

SPEECH BY THE CITY'S EXECUTIVE MAYOR, ALDERMAN PATRICIA DE LILLE, AT THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON 29 JANUARY 2014

Good morning, goeie more, molweni, as-salaam alaikum, shalom,

Mr. Speaker,

Let me begin by welcoming everyone back. I believe that it is going to be an exciting year of challenges and opportunities and I am confident that the City will go from strength to strength.

In that regard, I believe that we should reaffirm the values by which we govern and upon which we have built this city on the five pillars: the opportunity city; the safe city; the caring city; the inclusive city; and the well-run city.

Those values are informed by our drive to create a city of economic opportunity that addresses the imbalances of the past through a commitment to reconciliation, redress, delivery and diversity.

As we prepare to celebrate 20 years of freedom in this country, and our fifth democratic national election, we should bear these values in mind.

While this sphere of government may not be included in the coming ballot, we should be mindful that, as city leaders, we have a duty to uphold the rule of law and ensure that we live by our principles no matter how tempting the desire to achieve short-term political gains.

Mr. Speaker, before us today is the Adjustments Budget, which is part of the legal budgeting processes as prescribed by the Municipal Financial Management Act (MFMA).

As budgeting practice allows for, the proposed adjustments are the result of approved roll-overs received from National Treasury in terms of certain unspent grant allocations, roll-overs of internal funds, and the realignment of certain budget provisions as a result of updated implementation programmes.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of our operating budget, I am pleased to announce that this adjustment budget includes additional revenue gained from our Broadband project, almost R10 million, as a result of connecting the provincial government buildings.

This is evidence that our ambitious programme to create an opportunity city with the right ICT infrastructure is moving forward as planned.

In this regard, the budget proposes that an additional R15,5 million be allocated to the broadband project to accelerate its roll-out.

As we begin to approach the private sector to leverage space off our network, we need to commit resources to ensure that we build up our network capacity and, therefore, the viability of our business case.

The budget further proposes that we allocate an additional R4,1 million to our apprentice programme to increase the amount of apprentices to 200- a sure commitment to increasing the skill-set in Cape Town and diversifying the base of opportunity.

And last year, though Council approved over R70 million to honour the late Tata Madiba, we in fact only spent R41,7 million, a figure which must be recorded for the relevant directorates in our adjustment budget.

Changes in our capital budget include an increase in our USDG grant for 2013/2014, funding which benefits, among others, our informal settlements upgrading programme.

The public transport infrastructure and systems grant from national government also increased by R184,6 million.

Furthermore, in order to accommodate both the methodology of rental stock upgrades and the building of top structures in human settlements, a reduction of R23 million from our operating budget and the reallocation of the same amount to our capital budget from HSDG funds, is proposed.

Indeed, in terms of capital, the adjustments budget records implementation progress achieved when measured against planned year to date expenditure for the various capital funding sources at the mid-year period.

They stand as follows:

- Capital Replacement Reserve (CRR) 81,1%;
- Capital grants and donations (CGD) 112,3%;
- External financing fund (EFF) 75,6%;
- Revenue 104,2%;
- For a total of 93,4% against the year to date target.

I trust that councillors have applied their minds in considering the adjustment budget before today's meeting.

Mr. Speaker, also before the Council today is a complete revised system of delegations.

As ever, this matter has been the subject of some debate in the media, with many assumptions and false claims being made.

In a democracy that encourages debate, lively discussion of the allocation of responsibilities within government should be encouraged.

However, that discussion should be informed and reasonable and consider the facts of the matter at hand, not conspiracy theories.

As a comprehensive system that enables proper and transparent governance, the review of the system of delegations has been a careful undertaken process that has emphasised the principles of openness and accountability.

Indeed, the review has been informed by a number of principles, which include:

- A full update of delegations authorised by Council since the last delegations review;
- A review of the internal consistency of the document;
- The alignment of delegations with our organisational structure;
- The rectification of errors;
- The deletion of matters that are not delegations;
- The deletion of statutory powers;
- The deletions of powers already conferred by a by-law to an official;
- And the consolidation of all delegations with EDs with the power to sub-delegate.

This is a large organisation with diverse services.

Almost every meeting this Council has some impact on the structure of the organisation, whether large or small.

It is our duty to ensure that the systems we have in place to regulate and record responsibilities and authorities are updated to ensure that the highest standards are maintained.

Over the course of last year, a number of false claims were made about the role of the revised system of delegations in localised decision-making, especially at the sub-council level.

Unfortunately, many of those participating in that debate decided to reach dramatic conclusions before considering the evidence.

The document before us today categorically dismisses those false alarms and ensures that important local input remains at the heart of our decision-making structure.

After an extensive process taking into account all portfolios and aspects of the City, the revised system of delegations is proposed for consideration.

I am also pleased to present our Annual Report for 2012/2013.

This is the first annual report that follows the structure of our IDP, adopted in 2012, according to the five pillars.

I believe it is a testament to our City's continuing successes amidst very serious challenges.

In this period, Cape Town received a clean audit from the auditor-general and scored the highest credit rating of any municipality in the country.

Our fiscal prudence saw us spend an unprecedented 94,3% of our capital budget, with the R5,87 billion spent the highest portion of capital budgets of any municipality in South Africa.

Particularly pleasing is the fact that, as our annual report records, we spent 64% of our budget on the poor and created over 35 000 work opportunities through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

The achievements recorded in our annual report are joined by a number of other positive developments for Cape Town's standing in recent times.

For instance, records from our planning department show that, whereas in 2012 we had 25 384 building applications in the City's system worth R13, 1 billion, in 2013 we had 28 607 with a value of R15,5 billion.

While we must take into account the rollover of some projects, there is evidence that, as far as development is concerned, Cape Town is seeing positive upward trends.

Indeed, this positive economic news comes on the back of our placement as the New York Times' number one destination for tourists to visit this year, a ringing endorsement of our strategy to project a positive brand to the world and attract more tourists, and the money they bring, to our shores.

But as much as we celebrate our reputation for being a city of opportunity, we are matching our economic growth with a commitment to being more caring

After the fire in Valhalla Park in late December, we have fast-tracked the upgrading of the Agstelaan informal settlement.

This is in addition to the emergency disaster relief we implemented immediately after the fire, thanks to our emergency response units and our human settlements directorate and the fact that we have already rehoused the victims of the fire.

In total, 276 primary beneficiaries and 13 backyard dwellers were catered for, as well as a further five backyard dwellers in the formal area.

The beneficiaries have all been accommodated according to a formal layout that will ultimately house all 600 families in the informal settlement and that was developed according to the City's Informal Settlement Upgrading Programme (UISP).

We will continue to work with the people of Agstelaan, and their legitimate representatives, in improving their home and their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to announce that the site intended for the hostel transformation project in Langa has been handed over to the contractor.

Over the next two years, the construction of 463 rental apartments in Langa will mark the first phase of a project that will see the completion of approximately 1320 units within the next five years.

In this first phase, over 1300 families- or 5200 people- will be relocated to secure two-bedroom apartments with kitchenettes, toilets, showers and solar-heated water systems.

In total, our hostel transformation programme will construct 12 000 units in Langa, Gugulethu and Nyanga.

It is just another way that the City of Cape Town is deconstructing the spatial legacy of apartheid and ensuring that this city is a place where all of its residents can experience a better life.

Indeed, construction work is scheduled to begin on the MyCiTi bus station at the Town Centre and 26 bus stops around Mitchells Plain in January 2014.

With the contractor and local community leaders present at a consultation meeting, agreement was reached around a basic process to allow local sub-contractors from within the immediate community to be employed through advertising in the local media.

I am pleased to say that the meeting was well attended by Mitchells Plain community leaders and City of Cape Town representatives, resulting in positive outcomes.

The opportunity was used to brief community leaders about the detail around the MyCiTi N2 Express project.

Not only are we committed to providing a reliable and affordable public transport system to our communities, but also to creating job opportunities as we continue to roll out the MyCiTi infrastructure across the city.

Local construction companies that reside and operate within Mitchells Plain are welcome to apply to be a part of this MyCiTi project.

On Saturday 15 February 2014, MyCiTi will launch two new routes serving the communities of Hangberg, Imizamo Yethu and Hout Bay.

The new 108 and 109 routes will travel from the city centre along Somerset Road in Green Point, Main Road in Sea Point, and via Clifton and Camps Bay.

Once in Hout Bay, one route (109) will serve Imizamo Yethu and the main commercial and beachfront areas of Hout Bay, and the other route (108) will serve the harbour and Hangberg.

In conclusion, the programme of change and of positive transformation is a long-term project.

As the 20th anniversary of our democracy approaches, we launch our campaign to bring the hope of 1994 back to this province.

Since we were liberated, we have seen many changes in our country.

We have seen progress as the cause of freedom was translated into social and basic services for everyone regardless of race and the barriers of discrimination torn down.

But with all that has been achieved, we are seeing setbacks due to a failure of leadership in 2014.

But that will not be our fate in Cape Town.

As we celebrate being the World Design Capital and as we edge closer to the 20th anniversary of freedom, we will bear in mind the hope of 1994.

And we will make it, through commitment, dedication and sacrifice, the living legacy of Cape Town in 2014 and beyond.

Thank you, baie dankie, enkosi.