MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MANZINI			
QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	Doc Ref No.	TC-ADMIN-FRM-033	
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WELCOME REMARKS BY MANZINI MAYOR, HONOURABLE COUNCILLOR NOZIPHO DLAMINI-GAMEDZE, DURING THE MUNICIPALITY'S 2023 STAKEHOLDER BUDGET CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 31ST AUGUST 2023, 9am

- **PROGRAMME DIRECTOR**
- **VALUED COUNCIL STAKEHOLDERS**
- **DEPUTY MAYOR**
- **HONOURABLE COUNCILLORS**
- **MEMBERS OF MANAGEMENT**
- **DISTINGUISHED GUESTS**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

- I AM HONOURED TO BE AFFORDED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WELCOME YOU TO THIS IMPORTANT MEETING WHEREIN COUNCIL STAKEHOLDERS FROM DIFFERENT SECTORS WILL BE MAKING AN INPUT INTO COUNCIL'S BUDGET FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR (2024/2025).

- I MUST STATE THAT AS NEW COUNCILLORS WE HAVE ALREADY UNDERGONE AN ORIENTATION AND HAVE LEARNT HOW SERIOUS THE MUNICIPALITY PRIORITISES ISSUES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE.

- AS COUNCILLORS WE ARE HAPPY TO SERVE IN A MUNICIPALITY THAT HOLDS ISSUES OF STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN HIGH ESTEEM.

- GOOD GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES CALL FOR PERIODIC ENGAGEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES.

- THIS MEETING IS, THEREFORE, A VERY IMPORTANT ONE FOR COUNCIL. WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR MAKING TIME OUT OF YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE TO BE PART OF IT.

- THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET IS AN IMPORTANT DOCUMENT WHICH PROVIDES A GUIDE FOR EXPENDITURE WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY. THE ACTING FINANCE DIRECTOR, IN HIS PRESENTATION, WILL HIGHLIGHT THE VARIOUS REVENUE STREAMS OF COUNCIL.

- SHE WILL ALSO HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THE CHALLENGES WE ARE FACING WITH REGARD TO RATES COLLECTION.

- WE HAVE LEARNT THAT THE MUNICIPALITY DOES MAKE AN EFFORT TO FIND INNOVATIVE WAYS OF FUNDING THE BUDGET (E.G. PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS) BUT IT REMAINS A FACT THAT THE BIGGEST CONTRIBUTOR TO THE MUNICIPAL REVENUE BASKET IS THE RATEPAYER.

- I, THEREFORE, IMPLORE ALL RATEPAYERS TO PLEASE MAKE AN EFFORT TO PAY THEIR RATES SO THAT THE MUNICIPALITY CAN BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SATISFACTORY MUNICIPAL SERVICES. MAY I REITERATE OUR COMMITMENT, AS YOUR COUNCILLORS, TO SERVING THE CITY WITH DILIGENCE AND A GREAT SENSE OF DEDICATION.

- ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL, I, THEREFORE, WOULD LIKE TO URGE YOU TO FEEL FREE TO EXPRESS YOURSELVES DURING THIS MEETING. YOUR SUBMISSIONS WILL BE NOTED AND TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION DURING DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2024/2025 BUDGET.

- VALUED STAKEHOLDERS. TODAY IS NOT THE DAY FOR LONG SPEECHES. MY TASK WAS ONLY TO WELCOME YOU TO THIS IMPORTANT MEETING. ONCE AGAIN, WE THANK YOU FOR HONOURING THE INVITATION. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO MINGLE WITH THE COUNCILLORS AND MEMBERS OF MANAGEMENT EVEN AFTER THE MEETING.

- WITH THESE BRIEF REMARKS, I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO THE MEETING.

I THANK YOU

END