

**THE STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE
MAYOR COUNCILLOR SK MNUKWA HELD AT KWABHACA ON THE 29th
April 2021.**

Mphathi Nkgqubo,
Madam Speaker,
All Traditional Leaders present today,
Honourable Councillors,
Municipal Manager and Senior Managers,
Government Department Managers and Officials present,
Strategic Stakeholders and Forums,
Leaders of Religious Fraternity
The Leadership of Business, Labour and Civil Society,
Fellow Residents of Umzimvubu Municipality,
Members of the Media,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen

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

Ladies and Gentlemen; it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all here today. We stand here, gathered under the severe pressures of the current COVID-19 pandemic. We have witnessed one of the worst economic strains in the history of our country's democracy.

This, where many of our family members, friends and colleagues have lost their jobs due to unprecedented retrenchments. However today we stand together in the fight against job loss and rather promote a long stretch towards economic recovery.

On behalf of Umzimvubu Local Municipality, allow me to appreciate your attendance in this important ceremonial gathering apho nisivumeleyo ukuba sizokuthi namhlanje kuni singuMasipala wase Mzimvubu nazi izinto esizenzileyo kulonyaka mali sikuwo in aid of accountability and transparency. This, we do in relation to unpacking our Municipal developmental plans, whilst we also accelerate service delivery projects for the year ahead.

Fellow residents; we deliver this important Municipal address a day after we commemorated **Freedom Day** in honour of the late Charlotte Maxeke. The commemoration comes at a time when South Africa is about to embark on a massive vaccination programme.

These vaccines will save lives and represent our best chance to return to our normal way of life. We are gathered here today after twenty seven years of continuous remarkable achievements and that is a great opportunity for a huge celebration.

Although we have made remarkable progress since 1994, the spectre of inequality, poverty and unemployment remains one of the most glaring impediments to South Africa's goal of national unity and social cohesion.

We also dare not forget the terrible past from which we have come, nor should we forget the many sacrifices made by patriots to ensure our democracy and freedom. Our history abounds with selfless patriots who paved the way for a democratic and free South Africa.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of struggle icon and human rights campaigner Charlotte Maxeke. She and other selfless women of her generation fought against oppression at a time when such defiance was met with unrelenting force.

It is for this reason that we should honour our late veterans and struggle stalwarts who fought tooth and nail for our much enjoyed freedom today. By this, we ought to occupy the voting polls in numbers this coming October during the coming Local Government elections as alluded by the President of the Republic of South Africa, Honourable Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa. I call on you to go and practise your own right and vote for the party that will continue implementing your own service delivery needs/interests and make your voice heard and be part of the change that you want to see.

In short, let us honour this historic event that once liberated us from our pre-colonial past. Indeed, **now is the right time to have your say and mark your territory.**

Madam Speaker; As this Council, in the beginning of our term of office we developed a five year Municipal Service Delivery Strategy with clear plans and strategies on service delivery improvements in line with our National Key Performance Areas. We were clear about our agenda which was as follows:

- To be a leading provider in rendering excellent customer service and maintaining good relations amongst the community of Umzimvubu at large;
- To enhance public participation and inclusivity in support of ULM programmes so as to deepen democracy and the partnership between the municipality, communities and all stakeholders;
- To coordinate bulk services provisioning and eradication of backlogs in terms of electricity, services, and all social facilities;
- To provide and sustain the existing & future infrastructure developments so as to improve the livelihoods of our communities;
- To ensure the development and promotion of agriculture as a primary and number one economic base for the Municipality.

Let me mention that the planning, implementation and maintenance of basic infrastructure is critical for sustaining basic standards of living in our Municipality. Umzimvubu has the sole responsibility of creating decent living conditions by consistently delivering municipal services to the right quality and standard.

It is pleasing to note that imigaqo yokufikelela kunye nee bholorho ezithe zakhiwa kumnyaka mali u2020/2021 ngumasipala zithe zaxabisa imali engange **R11 972 831, 01** million ukanti kweziprojekthi kuthe kwaqeswha abantu abangaphaya kwekhulu elineshumi elinesithathu. Ukanti kuthe kwaxhamla abahlali bezi ward 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24 kwakunye no25.

ROADS AND CONSTRUCTION

The Municipality had set aside **R15 million** from its Internal Funding to improve service delivery in terms of constructing new access roads and a further additional amount of **R 56.1 million from the Municipal Infrastructure Grant** has been utilised in this current financial year to implement all infrastructure related projects including the construction of community halls **in ward 11, 10, 01 and 08.**

Umasipala kumnyaka mali u2020/2021 ukwazile ukwenza amabala okudlala kwilali yasePhepheni kwa ward 01, elibala lithe labekelwa bucala imali engange **R10 million** nalapho kuthe kwaqeshwa abantu abathandathu. Le projekthi esaqhubayo izakuncedisa abantu basePhepheni neelali ezingqongileyo.

Kwakhona uMasipala kwakulomnyaka mali ukwazile ukubekela bucala imali yokulungisa iRenki yezithuthi zabantu eseMaxesibeni engange R1 209 294.79 million. Ukanti kuvakele ukuba le projekthi isekwinqanaba labachweli i-Design Stage ngelamangesi.

Somlomo; uMasipala uthe chu ngcembe kwakulomnyaka mali ukugqibezele iziko leenjongo ezininzi i-Multi Purpose Center ukutsho kwa ward 07. Nalapho kuthe kwachithwa imali engange **R3 546 349.01 million**, ukanti kule projekthi kuthe kwaxhamla abantu abangamashumi amabini anesixhenxe.

All infrastructure projects planned for implementation in this current financial year 2020/21 are still under construction and will be finalised by end June 2021 xa kuphela lo nyaka mali sikuwo. Some of these projects planned for the current financial year are complete and others have been awarded whilst others are still under construction.

The following are key highlight projects that are being implemented under the current financial year. Due to time constraints, kindly please make use of the service delivery booklet/newsletter for your own reference and okumnandi kulo nyaka sithe masiyibhale ngesiXhosa ukuze wonke ubani akwazi ukuzifundela. All Municipal ward based projects can be extracted from this booklet.

PROJECT	WARD	PROJECT AMOUNT	AMOUNT INVESTED ON LABOUR	PROJECT STATUS
Phepheni Community Hall	1	R 1.9 million	R122 567.00	Construction
Ngwegweni Access Road Maintenance	2	R 1.1 million	R23 470.00	Construction
Sinethemba Access Road	3	R 1.1 million	R24 000.00	Construction

Singeni access road maintenance	4	R 1.2 million	R65 000.00	Project complete
Mapheleni Access Road	5	R 2.3 million	R51 500.00	Project Complete
Natala Access Road maintenance	6	R 1.2 million	R57 750	Project under Construction and progress is at 98% complete
Completion of Silindini Bridge and Access Road	6	R 2.6 million	R5 120.00	Construction
Emaxesibeni Cemetery Road Upgrade	7	R 9.8 million	R356 650 .00	Construction
Emaxesibeni transport hub	7	R 1.2 million	-	Design stage
Upgrade EmaXesibeni Streets along the CBD area	7	R17 million	R188 080	Construction
Upgrade EmaXesibeni Streetlights along the CBD area	7	R4.8 million	R298 160	Construction
Completion of Multi-Purpose Centre Phase 3	7	R3.5 million	R133 098.00	Construction
Lusuthu Community Hall	8	R 2.1 million	R90 000.00	Construction
Luxwesa Access Road Maintenance	9	R 997 000.00	R16 000.00	complete
Ntsimangweni Community Hall	10	R 1.9 million	R95 036.70	Construction
Mzinto Community Hall	11	R 2 million	R0.00	Construction
Upgrade EmaXesibeni Streets along the CBD area	7	R17 million	R188 080	Construction

Ladies and Gentlemen; as much as the municipality prides itself in achieving great strides towards adequate basic services, there are a few projects accompanied by challenges that will either delay or decrease the expected quantity and bridges because of heavy rain falls.

ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMMES

Fellow Residents; A total budget of R 24.7 million has been allocated for the electrification of various villages under Umzimvubu for this current financial year. The electrification programme is currently being rolled out in the following villages:

PROJECT NAME	WARD	PROJECT STATUS
Electrification of Ntlabeni	13	The project is under construction
Electrification of Sithane	14	The project is under construction
Mmangweni Electrification	22	The project is under construction
Mpondomise Electrification	23	The project is under construction

Ward 12 electrification project namely PHASE 2 – Completion of Mpoza Electrification is under construction and is expected to be complete by the 31st of May 2021. The electricity meters have been delivered and will be installed towards the end of May 2021. The project is progressing very well.

All communities should have access to at least a minimum level of services. This is not a goal, but a constitutional obligation. The municipality remains committed towards rural development and ensuring that electricity backlogs remain a thing of the past.

We are committed in service delivery because this is what people and our ratepayers are expecting us to do. We were able to achieve despite all the challenges encountered.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Programme Director; Umasipala uthe wakwazi ukulima umbona kwiiwardi zeli ziphela, nalapho kuthe kwavulwa amathuba emisebenzi angamashumi amahlanu anesine. Ukanti kuleprojekthi exabise imali engange R6, 500 000.00 million kuthe kwaxhamla abantu abangaphaya kwamakhulu amane (400).

Uthe kwakhona umasipala wancedisa kwiiwardi zonke zeli kwimveliso yemfuyo kwakunye noomashini bokushicilela uboya.

Le projekthi exabise imali engange R1, 1 million kuthe kwaxhamla kuyo abantu kwii ward zonke zomzimvubu.

Kwakhona uthe umasipala wancedisa ngemveliso **yefula Fodder** Production ukutsho kubahlali bakwa ward 15, nethe yaxabisa imali engange R200 000.00. Kuleprojekthi kuthe kwavulwa amathuba emisebenzi amahlanu ze kwaxhamla abantu abalishumi elinesihlanu.

Fellow residents; an amount of R1.8 million has been spent on provision of free basic services through paraffin and a further amount of R 5.2 million has been spent in the provision of free basic services for Electricity through Eskom.

One thousand, six hundred and seventy (1670) beneficiaries were subsidized with paraffin of which 2900 households benefited. Two thousand, two hundred (2200) beneficiaries are subsidized with 50 kilowatts electricity vouchers.

CITIZENS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Bahlali abahloniphekileyo; Umasipala kumnyaka mali u2020/2021 ukwazile ukwenza indawo yokulahla inkunkuma KwaBhaca, eLower Mvenyane kuward 10 kwakunye naseSithinteni kuward 11. Le projekthi ithe yaxabisa imali engange R3.5 million.

Ukanti ukwazile kwakhona uMasipala ukuphuhlisa ithala leencwadi kwilali yaseMsukeni eMaXesibeni. Leprojekthi ethe yaxabisa imali engange R2 million kuthe kuyo kwaxhamla abantu abane ngokufumana imisebenzi.

Uphinde umasipala waqhuba inkqubo yokucocwa kweedolophu nokwenziwa ntlekwazo, ukanti le projekthi ithe yaxabisa imali engange R2 million nalapho kuthe kwaxhamla abantu abangamabhinqa abangamashumi amathathu (30), ulutsha olungamashumi amabini anesibini (22) kwakunye nabantu abangekho kumaqela akhethekileyo abalishumi elinethoba.

Kwakhona uthe wakwazi umasipala **ukuqeqesha ootitshala???** ngobume bendalo Environmental Educators ukutsho, nalapho kuthe kwaxhamla abantu abatsha abangamashumi amabini anesixhenxe. Ukanti leprojekthi ithe yaxabisa imali engange R1.4 million.

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mphathi Nkgqubo; uthe waphinda wakwazi umasipala kwakulo mnyaka mali ka 2020/2021 kwisebe lalo masipala uSPU ukuvula amathuba emisebenzi ngenkqubo ka EPWP kwiward zomzimvubu zizonke. Ukanti kulenkqubo kuthe kwaqashwa abantu abangaphaya kwamawaka amathathu nalapho kuthe kwaxhamla ulutsha kwakunye namabhinqa kwakunye nootata. Imali ethe yasetyenziswa kulenkqubo ingange R7 500 224.00 million ukanti kuvakele ukuba isaqhuba lenkqubo.

Ukwazile kwakhona uMasipala ukuncedisa ulutsha lwakwa ward 3 eMsukeni ngezixhobo zokusebenza, ukanti iAkhayola Youth Project ithe yancediswa ngemali engange R29 000.00. Kuleprojekthi kuthe kwaxhamla abantu abatsha abasibhozo.

Umasipala uphinde wakwazi kwakhona ukuncedisa iprojekthi yabantu abadala ebizwa ngeSinoncedo Elderly Project yakwa ward 19, le projekthi ithe yancediswa ngemali engange R28 000.00 ukanti kuthe kwaxhamla abantu abadala abangamashumi amabini anesihlanu.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Bahlali abahloniphekileyo; uMasipala uthe wakwazi ukufakela iWiFi yamahala kwiidolophu zombini zalomasipala, nalapho kuthe kwafakelwa iindawo ezithi zisetyenziswe kakhulu ngabantu. Oko kuquka iiholo, iirenki,

iibhanki, amabala ebhola kwakunye neepaki. Ukanti le projekthi iphela ithe yaxabisa imali engange R 2.1 million.

Uphinde kwakhona uMasipala wakwazi ukunikezela ngeebhasari kubafundi beli lomzimvubu, abasuka kwiwardi ezilishumi elinesithathu nalapho kuthe kwaxhamla abalishumi elinesithandathu. Ukanti le projekthi ithe yaxabisa imali engange nine hundred and thirty thousand rand (R930 000.00).

Through this bursary programme we have been working systematically to boost the enrollment of as many young people as possible in the scarce skills fields. We have funded the enrollment of students into, Marine, Chemical and Mechanical Engineering, Microbiology, Medicine & Surgery studies, Agriculture science, Commerce, LLB, Information & Technology and Pharmacy. Rhoqo ngonyaka sibeka ecaleni imali ukuncedisa abantwana abaphumelele ibanga leshumi emagqabini abathi basuke kumakhaya angathathi ntweni.

We are also conducting an Annual Career Expo programme of which this is a developmental programme that focuses on Grade 9 learners residing within the area of Umzimvubu Local Municipality.

The programme entails bursary opportunities, employment opportunities and skills development opportunities. In light of the above mentioned, this is a self-driven programme by education institutions, private businesses and relevant government organisations that highlight various career opportunities in different sectors.

Ukwazile kwakhona umasipala ukuthatha abafundi be inservice training abasibhozo nalapho kuthe kuqeqesho lwabo kwachithwa imali engange one hundred and thirty two thousand rand (R132 000.00). Ukanti ababafundi bathe basuka kwiiwardi ezisibhozo zeli lomZimvubu.

Kwakhona lo Masipala ukwazile ukuqesha abafundi abasuka kwiidyunivesithi nabadinga uqeqesho lomsebenzi ii-Interns ukutsho nalapho kuthe kwaxhamla abantu abalishumi, ukanti kuleprojekthi kuthe kwachithwa imali engange R475 200.00.

Programme Director, it is unfortunate to announce that in the 2019/2020 Financial Year; our books did not receive favourable outcomes from the Auditor General. The Audit report issued by Auditor General in April 2021, was a Qualification Audit opinion.

As the municipality we have proactively developed an Audit Action Plan turnaround strategy that will assist us in yielding better results at the end of the financial year with smart timeframes.

The municipality wishes to reaffirm its commitment to spending the public funds in line with National Treasury prescripts and measures which are continuously being put in place to ensure good financial management.

Fellow residents; Let me thank you again for participating and attending IDP roadshows which were conducted by the municipality this past week. This is an important process which we encourage people to attend and participate in order to raise their needs or projects that they would like the municipality to implement in their order of priority to avoid a situation where people make demands after we have adopted IDP and Budget because of non-attendance of these hearings.

Let me also raise my concerns with regards to the ongoing land invasions that we have rapidly seen in the past month or two. This is seriously becoming a negative habit because the consequences of such activities result to houses being demolished and occupants fined or imprisoned for up to six months. I plead with all community residents to refrain from this malicious activity.

Allow me to conclude by encouraging communities to make use of the structures available in our communities such as War Rooms, Ward Committees, CDWs in order to participate fully in the decision making processes of the municipality and to contribute to the entire programs of the municipality.

We would appreciate if communities continue to attend our IDP roadshows, stakeholder engagement sessions such as Traditional Leaders sessions, rate payer's sessions, cluster meetings etc. in order to strengthen intergovernmental relations.

I wish to remind you that our Government is hard at work to transform people's lives and that we believe in carrying out the mandate of our government as effectively and efficiently as possible.

I THANK YOU!! NDIYABULELA.