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STRATEGIC PLANNING LOCALISED

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Elundini Local Municipality embarked on an institutional strategic planning session at Space Kitchen in Nqanqarhu from 03-05 March 2025. Austerity measures and cost containment policy led the municipality to hold this session locally which translated into savings.

The strategic planning started with an official welcoming message from the Honourable Mayor including an outline of the political landscape as a context in which the strategic review process should address. Municipal Manager Jack Mdeni in his presentation, gave the overview of the municipal status quo and set the tone for the purpose of planning process for the 2025/26 financial year.

Those who were part of the session included EXCO Members, Section 79 Chairpersons, Municipal Manager, Directors and Managers, staff, facilitator and labour component. A strategic plan is a long-term vision of where a municipality wants to see

itself in the future, as well as the steps it would take to get there. The strategic plan serves as the roadmap in prioritizing objectives and initiatives, as well as looking at important metrics and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to ensure they are on the path to success.

This strategic planning was quite important and blueprint for the next year's plans with the term of the council nearing the close of current. There is also the looming next year's local government elections along the way. In her opening address Her Worship reminded everyone gathered the importance of the three days so as to review the strategy that was developed in 2022 to be the municipality's bible for the

council for the term of council in office. In outlining challenges, she emphasized the need build a resilient infrastructure.

In order to get the status quo of the institution which serves as the basis for planning review and target setting, the various Directorates had to present their status reports, with the Municipal Manager and Accounting Officer, Mr JT Mdeni providing a high-level overview of the overall state of organisational health. In his informative presentation, he provided feedback on the performance to date (successes and sore points).

Director for Budget and Treasury in her presentation, some of the highlights included sound financial controls in place, funded and credible budget, optimisation of allocated budget. No rollovers from conditional grants, spending 100% of budget allocation and maintenance of unqualified audit.

Infrastructure and Development Director highlighted Quality & Competent staff minimising need for procuring external service providers, adopted policies in place, plans and agreements, specialised fleet, achieved 143km of road network, existing roads infrastructure maintenance plan, effective Procurement Strategy for implementing Service Delivery and they are on the brink of achieving universal access to electricity.

Corporate Services Director highlighted the creation of employment opportunities

and 100% seating of council meetings (proof of functional and stable Council).

Municipal Manager highlighted Good and Stable Governance, established and functioning Council Committees. Functional ward committee structures, Functional Audit Committee and internal Audit. Maintenance of unqualified audit opinion. Credible IDP as approved by COGTA MEC, Good public participation turn-out and available communication platforms

Community Services Director said some of the highlights include 2023/24 approved application for procurement of a specialized yellow fleet through MIG at an amount of R16 million. In 2023/24 financial year ELM received an award for the best environmental education and awareness programs in Greenest Municipality Awards. Also in 2023/24, best performing for the EPWP program implementers.

Director of Planning and Economic Development highlighted that 40 shearing sheds have been certified for international standard. Elundini Agro Hub.

50 SMMEs were trained (Focusing on the construction industry). Collaboration with sector departments on training SMMEs, (SARS, Public Works, Department of Water and Sanitation). 57 Local SMMEs benefitted from funding for the Department of Small Business Development.

The session was preceded by departmental strategic planning sessions. The goals

and values will remain the same. As per the tradition, there was an establishment of commissions for all directorates and have representatives from all the departments to focus on SWOT analysis, infrastructure, service delivery and LED. Effective planning requires data, information and analytical work. The strategic planning session is to be used for agreement on key programmes and projects. The session was compered by a facilitator to deal with technical aspects of planning.

OVERALL PURPOSE OF THE SESSION

The Institutional Planning Session was convened for the following purpose: -

a) To reflect on the political landscape and the implementation environment that shape organisational planning.

c) To confirm the Strategic framework which includes the organisation's vision, mission and values.

e) To critically reflect on the performance of the organisation against annual and MTSF set targets.

f) Identify process, systemic and structural challenges impeding service delivery and develop practical strategies (turnaround plans) to address these with monitoring mechanisms.

g) To set targets for the 2025/26 Service Delivery, Budget and Implementation Plan.



ELM Mayor Mamello Leteba



Municipal Manager Jack Mdeni



A hectic schedule



Governance and Political Support Manager Yvonne Matyeni putting a point across

