

MERAFONG CITY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS DELIVERED BY CLLR MAPHEFO MOGALE-LETSIE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MERAFONG CITY, CARLETONVILLE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 25 April 2018

- Honorable Speaker of the Council, Cllr Elvis Mphithikezi
- Honorable Chief whip of the Council, Cllr Willie Mosiane
- Honorable Executive Mayor of West-Rand District Municipality, Ald. Boyce Maneli and Honorable Executive Mayors from our Sister Municipalities
- Honorable Speakers from all West Rand Municipalities
- Honorable Members of Merafong City Mayoral Committee and West Rand Municipalities
- Merafong City MPAC Chairperson, Cllr Abram Tsotetsi
- Councillors present
- Council Committees
- Leaders of Political Parties
- Government Departments present
- Municipal Manager and the collective administrative leadership
- Captains of industries
- Labour formations
- Traditional and Religious Leaders
- Media houses
- Distinguished Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

- Comrades and Friends
- Fellow Members of the Merafong Community

Dumelang

Honorable Speaker of Council, indeed it's an honor and a privilege for me to deliver this state of the city address which is happening during the 100th anniversary celebration of the birth of one of the greatest leaders this country, this continent and the world has known –Isithwalandwe Seaparankoe Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela; as we celebrate the centenary of Madiba's long walk to freedom, his wisdom, his unfailing humility, his abiding compassion and his essential integrity, it is within this context that we recommit ourselves to a clarion call towards improving the financial viability and sustainability of the municipality, improving service delivery quality and adherence to service standards to our community

Speaker of Council, this year, we also celebrate the centenary of another giant of our struggle, Albertina Nontsikelelo Sisulu; through her remarkable life and outstanding contribution, she defined what it means to be a freedom fighter, a leader and a diligent and disciplined servant of the people; a stalwart of our struggle who is remembered for her strength, compassion and tireless commitment to the people of this country; hence as this

leadership, we still commit ourselves to work towards the restoration of our peoples' confidence towards a shared vision for radical social and economic transformation.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this State of the City Address is taking place during a month of April, a freedom month which is marked by the recently passing of the Mother of the South African national democratic struggle Mama Nomzamo "Winnie" Madikizela-Mandela. The passing of Mama Winnie is not only a loss to the Madikizela and Mandela family; it's a loss to the entire South African nation, Mam'Winnie Mandela remained a strong figure of our struggle for national liberation, people's power and democracy because she continuously forged a progressive women`s movement that dedicate its focus towards ending patriarchy in our society and resolving the systemic problems of class, national and gender inequalities, unemployment, poverty and social insecurity; comrades and compatriots, I`m speaking of a selfless, courageous and ever patriotic leader, a true Mother of the Nation

Also it is in the month of April that we remember the two most prominent and influential revolutionaries of our time who were both robbed the right to live by the inhumane and cruel regime of white minority, Comrade Solomon "Kalushi" Mahlangu and Thembesile "Chris" Hani. In memory of these comrades, as this leadership, we pledge to uphold the values and principles that

they died for which is to address the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment; as we march towards a concerted effort towards radical economic transformation, we do this proudly standing on the shoulders of giants who over centuries of subjugation and oppression, committed their lives to the building of a South Africa that would be united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous in character.

Honorable Speaker, today`s state of the city address reaffirms our posture towards the repositioning of our region towards the advancement of radical social and economic transformation which is guided by One Region, One Plan, One Action and One System which is a unifying approach to guide Regional Planning, Service Delivery, Monitoring and Performance Evaluation; our revised SDBIP and Turnaround plan Plans which are geared to progressively deliver on the mandate and manifesto of the ANC as guided Fourteen Regional outcomes.

I wish to emphasize our support to the Regional Plan and our Premier David Makhura in his drive to increase momentum on the following projects:

- Addressing the problem of youth unemployment through Tshepo 1 Million, in partnership with the Private Sector and the Youth;
- Strengthening the partnership with the Private Sector, Labour and Civil Society to unlock inclusive growth, greater levels of employment and empowerment as well as structural transformation and reindustrialization of the Gauteng economy;

- Increasing support for the revitalization of the Township economy;
- Harnessing the opportunities provided by the advent of the 4th Industrial Revolution, by modernizing key sectors of the economy and the state;
- Speeding up the delivery of new infrastructure and paying attention to the maintenance of existing infrastructure across the Gauteng City Region;
- Upholding ethical leadership and integrity by intensifying the fight against corruption, collusion, mal-administration in partnership with civil society;
- Reconnecting with communities and unlocking their energies, for them to become the primary drivers of renewal and change;
- Changing the culture of the Public Service so that we treat citizens with dignity and serve the people with compassion and professionalism.

Honorable Members, the 2018 SOCA is delivered against an environment where a lot of ground has been covered in stabilizing the administration at the senior management level including a convincing audit outcome, with the financial health of the municipality remaining a hindrance in the performance and delivery of services.

We acknowledge the challenges of our municipality and the effort it will take from all of us to turn Merafong around.

Honorable Speaker of Council, on **Regional Outcome 1 Basic Service Delivery Improvements** the primary mandate of Local Government is to deliver basic services. This is done in the

context of our bag locks with high demands for services and the aging infrastructure.

Water and Sanitation

In the 2017 SOCA we reported that the Wedela, Welverdiend and Khutsong Waste Water Treatment Plants are faced with challenges of vandalism and theft that impact negatively on the proper operations of the works. We are happy to report that security measures have been put in place during the year to mitigate further vandalism and theft. Rand Water has also shown some willingness to assist in reviving the optimum functionality of the plants. They are currently assessing our challenges to inform possible support.

Although the municipality has developed sewer maintenance plan, the financial challenges experienced by the institution impacted negatively on the execution of this plan.

We are still experiencing major problems with the Khutsong Ext 3 out fall sewer line which collapsed due to sinkhole formation in the area. Some rehabilitation works were completed as part of the short term Disaster Intervention program, funded by the Disaster Management Centre. Further intervention is however required in the new financial year to re-divert the out fall sewer line. Provision has been made in the draft budget to address this situation as a priority.

Serious challenges are being experienced with recurring sewer blockages in the Khutsong South Ext 2, 4 and 6, commonly known as Ext 5 area. We have established that the main causes of the blockages are the incorrect utilization of water born sewer system. We have a planned community outreach program to ensure that our communities are educated/ informed on the proper disposal of items.

We have also intensified our maintenance programs to pro-actively deal with preventative maintenance of sewer to manage and control sewer blockages.

Sewer blockages due to illegal buildings and encroachment of buildings over network infrastructure remains a cause for concern. Our Spatial Planning section will embark on an intensified program to ensure legal compliance. Currently we are addressing the blockages through regular vacuum suction which is a costly exercise and not a long term solution.

Honorable Speaker, we still have many informal settlement areas on privately owned land within our jurisdiction where permanent sanitation services cannot be provided and are therefore serviced through portable toilets. There are also shortcomings experienced which relate to the inconsistent sucking as a result of our fleet challenges. The finalization of the fleet contract will avert this situation. In the mean time the department is implementing a

scheduled programme which will be maintained throughout until the finalization of the said contract.

Water

Honorable Cllr Dhamini, water is life. Merafong City Local Municipality supplies good quality drinking water to its community.

In the 2017 SOCA we reported the following:

- The Gauteng Provincial CoGTA allocated R20m towards the repair of the Adatta Reservoir 900 Pipeline, and that the said department is implementing the project. We can confirm that a Consultant was appointed but the repair of the pipeline has not yet commenced.
- The municipality in conjunction with the District Municipality has commenced plans to construct a reservoir that will supply water to Kokosi Extension 6 and 7. Application was submitted to the Gauteng Department of Human Settlement but the project is still not funded in the provincial business plan for the next financial year.
- All new projects in Merafong will be metered through the prepaid to enhance revenue. We are reporting that in deed the installation of prepaid meters is rolled out in Kokosi Ext 6.

Honorable members, the municipality is inundated with water supply interruptions due to a host of issues. In the main being sinkhole formations and pipe burst (insufficient bulk storage resulting in direct feed from Rand Water, which perpetuates frequent pipe bursts).

Water losses is one of the problems that not only contribute negatively to the finances of the municipality but also to the already compromised geotechnical conditions of the area, with the aging infrastructure and pipe burst being the main contributors.

District Executive Mayor, Ald. Maneli, although the municipality in its financial turnaround plan has developed a programme of dealing with the water losses, we are convinced that the completion and recommissioning of the resevoirs will take us a long way in mitigating these challenges of water interruption and water losses.

We are also urging the community not to do illegal connections that contribute to water losses.

Hounarable members, water tankering in informal settlements and formal areas where there are frequent water interruptions is a costly exercise. In our Financial Turnaroud plan we have identified the provision of prepaid stand pipes in the informal settlements as a possible solution. We will be piloting the project in Khutsong. Preparations are at an advanced stage.

Through MISA interventions, the Municipality received financial support DBSA on a project to develop the Water Services Master Plan. The master plan will guide the municipality on the status quo and the propose projects to improve service delivery. The project has commenced and will be completed in the next financial year.

Electrical Engineering:

The following projects were implemented in the 2016/17 Financial year to the tune of R15 million from the Department of Energy

- Phase 5 of the Khutsong South Extensions (R13 million), with an additional 650 households receiving electricity connections.
- Pre-engineering Geotechnical Studies and Area Mapping in Kokosi Ext99 (R2 million)

We are currently busy with the following Electrification Projects in:

- Kokosi Extention 6 (R30m funded by mining town allocation)
- Kokosi Extension 99 (R5m funded by Department Of Energy)
- Khutsong South infill development (R5m funded by Department of Energy)

Vandalism and theft of electrical infrastructure that results in disruptions to the supply of electricity has been the order of the day especially in Blybank, Welverdiend, Wedela, Khutsong Ext5. The intervention by Public safety in collaboration with the SAPS has minimized these occurrences. We appeal to our communities to protect and look after the infrastructure as such is meant to deliver reliable services to the community.

There are houses that remain unelectrified in Khutsong Ext 4. We want to thank the District Mayor, Ald Maneli through Private Public Partnership for lending a helping hand. Outstanding un-electrified houses will be completed through the Infills Project before June 2018.

Blybank and Wedela over-loading is a systematic challenge that is being addressed on an on-going basis. The intension is to install transformers to increase capacity.

Through the Financial Turnaround plan, the municipality has a programme addressing the by-passed pre-paid meters which started in February and is progressing well at the moment though with teething problems at the commencement.

The communities residing in informal settlement have been in discussions with Eskom and the municipality to have their areas electrified. Hounarable members it is with great pleasure to report that this wish is gradually becoming a reality.

Eskom has commenced with a project to electrify Khutsong informal areas. The project will cover the entire Khutsong area as a multi-year project.

Although the maintenance budget was increased in this financial year, this is dependent on the collection rate. We hope the measures put in place to turn the financial will assist in ensuring that the maintenance of such infrastructure as streetlights is consistently maintained.

Roads and Storm water, Public Works

Our roads network comprises of 1095km of surfaced roads and 382 gravel roads. The backlog of unsurfaced roads is being cleared at the low pace due to limited budget availability. The municipality currently depends on MIG grants for the construction of new roads

During the past financial year the following projects were completed:

- Wedela construction of roads and storm water phase 1
- Kokosi Roads and storm water phase 1 and 2
- Khutsong roads and storm water phase 1 and 2 (multi-year projects due to be completed this financial year)

Over and above the MIG funding, in this financial year the municipality also received a funding for roads from the Distressed Mining Town Grants.

The following is a list of roads projects that are currently on construction and due to be completed by the end of the current financial year. The roads are being constructed with associated storm water infrastructure:

- Wedela Phase 3 – 0.6km (MIG) R5.8m
- Khutsong Phase 1 – 0.9km (MIG) R1.8m
- Khutsong Phase 2 – 1.2km (MIG) R9.9m
- Kokosi Ext.6 – 1.4km (Distressed Mining Town Grants) R13.2m

The municipality is in constant engagements with other spheres of government for the possible alternative grant providers, as the backlog of unsurfaced roads, road resealing and potholes are challenges that the municipality cannot afford to live with as they worsen the poor dolomitic conditions faced.

Storm water management is also not effective on unsurfaced roads. Working together with the District Municipality we hope to benefit from the Neighborhood grant in the coming financial years.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT PROJECTS (Rehabilitation of sinkholes and related infrastructure)

We currently have a challenge of sinkhole occurrences in Khutsong and Carletonville. The National Disaster Management Centre allocated an amount of R118m over the past financial year to rehabilitate sinkholes and re-construct damaged infrastructure resulting from sinkholes. The list of projects to be executed within the grant was as follows:

- Rehabilitation of sinkhole at Bluebell street
- Bluebell street water pipeline reconstruction
- Adatta rehabilitation of sinkhole
- 590 Khutsong sinkhole rehabilitation (not executed)
- 590 Khutsong sewer line reconstruction (not executed)
- Khutsong extension 3 outfall sewer line reroute
- Carletonville 007 Reservoir pipeline bypass refurbishment
- Carletonville 007 Reservoir Sinkhole rehabilitation
- Geotechnical investigation at Carletonville, Adatta and Khutsong reservoir and all sites.

The budget could not address all the existing sinkholes. The sinkhole adjacent to house 590 in Khutsong, which was major, could not be rehabilitated within the allocated grant due to social challenges and uncertainties that had to do with removal of households in the vicinity, as per the Geologist's recommendations. Since then we have also experienced formation of new sinkholes and have since forwarded application to relevant spheres for more allocation. Assessments of sinkholes by VGI Consulting are constantly done as they develop. The municipality is also on the process of upgrading water and sewer network in Khutsong Township, which also contributes to the formation of sinkholes. The municipality is constantly engaging CoGTA and The Disaster Management Centre pertaining to the

allocation of funds in accordance with the business plans submitted.

Honorable members of the mayoral, on **the Regional Outcome 2 Accountable Municipal Administration**; The Constitution propels us through its objects to provide democratic and accountable government for our communities by enhancing accountability through improving ward councilors relationship with our communities and ward committees.

Members of council, we are proud that we have functional and vibrant Council, Mayoral committee and Section 80 (Portfolio) meetings

Council committees like MPAC, External Performance Audit, petitions and rules committee, party whips meetings are functioning optimally providing oversight and an effective monitoring.

We have improved our communication with the community and are building a better relationship overall with our community. In the coming year we aim to improve customer service are through a better call and contact centre that will be operating on our internally developed call centre system. It is already being tested.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I was humbled by the SMMEs and community members in one of our projects when there was a dispute around the recruitment of labourers, they came to my office unannounced and said “ Executive Mayor, we opted not to protest or stop work on site and came to your office to engage because we understand the negative impact of stoppages on municipal performance and future funding”. The issues were resolved amicably and today as we speak the project is progressing well. This can only be attributed to the intense community participation Programmes. Thank you very much to the ward councilors and the leadership collective.

We are also making sure that relationships with the print and electronic media stay healthy, and are regularly issuing press releases to have balanced reporting on municipal matters. On this note let me take this opportunity to welcome our new kid on the block in print media in our space, the Merafong Observer. We are looking forward to a cordial working relationship of balanced reporting and objective and unbiased criticisms.

Honorable Speaker, on the **Regional Outcome 3, Skilled, Capacitated, Competent and Motivated Workforce;**

Our administration has been stabilized by the appointment of the senior management team in November and December. The team is led by the Municipal Manager and six (6) Executive Directors of which five (5) positions have been filled. The Executive Director

Economic Development and Planning position had to be re-advertised and the recruitment process will be concluded in due course. Applications for the position closed on 4 April 2018 and it is anticipated that the position will be filled in due course. These are men and women who are tasked to ensure that the municipality to execute its constitutional mandate, they dare not fail the Merafong community.

District Speaker, on behalf of this municipality we I want to thank the West Rand District Municipality for seconding Mr Mohlaudi to the hold the fort when such a need arose.

Honorable Councillors, We remain committed to improve the life of our workforce, including the physical environment as well as their psychological environment. We acknowledge that the morale of our employees is currently not high; and this is working progress.

The Local Labour Forum is operational with regular meetings taking place. As management we acknowledge the importance of labour as a partner and a major role player in building a stable platform from which to provide services to the community.

Honorable members, we are today thanking the Merafong team for remaining committed to their work, sometimes without the necessary equipment but keeping their eyes on the ball, your efforts will never go unnoticed.

In the recent past the municipality did not fill positions, we have now identified critical positions that need to be filled especially in the service delivery departments (water and sanitation, and electrical sections), taking into consideration our financial constraints. Advertisements were placed and the process of filling these positions is unfolding.

Training remains the base from where we are able to launch the work force, and also the community. The following training interventions were done:

- National Youth Service –NYS (Department of Infrastructure Development) : 95 Beneficiaries
- Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA): 17 Beneficiaries
- Municipal Finance Internship Program (National Treasury) : 5 Beneficiaries
- EPWP – MIG and Cogta: 142_Beneficiaries

Administration is in process of reviewing the personnel structure of the organisation, this is a periodic process that is needed to make sure that the Municipality is able to respond to new trends and challenges to be able to provide services to the whole of the community.

Honorable Councillors, on **Regional Outcome 4 Ethical Administrations and Good Governance**; as part of ensuring that employees adhere to code of conduct and that they render services in a professional manner, Merafong has partnered with

The Ethics Institute on a program called Integrity Project. This partnership has benefited the municipality in that it stimulated a conversation around ethics management. A survey was done to assess the state of Ethics and ethical gaps within the municipality. A series of awareness campaigns, trainings and workshops were undertaken internally with the assistance of The Ethics Institute. The municipality will continue with the implementation of the Integrity Project to ensure that employees of the municipality continue to uphold ethical standards and put people first in rendering services to the community.

Our commitment to Good Governance was yet again demonstrated by the unqualified audit outcome from the Auditor General, in the past financial year. There are still matters of emphasis that is receiving attention in the "Operation Clean Audit Plan (OPCA)", but the main issue that is receiving attention is our financial health.

The Municipality is also aware that despite all efforts employees at times do transgress, and this is addressed as and when it happens. As part of the service to the community in the promotion of good governance, we have a fraud hotline that is available to the community to report matters of concern and alleged transgressions by officials. Unfortunately some cases fall within the cracks due to reluctance of our community members to serve as witnesses. We are calling upon our communities to help the municipality in curbing corruption which impact negatively on the delivery of their basic services.

We are currently in disciplinary processes against a number of employees, these cases are at different stages of the disciplinary process and we are working to finalize them as soon as possible.

Recommendations from forensic investigations are also on the radar of these processes.

Honorable members, with the **Regional Outcome 5** which emphasizes on **Safe Communities**; as dictated by the constitutional objects to promote a safe and healthy environment; Speaker, on traffic law enforcement & Security with component to ensure effective law and by-law enforcement. Other objectives include escorting and traffic control.

Cllr Matshe, In this regard we have developed and are implementing an integrated Community safety plan aligned to the Regional Safety Plan to improve the safety of our communities.

We can proudly report for the current year we have successfully conducted 121 operations, 29 roadblocks, 780 warrants of arrest were finalized valued at R 295 350. 00 and 127 994 fines were issued to the value of R3.4 million.

To improve law enforcement around the City, the Municipality will convert the current Municipal security officers into traffic wardens. These wardens will assist with the by law enforcement, scholar patrol and efficient law enforcement.

Vandalism of municipal infrastructure and facilities remains a serious challenge. Deployments and patrols are done at these points, is however impossible to safe guard every point and without the support of our communities we will not win this battle. We call upon our communities to report instances of vandalism and theft of municipal property which is ultimately the property of the community.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it will be misleading to give an impression that the municipality is executing these operations single handedly. It is therefore befitting to acknowledge the men and women in blue for their sterling work in this regard, particularly especially Carletonville Police Station – Tracing unit – and that Contables Kharejane, Ramosimong and Mosieleng, on making arrest of suspects in the brutal killing of Xolelwa Skweyiya.

The Carletonville Vehicle Testing station was suspended by the Province in 2017 due to non-compliance to standards specialized equipment. In mitigation, a budget has been approved to appoint a service provider to procure and install the required equipment.

The **Regional Outcome 6**, place an emphasis on **Educated Communities**; In terms of National Government Priorities, education has been identified by Government as priority number one. Firstly honorable members, I think I should make a disclaimer that even though education is not the competency of local government, however guided by Ntate Nelson Mandela's

views that no country can really develop unless its citizens are educated; We have committed as a municipality to play a role in the education of the future leaders of this municipality.

The Honorable Chief Whip of council, we continue to implement the back to school campaign to still encourage a culture of learning. This campaign is run in partnership with stakeholders within the education sector.

We want to extend a word of appreciation to MEC Creecy for being part of this campaign on an annual basis and mobilizing resources for the adopted schools each year.

Two career Expos were held in Kokosi and Carletonville organized by the Fochville PCO and AGA respectively.

Congratulatory note to Tswasongu High school for being the most improved school in the 2017 matric results.

In partnership with GCRA, Anglo Gold Ashanti, Sibanye Stillwater, Harmony Gold Mine and BME 36 Bursaries and 43 laptops were awarded to best performing learners. We want to wish them well in their future endeavours and hope they will one day plough back to this community with the acquired skills and expertise.

AGA in partnership with the Department of Basic Education and Merafong City Local Municipality further committed to the following,:

- Building of 4 additional classrooms at Greenspark Primary School
- Build a Physical and Life Science Laboratory at Wedela Primary School
- Build a Physical and Life Science Laboratory at Hlangabeza Primary School
- Refurbishment and equipping of a Computer Laboratory at Reakgona Primary School

What excites us the most as a municipality is that all the above projects are implemented by local contractors. Indeed our partnership with private business are translating into positive benefits for our SMMEs and we hope they will strive to render quality services to their clients as they grow themselves to bigger opportunities.

Indeed Speaker "Siyaqhuba" "Siyasebenza"

Honorable Speaker, as the ANC led municipality guided by **the Regional Outcome 7 Healthy Communities;**

The following are activities undertaken in the promotion of healthy communities:

- Over 400 learners were reached on drugs and substance abuse motivational talks
- 26 ECD practitioners enrolled for the Curriculum training programme since November 2017 with support from the

Matthew Goniwe Institute. A further thirty practitioners will be sent to complete an NQF level 4 ECD qualification from August 2018.

- A hundred and two ECDs were reached on the On-going ECD capacity building
- 1 169 people including orphans, the disabled and elderly were reached with Christmas hampers from Anglo Gold Ashanti Gold Mine and Sibanye Stillwater
- 2152 households were registered on the Council Indigent register
- Sixty indigent burials were conducted to ensure that we preserve dignity and human rights of people from the disadvantaged backgrounds
- 550 children from Xhobani, Losberg and Tswasongu schools received school uniform and dignity packs in collaboration with the Gauteng Department of Social Development
- Sixty NPOs on the Municipal NPO database received capacity building workshops for NPO managers.
- 354 064 people and 98 124 households were reached through HIV & Aids door to door programme
- Eleven Elderly citizens' luncheon clubs were reached on educational awareness programs on prevention of abuse on the aged and available Government interventions.
- Campaigns in the area of HIV/AIDS, Cancer, TB and STIs are ongoing

The functionality of the Local Aids Council is a concern and engagements with the relevant stakeholders are ongoing.

A site has been identified in Khutsong Ext 4 where the Department of Social Development will erect an Integrated Social facility which will provide day care services for older persons and ECD services for the community around Khutsong South.

AGA has committed to contribute R3m towards the establishment of a Home Based Day Care Centre in Khutsong, being the one of the areas without this facility, and the design of the entire Community Care Centre. The Municipality will in due course source funding from other sources (Department of Social Development) to complete the Community Care Centre.

To ensure that access to primary health care services is improved, a need was considered by the Department of Health to construct clinics in Greens Park and Khutsong South Extension 2. These will be prototype facilities that will provide up to twenty-four hour services to surrounding communities. The two projects are in progress and are eminent for completion during 2019.

Ladies and gentlemen, **Regional Outcome 8** is about **Sustainable environment**, Waste Collection: As per National Waste Collection Standard, waste is being collected once a week with kerb side method in the formal household. The number of households with access to weekly waste removal in the formal areas has been increased from 31 462 to 32 705 households (An

additional 1 243 households have been provided with access to the weekly waste removal service).

An Additional 3 000 Wheelie bins will be procured before the end of the financial year and be distributed to the newly developed areas to enable the introduction of the waste removal service in the new financial year.

Businesses around Merafong are also being serviced using the 6 cubic meter Containers and 240 litre bins.

Illegal dumping remains a challenge but besides the municipal financial constraints, Removal of illegal dumping is being scheduled and executed monthly with the available limited resources.

In the 2017 SOCA we reported the non-compliance of the Carletonville landfill site. We are encouraged as we report that the conditions at the landfill site have improved as per the Audit outcomes, conducted by Gauteng Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (GDARD). Our compliance score has improved from 20.3% in April 2017 to 50% April 2018, which represents an improvement of 29.7%).

The Municipality has developed a plan to address all non-compliance issues as raised in the audit report which includes the

R 8 million allocation for the installation of the boundary fence, targeted to be completed by end June 2018.

On Recycling: the Merafong Waste Recycling Project from Fochville Transfer Station which is formally registered as a Co-operative operated and managed by local beneficiaries with 9 personnel generates 120 tonnages monthly. We acknowledge that the project is experiencing some challenges at the moment which will receive attention in the new financial year. The viability of recycling projects is seriously influence by export market prices. And therefore diversification is required such as composting.

The total budget of R 56.5 million has been allocated for the Construction of the Carletonville Waste Management Depot that has commenced in July 2017 and targeted to be completed in September 2018. This facility is intended to provide the conducive office accommodation and ablutions for the employees in the Solid Waste Department.

The maintenance of our parks, cemeteries and open spaces remains a challenge due to financial constraints experienced. Despite the challenges, the municipality has managed to prioritize the maintenance activities in accordance with a monthly program. We are in the process to strengthen the capacity of the section through the provision of equipment and the filling of critical vacancies.

Apart from the maintenance activities we have managed to develop a new park in Khutsong South, extension 5 through our beautification Programmes to progressively clear up illegal dumping site in our municipality. I want to comment our community in the area for taking ownership of the park by maintaining it themselves. This serves as a real example for other communities where illegal dumping is still the order of the day.

In our efforts to be a green city, we have embarked on a project to green our schools and in this regard we will be donating approximately two hundred (200) fruit trees to five identified schools.

We will work closely with the District municipality as it moves towards the finalization of the Waste Management by laws.

Regional Outcome 9 which is about **Build Spatially**

Integrated Communities; Honorable members, on planning studies conducted in Merafong City to determine the impact of informal settlements in Merafong as part of the Distressed Mining Town intervention, these studies were completed by the Housing Development Agency and they identified Wedela as the only area where informal settlements can be upgraded. A project to construct 464 units is in the planning stage and engagements are at an advanced stage to secure the land from Harmony Gold.

On land invasions, the ANC National conference 2017 has resolved to influence for legislation that will allow government to expropriate land without compensation, the motion has already being passed in National Parliament. As responsible citizens, we are discouraging people from illegally invading land.

The following are Human Settlement projects are undertaken:

Kokosi Ext 6: Construction of 2138 houses. To date 1876 top structures are completed and 1326 are allocated to the rightful beneficiaries. The project experienced a lot of stoppages due to water problems in the network as well as the main pipeline and pump station, the municipality sincerely apologized to the community of Fochville for delays in the allocations due to water problems and we committed to resolve this problem

Another challenge experienced is untraceable beneficiaries exposing the houses vandalism.

Khutsong South Ext 5 & 6: Gauteng Department of Human Settlement has allocated an amount of R26, 282,000 for servicing of 500 stands. An additional amount of R 91,201,000.00 was also gazetted to service additional 753 stands and build 500 top structures. The targeted beneficiaries for this project are 265 approved beneficiaries from Khutsong Ext 3, Military veterans, people affected by sinkholes and people in the waiting list (demand data base of Merafong).

Elijah Barayi: This is a private development of mixed housing typologies. The development of this nature will enhance the character of Khutsong South area. It's going to yield a total of 10 000 units consisting of 7200 freestanding and 2 400 walkups and 400 RDPs. It will address the needs of mostly working class people who don't qualify for government subsidies and those who want rental units. The sites are well connected in terms of the existing road network and access road R501.

The official launch of the project was done in 13 February 2018 by the Gauteng Premier, District and local Mayors. Construction has started.

On **Kokosi Ext 7** is located between R500 and N12 and it's linked to Kokosi Ext 6. It is in the Southern Conurbation corridor of Merafong. The planned development will yield a total of 7488 housing units, of which 2328 will be freestanding and 5162 are walkups. Kokosi Ext 7 is ready for implementation provided that funds are secured for the construction of a water reservoir and to increase capacity of the existing Waste Treatment plant in Kokosi.

The following planning activities are in the process of being completed: Township Lay out plan provisionally approved, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Geotechnical studies phase 1 done.

Transfer of properties (Title deeds): In 2017 the municipality was able to register and transfer a total of 2100

properties in Khutsong Extensions 1, 2 & 3 Housing projects. Of the (5500) only 97 title deeds are outstanding and are attended too. Every effort will be made to have these also completed this year. The first recipient of these title deeds was Mrs Ngalosha Mapule Rachel of stand 8355 aged 85 years, indeed we are restoring the dignity of our people.

Consumer Education: The housing department in collaboration with Gauteng Department of Human Settlement will intensify their consumer education programme. The purpose of this programme is to educate people about their roles and responsibilities after government has allocated them houses.

Church stands: The municipality is inundated with requests from churches for church stands. Although all proclaimed townships provides for church stands in terms of the norms and standard in the proclamation, we have identified additional stands to be made available for places of worship. All vacant church stands have been advertised in April 2018 and the procurement processes are underway.

In restoring the dignity of our people and promoting family values, the Gauteng Department of Human Settlement was approached to look into the upgrading of the Khutsong Hostel. It is an honor to report that provision has been made in their budget for the upgrading of this Hostel. As soon as the needs

analysis and feasibility studies have been completed, the project will commence.

On **Regional Outcome 10 Socially Cohesive Communities;**

Speaker of Council, we were have recently shocked by racism attack in our local schools, hence we have mandated the youth office and the sports department to create Programmes that will promote social cohesion amongst communities

On libraries, Cllr Skosana, Merafong City Libraries has an approved calendar of events that to promote a culture of reading amongst children, the young and the elderly, to encourage the youth and Matric students to excel in the academics, to promote the usage of our mother tongue, to preserve and celebrate the cultural variations that exist within our communities etc. And all programs are implemented in accordance with the said calendar.
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Gauteng Province Department of Sports, Arts and Culture availed grant funding for the maintenance projects of libraries across Merafong.

Batswaneng Modular Library was officially opened on the 03rd November 2017 MEC: Ms. Faith Mazibuko and the then Acting Executive Mayor of Merafong City: Cllr. M. Moyeni. The newly opened library has been of great benefit as it has improved

access to Library Services to the community. We need to take care of this facility as a community for it exists in our best interest. Important to note that like all other libraries in Merafong, there is free access to Wi – Fi services in this library as well.

The Kokosi library construction project is currently in progress

In the promotion of **Sports and Recreation and Arts and Culture**, the municipality embarked on the following Programmes:

- Joined West Rand District Municipalities for the Rand- West Inter – Municipal Employee Friendly Games on the 01st December 2017
- Merafong City also hosted the Gauteng Recreation Policy Summit (West Corridor) which took place on the 03rd March 2018 with 300 delegates in attendance.
- Merafong City Community Games in Soccer under 15 and Netball under 17.

ARTS & CULTURE

- Go West Heritage Festival

- Local Mini-Festival in collaboration with the Provincial Department of SACR.
- Actors Youth Incubation program with auditions initiated by The Sello Maake Foundation.

Capital Projects:

- Popo Molefe Combi Courts was erected and officially opened by the MEC: Ms. Faith Mazibuko on the 9th September 2017.
- Wedela Indoor Sports Centre (AGA)
- Khutsong Ext 3 multi-purpose combi court (Province)

Honorable members you are all invited to join us as we celebrate the Freedom Day celebrations (provincial) which will be hosted us in Khutsong. Indeed we are in Gauteng and we are part of Gauteng.

Honorable Councillors, on **Regional Outcome 11 Reduced Unemployment**, in the past year, the municipality has embarked on a programme of reducing unemployment in our area of jurisdiction by ensuring that all infrastructure related projects employ local people and in line with the EPWP principles.

The following are Programmes undertaken to create job opportunities or environment conducive for job opportunities.

- 207 temporary jobs have been created thorough the implementation of infrastructure projects

- . Tshepo 1 Million program: 650 youth were mobilized to register on the database
- Tshepo 1 Million program
- 650 youth were mobilized
- 5 internships on municipal finance national treasury programme
- The learnership Programmes as reported earlier on have also contributed to the reduced unemployment.
- 6 beneficiaries on a youth unit
- municipality and have received on-the-job training and skills on project co-ordination, report writing and office management
- 20 beneficiaries were successfully trained by the Department of rural development

Regional Outcome 12 - Economic Development; Speaker of Council, In an effort to create an enabling environment for local SMMEs the municipality has ensured that all projects, allocate 30% of the value of the project to local SMMEs.

It should be noted that some of the SMMEs have not been exposed to massive projects; therefore the municipality is engaging the appointed companies to incubate and train them.

Merafong has experienced a decline in mining sector activities which has resulted in massive retrenchments and has a negative impact in our local economy. The Housing Development Agency

along with the National Department of Human Settlements have already started a process of engaging all mining houses to discuss on how we can revitalize the distressed mining communities in order to uplift the economy.

The municipality has embarked on a process of developing projects as alternatives to mining in the long term, namely the Solar Farm Cluster and the Bio-Energy Eco Industrial Park, these projects are considered to be game changers in the local economy. Feasibility studies are underway for both projects, funded by Gauteng Infrastructure Financing Agency (GIFA).

Cllr Best, farming is one economic activity identified for the Western corridor. As a contribution to the regional targets, The municipality supports small scale farmers and community gardens with seeds, where 34 institutions/organizations are benefiting from. The Nooitgedacht commonage farm supports 23 small scale stock farmers and currently 197 cattle and 66 calves are kept on the farm which is managed through grazing agreements. The payment of grazing fees remains a serious challenge. Credit control outreach for the farmers to settle their arrear account was done and still awaiting a positive outcome.

The Wedela agricultural project, funded by Anglo Gold Ashanti as a Social Labour Plan project is up and running by the Retswela Pele Agricultural Cooperative consisting of 15 members. Four tunnels are under production and 4.5 hectares of open fields are

cultivated. The Department of Rural Development and Rural Affairs support the project and have donated seeds and fertilizer and has committed to assist with training and support on an on-going basis.

The National Department of Social Development has set aside funding for the facilitation of developmental frameworks in:

- Community Works Programme
- Women Empowerment through income generation Programmes
- Asset Based Community Development Model (ABCD) which is a model premised on the identification of community based assets such as churches, rivers, forestry, savings schemes etc. and Cooperatives.

All these Programmes are knowledge based and will be facilitated by National in support of provinces and may in some instances involve other institutions of Higher learning.

The programme outlay will involve the hosting of information sharing workshops in collaboration with Municipalities and Provinces, these workshops are targeted to be implemented by 2nd week of May 2018.

The LED Section has partnered with the private developer responsible for the development of Elijah Barayi in ensuring that local SMMEs benefit from the project in terms of employment,

provision of machinery, supply of material and skills development.

A total of 447 SMMEs have been interviewed by the developer for consideration in the project.

Implementation and Mandating Committees are established with all mining houses, these structured engagements ensure that Social and Labour Plan projects are aligned to the needs of our communities as indicated in the IDP. The West Rand Mining Forum also oversees the implementation of projects throughout the District.

The Merafong Enterprise Development Centre (EDC), established in partnership with Anglo Gold Ashanti as part of the SLP projects, is fully functional and plays a major role in capacitating local SMMEs. The main hub of the EDC is situated at the Carletonville Civic Centre.

The Centre renders business support and services such as: ICT, access to business advisers, business concept development, business plans, access to finance, enterprise development, incubation and capacity building to name a few. Co-hosting agreements have been signed with government agencies such as SEDA, SEFA, IDC, GEP etc. and commercial banks and funding institutions to be provided a one stop support Centre for local SMMEs.

The municipality approached the Gauteng Department of Economic Development for funding to renovate the Khutsong Business Centre as part of the Township Reindustrialization programme in accordance with the Township Economic Revitalization policy.

The Khutsong Business Centre was completed but due to some outstanding work the building could not be handed over and that resulted in the building being vandalized. A contractor has been appointed to complete the work and it will be handed over to the municipality by the end of April 2018.

The Merafong Tourism Association along with the LED Section have started a process of promoting all tourist attractions in Merafong, with a purpose of increasing support for the revitalization of the Township Economy by promoting areas

The Municipality is committed to supporting our local contractors especially those that are still SMME's in order that they can grow their businesses and improve their CIDB grading. It is for this reason that we continuously ensure that they are supported in their business by proving direct business as well as 30% subcontracting. Due to the municipality's cash flow challenges, we are still unable to pay our service providers on time and these continue to negatively impact our SMMEs.

Honorable Speaker of Council; **Regional Outcome 13 Robust Financial Administration;** As reported during the SOCA of

2017, the Council is experiencing financial difficulties due to a number of reasons, in the main being the property rates disputes with the mines and the Blyvooruitzicht mine under provisional liquidation, owing this municipality in excess of R 400 million, as well as the non- payment culture by some of our communities.

.The main priority this year will be to turn the financial position of the municipality around. In this regard we have developed a Turn - Around Plan which includes a detailed programme with clear milestones. This is in line with the section 154 Four Pillar support program developed and implemented in collaboration with our Provincial Treasury which focusses on:

- Pillar 1 – Improved Collection
- Pillar 2 – Reduced Water and Electricity Losses
- Pillar 3 – Saving on Expenditure
- Pillar 4 – Credible Indigents Register

We have embarked on an extensive consultation process with all stakeholders and communities, with one message: “together we can make a difference if everybody assumes their responsibility.” Tough decisions have to be made to close the fiscal gap and budget deficit in our municipality. In the words of our President: “Our task as South Africans, is to seize the moment of hope and renewal and to work together to ensure that it makes a meaningful difference in the lives of our people” .

Our credit control/turnaround plan is an integrated plan that aims to improve the finances of Council. The crux of the plan is that everyone should be paying for their services and taking into account the various challenges linked to payment of services,

including but not limited to installation of meters; timeous response to customer queries and meter reading. The turnaround plan will be a success once areas such as Khutsong have moved from a payment level of 6%.

We have extended the amnesty period for tampering with prepaid meters until June 2018 and urge all our community members to come forward as we have waived the tampering fee of R6 670.00 and we have appointed a service provider to attend to the 8000 prepaid electricity tampered meters. This will reduce the electricity losses and therefore reduce the monthly Eskom bill, saving the municipality a lot of money.

I wish to thank Gauteng CoGTA for by appointing Kagiso Trust to assist us with data cleansing project and PDG was appointed for tariff modelling project. Both projects were aimed at enhancing billing and ensuring that all tariffs are cost reflective.

We were also able to reach agreements with ESKOM and Rand Water in respect of the outstanding debt that was owed to them. This saved the Municipality from the proposed drastic measures that were proposed to be implemented against the Municipality. We are constantly monitoring our payments in this regard and are positive that the lights will stay on.

MEC Creecy in her budget speech to legislature committed to assist in prioritizing outstanding payments to municipalities, the

intervention by Gauteng Treasury in this regard is highly appreciated

We have made progress on the issue of the valuation of the mines in that the supplementary valuation roll (SV6) was finalized and the mines have been given an opportunity to object and appeal. We will comply with the ruling made by the Valuation Appeal Board that we will implement the new values after the appeal process has been concluded.

The High court matter on the valuation appeal is still continuing and this is a costly exercise that Council has to defend in order to improve the finance of Merafong.

The municipality is still honoring the court order on the Blyvoor matter and the water is still being reduced by 40%. The community of Blyvoor was ordered by Court to pay R150 per household per month. The monthly payments are very low and the average water account is R1.5m. We have engaged the community on this matter and expecting that in few months to come we will see improvements. I wish to thank the businesses within kBlyvoor that have shown support by arranging to pay the municipality actual water consumption during our stakeholder engagements and we are monitoring this arrangement very closely.

A successful meeting was held with the Housing Development Agency wherein they have pledged support and will they

commence with a feasibility study on the formalization of the Blyvoor village. By the directive of National Department of Human Settlement the provision of prepaid water meters to be funded from the mining town allocation is being investigated.

On capital expenditure, Challenges were experienced during the first quarter of the current financial year where there was a delay in the appointment of consultants. Various measures were put in place in order to accelerate project implementation. Total Capex expenditure as at 31 March 2018 is standing at 41% and expenditure on MIG projects is at 58% including roll overs.

Cllr Tabane, we are one of the municipalities affected by the curatorship of VBS. R50 million was invested with this bank and we hope the engagements at the National Treasury and CoGTA levels will finally bring positive results. Provincial Treasury is also giving support.

To enable us to grow as an organisation we are reducing spending to the minimum, and this also means proper control over expenditure on fuel for the municipal fleet and the use of municipal vehicles. Measures to control overtime have been put in place and are proving to be effective. Effective contract management is also in place, making sure that the municipality is receiving value for money when making payments to contractors.

We were also able to reach agreements with Eskom and Rand Water in respect of the outstanding debt that was owed to them. This saved the Municipality from the proposed drastic measures that were proposed to be implemented against the Municipality. We are constantly monitoring our payments in this regard and are positive that the lights will stay on.

When President Cyril Ramaphosa said "Thuma Mina", he never said the road will be easy. We are giving an account of the state of our municipalities under very difficult circumstances but however take comfort from the words of Amica Cabral when he "Tell no lies and claim no easy victories".

Regional Outcome 14: Institutional Planning and Transformation

Honorable Speaker, as I earlier on said, the cornerstone of Institutional Planning and Transformation is the District vision of 1Region, 1 Plan, 1Action and 1System.

The adoption of a Regional Performance Management System as a Shared Service is the first step in implementing a common unifying approach to guide Regional Planning, Service Delivery, Monitoring and Performance Evaluation.

Our TURN AROUND plan is aligned to the Regional Plan and the 14 Regional outcomes.

We have restated our SDBIP to align our 6 Key Objectives to the 14 Regional outcomes. It is acknowledged that there are still challenges to fully achieve this outcome but with the political and administrative collaboration we will achieve the desired outcome and transform the municipality to progressively deliver on our mandate and Vision: "TO BE A PROSPEROUS SUSTAINABLE AND COMMUNITY ORIENTED CITY"

In conclusion, Honorable Speaker, Today, in delivering this State of the City Address, we are restating our commitment to those tasks and invite all of you to join us as we pull up our socks in marching for unity, non-racialism and democracy, and the creation of a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous in character. We reaffirm the clarion call of Tata Madiba that "After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb."

Sincere appreciation to:

My political party, the ANC and its Caucus for unwavering support
Members to the Political Management Team for your advises and engagements,

Members of the Mayoral Committee for your their cooperation and being team players

All council committees and All councilors for your robustness, constructive criticism and the love of our constituency,

The administrative wing under the stewardship of MM Ms Mokoena, our hopes are pinned upon yourselves for technical advise and execution

The West Rand District Municipality for remaining a support system

All Merafong stakeholders

My family for understanding and support

Most importantly the Almighty for Keeping all of us and giving us strength to fulfill our daily tasks

Now is the time for all of us to work together, in honor of Nelson Mandela, to build a new, better South Africa for all.

I thank you