



SPEECH BY THE CITY'S EXECUTIVE MAYOR, PATRICIA DE LILLE, AT THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON 26 OCTOBER 2017

Mr Speaker,

May we have a moment of silence for the victims of fires, road accidents and crime in our city.

October is also Breast Cancer Awareness Month and I ask that we reflect and think of those currently fighting this battle and those who have lost their lives to cancer.

Thank you.

Mr Speaker, over the past few months we have all become acutely aware of the severity of the drought crisis that is currently gripping our region.

This is an unprecedented situation which none of us has seen in our lifetime.

I want to thank and commend Capetonians for their great efforts and for being partners on this journey by saving water.

This week we managed to bring consumption down to 585 million litres of collective use per day, from pre-restriction consumption levels of 1,1 billion litres per day.

This has been no easy feat and it has been a massive adaptation exercise with the help of residents, combined with our pressure management interventions, leak management programme, and the installation of water management devices.

If we keep this up and save even more, we will continue to stretch the water left in our dams while the City gets on with work on the augmentation plans for additional water supplies.

I want to assure residents again that we will not allow a well-run city to run out of water and this will be achieved through progressive savings and our multi-layered augmentation plan to build water resilience.

What we are currently facing is not unique. Many cities around the world have to deal with the impacts of climate change.

The fact is that this multi-portfolio programme to supply water from alternative sources which the City is undertaking is beyond our Constitutional mandate and competencies.

Even so, we will not let Capetonians down and our Water Resilience Plan is progressing to make sure of that.

I would like to thank the specialists who have come on board to help the City, developing the specifications for this highly complex augmentation programme.

This is being managed on a daily basis with extensive City resources being ploughed into this work.

I am making a commitment today that we will be improving our efforts to communicate directly with all Capetonians on our augmentation plans.

Please expect detailed communication from us on how you will be affected and how we are progressing with augmentation in the coming weeks.

This information will be distributed directly to households and communities in a simple, readable format.

Councillors and ratepayers' associations will be key to this communication effort and I will be on the ground showing residents what we are doing.

Starting on Sunday, I will be undertaking a range of site visits and I will take the media into my confidence to help us illustrate the progress of the City's demand management and augmentation work.

But my message today is clear: we have a plan, we will supply water. But Capetonians, your help is vital and so we need you to keep saving.

I am continually assessing the augmentation plan along with highly skilled technical teams.

There are 24 tenders in the tender demand plan and these procurement processes are being run in parallel with one another.

We are using accelerated tender processes, but everyone needs to play by the rules.

The Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) is very clear that we need to follow competitive processes, but we also need to get the best products for the city.

Mr Speaker, because we are trying to comply with the law, we will need to hold a special adjustment budget meeting.

We have the money for the augmentation schemes in the system but the biggest stumbling block in our plans is getting approval from Minister Gigaba in terms of Section 29 of the MFMA.

On 28 August I wrote to the Minister of Finance, Malusi Gigaba, to request approval for departures from MFMA regulations which Section 170 makes provision for to allow us to proceed with a budgetary amendment.

My request has not been responded to by the Minister except for officials in Treasury asking for clarity which we gave and in the past two months there have been numerous follow-ups to the Minister's office and an appeal to the Presidency.

I am appealing to the Minister directly to please respond to my correspondence to allow us to have a special adjustment budget.

If we get no response from the Minister, we will have no choice but to proceed with a special adjustment budget next week to enable us to proceed as fast as we can with our water augmentation plans.

Mr Speaker, we can confirm once again that our augmentation plans comprise desalination, water reuse, and ground water abstraction and we will incrementally scale up all of the various schemes to build resilience.

We are not only building water resilience in the immediate future, but also looking ahead to the years to come and how we ensure water security beyond 2018.

Mr Speaker, this is where our augmentation plans are:

Groundwater abstraction:

There are currently four identified sites for which planning is well under way to get supply from the Atlantis and Silwerstroom, Cape Flats Aquifer, Cape Peninsula and Hottentots-Holland aquifers.

The new water from these schemes will increase incrementally and over time the yield extracted from these sources will rise to 100 million litres of water per day from these four sites.

The City has already managed to increase the production capacity of the existing Atlantis and Silwerstroom Aquifer by 5 million litres per day.

There are seven tenders in progress at various stages of the procurement process for the aquifer schemes, including drilling, mechanical work and civil works tenders.

Desalination:

For modular land-based desalination plants, there are currently eight tenders in progress in the tender procurement process.

These are for the following sites:

- Hout Bay – to produce 4 million litres per day
- Granger Bay – to produce 8 million litres of water per day
- Red Hill/Dido Valley – to produce 2 million litres of water per day
- Strandfontein – to produce 7 million litres per day
- Monwabisi – to produce 7 million litres per day
- Harmony Park – to produce 8 million litres per day
- Cape Town Harbour – to produce 50 million litres per day
- The universal sites – to produce 20 million litres per day

Water from the desalination sites will be increased incrementally in the system from February.

Desalination from Cape Town harbour via barges will yield first water from April 2018. The plan is to augment up to 50 million litres per day from this source.

In terms of the permanent land-based desalination plant at Cape Town Harbour with an estimated yield of 50 million litres per day, this is expected to come online from May 2018.

Water reuse:

For Zandvliet Wastewater Treatment Works, the pipeline work has already started and the yield will rise incrementally from this source to produce 10 million litres per day.

We are also progressing with design and planning to supply potable water from the Potsdam, the Cape Flats, Macassar and the Athlone Wastewater Treatment Works.

We are working on these plans to build extra capacity in preparation for another low rainfall winter.

These schemes are due to come online after April 2018.

At the same time, the City is exploring a range of further options to extend the new water resources on a more permanent basis as part of our resilience efforts.

A project of this scale has never been done before and we are working on these plans as fast as possible while the people of Cape Town save.

I must thank the City staff on the ground and in the water resilience team for working day and night to drive down demand and deliver these projects.

Last week I visited Hillstar and I did personally say thank you.

Mr Speaker, I wish to also report to Council that the Section 80 Water Resilience Advisory Committee has thus far met on three occasions since Council gave them mandate for its creation at the May Council meeting. This committee chaired by the Mayoral Committee Member for Informal Settlements, Water and Waste Services, Councillor Xanthea Limberg.

This committee, created in terms of the Municipal Structures Act, includes representatives from our four local universities, from business, from civil society, from neighbouring municipalities, and from sector development organisations.

The committee is receiving reports on the water resilience plan's implementation and is providing feedback that is being used for refinements.

This past month, I also had a fruitful meeting with the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Nomvula Mokonyane, who gave her commitment to ensure that the department helps the City to acquire the various water licences for new schemes as speedily as possible.

The City has applied for four water licences from the National Government, but to date we have received one licence.

Mr Speaker, there are also other pressing matters we are urgently looking to address.

We are all aware that our rail system is failing commuters daily and we can no longer allow this dire situation to continue unabated.

We have declared our intention to take over management of commuter rail in Cape Town.

Given the severity of the situation and the fact that 54% of commuter journeys are made by passenger rail, the City wants to request that the National Department of Transport (DoT) expedite the assignment of the urban rail function to the City, pending Council's approval.

The backbone of public transport in Cape Town is on the brink of total collapse and the City cannot sit back and wait for the National Government to intervene.

Should Council give its approval today, we will present a business plan to the Department of Transport in which we will propose to take over passenger rail in a structured and incremental manner.

The takeover must happen gradually so that the City can plan ahead, acquire the necessary skills, and build the additional capacity to operate, and ensure the long-term sustainability of passenger rail.

I appeal Council to support this application. Apartheid spatial planning placed the poor far from economic activity and rail is often their only way to gain access to opportunities.

Cape Town cannot survive without a fully functional, effective and world-class passenger rail service.

Without it, our economic growth will be severely hampered, travelling times and transport costs will keep on rising, and our environment will suffer due to an increase in carbon emissions and traffic congestion.

These count among the key issues we committed to address in line with the priorities of the City's Organisational Development and Transformation Plan and Integrated Development Plan.

Mr Speaker, in delivering on our commitments in the ODTP to enable economic inclusion and enhance service delivery, I am also proud to announce that starting on 31 October, this coming Tuesday, the City will be offering registered job seekers free MyCiTi bus rides to support them in their efforts to find employment.

Earlier this year, we announced our intention to commence an initiative that would make job opportunities more accessible to those who are currently unemployed.

We have done a lot of work and preparations over the past five months or so in making this possible.

Many people are giving up looking for work because it is too expensive for them to travel between their homes and other locations where they may apply for a job opportunity.

When Council adopted the City's budget for the 2017/18 financial year, we made provision for up to R6,6 million to subsidise free MyCiTi bus rides for registered job seekers in Cape Town.

In keeping with this commitment, we will provide a free **myconnect** card and two free journeys on the MyCiTi bus every week to support job seekers in their efforts to find employment.

Unemployed residents qualify if they are registered on the City's Expanded Public Works Programme job seekers' database.

The concession applies to those job seekers who are registered at Subcouncils 1, 3, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 23 or 24. These subcouncils fall in the MyCiTi footprint and are served by MyCiTi routes.

Job seekers who qualify will receive a free **myconnect** card loaded with a special travel package to allow two free one-way journeys every week on any MyCiTi route.

As part of this pilot project, there will be 100 000 cards available between 31 October and 20 November 2017, or until all of the **myconnect** cards have been issued to registered job seekers.

In closing Mr Speaker, as a further testament to building an opportunity city and creating an enabling environment for economic growth, today there are two skills development funding items on the agenda for Council's approval.

This is in keeping with the commitment I made where the Mayor's Skills Creation Fund will disburse funds to assist with skills development in key growth sectors in Cape Town.

Council is being asked to approve funding of R3,5 million to train and place 150 youth in the IT industry.

The City and the Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism will work together to fund the Cape Innovation Technology Initiative's programme to train and provide work experience to unemployed youth from Khayelitsha and surrounding areas.

The City is also collaborating with the Western Cape's Department of Economic Development and Tourism and Business Processing Enabling South Africa on a skills development and job creation project in the business process and out-sourcing industry in Cape Town through the training of 200 people.

A total of R3,5 million is required from the City for the implementation of this Youth Skills Pilot Training and Work Experience Programme.

The entire project is R17,6 million – of which R3,5 million will be the City of Cape Town's contribution and the rest will be covered by our partners.

Our contribution will go towards the recruitment of beneficiaries, provide work readiness training, and cover the administration costs.

Mr Speaker, these are just some of the many projects where we are building on the successes of the past five years.

These successes provide the motivation each day for us to continue getting on with making progress possible together with residents and partners and taking Cape Town to the next level.

I thank you.

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