**MUNICIPAL MANAGER’S OVERVIEW**

The fiscal year 2009/10 was a watershed year which shall go down the annals of global history as the year in which South Africa hosted the world’s biggest sporting tournament, the **FIFA Soccer World Cup**, cum laude.

Nonetheless, the employees and political leadership of Mogale city, whilst enjoying the aforesaid tournament, did not lose focus on the vision of the organisation viz. “Quality Service delivery for all in Mogale City”. This was epitomized by the Municipality receiving a **blue drop award** as one of the top ten best performing municipalities in the country. The Municipality also received an awards in the field of Environmental Management. e.g a gold award for Garden Design at the Garden World Spring Festival in July 2009.

Similarly, the Municipality’s performance on Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) projects was lauded by relevant Departments in Provincial and national spheres of government.

In the year under review, various projects were completed including the Azaadville Regional Park which affords the community a wonderful venue where families and friends can spent quality time. The development of the Kagiso Regional Park which was embarked upon in the year under review is expected to be completed in 2010/11 at the cost of twenty two million rand (R22 million). Although unemployment (approximately 24%) remains a challenge in Mogale City, the establishment of 4 locally-based **co-operatives** and the allocation of infrastructure projects e.g roads, water and sanitation to such entities assisted in creating much-needed jobs for the local communities.

The local entrepreneurs also benefited from the **affirmative procurement policy** which resulted in approximately 55% of the tenders having been awarded to the local companies. The **acquisition of new fleet** in the year under review has improved service delivery tremendously compared to the previous years. Service delivery in the **rural/peri urban** areas remained a priority in the year under review with focus on roads, water and sanitation as well as acquisition of **suitable land for human settlements**.

The Municipality developed and implemented the **Turn Around Strategy (TAS)** in line with the

**LG Turn Around** **Strategy** developed by the **Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA)**, albeit, without any financial support from both provincial and national spheres of government. It is however expected that such support shall be forthcoming in the impending fiscal years.

The Municipality continued in the year under review to invest in our people through training and development. To this end, various officials and politicians were enrolled in institutions of higher learning while 103 local people especially **the Youth** were included in our **learnership and internship programmes**.

The Municipality expended tremendous efforts to ensure that the communities of Mogale City in both rural and urban areas, enjoyed the FIFA Soccer World Cup. This was evidenced, inter alia, by the pitching of two Public Viewing Areas (PVA’s) in Tarlton and Coronation Park at the costs of approximately R17 million. Needless to say only the Mogale City-based service providers were procured through a limited bidding process.

Both the Portuguese and Australian football associations and their teams expressed their gratitude for the **warm hospitality** displayed not only by the officials but also the residents of Mogale City. To this end, we salute the **Executive Mayor Cllr K. C. Seerane** and his team including all the employees and the residents of Mogale City for the sterling work done in hosting our worldwide guests.

The year under review was, however, not without **challenges** especially because it was characterized by some degree of **economic recession** which was global in nature. Consequently, more residents were jobless and indigent. Some companies had to close down leading to less revenue collected, 90% by the Municipality which was less than the minimum of 91% estimated. The Municipality continued striving to achieve the financial **liquidity current ratio of 1:2** which is not insurmountable**.**

The Municipality received a **qualified audit opinion** in the year under review as compared to the previous year, 2008/9 where an **unqualified opinion** was achieved ending a history of disclaimers and adverse opinions. It should however be noted that the qualification in the year under review could have been avoided as it was based on the GRAP-related format of the financial statements rather than on substantive Corporate Governance matters. Be that as it may all matters of emphasis shall be adequately addressed as the qualification matters have already been addressed.

We would like to express our heartfelt **gratitude** to all the **employees and residents** of Mogale City as well as other stakeholders including our sister Municipalities, viz Bitou Local Municipality (Western Cape) and Wujiang City (China) for unqualified support.

**Ningadinwa nangomso!**

Dan Mashitisho

Municipal Manager