

RE AHA MOTSE: ROUTE MAP TO SERVICE DELIVERY

Allow me to start off by saying “The most important thing is to solve the problems of the people”.

These are the words engraved at the main entrance of Angolan Capital City, Luanda. It is a famous statement made by Augustino Netto, leader of MPLA, during the days of the struggle of the Angolan people. I feel it is befitting to use these words today on this occasion of presenting a budget to this house, because as the Municipal Council and the administration we must ask ourselves, if the work we are doing is to solve the problems of the people or those of individuals at the expenses of the collective and the people.

I am honoured to join you today in this important occasion in which we are heading towards the third democratic elections of local government.

We have assembled here in the beautiful town of Smithfield/Mofulatshepe to mark the historic moment during which we rededicate ourselves to the building of a united, democratic and prosperous Mohokare.

It is appropriate that we once more bow our heads down and preserve a moment of silence for our fallen heroes during the course of struggle, May your soul rest in peace Cdr Vuyisile Gaba and many more!

We are approaching the end of the term of the Council of Mohokare Local Municipality.

We meet at this juncture as part of a process of approving the Budget and IDP that shall define the possibilities of the Council and government we will compose as a consequence of the May 18th elections.

In that sense, the old shall decide what the new can do.

In its own specific way, the process in which we are engaged exemplifies what our Mohokare will have to contend with in the next three years.

We can approach this matter as a natural consequence of the progression imposed on all of us by the evolution of time, the inevitable succession of the seasons. Nako e fehlile, Lets go and vote!

All this puts Mohokare as a whole in a strong position to make further advances in increasing the capacity of the people to participate in the process of determining their future.

Through this process of adopting the Budget and IDP, we strengthen and fortify local government as well as ensuring the legitimacy of the municipal operations.

The requirements on the municipal council to elaborate and adopt integrated development plan, Budget and to establish ward committees to facilitate regular communication between the councillors and the people are important instruments towards the realisation of the objective that the people shall govern through:

- **Accountability**
- **Transparency**
- **Consultation**
- **Openness**

That is why as the municipal council, we are working tirelessly together in partnership with all our stakeholders to make sure that we build this new kind of an institution that is geared towards bettering the lives of the people.

Fellow councilors, ladies and gentlemen

This budget is informed by the following key areas:

- **That it addresses priority needs as identified by the community of Mohokare during our IDP processes;**
- **That we ensure the town is not totally reliant on government subsidies, but we generate our own sustainable revenue;**
- **That we have realistic revenue projections;**
- **That we produce a balanced budget for the community of Mohokare.**

More work remains to be done to ensure the effective functioning of our municipality. This will include the creation of effective management and administrative machineries in the municipality, the proper integration of functions, roles and the implementation of development programmes, including those focused on poverty alleviation.

There are other outstanding matters such as the proper definition of the role of traditional leaders, FBOs and NGOs and ironing out problems affecting the cross-border municipalities. All these are receiving urgent attention.

Recognising the fact that we still have this outstanding work, nevertheless we would like to congratulate the Demarcation Board, the Independent Electoral Commission, the various organs of government, the political parties, the traditional leaders and our people as a whole, for combining their efforts to bring about the excellent progress we have made further to entrench our democratic system and enhance the capacity of government to contribute to the realisation of the goal of a better life for all.

These important successes demonstrate practically what we can achieve if indeed, as Mohokare we unite in action for change.

During the past years, we also made new advances in what must continue as a sustained offensive against poverty and underdevelopment, hence we are currently building 400 houses in Mohokare; each worth R72 000: 100 in Rouxville, 100 in Smithfeild and 200 in Zastron.

- Community Hall and a Clinic to be built in Rouxville and a Community library in Smithfield.**
- Mooifontein farm in Zastron has been purchased R6, 7 000 000 for Human Settlement purposes.**

The technical department has been operating without a Manager for the past five years due to financial constraints; however the department has managed to establish a Project Management Unit section. Municipality has procured fleet for the purpose of service delivery and machinery but financial constraints could not permit the municipality to come with the payment of this fleet, and took a decision to relinquish the fleet through the court of law whilst other vehicles has been purchased to allow operations to continue without any hamper as alternative plans are being drawn to increase the equipment for intense service delivery.

Road and Storm water Master Plan is currently under development to address bad state of our roads, including old and non-responsive infrastructure network.

Department of Public Works has funded the municipality with R 536 000 as part of EPWP for labour intensive measures.

Mohokare municipality has entered a programme called Blue Drop and Green Drop to ensure quality drinking water.

Bulk water project is currently in the implementation phase as to address water backlogs in Mohokare,

It is also interesting to note that the Mohokare Local Municipality has established an Employee Wellness unit as to assist employees with their overall habits to work hard so that service delivery could be accelerated.

Municipality is currently in the process of engagement with relevant stakeholders to commercialise Makhalleng route, 10 cooperatives has been established with in the area of Mohokare at large as an element of enhancing local economic measures.

Kwame Nkruma once said:

'The forces that unite us are intrinsic and greater than the superimposed influences that keep us apart.'

Working together we can do more!

Debt collection

Community of Mohokare, this is one of the issues which Council has to continuously engage in, as on a number of occasions it appeared in our previous annual reports as a challenge. This is an area which was amongst those that the municipality had to answer PROPAC on.

We all know that there are a number of factors that influence this matter. For instance, we have a domestic debt amounting to R50 545579, 90. This includes people who are indigent and indeed those who are not indigent.

Free Basic Services

The municipality has adopted a policy of provision for free basic services to all formalised households, mostly indigent households.

Financial Viability

Even though the municipality is central towards Eastern Cape via N6, we have experienced no growth in the manufacturing, retail or industrial sector of our economy.

There is no recorded growth in residential and commercial/ business centers, therefore the area has struggled to attract capital investment from private sector and thus have failed to gain from our central geographic location.

General Rates and Charges for 2010/11

In looking at our ongoing cost structure, Council considered various relevant cost indexes, which must be within inflation targets, and do not undermine government's national macro-economic, tax and fiscal policy objectives or otherwise negatively affect investor confidence. After some deliberation, a figure of 10 percent, above the previous financial year has been set as a benchmark increase for most rates and charges.

I therefore, recommend the adoption of this 2010/11 budget under the respective recommendations as contained in the Budget Document.

I thank You!!