

OPENING ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HER WORSHIP CLLR ZUKISWA NDEVU DURING THE EXCO STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION IN DURBAN ON THE 17TH JANUARY 2022.

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 our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

It is with a great sense of humility and appreciation that I stand here today to join hands with you as we put together a plan that will guide the direction we will take as a Municipality in the next five years. It is imperative that we all join hands and focus on some of the critical issues that have been raised by members of the community without any attempt to take a defensive stance.

There are a number of key references that will inform the input I am about to make today, and key among them are the following:

- The ANC 2021 Local Government elections manifesto
- Inaugural Speech as presented by the Mayor – 1st 100 days in office

Each of the above have a specific and critical role in shaping the way we approach this all important session. There are also a number of important matters we need to look at if we are to achieve any fundamental change in the institution over the next five years.



The departmental Strategic Planning sessions were held in the previous week where all standing committee members converged

The MANCO strategic planning session took place last week. This is where all reports were technically engaged and amended for the benefit of this platform. The platform reviewed their performance targets, adjusted their departmental targets and budget where necessary.

Fellow Councillors; Allow me to remind you that this platform provides the overall strategic direction of the Municipality. Let me also state it from the outset that all our efforts will be in vain if we put the plans together and not have the necessary vehicle in place to drive its successful implementation.

As we enter this new developmental era in the municipality, let us ensure that there is also a new culture of doing things.

This IDP affords us an opportunity to reflect on the growth of the Municipality over the past five years, assess the direction we have taken and determine the route we need to follow in the future.

The ANC manifesto for the 2021 local government elections has identified the following strategic areas on which we need to respond:

- Improved quality of service to our communities,
- Increase the number of households that have direct access to water,
- Improve on the provision of sanitation and restoring the dignity of our people,
- Ensure access to electricity and fully serviced land for our communities.

The call is therefore being made that we assess our capacity in all these areas and initiate measures to address both the backlog and maintenance of existing infrastructure.

Our ability to attract investment in the Municipality is highly dependent on our ability to provide the necessary environment both in terms of



physical infrastructure and managing our internal systems in processing such applications.

Speaker; We need to put measures in place to continuously ensure that we measure our performance and compliance with set targets. There needs to be more accountability across all levels of the leadership spectrum and systems put in place to ensure continuous flow of information in the institution.

We therefore need to strengthen our Monitoring and Evaluation Systems especially for output departments which have a direct impact on our communities. We really need to put measures in place to continuously ensure that we measure our performance and compliance with our own set targets.

In conclusion we need an aggressive LED strategy or drive that will ensure that we put the Municipality on the map and influence investor confidence in the municipality. We need to have a product that is able to sell Umzimvubu at various platforms. We need to leverage every platform at our disposal for the benefit of the Municipality and use all marketing tools at our disposal.

Let us all join hands in building a better Municipality for all, let us create opportunities for our communities to develop and grow.

Thank you

Delivered by the Honourable Mayor,
Cllr Zukiswa Ndevu

