

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET  
POLICY SPEECH- 22 JUNE 2018

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The Honourable Speaker;

The Chief Whip;

Members of the Executive Committee;

Councillors;

Traditional leaders;

Municipal Manager and the entire management

Distinguished Guests;

Delegates from Sector Departments;

Business Community;

Leaders of Political Parties;

Ward Committee Members;

Community Development Workers;

Members of the public;

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen

Honourable Speaker we hold this year's State of the Municipal Address when so much has happened in our country.

We have lost valuable people in the political and entertainment arena.

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Amongst those people were Mama Nomzamo Winnifred Zanyiwe Madikizela a stalwart of the ANC and Dr Zola Sydney Themba “Nzwana” Sikweyiya.

Even though we lost these struggle icons, we find solace from the fact that they ran their race with perseverance to the end; they never sold out and they served our nation with pride and dignity.

Mama Winnie was brutally traumatised by the apartheid system and had boldness to confront the system without any fear.

We will always remember her for her passion to fight for justice and downtrodden.

Dr Zola Skweyiya will be remembered for his contribution in the struggle and transformation of public service.

We will remember him for inculcating a culture of putting people first in everything that we do as government.

Honourable Speaker this year was declared as the year of tata Nelson Rholihlahla Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu.

In his State of the Nation Address, President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa alluded to the fact this year would be

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used to reinforce nation's commitment to ethical behaviour and ethical leadership, guided by example of tata Nelson Rholihlahla Mandela.

Elundini Local Municipal Council responded to this call of the President by committing itself to this ethical behaviour.

In this financial year, we developed Ethics and Integrity Management Strategy.

This Ethics and Integrity Management Strategy aligns with the South African Local Government Anti-Corruption Strategy of 2016 which requires all municipalities to strengthen their resilience against corruption by implementing the Local Government Integrity Management Framework.

In order to be a well governed municipality that fulfils its obligations and delivers services to the community, we need effective, committed leadership and a professional, competent workforce.

We also have a responsibility to manage our entrusted resources responsibly and to combat all forms of fraud, corruption and misconduct.

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We strongly believe that none of the above will be possible without a strong ethical culture that enables all parties to focus on the right things for the right reasons.

For this reason, the Elundini Local Municipality is committing to managing organisational integrity more actively.

President Ramaphosa described the struggle stalwart Albertina Nontsikelelo Sisulu as a woman who lived a remarkable life and made outstanding contribution. She defined what it means to be a freedom fighter, a leader and a diligent and disciplined servant of the people. The President further stated that “As we mark her centenary, we reaffirm that no liberation can be complete and no nation can be free until its women are free.”

### **Good Governance and Public Participation**

Honourable Speaker, in the current financial year, the Council successfully developed ward-based plans.

We are proud of community participation in the development of these plans.

We were humbled by the wisdom and knowledge we experienced during this planning process.

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We were more humbled by the participation of our traditional leadership. These leaders showed passion and commitment during this process.

For that we are forever grateful.

These ward plans will be used by the Council to develop and review our IDP.

These plans will also inform prioritization of projects in each financial year.

We agreed in the strategic planning session that each department should identify projects for implementation in the next financial year.

Cllr Nkalitshana, there were many local economic development projects that came out of these plans; I hope your department identified projects that can be done next year.

For instance, communities needed service providers business development support; bringing these services to communities; assisted in registration of their companies.

These are activities that need to be responded to swiftly.

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Cllr Naketsana, a lot of environmental and waste management projects were identified almost in all wards. As the Council, we need to see something initiated to assist communities in this regard.

Chief Whip, the same goes for your portfolio, community skilling was one of the prominent programs identified by our communities, as the Council we need to see tangible service delivery.

I commit to start and champion stakeholder engagements with business sector, sector departments at regional and provincial level to solicit buy-in and resourcing of these plans.

The performance agreements of all section 56 managers should have indicators and targets on ward plans implementation.

In our Council Portfolio Committee and Executive Committee meetings we need to have a standing item on ward plan implementation to empower the Council to report back quarterly implementation progress to communities.

Honourable members of the Council, in the current financial year we commissioned a Community Satisfaction

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Survey in all wards to assess service delivery satisfaction levels.

Even though there is still a huge space for improvement, communities generally commended the Council in different service areas including waste collection, infrastructure development and maintenance, public participation, customer care, community skilling, bursaries, etc.

We are pleased and encouraged by the outcomes. Ithe kanti abantu bakuthi bayayibona imizamo yethu yokuzisa iinkonzo siliBhunga.

On areas they displayed displeasure we commit as this Council to fix those areas to the best of our ability within the ambits of available resources.

Honourable Speaker, in the current financial, the Council also reviewed the Public Participation Strategy.

This was also developed at the right time after the institution facilitated the development of ward-based plans.

These plans will serve as a guide to direct the agenda of ward committees; it repositions ward committees to deal

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with strategic issues and community development in a more meaningful way.

This Public participation strategy also sets a basis for development of Councillors' performance plans and performance monitoring on quarterly and annual basis.

This is culture change for the Council and will increase levels of accountability to our communities.

Honourable Speaker, we are proud to announce that the Council has retained an unqualified audit opinion for seven (07) consecutive years.

We commit as the Council working with administration to fix issues that were raised mainly around supply chain management

The cordial relationship between the administrative and political arms of the municipality, is the key ingredients that supports the municipality's service delivery excellence.

Our recently reviewed communication and public participation strategies promote the use of social media as alternative platform for communication and public participation.

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Three social media accounts (FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram) have been opened to respond and implement these strategies.

WhatsApp groups for ward committees have also been opened.

We are doing all these things as the Council to continue to strengthen fundamental principles of a developmental local government which are founded on community participation and involvement.

Honourable Speaker as the Council we have also reviewed People with disability strategy.

Implementation of this strategy will commence this coming financial year. This strategy was reviewed with full participation of people with disability.

I am excited that people with disability themselves proposed trail-blazing programs such as manufacturing of people with disability devices and crutches to increase access.

As the Council we want to prioritize implementation of this program in the next financial because we believe this can

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be a huge economic development opportunity for people with disability.

It has a potential to create employment opportunities and position people with disability as active players in the mainstream of the economy

Honourable Speaker on HIV/AIDS coordination, we have two HCBCs (Ikaheng in Mt Fletcher and Masincedane in Ugie) supported by NACOSA providing organizational support in areas such as financial management and other areas to ensure effective administration.

Our continued partnership with 17 HCBCs within Elundini continues to yield positive results. This relationship shows the power of government-community partnership and prove that indeed “***together we can do more***”.

We continue to reach out to thousands and thousands of our people and households each working together with HCBCs conducting education and awareness; making referrals; assisting families

The President in his recent State of the Nation Address called upon all South Africans to respond to the “**Thuma Mina (Send me)**” call.

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We also call upon all citizens of Elundini to respond to this **“Thuma Mina”** movement and avail themselves to build and develop our communities. Ward-based plans set the agenda for community development contribution. We need community members with expertise in different areas to advance this cause.

Youth development remains central in the agenda of the Council. Investing to youth development is investing in the now and in the future.

David declares in Psalm 144:12 “Our sons are like tall young plants and our daughters like the shining stones of a king’s house.”

He goes on to say in Psalm 127:3 “Youth is a heritage from the Lord; “Happy is the man who has good store of them; he will not be put to shame.”

I am also saying “Happy is the nation and community that has youth, it will never be put to shame.”

The Council, Honourable Speaker, supported a lot of youth in arts as part of youth investment agenda. Elundini Music and Arts Carnival was supported by the Council and we believe this initiative has a potential to grow and become bigger than it started.

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Open MIC session was initiated to create another platform to showcase youth talent in arts. Youth showcased their talents in areas of music, poetry and hip-hop.

Technical training for youth in arts was also provided in partnership with Lady Grey Arts Academy.

We further supported our youth to participate in TruFM talent show auditions in performing arts. The municipality hosted the talent search on behalf of Joe Gqabi District. We are pleased to announce that six (06) young people from our municipality went through the auditions. Ntombovuyo Klaas and Relebohile Khosi for DJ category; Maclear Young Stars and Khayaletu Bodi for dance category; Samanda Mfino and Athi Olota.

The Mayoral Cup remains our main contribution in sports development. This is another platform to showcase youth talent in sport. This year we were honoured by the presence of Chippa United. Through this partnership we had three young men – Indiphile Mangala from Ward 05; Amos Sithoza and Siyamthemba Mkhupheni from Ward 03 who were identified by Chippa United for coaching to further improve their level.

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It is both the desire of Council and Chippa United to continue with this partnership even in the future.

Mayor's Social Investment continues to perform phenomenally. The Council continues to support 10 adopted schools to improve numeracy and literacy levels at foundational phase.

Piloted schools are Mt Fletcher Village J.S.S; Ilingeletu J.S.S.; Mohoabatsane J.S.S.; Fletcherville J.S.S.; Elunyaweni J.S.S.; Maclear Public Primary; Ngxaza J.S.S.; Chebenca J.S.S.; Solomzi J.S.S. and Elukhanyisweni J.S.S.

Work opportunities for 15 young tutors were created through this project.

The impact of this intervention last year was assessed by the Department of Education and the results were encouraging. There was significant improvement of learner performance. Performance results per school were submitted by the Department to us.

During performance evaluation of Adopt A School, the following challenges were highlighted by tutors and school principals:

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- Inadequate infrastructure to help them do their efficiently
- Classroom space was a serious issue for some
- Some educators did not understand the role of tutors
- Some educators dumped their work to tutors; etc.
- Tutoring of learners who were supposed to be in special schools was difficult

In spite these challenges both tutors and principals recommended highly that the project should continue as it helped these schools a lot.

The Council continues to support students with bursary. We are proud to announce as the Council that one of the Electrical Engineering students – Portia Malotane completed her in-service training. Two of these students – Olwakhe Mkhanyiswa who did National Diploma in Accounting and Khantisa Joja who did BSc Life and Environmental Science with specialization in Geography and Environmental Management are currently doing in-service training with the municipality.

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Honourable Speaker, we are pleased to finally have one of the top achievers in the Class of 2017 coming from our own municipality - Mofitiso Reamohetse from Lehana Senior Secondary School. We want to congratulate him once again for obtaining straight As. He has made us proud.

Honourable Speaker as I alluded earlier on that no liberation can be complete and no nation can be free until its women are free; we reaffirm also as the Council that our communities cannot be free and fully developed until women are economically free.

In this regard we continue to implement women empowerment strategy which we developed few years ago.

We realised as the Council that amongst the challenges facing women and other SMEs is their inability to sustain their businesses.

This is often due to a lot of money or profit generated going to payment of exorbitant rent from property owners.

In the previous, current and next financial year we have committed to support women in fashion, food, hair &

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beauty with business infrastructure support to curb this challenge

### **Basic Services**

Infrastructure investment is key to our efforts to grow the economy, create jobs, empower small businesses and provide services to our people. We have invested heavily in new roads, power stations, schools and other infrastructure.

The Council for the coming financial year – 2018/2019, prioritised projects on basic services. The Council will:

- Do 1 100 households electricity connections at Ward 13, 11 and 08; benefitting the following villages: -
  - i. Khalankomo            161 connections  
                                 R3,059 million
  - ii. Lahlangubo            115 connections  
                                 R2,415 million
  - iii. Luzie Drift            158 connections  
                                 R3,302 million
  - iv. Mbizeni                26 connections            R0,    546  
                                 million

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- v. Nxotshana                    320 connections  
   R6,720 million
- vi. Seqhobong                    320 connections  
   R6,720 million

- Install 100 street lights in Maclear
- Refurbish 02 transformers in electrical network
- Maintain 28.4kms of electrical network

The issue of unscheduled power outages prevalent in the towns of Maclear and Ugie is receiving attention, and ESKOM has already been commissioned to increase the “notified maximum demand” which is actually the cause. We believe that, for the local economy to grow, there ought to be a sustainable supply of electricity.

Honourable Speaker, as the Council we have initiated a program for solar energy system with the support of the Department of Energy as an additional effort in ensuring that every household within the municipality has access to energy.

2 200 households are targeted for connections.

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- Solar energy installation has benefits, even though some communities often perceive it as inferior form of energy.
- The current solar energy is different from previous solar system; this solar energy is:
  - High in capacity and can accommodate more appliances. There are no service fees, beneficiaries only pay for planned consumption.
  - Environmentally friendly and puts less strain on the grid.
  - Allows for provision of access to electricity in remote areas that would not ordinarily be provided with access due to location and other constraints
  - Less dangerous than other forms of alternative energy and is more sustainable in that it relies on natural elements which are easily available
- The solar installation Phase 1 was completed in the 2017/2018 financial Department of Energy financial year and benefited residents from ward 14 and 4 which saw beneficiation of 1100 h/h.
- Department of Energy is planning to implement more households within the 2018/2019 financial year using the beneficiary list from submissions received in Ward 14, Ward 09, Ward 04 and Ward 03.

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Funding has already been allocated for the implementation of energy efficiency and demand side management at R5 million for 2018/2019 and R21 million for five years.

Honourable Speaker, as the Council we are glad to that our municipality has been allocated 5 000 Baseline Systems usually referred to as geysers under the National Solar Water Heater Program – Social component.

These geysers come with a warranty of five years from which thereafter municipality should have a plan in place to assist with the maintenance of the units at owner's cost.

Installation of these geysers is targeted for RDP houses which have been constructed at Bhekela, Ugie Park and Takalane in Ugie; Maclear Phase 1 and Greenfields in Maclear; Mangoloaneng, Ngcele, Katkop and Isinxako which is still under construction.

In the event of any of the homestead failing to pass the household assessments to be undertaken, other indigent households with running water will be prioritized.

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Honourable Speaker the Council will be providing 13 000 of indigent households with access to free basic services.

The Council will also introduce gel fuel to the communities that have not yet been electrified with priority given to Ward 14 & Ward 15.

- Gel fuel is a low cost form of energy generated from fuel crops that is an alternative to electricity, gas and paraffin.
- The Council will supply a gel stove per household annually, and then supply 10 litres of gel per household every month.
- These gel stoves and lamps are far safer, eco-friendly, clean and efficient than gas and paraffin stoves.
- Gel is also far healthier in that it is odourless and does not cause respiratory disorders to the users

This initiative will be expanded in future to include other areas.

Honourable Speaker on roads construction, maintenance and storm-water, the Council will:

- Upgrade Streets and Storm water at Sonwabile to Old Location, Sithole and Vincent

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- Construct unpaved roads at Mjikelweni Access Road & Bridge (Phase 2); Construction of T74 via Mohoabatsane to Khohlong Access Road; Liphofung Access Road; Construction of Ntabayikhonjwa Access Road
- Construct Ilisolomzi Community Centre; Completion of Mt Fletcher Sports Field; Lower Tsitsana Community Centre; Completion of Ugie Sports Field Phase 2; Completion of Ngcele Sports Field
- Maintain 240KMs of District Roads under the Service Level Agreement
- Maintain 200 KMs of access roads under Service Level Agreement
- Build and rehabilitate 01 child care facilities in Mt Fletcher
- Continue to collect refuse to 7 558 households and commercial properties
- Maintains 4 500m<sup>2</sup> of surfaced roads
- Honourable Speaker, as the Council we have been receiving a lot of community complaints about the

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state of bridges in our municipality. We have prioritized rehabilitation of these bridges as a response to these community concerns. We are a council that listens and where we can, with resources allowing, we respond.

- The causes for dilapidation of these bridges were due to:
  - Heavy rains that occurred and caused the logs upstream to flood the bridges.
  - Inadequate design parameters during construction which did not cater for full extent of flow
  - Lack of maintenance on bridges during operational life
- As the Council, we have learnt from these service delivery challenges and we are we planning to:
  - Remove logs continuously to avoid piling up. Engagements with working for water will be initiated as they are often responsible for leaving a majority of the logs by the river side
  - Adequately budget for the works that are to be undertaken.

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- Improve supervision and monitoring during construction and undertake routine maintenance on bridges.
  
- The Premier Pumullo Musualle announced in his State of the Province address that as the Office they were also engaged in the revitalization of a number of small towns in the Province.
- We are glad as the Council that Elundini Local Municipality is one of the few beneficiaries.
- This support from the Office of the Premier involves the upgrade of Mt Fletcher infrastructure which includes water and sanitation; electricity; roads and storm-water; vehicle testing station; taxi and bus rank will contribute towards revitalisation of Mt Fletcher and attract much needed investment activities for essential amenities like banks.

On the local economic development front, the President in his State of the Nation Address highlighted the decline of our manufacturing capacity as the nation, which resulted in increase in unemployment.

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He further emphasized the urgent need for re-industrialisation on a scale and at a pace that draws millions of job seekers into the economy.

As a local municipality we need to focus on rural industrialisation to respond to the call of the President.

Fortunately for this Council, we have ward-based plans which have given us direction and guidance on how we can shape rural industrialization within our area to stimulate rural economies.

We need strategic partnerships with all finance, academic, business support, training providers to make this dream a reality.

We also need to focus on raising entrepreneurs and black industrialists in our local areas both social and economic entrepreneurs.

This investment in entrepreneurship will help to “develop a new generation of black and women producers that are able to build enterprises of significant scale and capability”, as the President pronounced.

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The Council, for the coming financial year, prioritised job creation Small and Micro enterprise development; property development; agro-development and community forest development; mining and manufacturing; small town revitalization in line with provincial and national priorities.

- A total of 617 jobs will be created through municipality's local economic and social development initiatives including capital projects
- Attraction of property developers for commercial and office development remains our priority.
- Maclear Mixed Development Clearview housing development remains our priority
- 15 hectares of land has been zoned for commercial, industrial and institutional development.
- Tourism plan will also be reviewed to steer more focus on tourism and to unlock tourism potential.

Honourable Speaker, our municipality is also participating in the Rural Agro- industries and Finance Initiative (RAFI). This was the initiative of Chris Hani Co-operative Development Centre which was introduced to its district municipality and was thereafter adopted by 04 district municipalities including Joe Gqabi.

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Since the start of this initiative the following milestones were achieved:

- A business case was developed which was preceded by strategic business visit to the Republic of Argentina to forge strategic business partnership.
- Official visit by the Argentinian Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa, to the Eastern Cape Province hosted by the ORTDM, CHDM, JGDM and ANDM;
- Signing of Agreements between the Province of Cordoba in Argentina and the City of Sacanta and the City of Tancancha;
- Development of project frameworks for all district municipalities and outstanding local municipalities (Elundini, Matatiela and Engcobo).

The partnership with farmers and agro-industrialists from the Republic of Argentina was also concluded to improve and increase capacity of production in the local municipalities in the Eastern Cape including Elundini Local Municipality;

### **Budget**

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Honourable Speaker allow me to table the budget of the Council for 2018/2019 financial year.

The application of sound financial management principles for the compilation of the Municipality's financial plan is essential and critical to ensure that the Municipality remains financially viable and that municipal services are provided sustainably, economically and equitably to all communities.

The Municipality's business and service delivery priorities were reviewed as part of this year's planning and budget process.

Where appropriate, funds were transferred from low- to high-priority programs so as to maintain sound financial stewardship.

The Municipality has embarked on implementing revenue enhancement strategy to optimize the collection of debt owed by consumers.

Furthermore, the Municipality has undertaken various customer care initiatives to ensure the municipality truly

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involves all citizens in the process of ensuring a people lead government.

National Treasury's MFMA Circular No. 91 was used to guide the compilation of the Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework (MTREF). The main challenges experienced during the compilation of the MTREF can be summarized as follows:

- ✓ The ongoing difficulties in the national and local economy;
- ✓ Inadequate resources to reduce roads and electricity infrastructure backlogs;
- ✓ The need to reprioritize projects and expenditure within the existing resource envelope given the cash flow realities and declining cash position of the municipality;
- ✓ The increased cost of bulk electricity (due to tariff increases from Eskom), which is placing upward pressure on service tariffs to residents. Continuous high tariff increases are not sustainable - as there will be point where services will no-longer be affordable;
- ✓ Salary budget increases for municipal staff due to a critical need to fill critical vacancies;

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In compiling the Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework, the Council considered the following budget principles and guidelines:

- ✓ The 2017/18 Adjustments Budget priorities and targets, as well as the base line allocations contained in that Adjustments Budget were adopted as the upper limits for the new baselines for the 2018/19 annual budget;
- ✓ Intermediate service level standards were used to inform the measurable objectives, targets and backlog eradication goals;
- ✓ Tariff and property rate increases should be affordable and should generally not exceed inflation as measured by the CPI, except where there are price increases in the inputs of services that are beyond the control of the municipality, for instance the cost of bulk electricity. In addition, tariffs need to remain or move towards being cost reflective, and should take into account the need to address infrastructure backlogs;
- ✓ There will be no budget allocated to national and provincial funded projects unless the necessary grants to the municipality are reflected in the national

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and provincial budget and have been gazetted as required by the annual Division of Revenue Act;

In view of the aforementioned, the following table is a consolidated overview of the proposed Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework:

| <b>R thousand</b>           | <b>Adjustments<br/>Budget<br/>2017/18</b> | <b>Budget<br/>Year<br/>2018/<br/>19</b> | <b>Budget<br/>Year<br/>2019/20</b> | <b>Budget<br/>Year<br/>2020/21</b> |
|-----------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Total Operating Revenue     | 326.4m                                    | 399.5                                   | 415.9                              | 439.7                              |
| Total Operating Expenditure | 229.5m                                    | 342.3                                   | 356.8                              | 377.5                              |
| (Surplus)/Deficit           | 88.1m                                     | 57.2                                    | 59.0                               | 62.1                               |
| Total Capital Expenditure   | 88.1m                                     | 57.2                                    | 59.0                               | 62.1                               |

Total operating revenue has grown by 18 per cent or R73.1 million for this financial year when compared to the previous financial year budgeted revenue.

For the two outer years, operational revenue increased by 3 per cent and 5 per cent.

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Total operating expenditure grown by 33% or R113 for the financial year when compared to previous financial year budgeted expenditure.

For two outer years, operating expenditure increased by 4 per cent and 5 per cent.

Operating expenditure has been appropriated at R342.3 million and translates into a budgeted surplus of R57.2 million.

The operating surplus for the two outer years steadily increases to R59 million and then R62.1 million.

These surpluses will be used to fund capital expenditure.

The capital program increases to R59 million and R62 million in the outer years.

A substantial portion of the capital budget will be funded from government grants from National and Provincial Treasury over the MTREF.

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The balance will be funded from internally generated funds.

### **Operating Revenue Framework**

In order for ELM to continue improving the quality of services provided to its citizens it needs to generate the required revenue.

In these tough economic times strong revenue management is fundamental to the financial sustainability of every municipality.

The reality is that we are faced with development backlogs and poverty.

The expenditure required to address these challenges will inevitably always exceed available funding; hence difficult choices have to be made in relation to tariff increases and balancing expenditures against realistically anticipated revenues.

The municipality's revenue strategy is built around the following key components:

- ✓ National Treasury's guidelines and macroeconomic policy;

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- ✓ Growth in the Municipality and continued economic development;
- ✓ Efficient revenue management, which aims to ensure a 95 per cent annual collection rate for property rates and other key service charges;
- ✓ Electricity tariff increases as approved by the National Electricity Regulator of South Africa (NERSA);
- ✓ Determining the tariff escalation rate by establishing/calculating the revenue requirement of each service;
- ✓ The municipality's Property Rates Policy approved in terms of the Municipal Property Rates Act, 2004 (Act 6 of 2004) (MPRA);
- ✓ The municipality's Indigent Policy and rendering of free basic services; and
- ✓ Tariff policies of the municipality.

Honorable Speaker, allow me to present tariffs for 2018/2019 financial year. Our tariffs as the Council **have marginally increased, guided by National Treasury and the National Energy Regulator, as the case may be, as follows:**

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- Electricity 6,84%
- Assessment rates 6%

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- Refuse collection 6%
- Other subsidiary revenue 5,3%

For the detailed list of tariffs please request a tariff book from the municipality.

Honorable Speaker, allow me to pay homage to the late councilor Ramfreki David Rashoalane, who was, in his own right, a veteran of the African National Congress.

On the morning of 29 July 2017 ELM woke up to the news of the passing of Councillor Rashoalane who was the ward councillor for ward 12.

Having served as a portfolio head for Infrastructure in the erstwhile Wild Coast district council from 1995 to 2000 Cllr Rash, as he was known, was the first mayor of the Elundini Local Municipality. Cllr Rash steered the ELM ship through turbulent times as his term was characterized by political instability which included a constitutional inspired intervention by the EC provincial government. Despite all the unfavorable conditions, Cllr Rash managed to provide leadership and in close

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cooperation and guidance for the ANC, kept the council intact.

I urge all the councilors to emulate the undying love for development, which was the embodiment of councilor Rash.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of the following employees who have fallen into a permanent sleep:

- Mcoseleli Thembile Mabunzi who joined the municipality as an electrician on 06 February 2017 and died tragically on 06 August 2017.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to my family which has given me support throughout the year, and endured prolonged periods of my absence from home.

I would also wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the Council for the leadership that has been provided and the strategic direction that has been taken by the municipality, to the administration for their unwavering

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support and last, but not least, to the entire community of Elundini for their resilience and love for the municipality.

Thank you