

CHAPTER one

OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND



Mogale City
Local Municipality

Foreword by the Executive Mayor



It is a pleasure and honour to table the 2003/04 financial year annual report of Mogale City Local Municipality. This was a milestone year in the history of our country in the sense that it was during this financial year that the people of South Africa were provided with the third opportunity to vote for the National Government. As a result, local government was once again presented with the huge challenge of intensifying the Visible Service Delivery Programme. The year under review is also special for the fact that after the elections we had a wonderful opportunity as the people and nation of South Africa to celebrate *Ten Years of Democracy*. For us at local government level this opportunity to celebrate our decade of democratic governance meant that we needed to address the following fundamental questions that our people are justifiably asking, namely:

- To what extent have we been able to redress the imbalances of the apartheid legacy?
- To what extent have we been able to reduce service delivery backlogs?
- To what extent have we been able to build local institutions of governance?
- To what extent have we been able to enhance local democracy by creating platforms for local communities to participate in their local affairs?
- To what extent have we been able to reduce service delivery backlogs in water, services, electricity and access to housing?
- To what extent have we been able to set policies, systems and procedures for local governance?

The 2003/04 annual report will illustrate those questions which cannot be addressed by a simple yes or no answer. A developmental local government that has the optimum capacity to address the legacy of the apartheid system cannot be built overnight. However, the report provides an account of genuine endeavours that Mogale City embarked on towards fulfilling its constitutional mandate as a developmental local government. This report also draws attention to substantial challenges that we experienced during the year under review and how we addressed them in our continuous endeavour to lay the foundations for institutional viability and overall improvement of the quality of life of Mogale City residents.

May I therefore take the opportunity to present the 2003/04 annual report, drafted in compliance with the Municipal Systems Act (2000) and the Municipal Finance Management Act (2003). A word of gratitude is due to the Municipal Manager and her Executive Management Team, Members of the Executive Mayoral Committee, all the administrative staff and elected political officials, for working together towards making Mogale City a desirable place to live and invest in and visit. Last but not least, a special word of gratitude to Mogale City residents who continuously cooperate and perform their civil duties in general, and in particular those who always meet their responsibility for paying for municipal services. It is through the revenue generated through their payments that we are able to report on the progress we have been able to make as a municipality in each and every year. Let us continue to work together in a social contract to push the barriers of poverty further away from the poor, build sustainable livelihoods and improve the quality of life for all.

Advocate Lentswe Mokgatle
Executive Mayor