



CONFIDENTIAL

**MINUTES
of an
ORDINARY MEETING**

**MANGAUNG
METROPOLITAN
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER
FIRST FLOOR
BRAM FISCHER BUILDING
BLOEMFONTEIN**

**WEDNESDAY
7 NOVEMBER 2024
AT 09:00** (continuation of the meeting
held on Wednesday 30 October 2024)

**MANGAUNG
METROPOLITAN
MUNICIPALITY**

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING
of the
MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
held IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, FIRST FLOOR, BRAM FISCHER BUILDING
BLOEMFONTEIN**

**On THURSDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2024 at 10:00 (CONTINUATION OF THE MEETING HELD
WEDNESDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2024)**

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

#	NAME	PARTY	LEAVE
1	<u>Speaker</u> Cllr Mathae (Bongani Lawrence)	ANC	
2	<u>Executive Mayor</u> Cllr Nthatisi (Gregory Mosala Solomon)	ANC	
3	<u>Deputy Executive Mayor</u> Cllr Titi-Odili (Lulama Magdeline)	ANC	
4	<u>Council Whip</u> Cllr Nikelo (Vumile Edwin)	ANC 28	
SECTION 79 CHAIRPERSONS			
5	<u>Rules</u> Cllr Mokgothu (Tona Kenosi Wilfred)	ANC 2	
6	<u>MPAC</u> Cllr Makoloane (Itumeleng Justice)	ANC 36	
7	<u>Petitions and Community Liaison</u> Cllr Morake (Molefi Andries)	ANC	
8	<u>Remunerations</u> Cllr Tladi (Motshewa Martha)	ANC	
9	<u>Public Places and Street Naming</u> Cllr Mogotloane (Thabo Joel)	ANC 39	
MEMBERS OF MAYORAL COMMITTEE			
10	<u>Economic Development</u> Cllr Mosala (Motlhokung Theodora)	ANC	
11	<u>Waste and Fleet Management</u> Cllr Jonas (Vuyelwa Eunice)	ANC 11	
12	<u>Public Safety and Transport</u> Cllr Tsoleli (Sibongile Pearn)	ANC	
13	<u>Technical Services</u> Cllr Soqaga (Vusumzi Simon)	ANC	
14	<u>Finance</u> Cllr Kruger (Caprice Logan)	ANC 16	
15	<u>Planning and Human Settlements</u> Cllr Nhlapo (Ntombi Anna)	ANC	Absent with apology
16	<u>Rural Development</u> Cllr Twala (Pani Sidney)	ATM	
17	<u>Community Services</u> Cllr Qai (Alfred)	AIC	
18	<u>Corporate Services</u> Cllr Letawana (Manthuse Maria)	ANC	

PR COUNCILLORS			
19	Cllr Bothma (Andries Francois)	DA	
20	Cllr Bouwer (Chadwine Lyle)	DA	
21	Cllr Davies (Maryke)	DA	
22	Cllr De Bruin (John Mathews)	PA	
23	Cllr De-Huis (Dikeledi Jane)	EFF	
24	Cllr De Kock (Valerie Belinda)	FFPlus	Absent with apology
25	Cllr Denner (John Henry)	FFPlus	
26	Cllr Dennis (Magdalena Elizabeth)	DA	
27	Cllr Ferreira (Thomas Ignatius)	DA	
28	Cllr Klaasen (Raynie Sarah)	DA	
29	Cllr Letsoko (Mantwa Sanah)	EFF	
30	Cllr Lipale (Gopolang Jeremiah)	EFF	
31	Cllr Makau (Pitso Elias)	EFF	
32	Cllr Malebo (Deliwe Lettia)	EFF	
33	Cllr Maliela (Motiki Edwin)	DA	
34	Cllr Matobole (Mosala Abel)	DA	
35	Cllr Matsoetlane (Maditaba Joyce)	ANC	
36	Cllr Mogotsi (Mamahlape Elisa)	EFF	
37	Cllr Mohlamme (Lebohang Lerato)	DA	
38	Cllr Mokoena (John Itumeleng)	AASD	
39	Cllr Mongale (Mojalefa William)	AASD	
40	Cllr Moreeng (Kabelo Christopher)	DA	
41	Cllr Mtshakazane (Eunice Xoliswa)	EFF	
42	Cllr Njiva-Lebajoa (Mamotse)	DA	Absent with apology
43	Cllr Phohleli (Tsholwane Eddy)	EFF	
44	Cllr Phupha (Ntsoaki Agnes)	PA	
45	Cllr Ramatlama (Mpho Joseph)	EFF	

46	Cllr Rammile (Tumelo Kingsley)	DA	
47	Cllr Rampai (Pule Joseph)	ACDP	
48	Cllr Sebolao (Jankie Elisha)	EFF	
49	Cllr Shale (Nkahiseng Reginah)	EFF	
50	Cllr Snyman (Pieter Adriaan)	DA	
51	Cllr Snyman van Deventer (Elizabeth)	FFPlus	
52	Cllr Terblanche (Arthur Phillip)	DA	
53	Cllr Thomas (Johannes Beleme)	EFF	
54	Cllr Viviers (Benhardus Jacobus)	DA	
55	Cllr Vorster (Braam)	FFPlus	
56	Cllr Wewege (Mare-Lize)	FFPlus	
WARD COUNCILLORS			
57	Cllr Sefaki (Samuel)	ANC 1	
58	Cllr Machachamise (Tshepiso Oudious)	ANC 3	Absent without apology
59	Cllr Supi (Mahoko Harold)	ANC 4	
60	Cllr Lecoko (Lehlohonolo Nathaniel)	ANC 5	
61	Cllr Moilola (Tshidiso Petrus)	ANC 6	
62	Cllr Sehloho (Siza Clement)	ANC 7	
63	Cllr Nyaphudi (Likeleli Julia)	ANC 8	
64	Cllr Tlhakung (Betty Masetlhabi)	ANC 9	
65	Cllr Setlai (Teboho Lesley)	ANC 10	
66	Cllr Hashatsi (Rafedile)	ANC 12	
67	Cllr Siteo (Nombulelo Dorcas)	ANC 13	
68	Cllr Lekgetho (Lebogang Winston)	ANC 14	
69	Cllr Mohibidu (Pulane Martha)	ANC 15	
70	Cllr Mohatle (Mampone Sally)	ANC 17	Absent without apology
71	Cllr Van Noord (Gregory Owen)	DA 18	Absent with apology

72	Cllr Peter (Seth Qondile)	ANC 19	
73	Cllr Van Rensburg (Corize)	DA 20	
74	Cllr Lotriet (Pieter Adam)	DA 21	
75	Cllr Cronje (Jan-Hendrik)	DA 22	
76	Cllr Van Der Walt (Tjaart Botha)	DA 23	
77	Cllr Kotze (Gerhardus Dirk Petrus)	DA 24	
78	Cllr Kotze (Paul Mare')	DA 25	
79	Cllr Van Niekerk (Hendrik Johannes Christiaan)	DA 26	
80	Cllr Banyane (Zachous Nechodemus)	ANC 27	
81	Cllr Matsephe (Dikololo Elias)	ANC 29	
82	Cllr Tukula (Teboho Daniel)	ANC 30	
83	Cllr Mabena (Mere Joel)	ANC 31	
84	Cllr Menyatso (Thabang Victory)	ANC 32	
85	Cllr Mohono (Tshidiso Augustine)	ANC 33	
86	Cllr Tshwane (Kabi Daniel)	ANC 34	
87	Cllr Fantisi (Teboho Samuel)	ANC 35	
88	Cllr Ramolelle (Mmota Simon)	ANC 37	
89	Cllr Matsoso (Molahloane Florenciah)	ANC 38	
90	Cllr Pholoholo (Ntebaleng Petunia)	ANC 40	
91	Cllr Dintlhwane (Mantja Agnes)	ANC 41	
92	Cllr Mothupi (Maqoma Lazarus)	ANC 42	
93	Cllr Nkiane (Mpho Elizabeth)	ANC 43	
94	Cllr Pretorius (Selmé)	DA 44	
95	Cllr Mathe (Lisiwe Jeanette)	ANC 45	
96	Cllr Majoro (Mpho Samuel)	ANC 46	

97	Cllr Maartens (Jan-Rudolf)	DA 47	
98	Cllr Pretorius (Johannes Christiaan)	DA 48	
99	Cllr Lekhwele (Mohanuwa Julia)	ANC 49	
100	Cllr Monare (Thabo Nicholus)	ANC 50	
101	Cllr Mohulatsi (Mamoorosi Margaret)	ANC 51	

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

#	DESIGNATION	NAME/S
1	CITY MANAGER	MR SELLO MORE
2	CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	MS ZUZIWE THEKISHO
3	HOD: TECHNICAL SERVICES	MR REVELATION MASOBENG
4	HOD: CORPORATE SERVICES	MR MOKETE DUMA
5	ACTING HOD: PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY	MR B BARNES
6	HOD: COMMUNITY SERVICES	DR THABANG THINDA
7	CHIEF OF STAFF	MR ZOLILE MANGCOTYWA
8	GM: COMMITTEE SERVICES	MS XOLISWA QILO
13	ACTING MANAGER: COUNCIL SUPPORT	MS RINA MAMATELA

Note by Secretariat

1. **Attendance Register:** Every member attending a meeting shall sign his/her name in the attendance register kept for this purpose before the commencement of the meeting.
2. **Leave Register:** In order to streamline administrative processes Councillors are humbly requested to submit applications for leave of absence in the appropriate register kept for this purpose. Members are requested to fill in this register 12 hours before the commencement of the meeting (Rule 22.2) (Leave Form).
3. **Name-plates:** Councillors are humbly requested to please take along their name-plates and to display it throughout the meeting.
4. **Apologies during the course of the Council meeting:** Councillors are humbly requested to complete in full and submit the relevant apology form for this purpose (Leave Form).
5. **Code of Conduct:** Councillors are reminded of item 3, Schedule 1 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors which reads as follows, namely:

Attendance at Meetings: A councillor must attend each meeting of the Municipal Council and of a Committee of which that councillor is a member, except when:

- (a) leave of absence is granted in terms of an applicable law or as determined by the rules and orders of the council or
- (b) that councillor is required in terms of this Code to withdraw from the meeting.

6. **Meeting rules:**

- i. All Councillors must arrive at **least 15 minutes before the commencement** of the Council and all other Committee meetings;
- ii. Cellular phones **must be in silent mode** and **speaking on a cellular phone during the meeting is prohibited**; (Rule 50.2a)
- iii. A Councillor who speaks must **confine his or her speech strictly to the matter under discussion**; (Rule 31)
- iv. Unless expressly otherwise determined, a Councillor **may speak only once on a matter**; (Rule 32)
- v. No speech shall exceed **five (5) minutes** in length without the consent of the Speaker. (Rule 34.1)
- vi. Council members are reminded to uphold high level of good conduct during Council proceedings (No disruptions, no interruptions, no howling, no swearing to other Council members, less movement in the Chamber, no abuse of the PA system).

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7
MINUTES
(OPEN COUNCIL)

166.

OPENING

(MOMENT OF SILENT CONTEMPLATION FOR MEDITATION AND PRAYERS)

The meeting commenced at 09h05 to allow Councillors to sit and get settled for the meeting.

The Speaker officially declared the meeting opened and warmly welcomed all present. He requested all stand for a moment of silent contemplation for meditation and prayers.

He further mentioned that this meeting was a continuation of the meeting held on the 30th of October 2024 at 12h00 where it was agreed that a continuation be convened within a seven (7) days period to dispense the agenda of the initial meeting, therefore the meeting was convened pursuant to the Council Resolution.

The Speaker confirmed that 70 Councillors were in attendance and thus constituting the required quorum.

The Speaker acknowledged and warmly welcomed the Executive Mayor, Deputy Executive Mayor, Council Whip, Members of the Mayoral Committee, Chairpersons of the Council's Standing Committees, Section 79, all the Whips from various Section 80 Committees, the Party Whips, Councillors and Members of the Media and the City Manager and all Officials present in the meeting.

NOTED.

167.

NOTICE OF THE MEETING

The Speaker read the notice as on page 2 of the agenda.

NOTED.

168.

APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

All relevant leave of absence and apologies were recorded and minuted as such in the attendance list on the first pages of the minutes.

The Speaker reiterated that each Councillor who applies for leave must ensure that they sign the application form for themselves.

In responding to the question of clarity from Cllr BJ Viviers with regards to Councillors who are unable to fill in and sign the application for leave forms, the Speaker explained that Councillors had a right to submit an apology via email however, at a later stage, the Councillor must complete a standard application for leave form.

NOTED.

169.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

The Speaker afforded Executive Mayor an opportunity to indicate which items would be dealt with at this continuation meeting of the 30th of October 2024, that items 174. 4 and 175.5 were dealt with together with item 174.6 and items 174.11, 174.12, 174.13 and 174.14.

The Speaker thereafter confirmed the items that would be dealt with, namely: items 174.11, 174.12, 174.13 and 174.14 including the In Committee items.

Cllr MJ Mabena moved for the adoption of the agenda as outlined by the Speaker and was seconded by Cllr AF Bothma.

The agenda was duly adopted.

NOTED.

170.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Speaker announced that there were no interpreting services and thus kindly requested Councillors to speak language that is understood by all Councillors.

Cllr GJ Lipale requested a 10-minute caucus for the EFF and the Speaker granted the request.

Prior to the EFF caucus, the Speaker acknowledge and welcomed the new Councillor from the Democratic Alliance, Cllr MA Matobole to the august house of Mangaung Metropolitan Municipal Council. That he is joining Council to make up 101 Councillors and has an obligation as mandated by various pieces of legislation.

The Speaker requested Cllr Matobole to rise and be given a round of applause.

NOTED.

171.

MOTION OF SYMPATHY AND CONGRATULATIONS

After the EFF caucus, the Speaker confirmed that 63 Councillors were present and thereafter indicated that congratulatory remarks for the new elected Councillor, Cllr MA Matobole would be done at the next ensuing Council meeting.

Cllr GJ Lipale gave feedback after the caucus that as the EFF they had resolved the matter that they needed to attend to and therefore the Council meeting can continue.

NOTED.

172.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Dealt with at the meeting held Wednesday 30 October 2024.

NOTED.

173.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Dealt with at the meeting held Wednesday 30 October 2024.

NOTED.

174	REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR
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The Executive Mayor tabled the reports, items 174.11 to 174.14 as outlined in the agenda.

NOTED.

1.

THE RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE SECOND BI – ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023/2024 FINANCIAL YEAR

The item was dealt with at the meeting held on Wednesday, 30 October 2024.

NOTED.

2.

ADOPTION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND APPROVAL OF THE RISK BUSINESS CONTINUITY MANAGEMENT POLICY

The item was dealt with at the meeting held on Wednesday, 30 October 2024.

NOTED.

3.

SECTION 52 (d) REPORT FOR QUARTER 1, ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2024 SERVICE DELIVERY AND BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (2024/2025)

The item was dealt with at the meeting held on Wednesday, 30 October 2024.

NOTED.

**4.
MUNICIPAL FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT (MFMA): MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE MONTH ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (MONTHLY BUDGET STATEMENT)**

The item was dealt with at the meeting held on Wednesday, 30 October 2024.

NOTED.

**5.
MUNICIPAL FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT (MFMA): MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE MONTH ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024 (MONTHLY BUDGET STATEMENT)**

The item was dealt with at the meeting held on Wednesday, 30 October 2024.

NOTED.

**6.
MUNICIPAL FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT (MFMA): PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND
PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT REPORT IN TERMS OF THE MFMA, SECTION 52 (d),
FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

The item was dealt with at the meeting held on Wednesday, 30 October 2024.

NOTED.

**7.
REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT POLICY
FOR THE QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 2024**

The item was dealt with at the meeting held on Wednesday, 30 October 2024.

NOTED.

**8.
mSCOA STATUS REPORT AND PROPOSED ROADMAP TOWARD FULL COMPLIANCE**

The item was dealt with at the meeting held on Wednesday, 30 October 2024.

NOTED.

**9.
MONTHLY REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH REGARDS TO MFMA CIRCULA 124 –
PARTICIPATION IN ESKOM DEBT RELIEF PROGRAM OVER 3 YEARS**

The item was dealt with at the meeting held on Wednesday, 30 October 2024.

NOTED.

**10.
FUNDING OF THE PURCHASE OF A PROPERTY – ERF 10380 CITY, BLOEMFONTEIN,
KNOWN AS NAVAL HILL LODGE CURRENTLY OWNED BY TRANSNET (SOC) LTD**

The item was dealt with at the meeting held on Wednesday, 30 October 2024.

NOTED.

**11.
PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IPTN PROJECT IN MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN
MUNICIPALITY AND CHALLENGES FACING THE PROJECT**

Cllr PA Snyman addressed the Council as follows: “Thank you, Mister Speaker and members of the house. While the DA takes notes of the report on the IPTN. It is concerning that the reports only provide outdated information with little to no substance thus actually leads to more questions than answers. But what is clear from the report was that the project is far behind schedule with regards to the infrastructure and ridership. Only one or four (4) phases being completed less than 12% of the expected or targeted ridership and less than 10% of the required fleet size at the time of the report, which was only till the end of August, but still stipulates 30% of time frame for the project.

In line with the report, it was also clear the preparations for the universal access and automatic fair collection system started far too late in the project life cycle. We have a consultant only been appointed in May of this year and teams to have completed training in September. However, since the report only handles matters till the end of August. The house doesn't know if teams have been identified. If the final training draft has been approved, or if the training actually took place.

As mentioned by my Colleague, Cllr GDP Kotze, in the previous Council, the fact that the automatic fair collection system still not implemented, it is extremely concerning for the Democratic Alliance. It was said by the MMC in that meeting that it was on the final stages of approval and implementation. This was a little over a month ago now, yet system has still not been implemented. This calls for concern as seen in the revenue report. For the first batch of ticket sales, a total sales R66 695 were reported of which 6000 were sold at R100, 60,000 sold at R20 and 695 were sold at R10 a ticket. For these sales, a revenue of R1,860,930 were reported.

11A

Though a miniscule amount is R20 short of what it should have been if you take into account the R10 tickets. It is firstly alarming that irregularity like this made it to report to the House without being picked up by the Executive Mayor's office. But more importantly, it shows that the current paper ticket and cash system that has been implemented leaves the door open for human nature to creep in.

In closing, the report also does not give any information regarding the expenses or the running cost of the project to date, expenses like the running cost of the vehicle, the maintenance cost of the vehicles mentioned in point 3, marketing and communication costs, infrastructure upgrade costs, etc. Thus, the House has no indication of how deep in the red this project is and how severely it is failing the taxpayers. Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Cllr KC Moreeng addressed the Council: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Greetings to the house.

As my Colleague has raised such important issues, it is vitally important Honourable Speaker that the revenue information, and to further say it is important to include all the finances that has been used, so that the Council should be in how much was used for fuel, maintenance and other operational costs?

Furthermore, Honourable Speaker, I would like to ask clarity seeking questions:

Phase 1: operations challenges and mitigation strategies: the bus maintenance and services and I see that an application has been made to participate in the RT46 contract for maintenance, roadside assistance and vehicle tracking. If we are to procurement 103 buses, as the report and by now only having one (1) auto-electrician, are we going to procure more auto-electricians and mechanics to assist in this regard so that we don't have buses breaking down on our roads?

Bus shortages: we do have an issue regarding the timeframe given to procure one (1) bus, which is eighteen months, has Mercedes Benz contacted the Municipality and come up with a better solution so that we don't wait further eighteen months? Has the Municipality consulted other operational municipalities that are using the buses to hear from them where do they procure the buses and the timeframe for procurement.

Honourable Speaker, regarding the communications and marketing as you can see on the report, by 30 September 2024, the Hauweng website should have commenced. I did have a look on the website, and it gives you a certain company dealing with events and ours is not yet live.

The WhatsApp customer establishment, it says by September 2024. I don't know whether we do have the WhatsApp number that we can use. The customer service call centre will be completed and in place and will use the existing City Call Centre facilities. I wonder if that is operational Honourable Speaker, and you can just go back few days when we had a havoc at the Call Centre was during water crisis, it was not even operational and so it is something that we need to look into.

11B

It is vital that we get clarity on the questions that I posted so that we know how far we are in terms of the IPTN and the report would be even more transparent. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr MW Mogale addressed the Council: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Dr BL Mathae. On this item I would like to make the following contributions. Firstly, I need to acknowledge that there has been a lot of questions that did not have answers.

The Municipality wanted to secure the 12m buses but there was a challenge of lead-time production that shows that it would take long and also the issue of the delivery period that would take about 18 months which is unacceptable, we understand. The Municipality wanted to go to the 9m buses and also wanted to source the 22-seater buses, but in all these discussions, we do not see where the Municipality is looking at other options. We only see that every time when they source a vehicle or a bus or a smaller bus, it is all about the diesel buses. We don't hear them talking about the electric buses or hybrid, which is the international standard?

Go to China, they use hybrid, and it will assist the Municipality when you use hybrid, because that would mean that your operation costs will go down. Because that would mean we would not be sitting with a crisis. At the moment the operational cost of them with regard to those buses takes about R18 million per year and the revenue collection is only R16 million according to the report.

Now for us to be able to run these buses, in a way that is profitable, so that it should also not compromise the Municipality, we need to look at the option of buying hybrid buses because that is the one that will be able to respond to the operational cost that is too high. The research has proven that hybrid buses are also cheaper to maintain as compared to diesel or petrol buses. We are doing this because the Municipality of Mangaung and South Africa are signatory to the Kyoto protocol and other protocols on the World Summit on sustainable development, that we are going to reduce greenhouse emissions, but we seem not to be committing ourselves towards that program. I am raising this because once we have those hybrid buses, we are going to reduce the noise in the City, which is noise pollution. We are also going to reduce greenhouse emissions in the City which will turn Mangaung Metro to be a world class City in terms of the international standards on how cities are rated.

But at the moment, we seem not to be moving towards that direction because ultimately want to find a situation whereby these buses are reliable, affordable and they are also safe. The issue of reliability, it is in the centre of the entire transport system because once they are reliable, the Municipality can come with a by-law that would be saying anyone who works for the Municipality who is not using their vehicles for work, they can use their buses. We should reduce the traffic congestion in the City. It is happening in a lot of cities worldwide and that would reduce the traffic congestion in the City, and it will make the business to grow faster because there will be no traffic jam in the City. It will reduce crime because I can assure you, crime increase because there is chaos. While the number is big, the chances of people being robbed is high.

So, Mangaung can be the centre of being the catalyst for reducing crime and also driving the Country towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution because we talk about it, we talk about world summit and the protocols that were there and the last protocol in Egypt, but we should not be having energy. We are accusing big countries to say they're big polluters. But we are also not looking at our backdoor.

We are polluting and we seem not to be contributing towards saving humanity because pollution frightens the life of people. Not plants nor trees, but people. We are humans and we are the ones that are in danger of being extinct because of pollution. So, I plead with this Council to say let us not rush into sourcing the buses, let us look at the alternatives that are there. You can look at your BRICS partners, London to check what kind of system they are using and China and others. You might find that there is a solution and might be talking hybrid and the Municipality might say, we are not going hybrid, we are going full scale electric buses because we can have two stations. The buses can run for about 300km and the radius of Mangaung is not more than 300km. That will also assist.

As I conclude, I hope that the involvement of SANRAL because as I was going through this report, I also had some contractions when I saw the word SANRAL. I hope the involvement of SANRAL is a temporary measure, but in the long term Mangaung will have its own system that is run by Mangaung. That is not dependent on SANRAL. We don't want a situation whereby we implement the system, but the people can accuse us to say, you Council you adopted the decision that you are not yet ready to manage. That is why you are using external people to help you on things that you could have done in-house. Thank you, Honourable Speaker for the opportunity.”

Cllr B Vorster indicated that as the Freedom Front Plus at this stage, they just wanted to ask one clarity seeking question with regards to this item a yes and no answer to the question. That can the Metro Municipality afford this project to continue.

Cllr GJ Lipale addressed the Council: “Thank you, Chairperson. In light of the ongoing shortage of Hauweng Municipality buses, it is imperative that the Municipality actively engages with the Taxi Council to outsource their 22-seater vehicles (as per the recommendation). While we await the necessary resources to meet our transport capacity, this partnership will not only provide immediate solutions but also build trust and collaboration with local taxi owners, demonstrating that we are not here to eliminate their livelihoods, but to work alongside them. This vital partnership that will revolutionize public transportation in our region. Mangaung Hauweng Bus Services' collaboration with local taxi associations will be a game-changer.

Firstly, this partnership will enhance route coverage, ensuring comprehensive accessibility for all commuters.

Secondly, shared safety protocols minimize risks, protecting passengers and drivers.

Thirdly, streamlined services reduce congestion, decreasing travel times.

Fourthly, economic empowerment through shared revenue and training uplifts local communities.

Fifthly, job creation stimulates economic growth.

What I have realised is that Mangaung does not benchmark, we don't have to go to China or Europe, we do have successes around, here in South Africa. But Mangaung Municipality does not go around and check how other Municipality successful in terms of doing of doing what they are doing. Gauteng, Durban and Cape Town doing it. We don't benchmark, we do things through the consultants. Every time we rely on consultants more than we can do it ourselves. That will save a lot of money for the Municipality and that is why we always run out of money.

To achieve this, we will:

- Develop joint operational plans
- Establish standardised fare structures
- Implement shared safety protocols
- Provide training and capacity-building programs
- Foster open communication channels

Purchasing resident permits serves neither the interests of our communities nor the ideals of economic freedom we fiercely advocate. Instead, it represents a step backward. We call on the Municipality to prioritize collaboration with the Taxi Council to correct and enhance the living conditions of our people.

We are also concerned with the projects which need to be completed, in relation to them not being completed due to corruption of the contractor and their allies. We have realised that Free State and Mangaung have been used as a cash cow, we are definitely concerned with SANRAL getting involved in this, they have been rejected in Gauteng now they want to bring it through the back door. Also procuring more buses 18 months seems too long, we hope that this time around it will be a smooth and incorrupt transaction.

Together, we can create a transport system that empowers our residents, supports local businesses, and upholds the principles of economic justice. Let us unite in this effort to advance the rights and dignity of our communities. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr JM De Bruin addressed the Council: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker and all protocol observed. With references to the IPTN, I just want to weigh in on the following. I asked this questions because this project started when I was a Ward Councillor in Ward 47 in 2016.

1. What was the total expenditures on Phase 1A Corridor?
2. What was the budget, on Phase 1A Corridor?
3. How much was spent?
4. What was the initial budget for the whole IPTN project and how the spending has been to date?

This project started in 2016 and it is still ongoing and what was the progress and date of this project?

According to my knowledge 300 buses was supposed to be bought but until now, only 10 has been bought thus far.

5. How many has been bought and when will the rest be bought?
6. How many taxi permits will be bought out from the taxi association?
7. How many has been bought to date and what is the expenditure on this project for all the permits that has been bought out because the project has been standing for the past two years as a white elephant.

Our taxpayers' money has been wasted again. I thank you, Honourable Speaker."

Cllr SP Tsoleli remarked as follows: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker. There are a number of questions asked, can I request that Councillors do the question through the Rule 38, so that we can respond properly, and I would not want to thumb-suck the answers and mislead the house because those questions because they are very important questions which we would want to give more information..."

Cllr JM De Bruin indicated that they both agreed with the Councillor from the DA that they will submit Rule 38 Questions as requested by Cllr SP Tsoleli.

Cllr SP Tsoleli continued: "Honourable Speaker, a lot has been said about the Integrated Public Transport Network (IPTN) since its inception and there has been a lot of negative reviews around it. When you zoom closely on the issues that has been raised, sometimes you would realise that there is a little bit of less knowledge from where we are in terms of the operations of the buses and also the legislation that governs these buses.

As a Department with the guidance of the Executive Mayor, we have taken a conscious decision to report quarterly on the progress of the implementation of this pro poor project. why are we saying that we are supposed to be reporting through the SDBIP, but we have taken that decision IPTN, we are going to make a special progress in terms of reporting to the Councillors on where we are. Councillors must appreciate that for a longer time, the report has not been forthcoming, but we are trying to make sure that this project that has a lot of issues, we must take them on board on how far we are.

Cllr GJ Lipale, the taxi industry is part and parcel of what we are doing in Hauweng. Actually, the VOC (Vehicle Operating Company) is mended by them. It is them who are seeing the operations of these buses every day. We have started the process, when we move to the next routes which is route A, we already have engagement with all the taxi associations that are operating around that route, which is Moshoeshoe Road. The same happened with the Brandwag. When we got there, the taxi industry was taken on board, they are part and parcel of what we are doing every day.

We are also mindful Honourable Speaker, that the project still has important matters that needs an urgent attention like the bus depot. The work that was done currently with bus depot, it is not progressing basically, due to the forensic report that the Executive Mayor would be talking to later today. But we are engaging with the Department of Transport as well as National Treasury to make sure that the bus depot is not part of the forensic and we do not understand why the project has been halted.

We need that project to be restarted and that can only happen with the support of the Councillors of Mangaung in making sure that happens.

Honourable Speaker, the buses went live on the 14th of July 2024 and since then, we have an access of 5000 commuters per day who are commuting of the Brandwag precinct and when you translate that in rands and cents and to date, we have contributed to the fiscus of Mangaung, an access of R5.3 million since the buses went live. That is a very good story to tell.

Honourable Speaker, let me deal with these I would like to convey the issue of SANRAL, it has a very good reputation in terms ticket systems in the whole of South Africa in terms of collecting, for different metros. We are not the only Metro that would be getting to SANRAL and requesting them to do the collection for us, ticketing, while we are still busy with the processes of making sure that, that system is ours and we do it ourselves. Currently, the negotiations are at a last stage, but remember that SANRAL must ensure that they test those systems. When you get into the buses, the systems are already there, but it is only the last stage where we sign the memorandum of understanding and testing whether the systems are working as we would want it to work.

I must also appreciate the contributions made by Councillors, and we would look at those contributions. It is very important that we are contributing for us to move forward, we are doing benchmarking, but we cannot do it with Countries because the metros are currently using diesel system and the emission is compatible to the emission rate of the environment. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

The Speaker ordered Cllr GDP Kotze to sit down as he indicated that he was going to ask Rule 38 question.

The Executive Mayor explained that benchmarking would be closely taken into account as it is critical for the Municipality to be on point.

The Speaker emphasised that the Councillors to submit the Rule 38 questions so that they can be favoured with details on the IPTN project.

As the item was submitted for noting, the Council did not vote.

RESOLVED that the Council took note of the progress report in respect of the IPTN project implementation.

12.

POLICY ON THE PROTECTION AND SECURITY FOR MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN COUNCILLORS AND OFFICIALS

Cllr S Pretorius addressed the Council: “Thank you, Mister Speaker. Effective protection and security measures for officials and politicians are essential for building trust and confidence with our constituents. They demonstrate our commitments to responsible governance and send a clear message that we prioritise their well-being and ours. Such a policy will provide a framework for identifying potential threats, assessing risks and developing strategies to mitigate or manage them. It would ensure that clear protocols are in place for emergency response situations and provide guidance on best practises for personal safety.

But, Mister Speaker, as I stand before you today, with still heavy heart as we mourn the loss of our esteemed colleague and friend who was tragically gunned down outside our Municipal offices. This senseless act of violence serves as a stark reminder of the danger we face everyday as public servants. But it seems like the lives and safety of some people are deemed to be of more value than those of others.

It is unacceptable that only certain politician, and officials receive protection while others are left vulnerable. We must ensure that all employees and politicians are safe and secure and not just selected few. This is why we need a comprehensive policy on the protection and security of all the Councillors and officials in Mangaung. We owe it to ourselves, our colleagues and our communities to ensure that we are doing everything in our power to prevent such tragedies from occurring again.

Mister Speaker, I am not advocating for the VIP protections for every Councillor and employee. But the fact that only one Head of Department is including in the VIP list and that no mention is made about how other officials and Councillors will be kept safe it is alarming.

In addition, Mister Speaker, the upper limits of the public office bearers did not make provision for VIP protection for MMCs unless the risk assessment is done by the SAPS or the state security agency. Municipal employees and Councillors receive frequent threats. There have been incidents in the past where our safety within this very Chamber was compromised. Officials and Councillors work in the field and are all extremely vulnerable.

Another alarming fact is the fact that only Ward Councillors might be protected if they can prove that he or she is under threat. Why is this not applicable to PR Councillors as well. Furthermore, how long will such an assessment by the intelligent service take? There is just no sense of urgency here. Whenever a threat or risk analysis has to be done, the sole discretion to approve or disapprove an assessment lies with the HOD of Public Safety and Security; this is a major red flag. We can no longer afford to prioritise some lives over others. We must stand united in our pursuit of safety, security and effective governance for all.

Lastly, Mister Speaker, please assist me as it seems I am lacking some understanding, the Council agenda an item with recommendations refer to the policy on protection and security for Mangaung Metropolitan Councillors and officials.

Yet the policy document that we received, Policy number 1 of October 2024 is titled Public Safety and Security VIP Policy, are we just referring to VIP protection of a few as indicated in a single schedule? Let us work together to create a safe and secure environment for Mangaung Councillors and officials. To try to carry out their duties without fear, harm or intimidation. The Democratic Alliance will not support this item. Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Cllr RS Klaasen addressed the Council: “Mister Speaker, Councillors as well as the community of Mangaung at large. I have clarity seeking questions.

1. During the seven (7) days of the investigation to see whether the threat is real or not, what happen to the complaint in the seven (7) days?
2. How do you separate which Councillor or official is important and the other one not?
3. Is there a financial report regarding this issue?
4. Is this going to affect our budget?
5. In the Policy it is stated that, if the vehicle becomes dysfunctional, it would be replaced. Can we have clarity as to how the vehicle going to be replaced, are they going to buy a new one or what?
6. With reference to the provision of SUVs, what will happen to the current vehicles that our Executive is using, does that mean they are going to get a second vehicle for the protection.

Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Cllr MW Mongale addressed the Council as follows: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Dr BL Mathae. The risk assessment report should have been conducted by this Municipality prior to establishment of this item. We will write a Rule 38 question on which company has conducted this assessment and when did they conduct it and is it relevant still today?

On the issue of the GM who have been killed, it also comes to the turnaround time for risk assessment because it is going to take more than six (6) months or a year, that would mean it would not serve any purpose. In this particular case, we also believe that the budget around it needs to be considered whether we will agree to something that is going to create chaos. If you remember last time, we used to have the security that was paid R11 million per month, but people were able to enter the building and destroyed the ball of 2010 legacy even though we had security that was paid R11 million.

We also agree with the DA Councillor, Cllr S Pretorius where she indicated that, are we trying to create a class or make certain people more important than others. Now that we are law makers, are we making laws to cover ourselves. Those who cannot make laws for themselves, we make them suffer as the result of that. We seem to have too many laws that are protecting us. I was tempted to say, the protection services must also be provided to Ward Councillors, but I realised that I would be helping Ward Councillors to lose touch. I was affected by what Cllr TS Fantisi went through in Botshabelo, when he was attacked by certain section of the community.

On a second thought, once you protect Councillors, you also create complacency to say, we will no longer provide services to our people, and we will no more be close to our people because we lose touch.

Bodyguards make us lose touch with the community. I can assure you, whoever is using bodyguard, during elections, they do not use bodyguards. They are with the same dangerous community, in the streets, walking with them side by side. I will plead that this document needs to go back, it doesn't exonerate the Municipality's duty to protect its employees where there is danger. You can always sanction that there should be risk assessment and protection. In this instance I can assure you, a lot of frontline employees are not covered in the risk assessment where most are at Centlec, roads and stormwater and those collecting refuse. I never thought the community will be angry with people collecting refuse, but lately, I have changed my mind because I know it is also a risky job of our inconsistent way of collecting refuse.

I plead with Council that, we should find a way of reaching out to the community, and broadening this policy so that it should at least be comprehensive. It must reach for those who are the lowest in the institution, at the frontline and have the highest risk, such as people at SCM and those delivering services to the community. Let the document be referred back to be worked on. I know you might say other municipalities are using the same, but they might not have seen ...Thank you, Honourable Speaker."

Cllr B Vorster address the Council: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker. All protocols observed. Firstly, the Freedom Front Plus take note of the unfortunate murders of our officials over the past six years however the persons who are going to be protected by this Policy are not our employees being gunned down because their doing their jobs. The Metro should rather increase the Law Enforcement Division to increase safety at all of our buildings and for all employees and not just for politicians and selected officials.

It is strange that the Head of the Department for Safety and Security and the Municipal Police Commissioner, automatically qualifies for protection. But the other HOD will only qualify after threat risk assessment is done by the State Security Agency. And even if the risk assessment is done, the Head of Department will have the last say if protection will be provided or not.

Secondly, Honourable Speaker, what will the financial implications be to implement and operate this Division? From which service delivery departments will funds be taken to pay for the firearms, bulletproof vests, radios and other equipment needed to run this. How many SUVs will be bought before the so-called pool of vehicles referred to in this Policy? According to the Policy, two (2) officials will be allocated to each VIP per shift, meaning that at least 26 permanent officers will be appointed per shift to protect the persons admitted to be qualifying for VIP protection. The same department already overspending the amount of almost R5 million on the overtime in the first quarter of this financial year.

Lastly Honourable Speaker, the Policy is poorly written and vague. It is clear that it was drafted using policies in the regulations that is applicable to national and provincial governments.

This policy does not speak to security in a municipal environment. The problem with a vague policy, Honourable Speaker, is that it opens the door for interpretation and ultimately, misuse of the policy itself.

Honourable Speaker, the real question is what is the real purpose and the reasons for this Policy and the establishment of this VIP Unit within the Metro? Therefore, the Freedom Front Plus will not support the approval of this policy as it is. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr MJ Ramatlama addressed the Council: “Thank you, Mister Speaker. Before I start, let me wish Cllr JB Thomas a happy revolutionary birthday, my brother. May the Gods of Africa keep you.

Mister Speaker, as Economic Freedom Fighters, we find it consciously difficult to support the recommendation to approve the Policy on the protection and security for Councillors and Mangaung officials. We are compelled to reject the prioritisation of our security for the following reasons:

1. Our communities, particularly in Botshabelo where both the Chief Whip and you originate are still relying on pit-toilets. This is a disgraceful situation that demands our immediate focus.
2. The infrastructure in our areas is in the state of disrepair particularly our own roads, which are severely neglected. This is a fundamental issue that cannot be overlooked.
3. In Bloemfontein, our people lack proper taxi-rank which is essential for their daily commute and economic activity.
4. how can we prioritise our safety when our citizens continue to live in the dark particularly informal settlements, lacking basic services and necessities.

Given these pressing concerns, we cannot in good conscious agree to this Policy. Our commitment must be to the needs of our people first. Let us give services to our people then we will all realize that there is no security need for us as Councillors and officials.

Lastly, Mister Speaker and MMC, we saw a document signed by HOD: Public Safety and Security, Mr I Kgamanyane and he attached a title of Major General Kgamanyane. Can that be corrected next time, we do not have such things.”

Cllr SP Tsoleli responded as follows: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Cllr MJ Ramatlama, there are title of a person that you get in this government, internationally or nationally. Even if you get to a certain position, you cannot change them, if a person is an ambassador, the person becomes ambassador for the rest of their life. The same title that Mr I Kgamanyane has had in his past life, unfortunately it cannot be changed because it is the title that he will use for his entire life. Another example, a General will remain a General for life, but in time, we will have to bring what international relations says about those articles. We will bring it and share with the Councillors.

Honourable Speaker, I have just realised that most Councillors did not read the Policy. Because some of the questions they are posing here are already answered in the Policy. For example, there is nowhere in the Policy where it says the MMCs must get protection. But it says when it is necessary for an MMC, and a risk assessment is done for an MMC. The particular MMC will be entitled to VIP protection.

Secondly, people who are having VIP protection currently in this institution, it is as derived from the upper limits. Unfortunately, the upper limits are not done by us, but by the Minister of GOGTA who is given that opportunity by the Constitution of the Republic to undertake that responsibility. There is no way that when we come to the level of the Municipality then we change the upper limits. The same when they come next week, saying we are going to get 2%. You cannot change that you would get 2%. I will challenge the Councillors to read the upper limits to understand exactly who those people are who supposed to get protection.

Honourable Speaker, where I am standing, we are in line, we are complying with that legislation in giving those people the protection. What also amazes me is when the Councillor says the policy must be referred back, what a contradiction. Whereas the Councillors had just said that there are officials who needed protection, but they could not be protected. It is because there was no policy talking to the protection of those officials. Today we are bringing the policy to Council for consideration and adopt the policy as Mangaung, but again we are saying let it be referred back.

Honourable Speaker, I would want to thank the Executive Mayor for his leadership in keeping us on track in the process leading to the launching of the Metro. This is but one element in making sure that we are going to have a fully fledged Metro that will protect each and every individual who is here. That would make us as a Municipality be able to have the personnel that will be able to respond when we are having this problem. Because currently, the person we are having is unable to respond. We only depend on the South African Police Services under some of the things to assist us. So, when we have a policy. We will no longer be dependable on the South African Police Services for protection of our people.

Honourable Cllr MW Mongale, the risk assessment of Mangaung has been done by the intelligence system. Mangaung, where we are, there is a risk about the buildings we are in because it is accessible to every person hence, we needed to sit down as Council and see whether we are going to keep it as a safe building or the offices or the building with the offices so that we do services somewhere else and not here to bring the issue of security to another level.

We want to thank the Mayoral Committee for the contribution that they have made in making sure that for the first time after so many years; because the policy that was adopted by government in South Africa on the VIP protection was in 2003. From that time, we were supposed to have had our own policy as Mangaung in terms of protecting our own VIPs, officials and employees in general. But now we are bringing it for the first time.

We want to thank the Section 80 Committee for their contribution. The Councillors in Section 80 Committee contributed to making sure that we have this document. And also thank Corporate Service Department under the leadership of MMC, Cllr MM Letawana and HOD, Mr M Duma for making sure that they quality assured the document that we have brought here under the leadership the City Manager. I would also like to thank my Department, the HOD and the officials for making sure that they benchmarked in all the metros. The most successful VIP protection working, Honourable Cllr S Pretorius is in the City of Cape Town, and we went there to benchmark. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr GJ Lipale raised a concern regarding the usage of titles that the Council has appointed HOD and not Major General.

The Speaker commented as follows: “Indeed Councillors, this is a matter of grave concern. Even SALGA nationally have noted that in the past year alone, over 58 Councillors have been gunned down and over 103 officials of municipalities were targets of assassination. Some because they reported incident of corruption and crime, they are easily targeted by the perpetrators, both Councillors and officials. It is indeed a positive step. I am just highlighting the importance of protection of whistle-blowers and everyone.”

It was thereupon with 49 voted in favour, 34 against and 15 abstained.

RESOLVED that the Council approved the Policy on the protection and security for Mangaung Metropolitan Councillors and Officials.

13.

REQUEST TO CHANGE THE UNIFORM GEAR FOR MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN LAW ENFORCEMENT UNIT PERSONNEL

Cllr PJ Rampai addressed the Council: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Dr BL Mathae. The ACDP does not have a problem with the uniform of Law Enforcement Officers, but we request in all earnest that the Law Enforcement officers need to be visible in the City. For example, areas like Hofman Square and the National Museum where people are loitering, no law enforcement visible in those areas. Let the law enforcement be visible in all areas of the City so that it can become a safe space to love and work in. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr KC Moreeng addressed the Council: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. In the report, it is shown that benchmarking was done at Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality and also the City of Cape Town regarding uniform of Law Enforcement Officers. It is good to learn from other cities that has progressed.

The former MMC of Public Safety and Transport and also Chairperson, Cllr TJ Mogotloane, will recall that when we had first discussion of this at our Section 80 Committee meeting, there were few issues tabled and to date, they have not received the urgency that they deserve.

Firstly, a request was made to the Municipality to look into the vacancy rate in the Law Enforcement Department. This was mentioned as a level of lawlessness has risen drastically in Mangaung and by-laws are not implemented. Littering has become the order of the day; illegal dumping areas has become a norm; noise pollution has become fashionable. We have street vendors who have taken over our CBDs and not regulated and thus causing a huge commotion in towns and the City. promotion.

Residential homes in Thaba Nchu and Botshabelo has turned into grazing fields for livestock, people are not taking care of them, we don't even have a pound master. So, bylaws cannot be enforced. If we continue with this trend, this means that the City will continue to have lawlessness.

The issue of uniform change is just a drop in the ocean. As long as we don't have proper personnel to make sure that we implement the bylaws that are approved, then we will continue to have this serious problem. In principle, if we do change the uniform, how many Law Enforcement officers do we have who are going to wear this new uniform? How many are we going to procure for how many officers? Thank you, Honourable Speaker."

Cllr B Vorster addressed the Council: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker. All protocols observed.

The Freedom Front Plus recognizes the importance of having a professional and visible presence within our law enforcement. However, we must question the decision-making process behind this proposal, as it appears before us without any transparency regarding the associated costs. How can we, as responsible Councillors, approve such an item without knowing the financial implications. What is the cost of this change?

We call upon the HOD and the City Manager to provide us with a clear breakdown of the costs involved in implementing these changes. The report indicates detailed photos of the proposed uniforms and modifications, which suggests that cost estimates should already be available. Why, then, are they not disclosed here for the Council's review?

The Freedom Front Plus believes this is an unnecessary expense, one that seems out of touch with the real needs of Mangaung's residents. Instead of focusing on the appearance of our law enforcement, we should be investing in their resources, training, and capacity to effectively serve and protect. This is where our focus should be, on genuine improvements that directly benefit our citizens.

The Freedom Front Plus believes that voting on this item without knowing its financial implication is not only irresponsible but could also undermine the public's trust in our priorities as a Municipality. The People of Mangaung Metro deserve to know how their hard-earned money is being spent, especially on changes that may not directly impact their daily lives.

The Freedom Front Plus cannot in good conscience support this proposal. We urge this council to prioritize transparency and fiscal responsibility as we work to address the real needs of our community. I thank you, Honourable Speaker."

Cllr NR Shale addressed the Council: "Thank you, Mister Speaker. The Economic Freedom Fighters supports proposed changes to law enforcement uniforms to improve professionalism and restore public trust. They believe that a modernized uniform embodies the values of law enforcement agencies and installs safety and respect in communities. They commend the introduction of body cameras as a step towards transparency and accountability, enhancing the integrity of the justice system.

Using local firms for clothes tailoring and manufacturing can have a profound impact on the local economy. By partnering with local businesses, municipalities can inject funds directly into their community, creating jobs and stimulating economic growth. This approach helps retain local talent, supports entrepreneurship, and fosters a sense of community pride.

Local procurement also enhances accountability and flexibility. Municipalities can more easily monitor production quality, ensure timely delivery, and address any concerns. Furthermore, local firms can respond quickly to changing demands, allowing municipalities to adapt to evolving needs. There is nothing wrong with a clean and fair procurement.

The EFF calls for colleagues to endorse this item for transformative change with necessary amendments. They also urge local manufacturers to produce law enforcement uniforms, and any uniforms mentioned in the document, as it creates jobs and empowers communities economically. This move could reshape the employment landscape in Mangaung, delivering hope and opportunity to those in need.

The EFF urges colleagues to rally behind this item, championing local production that uplifts law enforcement and residents. Together, they can ignite a brighter future for Mangaung and dismantle the systems that hold them back. Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Cllr MW Mongale addressed the Council: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Dr BL Mathae. Firstly, I want to indicate that uniform change does not mean that the performance will change. If you are unable to arrest criminals, or to enforce law in the City, it is not going to be enforced by change of colour of the uniform, ask Kaizer Chiefs. They changed the colour to look like a Springboks. If you check the national colours of the Springboks, there is a jersey of Kaizer Chief that looks exactly like that. But that, did not change the performance.

I hope that would not create an impression that we are going to enforce law on the basis that we are going to change the colour of the uniform. We also need to look at what informs the colours. Just behind you Honourable Speaker, there are three colours of Mangaung, which is orange, green and black. The City of Johannesburg, that is being used as a reference and also City of Cape Town, they both have blue colours on their logos. With us, we would be copying from people who do not have the same colours as ours.

We cannot change the colour of the security to blue because it does not represent Mangaung. It is not in the logo of Mangaung and once you go blue, it is either you go to the City of Cape Town or City of Johannesburg. You lose your identity as Mangaung, you lose your pride to say you are an institutional orange, green and black, it is our flag up until someone says we need to change it. We also need to look at the grounds for changing of uniform. Those grounds are Honourable Speaker:

1. Rebranding: This Municipality has never gone through the program of rebranding either its logo or anything about it. We have never gone through that process.
2. Safety and security. If when you change the colour green to blue, people will start to be safe. We need the scientific evidence to that effect because I provided an opposite argument to that effect, using Kaizer Chiefs as a reference.

3. Compliance with regulations: If there is a new regulation that says you all have to go blue, yes, we understand you all have to go blue. But in this particular case, no one said we must go blue. Well, look at the uniform, maybe if the colour green is weak in terms of wear and tear, then we can go for blue if it is stronger and that is the grounds.
4. Municipal merger or demarcation: if the Municipality was merging, there might be a need to change the logo of the Municipality, there will also be a need to change the uniform.
5. Security threats: If there is an increase in security threats or risk requiring uniform change to incorporate additional security features, we will understand. But in this particular case, we have not found any scientific analysis to justify that effect.
6. Budget and cost saving: if this uniform story of blue is going to save the Municipality more money as compared to the uniform that is green of which I don't believe because the green uniform is already printed year in and year out and there are those already in stock waiting for the Municipality to collect. Unless you are helping somebody else who printed blue for Cape Town Metro or Johannesburg Metro. Now they no longer needing it and you are bailing them out.
7. The National or Provincial guidelines: we have no reason to debate it, we must just comply. But in this particular case, there is no argument that has been advanced that National or Provincial wants us to change the colours, its maybe an instruction. There is no such a thing.

So, as Afrikan Alliance of Social Democrats, we will not be supported the uniform change from green to blue, as we believe that the logo of the Municipality is still fine and there's nothing wrong with."

Cllr SP Tsoleli responded as follows: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker. There is everything wrong with wearing a security uniform. If you read the item, it would tell you that we have moved from being a security to a Law Enforcement Department. So, the current green uniform, there are so many greens uniforms, you can see it everywhere around the world. Hence, there is no respect for our Law Enforcement officers. We are bringing that respect and dignity for the Law Enforcement officers to make sure that the uniform that they are going to be wearing is the uniform worn by all security clusters in South Africa. It is not about the logo of the DA in Cape Town nor Gauteng, but the security cluster in South Africa.

If you look it closely, the light blue, the navy blue, that is what they are wearing. So, we are trying to professionalize our own Law Enforcement and move them from being the security which was long done because the same Council around 1996 took a resolution during the transition that we are moving from being a security, we are now going to be Law Enforcement Department. We are bringing that, and it was supposed to be done long time ago Cllr MW Mongale. This is the time now, to make sure that we bring dignity to the Law Enforcement Department.

I am glad Cllr GJ Lipale for making sure that you give Cllr NR Shale, because she said a mouthful. She said everything that is needed to be said. What she raised, I am sure Cllr CL Kruger, and the CFO are listening attentively that we must ensure that the procurement remains local in terms of the uniform.

Cllr B Vorster I am worried that you are talking about the issue of the budget. The budget has already been appropriated for the uniform in an access of R30 million. Let us go back to the budget of the City in terms of uniform, it is there. We passed the budget on the 31st of May 2024, and this item of uniform, it is there. So, it is not something that we have not budgeted for. The only thing is to make sure that we implement it and make sure that our Law Enforcement officers look great when they go outside there and chase everyone that they have to chase.

Cllr KC Moreeng, I am glad that you have raised this matter. The City Manager is here on the issue of the vacancy rate, but I am glad to also report that the City Manager has just signed an item that is giving us as Public Safety and Security an opportunity to employ wardens who are going to ensure that while we are preparing for a full-fledged organization, that is the Metro then we have that opportunity. That means that, there would be visibility in the City.

Lastly, Honourable Speaker, we are saying this green uniform is really not appropriate for Law Enforcement officers. We are then requesting Council to look at it and make sure that we have them in uniform. Le ha ba kena mona, ba tlo le kakasa, ha le etsa disorder, le ba bone hore ke Law Enforcement officers. Because there was a time when they had to come in, but they did not have uniform and so we are now bringing that dignity that even when they come in here, they are in uniform. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr MW Mongale raised a point of order on what Cllr SP Tsoleli raised about “ho kakaswa ha batho” in Council which meant that Law Enforcement officer would also be converted to Sergeant-At-Arms which is legislated and therefore meant that it should also be taken into account in the report. Cllr MM Letawana responded that Cllr SP Tsoleli indicated that the uniform for Law Enforcement was for the officers to be presentable and identifiable and she then used that as an example that as and when they come in the Council, they should be recognisable.

It was thereupon with 61 in favour, 24 against and 2 abstained.

RESOLVED that Council approved the uniform specification for Law Enforcement to be changed as proposed.

14.

REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT, APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTAION OF TWO (2) INTERNAL HUMAN RESOURCES POLICIES: DANGER ALLOWANCE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Cllr M Wewege addressed the Council: “Thank you, Mister Speaker. While we appreciate the detailed descriptions and objectives outlined in these policies, we have reservations regarding the recommendation to engage an external service provider for a three-year period to assist in their roll-out.

Our concern lies with the allocation of resources towards hiring an external service provider when the Metro is supposed to be equipped with a team of qualified HR staff.

The policies explicitly designate the City Manager to oversee the Performance Management System and ensure compliance. It is essential to question why, given the already substantial salary packages awarded to the City Manager and Heads of Departments for their expertise and leadership, an external service provider is deemed necessary. Shouldn't our highly skilled officials be entrusted with the responsibility of executing these policies effectively?

Furthermore, the stipulation in Item 15.1.8 limits the Municipality's expenditure on staff performance rewards to 1.5% of the annual salary and wage bill raises additional concerns. Engaging an external service provider undoubtedly comes at a cost, leading us to wonder how much of this allocated 1.5% will remain available for staff rewards once their fees are accounted for. It is crucial to ensure that our budgetary allocations prioritize the well-being and incentive structures for our hardworking employees.

In conclusion, we propose that the recommendation to appoint an external service provider for the implementation of these internal human resources policies be removed. Let us harness the expertise and capabilities of our dedicated HR staff and leadership team to drive the successful execution of these policies, while safeguarding the financial resources allocated for staff rewards. Thank you, Mister Speaker."

Cllr GDP Kotze addressed the Council: "Thank you, Mister Speaker. on behalf of Cllr PA Lotriet. If we implemented and maintained correctly, both policies are sure to improve employer and employee relationship, employee capacity and productivity. The benefits of any performance management tool is in the name. it provides management with a tool to improve and develop employees within the context of achieving set negotiated goals. The success of the implementation within such policy will heavily depend on the buy in from management and supervisors on all levels. Training of all supervisors and managers is crucial and not negotiable. We do not have much say on the matter as it is not regulated by Occupational Health and Safety Act, 85 of 1993, but also the Basic Conditions of Employment and Labour Relations Act.

I refer to the Danger Allowance Policy. The Occupational Health and Safety Act, determines the obligation of employer to identify and mitigate hazards and not that the employee has the right to refuse dangerous work. The Basic Conditions of Employment Act, employers must provide safe working conditions. Employees who perform hazardous work, are entitled to danger pay. Employees can negotiate danger pay through collective bargaining.

The implementation of these two policies, will ultimately have an impact on the expenses of the Metro. It would have to be budgeted and managed carefully. The DA will support both policies."

Cllr MW Mongale addressed the Council: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Dr BL Mathae. On the danger allowance, I have some issues. We have seen in the document where it is talking about external company that needs to be appointed to ensure that employees are assessed in terms of whether they qualify for danger allowances or not. I am totally against it because I believe that the Municipality must train their ow staff to deal with danger allowances on a daily basis.

We have such departments in the Municipality. In the past, we used to have ONW, organisational work study where they do their assessment, and they are able to identify the depth of position in terms of changes. Does it warrant a new position or needs to be amended to be given a new function. I am still of the opinion that the Municipality has capacity to train their own employees who will be able to perform the function, it does not need an external person, who still have to be briefed by the parties on how the matter should be resolved.

We also have Local Labour Forum (LLF), that will be able to resolve this matter if there are disputes between the parties. LLF would be able to take the matter, discuss and resolve it as they are the one that would be monitoring the implementation of the policy. In the document it is said that it has already gone to LLF, and it has approved and now Council must deal with it. I want to correct that error, to say LLF is a Section 23 Committee in terms of the law, Labour Relations Act including the Bargaining Council and Nedlac (National Economic Development and Labour Council), you cannot subject it to this Council. It has nothing to do with status, but process. I hope the Unions are listening because here is where they must come strong to indicate that the Council is overstepping its mark.

On the implementation of danger allowance, we agree and support the policy. We only not agreeing with certain elements within the policy around the appointment of those private institutions. We believe that Centlec employees have been qualifying for danger allowance for many years, Traffic officers giving people fines and impounding cars, that is putting their lives at risk and the Law Enforcement officers that we have just discussed, the blue or green ones. Zookeepers are also faced with danger on daily basis.

While we are discussing this matter, it needs someone in the system who understand the departments and operations of the Municipality, who would discharge the duties quickly, because the person doesn't need to be briefed about the department. All I am saying is that, let it be inhouse. Let it be people who are appointed and trained to discharge that function and it should not be one person, at least 3 – 5 people. In this current form, when you say we must adopt it with these external companies, we would not support. But if you remove the companies, we will support this, Policy.”

The Speaker referred Councillors to Volume 3 of the documents, on the item that the recommendation in the agenda did not speak to the ones in the document with regards to the appointment of the service provider.

Cllr DL Malebo addressed the Council: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker and greetings to the house.

Honourable Speaker, Today we are honoured to discuss two vital HR Policies that underpin our organisation, Centlec and Mangaung Municipality’s commitment to employee well-being and success. These policies demonstrate our dedications to creating a safe and supportive and performance driven work environment.

Danger Allowance Policy: This policy acknowledges the inherent risk associated with certain roles.

We recognise that our employees may face hazardous conditions and it is our responsibility to compensate them accordingly. For example, Centlec has had employees being electrocuted to their death and some had close encounters.

Danger Allowance Policy objectives are:

1. To provide financial compensation for employees working in hazardous conditions.
2. Encourage safe work practices and the risk management.
3. Demonstrate commitment to employee welfare

This Policy is not just about monitoring benefits, but about showing our employees that we value their safety and well-being. We are committed to providing a secure work environment as a Municipality at this point and this Policy re-enforces that promise.

Performance Management Policy drives excellence growth and development within our Municipality by setting clear expectations, evaluating performance and providing feedback. We empower employees to excel. Performance Management Policy objectives are:

1. Set clear performance expectations and goals.
2. Regularly evaluate employee performance and provide constructive feedback.
3. Identify training needs and opportunities for growth.
4. Reward outstanding performance and address under performance.

This policy ensures accountability, transparency and fairness. It aligns individual goals with organisational objectives. Fostering a culture of continuous improvement. To ensure the effectiveness of these policies we will have to conduct regular policy review and updates. Provide training and support for managers and employees. Monitor Policy implementation and address concerns.

Now our concern Honourable Speaker as the EFF is that recommendation 4.3.1 until 4.3.3. which might lead good initiative astray. We are also concerned with page 4 which has demonstrated over the years that as the Municipality we want to introduce or give something a go ahead, someone is appointed to act for two hours or two days. Instead, the heads of those departments directly face their issues head-on.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, these policies demonstrate our organisation's commitment to supporting our employee's safety, wellbeing and success. Other than what was mentioned above, we are good with these policies. Let us work together to create a culture of safety and risk awareness, foster a performance driven environment and empower employees to excel. I thank you, Honourable Speaker."

Cllr LW Lekgetho commented as follows: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker and all protocol observed. Batho ba Mangaung, dumelang.

The Municipality and Centlec recognise the Performance Management System and Danger Allowances Policy as a legal requirement and instrumental for cooperative governance. The Policies would formalise the process and strategy for the individual employees of the Municipality and Centlec.

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Some of the benefits of having both policies will improve productivity and efficiency, better risk management and safety practices, compliance with the regulation as required and lastly improve both Municipality and Centlec.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, it shows that the led ANC Municipality is putting systems in place. We as the ANC support the recommendation as they are. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr MM Letawana responded as follows: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Let indicate that not all the recommendations have been captured in the agenda as indicated in the report and therefore the proposals be as per the recommendation in the report.

Let me thank the Councillors from Section 80 Committee: Corporate Services. They have demonstrated that indeed this was a product of a teamwork and I believe the House including the blue brigades are going to be voting as one on these policies. I am not so sure about Freedom Front Plus.

Cllr M Wewege, the reward system unfortunately cannot be isolated because this comes as a standard item that comes with the Performance Management System across the Country. So, we cannot actually deviate from what is done by other municipalities as well as government departments. For now, we are going to include it up until there are changes.

Cllr MW Mongale, I am not sure if I understood your inputs with regard to issue of the service provider. The document suggests that we deal with the recommendation as per the Policy, if you go to the actual policy (Danger Allowance Policy), does not talk about any service provider.

The only document that talks on the recommendation about the service provider is the one on Performance Management System. It is a new system and we do not have the capacity; hence we need somebody. We have tried with our bodies to come and assist, but it has taken long hence we are even recommending that we should go out of those areas that we have seek help from and do it on our own. We have approached SALGA, but they seem to be inundated with requests from other municipalities. Hence, we are saying for us to make progress, we should actually get a service provider to assist us with the development of this system. Going forward, yes, we will be able to manage the implementation, thereof internally.

Honourable Speaker, let me take tunes from the service delivery budget and implementation plan tabled at the previous Council and allow me to indicate that today as we table this Policy on Performance Management System, the primary goal of this policy is to create an environment that empowers both the employees and the employer, in such a way that we should be creating an environment that is conducive for work efficiency as well as productivity. The backbone of this policy is to ensure that there is smooth operation at all departments and are aligned to the IDP objectives.

Performance management as indicated by the previous speakers, helps to foster the good relations between the employees as well as their managers, while at the same time it is sending

a message that the organization cares about their performance and is committed to helping them to achieve their full potential. It is through performance evaluation that employees will be able to review their career and therefore the performance management remains relevant contributor to the success of the organization through integrated approach wherein the staff members are working towards achieving their goals by managing their time better, improving working procedures, reduce waste and are apprised accordingly. Implementing performance management is not a small fit particularly if you didn't have the system in place, but it is worth it. Therefore, creating the environment in which employees are accustomed to having their work critiqued, it is what will make them drive towards improving productivity and enhancing organisation performance.

Today, again Honourable Speaker, and honourable members we are presenting the Danger Allowance Policy as a sign of commitment towards the protection of the employees' rights. We are doing so in supplementing the conditions of service of our employees by providing additional guidelines for administration and management of danger allowance for the employees. The primary objective of this Policy is to provide a fair and justifiable basis for the management and compensation of danger allowance to employees of both the Mangaung Metro Municipality and its entity, which is Centlec.

The Policy proposes additional allowance to be paid to employees who, according to the nature of their work may get exposed to hazardous condition by risking their lives while conducting the business interests of the Municipality. The policy framework for implementation shall be within the scope as set out by the divisional and local collective bargaining while the applicability and the quantum remain that of the Municipality. I wanted to say, I implore, but I have noticed that all parties would be in support of these two policies. And we employ on the management to take reasonable steps to ensure the implementation adherence to the two policies as presented. As I submit Honourable Speaker."

The Speaker implores on the administration to undertake their work diligently to ensure that the agenda and report have the same recommendations. Cllr MM Letawana thereafter provided clarity in terms of recommendations that recommendation (b) just indicated that the policies served LLF, Section 80 and MAYCO and furthermore, recommended that a service provider be appointed to assist with the roll-out of the Policy.

Cllr MW Mongale indicated that he has asked a question with regard to recommendation 4.2 which states that all these policies have already served at LLF, Section 80 and MAYCO and had asked a question regarding that to say whether the matter has been taken to LLF before bringing it to Council or first to be adopted by Council and then LLF as it is a Section 53 in terms of Labour Relations Act.

The Executive Mayor responded as follows:

- ✓ That he took note of the concern raised by the Speaker with regards to the administrative discipline and assured that the administration will make improvements with time, and indeed it had an impact on Council.

- ✓ That he thought that Cllr MW Mongale first take was that LLF must always make consideration on items that one would take to Council.
- ✓ That Cllr MM Letawana said with courage that all the parties would support the tabling of the report and thus wanted to see whether she indeed made a telling observation.
- ✓ That the executive always checks to what extent did they consult with regard to any item brought to Council and a number of items requires consultation. LLF by its nature, it is a platform where the Municipality can test views and that it would not be rebuffed when it is tested on the ground.

Cllr MM Letawana reiterated that the items were consulted thoroughly with all the relevant stakeholders and LLF being a partner in this regard and their recommendations including those of constituencies are taken into consideration.

In responding to Cllr GJ Lipale with regards to LLF and whether it was represented in Council, the Speaker explained that the Local Labour Forum is a body meant to bring together the executive and representative of labour component and did not warrant political representation. Cllr MM Letawana explained that the composition is made of the employer and labour component represented equally at the forum.

Cllr MW Mongale indicated that the composition of LLF is that ⅓ is Councillors and two trade unions, Imatu and SAMWU. Employer is represented by officials and Councillors and that the Councillors representing employer, must have the mandate of Council when they speak in the LLF. The matter cannot go to LLF first and Council later.

The Deputy Executive Mayor requested that some question be handled through Rule 38 as per the Standing Rules and Orders.

It was thereupon with 82 in favour, 0 against and 5 abstained.

RESOLVED

- (a) That Council took note of the various policies (Danger Allowance Policy and Performance Management Policy Framework) for approval.
- (b) That all these policies have already served at LLF, Section 80 and MAYCO.
- (c) That on the Performance Management Policy Framework, the following be resolved to both MAYCO and Council:
 - i. A service provider be appointed to assist the Municipality in the roll-out of the Policy over the three (3) year period.
 - ii. A request for proposals be run through Supply Chain Management Processes.
 - iii. Budget be made available through adjustment processes once request for proposal have been available to be confirmed through the budget adjustment process.

175	REPORTS FROM THE SPEAKER
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1.

REPLACEMENT OF PR COUNCILLORS AND WARD COUNCILLORS AFTER THE BY-ELECTION HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2024

The item was dealt with at the meeting held on Wednesday, 30 October 2024.

NOTED.

2.

SECTION 79 COMMITTEE: PUBLIC PLACES AND STREET NAMING REPORT

The item was dealt with at the meeting held on Wednesday, 30 October 2024.

NOTED.

176	REPORTS FROM MPAC
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None.

NOTED.

177	REPORTS FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE
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None.

NOTED.

178	IN COMMITTEE REPORTS
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The Speaker requested all HODs, officials, media and the public in the gallery to be excused from the meeting and that the live streaming be switched off as the items would be dealt with “In Committee”.

As these items are dealt with In Committee, the discussions are minuted separately.

1.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- i. 18 April 2024
- ii. 30 April 2024

It was thereupon with 47 votes in favour, 0 against and 39 abstained

RESOLVED that the minutes be taken as read, confirmed and duly adopted.

2.

INVESTIGATION REPORT ON THE ICT CYBER ATTACK

Voting outcome for the item to be referred back, 22 voted in favour, 48 against and 15 abstained. Voting outcome for the item as submitted: 48 in favour, 22 against and 15 abstained.

After the Speaker announced the voting results, Cllr GDP Kotze referred to Rule 13.12 that it be noted that the DA voted against the approval of the item.
It was thereupon

RESOLVED: In an effort to strengthen ICT security, protect critical infrastructure and safeguard digital assets, it is resolved that:

- (a) The City prioritise the establishment of an internal ICT Security Operations Unit, expedite the appointment of qualified and skilled ICT Security Personnel in order to build resilience against future security breaches/attacks.

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- (b) Invest in advanced/multifaceted cyber security toolsets and software(s).
- (c) Intensify Physical Security in order to safeguard the Municipality's information assets.
- (d) Promote the Protecting Information Assets by strengthening Data Classification and Data Leak Prevention.
- (e) Implement ICT Service Continuity and Disaster Recovery.
- (f) Establish Incidence response and recovery protocols to follow in the event of cyber-attack. e) Disciplinary Action be instituted against the alleged perpetrators following the Special Investigation Unit (Hawks) report.

3.

REPORT ON IPTN INVESTIGATION

Voting outcome for the proposal as raised by Cllr BJ Viviers, 20 voted in favour, 47 against and 15 abstained. Voting outcome for the item as submitted: 59 in favour, 0 against and 21 abstained.

After the Speaker announced the voting results, Cllr BJ Viviers stated that as stipulated on Rule 13.12, that it be noted that the DA voted against the approval of the item.

RESOLVED

- 1. That Council took note of the developments in relation to the steps to be taken as per the recommendation of the report.
- 2. That disciplinary hearing be conducted against all officials implicated in the report, who are still in the employ of the Metro in line with the Disciplinary Code and Procedures outlined in the collective agreement of the bargaining council as well as the regulation on the discipline of senior managers as issued by the Minister of COGTA.
- 3. That the report and its recommendations be referred to Law Enforcement Officers Specialised Investigation Unit (HAWKS) for activation and investigation.
- 4. That a firm of attorneys be appointed within the database of legal services to institutes civil claims against those implicated and recover monies lost through the IPTN project.

4.

CONTRACT OF THE CITY MANAGER

Voting outcome for the proposal as raised by Cllr M Davies, 17 voted in favour, 46 against and 16 abstained. Voting outcome for the item as submitted: 47 in favour, 20 against and 11 abstained.

RESOLVED

1. That Council took note of the employment contract correction period of the City Manager (as indicated in the report dated 28 October 2024 3.2: *the correct period of employment of the City Manager should be for a period of four (4) years which will end on 1st November 2027 being a period of one (1) year after the 2026 Local Government Election*).
2. That the item was presented and approved by Council.

179	MOTIONS
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None.

NOTED.

180	QUESTIONS
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QUESTIONS ASKED IN TERMS OF RULE 38 OF THE COUNCIL'S STANDING RULES AND ORDERS

The item was dealt with at the meeting held on Wednesday, 30 October 2024.

NOTED.

181	CLOSING OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
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The Speaker officially declared the meeting closed at 15h37.

SECRETARIAT UNIT
COMMITTEE SERVICES