

**OPENING REMARKS BY THE HONOURABLE MAYOR
COUNCILLOR GCINIKHAYA MAKHANDA ON THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION HELD
VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM ON 21-22 JANUARY 2021.**

Programme Director

Executive Committee Members

Madam Speaker

Chief Whip

MPAC Chair

Municipal Manager and Senior Managers, and

Officials present

Let me greet you all this morning in the name of the Lord and in the name of our call of rendering services to our communities. Masimbulele uSomandla ngokusigcina asiphephise kulo bhuhane wesifo se CORONA, let us embrace the new normal and ensure that we comply with all the Health protocols (Isezandleni zethu masisebenzisane norhulumente ukulwa nalobhubhane).

Programme Director, the Auditor General is still on site conducting audit for 2019/20 financial year, is it anticipated that an audit report will be issued out towards the end of February. We hope as councillors that le meko besikuyo Municipal Manager izakutshintsha because all the necessary resources needed for you to address this one recurring issue of Asset Management were provided by Council.

We are the only municipality in the district with a Qualification, this dilemma that we faced with yenza wonke lomsebenzi mhle siwenzayo in terms of service delivery ungabonakali.

I am proud to say that imisebenzi yethu iyabonakala yona and we are leading in terms of rendering services. We will therefore develop our turnaround strategy after receiving our final audit outcomes from Auditor General.

Madam Speaker, As instructed by the Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003, **section 72** states that the Accounting Officer must by 25 January of each year assess the half yearly performance of the municipality, the municipal service delivery performance, service delivery targets set in the SDBIP and submit such reports to the Mayor, National and Provincial Treasury.

The Accounting Officer as part of this review must make recommendations as to whether an adjustment budget is necessary and recommend revised projections for revenue and expenditure to the extent that this is necessary.

The departmental Strategic Planning sessions were held in the previous week and some in December last year where all departments with standing committee members converged to review their performance targets, adjust their departmental targets and adjusted budget where necessary.

Fellow Councillors, In light of the above mentioned legislative requirements, in this extended two day EXCO session we will need to revisit our SDBIP set targets, adjust budget and amend some of the set targets where necessary. I hope all departments have embarked on this exercise and will be presenting their proposed amendments and budget adjustment proposals.

Lastly, let me take this opportunity and welcome all of you to this important session, your contributions will be of greatest importance and you are all welcomed.

I THANK YOU!!