



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

Address to Council by Executive Mayor, Cllr Mzwandile Masina, for the first Quarter of 2018/19 Financial Year on 26 July 2018

Madam Speaker - Cllr Patricia Kumalo;
Chief Whip of Council - Cllr Jongizizwe Dlabathi;
Members of the Mayoral Committee;
Leaders of Political Parties;
Honourable Councillors;
City Manager – Dr Imogen Mashazi;
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning.

Madame Speaker, on behalf of the executive of the City, I wish to thank you for the indulgence to once again address this house. We are always keen to share our thoughts and plans as well as to engage in discussions with all of you as members of Council.

It is with great hope that all of us have returned from the recent council break in good spirits. On our part as the executive, we have already set about to continue with our work with renewed vigour.

The last engagement we had with you as council was in the last quarter, being the last quarter of the 2017/2018 Financial Year. It is pleasing for us that we managed to achieve our service delivery targets as set out at the start of the financial year.



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We registered tremendous progress in the expansion of access to clean water, the electrification of informal settlements, the rollout of access to human settlements, waste collection and the creation of jobs.

We have maintained our above 95% Blue Drop status in the last quarter of 2017/18. More importantly, we have connected a total of 2 284 households to water and sewer services and this is about 1084 more households than we had initially planned.

Community services such as healthcare facilities, emergency rescue services, fire stations and community policing have all grown in line with our plans to re-mobilise our people around the concept of functional communities.

Furthermore, we performed well in reducing the risks of flooding and damage to infrastructure due to natural elements. We upgraded our stormwater network with an additional 29 stormwater systems.

As you may recall, we had commissioned an audit into the fire arms that are in the arsenal of our City's police services. Certainly we all agree that it was important to carry out this audit in order to avoid a situation where the arms in the City's register could one day be associated with acts of criminality.

The report was completed by the EMPD and is now being processed in line with internal procedures before submission to you as council. Part of that exercise included the Legal department of the City, the EMPD and the SAPS working together to determine outcomes of cases that were not clear.



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The City also embarked on a detailed audit and verification of its employees. Our aim with this audit was to systematically closedown avenues for ghost-employees who potentially draw salaries from our institution without putting in the necessary work.

This employee-verification has been completed. Our institutional stability campaign is in full swing and we are pleased with the progress we have made. On top of having filled up more than 90% of senior administration posts, we want to clamp down on duplications of functions across the system.

Our strategy for a mixed-energy generation strategy also took better shape as we have expanded our renewable energy generation capacity.

We are at the start of the first quarter of the 2018/19 Financial Year. We intend on maintaining the moment of rapid, efficient and quality service delivery for all of our residents.

It is in line with this momentum that we have started off with the launch of our service delivery mobile application called 'My Ekurhuleni App.' This App will promote active citizenship by bringing the municipality and its service desks within the fingertips of residents.

Our residents will now enjoy the unique advantage of reporting service delivery issues such as water, electricity, sanitation and potholes with a simple click of a button.



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Ekurhuleni is now a pathfinder in the area of technological innovation for improved service delivery. This Mobile App brings into reality our vision to build a digital city with a viable information and communications technology machinery that works for all of our residents.

Accordingly, at the end of the last quarter in May we tabled a Budget for this commencing financial year and the medium term revenue and expenditure framework to outline our policy commitments for more service delivery.

The budget that we tabled was a qualification of our policy commitments and expenditure targets as outlined in the State of the City Address tabled in March.

We re-articulated our commitment and outlined concrete plans to enhance institutional stability, prudent financial management, capital allocations for service delivery programmes and economic infrastructure.

Both the State of the City Address and the Budget as policy statements reaffirmed our commitment to a pro-poor framework of governance, service delivery and economic development strategy.

Just three days ago, on 23 July 2018, the National Treasury released its Benchmark Report on Metros across the country, a process carried out together with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.



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This report is aimed at comparing the performance of metros in terms of legislative compliance on matters of governance, financial health, service delivery and institutional stability.

In this National Treasury Report, it is recorded that we as Ekurhuleni enjoy a status of stable financial health, sound service delivery, stable institutional stability and stable governance.

In contrast, the DA-led and EFF-supported Cities of Johannesburg and Tshwane are said to be in a fragile financial position. Johannesburg is further reported to be institutionally unstable, with a less than sound record of service delivery.

Similarly, the DA in Tshwane is struggling with service delivery all because of their mismanagement and poor financial planning.

Madame Speaker, we are inspired by the evidently positive attitude that the global investment community is developing towards South Africa.

The engagements with capital-rich countries by the President of the Republic in the past four months, which have so far yielded investment commitments of above R425 billion, constitute a story of hope.

We are defying the doomsayers who rallied around the negative ratings that we have been receiving from rating agencies.

The neo-liberal chorus in mass media and opposition benches that relied on politically-biased rating agencies is losing ground. More and more capital-rich countries are flocking into our shores



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with commitments to investment partnerships that do not dictate terms to us on policy matters.

These investment commitments reaffirm our view that the wider investment community has confidence in our ability to turn our economy around and are in agreement with us that this economy needs to work for all our people.

This is also consolidated by positive implications of the 10th BRICS Summit that started yesterday here in South Africa. The economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China are an important market for the sourcing of capital, the sale of South African exports and the importation of industry-experience for many sectors of our economy.

It has been an established fact for a great part of the last 20 years that the BRICS economies registered the highest rates of economic growth globally and still retain capabilities to sustain this growth trend well into the next decade.

Therefore, this BRICS Summit underway in our country is an important platform for many South African stakeholders to build networks and share valuable global knowledge with our counterparts from those economies.

In that regard, even us as City administrators and political leaders have to take a keen interest in the affairs of this summit. Although investment deals can be struck at the national level between governments; it is at the local level of Cities in which real investment projects take place.



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As the City of Ekurhuleni we have to constantly advertise our industrial capabilities in order to assert ourselves as the natural destination for all manufacturing, logistics and aviation related capital projects by national government and foreign investors.

Our comprehensive 10-Point Economic Development Plan serves as an important framework for the profiling of Ekurhuleni as a viable economic region and to attract local and foreign investment.

That is why our budget speech highlighted our plan to consolidate an incentives package, including tax rebates and tax holidays, that will meet the private sector half-way.

This remains an important initiative and we are committed to setting it in motion with our investment partners in no time.

We want to work with all social partners, especially the private sector, in a partnership that helps us mobilise high rates of investment to create jobs and opportunities for black businesses to thrive in a transformed market place.

The Vukuphile, Mintiro and Youth Set-aside economic empowerment programmes are crucial to building business opportunities for the historically marginalised and integrating young people into the economic mainstream.

Our objective is to use these empowerment programmes to build black industrialists by increasing the market share of youth owned businesses in terms of capital holdings as well as asset acquisition in the broader economy and supply of goods and



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services to the municipality and government.

By getting these key economic programme right we will be in a good position to produce an ever growing number of employment opportunities in our local economy.

In all our engagements with you as council and in addresses to the public we have been outlining our focus areas to include a closer focus on economic growth and job creation. Our strategic perspective for development is centred on the idea to build a better life all by strengthening and opening up the local economy.

In our perspective, a working local economy is built on the principle of security of tenure for all its people. We remain committed to providing tittle deeds to all of our people in order to give them a sense of security in our human settlements.

We are all aware of the unfolding public consultations held by parliament with respect to the proposed amendment of Section 25 of the Constitution for the expropriation of land without compensation.

As the executive leadership of Ekurhuleni we support this amendment and are looking forward to make a submission before the parliamentary committee.

The parliamentary process also gives confidence for us to press on with our land distribution strategy that we have been speaking about.



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In our own terrain, we are working on a clear plan to curb speculation by landholders who are not investing in development but are hedging for higher prices in the future. We have already engaged some of them towards a common approach of land distribution and have instructed our legal department to work on an expropriation policy.

Our approach to urban regeneration also includes the expropriation of bad buildings and those with high debts of rates and taxes in our CBDs. We will expropriate them, revamp them and form partnerships with property developers and other stakeholders for thriving ventures and housing deals.

This of course is accompanied by our decision to lease off the farms that are in our asset register as the city. We are now in a position to invite applications for small farmers and interested parties from the historically disadvantaged communities to lease these farms, secure funding and implements from us for sustainable farming development.

Madame Speaker, the strides we have made as this administration are many. However, we still want to achieve a lot more since it is obvious that many of our people still need services and economic opportunities.

We remain committed to work under your guidance as council in finding workable and lasting interventions that will make our City effective in delivering on its mandate.



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As we commence with this new financial year, we recommit ourselves to upholding high standards of dedication, hard work and clean governance.

We call on all councillors, political parties and even civil society organisations to work with us, hold us to account and support us where we do good.

I Thank you!