

**BUDGET SPEECH**  
**2014/15 FINANCIAL YEAR**



**BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR**  
**CLLR T.S KHOZA**

**BUDGET SPEECH PRESENTED BY THE EXECUTIVE  
MAYOR, CLLR T.S. KHOZA PRESENTED ON THE  
ADVENT OF THE TABLING OF THE 2014/15 BUDGET.**

Honourable Speaker,  
Esteemed Traditional Leaders Present,  
The honourable Chief Whip and Councillors,  
Municipal Manager and Senior Managers,  
Station Commissioners present  
Circuit Managers in our Midst  
Representatives from TSB  
Representatives from the Sake Kammer  
Representatives from NSSF  
Representatives from Tourism Organizations  
Representatives from Nafcoc  
CDWs and Officials, Malalane and Lebombo Taxi  
Associations  
Representatives from the Nkomazi Council of Churches  
Leaders Labour Formations  
Members of the Public,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Comrades, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Honourable Speaker let me take this opportunity and welcome all our esteemed guests and stakeholders to this important occasion. The Municipal Budget Speech; which is sometimes referred to as the state of the municipality address ;remains one of the most important occasions in the calendar of municipal activities.

I would therefore like to thank everyone in this august house for having taken the time to be here today. I believe that it is always important for every citizen of Nkomazi to keep him/herself abreast with the details of the tough decisions that we have to make in order to attend to the diverse community needs and challenges; as espoused in the IDP document as well as inputs during the Public Participation Budget and IDP consultations.

Honourable Speaker maybe it will be in order at this point to also take the opportunity and thank the people of Nkomazi for having voted in their numbers on the 07<sup>th</sup> of May this year.

We thank them particularly for reconfirming overwhelmingly that the ANC remains the only political party in South African with a proven track record for advancing the agenda of the national democratic revolution.

The democratic gains of the 1994 electoral breakthrough remain the cornerstone on which the hopes and aspirations of our people are based. It is therefore important at every given election period; that we rise in our numbers and defend the rights that our freedom has given us; by voting into government the political party of our choice.

Although the question that one may ask Honourable Speaker and your august house is that “have we really achieved freedom when our people continue to live in unacceptable conditions, when the vast number of our people are still unemployed, when there’s still unwarranted violence, corruption and crime?”

Honourable Speaker, it is common-course that for the vast majority of our people freedom should mean emancipation from poverty, unemployment, racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination.

It therefore remains deplorable that poverty and discrimination continues to plague our people especially women and children, elderly and people with disabilities within our society.

It is therefore important that as citizens and government we continue to work together to eradicate these challenges; because indeed it is clear that despite the fact that a lot has been achieved in the past 20 years of our freedom, it remains an unquestionable fact that a lot more work is yet to be done in collaboration with our people; in order to mitigate the diverse and growing socio-economic challenges that are still confronting our people.

Honourable Speaker allow me at this instance to borrow from the words of one of Africa's brightest intellectuals and revolutionary; the former President of Tanzania; Comrade **Mwalimu Julius Nyerere** who taught us in his book titled **freedom and development** published in 1973 that; **"A man is developing himself when he works, grows or earns enough to provide decent conditions for himself, his family and his people; he is however not being developed if someone gives him all of these things.**

The above statement ladies and gentlemen clearly articulates and re-affirms the fact that whilst government will do a lot to drive forward the socio-economic development agenda as espoused in the NDP; it remains our individual and collective responsibility to ensure that we play our part and we contribute effectively to the “radical economic transformation” that our honourable President; Comrade Zuma has referred to in the state of the nation address.

Honourable Speaker let me in the same spirit also take this moment on behalf of the people of Nkomazi to unequivocally condemn in the strongest possible terms that barbaric and inhumane act of a group in Nigeria calling itself Boko Haram.

We have all learnt with disbelief the heartless abductions of more than 200 girls from their school dormitories in that country. We are particularly disturbed by the fact that those girls remain captive in the country of their birth and that religious extremist violence continue to claim hundreds of innocent African lives in that country.

It is for this reason that we join the “BRING BACK OUR GIRLS CAMPAIGN” as a principle stance to convey the message that self-hate religious crimes have no place in society; regardless of what justification or agenda any groups and/or individuals may claim to advance.

Honourable Speaker On the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2014; the world joined us as we inaugurated President Jacob Zuma for his second term in office. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of May the president announced men and women who make up his cabinet, ministers and deputy ministers.

May we also take this opportunity and welcome the re-election of honorable David Mabuza as Premier of our province as well as his Executive. We are confident that these men and women will serve the nation to the best of their abilities and we wish them well in their new roles.

Honorable Speaker it is worth noting that the President has made an unequivocal commitment to implement the National Development Plan.

The NDP remains a strategic tool that we have committed to use at all levels of government and civil society to move South Africa forward. We must own it and live it.

This document depicts a direct and honest assessment of South Africa's socio-economic situation. It categorizes 9 main challenges that we are saddled with as a country as follows:

- Too few people work
- The standard of education for most black learners in the country is of poor quality
- Infrastructure is poorly located, under maintained and insufficient to foster economic growth spatial patterns and excludes the poor from the fruits of development.
- The economy is overly and unsustainable resource intensive.
- A widespread disease burden is compounded by failing public health system.
- Public services are uneven and often of poor quality
- Corruption is widespread.
- South Africa remains a divided society.



Accordingly the President has made the clarion call that for our country to effectively deal with these challenges, it is required that we take collective responsibility, as government, business, religion and civil society at large to play our role in the mitigation and eradication of the identified NDP diagnostic findings.

Honourable Speaker on 28 June 2013 I presented an Annual Budget and IDP for 2013/14. I am here today to also give a progress report on the major projects that we have undertaken during the period under review.

The **Komatipoort Suid Dorp** (complete), **Mafambisa, East-Gate (Kamhlushwa), Driekoppies and Boschfontein** roads projects have commenced and are at different stages of implementation.

I am informed that there were slight delays in the implementation of some of the projects due to the heavy rains that we experienced in the months of November and December 2013.

It is reported however that everything is back to normal and that the projects are progressing well. We anticipate that those projects should be completed soon.

**The R 7.5 million Jeppes Reef** community hall has also commenced and we anticipate that the project should be completed in the current financial year.

**The R 10, 7 Million Shongwe Hospital Bulk Water Supply Upgrade** has also commenced; along with the **R 37 Million Masibekela Water Treatment Works phase 2 project** as well as the **R 15 Million Hhoyi** reticulation, reservoir and elevated tank.

We anticipate that upon completion the beneficiary communities in those areas will benefit from improved water services and quality of life.

We wish to commit Honourable Speaker that in the current financial year we will accelerate our rollout plans as would be depicted below to implement more projects to ensure that we broaden and improve access to municipal services for the benefit of all our people.

We can report further Honourable Speaker that we remain committed to the mitigation of some of the challenges that are still plaguing our urban communities.

In this regard I will point out that as a municipality we are working with law enforcement and other stakeholders to ensure the eradication of the challenges caused by the trucks along the **Impala Street** in **Malalane**.

We would like to emphasise in this regard that as we continue to engage our stakeholders; our main goal is to ensure the establishment of a proper **Truck-Stop** in Malalane.

We believe that such a facility will ensure that the fledging trucking business that runs through our town due to the Maputo Development Corridor initiatives becomes a benefit than a curse to the community of Malalane.

We remain equally concerned by the unsightly situation caused by the sprawling flea market at the centre of the **Komatipoort town**. We are currently working with stakeholders to find a sustainable solution which we envisage will and should include proper market facilities and a suitable taxi rank.

The growing challenge of buildings and lodges in **Marloth Park** that are developed in contravention of our town planning scheme is another matter that continues to enjoy the focus of our attention.

Honourable Speaker **Marloth Park** is a proud and reputable nature conservation area which falls directly under our area of responsibility. As municipal authority we would like to keep the facility pristine and compliant with the approved town planning bylaws and regulations.

Accordingly we would like to request all our stakeholders in the park to work with us and desist from building unapproved structures as well as other practises that may hamper the protection of the natural species and environment in park. For our part we will increase law enforcement and monitoring to ensure compliance with the law.

The community of Hectorspruit Honourable Speaker has also been in constant consultation with us requesting that we assist in the introduction of measures to curb the crime situation in that area.

In this regard a specific request was made that the current Dog Unit SAPS Station in the town be converted into a full police station. I can report Honourable Speaker that as a municipality we fully support the community on this matter.

We can report that we are currently engaging the SAPS leadership in the province to solicit their support for the community request. We remain confident that the plight of the Hectorspruit community will be responded positively.

Having undertaken the Budget and IDP public consultation meetings Honourable Speaker; we are satisfied that the budget decisions that have been made are reflective of the developmental aspirations of our communities.

We can point out further Honourable Speaker that this people's budget has also been shaped and enriched by contributions from a cross-section of ordinary citizens of Nkomazi.

These patriotic citizens would use every means at their disposal including Radio and our Facebook page to guide and contribute to our developmental efforts; as we seek to find lasting solutions to the complex and at times difficult socio-economic challenges confronting our communities.

In the spirit of public participation and good governance Honorable Speaker let me take this moment to pay homage and to recognise ordinary citizens like Magalela, Mazibambela (Khombaso), Mshibo (Edamini), Jan Mhlongo (Kamdladla), Mazola (eMbuzini), Bacwenga (eNaas), Mafigadoris (eNaas), MaTen-Ten (eBhevula), Elvis (eGomora) and many others like them who call-in on radio and other community platforms both to critic and give a positive input to our efforts.

We applaud your patriotic contributions and we wish to emphasise that as we compiled this state of the municipality address and budget; we were mindful of and alive to the various service delivery issues and suggestions that you have raised.

It is accordingly my pleasure Honourable Speaker to present for approval the **2014/2015** Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework (MTREF) for the **2014/15** ,**2015/16** and **2016/17** financial years.

The MTREF proposes a consolidated budget of **R 812 million** for the **2014/15** financial year, as well as **R 855 Million** for the **2015/16** and **R 898 Million** for the **2016/17** financial years. It can be pointed out that the 2014/15 Budget makes provision for an operating budget of **R 581 Million** and a capital budget **R 230 Million**.

Honourable Speaker we are humbled to confirm before you and this august house that this budget has been compiled in compliance with the relevant provisions of the MFMA and budget related regulations.

Ladies and Gentlemen may we also point out that this budget is a strategic and operational tool which accords us an opportunity to tackle our service delivery targets and challenges, to evaluate the impact of our resource planning patterns to ensure efficiency and effectiveness.

Honourable Speaker, the core principles underlying this budget will amongst others include:

- Getting value for money - In short this speaks to procurement of goods and services.
- Ensure that there is financial accountability and efficient deployment of resources
- Ensure that in the long-term we achieve financial sustainability and abolish our over-reliance on national grants to operate.

As pointed out above the IDP inputs, our elections Manifesto, the NDP as well as the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy provides a basis for the difficult choices that we have had to make in this budget.

### **1. Water services.**

Honourable Speaker one of the critical infrastructure challenges identified by all the above mentioned documents is water services infrastructure.

As a municipality we have vowed to wage a relentless war on this challenge until every community in Nkomazi has sustainable access to clean water.



We have accordingly appropriated **R 20 Million** for **Mangweni Bulk Supply** and Reticulation. We are also apportioning **R 17 Million** for the upgrading of the **Nyathi Scheme**, **R 14 Million** for the **Shongwe Hospital Bulk supply**, **R 13 Million** for the **Louville** Water treatment plant as well as **R 12 Million** for the **Langeloop** Water Reticulation.

Honorable Speaker the above commitments as well as several others that we have not mentioned in the interest of time; reflect a determined attitude towards the sustainable eradication of water services challenges in Nkomazi.

## **2. Sanitation**

Honorable Speaker decent sanitation remains one of the critical deliverables that we consider as non-negotiable. Accordingly we are apportioning an amount of **R 22.5 Million** for **sanitation projects** in the current financial year.

## **3. Roads**

Access to public transport and proper road infrastructure continues to be a focus area that we consider as central to socio-economic development.

During many of our engagements with the public; the issue of public roads continues to be raised as one of the important tasks that we need to address. We will therefore in the current budget be apportioning **R 21 Million** for the **Driekoppies Bus Route**, **R 18 Million** for the **Mafambisa Bus Route**, **R 9 Million** for the **Nkungwini Bus Route** ,**R 7 Million** for the **Kamhlushwa MB to Taxi Rank Bus Route** as well as **R 5 Million** for the **Boschfontein Bus Route**.

#### **4. Electricity**

Access to electricity continues to be a universal right which cannot be divorced from any realistic socio-economic development agenda. It partly this reason that we continue to invest year-on-year in the expansion of our electrical infrastructure and broadening access for many of our communities.

We are in the current financial appropriating an amount of **R 9 Million** from the **INEG electricity grant**

as well as **R 5.6 Million** from our own resources to support electricity projects within our communities.

## **5. Community Facilities**

Honourable Speaker community facilities such as community halls remain amongst the most important assets in the life of a community.

We all know that in communities where such facilities do not exist; there is usually an unpleasant situation whenever the community wishes to gather for a particular purpose.

It is accordingly for this purpose that we are apportioning an amount of **R 2.5 Million** for the upgrading of the **Driekoppies Stadium**.

## **6. Municipal Tariffs**

Honourable Speaker we wish to announce the municipal tariffs for the upcoming **2014/15** financial year as follows:

The Assessment Rates on water, electricity, sanitation, and refuse removal increases by **06%**

Honourable Speaker the 2013/14 financial year has been one of the most eventful year of our administration. We have seen a lot of challenges and successes.

I trust that as we enter the 2014/15 financial year, that each of us will take a long hard look at ourselves and ask the question whether we are doing enough to contribute to the development of the people of Nkomazi.

If the answer to the above is in the negative, then I will encourage you to use the 2014/15 Budget period as a year of change.

I call upon all of us to commit to sparing neither effort nor strength in implementing an agenda that will bring about the kind of change that will leave a lasting legacy in our lives and those of future generations of Nkomazi. Let us all make 2014/15 a year of robust, radical and selfless action for the development of our people.

Honourable Speaker let me take this opportunity and thank you, as well as my colleagues in council, staff for the continued support and most importantly ; I would like to thank God almighty for guiding and protecting us; as we continue to respond to the calling that our people have entrusted on us.

I remain committed to the attainment of the goals that our people have set for us. I trust that we will fight alongside till the battle for the socio-economic liberation of our people is won.

I will conclude this address by reminding all of us that in the words of President Roosevelt “The only man who makes no mistake; is the man who sits around and does nothing; Honourable Speaker we cannot afford to sit around and to do nothing.

Our people expect more from us. Accordingly we can declare boldly today for all to know; and say that we have not come here to fear the future. We have come here to shape it. So let’s all join hands and turn the Nkomazi dream into a reality.

**NGIYABONGA/I THANK YOU.**