

**POLITICAL OVERVIEW SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE MAYOR  
COUNCILLOR GCINIKHAYA MAKANDA ON THE COUNCIL STRATEGIC  
PLANNING SESSION HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM ON 26-27 JANUARY  
2021.**

Madam Speaker

Chief Whip and Whippery

Councillors

Traditional Leaders

Municipal Manager and Senior Management

Officials present

Members of Unions

Ladies and Gentlemen

**Good morning!! Molweni nonke in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
Amen.**

**Fellow Councillors;** As we begin with the year 2021, I'd like to take this opportunity and welcome everybody back at work. I hope the festive season has given us a much needed break to rest and recharge our strength and prepare for the New Year.

**Madam Speaker;** This is the year in the lead towards 2021 Local Government Elections, the communication unit has begun with the implementation of the Local Government Election campaign programmes as contained in our communication action plan. This means that service delivery related projects will be monitored and profiled upon their completion.

This campaign ought to re-ignite confidence from community residents thus also ensuring that we live up to our slogan "Uphuhliso Kumntu Wonke". The long term campaign known as "Asiphelelanga Siyaqhuba" began on the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January as emulated on Umhlobo Wenene.

This campaign will also run coherently with our ‘Talk to Your Councillor’ radio programme where all Councillors are expected to provide residents with feedback on the implementation of service delivery related projects. The municipality remains committed in ensuring that all residents receive equal access to basic services.

Ngomhla wesithandathu kwinyanga yomqungu kulonyaka ka 2021, uMasipala wasekuhlaleni uMzimvubu uthethe wafumana ingxelo ngezikhukhula ezithe zakhukhulisa igrabile exhuma kwibholorho ekwilali iCabazana kuward 26.

Umasipala uthethe waya kuhlola umonakalo kwangoko ze ngomhla wethoba kwaqaliswa ukulungiswa. Ukanti ukwenziwa kwalo msebenzi uwonke kuxabise amawaka asixhenxe R70 000 ukutsho. Kungoku nje iyasetyenziswa ngabahlali, ziimoto kwakunye nemfuyo ngokuqhelekileyo.

**Fellow Councillors**, this speedy response in terms of addressing our challenges is very much appreciated as most of our people now have access to basic services and that continues to significantly free more of our people from the stranglehold of under-development.

**Honourable Councillors**, Earlier this month the ANC celebrated 109 years of its existence. However due to the nationwide lockdown and strict adherence to COVID 19 regulations, the statement was delivered virtually by the President of the ruling party, Cyril Ramaphosa. The President in his address stated that the foremost immediate priority to the organization is to **overcome the COVID-19 pandemic**. The virus is ever-present and it threatens the health and well-being of everyone in our country. It threatens livelihoods and undermines our efforts to rebuild the economy and create jobs. To overcome COVID-19 we are preparing to implement a mass vaccination programme that reaches all South Africans as appropriate quantities of an effective and suitable vaccine are procured.

**Programme Director**, we have a task that lies ahead of us for the next two days, which was preceded by work done during departmental strategic planning sessions and further by the extended EXCO strategic planning session. Unfortunately this year because of the pandemic we were forced to hold our strategic planning sessions virtually that is why we have considered this type of arrangement for the success of the session.

**Madam Speaker**, we are also gathered here as instructed by the Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003, section 72 which 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 and 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.

In light of the above mentioned legislative requirements, we converged as extended EXCO to review some of the set performance targets where necessary on midterm performance reports tabled by departments, made proposals for the adjustment of departmental performance targets and adjusted budget.

Those proposed adjustments will therefore be presented by departments as the Draft EXCO Strategic planning session outcomes to this full Council so that as this collective we may input and make additions in order to produce an Institutional Plan. It must also be noted that due to COVID 19 some of the targets and KPI's have been adjusted.

The proposed performance target amendments, budget adjustment proposals and new/reviewed policies/SOP's and organogram review proposals as discussed and consolidated will also be tabled to this Council.

**Madam Speaker**, the Auditor General is still busy on site with the audit of 2019/20 financial year, it is anticipated that they will complete the audit towards the end of February 2021 and thereafter be able to issue out the Audit outcome/opinion. We will thereafter as Council consider developing audit turnaround strategy as informed by the outcomes of the audit.

**In conclusion**, there has been a lot that the municipality has done in terms of rendering services to Umzimvubu people, let us double our efforts as this collective for the betterment of our people's lives and to improve the institution's entire performance.

**Lastly**, let me take this opportunity and wish you fruitful deliberations during this session. You are all welcome in this important gathering.

**I THANK YOU!!!!**