

6. Overview of the Budget Process

Political oversight of the budget process

Section 53 (1) of the MFMA stipulates that the mayor of a municipality must provide general political guidance over the budget process and the priorities that guide the preparation of the budget.

Section 21(1) of the MFMA states that the Mayor of a municipality must coordinate the processes for preparing the annual budget and for reviewing the municipality's integrated development plan and budget-related policies to ensure that the tabled budget and any revisions of the integrated development plan and budget-related policies are mutually consistent and credible.

Furthermore, this section also states that the Mayor must at least 10 months before the start of the budget year, table in municipal council, a time schedule outlining key deadlines for the preparation, tabling and approval of the annual budget.

This time schedule provides for political input from formal organizations such as portfolio Committees.

Schedule of Key Deadlines relating to budget and IDP process [MFMA s 21(1) (b)]

The IDP and Budget time schedule of the 2014/2015 budget cycle was approved by Council on during August 2013, 10 months before the start of the budget year in compliance with legislative directives.

The IDP and Budget Process Plan ensure that the role-players within the process are well prepared. All activities outlined within this document have been prepared in close inter-relation with the Framework that governs both the District and all local municipalities.

The following public budget and IDP meetings will be held throughout Zululand and all members of the public were urged to attend.

Date	Town/Sector
09 April 2014	Pongola
10 April 2014	Edumbe
11 April 2014	Vryheid
12 April 2014	Ulundi
13 April 2014	Nongoma

Process used to integrate the review of the IDP and preparation of the Budget

Updating the IDP and Budget is an evolving and re-iterative process over a 10 month period. The initial parallel process commenced with the consultative process of the IDP in 2013 and the update of the MTREF to determine the affordability and sustainability framework at the same time.

- **Stakeholders involved in consultations**

The draft and final budget will be provided to National Treasury and Provincial Treasury for their consideration in line with S23 of the MFMA.

- **Process and media used to provide information on the Budget to the community**

There are budget and IDP meetings to be held throughout Zululand and all members of the public were urged to attend.

- **Methods employed to make the Budget document available (including websites)**

In compliance with the Municipal Finance Management Act and the Municipal Systems Act with regards to the advertising of Budget Documents (including the Tariffs, Fees and Charges for 2014/2015), advertisements will be placed in newspapers. In compliance with S22 of the MFMA, the Budget documentation is published on the municipality's website.