

Honourable Speaker

Mr President said in the State of the Nation address that “we should put South Africa first. All of us have a patriotic duty and responsibility to build and promote our country.” he further said “The National Development Plan provides a perfect vehicle for united action precisely because it has the support of South Africans across the political and cultural spectrum. Leaders in every avenue should be ready to rise above sectional interests and with great maturity, pull together to take this country forward.”

As Xhariep District Municipality we need to tune in making sure that we put the interest of our communities first and better the life of our people. We have compiled a 2013/2014 budget which seeks to serve as a tool to realise our vision, objectives and future developmental goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen

We are presenting this budget here today during this important year in the history of South Africa, this year marks the 100 years of land act of 1913, this act was passed because of constant pressure by Whites to prevent the intrusion of Blacks on White areas. This law incorporated territorial segregation into legislation for the first time since Union in 1910.

The law was created for Blacks and prohibited the sale of White territory to Blacks and vice versa.

Madam Speaker

In his State of the Province address the Honourable Premier made mention of the important projects that are aimed at boosting our economy, amongst others he mentioned:

The green economic solar zone in the Xhariep district which will result in the establishment of the Xhariep Solar Park that will harness the excellent solar radiation in the southern part of the Free State that is suitable for the deployment of solar electricity generation technologies. The project phase 1 is estimated at R1.8 billion and is set to be established in the Bethulie.

The Bulk Water Schemes in the Xhariep District, namely Phase 2 of the Jagersfontein/Fauresmith and Rouxville/Smithfield/Zastron. We are particularly pleased that Phase 1 of the project has been completed and that the residents of Jagersfontein now receive clean drinking water.

We are humbled by the unvarying support we are enjoying from the Provincial Government and the leadership of the Free State.

Education

Hon Speaker, a fundamental aspect of our mandate is to improve the quality of basic education. We have achieved significant improvements with these objectives, including our school infrastructure, early childhood development, inclusive education, special schools and full service schools.

We take particular pride in the achievement of the Department of Education, our learners, teachers and parents in the 2012 National Senior Certificate. Our achievement has earned us the

2nd place in the province in terms of the pass rate, Xhariep obtained 80% pass rate which was a good result.

INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW

Chapter five of the Municipal Systems Act, No 32 of 2000 requires all the Municipalities to undertake development –oriented planning so as to ensure that each municipality strives to achieve the objects of local government as set out in Section 152 of the Constitution.

Section 25 of the Municipal Systems Act provides that each Municipal Council must within a prescribed period after the start of its term of office, adopt a single, inclusive and strategic plan for the development of the Municipality, which is to guide development for the next 5 years while in office.

Madam Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, in compliance with the Municipal Structures Act, No. 117 of 1998 and Municipal Financial Management Act No 56 of 2003, our Municipal budget is informed and aligned to the IDP objectives.

When we talk about participative governance – we are talking about letting the people govern. This demands that residents be consulted and be allowed to have input in mapping out their future in line with the government service “Batho Pele” principles. This is in keeping with the Constitution of this country, Chapter 4 of the Municipal Systems Act, and of course the Freedom Charter.

Re le Masepala wa setreke re ile ra tsamaisa ditokomane tsena tsa rona eleng, ya ditekanyetso tsa ditjhelete le ya maano a ntshetso pele ya masepala dibakeng tse fapaneng moo re neng re nonya maikutlo a setjhaba le ho kopa diphehiso tsa setjhaba mabapi le ditokomane tsena tsa masepala.

Mmuso wa rona ke mmuso o kgathallang ditabatabello tsa setjhaba ke ka hoo re reng ha re sebedisana mmoho re ka fihlella tse ngata.

Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano, ke kopa o ntumelle ke hlalose diteka-tekayetso tsa selemo sa ditjhelete sa 2013-2014

Budget

Income Budget

❖ Interests (investment and current account)	: R128 600
❖ Rentals of facilities	: R340 723
❖ Other Income	: R88 774
❖ Tender documents fees	: R15 000
❖ Equitable Share	: R25 535 000
❖ Finance Management Grant	: R1 250 000
❖ Municipal Systems Improvement Grant	: R890 000
❖ EPWP Incentive Grant	: R1 000 000
❖ Finance Assistance Grant	: R30 000 000
❖ Rural Roads and Asset Management Grant	: R1 296 000

The total projected revenue for 2011/2012 financial year is R 60, 503, 461

Expenditure budget

❖ Repairs and Maintenance	: R1 151 000
❖ Audit fees	: R1 800 000
❖ General Expenses	: R10 922 949
❖ Salaries	: R34 411 007
❖ Councillors Allowances	: R3 239 545

The total projected expenditure for the departments is R 62, 856,317

Honourable Speaker, we also need to ensure that the economic development potential of the district is unlocked during the new financial year. It is only through sustainable economic development that we can provide a better life for all our people in the region.

All of us must support LED-initiatives, and all local municipalities must ensure that they appoint officials with the correct skills and qualifications, to take the economic development of the district to another level.