

**SPEECH BY THE MAYOR OF BELA BELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, CLLR HM  
LEDWABA, DURING THE FINAL TABLING OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE  
2011/12 FINANCIAL YEAR, FOR APPROVAL BY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ON  
THURSDAY, 28 APRIL 2011**

**VENUE: BELA BELA MUNICIPAL CHAMBERS**

**TIME : 14H00**

Madam Speaker

Members of the Executive Committee

Chief whip of the ANC

Councilors

Municipal Manager

Officials

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good afternoon, Thobela,

Madam Speaker

Almost five years ago, we took over the running of this municipality after the electorate decided amongst themselves, to entrust us with the life of this institution, its monies, its challenges and all its potentials.

With that single cross, they pinned their hopes and destiny on this leadership, led and inspired by the African National Congress, to deliver not just water and electricity in their homes.

But to extend the fruits of freedom to them, by delivering improved and better quality of life to them, and those whose future they hold dear and remained guarded against any form of want.

For the past 60 months, they knocked on our doors to remind us of the faith and trust they bestowed on us, to lead them to a better, safer and habitable future.

They stopped us on the many cross roads in our municipality, asking and demanding to know what will happen to their lot tomorrow and where we were going, as a democratic people in transit.

They wanted to know how and on what, while using their name, their rates and taxes.

They called on us daily to remind us to keep our promises to that simple cross, they made.

Madam Speaker

Many wanted nothing from us.

They simply wanted to see practical changes in their daily lives.

They wanted clean drinkable water delivered in the comfort of their homes.

They wanted houses with proper foundations, roofs and with access to proper sanitation.

They wanted electricity in their homes, workplaces, schools and other community facilities

They wanted to walk on paved sidewalks.

They wanted to drive and ride on tarred roads.

They wanted their gravel roads and streets graded.

They wanted their refuse removed from their environment.

Madam Speaker

These honourable citizens, whom we all call our constituencies, wanted nothing other than to see their municipality rebuild, to function effectively and efficiently .

They wanted their officials capacitated and positioned to deliver on the most basic promise, our glorious movement made to them, which is service delivery.

These are the simple things, many of our fellow South Africans who are residents and ratepayers of our municipality, wanted.

In a nutshell, they wanted to see us, their representatives, leading our officials in working hard, for them.

To this end, Madam Speaker, I am happy to report that many of these things that our people wanted since March 2006, have been delivered to them by this very collective that is gathered in these chambers today.

It may not be all.

It may equally not be enough.

But they can, today, point to the majority of those things they wanted and expected from us, to constitute the landscape of their own town, village, settlements, township and the broader community.

Without fail, they have looked at this council, to begin a journey towards building sustainable communities in areas they reside at.

Honourable members

Over the past 1 853 days, we have been able to rebuild our municipal offices, that were torched down in the darkness of the night by faceless people.

We succeeded to re-engineering the institution and are still continuing to do so.

Today we have all five key departments fully operational and equipped with section 56 managers, divisional managers and most of officials in the lower ranks.

The numerous capital projects that we have championed over the past five years, not only delivered essential services to our people in the form of better equipped water purification plants, improved electrical network, tarred roads, but we now have a sophisticated IT network, amongst others.

Through these projects we have equally been able to provide employment to many of our people who, at some point in their lives, knew nothing but a perpetual cycle of poverty, despair and indignity.

Today honourable members, you can point to the hundreds of men, women and youth, whose lives were lifted out of the claws of poverty and unemployment through the job and business opportunities presented to them by this municipality.

Today, you can speak of the hundreds of empowered resident business, previously disadvantaged suppliers of goods and services, many of whom having benefitted from our compliance and implementation of the BBEEE regulations, policies and laws.

Madam Speaker

We have also succeeded to make it the natural order of things to frequently consult our people in any decision making process through our ward committee system and other fora.

The budget we are presenting today, like many since March 2006, is informed by the progressive views of our residents, who have made immeasurable contribution to it, during the recent public participation hearings.

Their inputs are contained in the reports that I am circulating to this house as part of our budget presentation today.

In this regard, I wish to thank all ward committee members, whose term is coming to end with that of our council, for their sterling contribution to the body of work by our municipality.

We remain indebted and grateful for their service.

Honourable members

Our prudent financial management, are a result of consistent improvement over the years.

As a result of that, today we are able to point to the steady improvement of our performance.

We have moved from a series of disclaimers, that were somehow a permanent feature of our municipality, to an unqualified report, for the first time since 2002/03.

This, honourable councilors, speaks directly to our unwavering commitment to clean and good governance.

But more importantly, it talks to the sheer determination of our council to adhere to the most basic requirement of our governance, which is compliance with legislation.

These, which constitute the bulk of our successes over the five-year period, was and still remains no fluke by any stretch or measure of political imagination.

Indeed, our achievement stand in the records of highly regarded and competent institutions namely, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and a private research institute Empowerdex.

In both their respective reports they rated our overall performance to be amongst the top 59 municipalities in the country and amongst the top two in the province in terms of service delivery.

This was further confirmed by our attainment of an unqualified audit report later in the same year.

In this regard, we have made available copies of our 2001 – 2010 Performance Report to yourselves, as part of our presentation today.

Madam Speaker

All these successes were made possible by the diligence and resolve of our Council and administration, who when given the task and responsibility to deliver and lead, never wavered but saw it as an opportunity to give meaning to the Freedom Charter and our country's Constitution.

Honourable Speaker

We have entered into the long winter nights of political preparations and the bitter coldness that campaigns bring to political parties.

This, as we all know, has created anxieties for many political actors and observers, not only in Bela Bela, but across the country.

However I wish to assure you that after the “long” winter storm, it will be the voter who will emerge victorious. That is how progressive, solid and empowering our constitutional democracy is.

It's a world acclaimed democracy brought about not by sheer luck or coincidence of nature's forces, but by the deliberate and concerted efforts, pain, blood, sweat and tears of the membership and diehard supporters of the African National Congress.

It is this collective leadership of the Mass Democratic Movement that has set in motion the wheels of transformation that gave birth to the changes we have experienced to date.

However, as the political winds of change approach our locality, we should again look within ourselves if we are all ready to embrace the new ethos that the national leadership under comrade President Jacob Zuma, demand of us.

That we should, working together with our people, build better communities consistent with our manifesto.

We should ask if our determination is as strong willed as the aspirations of the voters to see a new council that is capable of carrying the new responsibilities and mandate with impeccable integrity, passion and undeterred resolve.

I do however, believe that our people are, Madam Speaker

Hence, we are here today, to pass and adopt a budget, which in many respects, will not be implemented by ourselves, as we normally do.

But by the new collective in whose hands we entrust the future of this administration and this community, moving forward.

I therefore wish to present the final 2011/2012 Budget for council approval in terms of section 16 and 17 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act 56 of 2003).

Madam Speaker

Going into the new financial year the general orientation of the budget seeks to address the following **key strategic constitutional objectives**:

- Basic Services as key priorities in particular bulk infrastructure
- Road infrastructure
- Strengthening the institutional capacity of the municipality
- Re-organise the institution with the view to strengthening its capacity to promote local economic development for growth and job creation and thus expand its revenue base
- Further improve control systems within the institution

Honourable Members

The budget has been compiled in line with MFMA Circulars No 28, 51, 54 & 55, which details the budget content and format.

Key concepts which were considered when preparing the budget were that the budget must be funded from **(a)** Realistic anticipated revenues to be collected; **(b)** Cash backed accumulated funds from previous years' surpluses not committed for other purposes; and **(c)** Borrowed funds, but only for the Capital Budget

Other key issues which were taken into consideration to ensure a Credible Budget were, **(a)** Funds were allocated to activities which are consistent with the revised IDP and vice versa ensuring the IDP is realistically achievable given the financial constraints of the Municipality, **(b)** Is achievable in terms of agreed service delivery and performance targets, **(c)** Contains revenue and expenditure projections that are consistent with current and past performance and supported by documented evidence of future assumptions; **(d)** Does not jeopardize the financial viability of the municipality i.e. ensures that the financial position is maintained within generally accepted prudent limits and that obligations can be met in the short, medium and long term.

## **1. BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS**

In terms of circular 54 and 55, the following budget assumption were adopted in the preparation of the budget 2011/2012

### **(I) National outcomes**

In January 2010, Cabinet adopted 12 outcomes within which to frame public-service delivery priorities and targets. All municipalities are expected to take the 12 outcomes into consideration when reviewing their IDPs and developing their annual budgets for the 2011/12 MTREF.

### **(II) Revising rates, tariffs and other charges**

When revising rates, tariffs and other charges for the 2011/12 MTREF, the following factors should be taken into consideration; wage agreements, input costs of services being provided, the need to ensure financial sustainability, local economic conditions, the affordability of services, taking into consideration, the municipality's indigent policy.

In considering changes in property rates, cognizance should be taken of the local economic conditions such as the recovery of the property market, trends in household incomes and unemployment. Excessive increases in property rates and other tariffs are likely to be counterproductive, resulting in higher levels of non-payment and increased bad debts.

National Treasury continues to encourage municipalities to keep increases in rates, tariffs and other charges as low as practically possible. For this reason National Treasury continues to require that municipalities must justify in their budget

documentation all increases in excess of the **6%** upper boundary of the South African Reserve Bank's inflation target.

The budget was compiled based on the following guidelines

**a. Headline inflation forecasts**

Municipalities must take the following inflation forecasts into consideration when preparing their budgets for 2011/12 and MTREF.

Fiscal Year	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
	Actual	Estimate	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
CPI	6.3%	4.2%	4.8%	5.3%	5.5%

**b. NERSA's approval of municipal electricity tariffs.**

The Eskom price of bulk electricity supplied to municipalities will increase by **26.71 %** on 1 July 2011. Based on this price increases, and increases in the price of other inputs NERSA has set a guideline increase for municipal tariffs of **20.38%**.

**a. Water tariffs must be cost-reflective**

There continues to be an urgent need to promote the careful use of water. Ensuring that water is correctly priced is the most effective means of getting households and businesses to conserve water. When reviewing the level and structure of water tariffs, the following should be taken into consideration;

- Water tariffs are fully cost-reflective- including the cost of maintenance and renewal of purification plants and water networks, and the cost of new infrastructure,
- Water tariffs are structured to protect the basic levels of service, and
- Water tariffs are designed to encourage efficient and sustainable consumption (e.g through increasing block tariffs)

All the municipalities should ensure that they have appropriately structured, cost reflective water tariffs by 2014. Our current revenue(R 9 520 000)/ expenditure (R 11 925 000) ratio is at **0,79%**. Our proposed increase of **15%** (R 10 948 000) and 6% (R 12 641 000) on revenue and expenditure respectively will result in a ratio of **0,86%**.

**(III) Salary increases**

In terms of section 5 of the Salary and Wage collective agreement, "this collective agreement shall come into operation in respect of the parties to the agreement, on 1 July 2009 and shall remain in force until 30 June 2012.



Section 6.3 of the same agreement further states that “all employees, except those employees excluded in clause 4, shall receive for the financial year 2011/2012 with effect from 1 July 2011 an across the board increase based on the average **CPI% for the period 1 February 2010 until 31 January 2011, plus 2%. The average CPI for this period is 4.8%, hence the budgeted increase of 6.8%.**

**(IV) Conditional transfers to municipalities**

Section 214 of the Constitution provides for national government to transfer resources to municipalities in terms of the annual Division of Revenue Act (DoRA) to assist them in exercising their powers and performing their functions. These allocations are announced annually in the national budget. Transfers to municipalities from national government are supplemented with transfers from provincial government. Further, transfers are also made between district municipalities and local municipalities

**b. REPORT**

Based on the above background the following increases were made in terms of the **income:**

REVENUE SOURCE	BUDGET AMOUNT 2010/2011	BUDGET AMOUNT 2011/2012	% INCREASE
Property Rates	R 36 200 408	R 37 938 028	4.80%
Electricity	R 50 590 853	R 60 901 269	20.38%
Water	R 9 520 000	R 10 948 000	15.00%
Sanitation	R 5 350 966	R 6 153 611	15.00%
Refuse	R 5 622 000	R 5 891 856	4.80%

The sundry income tariffs were increased based on the attached list and also taking into cognizance that there were no increases in the previous financial year.

**Income from grants is divided as follows**

<b>GRANT</b>	<b>BUDGET AMOUNT 2010/2011</b>	<b>BUDGET AMOUNT 2011/2012</b>	<b>% INCREASE</b>
Equitable Share	R 35 685 000	R 39 790 000	11.50%
Municipal Infrastructure Grant	R 12 903 000	R 15 518 000	20.27%
Municipal Systems Improvement Grant	R 750 000	R 790 000	5.33%
Department of Minerals and Energy	R 3 000 000	R 0	-100%
Financial Management Grant	R 1 000 000	R 1 250 000	25%

Our expenditure has been allocated with the view of addressing the six local government performance areas and is divided into Operational and Capital Expenditure.

**(A) OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE**

**KPA1: SPATIAL ANALYSIS AND RATIONAL**

All form part of the Capital Budget Hereunder

**KPA2: BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY**

<b>STRATEGIC PROGRAMME</b>	<b>BUDGET 2010/2011</b>	<b>BUDGET 2011/2012</b>	<b>% INCREASE</b>

(a) Bulk Purchase: Water	R 3 071 000	R 3 531 350	15%
(b) Bulk Purchase : Electricity	R 33 808 000	R 42 838 117	26.71%
(c) Maintenance: Streets	R 2 100 000	R 2 500 000	19.05%
(d) Maintenance: Electricity Network	R 1 900 000	R 1 900 000	0%
(e) Maintenance: Water Network	R 700 000	R 700 000	0%
(f) Maintenance: Sewer Network	R 527 000	R 527 000	0%
(g) Contracted Services - Dumping Site	R 1 500 000	R 1 261 990	-15.86%
(h) Contracted Services- Traffic	R 807 476	R 807 476	0%
(i) Parks and Grounds	R 450 000	R 450 000	0%

### KPA3: LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGIC PROGRAMME	BUDGET 2010/2011	BUDGET 2011/2012	% INCREASE
(a) LED Support	R 200 000	R 200 000	0%

### KPA4:MUNICIPAL TRANSFORMATION AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGIC PROGRAMME	BUDGET 2010/2011	BUDGET 2011/2012	% INCREASE
(a) Employee related costs	R 58 248 349	R 67 822 911	16.44%
(b) Remuneration to Councilors	R 2 608 727	R 2 765 251	6%
(c) Employee Wellness	R 400 000	R 400 000	0%
(d) Contracted Services : Security	R 2 600 000	R 2 170 358	-16.52%
(e) Contracted Services: Legal	R 2 200 000	R 1 857 461	-15.57%

(f) Contracted Services- Computer Licenses & Contracts	R 2 064 787	R 2 064 787	0%
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#### **KPA5:MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

<b>STRATEGIC PROGRAMME</b>	<b>BUDGET 2010/2011</b>	<b>BUDGET 2011/2012</b>	<b>% INCREASE</b>
(a) Contracted Services- External Audit	R 1 375 000	R 1 375 000	0%
(b) Contracted Services- SARS Audit (VAT)	R 1 125 000	R 800 000	-28.89%
(c) Contracted Services- Meter Reading	R 1 186 450	R 1 290 190	8.74%
(d) Contracted Services- Debt Collection	R 937 299	R 1 009 456	7.70%
(e) Risk and Asset Management	R 2 645 263	R 1 465 000	-44.62%
(f) Depreciation and Assets impairment	R 6 800 000	R 7 077 440	4.08%
(g) Contracted Services- Licensing	R 5 763 287	R 5 763 287	0%

#### **KPA6: GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

<b>STRATEGIC PROGRAMME</b>	<b>BUDGET 2010/2011</b>	<b>BUDGET 2011/2012</b>	<b>% INCREASE</b>
(a) Salga	R 320 000	R 320 000	0%
(b) Community Outreach Programmes	R 450 000	R 450 000	0%
(c) External Communication	R 100 000	R 100 000	0%
(d) Imbizo	R 70 000	R 70 000	0%
(e) Ward Committees	R 100 000	R 1 100 000	1000%

#### **(B) CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**

##### **KPA1: SPATIAL ANALYSIS AND RATIONAL**

<b>STRATEGIC</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>FUNDING</b>
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<b>PROGRAMME</b>		<b>SOURCE</b>
(a) Promotion and Marketing of Bela Bela	R 100 000	OWN
(b) Town Planning / Township Establishment	R 200 000	OWN
(c) Purchasing of a scanner/plan/copy machine	R 120 000	OWN
(d) SMME Support	R 100 000	OWN
(e) Professional services for town planning and land surveying	R 400 000	OWN

#### **KPA2: BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY**

<b>STRATEGIC PROGRAMME</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>
(a) Re-Sealing	R 1 000 000	OWN
(b) Replace Obsolete Cables	R 1 500 000	OWN
(c) Refurbish old section WTP	R 500 000	OWN
(d) Servicing Mini subs	R 500 000	OWN
(e) Municipal Building	R 350 000	OWN
(f) Develop Infrastructure Master plan	R 600 000	OWN
(g) Storm water	R 1 000 000	MIG
(h) Upgrading Internal Roads	R 2 000 000	MIG
(i) License testing ground	R 2 800 000	MIG
(j) Road Paving Phase 3	R 2 684 000	MIG
(k) Upgrading Internal Roads Rapotokwane	R 1 000 000	MIG
(l) Bulk Infrastructure Bela Bela x9	R 3 734 000	MIG
(m) High Mast Light Ext 8	R 300 000	MIG
(n) Pienaarsrivier / Masakhane Cemetery	R 900 000	OWN

(o) Development of Integrated Waste Management Plan and Environmental Management Plan	R 1 000 000	OWN
(p) Refuse Bins (Including Awareness Campaigns)	R 600 000	OWN
(q) Grass and Tree Cutting Machinery	R 500 000	OWN
(r) Road Block Trailer	R 125 736	OWN
(s) Chairs and Tables for Jinnah Park and Spa Park Halls	R 50 000	OWN
(t) Rehabilitation of Bela Bela Sports Grounds next to Bela Bela High School	R 1 000 000	OWN
(u) Refurbishment of the current three sport courts at Bela Bela Community Hall	R 400 000	OWN

### KPA3: LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGIC PROGRAMME	BUDGET	FUNDING SOURCE
(a) Formalisation of flea market	2 000 000	MIG

### KPA4:MUNICIPAL TRANSFORMATION AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGIC PROGRAMME	BUDGET	FUNDING SOURCE
(a) Fire Wall Solution	R 250 000	OWN
(b) Network Wireless Solution	R 150 000	OWN
(c) Electronic Security System	R 250 000	OWN

(d) 4 Servers	R 1 000 000	OWN
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#### KPA5:MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL VIABILITY

STRATEGIC PROGRAMME	BUDGET	FUNDING SOURCE
(a) Valuation Roll	R 3 500 000	OWN

(a) The **Capital Projects** as per list above will be funded from MIG  
( R 15 518 000) and **Own Revenue of (R 14 745 736)**

Our total Operational Expenditure has increased from **R 162 million** to **R 178 million(10.38% increase)** which can be categorized as follows;

FUNCTIONAL AREAS	2010/2011	%	2011/2012	%
Salaries and Wages	R 58 248 000	35.93	67 822 911	37.90
Councilors Allowances	R 2 609 000	1.61	2 765 251	1.56
Bulk Purchases	R 36 879 000	22.75	46 369 766	25.91
General Expenditure	R 43 836 000	27.04	43 164 342	24.12
Contracted Services	R 20 538 000	12.67	18,811 079	10.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>162 110 000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>178 933 349</b>	<b>100</b>

This expenditure will be financed from the following sources;

SOURCE	2010/2011	%	2011/2012	%
Property Rates	36 200 408	20.87	37 938 028	19.76
Electricity	50 590 853	29.16	60 901 269	31.36
Water	9 520 000	5.49	10 948 000	5.64
Sanitation	5 350 966	3.08	6 153,611	3.16

Refuse	5 622 000	3.24	5 891 856	3.07
Grants	38 363 582	22.12	41 961 000	21.60
Other Income	27 819 137	16.04	30 126 458	15.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>173 466 946</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>193 920 222</b>	<b>100</b>

Our total Capital Expenditure is **R 30 million** which can be categorized in terms of the following functional areas;

<b>FUNCTIONAL AREAS</b>	<b>2010/2011</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>%</b>
Water	200 000	0.79	3 734 000	13.34
Roads	7 790 000	30.67	7 684 000	25.39
Electricity	7 750 000	30.51	2 300 000	7.60
Sanitation	4 688 000	18.45	150 000	0.49
Community Services	950 000	3.74	7 376 000	24.37
Governance, Finance & Admin	4 025 000	15.84	9 020 000	28.81
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25 403 000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>30 264 000</b>	<b>100</b>

The total budget for 2011/2012 is as follows:

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>2010/2011</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>OPERATIONAL BUDGET</b>	<b>162 110 000</b>	<b>86.45</b>	<b>178 933 349</b>	<b>85.53</b>
<b>CAPITAL BUDGET</b>	<b>25 403 000</b>	<b>13.55</b>	<b>30 264 000</b>	<b>14,47</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>187 513 000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>209 197 349</b>	<b>100</b>

#### **c. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**It is recommended that**



- A. 1. That in terms of section 24 of the municipal Finance Management Act, 56 of 2003, the annual budget of the Bela Bela municipality for the financial year 2011/2012, and indicative allocations for the two projected outer years 2012/2013 and 2013/2014; and the multi-year and single year capital appropriations are approved as set-out in the following tables:
- 1.1 Budget Financial Performance (revenue and expenditure by standard classification);
  - 1.2 Budgeted Financial Performance (revenue and expenditure by municipal vote);
  - 1.3 Budgeted Financial Performance revenue by source and expenditure by type); and
  - 1.4 Multi-year and single year capital appropriations by municipal vote and standard classification and associated funding by source.
  - 1.5 That in terms of section 24(2)(i) and (ii) of the Municipal Financial Management Act, 56 of 2003 and sections 74 and 75A of the Local Government; Municipal Systems Act, Act 32 of 2000 as amended, the tariffs for the supply of water, electricity, waste services, sanitation services and property rates as set out in Budget Chapter 21 and as annexures that were used to prepare the estimates of revenue by source, are approved with effect from July 2011.
  - 1.6 That in terms of section 5 of the Municipal Property Rates Act, 6 of 2004, the rates policy (or the amendments to the rates policy) as set out in Budget Chapter 19 and is approved.
  - 1.7 . That the tariff with regard to the Agricultural Property Rates to remain unchanged for the 2011/2012 Financial Year
  - 1.8. That in terms of section 17(e) of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 56 of 2003, the amendments to the attached budget related policies be approved.
- (B) That the Reviewed Integrated Development Plan for 2011/2012 financial year be approved
- (C) That the revised Municipal Performance Management System Policy Framework be approved
- (D) That the Organizational Structure for 2011/2012 financial year be approved

Madam Speaker

Finally I take this opportunity to thank all members of council for their immense contribution to the work, operations and political direction our council took.

You have worked hard, as public representatives of our people, to serve them to the best of your ability.

Your passion for our people, dedication, commitment and determination to change their lives for the better, has shone through your magnificent work and service to this council over the past five year.

Madam Speaker

I wish to take this wonderful moment to also pay homage to the several stakeholders who have worked with us in serving our community.

We remain indebted to them for their amazing support and contribution to the term of this council.

Our partnership (with them) has ensure that we delivered to the extent that we did, on the honourable mandate, given to us by our people, five years ago.

In this regard, I wish to acknowledge the following institutions:

1. National Treasury
2. The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.
3. Office of the Premier (Limpopo)
4. Department of Local Government and Housing in Limpopo
5. Waterberg District Municipality
6. Sister municipalities in our district
7. Bela Bela Business Chamber
8. Bela Bela Small Business Association
9. Bela Bela Tourism office
10. All religious groups and formations in Bela Bela
11. Non-Governmental Organisations
12. Community Based organisations
13. Sector departments
14. All sector-based councils and formations
15. All political parties in our municipality

Madam Speaker

I would be doing injustice if I were not to express our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to our community, residents and ratepayers, for having shown confidence in us, to lead this institution to a better today.

They stood with us.

They worked with us shoulder to shoulder, as we toiled together to improve their conditions and that of the next generation.

They remained steadfast in their conviction that this council could deliver, if given a chance.

Today, we stand here to declare that all the successes we have recorded, is owed largely to their patience and determination.

Most importantly, I wish to thank our officials, who have been with us, from the day we arrived here with little knowledge of the ways of running an institution as big and complex as a municipality.

Without them, we would not have been able to deliver on the mandate our people gave us five year ago.

We remain eternally grateful for your hard work, discipline, commitment and spirit of cooperation.

We are humbled by your acts of service to this council

I thank you, Madam Speaker