



Municipal Manager's Christmas Message



As servants of the people we work tirelessly to serve our people throughout the year and before you know it – its Christmas time. As 2017 draws to a close, I would like to extend my best wishes for the holiday season to all the valued staff members of the City of Mbombela. We celebrate this time of year in many different ways, depending on our cultures, traditions and beliefs but for most of us it is the time of year we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. It is my hope that for all of you, it is a time for relaxing with family and friends, reflecting on our many blessings, and finding ways to help those in our communities whose lives may be less blessed.

This year has been an exceptionally challenging year for the City of Mbombela as we were faced with various unresolved challenges following the amalgamation of the former Mbombela and Umjindi. My deployment to the City with the CFO in June was an intervention needed to address some of these challenges. The financial woes faced by the City of Mbombela did not help the situation and contributed to the challenges. I am however proud to announce that as a collective we have bridged most of the gaps with Management and Organised Labor. We need to acknowledge and appreciate the collective commitment from all stakeholders that participated in the process to plot a way forward that is acceptable and workable for Labor and Management.

Now that we are in agreement and the placement process is complete we can focus on finalising the long outstanding issues of salary disparities. The management team will make provision in the adjustment budget for salary disparities and take the budget and salary disparities item to Council for approval in February 2018. As soon as Council approves the item we will implement immediately. There are ongoing challenges that will require decisive leadership and commitment





from stakeholders to find solutions. I want to request stakeholders to continue their support in 2018 so that we can attend to outstanding and ongoing matters.

Service delivery remain at the core of what we do as an institution and over the past year we had to respond to challenges and service delivery gaps beyond our control. Much of the year has been focused on plans and planning. I would like to see that the City of Mbombela move to implementation and execution of the plans we have crafted. Our communities need to see visible service delivery so that they know as officials of the City of Mbombela we are delivering to their needs. Good teamwork helped us deliver services for our community in 2017 and I am extremely proud of and grateful for your hard work and commitment to service delivery. I encourage you to continue this good work in 2018.

The City of Mbombela is an aspiring Metro and as such we have to respond to the increasing needs of a growing City and community. This will result in additional demands for many services in 2018. We have limited resources to meet these needs but with our Financial turn around strategy and Financial Recovery Plan, I am sure we will see financial changes. The Financial turnaround will result in increased revenue and a budget that is aligned to revenue expectations. The Management team continue to work extremely hard every day to balance available resources with the vast needs of our communities to ensure the delivery of quality services to our people.

As I reflect on the successes and challenges of the past year, I find it very helpful to put in perspective the progress we have made. I am proud to be a team member with all of the hard working officials in the City of Mbombela. It gives me great confidence in our future success working with people that are passionate about service delivery and creating a better life for all. With your continued commitment to our core values of excellence, service delivery, collaboration, compassion and respect, we can start another challenging but successful year in 2018 where we strive to achieve our vision of being a City of Excellence.

Happy holidays and best wishes to you and your families for 2018.

Mr Neil Diamond, Municipal Manager, City of Mbombela

