



STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MOGALE CITY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, CLLR DANNY THUPANE AT THE SPECIAL COUNCIL CONVENED ON THE 7th JULY 2023 AT THE CENTENARY HALL, MOGALE CITY

Speaker of Council, Cllr Lucky Sele,
Single Whip of Council, Cllr Tsholofelo Ramaisa,
Members of the Mayoral Committee of Mogale City,
Executive Mayors of sister municipalities in the West Rand,
Municipal Manager Makhosana Msezana and your executive committee,
Honourable councillors,
Leaders of political parties and organs of civil society,
Distinguished guest,
People of Mogale City:

The Government of Local Unity stands before you today to share a message of hope.

Just last month, Stats SA reported that young people bear the brunt of the economic slowdown in the country. The first quarter report of Stats SA for this year showed a twenty-one thousand overall decline in jobs. The report also shows that the part-time employment figures ticked up, even though they were better last year. It seems like, since Covid-19, companies are reluctant to employ people on a long-term basis than it was the case before.

Mogale City has an unemployment rate of 47% when the national unemployment rate is at 32.9%. We are a city that employs more men than women, or, put differently, we are a city that has more unemployed women than men. In our local economy, statistics show that fifty-three percent of those unemployed people who have become totally discouraged from seeking employment because of the gloomy economic condition of our country are women.

The Food Poverty Level in Mogale City has increased from 16.1% in 2015 to 21.1% in 2019 which means that there are more poor families today than there were eight years ago. The equality indices also show that inequality in the city has increased, which means that income distribution has become more unequal over the years.

These statistics contrast heavily with the Mogale City that used to be consistently 2% below the national unemployment rate. A city that had projects in all its four corners – virtually a construction site that attracted and retained investment. A city that was tipped to be the anchor of a megacity that was contemplated from an amalgamation of Mogale City, Randfontein, Westonaria and Merafong. We were a city that punched above its weight, that had municipalities knocking at our doors to learn best practice in many areas – from management of finances to the actual delivery of basic services.

We had shopping malls being expanded and new ones popping up. We had residential developments in the townships and the suburbs, new schools and other public amenities competing with one another for completion. Anyone who was watching this city carefully could have sworn that people of Mogale City were dazzled by opportunities.



Anyone who is serious about the well-being of the residents of this city should want to bring back that glory. There is absolutely no time for bickering.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Speaker, the work we are doing as a municipality requires that we should always be with residents of the city. For example, as soon as we took office, we undertook thirteen clustered ward and sectoral meetings to gather community inputs to the proposed IDP and the Budget for this financial year. Except for Ward 15 where it was disrupted, all the meetings went well, and we are pleased with the overall attendance. We received a total of five-hundred and thirty-six written and oral inputs. Subsequently, we adopted a budget and IDP that takes these inputs on board. It is a people's budget in the true sense.

Our consultations with the people will not stop there. We will have regular sectoral meetings with the people of our city so that we can arrive at a point where we build one vision and own it together. The Government of Local Unity encourages councillors to knit themselves in the lives of the people of the city.

Members of the Mayoral Committee must ensure that they have regular sectoral meetings with their stakeholders.

We want to declare also, that this State of the City Address has been compiled with the assistance of inputs from residents of our city who are passionate about the socio-economic development of their fellow brothers and sisters. We want to thank them for their contribution. We agree with **Sechabeng Motho** who made a contribution in *Tips For The Mayor* saying:

“To build trust and relationships, the mayor should actively engage with the community. Regular town hall meetings can be organised, allowing residents from urban, townships, rural areas to voice their concerns and suggestions. It is crucial to ensure that these meetings are inclusive and that all residents feel heard and valued. The mayor can also establish advisory committees or community forums that represent diverse demographics, providing a platform for ongoing dialogue and feedback.”

INNOVATION & LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We are a government that is open to innovation. We have opened our doors to **Mr. V.A. BOTA of Bionic Aviation** in the Delporton Industrial Park who will be launching an electric vehicle assembly plant right at our doorstep. We are moving into the future with the cream of talent that Mogale City is endowed with – like we said earlier, we are not intimidated by big towns and cities. There should be no limitis to reaching the greatness of our city.

Speaker, we have a new housing construction innovation in Nooitgedacht. **Mr. Arthur Bezuidenhout of MaxxLiving** is building totally off-the-grid modular residential houses using wood. For anyone who doubts the durability of wood, it might assist to inform you that the **Ho Ryuji Temple in Japan** is the oldest wooden building and was built by Prince Shotoku 607 years Before Christ. It is still standing and is also a World Heritage Site.



We are making this point because we want to demonstrate that we have an open-door policy for ideas. We invite entrepreneurs and innovators of our city to come forward and share them so that together we can build a city we will all be proud of. In the same breath, we are looking forward to an engagement with **Cllr Tyrone Michael Gray** of the DA who also has a business proposal to share with the Government of Local Unity.

The Municipality has revised the Magaliesburg, Tarlton, Muldersdrift and Hekpoort Precinct Plans and these will soon come before Council through leadership of the **MMC for Local Economic Development, Cllr Nyakallo Segapela**.

Council has also approved the **Mogale City Land Use Management Scheme**. The department is currently undertaking some refinement of the Scheme and when completed, it will be published on the Municipal Website.

The Municipality has also reviewed and approved the **Spatial Development Framework**, and it is now in the process of implementation.

The municipality has facilitated training for twenty-five young participants in a three-months **Safety Food Assurance Programme** and thereafter they were placed in accommodation establishments around the city. Further, we facilitated **Food and Beverage Learnerships** for twenty-five young people.

The municipality has seen about **250 new businesses being registered** every quarter which demonstrates substantial appetite for entrepreneurship and independence among the residents of the city.

We are in Phase Two of the **renovation of the Chamdor Industrial Park** and the R9,6 million project employs twenty local SMMEs. The project will be completed by end of September this year.

Our **EPWP initiative** has created job opportunities for 1 406 participants.

Through our mechanisation programme, we have supported about thirty **emerging farmers**. We have also approved seventy informal businesses for **Informal and Micro Enterprise Development Programme (IMEDP) Disbursements**.

The recently renovated **Taxi Rank in the CBD** has created opportunities for eighty-seven informal businesses that are trading in the facility.

The Municipality is in the process of **commercializing the Krugersdorp Game Reserve** through a public private partnership arrangement.

The Municipality will review its **Local Economic Development Strategy** and the **Tourism Strategy** as well as the policies that drive economic development in the city to make them more relevant to the fast-changing times.

We are pleased that the **West Rand Special Economic Zone** offices will be located in Mogale City which will provide the municipality with ready access to the various offerings that it has in store. We will



collaborate with the SEZ to realize value in terms of establishment of new enterprises in the agricultural sector, property, and other services which the Western Corridor of Gauteng is endowed with.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

When we assumed office, one of the most pressing matters we have had to deal with was the submerged graves in the **Kagiso Cemetery**. It is a problem that traces its origins to the heavy rains of the year 2021 and we are not going to say that we are a new government therefore we will not be able to deal with it. The cemetery is a sacred place, it is the last home of our dearly beloved. It is a place where believers and non-believers are united in peaceful silence.

It therefore would not only be unAfrican to ignore it, but it would generally be inhuman, gross, and cruel. In her **Tip For The Mayor**, **Rebecca Elizabeth Khumalo** has advised that we should treat this as a matter of urgency. Ms Khumalo and the people of Mogale City will be pleased to know that **MMC for Integrated Environmental Management, Cllr Xolile Mkruquli** has been actively leading us in addressing this problem.

We have allocated an amount of one million rands to get the services of **an independent hydrological engineer** who will assist us with a long-term solution for the water problem in the cemetery. We want to drain out the water that is in four small ponds and one small dam behind the cemetery as well as move from source to the water within and around the actual graves with utmost care.

We insist that the cemetery be treated with the utmost respect that it deserves. We will therefore appeal to families in Kagiso to be patient with the process we have entered.

MMC Mkruquli and I have convened the Department for this coming Monday to thrash out this plan and, thereafter, he will lead several sectoral meetings with the community to outline in detail what the plan entails. One thing for sure, MMC Mkruquli and I agree that it should be about action – and less talk. The situation is very dire for us to be involved in idle talk.

Speaker, we have improved **waste collection** efficiency to a point that we have had no backlogs in the last few months. This is thanks to effective supervision and monitoring of services rendered by our internal waste collection and private waste collection operators. We have also introduced a new licensing system where waste transporters must be registered and accredited by the municipality. These teams help us with the sorting of waste and the reduction of the amount of waste that is deposited at our landfill sites.

We demonstrate our unflinching commitment to a clean and healthy environment by extending waste collection to informal settlements like Matshelapata where the service is now rendered every week. We have through sound management practises also been able to service new residential areas like Brickvale, the Royal Cradle in Mindalore, Cradle Ridge and so on.

We want to praise our teams at the forefront of a clean and beautiful city. Together we will ensure that we make the residents proud of their city. This word of encouragement goes to the Executive Manager, his entire staff including the ever-present EPWP forces that provide a valuable service to the municipality.



We want to welcome the Integrated Environmental Management **partnerships** we have developed with PETCO, EWASA, South-West Gauteng College, UNISA and the University of Johannesburg who are investing their valuable resources in building a Mogale City that is green, clean, and beautiful.

UNISA has assisted 166 waste pickers working at the Luipaardsvlei Landfill Site with PPEs. EWASA intends to conduct training for local SMMEs and will also be erecting e-Waste Containers in various locations in the city. EWASA and the municipality have signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding through which waste minimisation and recycling programs will be promoted for the benefit of informal recyclers and recycling SMMEs.

South-West Gauteng College has allocated nineteen interns to the municipality for a period of twelve months.

Speaker, at the beginning of our address we spoke about the need to create employment in order to enable residents to tackle daily life challenges. To this end, we are entering into partnerships with the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment and GDARDE to stimulate and create employment through greening and cleaning projects. These projects will be ward-based and shall be implemented at that level. We ask our ward councillors to be ready to extend these opportunities to deserving residents when we announce them. We are at the final stages of unveiling this job stimulation initiative.

Mogale City is participating in the National Environmental Affairs Cleaning and Greening **Mass Recruitment Public Employment Programme** with potential to clean and green Mogale City through 12 months employment of more than 1000 EPWP beneficiaries and unemployed citizens of the city.

Also, we are participating in the **Green Army Project** spearheaded by the Gauteng Provincial Government, and which will provide us with more than 120 EPWP beneficiaries and unemployed citizens to fast track the greening and cleaning efforts of our city.

We have experienced numerous challenges that have hampered the development of a new cell at **Luipaardsvlei Landfill Site** whose airspace has been depleted. We are working very hard to rebuild and fast track the cell development. As we announced in the budget speech recently, we will spend close to R110 million over three years to get the Site in perfect order.

We are also bringing in extra capacity at the **Magaliesburg Waste Sorting and Transfer Facility** through the services of competent partners to capacitate waste pickers to harness their full potential so that, in the future, they can manage the facility on their own.

Speaker, waste is a jewel. One that we have not been able to use to its maximum potential. The municipality will, therefore, ensure that Waste Management partners run projects and bring investments at the Luipaardsvlei Landfill Site and Magaliesburg Waste Sorting and Transfer Facility.

We have revamped the Hekpoort Park through tree planting, repainting of equipment and cleaning of the park. While we are still on the subject of tree planting, Speaker, the residents of the city will be pleased to hear that the municipality, off a contribution from the **Presidential Tree Planting Initiative**, planted 700 trees in the city of which 500 were fruit trees and 200 were indigenous trees.



The city will now have a **Municipal Environmental Management Plan** which will improve the quality of the environment and improve the health quality of residents.

We will also rollout the **Adopt-A-Park Policy** which is meant to encourage communities, including business, non-governmental organizations, schools, environmental groups and so forth to take direct ownership and safety of the environment around which they live. We would like to have a collaborative way of maintaining open spaces and parks so that we can keep our spaces beautiful and eliminate illegal dumping among other things.

We are proud to announce that two additional officials of Mogale City will be designated as Environmental Management Inspectors by the Gauteng MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment.

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The MaxxLiving development we spoke about earlier, or Country Gardens Estate, is a project cited by name in the contemplated Lanseria Smart City that President Cyril Ramaphosa and the Gauteng Provincial Government are working on.

It is by no means the only project that is being unleashed in the peri-urban or rural areas of Mogale City. First, we must emphasize that circumstances have demonstrated that development in Mogale City should be focused on three fronts – the west, north and south of the city. The eastern front of our city has presented many challenges already. We have experienced large-scale flooding stemming from underground water left behind by mining companies that for years profited from our mineral resources.

To this end, we will be continuing at a fast pace to give the people of our city their dignity through decent housing provision. By the end of this year, 600 houses shall have been built at the **Brickvale Mixed Housing Development** in Tarlton. It is now publicly known that this development will yield six-thousand four-ninety housing units of different typologies when completed. We have allocated 180 houses to qualifying beneficiaries to date.

The development is supported by the construction of a **five mega-litre water reservoir** which will also serve the entire Tarlton area. This reservoir shall, should things go well, be completed by the end of the year. We have secured additional funding of one hundred-and nineteen million from the Gauteng Provincial Government for this multi-year project and it will be released in their next financial year.

We have started on another development, the long awaited **Leratong Smart City** which will yield seventeen thousand houses of different typologies. Currently, we are constructing bulk infrastructure to support the development. The sewer bulk line has been completed and we are now finalizing completion of the bulk water pipeline. We have started with Phase One of the construction of a five mega-litre water reservoir and we have appointed a contractor to undertake planning studies to be able to construct Phase Two of a fifteen mega-litre reservoir and associated works.

The municipality is pleased to announce that the provincial **Munsieville Extension 9** project will be going full steam ahead as the delays occasioned by unavoidable redesigns of the project have now been



resolved. This project will provide 889 different housing units and we have already allocated qualifying beneficiaries to houses.

Whilst at it, we will be working with the provincial government to complete unfinished give-away houses and those with structural challenges. The beneficiary areas for this programme are Rietvallei Proper and Extensions 1 to 3; Kagiso Extension 12, and Munsieville Extensions 2 and 4. We will introduce service providers to the ward councillors of affected wards during this month and August. We will charge **MMC for Human Settlements, Rural Development and Real Estate, Cllr Merriam Mogoje** with the task of persuading the provincial government to include Munsieville Horse-shoe in this programme.

We are finalizing planning studies for the **Ga-Mogale Extension 1** project which will deliver a total of 600 housing units. We expect construction work for this project to commence in the coming financial year.

After long years of delay and negotiations with the province, **Ethembaletu Village** will see an additional 150 housing units being built. We are also finalizing planning studies for this project.

We have appointed a contractor to repair vandalized internal services and the sewer package plant at **Dr Motlana Housing Development** project. This project was disrupted by Covid-19. After finishing these repairs by November this year, we will commence with construction that will deliver 254 houses.

Covid-19 also affected the twin-project, the **Dr Sefularo Housing Development**. Again, we have appointed a contractor to repair vandalized internal services, the sewer package plant and to construct a bulk water storage facility. After the repairs are completed in November this year, we will commence with construction of 180 housing units.

This is a project where we still have to finish work on a neighbouring property, **Plot 321 in Hekpoort** so that later we can start Phase Two of Dr Sefularo Housing Development.

The projects I have just mentioned, Speaker, bring down **our housing backlog of 32 000 units** with about 25 558 units. This means that, we have to work really hard to get the other 6442 units so that we can almost be even. But reality is different. The more we provide, the population grows naturally or by in-migration into the city and that compounds our challenges further. It is the price we pay for prosperity. However, we are not afraid to make progress, Speaker.

We support acquisition of land parcels by the Housing Development Agency which has been extremely supportive of our efforts in this regard. The land parcels in question are in **Nooitgedacht** where a **Mega City Human Settlement Development** that will yield seventeen thousand housing units will be situated. The proposed development has been submitted to the National Department of Human Settlements for subsidy funding. The development planning studies up to township establishment have been concluded.

The municipality recognises that most developments in Muldersdrift are not taking off due to bulk infrastructure constraints in the area. The Nooitgedacht or Refentse Mega City Human Settlement Development will also be hampered by this reality. Therefore, the municipality has decided to acquire suitably located land for the construction of a **sewer treatment plant** which will also support Ethembaletu



Village, help unlock developments while assisting the municipality to incrementally eradicate informal settlements in this area.

We also want to pursue the next phase of **Chief Mogale Mixed Development** with similar passion. Therefore, we urge MMC Mogoje and the department to apply their energy in bringing to fruition this ideal for the final stage of this housing settlement which will have schools, shopping complexes and other amenities for the people of Chief Mogale. We know that you can do it.

Speaker, MMC Mogoje has played a central role in interventions directed at informal settlements in our jurisdiction. Together with the Gauteng Partnership Fund, we are paying special attention to **Plot 11 in Heuningklip** which is being piloted for Upgrade of Informal Settlements for full infrastructure services. The GPF has already appointed a service provider to undertake the work.

The municipality has **Title Deeds** for various townships which MMC Mogoje will hand over to eligible property owners from next month. Ward Councillors should remain ready for the rollout of the MMC's programme.

The municipality has jointly with the Gauteng Provincial Government embarked on a process to ensure that **old churches and municipal shops** get title deeds. This programme will also be communicated in due course.

In the not-too-distant future, the municipality will be responding to the requests of residents like **Tshenolo Motswe** who in her **Tips For The Mayor** asked that municipal land be made available for people to build for themselves. The municipality will be **selling stands for residential, church and business purposes**. The Municipality will place adverts for this sale in local and other media platforms. Also, we will call for development proposals from developers on investment properties.

The Municipality is supported by the Gauteng Provincial Government in a multi-year project to convert the **Kagiso Hostel** into family units. All planning studies for Old Madala Hostel are ninety-five percent to conclusion. Once completed, there will be an array of different housing opportunities with the expected yield being ten thousand units. The Hostel development will boast educational and health facilities, a taxi rank, trading and small business spaces, green spaces and play areas as well as a community hall.

The province is finalizing infrastructural integrity assessments with a view of addressing water, sewer, electricity, roads and stormwater requirements for the development. We anticipate that construction work will commence earnestly by November this year.

The municipality is also working with the provincial government to improve infrastructure at **Green Hostel, Boiketlo, Lanwen and Munsieville Hostels**. We will also undertake an Occupation Audit of the hostels to ensure that those residing there are authorized as such.

We have established a Task Team consisting of the municipality, the City of Johannesburg, Harmony Gold Mine, the West Rand District Municipality, Rand Water, Disaster Management Centre, Gauteng Department of Human Settlements, Gauteng CoGTA to address the **flooding of houses in Swanneville**.



While the people directly affected by the flooding have been relocated by the municipality, the parties are looking at less risky ways to drain out the water from the vicinity.

Also, together with Eskom, we are providing electricity to the following informal settlements: Matshelapata Phase 2, Tswelopele, Botshabelo, Portion 140, Mafreystata and Steenekoppies. Eskom is undertaking pre-engineering at Portion 26 in Kromdraai, Tarlton, Federline, Floraport and Portion 80 in Nooitgedacht.

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Speaker, the Municipality maintains a total of 1 214 km of road network in the city which is divided into 940 km of paved road and 114 km of gravel road.

The focus for maintenance has been on the pothole eradication in the areas of Kagiso, Lusaka, Azaadville, Munsieville and other areas. We have cleaned 2470 m storm water pipes, 1923 catchpits, 83 stormwater outlets and repaired various stormwater catchpits and manholes.

Most of the **Tips for The Mayor** were about potholes in the city. Indeed, these have become a problem for all of us and recent rainfalls, flooding and ageing roads exacerbate the matter. The Municipality has an ongoing pothole eradication programme and **MMC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Cllr John Koboekae** is enthusiastic and cannot wait to start this new financial year by going with his teams to the streets and deal with these potholes.

The Municipality is also focused on construction of **new roads and stormwater networks** in the townships while **eradicating gravel roads**. We have successfully constructed 25.48 km of roads and associated stormwater networks at a cost of R158.5 million. The projects are in Rietvallei Ext 1, 2 and 5 and Proper, the Western Rural areas as well as Muldersdrift.

Speaker, the revenue required by the municipality to run an efficient **electricity service** amounts to almost R2 billion. We realised only R1.2 billion in revenue from electricity. Both our operational costs cannot be covered while there is no provision for capital investment. Despite these challenges, we have been able to supply our 27 860 electricity customers.

The electricity infrastructure is old while new housing developments are springing up. **MMC for Utilities, Cllr Peter Modise** and his team have identified that there is a high risk of overloading of power lines during winter periods, requiring that a project to construct an additional power line between Factoria 33kV substation and Libertas substations (Noordheuwel area) is required immediately. There is also a need to establish a new Eskom in-feed on the Northern side of Krugersdorp in order to limit electricity demand growth at Condale substation. The department relies on conditional grants from national departments to finance its capital projects.

The challenges notwithstanding, Speaker, we urge MMC Modise and MMC Koboekae and their teams to look into the turnaround times for service provision after residents have sent infrastructure service requests. This should apply specially to street lights, potholes and water disruptions which have become sticky issues that confront the municipality currently.



As a way of reducing water tankering to informal settlements and curb water losses, the municipality is currently replacing the 3.8 km Bulk Water Pipeline in Kromdraai.

We have just completed the repairs to the **Magaliesburg Wastewater Treatment Works** where building works were damaged, and we installed new power supply as well as repaired non-functional mechanical plant equipment.

We have constructed 5,2 km water reticulation system and **directly connected standpipes** to 914 houses in Rietfontein Plot 80 and 81.

We are busy with **replacement of 14 km of old asbestos cement water pipes** in Noordheuwel.

Speaker, we do not want to belabour the point, but as stated just recently in our Budget Speech, quite substantial amounts are being spent on the refurbishment of both the **Percy Stewart Wastewater Treatment Works** and **Flip Human Wastewater Treatment Plant**. Both projects are at 95% of completion.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH

The city has a big challenge of homeless drug users in the CBD and other residential areas and limited space to place them. It is important that social partners collaborate very closely with the **Local Drug Action Committees** to deal with this scourge of substance abuse in the city. One of the interventions the department is considering is establishment of park homes for homeless persons.

Public Education on **HIV/AIDS, STI and Awareness programmes** through door-to-door education to the infected and affected was conducted with a total of **320 078** beneficiaries being reached. We also distributed approximately **400 000** materials in the past financial year. In addition, referrals to SASSA, Home Affairs, Department of Social Development, and other stakeholders totalling about **300** were done.

A total of **25 indigent burials** were processed and **75 gravesites** were donated in the last 6 months to help poor communities who could not afford to bury their loved ones.

Six **child-headed families** in Tarlton and Swanneville received 12 months support in terms of groceries (at R400 per person) and other items from Mogale City Local Municipality in partnership with SALGA and the Council for Debt Collectors. The Municipality is working on adding more families onto this programme.

A total of 6 awareness campaigns were held across communities of Mogale City, including informal settlements, and 4838 households applied for **indigent support** in the last financial year and from these, a total of 4274 households were subsequently approved.

Speaker, the municipality lacks an **electronic Indigent Management System** to process indigent applications and currently relies on a manual system that is prone to duplications which then results in audit queries. As a proposed solution we are looking at entering into a Shared Services Agreement with local municipalities within the West Rand to share the costs of procurement of a system that will alleviate the problem.



The **Kagiso Community Hall** was re-opened after repairs were done on it. The Municipality is busy with construction of the **Kagiso Elderly Centre** and completion thereof is envisaged to be in the current financial year. **MMC for Social Development and Health, Cllr Wonderful Segolodi** will then invite us for the opening of the facility.

MMC Segolodi will also engage stakeholders to obtain outstanding compliance documents to enable opening of **Ga-Mogale** and **Sinqobile ECD Centres**.

As a way of **generating funds** for the city, MMC Segolodi and the management of her department will engage sports clubs, government departments and agencies that occupy municipal buildings and consume services for free to enter into lease agreements for rental purposes.

SPORTS, HERITAGE, RECREATION, ARTS & CULTURE

We will embark on a drive to refurbish and maintain all the **libraries** of the city as well as give a fresh face to the current books and other information resources.

MMC for Sports, Recreation, Arts & Culture, Cllr Dorah Modiko will also persuade the provincial Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture to handover the Kagiso Extension 6 Library which is an integral part of the social development hub that has the Kagiso Police Station and the Kagiso Magistrates Court.

Bob van Reenen Stadium has been in the news for several years for the wrong reasons. The municipality has taken the facility back from those who had leased it and it has now been included in the recently approved Precinct Plan. It will be elevated as the Executive Mayor's Special Project and will be given focused attention for resource mobilization, revamp and refurbishment in partnership with local partners and other interest groups so that the facility can be used as was intended. My Office will work very closely with MMC Modiko and the department to realize this objective.

We are pleased that the **Krugersdorp Museum** will be receiving the attention it so requires. It is necessary for purposes of the heritage value of the building as well as the tourism spin-offs it offers.

This effort dovetails nicely with our intention to aggressively elevate **Heritage in the city** to cover the Cradle of Humankind, historical events that encompass the BaPo and Chief Mogale, the Anglo-Boer War, the oldest township in the city, Munsieville, as well as other historical moments and sites in the development of our city. It is a history which we should leverage to place the city top of mind of local and international tourists.

GOVERNANCE, CORPORATE SUPPORT SERVICE & FINANCE

Speaker, two weeks ago, **MMC for Corporate Support Services, Cllr Kholeka Mandyu, MMC for Finance, Cllr Doreen David** and I tabled the IDP and Budget for the year 2023 and 2024. As we stated earlier, it is a budget that is truly a people's budget. We believe that the budget speech that the Government of Local Unity delivered, sufficiently covered our priorities.



Today we want to emphasize the following commitments we made with the **Auditor-General** in respect of how we will manage our financial affairs:

Firstly, we have committed that in order to **reduce irregular expenditure**, going forward, the capital and operational spending as well as any potential irregular expenditure will be highlighted at all departments to ensure that irregular expenditure is sufficiently dealt with and consequence management processes are improved and effected.

We have also committed to reduction of irregular expenditure opening balances by provision of **leadership support to MPAC processes** to deal with and write off historical irregular expenditure balances.

We want to improve the financial health of the municipality. Therefore, we committed to the AG that we will rigorously **implement our Revenue Enhancement Strategy** and ensure that revenue owed to the municipality is collected.

We want to improve audit opinions by **enhancing the preparation processes for financial statements** of the municipality.

Also, the municipality has facilitated attendance of the **Ethics and Anti-Corruption Workshop by councillors**. It was organised by the Provincial CoGTA in partnership with law enforcement agencies. We have also placed the Code of Conduct posters in strategic places in the municipalities to be seen and studied by employees, stakeholders and the public. We urge all employees, stakeholders and the general public to utilize the hotline numbers on these posters to report allegations of misconduct or complaints against municipal employees anonymously without fear of reprisal.

Speaker, the municipality has adopted the **Anti-Corruption and Fraud policy** which seeks to curb instances of corruption, fraud and theft which may impede service delivery if left unattended.

MMC Mandyu, who we will follow loyally as she leads us in these matters, always emphasizes **promotion and maintenance of a high standard of professional ethics** to the extent necessary for the Municipality to achieve its goals and objectives of improving the quality of lives of the local community.

We have also reviewed the **Gift Policy** and the **Disclosure of Interests and Benefits Policy**, which now require processing within Municipal structures and platforms.

The municipality is committed to embedding **Enterprise Risk Management** within the day-to-day operations. It is anticipated that the deployment of sound risk management will enable the municipality to anticipate and respond timeously to changes in the service delivery environment. It will also enable us to make informed decisions under conditions of uncertainty.

It is noted that the **ICT Infrastructure** of the municipality is old and outdated and needs to be refreshed. This makes it vulnerable to cyber-attacks and infiltration.

The municipality will also be implementing a **Financial Management System** that is mSCOA compliant.



Coupled with this project, we will rollout **Municipal Staff Regulations** to ensure that all job profiles within the organisation are compliant with the regulations. It will also ensure that skilled and qualified employees are appointed into positions.

We want to see the urgent return of **Dikgang Tsa Mogale** so that we have a weekly medium of communication with the residents of Mogale City. As a start, we charge MMC Mandyu to see to the advent of an electronic version of the municipal newspaper flooding the Mogale cyber space with news about the institution from the last week of July.

COMMUNITY SAFETY & LICENSING

As per usual, our Licensing Department has been extremely busy.

The following services were offered in the past year:

- 4 167 applicants tested for learner licenses
- 12 195 applicants tested for driving licenses
- 30 526 driving licenses were renewed
- 41 012 driving license cards were ordered
- 20 649 vehicles were registered
- 67 949 license discs renewed

MMC for Community Safety, Cllr Francis Makgatho will lead a drive to raise the bar in terms of how we render services in the department. We will be extending licensing services through the establishment of the Magaliesburg Satellite Licensing office. Also, we will be modernising our licensing services through introduction of drive-thru facilities for the renewal of licenses to address the long queues at licensing centres. Further, we will introduce a courier service for the delivery of license cards.

The municipality has appointed a service provider to assist in supplying a **traffic contravention system, speed cameras and roadblock buses** to effectively provide law enforcement in the city to ensure the safety of communities.

We are extremely grateful to the work that has been done by the Gauteng Provincial Government's **O Kae Molao Operations** which have led to numerous arrests of people committing various crimes.

CONCLUSION

We want to conclude by thanking the following contributors to this address:

Khulekile Dube; Sibusiso Makgetha, Jeremiah Gadi,
Obakeng Madolo, Lekale Mashego, Olebogeng Mojaki,
Maria Lebogang Khosa, Asanda Longweni, Siyabulela Msebe,
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Luyanda Mxokozeli, Shimi Sedumedi, Tsholofelo Ntwagae,
Mlungisi Mabe and Mpho Marumo as well as MaMoruti Hobbs.

Together with all other residents and stakeholders who have taken their time to listen to this address, we will return the city to become a distinguished place of residence and a preferred place to invest, work and play.

Speaker, I saved the best for last and wish to acknowledge the presence of the former Executive Mayor of Mogale City and my political mentor, **Advocate Lentswe Mokgatle**. And I also want to thank the other legal eagle who has inspired most of the work we are doing here and who we are committed to surpass with excellent performance, the other former Executive Mayor of Mogale City, **Koketso Calvin Seerane**. We are really honoured to have you grace this august occasion.

On behalf of the Government of Local Unity, we wish to thank you all, once again for giving us an ear.

DANKO!