



OPENING REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MOGALE CITY, CLLR DANNY THUPANE DURING PREMIER PANYAZA LESUFI'S VISIT TO MOGALE CITY, SILVERSTAR CASINO, MOGALE CITY ON THE 23rd AUGUST 2023

Chairperson,

Premier Panyaza Lesufi and Members of the Executive Council,

Chief Whip, Speaker, and Members of the Mayoral Committee of Mogale City,

Heads of Departments and your teams as well as Mogale City administration headed by the Municipal Manager,

On behalf of the Government of Local Unity in Mogale City I wish to express our humble appreciation of this visit by the Executive of the Gauteng Provincial Government today.

We are looking forward to a form of interaction that will help strengthen **intergovernmental relations**; to accelerate service delivery and ensure that the growth and development trajectory and momentum of our city does not falter or slow down.

Premier, more than hundred days ago, the Political Management Team in Mogale City was ushered in. We have taken strides to put together a fine machinery to ensure inclusive service delivery across the city. We have a fully-fledged Mayoral Committee drawn from the members of the Government of Local Unity.

In our State of the City Address we have outlined our ambitions to make serious dent on the **47% unemployment rate** in the city, and we are working with various partners in the private sector to do so.

We have also gone on our own drive for mass recruitment because the private sector should be shown the way. You have also come up with the inspired **Nasi iSpani Campaign** to push back on the unemployment numbers in the province.

We have inherited a **huge debt** especially on bulk services and the report that will be tabled later will show how we are dealing with it. We are determined to bring our costs down, tighten our belts without compromising the quality of service delivery. We are pleased that our collaboration with the provincial government on matters of finance is bearing fruit. We might not all be happy with everything that is being done, from reporting and so forth. But overall, we agree and will not compromise that there should be prudent use of peoples finances; from national to provincial grants as well as the rates and taxes we receive from residents. It is an area that will improve with time.

This belt tightening will require that we reach out for assistance on **infrastructure projects**, especially improving our road network and adding more water reservoirs to match the growth of our city.

Premier, later in the day we will take you to **Rietvallei Extension 5** which the municipality is lodging an application for it to be declared a local disaster. It is a waterlogged area from which we have relocated residents to various housing developments across the West Rand. We are working jointly with the City of Johannesburg and Harmony Gold Mine to do the minimum that we can manage. We would like to have your support in dealing with the situation and bring a lasting solution to it before other households are affected.

We have had initial contact with Gauteng West District Education to collaborate in repurposing the abandoned **Bosasa Juvenile Centre** near Lindela Repatriation Centre into a multi-certification, drug rehabilitation and youth skilling centre. The facility is fully equipped and has a functional clinic with some 600-beds that we can utilise to make a dent on social ills that confront the youth in our city. We will formalize our request to have the Gauteng Provincial Government collaborate with us in this venture.

We are very pleased with the work that *Amapanya-panya* are doing in our city and the province. We have participated in various **O Kae Molao** Campaigns with MEC Mazibuko and her team. As the municipality, we have started work to refurbish the **Munsieville Satellite Police Station** that was burnt down. We want to restore policing services to the area which is growing by the day. We have written formally to MEC Mazibuko to indicate our intentions and had informal discussions with her about it. We will knock on your door soon to provide feedback to you on the matter so that we can jointly take it forward.

Today we will also take you to Brickvale Mixed Development Project in Tarlton. Mogale City has a **housing backlog of almost 30 000** and, in the pipeline, we have housing projects that will yield 55 000 units across the city. We want to express our appreciation for approvals that have been given to some of these housing projects by the national and provincial government and we look forward to more. We know that reporting has been a challenge and we commit to improvement in that area.

Premier, we are looking forward to the work that the **Special Economic Zone** will be doing in our city. We are pleased that our city has been chosen to headquarter the West Rand SEZ. It will go a long way in us developing a case for Mogale City as an ideal investment destination for many enterprises. We want to take full advantage of the fact that both Tshwane and Johannesburg have become economically saturated, and the next big but untapped investment destination is our city. Your support in that regard will be more than useful.

Our growth will not be guaranteed if there is no reliable and consistent **supply of power in our city**. We are pleased with the initiative you have taken to power the province up and look forward to a time when there is no load shedding in the province. As the economic hub of the country, Gauteng cannot afford to lag behind. We are also consulting widely with those who can help us harness our natural resources like the sun and productive us of waste to help generate energy and other products. We will appreciate guidance on some of these matters from the provincial government.

Premier, I said that we are a team that is determined to take on the challenge of bringing development to our city. With these few words, the Government of Local Unity welcomes you to our city and we look forward to a very productive session.

I thank you.