

## **Mayor Zulu Deliver His 2014/15 Annual Budget Report**

Infrastructural development, housing and local economic development were high on the agenda as the Mandeni Municipality Mayor Cllr. Sphesihle Zulu delivered his Annual Budget Report for the 2014/15 financial year at the Sibusiswe Hall on Wednesday, 17 February 2016.

The purpose of annual report is to present to the community the Municipal achievements and challenges in the 2014/15 financial year, while also providing a platform for community members and other related stakeholders to give their input and contribute to the sustainable development of the Municipality.

Mayor Zulu said every item on the budget of the Municipality is used to drive and implement the municipality's transformation, reconstruction and developmental agenda, while also strives to create jobs and eradicate poverty. "267 houses have been built under Isikhonyane and Inyoni Housing Projects. Housing projects in Macambini Housing phase 2, Wards 1, 2, 8 and 9, Mathonsi/Sundumbili Housing Phase 2 Wards 5, 10, and 12 and Isithebe Housing have been approved by the MEC for Human settlements for Stage 2 Implementation and Stage 1 planning and subsidy administration," said the Mayor. The Council has also reviewed the Housing Sector Plan during the 2014/15 Financial Year. "352 households under the Integrated National Electrification Programme (INEP) have been provided with new electricity connections to reduce electrification backlogs in wards 2, 3, 8, 10," said Mayor Zulu. The Mandeni Municipality has also installed 87 new streetlights and sourced additional R8 million funding towards the electrification programme for the forthcoming financial year.

For the 2014/15 financial year the municipality has upgraded 2, 5 Kilometres of public transport route (Newark Drive) to a premixed asphalt standard within the Tugela Rail Area ward 4. A new secondary intersection off the P459 into Thokoza Road leading into the town centre to improve access in ward 7 has been constructed. The Municipality has also repaired 2600 m<sup>2</sup> of potholes on urban roads in wards 3, 4, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 and Renewed 232 km of rural roads in wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16 & 17 by spot re-gravelling, blading and shaping with the road grader.

The Municipality has also invested heavily in the economic development for the residents of Mandeni by allocating 40 trading facilities to local informal traders located next to the Sundumbili Clinic together with trading permits. "We have also supported 80 SMMEs through "QUICKWINS" Programme, created 3376 work opportunities through implementation of EPWP and CWP 15 New Business licenses issued, 40 cooperatives registered in-house," said Mayor Zulu. He added that Dokodweni Beach was awarded Blue-flag status by WESSA and LED Strategy and Tourism Strategy has been reviewed. "Dokodweni beach is a great gateway destination for people all over the country to come and enjoy themselves while also opening the doors of a tourism economic boom for Mandeni," said Mayor Zulu.

These are only just a few of the projects the Mandeni Municipality has implemented and some in the process of implementing before the end of the 2014/15 financial year. "Our Integrated Development Plan was ranked 6th within the Province and received praise from

our fellow peers. Mandeni will strive to Maintain a clean administration with the highest standards of corporate governance,” said the Zulu.

Robust engagement regarding the budget report took place between the community, related stakeholders and the Municipality.

Sundumbili community resident and Department of Health worker, Sister Msomi applauded the municipality for the good services that they have been able to implement and finish thus far. She also urged the Mayor to take extra care in developing the community of ward 7, “Ward 7 is a community that does not have many services to offer the residents who live there, as the Department of Health we are often discouraged to visit this community as there is no community hall, local school or even a church that we can use to offer our services to residents,” said Sister Msomi. Mayor Zulu assured Sister Msomi that the Municipality does have plans and initiatives in place to develop ward 7.

Mandeni Municipality’s Chief Financial Officer Mr Ntokozo Hlongwa said the Annual Budget Report, is a chance for the Municipality to get feedback from the community, “The Municipality welcomes the chance to get community feedback about the work that has been done by the municipality, while also honestly informing us of where they believe we could do better,” said Mr Hlongwa. Mr Hlongwa said the feedback they receive from the public is what drives Mandeni to become a better functioning Municipality to uplift its residents.

The Mandeni Municipality is committed to uplifting the community using the municipal vision of being a Reliable People Centred and Sustainable Economic Hub by 2030.



From the right: Mandeni Municipality MPAC Chairperson Cllr. N.F Ntuli, Mayor Cllr Sphehile Zulu, Municipal Speaker Cllr Mkhosazana Zungu, Mandeni Municipality Deputy Mayor Cllr Phindile Sishi



From the right: Mandeni Municipal Speaker Cllr Mkhosazana Zungu, Mandeni Municipality Deputy Mayor Cllr Phindile Sishi and Chief Financial Officer Mr. Ntokozo Hlongwa.



The community of Mandeni attentively listening to Mayor Cllr. Sphehile Zulu delivering his 2014/15 Annual Budget Report at Sibusisiwe Hall.