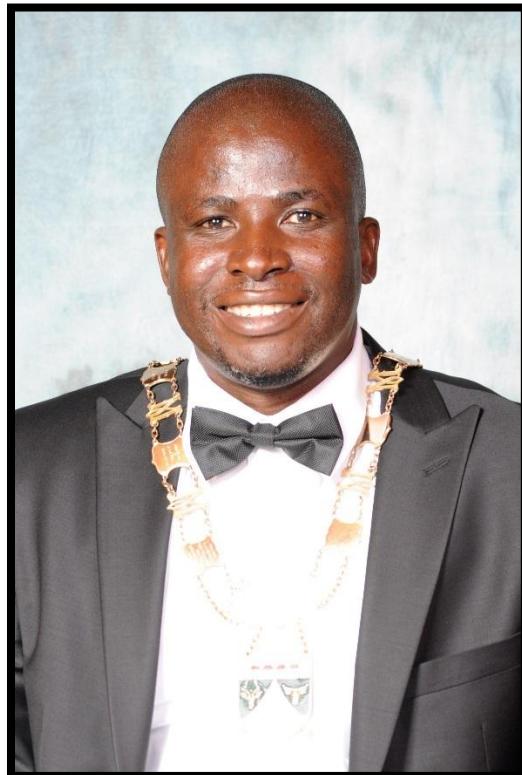




Final 2022 / 2023 Mayoral Budget Speech



Cllr Nkhanedzeni Godfrey Mawela, Mayor of Musina

Thank you honorable Speaker for giving me this opportunity to present the final 2022 / 2023 Budget estimates.

Special greetings all our community members, stakeholders and traditional leaders who have been part of our daily service delivery obligations throughout the difficult times.

Fellow councilors, I'm happy that despite the global Covid -19 challenges, we remain committed to our mandate of bringing a better life to all the residents of Musina.

Let me remind you that this budget speech is history in the making as it is the inaugural episode of the current new Council.

I can now proudly say that the budget I'm presenting here today is the joint product of the municipality, our community and all our stakeholders.

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. This budget is presented in line with the assumptions and needs of our people, also taking into consideration the limited resources at our disposal.

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

Before I present my budget, I feel that I would have not done my job diligently if I don't touch on the issue of violence committed against our women and children. This is a country-wide concern and as Musina we cannot just fold our hands and become spectators. I urge the people of Musina to speak in one voice and say NO to the killing of women and children. We also urge our law enforcement agencies to be very harsh on men who abuse women and children in our society.

The challenges of crime, drug abuse, influx of undocumented foreign nationals, HIV and Aids are a thorn in the flesh for our community. Each one of us must play a role to make sure that these challenges are resolved. I'm happy that our stakeholders, government departments and the private sector are also working with us to fight these challenges.

SERVICE DELIVERY REPORT

Programme director, there is no doubt that Musina is becoming better financial year after another.

Let me take this opportunity to give a brief summary of service delivery report in Musina. Our municipality is comprised of 12 wards, 24 councilors, two 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 and we do not have serious challenges in power supply. Electricity in the villages and some of the farming areas is supplied by Eskom. We are working with Eskom to address the backlog in all areas, especially where we have extensions and new settlements.

All areas in the urban areas of Musina have access to water on daily basis although at times restrictions are implemented to share the precious resource equally. The majority of our villages have street taps but some villagers still complain about serious water shortages. We are working with our water authority, the Vhembe District Municipality, to address these challenges.

We do not have serious challenges when it comes to refuse removal in various households in our municipality. Public institutions, government buildings and commercial properties are serviced on daily basis.

We are providing free services to more than 3 000 indigent community members in our municipality. Each beneficiary of the municipality's indigent policy receives 6 kiloliters of water, 55 kilowatts of electricity and hundred percent free sewer and refuse removal services every month. These are people whose joint family monthly income is R3 500.00 or less.

CHALLENGES

Despite some of the above successes, we are still unable to provide some of the services due to the high number of consumer debtors which is over forty million rand. We are continuously engaging with defaulting community members to understand the value of paying for the services they get from the municipality.

MAYORAL BURSARY

Education is one of our priority areas in Musina Municipality.

- From 2016 to date, we have assisted 39 deserving students
- 19 of those students were offered employment contracts at the municipality
- We have assisted 564 students to apply for tertiary enrollment and NSFAS applications

- We are currently assisting 10 students at a cost of R1,5m
- We have put aside R1,8m to assist deserving students in the next financial year
- MC Mining has assisted 6 students whereas Tiger Brand has assisted 2

SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE

After years of intensive planning, the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone is nearly ready to get off the ground. This is part of the overall economic recovery plan of government to create employment opportunities across various sectors and surrounding communities. The zone is earmarked for light to medium industrial activities, focusing on agro-processing, manufacturing and logistics. The project is getting positive feedback from various companies that are eager to locate their operations in the zone once infrastructure is put in place.

The Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone has commissioned a feasibility study for the development of the new Musina Dam through harvesting annual runoff flood water in the Limpopo River.

The success of Musina Dam will unlock new opportunities for economic development in the Vhembe District, and relieve many communities from ongoing water shortages.

AUDIT OUTCOMES

Fellow Councilors, our ultimate goal is to achieve a clean audit opinion. Below is the audit outcomes reports from 2016 to date

FINANCIAL YEAR	AUDIT OUTCOMES	PROGRESS ON REMEDIAL ACTION
2016 / 2017	Unqualified	80% of the issues raised by the AG were addressed
2017 / 2018	Qualified	70% of the issues raised by the AG were addressed
2018 / 2019	Qualified	90% of the issues raised by the AG were addressed
2019 / 2020	Unqualified	90% of the issues raised by the AG were addressed
2020 / 2021	Unqualified	55% of the issues raised by the AG were addressed, 35% in progress and 10% not yet addressed

2022 / 2023 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Honorable Speaker, I now have the pleasure to present to you an overview of the 2022 / 2023 financial year estimates. The budget I present follows a vigorous IDP/Budget community participation program from which municipal priorities and predetermined objectives have been derived. The budget is a service and people centered document geared towards improving the quality of life of residents whilst considerate of the immense challenges that the municipality and residents are confronted with in the face of rising costs, lower-than-expected economic performance and declining revenue.

To balance the prevalent harsh economic realities that ratepayers are facing, we have provided for marginal increases in our tariff structure to ensure sustainable and affordable municipal services.

The budget is based on broad objectives to accelerate access to municipal services, improve the efficiency of key municipal services, better the lives and livelihood of residents, financial viability and good governance, infrastructure development and maintenance as well acquisition of critical plant and equipment necessary to support service delivery.

The total Final budget is R 446 038 000

The breakdown is as follows:

Capital budget will be funded from MIG allocation of R 32 713 Million

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET BY MAJOR VOTE

- Executive & Council: R 90 113 Million
- Financial Services: R 124 334 Million
- Community Services: R 56 465 Million
- Technical Services: R 150 802 Million
- Economic and Environmental Services: R 24 327 Million

OPERATING GRANTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

EPWP: R 1 390 Million

Equitable share: R 193 793 Million

Finance Management Grant: R 3 Million

The grand total of the operating grant is **R 198 183 Million**

Our rates will increase by **five point six percent**.

CONCLUSION

I am convinced that this Budget will go a long way to create hope for our communities in these challenging times.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the African National Congress for giving me the opportunity to lead the people of Musina. It would not have been possible to achieve all this without the support from fellow councillors, administrators, community stakeholders, and the general public of Musina. I have no doubt that we have built a strong foundation for the incoming Council that will take over from us in three months' time.

COVID-19 is a reality and poses a risk to our lives and livelihood. The emergence of the eminent spiralling fifth wave of infections reaffirms how seriously we must take the pandemic, we should never be complacent in our adherence to prescribed protocols, let's continue to observe all Covid health protocols.

Together we can move Musina forward.

Ndi a livhuwa.