



**State of the City Address by the Honourable Executive Mayor of Mogale City  
Local Municipality, Cllr Koketso Calvin Seerane**

**Centenary Hall, Civic Centre, Mogale City**

**3<sup>rd</sup> April 2012**

Madam Speaker, Cllr Suzen Thupane;

Veteran of our movement, former Member of Parliament and former Executive Mayor of the West Rand District Municipality, Sister Bernard Ncube;

Honourable Members of Parliament, Cdes Doris Ngcingwana and Peace Mabe;

MEC for Local Government and Housing, Cde Humphrey Mmemezi;

MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Cde Nandi Mayathula-Khoza;

MEC for Sport, Arts, Recreation and Culture, Cde Lebogang Maile;

Members of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature, Cdes Uhuru Moiloa and Kholisile Nkosiphendule;

Labour Court Judge Edwin Molatlhehi;

Executive Mayor of the West Rand District Municipality, Cde Mpho Nawa;

Executive Mayors, Speakers, Chief Whips and Members of Mayoral Committees of various municipalities;

Regional Secretary of the ANC in the West Rand Region, Cde Boyce Maneli and members of the regional executive committee here present;

Leaders of the Alliance;

Honourable councillors;

Chief of Staff in the Office of the Deputy-Minister of Water Affairs, Cde Nomxolisi Matyana;

Municipal Manager of Mogale City Local Municipality, Mr. Dan Mashitisho and your executive committee;

Municipal Managers of our sister municipalities and senior managers of government departments here present;

Chief Apostle and President of the Twelve Apostles Church and Recipient of the Freedom of our City, Professor Caesar Nongqunga;

Religious and business leaders;

Members of the media;

Distinguished guests, comrades and friends:

It is an honour to reflect on achievements since the new political term of office and also to outline our Programme of Action for the year to this august gathering of pathfinders, leaders and luminaries of our society. This gathering occurs against the backdrop of an important milestone in the evolution of our country. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of January this year, the glorious movement of the people and ruling party in South Africa, the African National Congress, celebrated 100 years.

As part of the year-long Centenary Celebrations, the ANC dedicated the month of April to the late stalwart Josiah Gumede, who was its president from 1927 to 1930. We are speaking of a leader who has been described as an intellectual who was not only a participant in the making of history but also an eloquent African historian who valued the power of the pen. He was able to draw upon his extensive knowledge of the history of his native country and was constantly aware of successive Union governments' attempts to suppress the voices of the majority. He was a man described by historians as "*deeply concerned about the judgement of history.*"

Madam Speaker, SA History Online says that Josiah Gumede's courage in the face of severe adversity is legendary. They say that none of his three predecessors in John Langalibalele Dube, Sefako Mapogo Makgatho and Zacharias Mahabane spoke out against the intolerable African policy of the Union government as forcefully as Gumede. The illegitimate Pretoria regime considered Gumede an agitator who had to be kept under surveillance.

Gumede was a captivating orator. May we take this opportunity today to correct certain perceptions held about the African National Congress. We want to state today that the establishment of this voice of the people in 1912 was a radical and revolutionary act on the part of the oppressed and subjugated masses of our country. We can agree that this people's parliament was initially very conservative in its approach at reaching the radical goals for which it was established. It became more aggressive in the late 1940s and reached its highest form of militancy in the 1960s when it launched the armed struggle to dislocate and dislodge the oppressive racist regime.

We raise the issue of radicalism because the month of April celebrates a radical of our movement whose agitation for a militant fighting policy for the ANC made him very unpopular with the conservative members of the movement at that time.

In the words of the late President Oliver Reginald Tambo, Gumede was a brave pioneer of militant agitation, especially where it related to civil disobedience. True to his radical style, Josiah Gumede was one of the oldest members of our movement who sanctioned the formation of the ANC Youth League and encouraged the Youth League to support the Anti-pass Campaign that was launched by the Communist Party of South Africa in 1943. It is also this militant of our movement who is credited for fostering stronger ties between the African National Congress and the Communist Party of South Africa.

Madam Speaker, Mogale City has strong historical ties with this militant of our movement. Josiah Gumede is the father of the late Archie Gumede, the founding president of the United Democratic Front which was launched in 1983. It was at the first national conference of the UDF held in Azaadville in 1985 that Archie Gumede was re-elected to drive that broad church of indefatigable freedom fighters who led the most representative, vibrant and progressive mass organisation that this country had ever seen. As young fiery fighters of the South African Youth Congress and the Congress of South African Students in the 1980s, we were inspired and imbibed the teachings of Archie Gumede. It was during these turbulent years that President Oliver Tambo called for South Africa to be made ungovernable and apartheid to be made unworkable.

Therefore, amongst the leaders of our municipality, and outside it, are a crop of products of this proud lineage of Josiah Gumede, Moses Kotane, and many stalwarts who taught us to make personal sacrifices for the people and to expect nothing in return.

We want to say here and now that we have lost neither the passion nor the fighting spirit that the Gumedes bequeathed to us. The project for radical transformation of the lives of our people remains high on the agenda of our movement. It is this agenda that has seen the ANC government register steady progress in the national transformation programme it began from the advent of democracy in 1994.

Through his State of the Nation address this year, President Jacob Zuma challenged us to find practical solutions to respond to the persistence of the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality. We are required to demonstrate our bona fides through a set of programmes and projects whose implementation will be an unequivocal statement of intent to radically change the lives of the people of our city for the better.

## **VISION 2016**

Madam Speaker, last year as part of our strategic planning process we adopted a theme for the term which reads thus: **Towards Vision 2016 –Everything for the West Rand Unicity**. Therefore our strategic objective for the term is geared towards ensuring the successful establishment of a Unicity by all municipalities in the West Rand by 2016. This programme of action we announce today is another step towards ensuring that when Mogale City as we know it ceases to exist in that year, the Unicity inherits a viable entity by which it can drive the important mandate of building better communities in our region.

## **Building a local economy to create more employment (decent jobs) and sustainable livelihoods**

Mogale City still remains the area of choice to live, invest in and visit as evidenced by the high number of development applications that are submitted to the municipality. For the current financial year, the municipality has considered and approved 141 development applications which comprise substantial Residential, Business and Industrial Developments. These new proposed township developments will, once completed, yield 5 949 new dwelling units and over 2 000 000 m<sup>2</sup> for business activities and other uses. In addition, we approved 486 Building Plans, with a total value of approximately R627 million when completed.

We are excited to announce that our investor friendly approach has yielded excellent dividends to the municipality that will promote entrepreneurial and job opportunities for our people. Currently, the following major developments are at varying stages of implementation:

- Firstly, it is the Leratong Intersection Development which is worth approximately R 2 billion and comprising a Shopping Mall, a regional taxi facility and approximately 9000 house of mixed typologies.
- Secondly, the upgrade of the Key West Shopping Centre at a cost of R300 million which will include the construction of several parking garages and the redesign of the waterfront area to put the area to better use.
- Thirdly, the redevelopment of Kagiso Mall by Old Mutual which will be opened on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April 2012 has resulted in an investment of R 130 million in Kagiso Township. Close collaboration between the municipality and the owners ensured that the community benefitted during the construction phase through the local procurement of goods and services from 11 SMMES and the creation of 140 local job opportunities. Needy organisations also benefitted from the building materials that became available during the demolition process. The new mall will have a local traders market with 16 stalls dedicated solely to Kagiso businesses as tenants.
- Fourthly, the development of the Cradle Mall (the Village EXT 1 and EXT 8) at the Pinehaven intersection that will, once completed, culminate in a shopping centre of 75 000m<sup>2</sup> with a total investment value of R 1,5 billion. This development will see the launch of a new shopping experience as leading brands unveil the new Lifestyle Store Concept which is set to take shopping to a higher level.
- Fifthly, the development of a new showroom by Action Ford next to the Monument Liquor Store on Voortrekker Road. The development will result in an investment of R 30 million once completed.
- Sixthly, the Rangeview Ext 4 development worth approximately R1 billion which shall comprise commercial and residential development including a school.

- Lastly, the proposed Avianto Development in Muldersdrift will include the construction of 250 low cost houses for the purpose of accommodating workers and others in informal settlements on the property and surroundings. The municipality is working closely with the parties involved to ensure that all outstanding approval issues are resolved for this development to continue.

Over and above these developments, the Premier of Gauteng, Cde Nomvula Mokonyane also announced that a Township Enterprise Hub will be established in Kagiso.

We recognize the important role played by the Chamdor Industrial Area and we are therefore planning to engage with the resident companies as well as the Gauteng Economic Development Agency to revitalize the area and bring it back to its former glory.

In order to promote orderly development and enhance property values, we concluded a Land Use Audit for the entire municipal area in pursuit of illegal land uses and a process is underway to identify all illegal users of land. The purpose of this exercise is to rectify those land uses that are not in line with Council Policies through engaging the owners to submit applications to regularize those land uses where feasible. In cases where land uses are intrusive we will jointly explore mitigation measures and advise owners to move their operations to a more conducive area. To improve our Land Use Management System, the process to amalgamate the different town planning schemes will be undertaken earnestly.

To remain a competitive and a lovely city to live in, invest in and visit, the municipality is in the process of compiling a regeneration strategy for the entire Mogale City through the Neighbourhood Development Partnership Grant. The strategy will, once completed, enable the City to identify areas of intervention especially in Kagiso/Rietvallei and Munsieville by implementing township renewal projects with the grant funding received from the National Treasury.

Just recently, our provincial MEC for Finance, Cde Mandla Nkomfe announced that Kagiso is amongst the three townships to benefit from the R173 million for development of physical infrastructure as part of the 20 Prioritized Townships Programme.

We continue to offer the much sought-after enterprise development support programmes to the local SMMEs and cooperatives to enhance their capacities. In doing so

- Firstly, we held 9 mentorship sessions for 15 local SMMEs under the Plato Mentorship Programme to train them in areas of tax compliance, marketing, procurement, tender processes and to help them with other challenges they faced.
- Secondly, in partnership with the Small Enterprise Development Agency, we offered 15 local SMME's an opportunity to attend the Export Development Training so as to enhance their export capability.
- Thirdly, we assisted 118 close corporations, 96 cooperatives and 101 small private companies with formalization and registration with the Department of Trade and Industry.
- Fourthly, we issued 45 business licenses to businesses dealing with, amongst others, perishable food, places of entertainment, hawkers and so on.
- Fifthly, in partnership with the Provincial Department of Economic Development, we embarked on an SMME Outreach Programme to facilitate access to business information and support services offered by government and it was attended by 382 people representing SMME's, young people and the unemployed.
- Sixthly, in partnership with Lancaster Mine, we enrolled 12 local SMMEs on a highly specialized carpentry and furniture making training offered by Furntech. The trained SMME's will continue to utilize the Furntech facilities as and when the need arises, and
- Lastly, recognizing the important role of the informal sector as a contributor to the local economy and a valuable source of employment and income to a large percentage of the community, we have addressed the location challenges confronting informal traders by constructing a total of 20 trading stalls in Magaliesburg, Muldersdrift and Lusaka. We will provide these facilities to other areas of need in the next financial year.

Going forward, we will finalize and implement the Local Economic Development Strategy and also develop a comprehensive SMME and Co-operatives Development and Support Strategy to guide our interventions.

We are mindful of the potential economic spin-offs that the comparative advantage our municipality offers to the region. Therefore we are working closely with the provincial government on the development of Mogale City-Rustenburg Corridor. The process is aimed at, amongst others, identifying potential economic nodes along the corridor; determine interventions necessary to unlock its development potential, identifying bankable anchor projects and package business plans for these projects to mobilize private sector investment.

Madam Speaker, the development and promotion of our tourism offering remains one of our key focal areas. To remain a competitive destination and to diversify our tourism offerings, the municipality has assisted three township bed and breakfast establishments to obtain star grading from the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa. The grading of establishments is critical to businesses as it categorizes them in terms of the quality of service and helps in the marketing of the establishment. The municipality is also conducting studies for the possibility of developing a Cultural Village in Mogale City.

Furthermore, in a project funded by the National Department of Tourism and co-implemented with the Cradle of Humankind Management Authority as well as the Provincial Department of Community Safety a total of 200 people will complete training as Tourism Safety Monitors in July 2012.

The provincial government has allocated R4 million to upgrade the Maropeng Infrastructure in order for this tourism attraction to remain in pristine shape and to improve access to and movement within it.

Our endeavors in the development of our tourism sector have borne fruit in that Mogale City dominated the West Rand Tourism Awards ceremony that was hosted on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at Maropeng. Amongst the 48 winners that received awards in recognition of good performance and service excellence, 29 of those are Mogale City-based tourism operators.

Again in a bid to strengthen tourism development and promotion, the municipality is developing a Tourism Strategy that will assist the municipality in developing programs and interventions that will promote Mogale City as a preferred tourism destination and also strengthen the working relationship between the municipality and the tourism sector.

Investment attraction and retention has always been a key area of focus for the municipality and we adopted a differentiated approach to stakeholder engagement. On that score, we thus resuscitated our strategic interface between the municipality and big business in Mogale City.

### **Building more united, non-racial and safer communities**

Madam Speaker, in line with the human settlement's flagship programme dubbed Breaking New Ground whose main objective is to set new, but very high, standards for housing developments constructed around the country and to de-racialize the beneficiaries thereof, we are pleased to announce that our joint programme with the Provincial Department of Local Government and Housing to provide housing, and develop sustainable human settlements for our community remains on course and is now being accelerated.

We have commenced with the construction of Stage Two of the housing development in Kagiso Extension 12 as well as Rietvallei Proper and Rietvallei Extension 1 where a total of 150 units have been planned for each.

As was indicated in the previous year, we have begun with the construction of Munsieville Extension 5. Currently we have completed engineering services for water and sewer reticulation. We anticipate that housing construction will commence within this Financial Year. The earmarked number of units for the entire Munsieville Extension 5 is 842 houses.

Plans are also underway for the rectification of faulty houses in Munsieville Extension 2 and affected residents will be informed accordingly on how the process will unfold. Fruitful discussions are taking place with the Department of Housing and Local Government and Housing and ABSA Bank regarding the development of Phase Two of the Chief Mogale Township. We are also aware of the reported claims of the illegal occupation of 7 houses on this development and we are looking into this matter with the department.

The municipality is planning to redevelop hostels and therefore feasibility studies will be conducted on Green, Boiketlo, Lanwen and Munsieville hostels. Depending on the outcome of the studies, these hostels will be converted into rental accommodation and RDP family units where feasible. At last the municipality has managed to acquire Lanwen Hostel and plans are underway to refurbish it.

We have taken up the issue of housing allocation in Kagiso Extension 14 with the Department of Local Government and Housing to address the matter of those residents who have been disadvantaged in that they did not benefit out of their allocated houses. We hope that this matter will once and for all be finally resolved in the near future.

In fulfilling our promise to the Apple Park residents, we have to date handed out 65 Title Deeds to qualifying residents. We hope to issue the remaining Title Deeds and address disputes associated with this process in the new Financial Year. In addition, we have in conjunction with the MEC for Local Government and Housing, issued 120 Title Deeds to the residents of Rietvallei Extensions 2 and 3. We will in due course issue out the remaining title deeds to the other residents.

We remain committed to ensuring the safety and security of our community and assets through road safety campaigns and by-law enforcement operations that we conduct. Going forward, we will devise strategies to improve the effectiveness of our operations.

We have also initiated the transfer of RDP houses at Munsieville Proper and Extensions 2 and 4; Singobile Proper as well as Rietvallei Extensions 2, 3, and 5. Similarly plans are underway to commence the same housing transfer process at Chief Mogale.

We are making strides in addressing the security of tenure and ensuring the provision of basic services and other social amenities to our rural masses through our Integrated Rural Settlement Programme. To date, working with the Department of Local Government and Housing, we have completed the construction of 203 houses in Rietfontein and we have finalized the allocation of the units to the beneficiaries. Proclamation of this township by the Department of Local Government and Housing is also underway.

We have also commenced with the first phase of the Ethembaletu Village establishment comprising 150 units, and the show house for this development is at completion stage. Phase Two of the project comprising of an additional 150 units will proceed once permission has been granted by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

In the Hekpoort node, detailed planning studies were completed on Volgezang farm where 140 densified units are planned. We would like to officially announce that this Township will be named after the late Dr. Molefi Sefularo, the former Deputy Minister of Health. At this stage we would like to commend the sterling work of the Local Geographical Name Change Committee in assisting the municipality and its constituent communities in the naming and renaming of public places and streets.

In addition, we are undertaking other detailed planning studies in all our rural nodes of Hekpoort, Muldersdrift, Nooitgedacht, Tarlton and Magaliesburg to identify portions of land which are suitable for establishment of integrated rural settlements. With regard to Nooitgedacht in particular, we are pleased to announce that Township Establishment has been achieved and we are awaiting a decision on the Environmental Impact Assessment that was conducted. This project will see us deliver 5000 housing units of mixed typologies.

### **Playing our part in a National Climate Change Strategy including the promotion of local energy saving campaigns**

In playing our part in the National Climate Change strategy, the Municipality hosted a successful Arbor Week event at the Rietfontein Village where 100 fruit trees were distributed to community members and 30 indigenous street trees were planted. We have also planted 600 trees throughout the city in the current financial year.

In taking our Green IQ agenda forward, a Greening Strategy and a Climate Change Management Framework will be developed and implemented. We will also distribute 1140 Fruit trees to various wards in the city. As from May 2012, we will roll out a solar water geyser programme to low income households so as to decrease their energy dependency on the electricity grid thereby reducing their carbon footprint. We will also explore possibilities of acquiring solar panels for provision of lights in informal settlements.

In promoting sound environmental management principles, we will implement our various policies and strategies including the Sustainable Environmental Management policy

We continue to implement the City Aesthetics Plan that guides the beautification and greening of the city. New entrance walls were constructed at Kagiso Riverside and the northern side of Kagiso Avenue. A new attractive landscaped island is under construction at the Magaliesburg-Koster traffic island.

We work hand in glove with the national departments of mineral resources, water and environmental affairs, provincial departments of local government and housing as well as the Agriculture and Rural Development, the National Nuclear Regulator, the Council of Geological Sciences, mining houses and other stakeholders to address various challenges posed by the closure of mines in our area. We credit our mining industry for the huge economic contribution it made over the years to our region. In the same breath, we have to deal decisively with the bad legacy of mining in the area. Our focus is on acid mine drainage, dolomitic areas and radioactive tailings that threaten the safety of residents of Mogale City. It is public knowledge that we moved 197 families out of a slime dam and wetlands in Tudor Shaft on the advice of the National Nuclear Regulator.

Many of the residents of Tudor Shaft and Soul City informal settlements have registered for government subsidized housing and will benefit from human settlement projects around the city.. In the spirit of cooperative governance, the provincial department of local government and housing will lead us in finding a lasting housing solution for the people of Tudor Shaft and other areas of Mogale City. May we just hint that those plans are at an advanced stage and will be announced at the appropriate time.

Also, working together with the West Rand District Municipality and sister municipalities in the region, we will tap into the R248 million investment on Acid Mine Drainage that the President announced in the State of the Nation address this year. This funding is required to rehabilitate our land and ensure that the land can again be put to productive use thus giving opportunities to our people.

## **Enhancing investment in basic services in rural areas**

To enhance investment in basic services in rural areas, the city has initiated the development of a Comprehensive Rural Development Strategy that will, once finalized, serve as a blue print for improving the lives of poor rural communities. We are also in the process of finalizing the precinct plans to guide orderly development and infrastructure investments in our four rural nodes.

We continue with the implementation of the commonage projects namely, Vlakdrift in Tarlton and Camel Estate in Magaliesburg through the finalization of the necessary studies. We intend to enter into Community Public Private Partnership arrangements to ensure that we amass the necessary resources for the successful implementation of these projects. In future, detailed plans will be developed for portion 26 of the farm Kromdraai commonage that is part of the DMA which was transferred to Mogale City from the West Rand District Municipality after the 2011 elections.

The municipality continues to give assistance to every household affected by natural disasters and evictions. We are always inundated with requests from families living in the rural areas and informal settlements needing assistance during evictions, floods, fire and other emergency situations. Our Rural and Emergency Task Team comprising all internal departments including the Disaster Management Unit of the WRDM is always ready to deal with such cases as an when they are reported.

To date, 52 cases of that nature have been successfully responded to through various interventions. Some of the interventions include the establishment of emergency site and services in the various nodes across the city. Over and above the two emergency site and services in Magaliesburg and Hekpoort that were established in 2011, the municipality has been granted permission to establish two additional emergency site and services in the Muldersdrift area. Planning processes are underway to establish these new sites so that we can enhance our capacity to respond to evictions and other disasters affecting our communities in the rural areas.

To aid rural development efforts, the process of acquiring suitable land to address development imperatives is very essential. The municipality has embarked upon a process of conducting Geo-Technical studies to verify the suitability of various land portions for development prior to acquisition. We intend to engage other spheres of government to assist with resources to acquire land that is found to be suitable for development.

We are pleased to announce that our concerted efforts to uplift our rural areas did not go unnoticed. Ward 32, which includes Hekpoort, has been chosen as one of the four pilot sites in Gauteng for the implementation of the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme. To date the status quo report for the area is being finalized with the incorporation of information on parts of the former DMA into the profile. A council of stakeholders is in operation and its role is to intermediate between government and communities.

In line with the government's programme to accelerate youth development, the local youth have been recruited into National Rural Youth Service Corps and have been exposed to various socio-economic activities aimed at creating good citizenship. Working together with other spheres of government, a list of Quick-Wins was developed within the pilot area for interventions. Currently a number of projects are at implementation stages including those in Tswelelopele and Kromdraai settlements and the neighbouring schools.

In taking the rural development agenda forward, the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development hosted the Provincial Rural Development Summit on the 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March 2012 in Hekpoort. The summit was graced by the Premier of Gauteng, Mme Nomvula Mokonyane. All four CRDP pilot sites in Gauteng province were invited and the highlight of the summit was the signing of a Social Compact by all stakeholders. The summit emphasized the need to make a difference within our rural areas, particularly, committing stakeholders to contribute towards the rural development agenda.

In line with the Premier's announcement during the state of the province address in February 2012, the municipality and the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development launched the West Rand Agricultural Training College on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2012 in Magaliesburg. The college will be one of its kind in Gauteng and the municipality is blessed to be the chosen site for such an auspicious undertaking. It is also worth noting that the West Rand has been identified as one of the Agricultural Hubs in the province and therefore the establishment of this college will further strengthen our competitive advantage in agriculture by developing the requisite skills in this sector.

We also welcome the announcement by the Executive Mayor of the West Rand District Municipality, Cde Mpho Nawa, that the Regional Rural Development Forum, a representative body of stakeholders in this important sector in the West Rand, has assisted in the development of the Regional Rural Development Strategy which was approved last year. We will throw our lot into the successful implementation of this strategy and thereby ensuring that the West Rand becomes the food basket of the province and the nation.

Roads will be constructed in the rural development node of Magaliesburg. We recently hosted a sod turning event at the new boarding school that the provincial government is building in Magaliesburg. A total of R120 million is being invested by the province in that initiative.

We would like to thank the MEC, Nandi Mayathula-Khoza and her Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for the unwavering support that they are giving to our city to ensure that the development of our people remains on course.

### **Improving local public services and broadening access to them**

Madam Speaker, we still stand by our commitment of ensuring that our infrastructure development, upgrade and maintenance plan is implemented so as to achieve sustainable, affordable and reliable service delivery that supports an environment that is conducive to building a vibrant local economy that creates more employment, decent work and sustainable livelihoods. In doing so, we focused on developing new infrastructure for the benefit of the poor who primarily reside in informal settlements whilst ensuring that the bulk infrastructure network of the municipality is upgraded and maintained.

Regarding electricity, our key delivery highlights in the current financial year include the provision of electricity supply to needy areas by installing high mast lights in Munsieville, Rietvallei 2&3 and Rietfontein sports grounds as well as Rietvallei Extension 5 Township, Makhulugama and Soul City informal settlements. We also installed 350 new electricity connections to households in Munsieville and upgraded Krugersdorp North substation with 20 Megawatts. We continued to implement our streetlight maintenance programme to ensure that there is reasonable illumination around the city. We have ensured that we continue to service, test and inspect our distribution network by conducting regular inspections and carrying out the required maintenance services.

Through this programme we managed to keep the quality of supply of our distribution network at a compliance level above 90 % and we hope the accuracy of measurement thereof will improve with the installation of new technology.

During this financial year, we undertook the upgrading the load control systems at six of our ten substations. This technology works in tandem with our ripple relay control system that enables us to control load during peak demand period by switching off domestic geysers.

Madam Speaker, we will be embarking on a massive programme to upgrade our substations in the coming years. Already we have completed engineering designs for the upgrade of Condale Substation at which we receive electricity from ESKOM. We would commence with the two year construction programme at this station in July 2012 at a cost of R300 million. Furthermore, we have already ordered a 20 MVA transformer for this substation to be installed at the beginning of the 2013 calendar year. For the future we do intend to upgrade the remaining substations such as Chamdor, Libertas, Boltonia and Muldersdrift by installing new 20 MVA at each of them.

We also wish to announce that in partnership with ESKOM, we will over the next three years implement projects worth R966 million to strengthen and refurbish the electricity infrastructure across the city.

We are proud that we managed to improve the road conditions in Mogale City by addressing the maintenance backlog. During the current financial year, the maintenance of the road network continued to receive priority attention in that we rehabilitated 4 km of roads in Kagiso, 3km in Munsieville, 2 km in Azaadville and also resurfaced 6 km of road in the Krugersdorp CBD at a total cost of R24 million.

We also prioritised the proper marking of our roads as well as installation and replacement of road signs to improve road safety.

Through the engagement of four co-operatives, we repaired potholes and maintained storm water and sidewalks in various parts of the city at a cost of R 2 million. New roads and storm water networks were constructed in Rietvallei Proper, Rietfontein Village and Ethembaletu. Currently, we are busy constructing 1 km of road with storm water drainage network in Kagiso at a total cost of R7 million. Similarly we are in a process of constructing 3km of road and 1 km of storm water in Ga-Mohale at a total cost of R 10 million. At the same time we are making inroads in paving gravel roads in all rural nodes of the city.

While we acknowledge that there is still a long way to go in the eradication of all gravel roads across the city, our ultimate intention is to eliminate all gravel roads in 2016 and deliver to the Unicity a road infrastructure network that is safe, reliable and which meets the National Road Safety Standards for users.

We are in the process of developing an Integrated Local Transport Plan to promote mobility of our people across the city. This plan will include the upgrading of existing and development of new taxi ranks. We are meanwhile, looking forward to the transportation initiative of prioritizing bus services in Mogale City which Premier Mokonyane announced this year.

Madam Speaker, we will collaborate with sister municipalities and the West Rand District Municipality to ensure that work on the Rietvallei-Toekomsrus Link Road is expedited so that there is ease of movement of people and goods between our towns and cities. We also welcome the support from the MEC of Local Government and Housing to assist in fast-tracking this project.

Insofar as water and sanitation programmes are concerned; we have continued to make significant progress in this regard. Our huge project of addressing challenges at the Percy Stewart Waste Water Treatment Plant is nearing completion and we can proudly state that by September 2012, we would have completed the 10 Megalitres per day expansion programme of this plant.

This huge capital investment of R100 million will ensure that at that time the treatment plant is compliant with the requirements of national legislation in respect of effluent standards and its capacity will increase to 25 Megalitres per day. This will be a major boost to projects associated with the inner city renewal programme and other proposed township developments.

Equally, we have also managed to restore the functionality of Flip Human Waste Water Treatment Plant by increasing its capacity by 20 Megalitres at a cost of R15 million. We intend to implement the Comprehensive Sludge Disposal System on this plant in the next financial year.

Over and above these two projects, other sanitation related projects implemented include the construction of Rietfontein and Ethembalethu sewer pump stations, the connection of Rietfontein sewer pipeline to Driefontein Water Works, the installation of 203 hose sewer connections in Rietfontein Village as well as the upgrade of the sewer pump station in Rietvallei Extension 5.

Future sanitation projects to be implemented include, amongst others, Muldersdrift Bulk Outfall Sewer; Munsieville Ext 5 Sewer and the upgrade of Magaliesburg Waste Water Treatment Works.

Provision of clean drinking water and sanitation facilities to our communities residing in informal settlements and rural areas has been and will remain a priority. The annual expenditure towards the provision of these services to more than 3000 households is in excess of R 30 million. We will be exploring alternative ways to continue rendering these services at a reduced cost.

The amount of Unaccounted-for Water in the city is of great concern to us and it is our resolve that it should be tackled meticulously, and in doing so, we are implementing a Water Demand and Conservation Strategy that will include, amongst others, the development of a policy on the city-wide installation of prepaid meters and upgrading of the aging water infrastructure network.

We continued to maintain our Blue Drop status and remain proud of the quality of our drinking water which is one of the best in Gauteng together with the metros of Ekurhuleni and the City of Johannesburg and we will ensure that the Water Safety Plan is implemented to maintain this status. We continue to work hard in our quest to achieve Green Drop status on our effluent management.

We can boldly stand here and say that we are proud of the achievements we registered in our physical infrastructure development; upgrading and maintenance programme which bodes well not only for service delivery in the current term of office, but for the Unicity as well.

Madam Speaker, we are aware of the important role that public amenities play in the lives of our people and have therefore prioritized their upkeep, upgrading and development in our plans. So far we have managed to renovate community halls in Kagiso, Munsieville, Azaadville, Kagiso EXT 12 as well as the Centenary hall. All these halls and kitchens have been fully equipped and are in good working condition. The remaining halls will be done in the new financial year.

We continue to provide the much needed library and information services to our communities. So far activities undertaken to support this course include the procurement of furniture for Sakkie Nel, Krugersdorp and Krugersdorp West libraries at a cost of over R700 000 and the purchase of books to the value of R240 000. It is exciting to mention that the recorded number of participants in the Library Outreach Programmes reached 3668 in the current financial year. In expanding these services, a mobile library was established in Tarlton in the current financial year and a process is underway by the Provincial Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation and the municipality to plan for the construction of a fully-fledged library in that area.

We continue to maintain a clean and healthy environment for all the citizens of the city. In doing so, we have successfully expanded refuse removal services to Rietvallei Ext 5 and Ext 3A as well as all lodges and businesses in Magaliesburg. The rehabilitation project of the Luipaardsvlei Landfill Site is nearing completion. To address the issue of capacity of this landfill site, the municipality is further considering new technology called "Waste to Energy" in an effort to ensure that waste management contributes in positive way to renewable energy. Work is underway to explore possibilities of acquiring land for the establishment of additional landfill sites for Magaliesburg, Krugersdorp and surrounding areas. The introduction of an alternative waste removal services approach through TEDCOR has empowered 7 community contractors and created 80 local job opportunities.

Despite concerted efforts by the municipality to eradicate this menace of littering and illegal dumping that make the city look unsightly, major challenges are still being experienced. I want to quote an article by an equally concerned citizen from the Krugersdorp News website who wrote:

**“Where is Krugersdorp’s pride? The litter in the streets of Krugersdorp CBD is simply disgraceful. Are Krugersdorp residents no longer proud of their town? Many will argue to say the municipality should clean, but are the residents not responsible for the litter in the first place? Many local businesses and surrounding areas are working towards a greener and more eco-friendly environment, yet Krugersdorp is drowning in paper and rubbish.”**

To address this problem, Clean-up campaigns were conducted in Hotspots such as Boltonia, Azaadville, Apple Park, Swaneville and Munsieville at a cost of R 600 000. In future, we plan to establish transfer stations and to place skip bins in strategic locations across the city. We will also continue with eradication of illegal dumps on a continuous basis. We are appealing to the community to raise their sense of pride and ownership of our environment by joining this cause of keeping Mogale City clean and beautiful.

In line with our Back To Basics approach, most of the complaints of overgrown grass have been attended to, especially the complaints of open spaces where crime has been of concern. We have increased our capacity in grass cutting operations through the engagement of contractors and we therefore manage to cut more than 1600 ha and have created approximately 155 jobs through this approach.

Once again our excellence in landscaping by our parks management has been recognized during our participation in the Garden World Landscape Show and the Sunday Tribune Garden & Leisure Show in Pietermaritzburg where we obtained gold and silver awards respectively.

It is also my pleasure to announce that through the dedicated efforts of our integrated environmental management department, our councillors and the community, Mogale City managed to scoop the first prize of R 300 000 in the local municipality category of the Bontle ke Botho campaign. We also want to congratulate wards 6, 9, 12, 13, 30 as well as Zwartkop Valley, Patrick Mashigo and Thuthuzekani Primary Schools who also won prizes in this campaign. We encourage you to keep up the good work.

We continue to upgrade, develop and maintain various parks across the city for the enjoyment of our communities. In this regard, the Municipality will now commence with the second phase of the Azaadville Park project at a cost of R7, 128,745.21 and this will include the construction of a BMX cycle race track, walkways, fencing, more picnic sites and landscaping.

We are finalizing Phase One of the construction of a 20 hectare Regional Park in Kagiso that comprises, amongst others, two main entrances with parking, walkways, play areas with play equipment, braai area with seating and morabaraba play tables and ablution facilities. The construction of phase two of this park will commence in the next financial year and it is expected that more than 100 jobs will be created in the process.

We have also developed a new park in Kagiso Hospital View wherein various play equipment and braai facilities have been installed.

The upgrade and expansion of the Kagiso Cemetery is on course and the construction of a new entrance road and road network commenced during March 2012 and will be completed by end of October 2012. It is envisaged that this project will create more than 20 jobs during construction. To meet future demands for cemetery services more land will be acquired for Sterkfontein and Magaliesburg cemeteries.

The municipality has taken over the Krugersdorp Game Reserve and is working tirelessly to restore all the facilities of this asset into usable state. Much progress has been made on this project as witnessed by the increasing number of visitors who engage in various recreational activities in the game reserve.

We have long embraced the catalytic role that sports and recreation play in social cohesion and the fact that they are major contributors to healthy lifestyles and therefore all sectors of society should be encouraged to participate in various sporting activities. In facilitating this, the municipality maintained the various sports facilities and implemented various programmes in which 4426 people participated. A Turf Management Plan was recently approved and this will guide future maintenance activities of the sport facilities.

Through the heritage, arts and culture outreach programme, we managed to engage 2314 participants.

To ensure that sports, recreation, heritage, arts and culture sector contribute optimally to the well-being of our community, we plan to upgrade, amongst others, the Kagiso and Lusaka Sports Complexes as well as the Krugersdorp West Swimming Pool. In addition, we will vigorously refine our approach to this function through the development and implementation of a Comprehensive Strategy for Sport, Arts, Culture and Heritage. We will work with the provincial department of Infrastructure to ensure that the Kagiso Memorial Park project is realized.

We are also working closely with the MEC for Sports, Art, Recreation and Culture in Gauteng, Cde Lebogang Maile to see to the successful construction of the Gauteng Sports Village in the Bob van Reenen-Paardekraal area.

The Driver and Motor Licensing Centre, which the provincial government has cited as one of the best run in Gauteng, continues to offer excellent services to our communities. For the current year, we handled 17 635 transactions for new registrations and transfer of ownership of vehicles, 67 770 transactions for the renewal of motor vehicle licenses and further collected over R2 million in penalties from motorists who did not comply with legislation. During the year, the centre processed 9066 bookings for learners and driving licenses and conducted 8186 tests on these. The centre has extended its services to the first three Saturdays of the month and this has had a huge positive impact on the community as shown by the regular positive feedback we receive.

As part of providing a safety net for the most vulnerable in our communities, we registered 3286 new indigent households bringing the total number of households benefitting from free basic services to 8542. We also assisted 86 families to bury their own with dignity through our Indigent Burials Policy.

In ensuring food security for our communities, we are assisting 12 community food gardens across the city through the distribution of vegetable seeds and seedlings. A Rietvallei community group was assisted with a borehole pump house, electrical connection and irrigation. This enabled the group to generate more than R12,000 from selling their produce.

Gabomotho Gemso youth group in Rietvallei has also been assisted with fencing, soil preparation and layout of a nursery and food garden. Sponsors were obtained to finance some of the materials.

The municipality is working closely with the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to ensure the expansion of this programme to reach most of the needy and deserving households across the municipality. A tractor with the necessary equipment was assigned to the municipality by the department for this purpose.

Other poverty alleviation projects implemented include four sewing projects in Kagiso, Kagiso Extension 12 and Lusaka that have a total membership of 20 people. These projects have grown to an extent that they are already producing goods for the market.

In the current financial year, a total of 77 organisations were allocated Grants-in-Aid to the value of R520 000.

Madam Speaker, we recognize the fact that the designated and vulnerable groups in our communities are still marginalized despite government's efforts to empower, protect and prioritize their needs. Our contribution to this course is mainly through the following programmes that we implement:

- Firstly, the Disability Support Programme through which two support groups for parents of children with disabilities were established in Lusaka and 28 people from Lusaka and Munsieville participated in literacy training offered by the Department of Education.
- Secondly, the local Programme of Action for Children, through which we facilitate support for five support groups comprising a total of 84 orphans and vulnerable children in Kagiso, Kagiso Extension 12, Muldersdrift and Tarlton.
- Thirdly, the Early Childhood Development Programme wherein over and above the normal programme offerings, we are training 64 early childhood development practitioners in the ECD NOF Level 4 in order to improve their skills as care givers of children.
- Fourthly, the Elderly Support Programme through which 287 people benefitted from 12 luncheon clubs, 18 people from Tarlton participated in literacy training, amongst many projects.

- Lastly, the Youth Development Programmes in which the municipality is host to 98 young people who are part of the National Youth Service programme, 517 people from Swaneville and Hekpoort benefitted from the life skills programme and 792 youth was reached through ward-based imbizos to gather input for the development of the youth development strategy.

Going forward, our improvement efforts in rendering social upliftment services will be geared towards the finalization of the Youth Development Strategy and the development of a Comprehensive Social Security Strategy that will address amongst other co-ordination and alignment of all poverty programmes within the district to maximize impact and avoid wastage

Our fight against the scourge of HIV/AIDS continues and our 141 volunteers managed to reach over 115 000 people through the ward based door to door community education programme. An HIV/AIDS Inter-sectoral Committee has been established for the co-ordination of all sectors involved in the fight against HIV /AIDS in Mogale City.

### **Promoting more active community participation in local government**

As a people- centred government, the municipality maintained constant interaction with the community through various platforms including the statutory IDP roadshows. We are developing a new Stakeholder Engagement Strategy that will ensure that we take public participation beyond legal compliance. Members of the Mayoral Committee will hold monthly meetings with key stakeholders to address concerns emanating from the various sectors. We managed to establish all the 34 ward committees across the city and the elected members attended an induction programme organized by the department of Local Government and Housing last month. These committees will receive the necessary support to ensure their functionality.

### **Ensuring a more effective, accountable and clean local government**

We made substantial investments to coral new technologies to improve organizational effectiveness by ensuring seamless administration, communication and security of our information across the institution.

In line with the Vision 2016 strategy, the municipality will in this coming year review, strengthen and align its Communication Strategy with the 2011-2016 WRDM Marketing and Communications Strategy. This will ensure that there is greater interaction between the municipality and the community it accounts to.

After the Local Government Elections of 2011, we have successfully established all the section 79 and 80 committees as required by the Municipal Structures Act. These committees are active in assisting council to deliver on its mandate.

To ensure that Councillors are well equipped to carry out their duties, an induction programme and other training related workshops were organized. All Councillors were also issued with tools of trade that include laptops. To strengthen their capacity further, we are conducting a skills profiling exercise for all of them out of which a Councillor Capacitation Plan will be developed and implemented.

To effectively deliver on our mandate, we continuously undertake a review of the organizational structure and engage in job profiling exercises to ensure that it is aligned to strategic plan of the municipality.

The Workplace Skills Plan is also being implemented effectively to improve on the skills of the workforce. We intend to cascade the performance management system of the organization to all employees by the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2012.

Madam Speaker, in acknowledgement of the fact that corrupt activities have the potential to undermine the integrity, public confidence and prudent service delivery efforts in the local government sphere, our municipality adopted an Anti-corruption Framework in August last year. The framework is a tool by which the institution is able to curb excesses committed either by officials, politicians, stakeholders or service providers. A roll-out programme is currently being implemented and the first phase thereof focuses on education and awareness for councillors and staff.

Contrary to negative perceptions held against the municipality over its financial situation, we want to state it today that ours is a viable institution. All municipalities and business entities have felt the squeeze visited upon them by the recent global economic meltdown. With a revenue collection rate that is at 92% and rising, we are poised to reach a point where we can sustain our planned operations to the end of the financial year. In a few week's time, we will present drafts of our Integrated Development Plan and Budget for the 2012/2013 financial for our people's scrutiny. As always, we anticipate frank and robust engagement that will culminate in us making the necessary choices between competing service delivery priorities and fiscal realities.

Also, we are working closely with the Office of the Auditor-General to address identified weaknesses in our systems with a view to obtain an unqualified or clean audit opinion.

We have created capacity for monitoring and evaluation of our service delivery programme to realize the objectives set out in the 2011 ANC Local Government Elections Manifesto. Also, in order to prime ourselves properly for heightened service delivery, we have established a research and development unit to constantly review and refine our policies and to close policy gaps where they exist.

## **CONCLUSION**

Madam Speaker we are under no illusion that the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality will be eliminated in one fell swoop or even in one financial year. We are however determined to make a serious dent on these challenges. The ruling ANC has demonstrated over successive terms that it will work tirelessly to satisfy the aspirations of the majority of our people. At this stage in the development of our nascent democracy we can stand proud of our track record in government.

The most remarkable observation that we can make today is that having displaced the ugly spectre of racial discrimination in our society, we have seen those who bore the brunt of the grotesque burden of social displacement and exclusion have now become very assertive members of society. When we said in the Freedom Charter that "**the people shall govern**," we had envisaged a society that is independent, vocal, assertive and active participants in the development of their country.

We are alive to the fact that our people's endorsement of the African National Congress as the most capable party to run the affairs of Mogale City over successive terms emanates from more than just plain public relations initiatives. It comes from the tangible progress the people experience in their lives and in which project they are active participants of.

Madam Speaker this is the programme to which we commit our municipality in the coming year in furtherance of the goal of building a better life for all in Mogale City.

I thank you.