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After five years in office, Executive Mayor, Cllr. Thabo Manyoni took a final bow, when he delivered his address at the last sitting of the Mangaung Metro council on Thursday 30 June 2016.

Members of the council described the EM as one of the best Mayors to grace Mangaung and its council, a leader who has residents of mangaung’s best interest at heart, and a true visionary.

In his address the Executive Mayor gave a moving speech filled with words of gratitude.

“It is important that I take this opportunity to thank you all; your sense of commitment and your critique of our performance has propelled us to perform better all the time. In a month I will lay down the title of Mayoral Chief of this City, including the assigned responsibilities thereof and become just an ordinary citizen.”

He further said: “My deepest thank you goes to fellow members of the Mayoral Committee, and the Executive Management team. The dedication and competence you all brought to the service of Mangaung and the service of our country, makes me feel proud of this institution.

“To our fellow workers, the efforts that most of you put without recognition or appreciation are recorded in the success bodies of this municipality. My greatest appreciation goes to the ruling party the ANC. I hope that I did not disappoint in fulfilling the commitment as stated in our pledge.

“I owe my deepest sense of gratitude to you the people of Mangaung; you gave me this extraordinary opportunity to serve you, and by extension your future generations. We had great challenges together, but amidst all those, you showed me that you are a people with a great sense of tolerance and trust. You trusted me and I hope I did not fail you in our journey.

“I respect all of you. Thank you.”
Mangaung Metro through the Corporate Services Directorate held its first Job Evaluation Committee (JEC) meeting on Wednesday 08 June 2016, to award the committee members with certificates of qualification for the Tuned Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (TASK) Job evaluation course.

The JEC is entrusted with the responsibility of conducting evaluation of all posts within MMM, and implementing TASK, which is the recognised and uniform job evaluation system within the Local Government sector.

HOD for Corporate Services Me. Mpatliseng Ramaema on behalf of the City Manager officially declared the committee as operational, and instructed the committee to perform the exercise with fairness, diligence, professionalism and commitment.

“This is an exercise that is long overdue. Mangaung is the only metro that still operates under the old Van der Merwe job evaluation system. This tells us that from today, we have to run like lightning because this will be the cornerstone of fairness. MMM is relying on your fairness,” she said.

The HOD further stated that the committee is made up of employees from all directorates within Mangaung.

GM for Human Resource Development Mr. Nzimeni Maswabi explained why JEC is important for MMM.

“Job evaluation is used as an objective process to determine the relative size or weight of jobs, it also provides the framework within which decisions on salaries and grading can be made. During training you were taught that good job evaluation systems are designed to minimise subjectivity and to facilitate in making informed judgments, may we always remember this”, he said.
The Executive Mayor, Cllr. Thabo Manyoni welcomed the Nanjing City delegation during their visit to Mangaung on Thursday 09 June 2016.

This visit was intended to strengthen the sister relationship between the two municipalities and served as a follow-up since the signing of the Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) which took place in Nanjing China in September 2015.

The delegation was treated to a full day of activities, including a sit-in during the Council Meeting, where the EM introduced them to the members of council and highlighted the key areas of co-operation in the signed MOU.

“Some of the key areas that we agreed to partner on were International promotion and marketing of both municipalities, youth development, cultural and sport exchange, Identification of business opportunities, exchange of scientific capacity building though advancement of training, skills development and joint organisation of workshops,” he said.

Executive Vice Mayor of Nanjing Municipality Mr. Liu Yi’an expressed his gratitude for the sister relationship between the two municipalities.

“I am very honoured to visit the city of Mangaung and to share with you the rich history and culture of my city,” he said.

As part of their visit to Mangaung, the Nanjing delegation made their way to Waterfront to view Art exhibitions that were on display.

The art exhibitions showcased 40 Chinese paintings by famous Chinese Painters, and over 30 painting by different artists from Mangaung were also on display.
Youth Enterprise Development Programme pays off

Mangaung Metro closed off the youth month by hosting a certification ceremony, for 480 Digital Migration youth participants, on Wednesday 29 June 2016 at the Boet Troskie Hall.

The youth enterprise development programme was launched by the Executive Mayor Cllr. Thabo Manyoni in June 2015, together with ABSA and Central University of Technology as partners, with the intention to unlock opportunities for skills training and capacitating them with knowledge to better employment prospects for them (youth).

The Executive Mayor, gave encouraging words of congratulations to the participants for successfully completing their training.

“When we launched this programme we had a vision, and that vision was to make an impact in the lives of the youth, to equip them with skills and discipline. I want you to take this ceremony as the first step towards greater things to come for yourselves and this City. You have come this far, don’t give up on yourselves,” he said.

The Digital Terrestrial Television programme is one of the programmes which form part of the Mangaung Youth Enterprise Development project and it will run for 3 years.
The city of Mangaung, will between the 10th and 15th July 2016 host the 24th Darts South Africa (DSA) Championship, in partnership with Free State Darts Association and department of Sports, Arts & Culture and Recreation.

Addressing the media at the official launch on Tuesday 05 July 2016, the president of the Free State Darts Association, Mr Denny Terblaf said it is a great honour for FS Darts and Mangaung to be the host city of this year’s national championship.

“We are expecting a great number of people to participate in this year’s tournament; all nine provinces, consisting of over 30 municipalities, of the country will be represented. When we 1st hosted the tournament in 2006 we had 76 playing boards, whereas this year there will be 86 playing boards,” he said.

When asked about how they expected FS Darts players to fair in the tournament, Mr. Terblaf said: “We are very confident; our players are dedicated and very eager to win.”

Speaking on behalf of the city, MMM GM for Communications Mr Qondile Khedama said: “As part of the growth and development strategy of the city, we want to turn Mangaung into a sporting mecca, hence we have seen all the developments around our sporting facilities.”

Our Executive Mayor, Cllr. Thabo Manyoni is passionate about making sure that the economy of the township is revived through sports, hence this tournament was deliberately taken to the township, with a simple view of making sure that we keep our youth busy and the economy of the township benefits through this tournament,” he added.

This sporting event will be held at the Mangaung Indoor Sport Centre, and will be attended by more than 500 players and officials. Members of the public are welcome to watch and support.
Want to test your limits?
Join MMM Athletics

“Izokuthoba. It will humble you.” - This is the slogan for the Comrades Marathon, one which a number of Mangaung Athletics Club members can attest to, having ran the gruelling marathon for the past two years.

Formed about four years ago, the Mangaung Athletics Club caters for MMM employees who are interested in running, both competitively and for recreation purposes.

The club was started with “the intention of instilling and maintaining a healthy lifestyle amongst employees and residents of Mangaung in general,” explained one of the members, Joseph Baxa.

With a membership of 52 and steadily growing, the club has participated in numerous races around the province and the country, including:

- Comrades Ultra Marathon (90km);
- Two Oceans Ultra Marathon (56km);
- Nelson Mandela Day Marathon;
- Soweto Marathon;
- City 2 City Ultra Marathon (50km);
- Gauteng Challenge, Aspen Marathon; and the
- Cape Town Marathon, amongst others.

As part of their community social upliftment programme, the members are planning to start a junior club for their children to give them an early start in track and field, while keeping them active.

Over the coming weeks, the club will be raising funds to assist with costs of participating in upcoming marathons.

Registration to be a member of the club is R250, and the club vest is also R250.

More information about the club can be obtained from Ausi Tshidi Mawela on 084 7075 195.