

CONFIDENTIAL

**MINUTES
of an
ORDINARY MEETING**

**MANGAUNG
METROPOLITAN
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

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

**WEDNESDAY
30 APRIL 2025
AT 10:00**

**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 WEDNESDAY, 30 APRIL 2025 at 10:00**

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	Absent with apology
SECTION 79 CHAIRPERSONS			
5	<u>Rules</u> Cllr Mokgothu (Tona Kenosi Wilfred)	ANC 2	
6	<u>MPAC</u> Cllr Makoloane (Itumeleng Justice)	ANC 36	Absent with apology
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>Waste and Fleet Management</u> Cllr Jonas (Vuyelwa Eunice)	ANC	
11	<u>Economic Development</u> Cllr Mosala (Motlhokung Theodora)	ANC 11	
12	<u>Public Safety</u> Cllr Tsoleli (Sibongile Pearm)	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	
16	<u>Rural Development</u> Cllr Twala (Pani Sidney)	ATM	Absent with apology
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 Matthews)	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 (Mamahlope 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	
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	Absent with apology
48	Cllr Sebolao (Jankie Elisha)	EFF	Absent with apology
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	Absent with apology
56	Cllr Wewege (Mare-Lize)	FFPlus	
WARD COUNCILLORS			
57	Cllr Sefaki (Samuel)	ANC 1	
58	Cllr Machachamise (Tshepiso Oudious)	ANC 3	
59	Cllr Supi (Mahoko Harold)	ANC 4	
60	Cllr Lecoko (Lehlohonolo Nathaniel)	ANC 5	
61	Cllr Moiloa (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	

71	Cllr Van Noord (Gregory Owen)	DA 18	Absent with apology
72	Cllr Peter (Seth Qondile)	ANC 19	
73	Cllr van Rensburg (Corize)	20 DA	
74	Cllr Lotriet (Pieter Adam)	DA 21	
75	Cllr Cronje (Jan-Hendrik)	DA 22	Absent with apology
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 Nicholas)	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: PLANNING, ECONOMIC & RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS	MS NOKUTHULA CHAKANE
5	HOD: CORPORATE SERVICES	MR MOKETE DUMA
6	HOD: PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY	MR ISRAEL KGAMANYANE
7	HOD: COMMUNITY SERVICES	DR T THINDA
8	CENTLEC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	MR MALEFANE SEKOBOTO
9	HEAD OF OFFICE OF SPEAKER	MR NCAMILE NXANGISA
10	CHIEF OF STAFF	MR ZOLILE MANGCOTYWA
11	HEAD OFFICE OF DEPUTY EXECUTIVE MAYOR	MS BONGA MNCUBE
12	HEAD OF MPAC	MR DIPHOKO SEKAKANYO
13	GM: INTERNAL AUDIT	MR GAUTA NTSALA
14	GM: COMMITTEE SERVICES	MS XOLISWA QILO
15	MANAGER: INTERNAL AUDIT	MS ASTRID SCHMIDT
16	ACTING MANAGER: COUNCIL SUPPORT	MS RINA MAMATELA
17	ACTING MANAGER: TRANSLATIONS	MS MANANA MORAKABI

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 nameplates 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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6
MINUTES
(OPEN COUNCIL)

66.

OPENING

(MOMENT OF SILENT CONTEMPLATION FOR MEDITATION AND PRAYERS)

The meeting commenced at 10h06.

The Speaker in officially declaring the meeting opened, he requested all present to observe a moment of silent contemplation for meditation and prayers. He confirmed the quorum that 62 Councillors were in attendance.

The Speaker requested Councillors to observe the rules of the Council. The meeting is scheduled for 10h00 however, he had to allow other Councillors to arrive prior commencing with the meeting.

The Speaker acknowledges the Executive Mayor, Deputy Executive Mayor, Members of the Mayoral Committee, Chairpersons of the Section 79 Committees, party whips, Councillors in general, City Manager, Heads of Departments, Council Secretariat, members of the media and the community of Mangaung.

NOTED.

67.

NOTICE OF THE MEETING

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

NOTED.

68.

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.

NOTED.

69.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Cllr SM Swarts moved for the acceptance of the agenda as is.

Cllr AF Bothma requested that item 5 and 6 be dealt with simultaneously as they were related to indigent accounts.

Cllr LJ Mathe supported the adoption of the agenda as amended and Cllr ME Nkiane also supported the proposal to adopt the agenda with amendments.

The agenda was unanimously adopted.

NOTED.

70.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillors were afforded an opportunity to make announcements to the Council as follows:

Cllr MM Tladi: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I have two announcements. With regard to capacity building, I want to inform Councillors that the Office of the City Manager would be signing the Service Level Agreement (SLA) today. We had a discrepancy in terms of political office bearer's' (POB) staff. They were given three (3) months contracts and so they cannot be taken to school as it would be regarded as irregular expenditure. So, we will wait for them up until their contracts are in line with the POB until the end of Council term. For now, only Councillors would be taken to Central University of Technology (CUT) before the end of May 2025.

Secondly, all new Councillors and the Whips of the Committees must visit ICT Sub-Directorate to collect their laptops. Thank you, Honourable Speaker."

Cllr NA Nhlapo: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Good morning to the Executive Mayor, Deputy Executive Mayor, Chief Whip of the day, the august house and residents of Mangaung.

To the residents of Mangaung and the house, to indicate that as government of the Metro Municipality together with the Office of the Premier, the Provincial government have embarked on a process where we are celebrating freedom day but we are celebrating it in a different way where we go to different Wards and bring service delivery programs. We have already started last week, the program is still taking place in different Wards but the buildup towards Friday 2 May 2025, we will be celebrating freedom day in a way of bringing services to the people in Ward 17. The service delivery programs will be around adjacent wards. It is a humble plea that the communities join the teams for the cleaning campaign and other ways which we will be doing service delivery. Honourable Councillors are also invited to join. Thank you, Honourable Speaker."

Cllr GDP Kotze: “Thank you, Mister Speaker. This announcement it is for it to be minuted. Several of our motions have not been tabled yet again and several of our Rule 38 questions have not yet been answered. Therefore, after several letters to the office of the City Manager, the DA will now bring motion of no confidence against the political leadership, and we will also bring motion of no confidence against Section 79 Chairpersons. Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Cllr MW Mongale: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Dr BL Mathae. Mine is to get your attention as the Speaker of this Council and also as a member of SALGA that we will be writing a proposal that must go to Parliament Portfolio Committee on finance. We want to persuade them to change the funding model of municipalities. Currently, the municipalities are only getting 12% of national fiscus. It is unacceptable, if needs be, we will even go to an extend of proposing that we should only have two (2) spheres of government which is national and local government. No more provinces because it is unnecessary duplication at the level of province.

It would assist municipalities to move from current situation whereby they have been suffocated by ESKOM and other Water Boards in terms of paying of services. Municipalities would now have enough money because funding would be coming, and the money would not be shared between municipalities and provinces. It would assist municipalities in terms of growing the economy, it would be a special funds around that so when growing the economy, you would have finances to be able to implement the decisions that you have taken. At the moment, the municipalities are humstrum by these red-tape or unnecessary three (3) spheres of government that cannot be justify scientifically why they are there except to say we only need national government policy formulation and local government for implementation of every policy and services to the people.

I am raising it to you as Speaker, and that I am aware that you have a dual function of being a member of SALGA, a leader of SALGA in the province. We want you to join hands with us so that we can travel this journey. Even if it means we go and make presentation to Parliament. If needs be that we need to find other political parties that will support us on that program. This is not about Afrikan Alliance of Social Democrats; it is about all the citizens of South Africa who are unable to receive services.

I am not saying, the only problem with municipalities it is because of shortage of money. I am raising this notwithstanding the corruption and looting that are found in municipalities, the issue here is that, even if there can be no corruption the municipalities would still sit in a position where they are unable to provide services to their people. If the municipality wants to switch to gear two, but if it is only about maintaining what is existing but have no plan in responding to the growth of every city, the municipalities would not be able to cope. That is my humble submission to say, on this one, I am calling on you to join me, as I am expecting the Executive Mayor of this Metro Municipality to join me on the one, I raised at previous Council to declare this Municipality as a heritage site. I thank you for the opportunity.”

The Speaker remarked: “Thank you Cllr MW Mongale, that is a progressive proposal. I am sure you may be aware that plans are afoot in place in terms of the amendment of the white paper on local government.

Those discussion are intended at finding appropriate ways in terms of funding to local government because what the assumption made in 1998 on funding model, it was purely based on capacity of the municipalities to be able to raise their own revenue and with only 10% of fiscus raised from national allocated to municipalities in the form of Division of Revenue Act (DORA) is completely inadequate to can assist municipalities to discharge their functions. That is a progressive proposal indeed we duly recorded that and would await your lead in that regard.”

Cllr T Van Der Walt: “Thank you, Mister Speaker. The DA will submit to the City Manager and the Executive Mayor to address ongoing issues hampering Mangaung citizens’ economic growth, job creation and service delivery which are the key priorities of the DA.

1. Numerous land use applications in Universitas and Brandwag are open for public comments. We urge Mangaung to hold public hearings so applicants can present these plans, residents can raise and possibly address some of the concerns while improving planned developments, and so that officials can respond to questions residents have. Without this, public opposition will persist and escalate, stalling development. For example, in the past five (5) weeks more than 6 times, mostly student houses have sat more than 72hours without power due to cable faults and overloading of the system due to the student accommodation in the area. It is students that are suffering, they did not ask to stay in illegal student accommodation that is not catered for in the power system. I fought for them to get the power restored, but the development needs to happen legally and in a controlled way.
2. Last week, we submitted a petition with nearly 900 signatures, highlighting challenges and giving solutions of high-density on campus student accommodation on the provincial land next to the UFS and calling for bylaw enforcement to halt illegal building that endangers NSFAS students. For example, 912 Crescent where the owner is building illegally; very clear, but Mangaung Municipality is not acting probably because he is politically connected.
3. We demand urgent action on service delivery failures: worsening potholes where there is no tarred for the past five (5) years to fill potholes, delayed R100m Maselspoort project, and persistent water losses, as Rustfontein dam level remains insufficient to carry us through the dry season. Blame-shifting among departments contractors and consultants is unacceptable. I am still waiting; I have written a letter to the Executive Mayor, MPAC and a number of stakeholders about Maselspoort project and the water problems and we have not been answered.
4. The DA stresses the Executive Mayor’s role in creating a shared vision for the City’s development, rooted in a credible Spatial Development Framework (SDF). Recent proposed amendments were gazetted too late for required public participation and only on the 11th of April 2025, making legal adoption of the SDF with the 2025/26 budget impossible.

6D

We seek accountability for this failure, we warn of wasted expenditure, and questioned what the plan of action is the Executive Mayor and MMC will they illegally amend the SDF where public participation is only finished on 11 June 2025, be adopted before the 11th of June or will the budget be tabled late in contravention of the law, or will the old SDF remain in action for another year making no changes to our spatial vision?

5. Laastens, ons moedig die leierskap aan om te leer uit die afgelope BTW fiasco waarin ons die hof moes benader om te keer dat die onversadigbare honger vir meer en meer geld vir die regering, alle burgers sou straf omdat die regering weier om die nodige bestedings hersienings te doen om uitgawes wat nie lei tot dienslewering, werkskepping en ekonomiese groei nie te besny. Ons moedig die leierskap aan in Mangaung om te leer uit hierdie fiasco om te luister na ander partye in die Raad en rolspelers in die Stad. Maar inwoners kan ook hoop vind daarin dat die DA hard werk om voor te berei en te verseker dat die DA die grootste party in Mangaung sal wees na die komende verkiesing.
6. Lastly Mister Speaker, on Cllr NA Nhlapo announcement, what about the north, do we only care about the south? We also need service delivery in the north. We don't have freedom day in the north. I have been asking Cllr NA Nhlapo for an appointment for a year, but she cannot see me. We are asking to bring the take back the City campaign to Wards 20, 23 and 26 like you are doing in the CBD. Thank you, Mister Speaker."

Cllr JM De Bruin: "Good morning, Honourable Speaker and all protocol observed. Honourable Speaker, we said we have freedom from 1994, but our people in Heidedal do not have freedom. Remember in the past years when our grannies and great grannies were still alive, they were called kitchen girls and garden boys and, in those years, it was apartheid, and we were not white enough. Now in democracy we are not black enough. We must remember, die boesman kind het opgestaan, hy baiza nie. So, our people in Ward 47, 16 and 4, they took their dignity away by cutting off water, but it is freedom for all. Please go and give people water but its on 30%-40% stroom of water because you have already taken their dignity away by removing their water meter. Thank you, Mister Speaker."

Cllr DJ De-Huis: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker. on the 1st of May 2025, the EFF will be having a worker's day rally in Zinniaville Rustenburg at 12h00. All community members are invited. Thank you, Honourable Speaker."

NOTED.

71.

MOTION OF SYMPATHY AND CONGRATULATIONS

The Speaker afforded Councillors an opportunity to pass their motion of sympathy and congratulations:

Cllr MJ Ramatlama: “Thank you, Mister Speaker. The Economic Freedom Fighters we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Captain Ibrahim Traoré of Burkina Faso, recognised as the second most feared man in the world after Vladimir Putin and the top feared man on the African continent. He has bravely expressed the hypocrisy of some of South Africans who seem to have a limited view on fundamental strategies needed to rebuilt South Africa and Africa as a whole. Today, those who often spread doom and gloom are celebrating the success and policies of Burkina Faso, yet they mocked the Commander in Chief of the Economic Freedom Fighters, Julius Sello Malema for advocating the very same ideas that are now taking shape in Burkina Faso.

We salute Captain Traoré for demonstrating that a black man can rebuilt a country without relying on a pink man. He has successfully launched the Postal bank of Burkina Faso, opened the Country’s first gold refinery, nationalised the key gold mining factories. He also opened the first locally funded tomato processing factory in Burkina Faso, established a factory to process uniforms for public services including police and military. He joined forces with Mali and Niger to form the Alliance of Sahel States. No private company is responsible for road construction. The tender system is now history in Burkina Faso.

We are pleased to see the seven cardinal pillars of the EFF and the resolutions of Gallagher Estate in 2011 being implemented across Africa in our live time as a fact.

Lastly, we will also continue to pray for the liberation movement to elect a progressive leader who will together guide South Africa forward towards a revolutionary path and not the sellouts that are in charge of the government today. Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Cllr RS Klaasen: “Honourable Speaker. Yesterday, 29 April 2025, will forever be remembered as one of the saddest days for South Africans. After days of searching for three missing SAPS officers, the search has come to a tragic end. All eyes were on the Hennops River yesterday where five bodies were retrieved.

The Democratic Alliance extends its heartfelt condolences to the affected families, the SAPS, and the nation at large. May the souls of Constable Buys, Constable Cebekhulu and Constable Senoge rest in peace. This tragedy coincides with the shocking murders of two members of the LGBTQ+ community in Botshabelo, with a 3rd individual being shot on the shoulders. These incidents highlight the urgent need for education and awareness about the fundamental rights to freedom of choice and individual dignity. The DA sends its deepest sympathies to the respective families during this difficult time.

On a brighter note, the DA congratulates 19-year-old Bayanda Walaza on his remarkable achievement as one of the fastest runners in the world. His success is a source of immense pride for South Africa.

Furthermore, the DA expresses gratitude to the pastors and community of Heidedal for their outstanding teamwork to clean-up Heidedal. We want to say we acknowledge your efforts and it exemplify the spirit of unity in your community.

Lastly, the DA celebrates the victory for the people regarding the rejection of the proposed 0.5% VAT increase. This outcome is a testament to the power of collective action. Halala, DA, halala! Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr GDP Kotze: “Mister Speaker, the Democratic Alliance in Mangaung would like to thank and congratulate the DA’s Federal Executive for their strong leadership in stopping the increase of VAT in recent months. Minister of Finance, Mr Enoch Godongwana wanted to raise VAT by 2%, which would have made life even harder for ordinary South Africans. He showed no respect for the Government of National Unity. But Deputy Minister, Mr Ashor Sarupen said no, and as a result, the Budget Speech was cancelled.

We thank Deputy Minister, Mr Sarupen for standing firm. He showed courage and leadership, the kind South Africans are looking for. That is why many people chose to vote for the DA. Later, the Minister tried again, working behind the DA’s back to make deals with smaller parties like the Patriotic Alliance, BOSA (Build One South Africa), and GOOD. They tried to push through a 0.5% VAT increase. But once again, the DA stood its ground. Dr Mark Burke raised strong objections in the committee, and the DA voted against the increase.

Sadly, the flip-flopper parties then joined with the ANC to celebrate and pass the Fiscal Framework, despite the harm it could bring to ordinary citizens. But the DA didn’t give up, we took the matter to court. And on Sunday, 27 April 2025, Freedom Day, the court ruled in favour of the people and halted the VAT increase. I would like to quote Madiba saying 30 years ago: *if the ANC government does to you what the previous government did to you, vote them out.*

We would also like to express sympathy to those who supported the flip-floppers and the ANC. Many believed these parties would stand up for them, but their actions showed otherwise.

To conclude, Mister Speaker, these recent events have reminded me how powerful and important each vote truly is. South Africans can no longer afford to vote for corrupt struggle veterans or flip-flop parties that will throw their supporters under the bus for their own benefit.

Through you, Mister Speaker, I would like to ask the Executive Mayor whether he would kindly send this gift to the Minister of Finance. We thought it would be appropriate with the rise of living costs in South Africa because he has a lot of explaining to do with egg on his face because we halted a VAT increase. And may this gift be a reminder to him that if he continues like this, there will be a lot of eggs on his face. Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Cllr TN Monare: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Let me first greet the community of Mangaung, Executive Mayor and all protocols observed.

Honourable Speaker, we as the ANC are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of three (3) officers, Linda Cebekhulu, Keamogetswe Buys and Boipelo Senoge who were taken far too soon while bravely serving our Country. The news of them being dead while travelling to deployment from Bloemfontein to Limpopo has left us all in shock and mourning. We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the families, friends and colleagues.

To the colleagues, may you find comfort in the memories shared and strength in support of one another during this incredibly difficult time. Please know that our prayers and thoughts are with you.

As we grieve this profound loss, let us also celebrate the life and legacy of Linda, Keamogetswe and Boipelo. Their dedication in keeping our communities safe will never be forgotten. With deep heartfelt condolences, I thank you, Honourable Speaker."

Cllr Kabelo Tshwane: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to greet all Councillors in this august house and the community of Mangaung, particularly the community of Ward 34.

I was tasked by the African National Congress to speak on the death of Pope Francis. Let me start here, the Pope Francis was born on the 17th December 1936. A young Jorge Mario Bergoglio, who would go on to become Pope Francis, Jorge Mario Bergoglio was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1936; the oldest of five kids in a family that had fled fascist Italy in search of peace. He was ordained a priest in 1969, and by 1973, he was leading the Jesuits across Argentina.

The life of Pope Francis, the first Latin American and first Jesuit to serve as the Roman Catholic Church's pontiff, lasted nearly nine decades and spanned several continents. A Bishop of Rome. A pope chosen from "almost the ends of the Earth," as he said upon his selection in 2013, Francis was a relentless advocate for migrants and marginalized people, as well as for the environment.

The Death of Pope Francis: Francis died at 7:35 a.m. on 21st April 2025 at the Casa Santa Marta guesthouse where he lived. According to the death report, which was issued by the Vatican doctor: *"Dearest brothers and sisters, it is with deep sorrow that I must announce the death of our Holy Father Francis,"* said Cardinal Kevin Farrell. Pope Francis' death report, just released by the Vatican, lists the causes of death as a cerebral stroke, followed by a coma and "irreversible cardiocirculatory collapse." The Vatican has confirmed the passing of Pope Francis, the first Latin American pope and a pivotal figure in the Church's reform efforts. Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore is where Pope Francis buried. A man of simplicity, elegant and powerful even in death.

The Church of Catholic: it mourns today the sad news of the passing of Pope Francis. The upcoming Conclave opening on the 7th May will be less euro-centric than it has ever been before, with over three-quarters ...

The ANC wants to pass their condolences to all the Catholic Church members. All people who are mourning and knowing the difference the Pope has made over the years. I thank you, Honourable Speaker."

Cllr VS Soqaga: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker, the Executive Mayor, Deputy Executive Mayor, Acting Chief Whip, and Councillors.

6H

Firstly, it is better to tell the truth than to mislead the nation. The African National Congress together with GNU partners, were honest enough to engage openly. On the 24th of April 2025, they met and resolved that although they understand that VAT increase was necessary at that time, they resolved to drop it. To claim the victory that the court on the 1st of April 2025 announced this, it is neither here nor there because already the announcement was made.

Secondly, we are celebrating Freedom day this month. We are celebrating as African National Congress to recognise and pay our tribute to the leaders of the ANC who remained true to the course of struggle and the people of South Africa.

On the 6th of April 1979, Solomon Mahlangu was hanged by the brutal apartheid regime. On the 10th of April 1993, Comrade Chris Hani was gunned down by an assassin who thought that it would plunge the Country into violence and turmoil, fortunately the leadership of the ANC rose up to the occasion. On the 23rd of this month (April) 1993, President General of the ANC passed on, Oliver Tambo, after many years of sacrifice. But after whatever they fought for, we remain on course because today, what they believed in and what they subscribed on, non-racial, non-sexist South Africa remain on course because even our social grant system accommodates everyone, no school fees adopted by our government it addresses everybody.

Today we are able to give those who cannot afford food, young people going to school every day; young people are benefitting from NSFAS (National Student Financial Aid Scheme) regardless of race, gender, colour or creed. Today, we are able to provide indigent policies to our people because they fought for justice. Their struggle will remain with us like I explained last year that once we leave, whatever contribution they have made, we will never abandoned it because it was a commanding voice of Nelson Mandela that he gave it to us. As the African National Congress, we are taking a posture that says, freedom day celebrations must go to our communities, hence we are rolling out the service delivery program together with the Provincial Government which will never fail our people, they will remain in our hearts. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr DL Malebo: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Greetings to the house and the community of Mangaung at large.

Honourable Speaker, today, we rise with great pride and revolutionary joy to move a motion of congratulations to the Economic Freedom Fighters for the resounding success of their historic rally held in Brandfort Masilonyana Municipality. The rally was not just an event; it was a statement of intent, a powerful demonstration of the people's yearning for true economic emancipation. Under the fearless leadership of the Commander in Chief and President of the EFF, Sello Julius Malema. The people of the Free State in their thousands came together in unity, in strength, and in revolutionary spirit to celebrate Freedom Day in a manner that truly honoured the sacrifices of those who fought for our liberation.

Brandfort, a town once associated with the pain and exile of Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, was transformed into a beacon of hope and resilience. It was in Brandfort that Mama Winnie endured hardship, but it was also in Brandfort that she remained unbroken.

How fitting it is, Honourable Speaker, that under the revolutionary banner of the EFF, Brandfort now becomes a place of mobilisation, empowerment, and action!

The overwhelming turnout of the Free State residents, from young to old, from urban centres to rural villages, is a testament to the growing confidence that the people have in the leadership of the EFF. It is a loud and clear signal that our people are ready for a new era, an era where land, wealth, and dignity are restored to the rightful owners, the people of South Africa.

The EFF continues to be the only movement that genuinely embodies the spirit of the Freedom Charter and the dreams of our fallen heroes. On that day, the words of Mama Winnie echoed in our hearts: *"Together, hand in hand, with our matches and our dreams, we shall overcome."*

Therefore, Honourable Speaker, let us today record our congratulations to the EFF for:

- Organising a rally that was peaceful, disciplined, and impactful.
- Reviving the memory and revolutionary legacy of Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela in Brandfort.
- Giving hope to the millions of South Africans who seek genuine economic freedom in their lifetime.
- And for demonstrating, yet again, the fearless and visionary leadership of the EFF led by President Julius Malema.

Let this motion stand as a recognition of a people's movement whose time has come, and as encouragement to continue the struggle until the land and economy are fully returned to the people!

Honourable Speaker, the Economic Freedom Fighters not out of political expediency, but in righteous anger and deep disappointment to speak on behalf of those who have been failed by the very people who claim to lead them.

It is with great sadness and growing fury that we address continued betrayal of bereaved family in Ward 51 by the Premier of this province. In moments of pain, in the rawness of grief, when the family had just lost their loved ones under tragic and traumatic circumstances the Premier arrived, not with solutions or sincerity, but with false promises and performative sympathy. She promised to assist and cover burial costs, she promised government support. She stood before grieving mothers and fathers, before broken family, and declared her unwavering commitment to ensuring that the burial would be handled with compassion and honour.

The family, already devastated by loss, was left abandoned, humiliated, and stranded. In many cases, they had to borrow money, go into debt, or rely on neighbours just to bury their loved ones. This is not just an administrative failure; this is a moral betrayal.

Let us be clear, it is not right to show up for a photo-op, make empty promises in front of cameras, and disappear once the media has turned away. Leadership is not measured by appearances but by follow-through, presence, and accountability.

To the Premier, you misled the most vulnerable, you used the pain of the people to score political points and for that, you owe that family more than just an apology, you owe them the truth, the help you promised, and immediate action.

The dead deserve dignity, and the living deserve truth. We cannot allow this government to turn tragedy into political theatre. We cannot allow our people to be re-victimized by a system that only pretends to care..."

Cllr SP Tsoleli raised a point of order as follow: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker and Honourable Councillors.

On the statement made by Cllr DL Malebo regarding the Premier of the Free State. As a person responsible for public safety in this Municipality, I was with the Premier of the Free State when the Premier went to visit the family in Ward 51. There is no way, the Premier never promised the family that government will take the responsibility for the burial or whatever that was happening in the family.

Honourable Speaker, we also need to correct, as the MMC, I was with the responsible Ward Councillor, Cllr MM Mohulatsi was with the family from day one until they bury those three (3) deceased individuals from that family. It cannot be correct to come here and grandstand in terms of the grief of our people, that cannot be accepted because the ANC led Councillor was there from day one until the last day assisting the family. She was working hand in hand with us assisting that family making sure that those people were buried in dignity. Thank you, Honourable Speaker."

Cllr MJ Ramatlama remarked: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker. it is not correct or true that Cllr DL Malebo is grandstanding. If the MMC wants me to play her the voice note of a community member who was asking for a donation to bury those people, we will play it here in this Council. The Premier, on television when she was interviewed by Aphumelele, she said government will assist. At the end of the day, those people were left alone. Go and check the archives of SABC."

NOTED.

72.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

i. Special Meeting: Tuesday 1 October 2024

Cllr NL Lecoko moved for the adoption of the minutes and was seconded by Cllr LW Lekgetho.

ii. Special Meeting: Friday 16 October 2024

Cllr MM Tladi moved for the adoption of the minutes and was seconded by Cllr NL Lecoko.

iii. Special Meeting: Monday 25 November 2024

Cllr MJ Mabena moved for the adoption of the minutes and was seconded by Cllr DE Matsephe.

The Council discussed in length on the concern raised by Cllr M Davies with regard to having an acting Council Whip as Section 41(F) of Municipal Structures Act stipulate that the Council must elect the Council Whip and not an individual Councillor to decide on who should act on their behalf.

The Speaker thereafter ascertained with Cllr NL Lecoko whether he was an acting Council Whip or acting Chief Whip of the ANC of which he confirmed that he was acting Chief Whip of the ANC. The Speaker reiterated that the Council Whip, Cllr VE Nikelo has registered his apology with Secretariat and no Councillor was acting on his behalf.

Thereafter the minutes as listed above, were duly confirmed and adopted.

NOTED.

73.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

NOTED.

The Speaker afforded the Executive Mayor to present the reports as follows:

“Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Dr BL Mathae. I must indicate that I was impressed by a number of issues that you raised this morning. Even though you must have crossed some arch words, I think that was an epitome of a Council that is alive and applies itself to the realities on the ground.

Ideally, it should be preceding my talk with issues that continue to display themselves globally in a situation where the powers that maybe are demonstrating how they can dominate the world particularly on issues on how small countries may find themselves oppressed by way of wielding tariffs, withdrawing support base, pretending to ignore that their fiduciary duty is to invest back from the riches of those countries that zip their belongings.

Equally so, I was impressed by how we piggyback on national events that in themselves are seeking to find lasting solution in ensuring that we provide services to our people. Scoring cheap points and sometimes pretending that we do not see challenges that has to do with the provision of services to our people who needs resources, but by all means, a solution must be found by all parties at national level in ensuring that despite the difficulties of arriving on where the money will come from, the answer must be found.

Interestingly enough, it is when we would like to even see ourselves emerging out of a challenge that faces our society to begin to see ourselves as a government of tomorrow. A gloomy picture indeed as it comes from other political parties. I think what should literally be at our fingertips, it should be seeking answers and lasting solutions. I have confidence that a driven Government of National Unity under the President, despite the difficulty, they will always soldier on and finally arrive at a solution.

Honourable Speaker, when Cllr VS Soqaga spoke about Solomon Mahlangu, I remembered him as a man I shared with and immediately echoed the words that he uttered when he was facing the gallows, speaking to his mother, he said: *“Tell my people that I love them and that my blood will nourish a tree of liberation”*. A freedom day and democratic society we are enjoying today comes from those difficult words.

Honourable Speaker, when Cllr VS Soqaga also made reference to Chris Hani, again I remembered a man who commanded me, who acted as a father to me, who believed in a society that private ownership to the means of production and capitalist mode of production should be an order of yesterday. A man who believed that the song sung by Randy Crawford should always ring in our minds titled *“Imagine”*. I really like to pause and ask Councillors to please listen to that song, *“imagine”* by Randy Crawford. It will speak to our hearts, it will demonstrate the kind of society that we are looking to realise, it would tell us that at some point we would live in a Country and a world without borders, we would live in a Country where men and women, nationalities and nations would share all the way.

7A

When you made reference to Oliver Tambo, I remembered in my youthful days represented a unit of MK in Lusaka, when we were working on the constitution that we are enjoying today, the constitutional guidelines led by Oliver Tambo. When Justice Albie Sachs said the Constitution of today runs in Oliver Tambo's DNA, he was indeed on point because it was during those days in 1985/86 that we worked on constitutional guidelines.

Let me celebrate what EFF spoke so well about, Mme Winnie Madikizela Mandela. In my childhood, I represented the underground, and I happened to be one of the first and voice to work with her whilst she was still in Brandfort banished there by the then apartheid regime. The old lady found me and found my way to exile. I echo your sentiments because I understand who you are talking about.

It is going to be difficult to celebrate what the DA said about Nelson Mandela. The difficulty I have is that we relate differently to the character. Generally, when white people look at Nelson Mandela, they see a saviour whereas in the communities I come from, the majority of those that are black, we see a liberator. So, the distinction, makes it difficult to celebrate what they say.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to deal with the items that you ordered me to deal with. I stand here before the Council to present the following:

Item 74.1: Honourable Speaker, this report is tabled as legislative requirement in terms of Municipal Finance Management Act guiding the Council on a budget implementation, financial state of affairs for a quarter ending 31st March 2025. Each tabling within 30 days after the end of the quarter demonstrated relative stability in terms of compliance and goof governance practise. Significantly, the report provides that actual performance is sitting at 61% involving 124 projects out of 137 that have been implemented. This does not serve as an impressive improvement, an improvement, however. I submit this report for approval.

Item 74.2: This item must be read with item 74.1 above. Seeking to inform the Council on the 3rd Quarter for the financial year 2024/25 against the adjustment budget in accordance with Section 52D of the MFMA and relevant governance gazette no 312141 of 17 April 2009. The major operating expenditure variance against the adjustment budget relating to employee's cost is worrying Honourable Speaker. The over expenditure on overtime is now standing at R115.3 million, which will surely result in unfavourable audit opinion if not worked on to ensure that it reads par-excellence. The resolution on shift system, a measure that we hope that it would provide a solution to the implementation, its of urgent need to our side.

The general patters of expenditure, by the Departments should also be looked into Honourable Speaker quiet closely as it affects the budget expenditure negatively. Our grants expenditure is also a major cause of concern. The pattern of expenditure remains unimproved, we are now standing at 31% grant expenditure, this is not acceptable Honourable Speaker. we are currently putting systems in place to ensure that we spend money allocated to the City to improve the much-needed service delivery.

7B

We have indeed assigned a number of officials and MMCs to ensure that there is rapidity in implementation and ensure that in the next quarter we are able to see the movement in ensuring that we secure as much money as we can. This report is therefore submitted before the Council for approval as outlined in item 2 of the agenda.

Item 74.3: The report provides details on progress on implementation of the Supply Chain Management Policy of the Council. The following needs to be attended to as a matter of urgency:

- Strict implementation of procurement plan
- Functionality of the bid committees and competitive bidding process need to improve and that would attend to a speedy turn over time
- Review of the Supply Chain Management Policy to address transformation agenda.

I put this before the Council, and I submit the report for noting.

Item 74.4: This report gives effect to incentive scheme approved earlier this year in February 2025. This was mainly to encourage consumers to settle outstanding accounts by taking full advantage of the incentive offered by the City. Since adoption of this scheme, there has been a significant reduction in our debt book as outlined in page 1 of the report. I therefore submit before the Council as table on page 2 of the report.

Item 74.5: This report is submitted as evidence to provide basic services to the poor and also ensure that debt book is more accurate. It would encourage members of our communities who qualifies to register for indigent that they do so as an opportunity before them. I must indicate that it is at this level where we are also looking at the best modality in ensuring that Ward based Councillors must be part of this program and ensure that we reach out. I must indicate it as information that in one of the critical meetings that we attended of the portfolio committee. Before us, it is a budget of R10 billion to address issues of indigent, only R2 billion is still in place and the rest is there for grabs for those that will work hard to ensure that we attend to our indigent. I, therefore, Honourable Speaker, submit this item for noting as outlined in item 5.

Item 74.6: This item is a request to Council to ensure that justice is done to the indigent communities and verify that only people who qualify are included in the indigent register. It is worth noting that there are no financial implications for this item particularly the extension aspect of it. I therefore submit this item for approval as outlined in item 6.

Item 74.7: This item is a breakthrough for the City in making available land for commonage and addressing the problem of informal settlements. This is evident of a good governmental interrelations and common goal in ensuring service delivery to communities. I therefore table this item before the Council for approval as outlined in item 7.

Honourable Speaker, let me conclude in responding to what Cllr MW Mongale tabled before me. Yes, indeed, our City, Mangaung reference to Bloemfontein; we are a common liberation route having given birth to the democracy we are enjoying today and the freedom days that we often speak to. We may not relate equally to, but truth be told Mangaung remains a beacon of hope for the people of this Country, a City alive with possibilities as outlined by the former President Mbeki.

A City that should serve to allow all South Africans to come and quench their future and their tomorrow and to build on the unity which Mangaung will always serve as that centre Cllr MW Mongale, I do agree with you. But then hastily saying to you, the request you are tabling before us, would need us to establish a committee that will begin to go and interact with Heritage Council and first acknowledge those areas that have been declared as heritage sites and demonstrate the ability of the history of what the Metro has played and therefore adhere to and perhaps request them to look at our City in that light of your sentiments. I think this must be a shared sentiment of the people of Mangaung. I want to believe that this will actually be both tourist and economic attraction and perhaps begin to enlighten the danty-dotty to realise that they live in a City where they must invest and stop taking the money out of this beautiful City that have a rich history that is in the centre and bail of the Country.

I therefore table the items before the Council. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

The Speaker thereon allowed Councillors an opportunity to draw items for discussion.

NOTED.

1.

SECTION 52D REPORT FOR QUARTER 3 ENDING 31 MARCH 2025: REVISED SERVICE DELIVERY AND BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (SDBIP) 2024/25

Prior to discussion of the item the Speaker requested Cllr MM Tladi to chair the Council session as he had personal matter to attend to, however the Chairperson of Section 79 Committee: Rules stated that the reviewed Standing Rules and Orders has not yet been promulgated. The Speaker requested that the process be expedited as the Standing Rules and Orders were amended in 2024.

Cllr JM De Bruin raised a concern that he submitted three (3) Rule 38 question two (2) week ago and to date he had not yet received responses whereby the Speaker indicated that responses to Rule 38 questions are part of the Council agenda, however, would give feedback in due course of the proceedings.

The Speaker called Cllr GJ Lipale to order and ordered him to sit for the comments with regards to ATM and AIC. He then dismissed his comments.

Cllr JC Pretorius addressed the Council: Thank you, Mister Speaker. The author of this report owes this Council a clear explanation as to how these figures were compiled because, quite frankly, it appears they were conjured from thin air. The performance scoring per KPI is clearly nothing more than a tick-box exercise.

As the Democratic Alliance, we seriously doubt that Treasury would find this report acceptable in its current form. The administration must urgently assess whether the officials responsible for this report are truly earning their salaries. Allow me to highlight a few concerning discrepancies:

1. Page 21 – Irregular, Fruitless, Wasteful, and Unauthorized Expenditure: It is stated that the Metro paid over R16 million in interest due to unpaid creditor accounts caused by officials failing to submit invoices on time. In any private company, if an employee cost the company R16 million through negligence, they would be dismissed immediately. Although the KPI score for this item was 1 out of 5 (appropriately low), the very next page claims that creditor payments are made within 27 days and gives a score of 4 out of 5, this is simply not true.
2. Page 37 – Growing Inclusive Local Economies: The report claims that 1,000 jobs were created and awards itself a perfect score of 5 out of 5. But these jobs are EPWP temporary and unsustainable. To suggest that this equates to growing the local economy is misleading. It is absurd that highly paid officials consider this meaningful economic development. This is a disservice to our communities and a waste of Council's time.
3. Page 45 – Municipal Road Network Quality: The report notes that a single stormwater network condition assessment was updated last quarter, scoring 3 out of 5, despite the annual target being just one. Updating an internal system does not translate into real improvement on the ground. Worse still, the report claims 3km of stormwater systems were improved or rehabilitated, with only 9% of construction completed, but still scores 5 out of 5. This is indefensible.

Further, it is claimed that road grading declined by only 1.75%. That is misleading. We know for a fact that most graders remain idle in workshops and the Municipality lacks even a functional gravel quarry. Gravel roads are deteriorating and becoming unsafe. The management should be ashamed.

And as for tarred roads resurfacing is virtually non-existent. Urban areas are plagued by potholes and debris, and rural roads are even worse. Residents can't walk to shops without risking injury. Businesses are now filling potholes themselves just to remain operational.

Mister Speaker, through you to the Executive Mayor: you should bow your head in shame. To the HODs, MAYCO members, and all officials responsible, you too should bow your heads in shame. Thank you, Mister Speaker."

Cllr J Maartens addressed the Council: "Honourable Speaker, Honourable Executive Mayor, Honourable Councilors, Officials, Media and Residents of Mangaung.

The report before us masks the daily struggles of thousands of residents navigating the bureaucracy of our Municipality. I call it a "bureaucratic monster" a system that prioritizes procedure over people, an endless labyrinth of futile attempts at control. Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality's bureaucracy is characterized by rigid hierarchies, excessive paperwork, lack of accountability, complacency, resistance to change, and time-consuming processes. Excessive red tape makes progress difficult and decision-making painfully slow.

Honourable Speaker nowhere is this any clearer, than with our inability to effectively apply our Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy; yet we are expecting residents to comply with these very same rules and regulations. How many residents actually received letters of arrears? Do we have records of notices served? Were residents informed of their right to appeal? Our debt incentive scheme is touted as a success, but we forget that our failures in billing, meter reading, and service delivery drove residents to non-payment.

Residents beg for prepaid water meters, but we can't deliver. Hundreds languish in limbo, applying for indigency relief multiple times without resolution. We cut their water, blaming them for not being on the indigent register. Helpless Councillors witness poor and despondent residents trapped in catch-22 situations. Inherited debt prevents people to obtain clearance certificates for house transfers, but they cannot apply for indigency relief because the property isn't in their name. These are the workings of a bureaucratic monster. This is the bureaucratic monster we feed daily. It's time for change. We must prioritize people over procedure.

I challenge this Council today, to address these systemic issues and to work towards a more resident-centric approach. Let's reform our processes to serve the people and to be at the forefront of effective governance. Thank you, Mister Speaker."

Cllr E Snyman Van Deventer addressed the Council: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Section 52(d) of the MFMA states that the mayor of a municipality must within 30 days of the end of each quarter submit a report to council that details the implementation of the budget and the financial state of affairs of the municipality. This enables Council to fulfil its oversight function and to ensure that the departments are held accountable to perform in terms of their KPIs and complete their projects for the benefit of all our residents.

A few comments:

Centlec: As usual Centlec outperforms the rest of the departments. Thank you to Centlec for, despite budget restraints, keeps delivering. The Freedom Front Plus is worried about the performance of all other departments.

Community Service: Number of projects: 20, achieved performance, a measly 44%. For example, drinking water sample taken: 314 for the third quarter, rating: performance not fully effective.

Increase access to refuse removal, rating: performance not fully effective. Basic services that our residents' need.

Finance Department: As Cllr JC Pretorius said, biggest worry is R16 million as irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure due to interest paid on outstanding creditors accounts. Rating: unacceptable performance. Low revenue collection, rating: performance not fully effective; Indigent relief, rating: performance not fully effective. Need I say more, not fully effective.

Public Safety and Security: Overall, achieved 83% of KPIs in the third quarter. The biggest problem is with the bus service in terms of the IPTN.

Crime prevention gets an outstanding performance rating score of five (5). It is indicated that 1104 traffic fines were issued at last, however, how many were paid, and do we have a process in place to collect the payment of the fines?

Planning, Economic and Rural Development and Human Settlement: Achieved performance of 53%. The report indicate that more effort should be made on capital projects. The ANC says it is a government for the poorest of the poor, but look at the performance regarding informal settlements, rating: unacceptable performance.

Corporate Services: The Biggest concern is that the microstructure has not yet been finalised. Call centre complaints, rating: performance not fully effective. All Councillors know that, as we are now call centres. Just a comment on that, thank you for the assistance we receive on the WhatsApp groups.

Technical services: Percentage of reported potholes, rating: outstanding performance if private companies still fixing potholes? Thank you for the huge improvement regarding response to callouts on sanitation and wastewater, indeed it justify the rating: outstanding performance. The same regarding callouts for water problems. Thanks to the Department for responding and communicating with Councillors.

Office of the City Manager: 100% achieved performance of KPIS in the third quarter, but none of its projects received a score of 5, rating of outstanding performance.

Honourable Speaker, this is just a few comments. Although the Freedom Front Plus will give credit where credit is due, we must also reiterate that service delivery especially basic services must remain our main priority. Thank you.”

Cllr TO Machachamise addressed the Council: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Executive Mayor, Deputy Executive Mayor, Chief Whip of the ANC, Mayco members, Councillors, officials, baahi ba Ward 3 le baahi ba Mangaung.

The revised SDBIP for 2024/25 provided opportunity for reflection and improvement. For the following report tabled in this Council. As we deliberate on the third quarter report tabled by the Executive Mayor, it is clearly displayed that the pledges the City has devised and put for themselves are being realized as most of the 61% of the plans are achieved.

Honourable Speaker, as the Committee responsible for performance, we do note with concerns on the slow spending on capital projects and overspending on operational budget and this is worrisome since what must be spend is not spend. This will lead to the Council returning funds and sit with unauthorized expenditure respectively. I must emphasize that this is not an option at all, user departments must operate within their parameters. The provision of reliable service is still a priority both financial recovery plan and IDP objectives.

I must indicate to this Council, Honourable Speaker that this Committee is also strengthening its efforts in ensure that the monitoring and evaluation is practiced as expected to enable this

Council to have an early warning detection of slow-moving projects and implementation of its priorities. I therefore support this report as tabled by the Executive Mayor. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

The Speaker acknowledged HOD: Corporate Services, Mr M Duma and requested that he assist the Chairperson of Section 79 Committee: Rules, Cllr TWK Mokgothu in ensuring that the reviewed Standing Rules and Orders are promulgated as per Council Resolution.

Cllr MJ Ramatlama addressed the Council: “E re ke itebohele Motsamaisa wa Dipuisano, ke dumedise baahi ba Mangaung Honourable Speaker. We are here to reflect on item 74.1. What is revealed by this document alongside the quarterly financial expenditure report, is a Municipality in crisis, leadership in denial and the system that has abundant the people it claims to serve.

1. Before we delve much into the context of this reports, it will be very disingenuous of us, as the Economy Freedom Fighters but not to single out two or three individuals who are committed in ensuring that the status quo in this Municipality do change and favour the people of Mangaung. The CFO of Centlec in absentia, her consistency in steering the ship at Centlec is highly appreciated by us and surely by Mangaung community; against all odds, services to the people remains its priority. The plea from our communities to Centlec is that it should try to maintain the high mast lights within a reasonable time because the outcry out there is that they take too much time, months to repair the high mast lights.
2. Honourable Speaker, we will also want to commend Cllr VS Soqaga, the HOD and Team. Your hard work is commendable. You are indeed trying; it is a fact, to bring about change even though it is very difficult. You tried to save the situation in that subway, empa Morena'ka ho hlakile hore di eme ka lekwa, di hana ho tshela. Ha re terminate contract e leng hore e katile machine ya ne, e eleng hore e thibela metsi ha pula e na, ho ntse hole fela jwalo. Terminate the contract Cllr SV Soqaga, let us save costs, re hlolehile ngwaneso.
3. Honourable Speaker, we would like to also speak to Mme Thekisho, the Chief Financial Officer the Metro deserves. If she was proud to get a post in the Metro, allow us to tell her that, this Metro needs her more than she wants its salary; for her footprints are highly visible and footsteps are extremely loud in this institution. We can safely say, as the Economic Front Fighters, there seem to be a light at the end of the tunnel. As long as all of us can support her and not to corrupt her.

In the history of the EFF in this Council, it has for the first time get a financial document that is well written and clear, even bo-Bapsy Mlangeni can see and read. Reaching and care even go up similar game can see or read. Honourable Speaker and community of Mangaung, if you want to see how creative people are, go and study the SDBIP report from the first quarter to now, the third quarter. Then you realize the desperation and the highest level of deception.

Let us speak to Community Services: A Directorate that is doing exceptionally well in delivering services to the dead more than to us Mangaung residents who are still alive. I am going to make one example on their KPIs.

On fencing of cemeteries, four (4) out of five (5).

On fencing of landfill sites, five (5) out of five (5).

Refuse bins in the CBD, five (5) out of five (5).

Refuse removal, two (2) out of five (5).

The pattern clearly indicates that anything that has a potential of channelling something into the pockets of comrade is attended fully. That's why this institution does not see anything wrong with replacing an existing graveyard fence with a new one worth, R7,374,816, 47 while every corner we turn, youth of Mangaung, ask Councillors, all of us, the very fundamental question, will our Municipality ever invest in us through bursaries? The answer is simple, no. The reason is that, to take you to school, would not benefit the pockets of the comrades. The day this Municipality has a clear schedule of refuse removal, is the day Cllr VE Jonas and Dr T Thinda, re tla le opela matsoho, re tla tlhokomelang hore le etsa something. Imaginary refuse removal happening at informal settlement, ha ho letho le jwale, le tsebe le eme at een plek, le a tapatapa. Thank you."

Cllr JI Mokoena addressed the Council: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Greetings to fellow Councillors and the people of Mangaung. Let me start by thanking the Executive Mayor for making some of the introductory remarks that relates to the submission of this document. One of the issues that challenge me when looking at the document and as other Councillors have pointed out, it is the mixed signals around performance that is encapsulated in this document. The Executive Mayor in terms of his duty, has recommended to Council that this Section 52D SDBIP third quarter report be approved. One of the challenges that I had is that there was no indication in this report that the Executive Mayor has reviewed, identified and had put in place corrective measures for some of the issues that he had generally expressed in the report as non-satisfactory.

As a result, one was wondering, all the divergent performance that is here, and as political executive responsible for executing Council resolutions, what the approval would be based on. So, I'm grateful that he made some of the remarks. But I would want to comment that, possibly in future, we know that we are not privy to Mayco meetings or the Executive Mayor's review, if you could incorporate in submitting this report, also the comments and reviews, it would assist Councillors to be able to read the report in a proper way. Because now, we have to try and guess as to whether we have a different view, or you have a plan in place to take corrective measures in relation to the under-performance that has been demonstrated in the report. That is a general opening remarks to the Executive Mayor and I hope he can consider so that the deliberations in Council are more constructive as he has said, but without knowing where his mind is at, sometimes we hear it in Council and we have already assessed things in a way that have and as a results seems to be at odds and seeming as he says we should not be grant standing and sometimes we paint a gloomy picture.

But I want to assure the Executive Mayor that, speaking for myself, I am a patriot and I believe in this City and the contributions that we want to make in this City, it is not one that should charge our people, but it is one that represent the interest of our people. We would like to be part of a team in this Municipality that places our people first.

Honourable Speaker, this report is about what I want to call, that we have as a vision of Mangaung, that we want to be the best City to live in, and with that, we have certain strategic objectives that we have inculcated. And this is about executing and realising that specific vision and as a result, the divergent and the mishaps that we see and the non-delivery in the third quarter looking at now the final quarter makes all of us uncomfortable to say whether are we acting in the best interest of our people and whether as fellow Councillors have said, we are always at odds, it seems as if we are not part of the team that is supposed to deliver, whereas we stay in Mangaung and we are jealous of it. That's. Right.

On the economy Chairperson, we have indicated, and other Councillors have mentioned that there are gaps that demonstrate that we are not performing well in as much as that is a goal that is to make our vision materialise. Improved service delivery is also in difficulty in relation to performance and we are not going to be able to realise this best City. Social inclusion, social cohesion and job creation also seem to be not in line with the pace that we should be acting in urgency about it and as a result Chairperson, as I said, my last point is that this report is an indictment on all of us. It is an indictment on whether our people can see us having their interest at heart and I would like to place it on record, we would want to see the situation improve. We would like to see all of us being engaged in a proper way and our people come first.

I would just want to say, Executive Mayor, we need to pull our socks and act more vehemently and with urgency, like never before. Thank you."

The Deputy Executive Mayor commented as follows: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Executive Mayor, Chief Whip of the ANC, all Councillors who are here today dealing with third quarter reporting of the SDBIP.

Honourable Speaker, we want to say to Honourable Councillors that we take what you have indicated in this meeting regarding the document and also emphasizing that you want to see more changes in this document. Councillors have said it in the last quarter report that we submitted that they want to see changes fortunately there are changes to some apartments and some departments' performance scores decreased and we hope that the members of the Committee of the IDP and Performance who are here are listening to what Councillors have raised in terms of the performance of the institution. The HODs are also here and all of us must work together and ensure that we increase on the performance scores.

What I wanted to indicate Honourable Councillors, and Honourable Speaker is that this quarterly SDBIP report is produced by each department with POEs (proof of evidence), signed authenticity letters by HODs and MMCs. If you can remember, that was the recommendation of the Auditor General that we must commit ourselves to different portfolios that we are running and different departments that we are running to ensure accurate, reliable and complete reporting.

The SDBIP tool of progress in the institution, is proper reporting from different department of what they have done, what they are not doing in their department and where they need Council to assist them to deal with those matters. If there is no proper reporting, definitely the report will come from different departments with performance that is still low.

We are busy as the team of the IDP working together with the different department to ensure that the part of monitoring and evaluation is strengthened so that when coming to Council we bring a report that is signed by all of us and a true reflection of what is happening in departments.

Honourable Speaker, this report is consolidated into the tabled report by the Executive Mayor. Assurance can be given that the report was processed by EMT, Section 80 Committee and the Mayoral Committee, where there were serious engagements in terms of performance. Honourable Councillors, if you go through this report and check that we still have to work hard regarding the capex (capital expenditure) of the institution. When we check the opex (operational expenditure) is where we get the results of what is happening now. I heard you Cllr JI Mokoena that we must also include the review. In the next Council meeting, we would also attach the recommendation of the review of the SDBIP to indicate the steps to be taken by the Executive Mayor. There are steps that the Executive Mayor has already taken in ensuring that the city fats track service delivery mostly departments that are responsible for service delivery such as Planning and Human Settlements, Technical Services, Community Services for waste management. When one check the report, it does not make one happy at all.

But we have engaged with the departments to ensure that whatever that they are doing, there will be a committee that Executive Mayor established that will make sure that in terms of the monitoring and evaluation, details are given. As Councillors and administration, we must assist those departments to perform better than now. Because if we do not change the performance of the institution, we will definitely not go anywhere as the City and thus taking us to ascertain on the Financial Recovery Plan which of the pillars we are not working on, what can we do, what strategy can we implement to ensure that we deal with the pillars that are linked to service delivery and institution at large.

As the ANC, with the comments that we received and advises we received the Executive Mayor, we support the report as is because it shows us that from the first, second and third quarter what we have done. But we also encouraging that the Department that had reduced scores must make sure that in the last quarter when we bring the report to Council, we bring a report that is a true reflection of what is happening at the ground. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

The Executive Mayor replied as follows: “Honourable Speaker, most of the issues raised would literally need strict processing. Safe to say that the Deputy Executive Mayor has given a beautiful wrap on the outlook that we need to adopt. I think at this point one has to say, Honourable Speaker, semblance of sanity must always dominate when faced with challenges of limited resources. The pain is felt by those that are on a daily basis, must do wonders and with a historical background of a Metro that is subjected to Section 139(7);

with the people that should be here and making sure that by hand, we cross the Rubicon and the river, are operating from far, detached also from what was declared as some form of an intervention.

I think as a Council, we need to be alive to our realities on the ground. Yes indeed, implement our financial recovery plan Honourable Speaker. But also fight for our rights, that includes, but not limited to what comes after intervention. Intervention would not just come, it would actually make observations, it will identify limitations, shortfalls, challenges and would also do more in the sphere of administration and resources. I think for us to be able to avoid hobnobbing around issues of monies and also doing work that sometimes, even how hard it may, it may not be realisable given the enormous challenges that speaks to figure that were alluded to in the past Councils.

Honourable Speaker, I want to put it this way. I sat down with a number of Councillors from different parties, and I want to give Councillors the recognition they deserve as politicians and leaders of the Metro despite for the fact that we come from different political divide. But I think we need to take advantage of those ministries and departments that are based at the national level. And on a serious note, begin to also commit portfolio committees that we have and committees of Council that we also have and assign them, Cllr JI Mokoena the responsibility to also join hands with MMCs, with some of us and form part of delegations that must literally begin to go to those doors where a decision was taking that we must be taken under Section 139(7) and where all those observations of challenges were made.

And all of us, in small and big groups do wonders, by not only; and I am not saying undermine what administration would do. I want to demonstrate Honourable Speaker, how challenges get attended to. Official follow protocols and procedure, but politicians debate and engage, and they demonstrate the realities on the ground and politicians are able to curtail red tapes and long processes that could be followed by officials. So, I am trying to impress upon the Councillors to say we will reach that stage which I said are some of the measures that we will put in place where we shall have to constitute delegations of Councillors and assign them responsibilities to begin to filtrate into some of these pockets and make sure that we speak one language and that language of saying that we are going to hunt, generate and unleash resources that are somewhere in the corridors of power and influence that they cascade down our Metro.

Honourable Speaker one of the critical aspects that was mentioned at the investment summit, was the plight of the students in our City. I remember quite well when it was mentioned at our investment summit. The matter was taken to parental hood by the Metro. But we made observation as to the role and the significance of the students in our Province and our Metro in particular. That we are a hub of education, we attract students from all corners of the Country. Part of what influence that is this. The peaceful nature of our being. Despite some challenges, but relatively as compared to other areas. Part that influences that, it the peaceful nature of our Metro, despite some challenges here and there. But, relatively as compared to other areas, we remain a peaceful Free State and a peaceful Metro, a peaceful Bloemfontein where the institutions are.

So many students are coming from all corners of the Country, and the world come and study here. Over and above that, we do provide the best education ever. For that matter from primary, if not from preschool to the highest level. That is what our Metro is doing. What are the benefications that these students to be in our area? Obviously, the financial spinoffs contribute to the survivability of the Metro and business in general. But, in my interaction with the student at the University and as we alluded to, at the investment summit, Councillors, the students raised three critical aspects of which one is over and above the Metro can attempt, relates to NSFAS, their finances and the difficulty that they face despite the fact that there is progress in that space.

But the second, relates to their accommodation. And they raised their concern around accommodation. First, the limitation of accommodation and over and above that, abusers of people that provide accommodation. Bogus accommodation providers, mischief makers, fortune seekers and corrupt elements provide accommodation to these students. They had raised it sharp, and I raised it at the investment summit. I am happy to realise that some of the community members entered into a memorandum where they were raising equally, their concerns around bogus businesspeople that are providing accommodation not par excellence to the students. This brings us closer to say as a Metro we must also go out and look at what modalities we can put in place to secure accommodation for the students whilst making some resources and generating income for the Metro. The parental hood of what we are inviting us to play as a Metro and as a Council is that these students are far from their home, and they must feel home when they are here; we must protect and defend them.

Therefore, the issue of security, which is the third element, is critical to the student. We need to begin to work very hard to ensure that their safety, their security is in our hands. In doing so we shall have to bring all stakeholders, to ensure that we assist the institutions, we assist the students, we make them feel at home. We develop that ability of being those parents that must take care of them. So, on that note, Honourable Speaker, I did instruct the relevant department headed by HOD: Public Safety and Security, Mr K Kgamanyane under MMC, Cllr SP Tsoleli to coordinate a come together of some sort. They will name it whatever, that will bring all stakeholders and that all our roles must be realized in ensuring that we develop a very sound system that attempts mainly to the two aspects that touches so with us, that of accommodation and that of safety and security.

So, we are in the pipeline of making sure that we would engage all stakeholders, students, institutions, communities, the Council, the police, name any that has a stake to play, including those that are providing accommodation to come under one roof and seek lasting solution in ensuring that this aspect is not left unattended.

The point that I would conclude with Honourable Speaker is that, yes, I echo the sentiments of the Deputy Executive Mayor. Like I said, semblance of reasoning must always prevail, especially when we deal with the lives of men. So, it could come as a form of hardcore criticism on our way. But believe you me, it is what we need to learn to take with so that we must improve in ensuring that this Metro does become what it should be. We are reaping the results of our difficult past, but we cannot piggyback on them. We must soldier on. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

It was thereupon with **48 votes in favour, 34 against and 4 abstained**

RESOLVED that:

- Council approved the MFMA Section 52(d) SDBIP 3rd quarter report (01 January 2025 – 31 March 2025).
- Noted that the report will be published on the municipal website and be submitted to the National Treasury.

2.

MUNICIPAL FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT (MFMA): PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT REPORT IN TERMS OF THE MFMA, SECTION 52 (d), FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Cllr BJ Viviers addressed the Council: “Honourable Speaker, through you, Honourable Executive Mayor as this is your report, please note:

1. MMM has overspend with R1,3 billion.
2. Only 42.39% of the Capital Expenditure Budget was spend, with only two months left for this financial year.
3. Only 31% of National Treasury Grants were spend, with only two months left for this financial year.
4. Our outstanding debtors grew with a further R455 million standing at R12 830 billion and R8,3 billion of that older than a year.
5. Creditors remain in the region of R300 million.
6. Collection rate at 75,58%, while it should be 95%.
7. Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure standing at R16,3 million, mainly due to interest paid on outstanding creditors.
8. Overtime payments overspend in the sum of R115,3 million.
9. No or very little proof of the Financial Recovery Plan being implemented.

Executive Mayor in 9 bullets a summary of the financial situation of Mangaung Municipality and it is appalling. During the Section 80 Finance Committee meeting the administration and the CFO have already received the brunt of Councillors in the Committee attending to their oversight role. Although on certain aspects like providing a report on debt collections and providing proper tools to the Committee to do proper oversight regarding the payment of overtime the Finance Department is still lacking.

The Finance Department’s major challenge is to receive the co-operation of other departments within Metro. For example, in most cases where Metro was sued, and judgement was given to the creditor the interest on that court order at the end of the day is the same amount as the principal debt. If that judgement can be provided to the Finance Department by the Legal Department earlier, we will not be dealt with over R16 million in fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

Through you Honourable Speaker, City Manager, you are the Head of the Administration, and you are accountable that the Departments of this Metro work together and be effective, but unfortunately you are nowhere to be seen. Barring one, you have never attended any of the Section 80 Finance Committee meetings as of last year and your track record are even worse on other Section 79 and 80 Committees. It is high time that the City Manager started being accountable in his position and started implementing the Budget and Financial Recovery Plan of this Metro.

Through you Honourable Speaker, Honourable Executive Mayor, you are the political leader within this Metro, amongst other duties, according to Section 56 of the Municipal Structures Act, you must review the performance of the Metro in order to improve the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the Municipality, the efficiency of credit control and revenue and debt collection services and implement MMM by-laws.

Respectfully, Executive Mayor you are not attending to these duties and respectfully the old excuse that you have not been long in your position, will not surface anymore as you are almost 2 years in the position already. Please start to be the political leader of this Metro, start implementing the budget and Financial Recovery Plan, you only have two months left in this financial year to do that and by the look of things if we continue on the path that we are, we will have to pay back much more than the R141 million of the previous years back to National Treasury regarding our grants. In addition, it would seem that your Investment Summit, on which you most probably spend over 90% of your offices budget, did not bear any fruit. Please stop talking and start doing.

Hopefully the City Manager as Administrative Head and the Executive Mayor as Political Head of Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality will turn the ship around in the next two months, otherwise it will most definitely be very difficult to support a new budget which will most definitely be unfunded if we continue in the same way as currently. I thank you."

Cllr AF Bothma addressed the Council: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Cllr BL Mathae, through you the Executive Mayor.

We are at the end of the third quarter of the financial year 2024/25, therefore 75% of the year has passed. We should now have a very good indication of what our financial position will be like at the end of the financial year. But the report tabled to us shows a gloomy picture to say the least.

Our revenue actually shows a small deviation from the projected budgeted amount. But the problem is that we are not billing the expected amount regarding electricity. R486 million variance. This is cumbersome to say the least. The other concern is that we do not have a valid valuation roll and that we lack the full capacity of personnel to execute this function. The Metro Municipality has a total property value of R131 billion, generating R1.9 billion rates revenue per annum, so we need people there to look after this big money. The expenditure total shows a variance of R1 295 million. Resulting a deficit of R811 million, where the predicted surplus should have been R496 million.

A total deviation there of R1.3 million. If the other gains and subsidies are taken into account. This is alarming as it is the position after 9 months. The question is obvious, will the Municipality be able to turn it around in the fourth quarter? The main concerns are:

Employee costs: we all know that the Municipality does not have an approved organogram, and I make this the main reason for us not being able to control the employee costs. There are acting allowances paid to 4002 employees in the Municipality. More GMs are paid acting allowances than actual incumbent GM officials. This leads to poor performance and a waste of precious funds. Overtime and payments to consultants to execute functions is another factor. We must apply the organogram as the IDP indicated the who must do what.

The following variances or over-expenditure: Bulk purchases electricity of R275 million Inventory R888 million. Depreciation R179 million. Debts written off R386 million. All of this will have to be explained because it would be unauthorized expenditure and the AG is going to pick it up.

The Capital Expenditure report shows again that we will not spend our approved budget. The total amount of R427 million compared to R1 009 million, leaving R581 million underspent for the 9 months. The most worrying factor is the conditional grants, where the balance at this stage is R677 million. Therefore, it is inevitable that we will again be returning funds to National Treasury. Where the community will suffer and are deprived and denied of most essential infrastructure.

I must mention that we need to generate our own funds to be able to improve our most needed infrastructure, this can only be done through financial discipline to generate surpluses on our Trade account.

Mister Speaker, I requested the CFO to include a report on the Financial Recovery Plan in all future meetings of the Section 80 Finance Committee so that we can actually see how we are progressing and what requirements do we need to implement according to National Treasury in this regard.

Mister Speaker, the other grave concern is of course the R12 billion debtors. The amount has again grown with R445 million in this quarter. This is irrespective of the Debt Incentive scheme currently running. The most worrying factor is the amounts indicated as more than 120 days, that is R11 billion.

We can only hope that the appointed Debt Collectors will execute their mandate and collect some of the R9 billion that we can use that money to fund infrastructure, capital expenditure and repairs and maintenance. If we keep on like this Mister Speaker, our repairs and maintenance will deteriorate because we can only afford about 3% where it should be 8%. If we don't spend 8%, we will have dilapidated infrastructure Mister Speaker as we are experiencing.

Mister Speaker, the Executive Mayor did in his presentation acknowledged that there is a current problem with our financials.

As I conclude Mister Speaker, we can take note of this report as it is a true reflection of the financial situation. No guns spared, the CFO and those compiling the report were very precise and I actually wanted to acknowledge that. Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Cllr MW Mongale addressed the Council: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Dr BL Mathae. We are sitting with a dilemma, and I think one of the things we need to respond to is what is the purpose of the budget and what is the budget intending to do? Because my understanding is that the budgets’ intention is to ensure that it addressed the social economic challenges that the Municipality is faced with or the community. Also, must address the economic growth of the particular municipality so that the municipality must be self-sustainable, but in this particular case we seem not be anywhere near that element. We have held an investment summit. We have not yet heard anything that the summit was addressing. The Executive Mayor did not address whether the investor said they are going to invest in this City, how far are they? What are the bottlenecks? What are the things that they need us to implement for them to be able to come. We need that meeting or there must be an establishment of such a committee that will make sure that those investors they live up to their promises. And we should also not force them to come but, we should also lay a foundation for them to come quickly because there are opportunities. It must also inspire others to come after them when they realise the consequence of not coming to that particular City because others are occupying the space. We have not been able to address that issue. If it has been addressed, but it has not been brought to the attention of this Council. So, the Council is in the dark about the entire process. The Council should have been updated about the entire process.

The issue of employee cost in this Municipality, I don't know whether it is something that the Council or the Executive Mayor is unable to stop because it is so chronic that for you to stop it, you have to collapse the system. Or is it a problem of rebellion from the administration or is it an issue that it is beyond our control? But we are trying to manage it. But you have not brought it to the attention of the Council to say I am faced with this particular challenge, and I need your intervention in this particular issue. I have been trying to curb the employee cost, but I seem not to be winning; can all the brains come together, even in the Finance Committee just to address this issue because it needs to be brought to a standstill. It cannot go on as if everything is normal unless we are saying we are normalizing abnormal things and that is not the impression I have about this institution. I think all of us are here to fix all the problems that the Municipality is faced with and not to deepen the crisis that it finds itself in. Or we should not leave it in the worst conditions than the way we found it; at least if we are trying.

The issue of overspending of 26% on outsourcing services shows that it is R26 million, and it says in that R26 million it is an overspending. It means for every R1 million, there was an overspending of one person. Now it is telling you that we have overspend about R26 million which is 26% on a budget that was already less than maybe even R1 million, but we have overspent and there seem not have been someone who says, can we stop this or who can make an intervention? You have never even asked for maybe virement in terms of Virement Policy to say we need an assistance in this particular issue because I don't think there was this budget that was made for this particular service/s.

The issue of the provincial debt, Executive Mayor, I think you are too casual on this matter. You are very casual; you are treating these people as if they are holly and the issue here is that they cannot supervise the institution that they owe or that supply helping for now. David. That is all I raised with you, even National Treasury cannot supervise the institution that they owe or that they themselves are helping to collapse. I am pleading with you that National Treasury should be brought to book, and they must account for this particular issue.

I am worried about unspent grants because there seems to be a tendency in Mangaung that we are keeping the grant so that it must generate interest and from that interest, it is either we turn it into salary or an opportunity of spending for other issues. Now this is a conditional grant we have asked for it for a particular purpose, communities waiting for a service, and we seem to be failing our own people in terms of the way we are abusing that grant. So, I am pleading with the Executive Mayor to look at the issue of the grant because it seems like ...declared under reserved, but I can assure you we are abusing the grant and we might end up forfeiting it if we do not spend it according to the way it was intended, because there was a request to that effect. That is my humble submission and I plea that the Executive Mayor should not forget what I have raised because I am jealous about this City. I love it and I want to see my Mangaung rising again. Thank you."

Cllr M Wewege addressed the Council: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker. firstly, I want to draw your attention to page 7 of the agenda. The recommendation of one of the reports, it state that the item be approved, but it usually gets noted and recommendation incorrectly refers to the first quarter whereas it should refer to third quarter. Can that be corrected.

Honourable Speaker and all protocols observed. The Freedom Front Plus is asking the following clarity-seeking questions about the Budget and Performance Assessment Report for the quarter ended 31 March 2025.

Revenue and Expenditure Variances: The total revenue is R12.9 million lower than the projected target, and the total expenditure is R1.2 billion higher than the projected target on the operating budget. Honourable Executive Mayor, through you, Honourable Speaker, how will this Metro recover from a deficit of over R1.3 billion on its operating budget in the last three (3) months of this financial year? Is it not clear that the projected revenue on electricity, rental income, and solid waste management was inflated in the budget, seeing that there is an unfavourable revenue variance of over R465 million on electricity charges, R4.7 million on rental income, and R1.5 million on solid waste. Is the ANC-led administration still of the view that this operating budget is funded, because it is clear to the Freedom Front Plus that it is not? Did we not warn this Council from the beginning that this budget is not funded?

Overtime: Why was unauthorised spending on overtime of over R115 million yet again allowed, resulting in overtime payments in a total amount of over R181 million in the first 3 quarters of this financial year? Why was the overspending on overtime allowed in the Office of the Executive Mayor of over R2.5 million, Corporate Services of over R5 million, Community Services of over R34 million, Technical Services of over R21 million, and Public Safety in the amount of over R24 million? Who is authorizing these payments?

Honourable Executive Mayor, through you, Honourable Speaker, can the Freedom Front Plus assume that the ANC-led government has no political will to reduce this overspending on overtime? Will you agree, Honourable Executive Mayor, that the Executive, City Manager, and the Heads of Departments have now officially lost control over the workforce of the Metro?

Capital Expenditure: Why did we, again, only spend just over R427 million of our budgeted capital expenditure in the first three (3) quarters, being only 31.67 % of the approved budget of R1.3 billion for the financial year? How will service delivery in the Metro ever be restored if Community Services only spent 9.71%, Planning only 36.85%, Human Settlements only 8.86%, Technical Services only 40.93%, Water only 44.8%, and Public Safety only 29.45% of their capital budgets in the first three quarters of the financial year? Is the Project Management Unit fulfilling its mandate to oversee these capital projects?

Honourable Executive Mayor, through you, Honourable Speaker, is the underspending of our capital budget due to poor management, or are the capital funds being utilized to cover the overspending in the operating budget?

Risk Factors: What measures will be taken to reduce water losses, standing at 42% in the first three (3) quarters? How can this administration request an increase of 11% in the water tariff for the next financial year while our water losses are standing at 42%? What measures will be taken to avoid the possible unauthorised expenditure of over R19 million by the Metros' security services and R33 million by the refuse removal directorate? Why was it allowed that fruitless and wasteful expenditure accumulated to over R16 million due to interest paid on outstanding creditors accounts? Is it not a further indication that the Metro does not have the cash flow to pay its creditors and that the operating budget is not funded?

Will the installation of pre-paid water meters be prioritised, seeing that the outstanding debt for water stands at R4.6 billion? What are the reasons for the slow recovery of the outstanding government debt, standing at R1.6 billion? What corrective measures will be implemented to increase our collection rate, standing at only 75.58%?

Lastly, Honourable Speaker, will these questions by the Freedom Front Plus be answered, and if so, when will we receive the answers? Thank you, Honourable Speaker."

Cllr MH Supi addressed the Council as follows: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Executive Mayor, Deputy Executive Mayor, Chief Whip of the ANC, baagi ba motse o Phahameng, Ward 4. Ke lla le lona morago ga dintsho tse latelang: Rre Ephraim Pitso Nyokong eo e neng e le sebakadi se se tonna se manontlhotlho sa kgwele ya dinao sa ...ba bantsi ba ne ba mmita Kapisto. Wa bobedi ke Rre Kgosi, ba bang ba ne ba mo bitsa Thaema Plaatjies. O siya lehatshe le ka kwano, yoo mo eteleletseng pel eke rragwekgolo e bong Oom Action, o ne a tsentsa letsogo mo kgweleng ya dinao ya setlhopa sa rona, seo le gona re ntse re se llela sa Bloemfontein Celtics. Wa boraro ke Mme Dithole Sello, eo e leng moagi wa ntlha wa Mme go kgwetsa bus ya Interstate.

Executive Mayor, the results relating to the various source groups total revenue is having an impact on a number of indicators which are based on the total revenue. The expenditure of the capital budget has also an additional influence in the indicators. This report Executive Mayor is a comparison of Section 52D of the Municipal Financial Management Act that informs the mayor to submit a quarterly report to the Council within 30 days after the end of each quarter. The report must detail the budget implementation and the financial state of the Municipality.

Jaanong ke a ipotsa Honourable Speaker, ka English e re, the mayor must implement and submit a financial statement. This report is in detail about the implementation and the state of affairs of the Municipality. Cllr MW Mongale, Executive Mayor o utlwile ka tsebe e lethwethwe gore seo o se buang ka di grant, e be se setlhogolong go bona gore di grant di sebediswa ka tsela eo di tshwanetseng go sebediswa ka teng.

Ka letsatsi la kamoso. E leng letsatsi la ntlha la kgwedi ya May, ba bereki ba re ba eteleletseng pele ba tlabe ba tseile letsholo ba ile Kroonstad go ya go leboga le gona go celebrate May Day...”

Cllr DJ De-Huis raised a point of order and referred to Rule 31 of the Standing Rules and Orders, relevance and that Cllr MH Supi should confine himself to the item and rules of the house.

Cllr MH Supi continued: “Creditors payment period is lower than the norm of 30 days to settle creditors, which indicate that the Metro has improved on revenue collection and cash flow for the paying of creditors within the norm, 30 days. I submit to the Council to approve the report as is. Kaeleboga.”

Cllr MJ Ramatlama addressed the Council as follows: “Kealeboga Motsamaisa wa Dipuisano. One of the problems that we forever encounter as this Council if we are not going to be strict to some of us in this house, there will never be change. It can never be correct that we are sitting with Section 57 manager in this Council who has the ability to get a score of 100% on his KPI's and yet the Section 56 managers, all of them are unable to perform to the minimum and we clap hands for that. It is wrong and there will never be direction in this Municipality. I think it is time that the City Manager wakes up because half of the time when I see him sitting there, he is sleeping.

Corporate Services: with an adjusted budget of R6.8 million, and over R6.6 million already spent, the Department boost 76% expenditure rate, but where is visible results if all we are doing is paying salaries without delivery. Then this Department is nothing more than a cost centre without value.

Community Services: we are entering the realm of reckless spending. Adjusted budget of R42 968 234, actual spend is R57 890 million, a shocking overspent. The variance is over R34 890 million, and spending has hit 99%. What is it this department is spending on? Are the libraries better stocked, are the community halls maintained? No, our people are seeing no improvements despite this expenditure.

Perhaps the most shameful statistic belongs to the Human Settlements. A Directorate that is literally determines whether the people have roof over their heads or not. Adjusted budget of R442 million, spent to date, R286 million, leaving over 40% of funds untouched and a year-on-year variance of 81%. This is not financial mismanagement; it is a direct attack on the dignity of the poor, in the City of shack dwellers and leaking RDP, this is a total betrayal.

On overtime Honourable Speaker, overtime abuse, poor financial performance and false reporting. Let us now turn to some of other systematic failures. R181 million spent on overtime more than what many departments spend on their core work. This is a complete failure in workforce planning and time management.

Employee costs overspend by R94 million and yet there is no visible improvement in Municipal operations. R8.9 million claimed in expenditure that cannot be linked to any real observable delivery on the ground. Like we said in the previous tabling of reports, in the absence of implementation, nothing would look good Honourable Executive Mayor. In the absence of consequence management, the status quo will remain the same. People cannot keep on failing to spend grants and nothing happens to them to a point that they come to this Chamber to justify their non-spending of grants. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr CL Kruger addressed the Council: “Honourable Speaker as the overseer of finance from a political point of view and as the MMC, this third quarter report is not a good report and that we cannot debate. We are here to fix and not here to sugarcoat. You, see Honourable Speaker we still operate from the premise of FRP (Financial Recovery Plan), so we must understand where we are and where we emanate from as a Municipality. Revenue becomes key in terms of revenue collection and Cllr BJ Viviers has summed it up already in terms of the 10 points he has highlighted, but it is imperative to also to provide context to issues. To clarify the picture holistically.

Indeed, when you look at a collection rate of 76% where we should at least strive for 84% because 95% is the norm and standard as per explanation of Treasury, we are not there. Now when we talk about the revenue collection, it almost seems like we are using it to shield but I don't think even our communities will understand the importance of us as consumers, as residents to pay for our services. Because this revenue that we are making reference of, our own revenue, there are certain projects in the Municipality, that are not covered by grants because grants come with conditions.

We make reference to the City of potholes; let me clarify, Honourable Speaker, roads and stormwater is rates funded function. Low payment rates impact on maintenance budget, economic vitalisation and customer awareness and relevant spending are necessary to ensure that we keep the road safe. It simply says Honourable Speaker, if we do not collect revenue, how on earth are we going to fund projects? Like one project I am just mentioning, roads and stormwater in terms of potholes. So, when we give a picture, let us give a complete picture.

We have done a debt incentive scheme. We have done indigent register. Now, some Councillors will come and say we are not focused on the end user, on the resident. We must not use this platform to grant stand.

On policies Councillors, us as public office bearers must have an equal obligation to make sure that policies are people centric. Are you telling me that our debt incentive scheme is not people centric? Are you telling me our Indigent Policy is not people centric? We have done all these things to assist our residents. But what becomes responsibility of a resident because before we make demands, we must understand that first before a child can request from mommy and daddy, you must understand the budget they emanate from. We do not receive the revenue in the City, we have a debtors' book of R12 billion and from the R12 billion, we can appropriate R8.6 billion to residential debt. Now I'm asking you, with that debtors' book, is the playing field level. Is it simple to just to say people did not do their work? No, we must understand it, but are we using it as a as an excuse, definitely not. That is why we have an accounting officer. We need answers to say that, but what are the policies in place? But from a financial point of view, we have debt incentive scheme, indigent register and these things to assist.

Now we come to expenditure, we need to control expenditure and that is basic accounting. When you say there is a R1 billion overspending in terms of Technical Services Department but let us contextualize. The budget that was allocated was it adequate to begin with because unfortunately if you look at assets base, that Mangaung runs, unfortunately our budget is still becoming smaller, why, because of things like, we do not collect the correct revenue and in terms of capital expenditure budget, we do not spend accordingly. I am not going to elaborate on capital expenditure because it was already done by the previous councillors.

I am asking as the MMC for finance and emanating from the political house of the ANC. We are saying yes, there are contributing factors. There is high vacancy rate, we know all these contributing factors. But we ask to what extent City Manager to impose a performance management that you have with your HODs. To what extent do we use that so that when we give a response, let it be a balanced response. Yes, there is a high vacancy rate, yes, we know some of the skills we struggle to attract as a City because people do not want to reside in certain cities, something as simple as a pothole can even divert economic development. So, I am saying yes, all these things are there. But are we improving?

I am saying, we have improved in many parts and let me conclude by saying that the debt that we are paying to Vaal Central is between R90 million and R102 million for water on a monthly basis which we honour. We pay R35 million three times a year, which equates to R105 million for historic debt. So, this is the picture, I am saying to the residents of Mangaung, unfortunately before you can improve you must redress and rectify the mistakes that were made in the past and this is the picture that we are sitting with currently. I thank you."

Cllr CL Kruger in responding to Speaker stated that the item was for approval of the third quarter and not for the first quarter as was alluded by Cllr M Wewege.

The Executive Mayor explained as follows: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker. let me just browse on the issues that were raised. The issue of investors emanating from the summit we had, we did issue out pieces of land for people to express interest, if you remember that and we also did request people to express their interest beyond the land that we have advertised that the Municipality has.

There are areas where we have enormous land around Eunice, Bainsvlei etc where some people actually residing on those pieces of land that are not theirs. So, we are saying those expression came along, all the precinct, the properties as well as the empty factories that are not utilised.

We are at the point where processes are making sure that the selections are recommended. So that all the proper protocol to arrive at are followed so that we must not find ourselves in the situation where we are looking at getting these investors on our side but then the procedure gets trampled upon.

But I must indicate that, I think in the next Council as we bring the report that was requested by the DA on the expenditures around the investment summit and it's little babies like the Indabas, we would also furnish the Council with where we are. We are indeed looking far because key to what we need to do, is to ensure that we really do create employment.

There was also a burning issue around overtime. It should be noted that it is the same overtime that cost us audit query. Our performance was to a great extent, but not to be undermined by this issue of overtime. I want to use correct English, there are things that we call problems, but there are certain things that are called endemic, that English. When something is endemic, to recollected it, you must really go deeper and leave no stone unturned and make sure that at the time when you bring to normality, it will never rise again. The issue of overtime was not just a challenge or a problem, it is endemic. I don't think we are living outside the Metro. I have interacted with this issue day one as I entered this building. That was my reception.

If you go outside this building and you look at its glassy nature, you will find that it is smashed, and part of the smashing was as a result of the demand around issues of overtime. In some cases, unwarranted and at some point, justified. But I was on media demonstrating that the endemic nature of overtime went filtrate to even pay people outside the employ of the Municipality, that you could not touch and feel their existence in this Metro. All those things combined allude to how we should take actually refine clean and ensure that we deal with the issues of overtime.

Now the officials, in putting their effort, they then introduce what we called shifts system. The piggyback or advantage on this issue of overtime is also insurmountable subject to the amount of the workforce we have which is limited, just less than 40%. By its nature, it would invite overtime and that is where the naughtiest of them and corrupt element will take advantage. I am raising this just to demonstrate that it is not an issue that should just be looked at as if we are not attending to it. So, the introduction of shift system is going to indeed, help us for now to regularise the issue of overtime in such a way that it must come to an end. We need to stop it. We just have to stop this element.

I would want to remind the Council, Honourable Speaker, the period when the intervention team was still with us, Councillors wouldn't come to this building, either even come to pay their dues or do some Council work. It was under difficult condition. You will find workers standing outside demanding at all material times.

I came at a time when City Hall was revamped from being burned. I cannot even account to why. But digging deep, I realised that it had also some elements of overtime. So, when acting on some of these things, you must also protect lives and property to be able that, at a time when you nip it on the bud, nothing is lost, lives are not lost, normality has reached home and also protecting the resources of the Municipality even at the level of money. But I must give my word that the issue of overtime is really coming to something that should be an issue of the past and will literally not leave the Council outside reporting. Councillors, honestly speaking, despite the fact that there could be some amount of millions spend on it, the character of overtime compared to our recent past show some signs of some development. What we are dealing with, it's an endemic situation.

I want to also Honourable Speaker deal with the issue of consequence management. It has come from different political parties. It is what we need to deal with. If I had. the energy, I would actually deal with political parties' first on consequence management. Maybe I should demonstrate what do I mean by that. You know, to have a Speaker sitting there, it took us six (6) months as this Council. Literally it took us six (6) months. Rather than I should be attending to some of the duties, I was attending court proceedings for six (6) months. Literally for six (6) months to appoint the City Manager, it took me more than nine (9) months. And where was that challenge coming from, from the same Councillors and the Council and political parties. It was a terrible situation. Sometimes when we really put some form of criticism against the happenings. we must not forget that in itself requires consequence management from our side. How much time do we waste fighting one another than putting systems in place. So, we are reaping the results somehow. Because the time we spend to get the official to be in place, it would have been the time we spend to actually get the actual people that are grinding what the officials should reap from. We do not have middle management. We are still working on making sure that we actually arrive at the organogram, the micro and macro structure in order to make the work of the Council successful.

But all in the main of not also allowing those that were an Intervention Team to do their work. But that does not take away the truth of what Councillors are saying. At the level of management where work was not properly attended to, action must be taken. As to what form of action, it will depend on the degree and the content of what is tabled before the processes. But I note what Councillors are worried about. For all I could say to you is that I think the clarion call is that we need to begin to close ranks and work together is something that I will take home, and it is the best way of looking at things. And that Honourable Speaker, it would really make me sleep all night on my pillow.

Other than that, colleagues, most of the issues that you have raised, for me they sound a take home in a sense that when I have meetings with the officials, I am able to make reference to the knowledge economy, the observations and some challenges that were put before us. I must indicate, you probably might be giving yourself a pat at the back to have sounded harsh. I am not worried about the flow; I am more concerned about the content and that's a take home for me and that is what would make this City works. And that is what would make a legacy that all of us can celebrate. We progress through a difference of opinions without which we cannot move forward. Thank you, Honourable Speaker."

It was thereupon with **71 votes in favour, 2 against and 2 abstained**

RESOLVED

It is hereby resolved that in compliance with Section 52 (d) of the MFMA

1. That Council approved the report on the implementation of the budget and financial state of affairs of the municipality for the third quarter of 2024/2025 ended 31 MARCH 2025.
2. That the report will be submitted to National Treasury and be published on the municipal website.

**3.
SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31 MARCH
2025– 2024/2025 FINANCIAL YEAR**

After a lunchbreak, the Speaker confirmed quorum that 58 Councillors were present in the Council and therefore, the Council can proceed.

Cllr TI Ferreira addressed the Council: “Thank you, Mister Speaker and all protocols observed.

Question relating to Formal Written Quotation for above R30 000 from January to March of the Supply Chain Management report:

Point no 5: An appointment of a consultant/ service provider to assist with feasibility study of the already established Mangaung Police Department. How can it be correct to pay R700 000 to do a feasibility study on an already established Mangaung Municipal Police Department? In 2017 National Treasury already advised against a Metro Police because we cannot afford it. Also, in the Mangaung Cost Containment Policy under *point 16, use of consultants*, an assessment must confirm that the Municipality does not have requisite skills or resources in its full-time employment to perform the function that the consultant will carry out. Mangaung Cost Containment Policy states that Mangaung should first insource before outsourcing. Do we really not have any fulltime lawyers employed at Mangaung Metro that can do this feasibility study?

Questions relating to Panel Procurement from January to March Supply Chain Management report:

Point number 7: Back to school campaign line item. We as the DA would like to know for R375 000 and R100 000 worth of catering,

- Which schools were helped?
- How did the metro help?
- Is there a long-term positive impact of this project for these schools?
- Who was the R100 000 catering for, schools, children?

Point 15: Unblocking of drains, repair of leakage, replace toilet pots at Botshabelo for R200 000.

Point 16: Unblocking of drains, repair of leakage, replacement of toilet pots at Dr Molemela Stadium for R400 000.

Point 17: Emergency Open order for plumbing maintenance around Mangaung for R300 000.

Honourable Speaker, can we please get details about these repairs on when they were done so we can do oversight visits. Seeing is believing this Mangaung Municipality.

Point 23: Bid 613 2020/2021

Points 24: Bid 653 2020/2021

Point 27: Bid 652 2020/2021

These are all catering bits older than three (3) years. According to MFMA bid should be redone every three (3) years. Why are we still using old bid tenders especially for catering?

Point 3, 35 and 38: Investment summit, we spent R350 000 on catering. Another R410 000 and another R317 000. Together more than R1 million on this investment summit. Where did we get the budget for this investment summit 19-20 February? The Executive Mayor did say we would get a report in that and so, we are waiting for that report. According to our Cost Containment Policy, we can only cater if meeting is longer than 5 hours. But we spent more than R640 000 on catering at events in Mangaung in this last quarter. Was catering realistically required at all these events?

Mister Speaker, my last problem with this report is that there are no indigent burials? There is nothing in the report on indigent burials. Is Mangaung Metro not assisting with indigent burial? It's like we are only eating here in Mangaung? Mister Speaker we take note of this report and that the ANC getting fat from Mangaung from eating. Thank you."

Cllr AF Bothma addressed the Council: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Cllr BL Mathae, through you the Executive Mayor. We are presented with a report that indicated the progress on the implementation of the Councils Supply Chain Management Policy. Therefore, we can only note the contents of the report. But I would like to emphasize the following:

- We took note of all the sittings of the three Bid Committees and are pleased to see that only one sitting of the Bid Specification Committee was not held as there was no quorum. This is a vast improvement on the previous report where several meetings could not be held for the same reason.

The City Manager must monitor the sittings of Bid Committees very carefully and monitor their performance, this is an especially important part of the Supply Chain procedures. And this is where incorrect processes followed can lead to an investigation of misconduct and even criminal charges and always be one of the first areas that the AGSA will investigate. We are aware of the importance and that is the first that the AG do after the audit plan.

Honourable Speaker, we have taken note of all the tender awards as stipulated in the report. And it is very clearly indicated, and we must commend that it is a thorough document.

We have also noted the deviations as per Section 3.6.1 and 3.6.2 of the Supply Chain Management Policy. Both of the items tabled are listed as Sole Suppliers. We trust that this is the only two (2) deviations as there are actually five (5) instances where deviations can be allowed.

The quarterly Inventory Count shows the stock turnover rate and note has been taken thereof and are able to see the movement of the stock and we take note of that.

Mister Speaker, I should give praise to where praise is due. This is a good report, we would just want to get advice because we are here to see that it works, because if something goes wrong in Supply Chain Management, it can go horribly wrong and very quickly. So, we must always be on top of it. From my side, I just want to mention few things that are important at the Unit:

- See that it is well capacitate, employees appointed and senior personnel as well. This is flagship, where we can move forward in our financial discipline.
- Procurement Plan with clear timelines and Executive Mayor mentioned it as well. This is a very important document. We need in time procurement planning. As mentioned before, if we do not have a timeline planning, it will actually lead to where we are at the moment where we do not spend our conditional grants.
- Training. I am always very much in favour of training and seeing that the personnel is capacitated. So, we would like to see that training is made available and as often as possible and constantly been implemented.

We can take notes of this report. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr DL Malebo addressed the Council: “Kealeboha Motsamaise wa Dipuisano. Honourable Speaker, the Economic Freedom Fighters rise with a clear and focused voice to address the state of Supply Chain Management (SCM) within the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality. We want to begin by stating unequivocally that we have no objection to the appointment of a Bid Committees. In fact, we welcome proper structure and process but only if it is transparent and accountable.

On the matter of tenders less than R1 million, we acknowledge and appreciate that most procurement reflected in the recent report falls well within this threshold. In fact, a significant number of the tenders are below even R100 000 showing effective control at lower levels. On this, we give credit where it is due.

However, we cannot ignore the elephant in the room, the legal fees. The report reveals a deeply troubling pattern. Almost every single appointed legal firm has invoiced or received over R2 million some even far more. What we are witnessing is not only unsustainable; it is a disgrace. It is shameful that in a Municipality struggling with service delivery failures, housing backlogs, and infrastructure collapse, we are comfortably spending millions on legal battles some of which are the result of our own administrative incompetence.

- Why is the Municipality always in court?
- Why do we spend more on lawyers than on potholes, libraries, or informal settlement upgrades?

7AA

This Council must introspect, and the SCM Unit must be the first department to do so. What kind of supply chain system allows for such skewed spending, and who is accountable?

Honourable Speaker, we must

- Appoint Bid Committees but make them public.
- Award small tenders but monitor them for value.
- Stop bleeding money on legal contracts that serve no one but law firms.

We call for a full review of all legal appointments over the last 24 months including names of firms, amounts paid, the nature of services rendered, and outcomes. This is public money, and the public has a right to know.

In conclusion, the EFF stands firm: We will support any process that brings transparency, efficiency, and justice to SCM in this municipality. But we will never be silent when public money is squandered under the appearance of procedure. Let us fix this system before it collapses under its own weight. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr M Wewege addressed the Council: “Thank you, Mister Speaker, all protocols observed. Let me start by saying this, the quality of this report is simply unacceptable. The language, grammar, and formatting are riddled with errors, some sentences are so poorly written, I genuinely cannot determine what is being said. This is a formal Council document. It reflects the integrity and professionalism of this Metro, and this kind of carelessness cannot be allowed to continue.

Beyond the technical issues, what is more shocking is the sheer volume of outsourcing reflected in this report. Mangaung is a Metro Municipality. We are supposed to have the internal capacity to handle many of these functions, yet we are constantly outsourcing core services that should be performed inhouse. This not only represents poor financial management but also a missed opportunity to create sustainable jobs for the residents of Mangaung.

Below are a few troubling examples:

1. Town Planning Consultants: Appointment of town planner at SACPLAN rates, with an available budget of R3.6 million. One contract awarded to BVI Consulting Engineers. Another identical appointment awarded to SATCON. Why are these core planning roles not handled internally?
2. Outsourcing of Basic Services: Bene-Tech: Appointed for unblocking drains, leak repairs, and toilet pot replacements in Botshabelo – R200 479.67.
Leano Construction: Same services – R421 988.20.
Emergency plumbing maintenance (Metro-wide) – R300 000.
These are routine services. Why are we outsourcing this work instead of employing internal teams?
3. Back-to-School Campaign Expenditures:
Catering – R105 405.30
Campaign activities – R375 209.12 and R295 094.60 (purposes unclear)
Meanwhile, children in Mangaung still use pit toilets and attend school without proper shoes. These funds could have addressed basic needs and dignity.

7AB

4. Investment Summit Expenditures

Pre-summit activities by Sonaqua Events – R8 597

Catering by RAL Corporation – R350 489 and R3 836.40

Meranzi Trading:

R410 153.30 and R317 351.47 – unspecified

Total estimated cost for the summit was R1 090 426

Was this worth the investment? What measurable benefit did it bring to the Metro?

5. Further Consultant Appointments: Mind Shape Development appointed as a Health and Safety consultant for a roads and stormwater upgrade (Project TI 522). Again, a role that should exist in-house.

Are all these service providers based in the Free State? Are they from Mangaung Metro? If not, we are outsourcing opportunities that should uplift our local economy.

Mister Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus is not just raising complaints, we are demanding accountability. This Municipality cannot afford to waste money on bloated outsourcing while our residents face poor service delivery and rising unemployment. It's time to build internal capacity, spend wisely, and put our people first. Thank you, Mister Speaker."

Cllr MW Mongale addressed the Council: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Dr BL Mathae. On this issue. I want to start by sounding controversial, I have seen a name of an attorney on page 12 that deals with the Supply Chain Management report, where it says Nkaiseng Attorneys. I don't know whether it is talking about the same Nkaiseng who was about to be charged by the Municipality, who left here out of an out of court settlement with Municipality. If it is him, it means the more things change, the more they remain the same.

There is no intention of dealing with corruption in this institution; instead, the corrupt are being rewarded, and promote to status that is way above their capacity. And if it is true, I remember Professor Lumumba when he said, we have trusted hyenas with the goats and we wonder why the goats are being consumed. To loosely translate that, we have trusted people, who loves looting state resources or public funds, and we wonder why those funds are being looted. And when they disappear, we wonder why. We ask ourselves so many questions, how did we got it wrong while we are the ones who planted the seed of corruption by allowing it to thrive. But if he is not the man, I am referring to I apologize for casting an aspersion to an institution that has all the good intensions of giving a proper service, if it is not the Nkaiseng who is the former HOD.

When it comes to the reporting line on this document, there was a time when the Executive Mayor of this Municipality had an engagement with me, in the Council where I said Executive Mayor, if you want us to support your budget, you must declare this budget for the people of Mangaung. The writing I used; I said you must dedicate this budget to the people of Mangaung of which the intention is that the economy of this Council must benefit the people of Mangaung. If there are tenders being issued in this Metro, those tenders must benefit the people of Mangaung.

7AC

It should not come as a form of charity to the people of Mangaung, it is an obligation to serve the people of Mangaung and also to benefit them economically because we ask for votes from them. I am yet to see a Councillor here whom I will be told that he is running around in Vaal with posters campaigning that he/she wants to be voted in Vaal or Limpopo. That is how desperate the Councillor is. At the moment we have no records of such Councillor, because you all get your powers from Mangaung, and you must respect the people who elected you. The economy must be about the people of Mangaung. If it is not about the people of Mangaung, we are betraying them and we are no different from traitors that are taken to shooting range for failing their government. Because we would have lied to them to say we are talking on your behalf; we are your proxies in the Council. Once we get into the Council, we forget about them and remember our cousins in Limpopo, in Gauteng, our friends in the struggle in KZN (KwaZulu Natal) and bless them instead of assisting our people.

When the people refuse to pay for services, we wonder why. It is because there is no economic activity in the community. Once we benefit our local people in terms of the economy, in terms of tenders and jobs, you will start to see people paying for services. This debt that you see that the community is owing, you will see it will disappear. Not immediately, but you will see a gradual disappearance of that debt because people will be starting to participate in the economy. Here, you are expecting miracles, you deny people economic activity, but we expect them to pay for services. Where would they get the money? This is the issues we are raising with you, and I am pleading with you.

There is also an issue as I conclude, of training of staff that has not been addressed. If you want the employees that will sabotage you, is the employees that are unhappy in the institution. Those that are trained, are eligible for promotions because at least they got exposure. Those that have not been trained they become disqualified from promotion, and they become bitter. And they are the ones that will always leak information even to us oppositions if you don't look after them. I am raising this issue to say even if you do not want to agree with me, worry about your back door.

There is a land dispute that is happening, next to Motheo TVET in Bloemanda where there are two companies that Mangaung has appointed. One company has been awarded for a mother to child hospital and there is another company that is also appointed for a mother to child hospital, at the same place. One of them has paid money somewhere in 2016, they had paid R700 000, another one for one-hectare R700,000. Another one was made to pay R110 000 for four hectares later on. And if that is not corruption, I do not know what it is. I want a new name for it. This institution must get this house in order and that calls for the Executive Mayor to investigate that matter. Thank you for the opportunity Honourable Speaker."

Cllr CL Kruger responded as follows: "Honourable Speaker, this is a third quarter report of the Supply Chain Management and I believe that our Councillors know the implications for failing to comply with the policy which is none other than incurring irregular expenditure. The supplies failure to implement any MFMA regulation and the Municipal Systems Act and regulations in as far as employees' costs are concerned.

7AD

The Supply Chain Management Policy delegates certain powers and functions of decision making to the accounting officer, the bid committees and to the CFO. The award of quotations, the report outlines the execution of the policy in accordance with the delegations as summarized.

Honourable Councillors as with the report, the five meeting of Bid Specification Committee sat with one not forming a quorum, 17 Bid Evaluation Committee and five Bid Adjudication Committee meetings. Two objections were registered and responded to. It is therefore assumed that those who objected were clarified as no appeal was received subsequent to that. The aim of policy is to achieve the transformational agenda ensuring across the board participation of prospective bidders with specific goals clearly indicating that black local businesses are preferred in order to boost the local economy of Mangaung as per its length and breadth. We have been conscientized by the people living with disabilities that as much as they bid, they have not registered any success in their efforts and pleaded with management to set aside to the extent and it is permissible by legislation and in accordance with specific goals regulations.

Accordingly, two (2) bids were awarded to companies with CIDB grading one between one and four in the period, eleven (11) were awarded to bidders with CIDB grading 5 and above. The nature of the contracts entered into and as per the policy provisions, subcontracting and accessions are permitted within the limits of the law thus preventing fronting and complete outsourcing of awarded contracts to unintended bidders.

Two deviations from Supply Chain Management procedures were approved by the accounting officer. Deviation is another process of procurement with direct appointment without any advertisement takes place within the prescription of the law for emergency, urgent, exceptional cases, work of arts, purchase of animals or sole providers. Both instances of deviation were under sole providers of the service based on current available services, network and infrastructure. As per the report, we have noted the appointment of panel of contractors for installation of water and sanitation under ISUPG which in the previous report spent R28.52 million overall. This will significantly improve as allocation of projects are taking place and expenditure seeing movement. As I conclude, Honourable Speaker, definitely I am joining the gym. I thank you."

The Executive Mayor explained as follows: "Honourable Speaker, there are just two critical points that I want to weigh in on. Honourable Speaker the criminality and the adherence to by-laws, by its nature would require that we have a very well oiled, effective Law Enforcement. I know that the issue of the Metro Police was shot down by national. But there were terms and conditions that dictated that. One of which was our collection rate and I think that was a bone of contention. There has been an attempt by the Metro to engage the South African Police Services to try and rid the Metro of criminality and that range from illegal immigrants, drug peddlers, thugs, criminals of different origin. But once we engage the South African Police Services Honourable Speaker; they work on an arrangement and once they are done, they leave us with what they would have worked with.

7AE

You would remember Colleagues, that we have engaged them to go and clean the Southern dumping site (landfill sites). But if you go there, you will find that those people have gone back. The reason mainly, is that our Law Enforcement Unit is less than 200 across the Metro. They cannot sustain that and so, we would indeed need a Metro Police, but I think all of us need to work hard to ensure that the realization of the Metro Police is incumbent and in tune with our resources, so that it might not be something that will come and explode before us. But that we need for purposes of ensuring that the safety and security of our area is there as well as other duties that relate to what the Metro should do. We would work hard to realise that. So, please, let us not shoot it down as if it is something that we are not entitled to have if we are to get things right.

The issue around who provide services to the Metro, I think it is this Council that framework the Supply Chain Management Policy. And I think we need to work towards making sure that our supply chain processes are tilted towards favouring the people of the Metro so that it must be crafted. But I think we must not trample on national standard because Cllr JI Mokoena and Cllr MW Mongale I want to sound a little bit...when you are sitting at home, you would realise I was not being racist, but when I say it, it is going to sound that way. White people in this Country do business anywhere. Seated as our colleagues here, they have properties in Cape Town, they could have companies running in Mpumalanga, they have shares in this and that entity all over the Country. They are doing projects here and there. But through Black Economic Empowerment, we still cannot even reach those heights. So, what is within reach is the one that can serve those that are living in that area. Now in that way it would sound a little bit racist.

But they would not have had the capacity to have resources to either go and start something that could operate in Mpumalanga. So, I understand this sentiment. But those sentiments are to be sentiment that must be discussed by men and women of this Country. Take into consideration where we come from and indeed begin to apply. This also takes into consideration work opportunities.

You know, this morning I was with Cllr MJ Mabena. He came early at 7:00 and I didn't realize that he is an early bird like that. We were discussing around staffing. I brought the provincial offices into the picture to say, honestly speaking, the people who clean, general workers must be given the opportunity from Mangaung, even beyond the Metro to those offices and buildings and other operations that are in the Metro for as long as that particular service will be acquired in the Metro. Only when we cannot source that particular knowledge economy then we can access people that are coming from outside. So, I actually came out of the scope of professionals. But when it came to literal labour force even the province must learn to know that those that must be given the opportunity must come from the Metro. We cannot have a cleaner from Parys. It cannot be because the people must work where they are living. But the pattern in this Metro inclusive to it, all other offices that are in the Metro are operating in a very funny way.

If you want to check what I am talking about, go to N1 and N6 Friday afternoon. Look when government leaves the Metro either the provincial government or Metro itself, it leaves the Metro and leaves the province. It goes to different parts of the province and the Country.

And then it will come back on Monday again. So, over the weekend, there is no government in the Metro and not in terms of political leadership, also in terms of the workforce. We need to find a way of dealing with that. But those are regional sentiment. You might be accused, also not of only racism, but also of regionalism. But the truth must hold, so I agree, I understand. But I am saying that should be within the parameters for the law and making sure that we don't trample national standards and we are not seen to be isolating people from afar deliberately. It must be on the basis of policy, and that responsibility lies with what this Council must decide upon and also reach out to those offices that exist in our Metro to say we welcome you as a provincial structure, but please, when it comes to the tedious of work, can you consider the people of the Metro and that goes also into the space of business. I agree with that.

So, I really wanted to say these are the issues that I raised with the officials. The sentiment of saying to the officials, you are professionals, you might be coming from all corners of the Country based on the application of your acquisition. But please, sentimental aspect of the Metro is that, live for the Metro because you were hired by the Metro.

On the issue of the land Honourable Speaker, I understand that Cllr MW Mongale and it is noted that we should go and look at what is happening. But I just want to share some knowledge economy around it. When I went to school to study property market, the question was posed before us on what the value of the property is? Under normal circumstances it will be immovable assets, the schools around the shopping malls, the safety and all other goodies. But to my dismay, I realized that I was so wrong, and I failed that test because the value of the property lies between the willing buyer and the willing seller.

So, despite the fact that I am going to look at what you are raising, that aspect of property principle. On the value of the property, we are also going to take it into consideration to check what could have influence that. At the back of my mind Honourable Speaker, I'm thinking that could have been, the more expensive hectare could be exposed to the best business opportunity than a very big and cheaper portion. But look, I'm thumb sucking. I must go and gather my facts.

Honourable Speaker, my last point deals with certain things that are sensitive. When you talk about fatness in black communities, it is a serious insult. Our people were not exposed to meat in general, we used to eat dead animals, as to what killed them, we did not know. But that will be the best meat we will ever get. Other than that, our will be pap en melk and the milk, the cream would be taken out, it is serpreter in Afrikaans and that was our meal and thepe. Those were staple food. So, genetic takes its order from where we come from, we would not undermine them, we share the same economy, but we relate differently to the economy. For instance, our staple food became potjiekos, remnants from whatever left, everything in one pot and that was our meal. Our counterparts, when they eat potjiekos that is when they celebrate achievements. So, nutrition accounts to how your body parts react to it. Some of the things when we raise them, we must also take into consideration that they do touch a sensitive nerve somehow, that we are deformed but not out of our liking."

Council did not vote as the item was for noting.

It was thereupon

RESOLVED that Council noted the progress report on the implementation of the Council's Supply Chain Management Policy for quarter ended 31 March 2025.

4.

DEBT INCENTIVE SCHEME REPORT

Cllr AF Bothma addressed the Council: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Cllr BL Mathae. I am again pleased to see that the report indicates that we have made additional progress with the collection of outstanding debts through the Debt Incentive Scheme. Another R23 279 224 of amounts due were transacted during the last month of the report. This shows that the Debt Collection Section is now showing potential of collecting arrears.

Honourable Speaker, we must capacitate this section of the Finance Department to its full potential. This will be to the benefit of the Municipality as a whole. A total of R106 million was effectively added to the cash flow of the Municipality. This momentum created must be kept up even after the end of the incentive of 30 June 2025. I assume that this additional cash flow allowed the CFO to increase our investments amount.

The capacity of the Unit must be extended so that all officials that are needed must be appointed. The Unit is so important that a General Manager must head it, and a full complement of officials must be appointed. We cannot over emphasize this.

In the Section 80 Committee of Finance, it was assured that all consumers that are part of the Incentive Scheme and registered before 30 June 2025 will receive all the benefits of the scheme until the arrangements have been concluded. We welcome assurance as consumers were very concerned about this.

It was also noted that a total amount of R66 million were written off in the process. This is an indication that this amount presents the applicable amount of 120 days in arrears that was part of the incentive to be written off. The percentage is 38,5% of the amounts that were due.

In future, Mister Speaker, that is after 30 June 2025, we must keep the momentum. We know that Debt Collectors were appointed to recover R9 billion of outstanding debtors. The caution here is that the Municipality must be careful that monies collected by our own Debt Collection Unit are not recognised as debt collected by these appointed agents.

Furthermore, we must apply our Debt Collection Policy to its fullest. We must not again delay debt collection steps for around three (3) years before we apply the strict measures of disconnection. A good working relationship must be established between Finance and the technical department executing the disconnections.

Honourable Speaker to assist our debt collectors in our Finance Department, we must actually see that our billing system is correct. At this stage, we are very much aware of the problems our system is creating. The trust of our consumers must be gained because only then they will pay their bills promptly and must not give any indication or leave it to chance that that we have incorrect billing. We need to investigate what actually happened, what transpire that our billing system is not up to scratch and a report regarding that and to show what measures to take to make our system reliable. All of this, we need to assist our debt collectors. Like I said, I am very pleased that we are moving forward, and we actually do collect. We must keep the momentum. I thank you.”

Cllr M Davies addressed the Council: “Mister Speaker, as the Democratic Alliance we request a memorandum from the CFO to officials working with the debt incentive scheme detailing how Option 2 of the debt incentive scheme should be implemented, and that the same memorandum be made available to Councillors.

During the Council meeting of 28 February 2025, Cllr Qondile Peter (Whip of the Section 80 Committee: Finance) confirmed that residents would be able to make use of Option 2 (arrangements for a period not exceeding 12 months from the date of the Council meeting, which is 28 February 2026). Residents just have to apply for the debt incentive before 30 June 2025, to which date it has been extended.

However, when I visited officials with residents wanting to settle their accounts in accordance with Option 2, they were told they only have until 30 June 2025 to settle the amount as calculated for the debt incentive scheme in accordance with Option 1.

I even received an email yesterday from an official stating the following: According to the policy the client must enter into a normal arrangement for 12 months period. But on the incentive the amount can be divided into April, May and June 2025.

This is not what was approved by Council on 28 February 2025. Recommendation (2) read: *That Council approves an extension from 1 March 2025 to 30 June 2025 for the debt incentive scheme under the same conditions as per resolution 23.2 – 28/02/2024.*

Recommendation 23.2 had the following conditions for Option 2: Current, 30-days, 60-days, 90-days account, plus 30% deposit of the arrears balance of 5 years must be paid to enter a repayment arrangement. Once the arrangement has been concluded and honoured, the debt older than 5 years will be written off.

And further Option 2 (arrangements for a period not exceeding 12 months from the date of Council meeting)

Through you Mister Speaker, we need to resolve this issue on the implementation urgently, as residents want to make use of the debt incentive scheme, but it is beyond their grasp as Option 2, as approved by Council is not implemented. Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Cllr E Snyman Van Deventer addressed the Council: “Thank you, Mister Speaker. The debtor balance on the 31st of March 2025 is more than R12.8 billion with an amount of R8,1 billion older than a year. The debt incentive scheme is in place for more than a year, but we still have this problem. Furthermore, the executive summary states that R173 670 million is reduced from the debtor's book and the largest amount comes from the oldest outstanding balance.

In view of this, the Freedom Front Plus ask the following questions:

- Is this collection or payment of debt due to the debt incentive scheme or from the disconnection of services forcing debtors to pay?
- Is the focus on aging debts while current debts are not collected?
- To link to Cllr AF Bothma, are there measures in place to differentiate between own collection and debt collection by service provider?

Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr TD Tukula addressed the Council: “Let me thank the Chairperson of this august house. The house that its intention is to change the lives of those who have been marginalised. Let me take the opportunity that is presented before me of presenting the debt incentive scheme report. I will start by giving the executive summary of this report.

On the 28th February 2024, the Council approved debt incentive scheme as a method of collection of the outstanding arrears from the consumers and also to measure the cash flow in the Municipality. Debt incentive scheme was designed to encourage the consumers to settle their outstanding accounts at a lower amount than the current outstanding debt of the consumer.

From its inception, as indicated by members of the Committee, it has succeeded from 28 February 2024 to collect R173 670 551.99 from debtors' book and that was the largest amount from the outstanding balance. A table in the report shows that on a monthly basis the amount collected as a result of debt incentive scheme (Table 2.4): April 2024 we collected R4 961 638.81, May 2024 the amount increased to R5 343 481.89 etc and therefore, total for the period that we succeeded to collect is R106 763 818.22 so, we therefore recommend that Council note the current debt incentive scheme as indicated on Table 2.4 of the report. As I submit Chairperson of this august house. Thank you.”

Cllr SQ Peter responded as follows: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, the Executive Mayor, Deputy Executive Mayor, officials, fellow Councillors and the people of Mangaung. Let me respond through you, Honourable Speaker to questions asked by Cllr M Davies.

I need to indicate that, Option 1 on debt incentive scheme, is clear as it speak about 50% of cash that the consumer pays, and then get a rebate from your current and 120 days. Option 2: says whatever debt you have with the Municipality; you need to pay 30% and then enter into arrangement with the Municipality. However, I need to indicate that there were some number of challenges whereby some consumers after they have paid 30% and enter into arrangement, they realised that sometimes it goes beyond 12 months, or it takes longer to repay because of the amount of debt.

For example: Qondile owes R10, but only pay R3 as 30%, but in terms of what he has to pay the remaining amount, he experiences problem and goes over the 6 or 12 months that is what the policy prescribed. There is an option on policy that says other, the officials did not explain to Councillors that in an event you are unable to exercise the two options, you can go for the option: other, where one does not have 50% nor 30% but has certain amount of money to make arrangement and repay the outstanding account. In that case, the official needs to make special arrangement and submit the form to only to the CFO as the policy made a provision that CFO is the only one to can sign off the form. Please Councillors, we need to explain that to the residents. But we had a meeting and asked the CFO to explain to staff to explain similar conditions to all Councillors and customers so that we do not return anyone from our counter services especially services that needs to be paid.

This report its intention in the main is to appraise Council on how far we are in terms of debt incentive scheme that Council approved last year in February and subsequently the extension on the 28th February 2025. Despite that fact that we have made strides in terms of revenue collected based on debt incentive scheme, however, there is a concern from Councillors that there is an amount of R480 million that has increased our debtors' book. In fact, that is not the case. The R12.8 billion debtors' book has some historic debts in it. There are a number of issues that we need to deal with as Section 80 Committee of Finance which we spoke about in our last meeting such as debt that is uncollectable, in cases such as former Naledi, we cannot collect there due to a number of reasons: some areas in Botshabelo and Soutpan. But, for the fact that there is no item that has been brought to Council to explain, to take Council into confidence to say these are number of areas we cannot collect, we will therefore have to write off, that will remain in the debtors' book unless is addressed and approved by Council. So, suffice to say, probably at the next Council meeting Honourable Speaker, we will submit an item that speaks directly to those issues that were raised by Councillors to say, we are still collecting via these different methods we have and the policies, but our debtors' book is increasing. Once we have dealt with that, definitely we would have addressed this matter. I thank you, Honourable Speaker."

Cllr Deliwe Malebo addressed the Council: "Ndiyabulela Somlomo. Honourable Speaker, once again, we begin today by invoking the timeless wisdom again like the last debate on this issue of Tata Nelson Mandela, who once said:

"The government must create an environment that enables people to get employed, to feed themselves, to educate themselves, to improve their lives".

Indeed, Honourable Speaker, we are gathered here not only as public servants but as moral custodians of this principle. It is in that spirit that the Economic Freedom Fighters rise once again to advocate for this Debt Incentive Scheme Policy a program if is rooted in fairness, dignity, and socio-economic justice.

This scheme, first brought before this Council last year, has already proven its merit. With over R91 million recouped from a targeted R150 million and in this report, we have R106,7 million, the initiative is not just working it is fiscally sound and socially transformative, and we think that R66 million is not much comparing to what our people are facing out there. But we must now take it further.

8D

We must acknowledge that many residents still live under the weight of unpayable debt not due to recklessness, but because of poverty, unemployment, death, and disability. Honourable Speaker, how do we expect the unemployed to pay rates? How do we expect a mother who's lost her breadwinner to meet Municipal arrears?

We therefore propose these incentives to be expanded to include targeted debt write-offs for individuals who genuinely lack the means to pay those on social grants, the unemployed, child headed households, and elderly residents living below the poverty line.

We are not asking this Council to be reckless. We are asking for compassion and realism. Because when we allow residents to fall deeper into arrears with no hope of relief, we create a cycle of exclusion, disconnection, and despair. And that is not governance but cruelty.

The EFF further recommends the Municipality to host an annual "Debt and Incentives Indaba" a community-driven platform where residents are:

- Informed of all available incentives.
- Educated on the process for applying for relief.
- Allowed to engage Municipal officials directly and transparently.

This platform would replace the hollow and elitist investment summits that cost the City money and serve only political vanity projects. Our people don't need cocktails and PowerPoint presentations they need relief, information, and fairness.

Moreover, we call on this council to strengthen public communication through Ward Councillors, local clinics, community radio, and churches to ensure no eligible resident is left behind simply because they did not know the scheme existed.

Honourable Speaker, we often speak of fiscal discipline. But true fiscal discipline is not just about collecting revenue, it is also about knowing when to forgive, when to support, and when to restructure in favour of long-term economic emancipation by our people. Debt relief is not a loss. It is an investment in dignity, in participation, and in restoring broken trust between this Municipality and its people.

In conclusion, we the Economic Freedom Fighters urge this Council:

Expand it to include targeted write-offs.

Educate our residents.

And bring this Municipality closer to the people it claims to serve.

Let us not wait until our communities collapse under the weight of debt. Let us act now decisively, compassionately, and with vision. Kealeboha Motsamaisa wa Dipuisano."

Council did not vote as the item was for noting.

It was thereupon

RESOLVED that Council noted the current debt incentive scheme total values as tabled on page 2, of the report, table 2.4.

5.

APPROVAL OF INDIGENT ACCOUNTS FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2025/27 INDIGENT REGISTER (Fifth)

Cllr SM Swartz addressed the Council: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker and all protocols observed. With reference to item 74.5, the reason I say 74.5, I did note that the items are combined, however we have prepared separately.

I just want to raise the following questions:

1. What must the people do who have not qualified for this round, who are unemployed as well as the pensioners who have reached the age of 60 years, who are also in arrears and have applied?

Possible solutions to that, Honourable Speaker, we can clear the backlog, allocate resources to process the backlog of indigent applications since 2017 within a set framework i.e. six (6) months by hiring temporary staff or using digital tools to streamline the processes. Partial debt relief or write off a portion of debt i.e. 50% for indigent applications which have been waiting since 2017 prioritising the most vulnerable e.g. pensioners and unemployed households. This can be funded through the improved revenue collection from the new prepaid meters as 78% collection rate is expected to rise.

2. I would apply the same solution, why can't the Municipality write off all the debt of all applicants because MMM have a backlog of applications for indigency since 2017 based on the current revenue of 78% that MMM is receiving currently?

The installation of the new type of prepaid meters will give MMM a better revenue collection as set out by the National Treasury.

3. Why does MMM disconnect prepaid meters for the people who are paying for their water?

This is a mistake that the Municipality must fix and not repeat. For example: Mr Buffel in 5 Mozart Street, the entire meter was removed, and he was left without water. An elderly lady residing in Geelvis Street, La Roche townhouse, she does not owe even a cent to MMM, but her water was disconnected. Then why does MMM enforce hard shutdown on water supply when access to sufficient water as a basic human right under Section 27.1b of South African Constitution. This is non-negotiable for the Constitution is the highest law of the land.

I want to conclude by quoting the following, *“the Constitution stands as the apex of law of our land, a sacred covenant that binds us to uphold justice and rights for all. No municipality not even MMM can sidestep its mandate which declares water a fundamental human right”*. I Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr JM De Bruin addressed the Council: “Honourable Speaker and all protocol observe. Men have tried to compare races on the basis of some equality by means of identity, it is an impossible dream because you will never find two units, they are like catch in your hand. If you can please, the gentle flakes of snow, each is a perfect gem, a new creation, it shines in its very own work of art.

Where is it now, the glory and the dream? When the forgotten founder of the ANC Pixley Ka Isaka Seme spoke these words on the 5th of April 1906, he had a vision of a community called Heidedal. Who would ask where is the glory and the dream? Is it based on the colour of your skin or is it based to enrich the people who were pre-selected to be elected to manoeuvre its constituencies? By voting and believing in his party for the second time we can safely say we have been sold a pipe dream.

We can still remember the first time, the excitement of our grandparents who have been told stand with us and don't pay your municipality accounts because it will force the government in power to listen to their demands. Little have they known that the same party under new leaders will one day deny their children access to drinking water which is a basic human right. Let us go into the core of the problem.

1. Old water meters

This problem came from 1994 where grandfathers has stopped paying for water and now the children who took over that household cannot register those houses in their names because of the debt that their parents left. They cannot even apply for indigent because the houses are not in their names. The debt relief scheme cannot cater for them because of the technicalities around it.

2. Bypassed water meters.

Prepaid water meters have been bypassed because it was reported as faulty, and the Municipality decided on taking the easy way out by bypassing the meter without the consent or informing the house owner. The prepaid meters belong to the Municipality, and it is the responsibility of the Municipality to see that it is in a good working condition. However, they are passing their negligence and liability to the house owners. There will be members in Council that do not agree with it but if they have a conscious and feel that the needs of the people come first, then they will realise what harm they are doing.

3. Human right violation.

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996 includes specific provisions that addresses water as a basic human right the role of municipalities in ensuring a safe environment. Below are the two relevant constitutional provisions. Water as a basic human right: Section 27.1b: *everyone has the right to have access to sufficient food and water.* Section 27.2: *The state must take reasonable legislative and other measures within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of each of the rights.*

Municipalities as the custodians of a safe environment: Section 152.1d: *The objects of local government are to promote a safe and healthy environment.*

Solution

We as a community know that we have to pay for services, and we would like to do that. However, we need help with the old water meters. We would like to make a proposal that every household should be issued with a prepaid water meter we everyone pays 30% of your water sale should go for the outstanding debt or arrangements to pay it off should be put in place. Thank you.”

Cllr AP Terblanche addressed the Council: “Mister Speaker, Executive Mayor and Councillors. I like to ask a couple of questions. What worries me, last time, I mentioned these when the indigent item served in the Council. They are still using Ward 17 for Heidedal and now for couple of years, it is Ward 16. I don’t know why they are still using ward number Ward 17.

Mister Chairperson, why did Mangaung take so long to bring the indigent to Council? Last time, our MMC promised that this indigent report will come quarterly, but it does not happen, always use the word backlog. We are sick and tired of the word “backlog”.

Why does certain people who are indigent, receive water every day, but not the power, Centlec does not provide them with the electricity. How is that possible?

What is the right criteria of being indigent and what is the right amount? Sometimes it is R6800 and sometimes R6200, we do not know how to explain that to the people to say this is the amount to be an indigent.

Now, comes the story of pre-paid water meters. It is the people’s problem if the contractor does not have money because they are employed by the Municipality, that they wait for Municipality to by pre-paid water meters. We know that there is a big contract and now they say they have a backlog. It is because the contractor has no money. I know in the past when I was building my house through the bank, if you built it, first verhoogte, the bank pays you, but you must first use your money. But it looks like this contractor, do not have money, the Municipality must buy for them the pre-paid water meters. Why does the Municipality take so long? They remove the pre-paid water meter and now it is a straight connection. Now, those people will still owe the Municipality and will come back in debt. If you take out prepaid water meter, why don’t you put a new one in? Why do we have to wait?

I don’t know if Centlec is better than the Municipality. There is something wrong with the keypad of the prepaid water meter. If there is something wrong with keypad, Centlec gives you a new one yet the Municipality, you must buy a new one. We cannot even change the battery; you must buy a new prepaid water meter. The Municipality creates these problems for itself. In the past, if you are in arrears for your rates and taxes, why don’t you cut after three months and wait for years. Mister Speaker, maybe you and Executive Mayor have R200 000 to put as 50%, where will the poor of the poor get that 50% of R200 000? There are people owing the Municipality more than R200 000. They said people will get 50% off and now they changed to 120 days. Where on earth will the people get money, those who owes more than R200 000? That is impossible. Mister Speaker they will never ever recover the money because the people are unemployed.

The people do not have the money. The Municipality will fight, get outside attorneys and they also come with a different story than the one from the Municipality. I thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Cllr MW Mongale addressed the Council: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Dr BL Mathae. As I was listening to the speakers before me, I was so excited that that we are starting to sing from the same hymn, that the issue of a local economy is central to taking our people out of misery and indigent register. But there was also something that was discussed in the previous Council around indigent, where we agreed about cleaning the data in the register.

It seems to be a talk shop. We seem to be excited that when we met today, we will be talking about that cleaning the data. That those who do not qualify to be in the indigent register must be taken out and there are those who qualify who are not in the indigent register and amongst them are child headed families who has no one on their side. Some have ended up being the crime havens because they have nothing they can rely on. All the thugs in the township have taken stolen good to their homes and then they get rewarded for being the hideout or hiding home. But the reality is that we are failing our people. We are sitting here speaking nice English. The problem is, when we come out of this place where are we going? Would there be a Ward Councillor who takes a document and say I am going around my community to check how many people who should have been in the indigent register who are not in the register and how many are the register and should have not been in the register.

This is a clarion call from Afrikan Alliance of Social Democrats, let us not turn this Council into a talk shop, but let's take the document and make it a living document. Rework the document, you cannot review it in Council, it must be reviewed from the community. They are the one who know who should be in the indigent register and who should not, and this is where the crisis is. From there, maybe we can come as Councillors to say Executive Mayor, we are demanding from you that most of the people that are in the indigent register at least 5% of them must be taken out of it through the programs of the Municipality like EPWP and other. You must find a way of getting rid of people from the indigent register, they cannot stay there forever. The more the increase in the indigent register, declares Mangaung as a welfare Municipality. It collapses our Metro status. It means we have no capacity to collect revenue and to generate any other form of income except to rely on the national fiscus to survive.

We should find a way to counter the number of people who are in the indigent register by aggressive programs of investments, where we attract investors so that there must be more revenue that is collected from those institutions than the money that is given as handouts to our people because they have nothing. That is the only way to mitigate the impact of the indigent register. If we do not do that, we keep on coming here and some people come to laugh at other instead of saying I've made a contribution that at least one person who was in the indigent register, in no longer there. As a Ward Councillor I made a contribution, I helped a particular person to open a business, I've taken R2000 out of my salary to help. These are the things that will take us out of this current situation that we are in. I am not saying you are rich, that is not the impression I am creating. All I am saying is that we need to find mechanisms of taking our people out of the indigent register, it cannot be treated as normal, this is a crisis. It is becoming worse because there the people are in the register the more crisis we will face as a Municipality.

We have a debt of a community of R8 billion, I can assure you, it is not going to change until someone stands up and step up and put his best foot forward to say I'm going to ensure that I grow the economy of Mangaung even if with no big investors but local investors. The SETAs must come to the party, and this is where they fit in the whole scheme of things. They seem to be on holiday and the Municipality is saying nothing about that.

We should agree Cllr SQ Peter that we are going to clean the data, but this time should be the last, we should not talk about it in the next Council. The next Council we must say, we have cleaned the data. Thank you, Honourable Speaker."

Cllr E Snyman Van Deventer addressed the Council: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker. just an editing request, if we can add to recommendations 1. *that Council approves that...*, otherwise it is just a statement.

Honourable Speaker, who did the verification of these 851 new indigent applications if we cannot verify the current register, but we can verify new ones? The main problem, however, is the extension of indigent accounts for one year pending verification. If our by-laws make provision for a three-year period for the register to be verified, are we allowed to extend the period of three -years by means of a Council Resolution? Does Council have the authority to act in contradiction of our own by-law?

Honourable Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus appreciate the compiling of the indigent register, we are grateful that the plea of the poorest of the poor are heard, and that the Municipality makes use of the opportunity to benefit from the Equitable share. The Freedom Front Plus is however deeply troubled by huge amounts owed and now written off. Some residents owe the Municipality amounts of more than R120 000, R108 000, R145 000, R300 000, R188 000, R294 000 etc. The write-off of these substantial amount of debt is a clear indication of the failure of our Municipality's debt collection efforts and the lack of accountability within the system. We cannot help but wonder why some of these accounts were never handed over for collection, and if it was, we must please go ask our money back from the debt collection contractors we used. If we had a working debt collection system in place, we would have been able to identify residents struggling and who should be on the indigent register before their debts rose to these huge amounts.

Now, I will quote Cllr VE De Kock, she said in the previous Council meeting: *"the people of this Metro deserve better. They deserve a municipality that is committed to upholding the principles of good governance, that is responsive to their needs, and that holds its officials accountable for their actions. We cannot afford to continue down this path of financial mismanagement and lack of accountability"*. Thank you, Mister Speaker."

Cllr JB Thomas addressed the Council: "Thank you, Mister Speaker, esteemed Councillors, members of the public. We rise today to address a matter that sit at the very heart of social justice and service delivery, the indigent register of Mangaung Metro Municipality and the impending expiration of indigent status on the 30 June.

Mister Speaker, let us begin by acknowledging the crucial role that the indigent support system plays in the lives of our people especially the most vulnerable. We are talking about pensioners living on a fixed and limited income, unemployed households with no source of revenue, disabled person who cannot work and depend on grants and families whose combined moth income cannot cover even the basic cost of living. For these residents, indigent support is not luxury, it is a lifeline.

This program enable access to free basic electricity and water, refuse removal, relief on property rates and ultimately dignity. So, whenever we say June 30th is approaching, we are not just simply talking about an administrative deadline, we are speaking about the potential removal of vital services to those who cannot survive without them.

Honourable Speaker, we must applaud the Municipality for approving more than 66 000 indigents thus far. This is not just a number; it is 66 000 households who have received some measures of relief. In addition, 851 new applications are currently being processed. We urge the Council to expedite and approve even more. No qualifying resident must be left behind.

Bu, Honourable Speaker, while we support this initiative, we must also speak frankly about the growing concern about the mismanagement and poor judgement by some of those entrusted in handling the indigent applications. How is it possible that some applicants who are clearly pensioners are still asked to submit unnecessary documentation. Others who have never qualify, were somehow approved and yet, those who are most in need are left to wait in ques or have their application rejected with no proper explanation. This is not just administrative error; it is mismanagement, and it comes at the cost of the Municipality.

Every wrong approved indigent is an unnecessary financial burden, while every wrongly rejected one is a denial of basic human dignity. We are calling for a full audit of the current indigent register to identify irregularities and clean up the system. Proper training for all Municipal staff dealing with indigent applications. Communication awareness drive to inform residents of deadlines and guide them through the application process.

Mister Speaker, it is our duty as public servants to ensure that the Indigent Policy reaches those who truly need it and not those who abuse it. The system must be fair, efficient and compassionate. Let us protect our pensioners, support the unemployed and prioritise dignity over paperwork. The explanation of indigent status on June 30th, must not become a disaster for our most vulnerable. We must act now, renew, expand and safeguard this critical safety nett. Let us not fail our people. Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Cllr CL Bouwer addressed the Council: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Council and residents of Mangaung Metro Municipality at large. We as the DA supports the items both, combined, however we have some concerns and I think we as Council should just sit down and start implementing it more than just talking about it.

Firstly, with the request for extension of the indigent lists and the applicants, we would like to have seen a way forward from the ones who prepared the items saying that we would

have a way forward of finding the applicants, the current backlog of 66 358 in rands amounting to over R357 million owing to the Municipality. In a way of finding these individuals, will be by either having stakeholders' or engagement meetings with the persons in the Municipality in their Wards to see if they still qualify indigents, to update their details and as well as to see if the person has not moved because some people will just occupy that space or that household benefitting from indigents who are no more there and in some cases, who may be deceased.

Secondly, the prepaid water systems that would have to be instal for the indigents. We already know that the Municipality is dealing with a backlog in the prepaid meter area and Department. So, we will have to be ready to receive another document in the next quarter report saying that an item starting with the Municipality writing-off another accumulated debt of backlog of water meters in the area as well as the Wards. It would state from the year 2025 to who knows when.

Finally, just as the ANC Whip has made means to have someone sitting in for him as the ANC Whip in Council, one was expecting that the Municipality would have somebody stepping in and dealing with processing of indigents and applicants thereof from the year 2021 to date. No accountability is seen in this item, and we are writing off again millions.

It would be correct to state that the responsible official for this loss within the Municipality should be held accountable and should go through disciplinary committee. Yes, Honourable Cllr CL Kruger you mentioned that we are still dealing with the issues of the past, I agree with that, but this too will become issue of the past, as this backlog of R357 million will just accumulate. In the future, we will still discuss this.

Honourable Executive Mayor you mentioned that our outer appearance of this building is that of a glass house, I agree, and you also mention that there can be cracks in this glasshouse, I stand to be corrected with that statement. But, without accountability, transparency and just clear communication to our residents in Mangaung, we are no more glasshouse of pride but merely individuals in a glasshouse throwing stones to the public. There is no way that the public will just address the backlog and say yes, the Municipality did not process my application from the year 2021 to date, we should communicate as to why and be transparent as to the failures in the Municipality itself. Noting that the community itself is also at the wrong because they cannot just apply for indigent and then stop paying the services without any feedback from the Municipality. On both sides, the parties have failed, the Municipality as well as residents and that should be made clear.

But moving forward with such documents, I expect that other documents we requested from the Executive Mayor might see an item stating who was responsible for the debt and how we will deal with the backlog of these applicants. Thank you."

Cllr LW Lekgetho addressed the Council. "Thank you, Honourable Speaker, the Executive Mayor, Deputy Executive Mayor, Acting Chief Whip of ANC, all Councillors, officials and baahi ba Mangaung especially Ward 14, e ke tswang ko go yona. Dumelang!

In 2001, the ANC led government adopted the Indigent Policy to provide for free basic service to poor households. Under this policy, the Municipality is required to identify indigent households which will receive services such as water, electricity, sanitation and refuse removal.

Households are requested to register with the Municipality to qualify for the free basic services. The item 74.5 says approval of indigent accounts for inclusion in the 2025/27 indigent register. There are 66 355 indigents were previously approved, but there were outstanding balances that were not written off. What we are asking is the write off of 66 355 accounts.

There was inclusion of 851 indigent who has outstanding Municipal debt which we are asking for write off of their account based on 2024/25 Indigent Policy.

item 74.6. request for extension of indigent accounts that are due to expire on 30 June 2025. There are 64 849 current indigent register that will expire on the 30th June 2025. Currently, the Municipality is busy reviewing the Indigent Policy for 2025/26. It is only proper to extend the current 64 849 registered indigents by 12 months so that they continue receiving free basic services.

Municipalities like Mangaung, play a critical part in informing the public and assisting with the identification of registration of qualifying households. They also have an obligation to vet every applicant and select only households that meet the criteria. The municipalities determine their own criteria for identification and registration of indigents, to a large extent the determination is based on the resources available to the Municipality. Why I am raising these issues it is because there were questions asked, if the current three years has expired, if it is possible to register for indigent, yes, the register is always open, if ever you applied for three months and it has expired, you must come back so that we can verify that you are still unemployed, or you are working.

The second question, that the Municipality is switching off water? No, we are reducing water because that is the only means that makes our people to come to glasshouse or to other regions to come because our people currently, are not even being coming to the Municipality. After we implemented all these policies that we have passed, including the one of debt incentive scheme, it is only now that you see people coming to the Municipality, presenting themselves with problems that they are having.

There is this issue from Heidedal as presented by one Councillor, there are two things, it is either you are indigent or not. You cannot be in the middle. Hence, we are saying, those people must come to the Municipality, these doors are always open from morning until 16h00. We cannot say we are switching off water, we are reducing the flow of water. You must remember, ANC will never switch off water and that is a fact.

The Municipality only survive by rendering services to the people. This Municipality find itself where it is because it is relying on grants to run the Municipality. We need to change that because people must pay for the services they are getting. We are drinking water; we must pay for it.

Everyday there are Municipal staff collecting refuse at our houses, we must pay for that. There is no way we are going to say that because it is our people we cannot talk to them. We are trying to be honest with them, this Municipality, unfortunately you as members of the community of Mangaung, the Municipality belong to you. You must come here and assist us to change the status of the Municipality. I thank you."

Cllr MW Mongale raised a point of order that the previous speaker, Cllr LW Lekgetho made reference in the Councillors' presence, and he was misleading the public in saying that the Council is run by ANC. That even though AIC and ATM were not saying anything, and for the sake of public, it must be known that there is a coalition of ANC, ATM and AIC.

Cllr SQ Peter responded as follows: "Ndiyabulela Somlomo. Honourable Speaker I must indicate two things; we have a number of policies..."

The Speaker interjected and dismissed the point of order by Cllr MW Mongale as he was making a political statement and furthermore gave clarity as follows: "The Councillor was refereeing individually to all of you, with your different constituencies, because those constituencies are your constituencies. You have a collective responsibility as this Council to render services and provide good governance to the community irrespective of your numbers in the Council. Here, you are a collective of Councillors of Mangaung. When the community demands services, they will never say party X give us services and would always say, Mangaung Municipality we want services and that is what the Councillor was saying."

The Speaker thereupon agreed that he would refer to the records as per request of Cllr MW Mongale.

Cllr SQ Peter continued: "Thank you, Somlomo. I need to indicate two things, all the policies that are budget related, inter alia, Credit Control Policy, Debt Collection Policy, Indigent Policy are all interweaved, meaning linked. At no stage we will implement another policy leaving the other behind, for example: one Councillor indicated how do we shut down someone's water, yet they are indigent. Honourable Speaker I want to make it clear; we will never shut down water as the Municipality without exploring necessary means; for example, anyone earning less than R6 270, combined either from the grants etc, that individual or households is allowed to apply at any of the Municipal offices for indigent relief so that they can be assisted to curb water disconnection as you will be a non-paying citizen.

Honourable Speaker, the issue of incorrect disconnection of pre-paid water meters, comes with different reasons, either wrong address allocated and people doing disconnection will do that erroneously or sometime as indigent at some time accumulated a debt because you have used the Municipal services. Some households may not be aware that before pre-paid water meter, they consumed water through conventional meter and were charged for that and others has still that outstanding debt as a result, you have to visit the Municipal offices so that can be cleared, and your status can be corrected. The 851 indigent applications that we have brought before Council for approval ..."

Cllr JM De Bruin interjected by indicated that all Councillors knew that there were two meters because of what the Municipality had done with private contractors and why did the Municipality write off some indigents who earn more than R6 270 and why does the Municipality not write off the old accounts and let them pay for pre-paid water?

Cllr SQ Peter continued: “That the Council has been undertaking the process of IDP review including all other policy related and whatever Cllr JM De Bruin say, he should have raised it there to inform those policies so that it can be addressed.

The 851 indigent applications were processed by the five (5) officials of the Municipality. Last year June when we approved the last batch, we did indicate that we are working with a skeleton staff dealing with indigent and so, this time around it took almost nine (9) months to come and present the 851. The very same 5 personnel are dealing with acceptance, assessment, verification and finally compiling this list that we have here, that is why there was a delay. Previously you can recall that when we used the service providers, we would bring 4000 – 5000 batch Councillors and so now we are unable because of the limited resources we have. However, we need to indicate that it would be resolved as soon as we have approved the microstructure so that we are able to recruit enough personnel in that office in order to assist.

On the recommendation Honourable Speaker, on item 74.5, we need to correct recommendation (3), *Council approved the list of qualifying indigents be shared with Centlec for Free Basic Electricity*, it should not be Centlec only, it should also be ESKOM. Remember, other areas of Mangaung are serviced by ESKOM. Normally the indigent register is shared amongst the two entities so that they can be assisted. I support the items. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr CL Kruger provided clarity as follows: “Honourable Speaker, it is clear to me that majority of our PR Councillors do not understand the two different policies, but Ward Councillors are fully aware. It doesn’t mean that someone is a pensioner that they are automatically indigent, because not all pensioners get a SASSA (South African Social Security Agency) pension. You get people that derives their pensions from government, which means the salary they get home, exceed the threshold.

A normal indigent person, who is not a pensioner, gets reviewed every three (3) years and once a pensioner is approved as indigent, don’t get reviewed because they are aging.

The challenge with some water meters, when the Municipality restrict water, but to the community it looks like a total closure. The challenge is with the pressure of the water. We had a meeting with Human Rights Commission and the Department of Technical Services to see how we can fix that, because it is not everyone. It is at areas where water pressure is low, and it appears to the community that it is a total closure. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr AP Terblanche indicated that he did not agree with what Cllr CL Kruger mentioned. Community members who were over the age of 60 were not permanent indigents, they were expected to apply every three (3) years.

Cllr SQ Peter remarked that on item 74.6, recommendation (1), currently the City use R6 270 as a baseline for a person/household to qualify as indigent. The City now wants to ascertain if it can make use of the Property Market Values system; the reason being that the Municipality has residents' information on where people resides and the value of the house which will ultimately curb the issue of the 60 years as mentioned by the MMC of Finance. This will also assist the City to cleanse the data and assist the City to speed up the process.

In terms of Rule 37, Cllr GDP Kotze remarked: "Mister Speaker, through you, a request to the MMC of Finance. It took you nine (9) months to approve 851 applications, will you give the Ward and PR Councillors the opportunity next week to come and inspect the process how the indigent applications are approved?"

You also mentioned in the recommendations that there is indigent register software that you are using; I would like from my side to inspect just how this software would work if that is in order?

Mister, there is a lot of trust lost by the residents in Mangaung Metro. Cllr MW Mongale said that we need to fix the system, but unfortunately you cannot trust someone to fix the system that broke the system. My proposal will be, we as the DA will bring motion for a forensic audit be done by the Auditor General on all Municipal accounts, and indigent registers for the past five (5) years to investigate. The reason is, if you look at AG's report, there was an official in Mangaung Metro who falsely put in readings from contractor that was false, and she is suspended now. The question is how many accounts she put in the system that were fraudulent.

Another issue, the system was hacked in 2023...remember the residents do not have trust in our systems and the CFO said herself, there are issues in billing system. Our system was hacked in 2023 and we are still waiting for the report on the information that was hacked and that is why we will bring that motion. Thank you, Mister Speaker."

The Speaker remarked as follows: "Councillors, this item should have gone through all relevant Committees, Section 80 Committees where parties are represented. I take it that these points should have been canvased at that level so that when we get here, we are all clarified at least we have participated, added our views and if we were not responded to, we can submit a Rule 38 question because our views were not incorporated. I am raising this to appeal to Councillors to not get into unnecessary debates at times because we have concluded the debates at Committee level."

Executive Mayor provided clarity to issues raised as follows: "Honourable Speaker, I indicated that I want to combine the issue of incentive with indigent issues.

Cllr E Snyman Van Deventer asked about modalities on how we collect, we have law abiding citizen that indeed pay their services in whichever through gadgets or availing themselves, walk-ins. Yes, indeed we do force others by way of switch offs, that people must come and pay. If you would recall, there has been an indictment by us to say we are unbundling the collection spell and I think we did succeed doing that and now we have to appoint companies

in the space to do that collection outside the collection from government institutions. I got a report that they have now started their work and that will also add to the improvement of our collection.

There is a problem that relates to our collection as well as the collection of indigent register. We have reached a stage where we are saying, we have regional offices where our people must have access rather than coming to the main offices. Some of the regional offices has necessary equipment but understaffed or not staffed at all. I have requested the officials to look at how best we can staff those offices in order to make life easier for our people. To reach out at regional level, both at the level of paying for services, but equally so, registering as indigent. We should be able to be at pass measure where our people are.

The offices that need to be revived; we are reviving. Those that need establishment, we are establishing. Cllr GDP Kotze, we also have to look at the mechanisation of those offices, to be well equipped IT wise. Rather than investigating, I think you should sell your knowledge so that it must help. You are too much into dealing than helping when we actually need your knowledge economy in this regard, and only if you are willing to put it to the best use.

Honourable Speaker, Chapter 2 of the Constitution, speaks to bill of rights, human rights and we are quite conscious of what is the right of our people, but we also need to teach our people their obligations. Citizens must also know what their obligations are. So, do not come here and hub on rights and forget that there is what we call obligations as well. It is also enshrined in the Constitution; it is not farfetched. Quoting a book of life such a Constitution selectively doesn't help because you are now abusing the people. You want to appear to be holier than though when in actual fact you are misleading them. Let us also consider that aspect Honourable Speaker.

Honourable Speaker, some of the issues relating to writing offs, and balancing the books that are not to the level of consumer. We have systems in the Municipality that individuals can come, and they came. I know that officials have develop a system to also help out for instance, the officials will say, we will bill you for three (3) months after fixing the leakage at your property, the period of three (3) months will tell us that ideally what amount of water you are using so that they can adjust billing. That is practical, and operational. It cannot come to Council but referred to where it supposed to go to be dealt with at that level.

Cllr CL Bouwer you sound learned and polished, but not streetwise and that is my worry. Once you are not streetwise, you will shoot off the hip. Please acclimatise yourself with the needs on the ground and I promise you, you will be a refined Councillor, but for now, you are off the mark. I can understand, the manner in which DA recruit especially at our communities is different, they pick individuals out of their outstanding nature. You probably could have posed that, but ground yourself to the realities, you will never go wrong.

I want to conclude by saying, Honourable Speaker, the issue of indigent register is an inhouse thing, I am discouraging officials from outsourcing like it happened in the past, that is an operation close to the hearts of our people with those that they have elected.

Can I make an appeal Honourable Speaker, rather than we should anticipate our people to do the walk-ins, I have requested officials to also begin to work on how we can commit ourselves. In the main, this role is more political than just an ordinary operation. It needs those that they elected to reach out to those that elected them and provide services and also help our people. We are going to develop those forms that help us to reach out to our communities and begin to register our people, by way of helping them.

To avoid confusion, each Ward has a Ward Councillor, and we will operate through that window. But allow us to refine that process, let us dirty our hands and reach out to communities and make sure that they enjoy their rights. That can only happen through our efforts as Councillors and that can also cartale pointing of fingers when we come to the Council, because we would know what is entailed in the indigent register. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

On a point of clarity, Cllr CL Bouwer stated as follows: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. thank you, Honourable Executive Mayor, I receive the complement of what you read of him. i might probably unlearned my streetwiseness by trying to be more diplomatic, but it seems that one of my statements might have touched a nerve of which I do not know, what is that Honourable Speaker. I don’t know what statement might have led you to that, I might have missed the point somewhere.”

The Speaker indicated that he would allow Executive Mayor to reply however, such discussion would not be allowed as it has to be inline with what is on the table, under discussion.

Executive Mayor responded that it would be dealt with nicodemously and that Cllr CL Bouwer was welcome to visit him.

The Council voted as follows, with amendment to include ESKOM under recommendations: 76 votes in favour, 0 against and 2 abstained

It was thereupon

RESOLVED that

1. Council approved the inclusion of 851 indigent applications in the Indigent Register 2025/27 and a total municipal debt of R45 907 422.85 be written off and they be provided with free basic services as per indigent Policy.
2. It is hereby resolved that a total of R357 972 195.06 related to 66 355 approved indigents be written off.
3. Council approved the list of qualifying indigents be shared with Centlec and **ESKOM** for Free Basic Electricity.

6.

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF INDIGENT ACCOUNTS THAT ARE DUE TO EXPIRE ON 30 JUNE 2025

The item was discussed and resolved simultaneously with item 74.5 above.

It was thereupon with **76 votes in favour, 0 against and 2 abstained**

RESOLVED that

1. A total of 64 849 approved indigent households with expiry date 30 June 2025 has been extended with an additional one year ending 30 June 2026, pending the verifications to be done using the Indigent Management Software and the finalization of the research on the usage of the Property Market Values as the Indigent qualification criteria.
2. Council approved the list of extension for qualifying indigents to be shared with Centlec and **ESKOM** for free Basic Electricity.

7.

DEBT CLEARANCE OF 5 DONATED FARMS FOR COMMONAGE

Cllr AF Bothma addressed the Council: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Cllr. Mathae.

We would like to support the clearance of outstanding Municipal debt on the five (5) donated farms allocated for commonage. This is acknowledged as it is for extremely good, intended purpose and cannot be denied.

We need to conclude as this emanated in 2021, 29th of January. So, it is quite a long time, we should have done this earlier. It is just with regret that the report indicates that the amount of R837 759.76 must now be written off. The farms are currently still registered under the name of the applicable government department. If the Debt Collection Policy was applied to these government properties, no arrears would have emanated. We must make sure that the Municipality collects all arrears from government property in future to prevent these write-offs.

Furthermore, Mister Speaker, we would like to receive a report on the effective usage of the envisaged commonage. This report must show Council the progress of using these farms for the strategic goal of:

- Rural economic development.
- Job creation, and
- Poverty alleviation

Because that is what it is intended for.

The transfer process must now be concluded and therefore the Debt Clearance must be completed with the write-off of the outstanding debts owed by these five (5) farms. And expedite the transfer of ownership to the Mangaung Metro Municipality. We support this. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr M Wewege addressed the Council: “Thank you, Mister Speaker. Although the Freedom Front Plus is grateful for this donation, why did the province never pay its Municipal account? Especially in view of the R1.6 billion owed by government to this Municipality, this amount of R800 000 plus is not a huge amount; however, it shows the lack of the provincial government to pay its dues.

The Executive Mayor said earlier in his speech, good governance into action, however when the provincial government must pay us, where is this good governmental interaction?”

Cllr MH Supi commented as follows: “Honourable Speaker, this item is brought to Council for the clearance of outstanding Municipal debt on the five (5) donated farms as mentioned. The reason for this item to be referred to Council, is to advise and make it possible to understand and acknowledge the process that is going to unfold.

The huge demand for commonages especially in Mangaung, rona moo re dulang teng, dipholologo re di bona ditletsetletse le moo bana ba tshamekelang kgwele ya dinao teng.

We are saying, Honourable Speaker we accept this donation and that the process that would unfold will be transparent and open for public can note. I support the item, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr MJ Mabena commented as follows: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Executive Mayor and house at large.

I am sure that the milestone starts from previous administration if one could begin to understand and to know, because of the land shortage. The previous Council mandated the former Economic and Rural Development HOD, Mr Teboho Maine who wrote a letter on the 29th of January 2021, its almost 4 years and 4 months. But there were conditions in the response from Department of Rural Development, Economic and Land Reform. There were some other conditions laid down, and one condition that is brought here, is that the Municipality be responsible for all cost related to the transfer and registration.

We must also bear in mind that there are Municipal guides that speak of the principles and policies on writing off of irrecoverable debt. The delegated powers speak of the CFO and if the amount does not exceed R30 000 with regard to household income, and with regards to business R50 000 it is the responsibility of the CFO. If the household amount does not exceed R100 000 it is the responsibility of Municipal Manager. But now, the amount exceeds that hence we are here today to clear the debt.

By also finalising this transfer will significantly contribute to the Municipality's strategic goals of rural economic development, job creation and poverty alleviation.

Honourable Speaker, I was very much happy about the statement of the EFF when they spoke about their rally in Brandfort and acknowledging Winnie Madikizela Mandela and that shows that they know exactly the strategic objective why Winnie Madikizela Mandela joined the African National Congress. One of the issues, was that of the land. But I was amazed again when they spoke about our Premier. I was worried about that. I was happy when they spoke about Winnie Madikizela Mandela but became astonished when they spoke about the Premier.

The DA mentioned Rolihlahla Madiba Mandela and also, he joined the African National Congress and one of the issues was land. We speak of the land now, they are interlinked. But if you don't understand the strategic objective of the African National Congress, you will in fact misuse that. I don't think those who did not defecated in the pit latrines will give us land. Those who defecated in the bucket system will give us land. No one who did not suffer during the apartheid era will liberate us. But now, we are giving land to commonages...”

Cllr KC Moreeng referred to Rule 31 on relevance and Speaker stated that Cllr MJ Mabena be allowed to finish as he was still in his allocated time.

Cllr MJ Mabena continued: “I really acknowledged that they praised our leaders. I was thinking of praising Verwoerd, Malan and De Klerk on their behalf but they failed. Thank you.”

Cllr MW Mongale addressed the Council: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Dr BL Mathae. This item of debt clearance on five (5) donated farms for commonages, it is a very emotive issue on Afrikan Alliance of Social Democrats because we are discussing five (5) commonages, the province that failed to pay, we don’t know what they have bargained to say ha re le feng tsona because re feitse ho patala. On the other side, there is a need for our people to have commonages, but we must also not fall in a trap of duplication of just acquiring land because it is nice to have.

We have about 20 Trusts, but they are dilapidated. I don’t know whether the reason why there is no investment at those Trusts even though there are large areas of land there, it is because you are still angry at Mangope although the citizens that are there also voted for you and Mangope is not staying in the Trusts. I don’t know why they are not funded by the Department of Agriculture, or they are not in the rural development program so that they can have cows and grow the economy so that people can start planting like they used to during the time of former Bophuthatswana. Planting is not counter revolutionary; you would not be reviving apartheid of Bantustan by planting at the Trusts. All what you will be doing, you will be empowering our people and also addressing the issue of food security.

We appreciate these five (5) farms, but we are saying we cannot focus on them while we are abandoning more than 20 Trusts that are ready made. Once you have money you can start ploughing at those Trusts because it is an arable soil. The problem is there is no dedicated program by the Municipality for rural development. I am raising it to say let us not deal with this issue on a piecemeal basis. We might have a commonage but if after 10 years there are no developments, it is also a fruitless exercise. We would have actually wasted the money of Council by not developing the area.

For now, there is an excitement, but no one has agreed about the process; the building block on how the Council is going to help people to access the farms. I will only support the usage of the commonage on one condition on the proposal of Cllr MH Supi who said that the process must be transparent on who should be the beneficiaries so that there should not be an issue hore ho kenywana ka se-family, jwale family e se e ikutlwa e le rich e be e fuwa deployment, e tlohela polasi kapa commonage, e be e phuthlhamana. Those things are making us laughing stocks to other people to say you are being given land, but you are not using it effectively. The issue is why do you want it, if you cannot use it. It is the issue that we are discussing today. I am pleading that this should not be another talk show, at least let us talk the talk. Let’s meet here in a years’ time to say in these commonages there is a particular economic activity that are happening and Mangaung has benefitted or the owners at those commonages, their economy has grown to a particular level and now they qualify to get farms because their livestock or production has risen to the level of them qualifying for a farm. Commonage is a temporary measure, not a permanent and end state. We know hore batho ba nahana hore ke moo malapa a bona a lo holelang teng, moo mafa a lo siwang teng. No, it is a temporary measure, and I am pleading that should be the approach and the spirit. We must also go to Trusts at Thaba Nchu and see what we can do because something needs to be done if we are serious about addressing food security. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr DL Malebo addressed the Council: “Kealeboha Motsamaisa wa Dipuisano. Honourable Speaker, once again, we rise today as the Economic Freedom Fighters, the only political movement that stands unwavering in its mission for economic liberation and land justice, to speak on the matter of the five (5) donated farms for commonage purposes. We speak on this issue under the guidance of the EFF's Cardinal Pillar Number One: "Expropriation of land without compensation for equal Redistribution". This is not just a policy to us it is a call to action. Because land is dignity, identity, and economic freedom.

Honourable Speaker, it is shameful utterly shameful that after 30 years into democracy, black people are still forced to live with livestock in township backyards. Children are growing up in yards where goats sleep near the kitchen door, chickens walk into homes, and cows are tied to street poles. This is not by choice. This is a crisis created by centuries of land dispossession, and it continues today through a Municipality that has failed to provide adequate land and infrastructure for black farmers. Yet in the leafy suburbs of the privileged few, you will not see livestock roaming the streets. Why? Because those who live in town own farms elsewhere. They enjoy the benefits of land that was stolen and protected through racist legislation and ongoing structural inequality.

So, we ask: Why must the black child in Mangaung live in a home that doubles as a kraal? Why must the poor be criminalised for trying to survive? We welcome the donation of these five (5) farms but let it be clear, this is not a favour to our people it is a basic human right. And it is only a small step toward full redress of land injustice. But even this small step is threatened. Because who will manage these farms? Who decides who gets access?

As the EFF, we make it clear:

- We demand full transparency on how these farms will be allocated.
- We demand that these farms be used exclusively for commonage, with proper fencing, water access, animal care, and grazing infrastructure.
- We reject any attempt to allow only the politically connected or gatekeepers to benefit.
- We call for community oversight, so that ordinary people hold the Municipality accountable.

These farms must be used to decongest our townships, to restore dignity to black farmers, and to promote food security and black agricultural enterprise. Let this be a signal to our people. The EFF will never rest until all land is returned to the people, not through market transactions, but through expropriation without compensation, as our founding documents declare. The days of our people living like second-class citizens in their own land must come to an end. We want land, not promises. We want dignity, justice.

Honourable Speaker, worse part, ha re tsebe hore MMC eo a leng in charge with this ke mang. Ke batla ho ba clear to MMC, ha ke na le bonnete ba hore wa tseba hore Trusts di hokae, di shebetse kae' yet we have MMC who is in charge. He is not even aware that di-Trusteng, dikgomo di teng moo, ha soka a ya, ha a tsebe hore na e shebetse kae Honourable Speaker. ke re ho MMC le Executive Mayor, ha e sare ha re kgetha re shebe hore batho ba rona ba tlo una eng. Kealeboha Moetapele.”

The Executive Mayor responded as follows: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. let me start by saying the donation comes from the Department of National Rural and not actually from Province, but that doesn’t mean that we should not maintain a relationship with number of Departments as a Metro because, cordiality in so far as ensuring that our work is realised, is the order of the day.

In fact, with the province, when it comes to payment of their bill; we have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) and if they do not follow the prescripts, we will be left with no choice but to switch off. The MOU came as a result of switching off because we wanted the money that belongs to the Metro. There are no incentives when it comes to government to government. We do not even have any company appointed to do that, we do it directly, ourselves.

The land comes from Department of Rural Development. My take is that it is a good gesture that Councillors should note and acknowledge this kind of donation in a way to help us rid, first of the animals at township. I can indicate that these pieces of land that we have acquired are far from addressing the crisis or challenge we are faced with in our townships. We will do our best to find more land. I did allude earlier on to say, where there will be a need for the land to be utilised other than commonage, perhaps even residential unit if it is closer to localities where our people are living and could access where they work; we will decide because gone are the days to locate people in the far flank. It should also be noted that animals that are in commonages, closer to localities or townships, people suffer because people steal their stocks and so, we will look into that closely.”

It was thereupon with 76 votes in favour, 0 against and 2 abstained

RESOLVED

1. The following actions are resolved by Council to approve clearance of:
 - a) 8.1 Schoonzicht No. 386 – R290 227.69
 - b) 8.2 Remainder of Gelukszuiping No. 243 – R108 504.93
 - c) 8.3 Portion of Farm Zoelaagte No. 19 – R107 071.08
 - d) 8.4 Remainder of Farm Gelukslaagte No. 244 – R312 204. 89
 - e) 8.5 Remainder of Farm Venice No. 466 – R19 751.17
2. The debt clearance of these 5 farms will assist to expedite the transfer of ownership to Mangaung Metro Municipality and ensure that all administrative and financial processes are completed and allow the Municipality to officially allocate the land for commonage purposes.

75	REPORTS FROM THE SPEAKER
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None.

NOTED.

76	REPORTS FROM MPAC
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1.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE FUNCTIONALITY OF MUNICIPAL PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (MPAC)

Cllr PM Mohibidu presented the report as the Whip of MPAC: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Executive Mayor, Deputy Executive Mayor and Chief Whip. Greetings to all Honourable Councillors.

The submission of the report to the Council, is to provide an overview on the Municipal Public Accounts Committee in terms of its work to date, the legislative framework and mandate of MPAC in accordance with Section 79A of Municipal Structures Act 117 of 1998 as amended and also Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000 as amended.

The role of MPAC is to promote good governance, transparency, accountability by providing oversight over the public account accounts.

Programs and activities: Annual work plan developed annually before the new financial year. In the main these program sort to address the backlogs the Committee was confronted with.

Challenges is poor implementation of Council resolutions, matter related to Section 32 MFMA, UIFW, lack of attendance of meetings by senior management and on activities poor or lack of budget on matters of MPAC, staff need to be capacitated.

The recommendation Honourable Speaker is that Council takes note of the report. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr GDP Kotze addressed the Council: “Mister Speaker, the Municipal Public Accounts Committee is a crucial oversight body in Local Government responsible for monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the Municipality’s financial management and performance. MPAC holds Municipal executive accountable for unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure and can summon officials for explanation. It submits its recommendation to the Municipal Council and promotes transparency and encourage public participation in its oversight process.

The Chairperson of MPAC is responsible for leading the Committees’ oversight work by ensuring effective scrutiny of the Municipality’s financial management and performance. The Chairperson promotes accountability, transparency and public participation while upholding ethical standards and political neutrality.

The report states that MPAC was established on 8th December 2021 but became dormant in March 2023 due to political and administrative issues. It was revived in July 2023 with the election of Cllr IJ Makoloane as Chairperson. Cllr IJ Makoloane, you have been in this position for 22 months and it seems you are failing.

The administration appears to be undermining the effectiveness of MPAC by deliberately stalling the implementation of Council resolutions. Despite clear recommendations and follow-ups from the Committee, the resolutions aimed at addressing financial misconduct and good governance are either poorly implemented or completely ignored. This pattern not only frustrate the oversight role of MPAC but also compromise MPAC as they are seen to be ineffective as far as making sound recommendations. The persistent failure to address unauthorized, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure points to a lack of cooperation from the administration which often delays or withhold critical information that MPAC needs to carry out its mandate.

Let me remind you, that on the AG report on unauthorized, irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditures as disclosed in the financial statement, unauthorized expenditure R1.3 million was incurred due to budget overspending, while irregular expenditure R277 000..."

Cllr PM Mohibidu raised a point of order that she was not sure where Cllr GDP Kotze was referring to in terms of the item because the report was on the functionality of MPAC.

Point of order was also raised by the Deputy Executive Mayor that the Whip of MPAC presented a progress report and not what MPAC must do. That the Councillors was talking about responsibilities of MPAC as well as issues on the Annual Report.

Speaker thereon provided clarity as follows: "Cllr GDP Kotze, I take it that MPAC is a multiparty Committee and that you may have an opportunity to contribute to the formulation of this report."

Cllr GDP Kotze continued: "Mister Speaker, I will just want to mention that I attended the MPAC meeting in December 2024 as an observer when this report was compiled by MPAC and that is why I am giving inputs in this Council meeting.

I will just want to mention that, when I was there as an observer, some of the members of the ANC in that MPAC meeting for an hour had the issue with stipend payment that they did not receive two (2) months later. MPAC meetings are not for stipend payments that are late, we had to wait for CFO to attend to the issue and that is why this Committee is not functioning, there is no progress, this is a smoke screen. There is no progress and that is what I am highlighting here...

MPAC is deliberately underfunded with insufficient budget allocation hindering its ability to conduct site visits, community engagement even critical training workshops. Some of the members of MPAC come hours late for public meetings and that is a disgrace. The financial neglect is a strategic move to weaken MPAC oversight capacity.

As this Council term approaches its conclusion at the end of 2026, no accountability has been enforced for ongoing financial mismanagement. Consequently, the public of Mangaung needs a watchdog over the financial situation of Mangaung and not a puppy that has been led by the administration. Thank you, Mister Speaker."

Cllr CL Kruger raised a concern that Councillors were not following procedures and grandstanding and that Cllr GDP Kotze was misleading.

Cllr DE Matsephe commented as follows: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. MPAC is bringing progress report before the Council, the work that MPAC has been doing thus far.

I must indicate Honourable Speaker that in recent past, MPAC has conducted public participation on the annual report of which the oversight report would be tabled before this Council so that Council can have an opportunity to interrogate the oversight report of MPAC.

What the Whip of the Committee presented is the progress report and among other issues, the report presented to Council on the 12th of December 2024 on benchmarking, the lessons learned from eThekweni Municipality is that addressing issues of backlog on UIFWE, the MPAC has established a Technical Committee to attend to those issues. It is not true that there is no progress. There has been work that MPAC is doing which will be included when we come and present our oversight report on annual report.

Cllr GDP Kotze is not a member of MPAC, yes, he was an observer. If he had interest of MPAC issues, he should have attended meetings after this one, perhaps there was an interest of this [articular meeting. On what has happened after this meeting, there is progress made by MPAC. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

The Speaker remarked that he was nullifying the contributions of Cllr GDP Kotze on the report and that if he was a member of the Committee, he would have spoken in support of their report and since he was speaking against the report and he is not a member of the Committee as Councillors presented progress on state of functioning.

Council did not vote as the item was for noting.

It was thereupon

RESOLVED that Council took note of this progress.

77	REPORTS FROM AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE
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None.

NOTED.

78	REPORTS ON WARD COMMITTEES/CONSOLIDATED REPORT ON WARD COMMITTEE
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None.

NOTED.

79	REPORT ON SALGA ACTIVITIES
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None.

NOTED.

80	IN COMMITTEE REPORTS
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None.

NOTED.

81	MOTIONS
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None.

NOTED.

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

None.

NOTED.

83	CLOSING OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
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The Speaker officially, declared the meeting closed at 16h59.

SECRETARIAT UNIT
COMMITTEE SERVICES