

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS AND BUDGET POLICY  
SPEECH – 26 JUNE 2015

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Honourable Speaker, Councillor Mzukhona Bomela

Leaders of the African National Congress

Madam Chief Whip, Councillor Mamello Leteba

Leaders of all political parties represented in the  
municipal council

Honourable Traditional leaders

Representatives of the religious fraternity

Representatives of non-governmental organisations and  
community based organisations in attendance

Leadership of organised business

Leadership of the Elundini Youth Council

Ward committee members and community development  
workers

Community participation liaison workers

Honourable councillors

Community of ward thirteen (13) who are hosting us  
today

Municipal Manager and staff members

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

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As our beloved country today celebrates the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Freedom Charter, we look back with pride at the progress that our country in general, and our municipality, in particular, has achieved towards realising the ideals contained in this historic document. We also remain hopeful that, as the system of colonialism and Apartheid that was systematically visited upon the black people of our country over three centuries, failed to break the resolute spirit of our people to attain their freedom, that same resolute spirit propels our people towards the attainment of the national democratic society. ***Honourable Speaker,*** whilst we acknowledge that a significant number of the people of Elundini wake up each morning to face a new day, characterised by an inadequate supply of food, poor health, illiteracy, bleak or uncertain prospects for a better life, it remains our municipality's vision to be ***a leading rural municipality that delivers a better quality of life for its citizens, a municipality that is phenomenally viable, highly successful and passionately people centred.*** Our municipality prides herself as a catalyst for the betterment of the lives of its inhabitants.

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***Distinguished guests and our valued ward committee members***, the Freedom Charter envisages a democratic order in which the people are the masters of their destiny, an order in which “the people govern”. Our municipality has accordingly established a vibrant ward committee system, which is a link between the municipality and the communities. The structuring of a ward committee is such that all villages/ townships and/ or all sectors existing in a ward are represented and can, through their representative in the ward committee, escalate the interests of their community to the municipality. To amplify this, the municipal council has directed its ward councillors to convene community report back meetings, which must be village and/ or township based, to mitigate the challenges associated with the public transportation system in a rural municipality. These village and/ or township based meetings, have been further embellished by the appointment of community participation liaison workers, one for each village, and to whom a monthly stipend is being paid, to provide administrative support to the meetings. Honourable Speaker and ward committee members, it gives me pleasure today to announce that, with effect from July 2015, the stipend regime for

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members of ward committees shall be a monthly payment of R650 per member per month, which translates to R1950 per quarter.

Ladies and gentlemen, this amount shall be paid to members of ward committees every month, and is a fundamental departure from the current regime of a payment of R750 per quarter, linked to attendance of ward committee meetings. Additional to this, the municipality will continue to provide cellphone airtime of R100 per member per month, and will re-imburse ward committee members for transport related costs.

***Honourable councillors and distinguished guests;***

I have previously reported to the people of Elundini that the extent of electrification backlogs in our municipality is unacceptable high – and this has left a bitter taste to the affected communities, a sense that the freedom that the rest of the people of our beautiful country has enjoyed since 1994 was not meant for them.

***The inspirational speaker, Josh S Hinds, tells us that success is the prize for those who stand true to their ideas.***

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**Honourable Speaker**, it is with a deep sense of pleasure that, after many years of knocking at the door of the Department of Energy and ESKOM, our loud bangs have finally been heard. For the 2015/2016 to 2017/2018 medium term expenditure framework, the Elundini Municipality has been allocated R60 million to address the electrification of our rural homesteads. In order to ensure that this yoke of under electrification is speedily addressed, the Elundini Municipality has approached the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and arranged that a portion of the funds receivable in the two outer years of 2016/2017 and 2017/2018, and which translates to approximately R27 million as per the guidelines of National Treasury, to be made available to the Elundini Municipality as a loan.

Ladies and gentlemen, with R47 million immediately available to the municipality in 2015/2016, being the R20 million to be received directly from the national fiscus, and the R27 million to be received from the DBSA as a loan against our future allocations, it gives me pleasure to announce the following electrification programme: -

<b>Project</b>	<b>Village Name</b>	<b>No of</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
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<b>No</b>		<b>household Connections</b>	<b>(R)</b>
1	Elunyaweni B	266	5,8 m
2	Trustini	125	2,4 m
3	Mission	240	5,9 m
4	Mamfengwini	232	5,7 m
5	Luthuthu	248	5,2 m
6	Ntendeleshe	128	4,0 m
7	Phalisa	78	3,2 m
8	Makgatlaneng	206	6,6 m

The expenditure difference of approximately R8 million will go towards the construction of the 26 kilometre Mink link line upgrade in Ncembu as well as payment of surcharge fees to ESKOM.

***Our valued traditional leaders,*** we are enjoying an unprecedented level of cooperation with ESKOM, which augurs well for the acceleration of electricity service delivery in our municipality. We know, as a matter of fact, that the following electricity connections will be rolled out directly by ESKOM during the 2015/2016 financial year: -

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<b>No Of Connections</b>	<b>Villages benefitting</b>
855	Gqaqhala, Ngxothwane, Ngcengane, Josefu, Nkalweni and Lalini
535	Mongoloaneng
300	Mampondomiseni, Mazizini, Mosana, Freistaat, Blorweni
520	Matuguru, Emaromeni, Mzintlava, Platana, Nongqongqwana, Tsikalo, Soigoga

**Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues,** it is common cause that the above outline of electrification projects for 2015/2016 is not the beginning of electrification, but rather a consolidation and acceleration of an existing programme. In this regard, the electrification of 361 homesteads in Ntsilitwa and Mdeni in ward ward is nearing completion at an average of 95%. It is no secret, **madam Chief Whip,** that Eskom has during the 2014/2015 financial year delivered 222 connections in Tsekweni and Karadokwe, 291 connections in Jojweni and Mahlabathini, whilst 845 connections are currently under way in Logobo, Mission, Sakhuthe, Hala, Great

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Place and Kwa Juqu. These deliveries exclude millions of Rands spent in constructing electricity infrastructure (link lines and feeder bays) which is ever so pivotal for the successful delivery of household electricity connections.

***Comrade leaders of the African National Congress,*** we are celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Freedom Charter today, content that working together with the people of Elundini, we shall deliver a better livelihood to our communities. Our belief, throughout, has always been that the improvement of our roads infrastructure is the key that unlocks various other services, be it education, health, social welfare and many others. We know, as our communities know, that our sporting amenities go a long way in redirecting the energies of our young people towards positive and healthy activities. We appreciate, as our communities do, that there needs to be community halls where our people meet to plan and shape the socio economic development of their areas, and also meet to receive report backs from their elected councillors, to ensure that these councillors do not become lethargic, and renege on their responsibilities to facilitate the development of their communities.

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**Honourable Speaker,** as you are aware, we have been experiencing a perennial problem of under delivery on our obligations in terms of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant. As a proactive council, we have approved a three year Construction Procurement Strategy. In terms of this strategy, we plan to procure service providers and commit them to three year contracts, and rid our municipality of the challenges associated with the annual procurement of service providers, inept performance of the service providers and inadequate project management systems. Furthermore, through the strategy, we are seeking to address the incessant calls by our local SMMEs that they are not afforded opportunities to participate in our procurement and development projects.

An unknown author says that ***if there was ever a time to make a difference, to embark on something worth doing, IT IS NOW***”.

**Ladies and gentlemen,** it gives me the greatest pleasure to present to this august gathering, the municipality’s projects to be funded out of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant over the next financial year, 2015/2016: -

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- We will continue with the implementation of the Ntushu-ntushu access road in ward 5, started in 2014/2015, in which we are doing 20 Kms at a cost of more than R10 million;
- We will continue to implement the Mt Fletcher Taxi Rank in ward 9, which we initiated in 2014/2015, and where we have already expended more than R11 million;
- We will 6,2 kilometres of the T18 to Pitseng Access Road in ward 8, at a cost of R4,7 million
- The Pitoli to Mafusini Access Road in ward 16, consisting of 3 kilometres, will be implemented at a cost of R2,3 million;
- We will construct the Botshabelo Community Hall in ward 7 at a cost of R2,5 million;
- We will construct the TV Park Sportsfield in ward 3 at a cost of R5,8 million;
- We will construct 4 kilometres of the Nobuntu to Zwelitsha Access Road in ward 5 at a cost of R1,5 million;
- We will construct 3,5 kilometres of the Maplotini Access Road in ward 1 at a cost of R2,6 million;
- We will construct 2 kilometres of the Phalisa Access Road in ward 1 at a cost of R1,5 million.

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***Esteemed members of our ward committees,*** these projects will happen on the back of numerous other MIG funded projects that we have implemented over the years. For the 2014/2015 financial year, these projects include the following:-

- The Sports field in Ngcele, ward 6, is a two year initiated in 2013/2014 financial year, at a cost of R10 million and in which 12 people have been employed;
- The Mhlontlo to Koloni Access Road in ward 16, has managed to employ 10 people and is costing R5,8 million
- The Nkalweni to Gqaqhala Access Road in ward 1 is being implemented at a cost of R5 million, employing 20 people;
- The Zamuxolo Access Road in ward 10 has been implemented at a cost of R4,4 million, employing 21 people;
- Phase 1 of the Lower Ngxaza to Qolombana Access Road in ward 5, also known as Ntushu-Ntushu, has employed 9 people and is costing 4,6 million;

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- The Siqhungqwini Access Road in ward 6 employs 13 people and is being implemented at a cost of R2,5 million;

***Distinguished guests***, during the 2012 and 2013 state of the municipality address and budget policy speeches, I spoke about the plans to construct a craft centre in Mt Fletcher. In 2014, whilst speaking within the context of the revitalisation of the town of Mt Fletcher, I quoted an unknown philosopher who advises us thus: ***“one thing you can give and still keep .....is your word”***.

***Ladies and gentlemen***, the craft centre in Mt Fletcher has been constructed, and final touches are being made. I must indicate that we have experienced serious delays due, inter alia, to the poor performance of appointed contractors, who have had to be contractually removed from site. I am also perturbed, ***honourable Speaker***, that we continue to ward off vile attempts to steal the packages of land around the craft centre – the latest saga is a matter in the Mt Fletcher Magistrate’s Court where we have laid criminal charges against a community member who has allegedly been selling municipal land.

The craft industry’s potential for job creation and labour absorption is one of its major attractions. Not only does it

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provide income generating opportunities for people that have little or no access to resources, but it also offers employment opportunities for the most economically disadvantaged people in our rural areas. Women entrepreneurs, especially black women who have limited access to capital and resources, but perceive craft activity as one of their opportunity for income will now realize their dream. Furthermore, craft businesses are often built around traditional women's skills, for example sewing, braiding and beading. This means that women often have the baseline skills for production and that they could adapt these skills to generate income, instead of having to learn totally new skills. The flexible and often home-based nature of craft production means that women can integrate their economic activities with household duties

***Madam Chief Whip***, the people who reside in the town of Mt Fletcher in ward 9, and indeed all development activists, can attest that what we promised on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2014 when we converged for the state of the municipality address and budget appropriation in ward 1, Ncembu, regarding the construction of government offices in Mt Fletcher has materialised.

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**Honourable Speaker,** This development is the first of its kind in the Elundini municipality and is expected to yield certain socio-economic spin offs, including the creation of approximately 200 job opportunities within the next three years, catalysing the revitalisation of the CBD of the town, stimulating the property market and improving the revenue base of the municipality.

**Honourable Councillors,** in his departmental budget speech on 6 May 2015 the Minister of Public Works, the honourable Mr. Thulas Nxesi, has stated that the Inner City Regeneration programme, which previously focused exclusively on Tshwane, has expanded its mandate to include other urban and rural areas – supporting integrated development and the creation of government precincts in collaboration with municipal counterparts to facilitate frontline service delivery. According to the Minister, Mt Fletcher is among the precincts in the planning phase.

**Honourable Speaker,** when I addressed your esteemed council and the people of Elundini at the Etyeni Village in ward 7, I indicated that the municipality has approached the Department of Public Works to release erven 245 and 246 in the town of Mt Fletcher, currently

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occupied by the Department of Justice, which has been earmarked for commercial development that will interface with the taxi rank currently under construction.

It is with a deep sense of pleasure that the Minister of Public Works has now publicly committed to this project. It is a joyous moment for the people of Elundini that, through this development and various other initiatives that I have reported on, the landscape of the town of Mt Fletcher is poised to change for the better.

***Distinguished guests***, as you all know, we have taken active steps that have resulted into this progress thus far. In December 2014, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Municipal Manager and the Department's Deputy Director General responsible for Property Management to give effect to this development. In February 2015, a meeting was held by our officials with those of the Joe Gqabi District Municipality, mainly to brief the District Municipality about the planned developments in Mt Fletcher and also to lobby for water services infrastructure upgrades to support the proposed developments. In the spirit of good intergovernmental relations, the District Municipality has supported these initiatives and directed how the developments are to

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benefit from water and sanitation infrastructure. We have also fenced the properties and undertake an environmental impact assessment, as required by applicable pieces of legislation, but this is dependent on the layout of the development. The plan is that the Department of Public Works wants to construct its own offices for its clients – SASSA, Home Affairs etc and allow us to facilitate commercial development of the adjacent property.

Honourable Councillors, I anticipate that around September/ October 2015, the honourable Minister and I will do the sod turning in Mt Fletcher, after which the processes for the development of the properties will unfold in earnest.

***Esteemed ward committees and honourable  
Traditional Leaders***

The Honourable Speaker has convened this sitting of the municipal council here at the Mohoabatsane Junior Secondary School in Ward 13. According to studies conducted by the Department of Social development a few years ago, ward 13 is one of the most under developed in Elundini Municipality.

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**Ladies and gentlemen**, ground breaking strides have been made to address these service delivery backlogs. We also confirm that more still needs to be done, particularly in the area of electrification.

According to the Joe Gqabi District Municipality, VIP toilets have been constructed for all homesteads in Mohoabatsane (289 households), Ntoko (204 homesteads), Seqhobong (303 homesteads), and Koebung (332 homesteads), which translates to a 100% coverage in these villages.

In Nxotshane village, 350 VIP toilets have been constructed, whilst the remaining 9 VIP toilets are still to be done, with only holes having been dug.

**Honourable Speaker**, plans are afoot to ensure that the delivery of VIP toilets is accelerated in the following villages of Tabase, Phirintsu, Makoatlane, Sethathi and Mashata.

**Esteemed ward committee members**, the villages of Sethathi, Seqhobong, Koebung, Mohaboatsane, Ntoko, and Mashata receive the supply of clean water through communal stand pipes fed from the Blakfontein spring well. The villages of Makoatlane, Phirintsu and Lower

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Nxotshana receive clean water from communal standpipes supplied from various boreholes. Sadly, **ladies and gentlemen**, the village of Tabase remains without a clean supply of water, and this is a rather dark spot in the service delivery record of the municipalities serving this village. Our representative to the Joe Gqabi District council has been urged to ensure that this matter receives priority attention.

**Honourable Speaker**, through the partnership with the Department of Roads and Public Works, the municipality has been able to maintain certain gravel roads, notably the DR8074, Seqhobong and Koebung.

We further confirm, **ladies and gentlemen**, that the condition of the Mohoabatsane Community Hall, in this very village where we are having this august gathering, is receiving our priority attention. A bill of quantities has already been developed, which entails the following remedial measures to the community hall: - ceramic tiles, doors, roofing and paint work. This community hall belong to the people of Mohoabatsane and it is their sole responsibility to jealously guard it against any vandalism and irresponsible activities. This community hall shall have been fixed by September 2015.

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**Leaders of the Elundini Youth Council**, our strategy for the development of our communities is anchored on our understanding that the young people are the future of our beautiful country. Comrade OR Tambo, former ANC President, once said, **“a nation that does not invest in its youth does not deserve a future”**.

When the municipal council took a decision in 2012 to implement a Mayor’s Social Investment Programme, it was inspired by the need to create better conditions for young people. We have so far enrolled seven pupils in various tertiary institutions, some of whom are in their final year. We will continue with the further intake in the 2016 calendar year. We have also facilitated entry into tertiary institutions by 64 best performing 2014 matriculants from disadvantaged by paying on their behalf the requisite application fees.

We have also developed a business plan, at the behest of the youth council, to support youth cooperatives. We have further facilitating the registration of youth cooperatives, of which 6 thereof has already filled the requisite forms.

We are proud, **ladies and gentlemen**, that through the Dare to Dream initiative that was successfully

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implemented between the 2010/2011 and 2012/2013 financial years, we have unearthed raw talent in **Nkosinathi Mankayi**, whose exploits in the music industry is putting the town of Maclear and Elundini Municipality in the entertainment map. His debut album, **Buyelekhaya**, is receiving positive reviews. Indeed, we are proud!!

**Honourable Councillors**, we take this moment to remember those employees who passed on during the current year:-

- Mr A M Ntaba, who was the Community Services Manager;
- Mr S Gamanye, who worked in the Community Services Department;
- Ms N B Matanzima, who worked in the Financial Services Department

***May their beautiful souls rest in peace.***

**Honourable Speaker**, I have the greatest honour to table before ordinary council meeting for consideration and approval: -

- The revised five year integrated development plan for the 2015/2016 financial year

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- The annual budget for the 2015/2016 financial year, with indicative amounts for the 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 financial year;
- All the budget related policies as tabled

I also hereby introduce all the By Laws as outlined in the council agenda, in terms of section 12 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000, in order to allow for these By Laws to be published for public comments, after which they will be submitted to council for approval.

***Honourable Speaker, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,*** as I conclude, allow me to quote the American Writer and Civil Rights activist, Maya Angelou, when she says ***“Hope for the best, be prepared for the worse. Life is shocking, but you must never appear to be shocked. For no matter how bad it is it could be worse and no matter how good it is it could be better”***

I thank you!