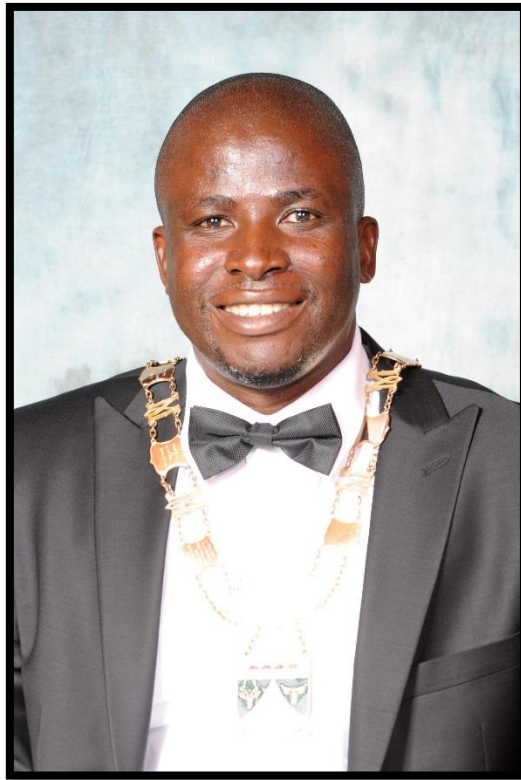




Draft 2023 / 2024 Mayoral Budget Speech



Ellr Nkhandedzeni Godfrey Mawela, Mayor of Musina

Honourable Speaker of the Council

Honourable Council Whip

Members of the Council Executive and Portfolio Committees

Fellow Councilors

Special guests of the Mayor

Our stakeholders from various government and non-governmental organizations

Officials from Musina Municipality led by the Municipal Manager

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 2023 / 2024 State of the Municipality Address. It is indeed a privilege for me to deliver this second budget speech of Council post the local government elections held in November 2021.

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

Fellow Councillors,

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.

SONA AND SOPA

In his State of the Province Address on 23 February this year, Premier Stanley Chupu Mathabatha emphasized that our province has risen from the devastation caused by the COVID19 pandemic.

And I quote: “We said our economic recovery trajectory will be guided by the National Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan and the Limpopo Socio-Economic Recovery Plan. Through these plans, our deliverables should be measured against the attainment of an inclusive developmental economy. Today, we have gathered in this house to give an account of the work we have done, and to pronounce on the plans and programmes of the government for the year ahead.”

For this purpose, Musina Local Municipality will never be a spectator in the economic growth of the province. That is why, through this budget I’m presenting here today, we aim to mobilize sufficient resources to invest in the upliftment of our communities.

As echoed by President Cyril Ramaphosa in his State of the Nation address, we are also on course to revitalize our economy and end the inequality and injustice that impedes our progress – thereby rebuilding public confidence and restoring trust in our people.

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, 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. 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 urban areas of Musina have access to water on rotational basis although we still experience supply challenges in high lying areas. We are constantly engaging with the water authority, the Vhembe District Municipality, to address these challenges.

The majority of our villages have street taps but some villagers still complain of serious water shortages. This is also being addressed with the Vhembe District Municipality.

When it comes to refuse removal, fifteen thousand, three hundred and fifty households have access to refuse removal services once a week, although we had some backlogs due to the recent violent protests.

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 eight hundred and fifty 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.

MUSINA MAKHADO SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE

Fellow Councillors,

It is my pleasure to give this house an update on the progress of the Musina Makhado Special Economic Zone (MMSEZ) which has now become a reality.

The programme is made up of two strategic sites, the Northern site located at the Antonvilla Farm which is about 3 500 hectares within Musina Local Municipality. The Antonvilla site is designated for light to medium industrial activities focusing on manufacturing, agro-processing and logistics sectors.

The second site is located at the border between Musina and Makhado municipalities with a land measuring about 8 000 hectares straddling across the N1 road next to the Baobab Toll Gate. The Southern Site is designated for a heavy industrial park focusing on renewable energy and metallurgy.

It is anticipated that the MMSEZ will create in excess of 21 000 direct and indirect jobs in the short / medium period and over 60 000 in the future.

The projected job opportunities and the technical nature of the projects to be implemented in the MMSEZ has posed a challenge to the provincial government to think hard on how to close the existing skills gap. A collaboration among various stakeholders in the education sector inclusive of universities, technical and vocational training institutions, was initiated to drive robust skills development.

This initiative is already bearing fruits. Several students have graduated with the requisite technical skills and busy acquiring practical experience to empower them for future opportunities in the MMSEZ.

MMSEZ has completed the feasibility study for the Incubation Centre and the Enterprise Development Strategy to guide its construction, operation as well as the inclusive participation of local entrepreneurs.

Whilst the South Site application was a litmus test for MMSEZ, it also presented an opportunity for MMSEZ to nail its colours to the mast by demonstrating its full commitment to protecting the environment.

In 2021, the provincial government allocated R600 million over a medium-term expenditure framework (MTEF) for bulk installations. The targeted bulk services projects include a water pipeline, water treatment plant, reservoir, ten Megavolt-amperes (10MVA) electricity substation, internal roads, storm water drainage system and integrated security infrastructure.

It is my pleasure to inform this house that the contractor for a 14km road infrastructure has already been appointed in Antonvilla while water, electricity, sanitation and fencing projects are on tender stage.

In light of the progress made, especially the long awaited commencement of the bulk infrastructure, it has become necessary and desirable to create a platform for the political principals to inform the public about these significant milestones.

GROWING RURAL ECONOMY

For many years, people in rural areas have been travelling long distances to access basic needs in urban areas. During our term of office, we will make every effort to convince developers and business people to build malls in rural areas. Those malls will bring convenience, choice and in many instances, community upliftment to the rural areas in which they are situated. We therefore call upon those with financial muscles to join us in realizing this dream.

AGRICULTURE

The economic contribution by the multimillion rand Nwanedi Pack House is a major step in the development of agriculture in our municipality.

Besides creating job opportunities, 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.

MADIMBO THUSONG SERVICE CENTRE

There is an old saying that a man does not see a beautiful rose in his own garden but as Musina, we have a lot of beautiful flowers in our own garden. We are proud of our own community services centre, the Madimbo Thusong Service Centre because it is rated amongst 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!

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 empower our communities.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

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 within our communities.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Honourable Speaker,

The current scourge of the violence against women and children is completely unacceptable.

It cannot be accepted that our women and children are not able to enjoy our freedom and liberation because of their vulnerability. 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.

GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

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

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.

AUDIT OUTCOMES

Fellow Councilors,

Honourable Speaker, we recently attended the 2021 / 2022 SALGA Municipal Excellence Awards in Polokwane. While all the municipalities in Vhembe proudly ascended the stage to collect their hard earned awards, we were so disappointed that we did not get a single award. This simply tells us that a lot of things are not going well in our municipality, ashamedly mentioning our qualified audit opinion which continues to regress.

During our MPAC public participation and public hearing for the 2021 / 2022 financial year, it was clear that we are a stagnant municipality that need a lot of improvement – not mentioning the inaccurate compilation of the valuation roll, keeping of traffic fine record, irregular expenditure and project underspending, to name but a few. This simply tells us that we need to pull up our socks before we become a dysfunctional local government.

2023 / 2024 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Honorable Speaker,

Let me present an overview of the 2023 / 2024 financial year estimates. Our election manifesto reaffirms that all achievements and successes of the past five years are to be sustained and improved.

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 total budget is four hundred eighty-four million eight hundred and sixty-eight thousand (R484 868 000).

The breakdown is as follows:

Capital budget will be funded from MIG allocation of thirty-four million and thirty six thousand (R 34 036 000)

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET BY MAJOR VOTE

- Executive and Council: Eighty-seven million one hundred sixty thousand
(R 87 160 000)
- Financial And Administration: One hundred thirty-nine million six hundred fifteen thousand (R 139 615 000)
- Community Services: Fifty-one million, Six hundred and One Thousand (R 51 601 000)
- Trading Services: One hundred and sixty-five million, seven hundred eighty one thousand (R165 781 000)
- Economic and Environmental Services: Thirty million, seven hundred and forty-three thousand (R30 743 000)

OPERATING GRANTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

EPWP: One million, two hundred and eighty-seven thousand (R1 287 000)

Equitable share: Two hundred and sixteen million, three hundred and forty-one thousand (R216 341 000)

Finance Management Grant: Three million (R 3 000 000)

The grand total of the operating grant is Two hundred and twenty million, six hundred twenty-eight thousand (R220 628 000)

Our rates will increase by Six percent (6%).

Honourable Speaker,

Let me leave you with the quotation from Ben Okri, one of the foremost African authors. It reads thus: *“The most authentic thing about us is our capacity to create, to overcome, to endure, to transform, to love and to be greater than our suffering.”* I close quote.

Together we can move Musina forward.

Ndi a livhuwa.