

**ORDINARY COUNCIL REPORT PRESENTED BY HIS WORSHIP MAYOR OF
BLOUBERG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, COUNCILOR MASEKA SOLOMON PHEEDI: 29
OCTOBER 2019 @ 12H00PM AT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAMBER.**

Madam Speaker

Members of the Executive Committee

The Chief Whip of the majority party and other Whips

Chairperson of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee

Fellow Councillors

Municipal Manager and other officials

Members of the Public

Good afternoon

Madam Speaker, allow me to wish our political icon Oliver Reginald Tambo happy blessed birthday, because had he lived, he would be 102 years old. It was from the sweat and efforts of leaders like him that we are today enjoying the fruits of freedom.

Madam Speaker, the core business of local government is service delivery and there is no way we can deliver services without planning, why am I saying this, because just like the fourth industrial revolution, the cost containment regulation is a reality that we should learn to live with. Properly implemented, cost containment will help the Municipality to avoid as much as possible, the unauthorized, irregular and fruitless expenditure and save money for most needed basic services like water, early childhood development centers and access to affordable electricity. Time is not our side. As leaders, we cannot postpone the provision of services to our people. The sporadic incidents of community protests is warning shot to us as elected leaders that our people have outgrown their patience.

Madam Speaker, this Council has been convened in order to deal with **first quarter reports**. The reports are as follows:

1. Status on Implementation of Council Resolutions (Pages 2 – 5)

Madam Speaker, Let me fire the first salvo by stating that in terms of Section 52 (d) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, No 56 of 2003, the mayor of a municipality must, within 30 days of the end of the quarter, submit a report to the council on the implementation of the budget and the financial state of affairs of the municipality. To that effect, council hereby present progress in respect of the resolutions taken from the beginning of the financial year. We say kudos to management for having judiciously implemented all the resolutions thus far.

We as such **note the report on Status on Implementation of Council Resolutions**

2. Report On First Quarter 2019/2020 Service Delivery And Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) Progress Report (P.6b – 124)

Madam Speaker, it should be recalled that the previous council sitting noted the 2019/2020 SDBIP that I approved and subsequent to that, it is incumbent for council, in line with Section 52 (d) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act of 2003 to be appraised on developments as enshrined in our roadmap which is the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP)

The table below indicates a summary of the 2019/20 1st Quarter SDBIP Performance. We report that out of **144** targets for the quarter, **114** targets were achieved while 30 targets were not achieved. The overall performance for the quarter stands at **79 %**

Department	Total Targets for the Quarter	Total Targets Achieved for the 1 st Quarter	Total Targets not Achieved for the 1 st Quarter	Overall Percentage of Targets achieved during 1 st Quarter
Corporate Services	37	31	06	84 %

Community Services	19	12	07	63 %
Economic Development and Planning	10	08	02	80 %
Budget and Treasury	28	28	0	100 %
Technical Services	21	10	11	48 %
Municipal Manager' Office	29	25	04	86 %
Overall Total Municipal Targets for First Quarter	144	114	30	79 %

We express hope that since it was the first quarter and assuming that most departments were still settling in and getting accustomed to their new indicators, the upcoming quarters see a collectively much improved performance.

We however recommend **that Council approves the 2019/2020 1st Quarter SDBIP performance**

3. Report on 2019/2020 First Quarter Back To Basics (B2B) Report (P. 127 – 143)

Madam Speaker, let me remind this August house that the Municipality has developed and approved 2019/2020 Back to Basics (B2B) Action Plan. The municipality is therefore compelled to compile quarterly B2B Reports as per approved B2B Action Plan. The 2019/2020 first quarter report has been compiled and is hereby brought before Council for consideration.

We hereby recommend **that Council approves the 2019/2020 1st Quarter Back To Basics (B2B) Report**

4. Report on 2019/2020 First Quarter Cost Containment report (P. 150 – 152)

Madam Speaker, it should be recalled that the Minister of Finance had in 2019 issued cost containment regulations that had a bearing on how municipalities should go about conducting their business with a view of the escalating costs with the express intention of reducing same. This was as a result of the financial pressures caused by poor performance of the economy and revenue generation. Municipalities were consequently requested to develop their own policies in line with the regulation. These policies were meant to be implemented effectively from 01 July 2019.

In line with developments Blouberg Municipality developed and approved the Cost Containment Policy. And this affected some of the budget line items that were already budgeted in the 2019/20 budget. As elucidated in your documents from pages 150 – 152, it is against that background that we **recommend that council approves the 2019/2020 First Quarter Cost Containment report**

5. Report on the proposed Blouberg Roadmap (P.153 – 154)

Honourable Speaker, The Blouberg Local Municipality adopted its revised Integrated Development Plan/ Budget 2019/2020 in May and further developed the SDBIP for the year to serve as an implementation tool of its business plan in terms of applicable legislation. Subsequent to that, the Municipality commissioned Makoba Consulting to realize the following deliverables:

- Development of a diagnostic report to provide a baseline on the implementation of the approved IDP/Budget 2019/2020
- Ensuring that plans and expenditure during 2019/20 financial year and beyond remain aligned to the IDP (2016-2021 elective cycle) but cognizant of the evolving environment (legislative, policy, economic etc.) that have a bearing on attainment of IDP targets.
- Facilitation of a three-day Session
- Compilation of a report on the overall strategic planning to management

- Identification of areas for improvement

The report provides a diagnosis of key issues for the municipality based on the six key performance areas of local government and has highlighted challenges, possible causes, and proposed recommendations. Management has already started to implement some of the recommendations in line with the applicable legislations. However, some of the proposed solutions relate to policy issues and will need to get the approval of council before management gives effect to them. Examples include the following (a) basic service delivery-putting a moratorium on tarring of internal streets and focusing on access roads that connect settlements, devolution of powers and functions of water and roads from the district and the province (RAL) to the municipality, (b) financial viability-dispensing with the regular write offs of debt etc.

Furthermore, Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency conducted capacity assessments for Blouberg Municipality and has identified gaps with regard to policies, systems, personnel, skills and related. The diagnostic report from the strategic planning session and various literature revisited has indicated some areas of convergence between the Blouberg road Map and the MISA capacity Development Programme

Madam Speaker, I put it to the house that if we vigorously pursue the recommendations as set out by the commissioned study, there'd undoubtedly be a very significant turn around and we therefore recommend that **council approves the proposed roadmap towards improved service delivery and institutional sustainability report and further note the MISA Capacity Development Programme**

6. Report on the Development of the Eldorado Precinct Plan (P. 155 – 196)

Dear Council Speaker, we are determined to leave a lasting legacy which among others speaks to the growth and development of our municipality inclusive of the effective implementation of spatial rationale. The spatial planning unit has received a request from Capricorn District Municipality to assist the municipality with the establishment of a precinct plan for Eldorado Nodal point. Eldorado was part of the Provincial growth and development strategy and therefore it is ideal to channel resources to such kind of growth points.

Based on the above background there would be consultation processes with the affected stakeholders such as Traditional Authority and councillors affected by this envisaged project. Equal to same there would not be any financial implications from the side of the municipality hence a budget from CDM. CDM has appointed Plan

Associate for development of the precinct plan and a budget of R700 000 has been set aside for that purpose. We hereby recommend **that council notes progress report on the development of the Eldorado Precinct Plan project.**

7. Report on the 17th Annual Ward Committees' Conference Resolutions (P. 197 – 202)

Madam Speaker, let me remind the house that Ward Committees are a formal structure established in terms of section 74 of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, No 117 of 1998 to enhance participatory democracy. Annually ward committees hold a conference funded by the municipality and take broad decisions to guide the work of each ward committee. The 2018/19 Ward Committees' Conference took place from the 28th – 30th August 2019 at the Miami Lodge in Polokwane and took decisions that need council endorsement as they relate to process, structures and functionaries of the council.

Madam Speaker, let me categorically state that I take my hat off to your office and the entire Blouberg collective for successfully convening the alluded to and record 17th Annual Ward Committees' Conference. To the best of my knowledge no other municipality in the country has ever equaled that feat. We salute all the leaders of Blouberg, past and current, for their wavering determination of jealously protecting the record. Most enterprising is that the conference also had as its point of emphasis pertinent service delivery issues. We hereby recommend **that council approves the 17th Annual Ward Committees' Conference Resolutions**

8. Report on Decisions taken by the Executive Committee (P. 203 – 212)

Madam Speaker, The Executive Committee is the principal committee of the Council of the Municipality with statutory powers and functions assigned to it by section 44 of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, No 117 of 1998 and Chapter 5 of the Delegation of Powers Register approved by the Council on 04 November 2009. Section 44 (4) of the Municipal Structures Act enjoins the Executive Committee to report to the Council on all decisions taken by the Executive Committee. During the period in issue the Executive Committee met on the 26/07/2019, 04/09/2019 as well as the 26/09/2019 and took decisions (attached) in line with the powers and functions referred to herein above. Detailed

report and reasons for the Executive Committee decisions can be availed to the Council should the Council so resolve. We hereby recommend **that Council notes the decisions taken by the Executive Committee in July - September 2019**

In conclusion, Madam Speaker it is important to indicate that the Executive Committee has noted high tariff increase in terms of electricity as a result of approved 13% NERSA tariff increase. We have noted concerns from our Communities. The matter is receiving attention and at an appropriate time, a detailed report will be brought to Council for consideration.

Madam Speaker. Let me take this opportunity ask all of us to join Mabokoboko on Saturday as we be will playing against England at the Yokohama Stadium (Japan). The Springboks will bring the Webb Ellis trophy to Mzansi.

Let's Grow Blouberg together. I thank you.