



The home of harmony, prosperity and growth

DRAFT IDP/BUDGET SPEECH DELIVERED BY:

EXECUTIVE MAYOR CLLR VICTORIA DE BEER-MTHOMBENI: 31 MAY 2022

Madam Speaker Neheng Mopedi

Chief whip Leponesa Sotshiva

Honourable Councillors

Acting Municipal Manager

Directors

Good afternoon, Goeie middag, dumelang.

Madam Speaker, this year, as a country we are celebrating 28 years of freedom. We are celebrating on the ruins of apartheid and at the same time we are able to build a democratic, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa. We have done a lot to build our dream country, and yet, a lot still has to be done, keeping in mind that 28 years is a very short time in historical terms.

Madam Speaker, as a country, from tomorrow the 1st of June, we will be stepping into the June Month. A month dedicated and designated as youth month. It is designated to celebrate and commemorate the pitched battles fought fearlessly and gallantly by the young people in Soweto and elsewhere in the country against the most brutal regime in recent history. Today we are standing on the shoulders of those young people, some of whom paid with their lives for us to be free.

As we celebrate this month fellow councilors, let us not forget the calls made by young people during the recent public meetings and Mayoral Imbizos we had. The young people of Ngwathe requested leadership from all of us. They request that we create opportunities for them to be able to explore their talents and innovations. They request that we help them with access to markets so that they can sell their products. These calls came from young people involved in the Agricultural industry. They request that we allow them to showcase their artistic talents by opening space in the music, dramatic and film industry.

Honorable Councillors, the young people of our area are requesting that we help them in opening opportunities in the Vredefort dome heritage site. Young people have requested that we build an innovation incubation hub so that they could use it to develop new business ideas and develop their business. , Honorable Councilors we dare not fail in our mission to make Ngwathe a place they can proudly call home. We must find time and space to head their call.

Madam speaker agriculture, tourism and Arts, are sleeping economic giants that need to be awakened, if we are serious about the Economic Development of Ngwathe. We are going to establish an Investment attraction unit in the office of the Executive Mayor. The terms of reference and composition of the unit will be unveiled in due course to council. These units must help us to attract and bring the desired investment in all our towns constituting Ngwathe to ensure job creation and the building of the economy. We are also excited to announce that we are establishing a fully fledged Directorate for Local Economic Development. This is how serious we are in dealing with the unemployment rate within Ngwathe Municipality by creating opportunities for our communities.

Above all Madam Speaker, the trends in the whole country and globally points indicate its direction to SMME's as a way to go if we have to stimulate the economy, it is therefore important that as a municipality we must embrace Township Economy. When we kick-start the Township economy initiative, we need to engage all our stakeholders. These will help in awith remedial action to tackle the problems. The challenge we face, honorable councillors, is that most of our townships business owners, if not all, have surrendered their business to foreigners nationals. I am raising this matter without sounding Xenophobic that we must encourage our people to go back to their shops and tuckshops as these will be our base for the development of Township Economy. It is about time that we make use of our biggest assets mainly Mimosa Gardens in Parys, The Eerfs Dam in Heilbron and many more, The AirDome in Parys by starting to get its Licence back and decide what the future will hold for the community of Ngwathe in terms of Job Creation. What excites me more is the engagement around the re-establishment of the Ngwathe Traffic Department and the official handing over of the Fezile Dabi Stadium with the Provincial Departments; this will also help with the revenue stream of the municipality.

Madam Speaker, we are living in the world of scientific and technological revolution that is ushering the Fourth Industrial Revolution. As the municipality, we cannot be found wanting. We are going to investigate in the 2022/23 financial year, the possibility of rolling out WIFI services in strategic areas such as libraries, community halls, multi-purpose centres. Once the investigation is completed and we have all the facts at our disposal, we will have to then roll out the implementation in the financial year 2023/2024.

We will roll out WIFI to our communities, so that they participate in the global digital revolution. We are showing a high digital content and technology penetration as a society, and we should take advantage of that. Honorable Councillors with a stable network connection Ngwathe can become a place where most people can come and find a resting place, COVID-19 has shown that work can now be done from the comfort of our homes, with the two Golf Estates that we have in Parys it can be a great investment for those working from home as we are a few kilometers away from the North West Province and Gauteng Province. As the young ones say Madam Speaker, the future is only a click away. I know Madam speaker that some may find this wave of technology difficult to comprehend, but we are sure there is a need to move with time and adapt, otherwise we will be forcefully, altered and deleted. These will be a direct response to calls made by our communities and young people during the public meetings and Mayoral Imbizo.

Madam Speaker, we have also resolved at the lekgotla to seek partnership with institutions of higher learning. We have identified 6 universities surrounding Ngwathe, namely University of the Free State, University of the North West- Potchefstroom campus, University of Johannesburg, University of the Witwatersrand and Vaal University of Technology. A multi-party task team will be established to approach these universities to seek a partnership and

sign a memorandum of understanding. We seek these partnerships to enhance our capacity in the field of Engineering, Water Technology, Urban Design, Technology, Good Governance, Economics, Tourism, Arts and Culture, Agricultural technology etc. We will seek a Memorandum of understanding with each of these universities based on specific areas they are strong on. Research will have to be conducted to empower the multi-party task team, which will be approaching these universities with knowledge and specific needs of Ngwathe.

Honorable Councillors i will like to announce that we have started to prepare business plans based on the priorities raised at our IDP meetings, which are mainly the issue around the Water and Sanitation and Electricity challenges we faced with as the municipality, this business plans will be submitted today to the Office of the Presidency seeking funding from the Infrastructure South Africa Grant which seeks to help municipalities with the backlog of service delivery. We will also put up a business plan that will have to deal with the Roads and Storm water of the municipality, keeping Ngwathe Municipality Clean has become a top priority for the cleanliness of our Towns will drive us closer to servicing our communities.

Madam Speaker, emanating from the IDP public consultation meetings and having discussed thoroughly at the Iekgotla, we have, after analysing the external environment, developed and set out a long term vision, mission and values of the municipality. The Vision sets out the kind of a municipality Ngwathe should be in for the longest term. We have also developed 5 years' strategic objectives which are the aims the municipality will like to achieve in the next 5 years.

Madam Speaker allow me to present the Vision, Mission, Values and Strategic objectives we seek to achieve in the next five years.

Our Vision Statement will be:

A viable municipality with inclusive economy, sustainable development and quality services for all'

Whereas our Mission Statement will be:

To provide affordable and quality municipal services and address triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality, and promote sustainable development through cooperative, strategic partnerships and innovation.

The values which will be our compass will be as follows:

Values	Descriptions
Transparency	We practice good governance, openness and strive to understand the needs of our community at all times.
Commitment:	We are dedicated to the services we render to the community. We are committed to realize the objective of local government in South Africa.
Accountability:	We respect and value our people and ensure that we are accountable and responsible on all aspects of our work
Integrity	We perform our work diligently with integrity and courage to ensure that our communities are able to trust and believe in us.
Democracy	We encourage adherence to the constitution of the country, by allowing everybody to exercise their rights.
Perseverance	We work with tolerance and patience in the service of our communities.

Honorable Councillors, the strategic objectives to inform our plans for the next 5 years will be as follows:

- To ensure sustainable provision of safe, reliable and quality water to the community
- To ensure sustainable provision of electricity
- To ensure the provision of sustainable sanitation to the community
- To ensure the provision of trafficable roads and storm water
- To ensure provision of social services to communities
- To ensure environmental sustainability in Ngwathe
- To create an enabling environment that stimulates economic growth and create jobs
- To ensure effective organisational and management of human resources
- To ensure sound budgeting and accounting systems compliant with applicable legislation
- To ensure a financially viable municipality
- To ensure effective management of municipal expenditure
- To ensure effective mitigation of risks to the municipality
- To ensure effective financial reporting compliant with applicable legislation
- To ensure good governance and participation of communities.

Madam Speaker, let it be noted that the 2022/23 Budget is linked to the IDP, we note that this will be an unfunded budget mainly because of one of our Major Creditor which is Eskom, we are currently in talks with them trying to find an amicable solution we would like to get ourselves at a stage where we can fully service the account but this will need the support from all stakeholders. The Budget and IDP indicates the direction we are navigating to, in achieving the following goals:

- Provision of sustainable and accessible basic services to all.
- Provision of a safe and healthy environment
- Promotion of economic growth and job creation
- Promotion of good governance, organisational development and sustainability

Madam Speaker and fellow councillors, the following constitute the key budget focus areas for the 2022/23 financial year:

- Cost reduction to ensure affordable tariff
- Social support to those residents who cannot afford to pay for services
- Continuous infrastructure development to upgrade ageing networks as well as the maintenance thereof
- Intensification of job creation activities through the implementation of capital projects, expanded public works programme and the need to develop the Township Economy.
- Good governance and clean administration
- Continuous efforts to ensure high collections rates
- Our revenue base remains under pressure and needs to be expanded over the medium term to sustain the financial position of the municipality

Madam speaker we once more call upon our residents to continue showing support by prioritising payments of municipal services to build a better future and improve the living conditions of residents.

Madam speaker the proposed revenue budget for the 2022/23 financial year is R 937 million, with the operational expenditure budget of R1,012 billion and a Capital budget of R135 million.

Madam speaker Sanitation revenue for the financial year 2022/23 is projected at R 68.2 million. These represents an increase of R11, 9 Million from the 2021/22 financial year. Waste removal for the 2022/23 financial year is projected at R 54.7 million and these represent an increase of R 8,9 million as compared to the 2021/22 financial years.

Fellow councillors, for the 2021/22 financial year the Capital Budget was R135 million and it is informed by grants from Sector departments.

The budget allocation for employee costs for the 202/23 financial year totals R 266 million.

The 2022/23 budget for bulk purchases is R 353 million which is more by R76 million as compared to 2021/22 financial year which amounted to R277 million.

The provision for debt impairment for the 2022/23 financial year equates to R96 million and increased from 2021/22 of R4, 4 million.

Finance charges which are charges on repayment of interest portion overdue to creditors has been budgeted for R21 million for the 2022/23 financial year.

The new tariff increases are minimal and intended to recover costs. The following summary of tariffs applied increase on 22/23 financial year are as follows:

- Water supply 6%
- Electricity 12, 8 % pending actual NERSA approval.
- Sewerage 6%
- Refuse 6%
- Rates and Taxes 4.8% (with rebates/discount on residential and 10% discount on business)
- Cemeteries 6%
- Halls 6%
- All other sundries 6%

Madam speaker, the Salary and Wage Collective Agreement increase for the 2022/23 financial year as agreed by parties will be projected based on CPIX Forecast of 4.8% with effect from 1 July 2022.

Bulk purchase on electricity increase of 9.6% and bulk purchase on Water increase of 5.5%

Madam Speaker and fellow councillors, as I conclude, let us be mindful that there will always be challenges and our needs remain many but our resources are

unfortunately limited. As the ANC led Municipality, we remain committed to running a clean, accountable and effective administration.

Madam speaker and fellow councillors I hereby present the 5-year Integrated Development Plan and the 2022/23 Budget for Ngwathe Local Municipality based on the development needs of our communities. I am optimistic about the future of Ngwathe, as this Municipality will get itself out of the difficulties and become a model Municipality which all of us can pride ourselves in. This can only happen when we work together and not against each other by putting the interest of the community first.

Working Together We Can Build Better Communities.

I THANK YOU