

BUDGET VOTE SPEECH OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THABO MOFUTSANYANA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY DR B.E. MZANGWA AT THE OCCASION OF THE TABLING OF THE BUDGET VOTE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2014/2015 IN FICKSBURG

30 May 2014

Mohlomphehi Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano, Ntate Mbothoma Maduna, ke qala ka ho lebisa tlhompho ho wena hammoho le ntlo e kgabane ya Lekgotla La Motse La Setereke sa Thabo Mofutsanyana, ke ananele boteng ba Majoro wa Phethahatso wa Dihlabeng Mohlomphehi Tjhetane Mofokeng, Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano wa Setsoto Mohlomphehi Pius Mohlomi hammoho le balekgotla ba Setsoto, mme ke boke dikgomo ho marena a ka a hlomphehileng, ke boele hape ke lebise tlhompho ho baruti – bahlanka ba Morena, ke ananele le boteng hape ba baeti ba bohlokwa, baqolotsi ba ditaba le basebeletsi ba Masepala mme ke howe madume ho setjhaba ka kakaretso se bokaneng, ke re lona bohle, Dumelang!

Ho ya ntokela Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano hore ke simolle puo ya letsatsi la kajeno ka ho lebisa diteboho le dipoko le tlhompho yohle ho Ramasedi, Tlatlamatjholo, Modimo wa bo Ntata rona, Jehova wa Makgotla.

Ka nnete-nete Jehova ke yena e leng tshepo yena le seikokotlelo sa ka. Ke lefika la ka le setshabelo sa ka nakong ya ditsietsi le difefo. Le kajeno ke ntse ke dumela hore ke ya mphang matla ka dinako tsohle ho phethahatsa thomo ya Lekgotla lena le kgabane la Thabo Mofutsanyana.

Bomme le Bontate, ditekanyetso tsena di tla matsatsinyana fela kamora dikgetho tsa bohloko tsa demokrasi tsa Afrika Borwa, mme setjhaba se entse kgetho sa busetsa African National Congress pusong.

Honourable Speaker, the people have spoken. The people have spoken unanimously with one voice and one accord that the African National Congress must lead. The people have spoken contrary to the voices of the prophets of doom and adversaries declaring the African National Congress the winner. Once more, we as the African National Congress, are the

Champions, and how I wish if I were able to let my tongue roll and belt out some lyrics from the classical song “*We are the Champions*” and say:

*I've taken my bows
And my curtain calls
You brought me fame and fortune
And everything that goes with it
I thank you all
But it's been no bed of roses
No pleasure cruise
I consider it a challenge before
The whole human race
And I ain't gonna lose*

And we mean to go on and on and on and on

*We are the champions - my friends
And we'll keep on fighting
Till the end
We are the champions
We are the champions
No time for losers
'Cause we are the champions of the World.*

We are the champions of South Africa – the African National Congress.

Re ya leboha setjhaba sa Thabo Mofutsanyana, re ya leboha setjhaba sa Setsoto, re ya le setjhaba sa Foreistata, ka ho nka karolo dikgethong. Re ya leboha hape ka kgetho eo le e entseng ya ho netefatsa hore mmuso o ntse o tshwere ke African National Congress. Ha ho be jwalo le ka moso, le dilemong tse tlang hot la ha ho be jwalo.

Honourable Speaker, I take this time to also applaud President Jacob Gedleyehlekisa Zuma for his election as the President of the Republic of South Africa for the second term, and also Premier Ace Magashule for once more being entrusted with the task of the Premiership of

our beloved Free State province. We wish them all the best and pray to God that He may give them all the strength and wisdom to lead our country and province to economic growth and prosperity. We also pledge our unwavering support to their leadership.

Programme Director, it is also worth noting that the tabling of our budget today is occurring on the occasion of the celebration of 20 years of freedom and democracy. As we look back to where we come from as a nation, we can truly declare that South Africa of today is far much better than it was before 1994.

Ushering us into democracy as the first democratically elected black President, Dr Nelson Mandela during his inauguration on the tenth (10th) of May 1994 declared accordingly that:

“Let there be justice for all.

Let there be peace for all.

Let there be work, bread, water and salt for all.

Let each know that for each the body, the mind and the soul have been freed to fulfill themselves.

Never, never and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another and suffer the indignity of being the skunk of the world.

Let freedom reign.

The sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement!

God bless Africa!”

Bomme le bontate, re motlotlo hore tema ya ntshetsopele re e kgathile mme e ya bonahala mme re entse jwalo ka thuso ya setjhaba. Dipalo-palo tsa Statistics South Africa di bontsha ka botlalo hore ho bile le ho ntlafala ho holo maphelong a batho ba MaAfrika. Dipalo-palo tsa Census tsa 2011 di bontsha hore diperesente tsa batho ba fumantshitsweng ditshebetso tsa mantlha kahare ho Afrika Borwa di nyolohetse hodimo. Ke fela ba nang le mahlo empa ba iketsa eka ha ba bone ba ka hananang le diphethoho tse etsahatseng maphelong a batho ba rona.

Honourable Councillors, in Thabo Mofutsanyana alone Census 2011 results shows that:

- Provision of houses has moved up from 61 percent in 2001 to 77.3 percent in 2011.

- Electricity connections have upped from 64.3 percent in 2001 to 87.2 percent in 2011.
- Sewer connections have increased from 27, 5 percent in 2001 to 48,9 percent in 2011.
- Weekly refusal removal has upped from 42,4 percent in 2001 to 49, 2 percent in 2011.
- Access to tap water inside the yard or dwelling increased from 61,6 percent in 2001 to 87, 4 percent in 2011.
- Distribution of average household income increased from R22 000 -00 in 2001 to R53 000 – 00 in 2011.

And to put a cherry on top of this good story of service delivery, our Matriculants attained a record pass of 88, 4 pass in our Thabo Mofutsanyana District. What a good story to tell.

Programme Director, these statistics are an evidence of the government's commitment to change the lives of our people for the better. It is the hope that we give to our people that despite limited resources at our disposal, we will do our utmost best in meeting their needs and ensuring that Thabo Mofutsanyana and the whole of South African continues to be a place to live.

We are very much delighted to have contributed immensely as the district municipality towards the growth and development of our communities in our six local municipalities. The statistics could not have been better without the collaborative effort of the district municipality and the six of its own local municipalities with the financial support of the national and provincial governments, as well as government agencies. The support of private sector cannot also be overlooked and its role in building better communities cannot be ignored, and it thus very much appreciated.

Honourable Speaker, today as we present this budget for financial year 2014/2015 we are grateful to you honourable Speaker, Chief Whip and Councillors of Thabo Mofutsanyana District Council, Members of Mayoral Committee, Management and the Staff of Thabo Mofutsanyana for your putting your shoulders to the wheel to ensure that our systems of service delivery run smoothly and pertinently.

We are also thankful to our local municipalities for embracing help from ourselves in terms of projects and programmes implemented in their municipalities. And, also for their appreciation of our co-ordinating function as the district municipality.

On a sad note, Honourable Councillors, as we present this budget today we do so with teary eyes and a sore heart because as the curtain closed down on 2013, so it happened to the life of our tactician and strategist, Tshepo Alexius Motaung. He passed on. May his soul and those of many of our comrades and colleagues, brothers and sisters, who have departed rest in peace. We also send our condolences to the family of our Member of Mayoral Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development, Councillor Mandla Mamba, for the loss of his mother, who passed on just two weeks ago. May her soul rest in peace.

Mohlomphehi Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano jwalekaha e le mona selemo sa ditjhelete sa 2013/2014 se kodumela, ho ya re lokela ho hetla morao ho lekodisisa hore ana re entse ka tshwanelo sohle seo re neng re tlameha ho se etsa molemong wa setjhaba sa rona. Nako e teng ya ho jala, le nako ya ho kotula e teng, mme ena ke nako ya ho kotula tseo re di jetseng selemo kaofela sa 2013/2014.

TOGETHER WE HAVE DONE IT

Honourable Councillors, Ladies and gentlemen, looking back to the year 2013/2014 and reviewing our progress in the delivery of our priorities and the execution of service delivery mandates in line with our election manifestos as well as the Integrated Development Plan, January 8 statement and the National Development, we have the courage to say that together, as the Council, Management, Staff, Local Municipalities and communities have done it notwithstanding the little resources at our disposal.

Not only have we completed a variety projects and programmes ranging from infrastructure development to the support of small businesses, but have also contributed significantly towards the education of our children and have, proudly so, put wings to their dreams.

Buoyed by massive support from the ordinary citizens of our district, Honourable Councillors, we should indeed ensure our people receive value for their sincere trust in their government. This we should do by ensuring that every little cent spent by the district municipality in the coming financial year is for the good cause and the benefit of the poor of the poorest.

As we prepare ourselves for the start of the new financial year, we again recommit ourselves to go beyond the call of duty and put our communities first.

Serving the ordinary requires that we put our own selfish interest aside as Karl Marx correctly put it that, "If we have chosen the position in life in which we can most of all work for mankind, no burdens can bow us down, because they are sacrifices for the benefit of all; then we shall experience no petty, limited, selfish joy, but our happiness will belong to millions, our deeds will live on quietly but perpetually at work, and over our ashes will be shed the hot tears of noble people."

As I present this budget Honourable Speaker allow me to highlight some of our success in the past year and at the same time touch on the plans for the coming year.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS

We have granted bursaries to 38 students to the tune of R1 076 million for various studies in the scarce skills, such as engineering, science, accounting and agriculture. One of these students is doing a Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Zoology at the University of the Free State.

Our determination to cater for the needs of our students was also extended to offering four (4) students an experiential training for a period of eighteen (18) months to acquire necessary work experience for them to graduate in their national diplomas. In addition to the training offered to them, they also receive a stipend of R3 500 per month.

Honourable Speaker, the district municipality will continue with its support to the needy students in the next financial year to make a significant contribution to the country's 2030 vision of an improved quality education that enables career mobility and unlimited business dynamism.

STIMULATING LOCAL ECONOMY AND SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Esteemed Councillors, we are taking into cognisance the fact that a growing local economy plays a significant role in the creation of jobs. In order to stimulate local economy, our district municipality has played a significant role in encouraging the establishment co-operatives and assisting those co-operatives receiving various kinds of business support ranging from registration to successful linkages with funders.

One of the notable achievements was being able to establish four (4) Co-operatives consisting of 31 women, who were trading as individuals. These Co-operatives are Centre Stone Co-operative, Mohoabadi Co-operative, Tsepamang Co-operative and Hela O Itlamele Co-operative. They are based in Qwaqwa.

These Co-operatives have received funding to the tune of R1, 2 million from the Department of Trade and Industry to purchase industrial sewing machines and a further R200 000 towards the purchase of sewing material. The Co-operatives were furthermore documented on SABC 2 TV Channel in the programme called Growing Tomorrow in October last year. They were also given business by our very own district municipality to manufacture uniform for employees in the EPWP programme and bags for tourism exhibitions.

Honourable Ladies and Gentlemen of this august house, for the financial year 2014/2015 an allocation of R400 000 has been set aside for the development of our SMMEs with a specific focus on Co-operatives. Through this we will ensure they get assistance with registration, training, mentoring and links with funders. We will also ensure that they are considered by our Supply Chain Management for procurement of their goods and services. Our intention is to walk the talk that "Local is Lekker."

We should also mean it when we say “Charity begins at home”, by empowering our very own people in this district. Why should we look for something somewhere else outside our district if we can find it here? The economic empowerment of our people should also extend to the Co-operatives owned by youth and people with disabilities.

Mr Speaker, while on this point of local economic development it worthy to mention that at the beginning of this year an Integrated Energy Centre, which consists of a filling station, bakery store, computer centre, library, electricity outlet and ATM facility was officially opened in Makwane Village, Qwaqwa. The centre is owned by a Co-operative of 13 beneficiaries from Makwane.

It is worth noting that this as it is a great achievement occurring in our very own district with a great potential of contributing to the economic growth and creation of jobs. This is also one of those projects that we have been part of since the time we were still deployed at Maluti-a-Phofung and we are delighted to see it through even at this stage when we are here at the district council.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Bomme le Bontate, botle ba setereke sa rona sa Thabo Mofutsanyana ke bona ba ho tsotwa, mme ke ka hona re tlamehileng ho nka monyetla ona wa botle ba tulo ya borona hore re thehe menyetla ya mesebetsi le kgwebo ha ho tluwa lehlakoreng la bothori. Mekete ekareng ya Cherry Festival mona Setsoto, Airshow mane Dihlabeng, Rhino Rally mane Maluti-a-Phofung ke sesupo sa kamoo bothori le diketsahalo tse ikamanyang le bothori di hudisang moruo wa Setereke sa rona.

As part of tourism development, Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality enrolled 25 learners in the Ambassador Learnership Programme and the host employers were Protea Hotel, The Loft Lodge, Frontier Hotel, Kestell Hotel, Witsieshoek Lodge, Qwantani Resort & Harrismith Inn. Learners were trained in the following skills program: Customer care, Tourism in SA, Events coordination and Assistant Chef. I am happy to announce that 8

learners, who were in this programme, are now permanently employed by the host employers.

Marketing and promoting our district as a tourist destination remains vital to ensure an influx of tourists and also to stimulate tourism among the locals. It is important for the residents of Thabo Mofutsanyana to know their own area in order to appreciate the beauty of their own habitat. An amount of R350 000 has therefore been set aside for the marketing and promoting of our beautiful district.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Mr Speaker, Infrastructure development remains one of the key job drivers in our country and as such we are happy to have completed the following projects in our district.

Three road paving projects have been completed and these are:

- Reitz Road Paving in Nketoana with a total number of 30 people employed in this project, 18 of them being youth and 12 women.
- Reitz Road Paving Phase 2 will kick-off in a few weeks' time.
- Qholaqhwe Road Paving in Maluti-a-Phofung with 28 people employed in the project and 12 of them being women and 1 youth.
- Arlington Road Paving in Nketoana whereby 23 people were employed and 11 of them being youth while 4 were women.

The total budget for the three roads was R11 million and the total expenditure on them was R8 million.

Another completed project is the installation of 133 solar street lights to the tune of R6, 3 million in the following areas:

- 30 in Tseki, Qwaqwa (Maluti-a-Phofung)
- 40 in Matshekgeng, Qwaqwa (Maluti-a-Phofung)
- 20 in Dithotaneng, Qwaqwa (Maluti-a-Phofung)
- 50 in Memel (Phumelela)

A total number of 33 people were employed in this project with 11 being youth and three women.

The installation of high mast lights in Lusaka is almost completed, we are just awaiting Maluti-a-Phofung to give us a connection point for us to switch them on within no time.

We have also installed solar home system on 10 farms to enable those farm families to have access to electricity for lights and other household appliances.

Currently, work is underway to construct Memel/Zamani outfall sewer to the tune of R6, 5 million to ensure that there are better sanitation facilities for our community. Twenty (20) people are employed in the project with seven being youth and four women.

Ladies and gentlemen, through the EPWP incentive grant for the financial year 2013/2014, a total number of 130 locals across the district were employed, 69 of them in Maluti-a-Phofung, 40 in Nketoana and 30 in Mantsopa. The total budget for this programme was R2 million, and the contractual period is 10 months.

What is of interest in this programme, Mr Speaker, is that we are able in a way to contribute significantly in the fight against poverty and make a difference in many of our households in this district. We also thank our communities for being appreciative of this helping hand from their own government.

For next financial year we will receive an incentive grant of R1, 2 million for EPWP and our plan is to employ 60 people in all our six local municipalities. The programme will be implemented within Infrastructure Cluster as well as Environment and Culture Cluster.

Honourable Speaker, we have also received grant from the National Department of Transport for Rural Road Asset Management Systems as part of S'hambe Sonke Programme. The strategic goal of this grant is to ensure efficient and effective investment in rural roads. Our district has been approved to receive such funding for the next three financial years

with allocations as follows: R1, 8 million for 2014/2015 - R2,2 million for 2015/2016 – R2,3 million for 2016/2017.

For the next financial year, we are also envisaging to continue with upgrading of roads in our local municipalities in localities such as Lindley, Ladybrand, Lusaka, De Bult and also Qwaqwa Rural.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURE

An amount of R 500 000 – 00 has been allocated for Rural Development and Agriculture in the next financial year with specific focus on assisting emerging farmers with entrepreneurship skills that will also help them to find creative ways of accessing markets for their products. Training of emerging farmers on farming skills will also be key in our efforts to help develop them.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Mr Speaker, our Community Services Directorate is charged with several functions that are entirely community based and are directed towards creating awareness to improve livelihoods among our communities through education campaigns and celebratory events in collaboration with communities and sector departments. These functions are Municipal Health Services, Disaster Management and fire services, HIV and AIDS, Gender and disability, as well as Arts, Culture, Heritage and Sports.

In the current financial year, the Directorate was able to procure a utility truck that will be used for fire fighting purposes. This truck and other fire fighting equipment as well as the jaws of life was unveiled at the Warden Fire Station last month.

Four new Environmental Health Practitioners were appointed by the Municipality and deployed in Phuthaditjhaba, Phumelela, Nketoana and Mantsopa ensuring that each local municipal area with our district has access to an Environmental Health Practitioner to provide a service to them. Furthermore, 12 Environmental Health Practitioners have been

registered as Peace Officers for the period April 2014 to April 2016 in terms of the Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977 to issues written notices and execution of warrants of arrests.

ARTS, CULTURE, HERITAGE AND SPORT

Ladies and gentlemen, a famous Latin quotation "*Mens sana in corpore sano*", which is translated as "A healthy mind in a healthy body," is quiet appropriate in explaining why we are so much hard at work in encouraging our communities to participate in sports. We have thus over the past year strengthened the functionality of the District Sport and Recreation Council by reviving the local municipalities's sport and recreation councils. This has ensured that the sport and recreation councils are at the centre of sport development and events in the district and local municipalities. Every sporting code gets assistance through the sport and recreation council as all sport federations are expected to be affiliated to the council, which is Thabo Mofutsanyana District Sport and Recreation Council.

Honourable Speaker, the Thabo Mofutsanyana District Sport and Recreation Council will soon be registering as a legal entity, that will be able to generate own funds through sponsorships in order to develop sport in the district. The Council currently gets an annually subsidy from the provincial Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and has also been able to contribute to the creation of jobs and development of sport by employing a total of 34 sport assistants that are deployed in all municipalities and get a monthly stipend of R1 800 – 00.

Bomme le Bontate, ka tsena tsa boithapollo le dipapadi, re atlehile ho tshwara dipapadi tsa sekgale-kgale tsa setso tse jwaleka diketo, kgati, morabaraba, jwalo-jwalo, mane Nketoana mme ke moo ho ileng ha kgethwa sehlopha se tla emela Foreistata dipapading tsa naha. Ra boela hape ra tshwara dipapadi tsa Golden Games mane Tshiame moo dibapadi e neng e le baholo ba dilemo tse 65 ho ya hodimo.

Honourable Speaker and Councillors, working with Thabo Mofutsanyana District Sport and Recreation Council and SAFA Thabo Mofutsanyana Region, we are responding to the call made by the Sport Minister, Honourable Fikile Mbalula, to ensure that we unearth the talent from our villages with the hope of getting the future Bafana Bafana stars by aiming to

launch in the coming financial year the annual Thabo Mofutsanyana Cup, wherein 32 teams playing in both the Castle League and the Local Football Associations will compete in the cup competition that will run from November to May annually.

Maikemisetso a rona Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano ke ho theha le lekgotla la setereke le tla shebana le ditaba tsa bonono le setso. Maikemisetso a rona ke ho bona dibini tsa rona le batho kapa dihlopha tsa bonono jwaleka botaki, boroki/bothothokisi, jwalo-jwalo, ba ntlafatswa mme le bona ba nka karolo meketjaneng e fapeneng ya bonono le setso, ebile hape ba kgona ho iphedisa ka ditalente tsa bona.

For the development of sport in our district we have thus set aside an amount of R350 000 for the financial year, while R100 000 will be allocated for Arts and Culture Development Programmes.

Gender and Disability programmes have been allocated R50 000 – 00 while HIV and AIDS programmes receives an allocation of R100 000 – 00.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Ladies and gentlemen, the enormity of challenges faced by the youth requires initiatives that will bring a meaningful change among these young people.

It is for this reason that we embarked on youth mobilisation programme as the district municipality in the past year and engaged youth in a dialogue in all the six municipalities in the district. The programme allowed the youth to converse and propose solutions on issues affecting them, which are inequitable economic relations, unemployment, scarce skills, high crime rates, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and apathy. The dialogues kicked-off in Nketoana Local Municipality and concluded in Mantsopa.

With an allocation of R400 000 – 00, Youth Development will therefore continue to be one of the key programmes of our municipality even in the coming financial year as former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Anan once said: *"Young people should be at the forefront of global change and innovation. Empowered, they can be key agents for*

development and peace. If, however, they are left on society's margins, all of us will be impoverished. Let us ensure that all young people have every opportunity to participate fully in the lives of their societies."

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Honourable Speaker, with our dedicated and competent team of management and staff our municipality is capable of discharging its responsibilities and deliver services as per the priorities of our Integrated Development Plan. To enhance our workforce, the municipality has filled 19 vacancies, which includes among others, that of the Director: Community Services, Director: Corporate Services, Environmental Health Practitioners, Manager – Local Economic Development and Tourism, Webmaster, Risk Officer and Infrastructure Technicians.

Furthermore, 10 officials and three Councillors were enrolled in the Municipal Finance Management Programme while two other officials attended Certificate Programme for Management Development.

Ladies and gentlemen, a supportive work environment, where managers reinforce a sound wellness strategy, can keep employees motivated and engaged. Wellness and incentive programs can be used to drive and reinforce healthy behaviours, bringing benefits to the employer, the employee, and to the community. It is for this reason that we are taking employee wellness into consideration and have thus budgeted R750 000 – 00 for this programme in the next financial year.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Honourable Speaker, to ensure that our district municipality moves with changing technology, we have achieved the following:

- Development and publishing of a compliant website which is frequently updated.
- Developed an intranet facility, which will be used as an internal communication platform.
- Upgraded Server Infrastructure.

- Installation of a wireless network, which has rendered the entire head office a Wi-Fi hotspot.
- Development of an in-house e-mail facility.
- Upgraded the dataline from 256 kilobites per second to 2 megabites per second resulting in faster internet access.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY AND MANAGEMENT

Honoured Councillors, I am glad to announce that our municipality has once again attained an unqualified audit report. This is for the fourth year in succession and spells good news in our pursuit to a clean audit.

Sound financial management principles and practices are a basis for the success of any institution, more especially a public institution that has been entrusted with public monies. The role played by our finance department in this regard is highly appreciated.

We also appreciate the finance department's initiative of training our youth in financial management skills through its annual finance management internship programme. Good news is that three interns have been employed permanently by the municipality in the current financial year, while five interns will be recruited into the programme in the coming financial year.

Honourable Speaker, the tightening of our internal controls is also attributed to the effectiveness of our internal audit function, risk management unit and the Municipal Public Accounts Committee. With the necessary audit charters, audit and risk management plans, and methodologies in place and having been adopted by the Council during the course of the current financial year, there is no reason for these oversight functions and committee to be hindered from their functions.

From this current financial year, our Internal Audit started auditing performance information, which was a concern from Auditor General. We believe this will contribute a lot in the improvement of our performance as the municipality as the performance of each unit is now required to be supported by evidence that a particular function has been performed.

TOTAL BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2014/2015

Honourable Speaker, having presented a review of the past year and the preview for the next year, I now presented to this august house our total budget for the financial year 2014/2015 as well as for the two outer years.

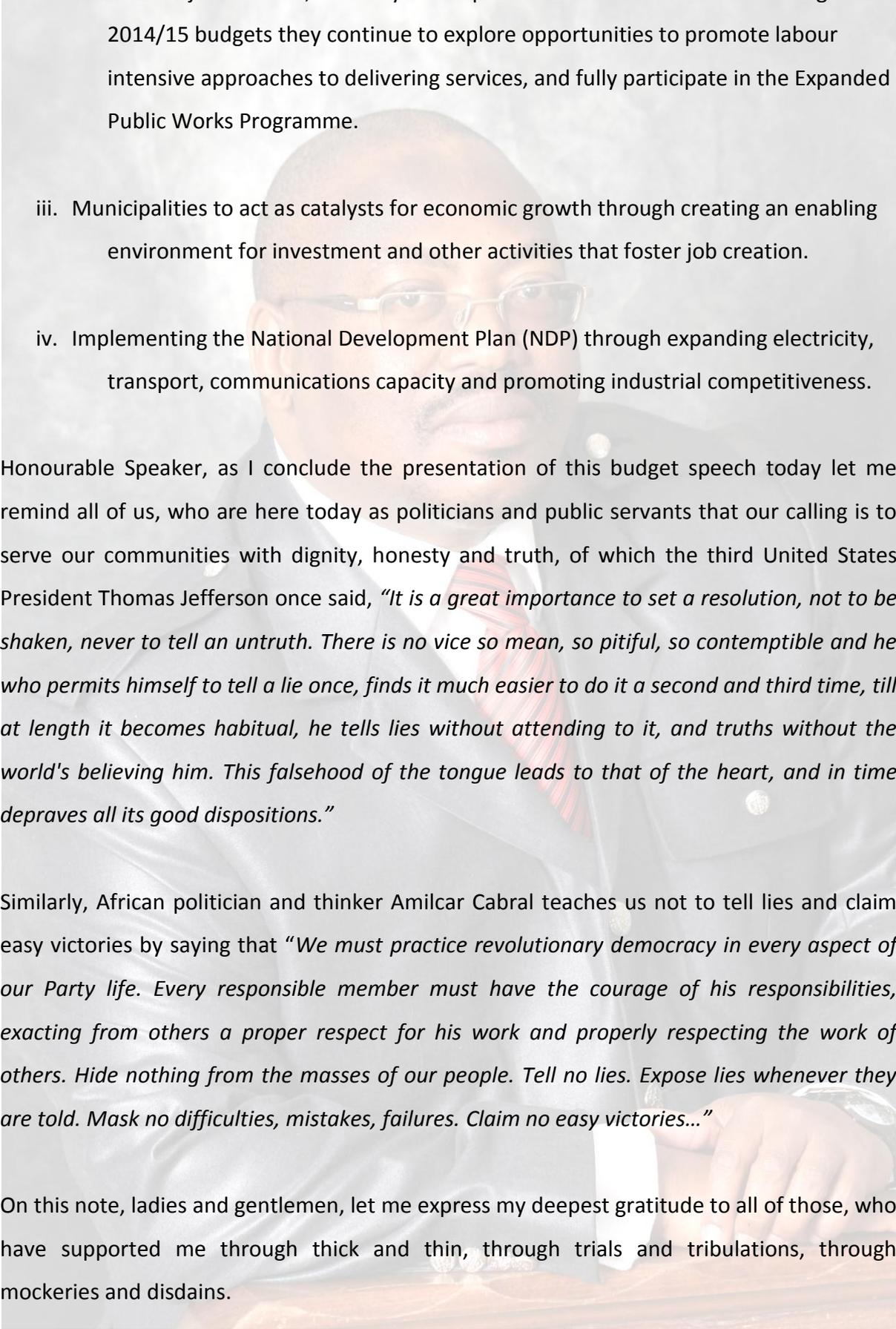
Honourable Councillors, the projected budgeted revenue amounts to R95, 026, million for the 2014/15 financial year, which represents an increase of R6, 432 million (7%) above the approved budget for 2013/14. For the 2015/16 and 2016/17 financial years the annual budgeted revenue amounts to R103,598 million which represents an increase of R8,571 million (8%) and R105,605 million which represents an increase of R2,007million (2%) respectively. The capital budget total amounts to R 7,055 million.

The annual operating expenditure budget for the 2014/15 financial year amounts to R85, 434 million, which represents a decrease of R22,012 million (-26%) above the approved budget for 2013/14. For the 2015/2016 and 2016/17 financial years the annual operating expenditure budgets amounts are R89,628 million and R95,608 million respectively, which represent increase of R4,194 (5%) and R5,979 million (6%) for the two outer years.

In drafting this budget, Ladies and Gentlemen, special attention was given to National and Provincial influences, which included:

The Medium Term Budget Policy Statement outlined strategies and interventions required by local government in achieving economic stability and higher levels of growth. It includes, among others:

- i. Expanding public sector investment in infrastructure through ensuring that the budgets acknowledge that capital programmes need a balanced funding structure addressing not only backlogs in services but also investment in new infrastructure as well as renewing current infrastructure.

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- ii. Sustainable job creation, whereby municipalities are to ensure that in drafting their 2014/15 budgets they continue to explore opportunities to promote labour intensive approaches to delivering services, and fully participate in the Expanded Public Works Programme.
 - iii. Municipalities to act as catalysts for economic growth through creating an enabling environment for investment and other activities that foster job creation.
 - iv. Implementing the National Development Plan (NDP) through expanding electricity, transport, communications capacity and promoting industrial competitiveness.

Honourable Speaker, as I conclude the presentation of this budget speech today let me remind all of us, who are here today as politicians and public servants that our calling is to serve our communities with dignity, honesty and truth, of which the third United States President Thomas Jefferson once said, *“It is a great importance to set a resolution, not to be shaken, never to tell an untruth. There is no vice so mean, so pitiful, so contemptible and he who permits himself to tell a lie once, finds it much easier to do it a second and third time, till at length it becomes habitual, he tells lies without attending to it, and truths without the world's believing him. This falsehood of the tongue leads to that of the heart, and in time depraves all its good dispositions.”*

Similarly, African politician and thinker Amilcar Cabral teaches us not to tell lies and claim easy victories by saying that *“We must practice revolutionary democracy in every aspect of our Party life. Every responsible member must have the courage of his responsibilities, exacting from others a proper respect for his work and properly respecting the work of others. Hide nothing from the masses of our people. Tell no lies. Expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures. Claim no easy victories...”*

On this note, ladies and gentlemen, let me express my deepest gratitude to all of those, who have supported me through thick and thin, through trials and tribulations, through mockeries and disdains.

Most of all, my wife and my children have the pillar of strength in times of hardness, and a comfort during tears and loneliness.

The African National Congress, has not only become my organisation but my home, where I have come to realise that as much as I am required to serve it, this organisation has also much confidence in my potential and leadership capabilities. Therefore I can proudly and fondly and revolutionary say: Long Live ANC Long Live! Viva ANC Viva.

To the Members of the Mayoral Committee, thank you for agreeing to travel this road alongside me as we play an oversight role over the administration of Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality.

Also many thanks to the Chief Whip, the Speaker, the Chairperson of Municipal Public Accounts Committee and all the Councillors for your support and advices.

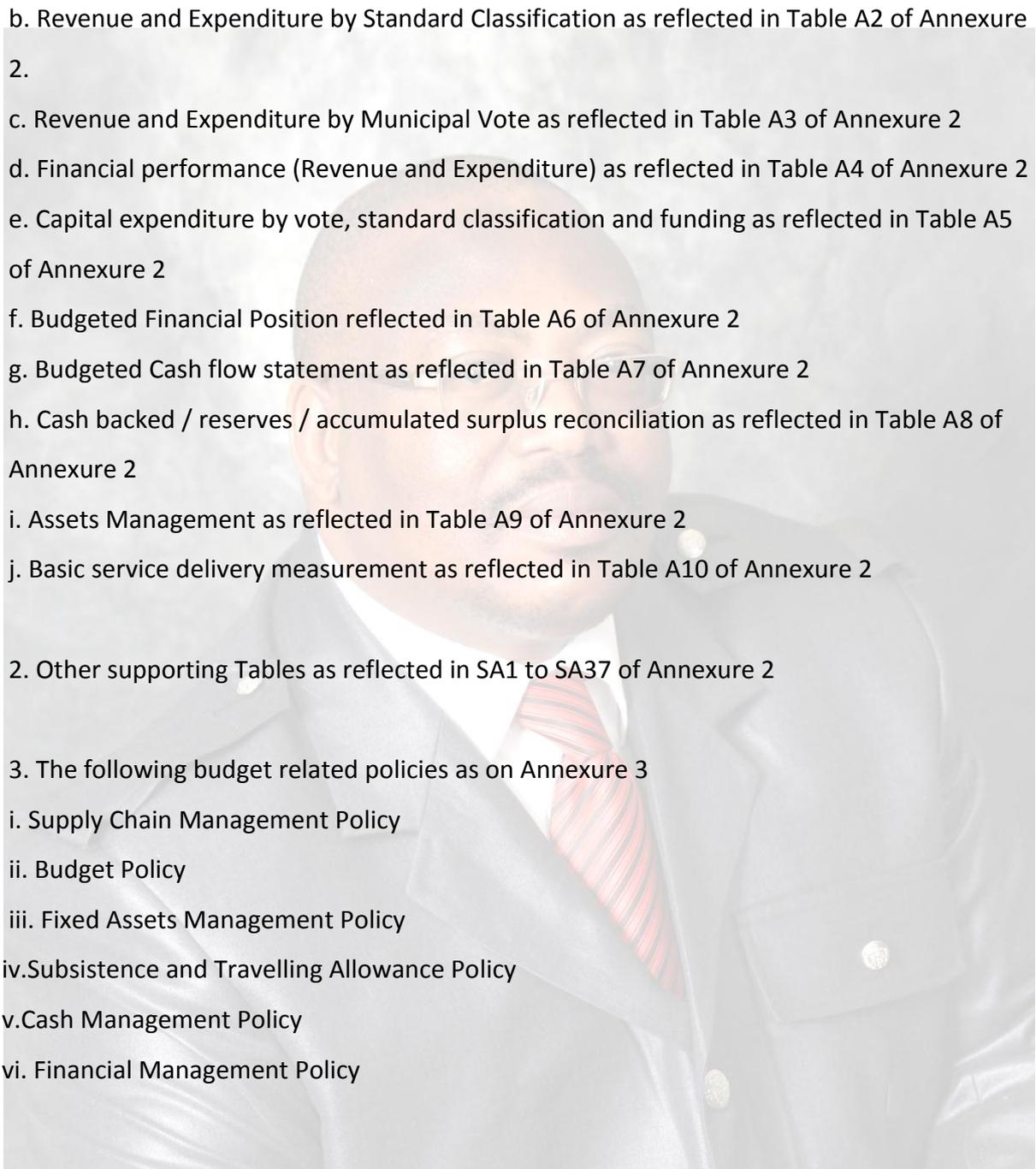
My gratitude also goes to the Management and the Staff of Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality for your services and commitment in discharging your duties.

How can I forget to express many thanks to the Mayors of local municipalities for their support.

Nka lebala jwang hape ho leboha setjhaba sohle sa Thabo Mofutsanyana ho kenyeditse kahare baetapele ba setjhaba e leng baruti, marena le mekgatlo eo e seng ya mmuso. Re ya leboha setjhaba seso.

Having said it all Honourable Speaker, let me implore this dignified house to adopt and approve the following:

- 1.The Municipality's annual budget for the financial year 2014/15; and indicative allocations for the two projected outer years 2015/16 and 2016/17 and related policies, as tabled, be approved as set out in the following schedules and annexures:
 - a. Budget Summary as reflected in Table A1 of Annexure 2

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- b. Revenue and Expenditure by Standard Classification as reflected in Table A2 of Annexure 2.
 - c. Revenue and Expenditure by Municipal Vote as reflected in Table A3 of Annexure 2
 - d. Financial performance (Revenue and Expenditure) as reflected in Table A4 of Annexure 2
 - e. Capital expenditure by vote, standard classification and funding as reflected in Table A5 of Annexure 2
 - f. Budgeted Financial Position reflected in Table A6 of Annexure 2
 - g. Budgeted Cash flow statement as reflected in Table A7 of Annexure 2
 - h. Cash backed / reserves / accumulated surplus reconciliation as reflected in Table A8 of Annexure 2
 - i. Assets Management as reflected in Table A9 of Annexure 2
 - j. Basic service delivery measurement as reflected in Table A10 of Annexure 2
2. Other supporting Tables as reflected in SA1 to SA37 of Annexure 2
3. The following budget related policies as on Annexure 3
- i. Supply Chain Management Policy
 - ii. Budget Policy
 - iii. Fixed Assets Management Policy
 - iv. Subsistence and Travelling Allowance Policy
 - v. Cash Management Policy
 - vi. Financial Management Policy
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