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# ALFRED DUMA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

## OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER

Mayoral Office: Communications

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Please ask for: S Maphalala

My Ref: 14/2/2/3/1

Your Ref.

✉ 29 Ladysmith 3370  
☎ (036) 637 2231  
Fax. (036) 631 1400  
Email: [swmaphalala@alfredduma.gov.za](mailto:swmaphalala@alfredduma.gov.za)  
Website: [www.alfredduma.gov.za](http://www.alfredduma.gov.za)

**To: MANAGER: PMS**  
**Ref: MUNICIPAL MANAGERS FOREWORD**  
**Date: 26 JULY 2017**

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Developmental Local Government is Local Government committed to working with citizens and groups within the community.

Administratively the municipality is performing well and ultimately successful in all its required functional areas.

We have strengthened our relationship with the broader community to find long-term or sustainable ways to meet the social, economic and material needs and improve the quality of the lives of the community.

We have developed strategies and mechanisms to continuously engage with citizens, business and community groups. The Alfred Duma Local Municipality remains transparent and accountable to the:

- Voters
- Participants in the policy process
- Consumers and service-users
- Partners in resource mobilization.

In leading the Administration, I can summarise obvious challenges that we encountered as follows:

- Audit opinion which needs to be benchmarked with that of the former Emnambithi/Ladysmith Municipality
- Provision of services to the broader municipal scope with more rural areas/communities
- Limited compliance based on the integration of two municipalities which was inconsistent
- Lack of policies noting that we have to customise previous policies to match the newly established municipality
- Poor information management arising from records management systems of the previous municipal administrations and the combination thereof
- Capacity gaps arising from the historical placement and appointment of employees from the former municipalities
- Poor revenue collection noted from the increased number of households which are indigent as inherited from the former Indaka Municipality

Challenges identified above should be confronted with velocity of a bull. There is adequate capacity to solve these challenges internally through interaction and consultation with external associates.

We have experience and guided by legislative prescripts and government policies we will turn the corner and emerge as champions and change the situation soon.

Whilst we confronted by some of the above challenges, we have been able to remain unshaken in our approach towards service provision and community infrastructure development programme.

The municipality was able to award contracts to deserving and competent service providers to implement service delivery projects.

In conclusion, during the 2016/17 financial year, on behalf of Municipal Management, I wish to confirm that there is a Municipal Turnaround Strategy concluded upon which will guide and improve the municipal performance.

- The strategy provides direction and identifies focus areas
- It provides a framework for decision-making and action
- The strategy lays the foundation and long-term plan for the municipality
- The strategy inherited service delivery projects of the former municipalities which were incomplete
- The strategy also consists of new projects guided by the Municipal IDP
- The strategy initiates change and improvement while providing fundamental principles of performance
- It enables the municipality to organise its resources and allocate the budget according to municipal priorities
- Our strategy incorporates best practices in operational planning towards acceptable municipal performance.

Councillors and all municipal officials were involved in the development process of this turn-around strategy and thus Council adopted such a strategy.

Operationally, I can confirm that our strategy creates confidence, since the newly established municipality has a clear direction and the municipality is clear on what it wants to achieve, and Council has a solid plan and support systems in place to ensure that the strategy is implemented successfully, driven by all Political Office Bearers the Municipal Management and Officials

In striving towards improving our communities, Rural Development is possible and will remain the focus area.

Our approach towards Service Delivery is linked with Economic Emancipation.

Our approach towards Service Delivery remains Radical.

Our approach towards Service Delivery seeks to transform.

- As Council we believe in Youth Employment
- As Council we support Youth Emancipation
- As Council we believe in Economic Freedom towards Youth Empowerment.

Collectively we have a responsibility to unite our Communities we serve.

Guided by Government Acts and Municipal Legislation, We Will Deliver.

I thank you

**ALFRED DUMA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

**THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER**

**MR M.P KHATHIDE**