

# MAYOR'S SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR SK MNUKWA TO THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY ON THE 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020

Madam Speaker

Executive Committee Members

Chief Whip and Whippery

Councillors

Traditional Leaders

Municipal Manager and Senior Management

Officials present

Ladies and Gentlemen

Ndiyanibulisa ngegama le ntuthukho kunye negama leNkosi yethu uYesu Krestu, Amen.

**Ladies and Gentlemen;** the marked rise in Covid-19 infections requires immediate behavioural change from all our Municipal residents. The second wave is upon us and we ought to activate our resurgence plan in terms of public participation engagements, awareness campaigns and weekly joint operations committee meetings. The COVID-19 global pandemic seems to be adapting to the current conditions of our environment.

Previously the World Health Organisation (WHO) had indicated that the corona virus doesn't survive in conditions exceeding more than 27 degrees, however we're now witnessing a different narrative of this view and we ought to really work together to ensure that we don't emulate another Nelson Mandela Bay in the province.

The National State of Disaster has been extended to 15 January 2021 in line with the Disaster Management Act. Measures under the Alert Level 1 are crucial to minimise the spread of the virus and law enforcement officials are to ensure compliance with alert level 1 regulations.

Fellow Councillors; as we enter yet another festive season under difficult conditions, our region will be expected to host initiation schools across the Municipality. Following extensive consultation with traditional leaders, government has agreed that the summer initiation season in the Eastern Cape can go ahead. This is because traditional leaders in the Eastern Cape have submitted a risk adjusted plan that has been approved by Departments of Health and Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

The plan according to the President includes very strict adherence to health protocols which include screening of initiates, the provision of personal protective equipment and the provision of water for hygiene and to prevent dehydration. As responsible leaders in our communities I urge that we be safe this festive season – wear a mask, wash your hands frequently and practice social distance. This should also be emulated in our respective initiation schools at all times.

As I conclude, I'd like to wish all of you a very festive season, noting that we'll be observing it under the new normal. Please refrain from drinking and driving and be a responsive community leader in your setting. Let's appreciate safer roads and promote the visibility of law enforcement agencies.

Indeed this was a tough year and we've lost a few colleagues along the way but through Christ that strengthens us daily, I wish to commend your efforts and resilience in serving our communities. May God continue blessing you all and may you come back stronger and more resilient in the year 2021.

With those few words I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.