

Makhado Local Municipality
State of the Municipality Address

Her Worship Mayor
Cllr S.M. Sinyosi

08 June 2018 | 11h00 | Ha-Mutsha Community Hall | Ward 03

2018/19
Budget Speech

Our Vision” A democratic, accountable and service delivery orientated municipality committed to good governance and socio economic development of its community”.

Our Mission” We will utilize available resources effectively in order to address socio economic imbalances through infrastructure and local economic development opportunities”.

Hon. Madam Speaker of Makhado Municipality- Cllr L.B Mogale

Hon Chief Whip of Makhado Municipality- Cllr M.D Mboyi

Khosi-Khulu Vho-Toni Mphephu Ramabulana

Tihosi and misanda

Member of Parliament- Honorable Moses Tseli

Honourable Phil Mdaka

Honourable Mudau

Honourable Ramadwa

MEC for COGHSTA- Vho Jerry Ndou

Members of the Executive Committee of Makhado Municipality

The Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, Cllr Florence Radzilani

The Mayor of Musina Municipality

The Mayor of Thulamela Municipality

The Mayor of Collins Chabane Municipality

Members of the Executive Committee, Chief Whips and Speakers from sister municipalities

Chairperson of MPAC- Cllr Malange

The Commanding Officer and Senior Managers from the Makhado Airforce Base

Our Station Commanders from the SAPS

Chairperson of the Audit Committee and Members of the Audit Committee present

Chairperson of the Risk Committee and members present

Ward and PR Councillors

Municipal Manager, Mr Freddy Tshivhengwa, and his team of Directors of Makhado Municipality

Senior Managers and Officials from Municipalities and Sector Departments

Management Representative from the University of Venda and TVET Colleges present

Leaders of Business, Faith-Based Organizations and Community Organizations

The Masingita Group of Companies

Comrades and Leadership of the ANC, SACP, COSATU and other political
Organizations

Leaders of the ANC Youth League and the ANC Women's League

Stalwarts and Veterans of our struggle

Our Pastors and Bishops

Leadership of Special Programs Committees and Forums

Our Ambassador Against HIV and AIDS Vho Fhatalushaka Ramasala

Members of the media;

Last but not least, all residents of Makhado Municipality

Friends, Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

NDI MATSHELONI- GOOD MORNING,

Welcome to the State of the Municipality Address!

Our assembly this morning occurs in the beautiful valley of Luvuvhu, the home of the great Gwamasenga and Vhadamane vha Tshakhuma tsha Madzivhandila.

Ro swika hayani ha iwe Nesengane, nwana wa Davhana, muduhulu wa Ramabulana. Singo, muila mutshila wa mbudzi ngeno mutumbu u tshila. Tshikurukuru tshindevheni tshi lisa vhana muhodo.

Madame Speaker,

This is the home of Dzivhuluwani Muregu and Thilivhali Neludane, Makonde Magoro, Todani Madzaga and John Luvhimbi and many other political legends of our liberation struggle.

We are here to reflect on the state of our municipality and also to present the 2018/2019 budget allocations, firmly focusing on integrated development and service delivery plans of our municipality.

Madame Speaker, I thank you and the council for granting me, on behalf of the Executive, the opportunity to stand here today to give an account of our plans to improve the conditions of our Municipality and the state of its people.

Madame Speaker,

This year, marks the anniversaries of several milestones in the history of our struggle for democracy in South Africa.

As Makhado Municipality, we join the rest of the nation in celebrating the centenary, marking the birth and the heroic lives of the greatest leaders this country, this continent and the world has known – **Isithwalandwe Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela and Ma Albertina Nontsikelelo Sisulu.**

The President of the Republic of South Africa, **Comrade Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa**, has used the occasion of the State of the Nation Address to call on all South Africans to draw lessons and inspiration from the life of **Nelson Mandela and Ma Albertina Sisulu** as we confront the socio- political and economic challenges of the present.

The President of the ANC, has made a clarion call on each one of us to use this historic occasion to unite, rebuild and renew our nation and reposition the African National Congress as the leader of society.

As a country and as a people, we are endlessly indebted to the sacrifices made by these eminent leaders for the freedoms and liberties that we enjoy today.

Madame Speaker, We are all called to serve!

We have to play our part as local leaders to ensure that Madiba's vision of a democratic society in which all citizens have equal opportunity to determine their own destiny becomes a reality.

We are called upon as leaders of society to restore the confidence of our communities in a shared vision for radical social and economic transformation.

We are reminded of the duty to confront, together, the lack of broad-based economic participation and the social marginalisation of millions of poor and landless people.

Madame Speaker,

It is therefore my privilege to call upon the people of Makhado Municipality, to join the rest of South Africa in declaring the year 2018 the year of “**Making Your Future Work Better – Learning from Madiba**”.

Madame Speaker,

Makhado Municipality has an estimated population of **416 728** people with an estimated number of **116 731** households.

We have a total of 38 wards with +- **200** villages.

We all know that our municipality is vast, with a unique history and complex geo spatial reality that combines both rural and semi urban dimensions.

This historical reality presents us with both challenges of socio economic underdevelopment and also opportunities for transformative development.

According to StatsSA, our unemployment rate is at **36,7%** and youth unemployment rate stands at **49,6%**. Our young people are largely affected by this negative economic outlook.

With the unemployment at **36,7%**, there is a great dependency on pension and social grants.

Madame Speaker,

The rate of poverty in our communities contributes to the complex and dynamic social and political disharmony in our communities.

Crime, alcohol and drug abuse, domestic violence and teenage pregnancy are also a major concern and this can be linked to other social problems namely child neglect, poverty, peer pressure, trauma, crime and HIV and AIDS.

Youth are the most affected by these social ills, we need a community led multi stakeholder partnership to confront this negative trend in our communities.

Madame Speaker,

The **Premier of Limpopo; Honorable Stan Chupu Mathabatha**, during the State of our Province address, expressed the urgent need for sound and improved financial, technical and governance capacity in all Municipalities.

Again, we are called upon as local Councillors, to respond urgently to the task of providing basic services to the people in our municipality.

Our people need better roads, water and sanitation, electricity, housing, employment and business opportunities.

Madame Speaker,

A delegation of the Limpopo government, including our own Director for Development Planning- Ms Dakalo Sinthumule has visited China to concretely finalise some of the strategic investment projects for the Musina-Makhado SEZ.

We have a duty to fully take advantage of the designated Musina Makhado metallurgical Special Economic Zone.

Last year, the Premier mentioned that Makhado Municipality is one of the Municipalities in the Province that has increased its MIG spending by over 50% by the end of December 2017.

National Treasury has since then, given us an additional **R15 million rands** for infra-structure development.

Madame Speaker,

National Department of Cooperative Governance has appointed a Non-Profit Organisation to facilitate the implementation of Community Works Programme (CWP) in Makhado.

To date, we have enrolled **650** people on the Community Works Program providing useful work in their respective communities.

An additional **200** participants will be recruited during 18/19 financial year with specific focus on rural areas and poverty stricken areas of our municipality. The programme is being championed by CoGHSTA at a provincial level.

Over the past three years a total of **2552** work opportunities were created through our internal capital intensive projects and the Expanded Public Works Programme and this figure includes **358** work opportunities created in the previous year.

The target for 2018/2019 is **1446** work opportunities. It means our capital and infra-structure projects must be labour intensive to ensure that we reach the EPWP targets.

The Community Works Program and the EPWP are national anchor initiatives and safety nets that must target the poorest of the poor in our communities, and we therefore urge our Ward Councillors to prioritise women and youth who are unemployed.

Madame Speaker,

In partnership with the National Department of Small Business Development and the National Department of Economic Development, we will during 18/19 financial year implement the upgrading of the Tshakhuma Fruit Market.

A total of **R2.4 million** has been received from the Department of Small Business and there is a commitment by the Department of Economic Development to provide additional funding for the upgrade of the Tshakhuma Market.

Deputy Minister Cassel Mathale has personally committed himself to monitor the project and ensure that there are no delays to improve the market infra-structure for more than 300 women traders at Tshakhuma.

Madame Speaker,

As Council we shall also upgrade the Dzanani Traders Market and Shoprite Market in the CBD of the town with a combined estimated budget of **R1,2 million** rands for both the projects.

We have budgeted **R500 000** for the development of an incubation centre programme for SMMEs and Cooperatives.

The incubator centre programme will provide integrated and holistic business services and support to emerging enterprises in partnership with other state agencies like LEDA, SEDA and SEFA.

We have during the past year provided support and funding to various community enterprises including the:

- ✚ Zamenkomste poultry farm
- ✚ Mulima Pfanani Poultry
- ✚ Vhumatshelo agricultural Cooperative
- ✚ Mbofhano brick making
- ✚ Nthabalala agricultural Cooperative
- ✚ Phaphama agricultural Cooperative
- ✚ Zwidonaka brick making

Our LED Unit must be strengthened to ensure innovation and increased support to our local industries , especially agriculture and tourism sector as per the adopted LED strategy.

Our LED team must play a leading role in the establishment of cooperatives and SMME's in the tourism and agriculture sectors so that we can create more permanent jobs and create value chain for our local industries.

Madame Speaker,

The Municipality will also review the Local Economic Development strategy during 2018/19 financial year to incorporate the SEZ.

We must ensure that local businesses are given preference to supply goods and render services to the municipality within the ambit of the supply chain policy, preferential procurement policy framework and national treasury regulations like the Central Supplier Database system.

Madame Speaker,

The municipality has also during the 2017/2018 financial year alienated 20 business zoned properties at Waterval township taking into consideration that Elim area is a District Growth Point (DGP) according to the Municipal Spatial Development Framework.

Further to that, prime land located at Corner N1 and 1st street in Eltivillas Township has been alienated to accommodate restaurants, the sale will assist in terms of providing people in transit and locals in terms of buying food and other necessities as they travel as N1 is a gateway to other African countries and one of the major routes in South Africa.

The municipality will continue to partner with Masingita Group of Companies with regard to extension of Makhado Crossing Mall to become a Regional Mall.

The company has since employed more than **36** local people since the inception of relocation of sport facilities project.

Madame Speaker,

More than **550 to 600** jobs will be created during the construction phase of the regional mall.

More than **700** direct and permanent jobs will be created post construction of the mall.

“Ka va rangeri va Masingita Group of Companies, ha khensa swinene, hi ku langa masipala wa Makhado kuri ku va wona loyi u nga ta va na Regional Mall. Mall wa Makhado u ta pfuna swinene hi ku tisa mintirho aka va aka tiko”.

Builder’s Warehouse will be extending its business in Makhado town during 18/19 financial year and has already partnered with the municipality in terms of ensuring that local people benefit in terms of employment when it opens its doors.

We must attract more people to stay in the town so that we create a more vibrant and sustainable buying power for businesses in the town. We shall sell vacant stands in the town and also dispose more land for residential and industrial development in the town.

Madame Speaker,

As Council, we announced last year that we have donated land to the University of Venda so that they build their satellite campus in our town; we shall fast track the process of setting up a team to ensure that this opportunity is seized.

We have also had engagements with the University of South Africa and the Vhembe TVET so that they also have fully fledged campuses in our town, thus expanding and diversifying the population base of our town.

Madame Speaker,

During the **State of the Nation Address, the President** himself, conceded that our nation remains a highly unequal society, in which poverty and prosperity are still defined by race and gender.

He stated that and I quote **“the state we are in as a nation is that while poverty declined significantly following the democratic breakthrough of 1994, we have seen reverses in recent years. Poverty levels rose in 2015, unemployment has gone up and inequality has persisted”**. End of quote.

Madame Speaker,

As a local municipality, we have also felt the impact of this gloomy national and global economic reality.

Our local economy has not grown at the pace needed to create enough jobs or lift our people out of poverty.

We need to act and act very fast to turn around this negative growth path.

Madame Speaker,

HIV and AIDS is one of the biggest challenges we face as a country. Last week we held a successful STI Awareness Campaign at Mavhoi TVET College involving the students who are reported to be a high risk age group to STI and HIV/AIDS.

We reaffirmed that as Makhado Municipality, we will ensure that all planning and service delivery projects will take account of HIV/AIDS and its consequences.

Madame Speaker,

I specifically stated that our Integrated Development Plans (IDP) must deal with the issues around poverty and unemployment and lack of basic services that propel the rapid spread of HIV and AIDS.

As a Municipality, we are well placed to play the coordinating and facilitating role that is needed to make sure that partnerships are built to bring prevention and care programmes to every community affected by HIV and AIDS.

We are working closely with other local partners to realise the objective of the national campaign which is guided by the theme **“Let our action counts- It is my right to know my status- Prevention is my responsibility”**.

As a Municipality we continue to host and support the 16 Days of Activism Campaign for no Violence against Women and Children and other public educational programmes because we believe that women and children are the most affected by abuse, violence and HIV and AIDS.

Madame Speaker,

Last year we joined the rest of our nation under the theme **“Count me in: Together moving a nonviolent South Africa forward”**.

We are working very closely with the Department of Health to monitor progress in the reduction of new infections within and beyond our municipality.

We have a functional Local AIDS Council that is responsible for the coordination of a multi stakeholder partnership to reduce the rate on STI and HIV Infections.

Madame Speaker,

During our Strategic Planning meeting held at Zebula Golf Estate- we have agreed to amend our vision and mission statement so that it is aligned to our institutional and constitutional mandate.

Madame Speaker,

Our new vision statement will read as follows:

A democratic, accountable and service delivery orientated municipality committed to good governance and socio economic development of its community.

Our new Mission statement will read as follows:

We will utilize available resources effectively in order to address socio economic imbalances through infrastructure and local economic development opportunities.

Madame Speaker,

We will soon update our official documents and website so that our partners and communities can be familiar with these changes.

As the leadership of Council, we must remember that we serve at the behest of the people.

This lesson of a people-centred consciousness amongst leaders has guided many men and women who served as leaders of the South African people at different points of the struggle for democracy.

Our priority should at all times remain the people we serve.

As I said Madame Speaker,

This year will offer us the opportunity to reflect on the legacy of President Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu and to practically engage with the values that they espoused in their lives.

Madame Speaker,

As at the end of May 2018 we had a total of **2251** indigents on the ESKOM indigents register and **3662** municipal indigents.

We need to ensure that those deserving and qualifying residents are registered on the Indigents Register so that they can benefit and receive free basic services in the form of free basic water and electricity.

Madame Speaker, our Indigent policy is a short-term intervention that enables access to free services whilst we integrate our people into sustainable means of improving their economic conditions.

Madame Speaker,

We are now a week into the month of June, which is annually declared Youth Month in the whole of South Africa.

We have a duty as a nation to satisfy the educational, social, cultural and economic needs of our young people. We must focus at their cultural, artistic and sports related needs.

We have a dedicated youth month program which amongst other things highlights the urgent need to empower our younger generation.

Through dialogue and action, we must create jobs for youth. We must build community halls, stadiums and recreational facilities for youth.

Through the MIG, we will ensure that we provide sports and recreational infra- structure in rural areas so that we can promote sports, arts and culture.

Madame Speaker,

Our Municipality has supported the application for funding from the National Lotteries Commission submitted by Mavu Sports Development to build the Mbulaheni Mulaudzi Sports Complex in Muduluni village as a legacy project. We shall support together the local traditional council.

Madame Speaker,

The National Department of Sports has recently completed the Outdoor Community Gym in the Lemana village. We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department and we hope that more such facilities will be developed in our municipality.

On the 26th May 2018 we hosted a successful Annual Mayoral Sports Tournament here in Tshakhuma involving more than 400 young people.

The annual sports tournament promotes various sporting codes thus reducing the rate of social-ills, while harnessing talent of young people from villages, townships and towns alike..

I am happy Madame Speaker, to announce that amongst our guests today, we have the champions of the 2018 Mayoral Sports Tournament-**Tshino Village Brothers. Please rise and shine!**

In Makhado Municipality, we are serious about sports development.

It is an honour, ladies and gentlemen that we are also joined by one of national sports icon, who is the latest co-recipient of the Premier Soccer League Goal Scorer of the season.

He plays for the Polokwane City and he hails from one of our villages- Mamvuka village, in Ward 36 under Cllr Tshiambwa L.R. His name is **RODNEY RAMAGALELA. Let's all rise with pride and honour our young people.**

We are giving him a cheque of **R15 000-00** as a token of appreciation and to acknowledge his outstanding professional qualities and selfless contribution to sports in our community and the nation as a whole.

Madame Speaker,

Let me take this opportunity to also congratulate Li Doda Duvha- Black Leopards- , our home team for making back to the PSL. We are proud of the players and the management for the determination and courage to represent the people of Limpopo.

Madame Speaker,

To date, more than **150** financially needy and deserving matric students have benefitted from the Makhado Bursary Scheme. We have budgeted **R824 000** for bursaries in the next financial year.

Madame Speaker,

Amongst my special guests today, we are joined by some of these beneficiaries of our Bursary Scheme,

Let's all welcome-

- 1) Nethononda Mutshidzi who is studying B. Com Accounting at University of Johannesburg
- 2) Tshililo Tshivule studying Civil Engineering at Vhembe TVET College
- 3) Andani Ramabulana studying Electrical Engineering at Cape Peninsula
- 4) Ndivhuwo Tshikota studying Civil Engineering at Vaal University
- 5) Mashapa Selby studying IT at Tswane University of Technology.

- 6) Nefuri A studying Bcom Accounting at the University of Johannesburg
- 7) Phathutshedzo Ramunenyiwa studying Bcom Accounting at Univen
- 8) Mafhenya Ndivhuwo studying Electrical Engineering at Univen.
- 9) Nekokwane R studying Town Planning at the University of Venda

We have amongst us graduates who were sponsored by the Municipality and have completed their studies. Our Municipality must give preference to these young graduates so that they can serve the communities that paid for their education.

In 2018/2019, we are going to review our Bursary Policy to ensure that it is consistent with the human resource development priorities of our municipality and also the national government funding model for higher education.

I am happy to announce that as Makhado, we hosted **212** youth in various learnerships and **145** graduates in internship programs. In the coming year, plan to host **179** interns and **150** learners. These programs directly benefit unemployed youth and our graduates providing them with workplace and experiential training.

Madame Speaker,

The summary of our REVENUE and EXPENDITURE during 2018/2019 financial year is as follows:

The total municipal revenue is expected to be an estimated **R996 million rands**.

This includes the allocation from the National Treasury for Equitable Share, from the Division of Revenue Act, which is estimated at **R316 million rands**.

The total municipal expenditure is expected to be an estimated **R813 million rands**.

The estimated capital expenditure is an estimated **R87 million rands** from national fiscus to implement projects in line with the Municipal Infra Structure Grant (MIG) policy.

We expect an estimated **R16,9 million rands** from INEP which is a grant for electricity connections supported by national government.

We also anticipate generating our own revenue estimated at **R78 million** rands.

Madame Speaker,

In the coming year, electricity tariffs will increase by **6.84%** as guided by NERSA.

The Refuse removal tariffs will increase **5, 30%**, while the sundry tariffs will also increase by **5,30%**. Both increases of refuse and sundry tariffs are informed by the inflation rate as guided by the MFMA Circulars.

Madame Speaker,

I am happy to announce that there will be no increase on property rates in the coming year.

We do not want to put more financial pressure on property owners due to the increase in VAT and other tax burdens that already face them.

Advancing Spatial Planning and Investing in local economy

During the next financial year, the Department of Planning and Development will receive an estimated **R11 million rands** for various projects and programmes.

Our Municipality is a step ahead in the implementation of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, or SPLUMA.

The Municipal Planning Tribunal is functional and has considered **08 major** land use applications during the 17/18 financial year and a total of **287 land use applications** were adjudicated by the authorised official.

The Municipal Appeal Authority is also functional and has convened three (3) times during the 17/18 financial year.

Madame Speaker,

The municipality will continue to approve land development applications in accordance with SPLUMA together with the Municipal Spatial Planning and Land Use management By-Law as approved by the municipality during 2016).

We do not want delay in the processing of rezoning, sub divisions and other land development applications.

A delay in approving land development application is a delay in attracting economic investment within the municipality.

The municipality will also review the Spatial Development Framework during the 2018/19 financial year and a total of **R500 000, 00** has been budgeted.

Madame Speaker,

Many people in South Africa continue to live and work in places defined and influenced by past spatial planning, land use laws and practices which were based on racial inequality, segregation and unsustainable settlement patterns.

In a quest to redress past spatial and other development imbalances, the municipality will prioritise servicing residential sites in Tshikota and Makhado town to speed up land alienation for human settlements.

The municipality will also continue to support traditional leaders in establishing formal human settlements through assistance with demarcation of residential sites; a total of **R3.5 million** has been budgeted.

The municipality will continue to implement the New General Valuation Roll 2018/2019-2020/2022 effective from July 2018.

As I said earlier on, there will be no increase on property rates in the coming financial year.

Good governance and administrative excellence and Investing in human capital,

During the next financial year the Department of Corporate and Shared Support Services will receive an estimated **R4,2 million** rands.

Madame Speaker,

We value the need for effective community participation in decision making in matters of local government.

Our Council is fully functional and has 78 councillors including **ten (10)** traditional leaders who participate in Council.

Our Section 79 and Section 80 Committees have been established and are carrying out their oversight mandate as required by legislation.

It is widely accepted that effective public oversight is key and therefore as the Council of Makhado, we must remain accountable to ensure improved public oversight and transparency in the use of public resources.

Madame Speaker,

We are aware that this oversight can only be effectively implemented by a municipality that is clear on the various roles and responsibilities assigned to political representatives on the one hand and the municipal administration on the other.

The oversight committees of council and senior management of the municipality are key to the effective implementation of the legislation, regulations, policies and by-laws of council.

The distinction between the executive structures and functions of council must inform this approach.

Madame Speaker,

In this regard, we fully acknowledge the sterling work done by our Municipal Public Accounts Committee.

MPAC successfully held two (2) Public Participation meetings which involved community stakeholders and the meetings reaffirmed our commitment to building a system of accountable municipal leadership.

MPAC has also scrutinised our 2016/2017 Annual Report because the annual report is a key instrument of engagement with the public and part of the oversight responsibility includes the obligation to bring key issues of governance, performance and financial accountability to the attention of the public and to further elicit public input on these matters.

Our model of separation of powers between the Executive and the legislative arm remains a critical source of effective and efficient management and accountability between the leadership and management collective.

Madame Speaker,

Our Ward Committees continue to carry out their responsibilities in line with the prescripts of the Municipal Structures Act.

They continue to be the basic units of community engagement and participation in all matters of municipal governance.

Ward Committees are the pillars of local democracy and we must ensure that they continue to be capacitated so that they carry out their duties with diligence and robustness.

Communities deserve to know what we are able to deliver, the challenges we are facing in delivering of projects and programmes and also the plans we have in place to unblock projects.

Madame Speaker,

Our Ward Councillors must be at the forefront of community engagement and public participation meetings, must attend dzikhoro, community meetings, funerals and any other public events in order to engage with our communities.

Ward Councillors must report to their communities of both successes and challenges in service delivery.

You must engage with traditional leaders, civic structures to ensure effective and inclusive participation of stakeholders in municipal affairs.

You must do so to ensure that yourselves and the ward committees tackle service delivery issues on time and with a sense of urgency.

We hosted 4 Imbizos in the past year with two (2) Feedback sessions to report on service delivery while also creating platforms for dialogue and interaction with our communities.

Madame Speaker,

Our Special Programs Forums and Committees are fully functional and we will continue to support them so that they champion the needs and aspirations of our vulnerable sectors of our community including youth, women, children, disabled, the elderly, our moral regeneration programs, sports, arts and culture.

We have increased the budget of Special Programs to **R2,2 million rands**.

As the Municipality, we shall continue to support our employees through awareness, training and other skills development activities and through our comprehensive Employee Assistance Program.

We have budgeted **R1,3 million rands** for employee assistance programs.

We are happy to announce that our employees will participate in the forthcoming Inter Municipal games that will take place in Swaziland.

Madame Speaker,

We value the matured and mutual relationship between our labour unions – SAMWU and IMATU and management.

The stability in our institution is a guarantee that we shall be able to provide services to our communities without disruptions.

As the Municipality, we shall be officially opening the new home of our local radio station- Makhado FM, to whom we supported by leasing a building of the municipality. In this regard the thank **Mr Mazer and Timbercity Makhado** for assisting with renovations.

We also welcome Nzhelele FM as an additional voice to the people of Makhado Municipality.

Madame Speaker,

We are also in the process of reviewing the organisational structure with the hope that it will deliver the Integrated Development Plans and the SDBIP as adopted by Council.

When this process is finalised, Council will adopt such a structure to ensure sustainable service delivery.

We have recently advertised the vacant positions of CFO and Director Technical Services, because we do not want a vacuum in the rendering of services to our people.

Last year alone, we were able to recruit and fill **112** full time positions in the Municipality. We will ensure that the vacancy rate is well managed to ensure that service delivery is given priority.

We are going to ensure that communities in the remaining Luvuvhu area receive municipal services like other regions of the municipality. To this end, we shall build and establish a satellite office to provide administrative and service delivery for Luvuvhu area.

Madame Speaker,

The Office of the Speaker will lead a process to ensure that the Musekwa Thusong Centre is optimally utilised to benefit the communities in its vicinity.

We will engage with sector departments like SASSA, Home Affairs and Social Development so that they open their offices and render critical government services at the Centre.

Promoting community participation and environmental welfare

The Department of Community Services will receive an estimated budget of **R5,7 million rands**.

The Recreational Park on the N1 next to the Tourism Information Centre, will be developed with a budget of **R500 000,00**.

They will procure a cemetery management system and will be responsible for upgrading and maintenance of our municipal parks.

We will ensure that we increase visibility of our traffic services in all our regions.

We will ensure that the program to have more refuse transfer stations in all our Regions is intensified.

Accessible basic and infrastructure services,

The Department of Technical Services has been allocated a budget of **R148 million** rands to implement various capital projects.

Through the INEP grant, we shall implement the Planning and Design of New Ribolwa Substation at a cost of **R2 million rands**.

We shall also implement the electrification of Songozwi Farm at an estimated cost of **R 682 000,00** and also provide MV Line for Songozwi Farm at an estimated cost of **R1,7 million rands**.

The Mudimeli village will be electrified at an estimated cost of **R2,6 million rands**.

The Mashau Tshilaphala village will be electrified at an estimated cost of **R2 million rands**.

The Muanandzhele / Mavhungeni village will be electrified at an estimated cost of **R7, 7 million rands**.

The Municipality has budgeted **R5 million rands** from its own income to implement electrification, Post Connections & extensions within the Municipal area and in all Municipal village networks

Through our own income, we shall implement the Electrification of 170 Residential sites at Tshikota Township at an estimated cost of **R3 million rands**.

Madame Speaker,

The following villages will be electrified by ESKOM in the coming financial year:

| Project Name | Budget | Proposed Connections |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Muraleni | R 2 507 333.10 | 123 |
| Madombidzha 1/Tshiozwi | R 3 646 406.28 | 315 |
| Ravele | R 5 917 215.60 | 350 |
| Dambuwo | R 5 383 688.76 | 177 |
| Pfanani B/Tshitavha | R 2 053 581.18 | 50 + 67 connections |
| Matsa Ext | R 3 175 905.48 | 70 |
| Tshitavha-Pfanani | R 2 053 593.72 | 67 |

During 2018/2019 financial year, the following projects will be implemented through the Municipal Infra Structure Grant:

| DESCRIPTION | | Estimated Cost |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sereni Themba to Mashamba Post Office Access Road Phase 3 | Upgrading of road from gravel to tar | R2,3 million |
| Landfill site makhado | Construct additional Cell and design access road | R3,5 million |
| Tshikwarani, Manavhela, Zamkomste Access Road Phase 2 | Upgrading of road from gravel to tar | R1,8 million |
| Tshedza to Vuvha Access Road Phase 2 | Upgrading of road from gravel to tar | R1,1 million |
| Mbhokota, Gombita, Tshivhuyuni to Mphagi Road Phase 2 | Upgrading of road from gravel to tar | R5 million |
| Valdezia Access Road Phase 2 | Upgrading of road from gravel to tar | R15 million |
| Fencing of Makhado Municipality Cemetery | | R2 million |
| Mudimeli Bridge and Access Road Phase 2 | Upgrading of road from gravel to tar | R3,3 million |
| Waterval Sports Facility Phase 2 | | R11 million |
| Lutanandwa Bridge | Design phase | R700 thousand rands |
| Erf 210 Burger Street market revitalization project | Upgrading of market | R3 million |
| Kutama / Sinthumule Sports Facility | Design phase | R700 thousand rands |
| Waterval Stormwater | Design phase | R700 thousand rands |
| Chavani to Bungeni Road Phase 2 | Upgrading of road from gravel to tar | R18 million rands |
| Piesanghoek to Khunda Road Phase 4 | Upgrading of road from gravel to tar | R15 million |
| Erection of High Masts in Makhado | Feasibility study in all villages | R2,4 million |

The streets at Waterval township will be rehabilitated at an estimated cost of **R700 000**.

The Vleifontein Hall and Cemetery Fence will be completed with a estimated budget of **R600 000,00**.

We will provide paving and ablution at Siloam and Dzanani Taxi Rank with an estimated budget of **R520 000,00**.

The first phase and planning for the development of New Council Chamber and Offices will be implemented with an estimated cost of **R700 000,00**.

We will extend and complete the fence right here at Ha- Mutsha Community Hall with an estimated cost of **R400 000,00**

Madame Speaker,

We have agreed that some of the measures will have to be put in place to achieve 100% spending on conditional grants from national government. This includes

- Compliance with procurement plan
- Forward planning approach
- Monthly site and technical meetings per project
- Bi-weekly progress reports
- Due date for submission of payment certificates: 25th of every month
- Expedite construction programs in line with available funds
- Regular site inspections and finally
- Encourage contractors to purchase construction materials timeously

Sound Financial Management and viability,

During the next financial year, the Department of Budget and Treasury will receive an estimated **R 9, 9 million rands.**

Madam Speaker, during the last financial year, our Council received an adverse audit opinion.

I am not happy with the audit outcomes because it signals a decline from the previous year's qualified audit results.

The Municipal Manager has been given clear instruction to fully implement the Audit Action Plan and resolve all outstanding audit matters.

We remain determined to achieve an improved audit opinion through the collective efforts of the officials, support from the Provincial Treasury and COGHTA, the Audit Committee and the political management team.

The Operation Clean Audit process must lead to a Clean Audit.

The Audit Committee will actively ensure that the action plan to mitigate the issues raised by Auditor-General is aggressively implemented and there is adequate mechanism to ensure that the financial systems are MSCOA compliant by 2018/2019 financial year.

Madame Speaker,

We have also committed ourselves to fiscal prudence that reduces unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

We are serious about maintaining a healthy balance sheet in order to successfully preserve our ability to fund future projects. Integrity and accountability are core values for our Municipality.

Madam Speaker a lot of progress has been done with respect of enterprise risk management for example the establishment of a Risk Management Office, Risk and Anti-fraud & corruption Committee which is chaired by an independent external person **herein Mr LS Mofokeng** to ensure transparency.

The risk management strategy will ensure that the municipality receive early warning signs on service delivery issues, fraud and corruption activities.

Our Council has adopted an investment policy to ensure that all investment decisions are taken in line with applicable legislation and treasury regulations.

We shall establish an investment committee which will be charged with the task of determining the framework and processes for investment in the municipality and will advise Council on all investment matters.

We are equally proud that our Municipality has been able to fulfil its credit obligations with major creditors like ESKOM.

Our target for revenue collection during the next financial year is 90% collection rate.

Madame Speaker,

The Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, Cllr Florence Radzilani- is here with us because she values the role of our municipality in advancing socio economic change and development through the provision of quality water and sanitation services.

During 2018/2019 the Vhembe District will be equipping boreholes and construction of the rising main at Nthabalala and they will also construct boreholes in Rathidili, Gogobole, Madodonga and Matitivhale villages respectively. The projects are budgeted an amount of R6,2 million rands.

At Khunda village borehole drilling and construction of the rising main to the storage and street taps allocated a budget of R1,2 million.

The Makhado West Bulk Water Supply- State 3 has been allocated R87,3 million to benefit the town of Makhado, Tshikota and Kutama Sinthumule.

The Mutshedzi Regional Water Scheme has been allocated and amount of R81,9 million rands.

We thank our Executive Mayor for her decisive leadership and her passion for a better life for our people.

Madame Speaker,

The continued disruption of water supply in communities is a major challenge in all our Regions.

Whenever we hold public meetings our people express the urgent need for water because water is life.

The illegal connections and theft of cables disrupt the supply of water in the town and villages alike.

We appeal to communities and law enforcement to act swiftly to deal with culprits involved in illegal connections and cable theft.

Madame Speaker,

MEC Jerry Ndou, ri khou livhuwa u vha hone fhano na rine u da u vha thanzi na khwathisedza mishumo ya masipala kha u disa tshumelo vhathuni.

I am proud to announce that our municipality has been accredited for Level One in terms of the accreditation and assignment framework; this will qualify the municipality to render housing services effectively and efficiently.

The implementation protocol will be entered into between the MEC for COGHSTA and the municipality for the purpose of formalising accreditation in accordance with section 35 of the Inter-Governmental Relations Framework Act during 2018/2019 financial year.

Further to that the Department of CoGHSTA has allocated **511** low cost houses to the municipality for the 18/19 financial year in pursuance to the reduction of housing backlogs.

Madame Speaker,

We also know that housing needs extend beyond the categories of the needy, the indigent and the elderly.

The Department will further build **118** Community Residential Units (CRUs) at ward 07, in Tshikota township during 18/19 financial year.

Section 25(5) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996 provides for the conditions which enable citizens to gain access to land on an equitable basis.

Madame Speaker,

We however do not encourage our residents to occupy land illegally as it undermines the constitutional framework and the commitment of government to ensure proper and coordinated alienation of land to the landless.

As Council we have committed to ensure that where municipal land is available we must make it available for residential and industrial development.

As a result, residents of ward 07, Tshikota Township are urged to visit municipal offices to collect remaining title deeds. There are **113** title deeds available for collection at municipal offices.

Madame Speaker,

We have recently established a multi stakeholder housing committee for Tshikota township to coordinate all housing matters including conducting an ownership audit of RDP houses in Tshikota and to oversee the allocation of new RDP houses to deserving members of the community.

Madame Speaker,

“Ni lava ku khensa Manani MEC Nandi Ndalane ka vurangeri lebyi va nga byi komba ka mfumo wa hina wa Limpopo. Hi ri va aka tiku va Makhado ha mikhensa ka mintirho hi nkwayu ya nwina”.

I am proud to openly confirm that the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infra Structure has personally signed off a letter confirming the support that the Department will offer the Municipality in the following projects:

- 1) Patching of potholes around Makhado
- 2) Fixing and grading of Tshikhudo ha Makatu and Tshiswenda roads
- 3) Debushing the Elim Hospital yard.

The relationship we have as Makhado with the Departments is a true reflection of cooperative governance in action.

Furthermore the department of Public Works, Roads and Infra Structure has committed to collaborate with us to resolve the upgrading of specific provincial roads in our municipal jurisdiction.

This includes ROAD D3671 from Musekwa to Smokey.

We are still concerned about the delay in the roll out of other road constructions and other strategic infra-structure by our provincial sector department and agencies because it creates mistrust and anger in our communities.

Madame Speaker,

South Africa will be holding the 6th national general election next year-2019.

We urge our people, especially youth to register at the local IEC offices and during open weekend registration days so that they can protect the legacy of Mandela and Sisulu and continue to shape our democratic society.

Madame Speaker,

Ours as mandated is to ensure we deliver efficiently, effectively and more importantly in a way which improves Makhado Municipality and the state of its people!!

Our work builds on the solid foundations of progress that have been laid by the successive leadership collective before us and indeed the committed work of the administrative component under the leadership of our Municipal Manager.

Madame Speaker,

We want our residents to be confident in us as a responsible Council, one that delivers both outstanding customer service to you, while remaining financially sustainable and efficient.

Over the years, I have seen how far we've come and believe in what we can accomplish.

Madame Speaker,

I want to thank our staff and management led by Municipal Manager- Mr Freddy Tshivhengwa. We thank you for everything that you do to make our municipality work, each and every day and that includes many achievements I spoke about today.

Madame Speaker,

We are truly fortunate to have such dedicated and talented staff that cares deeply about this community.

I also want to thank the Councillors, members of the Ward Committees, our traditional leaders, the oversight committees of Council, community structures, the Vhembe District Municipality and sector departments for continuing to serve the people of Makhado Municipality, without fail.

Yes, we can do better!

I want to thank the Chief Whip and the Speaker of our Council, for their extra ordinary leadership and support in leading our Council and its people.

I thank my family for always appreciating that I have to share their family time and space with the rest of the Makhado community.

Let me conclude by the following- in the book of Exodus 3, God sent Moses to Egypt.

In the book of Jeremiah God, appointed Jeremiah to be the prophet of the nation.

Mark 16, Jesus sent his disciples to go and preach the good gospel to the people.

In the book of Judges- Chapter 6- God sent Gideon to go in the power that he has to do what God has sent him to do.

Today, standing here in this beautiful land, we call upon the spirits of **Dzivhuluwani Muregu and Thilivhali Neludane, Makonde Magoro, Todani Madzaga and John Luvhimbi.**

We are calling on our struggle heroes to send us- **ri rumeni, hi rumeni, thuma mina**, so that as Councillors, Ward Committees, traditional leaders, CDW's, civic leaders, business leaders, pastors and members of the staff- **we go and serve our people.**

Madame Speaker, today is better than yesterday and I have no doubt that tomorrow will be even better than today.

As OR Tambo, said: "The future is bright. The end is glorious; it is peaceful." I thank you-

Office of the Mayor

Cllr S.M Sinyosi

Makhado Municipality