

**SPEECH BY CLLR Z.I DUMZELA**

**EXECUTIVE MAYOR: JOE GQABI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

**DELIVERED DURING THE COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON 29/09/2016**

Honourable Speaker  
Honourable Mayors and Speakers from local municipalities  
Chief Whips from the District and local municipalities  
Members of the Mayoral Committee  
Traditional Leaders  
Councillors  
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:

Honourable Speaker,

We are gathered here after a month from one of the most challenging local government elections of 2016. As the nation was preparing for the elections, some parts of the country were engulfed with violence and protests.

The killings of the potential candidates and innocent people occurred. This kind of behaviour was not expected post 1994. It shocked the nation and the world.

Our economy showed negative growth due to these inhuman activities. This threatened the investor confidence in the country and must be condemned.

Honourable Speaker, It pains me that government properties are going in flames under the pretext of #FEES MUST FALL.

Yes, our children have the right to protest for their grievances, our constitution allows that. But it must be

peaceful protests and , they must refrain from damaging government properties.

Government started the implementation of free education as per the Freedom Charter at Primary and Secondary levels.

Let us engage our youth from our bases about these programmes of ANC led government.

Let's educate our children that violence and property destruction are not the solution - instead they are costing government dearly.

Honourable Speaker, both drug abuse and pregnancies are on the high at our schools.

We need to engage our School Governing Bodies to find their programme of action in curbing this scourge.

The councilors in each ward should visit schools as part of Masiphathisane to interact with structures that are existing in the education sector .

Honourable Speaker three months ago this Province was in the headlines about its high number of deaths emanating from initiations.

This is a shame to our valuable customs and we as government must come up with strategies to avert such incidents .

Joe Gqabi District Municipality has established the District and Local initiation Forums. These Forums are led by Traditional Leaders and other stakeholders.

Late registration of the initiates, private doctors approving medical fitness certificates without thorough examinations, inexperienced traditional surgeons and irresponsible parents are some of the challenges which will be dealt with .

Honourable Speaker, some individuals from Ugie tried to make that area ungovernable by demanding employment and accusing P.G. Bison of failing to consider them for tenders.

As the District, we intervened and managed to bring stability to the area.

Since then a task team consisting of the stakeholders from Ugie, Elundini Local Municipality and the District has developed terms of reference which will guide all programmes relating to P.G. Bison.

Honourable Speaker, in our second term it should be business unusual, both politically and administratively. All the budgeted projects and programmes should be implemented within the stipulated timeframes. Challenges should be reported with immediate effect.

Last week we had a District Lekgotla where all the sector departments presented their programmes of action for the 2016/17 financial year.

Yes, our core business is water and sanitation but we have a responsibility to monitor all sector departments rendering services in our region.

It is important that all the relevant programmes should be included in our IDP. This will assist us in ensuring that each department accounts and we intervene politically where necessary.

Honourable Speaker, our District has high demand of water and sanitation services but the challenges are limited resources.

As we all recall on the 27<sup>th</sup> of this month the Minister of Water and Sanitation , Ms Nomvula Mokonyane launched our Sterkspruit Water Treatment Works.

The Minister committed herself to assist our District to source funding to ensure that our backlogs are addressed within the next 5 – 10 years.

Honourable Speaker in the past years we have experienced cash flow challenges and the previous administration resolved to take over water services provision from local municipalities.

A strategy for cashflow enhancement was developed. Billing has commenced, and payment for services by communities should be encouraged.

A pilot pre-paid watermeter programme will be implemented as a new strategy to improve revenue collection. It will start with

me as Mayor, our Municipal Manager, Councillor Hartkopf and targeted businesses in Aliwal North. If it is proved to be effective it will be rolled out District wide.

Honourable Speaker, last year we received a Clean Audit report. Auditors are here again to look at our financial and performance reports. All of us we need to be compliant in whatever we do to avoid a regression.

Honourable Speaker, it is our responsibility as political leaders to strive for working together to improve the lives of our people. It is our duty to visit all wards to interact with people at all times.

The Masipathisane programme which was launched by Premier Pumullo Masualle at Walter Sisulu Municipality is focusing on war rooms for service delivery.

I must thank everybody who made sure that the Sterkspruit Water Treatment Works launch was a success.

It is pleasing to see all political organizations participating to show that we may have different political ideologies but we are one government.

This will also educate our supporters that working together we can move South Africa forward.

I thank you.