

**COLLINS CHABANE
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**
Since 2016



IDP and Budget Speech delivered by the Mayor of Collins Chabane Local Municipality, His Worship, Cllr Maluleke Moses on the occasion of State of Municipality Address for the 2019/20 financial year held on the 5th day of June 2019 at Worship Tabernacle Christian Church (Marambe).

Acknowledgements:

I stand here before this great audience this evening, by virtue of the nodding of the head of the Honourable Speaker of Collins Chabane Local Municipality Council, Cllr Lebea Madume Elvis;

At the very same time as protocol dictates, may I also acknowledge the presence of and my hospitable salutation to the Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, His Worship, Cllr Nenguda Dowelani;

I appreciate also, the presence of Mayors from other municipalities in our midst;

- Chief Whip of the African National Congress in Collins Chabane Municipality, Cllr Chauke M.G;
- Executive Committee Members in our midst;
- MPAC and Section 79 Chairpersons;
- Fellow Councillors;
- Vhembe House of Traditional Leaders;
- Municipal Officials under the Leadership of the Acting Municipal Manager, Mr Shilenge RR;
- Heads of Departments;
- The Regional Leadership of the ruling party, the African National Congress;
- Alliance partners and other political parties represented here;
- Let me also appreciate the presence of the Station Commissioner together with his colleagues from the South African Police Services (SAPS), Malamulele Cluster;
- Ward Committee Members;
- Community Development Workers;
- Representatives from Sector Departments and Government Agencies;
- Organised Community Structures;
- Leadership of various Religious and Spiritual formations;
- Representatives from the Labour Unions;
- The Collins Chabane Youth Council;
- Women and Disability Forums;
- The Collins Chabane Business Stakeholders
- Collins Chabane Senior Citizen's Forum
- Our friends from the media;
- Distinguished Guests;
- Comrades;
- Members of the community;

- **Special greetings to my wife, my family and relatives, they support me through thick and thin;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Good Evening!
Ndi Madekwana!
Riperile!

Honourable Speaker,

Allow me to table the 2019/2020 -2021/2022 Integrated Development Plan and the 2019/2020 -2021/2022 Medium Term Revenue Expenditure Framework (MTREF) on behalf of the Collins Chabane Council.

One day while Moses was taking care of the sheep and goats of his father-in-law Jethro, the Priest of Median at the holy mountain of Sinai – there an angel of the Lord appeared to him as a flame coming from the middle of the bush.

God said to Moses, “I have heard the cry of my people to be rescued from their slave drivers. I know all the sufferings, and so I have come down to rescue them from the Egyptians and to bring them out of Egypt to a spacious land, one which is rich and fertile.”

God continued to say to Moses, *“Now I am sending you to the King of Egypt so that you can lead my people out of his country.”*

Honourable Speaker,

Today the glorious movement, the African National Congress, as the government of the day, was given a clarion mandate by the people of Collins Chabane who said on the 3rd of August 2016:

“We have had enough of the lack of sufficient and quality services – and we are sending you as a collective, to lead the people of Collins

Chabane to a new canal, to a land where the notion of a better life for all is not hypothetical, but is made practical.”

Our people have done this through democratic means when they voted for the African National Congress during the 2016 Local Government Elections.

They voted for the African National Congress whose approach to local government is premised on the constitution of the republic, which enjoins us to promote involvement of communities and their organisations on matters affecting them in their localities. A government that will continuously engage all variety of stakeholders in order to ensure that we can collect and tap ideas from the best amongst us in order to improve the services we render.

Accordingly, this ANC government invites all stakeholders to roll their sleeves and work with us as the Council of Collins Chabane to determine the best ways to alter the quality lives of the poor of poorest and grow our local economy to benefit all.

Indeed, we have been sent by the African National Congress, to come and lead the people out of the past agonising circumferences of apartheid and its stubborn leftovers of poverty, inequality and joblessness. We have heeded this call and subjected ourselves to ensuring that today is better than yesterday – and indeed – tomorrow is better than today.

Honourable Speaker,

The State of the Municipality Address we are presenting today, is our resolve as the governing party to inspire hope in our communities and to instil faith in their own democratic and people-centred local government. This of course will be presented in a manner that is easy to understand with much greater emphasis.

It is presented in the year which marks 105 years since the delegation of our former leaders John Langalibalele Dube, Sol Plaatjie

and Walter Rubusana travelled to Great Britain to formally protest against the implementation of the Native Land Act of 1913 which formally robbed Africans of their birth right to their land.

It is also presented during the month of June which is venerated as the Youth Month in the South African calendar. The June 16 1976 Uprising that began in Soweto and spread countrywide profoundly changed the socio-political landscape in South Africa. Events that triggered the uprising can be traced back to policies of the Apartheid government that resulted in the introduction of the Bantu Education Act in 1953.

These and many other events paved way for the eventual defeat of both the colonial and apartheid regimes which deterred our people from gaining access to their human rights, thereby treating them like animals. It was in 1994 when South Africa was freed from these chains of human segregation and subsequently democracy was ushered in.

Honourable Speaker,

During the State of the Nation, Province and Budget Address, the State President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, the Premier of Limpopo Province, Mr Stan Chupu Mathabatha and the National Minister of Finance, Mr Tito Mboweni all agree that we have a good story to tell since 1994, and that South Africa and Limpopo have changed for the better in the 25 years of freedom and democracy.

I also want to add my voice in echoing what they have been saying: that the quality of life in Collins Chabane Municipality and Vhembe District at large has changed for the better since 1994. More people have access to electricity – and a lot more people have access to formal housing, dignifying sanitations, roads and modernised transportation system and great progress on SMMEs’ empowerment as well as jobs.

It would be amiss of me **Honourable Speaker**, if I proceeded without extending my deepest condolences to the people of Mozambique, more in particular, the people residing in the region of Beira – where more than 1,000 lives were lost and tens of thousands missing and displaced after the random Tropical Cyclone Idai overawed them. This affected Malawi, Tanzania and Zimbabwe as well, where another 344 people died. This international disaster occurred on the week of the 14th of March, and to this day, many people are still trying to find solace to face the next day.

Six weeks later on the 24th of April 2019, tens of thousands more people were evacuated, as another – cruel tropical cyclone – named Kenneth, battered certain areas in central Mozambique leaving hundreds more people dead.

These areas and governments seriously need our prayers.

Let me also extend my heartfelt condolences on behalf of Collins Chabane Council to the people of Kwa-Zulu Natal, after they experienced heavy rains which brought devastating floods from the 22nd of April 2019. In this case, more than 70 people died whilst many others were left homeless in areas around Durban.

Again on Monday the 3rd of June 2019 at the Forest High School, Turffontein in Gauteng, a grade 10 learner was stabbed to death by a grade 8 learner in what is believed to be a gang related rivalry. This adds to the many school violence recorded between 2018 and 2019 which is of serious concern to us as government.

Violence in schools is a societal problem which requires all stakeholders to play their part to create safe schooling environment. I will now request that we all stand up and observe a moment of silence.

May the souls of all the rested find eternal peace!

While still on a sad note **Honourable Speaker**, during the month of March we have heard concerning reports in certain areas of Kwa-Zulu Natal, where fellow African Nationals were attacked in what was seen as both xenophobic and criminally motivated.

Therefore, in representing the peace-loving South Africans, I would like to condemn such attacks on an African descendant by another, as an act of cowardice and anti-liberal. I therefore call on our people to embrace diversity in Africa, and unite behind the African identity as a unique society. Our brothers from Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Nigeria and all other African countries are our brothers and we must treat them as equals with us.

We must accordingly couple this by encouraging each other to know the African Union Anthem to demonstrate solidarity and to promote Africanism. We must also be encouraged to unite and celebrate together, the victories won for our liberation as the African people. We must also dedicate ourselves to rise together and defend our liberty and unity as Africans.

We have a reason to celebrate however **Honourable Members**, as indigenous people of this province – because for the first time in our recorded history, a Tsonga drama was introduced to our TV screen. ***“Giyani the land of blood”*** was introduced to our small screens on the 1st of April 2019 on SABC 2 – bringing to life the ageless theme of love rivalries, forbidden passions, stolen land and corruption.

This adds to the strides achieved by the famed ***“Muvhango”*** which for the longest time gave us a sense of pride. We need this kind of productivity in ensuring that there is equality in languages and in all aspects of what defines us as a people – particularly as the people of Limpopo Province.

Compatriots,

During the past two months of the present almanac – **three** very important and special events took place, which have a bearing upon us, the people of South Africa. **The first** event is the holding of the national and provincial election on the 8th of May 2019 to choose the best among us to lead the country into the third phase of our transformation towards attaining the objective of a democratic, non-sexist, non-racial and a prosperous South Africa.

Without any equivocation, in a free and fair election, our people chose the movement of **Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Denis Goldberg** and **Ahmed Kathrada** as truly well constituted and suited to continue leading them to a new dispensation.

In the country, province and here in Collins Chabane, the elections were indeed free and fair. We thank the IEC for doing such a sterling work with an efficient and effective voting system to ensure that all South Africans cast their votes free from violence and intimidation.

We also need to thank our police and army for delivering elections free from violence. All national and international observers declared our elections free and fair and all governments throughout the whole world commended us for having delivered free and fair elections since 1994. This is indeed an indication that our democracy is stable and maturing. Now that the elections are over, the provision of quality services should be what occupies our minds at a national, provincial and local level.

The **second** and most important was the official inauguration of our national president on the **25th of May 2019** at Loftus Stadium in Pretoria. I would like to take this opportunity to extend great applause to the newly inaugurated president of the Republic of South Africa, **Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa**. Our nation is in good hands.

I must also congratulate the Premier of Limpopo Province, **Mr Stan Chupu Mathabatha**, for retaining his position as the premier. We have confidence in his leadership as the people of Limpopo, and we trust in the capacity of his cabinet as a collective, towards the attainment of a better province in contributing to an ultimate goal of a better South Africa.

Honourable Members,

Allow me also – to warmly welcome the newly elected Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, **Cllr Nenguda Dowelani** who was sworn in during the Council Meeting held on the **23rd of May 2019**. His wisdom and sharp-eyed charisma is fitting enough to the advancement of the agenda of a better life for all in this region.

It is to ***the third*** development that we wish to implore this august assembly to pay particular attention. This involves the consultative processes undertaken by the municipality between the months of September 2018 and April 2019, to canvas the inputs of the community for incorporation into the municipal Integrated Development Plan for the 2019/2020 financial year.

Our presence here this evening is a culmination of a long and arduous journey of a consultative process, reminiscent of participatory democracy. Indeed, an umbrella concept characterizing both the IDP and Budget processes is public participation. Thus, a critical question may be asked:

‘To what extent is this IDP and Budget based on the will of people?’

The Freedom Charter states that: *“Only a democratic state based on the will of the people, can secure to all their birth right with regard to colour, race, sex and belief... All people shall be entitled to take part in the administration of the country...”*

By this phrase, the 1955 Congress of the People envisioned the peoples' government to explore participatory democracy beyond the slogan *'The People Shall Govern.'*

Today I stand here to reaffirm the resolute commitment of this Council to always give precedence to the will of every citizen of Collins Chabane. As a matter of fact, throughout twenty-five years of democracy, the budget of the ANC-led government has never been about figures but a reflection on the needs of the people. It has been about provision of democratic and accountable government to communities. And, it will always be!

The President of South Africa, **Cyril Ramaphosa** has outlined our programme of action in the **State of the Nation Address** in February. His vision for the future is abundantly clear. He wants to have a country where millions more South Africans have decent employment opportunities, which has a modern infrastructure and vibrant economy and where the quality of life is high.

He has accordingly declared this year as a year of unity and renewal, and a year of jobs. This **State of the Municipality Address**, reflects the collective determination of the Government to address with energy the challenges of creating jobs, reducing poverty, building infrastructure and expanding our local economy.

Our Budget sets out a financial framework for implementing this vision, a framework that is sound and sustainable. It recognises that building this municipality is a multi-year project that must invigorate our capacity to grow, and must include all residents in that growth. It is about making Collins Chabane work smarter, harder, and differently.

It further sets us on a path, **Honourable Members**, that will be neither easy nor uncontested – hard work and difficult choices lie ahead. But the journey is underway. We have embarked on the long

walk to economic freedom. Since the establishment of this vibrant municipality, our residents aspire to these freedoms:

- Freedom from poverty,
- Freedom from need,
- Freedom to exercise our talents and thrive as individuals,
- Freedom to work together as communities, as organised social formations, as business enterprises, as a proud and forward-looking municipality.

Honourable Speaker,

I can declare with confidence that since taking to office in 2016, we have done our level best not to disappoint our people as the Council of Collins Chabane. However, we believe that we are not yet on the pinnacle of our political goal. I can also declare with confidence that South Africa today is much better than it ever was.

As I present this State of the Municipality Address, let me point out that our budget which was approved by Council on the 30th of May is within the context of the African National Congress's January 8 statement that sets tone for the policy direction to be taken in the same year of action.

It is furthermore informed by the **National Development Plan**, which is the government's master plan of fighting the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. It is also given shape by the **Back to Basics** Strategy that demands of us to be a responsive, caring and accountable local government and serve our communities better.

Honourable Speaker,

This State of the Municipality Address is premised on our vision, mission, seven strategic objectives and values confirmed during the strategic planning session held in Blyde River Canyon during 21-23 January 2019.

Our vision reads “An Integrated and sustainable local economy by 2030”

Our Mission state “To ensure the provision of sustainable basic services and infrastructure to improve the quality of life of our people and to grow the local economy for the benefit of all citizens”

The seven strategic objectives are:

- Promote community wellbeing and environmental welfare
- Improved governance and administration
- Improved access to sustainable basic services
- Integrated local economy
- Effective community participation
- Integrated spatial and human settlement
- Sound financial management

In his acceptance speech, President Ramaphosa put emphasis on two aspects of focus for all of us, if we are to be serious about bringing a meaningful change to our society. Those aspects are namely; radical economic change and decisive spatial transformation, which aligns to our strategic objections of integrated local economy and integrated spatial and human settlement.

With these aspects come the much needed help to addressing not only the structural problems of the provincial and national economy, but also of the local economy. As we look to the past year and take stock of our service delivery achievements.

We can indeed assure our communities, that much progress has been made in improving their living conditions through delivery of basic services. These are not necessarily limited to water and sanitation provision, waste removal and management, infrastructure development, job creation, improvement of the local economy, and poverty alleviation programmes.

Despite our limited resources, it needs to be mentioned that our efforts to respond to a variety of needs of our communities are clear and evident to the eyes of the beholder.

Honourable Speaker,

Even those who are in denial and who finds it hard to accept that the ANC government is in charge, can attest to the fact that our deliverables are tangible and bear testimonies for themselves. The 2019/2020 financial year is yet another challenging and eventful year for Collins Chabane Municipality because our challenges have increased and our shortcoming decreased.

At the beginning of the year, we set service delivery targets for ourselves and this address presents an opportunity for us to report back to our community on our promises. In reporting back, we will also admit our shortcomings and while at the same time setting out intervention mechanisms to address those shortcomings.

We however cannot be ignorant of the fact that in every noble effort of bringing good, there are always accompanying challenges and hurdles that we have to overcome. The achievements we intend to elaborate on have been through a collective effort from the Mayor, Speaker, Chief Whip, the Executive Committee, all Councillors Management and Staff of Collins Chabane Local Municipality.

As we all know that local government is a collective sport. These we could not have successfully managed without the support of national and provincial governments, business, NGOs, workers' unions, communities and various stakeholders such as Traditional Leaders, Pastors Forum and Traditional Health Practitioners Forum, Youth Formations, Disability Forum, Senior Citizens and every other organised structure within and around Collins Chabane Municipality.

Honourable Speaker,

The economic outlook of the country remains under pressure especially with the current debacle between the major markets, China and the United States as well as the recent fall of the rand against major currencies. As such, our local economic outlook is similarly affected with domestic spending expected to remain under pressure.

The president reaffirmed this during his inaugural speech, when he said, and **I quote,**

“Despite our most earnest efforts, many South Africans still go to bed hungry, many succumb to diseases that can be treated, many live lives of intolerable deprivation. Too many of our people do not work especially the youth.”

The president went on to say that:

“These challenges that we face are real. But they are not insurmountable. They can be solved, and together we are going to solve them. As we give effect to their mandate, we draw comfort from the knowledge that that which unites us is far, far more powerful and enduring than—that which divides us.

Despite our differences, despite a past of conflict and division and bitterness, despite the fierce political contestation among all political parties in recent months, we share the same hopes and fears, the same anxieties and aspirations.”

Closed Quote.

Allow me to go straight to some of the highlights of this lapsing financial year.

With regard to PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Since the beginning of this financial year, we have seen renewed energies, and witnessed robust engagements. Personally I have

accompanied a number of councillors in the communities that they serve to various public meetings, engagements and events – and this is what I like to see – our councillors getting out there, being visible and available to the public.

As many of you know, I have always had an open door policy, because we are here to provide services to the public, and we must be available. I meet daily with concerned residents, community organisations and many others. I'm also out in the communities, meeting residents, hosting public engagements and attending meetings where I am invited by residents.

For instance, we met with residents of Ribungwana and Davhana this year between February and March, and our meetings provided solutions where there were bottlenecks. Perhaps it is important to indicate that residents of Davhana in areas of Vuwani had summoned us to sit with them on a roundtable to discuss issues of encompassing certain villages in the agenda of municipal service delivery.

To give you a brief in this matter **Honourable Speaker**, some areas of Vuwani – including **Davhana** which is under the chieftaincy of **Vha-Musanda Vho-Ntikeni** have accepted their incorporation into the municipality when their neighbouring villages were against the idea in 2016.

Collins Chabane's undisputable ability to provide quality services became too evident to those who were against this incorporation in those areas. **Tshirululuni** and **Midziafera** residents amongst others, wrote us letters – citing that they also want services from Collins Chabane, and we will deliver accordingly.

It is true that sometimes residents will have complaints because things do not fall through the cracks. We cannot be perfect all the time, but we try our best, and where we need to be better, I am happy that our residents tell us. This is what makes us a caring

government, and an accountable municipality. I am a firm believer in open and honest engagement.

It is for this reason that we resolved as Council, to launch as many forums as possible, where all our people are represented in all municipal decisions. We have officially launched the Disability Forum, Transport Forum, Youth Council, Elderly People's Forum, the Traditional Leaders Forum, Gender and Disaster Forum, Pastor's Forum, and Sports Desk.

We are still going to launch forums for Traditional Health Practitioners and Children. We do this to strengthen the relationships and bridge the gap between the municipality and the people it serves. This is also the resolution of the 2014 Provincial Intergovernmental Relations Forum, that all state organs must be accessible and serve people in their own preferred ways.

Public participation is also broadly emphasised in **Chapter 4** of the **Municipal Systems Act, Section 16 to 22**, which addresses the following aspects amongst others:

- The development of a culture of community participation;
- Mechanisms, processes, and procedure for community participation;
- Communication of information concerning community participation;

Guided by this legislation **Honourable Speaker**, our municipality organised Mayoral Outreach Programmes as follows:

- On the **13th of July 2018**, we organised an Imbizo at **Ward 35**, at Mabayeni Sports Ground;
- On the **19th of October 2018**, we went to Mulenzhe, **Ward 19**, at Mulenzhe Traditional Council's Open Field;

- Then on the **15th of March 2019**, we organised our Imbizo at Mahatlani Sports Ground, under **Ward 4** – covering ward 2, 3 and 4.
- On the **17th of May 2019**, we organised our last Imbizo for the financial year at Xigalo Village, under **Ward 16** at Cosmos Sports Ground.

During these outreach programs, we identified poor households that are in dire needs of assistance from government through ward councillors and organised community structures. We pledged to provide them with decent housing, and the Accounting Officer must ensure that all of those are constructed as soon as possible – together with the ones which were pledged in other Mayoral Imbizos from 2016.

Some of the societal challenges raised by communities are:

- Roads infrastructure;
- Water and sanitation;
- Electricity;
- Health services;
- Support of Small, Medium and Macro Enterprises (SMMEs) and
- The higher rate of unemployment which contributes to high levels of poverty.

As the ANC government, we are committed to respond to these challenges working hand in glove with various community stakeholders, sector departments, Vhembe District Municipality and parastatals. After all, history will judge us for what we are doing in the coming years.

We have also improved access to our municipality through three important means. We have launched our sub-offices at Njhakanjhaka

Community Hall and Saselamani Stadium on the 5th of April 2019, where we reduced travelling distances for our people when they have to access municipal services.

On the same day, we also launched the municipal IT Website which will allow our community – not only to see – but to understand what we are doing as a council and to allow them another forum through which they can interact with us as their elected leaders.

We also launched our municipal newsletter, which reports to you – our community members on what we are doing to improve your lives and accelerate service delivery. We have taken a nod, to become a municipality that does nothing without the involvement of its people. that is how transparent we want to be.

Honourable Speaker,

The ANC's 2016 Local Government Election Manifesto stressed our commitment to create a better life for all. We must continue to push for transparency and accountability. In this regard, we undertake to deepen the promotion to access to information and improved services throughout local government. We must strengthen public participation and use latest technology to achieve this.

It is in that manifesto that we committed ourselves that together with our communities we will:

- Build on achievements made in delivering basic services to the people;
- Improve access to municipal services and reduce outsourcing in municipalities;
- Further improve public participation and accountability of councillors;
- Enhance the capacity of the local state to deliver on its mandate;

- Develop and strengthen local economies, create jobs and promote job placements, especially for the youth;
- Intensify the fight against fraud and corruption in local government and social fabric crimes in communities;
- Promote education as the apex priority in local communities;
- Improve health in urban and rural communities;
- Build spatially integrated communities; and
- Promote nation-building and socially cohesive communities.

All of these fundamental manifesto doctrines are premised on our seven strategic objectives.

Exactly two years ago in our maiden Budget and IDP speech, this Council shared a vision to raising the bar through performance – and some of what the vision entailed can be summarized as the following:

There were specific plans to reforming our Local Economic Development, so that it yielded more benefits to our local SMME's and at the same time, to attract investments to our municipal periphery. Therefore, ensured that our Small Medium Enterprises benefited as the 30% value of all our municipal funded projects is shed off to the locals.

In addition to our efforts as a municipality to empower local businesses, we met with different business stakeholders where we outlined means of accessing our systems and receive consistent information on our programs, as well as ensuring that our municipality is open to investment.

We have also met with all Malamulele hawkers in 2018 and presented them with our plans for transforming and modernizing our township. We have a plan to erect market-stalls with a sophisticated outlook, and this plan has been received well by our people. with this plan we want to do away with an attitude that tolerates disorder as we strive to become a hygienic community. A budget of R5 million

was set aside for the development of market-stalls in the 2019/2020 IDP.

While still on the modernization of our area, we had budgeted **R10 Million** for the 2018/2019 financial year on Precinct Development of our nodal area, which will go a long way in the creation of employment opportunities. Accordingly, we have met with Traditional Leaders of all areas where we saw potential for proclamation which will translate to modernisation in a long run.

We are also going to dispose the Malamulele Business Park (which its sales is estimated at R150 million), as well as the proclamation and formalization of Hlanganani and Saselamani areas. This is an indication that we are indeed heading to a right direction since part of our vision include sustainable local economy.

We will continuously engage all variety of stakeholders in order to ensure that we can collect and tap ideas from the best amongst us in order to improve the services we render. We therefore request all our stakeholders to roll their sleeves and work with us as councillors to determine the best ways to alter the quality lives of the poor of poorest and grow our local economy to benefit all.

The development and empowerment of small enterprises, rural farmers, new retail outlets, and other cooperatives remains in the centre of our focus. Many of you will recall that on the 27th of November 2018, we had set aside a budget of **R1,5 million** as a Co-operative Support Initiative. This was our initial step of ensuring the empowerment of our small and upcoming businesses – so that they too – can empower their peers and assist government in accelerating sustainable job creation.

We began by conducting Site Inspections in September 2018 to all cooperatives that had been identified to benefit from this financial start-up injection. We further organised a 3 days Business Workshop for them from the 15th – 17th of October 2018 – and in

total, 53 Cooperatives were represented, and 38 cooperatives ultimately shared the R1 million that was set aside.

The municipality is committed to sports development and this is evidenced by increasing the sports facilities to our sportsmen and women so that at the end, there is improvement on the quality of life of our communities. Further evidence relates to the construction of the *R48 millions – Saselamani Stadium* – which is at a SAFA standard, and the pipelined refurbishment project of *Malamulele Stadium* which is currently on a tender stage, as well as the *R1.5 million Multipurpose Sports Court* which was officially opened by the former Minister of Sports and Recreation, *Ms Thokozile Xasa* at Dumela village on the 16th of May 2019.

In 2018, we organised two successful events as follows:

- **An Annual Mayoral Soccer Tournaments** – which was organised with the help of Collins Chabane SAFA and Xigalo Hluvukani Sports and Recreation Centre, with the involvement of 93 soccer teams from all corners of Collins Chabane. Xigamani FC came out as eventual winners of the tournament on the 17th of December 2018; receiving R20 000, and a new soccer kit;
- Before that, we had organised a successful **Collins Chabane International Boxing Tournament** on the 24th of November 2018. The tournament assembled an extremely experienced and world ranked pool of boxers from different places and exposed them to hard-core boxing competition.

Honourable Speaker,

The municipality currently boasts an existence of 4 stadiums which are at *Mudabula, Merwe, Saselamani* and *Malamulele*. For the 2019/2020 financial year, we have budgeted an amount of R12 million for the commencement of the construction of Davhana Stadium. These sports facilities must keep our youngsters busy at all

times. They exist to help nurture our youth's sporting talents as well as to keep them away from the streets where there is crime, substances and alcohol abuses. It is therefore, our responsibility to keep these facilities clean and safe from theft and vandalism.

Honourable Members, the municipality is dedicated to accelerating service delivery to our communities as one of our strategic objective is "improved access to sustainable basic services". The manner in which services are being delivered matters the most. It is no longer a matter of just service delivery, but it is to be excellent services.

This directly translates to **PRUDENT MANAGEMENT OF THE PUBLIC PURSE.**

Honourable Speaker,

We are fully aware as the Council of Collins Chabane, that an essential aspect of accountability is for public servants to routinely take decisions with due regard for probity, prudence and value for money. Our municipality has regressed in its Auditor General's Opinion from the 2016/2017 financial year's Qualified Opinion, to a Disclaimer Opinion during the 2017/2018 financial year. The negative opinion is as a result of poor quality of Annual Financial Statements with little issues affecting internal control deficiencies. This includes failure to impair the VBS investment of R120 million which our municipality made in 2017. To date, the Municipality has made efforts to improve the audit opinion which includes the following:

- Development and implementation of the audit action plan.
- Data cleansing in order to improve debt collection and credit control.
- Continuous holding of audit steering committee
- Development of interim financial statement to address the prior year errors
- Continuous auditing of supply chain management activities

Honourable Members,

Our interest therefore, is that our municipal officials must not lose sight on the importance of compliance in ensuring sound financial management as one of our strategic objective state. We must synergise our planning to foster good governance and good finance management to achieve better results in line with the ANC's 2016 Manifesto.

Indeed, a municipal entity is not administered on common sense, but we subscribe to a set legislations and policies that are put in place by government, to regulate public servant's conduct as well as consequences for non-compliers. We must therefore heat the ground running in ensuring that public funds are appropriately fared.

Honourable Speaker,

We need to push good values of the organisation to our employees as well as to all councillors. We need to introduce a change that is founded on good principles and culture. We have to excel in what we do, but most importantly, we must jointly guard against the Unauthorised, Irregular, Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure (UIF & W), because this has a potential to collapse the municipality.

This monster called UIF & W also undermines the efforts to brand South Africa as a truly democratic country.

On the CREATION OF JOBS,

I wish to place on record that working with sector departments, Collins Chabane Municipality has created more Jobs though implementation of the following programmes:

- 490 job opportunities created through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) in solid waste management, road maintenance, litter-picking as well as green and beautification programmes since 2017. This also translates to skills

development – particularly for the youth, the poor and people living with disability.;

- 7 jobs created through Local Government SETA as Environmental Learnership, 3 of which are employed permanently by the municipality and 4 coming from outside;
- 4 jobs created on Environmental Practice Internships;
- 22 jobs created through the Good Green Deeds Programme which was recently launched by President Ramaphosa;
- 65 learners being trained on Textile Clothing by LG-SETA; and
- 13 General Workers from the municipality who are being trained on Abet Education Training (ABET). These ones are attending training as we speak;
- In the coming week, 100 youths will start receiving training on Civil Construction from In-Touch College. This also is empowered by LG-SETA;
- Collins Chabane Municipality itself has provided permanent employment to 212 people – of which 76% are youth.

On matters relating to **YOUTH EMPOWERMENT, Honourable Speaker,**

We are fully aware that in order for us to eradicate poverty, we must start by empowering the youth. The need to empower the youth for a better tomorrow is connected both, to the financial elevation as well as the increment of the standard of living. Awareness is a key factor for this empowerment, with guidance towards developing a wholesome outlook of life.

Youth empowerment in any development is imperative, not only for national development of an entire country but also for personal development of an individual. It is pursued by promoting youth rights, youth activism and in community decision making. It is necessarily a process of inculcating values to equip the learner lead a

life that is satisfying to the individual while being in accordance with the cherished values and ideals of the society.

At present, it is the most effective mean that society possesses for confronting challenges of the future. Collins Chabane Municipality embarked on this journey on the 1st of March 2019 when we finally launched our Youth Council after failing on two occasions. This youth council will be steered by diversity conscious committee that is led by ***Humbulani Masingi*** as the Chairperson and ***Tiyani Kolele*** as the Secretary. They are here together with their team, let us give them a warm round of applause.

Compatriots,

We have realized that there are challenges of the abuse of drugs and alcohol in Collins Chabane – particularly by the youth. Weeks before the launching of this Youth Council, we had organised a fun walk against these challenges as well as Teenage Pregnancy, led by the MEC for Health, ***Dr Phophi Ramathuba***.

Our municipality is regarded as the number one municipality in substance abuse and teenage pregnancy among young people across the whole of Limpopo Province. This is a concerning statistic, and this youth council must work together with us, to find a way of dealing with this issue to build a solid foundation for a society that takes care of the lives of its young people. The future and health of these young lads is very essential in building a prosperous South Africa.

Honourable Speaker,

Crime is also a thorny issue. We know that the majority of young people are unemployed, but that is not an excuse for youth involvement in crime. We must work together to find ways of involving young people in our Community Safety Forums and Community Policing Forums to curb the situation. We want our youth to be empowered with useful information that will enable

them to participate in their own development as future leaders of this municipality and the country at large.

We will therefore strive at all times to empower them with skills development, opportunities for good education through our Mayoral Bursary and learnership programmes which are made available by government such as NSFAS and presidential bursaries. The Vhembe TVET College is also at reachable distance here at Shingwedzi Campus for access by all who have keen interest in building their own future. University of Venda and other higher learning institutions are also not far. We just need to take advantage of their programmes and allow education to shape us, for our benefits as individuals, and generations that comes after us.

We are very committed in this regard **Honourable Speaker**. During the 2019 academic year, our municipality introduced its initial mayoral bursary scheme, and 10 learners were selected from 800 applicants, including the 4 learners who were recognised by province and national government as best performers for the 2018 class from Collins Chabane Municipality. These are the children who attained between 6 and 7 distinctions including 100% in Mathematics and Physical Sciences.

Their names are:

- Felicia Makondo;
- Nwayitelo Masia;
- Thurston Shivambu; and
- Hlungwani Singita Trust

To appreciate them for their academic performance, we gave them **R20 000** to share amongst themselves for transportation to their preferred universities; A Mayoral Bursary which covers all expenses; We also gave them laptops and arranged a farewell breakfast for them with the Mayor, where we encouraged them to keep on excelling. They made us proud and they deserved all that.

Honourable Speaker,

As I have already indicated, our Mayoral Bursary covers all expenses from meals, tuition, accommodations and books. We take pride in this initiative as a caring municipality. In today's day and age, young minds should have access to resources to transform their consciousness through their beliefs, values and attitudes. Then only can we believe in making our nation shine, even in times of adversity.

I must also indicate that the former Mayor, ***Cllr Bila Tintswalo Joyce*** had adopted a family of 3 young girls at Dinga Village after a resolution was taken during the 2016 Provincial AIDS Council – which was held on the 1st of December 2016 – that all Mayors must adopt one child-headed family and ensure that they have protection, food security, parental guidance and decent shelter.

With the assistance of our business stakeholders, we were able to assist them as well as celebrate festivities with them on two occasions in December 2017 and 2018. These girls lost both their parents in 2014. Upon assuming my position as Mayor on the 14th of December 2018, I committed myself to continue assisting them, with a promise to erect an additional structure and a fence, to enhance both their safety and privacy.

We are also closely monitoring their academic performance with the view of assisting them in furthering their education after completing grade 12. Furthermore, we ensure that they have food every month. Let me therefore take this opportunity to call on anyone who is able to assist, to come forward and help these and other children who are living under unfavourable situations, as well as the elderly. My office is always open to working with you in changing people's lives.

Unfortunately, the girls could not be able to join us here tonight since it's exam times and they are busy concocting their academic future.

Let me also report on our municipal **STREET GRADING PROGRAMME, Fellow Compatriots, Honourable Speaker,**

We remain as one of the few municipalities – if not the only municipality – to have initiated a Street Grading Programme that is instantly recognizable, fair and that bridges the gap between rural and urban settlements. We are trying our level best to ensure that all the streets within our municipality are cleared and ensure people's access to all areas – from Ward 1 to 36.

We currently have three functional graders that are assisting us in this undertaking. We are doing all of this **Honourable Members,** for the realisation of the core objective of the ANC led government, of bettering people's lives. We will never lose sight of the fact that this is the community we work to serve, both night and day.

And as such, our officials without exceptions needs not to get a reason or justification why they should go an extra mile in the call of duty serving our communities.

On **REFUSE REMOVAL:**

We are the first municipality in the whole province of Limpopo that collect waste in all 36 wards using our waste management program. This is an ongoing program which is bolstered by 6 compactor trucks. Perhaps I must indicate that we are currently facing challenges with regard to our vehicles, which hampers the swiftness with which we manage our waste.

However, we must continue to appreciate the efforts of the **Vhembe District's Adopt a River,** a dedicated team under the leadership of their chairman, **Mr Magomani.** Their efforts are capitalized in ensuring that our poeple stay in a habitable and clean environment. This assists us greatly in ensuring that our municipality is clean and at all times.

We have also entered into the District's Greenest Municipality Competition where we encourage households, schools, churches, businesses and government as well as agencies of state and private organs to be clean their yards and remain hygienic. This is for the benefit of all of us.

During the 2018/2019 financial year, we organised two Cleaning Campaigns at Saselamani and Hlanganani areas. Our aim is to protect our environment and health of our people. We want to green the municipality to become zero-tolerant to refuse which is hazardous to the health of our people.

We are also in the process of completing the Shigalo Landfill Site which will house all municipal garbage and prevent contamination between waste and the environment, especially ground water. This project is currently at 66% on physical progress.

With regard to **HUMAN SETTLEMENT – Honourable Speaker,**

The right to adequate housing is an important basic right which is recognised in section 26 of the Constitution, which states that *"...everyone has a right to have access to adequate housing."* There is no human dignity and security without shelter.

Our municipality has received an allocation of **800 house units** from the Department of CoGHSTA for the 2017/2018 financial year, and 776 houses were approved. Of those approved, 767 have been completed.

For the 2018/2019 financial year, the department allocated Collins Chabane Municipality a total of **600 units**, and we believe that upon their completion – lives will be changed for the better and the dignity of our people will be sheltered. These units are currently at a verification stage. We are still waiting for the new allocation for the 2019/2020 financial year.

I must appeal to our people, particularly those in leadership of structures and our esteemed traditional leaders. When government brings initiatives that are meant to change the lives of the poor, we **MUST NOT** practice favouritism and prejudice others on the bases of their lack of popularity. Our selection process must be open, transparent and realistic. Deserving people must be considered ahead of everyone else, even if they are not affiliated to political parties. This is what the ANC government wants.

Honourable Speaker,

It is also worth mentioning that the municipality established its own **LAW ENFORCEMENT SECTION** in the form of traffic unit on the 27th of November last year. We have 14 branded vehicles that are presently operating on our roads, aiding the provincial officials who were monitoring us to observe all rules of the roads.

Since December 2018 we are being marshalled by our own Local Traffic Officials. And this is an achievement towards saving lives and improving our revenue collection prowess as a municipality. This saves lives and ensures that many people arrive to their destinations safely.

During the 2019 Easter Holidays, we have recorded a decrease in the number of road carnages compared to last year when we had no local officials on the road. In December 2017, 19 accidents and 3 fatalities were recorded in our roads compared to 13 in 2018 where there was no fatality.

With regard to **WATER AND SANITATION, Honourable Speaker,**

Indeed, water remains a matter of life and death, and a fundamental human need, and sanitation is an equally important substance of dignity.

Without safe drinking water and decent sanitation, we can never achieve human and economic progress as a society – and lack of proper sanitation services not only breeds diseases – it can rob people of their basic human dignity. We will continue to work with the District Municipality and other government authorities to find long term solutions to the household and bulk water supply and sanitation challenges in our municipal area.

We have received a memorandum of complaints from residents of **Malamulele B1 Extension** on the 26th of April this year with this regard. We also know of other challenges of water shortages which were raised during our mayoral participations for the past and current financial years.

We are also aware of water challenges in other villages as reported by Ward Councillors, and we can comfortably indicate that the District Municipality is working tirelessly to ensure that those challenges are attended, to and that our people receive clean water as basic right.

Our district municipality is positioning itself to speeding up the program of refurbishing damaged bulk–water infrastructures as well as drilling new boreholes in various areas such as Mahatlani village and many others. We are very pleased that the district has invested more funds on water projects for Collins Chabane Municipality, compared to other municipalities.

On **HOUSEHOLD ELECTRIFICATION**,

1435 Households were electrified during the 2017/18 financial year at *Mavambe*, *Mavandla* and *Makumeke* villages, and we officially opened those projects on the 17th of December last year. An amount of R20 Million from INEP Grant has been budgeted for the electrification of 1192 units at *Xigalo*, *Menele*, *Nghezimani* and *Nghomunghomu* villages in the current financial year – and those

projects are underway. For the 2019/2020 financial year, the municipality will electrify 1100 units at *Xihosana* and *Mbuti ayi vuyi*.

There are those amongst us who qualify to get free basic electricity. Those are the people who come from households that receive a combined monthly salary of less than R2,500. We must all take it upon ourselves to identify and advise them to register in the municipal indigent database in order to receive these free basic services – including water. Indigent forms are attainable from Ward Councillors.

Honourable Speaker,

We also have a pipelined project of erecting high-masts in all 36 wards of our municipality. This is a program that will take time – maybe years – but at the end, we want every village to have a high-mast. We want to have a society where crime is minimised and our people move freely without fear of being battered. During the current financial year of 2018/2019, we have installed a total of 17 high-masts at:

- *Hlanganani; Majosi; Olifantshoek; Tiyani; Menele; Xitlhelani; Gandlanani; Roadhuis; Mulenzhe; Phaphazela; Mbhalati; Saselamani; Davhana; Mavambe and Mabidi.*

We are only waiting for Eskom to come and energize these high – mast. During the 2019/2020 financial year, 21 high-masts will be installed in 16 villages, namely:

- *Mhinga Ville; Xikundu Ville; Mtititi RDP; Mahonisi RDP and Nkuzana RDP;*

The villages that I have already mentioned are allocated two (2) high masts each, and the municipality is in the process of proclaiming them. Other villages that will receive these allocations are:

- *Xihosana; Gumbani; Mianzwi; Peninghotsa; Xigalo; Magona; Nkavele; Mchipisi; Pfalanomo; Makhasa; and Kurhuleni.*

We will also repair 29 existing high-masts at *Malamulele, Mphakati and Makuleke.*

On ROAD INFRASTRUCTURES, Honourable Speaker,

- We completed the construction of a **3km** ring-road at **Xitlhelani**, where we had budgeted R29.6 million, and 27 employment opportunities were created;

- We've also completed the **Nwamatatani ring-road**, where we've spent R55 million and created 24 employment opportunities;
- We have upgraded the **Mtsetweni ring-road** and spent R45 million. We also created 17 employment opportunities;
- The **4km Malamulele B internal street** is currently at 98% and has employed 36 people; the contractor is currently dealing with snag-list.
- The **4km Malamulele D internal street** is at 75% with 27 people employed;
- We are also **widening the Malamulele DCO to Hospital road** – and so far, we have created 41 jobs and the project is at 56%. For this project we have budgeted R23 million.

We are also engaging with the province on the construction of the D-roads, including the Hollywood to Gumbani road amongst others. We have massive roads backlogs in Collins Chabane, but we are driven to ensure that they are reduced and with speed.

We are mindful that our people need quality roads – and this is our commitment, and it is with humility that we accepted such responsibility when we took office in 2016.

We have also embarked on processes of fencing cemeteries in three villages, and they are:

- *Davhana* – where we are waiting for the appointment of the contractor;
- *Tshikonelo cemetery* – which is at 65% on physical progress;
- As well as *Mahatlani Cemetery* – which is at 70%.

We are also in the process of constructing our own municipal offices where officials can get a habitable and workable environment with enough office space. We are a municipality at work, and we are going towards the right direction.

Honourable Speaker,

Without any further ado, let me proceed straight to the figures that the will be championing our hopes and aspirations as the people of Collins Chabane Municipality towards accelerating service delivery during the 2019/2020 to 2021/2022 financial years.

Our budget focuses on the inputs and recommendations from the National Treasury, Auditor General and the general community. Amongst the inputs from the AG and National Treasury were reduction of the salary bill, charging of the interest on outstanding debtors considering the unrest at Vuwani, and the reduction of the collection rate that was at 100% in the draft budget.

The estimated revenue budget is:

- R514,134 million for 2019/2020 financial year
- R539, 939 million for 2020/2021 financial year and
- R584, 478 million for the 2021/2022 financial year.

The breakdown is as follows:

Description	2019/2020 financial year	2020/2021 financial year	2021/2022 financial year
Property rates	R22 961 million	R25 468 million	R29 049 million
Interest earned from Bank	R9,1 million	R9,6 million	R10.1 million
Interest on outstanding debtors	R9,5 million	R10,1 million	R10,6 million
Licenses and permits	R5,5 million	R5,8 million	R6,2 million
Transfers and subsidies (operational)	R357, 891 million	R382, 087 million	R410, 405 million
Transfer and subsidies (Capital)	R104, 031 million	R96, 680 million	R103, 369 million

The total operating expenditure is:

- R327, 090 million for 2019/20 financial year,
- R331, 581 million for 2020/21 financial year and

- R337, 156 million for 2021/22 financial year.

The breakdown of the above figures is as follows:

Expenditure by type	2019/20 Financial year	2020/21 Financial year	2021/22 Financial year
Employee related cost	R 113 828 million	R 121 672 million	R 130 059 million
Remuneration of councilors	R 26, 344 million	R 27, 662 million	R29, 045 million
Debt impairment	R 10 537 million	R 11 127 million	R 11 728 million
Depreciation & Asset impairment	R 18, 802 million	R 19, 818 million	R 20, 888 million
Other materials	R 4, 089 million	R 4, 318 million	R 4, 551 million
Contracted Services	R 11 802 million	R 11, 497 million	R 12, 118 million
Transfers and subsidies	R 1, 5 million	R1, 5 million	R1, 5 million
Other expenditure	R 140 187 million	R 133, 988 million	R127, 267 million

The capital budget of the municipality is:

- R252, 231 million for 2019/2020 financial year
- R247,780 million for 2020/2021 financial year and
- R200,769 million for the 2021/2022 financial year.

The capital budget includes the following service delivery related projects

Description	Amount 2019/20 financial year
Electrification of Mbuti and Xihosana	R10 million
Davhana Stadium	R12 million
Municipal Building	R30 million
Malamulele Stadium	R13 million
Sasekani Ring Road	R15 million

DCO/Hospital Road	R16 million
Msetweni Ring road	R28 million
N'wamatatana Ring Road	R24 million
Highmasts lights	R4 million
Malamulele Community Hall	R10 million
Xigalo Landfill site	R12 million

Honourable Speaker,

In implementing both operational and capital budgets, the municipality will ensure the maximum use of its Supply Chain Management policy to ensure that our local community benefits from the implementation of both the operational and capital budgets in their areas in terms of Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Regulations as amended.

For this budget to be capable of being implemented it needs discipline from all of us, increased effort in regard to credit control and the elimination of wastages through the application of cost containment measures.

As per MFMA Circular 82, Cost Containment Measures will also be enhanced to cut expenditure cost. National Treasury's MFMA circular No. 82, 93, 94 together with both the State of Nation Address, Budget Speech by the Minister of Finance and the State of the Province Address were used to guide the compilation of the 2020 – 2022 MTREF budget.

The main challenges experienced during the compilation of this Medium Term Revenue Enhancement Framework budget can be summarized as follows:

- Securing the health of the asset base (especially the revenue generating assets) by increasing spending on repairs and maintenance and renewal of assets;

- The need to prioritize projects and high expenditure rate within the existing resource envelope given the cash flow realities;
- A growing debtor's book;
- Wage increases for municipal staff that continues to exceed consumer inflation, as well as the need to fill critical vacancies with limited resources;

Honourable Speaker,

In terms of Section 75A of the Local Government Systems Act (Act 32 of 2000, as amended) I have tabled – for adoption after public participation – the tariffs for other services during the Council which was held in May 2019 and the following budget related policies were adopted by Council:

- Asset Management Policy;
- Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy;
- Contract Management Policy;
- Cost Containment Policy;
- Funding & Reserve Policy;
- Indigent Policy;
- Investment and Cash Management Policy;
- Budget Policy;
- Policy On Borrowing;
- Rates Policy;
- Tariff Structure;
- Supply Chain Management Policy;
- Veriment Policy;
- Unclaimed Deposit Policy;
- Indigent Relief Policy;

As I surrender this podium **Honourable Speaker**, this IDP and Budget represents the product of a truly collective effort by the Executive

Committee, all Councillors, directorates of this Council, and most significantly, the fellow citizens of Collins Chabane Municipality.

By these projections, we seek to give full account and respond accordingly on the needs of the people of Collins Chabane. Hence the Council always waits with eager expectation for your continued support and active participation in all of its activities.

Let me conclude by quoting from the words of the great Tata Mandela, who said and I quote:

“As long as many of our people still live in utter poverty, as long as children still live under plastic covers, as long as many of our people are still without jobs, no South African should rest and wallow in the joy of freedom.”

“It is not our diversity which divides us; it is not our ethnicity, or religion or culture that divides us. Since we have achieved our freedom, there can only be one division amongst us: between those who cherish democracy and those who do not.”

“We were expected to destroy one another and ourselves collectively in the worst racial conflagration. Instead, we as a people chose the path of negotiation, compromise and peaceful settlement. Instead of hatred and revenge we chose reconciliation and nation-building.”

**I thank you;
Ndza khensa
Ndo livhuwa!!!**