

The Honorable Speaker Cllr Mokgoro Shasha
Members of the Mayoral Committee
Fellow Councillors
The Municipal Manager
Directors and Designated Officials
Leaders from different political parties
Representatives from Provincial Departments (Provincial Treasury and COGTA)
KPMG and Office of the General Auditor
Distinguished members of the Community
Ladies and gentlemen

All Protocol Observed!

Madam Speaker, it is a great privilege and an honour to address this sitting of Council on this important occasion - the presentation of the 2010/11 Budget and Integrated Development Plan (IDP). In the Xhariep District Municipality, we see the budget as an instrument through which we manage public funds in a way that ensures that we improve the quality of life of our people.

We see the budget as an instrument of development and we do this through planning, allocation, control and proper accounting for every cent entrusted to this local government.

It should be noted that in last two financial years, 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 the Provincial Departments of COGTA and Treasury provided the District with financial assistance amounting to 5 million and 9, 2 million, respectively.

It is important to mention that it was a daunting task for the District to approve its budget for 2010/2011 financial year in time as Council mandated the Executive Mayor and the Municipal Manager to request additional funding from the Provincial Departments of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) and Treasury to address the deficit.

The main reason for the record increase of the budget is the commitment by the Municipality to fulfill its Constitutional obligations and powers and functions as outlined in Section 84 of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act. As a result a provision has been made for Environmental Health and Disaster Management in the 2010/2011 financial year and other projects that will make a significant impact on service delivery.

We still have those who live in abject poverty, those who live in the misery of the earth as well as those who live in luxury. The ANC that also happens to be the ruling party went out to the people and asked them to list five things which they considered as priorities that needed immediate government attention and they listed the following:

Education

For the past financial year, our District prioritized education to such an extent it provided the following:

- Financial assistance to 3 Learners to study in tertiary level at the University of the Free State and Central University of Technology respectively.
- Provided shoes to 500 poor children in Jagersfontein, Trompsburg, Oppermansgronde, Gariep Dam, Edenburg and Bethulie.
- Provision of bicycles to children from remote areas in Rouxville, Gariep Dam, Jagersfontein, Jacobsdal, Faurismith and Oppermansgronde.
- Provision of school uniform to poor Children in Jagersfontein

Health

During the Nelson Mandela Day our District donated hospital equipments in Jagersfontein Diamandthoogte Hospital. We saw recruitment of 100 district employees offering their voluntary service to clean the hospital and clinic at Itumeleng Location in Jagersfontein.

In partnership with Department of Health, we played important part in the provincial government HIV/AIDS programmes. Our District Aids Council has participated in progressive programme for HIV Counseling and Testing.

Rural Development

- Our district screening committee comprised of the Executive Mayor, Department of Rural Development, Land Reform and one (1) Councillor representative from each Local Municipality have managed to advise the department in providing farms to the ordinary citizens in our communities.
- Our municipal IDPs have made specific reference to the development of the Commonage Policy and Management with the intention to convert communal farmers to commercial farmers.

Creation of Decent Jobs and sustainable livelihoods

- As a district we strived to create conducive environment for workers and created more job opportunities as we have already filled 90% of the vacancies in the organogram of our staff establishment.
- For 2009/2010 the Executive Mayor facilitated the appointment of fifty (50) contractors on behalf of the Department of Police, Roads and Transport. This road maintenance project created employment for about 2 000 workers within the District.

Crime

- We must ensure that we encourage our people to join and work hand in hand with our community policing forums and South African Police Services. It is also important to commend the good behavior of our communities during the World Cup as our district organized mobile big screens to bring World Cup closer to our people and those who cannot afford to buy tickets.

Operation Hlasela

The Premier of the Free State Provincial Government initiated this project with the intention to address the above-mentioned government five key priorities. The Provincial Government in collaboration with the District made interventions in Jagersfontein by constructing an access road, building RDP houses and refurbishing the stadium.

2010 FIFA World Cup

It is imperative to take this opportunity to commend our government and FIFA Local Organizing Committee for hosting a successful 2010 World Cup even though our national team, Bafana Bafana has been knocked out of the competition. I therefore urge the community of the District to support Ghana as it is the only African team that has proceeded to the knock-out stages of the competition. If it happens that Ghana is also knocked out of the competition we should be behind one of the South American teams as to ensure that the cup remains in the southern hemisphere.

Honorable Speaker

A special word of gratitude goes to the Premier and his Executive Council, the MEC for COGTA in particular for enabling us to pass a balanced budget.

I present this budget during the historic month in the history of our country and our continent Africa, whereby we host the most prestigious event, the World Cup and during the Youth Month, it is also important to highlight the fact that as a district we were unable to approve the budget as planned because of deficit.

Thanks to the Premier of the Free State Honourable Ntate Magashule and the MEC for Corporative Governance and Traditional Affairs Honourable MEC Zwane for showing support and trust in the leadership of our Municipality by financially assisting us to can be able to pass a balanced budget for 2010/2011. Everyone will witness that the Provincial Government under the Leadership of Premier Magashule has always shown such assistance to our municipality hopefully there is still more to come.

This demonstrates that **“Working Together We Can Do More”**

Honorable Speaker, fellow Councillors.

During the Public Participation processes of IDP and budget, communities have commended our Budget and IDP. I don't have any doubt that our Budget and IDP are community based because communities were granted with an opportunity to have inputs.

Honorable Speaker

The budget I stand to present today complies with the provision of Municipal Finance Management Act as required.

Our total budgeted expenditure is estimated at R 37, 060 117.00 Million

The following projects are included in the total estimated expenditure of the Municipality:

District Aids Council	R 110 000.00
Public Participation	R 170 000.00
Youth development Programmes	R 90 000.00
Special Programmes	R 80 000.00
Intergovernmental Relations	R 80 000.00
Social Responsibility	R 361 000.00
Mandela Day	R 30 000.00
Bicycles	R 40 000.00
Security Services	R1, 343 709.00

It was our ardent intention to make provision for more projects in the budget but due to financial constraints we could only budget for the above-mentioned projects. However, the Department Of COGTA and other Provincial Department will sponsor other developmental projects in the District.

This Budget focuses on the key priority areas agreed upon by the community and council, and it recognizes the role our council plays in achieving a better life for our residents and stakeholders.

Madam Speaker in my conclusion

African Americans and African South Africans are free but not equal, in jail they are the first to be in numbers, they have the shortest life span than any other race worldwide and they still are the servant in every economy worldwide.

For those who believe that South Africa has the best constitution and therefore a rainbow nation the question is if it is best, Best for whom? If we have this rainbow nation, where is the African color in the economy?

Ladies and Gentlemen what this message says is that there is still to be done by all of us. Once more, I repeat, as I move this budget for approval: **“Working Together We Can do More To Speed Up Service Delivery”**

Honorable Speaker

Let me extend the word of thanks to all Councillors, Municipal Manager and his Management team, staff in general in making efforts to ensure that this Council succeeds in its endeavors.

I therefore submit the balanced budget of 37, 060 117.00 and IDP for 2010/2011 for your approval.

I thank You!!