



## 2019 / 2020 MAYORAL BUDGET SPEECH



**Date: 18 June 2019**

**Venue: Musina Showground**

**Time: 10h00**

Thank you Programme Director

*Kha vha ntendele ndi thome nga u luvha saizwi ro kandwa nga mahosi*

Honourable Speaker of the Council, Cllr Gilbert Netshisaulu

Honourable Council Whip, Cllr Fistos Mafela

Members of the Council Executive Committee

Fellow Councilors from Musina Municipality

The Chairperson of Finance and Staffing Committee in the Municipality of Beitbridge in Zimbabwe, Cllr Granger Nyoni

Speakers, Mayors, Chief Whips and Councilors from other municipalities in Vhembe

Special guests of the Mayor

Our stakeholders from various government and non-governmental organizations

Officials from Musina Municipality led by the Municipal Manager, Mr Mathi Tshwanammbi

The Municipal Manager and Public Relations Practitioner from the Municipality of Beitbridge in Zimbabwe, Mr Laud Ramakgapola and Mr Raniel Ndou respectively

All pastors and religious groups

Business people who are amongst us

Ward Committee members from all our 12 wards

Residents of Musina Local Municipality

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I greet you all.

Honourable Speaker, I rise before this august house and the beloved residents of Musina with a great sense of humility for the opportunity afforded to me to present the 2019 – 2020 State of the Municipality Address.

Let me remind you that we are still guided by our mandate to deliver sustainable services in accordance with the constitution and legal framework that regulates local government.

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

## **MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES**

**Programme Director,**

It is sad to remind you that during this financial year we are bringing to an end, the municipality was hit with sad experiences of losing ward committee members and employees.

The ward committee members who passed on are Patrick Makhado and Bella Maoka. We also lost Mapula Sematla who was attached to our EPWP unit.

Municipal employees who passed on are Mercy Mutele, Ngwako Mokobi, Petrus Tuwani, Samuel Nemunzhele, Freddy Kwinda and Phanel Chindege Mulea.

This brings to a total loss of nine people who were assisting us to deliver quality services to our people. They might be gone, but their contributions and hard work will remain with us forever.

We are also saddened by parting ways with one of our struggle veterans, renowned freedom fighter and former councilor for the disestablished Mutale Municipality. I'm talking about the late, Mr Gwarana Philemon Sekhwama of Sigonde village, Ward 9. He will be remembered as one of the local distinguished freedom fighters who served his community with diligence and dedication until his last day on earth.

Furthermore, we suffered a terrible blow when we received the sad news of the passing of comrade Mimie Dikeledi Stella Moshokoa, the Deputy Secretary of the ANC Dohe Branch. She was also the Chairperson of the ANC Women's League in the same branch. Her previous roles includes being the additional member of the ANC Women's League in Musina Sub Region. Although we have lost comrade Mimie, we can take some comfort in knowing that she was a great fighter whose spirit will continue to guide us to fight for equal opportunities for all.

Can we please all rise and observe a moment of silence for the above colleagues whom we will solemnly miss?

May their souls rest in perfect peace!

We can take our seats.

## **CONGRATULATORY REMARKS**

**Honourable Speaker,**

This State of the Municipality Address takes place at a time when there are many good things happening in our municipality, the district, province and our country as a whole.

Together with our local Council of Churches, we organized an elections prayer on 05 May at Skoonplaas Stadium. We are happy that our prayers have been answered because we had free, fair and credible elections.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate our glorious movement, the ANC, for winning the General Elections last month. Voters did not make a mistake by giving us another opportunity to continue governing because they know that the ANC is the only home for excellence. We thank everyone who played a role towards the achievement of our victory.

The ANC government has done much to improve the lives of our people since the dawn of democracy – although we can acknowledge that there is still much to be done. We can all agree that life is now better than it was in 1994.

The presidential inauguration on 25 May was one of the prime events across the globe. There is no doubt that President Ramaphosa is a tried and tested leader who will be able to renew, rebuild and lead our country to prosperity. We wish him all the best in his new five year term. We are sure that his cabinet, chosen after careful consideration, will be equal to the task of serving our country with distinction.

**Honourable Speaker,**

Our new Provincial EXCO, led by Premier Stan Mathabatha, took office lately. These are men and women who will definitely steer our province into a better place to stay and invest under the guidance of the mighty ANC. We are very happy that Limpopo is in the right hands. Congratulations once more to these dedicated servants of the people!

We have seen one of our own, Comrade Dowelani Nenguda taking oath to assume the mayoral responsibility in the Vhembe District Municipality. We wish him well and we are convinced that he is the right person to advance the manifesto of the ANC, thereby taking our district to a higher level.

We are pleased that as the ANC in Musina, we have managed to send two representatives to the National Assembly and another one to the Provincial Legislature in the name of our own councilor and former mayor, comrade Carol Phiri, Pastor Lorrain Luvhengo and Caroline Mahasela respectively.

Let me commend the African National Congress for opening up opportunities for women in our democracy. Taking into consideration their capacity, we have no doubt that comrades Phiri, Luvhengo and Mahasela will represent us well in their new responsibilities.

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### **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.

When each of us wakes up every morning, we should all silently say: **“Yes, Musina, Thuma Mina”** before we start our daily obligation of bringing a better life to all the people of Musina.

### **YOUTH MONTH**

#### **Honoured guests,**

Let me remind you that we are currently commemorating Youth Month. As Musina Municipality, our commitment to youth development is influenced by our democratic goals, which are based on the principles of social and economic justice, human rights, empowerment, participation and active citizenship that are enshrined in the South African constitution.

The National Youth Policy 2020 gives further expression to these principles and is intended to lay a firm foundation for youth, who are and will continue to shape the future of this country. Youth are therefore at the core of Musina’s development agenda.

We are very much cognisant of the many challenges facing the youth today. This include high unemployment rate, alcohol and substance abuse and HIV/Aids.

Through the youth desk in the Mayor's office, the municipality undertakes various initiatives to empower young people in all our 12 wards.

## **SERVICE DELIVERY SUMMARY**

**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.

We are working with Eskom to address the backlog in rural areas, especially where we have extensions and new settlements.

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. Thanks to our ANC government.

## **MAYORAL IMBIZOS**

As a way of demonstrating and enforcing inclusive governance during the current financial year, we held 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.

We also had various engagements with traditional leaders to find ways on how best we can work together to bring development in our municipality. Indeed, we are making sure that we get in touch with everyone in the ground.

## **HOME AFFAIRS**

**Honourable Speaker,**

It gives me pleasure to announce that a lot of progress is being recorded at Musina Home Affairs in terms of improved service delivery. The office has issued six thousand, three hundred and seventy five smart cards this year.

Let me commend the office for working tirelessly during the recent general elections. Despite the fact that the 8<sup>th</sup> of May was a public holiday, the office opened at 07h00 in the morning and closed at nine o'clock in the evening - to make sure that voters were assisted accordingly.

Although government is making a call to move away from green bar coded ID's to the new smart cards, it is still disappointing to note that there were four hundred and thirty uncollected smart cards at the office as of Monday last week. We therefore urge community members who have not collected theirs to do so as a matter of urgency.

As local government, we are happy to note that the process of applying ID's in major banks like ABSA, Standard, FNB and Nedbank is still effective. Interestingly, you can also do online applications in the comfort of your home.

The late registration of birth is still a challenge and we should encourage our people to avoid it as they possibly can. This is to make sure that we have a clean and accurate national population register in our country.

## **AGRICULTURE**

The recent launch and official opening 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 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**

### **Honoured guests,**

Health is one of our priority areas. We have a good working relationship with all health institutions around our municipality, including Messina Hospital. That's why amongst other initiatives, we partnered with the hospital to host the excellence awards, fun walk, annual Mandela Day commemoration and the celebration and handing over of gifts to Christmas and New Year babies. The hospital's annual accountability summit and our mayoral Imbizos, provides services and information where stakeholders are involved in making decisions at the hospital.

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

Our local AIDS Council is working with various stakeholders to fight the spread of this disease in our municipality. Through various initiatives, we encourage our people to live healthy lives to avoid being attacked by various opportunistic diseases.

## **IEC**

### **Honourable Speaker,**

Our local IEC office did a sterling job during last month's General Elections. As Musina, we took position three in terms of the highest number of voter turnout in Limpopo. Our voter turnout was sixty four point four percent.

As politicians, our wish is to have a hundred percent voter turnout in our municipality. Let me explain why. Our voters roll had forty four thousand, five hundred and seventy five voters. Only twenty eight thousand, five hundred and forty five voted.

This means that we had sixteen thousand and thirty people who did not vote. Another worrying factor is that out of the twenty eight thousand, five hundred and forty five who voted, only nine thousand, nine hundred and ninety seven were youth.

The fact that we also had five hundred and thirty nine spoiled ballots is a worrying factor. This means that we still have a big responsibility to encourage our people to take their voting rights very seriously.

## **POST OFFICE**

We received positive reports that the new system of receiving social grants at Musina Post Office is progressing well. The improved technology is a bonus to our community members, especially the elders, who now spend less time queuing for their social grants. This clearly demonstrates that we are on track to join the world in the dawn of the fourth industrial revolution.

## **MADIMBO THUSONG SERVICE CENTRE**

There is an old saying that a man does not see a beautiful rose in his own garden. We are defying that saying by praising our own Madimbo Thusong Service Centre because it is still rated as one of the best performing walk-in centres in Limpopo. The centre is closing the service delivery gap as rural people do not have to travel for long distances to access services in Town. Indeed, our government cares!

## **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

We have also noted the positive contributions by the Department of Social Development in all the 12 wards of our municipality. The funding of community organizations, including crèches and care centres, distribution of food parcels and assistance for our people to access various types of grants are some of the major achievements that we are grateful of.

## **CONTRIBUTIONS BY NGO's**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Non-governmental organizations like the Messina Legal Advice Office, UNHCR, Save The Children, Doctors Without Borders, New Start, Lawyers for Human Rights and Red Cross have been doing a great job in providing support and carrying out monitoring work in places such as the detention centres and shelters in Musina. We acknowledge their contributions because we need their support to turn Musina into a safe place for everyone.

During an occasion like this last year, we indicated that we were concerned about our only community radio station's non-compliance on various issues, ranging from the non-availability of a legislative board of directors and non-functional management team. Painfully, as of now, the situation at Musina FM has not improved. For five years, the radio station has not held an annual general meeting to elect a legitimate leadership. In other words, this simply means that the radio station is operating illegally.

Can I please request community structures to stand up and rescue our radio station before ICASA revokes the licence due to non-compliance?

I'm saying this because the law does not allow us, as politicians, to interfere in the affairs of the community radio. It is in the hands of the local community to make sure that the radio station is saved.

If ICASA decides to close down this radio station, it will be very difficult, or almost impossible to acquire another broadcast licence. I'm reliably informed that ICASA has already closed some of the community radio stations here in Limpopo due to non-compliance. Truly speaking, we don't want our only community radio station to be part of this statistics.

## **SPORTS**

It gives me pleasure to confirm that we are still going to host our prime sporting events as per the calendar of the municipality. This include the annual winter games and the Two Countries Marathon. Through these events, we have discovered and natured sports and athletics personalities who were able to compete in the national and international spheres.

### **Programme Director,**

Let me acknowledge the contributions by Elegant Group under the leadership of their Chairman, Orkie Strydom who last week donated sporting equipment to the value of over fifty thousand rand to our local soccer team, Musina All Stars. The sponsorship includes a soccer kit, tracksuits for all players, soccer balls, soccer boots for all players and sports bags for all players. Interestingly, they committed that the sponsorship will increase next year.

We urge other stakeholders within the private sector who have not yet contributed to community development, to do what they can, to increase the resources into sport in Musina.

## **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

### **Fellow Councillors,**

As part of my social responsibility, I felt that it was important to adopt one of the struggling families here in Musina.

Can I please request the siblings of the Morake family to join me on stage?

As part of the mayoral social responsibility programme and the spirit of ubuntu, I have for the past three years adopted this family of orphans who stay in Musina Nancefield. I provide them with basic needs and I also 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 my children. You can have your seats.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is encouraging to note that, in today's world, where most of the people think for themselves only, we still have generous business people like Bully Rana who has pledged to donate five hundred blankets to the poor people of Musina this year. This is the type of partnership we need in order to improve the living conditions of our people. As government, we are really thankful for this kind gesture. We hope other local business people will draw a lesson from this community building initiative.

### **EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME (EPWP)**

The Expanded Public Works Programme is a nationwide government programme covering all spheres of government aimed at drawing a significant number of unemployed South Africans into productive work in the manner that will enable them to gain skills and increase their capacity to earn income and develop their community. As Musina, we are also part of this initiative to develop our communities.

We presently have one hundred and ninety eight 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 financial year that we are bringing to an end, Musina Local Municipality Council approved the following draft by-laws:

- Draft Building Regulations by-law and
- Draft Electricity Supply by-law

These draft by-laws are now subjected to public consultation until the end of this month - that is 30 June 2019.

Our traffic police have conducted various campaigns to make sure that our roads are safe at all times. We are hopeful that the pedestrian safety road crossing campaign we recently conducted at Nancefield four-way-stop will go a long way in reducing accidents in the local roads.

Let me take this opportunity to commend members of the SAPS in Musina, Masisi, Tshamutumbu and Muswodi policing areas for the sterling work they are doing to combat crime in our municipality. Let us all assist them to crack down criminals because it needs our joint efforts to make sure that Musina becomes a safe place for everyone.

**Programme Director,**

The scourge of alcohol and drug abuse, especially by our young people, is a serious concern to us. Alcohol, tobacco, dagga and other drugs affect our youth negatively. The use of these drugs has detrimental effects on the user's health which may turn out to be fatal. At the end of this long line is a drug dealer who is making money out of destroying young people's futures.

Our call is that, let us work together to expose the drug lords so that they can be brought to book and serve long sentences behind bars because they don't deserve to live in our communities.

## **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

**Honourable Speaker,**

The current scourge of the violence against women and children is completely unacceptable. Our hearts cry out to the affected community members who have suffered through such senseless acts.

It cannot be accepted that our women and children are not able to enjoy our freedom and liberation because they are vulnerable. Real freedom will be achieved when our women and children can be free to go anywhere anytime without fear of being attacked, raped or killed.

I appeal to all men in our country to make it their duty to protect women and children. It should be noted that Musina Municipality strongly condemns any form of violence against women and children.

## **EDUCATION**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. In our obligation to support education, we visited various schools in the urban, rural and farming areas of Musina. Indigent learners were identified and we distributed school shoes, school uniforms and sanitary pads.

**Honoured guests,**

I am highly impressed by what Cllr Taxi Nare is doing to empower school children in his ward. He has made an undertaking that each year, he will personally buy school uniforms for 10 learners in his ward until he finishes up his five-year term as a ward councilor.

This means that he has an obligation to provide for 50 learners with full school uniforms when he leaves the Council of Musina Municipality.

So far, he has already provided full school uniforms for 30 learners in his ward. The money for buying these school uniforms comes directly from his own pocket.

This teaches us that one does not need to have a bag full of money to make a difference in the community. The little you have can make a very big difference in your community.

I encourage other community leaders to make a difference in their communities because it takes the whole community to raise a child. Children are the future leaders of our communities and we all have to mobilize resources to prepare their future.

**Fellow Councilors,**

Going down the memory lane, you will recall that Musina was established in 1904 as a result of the discovery of copper. This means that our town is now one hundred and fifteen years old. For all those years, our town did not have an institution of higher learning.

It is my pleasure to announce that the establishment of the Vhembe TVET College Musina campus is now a reality! Indeed, this is a great achievement in our lifetime.

This comes at the right time when Musina is preparing to become a city in the near future. Through this college, our people will be able to acquire skills that will help us to sustain the Special Economic Zone which is in the early stages of implementation here in Musina.

Let me take this opportunity to brief you on the progress report in terms of the campus establishment. The mobile classes, administration block and furniture for both the students and lecturers have already been delivered and set up.

A delegation from the Department of Education came to assess the curriculum readiness of the campus. Only one assessment for the infrastructure is due before we call upon students to register so that classes for the trimester courses can start immediately.

**Programme Director,**

From the first of July 2019, the municipality will be spending one point eight million rand in financing indigent learners through the mayoral bursary fund.

This is an improvement, taking into consideration that during this financial year we are bringing to an end, we had allocated a budget of one point five million rand. This means that we have increased the budget by three hundred thousand rand.

It fills me with joy to announce that the Musina Municipality mayoral bursary scheme has produced two more graduates who have successfully completed their studies at the University of Limpopo.

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

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These are the beautiful fruits of our Mayoral Bursary Scheme!

The first graduate is Lucky Nhlanhla Ntuli who completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Local Government. He has been offered an employment service contract at the municipality.

The second graduate, Euginia Moichela who completed his BSC degree in Life Science with distinction, has decided to further pursue his honours degree before he considers joining the municipality after graduation.

Last year during this time, we reported that in the past six years, the mayoral bursary had produced fifteen graduates. I'm glad to announce that the number has now increased to seventeen.

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

## **THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND CONNECTIVITY**

**Honoured guests,**

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](http://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, will soon be in our website and Facebook Page. Hard and soft copies are available upon request from our Communications Unit.

Last year in June, we reported about the construction of the cell phone tower at Bennde Mutale village, Ward 12. I'm happy to announce that the tower has been completed and is now fully operational. This initiative will go a long way in bridging the communication gap in the municipality.

For many years, people of Shakadza in Ward 11, have been complaining about poor cell phone network coverage in their area.

At times, they had to walk to other areas to access the network. It is my pleasure to announce that Vodacom will be erecting a cellphone reception tower in the village. The public participation process has been concluded and the site has already been identified. Physical construction of the tower can start anytime from now.

We are aware of many farms and villages around the municipality that do not have cell phone network reception, but we are engaging with ICASA to find best ways to resolve this challenge.

## **AUDIT REPORT AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

**Fellow councilors,**

Our latest audit report from the Auditor General is qualified - with a total of 43 findings. Interestingly, we have managed to address 39 findings. A compressive audit action plan has been developed to address the outstanding 4 findings so that we can improve our performance. We are hopeful that through the Municipal Cost Containment Regulation which was gazette two weeks ago, coupled with our revenue enhancement strategy, we will be able to intensify our financial controls in the municipality.

## **LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Programme Director,**

The solar powered community bakery, cold storage facility and communal education centre is playing a major role in the improvement of life in the deep rural village of Gwakwani, under Ward 10 of our municipality. The village has 27 households and a population of 100 people.

Before the village was integrated into Musina Municipality from the defunct Mutale, it was identified as one of the villages that was cut off from the rest of the country because there was no electricity, mobile phone network and a very limited water supply.

The biggest challenge which faced the people of Gwakwani, was the lack of any form of steady income because the majority of the community members depended on social grants.

After some very detailed research by the University of Johannesburg in 2014, an idea was formed to construct a solarized bakery and a cold storage facility in the village to address the shortage of fresh bread as a staple feed on daily basis and to create employment for the local community members.

There is also a communal structure with an area where community members have access to a television set, fridge and also a children's corner to help them develop educationally.

This unique project was spearheaded by the University of Johannesburg School of Electrical Engineering and various partners and sponsors under the watchful eye of Corney Keefer, the Project Manager of the University of Johannesburg.

Not only has the bakery project assisted the Gwakwani Village in building an economy, it has also assisted the surrounding villages in producing a cheap staple feeding scheme and an excellent nutrition on a daily base. The cold storage facility helps them to store chicken feet and other types of affordable meat that they sell to the public.

Currently, five community members are part of the project and they produce a total of 160 sold out loaves of bread per day. Though the income is not much, these previously unemployed people can now be able to provide for their families while at the same time assisting the local community because there is no shop in the village where they can be able to buy bread.

We are very happy that the village is slowly becoming self-dependent although there is still much to be done to improve the standard of living there. This is a clear demonstration that stakeholders can also play a role in assisting government to improve people's lives.

## **GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT**

It is my pleasure to announce that Council is meeting its obligation of exercising the municipality's executive and legislative authority.

During this financial year that we are ushering to an end, we successfully held seven Council meetings as scheduled.

The following structures are fully functional in our municipality:

All the committees of Council are operating without challenges. Ward committees are functional in all 12 wards. The Youth, Disability, Gender, Senior Citizens and Home Affairs Stakeholder Forums are all functional.

## **FILLING OF VACANT POSITIONS**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

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 the Chief Financial Officer has just been filled.

We hope to finalize the appointments for the positions of the General Manager for Economic Development and Planning and the General Manager Technical, 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 eight point three million rand. We are continuously engaging defaulting community members to understand the value of paying for the services they get from the municipality.

Last year on an occasion like this, we promised that we would pay off the Eskom debt in March this year. Unfortunately, we could not honour the obligation due to serious cash flow challenges. We have developed a comprehensive repayment plan to make sure that the debt is settled within a reasonable space of time.

**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.

Last year, we announced that the municipality would electrify the following villages:

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.

Part of the work has been done but unfortunately, the project has not been completed due to some internal challenges that we are resolving. We hope to resume and complete this project in the near 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.

We commend our residents that despite challenges they are confronted with on a daily basis, they have not been lured into engaging in service delivery protests with the hope that their challenges will receive immediate attention from Council. We still stress that our doors are open for any resident who needs the municipality's intervention on all service delivery issues.

## **REPORT ON EXXARO TSHIKONDENI MINE CLOSURE LEGACY PROJECT**

**Honourable Councilors,**

Last year during the budget speech, we announced that as part of the Tshikondeni Mine Closure Legacy Project, Exxaro Coal was 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 the initiative is sixteen point nine million rand. It is my pleasure to report back that the project is hundred percent complete. The identified beneficiaries are now staying in their houses and children are attending crèche in those two villages.

## **CONTRIBUTIONS BY DE BEERS VENETIA MINE**

**Programme Director,**

Over the past years, we have witnessed various community development initiatives implemented by De Beers Venetia Mine here in Musina.

**Eighty million rand** investment for the South African Schools Programme over a period of five years has been put aside for holistic school development model in partnership with the Department of Education. The programme targets twenty five early childhood development centres, nine primary schools and four high schools in Musina.

In 2018, the mine has invested **twenty one million rand** for skills development in adult education, bursaries, internships, operatives and metallurgical skills programmes.

In terms of local procurement and supplier development, twenty-six locally owned companies are now doing business with Venetia Mine and the employ is in excess of three hundred people, leading to more than **one hundred million rand** spent with local BEE entities in 2018 and more than **two million rand** invested in supplier development support. For enterprise development, De Beers Venetia Mine invested **three point two million rand** in 2018.

Through its Social and Labour Plan, De Beers Venetia Mine has in the 2019/2020 financial year committed to working with Musina Local Municipality to implement the following projects at a cost of over **twenty three million rand**:

- Upgrading of the Harper Road
- Upgrading of various internal roads in Musina town
- Upgrading of Musina Electrical substation
- Upgrading of Musina Water System
- Supporting the establishment of Vhembe TVET College Musina Campus
- Upgrading of Lesley Manyathela stadium
- Establishment of industrial area at Extension 17

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,**

**IN LAST YEAR'S BUDGET SPEECH, WE INDICATED THE PLANNED ELECTRICITY CONNECTIONS BY ESKOM IN OUR MUNICIPALITY. BELOW IS A PROGRESS REPORT THEREOF:**

- **Tshikuyu:** Sixteen households connection. All households are connected.
- **Tshidzi:** Ten households connections. All households are connected.
- **Madimbo:** Two hundred and sixteen households connections. All households are connected.
- **Domboni (Dambale):** Fifty nine households connections. All households are connected.
- **Muswodi Tshisimani and Folovhodwe:** One hundred and twelve households connections. The contract has been handed over. Actual work to start anytime from now.
- **Bennde Mutale Phase 3:** Ten households connections. The contract has been handed over. Actual work to start anytime from now.

**BELOW ARE SOME OF THE PROJECTS WE ARE CURRENTLY IMPLEMENTING AND THE PROGRESS THEREOF:**

- Nancefiled paved roads at a cost of **four million rand**. This is being implemented in Ward 2 and 3. The work is at seventy six percent.
- Nancefield Storm Water Channel phase two at a cost of **two point three million rand**. This is being implemented in Ward 2 and 3. The work is at fifty five percent.
- Nancefield multi-purpose centre at a cost of **five million rand**. This is being implemented in Ward 4. The work is also at fifty five percent.
- Masisi Sports Centre at a cost of **five point two million rand**. This is being implemented in Ward 12. The work is at seventy five percent.
- Nancefield concrete paved roads at a cost of **four point three million rand**. This is being implemented in Ward 3. The work is almost complete at ninety nine percent.
- **Five hundred and eight houses** have been built in the urban areas of Musina and we have a backlog of ninety two to make it six hundred.

**WE WILL IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS DURING THE 2019 / 2020 FINANCIAL YEAR WHICH STARTS ON 01 JULY THIS YEAR:**

- Nancefield Storm Water Channel at a cost of **two million rand**.
- Nancefield Extension nine and ten paved roads at a cost of **six million rand**.
- Nancefield multi-purpose centre at a cost of **five point seven million rand**.
- Manenzhe sports centre at a cost of **seven million rand**.
- Muswodi community hall at a cost of **eight million rand**.
- Nancefield Extension two and eight paved roads at a cost of **three point eight million rand**
- Together with Coghsta, we will build **four hundred houses** in the rural villages of Musina Municipality.

## OVERVIEW OF THE 2019 / 2020 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Every day, we hear on the news of municipalities which are in financial difficulty. It is therefore of critical importance that Musina Local Municipality makes every effort to ensure that its budget has value for money and that the expenditure and income are at optimum levels to secure basic service delivery.

**Honourable Speaker,**

I now have the pleasure to present an overview of the budget estimates for the 2019 / 2020 financial year.

Our total Operating Revenue for the 2019 / 2020 financial year is **three hundred and seventy eight million, seven hundred thousand, five hundred and ninety rand** (R378 070 590).

**Thirty nine million and sixteen rand** (R 39 016) will be funded from the Municipal Infrastructure Grant.

Other conditional grants are as follows:

- Finance Management Grant (FMG) is **two million, three hundred and sixty five thousand rand** (R2, 365,000).
- Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) Grant is **one million, one hundred and thirty nine thousand rand** (R1, 139, 000)
- Integrated National Electrification Programme Grant (INEP) is **ten million rand** (R10, 000,000)

Tariffs will increase by **six point four percent** (6.4%).

In conclusion, let me assure you that we will continue to provide affordable and quality basic services for all as prescribed by our mission statement by becoming a vehicle of affordable quality services and stability through socio-economic development and collective leadership.

Together we can move Musina forward!

Thank you.