

Mayor's Speech - Council Meeting 8 December 2008

Introduction

MADAM Speaker, Members of the Mayoral Committee, Fellow Councilors, the Municipal Manager, all officials, and all that have come to join us today, allow me to greet and welcome you all to this Council Meeting.

Today we are gathered here for the last meeting of the Council for 2008. It is the time that some Councilors and officials will be taking time off from their duties as Council will be in recess till February 2009. It is also time to look back on the work we set ourselves to do at the beginning of the year and see how far we have gone.

This year we have seen more of our people benefiting from government and in particular this Municipality and pushing the frontiers of poverty backwards. We have been very consistent and dedicated in improving the lives of the people of Makana and improving where we need to.

Since the beginning of this year we have ensured that we deliver on the promises we made to the masses of Makana resulting from the IDP imbizos. We have increased the number of people that benefit from the Indigent Policy and even wrote off outstanding debts running into millions that could not be recovered. Some of the highlights of the year are as follows.

Project Name	Cost	Project Status
Extension 6 Sewer Reticulation	R3,470,535.10	Construction underway
Eluxolweni Bulk Services	R1,062,162.05	Construction
Fak'itar Project	R2,115 million	Construction
Fencing of Cemeteries	R1,454,000.00	Tender awarded
Construction of Ward 5 Hall	R5,012 million	Tender closed on 05/12 2008
Construction of bulk water supply in Fort Brown	R2, 700 000	Work completed
440 houses to be built in Transit Camp	R7 million on sewer, water and gravel roads	Construction underway
577 houses to be built in Fingo Village	Funding from provincial housing department	Construction underway
Construction of civil services in Auckland North	R3 192 000 on sewer water and road	Construction underway

Construction of internal and bulk services in Eluxolweni	R6,500 000	Project near completion
Refurbishment of Alicedale Sports field	R1, 000 000	Under construction
Construction of Fingo Library	R700 000	Project completed
Ndacama Bucket Eradication	R1,600 000	Project completed except where RDP houses will be built
Extension of Dlukulu Clinic	R 500 000	Project completed

Temporary Housing

Madam Speaker allow me to inform the Council that we can all breath a sigh of relief as the victims of the tornado will spend Christmas holidays in dignified habitats. Currently 87 temporary houses are being erected in the affected wards. The official handover will be done by the Provincial Housing Minister.

Elders Xmas Party

The Council will once again host the Elders Christmas Party following last year's highly successful and joyous occasion. This year's function will be held at Noluthando Hall on 15 December 2008 at 14H00.

Staff and Councilors Closing Party

Co-operation and sound relations between Councilors and officials are key in ensuring service delivery and the success of this Municipality. It for this reason that this year, there will be a single closing party for both Councilors and officials. This is also aimed at promoting team spirit among the civil servants.

This gesture signifies the appreciation of the Council and Senior Management to the men and women that are agents of service delivery as they are the ones that effect and implement the decisions taken. The function will be held at Miki Yili Stadium in Joza Township on 11 December 2008 at 14h00.

I wish to invite all Councilors to take this opportunity to interact and celebrate with the municipal employees the successes of 2008 and to draw strength from each other for the new year.

In closing Madam Speaker allow me to wish all Councilors, officials and all present in this meeting a happy and safe festive season.

Hope to see you all in 2009.