



ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MOGALE CITY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, CLLR DANNY THUPANE AT THE BREAKFAST MEETING OF THE MAGALIESBURG BUSINESS AND TOURISM FORUM HELD ON THE 10th MAY 2023 AT KROMDRAAI LODGE, MAGALIES, MOGALE CITY

Thank you Programme Director,
Chairperson and members of the Magaliesburg Business &
Tourism Forum,
Distinguished guests,
Honourable councillors here present,
Leaders of society across various sectors,
People of Mogale City,

We are honoured to be invited to this important gathering this morning which has been organized to look at the economic prospects for Magaliesburg in particular and Mogale City in general. This gathering happens at a very opportune time for the municipality since we have started consultations on the Budget and IDP for the 2023/2024 Financial Year. We therefore humbly welcome the privilege to have a focused discussion with your good selves in Magaliesburg.

We want to begin by speaking about the obvious. Our country was badly bruised by Covid-19 in the years 2020 and 2021, leading to many losses of life, deterioration of health, people acquiring new diseases, businesses closing down despite the rescue packages that were distributed by government. The situation has been dire for all of us.

The year 2022 was supposed to be one in which, despite the presence of Covid, we had to force recovery in all aspects especially on the economic front. Our steps have been tentative, and we can all agree that Covid has been more devastating than we all thought. Even though just last week, the world alert on Covid was lifted, we will remain with the residual effects of Covid for some time.

The second issue we want to briefly focus on is load shedding. The resurgence of load shedding after a quiet time has been a major constraint that makes our country unable to make a full recovery from Covid.

It does not matter that some businesses were able to survive Covid, now most are unable to keep on trading because of the constant power disruptions that occur. As a result, many investors answer the situation not only with their purses but with their feet as well. Reports indicate that there is investment flight from our country, that benefits our neighbours.



Businesses have closed shop; people have lost jobs and families have lost livelihoods. That then is a recipe for disaster. It may lead to social unhappiness and unrest, crime and many social vices.

The picture we are painting is about the country and is also about Mogale City. We hear the outcry of the residents daily. They need jobs to maintain and sustain their families. The municipality then becomes duty-bound to create a conducive environment - through engagement - for recovery, rescue, and revitalisation of the local economy.

Let us steal from Patricia De Lille, the Minister of Tourism when she addressed the Africa Tourism Indaba yesterday and said,

“One of Africa’s best exports, Ben Okri, the Nigerian author and poet, is on point when he writes: “The most authentic thing about us, as Africans, is our capacity to create, to overcome, to endure, to transform, to love, and to be greater than our suffering.”

It is as true of Mogale City as it is true for the African continent.

We need to draw inspiration from what we are known for: our grit, not greed! Our giving, not taking. Our cooperation and competitiveness, not malicious contestation. We are each other’s builders and not destroyers. This applies in life generally as it applies in business.

As the municipality we want to intensify our collaboration with the Department of Tourism in order to assist our tourism establishments to access funding that will help them grow and sustain their businesses. This is so because we could not help ourselves but be excited when the Minister said,

“For South Africa, we have seen encouraging growth in our tourist arrival numbers between January and December 2022 where we reached nearly 5.8million with over 4 million of those arrivals being from African countries.

This represents an overall inbound increase of 152.6% for South Africa compared to January to December 2021.

The future looks bright. We have, as a collective, weathered the COVID-19 hurricane and it should only propel us to exceed our targets.”

This means that we have to reaffirm and reposition Mogale City, which is Gauteng’s biggest tourist destination, to take advantage of these numbers. We have an obligation to redirect traffic this way, for Mogale City to be a repository for the growing numbers of tourists that come to our country. Magaliesburg, therefore, has to be ready for that windfall.



The Municipality has heard the community of Magalies. Like many communities in our city, the needs here are varied and most of them urgent. The community has among other things asked the municipality to take care of sewer spillage in Dr Schoeman Street which has been done. The community has called for refurbishment and revitalization of Carmel Estate, repair of Municipal Flats, installation of a mobile library and many other issues which also include the need for serviced stands.

The Municipality is working with the Gauteng Provincial Government to bring the Afri-Village Mixed-Housing Development Project to Magalies, next to the area we all call Railway. This project will yield in excess of two thousand housing units. It will also have government amenities, businesses, and other services. We believe that the present impasse between government and those who oppose the development will be resolved soon so that we can be able to tackle the housing backlog in Magalies, eradicate informal settlements and reduce the possibility for illegal immigrants to hide in our beautiful and peaceful city.

Programme Director, working with ESKOM, we have electrified 308 households in all corners of Magalies and 244 households had pre-paid electricity devices installed. We have completed the closure and rehabilitation of the Magalies Landfill Site; invested fourteen million rands in the construction of Magalies Transfer Station and we will spend three hundred thousand rands on security installations on that facility.

We will be completing the twenty million rands Ga-Mogale Sports Complex in the coming financial year. We have proposed that in the coming financial year about six million rands should be spent to resource our libraries especially with e-resources.

Over the next two years, we will be spending about thirteen million rands on Roads and Stormwater projects in Magalies. A further eleven million will be spent on water and vacuum tankers. We have set aside about two million rands to rehabilitate Municipal Flats in this area. This expenditure will go concurrently with a four million investment to keep the Magalies Water Treatment facility in tip-top condition.

We are doing these things and more in order to ensure that this part of our city with its attractive tourism offerings remains appreciated by visitors. The only way to grow business is to invest in business, to make it appeal to its clients and this is what we will do for our city. We are confident that these efforts will encourage all businesses in Magalies to see that there are great prospects in Mogale City and will thus do more.

We are in this together.

We want to thank you for this opportunity.