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# Message from the Executive Mayor



Councillor Sindisile Maclean

The R1,4 billion Operating and Capital budget marks a watershed in the establishment of our unfolding developmental local government in which we are using our financial tools to reconstruct Buffalo City.

In a financially stressed arena with numerous wants and needs aggravated by a growing intensity of poverty and a jobless growth rate, crafting a pro-poor budget is a mammoth task.

The intense and drawn out horse-trading behind the scenes by the technocrats and the daunting challenge to keep the tariff and rates hike to a politically acceptable level posed a major challenge to both the political leaders and the officials.

The need to link the budget with the Integrated Development Plan, Organogram and the unfolding Performance Management System, made it an added tall order.

It is my belief that all involved can walk tall for a task well done.

The poor have been adequately catered for through a social subsidy, which increased by 10% in tandem with their free electricity supply being increased from 20kw/h to 50kw/h as well as the other caring policies such as assistance for bereaved families.

While the indigent have been well catered for, the capital budget reflects infrastructural investment designed to ensure consistent levels of service delivery as well as comfortable social amenities.

We have now moved from the establishment phase of local government to the consolidation phase. There are new challenges to be faced and our budget has been crafted in a manner, which will enable us to reasonably confront those challenges.

It has been crafted under tremendous pressure by a band of committed and overworked staffers. The budget represents the collective will of our municipality to translate our vision and mission into reality.

It acknowledges the challenges we face with our constitutional obligations to meet the immediate prioritised needs of our people while laying firm foundations for the next five years.

This budget again delivers a strong economic, social and environmental agenda despite being formulated in a tight financial environment.

**SINDISILE MACLEAN**  
**EXECUTIVE MAYOR**