

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

06 MAY 2011

WATERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAMBER

*Honourable 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,
Senior Managers and officials present,
Members of the community,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

GOOD AFTERNOON ONCE MORE,

Mr, Speaker, last week on the 27th April, our country celebrated Freedom Day which mark the liberation of our country and its people from a long period of colonialism and white minority domination – which means that we no longer have a situation in which political power was enjoyed and exercised by a minority of our population to the exclusion of the majority.

On Freedom Day, South Africans celebrated the relentless efforts of those who fought for liberation, of the many men and women who took up arms and courted imprisonment, banning and torture on behalf of the oppressed masses.

A question that one may ask is that “Are we now free when our people remain poor, when there is mass unemployment, unwarranted violence and crime?”

Freedom should mean emancipation from poverty, unemployment, racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination – but the reality is that poverty continues to exist within women, children, people with disabilities and elderly in our society.

When the African National Congress(ANC) took over government in 1994, the commitment was to better the life of all South Africans by eradicating poverty, racial inequalities and socio economic disparities.

In 2006, through its Local Government Elections Manifesto, the ANC, on whose mandate we stand before this august house as messengers, made a commitment that it is determined to make local government work. The ruling party further presented a programme which the community gave a landslide vote of confidence, mandating us to accelerate service delivery in ensuring that:

- No community will still be using the bucket system by 2007,
- All communities will have access to clean water and decent sanitation by 2010,
- All houses will have access to electricity by 2012,
- There is universal provision of free basic services.

It is therefore critical to mention that most of this commitments were successfully accomplished by the ANC government, however the government still takes responsibility for some of the outstanding backlogs.

Honourable Speaker, We are a predominantly rural district yet in the middle of our geographical area there are pockets of high economic activities driven by amongst others – mining, agriculture, farming manufacturing and tourism.

It is in this regard that in looking back, there are areas we had to concentrate on. We had both funded and unfunded mandates to deal with in the process, but all it takes, is always been in the interest of accelerated service delivery.

Coordination between ourselves, the provincial government and local municipalities has improved a great deal in particular with regard to integrated planning which aimed at avoiding duplications of projects and programmes by the three spheres of government. This include the level of participation by our communities in the affairs of the district municipality.

Mr. Speaker, as the Waterberg District, we had an eventful year with regard to the support to youth, women, disability and elderly. Through our aggressive public participation programme, we successfully hosted the following events:

- Women in Sport Festival
- Cultural Event

- Women in dialogue
- District Batho Pele Celebration
- 16 Days of Activism Against the abuse of Women and Children
- Disability Day Celebration Event
- The Elderly Conference
- Mayoral Outreach programme to farm workers and dwellers
- Mayoral Golf Day
- International Horse racing competition
- Youth Golf Skills Development

Our programme on support to Traditional Leaders has shown positives. We can therefore proudly confirm that our relationship with Traditional Leaders in this district is amongst the most appreciated and supportive in the province if not the country.

We successfully convened the IDP and Budget Workshop for all traditional leaders and proceeded to host the provincial workshop which aimed at accessing the state of governance for traditional councils.

The leadership core that is represented here, both elected and appointed, take responsibility in making sure that we maintain the respect and sound interaction between traditional leadership in the district.

We therefore want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your endless and tireless efforts to make local government work for our people in conjunction with all stakeholders, including traditional leaders.

Honourable Speaker, we just arrived yesterday from the Kgatleng District in Botswana, where we undertook a trip to resuscitate the twinning Agreement that we initially signed with them as part of the learning and sharing mission. We are confident that the incoming political leadership will take over where we left in implementing the contents of the Agreement which speaks to a variety of issues including, social, economic and cultural activities.

Mr. Speaker, 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 during our term of office.

It is worth noting that we managed to obtain an unqualified audit opinion for 4 consecutive financial years during 2006/7-2009/10. We continued to improve audit opinions of 3 local municipalities which also obtained unqualified reports during the last financial year.

This outgoing council, Mr. Speaker, made sure that the two Disaster Management Centres (Modimolle and Lephalale) get open and operational to attend to disaster cases as and when they occur.

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.

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.

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, it is also necessary to mention that this budget speech is my last in this term of office for local government political Office Bearers, as we are preparing ourselves for the municipal elections to be held on the 18th May 2011.

We therefore call upon the entire management and staff to continue supporting and cooperating with the incoming political leadership. It is only this healthy relationship that can enhance service delivery.

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, 55 days before the New Financial Year, to present to council our 2011/12 Reviewed Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Budget.

Mr. Speaker, the budget that is soon- to – be approved by this council is a culmination of various interactions with critical stakeholders and communities through imbizo`s and IDP/Budget road-shows and strategic planning.

It was also 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.

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 2011/12 of **R 108 938 372.**

The total Operational Expenditure amount to **R87 432 000.** This is an increase of 6.3% as compared to the previous financial year. The total operating expenditure including the IDP operating expenditure amounts to **R 113 209 000.**

Council should take cognisance that Disaster Management/Fire fighting has been put top on our priority list and therefore an amount of **R 19 896 200** has been put aside for this function. This amount constitutes 18% of the total operating budget for 2011/12.

Ladies and Gentlemen, i will not go through the integrities of the whole budget as it included in your package.

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

Honourable Speaker, I must mention upfront that our 2011/12 IDP and budget has been subjected to processes of Municipal Turn Around Strategy, a component which has been factored into both our IDP and Budget.

Mr. Speaker some of our successes as the Waterberg District Municipality in ensuring good governance was to 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.

The municipality also introduced the Performance Management System, through which our managers get assessed in a quarterly basis.

But in the final analysis we expect all projects and programs to run to their logical conclusions.

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 and in the rolling out of the consultation road-shows.

- Communities who responded positively to our public participation processes and contributed towards the drafting of this particular Budget and IDP.
- Mayoral Committee Members, Councillors (from both the opposition and ruling parties) 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.

Honourable Speaker, let me lastly take this opportunity to bid farewell to all councillors who served the municipality with passion, dedication and loyalty throughout the entire term of office and wish them all the best during the coming local government elections and in their future endeavours.

Honourable Speaker,

It is therefore my pleasure to present to council the IDP and Budget for the Financial Year 2011/12 for Consideration and Approval.

I THANK YOU, KE A LEBOGA!!