

# **ADJUSTMENT BUDGET SPEECH BY EXECUTIVE MAYOR CLLR JAMES TSOLELA TO COUNCIL ON 28<sup>TH</sup> OF FEBRUARY 2023.**

**Madam speaker**

**Single whip or council**

**Members of the mayoral committee**

**Chairperson of MPAC**

**Honourable Councillors**

**Municipal Manager and Senior official**

It is my sincere honour and privilege to present the adjustment budget as resolved by council.

Madam speaker, I want to remind this august house that council has adopted an unfunded budget supported by a financial plan. This budget was about navigating, Matlosana Municipality's financial recovery, drawing on the resilience of our residents as well as restoring the sustainability of our public finances and the dignity of our people in the face of a once-in-a-lifetime Covid-19 pandemic it also aimed at insuring optimal basic service delivery to our people.

Madam speaker, council must take note that despite our revenue enhancement challenges, this municipality is doing extremely well in ensuring the optimal basic service delivery to our people. We have been able to reduce the sewer spillages, we are effectively dealing with the road sealing and pothole pathing, although is work in progress. We are dealing with illegal dumping, refuse removal, cleansing of cemeteries, provision of electricity and clean water.

Madam speaker please allow me to apologies to communities for the constant crisis of access to and electricity outages resulting from loadshedding. The city of Matlosana has obtained an unqualified audit for the financial year 2021/2022. It was also mentioned that we are the best in the province despite our financial challenges.

In my acceptance speech, I indicated that despite inheriting a technically bankrupt municipality there is hope that we can do better. This administration is the first to submit quality ARS on time. I have engaged with most of the strategic stakeholders including Business chambers.

Business chambers and individual community members appreciate this municipality in dealing with service delivery. We have for the first time engaged with unemployed graduates and out of that engagement, 71 unemployed graduates got internships funded by services SETA. Our openness to engage with our communities strengthens the social compact with our communities. I have no doubt that our people have hope in this municipality. However, madam speaker we must not be hard on ourselves and actually desist in misleading public to enhance our political agenda.

In view of our revenue challenges, we are presenting a decreased adjustment budget from R4.01 billion to R3.99 billion this adjudgment is also supported by a financial plan which must be supported by all political parties in this chamber. However, madam speaker this adjudgment budget still priorities the service delivery.

In conclusion madam speaker, I want to remind the council about what I said my acceptance speech and I quote: **“We pledge to spare neither time nor effort in addressing the needs of our people in the coming five years. Although the road ahead**

**is filled with challenges, such are not insurmountable, and our courage and commitment will see us emerge victorious. Together we can make a difference in the lives of the people of Matlosana”.**

I want to thank this municipality for the appointment of a competent, experienced and qualified Municipal Manager and Chief Financial Officer, and I have no glimpe or single doubt that this municipality is in the right trajectory.

Together we can do more.