



“A GOOD STORY TO TELL ABOUT MOGALE CITY”

2014 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
20th March 2014**

Madam Speaker, Cllr Suzen Thupane;

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

Deputy Secretary of the ANC in Gauteng, Cde Boyce Maneli;

Members of the Regional Executive Committee of the ANC in the West Rand Region 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 commence this august gathering with the sad news that we have lost one of Mogale City's dedicated sons, **Mr. John Olivier**, the longest serving councillor in the city and president of the West Rand Chamber of Business and Tourism. We therefore convey our sincere condolences to his family.

We gather here today to give account of the State of our City just eight weeks before the country goes to its fifth general elections.

This report card that we place before the people of Mogale City should be understood within a specific context. It presents our achievements and challenges since the advent of democracy. It expresses how our municipality has supported the 2009-2014 national priorities of our government to tackle the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. This report demonstrates the steps we have taken to advance the 2011 ANC Local Government Elections Manifesto which we adopted as our **Programme of Action** for the municipality for the 2011-2016 political term of office.

State President Jacob Zuma has proclaimed the **7th May 2014** as the day for National and Provincial elections. From that historic **27th April of 1994** when we ushered in democracy, the 7th of May this year will no doubt be a bold and unequivocal statement by the people of the Republic of South Africa that says ours is a stable country where differences of political opinion are tested through the ballot.

Stable and viable democracies are not only measured by the predictability and regularity of their elections, but are also measured by the opportunities they create for sustainable livelihoods for their citizens. People all over the country and in Mogale City, have a good twenty year story to tell about the democracy that we celebrate this year.

President Zuma put it eloquently in the State of the Nation Address earlier this year when he said that the government of our republic which is ably-led by the 102 year-old glorious movement of the people, the African National Congress has “*built strong institutions of democracy*” since 1994.

He also said:

“We buried the undemocratic, unrepresentative, oppressive and corrupt state that was serving the minority. We formed a unitary, non-racial, non-sexist democratic state, answerable to and representative of all South Africans.”

This has been the preoccupation of the ruling ANC since the people of South Africa gave the organization an overwhelming mandate four times to overhaul the state and build a country we all can be proud of.

Our mandate in local government is chiefly to build thriving towns and cities because it has been proven that they are the backbone of successful economies.

All South Africans will agree that the good story of our country will not be complete if there is no reference to the passing on of the father of our democracy and world icon, **uTata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela** in December last year. The presence of that world phenomenon, resolute trailblazer and the first State President of a democratic South Africa would have made the twentieth democracy celebrations more special for all of us. He might not be amongst us physically, but spiritually he surely is in our midst.

May we reiterate our stance as articulated on the occasion of his memorial service where we said:

“The moment of truth has arrived for most of us in the city. We have huge shoes to fill and tasks of immeasurable proportions to undertake. Mandela, who forgave without condition, would have wanted us to work together and build a city we can all be proud of. A city where all members of our community regardless of the colour of their skin or political persuasion can embrace with enthusiasm the task of building a vibrant and prosperous city with opportunities for all our communities across the board.”

Madam Speaker, we now want to detail our achievements of our twenty years of democracy and also share our current and future plans to sustain the legacy of our founding father, uTata Nelson Mandela.

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

Over the last twenty years a total building investment of R16, 2 billion was approved in Mogale City and R7 billion thereof was investment realized in the last five years.

Key West Shopping Centre was developed and opened in 2000. This brought about retention of retail business in Mogale City. We are pleased with the current **Key West Shopping Centre** extension which will cost approximately R300 million. The project will not only bring about a more functional and modern shopping experience, but will also alleviate the parking problems that used to exist at the centre.

The city saw the completion of the **Silverstar Casino** which became a major tourist attraction in Mogale City. We are witness to a sustained vote of confidence in the city with approximately R250 million being invested in the expansion of **Silverstar Casino**.

These developments were made possible by **investor-friendly policies** that ensured the growth and retention of business in Mogale City. These policies accommodate the long-term interests of the City and also unlocked the development of Featherbrooke/Ruimsig area.

The **Cradle of Humankind** in Kromdraai, which is famous for the oldest and largest stock of hominid fossils, was declared a **World Heritage Site** in 1999. Thereafter the **World Heritage Site Interpretation Centre** was established in Mogale City and this placed our City in the fortunate position of being a Tourist Destination of choice in Gauteng. In marketing the Gauteng Province, the provincial government cemented this strategic position of Mogale City which is the place where human life began, by adopting the pay-off line, **“It all starts here...”**

The last 5 years saw the redevelopment of the **Kagiso Mall** to the tune of R130 million. A total of 580 local people were employed during the construction phase. The mall now has 49 shops and 16 stalls for informal traders.

We also witnessed the development of the **Cradlestone Shopping Mall** which is worth R1.5 Billion. During the construction phase of the mall some 934 local people were employed whilst 10 local SMMEs and 2 Cooperatives were appointed as sub-contractors. A total of 27 informal traders were given opportunity to sell their products on site in that period. A total of 789 job opportunities have been created at the mall.

Alongside these developments, we can count the **Action Ford Development** which has just been completed for R30 million and will be opened next month. **Midas** also opened their third biggest outlet in the country at Monument Mall this year. The **Heritage Square**, which was also developed at R30 million, is attracting clients on a consistent but modest basis.

A Mogale City **Urban Development Framework** was approved and processes are underway to finalize implementation plans. We also approved a **Spatial Development Framework** in 2003 and it was reviewed in 2011. The SDF guides the long-term developmental vision of the City.

Madam Speaker, in his tip to the Executive Mayor, **Mr. Abraham Themba** suggested on our Facebook Page that he would like to see:

“A retail node in Kagiso business hub combined with a giant taxi rank in the same space.”

We are certain that Mr. Themba and many of our residents will be pleased to hear that Gautrans has already advertised tenders for the construction of the **Regional Taxi Rank** at the much-awaited **R2 billion- Leratong Nodal Development**.

Further, **Mr. Allen Clement Yumba** will also be happy that the municipality collaborates with other state agencies in building a sustainable city we can all be proud of. Amongst suggestions made by Mr. Yumba in his tips for the Executive Mayor is that we should strive to access grant funding offered by various government departments in order to bankroll our municipal projects. The National Treasury has allocated R20 million in the current year as part of the **Neighbourhood Development Partnership Grant** for use in the Leratong Nodal Development.

The Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) has budgeted R30 million for upgrade of the transport precinct at **Krugersdorp Railway Station** and development proposals for the facility are currently under consideration.

Also, the municipality is in the process of finalizing agreements with SEDA for the establishment of **Construction, Chemical and Essential Oils incubators**. The program will assist SMMEs and Cooperatives in these sectors to access training, state of the art technology and markets.

The construction of a new **100-bed Netcare Hospital** at Pinehaven has commenced with site clearance and it is expected that the facility will open its doors during the latter part of 2015.

Working with the City of Johannesburg and the provincial government, the municipality is developing the **N14/R28 Corridor Development Strategy** which is aimed at strengthening business development focused on import and export as part of the **Lanseria City**. It is important to indicate that Lanseria City is a brand new development by the ANC-led government which straddles Mogale City, Madibeng, Tshwane and the City of Johannesburg.

In the **2014 State of the Province Address, the Premier of Gauteng, Cde Nomvula Mokonyane** has committed the provincial government to promotion of investment in strategic economic infrastructure and key economic sectors and cited the upgrade of the N14 between our city and Tshwane as one of the critical projects the province will focus on going forward.

Madam Speaker, through the **Gauteng Vision 2055** the government of the people of the economic engine of Africa has taken a conscious decision to celebrate the centennial year of the Freedom Charter which was adopted in 1955, by presenting to its people a province whose economy *“will draw talent and Foreign Direct Investment; reflect agility in adapting to challenges and new economic forms; promote equitable access to opportunity; and compete with the strongest regional and global economies.”*

One of the objectives of Gauteng Vision 2055 is to grow a strong equitable and sustainable economy in the Gauteng City Region which is driven by coherent initiatives of local economies. Therefore, the municipality is duty-bound to create a conducive environment for starting and doing business because we want to see more of our people aspire to be employers than to become employees. To this end, the municipality has adopted the **Local Economic Development Strategy** as well as the **Cooperatives Development and Support Framework** to catapult Mogale City into this envisaged future.

We are pleased to announce that our efforts towards building sustainable business entities in our city has taken a new turn in that we have increased the procurement spend targets of the municipality to **50% toward Mogale City-based enterprises**.

Recently the municipality adopted the **EPWP Policy** to mainstream the EPWP Approach through service delivery projects. This policy will ensure compliance with all related national EPWP guidelines and also maximize job creation for our needy communities. Furthermore, an **Integrated Job Creation Strategy** is being developed to ensure a comprehensive approach towards creation of job opportunities.

Through our partnerships with government departments and state agencies, namely the DTI, COGTA, SEDA, Gauteng Enterprise Propeller and SETAs; we were able to facilitate **training to 1169 SMMEs and Cooperatives** in the last five years. The training covered Business Management, Pricing and Costing, Tendering Processes, Export Development Program, Marketing, Customer Care, Computer skills and so forth.

The municipality entered into partnership with Voka Chamber of Commerce of Belgium to implement the **Plato Mentorship Program** from which 45 local SMMEs benefited and because of its success in Mogale City the program was rolled out to all municipalities in Gauteng.

Further, 150 entrepreneurs from 50 cooperatives are benefitting from the **Cooperative Support Program**. The program includes NQF Level 4 - New Venture Creation training, mentorship and coaching. Some of the cooperatives in the program are already doing business with the municipality and have benefited from other support interventions of various government agencies.

A total of 50 entrepreneurs participated in the **Backyard Automotive Workshops Support Programme** which was conducted in partnership with Filpro and the Gauteng Department of Economic Development. This programme provides business management skills to entrepreneurs engaged in the auto-mechanics trade.

We erected **48 gazebos for informal traders** to ensure that the walkways in the CBD are usable and this also assists us in keeping the city tidy.

In our quest to help start-up businesses in minimizing costs, we assisted 2090 businesses to **formalize and register** their businesses with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). Of the 2090 entities, a total of 360 are cooperatives.

A total of 274 **business licenses** were issued to applicants of businesses that are listed in Schedule 1 of the Business Act No. 71 of 1991. This section of the act covers businesses that deal with perishable food, places of entertainment, hawkers and so forth.

Business Information Platforms have been installed in eight libraries throughout Mogale City. These platforms assist communities to access business information with ease. The information includes templates for business plans, quotations, invoices, training schedules and so on.

The municipality has adopted a **Tourism Development Strategy** which provides the city with a focused approach to destination management, development and marketing.

The **Gauteng Tourism Authority** has identified Mogale Tourism, which is one of our local tourism associations, to be one of the three pilot sites for rolling out the plan for Visitor Information Centres in Gauteng.

In partnership with the National Department of Tourism, Provincial Department of Community Safety and Cradle Management Authority, the **Community Safety Monitors Program** was implemented and 200 young people underwent training and now work as Safety Monitors within the Cradle of Humankind precinct.

We assisted ten **Township Tourism** establishments with erection of tourism signage and seven with grading process by the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa. It is our resolve to further develop township tourism through other initiatives such as continuous identification and development of attractions, routes and support of existing establishments as well as the creation of new ones. We do this because tourism has proven to be one of the fastest growing sectors in our municipality. Therefore expansion and diversification of the tourism offerings will lead to increased benefits for our people.

The excellence of our establishments has resulted in Mogale City tourism products dominating all the categories of the **West Rand Tourism Awards** since inception in 2007.

These economic interventions by the municipality and its partners have had a positive effect in the effort to deal **unemployment** a decisive blow. Statistics SA data shows that our unemployment rate was 33.6% in 2001 and has reduced to 24.6% in 2011 which is lower than the provincial unemployment rate which Stats SA puts at 26.3% whilst the national rate is at 29.8%. This resilience happened despite the fact that our population has grown by 22% over the same period, and more importantly it occurs against the world economic downturn that we are slowly emerging from.

Working together with other stakeholders, we will strive to sustain and grow economic sectors that show a positive growth trend like trade and financial services. In the same vein, we will explore and implement measures to address those sectors that appear to be in distress such as agriculture which has declined from 3% in 2001 to 2.1% in 2011.

Building more united, non-racial and safer communities

Madam Speaker, our constitution enjoins us to ensure that all South Africans have access to **adequate housing**. We have consistently stated the fact that government is always chasing a moving target when addressing the housing backlog.

In collaboration with the province as the competent authority on the delivery of houses, to meet our constitutional obligations the municipality develops and adopts five year housing development plans which are reviewed annually.

Through the implementation of the **Municipal Housing Development Plans**, to date 11 913 houses were built, 1369 ablution facilities were provided whilst a total of 12 022 title deeds were issued to qualifying tenants and occupiers to ensure their security of tenure.

Through the **Munsieville Urban Renewal Project**, stormwater, sewer and water reticulation networks were rejuvenated and rehabilitated. The Munsieville Extension 5 project is on course and so far 367 erven are connected to the water and sewer reticulation network whilst storm water network for the township has been completed. The construction of 120 units which will form part of the first phase of this project will start in the near future.

Further, the Gauteng Provincial Government has also committed to acquisition of land in Munsieville Ext 5 to de-densify the township.

We appreciate the **contribution of private business** in augmenting our effort of meeting our constitutional obligations on human settlement for our people. We want to encourage our businesses in Mogale City to follow the example of **Peter and Hermina Funk** of Supreme IDI (Pty) Ltd who donated the Kagiso Extension 8 flats to the occupants. Similarly, **Trevor D'Olivier, Neville Lang and partners** who run the Avianto Wedding and Conference Centre will construct a mixed-housing development in Muldersdrift which will cater for low income groups.

The municipality is working with the provincial government to assist communities affected by the **hailstorm** that damaged roofs in November of 2013.

As indicated last year, the relocation of the **Tudor Shaft/Soul City** informal settlement to safer locations is more than urgent. We are investigating feasible options to expedite this relocation.

Rural housing development is a key priority for the municipality. To this end, the **Rural Housing Strategy** has been developed to ensure orderly housing development in the rural nodes of the municipality. Further, the strategy is aimed at eradication of informal settlements, ensuring sustainable delivery of basic services and addressing security of tenure. Through implementation of this strategy, the socio-economic landscape of the rural areas is transforming for the better.

To date, 558 and 203 houses have been built in Ga-Mohale and Rietfontein Village respectively. In Ethembaletu, 97 units have been completed and 86 units are still under construction. It should be noted that Ga-Mohale is the biggest rural settlement since advent of democracy.

Approval has been granted for the mixed-housing development of **Refentse Township** in Nooitgedacht. Plans are underway to develop this township as well as the **Dr. Molefi Sefularo Village** in Hekpoort.

Other activities that are undertaken in pursuance of this strategy include **detailed planning studies** on municipal-owned land in all the rural nodes of Mogale City.

The municipality is in the process of finalizing the **Social Housing Policy** which has been published for public comments. This policy will, once adopted, accelerate the provision of housing to the low and middle income citizens of our city. Our priority in implementing this policy will be to ensure people live closer to working opportunities and to revive the Inner City.

Approximately R4 million is being spent on refurbishment of the **Green Hostel** in Kagiso. Phase 2 of the **Kagiso Hostel** Conversion Project comprising the construction of additional 45 family units will commence soon.

Madam Speaker, in line with our commitment to make Mogale City a safe and secure environment to live in, invest and visit, we continuously engage with all stakeholders around the city to deal with various sorts of crime and undesirable activities. The **Multi-sectoral Task Team for tackling crime** in the city is doing sterling work in addressing challenges that confront us on this front.

Our **Municipal Court** was launched last year and the **Kagiso Magistrates Court** was officially opened this week. These will strengthen our law enforcement efforts and increase access to the criminal justice system for our people.

There are active **Community Policing Forums** across the city that are invaluable in their support against crime and we applaud them for their contribution. Our traffic law enforcement division implements various initiatives to improve vehicle and pedestrian safety on a regular basis.

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

The development of a Mogale City **Climate Change Framework** and strategies is underway and, once finalized, it will ensure that measures are put in place to minimize our carbon foot print as a city through the identified interventions.

In line with the City's **Aesthetics Plan**, by the end of July 2013 the Municipality had planted 1949 trees and is continually focusing on urban greening and beautification of our City.

Efforts are underway to **reduce the impact of conventional electricity generation** on our environment. For example, a process of installing energy-efficient light fittings has started in municipal buildings and street lights, a solar geyser installation programme is being rolled out. Currently a **Waste to Energy Strategy** is being developed to add impetus to an existing move towards alternative and renewable energy.

A **Memorandum of Understanding** has been entered into with the Department of Energy to pilot the smart metering project in Munsieville and other renewable energy projects. The department will contribute R10 million towards this project.

Enhancing investment in basic services in rural areas

Madam Speaker democracy in our beloved South Africa will ring hollow and be unsustainable if the peace, justice and prosperity dividend is the sole preserve of her urban citizens. It is for this reason that the ANC government prioritized rural development, which we had made a municipal apex priority long before national government did. We adopted a far-reaching **Rural Development Strategy** and have started implementing it.

Several precinct plans were concluded to guide development and infrastructure investments in the rural nodes of Muldersdrift, Magaliesburg, Hekpoort and Tarlton. Steady progress is being made in the development of the **Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site Precinct Plan** which will guide investment and promote tourism in the Cradle of Humankind.

We can therefore assure one of our proud residents who keeps constant contact with the municipality through the Mayor's Facebook page, **Mr. James Freeborough of Magaliesburg** that the municipality has a solid development plan for each of our rural nodes.

Economists refer to land as an "*original and inexhaustible gift of nature.*" The municipality recognizes the centrality and strategic importance of land in further development of the city and in this regard has developed and adopted the **Land Acquisition and Disposal Policy** as a tool that directs land-related transactions.

In the past twenty years the municipality has acquired approximately 1400 Hectares of **land** to unlock opportunities in the rural areas of Mogale City. Of these, approximately 100 Hectares was for the expansion of the Magaliesburg cemetery as well as an agricultural project in Hekpoort.

We have three **municipal commonages** located in Vlakdrift, Carmel Estate and Kromdraai. Currently an Agri-Park development project is being implemented in conjunction with GDARD in Vlakdrift. Furthermore, the provincial government has commenced with development of a business plan for the **West Rand Institute for Agricultural Training** which will be built at the Carmel Estate in Magaliesburg. Other studies are underway to

implement projects identified together with communities living adjacent to these commonages.

We introduced the **Disaster and Emergency Relief Programme** whose purpose is to assist communities that are affected by disasters and eviction in the city. On average, about 500 families have been assisted through this programme. Through this programme the municipality provides affected families with temporary alternative accommodation and basic services.

The municipality also introduced the **Emergency Site and Services** approach as a strategy to help families displaced during evictions in the rural areas of the city. To date four sites have been established in the Magaliesburg, Hekpoort and Muldersdrift areas. However, the municipality is experiencing challenges in implementing this approach in Muldersdrift due to on-going litigation processes since objections were raised by owners of land adjacent to one of the identified sites.

The **Comprehensive Rural Development Programme** was introduced by the Presidency with the intention of accelerating rural development. In Mogale City, the Hekpoort - Kromdraai rural node was identified as one of the four Pilot sites for the programme in Gauteng.

Various projects are implemented in collaboration with other spheres of government and the private sector. Amongst these are the erection of 100 Enviro-Loo's at Lethabong and Tswelelopele; the establishment of community food gardens, fence-making and bakery cooperatives as well as a Toy Library and Early Childhood Development Centre has also been established in Kromdraai.

The municipality is also working with the national government to implement an agricultural project in Hekpoort. The project focus will be the planting of **Kenaf**, a plant species with a variety of uses and environmental benefits.

Premier Mokonyane has assured citizens of this prosperous province that the **Magaliesburg Boarding School** in this beautiful city is at advanced stages of construction. The school will accommodate 250 learners and will be opened in the near future.

Improving local public services and broadening access to them

Madam Speaker, Stats SA figures show that Mogale City has seen the highest population growth in the West Rand since the advent of democracy. Alongside this, Mogale City also experiences exponential growth in various key corridors. This development places tremendous **pressure on our bulk infrastructure networks**. As you may be aware, the municipality continues to make massive investments to maintain, upgrade and install new infrastructure to cope with the increased demand for these basic services.

In the past few years, the municipality has spent over **R220 million on water and sanitation projects**. These projects included the resealing of reservoirs, maintenance, refurbishment and installation of new water and sewer pump stations, upgrading of the three Waste Water Treatment plants and extension of water reticulation to other areas of the city.

We also supply **tankered water** to informal settlements across the city.

In the current financial year, an amount of R53, 8 million is allocated for construction of bulk water and sewer pipelines, installation of prepaid meters etc. in areas like Kromdraai, Lanwen, Munsieville and Magaliesburg.

Going forward our priority will be to reduce our **Unaccounted-for-Water** through a water pipeline replacement programme, continuous installation of prepaid meters, amongst others. In addition, new reservoirs will be constructed in Munsieville, Magaliesburg and Muldersdrift as well as the Kenmare Reservoir, Sump and Pump Station will receive further attention. Provision will also be made for the bulk water supply to the Chief Mogale mixed-housing development. All these water projects are expected to cost approximately R79 million.

Regarding **sanitation**, a total of R50 million will be spent on various projects like the construction of new water and sanitation laboratories to ensure compliance with Blue Drop requirements, Chief Mogale and Millsite Outfall Sewers, Phase 1 of the Lindley Wastewater Treatment Plant and upgrade of the Kagiso sewer network. There is also a decisive move to **replace the existing chemical toilets in our informal settlements** with the more user-friendly Enviro-Loos that have been erected in Hekpoort as part of the CRDP.

Over the past twenty years, the municipality has ensured that all residential areas and business parks have **adequate electricity**. This includes illumination of informal settlements. There is no formalized area in our city which does not have electricity. Currently we are exploring alternative off-the-grid energy provision for informal settlements across the city.

To improve our electrical supply capacity to accommodate new developments, a total of R200 million was spent on the **upgrade of the various substations** and the upgrading of transmission lines. In particular, Condale substation is undergoing an upgrade to increase its distribution capacity from 100MVA to 240MVA at a total cost of R150 million. We are pleased that the first phase of this project has already been completed.

An amount of R5 million was spent on electrification of houses in areas like Kagiso Extension 13, Singqobile and provision of public lighting in informal settlements including Pangoville, Tudor Shaft, Joe Slovo and Makhulugama. Further, in order to assist rural communities with regards to road safety, general security and access to public amenities

streetlights and public lighting were installed in various rural areas such as Magaliesburg and Maloney's Eye railway and road crossing, Rietfontein Village Road as well as the road between Nelson Mandela Community Centre and the police station in Tarlton.

Madam Speaker, in our endeavour to improve traffic flow and safety for both motorists and pedestrians at road intersections, the municipality spent R4.2 million to fit a **traffic light controlling system** in Cradle Mall entrance and Hendrik Potgieter intersection, Hekpoort Road and Munsieville entrance and other areas.

Plans are afoot to ensure that **streetlight maintenance** continues regularly across the city. The service provider we enlisted went belly-up and we have moved swiftly to implement stop gap measures to ensure continual maintenance of streetlights. These include deployment of internal resources and piggy-backing on the streetlight maintenance contract of the City of Johannesburg.

Madam Speaker, Premier Mokonyane said that the **Gauteng Transport Commission** has been established to address fragmentation of transport governance and management in the province. Amongst the duties that the provincial government has charged the Commission with is to phase in a bus transport system for the West Rand region.

Our municipality has developed a **Local Integrated Transport Plan** through which various transport hubs will be upgraded to meet the growing demand for an efficient public transport system. In the spirit of cooperative governance, the municipality will collaborate with the Commission as well as **stakeholders in the transport sector** to ensure that this rapidly growing city caters adequately to the travel needs of our people.

In his tips to the Executive Mayor, Mr. Vincent Matshego advises us to look at the **state of our roads** and improve them drastically. Mogale City has approximately 1200 km of road, of which 1000 km is tarred and the balance is unpaved road. The municipality provides new road and stormwater networks alongside maintenance and upgrade of the existing networks.

During the past 5 years the area of focus was on the provision of new **paved roads and associated stormwater networks** in the urban areas of Rietvallei, Ext 2, 3, and 5, together with Sinqobile, Kagiso Ext 13 and Ga Mohale and spent R139 million. We have also started projects in the rural nodes of Tarlton and Muldersdrift and we will continue with these projects for the next 4 years.

The current climate has not been very kind to the country and the rains have been falling harder than we have ever experienced. Despite the water ingress leading to formation of **potholes**, we have made strides to respond quickly to affected roads. To date R75 million was spent on **road rehabilitation and resurfacing** focusing mainly on our arterial roads. We will continue to respond to pothole challenges brought by this inclement weather through labour intensive methods including engagement of cooperatives.

The Municipality has completed the development of the **Kagiso Regional Park**, which saw the transformation of an overgrown area that was previously the haven for crime and an unsightly illegal dumping site into a facility that comprise a multi-purpose court, four playgrounds, an amphitheater, walkways with over four hundred trees, rolling lawns, parking area and various security measures, amongst others. Further development and expansion of the park is currently at planning phase and could be rolled out in 2016.

Azaadville Park phase 2 was also completed in July 2013. The completed park boasts a traffic safety cycle track, BMX track, extensive pathways, picnic spots, multi-purpose court and playgrounds. The park has become very popular with the Azaadville community with usage extending into the night. The development of this park was in direct response to the special community request for the creation of this recreational space.

A total of R29 million has been budgeted for the revamp of **Coronation Park** as part of the Inner City Regeneration Plan.

At the beginning of this year, **small parks** were upgraded in Munsieville and Silverfields which includes new playground equipment and park furniture.

In the current financial year, the Municipality will commence with the **Munsieville Regional Park** project on the corner of Robert Broom and Corane Streets. We have engaged the community and their needs for a safe quality recreational facility have been incorporated in the final designs for this new park which will include playgrounds, a multi-purpose court, picnic spots, amphitheater and landscaped areas. New park developments are also commencing in Magaliesburg and Muldersdrift, to fulfill the aspirations of these communities.

The Municipality continues to participate in the Sunday Tribune Garden & Leisure Show where it competes with Metropolitan Councils, municipalities and private landscapers from across the country in **landscape design**. Mogale City's team has always received awards at this show and won a Silver award for garden design.

A new cemetery will be established in Mindalore, known as **Westhaven Cemetery**. The Municipality purchased the property with existing cemetery rights and took transfer in January 2014. The Cemetery will serve Munsieville and the suburbs of Krugersdorp. **Kagiso Cemetery** phase 2 expansion, which will avail additional 25 000 grave sites and

increase the lifespan of the cemetery by ten years is underway. It is also our pleasure to announce that this cemetery is amongst the first in the country to fully utilize renewable energy.

May we emphasize that the land acquired next to the existing **Magaliesburg Cemetery** will go a long way towards giving our community the dignity to bury their loved ones in an area nearest to them. It should also be noted that no rural area had a cemetery before 1994, but the opposite is the case today!!

With the support of the Provincial Department of Agriculture & Rural Development and mining houses, the Municipality was able to sustainably support 14 community **food garden projects** throughout the City. These projects allow community groups to produce their own fresh vegetables which can be consumed or sold for extra income. Of most importance in this programme is its contribution to food security thereby ensuring that most of our vulnerable community members do not go to bed hungry.

As part of our **job creation initiatives**, the municipality managed to create 120 full time equivalent jobs through grass cutting contracts and enlisting the services of three community cooperatives.

Over the years, Mogale City has maintained consistent good performance in the **Bontle ke Botho Campaign** and has won an accumulative amount of approximately R 400 000 in prizes. The prize money from this campaign has been used to establish community food gardens, community small parks, clean up campaigns, water conservation projects as well as energy efficiency projects. We wish to state that we are proud of the sterling contribution of various stakeholders participating in various categories of the competition for making this possible. We can in indeed say it is also a good story to tell for Mogale City.

To comply with best sustainable development management practices and ensure compliance with international environmental treaties, national and provincial policies and legislation, the municipality has adopted and is vigorously implementing the various environmental management policies and strategies which include the **Environmental Management Framework** and **Standard Operating Procedure for Municipal Projects Requiring EIA Authorisation**, amongst others.

In the effort to address the increasing demand for air space at the **Luipaardsvlei Landfill Site**, a new landfill cell to dispose of the city's waste was developed and completed in December 2013 at a cost of R12 million. This will allow continued waste disposal for at least another five years.

Other alternatives that are being pursued to minimize the demand for the Landfill Sites air space include the promotion of recycling of disposed material and the implementation of

the Blue-to-Waste Energy Initiative that will see the bulk of our waste being put into good use for the generation of renewable energy.

To optimise **waste collection** in the city, Sixty skip bin containers were purchased at a cost of R500, 000 to allow the Municipality to collect and dispose of bulk waste. These containers are placed in informal settlements where there is currently no formal refuse collection service.

In the last year the municipality employed 50 temporary workers on its cleaning operations around the City. A further 70 jobs were created through waste collection contracts and 7 emerging contractors.

Madam Speaker, we continue to support the national programme on the management of **HIV/ AIDS** through the 140 volunteers that conduct ward based door to door preventative education and awareness programmes. So far the volunteers service a total of over 25 000 infected and affected members of our community.

Since the **Grants-in-Aid Policy** was introduced in 2007, the municipality has spent on average a total of R500 000 per annum to support individuals and organizations whose activities are linked to the priority areas of the municipality. To date 42 individuals and 72 organisations have been supported through this policy.

Our **community facilities** programme is also receiving priority attention so that our people can have access to safe and usable facilities for, community-based projects, events and functions. To date, through our collaboration with the Provincial Department of Social Development, the last phases of the construction of the new Kagiso and Munsieville Multi-Purpose centres have been completed at a total cost of R 37 million. Upgrade and maintenance of other facilities took place, including the construction of palisade fencing around Burgershoop Multi-Purpose Centre and Kagiso Crèche.

Our 12 **libraries** across the city assist community members with various resources like books, internet services and so forth and attract over 670 000 people annually. To date, a total amount of R950 000 has been spent on library resources to optimize services and access to library information. To improve access to library and Information services to our community, the construction of the new Kagiso Extension 12 and Tarlton libraries is nearing completion. Also, the construction of new libraries is about to start in Kagiso Extension 6 and Rietvallei 2 &3. We wish to thank the Provincial Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation for the financial support they continue to provide to make these projects possible.

Mr. Mbali Mokoko, a Kaya FM sports reporter and resident of our city asked the municipality to continue to do its best in refurbishing sports facilities. Mr. Mokoko and the people of our city will be pleased to note that the municipality knows fully well that our sport facilities offer both the young and the old participating in various sporting codes, platforms to polish and showcase their talent as well as to promote healthy lifestyles. The maintenance, upgrading and development of new sports facilities to accommodate all in Mogale City is undertaken on a continuous basis.

The **Kagiso Sports Complex** is undergoing a facelift and to date the perimeter fencing on this facility has been completed while the construction of new office facilities, club houses, installation of lighting and irrigation systems is in progress.

Equally, our **swimming pools** are receiving attention and so far, Phase 1 of the upgrade of Azaadville Swimming Pool was completed whilst the refurbishment of buildings and swimming pools at Krugersdorp West will start in July 2014.

In the near future, flood lights and cable network will be installed at the **Johanna Botha Sports Complex** at a cost of R3,7 million. These facilities have made Mogale City a centre of Sports Excellence. You will recall that in July 2011, the Khosa Hockey Club hosted an international Six-A-Side hockey tournament which was won by Madagascan Misfits. Also Impala Gymnastics from Mogale City excelled in the National Hockey Championships in December 2011.

We work together with the Gauteng Provincial government in the restoration and refurbishment of **Bob van Reenen Stadium**. To date we have made R20 million contribution towards this project.

It is our pleasure to report that all the wards in Mogale City have one or so **sporting facility** as dictated by need of the various communities.

We recognize the important role played by the **Heritage, Arts and Culture** sector as an income earner and a pillar for social cohesion and transformation. We implement and support various initiatives in this sector to preserve, develop and showcase the wealth of our heritage assets, creative talent of our local artists and to remain a desirable destination to visit for our cultural attractions.

We are in the process of resuscitating the **Mogale City Heritage, Arts and Culture Advisory Council** to add impetus to the drive to promote and develop these sectors in the city.

Further, the **Mogale City Heritage Centre** was launched in Kagiso earlier this month. The centre will showcase the struggle history of Mogale City and boost Township Tourism. It will

also create job opportunities during construction and operational phases as well as provide entrepreneurial opportunities.

Amongst the cream of the crop, we count the **cultural ambassadors** of our city in the award-winning Afro-pop music duo of Mafikizolo which is made up of Theo Kgosinkwe and Nhlanhla Nciza as well as Ntando Bangani.

The positive impact of our efforts in the **provision of basic services** as we outlined earlier is attested to by Stats SA data which shows that between the 2001 and 2011 Censuses, in Mogale City access to electricity has increased by 6.5%; water by 16.9%; refuse removal by 9.4% and sanitation by 8.3%. The question is how else should we be telling this good story?

Promoting more active community participation in local government

Madam Speaker, since 2008 to date the municipality has **awarded bursaries** to the value of R3, 7 million to deserving matriculants of Mogale City. The **Mayor's Bursary Scheme** has benefitted more than 550 students since inception.

The past twenty years has seen the municipality take active steps in addressing challenges faced by young people. Through interaction with youth on a regular basis and from the data received from Stats SA which shows that young people constitute the highest number of the unemployed, it has become extremely clear that we need to refine our approach to youth development in the city. As a consequence a **Youth Development Strategy** was developed to provide focused intervention in this area. Various activities and events have been organized to raise awareness on issues ranging from drug abuse, careers, safety and so forth. Other interventions include municipal procurement that favours businesses owned by young people, women and the disabled.

Similarly, our **Disability Office** is the benchmark for other municipalities on management of disability-related matters in the workplace and within communities.

Ensuring a more effective, accountable and clean local government

Madam Speaker, we have raised the bar in terms of **public participation** practices. We can confidently say it is beyond compliance requirements. Our stakeholder engagement sessions range from broad meetings with the community, focused attention to needy areas and an array of sectoral consultations that include amongst others the business, religious and sporting fraternities. The community also has other alternative platforms to voice their service delivery concerns such as the Petitions Committee and the call centre.

All the **governance structures** are functioning optimally with regular sitting of Council, Mayoral and other Committees to ensure timeous decision making so that service delivery could be accelerated. All our wards have ward committees which are reasonably functional.

Similarly, our business management practices have improved over time with the resultant alignment of national, provincial and successive broader ANC Local Government Manifestos. The **corporate strategic plan** has been the cornerstone of the municipality since inception in 2006. Annual reviews of this plan have become the order of the day and doing so has consistently assisted the municipality in meeting the aspirations of our people through improved service delivery outcomes. In addition, our improved planning and reporting processes led to improved legislative compliance and attainment of an unqualified audit opinion on the Audit of Pre-determined Objectives in the 2012/13 financial year.

We continue to make strides in other areas of sustainable governance practices such as **risk management** practices in that we are constantly improving the organisational risk maturity level based on the targets set out in our strategic plan. To date our maturity rating has improved from 3.3 in June 2012 to 3.9 in 2013.

On the **municipal financial management** front, we have steadily improved our auditing outcomes from disclaimer status in the prior years to the attainment of two successive **unqualified audit opinions** in the 2011/12 and 2012/13 financial years. This reported performance does indicate that the municipality is on course to meet the Operation Clean Audit objective as envisaged.

Our **capital budget allocation spending has improved** over time due to, amongst others, the fact that new programme and project co-ordination are being introduced. We acknowledge that there is still further work to be done on this front and the Programme Management Office is developing the necessary frameworks and guidelines that will further improve project governance, implementation and reporting.

We acknowledge that there were glitches in our **ICT environment**. A comprehensive plan has been developed and is being implemented to address this situation including the establishment of a Disaster Recovery Site.

To **safeguard our infrastructure and assets** as well as for aesthetic reasons, R3,6 million was spent on the construction of a perimeter fence around the Civic Centre. This is the approach we have adopted for all our strategic infrastructure installations.

In order to **comply with building and labour regulations**, an amount of R8 million is earmarked for general buildings upgrade.

The municipality adopted a **Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy** and through its implementation the municipality has increased the number of subsidized indigent households from 4106 in 2009 to 9034 in 2013. The **indigent households** receive a 100 % subsidy in respect of property rates and taxes, sewer and refuse removal charges over and above the free 6 kilolitres of water as well as 50 kW/h of electricity. Over the same period, the debt write off for indigent households increased from R66million to R159 million. The

vigorous implementation of the policy has resulted in payment levels increasing from 93 % in 2009 to 94 % in 2013 and with the number of credit control actions increasing from 1800 in 2008 to 21 000 in 2013.

We want to **encourage our people to take full advantage** of the Indigent Management Programme and apply for the benefits associated. We have also initiated a process to profile our households in rural areas to facilitate inclusion of communities in the Indigent Management Programme.

The municipality's **Organisation Design and Development approach** is continuously revised based on best practice so that we can meet the legislative imperatives and the requirements of our broader corporate strategy. Our **organisational structure is currently being aligned** to ensure that we meet our service delivery imperatives.

To fulfill the requirements of **Minimum Competency Regulations**, 45 municipal officials have completed requisite training programmes at Wits and Pretoria Universities.

Due to operational requirements, our **staff complement** has gradually increased to just over 1 700 over the years. To improve our service delivery capacity, the municipality provided financial support to 123 municipal employees to further their studies at various tertiary institutions at a cost of R574 000 in 2013, an investment which continues to increase.

A total of 30 **interns** are placed in the various departments as part of skills development in the community. We also implement the employee Wellness Services programme for our employees to ensure that the workforce remains productive.

VISION 2016

We remain committed to the realization of the **West Rand Unicity**. We are pleased that the Gauteng Provincial government has allocated a substantial amount towards the **merger of Randfontein and Westonaria municipalities in 2016**. We will offer the necessary support to ensure that this merger occurs successfully.

CONCLUSION

Madam Speaker, the Members of the Mayoral Committee will elaborate on the various aspects of this address on the occasion of the **Council Debate**.

Zama Ndlovu who is the author of a Bad Black's Manifesto warns in an article in the Business Day this week that:

“There are facts, and then there are ways in which the various social actors use these facts to their own advantage. In a year when it has become extremely difficult to make fair assessments on things relating to politics for elections and for broader discussion on South Africa’s future, those with the power to shape narratives must aim to tell the truest version of our story, not the most convenient.

It should be possible — mandatory — for all those who try to tell this story to find an honest balance between assessing areas where we have not progressed enough due to decisions made today, while acknowledging how deeply entrenched other problems are because of our past. These two sides are inextricable linked, and neither should be disingenuously ignored for the sake of a gripping story.

Anything less is a stunning abuse of our own history, the histories of other nations, and the storyteller’s power.”

When we tell this story about Mogale City since the advent of democracy, we do so not to grab headlines. Ours is an expression of determination and willingness to forge ahead with building a better city, whilst confirming with many others that the Mogale City we live in today is better than the one we lived in before 1994.

We want to wish all parties taking part in the forthcoming national elections all the success.

I thank you.