



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

Civic Centre, Mogale City
3rd May 2013

Madam Speaker, Cllr Suzen Thupane;

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;

Leaders of Opposition parties;

Honourable councillors;

General Manager of Eskom in Gauteng, Mr. Peter Sebola;

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

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

Religious and business leaders;

Members of the media;

Distinguished guests, comrades and friends:

We gather here today to give a frank account on the State of our City one year before South Africa celebrates the second decade of democracy.

We also pay tribute to all the freedom fighters that made great sacrifices so that all South Africans can enjoy a life built on the principles of non-racialism, non-sexism, peace, justice and prosperity. We want to single out amongst our martyrs, the inimitable **Chris Hani** who twenty years ago had his life cut short at its prime through the bullet of a fascist whose group had thought that lethal force will scare and muzzle the voice of the advancing masses and derail the negotiations for a democratic South Africa.

They did not know that history has always stood on the side of justice and that no amount of hate or slander can defuse the penchant of a people yearning to be free.

We also want to pay tribute to the late **Sister Bernard Ncube**, former Mayor of the West Rand District Municipality. As leader of the United Democratic Front as well as founder member and past president of the **Federation of Transvaal Women (FEDTRAW)** Sister Bernard Ncube was arrested, charged with sedition and subversion and spent time in solitary confinement.

She also served in the national executive committee of the African National Congress. In 1994 she became a Member of Parliament and was chairperson of the portfolio committee on arts and culture, a member of the ethics committee as well as an alternate member of the **National Council of Provinces**.

Sister Ncube did not fear to take up positions on issues in a manner that brought great discomfort to those around her and drew from her vast experience as an activist for women and children's rights when she argued for abortion when it was unpopular to do so.

On her passing, President Jacob Zuma said that:

"South Africa has lost a compassionate human being who was fearless and never relented in her convictions."

In a tribute to Sister Ncube, the **ANC Women's League** said that she made a valuable contribution to South Africa and for that we cannot thank her enough. *"Her life will be honoured and remembered..."*

The programme of action we outline today is geared towards immortalization of this great son and daughter of our movement, Cdes Chris Hani and Sister Bernard Ncube and we hope hereby we will ensure that their sacrifices endure in the memory of our people. We celebrate their heroism through work.

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

We adopted the **2011 Local Government Elections Manifesto** of the **African National Congress** as the **Programme of Action** of the municipality and therefore this report will indicate the ground we have covered in making sure that the objectives set out in the Manifesto are realized. We have committed to contributing meaningfully to the fight against the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. This programme of action will also demonstrate that we are in the process of refining our strategies to ensure alignment with the **National Development Plan**.

Mogale City continues to be a huge construction site. Various construction projects are at different phases of development around the city. The investor community is voting with their cheque books and telling all those who care to hear that Mogale City is the place to **invest and thrive**.

We have considered a total of **249 land use applications** whilst 130 new land portions were created through subdivision applications. A total number of **10 new townships** were approved that will result in 342 500m² of business, commercial and other non-residential floor area and 4927 dwelling units once developed.

These new townships are expected to create a total number of **109 617** temporary jobs during the construction phase and a total number of **4013** permanent jobs after completion.

A total number of **679 building plans** were approved amounting to a floor area of 170 000m² once completed and the investment value amounts to **R727 million**, which is a R100 million more than last year.

Madam Speaker, in 2005 the National Government introduced the **Neighbourhood Development Partnership Grant** which is a conditional grant provided to municipalities through the Division of Revenue Act. One of the most important principles that informed introduction of this grant is the fact that economic growth is a fundamental prerequisite for achieving policy objectives of government aimed at improving the quality of life for our people. The new Leratong Intersection development node; the Greater Kagiso Township and Munsieville in our city were amongst the 90 national projects earmarked for financial support.

We are pleased to announce that **Leratong Programme Plans** which are part of the broader **Township Regeneration Strategy**, an umbrella programme for potential projects in various precincts, were submitted to the National Treasury for approval. Once approval is secured, the next stage of work which comprises the development of project plans for the chosen projects will then commence. The project plans will then be collated and integrated into an NDPG business plan for the Leratong Node and other areas.

The proposed projects include the following:

- A **skills development centre** and entrepreneurial support facility
- **Pedestrian bridge and iconic entrance feature** over the R41 linking Kagiso to Leratong Hospital.
- **Internal main road Activity Street** including Market Square / Public Place, from R41 to multi-modal public transport facility
- **Upgrading pedestrian ways connecting Kagiso** to the Node and improve sidewalks between the node & Leratong Hospital;
- **Develop quality public open space;**

- **Develop an Integrated Multi-purpose Community Facility** comprising, amongst others:
 - A library; learning centre and ICT facility
 - Community Centre with CBO and Education Support Services
 - Clinic
 - Police Station
 - Fire station and
 - Government offices.

The first phase of this ten year project will yield about 2 500 jobs during the construction phase whilst 1 500 permanent jobs will be created at the end of the project.

It is our intention to revitalize the Central Business District. The fact that this is the area where the seat of power is situated should propel us to give our CBD an extreme makeover. We have made significant strides with Precinct Plans for this purpose. Through partnership with the Provincial Department of Local Government and Housing, the **CBD Urban Development Framework** has moved to implementation phase and consultants were appointed for the formulation of Business Plans.

Four Catalytic Projects were prioritized for the first phase of implementation and the business and project plans are at the final stages of compilation. These are:

- **Taxi Rank** which includes a place for informal traders, upgrade of the deteriorated streetscape, new residential development around Breda Street.
- **Sports and Recreation Area** (Coronation Park and Bob van Reenen Stadium) which also involves conversion of Paardekraal Drive into a Boulevard
- **Railway Station and Taxi Rank** which will focus on reconfiguration of access and City Blocks to improve access to the station and high value mixed use sites for business, informal trade, multi-modal transport hub and other features
- **Canal Housing project** for social housing next to Krugersdorp Correctional Centre amongst others.

Kagiso Mall was revamped at a cost of R130 million. It is our pleasure to announce today that Old Mutual has approached the municipality to begin talks for further expansion of the Kagiso Mall. We have given “in principle” support for the project and impressed upon them that the proposed expansion should occur on the following basic principle: **No compromise in the use of local contractors and local labour during and after the expansion project!**

This is the approach we used in the **Cradlestone Mall** in Muldersdrift where between 342 and 500 jobs in the unskilled/semi-skilled category have been created for the Muldersdrift community and other areas of Mogale City during construction of this gigantic mall which will open in October this year. Further job opportunities will be created in the next phase when the retail shops open for business.

We also want to report that there is significant progress in the **Mogale City-Rustenburg Development Corridor** in that the pre-feasibility study is awaiting provincial executive approval. In future, this will guide investment in social and economic infrastructure and give Magaliesburg and Tarlton a much needed economic giant leap forward.

Madam Speaker, two of our popular leisure establishments, Cedar Lodge and Usambara Conference Centre, hosted two high-level **breakfast engagements** between the municipality and leaders of business in Mogale City. These meetings were organized to share the strategic objectives of the municipality with business; to frankly discuss how business experiences our municipal service delivery and to improve relations going forward. These will remain an important and permanent feature of our programme so that one of the important stakeholders in the city has a dedicated platform to air their views. We thank the West Rand Chamber of Business and Tourism for working with us in this noble mission.

In the effort to revitalize the Chamdor Industrial Park, we have engaged the community of industrialists who make a significant contribution to the socio-economic well-being of our city. We have agreed on the establishment of the **Chamdor Business Forum** which will meet with the leadership of the municipality on a monthly basis to discuss matters of common interest and to remove any hurdle or hindrance to their business operations.

We continue on a positive trajectory in the provision of **enterprise development support services** to our SMMEs and cooperatives. The Enterprise Development Unit organized training in the areas of business management for 15 SMMEs and customer care whilst three Plato training sessions were held. We also assisted 160 businesses with registration of their entities with the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission.

Moving forward, we will make full use of the advice we received on our Facebook page from **Tebogo Molefe** who insists that we must strictly monitor businesses and crack the whip on any infringement of our by-laws by small traders.

In line with *The National Integrated Strategy on the Promotion of Cooperatives* as well as the **Provincial Integrated Co-operative Development Strategy**, the municipality has developed a **Framework for the Development and Support of Cooperatives** to guide our support programmes for these entities. We have already provided 10 groups comprising 133 individuals with training on establishment of cooperatives.

We have taken a conscious decision to provide unprecedented support to our cooperatives. We are aware that, unlike any other form of business enterprise, Cooperatives provide the most accessible and innovative solution to provision of decent employment for our people because they accommodate large numbers of like-minded entrepreneurs – all of them as equals in the decision making process of the enterprise. For example, four cooperatives created 1109 jobs and were able to make a whopping R2, 5 million in a year by assisting the municipality with road maintenance.

A local cooperative which is in the furniture-making business and employs 12 people, supplied built-in cupboards to Chief Mogale Multi-purpose Community Centre. The municipality supported the cooperative by purchasing an Industrial Panel Saw at more than R100 000 so that they are able to kick-start their business. Already they have been employed to repair all the furniture of the municipality by end of this financial year.

Further, we have instructed departments which deal with core service delivery in the municipality to identify areas that can be addressed by enlisting the services of cooperatives and to commit to a fixed number of entities each department will work with on the basis of long term contracts or three years as required by Municipal Legislation. These services could include procurement of uniforms for our staff members, grass cutting, patching of potholes, manufacture and sale of cleaning material for use in the municipality and other creative ideas. This will ensure that we do not only help establish these entities but we actively support their financial viability and sustenance as well as addressing **job creation**. Therefore our service delivery departments have committed to the use of 72 cooperatives in the 2013/2014 financial year which is broken down as follows:

- Environmental Management will use 50 cooperatives
- Infrastructure Services will use 5 co-ops
- Economic Services will use 6 co-ops
- Social Services will use 1 cooperative.

Madam Speaker, these interventions are done in line with a policy statement by former president **Thabo Mbeki** who once said:

*“To address this investment in social infrastructure, the government has decided that we should launch an **expanded public works programme**. This will ensure that we draw significant numbers of the unemployed into productive work, and that these workers gain skills while they work, and thus take an important step to get out of the pool of those who are marginalized.”*

The municipality heeded this call and was amongst the first to implement this programme. The lessons learnt during the early phases of implementation culminated in the adoption of an **EPWP Policy** in **2010** to institutionalize this programme approach.

Through this programme we will create **613 full-time equivalent jobs (FTE)** in the new financial year under the EPWP as well as **2360 temporary jobs** in various areas of service delivery using EPWP Principles.

As promised last year, the **Local Economic Development Strategy** was finalized and adopted by Council. The strategy identifies programs and projects that will lead to a robust, equitable, growing and sustainable local economy. We really appreciate all stakeholders and role-players who made valuable inputs to this strategy. We look forward to further participation in the **LED Forum** that will be established to ensure that the objectives of this strategy are achieved. Going forward, all projects identified in the strategy will be packaged in a user-friendly manner for the benefit of investors and will be marketed accordingly through the various investment agencies including the **West Rand Development Agency**.

We recently met with the **Gauteng MEC for Economic Development** to discuss areas of collaboration which include entrepreneurial development; trade and investment promotion; green economy; tourism promotion and so forth. The meeting also established that the institutional arrangements for the West Rand Freight and Logistics Hub have been established and we will regularly report on progress made on this project. We also undertook to identify a viable site for the Township Enterprise Hub in Kagiso.

According to research by INCA, our **tourism industry** has grown in leaps and bounds. Our tourist numbers grew from 250 000 in 2001 to 400 000 in 2011 resulting in a threefold increase in revenue from R1,08 billion to R3,58 billion.

To further enhance and diversify our tourism offerings, we are in the final stages of development of the **Tourism Strategy** which is now being circulated for public input. Once these valuable inputs have been received, the strategy will be refined and presented to the various committees of Council for approval. We have also held meetings with tourism operators affiliated to **Magalies Meander** to explore matters of common interest and to offer our support for this growing industry.

This strategy will assist in identifying new development nodes including township-based **tourism product development**.

The **Tourism Portal** which showcases our tourist offerings has been developed and is now live on the Mogale City website. We believe that this new development will boost the destination marketing interventions and ensure that this **City of Human Origin** continues to grow as a tourism destination of choice.

Building more united, non-racial and safer communities

Madam Speaker, whereas the 2007 Community Survey estimated the population of Mogale City to be around 319 614, the 2011 Census which was released last year shows that the **population** of Mogale City has grown to 362 422 compared to the 2001 Census which put our population at 289 714. This shows that our population size increased by more than 70 000. The level of **unemployment** according to an independent study by INCA stands at **28.9%** which does not compare favourably against the provincial average of 25%. We hope that our various interventions would contribute greatly in reducing this figure and halving poverty in the city.

The second most pressing challenge to unemployment in the city is lack of housing. Currently statistics show that our **housing backlog** increased from 15 400 in 2006 to 27 100 in 2011, which also compares favourably with the provincial backlog of 24.4%. It should be noted that as a growing city, we become attractive to the majority of our people from various parts of the country which results in high levels of **in-migration** which undermines the gains we continue to make on various fronts. This means that our government is always chasing a moving target.

We want to reiterate our commitment to the restoration of the dignity of our people through **security of tenure**. We are pleased with the sound working relationship we have established with the Provincial Department of Local Government and Housing and we are working relentlessly to ensure speedy delivery of housing for the people of Mogale City.

Statistics show that about 25% of our people live in informal settlements. An **Informal Settlement By-law**, which was developed to enable us to contain growth of informal settlements around the city, was approved by Council. An **Informal Settlement Survey** which we conduct every five years was also concluded. This survey provides us with valuable data to monitor growth of informal settlements and helps us to plan for the establishment of formal settlements especially in rural areas. We have also developed an **Informal Settlements Register** which is a record of shacks in the city and the number of people who reside in them.

In line with our **Municipal Housing Development Plan** which we also revise every five years, the municipality is in the process of identifying developable land to implement a **Site and Services Programme in Urban Areas**. Through this programme the municipality will provide basic infrastructure like electricity, roads, water and sanitation and allocate sites to deserving families who will in turn build temporary abodes for themselves whilst we await construction of houses by the provincial government. This will provide security of tenure for most families because they will now have proper serviced stands in their name.

The relocation of communities which is part of this programme will assist in eradication of informal settlements that have no hope of being formalized because of the unsuitable land surface on which they are built.

We hope that through this Site and Services programme we could see to it that places like Tudor Shaft, Soul City, Makhulugama and others will cease to exist by the end of this political term. We have already identified land in **Kagiso Extension 13** to deal progressively with the housing needs of the Tudor Shaft/Soul City community.

We are making sure that we nip in the bud the opportunistic machinations of those who seek glory and fame for themselves by manipulating the genuine grievances of our people and thereby building political power bases in these informal settlements. These informal settlements then become the nucleus for **service delivery protests which are accompanied by major mayhem**, even when progress reports on our service delivery programme are constantly provided to communities. Those who have the best interests of our people at heart will support this programme so that gradually we can restore our people's dignity by ensuring that the majority are able to point to a structure they can proudly call home.

Our philosophy has always been that any service delivery progress experienced by residents in the urban areas should similarly be experienced by their rural counterparts. As part of the **Rural Housing Strategy**, working with the provincial government we have completed studies in Nooitgedacht as well as the necessary Township Establishment processes. Therefore construction of the first 1000 units of a 5000 housing development will be rolled out soon.

We have also completed studies on Hekpoort Portion 265 and await Township Establishment approvals so that 66 housing units can be delivered. We have struck an understanding with the provincial government that, with all due consideration of the effects of densification in our rural areas, it is critical that we **significantly raise the numbers of housing units** as well as the quality of housing development projects in our rural nodes. Consequently, various studies are being conducted on various land portions throughout our rural nodes so that we can achieve significant housing delivery for our rural people.

Madam Speaker, we have already announced the pending construction of 190 units in the **Dr. Molefi Sefularo Village** in Hekpoort. Our Infrastructure services department; Finance as well as the Human settlement departments are under strict instruction to unlock the bottlenecks that hinder progress on this development before the positive Record of Decision lapses. We cannot be bogged down by never-ending negotiations over this matter. The people of Hekpoort deserve better.

I would like to return to the **Leratong Nodal Development** which I referred to earlier. Apart from the components we listed then, this project will yield about 17 000 housing units of mixed typologies. Low-cost housing will constitute about 10 220 units whilst 4 160 to 5 610 thereof will be RDP or “give-away” stock.

At this stage I wish to acknowledge the presence of Mr. Phillip de Beer, my principal and mentor under whom I did my articles. He was the first white person to ever invite me to his house for either a braai or as our kids say, to just chill out. He did these things way back when it was anathema to have black folks milling around the suburbs. My fellow articulated clerks in many legal firms shared horror stories of being sent on errands like messengers by their principals. I never experienced that because Mr. de Beer involved me fully in decision-making in his legal practice, and I learnt a lot about the profession under his wing. Apart from doing this, his actions buttressed our long-standing belief that we cannot build a non-racial society based on suspicion and mistrust, and here was a success story of what it meant if all South Africans treated each other as equals.

South Africans have lived and cherished this dream of a non-racial society and hoped it could be realized in their lifetime hence there was resonance within us when Premier Nomvula Mokonyane said in the 2013 State of the Province Address:

“We are especially pleased that the gulf between class, race and culture is being bridged in places like Chief Mogale, Lady Selbourne and many other mixed housing projects in our province.”

We can confirm that hurdles that stood before the roll-out of the second phase of the **Chief Mogale Mixed Development** have been ironed out. The railway servitude that will run through the township has been resolved and township proclamation has been finalized. Installation of bulk services on the site will commence in the near future and construction of top structures will commence in 2014. The total yield during Phase Two of the project is 527 RDP houses and 375 “low cost” houses. At the end of Phase Two, government will have provided 1252 RDP houses.

In **Rietvallei Proper Ext. 1** we are busy with “in situ” construction of 300 units of which 80 have been completed and allocated. In a similar project in **Kagiso Ext. 12**, some 200 units are being constructed and 67 have been completed. Both these projects are fraught with challenges of slow approvals as well as the quality of the units being sub-standard. These issues have been raised with the provincial government for speedy resolution.

The municipality has already serviced the land in **Munsieville Ext. 5** and after bulk sewer connections, the construction of 852 top structures will commence earnestly. Also, the first phase of rectification of 662 houses in **Munsieville Ext. 2** has commenced. The rectification process comes about because building material used in construction of these units was sulphur-contaminated. During this phase the province will rebuild 167 units immediately after a tender has been awarded.

We have started talks with private sector players to partner with us in fixing 6 dilapidated houses in **Kagiso One**. In the not-too-distant future, these will be demolished and rebuilt so that we can restore the dignity of the affected families.

The provincial government has set aside R800 000 to do pre-planning studies on the **Moth Site** development not far from Krugersdorp Correctional Centre. The project will yield a total of 7500 housing opportunities in phases, with Phase 1 producing 3000 housing opportunities. Pre-planning commenced during September 2012. The land earmarked for development is both Municipal owned and privately owned, and Phase 1 is focused on the Municipal owned land portions. Detailed planning will be commissioned this year after all the issues that delay the development are addressed. Project implementation may commence in the 2014/2015 financial year.

In our drive to add to the parcels of land for housing delivery, we have started talks with **mining houses** in Mogale City about the possibility of land swop opportunities; direct sale of land to the municipality; donation of land for human settlement as well as other options. Progress has already been made with Mintails and official announcement on the extent of land that has been acquired through these initiatives will be made in the not-too-distant future. We want to thank this mining company for this gesture and we trust that many others will follow in their footsteps.

Madam Speaker, a certain menace is threatening our peace and livelihood in the city. This menace operates with wanton impunity and brazen arrogance undermining the government of the country in general and that of Mogale City in particular. We send our condolences to families who lost loved ones in the spate of violent attacks that rained on **Muldersdrift** in the past while. The police have now discovered the modus operandi of these criminals and have devised a multi-pronged approach to reduce the levels of crime committed in the area. We are particularly pleased with the swift response of our **South African Police Services** and welcome the arrest of some of the alleged crime perpetrators. Through their efforts we are told that the crime levels have gone down by 51%. We urge the various stakeholders who are seized with these issues to continue to support the efforts of our law enforcement agencies so that the battle against crime around the city can be won.

In September last year, we established a **multi-sectoral task team** of religious leaders, organized business, the SAPS, Departments of Home Affairs, Health, opposition political parties and organisations of civil society to look at the **crime situation** in the inner city.

This team has organized **sting operations or raids** on crime hotspots, drug trafficking dens and prostitution rings around Sivewright Avenue area. Several arrests have been made and two properties notorious for drug peddling and prostitution have been closed down and more will follow.

It has come to light that **absentee landlords** have hired out their buildings and are completely unaware of or are conveniently blind to the shenanigans of the hoodlums who use their properties for criminal activities. We will not hesitate to close and confiscate these properties should the owners not accede to our humble appeals to rid these buildings of this scum.

The committee has also worked with the community in organizing a march to highlight the plight of law abiding residents who live in the Sivewright Avenue zone and who are completely appalled at the drug trafficking that is so rampant in their area.

We must urge our community to join us as we embark on a sustained campaign to get rid of these criminals and reclaim our city.

In **Azaadville**, the municipality has worked with the local **Neighbourhood Watch** to address safety issues in the area. Our interactions have resulted in the municipality permitting the construction of a perimeter fence around the suburb to give residents better control of access to the area without infringing on the rights to movement for the rest of our community. We are in the process of concluding the issue of speed calming measures at the entrances as well as installation of CCTV cameras.

We want to use this occasion to declare our excitement at the establishment of the **Local Moral Regeneration Movement** which is chaired by **Pastor Walter Hobbs**. The behaviour of many of our fellow residents has caught the attention of the media. These range from the rape and murder of women and children; learners drinking openly in the streets during school hours and the most recent brutal murder of a Mozambican national by ATM robbers in Kagiso. There is also the spectre of **Satanism** and use of **nyaope** amongst our youth. We support the efforts of our government to classify nyaope as a habit-forming substance. When our fellow residents indulge openly in acts that bring embarrassment to our city we then become convinced that our society requires divine intervention. It is at this time that we call on men and women of moral rectitude and upright principle to intervene and guide us out of the doldrums. We look forward to very robust engagement with the committee.

Also, the re-introduction by the West Rand Chamber of Business and Tourism of CBD patrollers, who have been dubbed **Bobby-on-the-Beat**, is most welcome and will be supported by the municipality because crime-fighting is not a battle that government can win alone. We must do our bit to make ours a safe place to live in.

The city is working hard to clampdown on lawlessness that plagues our roads. We set aside R2, 5 million for traffic law enforcement projects, acquired and installed three fixed **speed cameras** and identified other sites for same. Six semi-mobile radar speed cameras are rotated around different sites. These cameras have assisted us to issue 91 274 traffic citations for general violations.

We also entered into an outreach programme on **Road Safety** and reached a total of 8 333 road users. We have appointed 36 officers to beef up our safety team.

Some 729 **roadblocks** have been conducted to date and 3366 warrants were executed during these operations.

We have conducted **inspections and patrols** in different municipal properties, and enlisted the services of the Red Ants to prevent and monitor land invasions around the city.

We are in the process of finalizing the establishment of the **Municipal Court** by addressing compliance issues as required by the Department of Justice. The court will be up and running in the near future. In addition, we will establish a representative **By-law Enforcement Forum** which will ensure that by-law infringements are avoided or minimized in the city.

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

A local resident, **Lekale Mashego**, has advised us to strive towards becoming “*the first green city in Gauteng with an Integrated Waste and Green Energy Plan that benefits the municipality and green tech companies.*”

We want to reassure the resident that we are working with the district municipality to unpack the **Green IQ programme** into pockets of deliverable projects that will effectively reduce the regional carbon footprint as well as kick-start what is actually virgin territory for most companies that want to venture into the green economy.

On the other hand, the municipality continues to implement its **Aesthetics Plan** to green and beautify the city.

We budgeted R350 000 for **Air Quality Monitoring** which has not been used. The funds will be transferred to the West Rand District Municipality for the repair and maintenance of the Air Quality Monitoring Station.

Enhancing investment in basic services in rural areas

Madam Speaker, **rural development** became a priority in Mogale City before it was made a priority nationally. We want to reiterate what we said last year that it was no coincidence that Ward 32 in Hekpoort was chosen by the national government as a pilot site for the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP).

We are pleased to announce that significant progress has been made in the CRDP project. Ten multi-purpose cooperatives have been registered within the site. We have also allocated two portions of land which are 1.5 hectares and 3 hectares in extent respectively for communal food gardens in Hekpoort and Kromdraai. The project will benefit approximately 200 households to address food security issues.

The **National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform** gave training to fifteen beneficiaries in what is called the **Fence Making Processing Project** and also bought and delivered a Fence-making machine to the beneficiaries in Kromdraai.

The national department also implemented another food security project on 2.5 hectares of land at **Tswelopele settlement** and spent approximately R1.5 million on the food garden project which has 25 beneficiaries. In the process 30 jobs were created.

The municipality has, in conjunction with provincial government, identified 5 hectares of land for implementation of **Vlakdrift Agri-Park Project**. The main elements of the project are vegetable, flower and poultry farming. The site has been fenced off and project material has been delivered. Ten beneficiaries have been selected for the first phase of the project and the projections are that some 80 jobs will be created in the future. The municipality will also provide borehole water, electricity, sanitation and security.

Together with the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD), we launched the **West Rand Institute for Agricultural Training (WRIAT)** located at the Carmel Estate Commonage. The municipality will provide land for operations as well as basic municipal services which will then lead to 300 students starting their training in various agricultural fields.

We also want to report that the **Magaliesburg Boarding School** project is proceeding well. This provincial project has created 60 local jobs during construction which will be completed next year.

As we said earlier, our densification in the rural nodes will be very aggressive. It will be done in a manner that does not destabilize the pristine environment and tranquility of our peri-urban landscape. This will be guided by the approved **nodal precinct plans**. We have acquired 75 hectares of land in Hekpoort for purposes of housing and agricultural development. We will continue with our **land acquisition** programmes in strategic areas across the city.

Four **Emergency Site and Services** which are meant to accommodate evicted families and those living in sub-human conditions have been approved. Construction of fences has begun on all of them. It is envisaged that 50 temporary jobs will be created during the fencing project. Two of the Site and Services in Hekpoort and Magaliesburg have been completed. In Muldersdrift, we have allocated 11 stands out of a total of 59 whilst the Honingklip Site and Services has been halted due to a court challenge by landowners.

We extended a hand of cooperation to **agricultural landowners** around the city in an effort to find mutually-beneficial human settlement solutions for the rural poor and farmworkers. It continues to concern us that despite protracted negotiations on land matters and improved working conditions, few in the farming community continue to subject our people to the most horrendous working conditions which when challenged often result in evictions. Also, despite it being their right to do so albeit morally reprehensible, we have dealt with isolated cases where some farmers dispose of their land without informing workers which leads to large scale displacement of our people when properties are sold. Again, we urge a rethink of the manner in which our rural people are treated.

Compared to 52 cases of the past year, the **Rural and Emergency Task Team** successfully dealt with 34 cases of evictions and emergency disaster. We will not stop making this call for us to engage and give dignity to the hard-working farmworkers who keep the agricultural sector in the West Rand alive.

The Municipality has provided support to CBOs and NGOs in the rural areas to address job creation and food security. Amongst others we helped **Thusa Bagale Agricultural Project** which was established by the residents of Matshelapata in Tarlton to address issues of food security whilst creating much sought-after jobs for the community. The municipality links this project with various government services, especially with services provided by GDARD. The project currently has 18 beneficiaries and will have over 100 people once it operates at full capacity.

Improving local public services and broadening access to them

Madam Speaker, as we stand before this august gathering today, we do so against the backdrop of stern warnings from our parastatal, ESKOM, that this winter will be a difficult one for the country.

In order to ensure firm supply of electricity, we have embarked on a 3 year upgrade of **CONDALE/TEDDY NIEL** and **KRUGERSDORP NORTH SUBSTATIONS** and is intent on creating additional capacity for new developments. This project will cost the municipality some R141 million.

We have completed the upgrade of the **DELPORTON SUBSTATION** switchgear room so that we can supply electricity to Percy Stewart Water Treatment Works.

The municipality is on the process of installing **new electrical reticulation and electrical pre-payment meters** at the Lanwen Hostel and this will cost us R3 million to ensure a safe and reliable supply of electricity to the residents of the hostel.

ESKOM has committed **R466 million** over five years for the development of electricity infrastructure in collaboration with the municipality so that the quality of life of our residents can be improved. The funding will be directed at 62 critical strengthening and refurbishment projects across areas of the city that are directly supplied by ESKOM.

Last month, in a ground-breaking move in Gauteng, the municipality and ESKOM launched the **Electricity Stakeholder Forum** to facilitate communication between the municipality, the parastatal and its customers as well as to mitigate risks related to electricity supply. The forum comprises ESKOM and municipal officials, ward councillors, ward committee members, the South African Police Services, the South African National Civic Organisation (SANCO) and officials from our district education department who collectively represent various interests in the community.

We also repeat our humble appeal to our community to work with us in safeguarding our infrastructure against theft and vandalism so that services can be enjoyed in a sustainable manner.

Considering that most of our electricity infrastructure is old and in need of attention, with the help of **MEC Nkosiphendule Kholisile**, we approached and held a meeting with the Minister of Energy, Cde Dipuo Peters to discuss collaboration between the national government and the municipality for improvement of electricity infrastructure and provision of energy which will ultimately be the backbone for firm electricity supply to the entire West Rand region.

We maintained close to 9000 **streetlights** as well as 729 traffic lights. In our interaction with Chamdor business people, one of the sore points they raised was the lethargy with which we respond to their requests for repairs and maintenance of streetlights. This then leads to several streets standing dark most nights and becoming the feeding ground for the louts to break into their firms and steal valuables. This is also the same complaint that comes from ordinary residents of our city. Streetlights are the first sign to show that there is a serious municipality at work in any small town or big city.

The failure to respond to illumination needs of communities is a bad reflection on our leadership and is also very unwelcoming to those who pass or visit our city.

This is the reason that we are putting up concrete poles to illuminate the K198 road from Azaadville to Leratong; the R28 to Randfontein as well as the small stretch of road from Geba Street and Sebenzisa Drive along Madiba High School. Also, we have installed streetlights at the traffic intersection in Kromdraai.

In the new year, we will make a concerted effort to illuminate the K13 from Kagiso to the CBD which residents call the New Road.

The **Rietvallei Sports Complex** will receive high mast lights like the Munsieville Sports Complex.

Apart from looking at the electricity needs of the residents of our city, we are duty-bound to look at the energy needs of our corporate residents. We are mindful of the fact that our **Bulk Contributions Policy** is informed by legislation, regulations and guidelines. However, it has become more than vital for the municipality to look at its Bulk Contributions Policy and ensure that it becomes a facilitator of investment rather than a repellent. A fine balance has to be found in the need for collection of revenue by the municipality from business against the socio-economic contribution that we derive from the investor community when they contemplate and are allowed expansion of their business operations.

We have awarded contracts to the value of R5, 7 million for the **Lanwen Bulk Water pipeline** and another R3, 3 million will be spent on sealing **the Kenmare Reservoir** to curb water losses. About R3, 2 million will be spent to fence off the **Kagiso Reservoir**.

The long awaited rollout of **new prepaid water meters** is already underway whilst a tender for **prepaid water meter replacement** was awarded this week.

Madam Speaker, after a third successive impressive showing in the **Blue Drop Certification Audit**, Mogale City water scientists stand poised to share best practice with other municipalities in the quest to improve drinking water quality management. Currently Mogale City Local Municipality occupies third place nationally and provincially behind Ekurhuleni and City of Johannesburg, amongst municipalities whose water supply systems were audited for the Blue Drop Certificate in 2011/2012. Blue Drop Certification is the ultimate recognition of the scientific and management practices on drinking water quality a municipality can attain.

According to Stats SA, in Mogale City houses with access to sanitation increased from 88.9% in 2007 to 94.5% in 2011. To address backlog and accommodate future growth, we have embarked on a number of sanitation related projects across the city. We will spend R5,1 million on **Flip Human Sludge Handling** to assist in suppressing the stench that has caused great consternation in Kagiso Extension 12 and 14 as well as surrounding areas. We will spend R9,3 million on the **Munsieville Ext. 5 Bulk Sewer**.

We are finalizing land issues that plague the **Lindley Water Treatment Plant** so that we can proceed with environmental processes and detailed designs. This project will help us unlock the development potential of Muldersdrift and surrounds.

The municipality spent R14 million to complete the upgrading of existing **Sewerage Reticulation in Rietvallei Extension 2 & 3**. This project created 174 jobs and was focused on replacement of existing small water borne sewerage system with a fully operational water borne sewerage system with sewer Erf. connections and manholes.

We are also planning to upgrade the **Magaliesburg Waste Water Treatment Plant** from 1MG/day to a 7MG/day facility. We have received approvals from Municipal Infrastructure Grant for R33m funding to start the project, however an additional R70 million will be required to complete it.

We are at advanced stages with the designs and environmental processes for the **Kenmare Sewer Pump station** whose costs are estimated at R7,5 million.

We have halted the **Kromdraai Water Pipeline project** which we inherited from the WRDM because the municipality awaits the outcome of deliberations between our district municipality and the Department of Environmental Affairs over the environmental concerns that were raised.

Our **roads network** came in for increased attention in the past year. Through the services of community-based cooperatives and contractors, we were able to clean 738 catchpits, 16 storm water catchpits and 4.1km of stormwater channels.

The cooperatives have helped us clean 115 km of roads and 27, 600m² of paved sidewalks in various parts of the city.

We have also maintained 218 km of gravel roads in the rural areas. We rehabilitated 12.5 km of paved road in Kagiso, Azaadville, Rietvallei and Munsieville. This maintenance work included 9426 pothole repairs in the tertiary roads and we also gave attention to 2.3km of the main arterial roads like Paardekraal and Voortrekker Roads.

The R10, 5 million construction project of engineering services for **Rangeview Extension 2** is currently underway. The project involves the installation of internal services for 65 residential stands and consists of water network; sewerage reticulation; stormwater network and internal residential roads.

Madam Speaker, the township of **Sinqobile** has 6km of un-surfaced roads which will be upgraded to surfaced standards. A new link road will be constructed between Stephen Motingoa Drive and the M13. A preliminary Design Report has already been submitted to us and a survey has been done for all roads that need to be upgraded. Service providers have been appointed to do traffic impact and environmental studies on the intersection of Kagiso and Stephen Motingoa Drive.

Close to a million rand has already been spent to clear **illegal dumping** around the city. Again we reiterate the call to our community to help us fight dumping in the city. Apart from making the city unsightly, dumping is a breeding ground for rodents and diseases because of unmanaged disposal of all sorts of material at the doorstep of our community. It endangers the lives of children who play in the streets and who would most likely be exposed to these hazards. We encourage residents to make full use of our landfill sites to dispose of waste material.

Our **refuse collection** has gained momentum over the previous year. Going forward, the problems we encountered in this area of service delivery will be a thing of the past. Procurement processes to acquire **skip bins** at the cost of R2 million are at an advanced stages.

We spent R2 million of a budgeted R3,5 million to acquire 5 400 of **240L bins** for allocation to Ga-Mogale; Rietvallei Ext. 3A; Chief Mogale, Rietvallei Village and other previously un-serviced areas.

Madam Speaker, one of the flagship leisure and entertainment facilities in the city, **Coronation Park**, will receive a major revamp for a total of **R22 million**. The community will be dazzled by the designs and aesthetics of what we will do to this popular facility. The people of Mogale City will get to know first-hand the reasons why the team has successively won the **international annual Chelsea Award** for outstanding horticultural work.

We want to be upfront and make a humble appeal to the people of our city to be patient with the process of revamp because when it starts, possibly the doors to the facility will be shut. For us to provide a facility we can all be proud of, we need to give our team ample opportunity to do their best.

Last year we started celebrations of the heritage month by handing over the **Kagiso Regional Park** to the community. The development of the second phase of this park is currently underway at the budgeted amount of R11,9 million. Like many public amenities, the park has experienced its teething problems which are currently being attended to so that the community can have full satisfaction from the use of this facility.

Public consultations on the **Munsieville Regional Park** have been concluded and designs have been completed so that procurement processes can start. Similarly, we are at advanced stages of procurement for the development of **Magaliesburg and Muldersdrift Parks** and we have budgeted a total of R18,6 million for these projects. We are committed to upgrade and development of small parks around the city.

Madam Speaker, we are currently busy building a perimeter wall around the **Kagiso Sports Complex**. This project will cost around R6 million to complete. In the second phase which will start in the new financial year, features like the athletics track, grand stands, lighting and so on will be attended to.

The municipality will give the necessary attention to other existing sports facilities around the city, including installation of water drainage on the soccer field in the **Muldersdrift Sports Complex** as well as fixing the **Azaadville Swimming Pool**.

Through our Facebook page, **Kabelo Tumelo** asked us to come clean on the **Bob van Reenen Stadium**. We wish to announce that the provincial government will spend R10 million on the restoration of the Bob van Reenen Stadium whilst the municipality will weigh in with an additional R5 million. The long term objective is to turn the facility into the Gauteng Sports Village, which will be a high performance centre for all sporting codes in the province. At this point, we want to acknowledge the presence of the **Mogale City Soccer Legends** in this august gathering.

We have successfully refurbished and equipped the Centenary Hall, Kagiso Ext. 2 Azaadville and Kagiso Community as well as the Lewisham halls. The municipality completed the **hall refurbishment project** in April this year at a cost of just over R3million.

After a successful **Annual Mayor's Soccer Tournament**, we are ready to roll-out the **Lindi Nzondo Memorial Ward Games** this winter.

Promoting more active community participation in local government

Madam Speaker, Rivonia trialist **Cde Ahmed Kathrada** once opined that there is a *"growing threat"* which is *"the ignorance of young people about the history of our struggle. They need to know that with freedom comes responsibility. Freedom did not fall from heaven. It was fought for at great cost and sacrifice. And unless young people know how freedom came, they cannot be held responsible for actions and utterances that are inconsistent with the history of the freedom struggle."*

We have seen the demonstration of grit by a humble matriculant, Lehlogonolo Dilebo, an 18 year old who achieved six distinctions in Mathematics, Physical Science, Life Orientation, Geography, English and Life Science at his school, Thutopele Secondary School which is in Kagiso Extension 14. Dilebo together with his single and sickly unemployed mother live in a shack and rely on social grants for survival. He is currently studying for a medical degree. During our visit to his school early this year, this young man who studied without electricity, spoke passionately about how learners had to take full responsibility for their future despite the odds they faced. Here is an example of a young person who understands that freedom comes with responsibility.

It should not be understood that we celebrate poverty. The contrary is true. Our duty as government is to ensure that we intervene decisively and undermine apartheid social engineering whose chief mission was to stunt the intellectual, social and economic growth of the majority of our people.

The municipality awarded R700 000 worth of bursaries to 100 learners. This year we have set aside a minimum of R650 000 to support young matriculants to access tertiary institutions. The **Mayoral Bursary Fund** does not pay the full annual academic fees for each deserving beneficiary but gives students a foot in the door of higher learning institutions. It is envisaged that parents and funding bodies will augment the fund and assist students to cover all their financial requirements.

Also, 42 young people benefited from the **National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC)**. A total of 23 cadets have been placed at the military training centre in Saldannah Bay and 19 at various colleges for Further Education Training. We took 10 young people from each of our rural nodes through a **Computer Training Course**.

Last year we spent R 40 000 on Readathon; Public Speaking; Science Olympiad Library programmes and 6 139 youth participated in the programme.

With the participation of youth formations in all our wards, the municipality developed a **Youth Development Strategy** which has been sent to different departments for input before it is approved by the relevant committees of the municipality. We are impressed by the number of young people who take active interest in the development of youth. We received a delegation from **Upcoming Leaders**, which is a youth formation of 15-18 year olds and is led by Karabo Mosetlhi. This formation has already committed to taking up the task to prepare themselves for tomorrow's leadership challenges and came to present their vision to the municipality. We encourage other young people to follow this example.

At the beginning of this year we held a successful workshop on the **UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities** in Munsieville. We have also established a Mogale City Consultative Forum on Disability which meets quarterly to discuss disability issues. Later this month our disabled employees will attend a workshop on the Rights of Disable Employees.

The **Draft Disability Policy** has been developed and is in the process of approval. Employment Equity Committee members received training on **Sign Language** and this training will be extended to frontline staff.

We successfully held a Children's Walk on the **16 Days of Activism Against Women and Child Abuse** which started from Magaliesburg and ended at Chief Mogale. Other activities were held in different parts of the city.

Ensuring a more effective, accountable and clean local government

Madam Speaker, the municipality received the **Golden Key Award** from the **South African Human Rights Commission** for being the most responsive and transparent municipality in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA).

We are committed to upholding good governance practices in all our operations and we are always engaged in implementing practices that are aimed at promoting **good governance** principles. We initiated the risk management processes in the municipality in 2010 and so far our **risk management** maturity assessments stand at level 3 out of 5 as of June 2012. We are implementing more improved practices in this regard so that we can achieve higher levels during future assessments.

We have also identified the issues around fragmented project planning, implementation and reporting and we are working on the **establishment of a centralised programme – co-ordination unit** that will ensure seamless integration of processes and units such as the Project Management Unit, so that an efficient and cost-effective mechanism supported by state-of-the-art project management solutions is realised in the municipality.

In our drive towards achieving a clean audit, we identified **institutional performance management** as one of the weak areas that need urgent attention. Measures that are being undertaken to improve the situation include the introduction of **electronic performance management system** on the existing MunAdmin platform and this will be implemented from July 2013 onwards. We are also introducing proper ICT governance systems in the municipality to ensure acquisition of appropriate solutions that would enhance the productivity of the municipality and help us avoid duplication and excessive spending on ICT solutions. The planning processes are also being reviewed to comply with Circular 63 requirements for the compilation of the annual report and ensure alignment of the municipality's strategic plan and the **Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan**.

The municipality employs **1718 staff members** against a total establishment of 2406. We also had an intake of 4 interns through the **National Treasury** whilst 6 interns came in through the **South African Institute of Civil Engineers** and 4 went through the **graduate development programme**.

Through the heightened awareness and the functionality of **Occupational Health and Safety Committees**, there was marked reduction in work-related injuries from 42 in 2009/10 to 32 in 2011/12.

We are also implementing the individual **Performance Management System** which is a component of the Comprehensive Human Resource Strategy. This system will be cascaded from the top levels to all the employees of the municipality.

We have set aside R800 000 to acquire a **Call Centre System** to optimize our Customer Relations Management and to enhance interface between the municipality and residents based on the **Principles of Batho Pele**.

We are in the process of developing a **Petitions Strategy and Policy** to refine our approach towards resolving petitions and once finalized an Awareness-raising campaign will be conducted amongst the community. Our success rate in resolving petitions currently stands at 91%.

Mogale City has grown to a **R1,8 billion municipality** and this expected to reach the R2 billion mark in the 2015/2016 financial year.

We registered **10 601** poor households through our **Indigent Management Policy** and thus wrote off a total of R174million of indigent accounts of which R14 million relates to the current period. We are aware of the request by the elderly who reside at the Golden Age Village and other Old Age Homes to register as indigents and to have pre-paid electricity meters installation prioritized. The municipality will in due course respond to this service request.

We are currently busy with the annual review of the **Property Rates Policy and By-law** and hope that the community will take keen interest in this process which will affect their property rates. We urge you to make your submissions to the municipality by the 24th of May this year.

Madam Speaker, we are proud to announce that our close working relationship with the Office of the Auditor-General and steadfastness of our councillors in raising the bar on their oversight role as well as the application of our officials, the municipality received an **unqualified opinion** from the AG for the 2011/2012 financial year.

VISION 2016

Madam Speaker, it is common cause that the municipalities of the West Rand are intent on an amalgamation that would see to the obliteration of the five municipalities that exist in the region and the establishment of a Unicity. It is also common knowledge that a submission for the establishment of a Unicity has already been made to the **Municipal Demarcation Board**.

At the instance of the **MDB** we are considering the proposed merger of our sister municipalities of Randfontein and Westonaria by 2016 which will be the precursor to the establishment of the metropolitan municipality in 2025 as envisaged in the Gauteng City Region Vision.

CONCLUSION

Madam Speaker, the successes and future programme we have outlined is testimony to our unwavering commitment to deliver a viable entity to the Unicity. We are convinced that although challenges remain around the triple challenges, we have and will, with the cooperation of various stakeholders, continue to push back the frontiers of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

This effort we have outlined could not have been possible if our government had not been directly connected to the masses of our people. We would like to urge our people to keep on working with us to create a better life for all in line with the motto of the ruling party, the African National Congress which says **WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE!**

I thank you!