

**BUDGET VOTE SPEECH DELIVERED
BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THE
WATERBERG DISTRICT
MUNICIPALITY, Cllr. LEP GWANGWA:
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
27 MAY 2010**

WATERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAMBER

Mr. Speaker,

Mayors of our local municipalities,

Speakers,

Chief Whip of the ruling party,

Members of the Mayoral Committee,

Members of the opposition parties,

Councillors,

Honoured Traditional Leaders,

Municipal Manager,

Managers and officials present,

Members of the community,

Ladies and gentlemen,

THOBELA, GOOD AFTERNOON, GOEIE MIDDAG!!

Two days ago, on the 25th May 2010, we joined the rest of the African Continent in celebrating the 48th Anniversary of the Africa Day. A day that gave birth to the then Organisation of African Unity, which brought all Africans together to build Africa free of colonialism, racism, poverty and ignorance.

It was therefore, among others, that historic moment, epitomised by unity among Africans and all progressive forces elsewhere, which encouraged us as South Africans to march forward towards the realisation of our freedom in 1994.

Honourable Speaker,

Let me also take this opportunity to remind council that we are only 14 days away from the kick off of the 2010 FIFA World Cup hosted by South Africa. As the Waterberg District we are more than ready for this historical event.

We recently launched the District Football Friday on the 30th April 2010 which was a clear demonstration of our full support to the FIFA World Cup and an awareness campaign and or mass mobilisation to the people of Waterberg.

The Waterberg District Municipality also held the Safety and Security Summit which on the 31st March 2010, which aimed at preparing ourselves for the 2010 FIFA World Cup and beyond in as far as safety and security is concerned.

Honourable Speaker,

Last month marked my 1st Anniversary as the Executive Mayor of the Waterberg District Municipality. May i, with your permission Mr. Speaker, thank everyone in the Waterberg District Municipality, from the ordinary worker to the management personnel and political representatives and leadership, for the receptive and warm welcome displayed to me.

I was embraced with, the orientation characterised by the spirit of collectiveness and working together to do more.

Mr. Speaker I am very glad to report to council that working together with our people, we managed to consolidate our position as a leading municipality ready to take major strides in delivering on our mandate.

I wish to thank our communities, councillors, our local municipalities, traditional leaders, business and national and provincial governments and all stakeholders for their support and joint effort in striving to make Waterberg District a better place to be.

It is however, still relevant to acknowledge that more commitment, determination and close cooperation is still obligatory from all our partners so that we translate the foundation laid into a meaningful and lasting improvement on our people`s living conditions.

As i mentioned in my last Budget Speech, the Constitutional underpinnings are very important in the execution of the service delivery mandate and therefore municipalities should also keep in mind that provision of service delivery is a serious obligation and should not be undermined.

Honourable Speaker,

In terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003, whose supreme purpose is to secure sound and sustainable management of the financial affairs of municipalities,

“The Municipal council must at least 30-days before the start of the budget year consider approval of the Annual Budget.”

It is from this legislated mandate that we are converged here today, 34 days before the New Financial Year, to present to council our 2010/11 Reviewed Integrated Development Plan (IDP) with the Budget.

Mr. Speaker the budget that is soon- to – be approved by this council is informed by the inputs of our people made during Public Participation processes, guided by practical prioritisation, and determined by the realities of our resource capacity. It is evident that to us Public Participation is not just a formality but a revolutionary mandate based on the Freedom Charter principle ***“the people shall govern”***.

As the district municipality in consultation with our local municipalities and communities, we have strived to ensure that this is the people`s budget which is pro-poor and seeks to achieve the objectives of Rural Development as enshrined in the ANC Manifesto.

Honourable Speaker,

The Waterberg District Municipality unlike other districts, is not a Water Services Authority and therefore is only dependent on grants for income. We however, for the three consecutive years managed to produce a Credible IDP Document and Unqualified Audit Report. We want to thank our management for putting us on the map.

In order to move closer to creating the Waterberg District Municipality as the home of excellence and opportunities for a better life with the limited resources at our disposal, we are today tabling before council a Total Budgeted Revenue for 2010/11 of R 105 601 500. Which is an Operational Budget of R 82 211 750 and IDP Budget of R 45 876 193.

The Total Budget for 2010/11 is therefore R 128 087 943

There is however, a shortfall of R 22 486 443 which will be funded from accumulated surplus.

This budget represents an increase of 6% as compared to the original 2009/10 and 2% increase on the 2009/10 Adjustment Budget. In the main, an increase in our budget is as a result of the establishment and further expansion of the Disaster Management unit.

Council should take cognisance that Disaster Management has been put top on our priority list and therefore an amount of R 17 518 604 has been put aside to beef up the human resource and operationalise the unit.

This allocation is part of the R 62 251 193 that we are projecting for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period, that is the next three financial years until 2013.

Mr. Speaker this is a budget that we believe is strongly redistributive of the limited resources of the municipality and also addressing the service delivery that we carry in line with the five key thrusts of local government, which as we know are:

- Institutional Transformation and Organisational Development
- Basic service Delivery

- Local economic Development
- Municipal Financial Management and Viability
- Good Governance and Public Participation

Ladies and gentlemen, it is worth mentioning that indeed we have some challenges we need to deal with. The Auditor General's Report is a point in case. Other things we have to do must include amongst others capacity building not limited to human resource but also extended to systems such as policies, internal control systems and procedures.

We have to strengthen our Intergovernmental relations with our local municipalities and other sector departments to ensure an integrated planning. The IGR will starting from the next financial year, be extended to Traditional Leaders through their Local House.

Over the years, the functions that municipalities are expected to perform have increased tremendously according to the needs of the communities. Unfortunately instead of the increase in the income sources, we are experiencing a reduction hence limiting us to render the required services.

Mr. Speaker some of the some of our successes as the Waterberg District Municipality in ensuring good governance was include amongst others the establishment and functioning of the oversight structures such as Performance Audit Committee, Oversight Committee and the Audit Committee.

As the municipal council, in the main we play an oversight role to all matters of service delivery through monthly, quarterly, mid year and annual reporting. But in the final analysis we expect all projects and programs to run to their logical conclusions.

We are leading as per the wise words of the former President of the Republic of South Africa Cde. Nelson Mandela when he said:

“It is better to lead from behind and put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership.”

In conclusion Mr. Speaker, allow me to acknowledge and appreciate the role played by the following stakeholders in preparing this budget which shares the recipe of collectiveness, we owe maximum words of thanks to;

- Local municipalities who were frank enough in their contributions.
- Communities who responded positively to our public participation processes and contributed towards the drafting of this particular Budget and IDP.
- Mayoral Committee Members, Councillors (Cllrs. from the opposition party) who travelled with us throughout the district during the public participation meetings.
- The Chief Financial Officer, Management and staff under the leadership of the Municipal Manager, for having worked sleepless nights to ensure that the aspirations and wishes of our community do get the necessary attention.

As we move forward in reflecting and implementing our programmes we need to make sure that we have the same commitment, dedication, cooperation, collective leadership and excellent performance to continue to define the Waterberg District Municipality.

We are indeed ***“On the Go for Growth”***.

Honourable Speaker,

It gives me great pleasure to present to council the IDP and Budget for the Financial Year 2010/11 for Consideration and Approval.

I THANK YOU, BAIE DANKIE!!