



IDP AND BUDGET 2020/21 DIGITAL CONSULTATION ON TAKALANI RADIO STATION DELIVERED ON 12 MAY 2020 BY EXECUTIVE MAYOR DUMZELA

Good day good citizens

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

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 .

Let me briefly give you a short summary of the current capital projects programmes in the Walter Sisulu Municipal Area before I move to the 20/21 financial year :

Jamestown Bucket Eradication and Sanitation phase 2 sewer line has an allocation of R3 m and the process is on evaluation stage.

The Project implementation for the 2020/2021 financial year for Walter Sisulu Local Municipal area include

- Aliwal North Waste Water Treatment Works holding and settling dams which is a **new** project and has a budget allocation of R15m.
- Jamestown Sanitation Phase 3 (sewer lines) : budgeted at R21m

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, the following immediate short term projects were identified in the Walter Sisulu Local Municipal area to be implemented immediately :

- Repairs to Burgersdorp Waste Water Treatment – R17.9 m
- Refurbishment of Burgersdorp Water Treatment Works – R8.7 m
- Upgrade of Oviston Water Treatment Works – R2.5 m
- Aliwal North – Joe Gqabi informal settlement water supply – 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, provision of available funding is made available for programmes 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 , R1.6m for Expanded Public Works Programme, R220 000 for Youth Programmes and R950 000 for SMME support and training.

We are not sure how the Covid-19 regulations might affect programmes which include gatherings and will have to plan according to future regulations.

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