

Madam Speaker

Magoshi,

Chief Whip of the Council and other Whips

Representatives of the Auditor-General of South Africa

Representatives of the Audit Committee

Chairperson of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee

Members of the Executive Committee

Fellow Councillors

Representatives of political parties and civic organizations

Members of the ward committees and community development workers

Municipal Manager and Senior Managers

Officials from organs of state and sister municipalities

Members of the business community

Members of the interim Youth structure responsible for youth skills development and employment,

The media houses

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Madam Speaker I believe it is in order for me to say compliments of the new season. This is the first council sitting of the year 2020 as per the Roman calendar, but the third as per the municipal financial year 2019/2020.

I have no doubt, you rested and came back energised, equal to the task. I know many things have happened during the recess. You had family gatherings, ***La haka Matokisi, Laya Jerusalem, La boya Limpopo Ma nitwa*** mos and many other functions including weddings and funerals. To those of you, who lost your loved ones, my heartfelt

condolences to you and your families. May their souls rest in peace. But let me congratulate the following outstanding achievement:

- Matriculates of 2019
- Miss Universe –Zozibini Tunzi
- 2019 world champions Springboks
- Ndlovu youth choir- who have displayed outstanding musical talent internationally
- 108 Years celebrations of the ANC in Kimberley

Madam Speaker, 2020 will require us to do things differently. Let's put a shoulder to the wheel. Our communities are running out of patience. Public Participation should be strengthened. Ward Councillors, be accountable to the communities that elected you. We do not want to be confronted by situations where communities will allege that, they have never met their public representatives since the previous local government elections.

Madam Speaker, allow me to borrow from M.D Arnold when he said "A good leader leads from above them. A great leader leads the people from within them". We have a task to get the community of Blouberg from where they are to where they have not been to, which is what we are doing Madam Speaker.

We have delivered, though it may not be enough. Since this administration took office, we have built roads, we electrified households, we delivered water, we built crèches, we demarcated sites, and many other services as per the constitutional obligation to Municipalities. We are very much aware that a lot has to be done.

Madam Speaker South Africa is Commemorating 65 years since the adoption of the freedom charter which sets out the vision of a democratic country. We should as well be in line with the ruling party's priorities for 2020.

- Building a capable state that serves all the people
- Building a united and cohesive society
- Investment, Jobs and inclusive growth
- An effective land reform programme
- Eradicating poverty and improving people's lives
- Education and skills for a changing world
- Social cohesion and safe communities

It should be borne in mind that the fundamental goal of the ruling party remains the creation of a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society.

We now have to roll up our sleeves, 2020 is going to be a year everyone will want to be heard in preparation for the 2021 upcoming local government elections. We need to take audit of the service delivery achievements to date, because our people need to be reminded that we are fully aware of what is achieved and what is still outstanding. This year we are going to have people flexing their muscles ideologically and physically. Mahatma Gandhi once said "I suppose leadership at one time meant muscles, but today it means getting along with people".

We have a task to focus on the growth and development of our people. As leaders we should see more than our people does. If our people are still living in poverty, we should be worried, if there are children who are of school age but not attending school, we should be worried, if we still drive on roads decorated with potholes, it should give us sleepless nights(with effect from the 13th January we have assembled a team of men and women made up of officials of the Department of Public Works and Blouberg municipal officials who are on daily basis ensuring that the potholes all over Blouberg are attended to, and I have no doubt that the situation will soon improve ,**it should however be noted that many of the roads with such potholes are not actually our mandate as a municipality**), if our people are still drinking water with animals, it should worry us. It is not enough for leadership to run to social media and make noise, I believe the community can appreciate an intervention or action taken to resolve the matter than, becoming grand stand leaders.

Solutions to the problem will make the people happy, than blaming it on others. Leadership is an action, not a position. The communities we lead have potential. Let us unlock their potential so that, they can become better.

1. Status on Implementation of Council Resolutions (Pages 20 – 28)

Madam Speaker, Let me remind this August house that in its sitting of the 29th October 2019 in the Municipal Council Chambers (Senwabarwana), it was recommended that progress on status and implementation of council resolutions should be accompanied by a report detailing the number of resolutions taken, how many were successfully implemented and the reason(s) behind failure to implement those that could not be. Over and above Section 52 (d) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, No 56 of 2003,which states that 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, it is further explicitly expressed in Chapter 3, Section 28 (1) (a) of the Municipal Structures Act no 117 of 1998 that each municipality

must have a municipal council and further that a municipal council must meet at least once per quarter. Part 22 (166) of the Blouberg Local Municipality's Rules of Order also enjoins that there be mandatory reports to council and among those is the Report on Status on Implementation of Resolutions To that effect, council hereby present progress in respect of the resolutions taken from the beginning of the financial year. Council has thus far taken a total of forty six (46) resolutions. Out of the entire resolutions, only C (17) 2019/20 relating to capacity building could be partially realized as members of the Petitions and Public Participation Policy (Training on Ethics and Accountability was conducted in August 2019) were yet to receive training. Management shall expedite placement of an official as recommended in the latter part of the resolution. We say kudos to management for having judiciously implemented all but two resolutions thus far.

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

2. Report On Section 72/2019/20 Mid-Year Performance Report (P.6b – 124)

Madam Speaker, In terms of Section 72 of the Municipal Finance Management Act no 56 of 2003, the Municipal Manager must compile a Mid-Year Budget and Performance report and by no later than the 25th January submit it to the Mayor, Provincial and National Treasury and CoGHSTA. The report must be tabled before Council for consideration.

In summary, the report shows that we are not doing well in terms of revenue collection and that as Council we need to double our efforts in mobilizing financial resources from all corners of Blouberg Municipality.

Madam Speaker the financial performance in terms of Capital projects as follows:

- MIG spending is at **51 %**
- INEP spending is at **21 %**

In terms of non-financial performance Out of 150 mid-year targets we have achieved 126 and 24 targets were not achieved (as per table below).

Our overall performance is at 84 % which is six percent above 2018/19 Mid-year report. The report is therefore brought before Council for approval.

Madam Speaker based on the above revenue picture and non-financial performance there is need for Budget Adjustment and Revision of the SDBIP 2019/20.

It is against this background that the Mid-year Budget and Performance report 2019/20 is tabled before Council for approval

2.1. Summary of Mid-Year Quarter SDBIP Report 2019/20

Department	Number of Targets by Mid-Year	Number of targets Achieved	Number of targets not achieved	Overall Percentage for Mid-year
Corporate Services	36	31	05	86 %
Community Services	23	18	5	78 %
Economic Development and Planning	11	9	2	82 %
Budget & Treasury	28	26	02	93 %
Technical Services	22	16	06	73 %
MM's Office	30	26	04	87 %
Total	150	126	24	84 %

Madam Speaker, it should be recalled during the October 2019 council sitting we expressed hope that there'd be a significant improvement in so far as implementation and we thus appreciate the overall improvement from 79% in the 1st Quarter to 84% by Mid-Year.

We thus recommend **that Council approves the 2019/2020 Section 72/Mid-Year SDBIP performance report**

3. Report on 2019/2020 Mid-Year Back To Basics (B2B) Report (P. 35 – 52)

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

We hereby recommend **that Council approves the 2019/2020 Mid-Year Back To Basics (B2B) Report**

4. Report on 2018/2019 Draft Annual Report (P. 53 – 308)

Madam Speaker, it should be noted Annual every Municipality must within seven months after end of each financial year table draft annual report before Council for consideration (Section 121 of MFMA Act no 56 of 2003 and Section 46 of Municipal systems Act no 32 of 2000. It should further be noted that the draft annual report must upon approval undergo a public participation process

It is therefore recommended that **Council approves the Draft Annual report 2018/19 and refer it to MPAC for Community and Stakeholder consultations.**

5. 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 24/10/2019 as well as the 27/11/2019 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 October - December 2019**

LAND INVASION

Madam Speaker, the municipality is privileged with 2 small towns that are declared District Nodes by the District Spatial Development Framework. Though they are well planned with developmental precinct plans, they experience a challenge of land grabs due to slow development of the nodes. The land that lies bear with no development for a decade is prone to invasion. Madam speaker, let me put you into confidence that the municipality, through its legal and spatial planning team is working tirelessly to address this inevitable impasse. The approval of 3 Township Establishment projects in Alldays and Senwabarwana will reduce the Hectors of land which is currently vacant. Furthermore we request our community members to assist the municipality by refraining from those barbaric activities. And those who participate in the illegal occupation of such land parcels without municipal approval will face the hands of justice.

MINING

Madam Speaker, The Platinum Group Metals (Waterberg JV) which will be mining platinum within our municipality hopes to inject R9 billion as an investment in development to the benefit of the Blouberg municipality. After witnessing the low levels of education experienced within Blouberg, the mining company has pledged to partner with the department of Education and the municipality in ensuring that there is transformation within our TVET college in terms of the curriculum offered. This will benefit our kids in terms of skills development, relevance with the ever changing mining industry and will also reduce the unemployment rate which is currently very high.

Madam Speaker, we have a signed Social and Labour Plan with Venetia Mine to implement some of the community projects for a period of five years. A budget amounting to R32, 914, 508 has been set aside for implementation of SLP projects until 2022. Those projects are amongst others water supply projects for Alldays and Taaibosch, internal street Alldays, solar street lighting Alldays, construction of Health Centre at Ga Kibi and market stalls for Senwabarwana and Alldays. To date the company has been able to obtain approval of the SLP from Department of mineral and energy and implemented the Alldays Solar Street lights project.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Madam Speaker, I'm honored to inform the Council that as promised in the budget speech in 2019, the municipality successfully hosted its inaugural LED Summit on the 5th of December 2020. Madam Speaker, we are leaving a footprint and it should be acknowledged that our Local Economic Development initiatives are the current drivers of the economy, and supporting the SMMEs gives us opportunity to encourage their sustainability and exposure to bigger markets. Various stakeholders converged on that day to share information on how the municipality can realize its objective of increasing job opportunities. Through the LED Summit, the municipality understands the challenges and realities it faces in its pursuit of excellence in service delivery. Currently we have secured an investor who will be constructing a mall in Senwabarwana town at erf 300 commonly known as the old show ground. The developer will inject R350million worth of investment through the development. The construction of a mall will start in 2021.

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MODEL (ONE PLAN)

MADAM SPEAKER, President Cyril Ramaphosa officially launched the second pilot site of the district-based coordination model dubbed "Khawuleza" at a Presidential Imbizo in Waterberg District Municipality on the, 26th November 2019 After the first launch in Eastern Cape. In his presentation of the Presidency Budget Vote to the National Assembly on 17 July 2019, President Ramaphosa identified the "pattern of operating in silos in" in

government as a challenge which led to “lack of coherence in planning and implementation and has made monitoring and oversight of government’s programme difficult”. He then said the consequence of this challenge was non-optimal delivery of services and diminished impact on the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

Cabinet has adopted a new integrated district based approach to enable development in the 44 districts and 8 Metros that constitute the country. The new district-based coordination model aims to address service delivery and economic development challenges through the synchronisation of planning across all spheres of government, working alongside social partners such as business and community.

Development will be pursued through single, integrated district plans enabled by the vision of “One District; One Plan; One Budget; One Approach”. This model has been endorsed by Cabinet, local government structures, traditional authorities and the President’s Coordinating Council (PCC). This new approach will require - with effect from the 2020/21 Budget cycle - that national budgets and programmes be spatially referenced across the 44 districts and 8 Metros.

Madam Speaker, according to the Limpopo Process plan, the Capricorn District will be launching the District one model on the 7th February 2020 in support of the President’s vision for a better South Africa and the pursuit of bringing development closer to the people.

Let’s grow Blouberg together in this year of unity, socio-economic renewal and nation building. I thank you.