



IDP AND BUDGET 2020/21 DIGITAL CONSULTATION ON EKHEPHINI COMMUNITY RADIO DELIVERED ON 15 MAY 2020 BY EXECUTIVE MAYOR Z.A. DUMZELA

Good day good citizens

2020 is a year of unusual business due to the covid-19 pandemic which has the whole world in a grip of isolation and economic turmoil.

On Wednesday evening, President Ramaphosa addressed the nation indicating that the country is ready to shift to a new phase in response to the coronavirus. As we are preparing to proceed cautiously, government will indicate progressively greater relaxation of restrictions in due course.

As a District Municipality we will continue to communicate at District level to explain and inform our communities on all regulations of the next level restrictions once it has been released.

In the Government Gazette nr. 510 issued on 07 May 2020, the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma issued directions to address, combat and prevent the spread of Covid-19 regarding municipal operations and governance. This includes amongst others that communities must be consulted using media platforms and alternative methods of consultation instead of contact meetings, to provide comments on the draft IDP and Budget.

In the line of above, I will deliver a summary of the draft IDP and Budget for the 2020/21 financial year on Takalani Radio, LA FM and Radio Ekhepheni which will allow the communities to gain information on the projects intended for the next financial year in their areas. Your inputs in these proposed plans

and budgets are welcomed and will be considered in the finalisation of these documents for adoption by council .

The current capital projects in the Senqu Municipal Area include :

The **upscale of the Barkly East Water Infrastructure** to ensure sufficient supply of water to the area of Barkly East, **including the planned construction of 298 new houses** which will continue in the next financial year with a further amount budgeted for R10m

The area of Lady Grey was hit hard by water shortages over the past 5 years due to the prevailing drought. As part of the drought relief, the water treatment plant at Lady Grey was commissioned with the drilling of 13 new boreholes and 6 new reservoirs. The plans for the construction of the **Zachtevlei Dam in Lady Grey** has been approved and the first phase has been budgeted for in the 2020/21 financial year to the amount of R20m.

Due to the Covid-19 shutdown, all projects were negatively affected with all construction sites being closed. This means that all projects lost momentum and time in the order of 2 – 3 months due to the level 5 shutdown and it is foreseen that not all projects will be spending their budget allocations for the 2019/20 financial year.

Contractors returned to site at the start of Level 4 shutdown, but are being hampered by the implementation of health and safety regulations related to social distancing and the new general health regulations related to the pandemic control measures.

Cooperate Governance and Traditional Affairs and National Treasury allowed municipalities an opportunity to identify and implement immediate short term projects which will enhance water and sanitation provision to fight Covid-19.

Joe Gqabi District Municipality estimated that due to lost time, an amount of R42m would be unspent on the MIG programme at end of the current financial year.

No projects will be stopped due to Covid-19 and funding forfeited in this current year will be re-allocated in the 2020/21 financial year to ensure the completion of the projects.

In accordance with the provision of MIG Covid 19 guidelines, **short term projects** were identified including water carting for 265 jojo tanks in rural villages amounting to R2.4m.

In addition , National Treasury will distribute R2.235 m for the current financial year and R2.235m for the 2020/21 financial year for the municipality in the form of a Municipal Disaster Relief Grant. Further transfers may be received from CoGTA or National Treasury. This funding will mainly cater for procurement of PPE for essential workers and disinfectants.

As per the district Budget, funding is availed for programmes including amongst others the Aids Programme – R90 000, Women’s Programmes – R100 000, R200 000 for the provision of free access to wifi in remote areas, R400 000 for livestock improvement projects

R220 000 for are budgeted for Youth Programmes and R950 000 for SMME support and training.

It is not clear how the Covid-19 regulations might affect programmes which include gatherings, and planning will have to be done accordingly. It must also be noted that some or all the relevant programmes’ budgets might be re-allocated to assist in funding the District Municipality’s responds to Covid-19.

Proposed tariff increases :

- Conventional meter tariffs increase by 7%
- Sanitation services increase with 8%
- All other services including pre-paid water increase with 6%
- Indigent households on pre-paid meters – no increase
- Indigent households with conventional meters – increase with 6%

It is a difficult year which lies ahead for the country in terms of job creation, building the economy and delivering services. I want to assure you that the Council of Joe Gqabi District Municipality is committed to see that all measures possible be taken to provide quality services to our people.

I urge you to stay at home and wash your hands regularly with soap and water. Please wear a mask when you have to leave the house and keep your social distance.

God bless