

## Budget for 2011/12 gives hope to residents



Delivering his annual budget vote speech for the financial year 2011/2012 as the political head of Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality, Executive Mayor Dr Balekile Mzangwa, told the packed Eduqwa Hall at Charles Mopeli in Qwaqwa that leading this municipality has been an eventful and unforgettable chapter in his life and it has given him an invaluable insight and experience.

"It has been a great journey indeed. We have covered great distances. There were good and hard times as well in this journey of hope. Many have rejoiced and acknowledged the good work we have done. There are some however, whose hope has lost its glimmer. It is understandable; hunger cannot be postponed, nor can the pain of disease be ignored.

"We dare not disappoint those who have regained hope and work consistently with majority of our residents to restore hope of the hopeless. We will have to work even harder to make tomorrow better than yesterday," he said.

The Executive Mayor stated that with the next financial year's budget Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality will inch forward step by step to respond to the people's needs and move closer in achieving the dream of a better life for all. "This, we will do through adherence to the new budget regulation and other related tools of good practice," he added.

This he said about cheers of a colourful crowd of members of the public, who had assembled to hear the tabling of the budget.

The tabling of the budget took place on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2011, just eight days before local government elections.

The event was also graced by the Free State MEC for Police, Roads and Transport Mr Thabo Manyoni and Executive Mayor for Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality Mofumahadi Mathokoana Mopeli.

The Executive Mayor announced an increase of 20 percent of the municipality's consolidated annual operating expenditure budget for 2011/12 financial year.

In total the consolidated annual operating expenditure budget for the 2011/12 financial year is R1. 096 900 billion.

For the 2012/2013 and 2013/14 financial years the proposed annual operating expenditure budgets amounts are R1. 144 196 billion and R1. 222 557 billion respectively, which represent increase of R47. 117 million (4%) and R76. 317 million (6%) respectively for the two outer years.

The projected annual capital budget amounts to R475. 850 million for the 2011/12 financial year, which represents an increase of R198. 872 million (41%) above the approved capital budget for 2010/11.

"The increase is mainly on those projects which will be funded by external loans, such as Integrated National Electrification Programme Grant for Municipalities which will be allocated R10. 000 000 million; Expanded Public Works Programme Incentive Grant for Municipalities receiving R9. 381 000 million; Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (indirect grant) at R50. 050 000 million and Municipal Infrastructure Grant funded at R142. 459 000 million," he elaborated.

The total national grants the municipality received is R269. 775 million for 2011/2012 financial year, R17.5 million from the Province, from external loan funds R174 000 million and from our own funding R14.5 million.