



Our Ref: MRDP/T Maine

Your Ref:

Tel: +27 (51) 405 83 43

Date: 4 March 2020

**SPEAKER
(COUNCIL ITEM)**

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL: MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (MRDP) 2020/2025

1. Purpose

To request Council's approval of the 2020/2025 Mangaung Rural Development Plan as the roll-out strategic plan and development guide that aims to deal with rural poverty effectively through creating sustainable development and improving the livelihoods of people living in rural areas by optimizing and managing the use of natural resources through an integrated agrarian transformation and the strategic investment in economic and social infrastructure that will benefit rural communities.

2. Background

The pervasiveness of poverty and poor delivery of basic services in rural areas of the Mangaung Metro continue to constrain Council development efforts. The prevalence of rural poverty provides major challenges to Council and therefore many failures in the rural development projects, some of which are caused by inadequate local rural capacity. The poverty in the rural areas is synonymous with significant constraints in high income levels and the fact that the rural economy is not sufficiently vibrant to provide them with remunerative jobs or self-employment opportunities. The cost of living is high because rural communities spend relatively more on basic social services such as food and water, shelter, energy, health and education, transport and communications services. Moreover, the natural resource base to which they have access cannot provide rural people with the significant means of subsistence anymore.

It is in this spirit and in line with the National Development Plan that the Mangaung Metro supported by the National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) and the Free State Provincial Shared Services Centre work in a collaborative way to attain socially cohesive and stable rural communities with viable institutions, sustainable economies and

universal access to social amenities, able to attract and retain skilled and knowledgeable people, who are equipped to contribute to growth and development of rural areas of the Metro. This aim together with the objective of attaining sustainable rural communities will be achieved through the development of the Mangaung Rural Development Plan/Strategy and the subsequent effective implementation that enables rural people to take control of their lives and with support from government.

The Mangaung Rural Development Plan/Strategy (Annexure A - Executive Summary, Annexure B - The Plan/Strategy, Annexure C - Implementation Plan) is a catalyst for rural areas related development and as such the Plan/Strategy forms an integral part and/or sector plan of the Mangaung Integrated Development Plan (IDP) as well as the Spatial Development Framework (SDF) moving forward. In this way it is at the interface between the IDP, the SDF and the Plan/Strategy that practical implementation will occur and be able to respond to the various challenges and opportunities faced by rural communities within the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality.

3. Deliberation

For the very first time, the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality has now developed the all-inclusive 2020/2025 Mangaung Rural Development Plan/Strategy for the entire area of its jurisdiction. This is in line with the developmental duties of Local Government or Council espoused in Chapter 7 Section 153 of the Constitution that states -

A Municipality must –

- a) structure and manage its administration and budgeting and planning processes to give priority to the basic needs of the community, and to promote the social and economic development of the community; and
- b) participate in national and provincial development programmes.

The Strategy is linked to other applicable Strategies and Policies within the Municipality for roll out and facilitation of the Rural Development Strategy. The vision of the first generation Mangaung Rural Development Plan/Strategy indicates that Mangaung Metropolitan Council strives to be:

"A safe and conducive rural environment supported by an improving and inclusive economy through sustainable agriculture, equitable investment and responsible resource management".

Agriculture and agrarian transformation have been identified as one of the key economic sectors through which economic growth and job creation can be achieved.

4. Methodology and Public Participation

The development of the Mangaung Rural Development Plan/Strategy included six (6) critical phases, namely Inception Phase, Vision and Objectives, Spatial Analysis, Draft Mangaung Rural Development Plan, Integration and Implementation and finally Finalization and Approval.

With the significant support from the National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, the formulation of the Mangaung Rural Development Plan/ has been beset and characterized by extensive coordination and consultation, intensive public participation, strong data and planning and do reflect rural community developmental needs and priorities. These plans and strategies are often developed and characterised by poor co-ordination, poor consultation, weak participation, poor data and planning, programmes and projects identification that show elements of sturdy sustainability.

As such, the Mangaung Rural Development Plan/Strategy climaxed unambiguous efforts to strengthen rural institutions and enhance participation of rural people that carries a move away from conventional urban bias developmental thinking and therefore rural capacitation and concerted efforts to address rural poverty, joblessness and promote investment and self-employment opportunities.

The system of extensive participation and consultation that held the promise to provide mechanisms for empowering rural communities appropriately during the formulation of the Mangaung Rural Development Plan/Strategy is outlined in Table 1 below with explicit activities that will be undertaken throughout the formulation of the Mangaung Rural Development Plan/Strategy.

Table 1: Public participation process

PHASE	PURPOSE	ACTIVITIES	PARTICIPANTS	PLACE	DATE
PHASE 1	INCEPTION Outlining overall methodology and participation process	▪ Presentation and obtain input	Mayco	Bloemfontein	26-July-19
		▪ Identify additional issues	Steering Committee		
PHASE 2	VISION & OBJECTIVES Obtain regional input in respect of status quo and formulation of vision and objectives	▪ Current reality check & status quo	Key stakeholders	Bloemfontein	09-Aug-19
		▪ Identify needs	Emerging and commercial farmers	Soutpan	12-Sep-19
		▪ Confirm facts, figures & perceptions		Bloemfontein	13-Aug-19
		▪ Agreement on issues & needs		Thaba Nchu	14-Aug-19
		▪ Prioritization & vision formulation		Botshabelo	15-Aug-19
		▪ Formulate objectives		Dewetsdorp	16-Aug-19
		▪ Presentation and obtain Input		Mayco Steering Committee	Bloemfontein
		▪ Additional issues & confirm V & O			

PHASE	PURPOSE	ACTIVITIES	PARTICIPANTS	PLACE	DATE
PHASE 3	SPATIAL ANALYSIS Obtain regional input in respect of land use & spatial structure	▪ Spatial analysis of current reality	Key stakeholders Emerging and commercial farmers	Soutpan	07-Oct-19
		▪ Multy sectoral analysis		Bloemfontein	08-Oct-19
		▪ Land use & spatial structure		Thaba Nchu	09-Oct-19
		▪ Economic activity & potential		Botshabelo	10-Oct-9
		▪ Functional area identification		Wepener	11-Oct-19
PHASE 4	DRAFT RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN presentation of draft plan	▪ Presentation and obtain input	Mayco Steering Committee	Bloemfontein	05-Dec-19
		▪ Preliminary endorsement			
		▪ Presentation and obtain input	Council Members	Bloemfontein	06-Oct-19
PHASE 5	INTEGRATION & IMPLEMENTATION Obtain regional input in respect of project plans & programmes	▪ Confirmation of priority projects	Key stakeholders Emerging and commercial farmers	Soutpan	13-Jan-20
		▪ Role player coordination		Bloemfontein	14-Jan-20
		▪ Funding sources		Thaba Nchu	15-Jan-20
		▪ Compile integrated programmes		Botshabelo	16-Jan-20
		▪ Action plans		V Stadensrus	17-Jan-20
PHASE 6	FINALISATION & APPROVAL obtain approval, notification and "buy in"	▪ Presentation and obtain input	Mayco Steering Committee	Bloemfontein	27-Jan-20
		▪ Endorsement of plan			
		▪ Web page notification	Mangaung citizens	N/A	20-Feb-20
		▪ Presentation and approval	Council Members	Bloemfontein	26-Mar-20

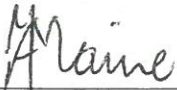
This system therefore assured that the vision and developmental objectives mapped responded to articulated priorities at the rural level. It also assisted in unleashing the sustained social capital of the rural communities in the form of extended networks of mutual solidarity, shared beliefs and traditions, and commitments to retain long-standing practices of daily rural life and sustainable rural development.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended:

- 5.1 that Mangaung Metropolitan Council approves the first generation 2020/2025 Mangaung Rural Development Plan/Strategy as its 20-year and beyond long-term strategic plan for the development and sustainability of the rural people.
- 5.2 that the endorsed Mangaung Rural Development Plan/Strategy be reviewed every five (5) year to align to the changing rural community needs and aspirations with the long-term vision.
- 5.2 that the Mangaung Rural Development Plan/Strategy become a sector plan of the Integrated Development Plan.
- 5.3 that Mangaung Rural Development Plan/Strategy is included in the Spatial Development Framework.

- 5.4 that the Mangaung Rural Development Plan/Strategy and concomitant Implementation Plan be rolled out and facilitated by the Rural Development sub-directorate under Economic and Rural Development department for the 2020 to 2025 period.
- 5.5 that the approved Mangaung Rural Development Plan/Strategy be electronically availed to Mangaung Metropolitan Councillors through the Office of the Speaker and be publicized on the municipal website for the wider public to access it.



Teboho Maine

Head: Economic and Rural Development

Recommended / ~~Not Recommended~~

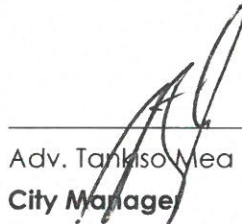
Recommended / ~~Not Recommended~~



Adv. Motsotsohe Mofokeng

EXCO Representative: Intervention Team

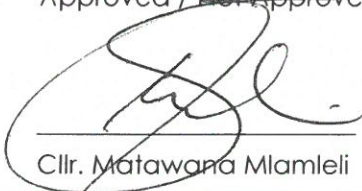
12/03/2020



Adv. Tankiso Mea

City Manager

Approved / ~~Not Approved~~



Cllr. Matawana Mlamleli

Executive Mayor

