

COUNCIL SPEECH BY EXECUTIVE MAYOR: ALD. P. TEIXEIRA DELIVERED ON THE 27 JANUARY 2022

Speaker,
Chief Whip,
MMC's,
Fellow Councillors,
Municipal Manager,
HOD's,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

I want to welcome all our staff members, honourable counsellors and all members from different political affiliations.

I hope and pray that the holiday season was a time for restoration and renewal of our vision and desire to serve our communities.

Allow me to send our heartfelt condolences to the Ngubane family. Sorrow fills our hearts at this sad moment, a sorrow that is deep and personal.

Mr D Ngubane, who was an employee of our Municipality at Waste section has silently closed the door of life and departed from us.

Our lives will be empty in the areas that he had brightened for us.

To the family, our hearts and prayers are with you at this most difficult time.

This past weekend, South Africa lost one of its prolific veteran actor and social activists Patrick Shai.

He has championed progressive activism against the scourge of gender-based violence. We have lost a significant voice and role model.

Speaker,

I also wish to send our condolences to the family of Desmond Mpilo Tutu who passed away last year December at the age of 90.

Archbishop Tutu, the last surviving South African laureate of the Nobel Peace Prize, passed away in Cape Town at the age of 90

A man of extraordinary intellect, integrity and invincibility against the forces of apartheid, he was also tender and vulnerable in his compassion for those who had suffered oppression, injustice and violence under apartheid.

Thank you, Ntate Tutu for using the 90 years God gave you to greatly impact lives around you.

Speaker,

I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations and well wishes to the class of 2021 for passing your matric exams.

Your dedication, commitment and hard work has finally reaped benefits.

This is a momentous achievement and for many its the first step in unlocking your future and a signal of hope for your family.

To those who did not do well, it's not the end yet, chin up and try again. Whatever you do, don't ever give up or quit. You can do it.

In the words of Kofi Annan: "Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society and in every community."

Speaker - I want to take this moment and specifically congratulate **Rusoord secondary school, Dr Malan high school and Destinata school** for achieving 100% pass rate. The overall pass rate in Midvaal is 81,4%, we ought to be proud. This is our very own crop of learners from Midvaal with this outstanding result. Thank you once again for putting Midvaal on the national radar of academic excellence.

Speaker,

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on many communities affecting livelihoods. As many people return back to the province from the festive period to resume schooling and other economic activities, it is important to remember that we all have a role to play to keep COVID-19 at bay.

The easing of restrictions means that more people are socialising and therefore the risk of transmissions remains high. We should therefore remain vigilant as COVID-19 is still in our midst.

The first and most powerful tool we have against COVID-19 is vaccination. Vaccination is by far the most important way to protect us against severe illness, hospitalisation or death in the event you contract the coronavirus.

Speaker,

We are currently undergoing Integrated Development Plan consultative meetings with our communities.

This is the most powerful tool for democracy at work.

We encourage our residents to provide us with their vision and inputs for the future.

My dream for Midvaal, to create a place that feels like home. We want to create a vibrant community.

I invite all our councillors who are serving our communities to partner with us as we implement our vision and mission for the communities of Midvaal.

Speaker,

The Auditor General outcome is most welcome. I want to assure your office and all stakeholders that all areas of concern are our top priority.

I am please to inform you that we have already started to address one of this concern being the amount of electricity losses. Our engineering department managed to decrease our electricity losses from 20.27% to 14.53% in the second quarter. And I must also mention that we are continuing to decrease water losses.

Speaker,

The Municipal Systems Act, requires that the local community be consulted on its development needs and priorities, and to participate in the drafting of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP).

Each year, the municipality conducts engagements with communities to ensure its planning is aligned to community needs and prepares a budget accordingly.

Due to Covid-19 regulations and the restrictions placed on public gatherings, Midvaal has initiated a different approach to public participation, in addition to face-to-face meetings, as a means of collecting community needs.

Your involvement in the development of the IDP is crucial to proper planning and budget allocation and therefore we invite you to have your say in the development of your community.

The community needs assessment form, has been designed to allow you to share your top 5 community needs. Soft copies of the forms are available on the municipal website and hardcopy forms can be collected at the Office of the Speaker, municipal offices/halls/pay points/libraries.

Let us go encourage our communities to participate and make this process beneficial to all.

Speaker,

As we are gathered here, we are all aware of the ever-increasing challenges and trying times that we find ourselves in. We are being challenged to deliver and maintain the rendering of good service to all our citizens.

Every moment more is expected of us, whilst especially the financial resources are being stretched beyond its limits.

The struggles we are in today is developing the strengths we need for our tomorrows. We need to always remember why we are here. The little that you can do, is to do what is expected of you. Dedication and commitment are what transfer dreams into reality.

The road ahead will not be easy:

There will be Obstacles;

There will be Doubters;

There will be Mistakes;

But with steadfastness – focus and teamwork there are **No** limits.

The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it.

Alone we can do so little, but **together** we can do so much.

Together we can.

I thank you.