

OPENING ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HER WORSHIP CLLR ZUKISWA NDEVU DURING THE MUNICIPAL STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION IN DURBAN ON THE 10TH JANUARY 2022.

Madam Speaker

Executive Committee Members

Chief Whip and Whippers

Councillors

Traditional Leaders

Municipal Manager and Senior Management

Media Houses

Government Officials

Ladies and Gentlemen

Compliments of the New Year.

Please allow me to take this opportunity and welcome all of you to this important Municipal Strategic Planning Session.

Fellow Councillors; We gather here today, just days after the President delivered another historic January 8th 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 this session will need to craft a comprehensible turn around strategy that will mitigate all our challenges.

Ladies and Gentlemen; 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.

Speaker, 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.

The Auditor General has recently issued a communication of audit findings in which all 15 findings were responded swiftly too by Management. This then means that if AG allows an adjustment on those that need to be adjusted, we then stand a good chance for an improved audit outcome.

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.

As Councillors, we are like Architects since we have to set and develop the vision for our municipality. Managers, as Builders, have to ensure that the vision set is realised. In that respect, when our term ends, we must not be shy and we must ensure that the strategic choices we make would yield these results

Delivered by the Honourable Mayor,
Cllr Zukiswa Ndevu

