

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE HONOURABLE EXECUTIVE MAYOR, CLLR F.C MAHLOPHE ON THE OCCASION OF THE TABLING THE DRAFT BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2025/2026 HELD ON THE 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2025 AT THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAMBER**

Honourable Speaker.

Single Whip of Council

Members of the Mayoral Committee.

Honourable Councillors

Management team and officials.

Members of the Community present.

Ladies and gentlemen.

Molweni, Dumelang, Goie more and thank you for affording me the opportunity to present the draft budget of the City of Matlosana for the year 2025/2026 to you.

We meet here on this last day of our Human Rights Month, a month during which we remember and honour the sacrifices made by gallant men and women who fought for the attainment of the freedom and democracy we enjoy as a nation.

Honourable Speaker I present to this council this draft budget in terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act which directs the Mayor of a Municipality to table the draft budget of the next financial year to Council 90 days before the start of the new budget year, i.e., no later than 31 March each year.

Therefore, the draft budget I present today is scheduled in the format that is prescribed by legislation. In this regard, this draft budget sets out realistically anticipated revenue for the budget year from each revenue source; and appropriates expenditure for the budget year under the different votes of the municipality

Honorable Speaker, without any further ado, allow me to present to this esteemed house some key highlights from our draft 2025/2026 budget.

## 1. BUDGET OVERVIEW

Ladies and gentlemen, the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework proposes a total budget of R 4, 879 billion for 2025/2026 financial year. It appropriates a total operating expenditure of R4, 879 billion and capital expenditure of R257, 98 million.

Total operating revenue has increased by R343, 64 for the financial year of 2025/2026 when compared with the 2024/2025 adjusted budget year.

Total operating expenditure for the year 2025/2026 has increased by 7, 9 % when compared with 2024/2025 Adjusted Budget, and this is due to the cost cutting measures that has been applied in line with our financial recovery plan as our resources are extremely limited.

The Capital budget for the year 2025/2026 has increased by 9, 53% when compared with 2024/2025 adjusted budget. This increase is due to the additional resources that is allocated for this new financial year as alluded above.

## 2. CONCLUSION

As I conclude Honorable Speaker, I want to emphasize to this house the importance of exercising fiscal discipline and restate the need for ensuring sound management of municipal finances and all the resources at our disposal.

The dire state of the country's economy and the decline of our cash back reserves constrain our resources while the demand for services keep rising.

Under the circumstances we ought to do more with less and strive for the delivery of services to our communities effectively, efficiently, and economically.

Nevertheless, we remain resolute that the draft budget that I table before you today precisely encapsulate the needs of our communities that were expressed by the people through various public participation mechanisms and captured in our Integrated Development Plan.

Last but not least, I am pleased to announce that starting from the 14<sup>th</sup> April the municipality will be engage communities as part of the IDP/Budget Roadshows.

This public participation program will provide community members and stakeholders an opportunity to make their inputs on this draft budget before its final approval by this council.

We look forward to these all-important engagements, and I implore everyone one of us to encourage our communities to participate in this process.

Through our collective wisdom and unity of purpose; we will be able to make a significant progress towards improving service delivery and provide a better life for all the residents of Matlosana.

6. RECOMMENDATION:

Honorable Speaker I hereby table the 2025/2026 draft budget of the City of Matlosana Local Municipality, and further recommend that at the appropriate time, Council approves this draft budget as per the MFMA and the applicable budget regulations.

I THANK YOU