

Mogale City
Local Municipality
The City of Human Origin

P.O Box 94
Cnr Commisioner
and Market Street
Krugersdorp
Mogale City
1740

The Office of the Executive Mayor

ADDRESS BY EXECUTIVE, LUCKY SELE, AT THE LERATONG CITY MALL OPENING, 29 OCTOBER 2026

Programme Director,

Gauteng Premier, Honourable Panyaza Leseufi

Gauteng MEC for Human Settlements, Tasneem Motara,

His Majesty King HN Mogale of the Bapo ba Mogale Royal House, represented on this occasion by Princess Itumeleng Innocentia Mogale,

Representatives of Trendville Investments and McCormick Property Development,

Traditional and community leaders,

Business leaders,

The people of Kagiso and Mogale City,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen.

Good morning.

We are honoured by the presence of the representatives of the Bapo ba Mogale Royal House at this important occasion by HRR Princess Itumeleng Innocentia Mogale. The legacy of Kgosi Mogale is woven into the history of this region and lives on in the name of our municipality. As we acknowledge that heritage today, we are reminded that every generation carries a responsibility to preserve what gives our communities their identity, while building an inheritance of opportunity for those who will follow.



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Ladies and gentlemen,

Exactly 24 months ago, we spoke about the kind of city we wanted to build; a city able to rise above its challenges, confront inequality and poverty, restore dignity to our communities and protect the social fabric that holds us together. We committed ourselves to building a prosperous Mogale City, one that creates room for growth, encourages innovation and places the well-being of its people at the centre of development.

We also called on our communities, stakeholders and development partners to walk this journey with us to contribute, to raise their concerns and to help us confront the problems that had remained unresolved for far too long. Today, as we gather to open Leratong City Mall, those commitments are particularly relevant.

Today, we gather to mark a moment when the future of Kagiso becomes more tangible.

Leratong City Mall is opening its doors after a development journey that stretches back many years. The project was already being pursued in 2006, and by 2010 the mall had been recorded as a development project. Yet, for years thereafter, land arrangements, development processes and the work required to bring the wider vision to implementation remained part of the journey.

In 2016, Leratong was still being described by the municipality as a long-awaited nodal development. The vision was substantial; a regional shopping centre, housing, public transport infrastructure and supporting commercial facilities, brought together in a development intended to change the economic landscape of this part of Mogale City.

But a vision, however compelling, cannot transform a community while it remains on paper.

For the residents of Kagiso, the significance of today's occasion lies in the difference between what was anticipated for years and what they can now see taking shape before them. They have waited for investment to arrive, for economic activity to grow and for development to begin delivering tangible possibilities for their families and businesses.



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That is why this opening matters.

Sixteen years after the mall project was recorded in 2010, Leratong City Mall opens its doors. The wider development story goes back even further. We must acknowledge that history honestly, because the significance of today is inseparable from the years of anticipation that preceded it.

We are not here to suggest that every promise has been fulfilled. We are here to recognise that a major investment has reached a point where its benefits can begin to be experienced, and to insist that the wider development vision must now move forward with urgency.

Ladies and gentlemen,

There is an important lesson in this journey. Development requires more than identifying land and announcing an ambition. It requires political will, sound planning, cooperation between spheres of government, investor confidence and the resolve to move from agreements to implementation.

Political will matters because it determines whether development priorities receive sustained attention, whether partnerships are pursued and whether obstacles are confronted rather than allowed to define the future of a project.

But political will must ultimately be judged by what it delivers.

For us, the measure is not simply that a mall has been built. It is whether this investment helps create jobs, supports local businesses, attracts further capital and opens the way for housing and the infrastructure our communities need.

The significance of today is that Leratong is no longer only a development promise. It is becoming a place of economic activity, investment and possibility.

That is the change we must build upon. We must ensure that the years of waiting give way to a sustained period of implementation, and that this milestone becomes the foundation for the wider transformation of Kagiso and Mogale City.



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The opening of Leratong City Mall must therefore be understood not as the end of the journey, but as the beginning of a new phase in which the development ambitions for this area are pursued with renewed determination.

The value of this investment must be measured in more than the size of the building or the number of shops it accommodates. It must be measured in what it makes possible for the people who live around it.

For a young person looking for that first job, this development must represent a new point of entry into the economy. For a small business owner, it must offer a chance to supply, trade, grow and employ others. For families, it brings a wider choice of goods and services closer to home. For commuters, the surrounding transport infrastructure and the planned integration of transport facilities speak to the importance of connecting people to the places where they live, work and conduct their daily lives.

We must, however, be clear that the opening of a mall does not, by itself, solve unemployment or poverty. Nor can we promise every resident a job simply because a new development has opened. What we can do is insist that the opportunities created by this investment are pursued deliberately, and that local people are not treated as spectators to the growth happening in their own neighbourhood.

This is why local enterprise matters.

The inclusion of initiatives such as Kasi CoLAB, designed to support township-based design entrepreneurs, points to an important principle and that is, that our people must participate in shaping the economy, not only consume what it produces. The experience of local vendors who supplied food to the construction workforce also reminds us that economic participation can begin before a building opens its doors. The employment generated through the construction phase has already demonstrated the scale of opportunity associated with a development of this nature. More than 1,000 job opportunities were associated with construction, while approximately 2,500 jobs are estimated for the post-construction phase.

We must carry that approach forward. Local suppliers, emerging entrepreneurs, young people and small businesses need access to information, fair opportunities and the support required to compete. Our responsibility as a municipality is to work



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with the developers, tenants and other partners to strengthen these linkages and ensure that opportunities are visible and accessible.

A development of this scale should leave more behind than buildings. It should leave skills, business relationships, experience and a stronger local economy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The broader Leratong City Smart nodal development is estimated at approximately R5 billion. Its long-term vision extends beyond this mall to a mixed-use urban precinct with the potential for thousands of homes, commercial activity, health and educational facilities, public spaces and improved transport connections. Our government partners identify the potential for approximately 16,000 housing units across the wider development, including future phases.

These are substantial ambitions, and they must be pursued with the seriousness they deserve. Housing must be connected to roads, water, sanitation, electricity, transport and social facilities. Economic growth must be supported by infrastructure that works. Development must bring people closer to opportunities, rather than simply place more people and buildings on the same land.

That is the kind of integrated planning Mogale City must continue peruse; communities where people can live with dignity, access essential services, travel to work, raise their families and participate in economic life.

Our vision cannot end at the boundary of one shopping centre. Leratong must connect to the wider growth of Kagiso, the West Rand and Mogale City as a whole.

It is also important that we address the municipal boundary clarification concerning Leratong Village, so that there is no confusion about the jurisdiction of this development.

The Municipal Demarcation Board has clarified that Leratong Village is geographically located within Ward 127 of the City of Johannesburg. We respect that clarification and the MDB’s responsibility to provide authoritative information on municipal boundaries.



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However, that clarification must be understood in its proper context. Leratong Village is not the same as Leratong City Mall or the wider Leratong City Smart nodal development. Leratong City Mall and the broader nodal development fall within Mogale City Local Municipality. The MDB's clarification regarding Leratong Village must not be misinterpreted as placing the mall or the wider development under the jurisdiction of the City of Johannesburg.

For the people of Kagiso and Mogale City, the significance of this distinction is that our development aspirations remain firmly on the table. The opening of this mall is an important milestone, but it is only one component of a much broader vision for this area; a vision that includes housing, commercial activity, infrastructure and facilities that can support a growing community.

We cannot allow uncertainty or misunderstanding to overshadow the opportunities that lie ahead. Our responsibility is to continue working with the Gauteng Provincial Government, the relevant municipalities, traditional leadership, communities and private-sector partners to advance development within the respective areas of jurisdiction.

The people of Mogale City have waited a long time to see this vision take shape. Their aspirations for investment, jobs, housing and better-connected communities remain valid. We must build on the progress represented by this opening and pursue the next phases with renewed political will, sound planning and a clear commitment to implementation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We recognise the contribution of the Gauteng Provincial Government, Trendville and McCormick Property Development in bringing this phase to fruition. A project of this magnitude requires cooperation between public institutions and private investment, with each partner fulfilling its responsibilities.

We also acknowledge the officials, planners, engineers, project teams and many workers whose efforts have helped bring this development to the point where we can gather here today. Behind every completed project are people whose work is not always visible from the outside, but without whom the vision would remain unfinished.



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For the municipality, this is also a reminder that political leadership and professional administration must work together. Political leadership must set direction and maintain the will to deliver; professional officials must translate that direction into plans, processes and implementation. When these responsibilities come together, the aspirations we place before our communities have a better chance of becoming real.

Today, Kagiso can see what sustained effort and partnership can produce. Our responsibility now is to build on this achievement, to address what remains outstanding and to ensure that the next phases do not become another generation of promises.

To the residents of Kagiso and Mogale City, this development belongs in the story of your community. Use the opportunities it presents. Support local businesses. Encourage young people to pursue skills and enterprise. Hold all of us accountable for ensuring that the benefits of investment reach beyond the walls of the mall.

And to our development partners, our message to you, this is an important milestone, but there is more work to do. Let us maintain the momentum, deepen local participation and continue to pursue the wider vision for Leratong with urgency, discipline and shared purpose.

As we officially open Leratong City Mall, we do so with pride in what has been achieved, honesty about the time it has taken, and determination about what must come next.

May this opening mark a turning point, from waiting to participating, from plans to implementation, and from the promise of investment to opportunities that people can see and experience in their daily lives.

On behalf of Mogale City Local Municipality, we welcome Leratong City Mall to Kagiso. We wish the developers, tenants, workers and businesses every success, and we look forward to the contribution this development will make to our local economy and the future of our people.

Let us make sure that the opening we celebrate today becomes the beginning of something greater for Kagiso, for Mogale City and for the West Rand.



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Thank you.