

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET  
POLICY SPEECH- 13 JUNE 2017

---

Honourable Speaker, Councillor Hokwana

Leaders of the African National Congress

Madam Chief Whip, Councillor Mamello Leteba

Leaders of political parties represented in the municipal  
council

Members of the Executive Committee

Honourable Councillors

Traditional Leaders in Council

Distinguished Guests

Representatives of the Sector Departments

Ward Committees and CDWs

Communities of ward 3

Municipal Manager and Staff

Ladies and Gentlemen

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET  
POLICY SPEECH- 13 JUNE 2017

---

As a country we are celebrating 23 years of democracy where the people themselves determine their destiny. The aspirations of our people that were drafted in the Freedom Charter are in reality, gradually being realised. Our democracy is growing and we are holding both national and local elections at periodic intervals as prescribed by law. It is through the exercise of that democracy that today we have this council elected to office by the communities on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2016.

**Honourable Speaker**, whilst we acknowledge that a significant number of the people of Elundini wake up each morning to face a new day, characterised by an inadequate supply of food, poor health, illiteracy, bleak or uncertain prospects for a better life, this municipality has reaffirmed our vision to be **a leading rural municipality that delivers a better quality of life for its citizens, a municipality that is phenomenally viable, highly successful and passionately people centred.** To this effect we have revised our strategic goals and streamlined them into three aiming at fastracking service delivery. The council will in the next five years concentrate in:-

## STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET POLICY SPEECH- 13 JUNE 2017

---

- Accelerating Service Delivery and Infrastructure Development
- Promotion of economic growth, environmental sustainability and job creation
- Improvement of the effectiveness of Governance, Administrative and Financial Systems

**Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,** during the past five years, as this council, we enjoyed tremendous encouragement from our communities as well as our stakeholders who always participated in all municipal activities. This resulted in the municipality achieving most of its targets that I highlighted in my address in Jamangile SSS on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2016 where I launched **The Back of the Hirrizon**, a booklet that this council prepared to highlight to everyone what had been achieved by the government in this area over the past five years. I believe it is that cooperation and transparency that has characterised our municipality which has made the people of Elundini to make it a point that in the previous local government elections in August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016 to make it a point that they vote the ANC in this municipality to continue to

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET  
POLICY SPEECH- 13 JUNE 2017

---

lead and govern. To you, our beloved communities we pledge that we will never disappoint you.

**Honourable Speaker**, the drought that continues to riddle our country has been felt by our communities who are only dependent on agriculture as a means of economic activity and most of whom subsistence farming is their life. The strides by both our national as well as provincial government in providing relief to most areas is acknowledged. The effects of the drought will be felt for a very long time to come.

The creeping phenomenon, alien to our culture, where disrespect of the elderly, young girls being raped and killed as well as the cannibalistic murder of a your boy in Port St Johns by his Uncle who ate parts of his flesh just a week after Easter, are an indication that something is eating the moral fibre of our communities. This is time for us to join hands and reclaim ourselves from this demonic cloud that is sweeping us to Satanism. I understand most people from the Christian religion are saying these are signs that Christ is coming. I urge families to unite and parents to always know the whereabouts of their children.

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET  
POLICY SPEECH- 13 JUNE 2017

---

Yesterday the ANC Womens League in the Province had organised a prayer meeting in the Bhisho Stadium to request the Almighty to disband these evil powers before they capture all our young people. I urge you to extend this prayer to your living rooms.

**Honourable Chief Whip**, 2017 is a challenging year for the ruling party. Our party is engulfed by election fever in all avenues. Very soon we will be having our elective provincial conference and in December our much anticipated national elective conference will finally come. Let me take this opportunity to assure our communities that the ANC will emerge from all the pressure and continue with the journey of emancipating the people to a better life.

**Honourable councillors and distinguished guests**

I have previously reported to the people of Elundini that the extent of electrification backlogs in our municipality is unacceptably high and has left a bitter taste to the affected communities, a sense that the freedom that the rest of the people of our beautiful country have enjoyed since 1994 was not meant for them. As a municipality we are dependent on the grants from the department of minerals and energy as well as ESKOM for the provision of

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET  
POLICY SPEECH- 13 JUNE 2017

---

electrictrification to our communities. I am proud to announce that even though the process of electrification seems to be going at a snail pace, but progress is made and some communities can attest to that. For the 2017/2018 financial year the department of Energy has approved projects for Elundini municipality totalling to R30 million which are detailed as follows:-

- Amahlubi Project in Fletcherville for 120 household connectios R2 010 251.
- Amahlubi Link line R1 057 669.24
- Bakoena 05 SP Project in Dipini, Kgohlong & Ntoko for 541 household connections for R9 984 000.00
- Bakoena 05 SP Link line for R1 160 000.00
- Batlokoa 03 SP project in Lower Tokwana for 500 household connections for R8 383 635.00
- Batlokoa 03 SP Link line for R1 160 000.00
- Elundini Phase 3 project in Madwaleni, Ezantsi, Maqwanguleni, Sihlehleni, Emaplotini & Ncembu for 675 household connections for R12 213 365.00
- Elundini Phase 3 link line for R1 160 00.00
- Elundini Phase 4 project in part of Emaromeni, part of Platana, Mcambalala, Hardenberg, Nkobongo, Indingo,

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET  
POLICY SPEECH- 13 JUNE 2017

---

Njaboya, Plazini & Magedla for 1077 household connections for R19 499 584.00

- Elundini Phase 4 Link line for R1 120 000.00
- Matsura Electrification Project in Braki for 57 household connections for R1 896 854.56
- Elundini Type 1 infills for 896 connections in various villages for R4 340 230.00
- Tinana Project for 282 household connections in Gobho & Thembeni for R4 580 000.00
- Elundini Extensions for 518 household connections in Khalankomo, Popopo for R8 901 652.00
- Elundini Pre-Engineering for R2 600 000.00

**Ladies and Gentlemen,** all these projects are planned for the 2017/2018 financial year.

**Honourable Traditional Leaders,** this council has made tremendous strides in addressing the road infrastructure backlog in our area. Over the past five years R37 million has been spent in access road construction including the surfacing of streets and construction of pedestrian bridges. These projects include Nkolosane Access road phase 1, Vuvu – Nkumandeni Access road, Nkalweni Community Hall, Tsitsa River to Sophonia access road, Mpindweni to

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET  
POLICY SPEECH- 13 JUNE 2017

---

Jojweni access road, Upgrading of Stole streets phase 1, Mjikelweni access road, Upgrading of Sonwabile streets phase 1, to mention just a few.

The following projects are planned for the next financial year:-

1. Construction of Iliso lomzi Community Hall in ward 9 at a cost of R4 million
2. Continuation of the upgrading of Sithole streets & stormwater in ward 3 at a cost of R14, 4 million
3. Upgrading of Vincent Streets & Stormwater in ward 17 at a cost of R17,760 million over two years
4. Construction of T74 via Mohoabatsane to Khohlong Access Road in ward 13 at a cost of R3 million
5. Completion of the Nkolosane Access road in ward 6 at a cost of R4 million
6. Completion of the Tsitsa River to Sophonia access road in ward 7 at a cost of R5,5 million
7. Continuation of the three year project of upgrading Sonwabile Streets and stormwater drains at a cost of R23 million
8. Construction of the Ugie Sports Field in ward 2 at a cost of R12 million

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET  
POLICY SPEECH- 13 JUNE 2017

---

9. Construction of Lower Tsitsana Community Hall in ward 4 at a cost of R2,5 million in 2018/2019
10. Liphofung access road in ward 15 at a cost of R10 million in 2018/2019
11. T83 to Upper Tsitsana Access Road in ward 4 at a cost of R6 million in 2018/2019
12. Construction of Ntabayikhonjwa Access Road in ward 12 at a cost of R4,5 million in 2018/2019

**Honourable Speaker**, the following projects have been captured in our IDP and we are still looking for funding to implement them:-

1. Upgrading of Greenfields Streets & Stormwater in ward 17 at a cost of R38, 4 million
2. Lower Sithana Access road in Ward 5 at a cost of R6,750 million
3. Construction of Mount Fletcher Open Market in Ward 9 at a cost of R2, 599 millon
4. Construction of Ugie Open Market in Ward 2 at a cost of R2, 389 million

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET  
POLICY SPEECH- 13 JUNE 2017

---

5. Upgrading of Kinira Poort Access Road in Ward 12 at a cost of R1, 937 million

**Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,** this council is taking education very seriously and as we acknowledge that our communities are poor, we have established the Mayor's Social Investment Fund which is a fund that caters for bursaries to deserving students from our area as well as providing social relief in deserving situations. This programme was started in in the 2012/2013 financial year with an initial budget of R450 000.00. I am glad to report that the municipality has over the years spent a total budget of R2 728 000.00 and has assisted 13 deserving students sofar from the various wards of the municipality. The fund paid tuition and accommodation for the students at tertiary institutions where the students were and are studying. The municipality has budgeted R680 000.00 for this project for the 2017/2018 financial year to continue assisting deserving students from our communities. The number of students to be assisted has been increased from the initial 5 to 7 per year.

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET  
POLICY SPEECH- 13 JUNE 2017

---

As a municipality we have come into partnership with the department of education and we are providing a total of 15 Tutors to 10 schools in our area who assist learners in numeracy and literacy at the foundation phase. The benefiting schools are

- IlingeletuJSS – 3 Tutors
- Mt Fletcher Village JSS - 3 Tutors
- Mohoabatsane JSS – 2 Tutor
- Fletcherville JSS – 1 Tutor
- Elukhanyisweni JSS – 1 Tutor
- Ilisolomzi JSS – 1 Tutor
- Ngxaza JSS – 1 Tutor
- Maclear Public – 1 Tutor
- Elunyawaeni JSS – 1 Tutor
- Chebenca Primary – 1 Tutor

The above indicates that our intervention in education is not limited to bursaries but even at the initial stages of a child's education we play a part. The total budget allocation for this project is R216 000.00 for the 2017/2018 financial year

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET  
POLICY SPEECH- 13 JUNE 2017

---

**Ladies and gentlemen**, this municipality has been put in the national and international map by people it had unveiled through its talent and business development initiatives like the **Khaba ka Difaha** project aimed at developing skills in beading works to our women, **Kairos Moment** aimed at assisting micro business development, **Phenominal Woman** aimed at recognising local women for their contribution in different fields, Support to Kairos Clothing Cooperative done in the 2016/17 financial year where a Park Home, Industrial Machines, Industrial Ironing system, Materials and cutting machines were bought for a 7 women member cooperative at a total cost of R540 000.00. The women were also subjected to intensive training through the Eastern Cape Craft Hub.

This project is continuing even in the 2017/18 financial year with the same budget allocation and new beneficiaries will be identified. The **Girls with Positive Attitude and Real Mens Revolution** aimed at providing peer education on teenage pregnancy, poor parenting, peer pressure which leads to HIV/AIDS infections, abortions, single parenting etc was implemented in 2016/17 at a budget of R120 000.00. A total of 518 young males and females were

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET  
POLICY SPEECH- 13 JUNE 2017

---

reached through motivational talks. Debates on the above challenges were done with 10 schools participating namely :- Takabana SSS, Lehana SSS, Luzie Drift SSS, Mthawelanga SSS, Ilingeletu JSS, Mt Fletcher Village JSS, St Thomas JSS, Ngxaza JSS, Mabandla JSS, Khohlopong JSS. This project will continue in the 2017/18 financial year with a budget of R120 000.00

**Honourable Traditional Leaders**, HIV/AIDS continues to riddle our communities. This affects our economic growth as educational and training investments made by our government and the municipality are in the youth which is the most vulnerable age bracket that this scourge is most noticeable. Child headed families are in the increase which is an increased burden to the Social Securities. The department of health both national and provincial are implementing a lot of awareness programmes but it is clear that the ultimate responsibility lies with the individual persons themselves to make the right choices in life. The municipality is also making a contribution in the fight of this epidemic. This is done through various projects run by the wellness section in the Corporate Services Department for both staff and councillors as well as the assistance

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET  
POLICY SPEECH- 13 JUNE 2017

---

given to HCBCs in all our wards. The municipality has in the past, in partnership with the department of health contributed R10 000.00 per quarter to all the 17 HCBCs to assist them with their day to day activities. The municipality will, even in the next financial year, continue with this support at a total budget of R680 000.00

**Ladies and Gentlemen,** AIDS is real and AIDS kills.

Be faithful to your partner, condomise and get tested and know your status.

**Honourable Speaker,** the Freedom Charter envisages a democratic order in which the people are the masters of their destiny, an order in which “the people govern” This council had, in its assumption of office, established a vibrant ward committee system which is a link between the municipality and the communities. The structuring of a ward committee is such that all villages/townships and/or all sectors existing in a ward are represented and can, through their representative in the ward committee, escalate the interests of their community to the municipality. To amplify this, the municipal council has report back meetings, which must be village and/or township based, to mitigate the challenges associated with

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET  
POLICY SPEECH- 13 JUNE 2017

---

the public transportation system in a rural municipality. These village and/or township based meetings, have been further embellished by the appointment of community participation liaison workers (CPLWs), one for each village to provide administrative support to the meetings. A total of 189 CPLWs will be recruited from all villages of our wards at a total budget of R2 721 600.00. It remains our belief as this council, that this system of community and stakeholder engagement mechanism remains unique in the entire country. Yes we acknowledge that a lot still needs to be done to strengthen the system, mostly the reporting back on issues previously raised by communities. I am however, disappointed to report that ward committees have still not been established in wards 1, 7 and 13 due to issues that we believe need political solutions. These matters are presently being attended to politically and we hope a lasting solution will be found soon so as to have these wards managed effectively to allow the communities to participate in the affairs of their government.

The Premier of the province has also pioneered the establishment of War Rooms in all municipalities. This is again an invention to bring government closer to the people

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET  
POLICY SPEECH- 13 JUNE 2017

---

by having a platform representative of all stakeholders and government structures converging together to quickly respond to community issues. Let us concede that the project has its teething challenges but plans are being made to provide support to these structures. The provincial department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs has already started by employing Community Development Workers (CDWs) for 16 of the 17 wards of the municipality to provide secretarial services to warrooms and assist communities to access other government services. This municipality has made tremendous progress in the establishment of these warrooms. Only a few wards are still outstanding.

**Madam Chief Whip**, it is disappointing to report that the state of the art Craft Center in Mt Fletcher constructed at a total cost of R1, 9 million remains not fully operational due to the fact that electricity has not yet been connected to the facility. This is delaying the development of our small entrepreneurs due to some delays by ESKOM. Efforts are being taken to have the connection done so that the centre can play its desired role in our local economic development agenda.

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET  
POLICY SPEECH- 13 JUNE 2017

---

The Furniture Manufacturing Plant in Ugie is also struggling with administrative challenges. I take this opportunity to plead with our communities that they must have the desire and eagerness to take lead in developing themselves as government can only play but a limited role. The municipality will assist people to establish cooperatives but at some stage such cooperatives must learn to stand on their own.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,** we previously announced that the municipality is planning a wool scouring project in partnerships with the provincial department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform as well as the provincial department of Economic development in order to deliver on the project. It is with disappointment to report that all these partnerships have all yielded no results despite public promises by the respective MECs. I urge our wool farmers to bear with us as we will not rest until the project finally takes off as planned. The municipality still commits its land in Mount Fletcher to enable the implementation of the project.

**Honourable Councillors and traditional Leaders,** in taking forward the small town revitalisation program that I

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET  
POLICY SPEECH- 13 JUNE 2017

---

spoke about last year, I am pleased to announce that the exchange of plots in Mount Fletcher with the department of public works has been finalised and a contractor has already been appointed for the development of a shopping centre in the centre of the town along the R56 road. The construction of the taxi/bus rank is continuing albeit challenges here and there. The construction of the R140 million office park is also continuing though in a snail's pace due to technical challenges. It is hoped that the provincial Department of Public Works will attend to the matter.

**Honourable Speaker, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,** alcohol, drug and substance abuse are a nightmare for every parent in our society. Drugs are readily available in our schools, spaza shops and it looks like they are available in each and every corner in our areas of stay. This clearly needs a joint effort from us, parents, government and law enforcement agencies. In our Local Communicators Forum Meeting held on 6 June 2017 we invited the Eastern Cape Liquor Board to explain the process of liquor license application and granting. This was prompted by cries from all community leaders about the

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET  
POLICY SPEECH- 13 JUNE 2017

---

mushrooming of taverns in our communities. Through the explanations given, I hope all of us will play our role in monitoring illegally opened liquor outlets.

The municipality, in its attempt to develop talent in sport and to keep young people busy, has been funding the Mayoral cup for the past years. This project was started in 2012/2013 and to date the municipality has spent R3 337 000.00 on it. This has seen athletes participating in Rugby, Soccer, Netball, Road Race and Horse Racing. I wish to express my gratitude to the Elundini Sports Council for the cooperation we, as the municipality have been enjoying for all these years. The competition, starting from wards up to the finals has been growing year by year with young people showing great interest in taking part. The council has budgeted R817 000.00 to present the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the project in 2017/18 and in addition R350 000.00 has been budgeted to provide assistance to youth cooperatives.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**, the construction of Mt Fletcher sports fields has been finalised and only the grass is being attended to. The municipality is still looking for funds to

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET  
POLICY SPEECH- 13 JUNE 2017

---

construct stands so as to make the facility a bit advance in terms of state. The Ngcele sports field has also been completed with only the planting of grass outstanding. The construction of the TV Park sports field in ward 3 has resumed after some challenges with the previous service provider. I understand the communities of ward 3 had staterd to ask questions some accusing the municipality of financial embezzlement and lack of capacy. I urge our communities to bear with us. During the recent IDP outreach meetings that we had with the communities the predominant request and advice was that the municipality should exercise monitoring over its projects. What stalled the contruction of the TV park sparts field was exactly our monitoring because we saw that the service provider was not doing as expected and had to take action.

The service provider has been appointed for the construction of the Ugie Sports Field and all this is our effort in youth and sports development.

**Honourable speaker, fellow councillors, Traditional Leaders, Ladies and Gentlemen,** this municipality is also assisting communities by providing skills and in-servise

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET  
POLICY SPEECH- 13 JUNE 2017

---

training to assist job seekers to acquire the minimum levels of experience. In the current financial year R640 000.00 had been spent on learnerships that the municipality is providing to unemployed graduates from different fields. This include 56 learners on ICT learnership, 4 learners on Road Traffic learnership and numerous learners who currently with the various departments of the municipality. This programme will continue even in the 2017/18 financial year and the budget is set at R660 000..

**Honourable Speaker, Honourable Traditional Leaders and Councillors**, the co operation that we enjoyed as this council with communities, sector departments, the management and staff of the municipality and all the stakeholders can not be overlooked. It is this cooperation and participation that has made it possible for this municipality to continue receiving an unqualified audit opinion for the past four consecutive years. The participation in our IDP outreaches has made our IDP to be recognised as one of the most credible IDPs in the province. The attendance and participation by our communities and

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET  
POLICY SPEECH- 13 JUNE 2017

---

sector departments to the recent IDP outreache meetings on 23, 24 and 29 May 2017 bears testimony to this.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**, Elundini Municipality has become a household name in the various award ceremonies of the Province. I have lost count howmany times I have, as the Mayor, ascended to the podium to accept an award for this municipality. In the current year we received an award for our implementation of the CPLW programme, a first of its kind in the Province. Another award is that of the Provincial Greenest Town competiotion where we took the first position with a prize money of R500 000. We have already been assessed in the national competition and are awaiting results. I am adamant that we will do wonders even at that level.

**Honourable Councillors**, we take this moment to remember the following employees who passed away during the current year:

- Mr Lonwabo Mehlo
- Mr Khephu Dlaza
- Mr Fezile Gqada

**May their souls rest in peace**

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET  
POLICY SPEECH- 13 JUNE 2017

---

**Honourable Speaker,** I have honour to table before this ordinary council meeting for consideration and approval:-

- The five year intergrated development plan for the 2016/2017 financial year
- The annual budget for the 2017/2018 financial year with indicative amounts for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 financial years
- All the budget related policies as tabled

**Honourable Speaker, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,** as I conclude, allow me to quote the father of our nation, the International Icon, the late President Nelson Rholihlahla Mandela when he says ***“It always looks impossible until it’s done”***

Let us do it, let us declare this term **“the term for real change for our communities”**

I thank you!