

## OPENING ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HER WORSHIP CLLR ZUKISWA NDEVU DURING THE MUNICIPAL STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION IN DURBAN ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022.

Municipal Manager and Senior Management

Sectional Managers

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning

Once again, compliments of the new year.

Please allow me to take this opportunity and thank you all for attending this important MANCO Strategic Planning Session.

**Municipal Manager;** We are gathered here today, just days after the President delivered another historic January 8<sup>th</sup> Statement in Polokwane. He reminded us that local government is and will remain the implementing agent of government's transformation and delivery programs.

Transformation and basic service delivery is the primary vehicle for carrying out this role. Local government should therefore create the capacity to be able to deliver the required services within the stipulated timeframes.

This brings me back to our implementation pace on grant funded projects. I want to stress that these grants are crucial for our Municipality as we are heavily dependent on them. By now (mid-term), we ought to have spent at least 50% on grant funded projects, so that we remain compliant with the transcriptions of this funding. **However, if this is not the case, then I hope you have developed comprehensible turn around strategies to mitigate all problematic areas and challenges.**



**Ladies and Gentlemen;** Allow me to remind you that corruption is the enemy of freedom and fairness because it is the thief of opportunity. All Municipal funds ought to be used effectively by stretching every tax rand to achieve optimum outputs in the direct interest of every resident. I want us to reaffirm our commitment to spending public funds in line with the National Treasury prescripts and measures which are continuously being put in place to ensure good financial management.

**Municipal Manager;** The decisions we make as this council are put into test and the public is now aware of our actions. Consequently, the IDP/Budget process plan that was adopted presents more of what is required of us.

It should become a habit and a hobby to constantly communicate with the people and highlight all challenges that we may have encountered in the execution of our mandate, and further clarify on our achievements as this Municipality.

It should also be noted that we are still under the audit period. During this period, I have learnt that all departments have responded to the 59 RFI's that were issued. Not only did we respond to these RFI's, but the required information was submitted on time. I applaud you all.

However, I should express my concern with BTOs deviation to a collective instruction. It was agreed, that all departments would convene their departmental strategic planning sessions in Durban, but I noted with dismay that Budget and Treasury deviated from the initial instruction and conducted their strat plan in East London. The explanation is not clear and we cannot have such exemptions in the near future as it explicitly undermines our collective agreement.

**Ladies and Gentlemen;** Unity must drive us to be a winning team. In order to attain good results, we should collectively contribute towards our strategic development path. This collective agreement necessitates that we ensure the results of this strategy would contribute positively and add value to the life of Umzimvubu Local Municipality.



By us being here, we confirm our commitment to service delivery and furthermore, subscribe to the slogan “Uphuhliso Kumntu Wonke”. We are here to prepare and plan, we hope that opportunities will present themselves so that we can be seen as a municipality that is performing and ultimately successful in all its required functional areas.

We need to push good values of the organisation to our employees. We need to introduce change that is founded on good principles and culture. We must excel on what we do. Strategy is about understanding the linkages between issues and identifying the key drivers and points of influence.

I want to be explicit about my philosophy of treating professional civil servants professionally. However, this is a two-way activity that will need to be exercised on both ends. Officials ought to always respect their political office bearers. I know that some of you are politicians in your own circles however you have been appointed professionally as public servant in local government. This means that your political affiliations cease to exist during office time.

Ladies and Gentlemen with those few words allow me wish you all a safe trip back home and trust that you will implement the resolutions of this strategic planning session next week when some of you get back to office.

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Delivered by the Honourable Mayor,  
Cllr Zukiswa Ndevu

