CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES
of a
SPECIAL MEETING
(BUDGET MEETING 2025/26)

MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE
DR RANTLAI PETRUS MOLEMELA STADIUM
BLOEMFONTEIN

TUESDAY
27 MAY 2025
AT 10:00

MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING (BUDGET MEETING 2025/26)
of the
MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
held INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE, DR RANTLAI PETRUS STADIUM
BLOEMFONTEIN
on
TUESDAY, 27 MAY 2025 at 10:00

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

#	NAME	PARTY	LEAVE
1	Speaker Cllr Mathae (Bongani Lawrence)	ANC	
2	Executive Mayor Cllr Nthatisi (Gregory Mosala Solomon)	ANC	
3	Deputy Executive Mayor Cllr Titi-Odili (Lulama Magdeline)	ANC	
4	Council Whip Cllr Nikelo (Vumile Edwin)	ANC 28	
SECTION 79 CHAIRPERSONS			
5	Rules Cllr Mokgothu (Tona Kenosi Wilfred)	ANC 2	
6	MPAC Cllr Makoloane (Itumeleng Justice)	ANC 36	
7	Petitions and Community Liaison Cllr Morake (Molefi Andries)	ANC	
8	Remunerations Cllr Tladi (Motshewa Martha)	ANC	
9	Public Places and Street Naming Cllr Mogotloane (Thabo Joel)	ANC 39	
MEMBERS OF MAYORAL COMMITTEE			
10	Waste and Fleet Management Cllr Jonas (Vuyelwa Eunice)	ANC	
11	Economic Development Cllr Mosala (Motlhokung Theodorah)	ANC 11	
12	Public Safety and Transport Cllr Tsoleli (Sibongile Pearm)	ANC	
13	Technical Services Cllr Soqaga (Vusumzi Simon)	ANC	
14	Finance Cllr Kruger (Caprice Logan)	ANC 16	
15	Planning and Human Settlements Cllr Nhlapo (Ntombi Anna)	ANC	
16	Rural Development Cllr Twala (Pani Sidney)	ATM	
17	Community Services Cllr Qai (Alfred)	AIC	
18	Corporate Services 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	Absent with apology
24	Cllr De Kock (Valerie Belinda)	FFPlus	
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	Absent with apology
30	Cllr Lipale (Gopolang Jeremiah)	EFF	Absent with apology
31	Cllr Makau (Pitso Elias)	EFF	Absent with apology
32	Cllr Malebo (Deliwe Lettia)	EFF	Absent with apology
33	Cllr Maliela (Motiki Edwin)	DA	
34	Cllr Matobole (Mosala Abel)	DA	
35	Cllr Matsoetlane (Maditaba Joyce)	ANC	
36	Cllr Mogotsi (Mamahlape Elisa)	EFF	Absent with apology
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	Absent with apology
44	Cllr Ramatlama (Mpho Joseph)	EFF	Absent with apology
45	Cllr Rammile (Tumelo Kingsley)	DA	

46	**Cllr Rampai (Pule Joseph)**	**ACDP**	
47	**Cllr Sebolao (Jankie Elisha)**	**EFF**	**Absent with apology**
48	**Cllr Shale (Nkahiseng Reginah)**	**EFF**	**Absent with apology**
49	**Cllr Snyman (Pieter Adriaan)**	**DA**	
50	**Cllr Snyman van Deventer (Elizabeth)**	**FFPlus**	
51	**Cllr Swartz (Sophia Mametjie)**	**PA**	
52	**Cllr Terblanche (Arthur Phillip)**	**DA**	
53	**Cllr Thomas (Johannes Beleme)**	**EFF**	**Absent with apology**
54	**Cllr Viviers (Benhardus Jacobus)**	**DA**	
55	**Cllr Vorster (Braam)**	**FFPlus**	
56	**Cllr Wewege (Mare-Lize)**	**FFPlus**	
WARD COUNCILLORS			
57	**Cllr Sefaki (Samuel)**	**ANC 1**	
58	**Cllr Machachamise (Tshepiso Oudious)**	**ANC 3**	
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 Sitoe (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**	
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**	
76	**Cllr van der Walt (Tjaart Botha)**	**DA** **23**	
77	**Cllr Kotze (Gerhardus Dirk Petrus)**	**DA** **24**	
78	**Cllr Kotze (Paul Mare')**	**DA** **25**	
79	**Cllr van Niekerk (Hendrik Johannes Christiaan)**	**DA** **26**	
80	**Cllr Banyane (Zachous Nechodemus)**	**ANC** **27**	
81	**Cllr Matsephe (Dikololo Elias)**	**ANC** **29**	
82	**Cllr Tukula (Teboho Daniel)**	**ANC** **30**	
83	**Cllr Mabena (Mere Joel)**	**ANC** **31**	
84	**Cllr Menyatso (Thabang Victory)**	**ANC** **32**	
85	**Cllr Mohono (Tshidiso Augustine)**	**ANC** **33**	
86	**Cllr Tshwane (Kabi Daniel)**	**ANC** **34**	
87	**Cllr Fantisi (Teboho Samuel)**	**ANC** **35**	
88	**Cllr Ramolelle (Mmota Simon)**	**ANC** **37**	
89	**Cllr Matsoso (Molahloane Florenciah)**	**ANC** **38**	
90	**Cllr Pholoholo (Ntebaleng Petunia)**	**ANC** **40**	
91	**Cllr Dintlhwane (Mantja Agnes)**	**ANC** **41**	
92	**Cllr Mothupi (Maqoma Lazarus)**	**ANC** **42**	
93	**Cllr Nkiane (Mpho Elizabeth)**	**ANC** **43**	
94	**Cllr Pretorius (Selmé)**	**DA** **44**	
95	**Cllr Mathe (Lisiwe Jeanette)**	**ANC** **45**	
96	**Cllr Majoro (Mpho Samuel)**	**ANC** **46**	
97	**Cllr Maartens (Jan-Rudolf)**	**DA** **47**	
98	**Cllr Pretorius (Johannes Christiaan)**	**DA** **48**	
99	**Cllr Lekhwele (Mohanuwa Julia)**	**ANC** **49**	

100	**Cllr Monare (Thabo Nicholus)**	**ANC 50**	
101	**Cllr Mohulatsi (Mamoorosi Margaret)**	**ANC 51**	

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

#	DESIGNATION	NAME/S
1	CITY MANAGER	MR SELLO MORE
2	CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	MS ZUZIWE THEKISHO
3	HOD: TECHNICAL SERVICES	MR REVELATION MASOBENG
4	HOD: 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 OFFICE OF COUNCIL WHIP	MR THABO MOHAPI
13	HEAD OF MPAC	MR DIPHOKO SEKAKANYO
14	ADVISOR TO EXECUTIVE MAYOR	MS N MODISAESI
15	GM: COMMITTEE SERVICES	MS XOLISWA QILO
16	GM: COMMUNICATIONS	MR Q KHEDAMA
17	ACTING MANAGER: COUNCIL SUPPORT	MS RINA MAMATELA
18	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).

INDEX

MINUTES
(OPEN COUNCIL)

96.
OPENING
(MOMENT OF SILENT CONTEMPLATION FOR MEDITATION AND PRAYERS)

The meeting commenced at 10:11.

The Speaker officially opened the meeting and request all to observe a moment of silent contemplation for meditation and prayers.

He furthermore acknowledged and made the following remarks: “The Executive Mayor, Cllr G Nthatisi, the Premier of Free State, the Deputy Speaker of the Free State, the MEC of CoGTA and the presence of other MEC’s, the Deputy Executive Mayor, the Council Whip, Members of the Mayoral Committee, Chairpersons of the Section 79 Committees, the Whips of different political parties, honourable Councillors, the City Manager, the CEO of Centlec, the CEO of Vaal Central Water, Provincial Heads of Departments, the Heads of Departments for both Mangaung and Centlec, the Chairperson of the Board of Centlec, Electricity Utility of Centlec, the Chairperson of the Municipal Demarcation Board, the CEO of the Demarcation Board, the Chairperson of the Councillors Disciplinary Board, the Chairperson of the Internal Audit Committee.

The City spoke of their grand buildings their markets and the advanced technology making Amina Philly significant, Amina desponded by a sense of gloom returned to Ntuli with a heavy heart but when she shared her experience with one of the village elders she simply smiled and said *“remember my child he son does not forget the village just because it is small”*, it means the gift of sunlight it is not only given to popular cities and popular people and powerful cities and powerful people, meaning the sun shines and both the weak and the strong the rich and the poor, men and women, young and old even black and white, it does not discriminate where to shine or not. It happens with life as well it essentially means every one is important regardless their size or status therefore I would like to acknowledge all of you no matter your status in life no matter your political believes no matter your cultural origin no matter the colour of your skin no matter your sexual orientation no matter your religion no matter your position in our indigent list no matter your health condition no matter your standing in our judicial eco system, you are all valued and valuable citizens of the Municipality of our Province and our beautiful Country just like Ntuli you may be hidden behind and in between the towering and the elongated chairs of Dr Rantlai Molemela but rest assured we see you. Thank you for devoting your time and energy to this open invite, two days ago we celebrated Africa Day, and we sang the National Anthem.

NOTED.

97.
NOTICE OF THE MEETING

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

NOTED.

98.
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.

99.
ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Cllr MT Mosala moved for the adoption of the agenda as is and was seconded by the Council Whip Cllr VE Nikelo

The agenda was duly adopted.

NOTED.

100.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Cllr SP Tsoleli: "Honourable Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the Executive Mayor the Premier of the Free State and the house a large. I am standing here on behalf of the Executive Mayor we wish to announce that the City will be hosting the King Misuzulu Sinqobile kaZwelithini and the Royal House for the next two (2) days. We request all the citizen of the province and the City to give them a beautiful hospitality. To the Royal House we welcome you and we want to say to you be comfortable and enjoy with us and enjoy the hospitality of the Free State under the Premier and the City of Mangaung. Thank You.

The Speaker:

- A peaceful march by the community of Botshabelo to the Police Station as two (2) patrollers were shot however perpetrators not yet arrested though they are known. Community urges the Police to speedily act to apprehend the perpetrators.

Cllr A Qai: "Honourable Speaker and all protocol observed, I wish to announce The COSAFA live draw that took place on the 21st of May 2025, the COSAFA cup is an annual tournament for teams of the Southern African which is organised by Council and the football association. The COSAFA cup brings together 14 nationals of Southern African under a single umbrella which the tournament from the 4th – 15th June 2025 in Mangaung in partnership with the Department of Sport and Culture and COSAFA. It should be noted that recently there was a National Swimming Athletics, and the Tennis champions are about to host the COSAFA cup as alluded above, this shows that Mangaung Metro its positioning itself as a sporting mega. Thank you."

Cllr MW Mongale: "Honourable Speaker and the house at large, on the 17th of May 2021 there was a child that was killed during the shutdown protest in Mangaung the child's name is Liam Devano Pietersen his life was taken by an unknown killer, where is the killer and why are they not brought forward."

Cllr PA Snyman: "Thank you, Speaker. Let me start this announcement by first congratulating and honouring the brave individuals of the Mangaung Fire and Rescue Department,

These heroes of the community, under incredibly difficult conditions - facing chronic underfunding and operating without the tools they require, manage to achieve what many would consider impossible.

In just the past three months, more than 30 lives have been saved. And that is thanks to their unshakable commitment, courage, and unwavering sense of duty. They are not just firefighters; they are a beacon of hope and salvation to the people of Mangaung during their darkest hours.

To all our brave firefighters, we see you. We acknowledge the sacrifices you make. And we commit to standing by you.

For this reason, the Democratic Alliance is proud to announce that we will be formally handing over a memorandum to the Mangaung Metro.

This memorandum is a plea on behalf of the firefighters of Mangaung who continue to serve with dedication under inadequate conditions. It will call for immediate action from the current ANC administration and "leadership" to ensure that this department is properly funded, fully equipped and capable of saving even more lives.

The Democratic Alliance would also like to announce that once we take over from the corrupt and undeserving ANC in the 2026/2027 Local government elections, you will not be forgotten, you will not be left behind and you will not be forced to make a plan because the administration didn't care enough to make one themselves. Thank you."

NOTED.

101.
DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

NOTED.

102.
STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS (SOCA) BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR, CLLR GMS NTHATISI

The Executive delivered his State of the City Address as well as tabling the IDP and Budget for the 2025/26 – 2027/28 MTREF as follows:

"Free State Premier, Hon. Maqueen Letsoha-Mathae
Deputy Speaker: Free State Legislature, Hon. Nolitha Ndungane
Members of the Provincial Executive Council
Speaker, Cllr. Dr. BL Mathae
Council Whip, Cllr VE Nikelo
Deputy Executive Mayor, Cllr. LM Titi-Odili
Chief Whip, Cllr VE Nikelo
Members of Mayoral Committee
Fellow Councillors
Traditional leaders
City Manager
Vaal Central Water CEO
Government officials
Members of the academia
Business leaders
Ward Committee members
Distinguished guests
Members of the media
The people of Mangaung
Ladies and Gentlemen, you are welcomed.

INTRODUCTION

It is in times like these when the quest for a national dialogue in search of a suitable pathway to a better future gains momentum, that the whole country yearns for the resurgence of Mangaung not only as the provincial capital, - but in the main, as the only Metro in our province. For this noble purpose of national dialogue, we declare our ancient doors open to hosting the rainbow nation! This great City is not the sole metropole of the province by default. We became a beacon of hope for liberation during state repression, and equally, a model of good governance in the democratic era.

Thus, over the years, our greatest glory has always been how we managed to unite the people in advancing the cause of a better life for all. And this is a generational legacy upon which a better future for the people of Mangaung must be built.

Consumed by this legacy, since 13 October 2023, when I accepted the Mayoral position, I thought it would be easy since it was a 'local' deployment, expecting to enjoy much time with my family after work. Little did I know that was not to be. If it was not because of the enthusiasm of all members of this Council across political spectrum, the administration, and the unwavering support of the people of Mangaung, the task at hand would have been insurmountable.

For this, I would like to express my gratitude to my party the African National Congress (ANC), the Democratic Alliance (DA), the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), the Freedom Front Plus (VF Plus), Afrikan Alliance of Social Democrats (AASD), Patriotic Alliance (PA), African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP), the African Transformation Movement (ATM), and the Independent Civic Alliance (AIC).

When we took over the reigns of the City, we extended an open invitation to all stakeholders to come and join hands with us as we embarked on reclaiming our City back to its former glory. And all the political parties represented in this Council led by example in this regard.

We were also fortunate as the governance of the City, we became an all of hands-on-deck affair because the entire Free State Provincial Government under the tutelage of Honourable Premier Maqueen Letsoha-Mathae, the National Treasury, COGTA and many other intergovernmental partners did not rest nor held their peace for the soul of Mangaung. And we are deeply indebted for this!

On this note, we take this opportunity to applaud our State President Cyril Ramaphosa – a statesman par excellence, for handling our diplomatic relations with great wisdom and dignity. Taking into cognizance a devastating impact of the withdrawal of the US AID program in South Africa, His excellency went to USA to save an African child.

In this context, as we join the international community to congratulate the Catholics for the election of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, who is the 267th and the first American by descent. We hope the current political leadership of the US will take few lessons from Pope, who acts as a beacon of hope for global peace and unity.

As the judicial capital, united in its diversity – black and white we wish to recite the Freedom Charter and declare: South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white. Together, as we march on towards a non-racial society, we can do more in reversing the atrocities of colonialism and apartheid towards a just cause for better life for all.

We also wish to join the rainbow nation in celebrating the under 20 National football side, Amajita, for winning the Africa Cup of Nations for the first time. This is just the beginning; the world is yet to see our best.

We also recognize the South African athletes who shone at the recently held World Athletics Relays Championship by winning double gold with and breaking world records. We salute Akani Simbine for outstanding performance.

The Metro in collaboration with the Provincial Government have opened doors host COSAFA cup, and we call upon the people of Mangaung an free state as the whole to come out in their numbers to support these games. Furthermore, the City is elated to follow in the steps of the North-West University (NWU) and FW de Klerk Foundation who have honoured Johan "Rassie" Erasmus (Birthplace) coached cheetahs, medical doctor, a two-time Rugby World Cup-winning coach, and former Director of Rugby for South Africa, with an honorary doctorate and Foundation's Goodwill Award respectively. In the same vein, for the exceptional contribution of this great legend, it is my singular honour to pronounce our consideration to bestow the Freedom of the City to him.

In the past six (6) years the City has been under Section 139 (5)(a) and (c) as initiated by the Provincial Cabinet in 2019, which was then followed by invocation of Section139 (7) by the National Cabinet in 2022.

In this context, the state of the City would be incomplete without any reference to what plunged us under intervention, namely: instability – political and administratively, poor service delivery and non/late payments to creditors due to cash flow challenges. This therefore propels us to outline the state of our City in accordance with the four Municipal sustainability pillars as espoused in Financial Recovery Plan – a mandatory blueprint towards regaining our autonomy as a Metro. These are governance, institutional stability, financial management and service delivery.

GOVERNANCE

We owe the current stability to what I consider a mutual respect and political tolerance that exists among us as members of the Council. The rules of decorum of the Council are adhered to, with its sittings and establishments of the oversight structures convening regularly. This includes the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC), Disciplinary Board, Audit Committee and the Disciplinary Board.

We are also moving with great speed in institutionalizing the District Development Model (DDM) that was introduced by the Cabinet in 2019. We are proud to have finished our first draft of the One Plan. This plan marks the end of the era of operating in silos and the beginning of a new era of building a coherent state, as envisaged by Chapter 3 of the Constitution of the Republic, dealing with cooperative governance.

However, in our recent encounter with strategic partners on the district development model (DDM), it became evident that much more work needs to be done both from the technical and political point of view in the implementation of the “The One Plan”.

As we now move towards establishing the structured work-streams for effective implementation, we hope to see a significant improvement in governance as the streams involving catalytic projects, planning and budgeting reforms, monitoring & evaluation, and communications. The City Manager and the entire Executive Management Team must play a leading role in this regard.

INSTITUTIONAL STABILITY

Just a recap on the changes in the administrative landscape in a nutshell, between 2021 – 2023, the City experienced seven (7) acting city managers and two administrators appointed in terms of the intervention. This implies nine (8) city managers had to play pivotal roles as the chief executive officers within a period of two years.

This detail is critical in the sense that not only governance issues such as financial reporting, general accountability and response to audit queries suffered major blows, but institutional performance wholly as well as effective service delivery. The national intervention was also affected.

This period coincides with political wrangling wherein almost all those present at the time were involved in the scramble for the control of the City. There was party politicking beyond the mandate of their respective parties in the situation was exacerbated. Major changes within the ruling party in particular, brought immediate end to the political turmoil that affected smooth running of administration. As a result, since mid-2023/2024 senior management positions, including heads of departments, were appointed. After approving the macro-organizational structure, and we are currently reviewing and refining the micro-organizational structure.

The very absence of the national intervention team in our midst speaks voluminously about the significant strides in reducing critical intervention issues. We are content, therefore, that we will pass on the baton to the 7th administration, having improved governance and financial health since we have reached consensus with organized labour on the critical issue of unaccounted-for overtime. This requires smooth transitioning from rescue to stabilization and sustainability phases. This Council therefore has an inescapable mandate to deliver the revocation of the Section 139(7). Our allegiance to the city came first to political differences as members of the Council.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Late appointments in key senior managerial positions such as the CFO has had negative effect in slackening effective implementation of municipal standard chart of accounts (mSCOA), missing the most critical financial reforms including improved public accountability and financial transparency and reporting.

We have been faltering in these reform areas for obvious reasons including:

- Delays in the integration of the pay-roll system with SOLAR Financial System
- Failure to comply with the approved procurement plans, thus undermining effective budget control and oversight function by the Council.

A complete MSCOA compliance will be given high priority in the next financial year. As a matter fact, we have already seen a significant improvement in this regard.

We have demonstrated resilience under the same financial constraints as the budget we are set to approve today, is credible, relevant and fully funded.

The material irregularities and findings by the Office of the Auditor General (AG) that we responded to, a fortnight ago, are retrospective and relate to the previous financial years including 2021/2023 and 2023/2024.

Another governance issue that often is omitted by many is the effects of the amalgamation or merger of municipalities through the demarcation board processes. All these happened in the aftermath of several amalgamations involving mergers with Motheo District for metropolitisation in 2011 and later with Naledi Municipality and Soutpan/Ikgomotseng.

Today we are still dealing with some queries relating to subsequent integration and placement of staff stemming from these mergers. This has not only impacted negatively on service delivery but the overall performance of the City as well.

Our greatest deficiency in this regard was to underestimate the magnitude of these mergers and now the brunt of such ignorance is borne by ordinary people. Despite all these, our efforts to provide basic services to the poor in accordance with the top priorities of the government remains intact.

In this regard the city has written off R15 million of historical debt of services for the people of former Naledi.

The City is fully committed in improving collection rate to strengthen our revenue base, to this end we are strengthening our debt collection mechanisms including disconnection where necessary.

We are partnering with CENTLEC in this regard, to ensure an effective and results driven collection. This partnership will ensure that not only will the water be disconnected, but supply of electricity will be denied until a debt settlement agreement is signed, or debt paid up.

Cities have made strides, and are collecting 100%, our own CENTLEC is leading at 98%, this is a good story to tell, and an alternative for the city. Though the required collection seems a mountain so high to climb, we urge citizens to pay willingly and on time, this is your city, our city, we need you, we need you to pay, for us to fix the potholes and provide sustainable services.

We fully understand that there are those who cannot afford the services, for those the indigent policy fully covers the indigent household bill for all services, with the provision of a maximum of 50 kilowatts of electricity and 6000 litres of water. Rates, refuse removal and sanitation are also fully subsidised.

To this effect we approved an inclusion of 851 indigent applications, extended the validity period of over 66 000 (sixty-six thousand) in the Indigent Register of 2025/27 and a total municipal debt of approximately R402 million was written off.

In an effort to provide relief for residential customers, the city approved the Debt Incentive Scheme Policy, this policy is coming to an end on the 30th of June 2025, and to date a total of R82 million on R206 million was written off, and the city collected R127 million as at end of April 2025. An alternative policy is being thought off, that will incentivize those that are in arrears if they become regular payers. We express our gratitude to those who pay willingly and on time.

We have intensified this effort by introducing the Debt Incentive Package that is aimed at encouraging customers to pay for services and this measure is also intended to relieve households of municipal debt.

The city has augmented its collection capacity by the introduction of external debt collectors, it is with good intentions, and for the benefit of us all. Let us cooperate and do the right thing.
We urge residents to continuously update their contact details for effective communication and delivery of your accounts, it is the right thing to do. It should be at the heart of it all.

In pursuit of much desired clean audit, we have subjected ourselves under tremendous pressure to reduce unauthorised expenditure, which is exacerbated by low maintenance budget against dilapidating infrastructure.

To improve on this, the city requires a minimum 87% collection rate to be able to contribute 8% to maintenance, versus the current 2%, and to be able to contribute 1% of our revenue to asset renewal and expansion.

This is a significant concern in municipal finance, with municipalities facing pressure to reduce unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful (UIF&W) expenditure.

Accordingly, all the red flags involving the Unauthorised, Irregular, Fruitless & Wasteful expenditure are referred to the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC). As for the cases of alleged financial misconduct, referrals are to be presented to the Disciplinary Board for further investigations.

Having received a Qualified Audit Opinion for the financial year 2023/2024 (system has been put in place to ensure that we aim for an improved audit outcome, should not be construed as lacking financial prudence in terms of the critical areas of the Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP).

A mitigating strategy in this regard involves an introduction of the shift system to speak to the issue of overtime which has already won the approval of the organised labour. The system will come into effect during June 2025.

This is envisaged to reduce the employee’s compensation expenditure at least by 35% - especially in services involving solid waste and engineering.

Our struggle with high non-revenue water and electricity losses continue to undermine and weaken revenue collection efforts, while increasing the costs on the other hand. We are busy with meter audit project which will give direction on future billing of ghost meters that could not be identified during the TID Rollover project.

The month of May marks the end of roll over and any meter not migrated will be regarded as non-existent and will be removed from the system. In this case, those affected will have to come and register their meters to access water and electricity.

We are also tackling the issue of under and unfunded mandates which are mainly functions allocated to other spheres of government but delivered by the municipality with limited financial resources or unfunded in some instances.

SERVICE DELIVERY ISSUES

Community services

After just a few days, this Council embarked on the resuscitation of Reclaiming the City campaign as part of the program to go back to the basics, and this was made possible by the collaborative efforts with the provincial government and private sector. This is because, like anywhere in the world, inner-city resembles much of our historical significance as the people of Mangaung.

The level of filth and lawlessness have projected the Central Park complex and the CBD as a 'no-go' area. The challenge is exacerbated by illegal occupation of buildings that were left by tenants for more secure places around town. We had to reclaim our city back through a series of cleanings campaigns, and enforcement of municipal by-laws.

We have also tightened our law enforcement efforts and remain firm on the approach of zero tolerance to illegal dumping. Of course, we are not alone in this battle, Mangaung Hawkers Association has joined us on waste management to seek support in regulating hawkers, adjusting waste pick-up schedules, and securing storage facilities. The Business Forum Cluster is also an integral part in our endeavour to reclaim our City.

In enhancing successful implementation of the EPWP and PES projects as seen last year, in the next financial year we will be focusing on innovative interventions to address water losses through leak detection and repair project, as well as reducing the volume of refuse and organic waste going to the landfill sites. This will be done through recycling and composting turning to biogas energy and promote urban greening through urban vegetable gardening.

The Urban Settlement Development Grand (USDG) enables us to allocate R15 million in the 2025/26 financial year as well as another R80 million in the outer years towards the rehabilitation of the Northern Landfill Sites and, a further R42,3 million in the outer years towards the development of a new landfill site towards creating a sustainable site for the disposal of waste materials to ensure the health of our communities.

With regard to management of and deriving full benefits from our landfill sites, the criminal elements turning our landfill sites into crime hubs are facing the full might of the law sporadically. The same applies to those found guilty of illegal dumping.

Significantly, the Presidential Employment Stimulus (PES) program seeks to boost employment and enhancing skills among the youth of the country. For 2024/2025 financial year, our program in this regard focused on organic or garden compost, recycling, urban greening and water leakage repairs.

The total programme cost for the year was R40 million and the greatest percentage of our expenditure was mainly employment costs at 79%, while the rest was for the equipment and empowerment. For 2025/26, a sum of R24,8 million has been allocated to continue these efforts.

We will closely work with all the relevant stakeholders to ensure that this program becomes a preliminary step towards permanent employment and/or entrepreneurship. We need to invest more in the skills acquisition during the process.

A classic example in this context is a potential in the agro-processing industry that remains undoubtedly untapped. For this happen, we need more investors to invest in the pride of the city - the youth, empowering them to take full ownership of the whole supply or value chain. This would be the genesis of economic freedom in our time. This would be the best tribute ever to Papi Makotoko, Hunga Kaibe, Thabo Khuselo, Maniki and Boiki Motlohi, Teboho Sikisi, Bonaventure Nkgodi and many other young lions of the City who rendered apartheid government ungovernable for the freedom we enjoy today.

The state of our cemeteries has been a thorn in the flesh due to glaring negligence on the side of security services and related tombstones desecration. In restoring the dignity of our people, we have completed the Clearview fence installation at the Southpark Cemetery, while currently busy with the Nalisview Cemetery development.

The Council rescinded its initial resolution to relocate the Zoo to Kwaggafontein during March 2025. We are therefore required to reopen our zoo as we know it. We will do so in full compliance with the ruling of the Free State High Court that the Zoo cannot reopen unless full compliance with strict conditions is adhered to. The ruling involves securing the necessary Commercial Exhibition Permit from DESTEA, adherence to protected Species (TOPS) regulations, and ensuring sustainable financial resources.

For the purposes of reopening and redevelopment of the Zoo to improve its current state, the city will be spending R29 million over the next three years. Our zoo represents an essential entry in the itinerary of Mangaung as a tourist and educational destination; hence the need to have it re-opened and restored to its former glory.

Human settlements.

The total housing backlog in Mangaung Metro Municipality, is standing at 73 499 according to registered households in the National Housing Needs Register (updated February 2023) and there are 57 informal settlements which are home to an estimated 38 630 households.

The Metro has adopted a municipal wide approach to the upgrading of the informal settlements wherein all the settlements have access to municipal utility services such as solid waste removal, access to water (individual and communal); 88% have access to electricity; and the roll-out of basic services is underway.

Since 2016, Mangaung has upgraded sixteen (16) informal settlements with a total of 9 485 households having been upgraded to phase 3 of the programme i.e. provision of individual household connection of water and sanitation. Of the sixteen (16) informal settlements, two (2) are partially upgraded and have been connected with household water connections only, benefitting 5 261 households. The prevalence of informal settlements is triggered by macroeconomic challenges such as poverty and unemployment, which factors lead to the influx of many people seeking opportunities and better life to the City.

This is represented by a total of 57 informal settlements, which are home to an estimated 38 630 households. In this regard, we adopted a municipal-wide approach to upgrading informal settlements wherein all the settlements would have access to municipal services such as solid waste removal, water - both individual and communal. In this regard, 88% already have access to electricity (repetition). In the next three years, 2025/26 – 2027/28, we will spend a total of R955,9 million from the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant (ISUPG) for the upgrading of these informal settlements. For the financial year 2025/2026 the City has been allocated R301,57 million in the 2025/26 from this grant, and R319,46 million and R334, 87 million in the two outer years in relation to capital projects.

This grant is for the prioritisation of incrementally improving informal residential areas for formalising and incorporation into the city or neighbourhood by extending land tenure security, infrastructure and services to residents of informal settlements. This grant is primarily aimed at prioritising the servicing of stands in terms of provision of electricity, water and sanitation and more than 70% of this grant is allocated towards that purpose to improve on the lives and dignity of our people.

Contrary to these strides, we still experience elements of lawlessness that continue to invade the land illegally. These trends tend to escalate when the end of the electoral cycle approaches. Such sporadic invasions as experienced in Botshabelo, Thaba Nchu and Bloemfontein at the beginning of 2024 are condemned in the strongest terms and will never be tolerated any longer.

Given the messy nature of these invasions, elementary registration details about affected invaders have not yet been compiled or verified. This further propels us to review the current and existing 2013 informal settlements upgrading strategy.
Further, we are currently developing the following land parcels for housing purposes:

- Botshabelo Section K with estimate of 1 988 erven.
- Portion 3 of Selosesha with estimate of 1 085 erven.
- Remainder of Botshabelo Farm 826 with estimate of 2050 erven.
- Morojoaneng extension with estimate of 905 erven.
- Lourierpark Phase 1 with estimate of 400 erven to be provided with basic services.
- Lourierpark Phase 2 with estimate of 1986 erven.
- Wepener extension 6 with estimate of 346 erven.

Another critical human settlement issue that is receiving the attention of the council involves students' accommodation. We are currently engaging strategic partners in government at both provincial and national level to source specific buildings for the city to create social housing and rental stock. Our ultimate goal is to convert such facilities that are closer to the institutions of higher learning into students' accommodation.

Fellow Councillors, being the academic hub as a metro implies that we are parents to those students studying here in Mangaung. By so doing we would have fulfilled our fiduciary duties as parents. The municipality held its inaugural investment summit on the 19th and 20th February 2025 aimed at attracting and facilitating new and additional investment in our local economy. As a result of the summit the municipality attracted diverse pledges relating to mixed property development, health, ICT, manufacturing and renewable energy. The diversification of our economy is critical to address the scourge of unemployment and poverty. Building onto the foundations laid through pre-Summit activities including the local business engagement, property and infrastructure indaba's, we promised to shift focus to the Agricultural Sector. This will be considered in the new financial year.

On the front of SMME infrastructure development, the municipality has partnered with the National Department of Small Business, Provincial Department of DESTEA and Letsatsi. The partnership has seen the construction of an SMME retail park in Freedom Square to cater for the assorted retail needs of the community.

Critical Projects that the City must embark on.

- Conceptualization and application for the development of a Special Economic Zone in Mangaung in collaboration with the National Department of Trade, Industry and Competition.
- Intensive destination marketing programmes to attract signature and profiled meetings, events and conferences to the city.
- Implementation of the Thaba Nchu Agri-Park model for agriculture and agro-processing development.

We have engaged different departments to source neglected and vandalised buildings to be converted to student accommodation. As the metro we have taken upon this task as evidence that all kids belong to us and it is us as a society who must take care of kids, many of whom are victimised when they come to our city to look for education and opportunists tend to take advantage of them. Repetition.

Furthermore, the issue of property is intrinsically linked to the tittle deeds or ownership of fixed property which always reminds us of our history of racial discrimination that was entrenched by the Native Land Act of 1913. This legislation is the reason why the indigenous people are still queuing for tittle deeds 31 years after democracy and freedom.

To date, the directorate has handed over 1500 title deeds to residents in Bloemfontein, Soutpan, and Botshabelo. The project is ongoing, and the schedule will continue in other towns.

<u>State of roads and Public Transport.</u>
The City has an extent of about 1,600 Kilometers. It is estimated that we need to secure at least a total of R7.5 billion to rehabilitate and reseal them. With the introduction of the Integrated Public Transport Network (IPTN) and general transport system within the city, we need the latest technologies to improve our roads maintenance strategy. Taking advantage of the existing MOUs with the higher learning institutions, we will prioritize long-term solutions in the next financial. A significant contribution has also been made towards the construction of access roads linking our informal settlement areas to those that have been formalised, thereby providing better access to communities, and to make it easier for people to attend work and improve daily lives. For these purposes, an allocation of R65,73 million has been in the 2025/26 financial year and another R140,35 million for the outer years.

Further, about R124,62 million has been allocated to Roads and Stormwater in the 2025/26 financial year with the key projects including rehabilitation of Zastron street, roads in Bochabela, upgrading of traffic intersections, Bergman Square roads, Thaba Nchu roads and the ZCC road. This will assist in easing congestion and mobility of us through the provision of quality roads and reducing of potholes.
During the 2022 to 2024, we have upgraded roads in the townships involving:

- Kagisanong
- Botshabelo road 816 & 903
- Botshabelo 7th Street
- Bochabela streets
- Vereeniging Road

Our particular focus is also placed on the storm-water challenges including the Fort Street subway stormwater. Vandalism of the electric cables next to Fort Street subway and vandalism of pumps contributes to further deterioration due to storm-water dam. This then leaves our people frustrated in navigating the way in affected roads. Our law enforcement is attending to this with the hope of bringing all those involved in the vandalism of our infrastructure to book.

The city is not sitting back and doing nothing about the budget constraints of managing roads assets, business plans are religiously submitted to National Treasury. The national Treasury does state that the city has to better its level of spending conditional grants in order to gradually increase allocations.

The Hauweng Operations that successfully went live on the 14 July 2024 was actually a pilot phase of the IPTN operations. As a result, there were few challenges that required some adjustment for funding purposes. The City's contribution is a requirement of the Public Transport Grant Framework, which stipulates that all participating cities must contribute between 2% and 9% of their rates revenue. In this regard an allocation amounting to R46 Million in the budget approved on the 5th June 2024 for the 2024/25 financial year was made.

<u>Water Trading Service</u>
For the purposes of progress tracking, we have established techniques keeping the water data. As a result, today, the ideal turnaround time for repairs of reported water leaks is 24 hours reduced from 72 hours – and by the end of the financial year 2023/2024 about 90.7% of the leakages were addressed.

In response to an estimated 46.4% of non-revenue water that has been recorded, we have developed a strategy of reducing these high levels of water losses – we have developed a strategy that consist of 18 projects. We are doing this in partnership with DBSA, through their Water Partnership Office. The partnership has already kicked off, and progress report will follow soon.

1. Pressure and Network Zone Management
2. Pro-Active Leak Detection and Repair
3. Pipe replacement Project
4. Domestic Leak Repair Programme (Presidential Employment Stimulation funding)
5. Valve Replacement Program
6. Replacement of water meters
7. Maselspoort Treatment Upgrades and Refurbishment (Progress is at 60%)
8. Hamilton Pumpstation refurbishment and upgrade.

The physical progress of Maselspoort water treatment works is at 60% and is projected to be completed by September 2025. The completion in this regard implies that the city will be able to increase volumes of water being treated by the city from 45 Mega Liters per day (ML/day) to 110 Mega Liters per day (ML/day).

The refurbishment phase will be followed by Phase-B and Phase-C set of works which intend to upgrade the capacity of this treatment works to the level where the city will treat 160 Mega Liters per day.

In the past five years we started the work on the repairs, pipe replacements, valve replacements and pressure management. The cumulative water saving of that period is stipulated at 13.37 ML/day.

Since February 2024 to March 2025, the city has a cumulative water saving of 13.42 ML/day – a progress that was realised in four (4) years, amid challenges, has been improved to be achieved within a year.

The city is very much aware that holistic approach towards countering of high levels of non-revenue water requires more funds than the City has been able to allocate. Thus, the city has been submitting business plans in the effort of sourcing additional funds for dealing with non-revenue water levels. The business plans were submitted under the funding of Budget Facility for Infrastructure (BFI).

Furthermore, the City has collaborated with the Development Bank of South Africa in undertaking a feasibility study that would identify strategies which are implementable in an approach of performance-based contract. The idea of this approach is to source money from private investors and only re-pay when the returns are realised.

The city continues to invest the USDG funds on trading services, as such, a total of R541,26 million is allocated for the next three years. This is allocated to projects relating to water reticulation, plants refurbishment and upgrade and reservoirs.

Sanitation Trading Service

Before July 2023, sanitation complaints were mostly attended from 72 hours to beyond, first quarter of 2023 / 2024 financial year depicted that 94.8% of spillages and complaints were attended from 72 hours and beyond. Currently, the city attends 91.9% of sewer spillages within 48 hours. The city improved from the time when it was referred to as the city under the pool of sewer.

The ideal is to attend to all sewer spillages within 24 hours. The city is advertising for vacancies to counter high levels of vacancies in the department and the city is gradually procuring fleet gradually to have well equipped and sufficient teams to realise the goal of attending spillages in 24 hours.

The city took a positive turnaround by approving a strategy of attending to sanitation and water business matters under a semi-autonomous business unit. The idea is to ensure that these services are managed in a manner that would see them self-sustaining in about 5 years.

The city has 79 082 households that are not serviced through waterborne sanitation. 50 477 of these stands are serviced through ventilated improved pit latrine (VIP). Despite constraint resources, the city continues to service these VIPs periodically.

In ensuring a long-term strategy to eradicate buckets and pit latrines, the City is considering various technologies, and a benchmark will be done with Limpopo Municipalities who, similar to us with regards to water scarcity, had opted for alternative non-waterborne sanitation which can be retrofitted to water as soon as it becomes available.

The delegates will comprise Ward Councillors who will bring the story home to especially affected constituencies.

The city has initiated a process of procuring eight (8) vacuuming units to ensure that the servicing of VIPs is done on a daily basis. Contracted services will be accessed during the periods where a surge in demand is experienced.

While servicing the VIPs, the city will be simultaneously working on improving bulk sanitation, bulk water and gradually migrate these to waterborne, while also servicing newly formalised stands.

The city has thirteen (13) wastewater treatment works (WWTW) and nineteen (19) sewer pumpstations. The condition assessments of these assets were undertaken – which are utilized to inform the refurbishment work of WWTWs. The refurbishment work has commenced at Botshabelo WWTW and Thaba Nchu WWTW. In order for us to ensure continued services to the people, the city has allocated a sum of R971,77 million, that's almost a billion over the next three years on sewer and sanitation infrastructure.

Electricity services

Our electricity entity, CENTLEC remains strategically focused on the distribution of affordable electricity to the end customers. In pursuit of this mandate, we are indeed proud to have made following exceptional strides: completing 1,797 household electrifications, with an additional 1,500 connections expected by June 2025, enhancement of community safety through the installation of numerous high mast lights.

Currently working on developing a business plan to participate in the National Treasury's budget facility for infrastructure, aiming to enhance its ability to differentiate between planned and unplanned maintenance. This initiative is aimed at improving electricity supply and reduce losses. Successful completion of the prepayment meter software upgrade for TID (Token Identifier) in Naledi (Dewetsdorp, Wepener, and Van Stadensrus), which began on June 1, 2023. This upgrade ensures service continuity and customer satisfaction, as the previous system was due to expire in November 2024. The rollover continued across CENTLEC's supply area to upgrade all prepayment meters before the November 2024 deadline. The entity met the deadline. Despite these efforts, CENTLEC faces an infrastructure backlog exceeding R350 million per annum due to aging infrastructure, highlighting the need for continued investment.

Taking advantage of the demands of the fourth industrial revolution and digital age, CENTLEC is in the drive to implement smart metering technology to enhance revenue and financial management controls.

At the heart of this measure is to combat electricity theft and support the objectives of the Distribution Losses Reduction Strategy and the Revenue Enhancement Program, which aim to lower non-technical losses from 7.61% to 5.4% by 2032 well below the 12% threshold set by NERSA. The smart metering technology will provide better efficiency in energy provision and also the integration of renewable energy to meet customer demands.

Future projects include 83 MW of Renewable Energy Projects that will serve to add or contribute towards the energy mix initiative. Projects such as Microgrids, Rooftop Solar, Solar Farms and the repurposing of the mothballed coal fired power station etc. are imminent initiatives to be rolled out in the foreseeable future.

Rural Development

In an attempt to address the imbalances of the past, we will engage partners in government including Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, to capacitate our people to harness their indigenous knowledge economy through formation of functional cooperatives, training and secure grant funding to economically active.

As we enter the youth month to remember those fearless youth of 1976, led by the Office of the Council Speaker, we envisage to host multi stakeholder engagement sessions with various youth formations. Our intention is to engage the young people in resolving many of the social ills affecting them in the city, while empowering them with requisite skills to be active participants in the economy.

Our third major focus will be continuing efforts of attracting more investors to the city through annual investment submits. This calls for strong international relations including our IGR partners. We envisage to tap on the wisdom and resources of our partners in this regard, to improve on long-term planning issues, performance management system, monitoring and evaluation, and exploration of means to professionalise local government.

Thus, we need to redefine the concept of partnerships between municipalities and the public sector, the private sector and community and non-governmental organisations. The partnerships that are only effective when there are financial gains, is a gateway to another state capture.

Patriotic partners of the likes of Raubex deserves to be applauded for their voluntary initiative in repairing some pothole ridden roads and broken stormwater drain covers in the Mangaung. It is works likes this caused you to continue climbing the ladder within the infrastructure development and construction materials supply groups, now ranked the 8th the Times Top 100 Companies. We need more of local citizens of note like this.

Public Safety and Security

The city is hard at work to uproot the culture of deliberate disregard of the rule of law. In the past two years it became unpopular for impounding of vehicles, while on the other hand this generated a significant revenue of about R12,6 million.

On matters pertaining to disaster and emergency management services, our responsive rate on cases reported is satisfactory. We responded swiftly on the reported fires at the National District Hospital, De Brug army facility, Kopano Nokeng Conference Centre, Black Mountain Hotel, Twayelane Fourways complex in Botshabelo ensuring that such facilities were not totally damaged. Working in close collaboration with the Working on Fire and FPAs, the city managed to suppress a total of nine hundred and three (903) veld-fires incidents which affected sixty-six thousand, two hundred and forty-nine (66 249) hectares. Other partners include the provincial government, SASSA, Red Cross, Gift of the Givers, Meals on Wheels, Alimdaad Foundation, Babu Frederick Foundation, to mention but a few.

Critical challenges in terms of our institutional capacity to deal adequately with any threat related to disaster involves financial constrains since we need about R30,2 million open the Rodenbeck Fire Station. This includes the procurement of a Disaster Management Information System which is a legislative requirement, and development of a Comprehensive Disaster Risk and Vulnerability Assessment.

The financial year 2024/25 marked the beginning of a ground-breaking collaboration of the City with the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). The partnership aims to foster knowledge sharing and capacity building between the two law enforcement agencies. A comprehensive week program was held at Tempe Army Base, the aim was to enhance the capacity and professionalism of our law enforcement.

One of the CAPEX projects relating to law enforcement and public safety were resuscitated, in the main, the maintenance of the CCTV Cameras across the City. We envisage to install a fully functioning Integrated Control Command Centre (ICCC) within the Municipality. This includes surveillance around student accommodations as students' safety has become a thorny issue around the city, especially earlier this year. I had the honour of joining the ministerial campus safety team during the launch and rolling out the learning environment safety framework at University of Free State.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to sum up the medium-term revenue and expenditure framework for 2025/2026 to 2027/2028.

<u>Operational Budget</u>
Fellow Councillors, for the financial year 2025/2026 tariffs will increase as follows:

- Water tariffs will increase by 11% for 2025/2026 as applied for by Vaal Central to DWS.
- Electricity will increase by 13,5% as applied for to NERSA.
- Property rates, taxes, sanitation and refuse removal will increase by 4,4%.

Regarding the Mangaung Vehicle Operating Company (Pty), the City will subsidise the company with a maximum of 2% of property rates revenue to ensure safe, efficient and affordable transport. This is mainly to augment the revenue generated from the sale of tickets, which for the next three years is projected at R34,8 million against a budget of R156,22 million over the next three years.

The deficit in this regard will be funded by way of contribution from the city in the amount of about R110 million. We are also grateful to be part of the National Treasury's reforms program that seek to improve the regulation of water quality through various incentive schemes like Blue Drop, Green Drop, and No Drop. Together we are ready; ahead of the reforms envisaged to begin on 1 July 2025.

This water and sanitation trading reforms proposes a grant of approximately R48 million, with 10% earmarked for setting up the business unit and 90% on strategies aimed at turning around the fortunes, including almost 50% of the grant dedicated to Presidential Employment Stimulus.

Some of the projects that will contribute to loss reduction involves commercial and technical water losses. For this purpose, we are also partnered with DBSA who agreed to join us in analysing non-revenue and unaccounted water with an estimated value of R341 million.

Fellow Councillors, the vote with the largest budget remains CENTLEC with a total of just above R13,97 billion of the total budget of R35,13 billion. This represents 40% of the expenditure, followed by water and sanitation with the budget of R9,6 billion, taking about 27% of the budget.

In essence, this implies trading services of electricity, water and sanitation weighs about 67% of the budget. Significantly, all these are basic needs that are in line with the IDP and cannot be deferred further.

Fellow Councillors, you may recall how we dealt with daily complaints about overflowing of sewerage from different wards. The people of Mangaung now breathe a sigh of relief. This is because that sight and stench of sewage overflowing from manholes onto our streets is under control.

There is no doubt that the spillages contributed significantly to damaging municipal roads as we have all observed how road foundations were eroded, creating potholes, cracks, destabilizing the pavements and general deterioration of the quality of our roads. To avoid recurrence, we are engaging relevant stakeholders in exploring modern technologies regarding sewer network blockages. This will enable us to detect pressure, water flow and tempering within the network at any point.

As a matter of fact, some blockages appeared to be a deliberate act of unpatriotic individuals who got exposed to doing business with city, now opting to vandalize. We have learned from the experience that forcing of foreign objects into the sewer network, and to remove all these was too costly.

We are spending an average of R4 million per month unblocking, whilst we can spend R4 million to present objection from being shoved into the network, the test project will focus in areas where we have repeated blockages that subject our people to inhumane living conditions.

One of the critical water and sanitation challenge involves the eradication of a bucket system. We will therefore allocate an amount of R5 million to conduct a feasibility study and developing business plan for pit latrine and bucket eradication. Over the years, the vacuuming pit latrines has proven to be unsustainable and is not solving the problem. Hence, we propagate a long-term strategy that will resolve this matter once and for all.

While the Municipal staffing regulations accorded another opportunity to redeem ourselves from the inherent culture of poor performance, we are still grappling with the issue of low productivity.

Notwithstanding possible impact of low morale among members of staff, but our oversight function will now put more emphasis on staff productivity with a particular focus on discipline. One contributing factor to a low staff morale could be prolonged acting that create legitimate expectations for those involved, while others are ignored.

The Corporate Services Directorate is now busy with job evaluation process which is intended to ensure fair remuneration of staff in accordance with their skills and contribution expected and aligning the staff remuneration with the upper limits of senior managers.

We have also started to progressively adjust expenditure budget items that had been understated, the bulk purchases of electricity, depreciation and debtors' impairment. This is aimed at reducing the unauthorized expenditure that we don't want to see.

<u>Capital Budget</u>
Fellow Councillors, grant funding to municipalities is crucial as they supplement key funds which are used to provide bulk services and maintain municipal infrastructure.

Regarding the Urban Settlement Development Grant, the City has been allocated R541,28 million in the 2025/26 financial year, and R566,01 million and R591,62 million in the two outer years in relation to capital projects. This grant is meant for the creation of sustainable and integrated human settlements that enable improved quality of household life.

This includes a total of R139,43 million has been allocated towards sanitation for the 2025/26 financial year. The Wastewater Treatment Works in Selosesha will be a high priority for the city and a total of R61,5 million together with a further allocation of R166,9 million in the outer years has been allocated towards construction and refurbishment of these treatment works to assist our communities with safe and hygienic sanitary facilities. About R10 million with a further R35 million in the outer years has been allocated towards pumpstations and rising mains towards the improvement of sanitation services.

Significant projects to be funded from the Urban Settlement Development Grant includes the upgrading the Maselspoort Water Treatment Works including re-use. Total allocation of R37 million was made for the 2025/26 financial year with another R118,4 million allocated for the outer years.

This will improve the quality of water provided to our communities as well as ensuring a sustainable supply of water to the city. This will further reduce our reliance on Vaal Central Water and reduce our bulk costs, allowing additional funds to be available for repairs and maintenance and other critical activities.

The city has also allocated R59,2 million in the 2025/26 financial year towards prepaid metering and metering of unmetered sites. This emphasizes the drive by the city to improve its collection rate as well as reducing our non-revenue losses.

Regarding the Public Transport Network Grant, the City has been allocated R144,72 million in the 2025/26 financial year, and R117,77 million and R118,47 million in the two outer years in relation to capital projects. The purpose of this grant is to provide funding for accelerated construction and improvement of public and non-motorised transport infrastructure that form part of a municipal integrated public transport network and to support the planning, regulation, control, management and operations of fiscally and financially sustainable municipal public transport network services.

The city's bus service, Hauweng, has been launched in July 2024 and is fully operational in phase 1C on the Brandwag route. With this year's allocation including the outer years, the city intends to develop and operate phases 1A and 1B which include the Moshoeshoe and OR Tambo routes respectively.

In addition to grant funding, the city has prioritised own funding to the amount of R 328,72 million for the 2025/26 financial year as well as R291,25 million and R258,25 million for the respective outer years. I want to highlight a few critical projects from this funding.

The City has allocated R254,6 million from its own funds towards the provision and upgrading of electricity infrastructure for the 2025/26 financial year and a further R456 million in the outer years. This will ensure sufficient and sustainable supply of electricity to our communities.

MAYORAL FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

Honourable Speaker, given the urgency of almost every single governance issue presented to us, in most cases our approach has been unstructured. We could even package our flagship projects properly. The Office of the Executive Mayor restore formalization of the mayoral imbizo and outreach programs. The Office will further revitalize the youth ministry that has now lately been neglected.

The progress made thus far on empowering women and the youth need to be amplified much more, this should be done with a specific focus on deliberate and focused intervention programmers. This programme will propagate a particular to these vulnerable groups in term of procurement of various goods and services and job recruitment drive.

As we are now engaging some potential investors to agree on sealing investment agreements, we will ensure that such investments respond to women and youth challenges, through investment opportunities.

CONCLUSION

Two years ago, we confirmed to prioritize reclaiming our autonomy and glory along the ideals of freedom from the intervention in terms of section 139 of the Constitution and becoming a model of good governance. We accomplished laying a solid foundation in building our reputation by ensuring full functionality of the Council and its committees including integration of strategic partners such as business sector and academic institutions. The governance of the city is now fully intact, politically and administratively functional.

Though we are still at the rescue phase of financial recovery plan processes, the environment has improved significantly in terms of governance, institutional and financial performance. We envisage to achieve at least 80% collection rate and intensify current efforts to address service delivery backlogs.

I fully agree with Minister of Finance Enoch Godongwana's assertion that the time has come for municipalities to "… recognize that quality service delivery is not just a constitutional obligation but also the cornerstone of their own financial viability."
This recognition is long overdue and comes at a critical juncture in Mangaung's journey to financial recovery.

We are entering the last year of this Council, the first ever in the democratic era to complete a full term under the limitations of section 139 of the Constitution. When we cast our minds back to the struggles and material irregularities difficulties we had to endure – but significantly, overcome, we should simply be grateful for standing united to avoid a total collapse.

Now we call upon every public functionary in the employ of the city including CENTLEC, every councillor – ward or proportional, every citizen, business community, churches, NGO, CBO and academic institutions in the City, to join hands in transforming our city to become more professional, developmental and ethical in conducting its business.

We pledge ourselves to end all kinds of lawlessness ranging from unethical conducts at work, non-payment of municipal rates and services, corruption, illegal dumping and blatant disregard of the municipal by-laws, illegal connections, illegal occupation of municipal property including buildings and land.

In reclaiming the city, whatever is within your reach, do it, and do it with all your strength.
As I present our funded budget which has duly been unreservedly and unanimously recommended by the multi-party Finance Committee and the Mayoral Committee to this august house.

Together with the IDP, this Budget had gone through a vigorous process of interrogation, both internally and externally. The budget is therefore aligned accordingly to the priorities of the IDP.

On that note, I wish to conclude with the wise sayings by Mikhail Gorbachev to remind you that the part of the ‘earth’ which we live in is Mangaung: “We are all passengers aboard one ship, the Earth, and 35 we must not allow it to be wrecked. There will be no second Noah's Ark”. God Bless Mangaung!

NOTED.

103.	REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

After the Executive Mayor tabled the items, the Speaker thereon afforded an opportunity for Councillors to deliver their speeches on the three items as outlined in the agenda.

Cllr GDP Kotze read speech as follows: "Good morning, Speaker. Through you, I would like to address the people of Mangaung present here and those viewing from home.

Today, the council must approve the Amended Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan for 2025/2026. The SDBIP translates the municipal budget and Integrated Development Plan into measurable targets and performance indicators, detailing quarterly spending and goals.

In some corners of the ANC's ideological playbook, this report is seen not as a tool for accountability, but as a tactic: "If we can't convince you, we'll confuse you." As an Afrikaans-speaking citizen, I often say with a touch of satire, "Die Kul Jou hier en kul jou daar verslag."

This report has the following amendments: Mangaung residents for over ten years, the ANC-led municipality has promised to fix our landfill sites, but nothing has been done. Every year, the project was listed in the SDBIP, yet no real action followed. Now they've suddenly set aside R40 million to fix all landfill sites in Mangaung.

We must ask: what happened in all the past years? Where did the money go? This is not just poor planning; it is failed leadership, and you, as residents, are the ones suffering

Fellow residents, the Nalisview Cemetery has been sitting idle for years since the land was first bought, with no development, progress, or explanation. Now, only after years of delays has the ANC-led municipality suddenly allocated R9 million for its development.

We must ask: why was this not done when the land was first purchased? What caused the delay, and what happened to the funds meant for this project in previous years? This is yet another example of poor planning and broken promises — and once again, it's our communities that are left without the dignity they deserve.

Fellow residents, the municipality has spent R3.3 million on the beautification of Raymond Mhlaba and Maselspoort Drive, yet we continue to drive through potholes, live with crumbling gravel roads, and endure failing sewerage systems. We must ask: why is there always money for cosmetic projects, but never for the basic infrastructure that affects our daily lives? And let's not forget the Bobbies Park stormwater canal, which has been deteriorating for over a decade. Still, no funds have been allocated for its repair. Bobbies Park is a disaster waiting to happen, and this ongoing neglect puts lives and property at serious risk.

The Auditor-General of South Africa has provided an assessment of the municipality's performance, indicating challenges in governance, planning, and execution. Each report highlights consistent issues, including service delivery problems, inefficient use of public funds, and increasing distrust among residents. Here are some of the significant concerns noted by the Auditor-General.

The sewer infrastructure in Botshabelo and Thaba Nchu shows the failure of the ANC led municipality. Despite allocated funds, no service providers were appointed for years. In 2021/2022, no contractors were appointed, and in 2022/2023, bid documents were not processed. Consequently, millions in grants were returned to the Treasury. Our communities still face blocked sewers, overflowing systems, and pit toilets. This mismanagement disrespects the dignity and health of our people.

The Botshabelo Fire Station project, started in 2020, faces delays as the main contractor only joined in 2022. The municipality has already incurred R1.9 million in delay costs while the station remains unfinished. No accountability has been established, leaving communities without promised emergency services.

The Thaba Nchu Community Centre, launched in March 2020, had a contractor appointed only in June 2022. The municipality has since paid R3.6 million in delay costs, yet the site remains incomplete as of June 2024. No action has been taken against those responsible, leaving the community waiting for a long-overdue facility.

In 2022, less than 2% of the maintenance budget was used, nearly half of our water supply was lost to leakages, and over R800 million in grants was forfeited. These figures reflect the serious impact on people's health, dignity, and daily lives due to ongoing neglect.

The Democratic Alliance understands that the SDBIP is not just a technical document, it is the engine of local service delivery. To improve its impact, the DA will ensure that the SDBIP is fully aligned with the real needs of communities, not political convenience.

This means setting clear, realistic, and measurable targets, and assigning specific accountability to departments and officials. The SDBIP will no longer be a box-ticking exercise, it will be a performance contract, reviewed quarterly, with real consequences for failure and incentives for success.

Furthermore, the DA will open the SDBIP to the people. We will publish project timelines, budgets, and progress online in simple language, so residents can track what is being done in their wards. We will empower communities through monthly ward feedback sessions, ensuring that priorities reflect local needs, and that delivery is tracked together with the people.

Under a DA-led administration, the SDBIP will not gather dust it will drive service delivery, restore trust, and bring real change to the lives of Mangaung’s residents.

In conclusion, I warned the ANC after the National Elections of 2024 to remain in their comfort zones and with the latest Auditor-General’s report, they certainly haven’t disappointed. It confirms what we’ve been saying all along: failure, mismanagement, and zero accountability.

To the residents of Mangaung, the time has come to reject the legacy of the so-called “Zondo superstars” like the asbestos fraudster Ace Magashule, to Jacob Zuma and his state capture, and now Cyril Ramaphosa, the king of Phala-Phala, who has presided over a country where 42% of South Africans are without jobs. Enough is enough.

The Local Government Elections are just 18 months away. The DA asks for your vote to protect your interests, to restore good governance, and to put Mangaung back on the path to prosperity. Allow the DA to deliver. I thank you."

Cllr VE De Kock slivered her speech as follows: "Honourable Speaker all protocol observed, the FFPlus notes the revised 2024/2025 budget service delivery implementation plan but with deep concern while the report is polished and structured on a paper, the truth lies not on its formatting but in its figures and implications. The revision was necessitated by the withdrawal and return of conditional grants to the value of 235 million rand, this Metro returned the money that could have built 800 RDP houses. This is a red flag that signals a serious administrative and financial short coming, as a result targets had to be lowered to align with the reduced budget this is not a merely budget reduce it is a clear sign of systematic failure and we must understand the effect this had. Reduced targets mean few services, less progress and greater community frustrations, the so-called improvement in numbers is a distortion as problems are not being resolved they are being postponed and worse compounded, the lower targets of this year will be added to next year stretching the budget.

If the Metro continues with miss management we will once again see conditional grants being returned even fewer projects will be completed, this report paints a picture then it really allows according to it 95% of households and informal settlements received basic waste removal services during the previous quarter the report omits one critical detail 95% of which town and neighbourhood? The people deserve transparency not manipulated percentages, what we are presented with today is yet another attempt to mask failure with technical jargon the FFPlus refuses to endorse the document that seeks to blindfold the public and this Council, we urge the Metro to take accountability to ensure future grants are not returned and to restore service delivery with honesty and urgency. The FFPlus will not approve this report. Thank you."

Cllr SM Swartz delivered her speech as follows: "Executive Mayor Cllr. Gregory Nthatisi, esteemed Councillors, City Manager Mr. Sello More, community representatives, and the resilient people of Mangaung, good day.

Today, we gather for the State of the City Address to table the 2025/26–2027/28 Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework budget. This budget is presented as a beacon of hope, but I stand before you to oppose it—not out of malice, but from a deep Patriotic commitment to our people, who have endured years of broken promises, financial mismanagement, and neglected services. This budget does not uplift Mangaung; it entrenches past failures and dims our future.
A Legacy of Failure

Let us confront our history, for it shapes our present. In the 2023/24 financial year, this council overspent its budget by 111% while delivering only 45% of promised services, as confirmed by the Auditor-General's report. Revenue collection faltered, operational costs spiralled, and capital expenditure for infrastructure fell short of targets.

This is not governance—it is a betrayal of trust. The Financial Recovery Plan of 2019 was meant to restore stability, yet we remain under Section 139 administration since April 2022, with external overseers stepping in to address our self-inflicted chaos.

The April 2022 brawl, where our city manager was forcibly removed, reflects the disorder within—disorder this budget fails to resolve. How can we endorse a plan built on such a shaky foundation? This is a budget built on sand.

Mangaung faces stark challenges: 30.5% unemployment, rampant poverty, and crumbling infrastructure. Our residents endure water interruptions, illegal dumping, scars our streets, and raw sewage flows through townships. Pit toilets—a shameful relic of inequality—persist, with millions allocated to merely empty them. Let’s dissect this charade: R28 million to empty pit toilets, when 600 families could have dignified sanitation with modern flush systems? Who benefits? The people, or the contractors and their enablers who feast on their misery. The due diligence for CENTLEC, due by June 30, 2025, and the new Water and Sanitation Department are steps forward, but they are overshadowed by secrecy. Budget annexures A1 to A10 and SA1 to SA36 are withheld, leaving us blind to how funds will be spent. This is not a budget for the people; it is a budget for opacity.

Why we must oppose: The Patriotic Alliance oppose this budget because it perpetuates neglect and mismanagement. It imposes a 4.48% tariff hike, squeezing households already struggling, without guaranteeing better services. It allocates R1.14 billion for capital projects, yet past under-spending—R1.12 billion of R1.30 billion in 2023/24—suggests these funds will go unspent. It lacks accountability: no forensic audit to probe the ransomware attack or CENTLEC’s financial woes, no fair compensation for our workers, and no clear plan to address community needs. Critically, it neglects the scourge of substance abuse, offering no funding for the Local Drug Action Committee (LDAC) as mandated by the Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act, 2008, leaving our people to suffer without support. There is a better path forward.

The Patriotic Alliance call on this council to reject this budget and demand a revised plan that truly serves Mangaung. Here is what we must prioritise:

- Transparent Accountability: Conduct a forensic audit of past expenditures, starting with CENTLEC and the ransomware attack, to uncover mismanagement and ensure every rand is accounted for.

- Publicly disclose all annexures (A1–A10, SA1–SA36) to enable scrutiny and public participation.

- Prioritise Dignified Sanitation: Redirect the millions from pit toilet emptying to installing modern flush sanitation systems for at least 600 families in underserved areas like Botshabelo, ensuring dignity and hygiene.

- Allocate funds over the MTREF period to phase out pit toilets entirely, with clear timelines and community oversight.

- Combat Substance Abuse: Allocate R5 million annually to fund the Local Drug Action Committee (LDAC), as required by the Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act, 2008, to support rehabilitation programs, awareness campaigns, and community-based interventions in areas like Heidedal and beyond.

- Invest in Jobs and Infrastructure: Convert 500 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) jobs into permanent positions, with allocations to fund salaries and training, boosting local employment.

- Invest to repair and upgrade community facilities like Rainbow Old age home and others, ensuring our elders live in dignity.

- Enhance Service Delivery: Allocate funds to install water meters across Mangaung to improve billing accuracy and more efficient water access.

- Dedicate funds to clear illegal dumping sites and implement community-led waste management programs.

A Call to Action
As Nelson Mandela said, *"It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it."* This budget does not create that world—it clings to the failures of the past. I urge councillors to vote no and demand a budget that reflects Mangaung's potential. I call on our community members to hold us accountable, attend public consultations, and demand transparency. Together, let us build a budget that eradicates pit toilets, funds the LDAC, creates jobs, and restores dignity to our people. Thank You."

Cllr PJ Rampai delivered his speech as follows: "Honourable Speaker, let me quote a scripture ***Proverbs 8:12-21.*** As the ACDP we acknowledge the budget that his brought forward to us and brought forward to the residents of Mangaung who no longer have hope and who are sad with what is happening in the City. We are going to take an oath about this budget in front of the residents and we have to ask ourselves as the leaders does this budget speak to the residents of Mangaung? Or are we here to lie to them just like all these years. As long as after this budget things like basic needs and unemployment, corruption within the public sector, lack of proper sanitation and housing is still around this budget does not talk to the people of Mangaung, the most important thing, we want is safety if this budget can talk to what the residents are experiencing on a daily basis, we will accept it as the ACDP.

In terms of projects that has been in Mangaung previous years, and which are outstanding if the budget can highlight such things we will accept it, tenders that are going to go out as the ACDP can the people of Mangaung be prioritised in getting them. Money was returned to National Treasury, the question is what was the reason for it returning, was there no way it could have helped the residents instead of it returning and even this money that would be approved today will it also return or will the people of Mangaung benefit?

We acknowledge that this Municipality has been through difficult times as the ACDP we want to applaud some of the leaders who were appointed or who stepped in when the Municipality faced challenges such as corruption they really tried, if it was for me, I would give them a second term so they can finish what they have started. In conclusion we will hold you accountable if this budget passes and it does not favour the people of Mangaung therefore as the ACDP we propose that a corruption free pledge must be signed by each office bearer. Thank You".

Cllr CL Bouwer read speech as follows: "Askies, sorry, ke kopa tswarelo Residents of Mangaung, we did not know that more will be wasted on a parade, on a red-carpet grand entrance, we thought that we just attending another special council sitting as it never looks like this, we sorry for money wasted yet again.

Poor AG report: For three consecutive years has Mangaung Metro received negative audit opinions for the years (2021/22; 2022/23; and 2023/24). Clearly stating that what is presented on paper is not a true practical reflection. No alignment between what is spent and what has been done with no accountability taken. We see percentages on paper of 90 to 100% of work and service delivery standards where in reality not even half of it has been done.

On service delivery, sold waste removal is not as per schedule of 4 times removal per month, it's once a month if in some cases it is being collected. Residents are charged for 4 pickups per month but in reality, only receive collection on once a month. Low Achievement of Service Delivery Targets: In the 2023/24, the Metro achieved approximately 40% of its service delivery targets, despite spending more than 100% of the budget.

Tariffs are going up again, we are paying more for less. Example, with the electrical tariffs going up again residents in the townships will go to the spaza shop to buy R20 electricity and instead of receiving about 5 units it will be less and not forgetting the spaza shops charging an illegal extra fee of R1 to R2 more.

We hear the talks about maintenance on infrastructure, we shouldn't be blaming the old infrastructure that should not be maintained but infrastructure that should have been improved, yet we don't spend enough of our budget on that. Residents it is up to you to fix this in the 2026 LGE with a different outcome. Thank you."

Cllr IJ Mokoena delivered his speech as follows: "Honourable Speaker protocol observed greetings to everyone, am grateful that the Executive Mayor gave a state of the cities address however I want to remind the City round about 2011 the revised strategic plan and revised vision and came up with a vision that it is working towards the City that is globally safe and attractive to live, work and invest in and in order to attain that the City came up with five key strategies, one of those was that the City should be in a financially healthy position, there must be a strong administrative organisation to be able to deliver this vision, spatial transformation of the City to be able to can embrace all be inclusive and other is for service delivery to be improved that is the vision that was set by the City.

We are in 2025 as we are dealing with a new world and new threats with new challenges all deal with a new contextual orientation, geopolitical risks that are all over, multilateralism that is under treat, climate change that is beginning to deal very bad in the life's of our people, exploitation of grievances of people by the organisation, families that sleep without food, lower economic growth, high unemployment, unsafe communities. In terms of the law the Municipal Council is the custodian and ensuring that citizens living in its space live in a healthy prosperous and clean environment now ten years later and the budget that is going to be presented today to what extend have we aligned our activities to move towards the realisation of this vision or is this vision deferred to a later stage?

Mangaung is a distressed organisation and all of us have volunteered to say Mangaung is our City therefore any criticism that may come is not with an intent of exploiting witnesses of other but is to highlight issues that needs to be addressed so that we can all live in a place that is safe and a place that our kids can grow in, a place that says a vision is safe, attractive to live in to work in and to invest in. one of the fundamental aspects of the local government sector is that it is effective and participatory orientated and people orientated and once you leave the people behind it means you are going the wrong direction.

One of the other issue is that the Municipality has a responsibility of mobilising all of the society, business, NGO's, workers of the Municipality to all embrace and sing the same hymn that we want the City to work and we want the same vision without that it can never happen therefore our City is in serious trouble but there are men and women who are at most times striving to make due with the little that is there, there are men in the Municipality despite what we see as break down of service but they wake up every morning with a view to service the people, there a re men and women who are part of Councillors who wake up every day to say how can I make the Community that I live in better but there are constrains in relation to that some are historical but some are self-created and some are part of our responsibility because we want to exploit the vulnerability of our people, we want to make sure that our people never have the ability and we never restore their dignity. The liberation of this Country was to always restore the dignity of our people, where people live today under sewage, they are striped off that dignity as Councillors must take the responsibility of that. In closure honourable Councillors it is upon us, it is required of us, and it is our duty despite of the difficulties to make sure that our people's dignity is restored. Thank You"

The Deputy Executive Mayor addressed the Council as follows: Honourable Speaker todays back we were celebrating Africa day where we should go back and ask ourselves where we come from as African's, we must always remember where we come from, and we must be proud of ourselves. Today we are tabling the budget and putting what we have planned in front of our people, some might not approve the budget but just think if we are not approving the budget what will happen tomorrow because the things that are on the budget that have not been done do you think if we do not approve the budget they would be done therefore it is important to approve it because the Executive Mayor indicate that we have a limited budget and when other Metro's speak about budget they are high but when it comes to us it is low therefore it shows that this budget that we have we will prioritise things but with the help of our people when it comes to collection as we have to collect 85% to 95% in other words we cannot rely only on the grants.

Today we gather here to fulfil the requirements of Section 4 of subsection 21 as contained in the MFMA, this honourable house will approve the budget of our City in order to change their lives we are doing this especially after considering the needs and aspiration of our people, during the tabling of the draft IDP on the 28th March 2025 we indicated the interaction of the population of the trends and their needs for sustainability matters in the development plan and implementation without any failure and Section 80 has served this Council with due diligence by doing public participations engagement. This was not a compliance exercise but an engagement to develop strategies together with the Community, we even changed the way we run the Public Participations as we call all the Heads of Departments to come and account.

The sweet fruits of engagement were the results of the validation processes by both National Treasury and National CoGTA, both the IDP and Budget met the requirement of the credible document indicated by the Executive Mayor. We had indicated that the internal and external processes leading to the development of the IDP were both structural and operational they were meaningful and not perceive for this reason I want to thank the members of the Section 80, the members of Troika, the members of the Mayoral Committee and all Councillors of Mangaung who took part of the processes of this document leading today and the joint committee of IDP and Finance.

After tabling these two strategic documents we are going to have the following improvement measures by aligning the report from the Speakers office on Community needs with the activity of our Section 80 Committee, we are going to monitor the credibility and implementation of the audit action plan we want to see all the grants used and spent, no funding will be returned to National Treasury. The above improvement measures will start immediately and we will put our Metro to the high level therefore I support the approval of the IDP and the Sector plan tabled by the Executive Mayor and may I indicate that prior the approval the Department of Human Settlement they went out and launched several projects that was going to assist in terms of sanitation therefore I support both the IDP and the Budget. Thank you."

Cllr PS Twala read speech as follows: "Greeting honourable Speaker protocol observed and the house at large, as the ATM we appreciate and acknowledge the tabling of the budget as presented by the Executive Mayor with that said the ATM has noted with concern the challenges that the Community have mainly with service delivery which this budget has to address with a sense of urgency. The people who have voted us as representatives since the local government elections showed confidence in us to deliver their aspirations as addressed at the Public Participations relating to the IDP, it is a known fact that our City is experiencing an issue with the roads filled with potholes, sewage spillages running down our streets with minimal resolution, unemployment rate targeting our youth. We are not saying there must be afforded employment in this institution but rather be exposed to a platform that will expose their capability and knowledge that will benefit their communities, the less said about the long unaddressed issue of the pit toilets in the areas of Botshabelo and Thaba Nchu the better these are the issues of this budget needs to address and it is the responsibility of the political wing of this institution together with the appointed City Manager and Head of Departments to make sure that they are implemented as such.

Mangaung has been identified as a rural and urban area with which agricultural development needs to be made a priority, this does not only impact our upcoming small farmers but it will also contribute to food security and poverty alleviation mostly to our rural based community, as the ATM we applaud the Executive Mayor who went out and made sure that there is political stability in this institution of which it was the main reason the state the city finds itself in. the ATM calls upon the Municipal officials to make sure all the aspirations received from the community of Mangaung are implemented as such, this coming financial year we are not looking forward in hearing that there are funds returned to National Treasury due to failure of Municipality on intending to utilise them on service delivery. One of the values the ATM stands for is accountability which states that we stand for ethics and integrity in Governance, curbing corruption and ensuring accountability we also stand for the seventh leadership which prioritises services to the people and sound governance ensuring that leaders serve the nations interest.

There were issues raised by the ATM people from different wards starting from the informal settlements relocation that has been prolonged and attended to at a slow pace, road maintenance project in ward 17 that have no clear explanation why they are still on hold, clean water spillages in the suburbs that are not attended to, street lights that are always off due to cable theft which is always been reported but not addressed which leads to crime activities in the location. Public Safety in our CBD cannot go unnoticed let there be an allocation in our budget to provide visible and efficient law enforcement personnel to address such, Mangaung is regarded as the City of roses but the unhealthy odour of our sewage spillages are giving it a bad reputation with these only issues mentioned above the ATM is therefore calling on this budget to address these challenges and make sure that there is a positive contribution to the betterment of Mangaung. In conclusion the ATM will support this budget and we will be standing firm in making sure that it benefits the aspirations of the people of Mangaung. Thank you."

Cllr CL Kruger read her speech as follows: "Honourable Speaker protocol observed and the community at large, it is my great pleasure to stand in front of the community in support of the Executive Mayor's address as we table the budget. What the Executive Mayor aspired to achieve with the budget is a surplus generating budget as it is aligned to the needs of the Community and prioritise service delivery, we must manage and control of expenditure and spend out grants. The budget policy for this IDP emphasis that the budget must ended funding the prioritising as agreed upon with the community as our major stakeholder and as such it must be relevant, credible and funded, to date we still abide by principle as we transform economy and fulfil the preamble of the act I quote *"the people of South Africa recognises that the apartheid and other discriminatory laws and practices of the past resulted in excessive concentration of ownership and control in the national economy inadequate restrains against competitive trade practices and unjust restrictions in a full and free participation in the economy by all South Africans.* This is our achievement, and this is a second in a roll this budget is funded, and we have seen a significant improvement.

Today I am standing here to say we have recovered from the dark days of not paying as from June 30th June 2025 the Municipality would have paid two loans of Standard Bank and DBSA and by the 30th June 2026 the loan of ABSA and two loans of DBSA will also be paid up because we are compliant, this is a sign of significance resilience against all odds. This Council when they took office in 2021 they have never applied for new loans nor made use of an over draft because we came to restore, when we look at Centlec R128 million was written off by the participation of Eskom debt relieve and R288 million instalments were paid in four equal instalment were made successfully furthermore R49 million of interest related to the previous year were successfully adjusted additionally in terms of Centlec R81 million of interest related to the current financial year was reversed by Eskom in March 2025.

In terms of Governance, we owe the current stability to what I consider a mutual respect and political tolerance that exist amongst us as members of this Council, the rules of decorum as Council are adhered to with sittings and establishment of oversight structures convening regularly this includes the MPAC, the Disciplinary Board, the Audit Committee. We are also moving at a great speed with institutionalising the District Model that was introduced in cabinet in 2019, we are proud to have finished our first draft of the one plan this plan marks the end of the era of the operating in soles and the beginning of a new era in building the coherence envisage by chapter 2 of the institution of the Republic dealing with Governance and institutional stability.

Between 2021 and 2023 the City experienced seven acting City Managers and two administrators of intervention this implies nine City Manager had to play a role within a period of two years, this detail is critical in a sense that not only Government issues such as financial reporting, general accountability and response to Audit queries suffered major blows the National Intervention was also affected, this period these parties were involved in the crumble for the control of the city however during 2024 senior and heads of departments were appointed after approving the Macro organisational structure and we are currently reviewing the microstructure. In terms of Finance late appointment in key managerial appointment such as the CFO has had a negative impact on the Municipality however, we have approved an inclusion of 851 indigent application. Thank you."

Cllr DH Denner delivered his speech as follows: "Good day Honourable Speaker and the house at large. Today we are tabling the budget and many before it might look promising on paper as history has shown us promises and figures are meaningless in the absence of sound management and accountability. The FFPlus cannot support this budget that seeks to repeat the mistakes of the past, previous capital expenditure projects have been marked by poor financial and time management project initiated with great fan fair often fall behind schedule are abandoned all together leaving our communities without the infrastructure development and progress they were promised. These delays and inefficiencies come at an enormous financial cost, budgets are exceeded, contractors are paid for incomplete work and the residents of Mangaung are left to bare the burden of detreating roads, water shortage and failing of service delivery not to mention the high number of the electricity supply that has been recently going on.

Another failed project was the Bloemfontein Zoo the project that the Municipality wants to revive. Mangaung cannot deliver services what will happen to the poor animals that will form part of the Municipality when once they could not manage the Zoo properly, shouldn't we rather focus on the proper management for example the dumping site and cemeteries, criminal activities happen there it is a mess furthermore the residents of Mangaung are drowning in the sewage because of the infrastructure not to mention they are drinking water that is polluted at an alarming rate therefore let us leave the Zoo and focus on real issues that are affecting our residents on a daily basis. The problem lies in fraud that goes around the Municipality these are not isolated incidents, but systemic challenges undermine the ability to conclude projects properly, corruption erodes trust, drains Municipality resources and diverts funds away from the developments that are meant to support how can we speak of progress when funds intended for capex projects disappear into the pockets of those who prioritise a personal gain of public service? If we can refer to the KPMG report of the IPTN project for further information or maybe some people will benefit.

We must also talk about the inadequate policies in the Municipality for example the cost containment policy its noble in principle but failed in practice, instead of curbing unnecessary expenditure we witness extravagance in areas that does not service the needs of our people, and this poses a financial strain on the Municipality. The debt collection and credit control policy fall far short on the mark the Municipality inability to collect revenue efficiently has left it crippled by unpaid debts and widening gap between its income and expenditure, this failure directly impacts its ability to fund the capex projects and meet the needs of the community. We must be honest about the proposed budget while it might be impressive on the scope and vision it is fundamentally due to the lack of sound management, grant plans mean nothing if the leadership lacks discipline, integrity and commitment to execute them.

The people of Mangaung deserve action not just words or numbers on the spreadsheet, the FFPlus calls for transparency, accountability and a complete overall governance within the Municipality, we demand the Municipality to prioritise the effective implementation of its policies, address the work of the incompetence that hampers service delivery, irradicate corruption that leaves public funds dry without these changes no budget however well-crafted can serve the people of Mangaung. In conclusion we urge this Council to reject mediocracy let this be the moment where Mangaung rises above its challenges and embraces the principle of good Governance, responsible expenditure and a commitment to the people it serves the FFPlus stands ready to advocate for these values and hold those in power accountable. Thank you."

Cllr A Qai read his speech as follows: "Honourable Speaker all protocol observed and the house at large, allow me to talk directly about my department which is Community Services which is the biggest in Mangaung and it is committed to pursuit the maintenance human wellbeing holistically, the issue of the Horticulture division through Parks and Cemetries ensure that they are free of litter, glass is cut regularly, City entrance is beautified, burial spaces are allocated according to cultural believes and also the Zoo and Kwaggafontein game reserve is properly managed and well preserved according to the national environment.

The vision of the statement of Mangaung as contained in the IDP is that Mangaung is attracting safe, clean and green healthy and to have clean and well-kept environment. The prioritise of the department the key one is the library information services division the primary priority of library is meeting the needs of the users and promoting the literacy fostering the lifelong learning and providing access information and resources, these services play a critical role in supporting community engagement, cultural heritage and economic development. On sports and arts and culture the Municipality is responsible for promoting sports and activities that are hosted in the City. It has created an environment for economic and development for communities and tourists visiting the City it is also focused on promoting the social coherence fostering economic growth and development. This includes developing sports infrastructure and supporting local artists, the Municipality plays a key role in ensuring the access sports and recreation for all and fostering a sense of belonging and a partnership with involved bodies. On arts and culture promoting cultural events festival and preservation of heritage sites contributing to the strong sense of national identity and social coherence in the City.

The community development is to ensure the basic needs of the Community are met and to promote social economic growth and supporting social programs and to improve the quality life of residents and providing the access of social welfare services collaboration with the department of social development such as food security program and support vulnerable individuals and families through Mangaung closed bank registered with CoGTA to be part of the end of GBV program. Regarding food quality monitoring, the food security program emphasis a regular inspection including the spatial event and monitoring the premises and micro biological laboratory analysis for food sample to ensure a consumer protection for example the Spaza shops issues, on water quality monitoring in accordance with water service act has been performed. Regarding the disposal of the dead the division continue to provide effective health services in relation to the inspection of mortuaries and to make sure they comply, we also focused on HIV comprehensive approach and the prevention and the treatment this includes testing and treatment support services. Thank you."

Cllr AF Bothma addressed the Council as follows: "Honourable Speaker and the house at large, today we discuss the adoption the budget and we must consider a budget that is realistic and practical, we must have reliable documentation presented to us therefore the MSCOA data that has been presented to us has not been implemented fully. In terms of revenue the billing system should be restored for our consumers, serious corrective steps need to be done to ensure that our consumers receive correct accounts. The tariffs that we have been presented with for sanitation, refuse removal and property rates as they are within the inflation rate indicated by National Treasury but we need to see to it that we have a positive results with the negotiation with Vaal Central and NARSA as the water and electricity bill is too much, the tariffs indicated and proposed by these two institutions will cripple some of our residents.

Regarding rates and taxes we need a more valid and reliable valuation roll and property register there are a lot of mistakes there and to accomplish that we have get staff and appoint permanent valuer, the water losses are 49% and it is a major concern this will lead to a trade account not generating a much needed surplus to address issues such as maintenance and own capital projects and matters such as our infrastructure may be addressed if the trade account makes a surplus more measures should be taken to eliminate such losses. The appointed debt collectors should be monitored if so we can collect more money, in the expenditure side we are concerned on the issues of the employee budget item the starting point is the approved organigram that will lead to the effective IDP program as we will have the necessary skills to identify this program, overtime is a major concern as the auditor general has raised it before we must have an plan on how we can deal with it furthermore the acting allowances must be addressed and should be eliminated as vacancies should be filled.

The amount of budget on maintenance is worrying as it will not be adequate to maintain dilapidated buildings, due diligence should be done because repairs can lead to authorised expenditure, regarding the capital budget a surplus need to be generated on our trade account to increase the intensity to replace infrastructure with our own funds. In conclusion the DA cannot support the budget if we do not have the non-negotiables that I mentioned being addressed. Thank you."

Cllr VS Soqaga read speech as follows: "Honourable Speaker greetings to the house at large, I wanted to answer to some things that were said in this Council however I wont touch on that however I want to say it is not correct when it is said we did not budget alternative sanitation. When we came to office in 2021 the President of the office said at the manifesto I quote "*we choose the path of unity and hard work, development, inclusivity shared prosperity"* the reason why the president was making this statement it is because he knew that men and women are send to a fight with number of challenges will be there and as these challenges rises we said our Councillors will be available to respond to the needs of our people, we said we are going to strengthen saver and healthier communities, we said we are going to form partnership with our communities in achieving those who need help.

In our manifesto we said we are going to deal with issues of water and indeed we are because as the City we have embarked in a program that is called Masupatsela to deal with issues of leakages and young people are in training as we speak.

The pressure valve program in making sure that we replace the old valve is on-going as DBSA is working with us to make sure we identify all the loopholes in line with our water demand management strategy therefore we are getting there I also want to applaud the officials despite the challenges we face they continue to do their work and making sure that the water in the City is safe. The EMT has identified that the informal settlement was wasting water however they have explored a mechanism for people to pay wate, on sanitation we are working hard as there are no many sewer spillages and even the response time is 81% and we as a community we also need to make sure that we assist with spillages, we have embarked on a program of sewer spillages and running a campaign to show our people that when they slaughter they put unnecessary things in the drain and it causes sewer spillage however we must acknowledge that the systems that are there are old.

The issue of roads it is true and the problem of potholes and resurfacing of roads will continue to be there because it is affected mainly by the collection roads as they are funded on own funding however ass the City we have started to appoint small companies who will be dealing with such. The issue of Centlec it is incorrect that the electricity is going up and down, our journey of building a better Mangaung we are not going to be derailed hence this budget goes straight to infrastructure. Thank you."

Cllr R Klaasen delivered her speech as follows: "Honourable Speaker, Executive Mayor, Fellow Councillors, and Officials, today, I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance, not to oppose progress, but to demand that our promises to the people translate into action — not words on paper, not unfunded dreams, but tangible change in streets, taps, lights, and livelihoods. We are not here to tick compliance boxes. We are here to govern. And the IDP before us does not reflect that reality.

Yes, public participation took place. Meetings were held. Feedback was received. But the final draft shows very little evidence that communities were truly heard. Consultations should not be a formality. They should be the foundation. The people of our city spoke — but their voices have been left behind in the first draft.

This IDP is more an institutional wish list than a credible roadmap for service delivery.

Extract from the IDP showing prioritised projects – but few reflect direct community input or basic infrastructure needs.

How do we plan for development when our organogram is non-functional, our SDBIP is vague, and our capital budget is only R300 million internally funded — when we know we need more than three times that just to stop infrastructure decay?

Speaker, only 2% of this budget is allocated to infrastructure. Let me be blunt: you cannot fix a city with 2%.
Roads are collapsing. Sewage flows freely. Electricity infrastructure is decades overdue for maintenance. Yet this capital budget is smaller than what we've paid to underperforming debt collectors.
Capital budget breakdown – only a fraction goes toward infrastructure renewal, despite urgent need.

A credible IDP must be backed by a credible budget. What we have here is a dream built on dust. And what of the conditional grants we receive — the very tools meant to help us deliver where we fall short?

Last year, this municipality spent just 52% of its conditional grants. That means almost half of the money Treasury gave us to uplift communities went unspent — and then returned. Meanwhile, our people wait in long queues for housing, clean water, and sanitation. This is not a Treasury failure. It is a municipal one. We cannot cry poverty when we leave money on the table. We cannot plead for more while failing to spend what we already have. This is not a funding issue. It is a planning issue, a capacity issue, and frankly, a performance issue.

Where are the monthly dashboards on grant expenditure?

Where is the project tracking to ensure timelines are met?

Where is the accountability when projects fail?

The truth is simple: without performance, the IDP is meaningless. Without planning, capital budgets are fiction. And without delivery, the grants are wasted hope.

Mister Speaker, the DA has made it clear: we support development, but we will not support dysfunction disguised as planning. We support budgets that are funded, credible, and performance-driven — not hopeful spreadsheets and copy-paste plans.

Let this council commit to three things today:

1. A revised IDP that reflects real community input.
2. A capital budget that prioritises basic infrastructure and allocates at least the minimum 8% best-practice standard.
3. Strict performance oversight on the spending of every conditional grant.

We cannot afford another year of promises. Our people cannot afford another year of failure. Let us not plan for compliance. Let us plan for delivery.

Honourable Speaker, no plan — no matter how well-written — can deliver results when those responsible for implementation fail to perform.

And we must be honest: the weak performance of several Heads of Department is one of the root causes of this municipality's ongoing dysfunction.

We sit with:

i. Unspent grants because procurement processes are delayed.
ii. Broken infrastructure because project implementation is late or poorly executed.
iii. Collapsed services because key departments are either under-capacitated or under-led.
iv. No credible organogram, because HR cannot enforce structure or fill vacancies with urgency.
v. And yet, year after year, these HODs are protected, not held accountable.

This must end.

Performance Management must be mandatory, not discretionary. All managers are legally bound to sign performance agreements and undergo performance evaluations. Yet many have not, or they are evaluated late — if at all.

We demand:

1. Immediate audits of all HOD performance contracts.
2. More regular and robust performance management reviews.
3. And most importantly, consequence management when key deliverables are not met.

Failure to meet targets must no longer be followed by bonuses or soft redeployment. It must be met with warnings, investigations, and where necessary, dismissal. Departments must be held accountable as Units. Poor performance is not always about one person. It is about the culture in a department. A culture where:

- Deadlines don't matter.
- Budgets are either overspent or underused.
- Basic reporting is ignored.
- And junior officials are left without leadership.

The Executive Mayor and Municipal Manager must take direct responsibility for enforcing accountability across all departments. This council must be briefed quarterly on departmental KPIs and delivery scorecards. Performance must be tied to budget approvals. Why should this Council approve massive allocations for departments that consistently underperform?

Going forward, the DA will oppose budget allocations to departments that:

- Have failed to spend their grants two years in a row.
- Have no signed performance agreements in place for senior management.
- Or have refused to submit quarterly performance reports.

We cannot keep rewarding failure with more funding.

In conclusion, Mister Speaker, performance management is not a suggestion. It is a constitutional, legal, and ethical obligation. When departments fail, communities suffer. And when HODs are not held accountable, the entire institution becomes ungovernable.

The DA calls for a municipality that performs — and a leadership that demands nothing less. Let performance return to its rightful place at the centre of governance. I thank you."

Cllr B Vorster delivered his speech as follows: "Honourable Speaker all protocol observed, the FFPlus addresses the matters that lies at the heart of the responsible government and social justice the proposed tariffs, the core of the FFPlus when it comes to the principle of economic responsibility the protection of tax payers, decentralisation and efficient service delivery as public representatives we must act but not as tax collectors for this Metro but as the defenders of the rights and lively hood of our people, the unemployment rate is 30 %, service delivery is inconsistent and confidence in the Metro is weighing. The tariffs increasing by 30.5% on electricity, 11% on water, 4.4% on refuse and sanitation this exceeds the inflation rate of 2.8% this is not only fair, but it is unsustainable, what the administration should release is that big businesses will probably absorb these increases by increasing their prices on goods and services which will further resolve in financial burden for our residents.

The FFPlus rejects these increases because we believe for making more from our residents the Metro must first put its house in order, do not increase the tariffs decrease the expenses this Metro is not suffering from a revenue collection alone it is suffering from a spending problem. Why is necessary to allocate R84 million on overtime then they implement a shift system, we are still paying goods and services that are much high in the private sector, our water loses remains high and the Metro is currently losing up to 48% of water due to leaks, theft and eco-structural neglect and yet we expect residents to pay. Our outstanding debt on water amounts to R4.6 billion instead of improving the collection and reduction of water losses the solution seems to be raise the tariffs how can we justify this? Residents do not mind paying for services when they receive value but right now, they are paying more and getting less therefore the FFPlus says no to these tariff increases the focus should be improving value for money, eliminating wasteful and fruitless expenditure and renegotiating supplier contracts we must cut the operational costs.

The FFPlus believes in reasonably transparent service-oriented government where every cent collected from the public is accounted for and every budget promise is matched by the capacity and intent, let us be frank by the state of the operating budget year after year we are presented with ambitious targets which they fail to achieve. Thank You."

Cllr MW Mongale delivered his speech as follows: "Honourable Speaker, Dr BL Mathae. In 2023 their boards placed in town saying certain buildings were up for auction it was about 20 buildings, the crises here is that were we being tricked in accepting failure, or were we tricked by appointing the least competent people. When looking at the auditor general reports says that the is a financial mis management, poor service delivery in Mangaung because people do not want to account. The reality is that there is irregular expenditure of R286 million which is public funds and communities are waiting for services, the auditor general indicated that there is a wasteful expenditure and poor financial mismanagement of R123 million, the auditor general indicated that the process of supply chain is a disaster. We are not accusing you of not launching the project, but we are accusing you of not finishing the project because by the time of completion the money would be gone. The auditor general further highlighted that Mangaung continues to operate with ineffective leadership and lack accountability to improve its financial standing and service delivery. The issue of the graveyard it is dirty what is on the report is not a true reflection and what is worse is that there is a pipeline that might cough out a dead body. Thank you."

Cllr NA Nhlapo delivered her speech as follows: "Honourable Speaker greetings and the house at large, when we went to the community in terms of the IDP the landfill site is in the budget therefore the reason we appointed senior managers was that Natioal Treasury was threating us that we won't get the equitable share meaning we were going to be unemployed. When we went to the community what matters is that the Zoo was mentioned and it is budgeted for R8.8 million, the issue of sanitation and water demand there is a certain budget that is given for service delivery. I want to leave this meeting and say we need to build unity and work for the City. Thank you, Honourable Speaker."

Cllr T Van Der Walt delivered his speech as follows: "Agbare Speaker, Uitvoerende Burgemeester, mede-Raadslede en geagte inwoners van Mangaung. Elke jaar word groot projekte en indrukwekkende planne met die IDP goedkeuring aangekondig, net om net so vining weer te vervaag. Vandag wil ek beklemtoon dat die daaglikse lewens van ons inwoners die middelpunt van hierdie debat moet wees.

Die mislukkings wat ons vandag bespreek, is nie teoreties nie—dit word daagliks in die huise, strate, besighede en gemeenskappe van Mangaung ervaar, en dit word weerspieël in die planne en beleide wat hierdie raad gevra word om goed te keur. Hoewel daar enkele voorbeelde is van verbetering in die kwaliteit van verslae, planne en prosesse, is daar geen teken van ‘n volhoubare verbetering van die munisipale lewens in die stad nie.

Behind every statistic lies a family. When water does not flow from the tap, when the lights go out, when sewage runs in the street, it is not just a service delivery failure—it is a daily assault on dignity, health, and hope. In ward afterward, residents like Beauty Nkwe and Motlalepule Saola in Phase 6 are forced to dig holes in their own yards or pay money they do not have for basic sanitation. In Roodewal and Bloemdal, families spend hard-earned money on gas stoves and generators because the electricity grid is so unreliable that even a gust of wind plunges them into darkness. These are not isolated incidents, but the norm for too many.

The water crisis – which was ignored for decades - has deepened. Non-revenue water loss remains alarming, with half of the water we purify at great cost never reaching homes or businesses. Tens of thousands of pipe bursts and leaks have been reported and not attended for months, severely impacting water supply reliability. Yet, the grants allocated for infrastructure upgrades were not used and millions were returned to Treasury. This is not just mismanagement—it is a betrayal of our constitutional duty.

Sanitation remains a disgrace. Residents in informal settlements still rely on pit toilets, with no realistic plan for relief. Promised projects are delayed, and interim measures are underfunded. The health hazards are real and immediate. The very plans and annexures before us acknowledge these crises but lack credible funding and effective implementation timelines. Some of the most critical sectoral plans — like the outdated 2009 sanitation master plan and the incomplete outdated integrated human settlements plan further weaken our ability to address backlogs in housing and sanitation.

Our roads, electricity, and water infrastructure are collapsing. Only a small fraction of the budget is allocated to repairs and maintenance, far below the 8% needed. Power outages are now routine, with Centlec unable to provide reliable service or communicate a clear plan for improvement, and yet Centlec is still miles above Mangaung in governance. The capital budget is woefully inadequate, and what little is allocated is often unspent due to procurement delays and lack of skilled project managers. Many of the plans before us are comprehensive on paper, but implementation is crippled by high vacancy rates, outdated organograms, and a lack of consequence management.

The Municipality has received multiple qualified audit opinions over recent years. There have been substantial unauthorised, irregular, and wasteful expenditures reported. Material irregularities flagged remain unresolved. The accounting officer is not taking appropriate action on these, and the culture of impunity endures.

Despite being under national intervention, the promised turnaround has not materialised. The Financial Recovery Plan, which is supposed to guide every sectoral plan and budget decision, is referenced throughout the sector plans but remains largely unimplemented.

Many short-term actions are outstanding, and performance management remains weak. The Organisational Performance Management Policy is not being translated into real accountability or improved delivery.

Illegal dumping, uncollected refuse, and a lack of by-law enforcement are turning our city into a health hazard. Residents and businesses are losing faith, and social cohesion is fraying. These issues are not addressed in this IDP, or the budget linked to it or in the sector plans with the seriousness they demand.

Public participation is a exercise in tokenism, from land use applications to the IDP and Bylaws. The IDP and budget do not reflect the real priorities of our people. Consultations are held, but the outcomes are ignored. This is why protests and shutdowns continue—because people feel they have no other way to be heard. But luckily more recently people have started realising their vote is the only way to bring change. The sector plans are developed in isolation, without meaningful integration or revision of community feedback or ward-level needs. I warned that the crucial Spatial Development Framework could not be legally approved with the budget, because the legally required deadline for comments on the proposed amendments only closes 11 June, after which any inputs must still be processed.

This has been hastily addressed by leaving the draft SDF for later approval. But to ensure this is not a tokenistic exercise the public must be informed about the proposed changes, the motivations for the changes and what their impact will be. And then inputs must be meaningfully incorporated.

Speaker, across South Africa, independent assessments and national indices have consistently placed DA-led municipalities at the top for municipal governance and responsiveness to ALL residents' needs. These municipalities are recognized for their ability to adapt to changing challenges, maintain stability in difficult times, and ensure that the gains of good governance are protected and built upon. The lesson is clear: when local government is truly accountable and focused on service to its people, progress is possible—even in a tough environment. Mangaung's residents deserve nothing less than a municipality that aspires to this standard, where every plan and promise is matched by delivery and trust is restored between council and community.

Honourable Speaker, the IDP should not just be about numbers and KPIs—it is about restoring hope and dignity to Mangaung. The DA stands ready with solutions, but we cannot support a budget that ignores the real crisis on the ground and fails to implement the very plans it claims to have year after year. Let us put people before politics, delivery before dreams, and action before excuses.

As I am sure my colleagues will detail in the speeches to follow, these failures are not isolated or accidental—they are the result of broken systems, poor management, and a lack of real accountability, all of which are evident in the very plans and policies this council is asked to approve today. What is lacking is real sustained citizen centred implementation. I thank you."

A commotion erupted from different political parties whereafter the Speaker made his ruling. The Speaker thereon afforded the Executive Mayor the platform to respond.

Executive Mayor responded as follows: "Honourable Speaker when we started, I indicated that we progress through the difference of opinion and I make sure that I focus on the content and not the form in order to make progress, the MMC's that work with me are my direct choice and if they do wrong, I am the first one in line of attack therefore attack me. When I stood in front of you as the community, I highlighted that the auditor general deals with what happened in the past and how did the Municipality work in the past and to assist us on what to do next time. I am going to acknowledge Councillor Bothma he has shown me his level of intelligence therefore I want the CFO to engage him further in terms of making sure that we are on point in terms of knowledge economy, and we move forward. Thank you, Honourable Speaker."

After deliberations on the three (3) items as outlined in the agenda, the Speaker thereupon put the items to vote.

NOTED.

1.

REVISED SERVICE DELIVERY AND BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (SDBIP) 2024/2025 – COUNCIL ITEM ADDENDUM (ANNEXURE A)

It was thereupon with *53 votes in favour, 29 against and 0 abstained*

RESOLVED that the Council:

(a) Approved the Addendum for Revised SDBIP 2024/2025.

(b) Noted that the changes will be included in the final Revised SDBIP.

2.

TABLING OF THE MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY'S INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP) AS WELL AS SECTORAL PLANS (2022 – 2027) FOR APPROVAL

It was thereupon with *53 votes in favour, 29 against and 0 abstained*

RESOLVED that Council:

1) Approved the reviewed Integrated Development Plan for 2025/2026.

2) Approved the below mentioned Sector Plans for 2025/26 (Annexures as Key Components of IDP).

3) Noted that Spatial Development Framework (SDF) is a draft, pending finalisation of public participation ending 11 June 2025 and will be resubmitted to Council.

Sectoral Plans	Annexure
MMM Ward Demographics Maps	A
Environmental Management Plan and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy	B
Integrated Waste Management Plan	C
Water and Sanitation Master and Development Plans (Water Conservation Demand Management Strategy)	D
Integrated Public Transport Network Plan	E
Integrated Human Settlement Plan	F
MMM Organogram	G
Technical Indicator Description (TIDs)	H
Spatial Development Framework	I
Disaster Management Plan	J
Centlec Energy Plan	K
Rural Development Plan	L
Roads Asset Management Plan	M
Organisational Performance Management Framework	N
Mangaung Metropolitan Open Space System	O
Informal Settlement Upgrading Strategy	P
Mangaung Economic Development Strategy and Investment Plan	Q
Comprehensive Integrated Transport Plan	R

4) Noted that the IDP, Sector Plans will be submitted to both the departments of Treasury and COGTA and further be published on the municipal website.

3.

1. **MEDIUM TERM REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK 2025/26 – 2027/28**
2. **CAPEX BOOKLET: 2025/26 – 2027/28 (30 JUNE 2026) (ANNEXURE A)**
3. **FINAL GENERAL TARIFFS: 2025/26 – 2027/28 (ANNEXURE A1)**
4. **BUDGET POLICIES AND ANNEXURES**
5. **CENTLEC MEDIUM TERM REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK 2025/26 – 2027/28**

It was thereupon with _53 votes in favour, 29 against and 0 abstained_

RESOLVED by Council that:

1. The Mangaung Metro Municipality's annual budget for the financial year 2025/26; and projected allocations for the two outer years 2026/27 and 2027/28 contained in A-Schedule Budget Template issued by National Treasury, and related policies as set out in the following tables and annexures, be approved.

   1.1 The tariff increases as set out on pages 33 – 44 of the Executive Summary and pages 168 – 194 have been approved.

1.2 That the Consolidated Budget Summary as per Table A1 as set out on page 17 have been approved.

1.3 That the Consolidated Budgeted Financial Performance (Revenue and Expenditure by standard classification reflected in Table A2 as set out on page 76 have been approved.

1.4 That the Consolidated Budgeted Operating revenue and expenditure by vote reflected in Table A3 as set out on pages 77 – 78 be approved.

1.5 That the Consolidated Budgeted Operating revenue by source and expenditure by type reflected in Table A4 as set out on pages 74 and 79 have been approved.

1.6 Multi-year capital appropriations by vote reflected in Table A5 as set out on page 86 have been approved.

1.7 That the Capital Workbook attached as Annexure A have been approved.

1.8 That Consolidated Budgeted Capital Expenditure by Vote and Functional Classification as reflected in Table A5 as set out on page 86 have been approved.

1.9 That the consolidated Budgeted Financial Position as reflected in Table A6 as set out on page 87 have been approved.

1.10 That the Consolidated Budgeted Cash Flow Statement as reflected in Table A7 as set out on page 88 have been approved.

1.11 That the Consolidated Budgeted Cash Reserves/ Accumulated Surplus as per Table A8 as set out on page 89 have been approved.

1.12 That the Consolidated Assets Management as per Table A9 as set out on pages 90 – 92 have been approved.

1.13 That the Consolidated Basic Service Delivery Measurement as per table A10 as set out on pages 93 – 94 have been approved.

1.14 That the Supporting Tables SA 1 – 20 as set out on pages 95 – 100 and 115 – 132 have been approved.

1.15 Salaries and benefits of political office bearers, councillors and senior officials as reflected in Table SA 22 and SA 23 as set out on pages 134 – 136 have been approved.

1.16 That the supporting Tables SA 24 to SA 35 as set out on pages 137 – 154 have been approved.

1.17 Consolidated budget tables for the City and municipal entities (CENTLEC) have been approved.

1.18 Revised General Tariffs as set out in **Annexure A1** have been approved.

1.19 Principles and Policy on Writing off of Irrecoverable debt as set out in **Annexure B** have been approved.

1.20 Property Rates Policy as set out in **Annexure C** have been approved.

1.21 Budget Policy as set out in **Annexure D** have been approved.

1.22 Tariff Policies as set out in **Annexure E** have been approved.

1.23 Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy as set out in Annexure 8 (with effect from 01 July 2025) as per **Annexure F** have been approved.

1.24 Indigent Households and Free Basic Services Policy **Annexure G** have been approved.

1.25 Grants-in-Aid Policy as set out in **Annexure H** have been approved.

1.26 Virement Policy as set out in **Annexure I** have been approved.

1.27 Supply Chain Management Policy **Annexure J** have been approved.

1.28 Investment Promotion and Incentive Policy **Annexure K** have been approved.

1.29 Policy on travel and subsistence allowance policy **Annexure L** have been approved

1.30 Cost Containment Policy **Annexure M** have been approved.

2. Council notes National Treasury MFMA Circulars 129 and 130 (Municipal Budget Circulars for 2025/26 MTREF) as set out in **Annexures N and O** have been approved.

3. The 2025 Budget and Benchmark Engagement Summary Report issued by National Treasury as set out in **page 60 – 63** of the report have been approved.

4. An amount of up to R15 million, to be funded within the Rates account, in support of the City's Charitable and Relief Allocations as per Table SA 21 as set out on page 133 have been approved.

5. The Budget of Mangaung Transit Pty Ltd (known as Hauweng Bus Services), **Annexure P** have been approved.

6. The template A3 that is related to Water and Sanitation Trading Services Reforms, **Annexure Q** have been approved:

6.1 Council commits that by June 2026, the City will have implemented a service compact clarifying the separation of roles between service authority and service provider and defining accountability and authorities accordingly as per M1 (SPoMA Service Compact).

6.2 Council commits that by June 2026, the City will have implemented a formal process to appoint the HOD of water and sanitation engineering and commercial skills and experience, with performance targets prioritising reform imperatives, as per M2 (SPoMA Appointment).

6.3 Council commits that by June 2026, the City will have approved a macro-organizational structure which gives effect to and supports the mandate, responsibility and accountability of the water and sanitation business unit for all operational and supporting value chains, as per M3 (SPoMA Organizational Structure).

6.4 Council commits that by June 2026, the City will have finalised delegations which give effect to and support the mandate, responsibility and accountability of the HOD of water and sanitation business unit for all operational and supporting value chains, as per M4 (SPoMA Delegations).

6.5 Council commits that by June 2026, the City will develop a multi-year water and sanitation financial model (i.e. reflecting water and sanitation characteristics and requirements) and use this to prioritise and generate a Business & Investment plan to achieve long-term strategic objectives starting from 2026-2027 FY, as per M5 (financial Model and Business & Investment plan).

6.6 Council commits that by June 2026, the City will ensure that its overall Mangaung Metro Municipality's budget for 2026-2027 MTREF accommodates, support and funds the business and investment plans of water and sanitation to the maximum extent possible, as per M6 (Budget Support of Trading Service Business & Investment Plan).

6.7 Council commits that by June 2026, the City will ensure that it is able to provide full separate AFS for water and sanitation trading service (per specimen template provided in the MFMA circular of July 2024) for the 2026-2027 financial year and thereafter, and the flows and balances statement, as set out in M7 (Financial Transparency).

6.8 Council commits that by June 2026, the City will have in place and effective (a) additional capacity to support and manage the planned organizational change; and (b) additional capacity to support the planned increase in delivery of water and sanitation CAPEX, as set out in M8 (Support for the management of organizational change and increased delivery).

7. That Council should note that Entity's due diligence exercise is underway that will inform the Definitive Agreement is being finalised and will be presented to Council and the Board of CENTLEC by no later than 30 June 2025.

8. That the CENTLEC (Pty) Ltd budget submissions for the period 2025/26 – 2027/28 have been approved.

9. That the City is not taking up any long-term loans for 2025/26 MTREF.

104.	**CLOSING OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

The Speaker thanked everyone present including the guests and members of the public and thereafter declared the meeting officially closed at 15h15.

SECRETARIAT UNIT
COMMITTEE SERVICES