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BIG 5 Hlabisa Municipality last week kicked off its Integrated Development Plan (IDP)/Budget Roadshow where it was announced that its budget is expected to be R243 599 726.

This was revealed by Mayor Comfort Khumalo, who addressed residents from wards 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 at Cwakeme Sport Grounds, speaking mainly about how much the municipality anticipates its budget to be, how much it will generate, spend, what has been done and will be done.

One of the concerns raised at the roadshow was that where infrastructure development has materialised under the municipality, in some instances there is costly vandalism.

Various municipal departments were present on to listen to input from members of the public into the IDP and budget for the coming financial year.

“For government to function properly, it needs an IDP and it needs a budget, these two things work hand in glove,” said Khumalo.

The mayor said, in due time the municipality will return to communities to present to the public its proposals based on their input and give them 21 days to comment on these proposals. If there are no changes by the end of May, Council will then pass the budget and the IDP.

Khumalo said the R243 599 726



Big 5 Hlabisa Mayor Comfort Khumalo at Wednesday's IDP/Budget Roadshow

is expected to be broken down as follows:

- Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) grant is expected to be R1.9m
- The sale of land, in particular in town areas, is expected to amount to R3m
- The rental of facilities is expected to generate R297 000
- The Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) is expected to be R24 436 000
- Money expected for electricity supply projects is anticipated to be R8 777 000

- Money generated from municipal rates is expected to be R31 366 000
- For refuse collection R1.9m
- The equitable share is expected to be R155 000 000.

Khumalo explained that when spent, the EPWP grant balloons to about R3-million to ensure all workers under the programme are compensated and it continues functioning smoothly, with this additional money readjusted from elsewhere in the budget.

The mayor further said the money the municipality expects to receive for electricity projects had

significantly increased from last year because there are plans for the construction of a substation in the area to assist the national grid in light of load-shedding.

The mayor said the salaries of municipal workers and councillors are broken down as follows:

- Salaries for municipal employees stands at R98 242 826. 94
- The paying of councillors will amount to R11 833 863.17.

Monies for various projects, including for tourism, arts and culture, religion, education, and gender-related issues will also be budgeted for, as well as for maintenance and housing projects.

The 2 500-unit housing project at Mdletsheni is under way, said Khumalo, who added that ‘the department is letting us down’ with regards to the housing project at Phumlani, which was initiated in 2004/05, with 500 homes expected to be constructed.

Khumalo said the R5 200 000 driving licence testing centre (DLTC) is under construction in Ward 5 and should be completed in a few months.

The mayor listed several projects that have either been completed or have commenced, which include community halls, sport fields, the electrification of homes, construction of bridges, crèches, and the construction of RDP houses, among others.

The IDP/budget roadshow is expected to continue in other wards this week.