



The Office of the Executive Mayor

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**STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BY EXECUTIVE MAYOR, LUCKY SELE- 19  
JUNE 2025**

Honourable Speaker of Council,  
Deputy Mayor,  
Chief Whip of Council,  
Members of the Mayoral Committee,  
Executive Mayors & Deputies of our sister municipalities,  
Former Executive Mayors  
Honourable Councillors,  
Leaders of Political Parties,  
ANC Chairperson & Secretary  
The Economic Freedom Fighters,  
IFP, ATM coalition partners  
Municipal Manager,  
Officials of the municipality,  
Representatives of Business, Civil Society, Labour and Faith-Based Organisations,  
Distinguished guests,  
Members of the media here present,  
And most importantly, the residents of Mogale City—

We gather here this morning not just to account, but to acknowledge the journey of a city that refused to surrender to the weight of its own challenges. Today, we tell a different story—not of despair, but of defiance against decay; not of failure, but of a people and a municipality that have begun to shift the tide.



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What once seemed inevitable—financial instability, service delivery backlogs, crumbling infrastructure and lost hope—has begun to give way to a new horizon. A horizon shaped by action, accountability, and a renewed contract between the city and its people. We are steering Mogale City toward restoration, regeneration, and resilience.

This year's State of the City Address takes place in June, a month recognised in our national consciousness as Youth Month—a time that reminds us that bold change has always been ignited by young people. In 1976, streams of young people in townships like Kagiso, once the foot soldiers of defiance against apartheid's brutality, are today the living embodiment of resilience and the architects of our city's renewal. It was in the dusty streets of Kagiso where many young lives were lost- and many more forever changed in the name of justice. Among those who rose from the belly of this township is African National Congress 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Secretary General, Comrade Nomvula Mokonyane, a fearless daughter of Mogale City who stood unshaken in the face of a brutal regime, galvanising young people at a time when silence meant survival. Today she continues to walk beside a new generation, holding the hands of young dreamers, shielding the gains of our democracy, and reminding us all that leadership is not only about position- but about purpose.

In honour of the past and present youth, we are privileged to be joined by the President of the African National Congress Youth League, Collen Malatji who reminds us—as he so boldly puts it— “the youth are not the future, they are the current.” And that current is surging through every ward, every informal settlement, every school, and every street corner of Mogale City



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This address takes place against the backdrop of a rapidly evolving socio-economic landscape, locally and globally. It is a time where we are called upon to be agile, responsive, and developmental in the face of fiscal constraints, service delivery pressures, and a growing demand for ethical, people-centred governance. We remain guided by the founding principles of the Freedom Charter, which this year marks its 70th anniversary, and by the enduring belief that “the people shall govern.”

Honourable Speaker, the State of the City is not merely a report card—it is a clarion call for action, for responsiveness, and for developmental governance that leaves no ward, no informal settlement, and no citizen behind. Let us proceed, together, in service of the people.

### **Infrastructure Development Service**

Madam Speaker, there was a time- not too long ago- when attempts were made to reduce Mogale City to a cautionary tale. Our challenges with wastewater treatment were sensationalised and misrepresented, not to assist in problem solving, but to serve a bigger political agenda. We saw opportunistic voices attempt to make our city an example of dysfunction- but that tide has turned.

When we assumed office, the state of water and sanitation infrastructure in Mogale City presented a daunting reality. Years of underinvestment, vandalism, theft of critical components, and aging infrastructure had left our systems vulnerable and many of our communities disillusioned. Sewer overflows in informal settlements, unreliable water supply in peri-urban areas, and non-functional wastewater treatment facilities were not just technical challenges—they were a threat to human dignity, public health, and environmental sustainability.



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Yet, from these challenges, we chose not to despair but determination. We resolved to restore dignity and reinstate infrastructure with a clear plan, committed leadership, and collaborative partnerships.

The Water and Sanitation Division has since demonstrated exceptional performance in restoring water quality standards. Through consistent monitoring aligned with SANS 241 national standards, the city has achieved 100% compliance across all water distribution points—this includes reservoirs, water tankers, and hydrants. This reflects not only the technical diligence of our teams but also our robust partnership with Rand Water and Johannesburg Water, ensuring that our residents receive safe, high-quality water.

We took bold steps to respond to long-standing backlogs. We have refurbished 17 sewer pump stations to date, with the remainder scheduled for completion in the 2025/26 financial year. These upgrades are crucial in reducing environmental pollution, improving public health outcomes, and ensuring compliance with national legislation. In areas such as Noordheuwel, the replacement of aging asbestos cement pipes with UPVC has improved water safety and reduced service interruptions.

In preparation for population growth and greater demand, we have committed substantial capital investment to further strengthen our infrastructure backbone. This includes the construction of the Muldersdrift 15ML Reservoir, the replacement of water meters to curb non-revenue water, and major upgrades to wastewater treatment facilities.

A particular highlight is the rehabilitation of the Percy Stewart and Flip Human Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTWs). Previously non-operational due to cable



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theft and infrastructure decay, Percy Stewart is now 60% complete, and Flip Human at 29%, with full operation anticipated by the end of the 2025/26 financial year.

Interventions include restoring electrical systems, improving sludge handling, and unblocking pipelines—measures that are key to halting raw sewage discharge, protecting the environment, and ensuring biological efficiency in line with Water Use Licenses.

In Magaliesburg, the local WWTW is structurally complete and will be commissioned once adequate flow is achieved from nearby pump stations.

Councillors, our efforts are not undertaken in isolation. Recognising that long-term sustainability requires broader support, we took the proactive step of engaging Infrastructure South Africa (ISA). We are pleased to report that ISA has committed to collaborating with Mogale City on the proposed water and sanitation infrastructure plans submitted for consideration. This collaboration marks a sight of strength and foresight, aimed at laying a durable foundation for infrastructure that will serve generations to come.

These collective efforts speak to more than just engineering milestones—they represent a shift in governance. From crisis management to systems building. From deferred maintenance to visionary investment. And from short-term patchwork to long-term resilience and sustainability.

Indeed, the water and sanitation trajectory of Mogale City is no longer one of stagnation, but of renewal, accountability, and delivery.

Councillors, the state of our municipal roads and transport infrastructure told a grim story — one of persistent delays and deteriorating mobility. Across townships,





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informal settlements and the central business district(CBD), residents were left to navigate pothole-ridden roads, flooded intersections, and dust-swept gravel stretches — all of which bore testament to years of deferred maintenance and procurement failures. In some areas, particularly in informal settlements, what was meant to be a road was a rugged track, exposing residents to daily hardship and isolating communities from opportunity.

But, Honourable Speaker, our city is not destined for decline. We have made the decision — boldly and deliberately — to shift the tide.

The Roads & Transport Division has begun to turn things around. In the 2024/25 financial year, over R3.6 million was allocated towards gravel material and plant hire, with actual maintenance work commencing in February 2025. This has allowed the municipality to reclaim 95 kilometres of gravel roads through maintenance, with 3.5 kilometres already repaired — bringing much-needed relief to rural communities.

Surfaced road upgrades are also taking shape. While procurement delays did impede early delivery, we have still achieved notable progress. Over 13,000 potholes have been repaired, and key stormwater systems have been cleared — mitigating flooding and improving road safety in affected wards.

Our broader vision is backed by a R38 million capital expenditure allocation, targeting strategic resurfacing works in Kagiso, Munsieville, Azaadville, Rietvallei and the Krugersdorp CBD. These are not just patches; they are commitments to long-term urban renewal and dignity in mobility.



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Planning is currently underway to revise our Roads Masterplan. The aim is to align transport infrastructure with future spatial development needs, ensuring that our roads don't merely respond to today's pressure — but anticipate tomorrow's growth.

Speaker, electricity is more than a basic service — it is the backbone of human dignity, economic development, and the urban city centre we envision. When lights go out, so too does the potential for children to study, businesses to thrive, and communities to feel safe.

When we came into office, we were confronted with a deteriorating energy infrastructure, increasing community frustration over outages, and glaring inequalities in energy access. But we did not retreat. We understood that ensuring stable and equitable electricity supply was non-negotiable in our pursuit to restore the dignity and function of the city.

We are proud to report that the Energy Services Division has delivered measurable and meaningful progress in this regard. In the past financial year, we electrified over 1,000 households, bringing power and hope to previously marginalised areas. We've installed smart electricity meters, which enable efficient billing, prevent illegal connections, and empower residents to manage their usage more effectively. We have also undertaken critical upgrades to aging substations, reinforcing the backbone of our municipal energy grid to reduce unplanned outages and improve service reliability.

To enhance community safety and visibility, especially in high-risk areas, the municipality has rolled out high-mast lighting installations and accelerated the repair of dysfunctional streetlights across various wards. This has not only improved



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mobility and security but also reignited a sense of public order and shared urban space.

Our interventions are not simply reactive — they are visionary. We are currently developing an Energy Services Master Plan, which will serve as the blueprint for long-term energy infrastructure investment and equitable access to electricity across the city. This master plan is a critical milestone in aligning our city with national energy priorities, advancing energy justice, and ensuring financial sustainability of the division.

### **Human Settlement and Real Estate**

Councillors, there was a time when developments in Mogale City seemed like far-off dreams — where housing projects remained blueprints, where vacant land grew weeds instead of opportunity, and where communities felt forgotten. But that changed!

Two weeks ago, something powerful happened, a collective promise to the people of Kagiso, and beyond began to take physical shape. In partnership with the provincial government and private investors, we turned the sod for Phase 1 of the Leratong Nodal Development — a catalytic mixed-use project that will change the face of our municipality. This is not just about bricks and mortar; it's about dignity, jobs, and new possibilities- an urban city centre in the making.

The first phase includes a regional shopping mall, which will revitalise the local economy and create employment opportunities. 5,000 new houses — including RDP units for the most vulnerable — are planned in this initial phase, supported by an already completed 25-megalitre reservoir, built at a cost of R34 million, ensuring





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water security for the development. In its entirety, the project will deliver 15,000 homes, a regional transport hub, and a government precinct — reimagining how communities live, work, and access services.

Our housing interventions stretch beyond Leratong.

Madam Speaker, the story of delayed housing projects is not a new one- it is a long-standing promise, rooted in dreams and daily struggles of our people. It is for this reason that our current projects are not merely new developments; they are the realisation of old and deeply desired aspirations.

The In the Dr. Sefularo Housing Development, R20 million was invested into water and sewer systems, including a sewer package plant and an elevated water tower. On top of this, R15 million went towards building 70 of the planned 190 houses. Construction is visibly progressing — all 70 houses are at wall plate level, with roofs now going up. The remaining 120 houses will be completed in the new financial year, fully serviced with electricity, plumbing, and internal finishes.

Similarly, in Dr. Motlana, we allocated R15 million for infrastructure and R19 million for the first 70 of 253 houses. Despite encouraging progress — with 41 houses at wall plate level — the project suffered delays due to external interference driven by narrow business interests. This interference cost us not just time, but valuable public resources. However, we are moving forward. Stronger community engagement and tighter stakeholder management will ensure smoother rollouts in future phases.

Let me bring your attention to Brickvale — one of our most ambitious housing projects. This development will eventually deliver 6,000 RDP houses and 480 Military Veterans' units. Already, 796 homes have been completed and handed over.



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Bulk water, sewer, and stormwater systems are nearing completion — at 98% and 66%, respectively — with the Tarlton 12ML reservoir almost ready and repairs to a vandalised pump station progressing.

Speaker, what's consistent across these developments is our commitment to getting the basics right first — water, sanitation, roads, and electricity — before we build the homes. This approach ensures longevity and dignity for beneficiaries and supports our broader urban expansion strategy.

We've also made strides in property optimisation and land management. The first phase of the Property Auction Initiative successfully auctioned 134 properties, with transfers underway. Phase 2 will focus on churches, while Phase 3 invites investment proposals — ensuring unused municipal assets generate income, economic activity, and community upliftment.

In our informal settlements, the dignity of our residents remains a top priority. With support from the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements, we piloted alternative sanitation and energy solutions in Soul City, Nooitgedacht, and Heuningklip. Over 2,310 Enviro-loo facilities and solar-powered microgrids are being installed — with many already completed. In the coming year, we will begin the formalisation of at least three informal settlements, bringing them into the fold of structured municipal development.

A firm Anti-Land Invasion Strategy is currently in development. Let me be clear — illegal occupation of land will not be tolerated. We are updating the Informal Settlements By-Law, Housing Sector Plan, and Land Disposal Policy to close gaps, safeguard progress, and ensure our land serves the people — not opportunistic organisations.



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Madam Speaker, we have learned. We have grown. And we are implementing with more urgency, discipline, and care. The story of Mogale's human settlements is no longer about stalling and scarcity — it is now a story of building, of reclaiming space, of restoring dignity, and of forging a city where everyone belongs.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

With improvements of the physical side of city leads to greater investment. Councillors, as the urban city centre of the West Rand and the strategic gateway between Gauteng and the North West provinces, Mogale City continues to position itself as a hub of inclusive economic growth, township industrialisation, and catalytic spatial transformation.

The 2024 Municipal Socio-Economic Review and Outlook (MERO) underscores key sectoral strengths, identifying community services (22.9%), manufacturing (22.6%), and finance (20.9%) as the top contributors to the City's GDP. In response, the Department of Economic Development Services has adopted a developmental approach anchored in sustainable job creation, enterprise support, and rural-urban economic integration.

Through deliberate public investment and strategic intergovernmental collaboration, the municipality is driving implementation of the Investment Promotion and Incentives Policy, which provides targeted incentives to catalyse residential, commercial, industrial, and green economy growth. Key sectors for stimulation include manufacturing, agro-processing, and renewable energy.



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As part of our commitment to spatial and sectoral transformation, the city continues to leverage Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) as a strategic mechanism to unlock investment, transfer technical expertise, and accelerate project delivery. Through this model, significant progress has been made in advancing the revitalisation of catalytic infrastructure projects, including the resurgence of Bob van Reenen Sports Precinct, Coronation Park and the proposed Electric Vehicle Manufacturing Plant.

Furthermore, the Krugersdorp Game Reserve has received formal approval from the National Treasury for commercialisation, and preparations are underway to re-open the facility under a sustainable, tourism-focused operating model. In a bold step to unlock the aviation and logistics potential of our city, the municipal owned Jack Taylor Airfield is being considered for repurposing into a fully-fledged municipal airport, with feasibility assessments and intergovernmental engagements already in progress to support this strategic transformation. These projects are not only about infrastructure—they represent a broader vision of inclusive urban regeneration, job creation, and long-term economic resilience.

Despite socio-economic constraints, we continue to leverage our localisation advantage and sectoral strengths to promote resilience, transformation, and sustainability. These catalytic projects form part of a broader agenda to align with regional and provincial growth frameworks, bridging immediate challenges with long-term, inclusive development.

To advance local procurement and deepen the township economy, the Enterprise and Rural Development Division invested over R62 million through local SMMEs in the current financial year, benefiting 128 small enterprises. This reflects our unwavering commitment to localisation and inclusive economic empowerment.



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The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) created 1,101 short-term employment opportunities, particularly benefitting youth and women, and providing critical poverty alleviation and skills development pathways. Agriculture remains an anchor of our local economy. We have operationalised three Agri-Parks:

- Tarlton Agri-Park (12 farming tenants)
- Magaliesburg/Carmel Estate (6 farming tenants)
- Swanneville Agri-Park (8 farming tenants)

These centres promote agro-processing, subsistence farming, and township food security. In support, the Mechanisation Support Programme was launched to provide affordable farming equipment to emerging farmers, alongside a land verification process to formalise lease agreements for municipal agricultural land.

Township industrialisation remains central to our economic strategy. The Chamdor Automotive Hub, developed with the AIDC and GGDA, currently supports:

- 10 SMMEs
- 20 sustained jobs
- Over R350,000 in automotive-related sales

The Munsieville Lepharo Construction & Manufacturing Inputs Hub, supported by the NEF and GDED, secured R2.7 million in machinery for two SMMEs, sustaining 18 jobs.

Construction of the Swanneville Industrial Park is underway with a municipal allocation of R12 million this financial year, creating 45 job opportunities in Phase 1.





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A further R12 million is committed for 2025/26. This hub will host automotive-related services, including panel beaters, motor dealers, and licensing centres, contributing to a growing automotive precinct.

Our strategic partnership with the mining sector remains strong. In alignment with Integrated Development Plans and Social and Labour Plans, mining houses are committing over R2.5 billion in investments over the medium term. These include job creation, skills training, bursary programmes, enterprise development, and infrastructure support. Notably, Mogale Tailing Retreatment Mine went above and beyond by sponsoring full tertiary bursaries for two outstanding matriculants at the West Rand District Awards from Mosupatsela Secondary School- Relebohile Makhakhe and Tebatso Dibakoane ; who were subsequently recognised as the top achievers in Gauteng. The cherry on top on the awarding of the bursary's, is Mogale City being the top performing municipality of matric results for 2024.

Such partnerships exemplify our shared vision of working hand-in-glove with industry, civil society and government, we deliver tangible benefits that uplift families, strengthen local economies, and secure a brighter future for all residents.

Madam Speaker, in collaboration with SALGA and the Gauteng Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, we proudly hosted the Gauteng City Region Urban Festival under the theme "Youth Climate Changemakers: Catalysing Local Action for Urban Sustainability." This successful engagement brought together local governments, civil society, business, and youth stakeholders to discuss strategies for climate action and sustainable cities.

We are now accelerating the implementation of our Spatial Development Framework (SDF). Key developments include:



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- Integration of the Lanseria Master Plan, Gautrain, and Priority Human Settlements
- Hosting of the Lanseria Smart City Summit in April 2025
- Finalisation of the Lanseria Precinct Plan with funding from the Department of Land

In alignment with the Gauteng Industrial Strategy, we have entered into a land reservation agreement to develop the West Rand Special Economic Zone (SEZ), aimed at diversifying our post-mining economy and promoting local beneficiation.

The Central Business Regeneration Programme continues to revitalise the city centre and Magaliesburg CBD, with Phase One of the Municipal Office Development reaching 70% completion. Phase Two will commercialise the precinct into a consolidated government hub.

To unlock economic potential in rural nodes, we have finalised precinct plans for Hekpoort, Tarlton, Magaliesburg, and Muldersdrift, focusing on commercial, industrial, and agricultural development. The Zeekoeihoek Precinct Plan is undergoing public consultation. A sum of R6 million has been allocated to support development in Zeekoeihoek and Maanharand.

During the 2024/25 period, the municipality approved 370 land development applications in terms of SPLUMA, yielding 231,000m<sup>2</sup> of business space and 20,500m<sup>2</sup> of housing floor area. To improve efficiency, we will implement an E-Lodgement System for digital application submission and review.

We also approved 342 building plans worth R415 million, while 212 building projects amounting to R392 million were completed. In enforcing compliance, 470 illegal building activities were addressed, with over R1.7 million collected in penalties.



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We audited 6,000 land parcels this year, served 200 notices for illegal land use, and referred non-compliant cases for legal enforcement. Additionally, we are finalising new property management by-laws to address urban decay, slum development, and building hijackings across the municipality. We must bluntly remind the public that we will enforce our by-laws, with no fear or favour.

Councillors, the Tourism Development Division and our partners have made significant strides in repositioning Mogale City as the “City of Human Origin.” Key highlights include participation in the Africa Travel Indaba and Meetings Africa, in partnership with the Gauteng Tourism Authority and Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site. The reopening of the Sterkfontien Caves marks a significant milestone for the city, as one of the most iconic World Heritage Sites, it is not only a cornerstone of our tourism economy but also a globally recognised centre for palaeontological research and education. These reopening breathes new life into local tourism and stimulates economic activity for surrounding communities. As the City of Human Origin, Mogale City is proud to welcome the world back to Sterkfontein.

Councillors, it must be made known that Maropeng will celebrate 20 years of heritage and discovery this December, marking two decades as the Cradle of Humankind’s iconic gateway. As the site prepares to host the G20 Science and Innovation Working Group, Mogale City is poised to seize this global platform to showcase our developmental potential, promote local innovation, and strengthen international partnerships.

Madam Speaker, it is important to acknowledge that youth development has regrettably been at a standstill since 2021, primarily due to the absence of a central



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coordinating mechanism within the institution. While various departments have continued to implement youth-related programmes in isolation, the lack of a dedicated and integrated youth development strategy has hindered the full realisation of youth empowerment outcomes in a deliberate and measurable manner.

Thus, we are determined to correct that during youth month. As part of our renewed focus on youth empowerment, we are pleased to announce that the appointment of a dedicated Youth Development Coordinator is set for June. This strategic appointment represents a turning point in our efforts to institutionalise youth development and ensure that the voices, aspirations and talents of young people are placed at the heart of municipal planning, implementation, and accountability.

The role of the Youth Development Coordinator will be to drive a youth mainstreaming agenda across all departments—ensuring that every policy, programme, and budget speaks directly to the lived realities of our young people. This means no longer treating youth as a separate category, but rather as a cross-cutting development imperative that must inform service delivery, economic planning, infrastructure rollout, and social development. In the absence of a coordinator, we took it upon ourselves to establish Junior Student Council (JSC) in 2023 as part of a broader initiative aligned with the UN's Agenda 2030 and Sweden's Policy for Global Development. The programme emphasises participatory governance and youth engagement in local decision-making processes. Earlier this year, the JSC participated in an Inter-Municipality Debate Competition focusing on themes of transparency, integrity, and anti-corruption. Competing against two other Gauteng municipalities, Mogale City demonstrated strong performance, securing first



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runner-up and earning recognition for two members in the top 10 speaker rankings. The debates provided a platform for students to hone their public speaking and critical thinking skills while addressing pressing governance challenges. The Office of the Executive Mayor remains committed to supporting the JSC, recognising its role in advancing youth development and democratic engagement within Mogale City.

Madam Speaker, we have secured R13.8 million through the CETA Special Discretionary Grant for youth-focused skills development learnerships, which will benefit 251 young people. These programmes—ranging from construction to entrepreneurship—are set to commence in the 2025/26 financial year.

### **Community Development Services**

Madam Speaker, with increased investment and infrastructure development across our city, ensuring the safety and security of our communities becomes a top developmental priority. A city that is safe is a city that can grow, attract investors, and provide residents with a dignified quality of life. In this regard, the Public Safety Division has demonstrated unwavering commitment to maintaining law and order across the municipal space.

Our approach to community safety is deeply rooted in partnership. A formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with law enforcement agencies across Gauteng Province, enabling us to address crime and by-law transgressions across municipal boundaries through a coordinated response. There is nowhere to hide in our area!





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In partnership with the South African Police Service, Operation Shanyela is key a crime prevention measure, with 65 joint operations executed every Thursday across hotspots. Security services were significantly bolstered through 24/7 patrols focused on combating illegal land invasions, cable theft, and transformer vandalism—directly safeguarding critical municipal infrastructure and service continuity.

In advancing disaster resilience, the city established a Local Disaster Management Unit, improving our ability to respond rapidly to emergencies. We also made strategic technological investments, including the acquisition of a warrant roadblock bus, installation of CCTV surveillance cameras, and deployment of eight mobile speed cameras and five semi-fixed red-light cameras in high-risk zones. In increasing operational capacity in the 2025/26 financial year, the municipality will procure twenty new traffic vehicles, a by-law enforcement truck, and a bakkie for the newly established Disaster Management Unit. These additions will strengthen mobility, enforcement reach, and emergency responsiveness across all wards.

Madam Speaker, it must be stated without fear of contradiction that with bold leadership and decisive political will, even the most stubborn challenges can be unlocked for the benefit of our people. For over two decades, the construction of the Kagiso Elderly Centre had been stuck in planning and bureaucratic gridlock—despite repeated mentions across successive Integrated Development Plans. It was under our direct intervention and stewardship that this long-awaited community facility finally moved from stalled blueprints to tangible delivery.

In March 2025, we officially launched the Kagiso Elderly Centre in Kagiso1, marking a historic turning point in our commitment to community-based care for older persons. This modern, dignified facility accommodates up to 100 senior citizens



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daily, offering health and wellness services including a fully equipped gymnasium for active ageing, sewing rooms for crafts and therapeutic support, and dedicated areas for social interaction. This centre is a living testament to this administration's resolve to restore the dignity of the elderly—the very people who laid the foundations of our democracy.

Councillors, the Social Upliftment Division continues to play a catalytic role in building a caring, inclusive and developmental municipality. Through targeted, people-centred interventions, we are deepening social cohesion, advancing the rights of the vulnerable, and encouraging active citizenry in line with the Constitutional vision of developmental local government. The fight against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) remains central to our social development mandate. We were honoured by SALGA for our impactful role in the 100 Days GBVF Challenge, through which we mobilised ward-based action, engaged communities in dialogue, and activated support structures for survivors. We are now moving from awareness to structured interventions, with plans at an advanced stage for the establishment of a Safe House for Vulnerable Women and Children, which will offer secure accommodation and holistic psychosocial support. Phase One implementation is scheduled for the 2025/26 financial year.

On the front of social protection, we launched a fully digitised Electronic Indigent Management System in October 2024, streamlining applications, improving turnaround times, and enhancing verification protocols. To date, 3,429 applications have been processed, and 6,107 households are currently supported. To ensure fairness and accuracy, we appointed 32 Indigent Verification Officers, including two persons with disabilities, who conducted physical door-to-door verification between



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January and June 2025—creating local employment while ensuring resources reach those most in need.

We are also intensifying support for our youngest citizens. Two Early Childhood Development Centres are being prepared for full operationalisation. The Sinqobile ECDC will resume construction next month following structural assessments, while the Ga-Mogale ECDC has finalised a governing board and is on track to be registered as a Non-Profit Organisation, unlocking new streams for compliance, funding, and long-term sustainability.

Lastly, our ongoing HIV/AIDS outreach remains a cornerstone of municipal health services. The Local HIV/AIDS Council, chaired by me as the Executive Mayor, led outreach campaigns that reached over 126,000 households, supporting nearly 280,000 infected and affected individuals. This programme also created 94 employment opportunities through stipends for peer educators, injecting over R3.6 million into community livelihoods while promoting health awareness and resilience.

Madam Speaker, the narrative is clear- when political leadership aligns with community needs and administrative execution, delayed dreams become daily realities. Under this leadership, the social development agenda is not merely about services—it is about restoring dignity, renewing trust, and leaving no one behind.

Speaker, we have long reached consensus that regular participation in sport boosts mental and physical health, builds character and life skills, and fosters social inclusion and cohesion. In this regard, Mogale City's investment in sports, arts, culture and library services is not just about recreation—it is about restoring dignity, affirming identity, and expanding opportunity, particularly for young people.



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Our Sports Development Division has pursued meaningful partnerships to unlock access and expand participation. In March 2025, we collaborated with the Gauteng Lions on a targeted Cricket Development Programme, hosting clinics in rural areas as part of our drive to decentralise sporting opportunities. In a proud moment for community-based sport, Mogale City is currently hosting the country's largest grassroots cricket tournament, the Jozi Cup 2025, with matches taking place across the Kagiso, Lusaka, and Azaadvile cricket ovals. The two-month-long event concludes this month and has significantly bolstered local pride, talent discovery and township sporting economies.

In July 2024, we launched the inaugural Mogale City Winter Games, an annual multi-code sporting showcase designed to encourage mass participation and unearth township talent across age groups and wards. We further deepened our support for grassroots sport by partnering with federations and youth-led bodies, including the Tarlton Youth Organisation, to successfully host the 2025 Youth Tournament, as well as the Gauteng Cross Country Championships at Kagiso Sport Complex last month.

The flagship Mayor's Annual Easter Tournament remains one of our most powerful youth development platforms. Held over the Easter Weekend, the 2025 tournament ran from 29–31 March (preliminaries) and 18–21 April (finals), and featured soccer and netball matches across all wards and age categories. This inclusive programme is about far more than trophies—it is a celebration of township resilience, a space for positive youth engagement, and a feeder into formalised sports pathways.

Our commitment to holistic development also extended into arts, culture and heritage. In the past financial year, hosted the Provincial Heritage Day Celebrations at Maropeng, held a Skills Development Workshop for local artists, affirming our



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belief in the cultural economy as a vehicle for inclusive growth. We also convened the Arts and Culture Forum AGM, ensuring governance and sustainability in the creative sector.

Our libraries continue to be a critical part of our knowledge infrastructure. In October 2024, Lusaka Library was recognised as Public/Community Library of the Year at the national LIASA Conference in Durban—an honour that reflects excellence in community engagement and service delivery. From June 2025, we have extended library hours at Desmond Tutu, Kagiso, Krugersdorp, and Magaliesburg Libraries, broadening access for learners, job seekers and researchers. In addition, our active MoU with UNISA has enabled improved academic resource access across our libraries, reaffirming their role as vital educational centres.

Madam Speaker, amid all these successes, one truth remains constant, that sport is a tool of transformation. It is a bridge between township fields and national glory. It is therefore with immense pride that we celebrate the achievements of our very own Amajita U/20 players, who rose from local development leagues in Mogale City to become part of South Africa's AFCON-winning squad, Thato Sibiya and Kgomotso Madiba. Their victory is not just a sporting milestone—it is a clarion call to invest further in grassroots sports, because when township dreams are nurtured, national heroes are born.

In preserving the rich and sacred history of Mogale City, we proudly honour one of our most distinguished sons, the late Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Mpilo Tutu, who hails from the mighty 'Chip Town', Munsieville. As part of our commitment to cultural heritage preservation and legacy-driven development, we have commenced discussions with the Desmond Tutu Foundation and the Anglican Church on the





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establishment of a dedicated tourism and heritage route in his memory. This visionary project aims to position Mogale City as a site of reflection, pilgrimage, and education—where future generations can walk in the footsteps of this global icon of peace, reconciliation, and justice. Madam Speaker, it is also a joyous moment to note that today marks the 93rd birthday of his beloved youngest sister, Mme Gloria Tutu. On behalf of Council and all residents of Mogale City, we extend our heartfelt wishes for continued grace and good health to Mme Tutu, who remains a living testament to this treasured legacy.

### **Integrated Environmental Services**

Residents of Mogale, the Department of Integrated Environmental Management continues to serve as a custodian of the municipality's environmental assets and sustainable environmental development goals, the department has embraced a proactive and systems-oriented approach to delivering on its constitutional and legislative mandates.

Over the past financial year, the department recorded significant strides in fulfilling its core responsibilities, namely environmental governance, sustainable land use management, waste minimisation, biodiversity protection, climate action, and greening.

Through effective institutional planning and operational diligence, the department processed over 100 land use applications, ensuring compliance with environmental prescripts while enabling development.



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Our Parks Management Division maintained over 550 hectares of open grassland and attended to more than 250 hectares of municipal gardens, thus affirming our commitment to creating dignified public spaces.

Waste management, one of the most visible and urgent service delivery mandates, has also shown tangible improvement. Through strategic partnerships with organisations such as EWASA, PETCO, UNISA, and Fibre Circle, we successfully launched the largest material recovery facility in the West Rand—positioning Mogale City as a regional leader in recycling and waste diversion.

Further amplifying our waste minimisation efforts, the municipality rolled out four electronic waste recycling containers in high-traffic areas, including the Civic Centre and Cradlestone Mall, actively promoting the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle agenda within communities.

Following sustained engagement with the Gauteng Department of Environment, the Luipaardsvlei Landfill Site was successfully reopened, restoring a critical waste disposal service point.

Over 20,000 tons of illegal dumping were cleared through various stakeholder-led clean-up campaigns, including interventions at Leratong Hospital precinct, Kagiso, Munsieville, Azaadville and the Cradle of Humankind precinct.

Madam Speaker, to strengthen operational capability, the municipality invested R10 million in the procurement of key service delivery equipment—such as tractors,



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TLBs, LDVs and grab trucks—which are being used both for service delivery and by-law enforcement.

Our Cemetery division has generated over R3 million in revenue and taken decisive steps towards digitising services. The launch of the SmartMun Cemetery Management System will allow digital booking of services by undertakers and residents, enhancing convenience and transparency.

Meanwhile, the Westhaven Cemetery is currently being commissioned and is expected to be operational before the end of the first quarter of the 2025/26 financial year, responding to the need for accessible, dignified burial spaces.

In line with our Climate Action commitments, the municipality planted 90 trees and submitted a robust funding application to the Gender Climate Change Organisation, aimed at rolling out rainwater harvesting and enhancing the resilience of rural water infrastructure.

In terms of biodiversity, the municipality secured a Category 3 Biodiversity Stewardship declaration at Kenmare Kloof for a period of 30 years. Building on this, plans are in motion to declare additional protected areas, including the Blougat Nature Reserve and portions of the Krugersdorp Game Reserve.

Madam Speaker, we are also pleased to announce that 55 young people will be placed in environmental management roles through our partnership with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment, further demonstrating our



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commitment to youth development, skills transfer and job creation in the green economy.

Additionally, we have appointed a dedicated Environmental Awareness Officer, supported by strengthened by-law enforcement capabilities and technical assistance from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment.

Looking forward, we will roll out the SALGA Waste App to track and respond to waste-related complaints. School-based recycling initiatives and the distribution of trolleys to reclaimers will also be scaled up in partnership with our recycling partners.

Councillors, our strategic priority is community involvement. We reaffirm our call for active community partnership through programmes such as Adopt-A-Park and Adopt-A-Spot, which are geared toward transforming dumping hotspots into rehabilitated and usable green community spaces.

We will also be launching the “KLEANAMANJE” campaign—a citywide initiative focused on litter picking, street cleaning, beautification, and environmental education across all wards.

Madam Speaker, our capital investment strategy through the Integrated Urban Development Grant (IUDG) is delivering tangible results. In the 2024/25 financial year, we completed key infrastructure projects, including:

- The Robin Road Extension at a cost of R2.4 million,



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- The Swanneville Emergency Housing and Disaster Support Programme at R6.8 million.

By 30 June 2025, we will finalise:

- Phase 3 of the Ga-Mogale Sports Complex (R5 million), and
- PR4 Roads Rehabilitation in Kagiso (R20 million).
- Additionally, the R10 million upgrade of PR5 Rietvallei Ext. 5 Roads and Stormwater infrastructure will be completed this month

Councillors, the scale of progress outlined in this address—and the ambitious programme of action that lies ahead—calls for one thing above all -discipline. Madam Speaker, when this Council adopted the 2025/26 Budget, we made not only financial allocations, but principled observations and solemn commitments. We agreed that our path to sustainable service delivery, spatial transformation, and economic growth must be underpinned by fiscal discipline, ethical governance, and strategic foresight.

Through disciplined budgeting, intensified revenue enhancement—which has now reached a remarkable 90% efficiency across our five main tariffs—and strengthened financial controls, the city has significantly shifted its fiscal position. We will sustain this positive trajectory in the new financial year.

Looking ahead to 2025/26, we are investing R155 million through the IUDG into catalytic projects that include:

- Phase 5 of the Luipaardsvlei Landfill Site (R10 million),





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- Road rehabilitation and resurfacing in Kagiso, Munsieville, Azaadville and Rietvallei (R48 million),
- Upgrades to gravel roads and stormwater systems (R30 million),
- Refurbishment of the Percy Stewart and Flip Human WWTWs (R38.1 million), and
- Sewer pump station upgrades (R32.2 million).

These are real projects in real communities—projects that change lives. In support of our vision for sustainable water supply and sanitation, the WSIG has allocated R72.5 million for 2025/26. This will fund:

- R35 million for the rollout of conventional and prepaid water meters, and
- R37.5 million to further refurbish the Percy Stewart Wastewater Treatment Works, ensuring improved water quality and environmental compliance.

Additionally, the Neighbourhood Development Partnership Grant will inject R62.1 million into municipal infrastructure in the new financial year. These funds will enhance neighbourhood-level infrastructure, stimulate local economic activity, and deepen the sustainability of our human settlements.

In total, these Catalytic Investment Programmes represent a bold commitment of R289.5 million toward building integrated, inclusive, and service-oriented urban development. We are grateful to our national and provincial government partners for continuing to support Mogale City's vision for a capable, developmental municipality.

Madam Speaker, this is a moving train. This is progress on the march. This is what it looks like when leaders are focused on the people and not the politics. To those who



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respond to these victories with insults, distortion, and theatrics, we borrow the wise words of Amílcar Cabral, the revolutionary son of Africa, who once said:

“A person who spits at the sun succeeds only in dirtying his own face.”

Madam Speaker, Councillors, and esteemed residents of Mogale City,

In every generation, we must pause to honour those among them whose lives have not only inspired but have actively shaped the course of history. Today, I am humbled and deeply honoured to announce a landmark moment in the life of our municipality. We will be conferring the Freedom of the City of Mogale—the highest civic honour that this municipality can bestow—upon individuals whose contributions to our society have been nothing short of extraordinary.

The Freedom of the City is not merely ceremonial. It is an expression of our collective gratitude—a symbolic embrace from a city that acknowledges the power of courage, sacrifice, and excellence. It carries with it ceremonial privileges such as the right to enter the city freely, partake in civic ceremonies, and receive the symbolic key to our beloved city.

We will proudly bestow this honour upon:

-Mama Nomvula Mokonyane, a stalwart of the liberation movement and daughter of Kagiso, whose legacy in government and activism remains deeply rooted in the West Rand.

-Mr Mike Matsobane, a former Robben Island prisoner and respected figure in our struggle heritage.



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In addition to this esteemed honour, Mogale City will also introduce other high-impact recognitions:

- The Lifetime Achievement Award will be conferred to those whose lifelong commitment to justice, democracy and the upliftment of humanity cannot be forgotten. We will posthumously honour Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Mpilo Tutu, Ahmed Timol and Yusuf Dadoo whose moral clarity and compassion inspire generations, alongside collective recognition of the COSAS4 and the Munsieville 6, who represent the uncompromising spirit of youth resistance in our struggle history.
- The Key to the City will be presented to all former Executive Mayors of Mogale City, as a symbolic act of gratitude for their leadership and enduring contributions to public life.
- Artistic Honours will be awarded to individuals and groups whose work has shaped the cultural identity and creative heartbeat of our communities. Among these will be Mafikizolo, our very own musical ambassadors whose artistry continues to break barriers.
- Sports Achievement Awards will be conferred upon outstanding athletes and teams whose excellence in sport has united and inspired our communities. We will celebrate our very own AFCON Amajita U/20 winners, Thato Sibiya and Kgomotso Madiba whose victory represents the power of grassroots sport to harness township dreams into continental triumph. Coach Pitso Mosimane, a decorated son of Kagiso whose contribution to South African football and continental sports diplomacy has lifted the pride of our city to global heights.



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And finally, Madam Speaker, in the spirit of collective celebration and civic pride, the City will host a Mayor's Gala Evening, where we will gather not only to honour these extraordinary individuals, but to reaffirm our shared commitment to recognising, remembering, and raising one another. Further details of this prestigious occasion will be communicated in due course.

Let it be known today, that in Mogale City, we do not forget our heroes. We uplift them. We celebrate them. We build monuments not only of stone, but of memory and meaning—so that the generations to come may know who we are, and whose shoulders they stand upon.

Honourable Councillors and esteemed residents, as we wrap up, I want to emphasize our unwavering commitment to you, the residents of our city. Over the last two months, we engaged in rigorous consultations with our communities, fostering open dialogues to better understand your needs and concerns.

Together, let us not only be a government that listens, but one that acts decisively and with purpose. We stand united in our commitment to transform our community's needs into tangible progress, ensuring that every voice is heard and every promise fulfilled. Thank you for your trust and partnership as we work tirelessly to Build Mogale City Together.

Thank you.