

BLM COUNCIL ADJUSTS 2023/24 BUDGET

The Blouberg Local Municipality Council has on February 28, 2024 adjusted the 2023/24 budget and revised the municipal Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) at a special sitting at the Council Chambers in Senwabarwana.

In terms of section 72 of Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) the Accounting officer must assess the performance of the municipality during the first half of the financial year taking into account, the monthly statements referred to in section 71 for the financial year, the municipality's service delivery performance during the first half of the financial year, and the service delivery targets and performance indicators set in the service delivery and budget implementation plan, the past year annual report and submit a report on such assessment to the Mayor.

Delivering the keynote address, the Mayor Her Worship Cllr Maria Thamaga, started by welcoming the proclamation of the election date by President Cyril Ramaphosa and applauded the government for its remarkable work in changing the lives of the marginalised; the black people for the better since the dawn of democracy.

"The president has declared the 29 May 2024 as the date of the elections. This elections will mark 30 years of freedom and democracy. We come a long way as a nation, where blacks were excluded to a non-racial, non-sexist democratic, rainbow nation, where black communities had no access to basic services, to a nation where everybody has access to basic services regardless of the colour of their skin. Le ge go le bjalo leeto e sa le le letelele. Joe Slovo said and I quote "Our struggle must continue even after victory is achieved".

Mayor Thamaga explained why the budget adjustment is necessary.

"The accounting officer must as part of the review make recommendations as to whether a budget adjustment is necessary; and recommend revised projections for revenue and expenditure to the extent that this may be necessary. Based on the assessment of the performance of the municipality during the first half of the financial year, it is necessary to revise the budget".

The Mayor further indicated that the municipality will implement austerity measures to curb any possible non-priority spending in line with MFMA Circular no.82 and ensure the full compliance with applicable legislations.

"Management has been directed to plug all leakages that drain municipal financial coffers unnecessarily. More attention should be prioritized meter audit and electricity loss. We need put measures in place to improve revenue collection with regard to property rates, traffic fines and waste collection. We must all commit to austerity measures for remaining months of the financial year".

Besides the 2023/24 Adjustment Budget, other reports brought before the Council were; the Amendment of Supply Chain Policy, the Disposal of Damaged and Lost assets, where in the Council approved the write off of those assets, the Disposal of

Absolute assets wherein the Council approved the disposal of the assets through public auction, the report on the Donation of Community Assets wherein the Council approved the disposal of community assets through donation method.





