

**BUDGET SPEECH DELIVERED BY HER WORSHIP;
MAYOR OF LEPELLE-NKUMPI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY;
CLLR IVY MODILE PHAAHLA; AT GA-LEDWABA
TRADITIONAL HALL; WHILE TABLING THE 2012/2013
MTREF BUDGET.**

30 MAY 2012; GA-LEDWABA TRADITIONAL HALL; 12:00

Honourable Speaker, Mme Nakedi Sibanda-Kekana

Our Chief Whip, Ntate Veteran Molaba

Members of Provincial Legislature

Executive Mayors and Speakers

District Municipality Representatives

Colleagues in the Executive Committee

Our Traditional leaders

Fellow Councillors

Municipal Manager, Ntate Freddie Ramaphakela and Executive
Managers of our Municipality

Senior Managers from Sector Departments and Parastatals

Magoshi

Members of Ward Committees

Representatives of Business, Faith-Based Organizations and Civil
Society Organizations

Comrades, Leadership of the ANC and other Political Organizations

Women, Youth, People living with disabilities and community leaders present

Friends, Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

GOOD AFTERNOON!

It is indeed a Special Honour and Privilege to present the 2012/2013 IDP and Budget Statement to this August House. Honourable Speaker, what we present today represents yet another milestone in the process of creating a Municipality that is strong, responsive to our changing circumstances and sensitive to the needs of those adversely affected. This is the first time I stand before this House to present a budget at the time when ANC, the oldest liberation movement in this continent celebrates 100 years in existence.

Honourable Speaker, I borrow a little from Trevor Manuel who turned to the words of that great African author, Ben Okri, who writes.....

“They tell me that nature is the survival of the fittest. And yet look how many wondrous gold and yellow fishes prosper amongst the silent stones of the ocean beds, while sharks eternally prowl the waters in their impossible dreams of oceanic domination and while whales become extinct, look how many doves and antelopes, ants and fleas, birds of aquamarine plumage, birds that have mastered Chinua Achebe’s art of flying without perching, how many butterflies and iguanas thrive, while elephants turn into endangered species, and while even lions growl in their dwindling solitude..... Nature and history are not just about the survival of the fittest, but also about

the survival of the wisest, the most adaptive and the most aware”_Ben Okri- “A way of Being Free”

Honourable Speaker, as the ANC led Municipality, the Budget of the past five years have remained true to the IDP goals that we set ourselves, and we have been alert to the changes required by the circumstances and challenges of our time. Each one of the Budgets that was put before this House, including the 2012/2013 Budget we present here today, advances those goals step by step. We have to consider how we protect the poorest and most vulnerable in our society. We have to ensure that growth leads to greater equity and prosperity for all and to the narrowing of the chasm between rich and poor. These are the challenges we face. As Okri writes “Nature and history are not just about the survival of the fittest, but also about the survival of the wisest, the most adaptive and the most aware”.

Honourable Speaker, we would like to dedicate this Budget Day to one of our own, Ma Lillian Ngoyi-Lillian Masediba Ngoyi, “Ma-Ngoyi”. Ma Lillian Ngoyi was a South African anti-apartheid activist from our Municipality. She was the first woman elected into the Executive Committee of the African National Congress and helped in the launching of the Federation of South African Women.

We have chosen to dedicate this budget speech to Mama Lillian not by error or favour, but because she is among those women, who stood up when things were not easy, and make meaningful contributions to the liberation struggle, women who formed, consciously a firm foundation for women emancipation in South Africa, so that you and me can be inspired, take the struggle for women emancipation further and also eat the fruits that come with emancipation.

When we look back as a nation, as a country, women sector was one sector faced with triple oppression, you will agree that it has been a “Rocky Long Road”, and it is still going to be a “Long Rocky Road”, but here we are today, growing from one experience to another in bettering the lives of our people. After the inauguration of this Council in 2011 and after careful and close assessment of the municipality, we have identified poor revenue collection, lack of sound administration and systems, lack of proper consultation as well as unclean audits as our challenges.

Counted in numbers the challenges might seem to be very few in the eyes of an outside person, BUT when closely looked into each and every challenge, unpack them and check what it takes for them to be addressed, you will realise that it is indeed Rocky Long Road.

We are happy Honourable Speaker, to report that we have managed to put in place sound administration by filling some of the critical positions in our organogram, even though others are still vacant, especially that of the Chief Financial Officer and Executive Manager for LED and Planning, but I am happy to announce that they will be appointed very soon because interviews have been concluded. Another challenge is that the contract of the Accounting Officer is coming to an end not long and we are expected to advertise.

On consultation, Honourable Speaker we have closed many gaps that were in existence. Our public participation programme has improved in a remarkable way. The major challenge which needs more efforts, undivided attention, unity and focus of the Council is poor revenue collection. We have identified what are the challenges to improve revenue collection. We must intensify the programme of educating consumers and communities about the benefit and importance of paying services rendered to them, and this can be successful if the

Political will is not divided. It needs all of us. Division is the basis for a fall to many organizations and Lepelle-Nkumpi is not immune.

Honourable Speaker, the vision of our Municipality is to “Be financially viable municipality, geared towards the improvement of quality of life of the people by providing sustainable services.” We need to interact actively with our vision. Whatever decision we take, it is very important to check the contributions such a decision would make into the realisation of our vision. Our efforts to be financially viable will always play a pivotal role in realizing our vision. The question I am posing is whether the Legislative Arm understands and rally behind the vision of our Municipality.

Government has put more emphasis on the acceleration of service delivery and as such, the IDP and Budget we are presenting for approval today should ensure prioritization and a sense of urgency on the provision of community service needs. Our IDP and Budget for 2012/2013 should assist Council to reduce service backlogs in our communities and further improve access to services for the poor. Emphasis should also be made on job creation through service delivery activities and infrastructure development.

The Budget we are presenting will also help us realise the three interlinked objectives of maintaining and improving on the standards of quality service delivery established in the past, further growing and developing the Municipality to its fullest potential and to meet future challenges, and transforming Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality into integrated and united community. We have received a disclaimer auditor general’s report which we intend improving. For that effect we have set ourselves the target of achieving a Clean Audit as defined by the Auditor General.

Honourable Speaker, in order to do that, we need to address issues pertaining mainly to the area of supply chain management, assets management and the conduct of which has been a cause of major concern to us. The Accounting Officer must champion our Operation Clean Audit project, and our aim is to get Lepelle-Nkumpi's Clean Audit by June 2014 at the latest.

Our IDP gives expression to the strategic thrusts of local government, namely;

- Deepen democracy and promote good governance
- Ensure basic service delivery to all our communities
- Address job creation and accelerate economic development
- Good governance and public participation
- Ensure financial sustainability
- Ensure transformation of the institution.

JOB CREATION

The South African government has set itself an ambitious target of reducing unemployment from 25% to 15% by creating 5 million jobs in the next 10 years. The President has instructed all the three spheres of government to work on concrete plans for job creation. As a local municipality we have taken this strategic thrust into consideration in the conceptualisation of our projects and interventions for 2012/2013 IDP/Budget.

Our routine maintenance activities will be re-oriented to involve the use of labour intensive methods, aligning this initiative to become a Community-Based Routine Maintenance Programme, modelled on the principles of the Expanded Public Works Programmes. We further intend to engage all sector departments, especially the Department of Public Works to source all their

required labour for projects within the boundaries of our municipality from the pool of unemployed people, especially youth and women. All our capital and infrastructure projects must adopt the principles of the EPWP and must contribute to the creation of short and long term employment.

WATER SERVICES

We acknowledge that water is life. As Lepelle-Nkumpi, we are service provider and Capricorn District is the service authority. However, together with District, we have not been able to provide all our households with adequate water supply due to huge backlogs and to the fact that water is a scarce resource.

Honourable Speaker, through the MIG (Municipal Infra-Structure Grant) allocation we shall dedicate resources to extend reticulation networks. The challenges of theft water engines, illegal connections and poor workmanship pose a negative impact on the water supply. Another challenge of ageing and inadequate bulk water supply is as a result of the apartheid spatial planning which excluded the majority of our people.

Capricorn District has put aside R193 million, for water infrastructure development for 2012/2013 financial year. We believe this will enable us to substantially reduce the existing backlog in water and move closer to meeting Millennium Development Goals for universal access to water services, and this will affirm our commitment to public infrastructure investment which the Premier of Limpopo pronounced in the State of the Province Address.

We will continue to engage with Capricorn District and relevant stakeholders and authorities to resolve outstanding Water Authority Status.

SANITATION

We are proud to reflect that thousands of units would be completed during the current financial year. Sanitation remains one of our major challenges, especially in the villages. Capricorn District has put aside an amount of R11.3 million for Waste water treatment and R17.6 million for household sanitation to restore the dignity of rural people by constructing Ventilated Improved Pit Latrines (VIPL). This would help reduce the backlog in rural sanitation.

ROADS AND STORMWATER

The Rehabilitation of Surfaced Streets and gravel roads in our township and villages cannot be overemphasised because it is critical in ensuring a conducive environment for business development, our road users and pedestrians.

During the current financial year, we have allocated R37.1 million for roads and R11 million for storm water. This will mainly be for Pothole Repairs, rehabilitation of streets and other strategic roads and storm water projects.

Honourable Speaker, it is never easy to strike a balance between maintaining existing infrastructure against expanding the service to those that do not have. However, we need to aggressively ensure that the Program to rehabilitate and maintain internal streets in villages is strengthened. Our Ward Councillors and Ward Committees must act decisively to ensure that we are on track and vigilant with the implementation and monitoring of Road Grading Program.

ELECTRICITY

Whilst mindful of the demands for electricity, we shall continue to conscientise, as we did in the previous years, users on energy efficiency. During the financial year 2011/2012, the Municipality was able to complete household connections through our Equitable Shares. Eskom was also able to connect households in the same year.

The planned household connections are budgeted at R18.4 million for financial year 2012/2013. The list of villages to benefit from these allocations is detailed in the adopted IDP for 2012/2013.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

An amount of R7000.00 has been set aside for 18 Megapixel Camera. The municipality will also develop a hawker management strategy which will provide a mechanism in which street trading can be supported and regulated by, amongst other things, placing them at designated areas that does not infringe formal business rights. The idea is to create an environment conducive for the sustainability of this sector.

The strategy will enable the Municipality to provide tailor-made support to informal businesses with relative ease and without compromising the principle of co-existence with formal businesses.

We also acknowledge the ongoing processes by Lonmin, to invest resources in the mining project within our Municipality that will also lead to the creation of jobs for our people.

HOUSING

Through the ongoing support from the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, we continue to coordinate facilitate the provision of quality housing in

communities. We also continue to search for common mechanisms to address key and complex challenges in the provision of housing to the needy, which include lists of beneficiaries, illegal occupation of houses, vandalism, shortage of infra-structure, etc.

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

We are proud to announce that all our ward committees except one are functional and have regular monthly meetings. We need to ensure that these committees remain active agents of community development and service delivery. We shall continue to provide capacity building for the ward committees. They need to monitor the implementation of the IDP and advise the Municipality on how to advance service delivery at all costs.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to say that I am proud to announce that we have prepared a record budget of R245.4 million for the financial year 2012/2013. The Budget comprises R120.1 million Capital and R125.3 million Operating components.

As I conclude, allow me to congratulate Mr Soviet Lekganyane for being elected as the Provincial Secretary of the ANC and one of our own for being appointed as MEC for the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Honourable Clifford Motsepe and our District Executive Mayor, Cllr Lawrence Mapoulo for being re-elected Chairperson of the ANC, Peter Mokaba Region for the coming three years while Mr Matome Mafikeng from our Municipality as his Secretary.

We would like to thank the Acting Chief Financial Officer; Mme Pascaline Ramutsindela and her team; Municipal Manager; Ntate Freddie Ramaphakela; EXCO Member for Finance Councillor Nape Mapheto and particularly the staff of the budget office and IDP

Manager, Mme Nancy Masemola, Mme Daphney Moroaswi, Ntate Tshepo Mphahlele and other officials for preparing this budget.

Last but not least, my comrades and colleagues; Members of Executive Committee and fellow Councillors; I thank you all for sound advices and guidance. Together we can do much more.

Honourable Speaker, allow me this opportunity to table the 2012/2013 IDP/Budget, together with the following policies:

- Budget Policy
- Draft Investment and Cash Management Policy
- Property Rates Policy
- Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy
- Credit Control, Debt Collection and Customer Care
- Debt Collection Procedures
- Asset Management Policy
- Tariff Policy and Tariff Structure
- Supply Chain Management Policy

For adoption.

I THANK YOU