



PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

BUDGET SPEECH 2009-2010

ACTING EXECUTIVE MAYOR

CLR J.Z.LOLWANA

29 MAY 2009



Honourable Speaker of the Council

Honourable Chief Whip of the Majority Party in Council

Honourable Members of the Mayoral Committee

Honourable Councilors of the Pixley ka Seme District Council

Senior Management of the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality

Esteemed Members of the Public in attendance

Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

Let me first take this opportunity to welcome you all to this august ceremony, a ceremony which all of us will use to recommit ourselves to the service of the people. This is also a ceremony in which we, as the elected public representatives of the people in the entire Pixley ka Seme District, will use to re-affirm our commitments in pursuance of a better life for the people of this district.

Honourable Speaker, the majority of the people of this country are also commemorating a number of important political events in 2009, which include amongst others the following:

- The 40th anniversary of the Morogoro Conference of 1969, the ANC's first consultative conference since its banning.

- The 30th anniversary of the execution of Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu, uMkhonto we Sizwe hero and a symbol of the sacrifices of the youth.
- The 20th anniversary of the release of several Rivonia trialists, including Comrades Walter Sisulu, Wilton Mkwayi, Elias Motsoaledi, Raymond Mhlaba, Andrew Mlangeni and Ahmed Kathrada, as well as the 21st anniversary of the release of comrade Govan Mbeki.
- The 20th anniversary of the Harare Declaration, a document that provided a blueprint for a negotiated settlement in South Africa and which had an important impact on the balance of forces in the country.
- The 130th anniversary of the epic Battle of Isandlwana, where the army of King Cetshwayo fought off British imperialist forces, on 22 January 1879.
- The 15th anniversary of South Africa's first democratic elections, on 27 April 1994, which marked the defining moment in the struggle of the South African people to be free.

Honourable Speaker and Councilors, we are deliberately reminding ourselves about these important political events which took place in our country, in order for us as public representatives never to forget the painful sacrifices which our people and leaders made in order for us to enjoy democracy and freedom today. We must always be reminded that the blood of these mentioned heroes are providing the shade of freedom which the people of this country experienced the past 15 years.

As a people we have travelled a long and painful road, and we as the voice of the people must also be reminded that the hopes of the vast majority of the people of this district are on our shoulders. We can therefore not fail our people, by prioritizing our own needs and not that of the people.

Honourable Speaker, we are all from a very hectic general and provincial-elections. The different political parties in the country went out on campaigns to convince the electorate on the social correctness and relevance of their policies and manifesto's. We must also thank the security services of our country which ensured that the election-campaigns were conducted in an environment which was free of serious and life-threatening violence. They ensured that they follow-up on even the smallest incident of possible violence reported to them. We must also thank and applaud the Independent Electoral Commission for the mammoth task which they accomplished, as the credibility of the elections was their responsibility.

Honourable Members, we must in the main thank the electorate, the people who went out to cast their votes for the different political parties. They did so in an atmosphere of peace and tolerance. They were the people who ensured that the 22 April 2009 was generally peaceful and safe for all of us to cast our votes and exercise our free democratic choices. All of us must now preach the same message, that the elections are over and the people have decided that the African National Congress must lead them for the next five years, both in the province and nationally. The environment in which the elections took place is also a clear demonstration that Africa has come of age, in the manner in which we conducted ourselves during elections, that not all election-results in Africa has to be contested in court and that no violence has to erupt. We need to, as South Africa, to ensure that we use our continental multilateral institutions, eg SADEC and the African Union, to spread this message of free political activity as well as political tolerance, in order to halt the continuous pattern of post-election violence and death.

Honourable Speaker, all of us must join the President of South Africa, Mr Jacob Zuma, when he said on the day of his inauguration as the 4th President of the country, that

“We gather here determined to renew that most solemn undertaking, to build a society in which all people are freed from the shackles of discrimination, exploitation, want and disease. We gather here determined that the struggles and sacrifices of our people over many decades shall not be in vain. Instead, they shall inspire us to complete the task for which so much blood was shed, and so much hardship endured. This is a moment of renewal.”

Working together we will definitely built a better Pixley ka Seme District, Northern Cape and South Africa.

Honourable Members, the President of the country commanded us all as public representatives to join him and the new administration in ensuring a better life for all the people of this country, no matter who they voted for on 22 April 2009. This is our call to action by the highest office in the land, let us heed that call. Chapter 3 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, also states that” In the Republic, government is constituted as national, provincial and local spheres of government which are distinctive, inter-dependent and interrelated “We must therefore support and advice our national and provincial spheres of government.

Honourable Speaker, we need to ensure that we intensify our programme to reach out to all sectors in our district during this financial year. As Council we need to ensure that we meet with the farmers-associations, both commercial and non-commercial, as this government committed itself to food-security, quality employment as well as rural development. Our programme must be in line with both the provincial and national programme. We need to ensure that as Council, we meet the business-sectors in all major towns in the district, so as to clearly

identify our role in economic development in the district, but also to understand what are the current challenges experienced by the business-sector in our district. The current economic meltdown does not just affect the international and national trading, but it is also felt by the local business people. Ours will therefore be to provide a conducive environment, so as to minimize the possible retrenchment of the workforce in our district. It is now official that our country is in a period of recession, which will have a very negative impact not just on the country and province, but it will also be felt severely in our district. We cannot, as Councilors and Officials go about our daily business as if nothing is happening in our communities. We need therefore to stay in very close contact with our communities, so as to provide solutions and listen to their challenges. Our Council-meets-the-people programme will therefore be adapted, so as to afford the Mayoral Committee and the Councilors of a particular municipality to firstly directly engage with communities before mass meetings commences. We will be having at least one outreach-programme per month.

Honourable Councilors, we have not done enough in the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS. The youth of this district, like the youth elsewhere in the country, are being ravaged by this disease. We are losing the most economically productive sector of our community at a very alarming rate, but our programme is not adequately addressing it. More and more households in our district are being headed by children, who are still supposed to be enjoying their time at school, but are forced to manage their families. We need to assess the current state of all our Local Aids Councils in the district as some of them might have collapsed, and we also need to ensure that all the Mayors are providing the political leadership and support as expected from them. The Office of the Executive Mayor needs to also ensure that our outreach-programme are more innovative during this financial year, as we need to embark on effective programmes in all our communities to reach out to the people affected and infected by the disease. We will during this financial year work more closely with the Department of Health and all stakeholders to ensure that all programmes are synergized, for more

effectiveness. All of us will be judged very harshly if we fail to be more aggressive in this regard, and provide more focused leadership.

Honourable Speaker, we have been experiencing some technical challenges in the total roll-out of the five Youth Advisory Centre Points in the district, which are in Carnarvon, Victoria West, Griekwastad, Noupoot and Petrusville. All of these centres were supposed to be in full operation by now, but because of internal organizational challenges, the municipality could not ensure full functionality. The Officials responsible for the running of these centres are in constant communication with Umsobomvu Youth Fund and other stakeholders to ensure that these centres are fully operational within the first quarter of the 2009-2010 financial year. Pixley ka Seme District Municipality will ensure that this programme becomes the flagship youth programme that it was intended to be. Youth in the mentioned areas will enjoy the benefits of having these centres in their towns and municipal-areas, as this was part of the commitments that this government and council made to the youth of the district.

Honouable Speaker and Councilors, the last financial year saw us taking in more than 100 unemployed youth as part of our youth-empowerment programme. These youth were spread all over the district in all municipalities. The aim of this programme was to address the serious unemployment amongst our youth in the district, but more importantly to provide the necessary job-related experience to our youth. The reports received from the different municipalities on the performance of these learners, are indicating that they contributed positively to the functioning of the municipalities. The majority of these reports further indicate that they have gained valuable experience, which experience will put them in a better position when they apply for jobs in future. This programme is unfortunately reaching its end, and we need to agree on a proper way forward. The Municipal Manager will have to interact with all municipalities so as to agree on the number of learners which the different municipalities will be able to accommodate in the new financial year. We will also have to engage the different

government departments to see whether they will be able to absorb some of these learners. This process will start immediately, so as to have a proper exit-plan for these learners.

Honourable Speaker and Councilors, we will also be rolling-out a number of infrastructure projects in the majority of municipalities in the district. These projects will in the main be implemented to enhance the standard of living of the community of Pixley ka Seme district, but will also serve to provide the much needed job-opportunities to our communities. Pixley ka Seme District Municipality will be assisting the local municipalities in the implementation of these projects. Some of the projects will include amongst others the following:

- A project in Renosterberg Municipality, in Phillipstown, to tar a 3000 m gravel road in Witblok, to the value of R4,208,196,m. This project has already started and will be completed in 2009-2010.
- Bucket-eradication in Breipaal and Bongani, to the value of R7,961,716 m. We will assist the Siyancuma Municipality to ensure that the current blockages which they are experiencing with the full implementation of this project, are addressed.
- Sewage Oxidation Ponds in Schmidtsdrift to the value of R11, 621,787 m.
- The completion of the 145 erven in Carnarvon, in June 2009.
- The completion of the Hopetown Solid Waste Disposal Site, in June 2009.
- The construction of a 1 km road in Loxton, during 2009-2010.
- Pixley ka Seme District Municipality also submitted a business plan on EPWP, to the Department of Transport in 2008, and a contract has only been signed in May 2009. This programme will unfold in the 2009-2010 financial year, after a meeting with all municipalities and stakeholders have been convened to discuss the implementation of the programme.

Honourable Councilors, we have also started to extend our main offices in 2007, but due to unforeseen challenges we had to extend the timeframes for the completion of the offices. This project will only be completed in July 2009, after which we will be in a position to officially open and occupy the new offices. I can now safely ensure all of you that this will definitely be our last Council meeting in the Pixley ka Seme Boardroom, our next meeting will be in our new council-chambers.

Honourable Speaker, we will be meeting with a delegation from the SABC in the next 7 days. This delegation will be clearly outlining the final plans for the broadcasting of the FIFA World Cup in June 2010. We will be tasked to inform the entire district on these plans, and which areas will be identified as public viewing areas.

Honourable Speaker and Councilors, we have been consistently raising the issue of the municipal-audit results for the past 2-3 financial years. As this Council w now need to move beyond just raising the matter, and start to practically advice and assist one-another. We cannot be comfortable when the majority of our municipalities receive continuous disclaimers and qualified audit-reports from the Auditor-General. Kareeberg Municipality must advise us all on their operations, as they are the only municipality which consistently receives an unqualified audit report. This must be a standing agenda-item for each District IGR-forum, and we must even invite the Office of the Auditor General to some of our sessions. We need to make a concerted collective effort to ensure that all our municipalities migrate to more favorable audit-opinions in future.

Honourable Councilors, allow me now to table the budget for the 2009-2010 financial year, a budget to the value of R98,924,542,000 compared to the R98,430,000 approved during 2008-2009 financial year. I can assure you that this

amount increase further during 2009-2010, because of our role in developmental programmes within the district.

Honourable Speaker, the main cost drivers affecting our expenditure budget are as follows:

1. The 13% increase in the total personnel budget.
2. The R1,6 million allocated for capital expenditure.
3. The R1 million owed to the Auditor General.
4. The R1,89 million for the Youth Advisory Centres and Learnership Programme.
5. The R31,9 million for infrastructure development.
6. The R5,4 million for services rendered to Category B-municipalities in the district. (Internal Audit and Shared Services)

Honourable Speaker and Councilors, our income for 2009-2010 will comprise of the following:

1. Provincial Grants-R31,531,100,000
2. National Grants-R60,700,700,000
3. Own Revenue-R6,692,742,000

Honourable Speaker and Councilors, the following expenditure items will form part of the programmes which will be implemented by the Office of the Executive Mayor:

1. Crime Prevention-R15 000-00
2. Gender-R30 000-00
3. Youth-R30 000-00
4. Disability Programmes-R20 000-00
5. Tourism-R170 000-00

6. HIV/AIDS-R220 000-00
7. Local Economic Development-R720 000-00
8. ULWAZI FM-R160 000-00

Agbare Speaker, soos aan die begin van die finansiële voorlegging genoem is, het die Raad n verhoging van 13% in salarisverhoging begroot. Die vakbonde en SALGA is egter nog met loononderhandelinge op hierdie stadium besig. Die reslutate van hierdie onderhandelinge sal veral n wesenlike effek op verdere personeelaansteelings het.

Honourable Speaker, it is however unfortunate that the budget we are tabling today, had to be balanced, and certain posts will be negatively affected by it. We will unfortunately have to terminate the learnership-programme on 31 August 2009, as earlier mentioned. We will have to collectively plan on how to retain some of the skills that we have developed over the last 12 months. As mentioned earlier, the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality once again commits itself to ensure that all the Youth Advisory Centres are fully operational during 2009-2010.

Honourable Speaker and Councillors, we will once again perform a very crucial role in the development of infrastructure in the district via the MIG-Programmes, Bulk Water Supply and School Sanitation Programmes, as well as with Flood Damage Programmes. We will also spend R18,6 million on Road Infrastructure Development during 2009-2010. We will however engage the Department of Roads and Public Works to source more funding for the creation of more employment-opportunities through the EPWP.

Honourable Speaker, we will ensure that we do respond properly and in line with this budget, in addressing the service-delivery commitments we have made towards the people of this district.

Honourable Speaker, we have also been very fortunate and blessed in the election and appointment of our former Executive Mayor, Mrs. H.G. Jenkins, as the Premier of the Northern Cape Province. Some of us had the opportunity to serve with her as councilors, and we can attest of the high moral and ethical values and standards which she upholds. She ensured, with the collective assistance of both the Mayoral Committee and the Council, that Pixley ka Seme District Municipality is one of the most stable and administratively sound public institutions, both in the province and nationally. Through her dedication and commitment, people in all corners of the country are aware of the existence of Pixley ka Seme District Municipality. As Pixley ka Seme District Municipality we are today declaring our full support and commitment to the Premier of the Northern Cape, which includes the full compliment of her Provincial Executive Council.

Honourable Speaker, let me also take this opportunity to thank our previous Municipal Manager, Mr. Zamani Saul, for his excellent performance as head of the administration. I am sure that he instilled a sense of hard work, dedication and commitment in all of the officials of the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality. We wish him success in his current employment and any future endeavours.

Speaker, in conclusion we need to thank the Finance Committee, led by Clr. Katy Mooi, for preparing this budget. Your dedication in the Finance Committee ensured that we convened here today.

Mr. MacCollen Jack, our Acting Municipal Manager, you have ensured that this gigantic institution stay on course. Thank you for the focused leadership which you could provide to the administration in a very short space of time.

Thank you to all the Senior Managers of Pixley ka Seme District Municipality, e.g. Mr. James, Loko, Muller, Greeff and Diokpala. You are all collectively entrusted to ensure that this institution is managed in line with all the legislation applicable to local government. Your collective have not disappointed this municipality in the manner in which you have executed your administrative duties. As Council, we are assured that you will ensure that your staff only performs to the best of their abilities during this financial year.

I would also wish to thank the staff in the Office of the Executive Mayor, for the support and advice to myself and Members of the Mayoral Committee.

Speaker, I would also like to thank my family for their support.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank our Heavenly Father Jesus Christ, for guiding all of us in our daily operations. We must never forget to bring thanks and praise to Him.

I am tabling this budget before you as Councilors for your approval, as I am certain that this budget will assist our government in addressing some of the social ills which still afflicts our people.

Baie Dankie

Enkosi

Thank You

Kealeboga