

Musina Local Municipality



2018 / 2019 MAYORAL BUDGET SPEECH



Date: 22 June 2018

Venue: Musina Showground

Time: 10h00

Thank you Programme Director

Ndi do thoma nga u luvha saizwi ri na mahosi vhukati hashu

Speakers, Mayors, Chief Whips and Councilors present here

Our stakeholders from various government and non-governmental organizations

Officials from the municipality led by the Municipal Manager

All pastors and religious groups

Business people who are amongst us

Ward Committee members from all our 12 wards

Special guests of the Mayor

Comrades and friends

And everyone present here this morning

Receive my warm greetings.

It is indeed a great honour and privilege for me to present this state of the municipality address during this momentous occasion. My special gratitude goes to the government of the African National Congress, of which I am a humble servant, for enforcing the principles of Batho Pele, with special emphasis to the sub-section on transparency.

Let me remind you that government work is a public activity. It is essential that ordinary citizens and stakeholders are constantly informed about government work and empowered to take active part in it.

Programme Director,

Yesterday we woke up to the very sad and shocking news of the passing away of the MEC for Agriculture, Comrade Joyce Mashamba who previously served as a member of the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress. We are joining the ANC, the Limpopo Provincial Government and the Mashamba family in paying tribute to this hero in whose unselfish sacrifices in serving the people of Limpopo and South Africa will be scribed in our hearts forever.

Honoured Guests, this state of municipality address comes just after a month after we buried Thovhele Vho-William Mutele who was an active member of our municipal Council for the past two years. Thovhele Mutele might be gone, but his contributions to the development of our municipality will remain forever.

Can we please all stand up and observe a moment of silence for these two fallen giants!

May their souls rest in perfect peace!

We can take our seats.

Honourable Councilors, this State of the Municipality Address comes at a special time when we are commemorating the life centenary for former president Nelson Mandela and struggle activist Albertina Sisulu. The appeal of the ANC government is simple - let us use the Mandela and Ma Sisulu centenary to recommit ourselves to their values and principles. These struggle icons have played a major role in the attainment of the freedom we are enjoying today. May their souls and those of other departed struggle icons rest in perfect peace!

Programme Director, the budget I am presenting here today was prepared in line with our Integrated Development Plan and in terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act No 53 of 2003. The IDP and MFMA remain the cornerstone of every developmental and people friendly budget, a critical tool for effective governance and proper planning.

We remain committed to the realization of our five Key Performance Areas which are:

- Good Governance and Public Participation
- Municipal Transformation and Organizational Development
- Basic Infrastructure and Service Delivery
- Local Economic Development and
- Municipal Financial Viability and Management

In his State of the Nation Address on 16 February 2018, President Cyril Ramaphosa emphasized the fact that we must all work hard to build a better and prosperous country. And I quote: "We are building a country where a person's prospects are determined by their own initiative and hard work, and not by the colour of their skin, place of birth, gender, language or income of their parents." I close quote.

This means that everyone has the responsibility to contribute towards bringing a better life for all in our municipality. However, as we pursue the higher levels of economic growth and investment, we need to take additional measures to reduce poverty and meet the needs of the unemployed.

This can only be achieved if we all join hands and sing ***Thuma Mina*** as we wage an aggressive war against any form of economic oppression. With the multi-billion rand Special Economic Zone project kicking into our municipality, we can confirm that our vision of becoming a city in the near future is about to be realized.

Premier Stanley Mathabatha outlined in his State of the Province address that a significant number of our people enjoy access to opportunities and basic services such as potable drinking water, decent sanitation, houses and electricity as a result of good work as implemented by municipalities, of which we are one.

It is also encouraging to note that the Premier committed to paying much attention to strengthening the capacity of our municipalities.

YOUTH MONTH

Programme Director, let me remind you that we are currently commemorating Youth Month. As we commemorate the sacrifices made by the youth of 1976 who were willing to lay down their lives in a fight against the apartheid government, our government recognizes that the youth of today have a completely different struggle of substance abuse, the fight for economic emancipation, access to quality education, unemployment and HIV/AIDS. Through the youth desk in the Mayor's office, the municipality undertakes various initiatives to empower young people.

As part of celebrating the success of our local young people during this Youth Month, I am proud to present to you the local youth from an organization called Musina Youth in Business who have taken the struggle for economic freedom into another level. Can I please request Charles Vhengani, Pfuluwani Tshilande, Paulina Matakanye and Esther Benn to come to the fore?

Let me start with **Charles Vhengani, the Chairperson of Musina Youth in Business who is 26 years old:** A trained lawyer by profession, Charles is the founder and director at Brightz Outsourcing Group. His company is managing our first gym in Nancefield Location. His security company, Brightz Security has contracts in Musina Mall, Bonwa Udi Primary School, Major Mags Tyre Services, Thusalushaka Private Testing Station and Venetia Mine.

His company also does agricultural and cleaning services. He also owns a construction company with active construction sites here at Musina, Polokwane and Pretoria. He has more than 30 employees, 12 of which are permanently employed. A round of applause for Charles, ladies and gentlemen!

The next one is Pfuluwani Tshilande who is also 26 years old: A Town Planner by profession, Pfuluwani is the Director of two companies, Baobab Drilling Group (Pty) Ltd and Hope Diamond Transport (Pty) Ltd. Baobab Drilling Group is owned, managed and operated by a team of experienced Earth Scientists and Engineers. The company deals with fuel distribution, water infrastructure and mining projects.

His company was recently tasked by Mvula Trust to provide water infrastructure services such as drilling boreholes and water connections within the Sekhukhune District area. The area now receives quality water supply due to the company's creativity and professional work.

Amongst others, the company has successfully offered drilling and blasting services to the City of Tswane Mining Quarries, haulage and crushing to the Bon Accord Mine and exploration drilling to DRD Gold. In the past three years, the company has employed over 40 people and Pfuluwani himself wants to employ 300 people at the age of 30.

As indicated earlier, Tshilande is one of the Directors of Hope Diamond Transport, a new company empowered by De Beers through local business empowerment programme.

The company has been awarded a multimillion rand worth contract to transport Venetia Mine employees, paving way to sixty seven job opportunities. This local based company will also expand its routes between Harare and Johannesburg, including rural areas within the Musina municipal area. Another round of applause!

Let me now proceed to Paulina Matakanye aged 27: A Business Management student, she is the founder and director of Mashana Holdings. The company provides a wide range of services including: building material supply, cement supply, supply of bricks, gas products, boilermaker consumables, lights, supply of scaffoldings, personal protective equipment supply in the mining and construction industry, branding of products, office wear and awareness clothing.

Since its inception last year, the company has serviced more than 50 satisfied clients, including provision of protective clothing to the Baobab Group, branding T-shirts for various churches and supplying thousands of cement bags to Mutete Construction Projects. Paulina's company has been awarded a five year contract to supply personal protective equipment to Venetia Mine.

She is working towards opening a warehouse in Musina where members of the public will also be able to purchase her products. The warehouse project will create ten job opportunities. A round of applause again!

The last one Esther Benn who owns Cassandra Logistics. An Information Technology graduate, Esther is currently 34 but in two years' time, she will no longer be classified as youth. Esther is a self-taught entrepreneur and black economic empowerment activist. Her company is one of the renowned Imports, Exports, Freight Forwarding, Logistics and Clearing agencies in the Republic of South Africa. Cassandra Logistics does customs clearances for all imported and exported goods and help clients to register import and export codes through the South African Revenue Services.

Cassandra Logistics also assist employees in making appropriate ethical business decisions and operate in full compliance with the law by providing training, communication and guidance on company policies, standards of conduct and regulatory requirements.

The company has offices in Musina and at OR Tambo International Airport and currently employs four people fulltime. Contract work opportunities of up to 10 people are offered to local community members during pick seasons of the year.

Another round of applause as they all take their seats!

Programme Director,

Let me take this opportunity to give a brief summary of service delivery report in our Municipality. Our municipality is comprised of 12 wards, 24 councilors, five senior traditional leaders who seat in council, sixty eight thousand, nine hundred and forty three households and a population of approximately one hundred and thirty two thousand people.

In terms of electricity supply, Musina Local Municipality is a license holder in the urban area. Electricity in the villages and some of the farming areas is supplied by Eskom. There is no backlog on electricity supply in the urban areas of Musina. Of the approximately one hundred and thirty two thousand population of Musina, seven thousand, two hundred and nineteen do not have access to electricity. This is mostly in rural areas where we have extension of new settlements. We are working with Eskom to address this backlog.

All areas in the urban areas of Musina have access to water on daily basis. The majority of our villages have street taps but some villagers still complain of serious water shortages. This is being addressed by the implementation of the multi million rand Luphephe Nwanedi Regional Water Scheme which is currently near completion.

The project will benefit Nwanedi, Folovhodwe, Muswodi Tshisimani, Muswodi Dipeni, Tshiungani, Masea, Matshena, Zwigodini, Tshipise, Dambale, Mbodi and Matatani villages. We are engaging with Vhembe District Municipality to address all water related challenges in Musina Municipality.

When it comes to refuse removal, fifteen thousand, three hundred and fifty households have access to refuse removal services once a week. Five thousand, two hundred and thirty nine households in fifty four villages have access to refuse removal once a week. Public institutions, government buildings and commercial properties are serviced on daily basis.

During the current financial year, the municipality is providing free services to more than three thousand indigent families at a cost of over four million rand. These are the people whose joint family monthly income is three thousand five hundred rand or less. Each beneficiary of the municipality's indigent policy receives 6 kilolitres of water, 55 kilowatts of electricity and hundred percent free sewer and refuse removal services every month. We can all agree that Musina is now better than it was in 1994! Thanks to our ANC government.

MAYORAL IMBIZOS

From 01 July 2017 to date, we had 16 public participation programmes in all wards in the form of mayoral imbizos, batho pele events and IDP and budget consultative meetings. This does not include the ward monthly report back meetings where councillors meet community members to discuss service delivery issues in their wards. This is a true reflection that we are doing well in terms of keeping in touch with our electorate. Indeed, Musina is leading when it comes to inclusive governance!

TRADITIONAL LEADER VISITS

Since the beginning of this current financial year that we are bringing to an end, we have visited all the five senior traditional leaders who have seats in our council. The purpose was to discuss service delivery issues and to find ways on how best we can work together to bring development in our municipality. We have also visited some headmen and royal councils in villages to engage with our people. This kind of visits are on-going and I can gladly report that they are bringing better results to our municipality.

HOME AFFAIRS

Government has made a call for us to move from the green bar coded ID to the more secured smart card. In line with that call, our Home Affairs office in Musina has issued seven thousand, five hundred and forty two smart cards this year.

Let me also take this opportunity to announce that smart cards ID's can also be applied in major banks like ABSA, Standard, FNB and Nedbank. You can also do online applications in the comfort of your home.

We have also received positive reports that these days, the system at Home Affairs is faster and user friendly – thereby drastically reducing the waiting period for services. Good news is that you can collect your smart ID card within 10 day of application. Services like birth, death and marriage certificates are processed on the spot. The registration of birth within 30 days is very important as late registrations has many problems which might be difficult and take long to solve. We really appreciate the remarkable improvement at the Department of Home Affairs!

AGRICULTURE

The construction of the multimillion rand Nwanedi Pack House is a major step in the development of agriculture in our municipality. Besides creating job opportunities during the construction and operation period, local farmers will no longer have to travel long distance to disperse their products. We will continue to work with the Department of Agriculture to bring more opportunities to our local farmers.

HEALTH

As responsible government, we take the health of our people very seriously. Our local AIDS Council is working with various stakeholders to fight the challenges and spread of this disease. Through various initiatives, we encourage our people to live healthy lives to avoid being attacked by opportunistic diseases.

I'm also happy to note that Messina hospital constantly maintains good working relationship with the municipality through various formal and informal engagements such as the annual accountability summit, providing services and information at municipal events and involving the municipality in management of the hospital through the hospital board. We have also made land available for the construction of the new hospital but the process is taking longer due to the budget constraints of the Department of Health.

We are also mindful and thankful towards the great work by our clinics both in urban, farming and rural areas of Musina.

IEC

In preparation for the 2019 general elections, our local IEC office is working hard to collect and confirm addresses for a credible voters roll as ordered by the Constitutional Court.

Our voters roll has forty three thousand, six hundred and forty seven registered voters of which eleven thousand, one hundred and forty seven did not provide their addresses. I'm glad to report that to date, Musina IEC has managed to harvest about nine thousand addresses. This means that two thousand, one hundred and forty seven people still need to update their addresses before the end of this month. Let's go all out and encourage the few remaining people to update their addresses so that they can be able to vote with ease.

POST OFFICE

The process of converting old SASSA cards into the new system of receiving social grants at Musina Post Office is moving very well. With the registration deadline looming on 30 September, more than 300 beneficiaries have so far been successfully registered and they are gladly receiving their grants from the post office.

Due to the improved technology, it only takes less than five minutes to be successfully registered and get grants through the post office. Reports are that people are registering on daily basis and we expect more than a thousand people to be successfully registered at the end of this month.

MADIMBO THUSONG SERVICE CENTRE

We are happy to announce that we have reports indicating that Madimbo Thusong Service Centre is one of the best performing walk-in centres in Limpopo. During the current financial year that we are bring to an end at the end of this month, eighty four thousand, nine hundred and eighty three people were successfully serviced by the municipality and various sector departments that are housed there. We put our hats off to Team Madimbo for their burning desire to serve our community members with distinction.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Social Development has spent ten million, two hundred and eighty three thousand, two hundred and forty seven rand and eighty cents to fund various projects in our municipality during the 2017/2018 financial year. The following are some of the community organizations that benefited:

Tsumbavhuyo Tanda Community Crèche, Faranani Tshikhudini Community Crèche, Musina Old Age Group, Lerato Community Crèche, Childware South Africa, Thusanang Community Crèche, Musina VEP, Messina Home Based Care, Folovhodwe Happy Homes, Muswodi Tshisimani Community Crèche, Gumela Community Crèche, Domboni Community Crèche, Madimbo Siawoadza Community Crèche, Masea Community Crèche, Tshiungani Community Crèche, Tshiungani Isibindi, Malale Community Crèche, Mapakoni Community Crèche, Lwathudwa Community Crèche, Gumbu Community Crèche, Tshamutumbu VEP, Bale Community Crèche, Manenzhe Community Crèche, Mukununde Community Crèche, Mbodi Community Crèche, Tshipise Sagole Community Crèche, Zwigodini Community Crèche, Tshivhongweni Community Crèche, Tshokotshoko Community Crèche, Tshitanzhe Community Crèche, Shakadza Community Crèche, Mukovhawabale Community Crèche, Masisi Community Crèche, Dovho Community Crèche, Mutele B Community Crèche, Sanari Community Crèche, Maramanzhi Community Crèche and Niani VEP.

PASSENGER TRAIN RE-INTRODUCTION

We welcome the re-introduction of the passenger train from Musina to Gauteng after the service was discontinued four years ago. The initiative fits well into Musina Municipality's vision of being the gateway city to the rest of Africa. One of the characteristics of a successful city is the availability of affordable, reliable and safe public transport network.

The benefits and importance of re-instating the passenger service will impact everyone, even those who may never board the train.

We strongly believe that this passenger rail service will help to reduce injuries and fatalities caused by car accidents while at the same time providing accessible transport regardless of people's demographics such as income or age. On the other hand, the use of this long distance train will reduce air pollution and road congestion because it will reduce the number of cars in our roads. As Musina Municipality, we whole-heartedly welcome and pledge our full support to the re-launch of this service.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY NGO's

Since 1988, Messina Legal Advice Office has been doing a sterling job in providing legal support and carrying out monitoring work in places such as the detention centres, shelters in Musina, Refugees Reception centre, local taxi ranks and at the Department of Justice. We also value and recognize the great contributions by our NGO's such as the UNHCR, Save The Children, Doctors Without Borders, New Start, Lawyers for Human Rights and Red Cross, to name but a few. We need the support of these NGO's to turn Musina into a safe place to stay and invest.

Our local community radio, Musina FM is doing a great job in informing, teaching and entertaining our community. I would like to encourage the community, business sector and our stakeholders to support this radio station. However, as leadership, we are concerned about the radio station's non-compliance on various issues. The non-availability of a legislative board of directors and functional management team is a great concern to us.

We cannot have a public entity that can randomly operate for four years without holding an annual general meeting to elect constitutional leadership. These challenges must be resolved as a matter of urgency. The radio station is a pride of this community and we don't want a situation where a broadcasting licence is revoked because of non-compliance.

SPORTS

It does not need a guest speaker to emphasize that Musina is the home of sports. Through our annual winter games and Two Countries Marathon, we have discovered and nurtured sports and athletics personalities who were able to compete in the national and international spheres. This year, we have put aside four hundred and fifty thousand rand to organize these two prime events.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Black Leopards Football Club for attaining promotion to the Premier Soccer League. We should all support *Li do da Duvha* because the team is our pride and part of our heritage.

As Musina Municipality, we pride ourselves by producing one of the best sports personalities in South Africa. Unfortunately, **Isaac Dzamuluma Mbedzi** from the mountainous rural village of Hamukununde is not here today as he is currently broadcasting the Russia Soccer World Cup on SABC radio and television. The SABC 2010 New Comer Sports Journalist of the Year, Mbedzi is a multiple-award winning sport commentator who specializes in soccer, cricket, boxing and rugby. His is a true example that success does not depend on where one comes from.

Let me proudly introduce to you some of the sports personalities who are constantly putting our municipality on the map. Can I please request Khomotso Masianuga, Elton Kapinga, Khuliso Sailor Mudau, Thembisani Nevhulamba and Ndivhuwo Ravhuhali to come and join me on stage?

Let me start with Khomotso Masianuga. She is the only netball player from Musina and Vhembe District who since 2003, plays for the Limpopo Baobabs. This is the netball team that plays in the Brutal Fruit Premier League that competes with other ten teams across South Africa. In simple terms, this league is equivalent to the Premier Soccer League in football.

A usual figure on TV, Khomotso is going with her team to represent us during the netball championships taking place at Port Elizabeth next month. ***Kha ri mu rwele zwanda!***

The next one is Elton Kapinga. Lesedi Elton Kapinga, plays for the National First Division soccer team, Tshakhuma Tsha Madzivhandila. Elton is not an average player as some of us may think. Last week, he won the Player's Player of the Season prize during his team's awards ceremony in Thohoyandou. He also scooped the King Toni Mphephu Award during the same ceremony. ***Na ene kha ri mu rwele zwanda!***

Let me now go to Sailor Mudau and Thembisani Nevhulamba. Some of the engines that propelled Black Leopards Football Club to its success are these two local homeboys, middle fielder, Khuliso Sailor Mudau who hails from Musina Nancefield and striker, Thembisani Nevhulamba who comes from the dusty streets of Domboni La Dambale.

Sailor and Thembisani, we are very proud of you young men and we have no doubt that you will help Black Leopards to stay in the elite soccer league for many years to come.

Let me also introduce another beautiful flower from our own garden, **Ndivhuwo Ravhuhali**, a dribbling wizard from Makavhini village who plays for Polokwane City Football Club. Indeed, Musina has talent! ***Kha ri vha rwele zwanda!***

Thank you so much, you can take your seats.

I'm not sure if **Mr Joe Morwatshehla** is present here. He indicated that he might not join us because of other pressing commitments. If he is present, let him come to the fore. If he is not around, let me acknowledge his contributions in sports. He is owning three soccer teams, namely: Musina United FC, Musina Academy and Musina Development FC. Musina United FC is playing in the ABC Motsepe League. This means that if it gets promoted, it will play in the National First Division League and ultimately rise to the Premier Soccer League. We put our hopes to Mr Morwatshehla to bring a PSL team here in Musina in the next three years.

During our engagements, he indicated that Musina United FC is sometimes forced to play its home games outside the municipality because our sports facilities do not meet the minimum standards as prescribed by the South African Football Association.

We will set up a meeting with him to see how the municipality can assist in improving the available sports facilities. We urge business people to join hands with him because he also indicated that it is very difficult to run the three soccer teams without a sponsor.

Indeed, he is the pride of Musina Municipality.

EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME (EPWP)

Programme Director, the Expanded Public Works programme in our municipality has played a major role in fighting unemployment and poverty. The main objective of the EPWP projects is to provide job opportunities and survival skills for the unemployed people around Musina.

We presently have one hundred and ninety formally unemployed community members who are benefitting from this programme. This initiative goes a long way in addressing the challenge of unemployment in our community.

BYLAWS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

During the current year that we are bringing to an end, Musina Local Municipality gazetted the following by-laws which are enforceable:

- Credit Control and Debt Collection by-law
- Cemeteries and Crematoria by-law
- Parking Meter by-law
- Property Rates by-law
- Refuse Removal, Refuse Dumps and Solid Waste Disposal by-law
- Street Trading by-law and
- Spatial Planning and Land Use Management by-law

Our traffic police have conducted various campaigns to make sure that our roads are safe at all times. The stray animal campaign we conducted at Masisi has started to bear positive fruits after reports that the accidents caused by stray animals have deteriorated drastically. We are working towards construction of the municipal animal pound in the rural villages to completely do away with the problem of stray animals.

Let me take this opportunity to commend members of the SAPS for the sterling work they are doing to combat crime in our municipality. I will just highlight some of their successes which we as a municipality, are very proud of:

- The Masisi and Muswodi SAPS members recovered five vehicles valued at two million rand that were stolen in Tzaneen. The vehicles were about to cross to Zimbabwe through the Limpopo River. Three suspects were arrested and the matter is still in the court roll.

- There was a violent protest in Gauteng where community members claimed that a missing person was murdered for muthi. The missing person was found by members of the Masisi SAPS who returned him to Gauteng and the situation was calmed immediately.
- Masisi, Tshamutumbu and Muswodi SAPS did 17, 14 and 5 school safety campaigns respectively. In the villages, Masisi did 12 Awareness Campaigns, whereas Tshamutumbu and Muswodi did 05 and 03 respectively. The three stations also rendered services during public participation meetings at Masisi, Madimbo and Muswodi Community Halls.
- The Musina SAPS arrested three hundred and ninety-nine suspects who were charged with drug trafficking. They also arrested twenty eight suspects who were found in possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunition. Musina SAPS also recorded three hundred and fifty four arrests in relation to the misuse of liquor.

I feel very emotional when I talk about issues relating to alcohol and drug abuse. It is not a secret that drugs like *nyaope*, cocaine, dagga, crack, heroin and mandrax are openly sold to our community members, more worse – even in school yards. The drug lords are our family members and friends but why do we choose to keep quite? We cannot allow our municipality to become a paradise of drug lords – a very big NO! The physical damage and mental disorders caused by drug and alcohol abuse are irreversible. What type of future generation are we creating if we don't stand up and say NO to drugs? My humble request is that let's work closely with all community structures and the police to eliminate this demon of alcohol and drug abuse in our municipality.

We are deeply disappointed by the escalating criminal acts in relation to cable theft and destruction of municipal property.

This has a very negative impact on service delivery as it leads to the interruption of water and electricity supply. Let's report any form of vandalism to the municipality or the SAPS so that appropriate measures can be taken against the perpetrators.

I was impressed by the spirit of the people from Hamukununde village who jealously guard against the destruction of municipal property. These volunteers had put aside everything to spend two days assisting municipal workers to fix a broken borehole at their village.

I wish we can all learn from them that service delivery infrastructure belongs to the community members, not the municipality. Thank you Mukununde community, you have set a very good example!

We acknowledge the extra ordinary work by a group of volunteers called Citizens Against Crime. Without getting a single cent, these men and women patrol the streets of Musina every night to make sure that we are all safe. I wish we can all have the same community building spirit with this distinctive crime fighting group. We really salute you!

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

We strongly condemn any form of violence against women and children. There was an incident at Mbodi, Ward 10, where a husband set three houses on fire at night, thinking that his wife and children were asleep inside. Fortunately, the woman and her children were tipped off by a community member and fled before the angry fire reduced everything to ashes. I personally visited the family and it was painful to see that they were visibly shocked and traumatized by the incident. We urge community members, especially couples, to approach social workers when they have marital problems - instead of resorting to violence. Let us all say NO to violence against women and children.

EDUCATION

Can I humbly request the principal of Maroi School, **Mr Masala Edward Mafune** to come to the podium? Honourable guests, this man is a renowned choir conductor who has led his school choir to win the local zonal competitions. He went on to win the circuit level and continued to lift the trophy in the district level. As if that was not enough, his choir took position one in the provincial level competitions in Polokwane earlier this month. He is proudly going to represent Limpopo province in the national choir competitions to be held in Randburg, Gauteng, next week. Imagine a farm school representing the whole province of Limpopo in Gauteng? We are very proud of you Sir and we have no doubt that your choir will bring the trophy back home. A round of applause for Mr Mafune as he returns back to the audience!

Education is one of the priority areas for Musina Municipality. In our obligation to support education, we visited various schools in the urban, rural and farm areas of Musina. Indigent learners were identified and we distributed a total number of one hundred and fifty pairs of school shoes, school uniforms, two hundred school bags and five hundred sanitary pads.

During our interaction with the management and school governing body of Kranenburg Multi Grade farm school, we learnt that the school has a serious shortage of classrooms and ablution facilities. We did not take it lightly and we approached various stakeholders to assist the school. CoAL of Africa, now called MC Mining, responded positively and built three state of the art classrooms, ablution facilities comprising of eight toilets and fence construction at a total cost of one point two million rand.

Programme Director,

The Musina Municipality mayoral bursary scheme has produced six more graduates who have successfully completed their studies at the Universities of Venda, Limpopo and Vhembe TVET College. Interestingly, the graduates have been offered employment service contracts and placed in various sections of the municipality.

Can I please request the graduates to join me here on stage?

These are the beautiful fruits of our Mayoral Bursary Scheme.

Ayanda Ndhlovu and Nathaniel Mampuru Kgatla completed Bachelor of Arts in Media Studies and Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from the University of Venda respectively. Khathutshelo Radamba and Somaya Manda graduated with Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting degrees from the University of Limpopo whereas Evans Matundu completed a Bachelor of Science Honours in Biochemistry from the same institution. Emmanuel Mbedzi successfully completed his Public Management Diploma from Vhembe TVET College.

In the past six years, the municipality has produced a total of 15 graduates who have been placed in various departments within the municipality. We are presently assisting eleven students with full bursaries who are furthering their studies in various institutions of higher learning. During our new financial year which starts on 01 July, we will be spending one point five million rand to assist students identified from needy families.

Thank you our beautiful graduates, you can have your seats.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The twinning agreement between Musina Municipality and the Beitbridge District Rural Council in Zimbabwe is playing a developmental role in terms of international relations, cross border trade and job creation. The recent upgrade of our neighbouring Beitbridge Town Council to a municipal status by the Zimbabwean government comes at the right time when Musina is preparing itself to become a city. This development fits well into our municipality's vision statement to become the gateway city to the rest of Africa. It is important to be surrounded by institutions that share the same vision with us so that we can together move the dreams of a sustainable African local government forward.

MAYOR'S SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Together with the MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Mr Jerry Ndou, we visited the Mireo family at Maramanzhi village, Ward 12. The family was staying in a one-roomed mud house that could collapse at any time. Five months later, we returned to the family to hand them a newly constructed fully furnished house. We have also arranged social workers to assist the family accordingly. There is no doubt that we are changing lives during our term of office!

Can I please request members of the Morake family to join me in the podium?

As part of the mayoral social responsibility programme, I have for the past two years adopted this family of orphans who stay in Musina Nancefield. I provide them with basic needs like food, clothing and take care of their school and social needs. My prayer is for them to take education seriously so that they can be independent in future. I urge business people and caring individuals to join me in taking care of this family so that we can contribute more in destroying the brutality of poverty in our society. Thank you. You can have your seats.

THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND CONNECTIVITY

Programme Director,

There is no doubt that Musina Municipality is one of the best public entities when it comes to getting in touch with its citizens. Our bulk sms line, which has more than five thousand subscribers, is one of our innovative communication legacy projects. Our Website – www.musina.gov.za - and our Facebook Page – Musina Local Municipality - which are updated timeously, are playing a major role to keep us in touch with our people instantly. We strive to use modern communication platforms to the fullest in order to give our people the latest information.

Interestingly, the state of the municipality address I'm delivering now is already in our website and Facebook Page. Hard and soft copies are available upon request from our Communications Unit.

The construction of the cell phone tower at Bennde Mutale village, Ward 12, will go a long way in bridging the communication gap in the municipality. We are aware of many farms and villages around the municipality that do not have cell phone network reception. We are engaging with ICASA to find best ways to resolve this challenge.

AUDIT REPORT AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Fellow councilors,

It is a pleasure to announce that our latest audit report from the Auditor General is unqualified. Unqualified Audit Opinion is when the Auditor General concludes that financial records and statements are fairly and appropriately presented, and in accordance with Generally Recognized Accounting Principles. We are on course to achieve the targets set out in the Operation Clean Audit.

Looking at the state of our financial affairs, it is very important for us to intensify our credit control measures to generate enough revenue to fund our service delivery mandate. Any non-payment of municipal services should have serious consequences. We cannot have a situation where people continue to enjoy municipal services without paying.

We need to enforce cost cutting measures to maximize the little financial resources that we have. Unnecessary travelling, avoidable overtimes, worthless workshops and futile expenditure must all stop. Any fruitless expenditure must be recovered from the responsible officials. Suspicious corruption, fraud, extortion and collusion activities should be reported to the law enforcement agencies.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The following investments, which have created thousands of jobs to our people, are playing a major role in consolidating the economic backbone of our municipality:

Development of new businesses in both rural and urban areas, construction of the N1 bypass in Musina, Venetia Mine underground exploration, Musina Special Economic Zone, Limpopo Eco-Industrial Park, Nwanedi Agri Park, to name but a few. Other sectors that are bringing in investors into our municipality include agriculture, construction, trade, transport and tourism.

GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

It is my pleasure to announce that the following structures are fully functional in our municipality:

All the committees of Council are operating without challenges.

We managed to establish functional ward committees in all 12 wards of Musina Municipality. The Home Affairs Stakeholder, Disability, Senior Citizens, Communicators and Gender Forums are fully functional.

Moral Regeneration Movement and the Youth Council are also functional. We are working towards re-establishing an inclusive Sports Council whose first major task will be to coordinate the Annual Winter Games to be staged next month.

FILLING OF VACANT POSITIONS

It is also important to announce to this house that we are in the process of filling vacant strategic positions to accelerate service delivery. The position of General Manager Corporate Services, which has been vacant since 2015 has been filled recently. The new General Manager of Technical Services, whose position has been vacant since 2014, will join us on the first of August. We hope to finalize the appointments for the positions of the Chief Financial Officer and General Manager for Economic Development and Planning in the near future.

CHALLENGES

We are unable to provide some of the services due to the high number of consumer debtors which stands at forty four point eight million rand. We are continuously engaging defaulting community members to understand the value of paying for the services they get from the municipality.

The notice by Eskom intending to interrupt our bulk electricity supply is of a great concern to us. We have engaged with Eskom and we are meeting our obligation of bringing our current account to date.

When the current council came in two years ago, the municipality was owing Eskom over one hundred and forty million rand. Last year when I delivered the State of the Municipality address, the debt was standing at one hundred and fifteen million rand. As I'm speaking now, we have drastically reduced the debt to fifty three point six million rand. We want to assure our people that everything possible is being done to address this matter.

Programme Director, the influx of undocumented foreign nationals also put us under pressure to provide some of the basic services because we cannot budget for people who are not legally staying in our municipality.

We are developing a comprehensive plan to deal with the mushrooming of illegal churches around our municipality. We cannot have a situation where every open space is turned into an illegal church. Most painfully, these illegal churches have no ablution facilities, which is a very serious health risk.

We have received memorandums from representatives of community members who were not satisfied with some service delivery issues in the municipality. We had a fruitful meeting to discuss the issues raised with community representatives and we also developed a road map on how to address those issues in future.

We are aware of the challenges in relation to damaged roads, aging infrastructure, shortage of staff and working tools, insufficient revenue base, crime and unemployment. We are working with various stakeholders to make sure that these challenges are resolved amicably.

EXXARO TSHIKONDENI MINE CLOSURE LEGACY PROJECT

Honourable Councillors,

Let me take this opportunity to announce that as part of the Tshikondeni Mine Closure Legacy Project, Exxaro Coal is building 36 three-bedroomed houses for deserving beneficiaries at Mutele B and Sanari villages, Ward 12. The package comes with a state-of-the-art crèche for each of the two villages. The total cost for this initiative is sixteen point nine million rand. Construction is progressing smoothly and we are happy that this will bridge the gap of housing and social services shortfalls in our municipality.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY DE BEERS VENETIA MINE

De Beers Venetia Mine regards the sustainable transformation of the Mining Industry as an imperative to doing business in South Africa and building sustainable relationships with communities in which the mines operate. The De Beers Venetia Mine socio-economic development strategy talks to how the Mine can leverage on partnerships with other strategic stakeholders, to make a long lasting contribution to communities which it operates and contribute towards service delivery initiatives. The Mine believes that through partnerships with other stakeholders, a lot can be done to transform the socio-economic landscape of communities in which it operates.

Through its Social and Labour Plan, De Beers Venetia Mine has in the 2017 financial year supported the following Community upliftment programmes within the Musina Municipal area:

- The mine has assisted 12 learners who are studying at various Tertiary institutions with Financial Study Grants of fifteen thousand rand each at a total contribution of one hundred and eighty thousand rand.
- They have conducted additional Maths and Science classes for Grades 10 to 12 learners at a total budget of two hundred and sixty three thousand, four hundred and fourteen rand.

- They assisted with payment of salaries to additional Educators and School Administrators at three schools in Musina at a total contribution of three million and eighty five rand.
- The Mine has assisted with the upgrading of various internal streets within Musina Town at a total cost of three point two million rand.
- They have implemented infrastructure development programmes at three local schools within Musina, Namely: Renovation of the entire school at Musina Secondary, Construction of four classrooms at Maroi Primary School and construction of a state of the art Administration Block at Folovhodwe Primary School. All these projects are valued at six million rand.

De Beers Venetia Mine will continue working with Musina Local Municipality to implement Community Development Programmes as committed in the Mine's Social and Labour Plan. During the 2018 financial year, De Beers Venetia Mine will implement the following projects in the Musina area:

- Provide study grants of R15 000 per learner to deserving learners.
- School support programme at a budget of three million rand.
- Renovation of Sovetso Community Crèche at a total budget of two million rand.
- Assist with water provision projects at a total budget two million rand.
- School Infrastructure programme at a total budget of six million rand.
- Upgrading of various roads within Musina at a total budget of eleven million rand.

Honourable guests, De Beers Venetia Mine is doing a lot to improve the lives of our people. They deserve a very big round of applause!

Programme Director,

During an occasion like this in June last year, I outlined some of the projects that the municipality would be undertaking during this financial year we are wrapping up at the end of this month. It is a pleasure for me to present the progress report thereof.

- We indicated that together with Eskom, we would electrify 26 households at Gwakwani, 18 at Manenzhe, 25 at Rangani and 35 at Lwathudwa. All the households were successfully electrified.
- Through the Integrated National Electrification Programme Grant the municipality is currently electrifying four villages in the Eskom licenced area.

The villages are:

Malale – one hundred and fifty four connections.

Masisi – forty four connections.

Tanda – one hundred and thirty eight connections and

Tshikhudini – three hundred and twenty nine connections.

This brings to a total number of connections to six hundred and sixty five. The designs have already been completed and we have appointed service providers. We hope to complete this project at the end of August this year.

- The purchase of fire arms for our traffic officers was carried out successfully.
- We have managed to install a new energy saving system in our Apollo and street lights.
- The revenue enhancement strategy was developed and adopted by Council.
- The purchase and installation of GIS system was carried out successfully.
- We have managed to review our spatial development framework as planned.
- The construction of six hundred houses in the urban area of Musina is progressing well.
- I indicated that the municipality would construct 1.8km of paved roads in Nancefield. The project is at 80% progress.
- The maintenance of 161km of internal gravel streets in all wards is an on-going process.
- The upgrading of electricity, installation of feeder lines and replacement of copper by aluminum power lines is 50% done. The project is on-going.
- The electrical reticulation for new settlements in Nancefield Ext 6, 7 and 14 is work in progress.
- Construction of multi-purpose community centre in Nancefield - The Foundation phase is complete and the overall work is at 37%.
- I indicated that the municipality would construct a sports centre at Muswodi. The project is at 50% progress. There is no work currently taking place at the site pending resolution of the land ownership disputes.
- Construction of parameter fence around the municipal main office building was not done due to financial constraints.
- We are finalizing the amendment of land use management scheme.

SOME OF THE 2018 / 2019 PROJECTS TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY VHEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN MUSINA

- Construction of boreholes at Ha-Gumbu and Sigonde at a cost of two point eight million rand.
- Refurbishment of Musina bulk pumps and valves at a cost of three point five million rand.
- Infrastructure development at Awelani Community Tourism at a cost of two hundred thousand rand.
- Construction of 50 VIP toilets at Manenzhe.
- Construction of 50 VIP toilets at Tshipise.
- The total cost for both Manenzhe and Tshipise VIP toilets projects is one million rand.

BELOW ARE THE PLANNED ELECTRICITY CONNECTIONS BY ESKOM IN THE 2018 / 2019 FINANCIAL YEAR

Tshikuyu	16 Households
Tshidzi	10 Households
Muswodi Tshisimani	62 Households
Madimbo	216 Households
Domboni La Dambale	59 Households
Bennde Mutale Phase 3	10 Households

This means that Eskom plans to do three hundred and seventy three connections in the rural areas of Musina.

2018 / 2019 PROJECTS TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY MUSINA MUNICIPALITY

- Maintenance of three hundred and sixty kilometres of internal gravel streets in all wards
- Continuation with the construction of Muswodi sports centre.
- Purchase of light duty vehicles.
- Upgrade of electricity capacity in Musina.
- Creation of two thousand one hundred and eighteen jobs through poverty alleviation programmes in all twelve wards.
- Purchase of cherry picker truck.
- Construction of 2km paved roads in Ward 3 and 5.

- Together with Coghsta, we will construct 400 RDP houses in the rural villages of Musina .
- Construction of storm water channels in Nancefield.
- Review of LED strategy.
- Revitalizations of youth projects.
- Demarcation of CBD for street vendors.
- Resurvey of 300 residential erven in Nancefield Extension 9 and 10.
- Construction of sports centre at Masisi.
- Amendment of land use scheme.
- Development of new valuation roll.
- Construction of new landfill site.
- Purchase of heavy duty truck.
- Purchase of two high powered traffic vehicles and road block trailer.
- Installation of irrigation system at Lesley Manyathela Stadium.
- Development of annual audit plan.
- Staff training as part of the Workplace Skills Plan.
- Internet and connectivity upgrade.
- Provision of over 3 000 qualifying households with free services.
- Conversion of convectional to prepaid electricity meters in residential properties.

OVERVIEW OF THE 2018 / 2019 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Ladies and Gentlemen, this budget comes at a time when we are faced with VAT increase and escalating food and fuel prices. These are all the effects of globalization and as a municipality, we are also part of this unpleasant situation.

I now have the pleasure to present to you an overview of the budget estimates for the 2018 / 2019 financial year.

Our total Operating Revenue for the 2018 / 2019 financial year is two hundred and eighty six million, six hundred and seventy six thousand rand (R 286 676 000).

Twenty eight million, four hundred and ninety two thousand rand (R 28 492 000) will be funded from the Municipal Infrastructure Grant.

Other conditional grants are as follows:

- Finance Management Grant (FMG) is one million and nine hundred thousand rand (R1 900 000).
- Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) Grant is one million and forty thousand rand (R1 040 000).
- Integrated National Electrification Programme Grant (INEP) is fifteen million rand (R15 000 000).

Tariffs will increase by 6%.

In conclusion, let me assure you that we are making good progress and we are looking ahead towards our vision of becoming a city with confidence.

Together we can move Musina forward!

Thank you.