

ULUNDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY BUDGET PRESENTATION
ADDRESS BY
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PRESIDENT OF THE INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY
INKOSI OF THE BUTHELEZI CLAN AND
CHAIRPERSON: ZULULAND DISTRICT HOUSE
OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS

Ulundi: 8 April 2010

The Honourable Councilor Luthuli, Mayer of Ulundi; the Honourable Deputy Mayor, Councillor Manana; the Honourable Speaker, Councillors and distinguished guests.

I am honoured to participate in the presentation of the budget for the Ulundi Local Municipality to the people this municipality serves. In terms of the Constitution of South Africa, one of the objectives of local government is to encourage the involvement of communities and community organizations in matters of local government. Today Ulundi Municipality is fulfilling that objective by being accountable to the people it serves and by making government accessible.

At this third level of Government, ordinary South Africans have the benefit of knowing the people whom they have elected to serve them and of being able to talk to them on a one-to-one basis. Your leaders are here. They want to hear what you have to say. They want to know how best to serve you. And

today, they want to give an account for all that has been done and all that is planned for the future with the budget for 2010.

Local Government officials are your chosen representatives, serving a five year term of office. Next year, South Africa will again hold Local Government Elections where the people will have an opportunity to speak through the

ballot by re-electing leaders or firing them. | am proud to lead the Party which you, the people, have chosen to administer local government in this area. | am determined to see the IFP keep serving you and keep giving you reason to express your support by voting IFP.

| have a personal interest in seeing this Municipality succeed and I am interested to hear the presentations today to know if we are going in the right direction. | think it is remarkable that Ulundi has turned itself around in two short years to the extent that it has received an unqualified audit report from the Auditor General. That is an achievement that sets Ulundi apart from many municipalities in this area and this Province.

We have been just as equally proud of the Zululand Municipality as well! for it has always had an unqualified audit. This meaning that the taxpayers' money which is administered by our municipalities has gone to pay for the services it is meant to pay for in the municipality whether it is a local municipality like Ulundi Municipality or the district municipality such as our Zululand District Municipality. It is the first time that we have read comments about our Zululand Municipality which leave us asking questions. The MEC for Finance the Honourable Ms Ina Cronje just a fortnight ago commented as follows about the Zululand District Municipality finances. 'Zululand District Municipality has spent an amount of R385.4 million on operating expenses against a budget of R242.5 million. This means that this municipality has overspent by R152.9 million which equates to 143 per cent over expenditure of their budgeted operating expenditure. Off the total of R394.4 million operating expenditure R314.4 million was classified as 'other expenditure' and not put into any specific category.

On capital expenditure the Zululand District Municipality awarded a tender to R69.6 million for the supply of ductile iron pipes in Mandiakazi and Usuthu areas. The Zululand District Municipality has also awarded a tender to Bigen Africa Consultants who provided the technical expertise to this project amounting to R12.6 million. As of November 2009 payments exceeded the cash receipts by R25.6 million.'

That excerpts from the KZN Minister of Finance is the first discordant note we have ever heard about our district municipality which as I have already pointed out has always received unqualified audits about which we all crowed so much during the general election in 2009. So one can only hope that what the MEC for Finance found necessary to point out is not the tip of the iceberg. If it is we will be greatly disappointed as we have been very proud of both our district and local municipalities.

We should be particularly proud of this achievement considering that Ulundi is small and struggles tremendously with poverty. For this same reason, I wish to thank all of you who travelled here today to participate in this budget presentation, because you are showing your commitment to seeing Ulundi succeed in the face of very difficult circumstances. I know that these days there are people amongst councilors here and in districts such as Uthukela, who try to persuade people not to attend functions where I am present in an effort to prove that the people that I have led in this Party for 35 years no longer support me as their leader.

Ulundi Municipality oversees an area that is largely rural, with many households having no income at all. Only a small percentage of its people are formally employed. To add to this hardship, HIV/Aids has had a significant

impact here and there are many homes where children have been orphaned

by Aids. Ours is a young population and in the foreseeable future population growth is expected to decline.

Nevertheless, we are proud to be residents of Zululand for, as the vision of Ulundi Municipality so boldly states, Ulundi is "The City of Heritage". This is the seat of one of the greatest battles ever fought on South African soil, and in the surrounding areas we boast the homes and final resting places of kings. The unsurpassed beauty of Zululand is matched by its historical value, and the rich resources of fauna and flora are coupled with immense cultural treasures.

There is great tourist potential here; we have only begun to tap the possibilities. But whatever we do to promote Ulundi and anything we do to raise the quality of life of our residents, must be done within the budget of this Municipality. And let us be blunt; the budget is tight. Although the figures seem big, they are a drop in the ocean of need and cannot begin to address the challenges facing this community.

I know that people become upset when services are not delivered, or are slow in coming. In terms of our Constitution every South African has the right to decent housing, healthcare, education, sanitation and water. But when the full budget of this Municipality is considered, one has to face the fact that no matter how you slice it the pie is just not big enough to satisfy everyone's hunger.

For this reason, it becomes doubly important that the resources we do have available through the budget are not squandered or frittered away. It is vital that we use what we have wisely and effectively, maximizing the value of every cent. I know that, just like every Government Department both provincially and nationally, the budgets of local municipalities are substantially used to run the municipalities. Little remains for the development projects that are needed to address poverty.

I am therefore appalled to hear of Councilors in municipalities across South Africa who care more for padding their pockets than they do for alleviating poverty. To be fair, I must honour those Councilors in Ulundi who work hard and diligently to serve the people. I know that just as there are a few who hurt the name of this municipality, there are many who proudly carry its reputation as a government structure that cares for its people.

Nevertheless, it should concern us when any leaders put their own interests first, because selfish ambition is destructive to the collective good. I have warned before that the fish rots from the head. When leaders take a little more than they give, they give the example that some are more deserving than

others and that a bit of power bestows upon one the right to come first, get more and do less.

That is totally contrary to the culture of service that should pervade government. It is disheartening to see the state of some of our municipalities, even here in Zululand. One of the serious problems we face is the activities of the so-called "Friends of VZ" who are intent on destroying the IFP's legacy

. They want to see the IFP weakened to such an extent that they will be able to snatch away the leadership. And they are weakening the Party by undermining everything that is good about the IFP.

This Party has always been based on discipline and respect. But now discipline is disintegrating because of the activities of the "Friends of VZ", to the extent that I have received a letter from the Chairperson of Caucus, signed by other executive members of Caucus, stating that it is difficult for them to work with Councilors in this Municipality. There is even an allegation that they no longer give the Speaker the respect that the Speaker deserves.

As if the letter from the Caucus was not enough, I have subsequently received a letter from His Worship the Mayor of Ulundi two days ago which is even more disturbing than the one I received from the Caucus. To quote the Mayor's letter, it states inter alia:

"I am writing this letter to report that there are councillors within Ulundi Municipality who have clandestinely grouped themselves under the so-called "friends of VZ." This behaviour is unbecoming and it jeopardises the smooth functioning of the municipality. I am not able to list them at this stage as my list may not be accurate but suffice to mention that they consist of Ward and PR Councillors. Altogether they form a majority of the Council and that has a potential of derailing operations of the Council.

I wish to mention a few incidents as examples of unbecoming behaviour.

1. On 21 March 2010 at the meeting of all IFP Councillors addressed by His Excellency in Umlazi those councillors from Ulundi left before the closure of the meeting.

2. On 27 March 2010 the said group of councillors was part of the chaotic behaviour during Ondini Constituency Elective Conference, by causing the situation to be uncontrollable in that I am told they demanded that the non-delegates be allowed into the election hall. The election had to be postponed.

3. On 31 March 2010 Councillor F L Buthelezi was supported by them when he moved a motion to Council to uplift the suspension of Mr M W Mthembu whose disciplinary action is in progress. Although Mr Mthembu has been on suspension with full pay for more than a year. The matter remains administrative which could be dealt with differently other than a motion to Council....â\200\235

The Mayor stated as you can see from this excerpt from his letter that he did not have a list of these councillors who have sabotaged the very operation of the Council. I however, have it as compiled by themselves and I wish to read it to this meeting. It would be interesting for us to know whether these councillors in your own areas have in the last 4 years shown any qualities of leadership and whether they have assisted you in your area in any way. Here is the list as compiled not by me but by themselves;

They have designated themselves as 100 per cent Friends of VZ
KaMagwaza-Msibi (UTALAGU) 100 percent friends (copy as listed)

They have listed other councillors who are not with them whom they designate as Fort Hare Supporters (AMAKHEHLA)

This kind of contempt for discipline and order is destroying the Party, and it is having a negative impact on service delivery in this Municipality. That is where it becomes completely unacceptable. The IFP has internal party structures to deal with insubordination. We have a Party Constitution which guides our actions. We have a leadership of integrity and a strong moral conscience. And we have no patience with people who willingly compromise the good of the people for the sake of their own name and status.

I am proud of Ulundi Municipality and, as I said, I have an interest in seeing it succeed. My daughter, Princess Sibuyiselwa Buthelezi, is the Municipal Manager and I myself am Chairperson of the Zululand District House of Traditional Leaders. Authority has been vested in this Municipality by the Constitution to pass and promulgate by-laws, develop policies and take strategic decisions. It is also empowered to set up management structures; all within its budgetary means.

It may be helpful to take a moment to clarify how this Municipality fits into the overall governance structure, so that we might understand the constraints it functions under. The Constitution delineates three categories of municipality. The first, Category A, has exclusive municipal executive and legislative authority in its area. The second, Category B, shares municipal executive and legislative authority in its area with a Category C municipality within whose area it falls. A Category C municipality has authority in an area that includes more than one municipality.

In terms of the Municipal Structures Act, Ulundi is a Category B municipality, which means that it shares executive and legislative powers with the Zululand District Municipality. Therefore, Ulundi does not have free rein to decide how governance is run in this area. Policies and legislation developed here may not clash with what is developed at District level. And whatever is developed

at District level is still subject to provincial and national legislation.

There is therefore some constraint on what this Municipality may do. Yet there is no limitation on Ulundi from striving to be the best run and most efficiently

functioning municipality within Zululand. | urge the Honourable Mayor to set an example here that may be emulated by municipalities across South Africa, by running a tight ship and doing as much as possible with the relatively small budget allocated to Ulundi.

| am very sorry that what should be a joyous occasion has been spoilt by the unbecoming behaviour of our councillors who designate themselves to be â\200\234friends of VZ Magwaza-Msibi.â\200\235 The tragedy of all this is that the honourable

Ms KaMagwaza-Msibi is our Mayor for this district whom we have all loved and supported to the extent that we all canvassed for her to be a candidate for the premiership of the Province. She is also the Chairperson of the Party. And | find it painful that those who want to destroy the work of 35 years during which we built and nursed this Party are using her name to do so. To us she states that she has nothing to do with all the people that are doing all these things in her name. We have to accept and believe her when she says this as our trusted leader. However, when the people who are in the forefront of all these ructions in the Party are employees of the Zululand District Municipality including her security, the credibility of her denial does not seem to be beyond

reach. The people who are in the forefront of this destruction of this Party are councillors of this Party, are councillors of both the Ulundi and the

Zululand Municipality. The people who are in the forefront of all these destructive activities are people who have received tenders from her municipality of the Zululand District.

| think it would have been extremely dishonest of me as your leader if | did not deal with these matters as openly and as frankly as | have done. Those of you who know me for many years will not be surprised that | have dealt with these matters as openly as | have done, for this is my style of leadership. | have dealt with my people in the Buthelezi area honestly and openly for 57 years. | have dealt with the Zulu people in all those years as honestly and as openly as | do now. | have dealt with the people of South Africa even in the dark days of apartheid as openly and as honestly as | have done today. | try to remember always that each one of us has still to account before our Maker when we depart this world. During the TRC, | told my Archbishop His Grace

the Most Reverend Desmond Tutu that even though he was my archbishop he could not judge me but that the only person who will judge me is God, my Maker.

| wish to thank Councilor Luthuli and the Municipal Manager for inviting me to participate in this budget presentation. | trust that you will find the people of Ulundi backing you as you strive to make this Municipality work, and work hard. This is the time for Councilors to be held accountable and for us to see where the money goes and how it is spent.

May our deliberations be fruitful as we seek to maximize our resources, and may we find ways to meet the desperate needs that confront us.

| thank you.