to assist unemployed graduates in the District an amount of R1,5m has been allocated for the experiential training of these graduates.

R 40 million of our MIG funded budget has been allocated to Operational Sanitation programmes in Senqu and Elundini.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

The draft budget focuses on various projects which are the core business of the institution. The total capital budget projects amounts to more than R205,m for 2018/19 financial year.

- The MIG funded projects an amount of R94 million.

- The Water Services Infrastructure Grant funded projects amount to R59, million

Mr speaker, we are very concerned about the MIG Allocations. Over a 3 year Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Funding period just over R693 million is allocated to the District.

Tariffs

Increases proposed for the 2018/19 financial year are 8% for conventional water and 4% for pre-paid water .

CONCLUSION

All of us are responsible to ensure that we adhere to our commitment of continuous service delivery to our communities.

Thank you,