



**MANGAUNG**

METRO MUNICIPALITY  
METRO MUNISIPALITEIT  
LEKGOTLA LA MOTSE

DIRECTORATE  
CORPORATE SERVICES

Corporate Secretariat

17

Ref: Mr M Mothekhe  
Ext: 8095/8543  
Date: November 10, 2021

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**THE ACTING CITY MANAGER  
MR S MORE**

### **COUNCIL ITEM**

### **ADOPTION OF THE LANGUAGE POLICY AND PROMOTION OF MULTILINGUALISM WITHIN THE CITY**

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to appraise the Council on the Language Policy and to request the Municipal Council to endorse and advocate the principle of multilingualism in line with the bill of rights.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Constitution, together with the Municipal System Act (Act 32 of 2000), require local Governments to "take into account the language preferences and usage in their municipality and the special needs of people who cannot read or write "for internal communication and external communication.

Municipal Council are responsible for determining the official language for the municipality based on local "language preferences and usage "and all notification must be communicated in these languages. In addition, Council must provide for the language needs of those who are not proficient in the official languages and render assistance to people who cannot read or write. How municipality provides for additional language needs and assistance is left to the municipal's discretion.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Mangaung Metro Council approved and adopted a language Policy in **April 2005**. The purpose and objectives on the adoption of the Language Policy was aimed at promoting effective participation and civic engagement by removing the language barrier to communication between the city administration and the community.

This policy was adopted with the aim to further improve communication within the administration and enhance the promotion of cultural and linguistic through the greater use of African Languages.

During the 2004 and 2011 community language survey, later one done by Census South Africa, the language profile and preferences of the community of Mangaung depicted the language preferences within the municipality as follows;

LANGUAGE	PERCENTAGE	PREFENCES AMONGST YOUTH	MANGAUNG PREFERENCE	PROVINCIAL PREVALENCE
Sesotho	51.9%	40%	Across the city	62%
Afrikaans	15.8%	12%	Dominance in Heidedaal, Bainsvlei, Dewetsdorp, Van Stadensrus & suburbs	15%
English	4.20%	22%	Business Language	8%
Setswana	12.3%	8%	Spoken mainly in & around Thaba Nchu, Bochabela, Kagisanong and Batho Location	8%
isiXhoza	9.6%	5%	Spoken mainly in Phahameng and Rocklands	5%
Sign Language	1.1%	1%	Across the city	1.2%
Other	0.6%	1%	Across the city	0.8%

The above schematic representation provides a platform and rationale for the municipal Council to make a determination regarding language classification and utilization.

### **MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN LANGUAGE POLICY**

The Mangaung Municipality developed a language policy in line with the prescripts of the Constitution and the policy covers internal and external form of spoken and written communication, including language of record, labour relations, workplace training. Translation and interpretation, monitoring and evaluation and mechanism for engaging the public on language-related issues.

The policy further enhances and ensures that Language unit is established whose main purpose and responsibility is overall language- related needs, including conducting language needs related to communication, interpretation and translation.

This policy also helps to mainstream language policies into municipal strategies and processes by raising awareness of multilingualism.

An annual review of the policy is conducted to enforce broad compliance by all municipality department.

Language	Official	Administrative	Business Language
Sesotho	Yes	No	No
Afrikaans	Yes	No	No
English	Yes	No	Yes
Setswana	No	Yes	No
IsiXhoza	No	Yes	No

## RECOMMENDATIONS

it is hereby recommended that;

- a) the Council endorse three official languages, Sesotho, Afrikaans and English;
- b) Council endorse the two Administrative Language namely Setswana and isiXhosa;
- c) the choosing and self-worth of each members language preference should be respected
- d) where practically possible, the Speaker should ensure that provision of simultaneous interpretation services is rendered during all municipal Council proceedings;



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