

REMARKS BY COUNCILLOR K.S. PHANGWA, THE MAYOR OF UMZIMVUBU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY ON THE OCCASION OF THE COUNCIL STRATPLAN HELD AT REGENT HOTEL IN EAST LONDON ON 09-12 JANUARY 2012.

Director of Proceedings

Councillors

Members of the Executive Committee & Whippery

Management & Staff

Our Service Provider, Mr Ntja Mapheele and your Colleague (s)

Ladies & Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to meet the full Council of Umzimvubu Municipality at the time we are all fresh from Mangaung.

The Mangaung proceedings created an opportunity for us to revive our political morale as well as enthusiasm and zeal in our quest to pursue the tasks of the National Democratic Revolution.

Accordingly, we celebrated the 100 years of selfless struggle against the imperial colonialism and the demon of racism as well as the system of apartheid.

January 8th of each year is traditionally known as the day for the delivery of the January 8th Statement on behalf of the National Executive Committee of the ANC by the President.

This year's January 8th Statement was different in the sense that it was celebrated in the context of the centenary celebrations.

I am sure all Councillors will agree with me that the message is clear: *serve the people*.

The tasks that lie ahead of us over the next few days were preceded by a tremendous amount of work, which was already done at the level of the

Departmental and Exco Stratplans held at Margate – St Michaels and Ingeli respectively.

Now, we are called upon to accomplish the mission by bringing the Draft Exco Stratplan to the full Council so that we may ultimately produce the Institutional Strategic Plan for a Five-Year-Term of the current Council.

We will then be expected to conduct an annual review of the plan in each year for the duration of the term of office.

Our Management together with the service provider is going to present to us a fully processed Draft Exco Strategic Plan in order for us to ensure the smooth running of the entire process.

Councillors will recall that our country has recently hosted the Climate Change Conference, commonly referred to as COP17 in Durban.

What remains to be achieved now is the actual implementation of the Conference Resolutions, no more theories, but **action and action.**

In this regard, I want to emphasise that the Mayors of this country have all signed a charter.

This means that the Citizen & Community Services Department must double its efforts in order for our communities to see the practical implementation of the climate change programmes.

There must be visible programmes in each of the 27 Wards of our municipality and this must culminate in job creation.

I want to believe that this is high time that we broaden the scope of recycling so that our people out there in the countryside could get involved practically.

These are people who burn papers and dispose of waste without due regard to the challenges and implications of climate change.

Therefore we need as a matter of urgency to channel their actions towards the right direction such that there is at least a dumping site in each ward for a start and ultimately in each village.

If my memory serves me correct, there are specific funds for this purpose. Ours therefore is to access those funds.

Towards concluding, LED must also embark on EPWP initiatives so that working together we can mitigate the climate change and global warming problems.

For this to succeed we need to involve the masses of our people at grassroot level.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to wish you fruitful deliberations throughout our stay here over these next few days.

I THANK YOU!!