

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES
of a
SPECIAL MEETING

MANGAUNG
METROPOLITAN
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FIRST FLOOR
BRAM FISCHER BUILDING
BLOEMFONTEIN

MONDAY
30 JUNE 2025
AT 10:00 (Continued virtually on
Ms Teams on Tuesday 1 July 2025 at
15h00)

MANGAUNG
METROPOLITAN
MUNICIPALITY



SPECIAL MEETING
of the
MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
held IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, FIRST FLOOR, BRAM FISCHER BUILDING
BLOEMFONTEIN
on **MONDAY, 30 JUNE 2025 at 10:00**
(continued virtually on Ms Teams on Tuesday 1 July 2025 at 15h00)

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

#	NAME	PARTY	LEAVE
1	<u>Speaker</u> Cllr Mathae (Bongani Lawrence)	ANC	
2	<u>Executive Mayor</u> Cllr Nthatisi (Gregory Mosala Solomon)	ANC	
3	<u>Deputy Executive Mayor</u> Cllr Titi-Odili (Lulama Magdeline)	ANC	
4	<u>Council Whip</u> Cllr Nikelo (Vumile Edwin)	ANC 28	
SECTION 79 CHAIRPERSONS			
5	<u>Rules</u> Cllr Mokgothu (Tona Kenosi Wilfred)	ANC 2	Absent with apology for both meetings
6	<u>MPAC</u> Cllr Makoloane (Itumeleng Justice)	ANC 36	
7	<u>Petitions and Community Liaison</u> Cllr Morake (Molefi Andries)	ANC	
8	<u>Remunerations</u> Cllr Tladi (Motshewa Martha)	ANC	
9	<u>Public Places and Street Naming</u> Cllr Mogotloane (Thabo Joel)	ANC 39	
MEMBERS OF MAYORAL COMMITTEE			
10	<u>Waste and Fleet Management</u> Cllr Jonas (Vuyelwa Eunice)	ANC	
11	<u>Economic Development</u> Cllr Mosala (Motlhokung Theodorah)	ANC 11	
12	<u>Public Safety and Transport</u> Cllr Tsoleli (Sibongile Pearm)	ANC	Absent with apology for 30/06/2025
13	<u>Technical Services</u> Cllr Soqaga (Vusumzi Simon)	ANC	
14	<u>Finance</u> Cllr Kruger (Caprice Logan)	ANC 16	
15	<u>Planning and Human Settlements</u> Cllr Nhlapo (Ntombi Anna)	ANC	
16	<u>Rural Development</u> Cllr Twala (Pani Sidney)	ATM	
17	<u>Community Services</u> Cllr Qai (Alfred)	AIC	Absent with apology for both meetings
18	<u>Corporate Services</u> Cllr Letawana (Manthuse Maria)	ANC	

PR COUNCILLORS			
19	Cllr Bothma (Andries Francois)	DA	Absent with apology for 30/06/2025
20	Cllr Bouwer (Chadwine Lyle)	DA	
21	Cllr Davies (Maryke)	DA	
22	Cllr De Bruin (John Matthews)	PA	
23	Cllr De-Huis (Dikeledi Jane)	EFF	
24	Cllr De Kock (Valerie Belinda)	FFPlus	
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 without apology for 01/07/2025
30	Cllr Lipale (Gopolang Jeremiah)	EFF	
31	Cllr Makau (Pitso Elias)	EFF	
32	Cllr Malebo (Deliwe Lettia)	EFF	
33	Cllr Maliela (Motiki Edwin)	DA	
34	Cllr Matobole (Mosala Abel)	DA	
35	Cllr Matsoetlane (Meditaba Joyce)	ANC	
36	Cllr Mogotsi (Mamahlape Elisa)	EFF	Absent without apology for 01/07/2025
37	Cllr Mohlamme (Lebohang Lerato)	DA	Absent with apology for both meetings
38	Cllr Mokoena (John Itumeleng)	AASD	
39	Cllr Mongale (Mojalefa William)	AASD	Absent without apology for 01/07/2025
40	Cllr Moreeng (Kabelo Christopher)	DA	
41	Cllr Mtshakazane (Eunice Xoliswa)	EFF	Absent without apology for 01/07/2025
42	Cllr Njiva-Lebajoa (Mamotse)	DA	Absent with apology for both meetings
43	Cllr Phohleli (Tsholwane Eddy)	EFF	
44	Cllr Ramatlama (Mpho Joseph)	EFF	Absent with apology for both meetings
45	Cllr Rammile (Tumelo Kingsley)	DA	

46	Cllr Rampai (Pule Joseph)	ACDP	Absent with apology for 30/06/2025
47	Cllr Sebolao (Jankie Elisha)	EFF	
48	Cllr Shale (Nkahiseng Reginah)	EFF	Absent without apology for 01/07/2025
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 for both meetings
54	Cllr Viviers (Benhardus Jacobus)	DA	
55	Cllr Vorster (Braam)	FFPlus	Absent with apology for both meetings
56	Cllr Wewege (Mare-Lize)	FFPlus	Absent with apology for 30/06/2025
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	Absent without apology for 01/07/2025
62	Cllr Sehloho (Siza Clement)	ANC 7	
63	Cllr Nyaphudi (Likeleli Julia)	ANC 8	
64	Cllr Tlhakung (Betty Masetlhabi)	ANC 9	
65	Cllr Setlai (Teboho Lesley)	ANC 10	
66	Cllr Hashatsi (Rafedile)	ANC 12	
67	Cllr Siteo (Nombulelo Dorcas)	ANC 13	
68	Cllr Lekgetho (Lebogang Winston)	ANC 14	
69	Cllr Mohibidu (Pulane Martha)	ANC 15	
70	Cllr Mohatle (Mampone Sally)	ANC 17	Absent without apology for both meetings
71	Cllr Van Noord (Gregory Owen)	DA 18	Absent with apology for both meetings

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	Absent without apology for 30/06/2025
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	Absent without apology for 01/07/2025
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	Absent without apology for 30/06/2025
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	Absent with apology for both meetings
98	Cllr Pretorius (Johannes Christiaan)	DA 48	

99	Cllr Lekhwele (Mohanuwa Julia)	ANC 49	
100	Cllr Monare (Thabo Nicholas)	ANC 50	
101	Cllr Mohulatsi (Mamoorosi Margaret)	ANC 51	

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

#	DESIGNATION	NAME/S
1	CITY MANAGER	MR SELLO MORE only on 1/07/2025
2	ACTING CITY MANAGER	MR MOKETE DUMA only on 30/06/2025
3	ACTING CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	MS NOMATHAMSANQA SITISHI
4	HOD: CORPORATE SERVICES	MR MOKETE DUMA
5	HOD: COMMUNITY SERVICES	DR THABANG THINDA
6	ACTING HOD: PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORT	MR BILLY BARNES
7	CENTLEC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	MR MALEFANE SEKOBOTO only on 30/06/2025
8	CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	MS ZOE WILLIAMS only on 01/07/2025
9	CHIEF OF STAFF	MR ZOLILE MANGCOTYWA
10	HEAD OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE MAYOR	MS BONGA MNCUBE only on 01/0/2025
11	HEAD OFFICE OF COUNCIL WHIP	MR THABO MOHAPI only on 30/06/2025
12	HEAD OF MPAC	MR MOSES SEKAKANYO only on 01/07/2025
13	GM: COMMITTEE SERVICES	MS XOLISWA QILO
14	GM: INSTITUTIONAL COMPLIANCE	MR THABISO RAMOLEBO only on 01/07/2025
15	GM: IDP AND ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE	MR MONYAKE MOTHEKHE only on 01/07/2025
16	CHIEF RISK OFFICER	MS MORAKANE MOTOTO only on 01/07/2025
17	GM: COMMUNICATIONS	MR Q KHEDAMA
18	ACTING MANAGER: COUNCIL SUPPORT	MS RINA MAMATELA
19	SECRETARIAT: ACTING SENIOR ADMIN OFFICER	MS OLGA LECHWANO

Note by Secretariat

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

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

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

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

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**MINUTES
(OPEN COUNCIL)**

105.

OPENING

(MOMENT OF SILENT CONTEMPLATION FOR MEDITATION AND PRAYERS)

The meeting commenced at 10h12 to allow all Councillors to be seated.

The Speaker officially opening the meeting, confirmed that 72 Councillors were in attendance thus forming a quorum.

He then requested all to observe a moment of silent contemplation for meditation and prayers.

NOTED.

106.

NOTICE OF THE MEETING

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

Councillor KC Moreeng raised a concern with regards to the late delivery of the Council agenda to Councillors, however the Speaker indicated that he would grant Councillor KC Moreeng an opportunity to debate that on the relevant item.

NOTED.

107.

APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

The Speaker announced that Cllr JB Thomas was involved in an accident whereupon he lost his partner. He then wished him speedy recovery.

Councillor JE Sebolao indicated that after Councillor JB Thomas got into an accident, he was admitted at Pelonomi Trauma Unit and was discharged the next day. He further expressed his disappointment with regards to the rapid discharge of Councillor JB Thomas indicating that he was discharged while he was still in pain. Councillor JF Sebolao therefore pleaded with the Speaker to ask the MEC of Health to intervene with regards to this matter.

Furthermore, Councillor JE Sebolao highlighted that Councillor MJ Ramatlama is the one taking care of Councillor JB Thomas as he stays with elderly people who could not afford to take care of him.

NOTED.

108.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Councillor PA Lotriet raised an objection that why would item 117: organisational structure be dealt with In Committee. That the Council had waited three (3) years for the report and that they attended the Section 80 whereby they needed time to study the report and further request to be workshopped with regards to the structure. He further alluded that they needed ample time to study the structure and go through its contents. He then requested that the structure be referred back.

Cllr KC Moreeng remarked: That he wanted to bring to the attention of the Speaker the matter of integrity and procedural governance regarding the recurring of late delivery of the Council documents and agenda which he raised in the past in this house. He continued to refer to the Standing Rules and Orders of Council which stipulates that Councillors must receive their documents on time to ensure that they are adequately prepared to deliberate and decide on matters of public interest. However, persistent delays of distribution of the Council agendas and reports, severely compromises this principle and the consequences are very multifueled.

“The Council is left with insufficient time for review, undermining meaningful oversight and informed decision making. Motions and oversight mechanism are frequently deferred or rendered ineffective. The public perception of transparency, accountability and readiness is eroded. These risk patterns Mister Speaker can contribute into procedural unfairness, particularly in cases where items are tabled as urgent without consensus and proper justification.

In light of these Mister Speaker, I will plead to your office:

- To investigate the systematic of these documentations’ delays.
- To ensure strict adherence of notice requirements in terms of the Standing Rules and Orders.
- Provide assurance that no Councillor will be disadvantaged by inadequate time.
- This matter be scheduled for discussion in the Programming Committee and be escalated to the City Manager’s office for urgent administrative redress.”

Council Whip, Councillor VE Nikelo remarked before he spoke in relation to the adoption of the agenda: “Mister Speaker, I would like to pass my heartfelt condolences to the family of Cllr JB Thomas on passing of his partner and wish him speedy recovery. We are thankful that he was spared his life, and may he find solace in the hands of the Mighty God while he is dealing with the loss of his dear wife.

6B

Honourable Speaker and Councillors, two or three things that were discussed in the Multi Party is that there was a general consensus around item 111.4 and item 111.5, that both items be circulated to all the Whips of the parties and Councillors without any printout of the hard copies due to the volume of the document.

There was also a discussion and an agreement that all the items of MPAC must be clustered as one item. Therefore, I move for the adoption of the agenda with the changes that I just identified.”

Honourable Speaker indicated that there is a proposal of minor changes arising from the Multi Whippery that has been raised with the adoption of the agenda. There is another suggestion that item 11.7 on organisational microstructure raised by Councillor PA Lotriet.

The Speaker then asked Councillor PA Lotriet if he was proposing that item 111.7 be removed from the agenda whereupon Councillor PA Lotriet responded by saying that they propose item 11.7 to be referred back to Section 80 Corporate Services so that they could deal with it and then it will come and serve in Council.

Councillor M Davies questioned why item 11.7 would be In Committee whilst the organisational structure of Centlec was discussed and opened to the public? She further emphasised that surely the community would like to know how the organogram of their Municipality is structured. That this is just the organogram, there are no specific names and salary scales attached on it therefore there is no need for this item to be discussed in committee.

The Executive Mayor, Councillor GMS Nthatisi responded that the one consideration for them to request that this item be dealt with In Committee is that currently as proposed, the structure contradicts with the existing posts that are there and that impact on the individuals that have occupied them, and those changes came to speak to interest figures and names. That is the reason why we decided on that approach of In Committee”

Councillor GD Kotze raised a point of order that the issue is that this item did not serve at the Section 80 Committee: Corporate Services meeting and how can it be discussed In Committee? Please give an explanation why this item did not serve at the Section 80 Committee: Corporate Services meeting as it was raised by Councillor PA Lotriet.

The Speaker remarked that Councillor PA Lotriet proposed that this item be removed from the agenda, so which is which? Councillor GD Kotze interjected and explained that Councillor PA Lotriet said that this item be referred back to the Section 80 Committee: Corporate Services for discussions and then be brought back to Council thereafter.

On a point of order, Councillor MM Letawana reminded Councillors that item 117 was discussed at Section 80 Committee: Corporate Services, but the Committee awaited the comments from MEC COGTA and agreed that if there were no material changes,

the item should serve in Council and if there were any material changes, it would be resubmitted to the Section 80 Committee: Corporate Services for discussion.

Councillor DL Malebo stated that the Executive Mayor and MMC, Cllr MM Letawana were uttering two different statements. She further indicated that as the member of the Section 80 Committee: Corporate Services, did not understand why the item should be dealt with In Committee and proposed that it should be referred back to Section 80 Committee: Corporate Services for thorough discussions before it could serve in Council.

The Speaker, Councillor BL Mathae indicated that the Executive Mayor was simply explaining that the structure was made an In Committee item due to the names of the current incumbents on the structure, that would have negative implications if discussed in a public sitting. But due to Councillors different approach on this item, he would have to practise the standard rule of voting so that the agenda could be adopted.

Cllr MW Mongale raised the following matters:

- That Councillors were missing the point, that the official response was given by the Executive Mayor that because of the names of the incumbents and their position on the organogram, the item will be In Committee. But when you look at the organogram, there are no names of incumbents, and the fact that it has no names of incumbents, it means it has been treated with the highest level of integrity.
- That this meant that no one will be affected, and no one will be exposed and, on those bases, and therefore the item did not qualify to be an In Committee item. This Council cannot be subjected this item to votes, it is a matter of principle that the debates with regards to this item proceed public within this Council. If there can be any form of amends or reviews, unions would be expected to engage with the affected officials.

Cllr JE Sebolao concurred with the sentiments raised by Cllr MW Mongale and Cllr DL Malebo. He further emphasised that as long as this item has served at the Section 80 Committee: Corporate Services, then it can serve publicly in Council, not In Committee.

Cllr JM De Bruin asked for clarity that, was it ok for the Chief Whip of the ANC to postpone the meeting within 24 hours, which was very unprofessional. He then asked that item 11.8 and 11.9 be referred back to Section 79 Committee MPAC.

Councillor Denner asked for clarity that items 114 and 11.6, were they removed or were the documents only circulated to the Whips of different parties?

The Council Whip in responding to issues raised by Councillors, he indicated the following:

1. That in relation to the issue of the MPAC items being deferred back, this Council is not at liberty to decide if the item can be tabled or not. MPAC decides whether to bring their items in the Chamber or not.

2. That in terms of the clarity Councillor Denner needs with regards to those items is that there is no item that is removed from the agenda, however it was indicated on the multi group that due to the high volume of the SDF CIP items, only one (1) document will be printed for each party instead of 101 documents for 1010 Councillors. And further to that the soft copy of the document will be accessible to all 101 Councillors. This was to mitigate further delays in terms of the distribution of documents as Councillor Moreeng indicated earlier in this Council.
3. That with the issue of the Macro Structure, MMC MM Letawana has indicated and confirmed that item 11.7 has served at the Section 80 Committee: Corporate Services and therefore the Speaker can put this item to vote so that the Council can continue with its business of the day.

The Executive Mayor provided further explanation as follows on why item 117 would be dealt with In Committee:

- That as the Executive Mayor who is dealing with operational matters on daily basis, he understood sensitive matters not only by means of names. It must be noted that if this report would have been circulated normal as other items, the possibility of it being leaked at inappropriate platforms are high. He therefore asked for a harmonious understanding towards the agreement that him and the Mayoral Committee reached to treat this item as in committee to curb all means of this item being leaked.
- "The organisational structure was not a casting stone. The structure went through all necessary committees and all that was left was the endorsement of the MEC which I did. Approving the structure is a positive step towards confirming that indeed the Metro works. If there is no mutual agreement within members of the Council, then the Speaker must divide the house".

Councillor JM De Bruin remarked that on their previous meeting, the committee agreed that they want the full IPTN report before the MPAC items can go serve in Council, hence he is emphasizing that the MPAC reports must go back to MPAC.

The Speaker allowed voting as follows:

For item 117 to be referred back: 37 voted in favour, 44 against and 0 abstained.

For item 11.8 and 119 be referred back: 1 voted in favour, 58 against and 21 abstained.

For the acceptance of the agenda as outlined by the Council Whip: 47 voted in favour, 32 against and 4 abstained.

The agenda was duly adopted.

NOTED.

109.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Councillor JM De Bruin: That the Speaker should recognize the 16 June, which was the Youth Day, they had memorial service at Heidedal whereupon they lost 49 lives at the dumping site and nobody cares about it. That it is time to bring the item of that empty land which has been vacant for years to Council. In 2016 it was discussed that there should be flats on that empty land, that is why there are some streets already there and there were also meter boxes which they do not know what happened with them.

That if Mister Speaker can put a committee for them with the MEC of Health so that they can engage about rebuilding Pelonomi Hospital as 1 life is lost on a daily basis at Pelonomi Hospital. Patients are waiting for 48 hours before they can be admitted, and the nurses are understaffed as well.”

Councillor Terblanche raised a point of order that Councillor JM De Bruin is complaining about the dumping site but when they had the press there, Councillor JM De Bruin was not there.

Councillor JE Sebolao: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. There was an incident of a 19-year-old Kamogelo Baukudi who was kidnapped for the past 20 days, and it is with great pleasure to announce to the community of Mangaung that Kamogelo Baukudi has been found and he returned home safe. I also want to express my gratitude to the Free State Premier, Honourable Maqueen Letsoha-Mathae who has consumed her material time to invest in the searching of Kamogelo Baukudi. He boy is home safe and may God protect him. To politicians, I would like to say, let us take from our Premier and stand together in times such as these and not shine with our political affiliations.

Finally, Mister Speaker, our entity is under attack by former employees and this August house cannot just be quiet. Some time back during the proceeding of the Council when Councillor M Davies was the Speaker, there was a former Centlec employee who joined the Council meeting and pretended to be a journalist. I am therefore pleading to Honourable Councillors to protect our entity, which is Centlec, Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Cllr GDP Kotze: Residents of Mangaung, People often ask me: “Why did we vote for the DA?” You voted for us to protect your interests, to be your voice in council, and to demand accountability from those in power. But in Mangaung, the ANC-led administration chooses selective communication, not transparency. And let’s be clear: in today’s world, there are no communication gaps — only excuses. In history, people used runners, smoke signals, pigeons — today, they just ignore your calls and emails. Residents always complain that the City does not communicate with them, and that causes a great distress as they see things happening without their knowledge”.

Here are the facts:

The City Manager ignores our Rule 38 questions and refuses to table DA motions. We requested oversight visits to the ICT and Supply Chain departments. We also sent emails to MMC of Finance and MMC of Corporate Services but no response from them or the Executive Mayor.

The City Manager also did not respond to the emails that I have sent him, and the Executive Mayor also did not respond to my mails.

Mister Speaker, we wrote to you before the approval of the budget and we're still waiting for your response to our letter. Residents who applied for indigent support are still not approved. The City Manager won't respond to Section 102 account disputes either. This silence is not incompetence, it's deliberate. Selective communication is disrespectful to residents. It tells you; we'll respond when it suits us. I thank you, Mister Speaker."

Councillor VS Sogaqa: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Congratulations to the ANC on their freedom with the Freedom Charter, the document that has been guiding us for years and will continue guiding us. We have a lot still to be done and the road has not been easy as there is no easy road.

Mister Speaker, on Friday the Executive Mayor, Councillor GMS Nthatisi had a pleasure to meet a team from SANRAL where a 33.7km steel pipe from Welbedacht to Brandkop Treatment Water Works was unveiled. The sole purpose of the pipe is to navigate the challenges of the interruptions of water that the City is faced. This project is face 1 and face 2 has been resumed with 71.3km steel pipe which in total will be 105km. This moves from concrete pipes to steel pipes will address the issue of pipe bursts, Thank you Mister Speaker."

Councillor IJ Mokoena: "Mister Speaker, before I make an announcement on behalf of Afrikan Alliance of Social Democrats. Just a few issues today, as we gather today, we have to act upon the spirit of resilience that causes through the hearts of our divers' nation. Honourable Speaker, my address is titled "*Hope and Inspiration in the midst of despair, helplessness and socio, economic and political turmoil*". In a time where despair, helplessness and a mired socio, political economic challenges threaten and overshadow our dream, let us take a moment to draw inspiration from the remarkable achievements of our fellow South Africans. Recent triumphs serve as a big beacon of hope illuminating a path forward the accelerating history, victory of our National Cricket Team during the ICC World Cup under captainship of Themba Bavuma is not just a testament to skill and determination, but a reminder of what we can achieve when we unite as one nation.

Likewise, the incredible performance of both our ladies and men's teams at 2025 comrade's marathon inspire us to push past our limits, strive for greatness and support one another in our genes. Ntate Dikana and Gelder Steyn strength is our strength, is our inspiration and its our reminder that we can overcome. Added to that honourable member, it's the victory of the Springbok over the Barbarians yesterday that has also under the leadership of "Rassie" Erasmus and also Siya Kolisi, the Captain who could not make it yesterday, also continue to inspire all of us. I am not a Mamelodi Sundowns fan, Councillor JE Sebolao, but I would like to also congratulate Mamelodi Sundowns for performing so well on the FIFA World Cup Championship in the United States.

However honourable members, as we celebrate these victories, you must also honour the courageous youth the seventies and eighties who stood resolutely for justice and dignity, embodied in the very essence of our struggles and liberation. Their sacrifices remind us that the fight for equality and human rights is never in vain. In those turbulent time, we witnessed the power of cooperation between black and white civil, religious and trade union movement.

A united front that challenged the status quo and transform our society. Today we stand at the crossroads, the challenges we face are profound, yet they are no insurmountable just as the youth of the past force alliance overcame adversities, so we too must we rise across all devices in our pursuit for a better future. The strength of our nation lies in active citizenry, and it is imperative that we engage in the upcoming national dialogue to ensure that every voice is heard, every concern is addressed, and every dream is acknowledged. There can never be anything that is discussed about us without us. African Alliance of Social Democrats is busy in a consultative process to convene the cross action of our community in Mangaung. For the forums we have constructive conversations about the future that we want. Under the theme, Mangaung on vision 21st, the people's quest for justice, dignity and sustainable prosperity.

Mangaung visions 2050 is not nearly an aspiration, it is our collective responsibility to mould a society that natures growth for all where its citizens thrives and where the legacy of courage and resilience is passed down through generations. In a phase of despair, let us choose hope. In the depts of helplessness, let us find strength in each other. Together we can inspire a brighter tomorrow in Mangaung. I want to announce African Alliance and request that where citizens, where businesses, where civil society see any of the conventions that are calling upon all of us to converge and discuss the future which we want to fall upon, please participate and don't be standby because it is about the future of our kids and our country. Thank you, Honourable Speaker."

Councillor MW Mongale: "Thank you Honourable Speaker, Dr BL Mathae. Honourable Speaker, I am going to plead with this house, I have been trying to look across according to the West Minister style. I was expecting on my left-hand side to see Cllr SP Tsoleli, but I don't see her today because what I am about to address talks to her functions as the MMC. The issue of eradication of crime, gangsterism and drugs within our community that is destroying our youths. We believe that this Municipality must adopt a program that is spearheaded by the Executive Mayor and the Speaker, where we are going to engage the community on the process of making sure that we get rid of crime within our own communities. As we are talking now, every township after school becomes a war zone where kids are hurting each other, and some are killing each other under our watch. We try to resolve it, try to stop it but, we sit with a major crisis.

The major crisis is that most of the high schools are on the western side of Bloemfontein. When you go to the eastern side, there are no high schools and that is a crisis. And a lot of kids that are involved in these crimes are kids that are staying away from their homes. Now the parents are unaware that their kids even though they are kids in their houses, once they leave their yards, they become the monsters in the society. And this is a problem, and it has to become a Municipal problem. So, I am calling all of you, the Executive of this Municipality including the MMC for Safety and Security to come to all close ranks if this matter because there is a challenge.

6H

The biggest challenge here is that if this matter is not being resolved, we are building another Mitchells Plain problem here, we are building another American ghetto problem where children will think that gangsterism is the way to go. As early as five (5) years, they will think that when you are a gangster, you are cool because there is no another identity that they have in the township.

Now, it is upon all of us to join hands irrespective of political affiliation, but we are going to say we are going to the community to talk about how we can resolve these matters. But we also have to acknowledge that this Municipality is unique and that it also shares a boarder with another country, in this particular case which is Lesotho. There needs to be a relationship between Mangaung Municipality and the government of Lesotho and try to make sure that we join hands because in Lesotho, there are no gangsterism. And some of the people who are involved in the gangs in South Africa are from Lesotho, not all of them. Now the issue is that why are they unable to do it in Lesotho? Is it because they care about Lesotho or is it because there is a deeper system that is being used in Lesotho that is able to deal with this crime?

We need to fight and diagnose this problem and maybe once we are excellent with it, we might also ask our sister provinces like Mpumalanga as to how they are able to deal with their provinces' cross boarder challenges. These issues cannot be ignored, and they need to be treated as of yesterday. The issue of school holiday that is a fatal ground for a lot of kids to fight amongst themselves especially when the schools are closed. They call it "let us go for a match, a match of throwing each other with stones and stabbing one another with spears".

That is not match. Instead, we need the role of the community such as sports. We know we must have sports during closure of the school holidays. And we are calling on the Executive Mayor to say let him rally, even the departments of government such as the department of Sports Arts and Culture and the Premier of the Province and bring all the businesses on Mangaung to say lets fund the project that will make sure during the school holidays there are tournaments in the townships that denies the children the opportunity to sit and idle and think that they have no talent, the only thing that they can do is to hurt each other.

This issue I am raising with you, and I hope that it will not be an issue that is from the Councillor from AASD because he talks too much, he just like to talk to the mike. You will understand the severity and its crucial nature given that the children are dying in the townships. I live in the township, I live among them, that is why I can tell you that I know that they are dying, and I know what is the main problem and I can even tell you. But all I am saying is that lets zoom in and go there and ask even the National Intelligence, Amaberete, Military Policy light their guard in their minds. Why can't they guard that community because when young people are destroyed, the whole nation is destroyed. Thank you, Honourable Speaker."

Councillor JM De Bruin asked the Speaker to allow him to talk on an item, but the Speaker indicated that the Standing Rules and Orders were clear that a Councillor may only speak once on an item, and in this instance, Councillor JM De Bruin had an opportunity to speak on this item earlier. The Speaker highlighted that he would speak to Councillor JM De Buin after the meeting so that Councillor De Bruin can indicate which item he wanted to speak about. He highlighted his concern about Councillors engaging on one (1) item for the longest time, which delays the Council to proceed to other items on the agenda.

The Speaker announced the passing of the Reginal General Manager Botshabelo Region: Professor J Matutle who succumbed to illness. He then requested all present in the Council Chamber to stand and observe a moment of silence.

Prior to dealing with item 110, the Speaker, Councillor BL Mathae stated: “I would like us to make a change in todays’ Council program. As you can all see that there is a device for a hybrid presentation inside this Chamber, I would want us to take the presentation by the Chairperson of the Audit Committee who will be presenting a report through the hybrid platform and after the presentation, the Councillors will be allowed to engage, ask questions and make comments.

After the presentation of the Audit and Performance Committee report and engagements of the Councillors, the matters of the Executive Mayor will then be presented.”

Speaker raised with concern the following: “Councillors, I just want to draw your attention to the fact that we have 76 speakers, and if I allocate five (5) minutes per speaker, this Council have 4 hours and 30 minutes of discussion, which simply means this Council will adjourn at 21h00.”

Councillors asked for a clarity if the Council is moving to item 114 forward and handling it now and the Speaker indeed confirmed as such.

The Speaker announced that six of the interpretation devices were missing from the previous Council that was held at Dr Rantlai Molemela Stadium where Council adopted the budget and that they were not the Municipality’s devices, they belonged to the company that provided interpretation services.

NOTED.

110.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

NOTED.

After Council dealt with item 114.1, the Executive Mayor was afforded an opportunity to table the items as outlined in the agenda.

Executive Mayor, Councillor GMS Nthatsi: Thank you very much Speaker, I would not want to celebrate the lost gadgets and I don't know that so ke batla ho buwa ka Sesotho kasheko. Ho na le bana ba tsheletseng bat lo bang disadvantaged, ka golwa ha ba lehlakoreng lena leo ho buuwang Sesotho, ba ka nqane. It was on a lighter note Honourable Speaker.

Let me thank the Honourable Speaker, your indulgence and appreciate again this opportunity by Councillors to present before you the items that are from the Office of the Executive Mayor and Mayco and the work that has been done by our officials.

The first item Honourable Speaker, speaks to the report on the development applications processes by the Mangaung Planning Tribunal (MPT) January 2025 to March 2026, added to that will be the recommendations mainly made for the Council to know."

While the Speaker was acknowledging Councillors who will debate on different items on the agenda, Councillor JM De Bruin interjected and raised a point of clarity directed to the Chairperson of the Section 79 Committee: MPAC. He indicated that in their previous Committee meeting, they resolved that Councillors will not be allowed to debate on items 113.1 – 4. The Chairperson will only table the items.

The Speaker indicated that Councillor JM De Bruin will speak to that item when the Council gets there as the Speaker was only acknowledging Councillors who will be debating on items of the agenda.

The Speaker of Council opened the floor for debates and afforded Councillors an opportunity to address the Council.

NOTED.

1.

REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS PROCESSED BY THE MANGAUNG PLANNING TRIBUNAL (MPT) JANUARY 2025 TO MARCH 2026.

Cllr TI Ferreira addressed the Council: "Thank you Mr Speaker. All protocol observed for. As read in this report it states according to the section 108 of the land use management Bylaw, as gazetted 26 November 2021. A comprehensive report that entails the full details concerning the status/type of applications that serve at the Municipal Planning Tribunal for the specific time frame and provide specific dates of meetings held by the Municipal Planning Tribunal over the above-mentioned period is attached. As stated in the bylaw, council must receive a comprehensive report. This report is not comprehensive this report is just for nothing.

7A

Secondly the committee only had one (1) meeting in three (3) months, 6 February it would seem. To assist in economic growth in the City, this committee must increase the number of meetings and considerations. To assist with small and large business growth in Mangaung. On page 6 of the report, we see Township establishment in Bloemspruit on Plot 6 Bloemspruit Small Holdings. Where will this establishment be, and for which Township exactly?

As the Executive Mayor and City Manager knows the community of Grassland Phase 4, so-called Khayelitsha and now Mosikidi want to know what the future plans of that Township and Area is. On the 11th of this month, a petition was submitted to the Executive Mayor's office and the City Manager about the formalization of these townships with more than 800 signatures and the community is eager to receive answers from the municipality on this regard.

Mister Executive Mayor and Mister City Manager we are waiting for your response on Mosikidi and Khayelitsha and the way forward for these informal settlement areas? Thank you."

Cllr E Snyman Van Deventer addressed the Council: "Mister Speaker, there are serious reservations about this report. Quite frankly, its contents are so thin, but it borders on unusable. Starting from page 5, the property descriptions are so vague, and Council cannot put in conscience based on any evaluation on there. We are elected not to rubber stamp the documents but to interrogate them on behalf of the people of Mangaung. Even when we just note the report, when the report fails to describe clear measurable terms, what it is about, it fails the most basic test of transparency. This is just a blank cheque in the hands of the Tribunal, and this is only part of the bigger problem. Mangaung infrastructure is already falling under the mismanagement and lack of maintenance.

We all know about the sewerage problems, potholes and overload electricity feeders. This is not just in the future but our daily experience of the residents yet, applications are approved for their skilful development on urbans regionally zoned for single family homes without any credible analysis impact of that on the rest of the neighbourhood. Every flush of an extra toilet and every kilowatt hour drawn from an aging sub station leads to problems. The Freedom Front Plus therefore ask that Council develop a clear set of basic guidelines above and beyond the National and Provincial Legislation to steer further on future developments responsibly.

Primary report in future please contain the following:

A more detail property description and infrastructure capacity statement signed off by the relevant Municipal Director quantifying the impact of water, sewerage, roads storm water electricity network. Also, a clear public participation demonstrating that affected residents were informed in plain language and have a real opportunity to object or suggest conditions. These are more radical demands why are the building blocks of good governance. If we adopt such guidelines, we will speed up responsible developments while protecting the communities from unlimited consequences. If we ignore them, we will find ourselves explaining to residents why their taps run dry, why sewerage is running down the streets and why there are power drips again.

In conclusion Mister Speaker, let us not trade the long terms wellbeing of Mangaung for short term administrative consequences or convenience. Our residents deserve developments that is also fair and sustainable. Thank you."

7B

Councillor GJ Lipale made his remarks: “Today we speak about the key pillar of our Municipality special transformation, the work of the Municipal Planning Tribunal (MPT) established under our SPLUMA aligned by the By-Laws. The Tribunal is responsible for reviewing and approving development application between January and March 2025. Dozens of applications were processed covering residential development, misused pricing and public facilities upgrades. These applications vetted through official meetings and submission are now before Council application. As the Economic Freedom Fighters, we hold a simple yet powerful position. We support any land use approval that benefits all the people of Mangaung equal regardless of race class and social standing. We view every application through the lens of equity, access and historical redress.

We will support integrated housing projects inclusive of business zones, community facilities and affordable rentals but we will oppose any developments that caters exclusive to the worthy entrenches spatial segregation or excludes previously marginalised communities from access mobility or participation is accessing these January to March application. We will call on the administration to demonstrate that no development privileges, demographic group or racial group over another. Public consultation was genuine, and all voices were heard. Infrastructure and service capacity exist to support the development transport. Sanitation, schools, electricity and security. Economic benefits flow back to local communities with employment opportunities for township youth. Support for local contractors and share value commitments.

The EFF will support these proposals that advance actively urban integration expand housing options across income categories and bring urban facilities closer to residents. And we will reject those development that excludes segregate or entrench privilege even though they profitable or politically expedient. Honourable Speaker, planning is not a passive technical exercise, it is a moral test. It asks us who matters, who gets land and who gets left out. If the MPT decision before us reinforce equity, we will support them. If instead they entrench the exclusion, we will oppose them with full conviction and public accountability. Let us stand together for Mangaung where land use reinforces unity and not division, where every new development helps stich together the social republic rather than tearing it apart. Thank you.”

Cllr NA Nhlapo indicated that the item was for noting as the decisions were already made by the Municipal Planning Tribunal (MPT). She also alluded that on the issue of the comprehensive report, the relevant committee will add some of the reasons why the item was referred and will also highlight that there were 16 applications of which 14 were approved. The two (2) that were deferred would have been that MPT take side visits and indicate what would be on the table and what would have been on the ground. Those are the reasons that will be looked at in terms of the reporting.

Also, in the questions asked and especially on what Councillor GJ Lipale indicated, It is important that the committee looks at who is applying, are they just certain members or do they represent the demographics of where they are applying from. Also, where are the people applying, the approvals the committee have. Also look at how the City is developing. The report that the Council is sitting with indicates that they will be ascertaining investments and as the City they would want to see them approved.

The Speaker requested the Councillors that those who have comments, may furnish them with Secretariat so that Secretariat may note them accordingly.

Council did not vote as the item was for noting.

RESOLVED that Council took note of the report from the Municipal Planning Tribunal.

2.

REQUEST TO RING-FENCE THE FRESH PRODUCE MARKET

Executive Mayor remarked: “The second item Speaker, will be the request to ring fence the Fresh Produce Market. Safe to indicate Honourable Speaker that, I think when I was fresh as a Councillor this item served before Council and there was a serious problem with regard to the state in which our Fresh Produce Market is at and there has been a serious debate. At some point budgeting for the Market, at some point running out of the resources. The first approach was to reinforce the money that has been generated by the market to be redirected to the standard required. First to serve the people of Mangaung to address the interest of Producers themselves and also to address the bigger market and also to ensure that the perishables are taken care of in trading even in the necessary storages and the food banking.

In so doing Speaker, we said ring fence would imply, the money is generated, the money is redirected there and that should be within, I want to emphasise, between the period of three years. And that Speaker, I must indicate we should not overlook as and when the Municipality do that the resources to do that even the budget to do further because that the present is one of the difficult incomes generating present for the Municipality. The document will speak much more into what I am referring to.”

Cllr VE De Kock addressed the Council: “The Freedom Front Plus takes note of the recommendations concerning the restructuring of the Mangaung Market. These proposals have significant implications for the management of public resources, support for local producers, and the financial stability of this Municipality.

Firstly, the suggestion to corporatize the market through a State-Owned Company (SOC), or via a Public Private Partnership (PPP), raises critical questions. While innovation in governance is welcome, we ask: what will happen to the current assets of the market? Will these assets be transferred to the SOC, or will they remain under the ownership of the Municipality?

Further, if the SOC will operate the market, while the Municipality retains ownership, then a formal agreement must exist — clearly setting out the terms of this relationship, similar to the service level agreement between Centlec and Mangaung. Without this, accountability, service delivery expectations, and financial obligations will remain vague.

Secondly, the report suggests that Mangaung should increase budget allocations to the market. But if the market is to be operated by a separate SOC, we must ask: how will the Metro justify continued budget allocations to an external operating entity?

This creates confusion around financial oversight, and it risks further weakening Mangaung's already fragile financial position.

We do support the principle of ring-fencing market-generated revenue for reinvestment. But again, if these funds are managed by ab SOC, we demand clarity on how the Municipality will retain oversight and ensure that public funds are used in line with municipal priorities.

Honourable Speaker, we support the goal of growing small-scale and historically disadvantaged producers. However, this must be more than political window-dressing. It must be built into a transparent, measurable programme that delivers long-term support and access to market space and opportunities.

The appointment of new market agents must be transparent and free of political interference. We cannot allow yet another system to fall into the trap of cadre deployment and nepotism.

Lastly, harmonising bylaws around trading hours and cold storage usage is sensible but must be done in consultation with all stakeholders — including farmers, agents, consumers, and civil society.

Honourable Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus will continue to scrutinise these recommendations. We support real reform — but not at the cost of transparency, financial discipline, and local food security. The Mangaung Market must serve the people — not become another failed experiment in governance. I thank you.”

Councillor MW Mongale addresses the Council: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Dr BL Mathae. Honourable Speaker, some of the points I will not raise because they have been covered by the Freedom Front Plus. I will only caution this Council to be aware of the recommendations. That the recommendation says that they are going to ring-fence the revenue. Now, normally we know that the institution when they are re-established, we are ring-fencing the institution, like when you re-establish Centlec. You ring-fence the Bloemfontein Electricity and turn it into Mangaung Electricity Trading as Tamarol which gave birth to Centlec. Now in this particular act, there was a Section 78 process which is the Municipal Systems Act process. But in this particular case, we are not being briefed if there was a Section 78 process or is there a process that will be embarked upon the Section 78 and we will appreciate if those matters can be taken into consideration.

But the question is, who are we talking to here, because if we are talking to the Executive Mayor, there must be some kind of a sense that we start to understand that the Executive Mayor is listening to us. Even if he does not agree with us, but just to listen it is very important because that is where your will get a lot of information that will assist you to perform to your best because you are listening to the opposition when they speak, you do not turn your ear to the other side.

The issue of you when you said you are going to turn this into a state-owned company. There is a lot of information that is been brought here, but we are not being assisted in understanding that where are we currently because we need to know at the moment, we are at the ringfencing of revenue.

But the process of establishing the Fresh Produce Market as a state-owned company, will start maybe after this particular period, there is nothing that is helping us to understand that.

And then, we seem to be realizing that you acted out of the intimidation from the Bosch and Hassen Incorporated Law Firm. Thus said, what is happening here, is happening in Tshwane if you refuse to do it the way it was done in Tshwane. It was not out of your own free will to say you want to establish this. But we appreciate that SALGA is going to be involved in this process and the fact that SALGA is going to be involved in this process, we have the assurance that the interest of the people will be protected because this is where we are jealous about the entire process of Fresh Produce that it must remain affordable, accessible to small scale farmers and to also historically advantaged people and making sure that the prices does not kill the community especially the poor.

Now, all these processes will only lead to 1 thing or maybe we can mitigate. I cannot remember which Council meeting where I raised the role of rural development. MMC, under rural development there must be an aggressive program at the Thaba Nchu Trusts. Those trusts are just sitting, and no one is trying to plant in those trusts and farms. The fields are just growing weed even though there is potential farming in those trust which might assist. Maybe with the issue of mitigating with regards to food security, and also nutrition at schools which might also take that turn and say the trust must supply schools with nutrition in Mangaung.

And all these things cannot be found if we do not have a clear plan of rural development. And it should not be a document which will be done with a desk top analysis but we need a living document where an MMC for Rural Development will say, I was in the trusts in Thaba Nchu and I travelled with the community members and I spoke to the community and this is the plan that we have agreed about the roadmap, e.g. that we will be starting at a certain trust, maybe Motlatla Trust or any other trust to show that there will be an aggressive planting of crops in order to address the food shortage. In the absence of that, I can assure you that we are talking to ourselves. We will be sitting here but with the community that is angry because of our decision. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Councillor JE Sebolao remarked: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. We are requested to approve the ring-fencing of the revenue of the Fresh Produce Market but the question we are asking is that how this Council is expected to approve a report that was presented to MPAC on 21 November 2023 and today we have not yet received any information regarding this matter. On the very same day Speaker, we went to Maselspoort to get a briefing. Both reports even if they served in Council, we still do not know what happened. The status of the Fresh Market infrastructure, Speaker is so embarrassing. You ask yourself what the role of the Department of Labour is, while there is such a place that is not been taken care of, place that makes a lot of money. We were told that, that place makes an income of over a million on a daily basis, but the status quo remains there is no improvement on that.

Whoever that is responsible there as the GM or HOD must come to this Council and account in this Council because it is an embarrassment as we serve people from the Free State. People from Kimberly and Lesotho come and buy here but the condition of the market is not ok. You look at these tractors that they are using, they look so bad.

Even the place itself looks so bad that when you there in the early hours of the morning, some portions of the place are dark. There is no control, everyone does as they wish in the market. We do not have the problem of the ring-fencing, but we are asking ourselves as the EFF because it was reported that there was a burglary which happened there in two (2) occasions. The first time, money was taken and the second time nothing was taken and still nothing is not said with regards to those incidents and how far are the investigations on that matter.

Money is being kept there, the security guards were also held there and later were released into that small house that they are staying in. We want to caution this Council that we need to take things serious in this Council. Things are being said but there is no consequence management. For the past years we have been screaming about the consequences management, but it does not help. It is not happening; people do as they wish knowing that nothing will happen to them. We are requesting that the HOD responsible for that division should see to it there must be a way of making money to revamp the market. We cannot ring-fence the market for three (3) years and after three (3) years we start on zero again. The yard of the market is so dirty so much that I believe that there are snakes in there. Thank you.”

Cllr CL Bower addressed the Council: “We spoke the same language in our Committee meeting with regards to the item in front of us and as the DA support the ring-fence of the Fresh produce Market, for it has been long overdue. In March 2023, we as the DA urged that attention should be given to an already dilapidated asset. This is an asset that has been earning such a large revenue for the Metro but neglected for so long leading to such a deteriorating state, is just a sign of intentional ignorance. An asset that contributes to 97.90% of our annual target and yet has poor ablution facilities, lack of general hygiene and is a ticking time bomb in terms of people’s safety and yet the municipality had to be addressed through Attorneys of the Institute of Market Agents of South Africa before being given the attention it deserves.

A number of stakeholders even withdrew from doing business at the market and when we raised a question of accountability, we experienced dead silence in the committee. To improve this process, we would like to add that at recommendation 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 that when the time comes for the establishment of SOC and a PPP, it is tabled before council for approval. Thank you.”

Cllr CL Kruger remarked as follows: “Honourable Speaker. I believe we have assessed that the majority are in agreement in terms of what the future should be. Now, Honourable Speaker the Fresh Produce Market in itself it is sustainable, and equally when you look at the revenue and the profit margin it represents. It goes without saying and also what Councillor JE Sebolao has alluded to. Honourable Speaker, what is imperative now is that we are saying that let us ring-fence the revenue collection of the market for the next three (3) years because the market itself is an effective vehicle for revenue collection, it is an economic catalyst.

It goes without saying, Honourable Speaker to say that this thing is making us money. Let us upgrade it, let us refurbish it, let us make it a conducive working environment because this is one of the things in Mangaung that works. But what we want is that we ring-fence that revenue for three (3) years and reinvest back the revenue that the market generates so that we can upgrade it to the standard that it deserves in terms of what it is doing for the City. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr NA Nhlapo responded as follows: “Speaker, let me just take the Councillors through in terms of their questions about where the market is, where we are and what is taking place. I think the Councillors were engaging on the recommendations that were done by the Competition Commission Enquiry which are on the previous page that speaks on the state-owned company which speaks on some of the recommendations that the Council is sitting on today.

When you look at those recommendations, we have not yet been in charge as the SOC as the Councillor has indicated, but we are also attending to their recommendation on 3.2.4 which now the one that recommends that we should ring-fence the money collected from the market and make sure that it goes to reinvesting on maintenance. I think most Councillors have indicated the embarrassing state that the market is in. so that is part where we are starting in terms of the recommendations of the Competition Commissions Enquiry.

I think Councillor CL Bower as indicated in terms of us now showing that we also going step by step into some of the recommendations that are stipulated there. That is something that takes place that Council maybe made aware. But where we are now, we know the current state of the market, this is the recommendation that we are taking. I think Councillor JE Sebolao said we must not wait for three (3) years, so it is within the Council resolution that indicates that once we have this resolution, within the three (3) years of this resolution, that each money that it generates, it must be reinvested right back into the market. Despite what other Councillors have raised in terms of timing, we still have the responsibility to protect those market agents that are there. I think that is what we agree on and also the consumers of the market and make sure that once it is properly maintained and we are also proud and confident with the safety of the product that they buy from the market.

It also forms part of the local economic development that we as the Council will want to capacitate our local farmers for that aspect. Speaker, within the recommendations as Councillor CL Kruger has indicated, we would want the recommendations to be as follows:

That Council to amend the recommendation:

- (a) That Council approves the ringfencing of the revenue generated from Mangaung Fresh Produce Market in compliance with part of the recommendations of the Competition Commission to enable it to be an effective vehicle for revenue generation and economic catalyst.
- (b) That Council approves the ring-fencing of the revenue generation be within 3 years of this Council resolution.”

Councillor CL Bower clarity seeking question: “Mister Speaker with the recommendations that the MMC, Cllr NA Nhlapo has made, can we also just improve it by adding recommendation 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 when the time comes that it is tabled before Council for approval. Is it possible to do that? Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Councillor NA Nhlapo responded: “Honourable Speaker, for us to establish the state-owned company, it is always the Council resolution.

So, whenever we come back, it will also be because of the resolution of Council. At this stage, we are ring-fencing the market as per the recommendations of the Competition Commission. Those other recommendations will serve in Council especially the state-owned company if we are to establish one for this market. Thank you, Mister Speaker”.

Executive Mayor responded: “Honourable Speaker, the issue that Councillor CL Bouwer raised was long raise by Councillor MW Mongale from the Section 78. That is the consideration as to what methodology to be used to run the entity. What we are talking about now is the ring-fencing the money to improve the market. As for the modality, it is the secondary matter that has to be considered is that some of the operational must come.”

The Speaker made his remark: “There is no proposal that has been made in terms of undergoing the details of the Section 78. As and when that proposal comes, we will look at it. I am trying to interpret the resolution in that context that the details of an entity will only come once there is a resolution be fore Council to establish an entity specifically for that purpose.”

Councillor E Snyman Van Deventer asked for clarity: “Mister Speaker, I just want to find out is the amendment of recommendation seconded now? That ring-fencing is for three (3) years and within that three (3) years we will do the refurbishment? Thank you.”

Councillor NA Nhlapo responded to the question asked by Councillor E Snyman Van Deventer: “Yes Speaker it is so. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

The Council voted unanimously on amended recommendation.

It was thereupon

RESOLVED

- (a) That Council approved the ringfencing of the revenue generated by Mangaung Fresh Produce Market in compliance with part of the recommendations of the Competition Commission, National Treasury and Risk Committee to enable it to be effective vehicle for revenue generation and economic catalyst.
- (b) *That Council approved reinvestment of ringfencing of revenue to be within three (3) years of approval of the Council Report.*

3.

ACQUISITION LAND FOR THE RELOCATION AND UPGRADING OF INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS: FARM HAWRIDGE 1868 MEASURING APPROXIMATELY 40 HECTARES, PORTION 1 OF THE FARM KLIPFONTEIN 716 MEASURING APPROXIMATELY 8 HECTARES, PORTION 2 OF THE FARM KLIPFONTEIN 716 MEASURING 8 HECTARES OF THE FARM KLIPFONTEIN 716, MEASURING APPROXIMATELY 119 HECTARES.

Executive Mayor addresses Council: “I must indicate Honourable Speaker that adjacent to this land we have received some pieces of land amounting to more than a 1000 hector or so, and other related pieces of land but this one was a problem and also governed by objection as well as subjecting the businessman who was working around this area into abuse and pilfering

and stealing as well as contaminating products. The first consideration, but the biggest of them all was that the piece of land stand before the development that could perhaps accommodate more than 5-10 000 housing units in the area addressing the back log that we are faced with in Mangaung.

I want to broaden the scope on this one, Honourable Speaker, to say much as the money is saved to buy that piece of land, the Metro must be in its effort to accommodate our people. In all sphere of housing typology, this is but one Honourable Speaker to address the 79 000-housing unit needed in our Metro. In so doing, we have to indicate in the Council that it is but one effort not limited to in addressing a long list of people whom some of them have the capacity to develop their own home from moving from meddling in the middle as well as the poorest of the poorer. That the third item, Honourable Speaker and the recommendations speaks to Council to express itself.”

Cllr JI Mokoena addressed the Council: “Honourable Speaker, I think I want to preface my input on this item around the fact that we support the issue of acquisition of land for purposes of providing affordable, liveable, sustainable and healthy environment for our citizens. And for that reason, we support the acquisition of additional land be able to be used for that. The other part Speaker, I don’t know if terminology might change, that whenever we acquire land particularly in the southern and eastern parts of Mangaung we always consider the part of upgrading of informal settlements that I do not know when and at what point will we begin to talk about our program of ensuring that this City expands liveable habitat for all citizens and that these are not going to be informal settlements but will be part of the city where our people will be able to settle.

And we do not want to reside them to informal settlements. And I can understand the issue of land where it has been occupied and the need of decompressing some areas where people have been informally just settled where it is inhabitable, where it poses health hazards, where there is risk during disasters and all of those things. However, settlements and town developments particularly of what we want to make of Mangaung as a liveable city, warrants us to relook at it on how to plan land, use land for purposes of economic activities that creates a liveable space other than repositories of just labour and concentration of poverty.

And in that Chairperson, I want to support the issue of acquisition of land however I have a difficulty and I want to ask a question that the acquisition of this land the way that I an understanding it, there were negotiations that were taking place at some point and did not materialise in an agreement between the seller and the Municipality. And this year there were renegotiations that started and on behalf of the Municipality there was an evaluation that was done by an independent Municipal Valuer who has put the price of the land at R28 million. However, the recommendation state that this land must be acquired by R28 million plus a 20% solatium which means it is a consolation or a compensation in a fair market value of a willing buyer and seller.

For just define the 20% solatium, I think reference is made to an acquisition that happened in 2003 where is it indicating that where it set a precedence for wanting also to recommend that there is a solatium in this acquisition.

The 2003 when you look at the document and the resolution at that stage, was when land in the Grassland area was being expropriated for purposes of settlement after people have taken part of the areas there. And the Expropriation Act was used as part of that. Here we have a situation in which a negotiation between a willing buyer and a willing seller has taken place and a fair market value has been established by an independent person. However, we believe that he must pay R5,6 million above the market value as a consolation for this agreement between a willing seller and a willing buyer.

I do not want to read much into it, Honourable Speaker, and I don't want to think the smell that I am getting in my nose, I want to believe that it is the smell because of coal, nothing else. I want to find out why is it justifiable for purpose of acquiring land which is a contagious issue in our land.

Between the willing buyer and the willing seller, where there has been a negotiation, where there has been a negotiation and evaluation of R28 million and we also now want to put R5,8 million in addition to that. Who does this R5,8 million go to and why we have to pay a consolation while we have been negotiating on that particular matter. This Honourable Speaker is what has been making our people inability to expedite service delivery and take care of our people. Now here it is once again when there has been an issue around land acquisition and mis cost that we even volunteer to pay more. In conclusion, I would like to recommend that the market determined price of R28 million be the only price for Council excluding the R5,8 million. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr JH Denner remarked: “Thank you, Mister Speaker let me begin by spelling the common misconception that the Freedom Front Plus is not opposed to the acquisition of land for the relocation of land to informal settlements. In fact, we fully support well planned and lawful sustainable development when coming to addressing the housing crisis in Mangaung. We fairly believe that the relocation of informal settlement such as Lourierpark unlawful settlement removed by the Free State High Court if approached by proper planning and supported by essential infrastructure, water, electricity and roads can bring much needed relief to thousands of our residents currently living without the most basic services. That is something we must address.

The Freedom Front Plus is on record by supporting such efforts when done transparently and responsibly. However, Mister Speaker the concern here is not the principle but the price and the process. We are being asked to support the purchase of land at R186 000 per hectore plus the 20% commission. Where is this going to? The previous speaker just mentioned it. This raises serious flags. Who is benefiting from these transactions and how is the price justified? Let us be frank, this is not prime irrigation land next to the Orange River, it is grazing land hardly warranting the price tag of this land. The Freedom Front Plus support the free market and the principle of willing buyer and willing seller. But this smells like a willing seller and a very generous buyer at the taxpayers' expense.

In this area agricultural land typically sells between R10 and R15 000 per hectore if its good land. Even if we count some premium to expedite the deal, this proposed price is not market related. It is 15 times growing rate.

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Let us do the maths, for R33,6 million and R15 000 per hectare, we could acquire 2200 hectares, that is enough land to accommodate multiple informal settlements. Who is benefiting here, is it the people of Mangaung? I doubt it. Instead, we are being asked to accept the deal that will give us the fraction of that land for the same budget.

This is not for the best interest of the people of Mangaung. And yes, I accept that this proposal will be pushed through as it has become the norm in this Council. But let it be recorded today that the Freedom Front Plus stands for transparency and a responsible governance. We are not against land acquisition, but we are against wasteful expenditure and questionable deals that will benefit the few in the cost of the many. Let the numbers sink in while you approve this transaction later. Let the numbers sink in. Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Councillor CL Boucher addressed the Council: “We as the DA supports the item but also note the concerns and the same ones as our fellow colleagues well. As we support the idea and the mandate of the residents of Mangaung to inhabit the land to stay and reside on, we just urge that once the land has been acquired. The Municipality should speed up the land rehabilitation process of the land in order that proper infrastructure can be built on the land for the residents to be able to have habitable land with their own title deeds of the land allocated to them. And the area to be serviced in terms of waste collections and other basic services from the Municipality to prevent unsafe and unhealthy environment to the community. The community will then take part in the city’s economy by paying rates and taxes for the services rendered by the municipality. Noting the concerns that has been said that I cannot repeat, we support the item. Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Councillor DL De-Huis addressed the Council: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. The Economic Freedom Fighters rise today to confirm the painful condition between what is written today on the Council reports and what actually the people on the ground are experiencing. We are here to speak, not just for compliance but for the justice of 55 informal settlements across this Metro. Those residents remain in limbo. We know that the Municipality actioned to acquire land in Klipfontein to relocate communities that are overcrowded under underserved areas such as Caleb Motshabi, MK Square, Namibia, Gatvol, Phase 9, and Khayelitsha. On paper this sounds like a progress land has been identified. Relocation is promised and the so-called service delivery is promised. But we say we have seen this movie before.

The government makes promises that are never delivered. Communities are surveyed, hopes are raised, people think they will be relocated. We as the Economic Freedom Fighters, we don’t trust this process, not because we are reckless but because history has taught us to be cautious. Where are these relocation timelines? Where is the infrastructure budget? Where is the plan for the relocation? It is not a coincidence that every community now wish to relocate. Many communities stay at places where you can see that this is not an appropriate place for people to live in, Gatvol is one of them.

The Economic Freedom Fighters has constantly promised sustainable alternative to formalise and upgrade the informal settlements using people centred model, employ local youth led communities. We cannot just take our people and dump them where there is only an empty field. We need to build services, we need to connect roads, we need to electricity, people need basic services. the 55 informal settlements in Mangaung are not numbered.

They are homes of real people who are tired and angry for they have been failed for many years. As the EFF we say, if this Council is serious about land justice and human dignity, let it show in action and not make announcements.

We will support this effort rooted in true transparency only if the community is empowered, but we will oppose every plan that smell corruption. In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, one may ask a question. Our people have been tracking in one side of the town which is the eastern side. Why are these relocations not been done in town where there is service delivery where people can access water and electricity? Every time people are being pushed away where there are no basic services, where it is just a field. How is a human being expected to live under such conditions? Since we want dignity for our people, we will support this item hoping that the Municipality will deliver their promise and actually avoid from being corrupt. Thank you, Honourable Speaker”.

Councillor TS Fantisi addressed the Council: “Honourable Speaker, let me take this opportunity to address this Council with my mother tongue. Honourable Speaker, there is a hymn on the old hymns, that says birds have nests and they live joyfully, but there is no place where the son of man can put his head. Today the residents of Mangaung will change this song and sing that Mangaung residents have place to stay and shelter where they can put their heads. Honourable Speaker, acquisition of land is very important for residents. It is important for the Municipality to formalize the upgrading of informal settlements in order to fulfil the constitutional mandate.

Honourable Speaker, in 2009 the National Housing quotes directs the Municipality to make it a priority to acquire land for relocation of informal settlements that are allocated in areas that poses a threat to health and safety. As I conclude Honourable Speaker, based on the above as the ANC, we would like to support the recommendations as set out in the item. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Councillor NA Nhlapo addressed Council: “Honourable Speaker, I think we are so used to look into everything that has got money with such suspicion. I am happy that Councillors indicated that in principle they agree, and it is also to remind this Council that ourselves as Mangaung in terms of our HSS (Human Settlement System) data. We still have a backlog of 75 000 people that we still have to provide sites or accommodation for. I am not saying this will provide that but at some point, we need to be realistic of what we have and what we are doing with it. And between the sites and the land that we have within Mangaung, there are those that are earmarked for SRU, so some of the land that we are acquiring it will not just be an informal settlement, but we also have an obligation for mixed development. We also have an obligation for SRU and we are running out of land.

So, the vision to actually built up has to find effect within what the Council decides to do. Now, the question was raised by Councillors saying that they do not know his nose smells something, but the location of the land is very close to Phomolong which there are already invasions in that area that are encroaching within the 4 portions of the land that we are seeking to acquire, those that have been there would know that. And the portion of land that we are speaking about is a business, a chicken farm.

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That also comes with a known fact that the Municipality has indicated that it is a business. But now for the purpose of the human settlements, the people are encroaching in that business. So, you will see in the document that we speak of four (4) that we seek to acquire but there is 1 portion of land that it is still indicated that there are still negotiations that are taking place.

In other words that 1 we are hoping that by the time we do the relocation, it would have completed and hopefully that it would have agreed that we also take part of that land. It is not farming; it is just a piece of land that is closer to that chicken farm. In failure of that, Council might want to also consider looking at expropriation because we would need that land and for also for such purposes. Let me remind the Council that when we took the resolution last year, we said that those land that are marked for human settlements, it is the priority of the Municipality to provide sites and we made a commitment as Council that we need to be provided with basic services which is electricity, water and sanitation.

I am a bit lost with Councillors on the other side who are fighting the item because they were marching not so long back seeking land. Because the Municipality has got limited land, these are the actions that we are taking bearing in mind that there are more people that seek land more than what we have. So, I thought that this will be the action you said we must show and less talking.

You are the decision makers, and this will be part of what needs to take place. We will take the Councillors along in terms of the relocation plan because at some point as the Municipality, we must start leading the process of providing human settlements. All along it has been invasions whereby we have these long lists of outstanding programs of informal settlements. So, I would want to appeal to yourselves that if myself and my HOD have been going up and down talking without action as you alluded before, this time here is the decision to acquire land that needs your support. There are more people that need it and also less number of sites.

As I conclude Honourable Speaker, the item that goes to SDF indicates where developments can take place, so let's cut some of the questions they have in terms of which site we are approving or not for the item of the SDF that will indicate the vision of this Municipality in terms of land. Thank you, Honourable Speaker."

Executive Mayor replied: "Honourable Speaker, I just want to display a contradiction between political parties first before I would come to the issue that I would like to deal with. If you listen to the EFF, they are with us in terms of acquiring land for our people. If you listen to the DA, it says we don't have any problem with people acquiring land but their choice of words are such that people must get land in areas farfetched. The Freedom Front Plus says we must look into whether the volume of our sewer system if it will accommodate the sites and then they jump into the price of the land in terms agriculture or land for farming. So, the fact that they are mentioning the volumes that must consider the number of people, in itself it tells you that don't bring them closer because they are going to block our sewer line. That is what they are saying, the long and short.

Point of order by Councillor E Snyman Van Deventer: "Honourable Speaker apparently the Executive Mayor's English is not as good as he thinks it is because that is definitely not what Councillor JH Denner said."

Executive Mayor continued with his replies: “Councillor IJ Mokoena says that his sinuses are making him smell a rat, it could be from experience, probably not. As a Pharmacist, he shall have to consult broader to deal with his sinuses. When you google the term, do not select what is close to your heart because the definition of a term does not only imply one, it refers to many aspects. So do not stick necessarily to only what you might have googled, it is broad in itself. Now you need to understand, and I want to thank my officials in understanding English in the manner that they did because there is history behind this land. If this land was acquired in time with all the Mayors that came before me, I would not have been talking to you, and this land would not have been standing on our way for development.

Now do not throw the willing buyer and willing seller concept an abuse because that concept does not in itself speak to the price. It speaks to agreement. Before you can think about price, somebody may want to open a surgery on Phase 2 and the amount of money of the house in Phase 2 could be between R200 000 to R300 000. But that person in the corner might refuse to sell that house and you might acquire that house for a R1 000 000.00 far from the common price that are there in Phase 2. The reason would be because the business that you establish in that corner would far surpass even the amount of money that would buy that piece of land or that house. So, some of these things work within the spirit of the willing buyer and the willing seller.

Once there is a willing buyer and a willing seller, there is no scope. We cannot take the prime land and reduce the farmland. So, I will invite the Freedom Front Plus to visit and see where that land is located. We are not just talking a farm land; we are talking a land where serious development can take place. That land in itself is standing for a serious development which today without which the owner of that land and the surrounding farm object some of the development that would like to pull apart from just acquiring the land that belongs to them.

Let me come to this seditious thing that you are talking about. Councillor MW Mongale you have demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt that you are a township boy. You know that, that land is not just a virgin land like Freedom Front Plus is referring to serious operation is taking place there where someone is running a serious business, I am sure you know. And it is that serious business which from time in memoriam have ransacked some of the mayors to arrive to that decision. Where the owner of the land at some point was even promised Municipal land as a compensation for him to run the similar operation without even paying a cent to that piece of land. In a way trying to arrive at a solicitous arrangement to acquire that land.

Apart of the land, in the debate between the officials and the buyer, that operation in itself, need to be paid for because it will no longer be there. Part of what we should know as Councillors in this Metro is that we are responsible for the lifeline of the business that is operation in Mangaung particularly if it provides opportunities and also provide survival for our people. You are responsible, a number of businesses are dying before our eyes, and we are actually ignoring to pay our attention to even rescue them as the Municipality. Part of it is that the borrowing part of the Municipality has gone beyond reasonable doubt and as a result we are struggling.

But what I am selling here Speaker, is that day 2 of businesspeople are your brief and you need to pay attention to that.

So, the arrangement that was then entered to which would have been nicodemus if people were stealing money. It is not nicodemously before you to tell the Council that over and above the negotiation, a solicit arrangement that was entered into perhaps the question was that the official did not go into town to explain why. But if Councillors would want to know that explanation, you have got access to some of these officials, you can do so especially those that are responsible. But the truth of the matter is that if what Councillor IJ Mokoena is smelling was dubious and corrupt, it should not have been said before Council because anything that is dubious in the business sense of it and in the corrupt state of mind does not show itself in the books of records. It goes to nicodemus.

And when I was talking experience, I am not saying you are a thief my brother. I am saying from being an Executive Mayor, you would know how things were done, but this one is tabled and opened before you to say we have entered into an agreement, and we had to go an extra mile in order to appease this person to leave the land but the amount is far less than the many amounts that we were agreed with before. It hits in and around the value plus goodwill if I may use another term that is necessary subject of what the operations are all about. This is business language and I am talking to business people, especially the DA. You will understand what I am talking about. Thank you. Honourable Speaker.”

Point of order was raised by Councillor IJ Mokoena: “Honourable Speaker, just to explain myself, you see the unfortunate part is that the Executive Mayor has got this style of coming here and always explaining things that are not on the documents which are in front of Councillors who are supposed to make decisions that are rational based on the submissions that are made.

I don’t know if the things he is talking about whether they are opinions, or they are part of what could have led to the recommendations. So, I would like to implore to the Executive Mayor, we are not fools when we are sitting here, we are representing the community. We are supposed to be able to decide rationally with all facts in front of us. What is explained is not in these documents so I would really like to implore him to at least explain things that we can read. We are not traditional doctors who can read what is inside his mind. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Councillor GJ Lipale remarked: “Thank you, Chairperson. The EFF is saying, do not push our people outside of the developments because we are now taking our people to Dewetsdorp. What Councillor DJ De-Huis was referring to is that we are going to vote for this item, but do not take our people outside of the developments close to Dewetsdorp because the next thing you will be buying land close to Thaba Nchu and Botshabelo. People were previously occupying a piece of land in Lourierpark, did we engage those people in terms of buying that land? That is where we want our people to reside, not to push our people outside the developments, that is what the EFF wants.

The other thing is that we cannot blame other Councillors for being cautious when it comes to the issue of money, we know the ANC people when it comes to money. Today we are sitting here talking about prime land and all that and we know that some of you, your heads will be inside the cookie jar. It cannot be correct, although we will vote for this item only because we do it for our people. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Point of order was raised by Councillor CL Bouwer: “Mister Speaker, I am raising a point of order towards the Executive Mayor when he deliberately chooses our words when it comes to the items as such. I think that the Chairperson can allude that we as the Democratic Alliance in the committee, our concerns were that if there is infrastructure and the HOD answered us saying there is ground water which was found in that particular land hence we currently supporting the item. But to have this undertone by the Executive Mayor saying that the DA is choosing the words just because it is on the outskirts of Mangaung, he is wrong and please Honourable Speaker he must correct what he is saying, it is misleading”.

Point of order was raised by Councillor MW Mongale as follows: “Honourable Speaker, I am rising on a point of order to the Executive Mayor to say that there is no corruption in the process of acquiring this land, if there was corruption, he it would have not been brought to this Council. I want to put to you that a lot of corruption when it is done, it is done with a lot of sophistication. One of the things that are being used is English terms like solatium and others. Important words are being used in order to deny the actual cost or what is the actual meaning of that particular matter.

The other thing is that when you get to Vista Park, you cross church street and there is a roads and storm water that was done by Manyoni and Dijele that has collapse there, money is gone. And the Council took a resolution that there will be a tunnel, roads and storm water across that area next to Coca Cola and Mac-Steel. That is the place I am talking to, but even till today there is no job that is done even though on the IDP of the Municipality it appears, and the money has been adopted by his Council. It is not only that one, when you go to Khayelitsha, on the street of the Studio, the same problem is happening. Money is stolen legally by getting into the Council, getting a Council resolution and getting the item into the IDP and SDBIP...”

At this point, Councillors interjected.

Councillor VS Sogaqa remarked: “Honourable Speaker, Councillor MW Mongale is misleading the Council. If he has facts, let him submit the Rule 38 and we will answer because there is not truth in what he is saying. He must ask about Coca Cola and Studio Home unlike to come here and make allegations in Council. It is wrong. I thank you.”

Councillor DJ De-Huis interjected and asked the Councillor VS Soqaga as to which Rule he was referring to.

Councillor MW Mongale proceeded: “Honourable Speaker, I meant to say Rule 38, but he could not say it because he is not used to writing that’s why he could not remember the number. The issue here Honourable Speaker is that money can still be stolen with our assistance as Councillors. Out of ignorance, we vote for an item thinking that it is for the good of our people, only to find that it is Bosasa Project. They say I must bring evidence, when I bring evidence, they call order, now I do not know what I must say. You see the problem is that you have internalise corruption and you have made it your project and it is not yours. Corruption is a disease; you cannot adopt it. It is not yours, do not make corruption yours, it is not yours. And some of you have not stolen even R1 but you are defending as if you are part of the people who have stolen. Stop this criminality. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Councillor NA Nhlapo responded: “Honourable Speaker, I will respond on the revolutionary input that was done by the EFF. I just want to remind us that when we said all land that is earmarked for human settlement, we also speaking to land that are in all areas of Mangaung. We are just getting additional land, but we still have other land within the areas that are services. So, that one I thought let me not leave it like that. We are still going to place people where we need to place them on land that belong to the Municipality, even in Lourierpark we still have land. I thank you.”

Executive Mayor responded: “Honourable Speaker, when we bring an item to Council, that’s when we would have done our best but if an interpretation come to an item, we are bound to answer. If you bring your own interpretation Councillor, then we will also give to what led to the content. I am not going to answer parallel to what was considered I simply respond to what you are raising subject to what you see before you. if you have got your own brain to apply and apply it otherwise and it goes parallel to what you thought it will reach you, we have to explain, we are bound to do so and that has got nothing to do with other beliefs that are authentic to other people which we cannot qualify some of you to be.

Honourable Speaker, I want to put the DA to test. We will be taking people to Lourierpark. We could not take people to Lourierpark because of DA and the Councillor at that time was not giving rich. This time around I am going to ask for your support when we take people there. I want to see if you will stand before many DA members, those who did not want some localities to come closer to theirs putting arguments such as evaluating their properties. Let see if those properties may not be developed at some point, I want to check if that would not be the case we are taking people to Lourierpark, that is going to happen.

That also answers the EFF with regards to bringing people close to home, we are going to do that. We are sick and tired with people exploiting people, such as when people work for you, even if you pay them labour related amount, that thing in itself is exploitation. We are sick and tired of people who exploit those that are needy for a mere bread on the table, food and clothing but when they leave your home you do not even know where they go to. For all that you expect is for them to come tomorrow morning. And when we help them come closer to their workplaces, again you stand before that development.

I care to make some of those parties to understand how it takes for a mother from F Section in Botshabelo to go and work in the suburbs in town in Bloemfontein. How many busses does that woman use. At what time does that person wake up? at what time does that person come back home? That is why we have kids full of nyaope today because there is no parental care, but those men and women who are leaving their homes that time of the morning, they go and take care of our kids in those affluent areas when nobody is taking care of theirs and then we get surprised when kids are going out of order; to say kids are getting out of order, and so forth. There is no care that is given to them, that care is paid somewhere else, but we do not even care as to how far is this care that is close our home comes from.

So logically Honourable Speaker, that is what I wanted to say. What irritates is the notion that the ANC is corrupt, because If the ANC is corrupt, the majority of you comes from the ANC. And it means you started this corruption and when it was loaded, you left it and we are trying to fix it.

Do not do that, when individuals are corrupt, do not reduce them to the ANC because it does not work that way. It is as good as we can dig deep into what some of you did while you were still in the ANC. We will arrive in those things. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

It was thereupon with 71 votes in favour, 3 against and 2 abstained

RESOLVED

- (a) That Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality Council consider this submission and approve the acquisition of the Farm Hawkridge 1868, measuring approximately 40 hectares, Portion 1 of the Farm Klipfontein 716, measuring approximately 8 hectares, and Portion 2 of the Farm Klipfontein 716, measuring approximately 8 hectares and Portion 5 of the farm Klipfontein 716, measuring approximately 119 hectares for the relocation and upgrading of informal settlements.
- (b) The Council approve the purchase price of R28 000 0000.00, VAT plus 20% solatium as per the precedent set by the resolution of Council 68 of 23/09/2003 for this transaction, which amount total R33 600 000,00 excluding VAT.
- (c) That the land acquisition will be funded from the gazetted Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant (ISUPG) for 2024/25 as per the last adjustments by way of virement from various ISUPG funded projects as approved by Department of Human Settlements.

4.

FINAL SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (SDF) 2025

Cllr T Van Der Walt addressed the Council: “Mister Speaker, the SDF is not just a technical document—it is supposed to be our roadmap for a growing, integrated, and prosperous Mangaung for all. The city’s reviewed and amended Spatial Development Framework is presented now, after the budget has been approved, because the amendment process was not properly planned and aligned with the budget process.

However, I want to acknowledge that the decade long insistence by the DA that the SDF and its amendment process must be done in compliance with legislation has borne fruits.

First the SDF was reviewed in compliance and properly gazetted for the first time in 2020 to ensure it was a legally sound document.

Then after our insistence that proposed amendments must be properly indicated when a draft is presented, this was finally done in the draft tabled in council in March. We also insisted that comments received to the SDF must be provided in the report to council, which has finally been done in this document. Thank you and well done!

However, we must also be honest about where it still falls short:

- While it sets out broad intentions for spatial concepts and integration, it fails to provide clear, measurable targets or timelines. Our communities deserve more than vague promises—they deserve to know what will be delivered, when, and by whom.
- The SDF is further disconnected from our budget and implementation machinery. Too often, our plans and our spending go in different directions. This SDF does not make it clear how its priorities will be funded, or how capital projects will be aligned to realise spatial proposals and unlock opportunity. The implementation plan that has been added is a step in the right direction, but not sufficient. We must Align the SDF directly with our budget by developing a 10-year capital expenditure framework with assistance of National Treasury.
- There is a glaring gap in land release and housing delivery. The SDF speaks of housing development backlogs but offers no concrete strategy for unlocking affordable and mixed housing and real economic and social opportunities where people live.
- The SDF pays lip service to resilience and sustainability. In a city facing water shortages, climate risks, and environmental degradation, Our spatial plan must mainstream disaster risk reduction.
- Public participation continues to be shallow and tokenistic. Communities, business and non-profits have not been true partners in shaping and co creating this vision.
- It does not Incorporate a realistic strategy to address the 40 000 backlogs for student accommodation to unlock funding that is available for this. Such a strategy will avoid increasing city housing backlog with 4000 homes because of families that are displaced from their homes for this temporary accommodation.

Mister Executive Mayor thank you for mentioning this on your budget speech but unfortunately it is not on the SDF and not tangible enough by externalising the 40 000 deficits in beds for decades, Universities have saved R10 billion in construction costs, while externalising this cost to communities, students and Mangaung. This while national standards require at least 50% on campus accommodation, not the current 10%.

While the DA will vote for the SDF to ensure there is development certainty, we note our concern that we have still detected haphazard changes for example to the final SDF map as compared to the map in the draft budget in May, without any rational reasoning.

Mister Speaker, this council must demand better. When the DA leads Mangaung, we will make the SDF a living document inspiring hope—driven by data, grounded in accountability, and focused on real, measurable outcomes for our people.”

Councillor JH Denner addressed Council: “Mister Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus notes the ambition with the Municipality’s Spatial Development Plan especially the inclusion of thousands of new residential development plan across Bloemfontein and the surrounding suburbs.

Surrounding areas such as Pellissier, Lourierpark, Cecilia Park, Langenhoven park has now been earmarked for extensive housing developments. However, Mister Speaker, we cannot ignore the pressing reality on the ground. Our current infrastructure is under an immense pressure. The current sewer system, water supply, networks and electricity infrastructure in these areas were never designed to carry the burden they carry today, let alone the additional load from our thousand households in fact many parts of the City have gone for decades without proper infrastructure upgrades.

A plan without infrastructure is a failure in a making. We can approve new developments when we do not have reliable basic services. Mister Speaker this is not poor planning it could be a breach of our responsibility under the law. According to the SPLUMA and the Section 152 of the Republic of South Africa, municipalities are required to ensure sustainable service delivery first of all, promote social economic development, protect and enhance the quality of the environment, revive basic services in a manner that is equitable and fair. We must ask questions, what complete steps is this Municipality taking to upgrade water sewerage and electricity infrastructure in these affected areas before going parallel with developments? Where are provisions of parks, streetlights, schools, etc. how will the spatial plan ensure compliance with the environmental regulations zoning laws and community needs? Planning must reflect reality. Mister Speaker zoning growth without service delivery is not progress, it is a collapsing slow motion. We urge the municipality to prioritize infrastructure and audits and readiness assessments. Before approving new housing development, let not build on a broken foundation. If we fail to act responsibly now, we will condemn future residents just as we neglected many current ones.

The Freedom Front Plus supports the responsible developments but not at the cost-of-service delivery with cost failure with non-compliance. The people of Mangaung deserves more than promises they deserve service that works and infrastructure that delivers. Thank you”.

Councillor NL Lecoko addressed Council: “Honourable Speaker, MMC, Cllr NA Nhlapo just mentioned after deliberating on the issue of acquisition of land that the next item will be the SDF which will explain exactly where we are going. Now I am just going to lay foundation of the SDF and I know my MMC will get deep into it. A Special Development Framework report is a crucial document guiding the sustainability and growth of development in a specific area.

- The key component of the SDF is a special vision. The long-term vision expecting on how the area will develop considering the economically, socially and environmental factors.
- It is a developmental goal which will be aligned to a special development with national and provincial principles and strategies. The resource management planning for the limited and sensitive services such as water, agriculture, land and natural environment.
- The infrastructure planning to ensure the adequate services like transportation, sanitation and electricity, etc.

Now, on the 27th of May 2025, the Council resolved that the Special Development Framework is a draft pending on the finalisation of the public participation meetings which will be ending on the 11 June 2025.

The public participation was completed successfully, and the item served on all the required committees such as the Section 80 whereby all committee members participated fully. It is also important to note that there are no financial implications to the municipality. We as the ANC supports the recommendation that the Council adopt the final Spatial Development Framework for it to be gazetted in a provincial gazette and also to form part of the IDP Sectoral Plan. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr PM Kotze addressed the Council: “Honourable Speaker, fellow Councillors, and the people of Mangaung, I stand before you today in full support of the Spatial Development Framework (SDF) as a necessary tool to guide the development of our city. On paper, this is a solid document. It sets out a vision for growth, infrastructure improvement, and service delivery that, if executed properly, could indeed uplift our communities. But Speaker, we have been here before. The reality in Mangaung tells a very different story. Over the years, we have seen this cycle repeated: problems are raised, promises are made, and ultimately, those promises are broken. The people of Mangaung have learned to be sceptical because they have heard the same commitments time and time again—yet the delivery never comes.

The SDF before us is filled with noble intentions: addressing the housing backlog, upgrading informal settlements, improving storm-water systems, securing reliable water supply, and rolling out effective waste management. These are the same issues that have appeared in every plan, in every Integrated Development Plan, in every budget speech—yet the backlogs persist. Projects are delayed. Some are poorly executed. Others are simply abandoned.

The housing backlog is still growing. Storm-water systems are still inadequate, putting our residents at risk of flooding with every heavy rain. Illegal dumping and unreliable waste collection continue to plague our streets. The Mangaung Bulk Water Augmentation Project, once again listed as a priority, is still not completed, while our communities endure unreliable water supply and avoidable water losses.

The core issue, Mister Speaker, is not that we lack a framework or a plan—it is that this leadership consistently fails to plan properly and follow through. The problems lie in poor project preparation, weak contract management, and an alarming lack of accountability. The municipality’s own records point to poor performance in capital spending and grant utilisation. When you cannot spend the money allocated to fix the problems, the system is broken.

We cannot continue to accept this culture of unfulfilled promises. It is no longer enough to present beautiful documents that never materialise into meaningful change. The people of Mangaung deserve action, not just words.

Mister Speaker, I want to be very clear: we will support this SDF because we believe in the importance of long-term spatial planning.

But we cannot ignore the reality that, under the current leadership, this is likely to remain another well-written document that gathers dust while the same communities continue to suffer from the same failures.

Until this municipality learns to plan properly, to set realistic deadlines, to execute projects with discipline, and to hold itself accountable—this pattern of failure will continue.

Let us not deceive ourselves. Without a drastic shift in leadership approach, the circle of problem, promise, and failure will remain unbroken, or please prove me wrong with this SDF. Thank you.”

Councillor NR Shale addressed the Council: “Mister Speaker, I was amazed by the Executive Mayor when he alluded that the people who walked out of the ANC previously are the ones who used to be corrupt. It seems like he forgot that he was part of those people in 2012 when we were fighting corruption within the ANC and Mangaung Municipality, but he is the one who excels in implementing corruption.

The Economic Freedom Fighters rise with conviction to address the 2025 and 2026 Integrated Development Plan. The 2025-2028 Medium Term Revenue Expenditure Framework draft and Spatial Development Framework which they all go together, one cannot succeed without the other. These are not just mere documents they are blueprint that either deep in equality or break the chain of apartheid. As the EFF, our analysis is unapologetically rooted in the realities of the landless, the unemployed and the poor working class of Mangaung.

While the City’s project and revenue collection of R38,4 million allocated towards capital projects, we must ask how much of this budget is truly transforming the lives of the poor. For years we have heard promises of bulk infrastructure, clean water access, informal settlements upgrades and dignified housing but what we see in reality are potholes, sewerage spills, overcrowded clinics and township permanently excluded to investments.

The SDF speaks about integration, resilience and unlocking corridors of economic growth but the same old priorities persist and centralises wealth in Bloemfontein development that circle elite zones while Botshabelo and Thaba Nchu Rural remain poor. Where is the land for emerging black farmers? Where are the spatial remedies for communities displayed by apartheid boundaries? The SDF must not be a light strategy, but it must be the people’s spatial justice plan.

In conclusion, while the ANC led Municipality and its new partner in the government of National Unity may seek to present united front, they remain united in failing the people. They passed vat in parliament through the back door and now they thought this IDP and SDF through the front door in Mangaung. As the EFF we support transformation and development but not a light driving planning. We support this framework only if they are implemented with urgency, transparency and clear commitment to oversee spatially, justice and economic exclusion, otherwise we will continue to challenge them on the streets, in the courts and here in Council chamber. Thank you.”

Councillor MW Mongale addressed the Council: “Honourable Speaker, I was tempted to address the Executive Mayor to say if all of us who have left the ANC were corrupt, and I was part of you at MUCPP and we were fighting against the leader of the ANC who was called Ace Magashule of which you knew you were afraid of him politically.

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The issue here is that when we were at MUCPP marching against the ANC, you fled and went to North West claiming that you are busy with some commitments. That showed the character you are, you have been a sell out since from exile. I will keep on revealing your scandals because I have plenty of them, I will even reveal your latest scandal that you were involved in just after you became the Mayor.

Now on the issue of SDF, there are issues that we have to deal with, some of them are the objectives that delays with integrated development plan. Here we are encouraging coordination across national, provincial and municipalities that they must work together so that they can align their policies so that it should be easy for the municipality to operate while they are not in contravention of any regulation and legislation.

It must also be an act where we are trying to assist that there should also be economic and development within the Municipality. But with the current setup that we see, we have not seen any program that shows that we want to grow the economy of City except the summit that we put pressure that it must be called and after it has been called, we are going to honeymoon again because it was never your project, you do not believe in it. You think that you were trying to sell it to us instead of addressing the objectives of the summit which was to grow the economy of this City.

The issue of parking space in the City, we know that it is a problem, and it should be addressed but we need a plan. But we should not come here and hear how EFF is different from AASD and how far apart they are. We should hear from you what is the plan in terms of addressing the challenge of the parking in the City. Executive Mayor, if you have no plan, you must resign and stop wasting our time, this is not the place to retire. The issue of tunnels, we cannot have floods in an area that is having more than 30 years of life. It means something was not done in terms of developing the tunnels.

I was checking Old Grey, I was there and standing and I was looking at the apartheid infrastructure and I said these guys have embarrassed us, we fought apartheid, but we did not come with a better infrastructure in terms of making sure that water does not flood in our areas because you are on honeymoon, that is your problem. The issue of depot on IPTN, there is a document that is going to talk about it in the next item, I am going to talk on it.

The issue of infrastructure is the same, we cannot build an infrastructure where there is no plan. There is also dilapidating infrastructure when you go to N8, there are buildings which are collapsing there where people are using the trucks are sleeping there because there is no one who comes with a plan to revitalise those buildings but still we say we want to grow the economy of this City. I think old age is catching on you, you are unable to move with the times..."

Council Whip, Councillor VE Nikelo called for a point of order reprimanding Councillor MW Mongale. He alluded that Mangaung is not an old age home or a SASSA centre and that there is nobody who comes to Mangaung as old aged.

Councillor PA Lotriet raised a point of order highlighting that the Executive Mayor is supposed to be the adult in the room but instead he is narrating everybody which is very disappointing.

That he is biting and changing all the constructive engagement to destructive criticism towards opposition parties.

The Speaker referred Councillor MW Mongale to Rule 10.1.iii of the Standing Rules and Orders which states that: *“the chairperson at the meeting will not allow the following: any suggestion that may encourage gender advocate, aggravate hatred, discrimination, exclusion, restriction, ridicule, contempt or preference based on colour, different race, ethnicity, gender or hostility, degradation or uttering of words.* **The Speaker then asked Councillor MW Mongale to withdraw the words that he uttered.**

Councillor MW Mongale withdrew his statements, and he asked the Speaker to apply the rules uniformly and consistently and protect all Councillors equally in Council. That he should have cracked the whip to the Executive Mayor as well when he referred an EFF Councillor as a “small boy”.

Councillor NA Nhlapo addressed the Council: “Honourable Speaker, when the Council was approving the budget and the IDP, we indicated that the SDF would serve after it went through public participation processes which took place between the 11th of April and the 11th of June 2025 as it was indicated. We are bringing this item back for Council to approve as part of a very important sectoral plan that forms part of the IDP. With some of the remarks and inputs that were done by Councillors especially on infrastructure and projects, I just want to indicate that those who have read the document would have realise that there is a new chapter which is the implementation strategy which now as Council we must interpret it as collaboration with SDF that speaks on development.

What we have adopted in the SDF forms part. Remember the urban urges in our SDF, that is where the development takes place. We cannot say the SDF is just a document and the development goes the other way, that will mean we do not interpret it correctly. It is a vision; it is an ambition meaning it is something that we want to achieve, and we are not there yet, and I think in our constituency that we are speaking to. The SDF also shows how the City is growing and also and it gives us an indication as Council. The appetite of investors which as Council what we probably should be discussing is where our investors have interest and where there are needs in the City versus the areas that has got needs.

Honourable Speaker, there is ample of land for commercial proposers which are proposers that is there of which will speak to potential investors that we had convened in our Mangaung Investment Summit and other proposers that will be there. So, if we speak of human settlements backlog Councillor PM Kotze, those proposers that speak to those allocated, earmarked for commercial proposers. There are those proposers that the City have known as the famous parcels of land. But as Council we should discussing on how to get those investors back.

We should craft on how we want the City to grow and those who have interrogated the document, would possibly be raising the sectoral items that is coming which is the comprehensive integrated transport plan which the SDF has not been having by the City and which has been the vacuum within our SDF.

Perhaps that should be in the conversations that the Council will be deliberating on for the betterment of the City. With that been said, we support the item for approval as a sectoral plan but let us also see how we would want the City to grow. At this point is tilting unequally when we actually to engage the SDF as to what it is. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Councillor MW Mongale raised a point of order highlighting that he was expecting the Speaker to call MMC, Cllr NA Nhlapo to order after she made use of the word “slanderous”, however the Speaker confirmed to Councillor MW Mongale that MMC, Cllr NA Nhlapo did not mean any harm by using that word and there was no negative connotation which could imply a harm on the discussion thereof.

Executive Mayor replied: “Honourable Speaker, I truly appreciate the debate made by fellow Councillors and I would disregard element of suspicions and doubt as that won’t take us anywhere. We have to implement some of the items that we bring to this Council. I will not be responding to what Councillor MW Mongale said as some of the things are unfortunate, while I will highlight to the DA Councillor that I am not necessarily competing with opposition parties, and I do not read their stuns with regards to their policies. I am well rounded in the ANC and that is my job to make sure that I master not only political parties but also global patterns of how things unfold. I am a game changer in this space and please do not challenge me on that one and I can invite you for a serious debate.

I did indicate in this Council that I tussled with your seniors. I don’t know your origin, I don’t doubt it, but do not bring it here because it is not the right space. You can ask the Speaker to create a debate around some of these issues, I think I will best explain what the DA is all about, the way you understand it. Before you could join the DA when it was busy changing names, I was alongside to those leaders, so I know where you are coming from as an organisation, and I just wanted to make that one very clear. Your interest is more business than anything else. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

It was thereupon with 75 votes in favour, 3 against and 2 abstained

RESOLVED that the Council adopted the final Spatial Development Framework (SDF) for it to be gazetted in the Provincial Gazette and also to form part of the IDP Sector Plans (Annexure I).

5.

MANGAUNG COMPREHENSIVE INTERGRATED TRANSPORT PLAN

Councillor CL Boucher addressed Council: “Mister Speaker, we had a lengthy discussion around this document in the Committee meeting and made inputs that can add value to the document, which was noted but still do not see the amendments made. Cllr NA Nhlapo, Cllr MW Mongale, as we expected to have a joint sitting with the Transport and Safety Committee but didn’t materialize.

Inputs such as: Noting the Comparative Assessment with Other Metros mentioned by the HOD and her team in the sitting.

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We again urge that this document include an integrated Capital Expenditure Framework that is compliant to the guidelines of National within 12 months of its commencement, which can be achieved. As those Metros mentioned as use of reference has an integrated CEF, eThekweni, Tshwane, Cape Town all that have integrated CEFs supporting their transport plans, while Mangaung's approach will remain fragmented.

The document acknowledges some stakeholder consultation but lacks the sophisticated financial modelling and scenario planning evident in best-practice municipal transport planning. Concerns that can be addressed in Chapter 2 Transport Vision and Objectives: Objectives that can be added such as clear performance indicators and monitoring frameworks tied to budget cycles.

There seems to be an Implementation Challenge in Chapter 6 – Public Transport Plan: As there is limited progress on IPTN Phase 1 since 2015, raising questions about Metros delivery capacity and political commitment

In Chapter 7, Infrastructure Strategy where it speaks of Resource Constraints: Acknowledges that "majority of paved roads are not in good condition and requires urgent intervention" and "majority of gravel roads are in very poor condition," but lacks prioritized investment support to address issues.

Another Critical Deficiency is in Chapter 13:

- The document lists discrete projects from various directorates without strategic integration
- Engineering services listed road upgrades of approximately 35km of various roads which is not covering the critical roads
- Public safety equipment and enforcement • IPTN infrastructure components There are still some missing elements such as:
 - ✓ Consolidated 10-year infrastructure investment plan
 - ✓ Cross-sectorial prioritization methodology – which will speak to the population of the Metro
 - ✓ Affordability envelope analysis – to make sure that the CIPF financially obtainable
 - ✓ Funding source diversification strategy as we all share the same concern for the Metro to grow out of its financial constraints
 - ✓ Performance monitoring and adjustment mechanisms.

We as the DA support the intentions of the CIPF as the Metro should have had this in place years ago that would have prevented the falling infrastructure in terms of roads with the heavy freight moving in the areas of the city putting too much strain on the roads resulting in shorter life span. We would like to add the following to the recommendations of which I believe we spoke as a unit in the committee, Chairperson, which will assist in the process of the CIPF practice.

We urge that Council mandates the development of and include a 10 -year integrated Capital Expenditure Framework within 12 months of its commencement that is compliant to the guidelines of National, which we believe can be achieved by the Metro by utilizing National Treasury technical support.

Establish technical working group with external support for CEF development (a 10-year infrastructure project pipeline planning tool). Mandate annual budget alignment reviews in line with the Capital Expenditure Framework which will assist as performance indicators and monitoring frameworks tied to budget cycles.”

Councillor DL Malebo addressed Council: “Mister Speaker, before I deliberate on my speech, there is something that did not sit me well. I have a plea Mister Speaker that as and when the caterers are invited to cater us during Council meetings, they must be informed that they will be dealing with different Councillors with different personalities. They must respect us as Councillors, we are not kids we are here to work just as they are also here to work.

The EFF rise on this occasion to deliver a fair and firm principled position on the state of transport, infrastructure and planning in Mangaung. As outlined in the 2025/2026 IDP, MTREF, SDF and the City’s upgraded IPTN and Comprehensive Integrated Transport Plan. These documents while impressive technical transport presentation, hide the brutal reality that Mangaung’s public transport infrastructure is collapsing. We are dealing with the City that speaks about mobility here while residents are stacked in pothole riddled road, unsafe and overcrowded taxis and long forgotten taxi rank that resembles scrapyards.

We are told about corridor development and network integration, yet the corridors are imaginary lines on map with no busses, no shelters, no safety and no operational capacity. The SDF 2025 and IDP reports mentioned multi modal integration, bus coordination and transport hubs, but in real terms where are these hubs? Where is the funding for modal taxi ranks in high demands areas like Botshabelo, Heidedal? Why does the so-called Municipality City don’t have 1 fully operational, safe, dignified long distance and urban taxi rank that meets the national standard?

The EFF notes with concern that parking management in the CBD is in shambles. No formal car guards, inconsistent law enforcement and no long-term solution for safe, affordable and structured parking continue to affect business and commuters alike. A true spatial and economic development plan cannot succeed without solving transport congestion and parking inefficiency. We call for a clear digitised and localised parking system not one outsourced entity with no public benefit

The Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality has now proposed forming a Mangaung Forum. In theory, this could be a powerful structure to align the City. Minibus, taxi associations, bus operators, commuters and provincial government, but in the context of the Municipal already overwhelmed with non-functional forums, boards and commissions, question must be asked; will this forum work? Or is it another ceremonial structure with no implementation budget, no power, no accountability? We cannot support forums that exist only to tick a consultation box. If the transport forum is to exist, it must have a legal status, financial resources, permanent staff and ward-based representation from actual transport users.

The EFF has long argued for insourcing transport marshals, youth led commuters, safety programs and reliable investments into safety infrastructure. Taxi ranks must have working toilets, lighting and security. Bus stops must be rolled out not just on main roads but within the neighbourhood. Busses must be clean, safe and on time. Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Councillor TK Rammile addresses Council: “Honourable Speaker, firstly i would like to second my colleague, Councillor Bouwer with the statement he just made. On page 12, under transport need assessment there is an indication of leaners need assessment, whereby in accessible, roads were identified. The community has just been complaining about the road that connects CBD in Thaba Nchu and Ratau Primary School, Councillors will attest to that. It has been a concern from the community to also consider that road, now my humble plea is to add that concern within these three (3) bullets Speaker. I thank you.”

Councillor E Snyman Van Deventer addressed Council: “Mister Speaker as many documents we receive in Council, the CITP is on paper ambitious details that even inspiring. But we must ask ourselves the real question, will it be successfully implemented, and more especially will it make day to day transport experience safer and more reliable with people of Mangaung? The Freedom From Plus acknowledges that the CITP is indeed comprehensive, and we appreciate the level of research and planning that is has gone to. It touches in a many of the right issues; road safety, public transport, infrastructure and long-term mobility but always a gap between plan and action remains why and it is here where our concern lies. There are immediate practical issues highlighted in the plan and must be addressed without delay.

For instance, the issue of heavy vehicle using residential streets is not just a matter of inconvenience it is a serious safety risk. Children walking to school and residents crossing the roads and even light motor vehicles faces danger daily from overloaded cross taking short cuts through neighbourhoods. We urge the administration to enforce road restrictions and remove these vehicles to appropriate roads. I now turn to 36 and 38 of the plans where the project is unrealistic. Some of these figures are truly shocking and let me highlight just a few:

- Road transport master plan – R7 million
- Mode Choice Master plan – R1.8 million
- Road safety investigations – R1.9 million

These are planning documents and studies and when planning is important it must lead to real visible improvements. We must ask ourselves, how much of these will be ink on paper and how much will be tarred on road and the traffic officers on the ground? Then of course we come to the IPTN a project which has been part of our expenditure for over a decade.

- Phase 1 trunk routes – R50 million
- Phase 2 – R67 million
- IPTN Transfer Facility – R12.5 million
- Bus depot building works – R92.5 million
- Civil works – R55 million

These are ridiculous high amounts of money if spent well, they could change public transport facility in Mangaung for good. We must be vigilant to ensure that these funds do not become yet another case study of poor implementation, miss deadlines or worse misappropriation. We need to do as the executive Mayor said, he said: “each penny accounted for”.

Once more but significant highlight is the law enforcement R6 million cameras at loss. Speeding is one of the biggest road threats in our City. But we must ask how many cameras will a R6 million get us? We want clear transparent answers and while we prepare other traffic measures where speeding is a high problem. Let me mention one example that the residents repeatedly raise, Wilcocks Road. Accidents there are far too frequent, and speed is always almost a contributing factor. A simple traffic at the key intersection would want us to reduce speed while still allowing emergency service vehicle and busses to pass without difficulties.

This is a low-cost high impact solution, and we ask and urge the Council to prioritise this. The FFP also welcomes various roads upgrades, gravel roads rehabilitation that are included in the plan. These are the kinds of investments that residents could actually see and experience in their everyday. The people of Mangaung deserve safe, efficient and well-maintained roads not just the documents.”

Councillor NA Nhlapo responded: “Honourable Speaker, with regards to the question raised about the guidelines, whether the sectoral plan that is serving before Council reached the correct requirements for it to be as it is. The amount of research that has been done in preparing the service document. We have the letter of confirmation from the provincial department of roads that they have assessed the CITP that is serving before Council that shows as to what is required for the Metro to have the integrated transport plan as per the national laws of transport.

The sectoral plan in terms of implementing directorates mostly falls in the transport which is our Public Safety and Security Department at the moment and also on infrastructure in terms of roads. As Councillor CL Bouwer indicated, we had a technical side and also want to have a unison approach for the document and that Council have confidence that the plan will be implemented from the official side to show that whatever the plan is the institutional plan. All the other concerns raised by Councillors such as the taxi rank and the infrastructure are taken into account hence, we have the sectoral plans.

We are aware that the taxi industry is quite a large and booming business, but the infrastructure talks something else. Even in the gazetted guidelines that indicate how the CITP must be developed it states that some of the designs and the project plan must form part after approval and go to detail with different strategies and different implementation of directorates. For a while now our Metro had the CITP which feed on our SDF which feeds on the sectoral plans that are required as a Metro. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Councillor VS Sogaqa remarked that he supports the presentation of Councillor NA Nhlapo and also go further to indicate that this document is a detailed planning tool which by now is opposed to other views. The Executive Mayor knows how many parking areas there are in town because this document has made thorough research and the need moving forward.

Secondly, it will be the best tool for Council to trigger the process of trying to bring Lengau Testing Centre back to Mangaung because it is one of the spin offs that we can benefit out of this. It is a good tool hence as the ANC supports it.”

Councillor MW Mongale addressed Council: “Honourable Speaker, the issue here is that when you look at the document, of the Mangaung Comprehensive Integrated Transport Plan it does not address some of the challenges amongst them is that the community of Mangaung wants transport that is safe, reliable and accessible. And according to the document, there is only three (3) things that have been taken to consideration if you look at the document, it is safety, reliability and accessibility but affordability is not included, and it is deliberate because when you put affordability it means you commit that you will give the community affordable services in terms of the tariffs of the buses or any other mode of transport. Also need to acknowledge that this document of CITP comes here after we had the Integrated Transport Plan since 2006 which means we are reviewing the document after 19 years.

On the issue of taxi recapitalisation, there was a time where the taxi industry was told that the route of Brandwag from station to the University of the Free State, that road was going to be closed and all the taxi operators in that area are going to be compensated within the range of R1.5 million. We do not know what happened with that project as some were paid, and some were not paid or even all of them were not paid and where is the money that was earmarked for that because it was in line with the Hauweng bus project to make sure that their busses are moving from the station up until the University of the Free State.

There were bus stops that were not completed that were claimed to be costing R1.5 million. We don't know where the report is and has the action been taken against the culprit. There is a depo next to where it was SPCA next to Municipal workshops. That depo apparently cost the Municipality R51 million. That depo remains unfinished. This Municipality is notorious for unfinished projects. And if I have to apologise through you, Honourable Speaker, I will stand up and apologise. But at the moment, the depo is not finished and the people of Mangaung knows. Even if I can be called to come to the mic to apologise, it is fine will apologise.

The unfinished roads starting from the Studio one at Khayelitsha. If the road is not finished, how are we able to provide the best road infrastructure? We cannot even finish the basic of the basics, those ones which were budgeted for, not the ones that we did not have the money for. Where is that money where are the investigations, where are the culprits? Who did the job and never finished the projects?”

The Deputy Executive Mayor, Councillor LM Titi-Odili raised a point of order that she does not understand which item Councillor MW Mongale was presenting on, because he was now unpacking the IPTN issues which is the item that is talking about the transport plan. That Councillor MW Mongale must align himself to the item that is being debated. Furthermore, he must request the department of Public Safety and Transport to bring that item to Council where there will be able to debate on those issues and receive a response from the relevant portfolio committee.

Councillor Mongale continued with his speech: “I have been raising into this Council that we need modern buses, either electricity buses or hybrid buses that will be able to help us in terms of greenhouse emissions and in trying to comply with world summit on sustainable developments. The last summit was in Egypt in Cairo and some of the commitments we made was that we are going to reduce greenhouse emissions and we are saying that we have committed that we will also reduce carbon,

but we seem not to be willing to do that because we keep on using the petrol and diesel transport even though we know that there are other ways of reducing it.

I must appreciate that on the non-motorised transport there is an effort there, but non-motorised transport cannot be able to take the community in its fully capacity. It can only take me and my partner but not the other person. Now the reality here is that we are not addressing the issue that the community is facing and primary to us having the world class transport system, it is our road infrastructure.”

Executive Mayor responded: “Once again I appreciate the contribution from different political parties. The document does look ambitious and challenging but it is at the level of implementation Councillor DL Malebo you went to town eloquently painting a smart city rural. I listened to you, and I could simply hear someone speaking to a smart city. Apart from you being parallel to the topic but the eloquence with which you could tell us how the smart city should look like is quite appreciated and I hope in future you will still hold on to that presentation so that I must help us to have a particular outlook.

Growing up I was introduced to him and that him wrote about two roads, which one leads to hell when the other road leads to heaven. And a clever priest outlined that, and he would tell you that a road that leads to hell is always clean, rosy, beautiful and attractive. It invites anyone who would want to go to a particular destiny to take that road. But a clever priest will also say the one that leads to heaven is stoney, challenging and full of dangerous animals. This simply means that change has got its own challenges and undergoing the process of change, you are traversing the road never traversed before. And in that road, you will come across all and assorted and dangerous things that you must from time to time overcome. And when you are weak liver, you will abandon that difficult journey and opt a soft target.

To those that have demonstrated determination and resilience, in joining us realising the road leading to the emancipation of the people of this Country and not abandoning it. I would like to celebrate them, and they are most welcome. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Before the Council voted, Councillor T Van Der Walt read the additional recommendation which Councillor CL Bouwer proposed to be added as follows:

That Council mandates the development of the 10-year Integrated Capital Expenditure Framework within 12 months of this resolution that is compliant to the guidelines and done in support of the National Treasury by requesting National Treasury a technical support.

Councillor NA Nhlapo also read the recommendation that she proposed as follows:

That administration of technical committee comprising of implementing and directorates be established to ensure the implementation of the plan.

The Council voted as follows on proposal raised by Cllr CL Bouwer: 19 in favour, 44 against and 15 abstained.

The Council voted as follows on proposal raised by MMC, Cllr NA Nhlapo: 44 votes in favour, 34 against and 2 abstained

It was thereupon

RESOLVED that the Council approved the following:

- i. The completed Comprehensive integrated Transport Plan (CITP) as per the requirements of the National Land Transport Act 5 of 2009.
- ii. The CITP be included as one of the IDP sector plans.
- iii. The CITP be employed to implement the National Land Transport Act 5 of 2009
- iv. The CITP be submitted to the MEC for approval and implementation as per the National Land Transport Act 5 of 2009 Section 36(4).
- v. The CITP be made available to the National Public Transport Regulator and relevant Provincial Regulator Entity regarding the new operating licenses as per the National Land Transport Act 5 of 2009 Section 36(6).
- vi. ***That the administration Technical Committee comprising of the implementing directorates be established to ensure the implementation of the Mangaung CITP.***

6.

AMENDMENT OF THE MANGAUNG SPATIAL PLANNING LAND USE BY-LAW, MANGAUNG STUDENT ACCOMMODATION BY-LAW AND MANGAUNG LAND USE SCHEME.

Executive Mayor commented: “Honourable Speaker, this item speaks to the amendment of the Mangaung Spatial Planning, Land Use Bi- Law and Student Accommodation By-Law. This is one of the critical aspects. We should know Honourable Speaker apart from parenting the kids that are in this Metro and working hard to also answer to the critical aspects that were raised by Cllr MW Mongale when it comes to issues of security. It is also one aspect that affects these students whom they not only are they students but income generating for the Metro by using all the facilities, buying power as well as renting our accommodation. We first have to see how we improve this accommodation and make sure that it does benefit the City, the communities and business people that are in that space.

But then, when you look at the recommendations, it has got A and B, and I would like Councillors to ignore A. “A” is actually a misplaced recommendation as this matter must still be subjected to public opinion and must circulate to all stakeholders and when it comes to Council it comes as a complete product. Therefore then, I the process of doing that, I ask all Councillors and political parties that has also expressed their interest with regard to the issue of accommodation to really take an active part in making sure that we work towards a solid product.”

Councillor JH Denner addressed Council: “The Freedom Front Plus as recorded repeatedly warned this Municipality about the growing student accommodation in our Metro. It was not raised concerns only, but we formally requested the infrastructure audit because the writing has been on the wall for some time.

Our infrastructure like we mentioned before especially in the suburbs, such as Universitas, Brandwag and surrounding areas were never designed to support the current residents we now seeing in student housing.

These are areas with water system, sewerage systems for standard family homes not for student housing with wore individuals. Our infrastructure is under severe strain failing systems and decline the quality of life for all residents.

We therefore welcome the reduction on the proposed number of students accommodation from 20 to 10. In fact, we believe it should be reduced further in order to align with the infrastructural realistic handle. But the question is not about the number on paper, it is about implementation again. How will as the Municipality monitor and police these limits effectively? What systems will we put in place to ensure that the landlord comply with the new by-law and that the violations are detected and addressed quickly?

Most importantly, how will this Municipality ensure that the by-law does not just exist as a legislation on paper but as a living policy and enforced in practice for the benefit of all communities in Mangaung? If this by-law has to have any impact at all, it must be followed by real oversight, clear penalties. The residents of Universitas, Brandwag and all similar suburbs deserves knowledge. I thank you.”

Councillor MW Mongale addresses Council: “On the issue of student accommodation, we are of the view that there are many pressing issues that needs to be addressed. Some of them, we have raised with the Council, and we have raised them with the Executive Mayor, but he never took our advice on these matters. We made him aware that there are a lot of buildings in the City that are abandoned that the Municipality can take and turn them into student residents. They are many in the City and some of them are being taken by people who have nowhere to sleep for purposes of crime, especially the drug addicts are the ones who are taking over those buildings starting from Church street and there seems to be no master plan on the side of the Municipality because we have raised it and I was on record when I raised it; the Executive Mayor knows but he choose to turn his ear to the other side.

On the safety and security of the students, it is a very serious matter because students are suffering attacks after attacks because of the environment they find themselves in. it is either it is a student residence which does not have proper security in or it is in the streets where they are left vulnerable because there are no systems in place that will be able to assist them to escape the criminals that are targeting them in the basis that most of them do not know the city. There seems to also not be a master plan with regards to that. This also goes in line with the transport system because some of them have to travel a long distance in trying to cut costs for them to be able to reach the campus or the place where they stay.

When you look at Motheo TVET College where it is located, you will find out that there are many buildings there that are already abandoned, they will just stay there up until those buildings are dilapidated beyond repair while the City is here. And Mangaung is slowly becoming ghost city and we warned you about this but there seems to be no commitment in the side of the Municipality to listen to us when we talk about these issues.

9B

We have raised them over and over again to say this City is becoming the ghost city because of failure to take advantage of the infrastructure that is there for the Municipality.

There is a building in President Brandt street, at the corner of President Brandt and St Andrew street, it is an old Council Chamber, and it is only elderly people who will remember it, if you are new in politics, you will not know it. That chamber can also be converted to something meaningful but at the moment it has just been left abundant as it is, it is a white elephant and there seems to be no plan around it.

I do not know whether the Executive Mayor knows where it is for that matter. But if he is decent enough, he can allow me to show him the place and I will show him. I am not bragging I know where the place is even though people are just bluffing now thinking I do not know the place. Honourable Speaker I am tired of this attitude of the ANC which amongst them is the MMC of Finance and you are not saying anything while you keep on reprimanding me. The most senior person in this Council, MMC of Finances always amongst the noise that is made, and I wonder if the people who elected her knows what they were putting themselves into when they elected her. The trouble is that when we were elected, we were given high titles such as 'Honourable' even though we are not. Thank you, Honourable Speaker."

Councillor CL Bower addressed the Council: "Mister Speaker, we as the DA supports the amendments of the by-laws and urge that this will not only be another by-law that is completed with other by-laws and that it is in place but not implemented and enforced as some by-laws are not adhered to as mentioned by some managers in the committee. The metro is currently still facing misuse of land not zoned for businesses, missing out on the business rates and taxes that the municipality can increase its revenue in that division. So, once we as council follows through with the implementation of the by-laws approved by Council the municipality and its infrastructure will be relieved from its current overloaded infrastructure strain. So, once again we support this item and Council should just follow through with the implementation of its bi-laws and so that it can be implemented on the ground. I thank you, Mister Speaker."

Councillor DL Malebo addressed the Council: "Mister Speaker again, the EFF rise to support the proposed amendment to the Mangaung Spatial Planning Land Use Scheme regarding student accommodation. This issue is not merely about rezoning, it speaks to our broader duty to ensure safe dignified and equitable living conditions for our future generations. Under the draft scheme of March 2021 and land use application for student accommodation must assessed with compatibility and existing neighbourhood and must protect emnity values. Why is this safeguard necessary, they are insufficient without any enforcement.

Student accommodation has been historically underregulated leading to overcrowded buildings, lack of safety and exposure to crime leading to kidnapping and human trafficking. The National context reveals the stuck crisis, over 500 000 students are shot in South Africa's tertiary sector pushing students into dangerous and often unregistered housing. The reports from Mangaung echo a national crisis, student at UFS and CUT faces squatting, poor maintenance, lack of electrical appliances and unsafe living conditions. If our amendment is to be meaningful, it must do more than manage. It must provide pathways to save affordable and accredited student housing.

The City's student accommodation by-law 2019 set basic standard for assessment to protect nearby residents but bold walls without enforcement are pointless. We need a comprehensive accreditation framework that ensures facilities have fire safety, system sprinklers, extinguishers, alarms, cctv's, secured access, functional kitchens, reliable power, water and structural integrity. Mangaung's current amendment offers opportunity not just to adjust zoning but to embed national safety regulations. The developer approval accreditation appoints an empowered student housing oversight body. This body should work with universities, SRC, the private sector, security services and the planning department to regularly inspect and certify student accommodation. Our amendment must also incentivise school accommodation, purpose build housing through density bonuses, tax relief or fast track approval for developers who commit to designated standards.

Let us reward quality housing investment especially near UFS and CUT and other institutions instead of seeing students squeezed into sub-standards rooms and huts. Crucially, we must empower students in governance. Their voices must be binding in spatial and by-law amendments affecting them. Our amendments should include a protocol for regular students' - inspection, participation in rezoning committees and pre-authorization notification of student bodies.

In conclusion Mister Speaker, we support the Land Use Scheme but only if the changes institutionalise safety, accountability and accessibility. If we fail to require accreditation, penalise non-compliance and empower students. We will nearly produce another gap between law and lived reality. We call on this Council to rise above paperwork and deliver real safe homes for students and a blueprint of dignity we can be proud of. I thank you, Mister Speaker."

Councillor NA Nhlapo responded: "Honourable Speaker, it is important to also make the residents of Mangaung aware how this review came about. As the City, we have been going out into our CBD and into our student accommodation together with the Law Enforcement to act and enforce law. And what we have found when we do that is that our by-laws were not very clear in terms of what we will be enforcing and that initiated that we have this review of our by-law. It is not only on the student accommodation, but it is also on the Land Use Scheme in the Metro which would also speak to other buildings but mostly I hear that the Council is more focused on the student accommodation.

Once an item goes to public participation, and also speak to one of the relevant stakeholders which is our institution of higher learning which provides accreditation to NSFAS, to landlords who would not necessarily be submitting any approvals for that according to the by-laws. These three (3) by-laws will go to public participation and come back to Council for approval. Just as the Executive Mayor has proposed that only the second recommendation would stand which is to note the review, to subject the draft to public participation. Thank you, Honourable Speaker."

Executive Mayor responded: "An interesting part is that when a matter goes to public participation, we would engage, unless we are not part of that public participation. That will become a platform to make people to make their own contribution. Councillor JI Mokoena, I would want to echo your sentiment, what was tabled before us was a matter that was supposed to receive a noting and then it goes to public participation.

Councillor MW Mongale spoke about empty buildings and issues of security and if we want him to make this kind of contribution, he made without saying anything, he will get away with murder as if he commands everything around these things and oblivious of what is happening in and around them.

The point is that those building belong to individuals and companies, they are not Municipality's buildings, and we cannot do as we wish to them. If we want to, we must buy them and the question is, do we have the money? And even if we bring some of these buildings for the purposes of being bought, again the same as the Spoornet one, there was an issue. Even if our figures were so low and the intention was to address the issues that we are addressing today, the question is, are we so oblivious of some of these issues to be brought into Council to discuss or are we merely scoring points?

I will remind this Council around these issues, we said we are buying the building that belongs to Spoornet and the intention was that we are working towards at the end of the day the present close to the Brandwag School will end up accommodating the students that we are talking about. We then indicated that we spoke to the Department of Public Works, Department of Human Settlements and all other related departments that has got businesses in town including our resources to buy this empty building and secure some of the other buildings for us.

We cannot just go and occupy the properties that belong to individuals on the issue of security, we did indicate that we are coming up with another indaba that will include the community of Mangaung, the residents in and around where the students are living, owners of properties, institutions of learning, the police and all the other stakeholders under one room to address parenting role as this Metro in terms of taking care of these kids wherever they are coming from. As long as they are here, they become our responsibility.

All that is awaited is that the safety department of the Municipality, which is working on bringing this together, this is an item that all of us must participate in order that our views will be taken and our interest to be expressed. Some of the issues that are being raised by Councillors are issues that we have touched in the past and it is not right that the manner in which they are raised is to favour another political party's narrative which is not healthy for this Council because it becomes a party issue that intends to better the other party in the expense of the other.

I can proudly indicate that I know the buildings that Councillor MW Mongale pointed and even the other ones that he might not know and not even had an idea when they were built. The ones that I was not even allowed to enter into because they were written outside: "*blanke and nie swarte.*"

Councillor MW Mongale raised a point of order and remarked about the issue of the Council Chamber clarifying that it was the Executive Mayor's colleagues who were howling when he spoke about the place hence the Executive Mayor could not hear him properly. That if himself and the Executive Mayor can go to political school, the Executive Mayor will be embarrassed because he was there, and he suffered under apartheid much worse than the Executive Mayor because he was not in the Country, but he was in exile in honeymoon while we were fighting. That is why you came here with visitors transport and not SANDF transport that shows you won.

The Speaker requested Councillor MW Mongale to raise his point of order and not make a speech. Councillor MW Mongale remarked that he was born during the apartheid era and he saw everything that happened while he was a youth and he was within the Country while all those happened not in exile. That there are people who were not there but wants to attach a lot of prices.

Executive Mayor responded: “Honourable Speaker I am saying when those buildings were erected, I was there and I went there but I was chased away and some of the people who chased me away, perhaps they are here.”

Councillor MW Mongale raised a point of order, but the Speaker wanted to address the house instead: “Councillor MW Mongale you are very combative and blackmailing in your arguments and when you invite similar kind of reaction, you are the first to cry foul, please do not do that. Can you please be part of the discussion and not be combative in your engagements. Please allow me to guide the house I will equally reprimand whoever who is on the podium and making undue remarks on you. Please proceed Executive Mayor.”

Executive Mayor continued: “The truth is that before I can stand up and take issues, I listen to what most of you say. And I you came gun blazing; do not think I will lie fallow and entertain some distortions of facts. I have to respond to your deliberations such as “if we don’t buy these buildings, the City will become a ghost town”. The ghost town is a place where there are not people living as opposed to a dilapidated town. Our people need places to stay and for that, there is no way where our City can become a ghost town.

The issue of student accommodation, the truth is we need to be strict on measures, but we also need to strict on how the student accommodation benefits local business. And by local business, I mean from all racial divine, It must not be confined to a specific area whereby certain areas cannot be declared to be having the capacity to accommodate the students, but instead happen to be located in a particular area where development must take place and be in accordance with the regulations and the standard as well as the by-laws of the Municipality. Such development is key.

It does not imply that I shall move from a locality Heidedal, buy a house in town in order for me to be in the mainstream of accommodating students. We need to open up the horizons of this particular business operation and not it be confined to a particular locality. The point that I take is that accessibility and mobility to destinations of these student accommodation as well as the security because their safety must be taken into consideration. But in the same vein, the business element of this issue that we are dealing with today must not be overlooked. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Councillor PA Lotriet raised a appoint of clarity and remarked that why can’t the City attract investors in student housing because it is possible that the City can have international investors in this. What was the GDP related to students and to tertiary education. This matter was enormous and close to the agricultural areas and that needs to be recognised and that investment in student housing should be looked at, as it can be a game changer.

Executive Mayor responded: “This is a beautiful question but those that are fishermen, you would know that sardines, you don’t fish but you harvest. When you harvest your fish in the sea, you don’t harvest it at the boarder of Mozambique or the boarder of Europe because when your fish crosses, it takes 10 to 15 years to come back. In those era, you will be buying fish from countries where sardines would have migrated to. Now, students are like sardines and some of the operations need to be tedious when you approach them.

I agree with you Councillor PA Lotriet but I think the issue that you are raising will require a very consented mind set where we must address first the validity if making sure that the safety of our area in attracting students as well as interacting with institutions of higher learning making sure that what they are providing is so attractive to our area that still attract students to come so that they might not migrate to other areas. In all factors the number of issues that were raised, we have covered them.

The long and short of it is that we should sit down around table together with all stakeholders and begin to look at it, and as and when we would want to make this an attractive investment venture and all those nodal critical elements that might impair on the actual investment are addressed. I fully agree with you, but it would take us to a point where we must be a working team to develop for the Municipality as well as for the private sector to take keen interest.

As a matter of fact, most of those that are applied in the expression of interest during our investment summit have it in mind that some of the development put in place would actually account to student accommodation. So, there is that migration towards making sure that we formalise it, but in the bigger scheme is that it would have been prudent and advisable that the Municipality must lead in this because remember that ours is to collect in order for the Municipality to be viable.

We need to look at those buildings that can be converted. It endorses what Councillor MW Mongale raised. It has also been taken into consideration, but I think we need to solidify concrete as our outlook on this.”

Council did not vote as the item was for noting.

It was thereupon

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Council took note of the attached draft bylaws to this report, namely: *Draft Revised Spatial Planning & Land Use Bylaw (Annexure A)*, the *Draft Revised Student Accommodation Bylaw (Annexure B)* and the *Draft Revised Land Use Scheme (Annexure C)*, for public participation purposes as required and prescribed by Section 12(3)(b) of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act No 32 of 2000 as amended.

7.

BLOEMFONTEIN CREMATORIUM AND CHAPEL ON THE REMAINING EXTEND OF FARM BLOEMFONTEIN 654 WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF MEMORIAM CEMETRY: MEMORIUM CEMETRY CREMATORIUM AND CHAPEL REPORT

Executive Mayor: “Honourable Speaker, this is a present or a property belonging to the Municipality and in itself it can therefore generate some income of some sort that will also sustain our activities. So, steps that are taken is that we need to source our licence, subject a crematorium to a private use to show those that compete and show the best. Does subject to a period of nine (9) years and eleven (11) months be a period that necessarily suggest giving a person the opportunity to revamp. This crematorium Honourable Speaker, use to serve as far as Kimberly and Lesotho and other cities apart from Mangaung. Since is a non-operational activity, there has been some bit of a crisis with regard to that.”

Cllr GDP Kotze addressed the Council: “Mister Speaker, when I was a little boy, I used to drive through the Memoriam Crematorium with my bike, together with my friends to look at the beautiful graves there. For more than a decade, Memoriam Cemetery has stood as a symbol of the ANC-led Municipality’s failure, a failure to honour the dignity of our departed, and a failure to manage public assets with care and accountability.

Year after year, family members have come to this cemetery only to find their loved ones’ graves overgrown with weeds, unkept, and forgotten. The fencing is broken or non-existent, vandalism is on the rise, and the very basic duty of maintenance has been ignored. Now, suddenly, one year before local government elections, the same cemetery becomes a priority. Now there is a report, there is interest, and there is money being allocated. But residents and the opposition are asking the same question: Why now? And who truly benefits?

Yes, the crematorium and chapel at Memoriam served Bloemfontein and surrounding regions for decades. Yes, the lease expired in 2023 and the facility ceased operation. And yes, the need for cremation infrastructure remains. But what has this municipality done for the past 12 years? Meanwhile, Nalisview Cemetery, meant to be the next phase of dignified burial development, remains undeveloped and unfunded. It is now simply an excuse in official documents — a “future plan, budget dependent.” Why not prioritise that?

Why pour millions into a site that is no longer compliant with national health regulations?

Let us be clear: the report before Council outlines options for reviving the crematorium through outsourcing, and it invokes “supply chain management processes.” But what processes, Speaker? The opposition is routinely denied access to SCM. We are blocked from conducting oversight, and our questions about contract beneficiaries, tender compliance, and timelines are ignored. We must ask: Will this crematorium become a revenue-generating asset for Mangaung, or simply another tender funnel to benefit the politically connected?

Let’s consider this: In Cape Town, under DA governance, the upgrade of a crematorium cost R18 million with full transparency, clear deliverables, and functional outcomes. In Port Shepstone, under ANC governance, a similar project has already ballooned to R55 million and counting. Where are the cost controls in Mangaung? Where are the public consultations? Where is the accountability?

9H

Let us not forget that this is the same municipality that lost over R267,000 annually in rental income due to mismanagement of the crematorium lease. That failed to maintain even a fence. That now speaks of restoring dignity with a price tag, with political timing, and without proper oversight.

Mister Speaker, we are not opposed to restoring this facility. But we are opposed to doing so in the dark, without proper planning, cost justification, or community consultation. If this Council truly wants to restore dignity to our cemeteries, let us start by restoring integrity to our processes. Let us prioritise service delivery over self-interest. Let us honour both the living and the departed with transparency, and with accountability. I thank you.”

Cllr VE De Kock addressed the Council: “Mister Speaker, the report before us regarding the current state of the Bloemfontein Crematorium is not only concerning from a financial and operational perspective, but it also deeply affects the dignity and emotional wellbeing of our residents.

Since May 2023, the crematorium has been non-operational. This prolonged closure has forced grieving families in our city to seek cremation services in neighbouring towns — often at great emotional and financial cost. At a time when people are at their most vulnerable, our municipality has failed to provide a basic and critical service.

The report rightly outlines the financial implications for the Metro, including a monthly rental joss of over R22,000.

But even more alarming are the risks posed by the non-operation of the facility — including vandalism, infrastructure erosion, and the risk of the Atmospheric Emissions Licence expiring

We must also bring to Council's attention the safety concerns at Memoriam Cemetery, where the crematorium is located. The site has at least 18 broken sections in the perimeter fence, making it a soft target for criminals. This is not a hypothetical risk. In 2024, we already saw an incident where components were stolen from the gas tanks of the crematorium — an incident that could have escalated but was fortunately contained in time

From the Freedom Front Plus's side, we strongly recommend that before any outsourcing or leasing processes are initiated, the municipality must prioritise the following:

1. Immediate repair of the perimeter fencing around Memoriam Cemetery to deter further theft and ensure safety.
2. General maintenance and Clearing of the grounds to prevent infrastructure degradation and criminal activity.
3. Urgent renewal or transfer of the Atmospheric Emissions Licence, to prevent additional administrative delays.

We agree with the report's suggestion that outsourcing may be a viable option for restoring operations — but this should not come before securing and maintaining the facility. We must ensure that the facility is not only financially viable, but also physically protected and dignified in its presentation.

Let us not allow further deterioration while we deliberate. Bereaved families deserve respect. This is not just about revenue — it's about restoring a vital service with the dignity it requires. Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Councillor MW Mongale addressed the Council: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I was worried when I see this item that talks about crematorium, and I was worried about what happened to priority areas like the new graveyard that is on the N6 if am correct. It has been left abundant and that area need further investigation Honourable Speaker. We need to investigate because there is an allegation of corruption that the place was sold for R800 000.00 but the person who sold it sold it for R8 million. So, we need to verify because I might not be correct, so its needs to be verified with facts. Remember I am always accused with bringing things to Council without substance.

The same way I brought the R100 million of diesel and I was told that there is no substance. On the issue of the crematorium, we would not commit that it must be outsourced because there is no valid reason that justifies why it should be outsourced and what is that the Municipality was doing that the Municipality does not have capacity to do it. The other issue is that we also want to understand that what is the budget of the Municipality with regards to cemeteries. Not being utilised fully according to way it is supposed to be utilised because as you go to South Park, Magengenene and Bloemspruit cemeteries, it is very dirty and you ask yourself, where is our dignity? Which place can we clean and handle better? All these places talk to our level of efficiency and commitment and our level of providing quality service.

And now, talking in the boardrooms saying we are going to provide quality service is something else, but doing it is another matter. This is where the issue is, and we are not convinced that the submission that is made here is valid enough to be held to justify the provision of the services. We believe that the Municipality must come and explain to us what the reasons are because even the Executive Mayor when he was talking to the item, he never explained what the reasons are and why this place needs to be outsourced. He just brushed over the item, he never went to this one to take us in confidence so that we can be able to say, but we are making the decision from the position of strength and to say whether we agree or disagree, we have been properly informed.

That is the opportunity that the Executive Mayor and the MMC in charge of Community Services missed because I think they could have assisted us in trying to present that matter so that at least the Councillors can be able to make a decision from a point of strength knowing that we know the details of this matter than to assume, because when we assume we are accused of not knowing English; now we have to go to the dictionary while we have the Executive Mayor who was appointed by this Council who must assist the parties to explain these issues as to what are the reasons and why you are outsourcing the chapel. In the absence of that, it means there are no valid reasons, and we cannot support it. I thank you, Honourable Speaker”.

Councillor DJ De-Huis addressed the Council: “Thank you Honourable Speaker, as a member of the Section 80 Committee, I am proud to say that this item did serve in our Committee.

We rise today to speak to the matter that touch the dignity of our people, the memory of their loved ones, and the integrity of public service, the future of Bloemfontein Crematorium and Chapel. I will omit some of the point here because it is already late.

Reports indicate that Municipality may lease a facility to a private entity or a community organisation in order to protect the infrastructure and recover some of the values. The Bloemfontein Crematorium is not an isolated case. We have seen years after years; public facilities collapse or being vandalised due to lack of strategy or leadership. One can recall the Ramkraal project, Silver City flats, libraries and recreation centres, throughout Mangaung closed, forgotten or looted because there is no clarity on custodian budget or future use.

We as the EFF have consistently warned against the careless neglect of the public assets but we refused to accept the secrecy, selective and consultation or opportune privileges under the banner of losing. If leasing the Bloemfontein Crematorium must be pursued, it must be based on a clear term, public accountability and vision aligned with community needs not to revamp generation. This site was not built for private game, it was built as a public place of memory and healing. Let us not forget the year 2023 when we marked the closure of this crematorium.

In closing Honourable Speaker, the EFF demands this facility building be rescued from abandonment. We demand that public assets be governed with clarity and if leasing is to happen, it must serve the people and not the few privileged, and not just for the sake of doing the work but for the generations to come. Let us all build the legacy for our kids to come. Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Councillor SC Sehloho addressed the Council: “Speaker, I rise to support the sentiments of the Executive Mayor in terms of the crematorium and chapel to be leased because you will out that the time it was leased, it was leased to only one company from 1965 until 1990. And I was asking myself, didn’t we have another company except for that only one, but I understood that it was the manner in which the apartheid regime operated. When it gave someone something, it made sure that it enriched that person up to a certain level. So, I am standing and saying, we are not supporting this item because we are facing the elections, but this is a generation that is ready to go and take back what belongs to the people of Mangaung.

Above all, it is not only this, I also believe that Human Settlements is preparing itself to go to Bainsvlei because in Bainsvlei there are plots of Mangaung Metro Municipality that individuals enriched themselves with. It is not only that, but we also have seven (7) dams here in Mangaung...”

Councillor T Van Der Walt interjected and raised for a point of order and remarked that Councillor SC Sehloho must stop misleading the house and the community because the only land is Bainsvlei is the cemeteries and if he wants to live there, he is more than welcome to live with the ghost.

Councillor SC Sehloho continued: “Honourable Speaker, if Mangaung Municipality can do the land audit, it will prove all that I am saying. As we support this item, this crematorium will go through the process of Supply Chain Management and a qualified person should be awarded with a lease agreement.

In conclusion, this is going to benefit Mangaung because you will find out that people from Lesotho, Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, will be coming here to do their work in the crematorium. I am standing in support of the recommendations as they are documented in this document. I thank you, Honourable Speaker”.

Councillor MJ Mabena addressed the Council: “Honourable Speaker, it pains me a lot when you give the living land, and they are crying. Now we are giving the dead a space to rest in peace and again they are crying; what do they want? We are not doing this because we are approaching the elections. Does this mean service delivery must stop because we are approaching elections, no. they must understand the purpose of this Council, it is to update the Council on the current status of the crematorium and also to consider various options to remedy the situation.

In 1965 when the lease was awarded to Mr Grobbelaar, others endured until 1990 whereby at least after every 5 years the lease was renewed. The mission statement of Mangaung is to ensure service delivery to all residents within all regions of this Municipality. Furthermore, the facility has been operated privately on behalf of the Municipality since 1965 until 2023 and now the facility is not operational. The operation of the crematorium requires a standing atmospheric emission licence of the National Environmental Act of 2004. The Municipality now has got a licence which expires after 5 years, and it is currently left with two (2) years before it expires.

We are going to wash out issues that are associated with the non-operational of the crematorium which includes:

- Vandalism and theft
- Infrastructure erosion
- Atmospheric emission licence expiring as I have indicated that we are left with 2 years
- Expensive laws from the Municipality
- We are receiving an amount of R22 326.46 on a monthly basis, and we do not want to lose an income but in fact our main aim is to make sure that our deceased receives a very dignified send-off; and we are not doing this because we are heading the elections. My plea is that let us allow the people to have place to stay and the deceased also a place to rest in peace.”

It was thereupon with 78 votes in favour, 2 against and 0 abstained

RESOLVED that

1. For the facility to be properly managed and operationalised, the following options are put forward for consideration by Mangaung Metro Municipality.
 - 1.1. The function be outsourced, and rental be collected as per the Municipal statutory rental requirements.
 - 1.2. The process for lease be rolled out in accordance with Supply Chain Management Policy and process.
 - 1.3. The atmospheric Emissions License be deregistered from ICOSA’s name, and a new application be made with Municipality as the custodian or lessor.

8. REQUEST FOR THE COUNCIL TO GRANT APPROVAL FOR THE IPTN TARRIF INCREMENT CONDONATION FOR PERIOD ON THREE (3) MONTHS

Executive Mayor commented as follows: “Honourable Speaker, this item is to request Council to grant approval on IPTN Tariff. I already spoke extensively on this item”.

Councillor NR Shale addressed the Council: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I now believe when they say after the local elections, Councillors of the ANC who are elected are taken to the big school of lies and of the cut and paste of old documents of the previous 20 years of promises that are never effected.

Honourable Speaker, Fellow Councillors, and the People of Mangaung, today we speak not only in our capacity as councillors, but as representatives of the working class, the unemployed, the pensioners, the students, and the everyday commuters who rely on public transport to survive and yet continue to be failed by this municipality's mismanagement of the so-called Integrated Public Transport Network.

We rise under the full authority of not speculative means but well researched truth which all know, and not to grandstand, but to raise substantive issues that demand action and political will. The matter before us is of growing public concern the proposed increase of the bus fare from R10 to R12 under the Bus-in-Transit service.

This increase is not yet implemented, but it is being discussed in backrooms and the Economic Freedom Fighters place it firmly on record; we reject this proposed increase until the house is put in order. Let us remind this house that a R2 increase may seem small on paper but a domestic worker, a student travelling twice daily, to a pensioner living on a fixed income this increase is a tax on the poor as it is executed without transparency or any consultations. It is worst because this is being proposed while the Municipality has failed to account for critical questions around how these bus system is managed from finances to appointments.

The EFF places the following demands clearly on the table:

1. No fare increase must be approved or implemented until a full report is tabled to Council on the financial operations of the Bus-in Transit system including current income, oversight mechanisms, and payment platforms.
2. A moratorium must be placed on all fare adjustments until there is public consultation and community participation in this process.
3. The full audit trail of the IPTN project must be made available to councillors, including recruitment records, financial records, and compliance with national public transport regulations.
4. A restructuring of the IPTN management must be considered, and where necessary, disciplinary action must be taken against those responsible for mismanagement and fruitless expenditure.

In conclusion, the project must come first. Honourable Speaker, if public transport is not affordable, it is not public. If it is not reliable, it is not service. And if it is not accountable, then it becomes another burden not a solution for the people of Mangaung. The EFF will not sit idly while the working class is squeezed for every cent, just to fund a system that doesn't work and leaders who refuse to be held accountable. This proposed fare increase must fall. And a new era of clean, people driven, and transparent public transport governance must rise. Thank you."

Councillor MW Mongale addressed the Council: "Honourable Speaker on the tariffs of IPTN, I will start by being honest with the Council to say; we reject the 20% increase. We do not know which scientific analysis was used to arrive to 20% while the annual increase for a lot of institutions is 5%. We warned you about your diesel thing that it is going to be costly, and it is not sustainable. We said you must use hybrid busses that will maybe use diesel and electricity or electricity busses because at least it can travel 250km before it can be recharged but you chose not to listen and now you are coming here asking for a 20% increase while the majority of the people using those buses are the poor.

We recommend that there should be an investigation to which model if transport that is environmentally friendly, affordable, accessible and reliable than to find the quick fix of buying busses on a hurry without doing the thorough analysis. The other issue is that the bus is being increased while there is a matter that was raised by the EFF to say the buses are not there in Botshabelo, Thaba Nchu and other towns of Mangaung but you want to increase the tariff. At the same time, the same buses do not even go to the township even though there were millions that were spent on the road of IPTN in the township where it was said that the road was renovated for the purposes of allowing the busses to travel in the township.

Today's day, we have not seen even 1 bus travelling in the township and we do not know when they are going to be released but we know that we are increasing the price by 20%. And the same road that was renovated for IPTN has got life taking potholes. Life taking means that pothole if you can be reckless and fall into it, you will die. On the road infrastructure that is new and was supposed to be on the top level because it was supposed to receive busses which we were told that it they were new models, a new system and new rapid transport bus system.

We have not yet received the report on the corruption of IPTN especially around the depo because we want to see busses going to their depo that was paid for. If they cannot go there, the Council must give us an explanation why not that depo and what happened with the money. The other thing is the way the buses were erected, every bus worth R1.5 million and there was no investigation to verify whether was indeed the R1.5 million every bus stop that was made up until to the next entrance of Tempe.

The Auditor General has complained about this Municipality, and this is the same Municipality that want us to trust them again with another money increase while part of the corruption could have saved us off that tariff increase by 20%. I think the community is being made to pay for corruption even though those who were corrupt have not yet faced the mouth of the law, but the community is going to pay. Maybe we should tell the community that you are going to pay the 20% increase because of corruption of IPTN where there was no consequence."

Councillor KD Tshwane addressed the Council: “Speaker I want to do a scientific experiment here of a language because I have heard that there were so many experts who were doing a lot in terms of language and interpreting the terminology there, I want to test it with my language in this speech. Let me start by saying, this child whom we call IPTN is a very small child. We are still nursing him because we have placed him in service since last year. We haven’t experience great things which we are expecting as yet, just as other Councillors alluded.

The main reason that made us bring this item here in Council is because we want to see progress in this operation. Remember Speaker, the previous budget Council, some of the Councillors did not show up even though they are judging us now saying we have put some items under the carpet. They could not attend that Council because they were afraid that the community will notice which items they vote for and which ones they don’t. They did not notice when we passed all the Municipal tariffs...”

Councillor GJ Lipale raised a point of order and remarked that he heard the rumour that the EFF ran away from voting for or against the budget. That if they do not agree with the budget, they are not afraid to vote against or for it, but the organisation that has put them here, had by-election at Ngwathe Municipality and they were mandated to go there. That in the EFF, once the President speaks, they go, we were not afraid to vote for the budget.

Councillor KD Tshwane continued: “The ANC also went to those by-elections but still managed to get to the Budget Council meeting so that they see to it that the Council is well coordinated and sit appropriately as arranged. We have brought this item here, because we want Council to consider these points; we are aware that tomorrow on the 1st of July 2025, these tariffs will be effected and as the ANC we are aware that some of the issues were not dealt with properly, therefore we decided to request Council to grant us at least three (3) months to prepare properly so that when we effect these tariffs, then we know that all the challenges related were dealt with accordingly.

In Conclusion, we are aware that previously, there were challenges in terms of the manual tickets hence we want to introduce these beautiful electronic machines inside the buses to allow passengers to receive the invoice immediately when they pay the bus. Within these 3 months that we are requesting from Council, we will be installing these electronic machines inside the buses so that the new tariffs collection will be effected when the machines are already installed. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr KC Moreeng addressed the Council: “Mister Speaker as I stand up to address this Council, the residents of Mangaung who are following this Council on social media platform, has requested me to greet those Councillors who have been elected in 2021 but have never stood up in Council to deliberate on the issues that bothers their communities. They have been sitting in this Council for the past four (4) years doing nothing.

Mister Speaker the buses have got the machines, but they are not operational. The money is being collected and being put inside the bag for the longest time thus far and we have pleaded

with Council In terms of that issue because it will cause a huge problem and may encourage deeds of corruption. The problem is that service providers are afraid to do business with us.

Honourable Speaker, Councillors and fellow residents of Mangaung, today we deliberate not only on a three-month condonation of the IPTN fare increase, but on the future credibility of this Council, the integrity of our systems, and the trust of every commuter who rides our buses. It is vital that we proceed with eyes wide open acknowledging the very real risks that it entails.

Let me speak frankly to the disadvantages we must manage:

1. **Temporary Revenue Shortfall:** By delaying the new tariff for three months, we will incur a funding gap that impacts fuel purchases, essential vehicle maintenance and staff overtime. We must identify bridging finance now to avoid service interruptions.
2. **Erosion of Institutional Discipline:** Granting a post-adoption condonation risks signalling that Council resolutions can be renegotiated at will. We must reinforce that this is a one-off, emergency-driven measure—never a new norm.
3. **Reputational Risk in Public Messaging:** Without crystal-clear explanation, residents may read this as political back-peddalling rather than prudent timing, undermining confidence in our leadership. A targeted communications campaign—bilingual and transparent—will be non-negotiable.
4. **Operational Contingency Pressure:** Our Automated Fare Collection (AFC) and Advanced Passenger Transport Management System (APTMS) roll-out must hit every milestone between now and October. Any further delay amplifies criticism and commuter frustration.
5. **Misaligned Budget Performance:** While Treasury assures us that annual revenue projections remain intact, even small deviations can cascade into adjustments elsewhere in the municipal budget. We must closely monitor monthly revenue reports.
6. **Risk of Uneven Benefit Distribution:** Maintaining the lower fare temporarily could advantage routes that are already well serviced, while underserved areas still wait for service improvements. We must pair the condonation with service-level guarantees across all routes.
7. **Political and Legal Precedent Setting:** This decision may invite future calls for similar delays whenever systems lag. We must codify strict criteria for any future condonations—tying them to demonstrable, objective readiness metrics.

This should be a pause rooted in responsibility, not reluctance. With robust mitigation measures in place—bridging finance allocations, a rock-solid roll-out timetable, an inclusive communications strategy, and equitable service guarantees—we can manage every one of these disadvantages. Honourable Councillors, this is our moment to demonstrate that prudent governance and empathy can go hand-in-hand. We must ensure that our mitigation commitments are rigorously enforced and transparently reported back to this Chamber. Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Councillor De Bruin addressed the Council: “Dankie, Spreker. Ek gaan vandag my moedertaal gebruik. Ek vertrou dat Majoro Afrikaans verstaan.

Eerstens, Spreker, is ek van mening dat hierdie item gewysig behoort te word. In plaas daarvan om voort te gaan met ’n tariefverhoging, behoort ons Majoro vra vir nog drie maande se geleentheid— nie vir ’n tariefverhoging nie, maar sodat die Valke daadwerklik kan begin optree teen die korrupsie gedurende hierdie drie maande.

In die eerste plek is ’n verhoging van twee rand reeds ’n groot bedrag. Ek glo ons kan daardie twee rand eerder gebruik om slaggate te herstel, voordat ons ons moeders en vaders na verskillende huishoudings stuur met ’n verhoging van R2, terwyl hulle reeds swaar werk in erwe as tuinwerkers en kombuishulpe. Ons kan dit eenvoudig nie bekostig nie — nie eens ’n verhoging van twee rand nie. Ons mense rook reeds sigarette van 50 sent; waar moet hulle dan nog die ekstra twee rand vandaan kry?

Spreker, dit is ’n baie betreuenswaardige situasie dat hierdie depot vir vyf jaar onder die verantwoordelikheid van die Wyksraadslid van Wyk 16 gestaan het. In daardie vyf jaar was sy meer besorg oor finansies as oor haar wyk. In daardie tydperk moes die depot reeds voltooi gewees het. Sy het die wyk in die steek gelaat.

Indien ’n bedrag van R92,2 miljoen bestee is aan ’n sogenaamde “wit olifant” wat vir vyf jaar lank leeg en onbenut staan, hoeveel mense uit die gemeenskap kon daar nie werk gekry het en ’n stukkie brood op die tafel gesit het nie? In plaas daarvan is die geld deur korrupsie verlore.

Hoeveel strate is herstel? Die hele Moshoeshoestraat is reggemaak. Die pad daar by Batho is reggemaak. Busse behoort daar te ry, maar daar is slegs tien busse uit ’n totaal van driehonderd. Waar is die ander driehonderd busse? Gee vir ons die driehonderd busse wat tussen al die gebiede moet ry. Dit is hoe die geld bestee behoort te word.

Spreker, vir vyf jaar lank het ons Wyksraadslid van Wyk 16 slegs plastiekstoele aan ons gemeenskap gegee as deel van haar GOP (IDP). Sy behoort daarom nie in 2026 weer ’n stem van hierdie gemeenskap te kom soek nie, aangesien sy die gemeenskap in die steek gelaat het.”

Councillor CL Kruger raised point of order and remarked that: “There is a time for jokes and there is a time for character assassination. People must be factual before they try to attack especially if they lost the elections with 26 votes, we understand the anger. That she has been a Councillor now for three (3) and half years and knows for the fact that when the depo was established, it was under the DA; where former Councillor M Kganakga was the responsible Councillor but lost against and change to the PA for the bi-elections and lost dismally. That people are dealing with historical pain, and they must not use Logan Kruger for lies. That people must speak to what is factual and their emotions must not be entertained.”

Councillor JM De Bruin remarked: “Ja, Spreker, ek hou my tyd dop. Ek dink sy mors nog my tyd. Vir ’n Raadslid om my te onderbreek.

Spreker, u weet daardie wit olifant wat nog daar staan, is dieselfde wit olifant wat hier staan — net soos al die taxi’s wat soos kakkerlakke oral in die stad rondstaan.

Dieselfde gaan met daardie bushalte gebeur. Majoro, kan u asseblief begin om aanspreeklikheid te neem oor die IPTN-saak.”

Councillor AP Terblanche raised a point of order and remarked as follows: “Dankie, Meneer Voorsitter. Ek wil die Raadslid Logan net herinner dat daar wel ontwikkeling plaasgevind het in die betrokke wyk gedurende die tyd toe dit onder Mogadi se verantwoordelikheid geval het. Onder andere is daar 'n vloer gegiet.

Nadat die ANC die wyk oorgeneem het, het daar geen verdere ontwikkeling plaasgevind nie. Die raadslid moet asseblief nie die gemeenskap mislei deur te beweer dat daar niks gebeur het nie. Daar het wel iets plaasgevind, maar die persone wat destyds betrokke was, is tans nie meer daar nie. Dankie.”

Councillor VS Sogaqa remarked that can Council have a look on the issue of NERSA because it has an implication for the 1st of July 2025 with regards to the tariff increase.

Councillor R Hashatsi addressed the Council: “Thank you Honourable Speaker, the document itself clearly shows the purpose being to update Council about the IPTN report and request for bus tariff increment. In 2007, 13 South African citizens embarked on implementing IPTN guided by the Public Transport Strategy and Action Plan published by National Department of Transport. They swore to reform public transport industries across South Africa by 2020 to avoid increasing congestion, passenger disinfection by overcrowding, long travel times, high travel costs and safety concerns. The IPTN is a critical component under Public Safety and Security Directorate. The Municipality tabled its final general tariffs of 2025/2026 to 2027/2028 MTREF period to Council for adoption.

Therefore, the adopted tariffs should be implemented for the 1 July 2025 for 2025/2026 financial year. As the department, we are humbly requesting condonation from this Council to delay the implementation bus fare for 3 months which will be from 1 July until 1 October 2025. The current bus fare for 2024/2025 financial year is R10 which is adjusted to R12 for 2025/2026 financial year, therefore the directorate has identified to need to deal with the bus fare hence tabling the condonation of IPTN to this Council.

The directorate is in the process of procuring the services of commission, maintain expanded, fair collection and advanced public transport management system. Therefore, our objective is to implement and adjust bus fare once we have procured the system. In this regard, to the predicted revenue collection tabled before the Council, the directorate will still reach its target of this financial year under the review. The requested condonation is for 3 months, therefore us fare of R12 will be implemented from the 1st of October 2025 for 2025/2026.

The Public Safety and Transport request Council to consider the request of condonation of these tariffs in October. In simple words, we apologise for the delay to implement and increase our tariffs as agreed on the 1st of July 2025 but condone it to the 1st of October 2025.

In our previous budget, we have made a resolution that we are going to increase our tariffs by 1st of July 2025. Therefore, we are here in this Council to agree that we should condone those agreements to the 1st of October 2025.

Honourable Speaker, the SUMPEX will be one of the technologies that is improving and developing services on a daily basis such as fuel prices and fuel of gas. Therefore, as the Municipality we cannot stand in one place, we should be moving. We have economic cycles that are changing every day. A R2 does not mean we are getting off the target that we need to face on this Municipality. We are trying to build a sustainable improved system as Councillor Mongale indicated, and I am in support of the item. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Executive Mayor responded: “Honourable Speaker, our Councillor from DA and our last Councillor are on point. They seem to be belonging under the same Section 80 Committee, because if you listen to their line of debate, it displays that the Committee would have discussed. The truth is that we are not discussing the R2, but we are discussing the condonation, the issues of tariffs were agreed long time by the Council, and they were supposed to be effected by the 1st July 2025.

The condonation is that they cannot affect them at that particular said time and date, and they are therefore asking the Council to give condonation. So, they are on point in terms of looking at what was table before the Council. Again, Honourable Speaker, public transport, transport plan, transport mode and transport infrastructure, all of them have got a name called transport but they do not mean the same thing.

The IPTN tariff increment and condonation and IPTN and forensic investigation are two different things, they are parallel. They might have IPTN in them, but they are not the same things. If you look into the report of the IPTN that is where you will find that there were issues that were raised and investigated which are under review and some of them are under law enforcement as well as the asset forfeiture unit. So, we should not collate whatever we think relate when it does not relate. As for the IPTN, it is a separate matter altogether and it is handled and attended to subject to the issues that was tabled before us and it came before the Council, it served, and it is attended to.”

The Council voted as follows: 44 votes in favour, 11 against and 23 abstained

It was thereupon with

RESOLVED

- a) That the Council took note of the tariff adjustment of 2025/2026 financial year.
- b) That Council granted approval for IPTN Tariff Increment Condonation for a period of three (3) months.
- c) That Council granted approval for bus fare of R12 to be implemented from 1 October 2025/2026.

9.

NERSA TARIFF APPROVAL EFFECTIVE ON 01 JULY 2025

Executive Mayor remarked: “Honourable Speaker, I don’t think I really need to explain a lot on that. I believe there is grounded politicians and citizens of this Country who would know how the NERSA and the Water Board operates with regards to tariffs. So, here they are, there was an issue in the past before us and I think it is more of an item that the Council must also note.”

Councillor GJ Lipale addressed the Council: “Mister Speaker, there are already tariffs of Centlec that has already went out. The communication shows that the tariffs have been approved and I do not understand why as Council do we have to have a discussion around this item. As the EFF we are saying, we are out because the communication with regards to this item is already approved with the logo of the Municipality and it is circulated on social platforms. Anyway, NERSA has already spoken and our debates as this Council will not change anything. Why are we even sitting here discussing this item?”

Council Whip, Councillor Nikelo addressed the Council: “Honourable Speaker, the issue of NERSA tariffs is that it is not only the business of Council, but it is in the public domain because it is the gazette. And that means everybody can access the gazette at any time in terms of what is the decision that NERSA has decided. The issue of this matter being already on the public domain, does not stop the business of Council to conclude on that particular matter because as Council, we have an obligation to approve these particular tariffs as our tariffs as the Municipality.

For the fact that NERSA has decided on that particular issue, does not stop us from doing that and if EFF does not want to participate on that particular matter, it is still fine. it is important for Council to decide on that matter because there must be a resolution which must be taken by Council on those tariffs as stipulated. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

After the Speaker announced that Council would not be voting as the item was for noting; the Speaker at this point allowed TROIKA to advise if the meeting should continue or be adjourned due to the purpose of time and resume again on the 1st of July 2025.

Council Whip, Councillor VE Nikelo stated that TROIKA decided that the last two (2) items of the Executive Mayor will serve and only one Councillor from each party will be allowed to deliberate on the item, then the Council will adjourn. The rest of the items will then serve on the continuation of Council meeting which will sit on the 1st of July 2025 at 15:00, virtually on MS Teams.

As the meeting continued, the Speaker indicated that he would allow MPAC Chairperson, Councillor IJ Makoloane to speak on his items because he made the Speaker aware that the MPAC items were supposed to be concluded on the last day of June 2025, however he will simply amend his recommendations to allow Council to condone the late consideration of the MPAC oversight report.

Councillor IJ Makoloane agreed with the developments from TROIKA and Speaker of Council.

Councillor E Snyman Van Deventer asked for clarity if all the parties agreed to not say anything on MPAC, why can't the items be tabled and Council vote for the item.

Councillor BJ Viviers requested 5 minutes DA caucus.

Councillor M Davies remarked: "Thank you, Mister Speaker. I don't dispute what Councillor E Snyman Van Deventer suggested, however I just have a thing with regards to item 3 of the MPAC document if we all going to have a bite on it."

Council Whip, Councillor VE Nikelo advised the Council: "Honourable Speaker, now that the Councillors are raising these issues, we have noted them, including on the items of the Speaker, there is an issue of the schedule of Council meetings. These are issues that we need to deal with, but one thing that will assist all of us in terms of finding comfort is that, let us allow MPAC to table and once the items have been tabled, the debate on the items that were tabled, will then be discussed tomorrow for approval. The fact is that if they will be tabled on the 30th of June 2025, this means that they would have been tabled on time and should be considered as such; even though the discussions will continue on the 1st of July 2025 on this Council meeting continuation. Thank you, Honourable Speaker."

The Speaker concurred and appreciated the advice on behalf of the Council.

Councillor JM De Bruin raised a point of order: "Honourable Speaker, we must be transparent because all of us agreed that we will not come and debate on this item. We will just give the Chairperson a chance to speak on this item and now the DA comes with a story. Thank you."

The Speaker made a ruling that the Council will follow the proposed approach arising from the caucus of the Whips. Council will consider the last (two) 2 items of the Executive Mayor and allow one member from each political party to make a statement, then thereafter the Chairperson of MPAC will table his items. The meeting will then adjourn and continue again on the 1st of July 2025.

Councillor BJ Viviers raised a point of clarity asked whether they would deal with the In-Committee reports or not and that he has requested 5 minutes DA.

The Speaker responded: "Yes Councillor, we will distribute the report on the In Committee item so that it allows you to go through the report for tomorrow's meeting. I will further allow you to have your 5 minutes caucus in terms of the rules and hopefully the outcomes of your caucus will not influence the already proposed and adopted approach. Because if you come back and report different in accordance with what we have agreed on, then it means we will have to start afresh."

Councillor BJ Viviers reported to Council after the caucus: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker. We just had a look at all the hard called facts and as for the notice of this meeting which we received very late, and the harsh reality is that one should have realised with this long agenda that we will never finish today."

We also discussed the hush realities of having the virtual continuation meeting with all the problems that we normally have on teams, etc. However, as the DA Mangaung we are more than comfortable to accept the proposal that we will have the continuation meeting which is in your powers also Mister Speaker, as from 15:00 virtually tomorrow and the good understanding that we receive the microstructure report this evening. We have a feeling that in future, things will be arranged better.

Mister Speaker, as the Council Whip has indicated that the NERSA item is for noting and the recommendation reads the same, can we please reconsider that we do not have to deal with the item for the same reasons that it is for noting. Normally the Speaker don't let us vote for it and we don't have to take any decision, then we do not have to deal with item 9, but we continue with item 10."

Council Whip, Councillor VE Nikelo remarked: "Honourable Speaker, I understand what Councillor BJ Viviers is saying towards that particular item and under normal circumstances, I would agree. But I would also want to bring under the attention of the house, recommendation 3 where it should also be recalled that when we do our budget, we had a budget tariff of about 13.5% of which now, based on the tariffs of NERSA, the Council must retrospectively approve the 12.74% because we are now moving from 13.5% that was budgeted for. I agree, under normal circumstances there will be no need for us to discuss on it, but at the same time if the house agrees we can just go straight into dividing the house in this particular item and we finalize on it. Thank you, Honourable Speaker."

Councillor S Pretorius remarked: "Thank you, Mister Speaker. I just want to assist. There is no recommendation that says Council must vote. There is no need for us to vote, the recommendation says that Council must take note of one, two and three. It has already been approved by NERSA, it has already been circulated by CENTLEC, we do not have to vote. Whether we vote for it or not, NERSA is a national energy regulated company, they decide."

Council did not vote as the item was for noting.

It was thereupon

RESOLVED that the Council took note that:

1. The changes as set out above report along with the revised Annexures and NERSA approvals.
2. Eskom decrease from the overall Megaflex tariff rate of 12.74% to Municipal Specific tariff rate of 11.32%.
3. Budgeted tariff of 13.5% and the final approved tariff of 12.4% application results in a revenue shortfall of R42.7 million for the 2025/26 financial year.
4. The final approved NERSA tariffs for implementation on the 01 July 2025.

10.

REQUEST FOR RECOMMENDATION OF TWELVE (12) POLICIES ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY(ICT)TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.

Executive Mayor tabled the report as follows: “Honourable Speaker, this item is step ahead and it is also budgeted for, but in a way to improve on our communication, skill as well as IT, remember, and I am sure Councillor GDP Kotze will recall the cyber attach that the City experienced whereby they demanded a ransom being the first to know about it. It is part of what I am trying to say, and it should be addressed on this one. So those policies are meant to do that and Speaker these are the items that I am tabling to you. And for emphasis I have got MMC’s that are responsible on each item and for purposes of clarity, they be given an opportunity to do a follow up. So, hence I raise it up, I request those MMC’s to be given an opportunity for the last bite if it affects them so that they can provide further clarification. On that note, thank you very much Speaker for the opportunity that I am given and those are the items, Honourable Speaker. I submit, thank you.”

Councillor JH Denner addressed the Council: “Thank you, Mister Speaker. The Freedom Front Plus has reviewed the 12 proposed ICT Policies and Frameworks currently before Council. After careful consideration, we can confirm that these documents align with recognising ICT standards as such we will support the approval of these policies framework. However, Mister Speaker, the policy alone does not guarantee success. Our concern lies in the implementation thereof.

At this stage where technology meet real world operations, that’s when things fall apart. Unless we approach this with care, Mangaung could phase the very real risk of turning a promising digital framework into expensive and fruitless exercise. We must ensure that when these technologies and manage services are procured, we acquire the real product and services industry leaders, and they too meet these recognised industry standards. Mister Speaker, I say this with the utmost respect and someone with 20 years professional experience in the corporate world in this field.

I can assure you; it is no longer one size fits all operation. A decade ago, the Municipality could get away with 1 ICT General Manager and today the eco system has evolved dramatically. Now successful ICT operations require multiple specialised drills from cyber security clubs, management networking systems integration, to mention a few. These are highly, highly skilled disciplines and in South Africa like the rest of the world we short fall of these skills and personnel. Let me be clear, this is not criticism on our Municipal ICT, it is rather a cautionary note. If we fail to hire our own personnel or enter into proper management agreement systems with qualified providers, we will end up with policies on paper and no benefit on the ground.

We must be honest about the budget realities, these technologies are expensive, skilled personnel are expensive and effective implementation takes time. Council must prepare for this not just with funding but with realistic timelines and proper change management. Lastly Mister Speaker, I want to that, we have already seen consequences of breaches and failures in ICT system in the past. We cannot afford to make those mistakes again.

In conclusion, the Freedom Front Plus supports the approval of these policies but we will be keeping a close eye on the roll out, procurement, skills strategy and last but not least the budget. This gives me sleepless nights and it is not even my problem. It is serious, there are serious numbers involved here. If I look at the policies and what the Municipality wants to implement, this is too important for Mangaung to get it down. Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Councillor GDP Kotze addressed the Council: “Mister Speaker, I start with a question to the Executive Mayor as he oversees this Metro. "What safeguards are in place to ensure that all Municipal officials consistently follow IT security policies, and how non-compliance is handled to prevent exposing the entire Metro to cyber threats or data breaches?" Are you a bit lost in IT translation?

We are standing at a crossroads in Mangaung. The City is in urgent need of systems that are modern, responsive, and built to serve its people. Yet the reality we face today is one of administrative fragmentation, outdated infrastructure, and digital neglect.

We are living in an era where digital transformation is no longer optional – it is essential. Across the world, cities are embracing technology to improve service delivery, promote transparency, and empower citizens. But here in Mangaung, the opposite is happening. Despite years of planning, our ICT systems are failing.

The ICT Strategic Plan before us exposes this truth clearly. It is an ambitious plan, but also a sobering reminder of the gaps that remain.

Take note: our ICT governance is weak. Although a framework exists, it is rarely followed. The ICT Steering Committee barely meets, and departments continue to procure systems independently — resulting in waste and a lack of cohesion.

Our infrastructure is obsolete. Many officials are working with outdated computers, unreliable internet, and limited mobility. This directly affects service teams who are unable to respond efficiently to community needs.

Our systems are not integrated. Key platforms like GIS, finance, HR, and customer service operate in silos. The result? Duplicated data, inefficiencies, and no single source of truth to support decision-making.

And perhaps most concerning, we have no functional cybersecurity or disaster recovery strategy. In an age of rising cyber threats, this is an unacceptable risk to municipal operations and resident data. Despite these critical failures, the ANC-led administration continues to delay action, even as over R151 million has been earmarked for ICT over the next three years.

Without strong oversight and clear implementation milestones, this too risks becoming another wasted opportunity. The Democratic Alliance strongly recommends the following:

1. Enforce ICT governance: We will establish an active and accountable ICT Steering Committee, with regular oversight and cross-departmental coordination.

2. Modernise municipal infrastructure: Outdated systems will be replaced, mobile teams will be equipped with reliable tools, and connectivity across departments will be standardised.
3. Integrate platforms and data: We will unify core systems to ensure a single source of truth — enabling faster decision-making and better resident engagement.
4. Prioritise cyber readiness: A fully developed disaster recovery site and centralised cybersecurity framework will be put in place to protect municipal assets and data.
5. Build digital capacity: Training programmes will be rolled out to upskill municipal staff, ensuring that technology becomes a tool for productivity, not frustration.
6. Enhance resident access: From billing to service tracking, we will provide accessible online platforms that make it easier for residents to engage with their city.

These are concrete steps that will rebuild the foundation of governance in Mangaung. The vision of a smart, responsive, and people-focused city is within reach, but it will require bold leadership, strong systems, and the political will to do what the ANC has repeatedly failed to do. The Democratic Alliance is ready to lead that change, come 2026. Thank you.”

Councillor DL Malebo addressed the Council: “Thank you, Mister Speaker. The EFF rise again to address presentation of the ICT policies under Corporate Service Committee. We approach this matter with the seriousness it deserves because in the digital age, information is power, and the security of that information is public trust. It is no longer enough for the Municipality to build roads and patch the pipes in 2025. Digital infrastructure information governance and cyber resilience of the Municipality are as crucial as electricity and water, and we cannot afford to be left behind technologically, not administratively and certainly not in state of compliance.

We welcome the submission of these ICT policies, but we want to it to be noted that we, as Councillors are often left in the dark about what frameworks are in place to protect both the systems we work on and the person information of the residents we serve. This Municipality must not only draft policies for compliance, but it must also internalise, implement and regularly communicate these frameworks to all stakeholders.

Each of these policies on paper present the solid intention to modernise our system, protect sensitive information and ensure business continuity in the phase of cyber risk. However, policies alone are not enough. And as the EFF we want to place it firmly on record that we will only support this item if it is backed by the real-world implementation, visible compliance and transparent communication with all Councillors and departments.

Firstly, Mister Speaker, cyber security is not a luxury, it is a necessity, the rise in ransom where fishing an infrastructure, breaches across the country is alarming. Our Municipality cannot be reactive, we must be proactive ensuring our systems are locked down, regularly tested and updated not just by a policy but in daily practice.

Secondly, cloud computing and data systems while efficient must be supported by robbers' risk assessment, caused benefit analysis and service level agreement with accountable vetted service providers. We need full clarity on when Municipal data is stored, who access it, and what protocols governs its usage.

Thirdly, Mister Speaker, the disaster recovery and business continuity plans must not exist in a draft form or theory. Our residents cannot be made to suffer administratively delays, broken systems or unprotected services platforms because of a technical failure. These plans must be operational tested and regularly reviewed especially considering the increase reliance on digital platforms post covid 19. Furthermore, it is essential that we adhere to POPI Act especially where the personal information of residents, employees and service users is concerned.

Every file, record, biometric entry held by this Municipality is sacred and must be treated as such. non-compliance is not an option because damage could be caused to the employees and the public confidence is irreversible. It is not surprised that under the ANC led Municipality, critical ICT infrastructure continues to lack behind. Not due to lack of policy document but because of a chronic failure to implementation, monitor and modernised systems in line with national and international best practices.

Year after year, we see internal system crushing, networks left vulnerable, and data being mismanaged or lost all while tenders are dished out to politically connected entities that deliver nothing but outdated software and overprice maintenance contracts. This is a clear case political misrule failed through administrative breakdown.

What is even more dangerous is that this governance incompetence opens the door to cyber with potential ransom where attacks data leaks and digital service disruptions that could cripple Municipal operations and expose sensitive residents' information. The ANC led Municipality has not shown the urgency required to combat the escalating threat of cybercrime".

Councillor JI Mokoena addressed the Council: "Thank you Speaker, in addressing this important particular aspect relating to ICT policies, I am only going to address myself to the ICT strategies in support of what I believe it is a well worked through document that for the first time, it is one of the few documents that demonstrates that the people who drafted this really applied their minds to these policies.

But before I do that, I just wanted to think that last night when I was preparing for this meeting, and I decided to the announcement that I did earlier before the meeting entitled "Hope and Inspiration in the midst of helplessness in the socio and political turmoil". At some point I thought of including "lack of leadership and ethical corrupt leadership" but I decided to strike on a positive note for this particular meeting.

I alluded to the fact that when we are united, as one people under one country, irrespective of our different ideological positions, we are able to can succeed where others think we will become weak. And I want to make an example in relation to this Council. The Springbok comes from a diverse historical background as a team, however in the playground they are all united under one simple thing – they want to win on behalf of this Country.

Under Themba Bavuma, the Proteas, I also don't think they come from the same political party, but they are united by one thing that they want to win as the cricket team, and they want to make this Country proud.

I heard you Honourable Speaker, saying that Councillor MW Mongale is combative but for the first time I want to allude to what has been the practice of what I believe is worrying from the Executive Mayor that he is the one that introduces things that are divisive, that insult others and that has brought us on the raises, and then he says "I am the Mayor of the City", then he is the Mayor of defending certain things.

I think it is quite important as a leader you rise above petty, egoistic things and you remember the leadership that you have to provide to a collective so that we can win as the Municipality. These contributions that we make in Council, we make them on the basis that we own the problem, we own the solution and as a result we want to work, all of us.

The ICT strategy Honourable Speaker, going to it, so I want to implore that there be it handed around imploring the same thing that you implored to Councillor MW Mongale around the rules. ICT has not become a nice to have it has not become just an enabler but a driver of development, a driver of transformation. This Municipality and all the other things we pass today, all are affected in one shape or the other, by the kind of ICT that we are going to embrace as the Municipality.

And these strategies I believe, we need to make sure that it is not on paper but we provide leadership and as Councillors we implement this because this is what is going to define whether we become a winning Municipality or a Municipality that is going to limp into the next century. ICT enablement and digitalisation will assist us to provide a citizen centric service that is affordable and efficient that will make sure that there is transparency in all that we do.

And to that extend, I would like to embrace the recommendations as contained herein and I want to say, we must implement them, but I will also want to make a proposal. Unlike an issue relating to CIP where a Councillor was saying, we must have a capital expenditure proposal for 10 years that will make sure that we implement what was adopted by Council. ICT is very expensive as Councillor JH Denner has said, I think we must make an effort to support this not a nice to have but as a fundamental basis that will make us to win. Thank you."

Councillor MM Letawana addresses Council: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Let me stand on the protocol that has been established and go straight to the inputs made in particular by Councillor JH Denner, Councillor JI Mokoena and Councillor DL Malebo. I think it shows the discussion that took place at the Committee level, and I am disappointed with the input made by Councillor GDP Kotze because it is more of politicising and campaigning more than addressing the issue at hand.

The matter served at the Section 80 Committee wherein most of the members attended. Councillor JI Mokoena, those who do not know, might even think that you are a member in that Section 80 Committee due to manner of your contribution towards improving on the submission made. While we appreciate that the ICT plays a crucial role in the modernisation of the workplace, and we are also recognising the challenges that comes with those benefits.

I think those Councillors that have spoken before me have already touched on the challenges that comes with the implementation of this ICT.

We believe that the implementation of these policies will provide a valuable insight into the business operations, customer behaviour trends as well as contributing into the decision-making processes. These benefits will also serve as trimers for cost cutting as well as reducing paperwork as well as optimisation of resources allocation. Proposed ICT strategy outlines the new roadmap and if you check page 23 of that strategy, it will give you the roadmap from the 1st of July 2025 up until the third year which will be 2028.

It entails all those activities that the department will undertake in order to make sure that we implement everything that has been indicated in these policies with time frames attached to them. The roadmap will be for digitally empowered to promote innovation as well as a protective Municipality where customers will have a reliable and secure access to Municipal services. It will also provide a responsive online citizen centred services with a vision to build knowledge and digital economy through public private partnership, Councillor JH Denner.

This is what we recommended that where we believe that we are going to be able to have enough resources to can attend to immediate activities. We should go out and look for implementation of a public private partnership. And this. I do not believe that it will be just a paperwork exercise as other Councillors have indicated.

Because if all of us listened to what Audit Committee reported under ICT, the delay with regards to us bringing the policies here, was that the primary task was to first: conduct an assessment in terms of our infrastructure assessment. That assessment is the one that informs the policies that we are presenting today before this house, and we believe that all of us including the DA are going to be in support of these policies. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Executive Mayor replied: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Let me bring a broad observation first before what I would like to leave this Council with. Honourable Speaker, covid 19 kindled the artificial intelligence to an extent that not only Mangaung Municipality and not only South Africa but generally and globally the migration to digital device and artificial intelligence became the order of the day. That is answerable even to the empty buildings that we see in some corridors because people started operating through gadgets and from their back yards. Much as it was a devastating pandemic that came our way, in its existence brought in some rapid development in this space.

The document and the submission today, over and above the debate that has been deliberated before us, it gives us answerers to bring us to par with that development. Honourable Speaker, I am here representing the Council, the Council that have different parties that were elected, and I happen to come from the majority party and that majority party has got a policy. That policy is driven by the clause that are enshrine in the Freedom Charter.

If I may state them: *The first one says: “the people shall govern”.*

The second one says: “the people shall share in the country as well”.

The third one says: “the land shall be shared amongst those who work it”

The fourth one says: "all shall have equal rights".

The fifth one says: "all shall enjoy equal rights".

The sixth one and this one deals with the bills of quantity.

The seventh one deals with "there shall be work and security".

The eighth one speaks to "education – the door of learning culture shall open".

The ninth one: "there shall be housing, security and comfort".

The tenth one says: "there shall be peace and security".

If any party will support what we bring to Council based on the observation of the policies that are driven by the Freedom Charter, I will have no power because I must implement that policy. But if any party want to share its ideas inside of what I bring here, I will protect the policy of the African National Congress as a ruling party without any shadow of doubt to make sure that at the end of the debate, that policy that was elected, must be implemented. When I do that and I get to be dissuaded from that, obviously I will develop a thick skin and make sure that I sell that policy. What I would ask Councillors to understand is that we are in this together. But being in this together, does not then suggest that we have to buy your debate when they are not in line with what the policy entail, I must protect that policy.

I heard that the DA sees itself as the government in waiting, and I am sure when they come in somewhere in their pointing dream land, they will sell that policy which they say its theirs. But for now, it does not hold. Councillor JI Mokoena, I might be reactive in some of the issues that are raised. You can realise that I do not take peripheral things seriously, my history does not matter however rich may be. If distortions are cast, it does not really pain me. My focus is to make sure that I do not look side in implementing the policy by those interest that I shrine in the Freedom Charter. I think it should be understood that Honourable Speaker.

Sister, in the EFF side, I turn to like your line of debate. Initially I was under the impression that somebody is writing for you, but the perpetual way of presenting your story turn to make a compelling case to begin to your focus in some of the content that you raise. You live in the world ahead at some point, in the world parallel but the format in which you move, I like it. And the person I was during the day fighting for food, and the one that was talking, are two different people. I think the only advise I can relay to you is that deal with that emotional intelligence aspect of your conduct otherwise, if it is in you, I have someone that I can refer you in terms of interpreting processes. I thank you, Honourable Speaker".

The Speaker divided the house with regards to the recommendations that Councillor GDP Kotze proposed and 19 votes in favour, 43 against and 14 abstained

Councillor GDP Kotze remarked: "Mister Speaker, I am going to shock you now. Everything that I recommended in my recommendation is exactly recommendations in this report. In this strategic plan, I just changed the words, this is how the ANC is, this is how they listen. We just caught you out, go and listen to the recording and you decide for yourself. You have voted against your own strategic plan. Thank you."

The Speaker remarked: "I was about to ask you Councillor GDP Kotze that did you read these 12 strategies when you were making your proposals because I have read all those strategies

and I saw that everything you mentioned is contained in that report and I was really wondering why you are formulating new recommendations.”

The Speaker allowed the Council to vote.

It was thereupon unanimously

RESOLVED that the Council took note and approved all twelve (12) ICT Policies and ICT Strategy.

112	REPORTS FROM THE SPEAKER
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1.

ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE OF THE MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY FOR THE 2025/ 2026 FINANCIAL YEAR (JULY 2025 – JUNE 2026)

Cllr MA Morake tabled the report to Council as follows: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, the Executive Mayor, the Deputy Executive Mayor. All protocol observed.

Today we are in this Council. I am tabling this schedule of the Council, but what I want to remind Honourable Councillors is that the Speaker of a Municipal Council is responsible for ensuring Council meetings are held regularly, maintain order during those and ensure they are conducted in accordance with the Standing Rules and Orders of the council. This will include the agenda for Council meetings and overseeing the conduct of all members and attendance.

This is not just an exercise, but it is also an oversight that the Speaker is playing over Council because in this meeting, there will be quarterly reports, also special Council meetings for urgent matters. The meeting format of this Council can be physical, virtual or hybrid. So, I think that honorable members, we must really approve this schedule and then as far as the performance of Council, it ensures that we are up to scratch in terms of the Management Systems Act and the MFMA and all regulations that regulate local government and administration. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr E Snyman Van Deventer addressed the Council: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. The Freedom Front Plus welcomes the tabling of the calendar and the planning of meetings for the next financial year. We see it as encouraging that there is a structured plan that outlines legislative schedule and that there are key dates for governance. This is necessary for us to have a functional and accountable Council. However, Mister Speaker, a plan on paper, like I said yesterday with the other plans, it is only as good as its implementation. We've seen this already before and the problem is we don't actually keep to this schedule.

We therefore call on the Council whip, there is quite a lot of problems going on with the whippery, miscommunication, etc, the Speaker and all Committees, and Committee Chairpersons to take responsibility to ensure that the dates we have blocked today, are respected and honoured.

Postponements, last minute cancellations, we are so used to it and that disrupts the flow of Council business, but it also contributes to a lack of trust by the public in our Council.

Mister Speaker, linked to this concern is the functioning of our Section 79 and Section 80 Committees. These committees are the engines of oversight and it's also they are responsible to ensure good governance in this Council. If they do not operate regularly, if they are not effective, it leads to problems in Council and obviously service delivery problems and one of the problems that we find here is that quite often, we have to refer or we request that things are referred back to Committees and I do not think that reflects well on Council.

I want to draw your attention to the process or process flow set out on page 5 of the agenda and let's keep in mind this process flow is not supposed to be a formality. If you look at that, you can see that the Section 79 and 80 Committees have a very specific and vital role to play in this. If they are not functional, the entire process collapses and I can remind you of question I think it was one Councillor from the DA yesterday and he referred to it of the microstructures serving today, it did not serve at the Section 80 Committee.

So, the Freedom Front Plus wants to make it clear that we are committed to constructive engagement, but the Council has a role to play in upkeeping standards of good governance. The success of Council is linked to how we operate if we want to serve our communities effectively. We want to restore dignity to this Council. We must respect our own processes and our own procedures and planning must be followed by execution.

Mister Speaker, this is not political point scoring. There is no media here. This is about how we operate and how we do the work we are supposed to do. Please, Mister Speaker, I really ask you and the Council Whip, the Executive Mayor and the Committee Chairpersons, let us all work together so that this plan is implemented and that we keep to it. Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Cllr MM Tladi supported the tabling of the item as presented by Cllr MA Morake.

Cllr M Davies addressed the Council: “Mister Speaker, your report states:

- The Speaker thereon prepared a schedule of meetings for the Council, Council Committees, and the City Manager provide the administration directive for meetings.
- The intention is to enhance effective and efficient planning systems and also to assist the administration to prepare well in advance.
- And thus, enabling the Council and Council Committee members to prepare timeously for the meetings.

The above is a joke, especially if you consider today’s meeting. No meetings were scheduled for June 2025, but at number 99 on Friday, we received notice of this hefty agenda for today.

If you look at the compliance assessment of the approved schedule of meetings for the 2024/25 financial year, out of the 10 scheduled meetings, only one meeting took place as schedules. That Mister Speaker gives you the groundbreaking score of 10% on compliance; congratulations give yourself a pat on the back.

11B

Mister Speaker, why do you compile this schedule and bring it to Council for adoption if you cannot even honour your own schedule? It is a disgrace that the custodian of Council cannot even comply with something as basic as implementing the schedule of meetings for Council to function as envisioned by the Constitution of South Africa. Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Cllr DL Malebo addressed the Council as follows: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, As the EFF we rise to express our position on the schedule and frequency of ordinary and special Council sitting in this institution. Let me put it on record that the EFF has no issue with the schedule itself. We understand and respect the importance of regular governance meetings, policy discussions and decision-making processes that must happen through properly constituted settings. Honourable Speaker, we are ready to debate to engage and to provide alternative views whenever necessary, because we are here to represent the people with vigilance and discipline.

However, Honourable Speaker, the real crisis is not when we meet it is how, where we are prepared to meet. The time frames in which documents are dispatched to Councillors ahead of these sittings are deeply problematic. Often large volumes of reports, agendas, leading and extra speaker and policies are sent at the last minute, leaving our researchers Councillors not only of the EFF but all parties represented in Council and support staff under extreme pressure to go through stacks of complex documentation in a very limited time. We are expected to prepare and scrutinize hundreds of pages on governance procurement, financial reporting, performance reviews and community services overnight, a task that is not only unrealistic Mister Speaker but is designed to cripple through oversight. It raises the question, is this delay a coincidence or a deliberate attempt by either Speaker, the ANC-led administration or the Speaker's office to prevent Councillors particularly from the EFF, identifying discrepancies, contradictions or even corruption which is under this current administration.

We say this because there is a clear pattern of rushed documentation especially for special Council sittings where urgent matters are pushed through without giving Councillors proper time to read and research. This undermines the spirit of participatory democracy. It limits our ability to ask sharp questions and it compromises our constitutional role of holding the executive accountable. This culture must stop.

The EFF demands that all Council documents be dispatched at least seven (7) calendar days in advance, Mister Speaker, in line with transparency and good governance principle. There is no excuse for repeated late dispatching unless the intention is to obscure information, frustrate scrutiny and sneak through irregularities without challenge. We have raised this matter many times before.

We remind this House, efficiency without transparency is the cause of corruption. If we are to restore public trust in this institution, we must not only meet regularly, but we must also meet prepared, informed and ready to serve. Anything less is an insult to our constitutional obligation and to the residents, we represent you. I thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Cllr PJ Rampai stated that he concurred with Cllr DL Malebo and further stated that he only received his documentation for the special Council meeting only yesterday and therefore did not get the chance to properly prepare for the Council meeting.

Cllr ME Dennis stated that at the multi-whippery meeting they agreed to block vote and the Council Whip concurred.

The block votes were as follows:

Cllr VE Nikelo, Council Whip – ANC 46 voting in favour

Cllr ME Dennis – DA 20 voting in favour

Cllr GJ Lipale – EFF 9 voting against

Cllr JM De Bruin – PA 2 voting in favour

Cllr JI Mokoena – AASD 1 voting in favour

Cllr JH Denner – FFP 4 voting in favour

Cllr PJ Rampai – ACDP 1 voting in favour

Cllr A Qai – AIC 1 voting in favour

Cllr PS Twala – ATM 1 voting in favour

It was thereupon with 76 votes in favour, 9 against and 0 abstained

RESOLVED

- (a) That Council approved the schedule of Council meetings and the standard operating procedure of the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipal Council for the 2025/2026 financial year (July 2025 to June 2026).
- (b) That Council took note that both the approved schedule of meetings and standard operating procedure will be uploaded on the municipal website of the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality.
- (c) That Councillors and administration must diarize the dates as per the schedule attached to the report.

2.

PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR PROPOSED NAMING AND RENAMING OF CERTAIN MAIN STREETS, DIFFERENT TOWNSHIPS, SETTLEMENTS, PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND FEATURES

Cllr TJ Mogotloane, Chairperson of the Section 79 Committee: Public Places and Street Naming tabled the item as follows:

“Thank you, Honourable Speaker

The Executive Mayor

The Deputy Executive Mayor

The Chief Whip

Honourable members of Mayco

Honourable Chairpersons of Section 79 Committees

Honourable fellow Councillors

Honourable Speaker. What's in a name? I hope to come back to answer this question towards the end of my presentation, if I am still on time.

It is a great pleasure to stand before this August House to present the report regarding the latest developments and progress we have acquired in the current term as a Committee. A special word of gratitude goes to Geographic Information Services for assistance in making sure that this Committee is functional, effective and vibrant after a long period of inactivity.

A special vote of thanks also goes to Directorates: Planning, Economic and Rural Development and Human Settlements, Technical Services as well as Finance for ensuring that the interest of our voters are taken into consideration within the boundaries and jurisdiction of the Mungaung Metro in terms of navigation, GPS, addresses delivery of accounts.

Honourable Speaker, the most important factor is that of culture significance. The Committee in its work reflects our history, culture, heritage and identity. It also helps in shaping our community's identity as well as sense of belonging.

In the name of travel and tourism, the Committee plays a vital role on well preserved heritage sites and meaningful street names that have potential to attract tourists and investors and thus boost the economy.

The other reason why we also encourage public awareness and participation is that the whole process of naming and renaming is because it serves as an educational tool to our public an outdoor classroom with potential to teach future generations about their heroes, heroines, icons, as well as fauna and flora.

Honourable Speaker, in order to enhance our culture and community history and diversity, it will also be vital to involve local residents, historians, experts and other stakeholders in the review of public places and City Naming Policy, which serve as the guiding tool in the process of renaming and naming of public places, municipal buildings, parks, cadastral features, streets, roads and other features.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, by prioritising our emergency services, community safety, disaster management, fire and rescue services, not forgetting heritage preservation in public places and street naming; we can honour our past and reach our present and inspire our future generations by effectively making sure that Mungaung Metro Council approves this report as well as allocating funds for the erection of poles, infrastructure development, nameplates, including maintenance of the existing infrastructure, the Committee will be very much grateful and honoured if today's Council can accept this item and positively vote for it, so that to benefit the community that voted for us.

In total, the names will be uploaded in the GPS and Google Maps for effective use by ambulances, law enforcement agencies, police, courier services, Municipal rates and tax accounts collection.

In Fire and Rescue services, the proposed 101 plus in the streets, plus one residential area will be funded by developers and contractors in the respective Wards where there are happenings. In due course, the Committee will report on servicing of the backlog, which goes back to 2012. The Policy herewith attached is also under review. On behalf of the Committee, I so submit. I thank you, Honourable Speak.”

Cllr JM de Bruin raised a point of order that three years ago they submitted a petition to change the name Sonnebloem to Dr Carson, however nothing has happened for the past three years hence he wanted to bring the matter to the attention of the Committee.

Cllr TJ Mogotloane stated that the matter has not yet be brought to the Committee’s attention, however, he would follow up on it.

Cllr TJ Mogotloane answered his question on “what’s in the name?”

That we call a rose by any other name which smells sweet.

A name bestowed with love and care carries legacy beyond compare.

A bridge to the ancestors long gone by, linking to the roots under the sky in every letter of the name, traditions dance, cultures blend in a timeless trance.

It is not just a tag or a mere id, but a link to history as deep as the sea.

Hold it close, wear it with pride, for in a name worlds reside.

A beacon of identity, clear and bright, shining through the darkest night.

I thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr ME Dennis remarked: “Thank you, Mister Speaker. I don't have all that flair of words that my chairperson has, but I wanted to say the DA will vote for this item. There are issues that need to be brought under your attention. This committee has no vote in the budget and does therefore receive no money to erect street names where needed. Planning and Road infrastructure both say that they do not have money in their votes for erecting of street names. I therefor urge you to rectify this as soon as possible.”

Cllr MA Matobole addressed the Council: “Honourable Speaker, fellow Councillors from across the political spectrum. I rise today not out of resistance to change, but from a profound sense of duty to protect the integrity of our governance processes and the well-being of the communities we serve.

Lack of Community Engagement: First and foremost, I must express deep concern over the apparent lack of comprehensive community engagement in this proposal. How can we, as a Municipality, justify the renaming of streets and public buildings without hearing the voices of those who walk these streets and use these buildings every day? The current approach undermines participatory democracy, and risks alienating residents, business owners, and civic stakeholders alike.

Disruption to Existing Infrastructure and Businesses

Signage & Mapping: Updating Road signs, digital maps, government records, and postal systems will come at a substantial cost—one that ratepayers may ultimately bear.

Business Impact: Street names form part of a business's identity. Abrupt changes could result in confusion, affect branding, and disrupt client access—especially for small enterprises still recovering from economic strain.

Resident Inconvenience: Navigating these changes may add layers of frustration for our communities, especially those relying on public transport or delivery services.

Visitor Experience: Tourism and external investment rely on clarity and ease of access. This measure risks creating confusion for tourists and visitors, undermining local economic potential.

Misplaced Priorities Amid Urgent Needs: While names have meaning, services have life-changing impact. We must ask ourselves: can we, in good conscience, invest in cosmetic changes while basic services: water, sanitation, electricity—remain inconsistent?

Let us redirect our collective energy toward:

- **Effective Service Delivery:** Restore public confidence by addressing the basics.
- **Infrastructure Investment:** Priorities projects that uplift communities and unlock long-term development.

A Call for Participatory Governance: I urge this Council to put the brakes on this renaming process. Let us go back to our people. Let us consult comprehensively. Let us honour both the spirit of our communities and the principles of good governance. Let our legacy not be etched merely on new signage—but in the lived realities of those we serve. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr GJ Lipale addressed the Council: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. The Economic Freedom Fighters arise today to express our clear and unwavering support for the renaming of streets, township and public spaces, particularly those that still carry names rooted in colonisation, apartheid and racist oppression. Let us state this unequivocally that as the EFF we have no issue supporting this item. In fact, this is the struggle we have long championed, both inside and outside this Council.

We support the renaming of areas, towns and streets and reflect the pain, trauma and legacy of white supremacy. There can be no unity or healing without confronting and correcting the symbols of our historical oppression. We have consistently led on this on this front. We did not start speaking about name changes today, the EFF was part of the broader student movement that led to the historic “Roads Must Fall campaign”, a turning point in the decolonisation of public spaces in South Africa. We have submitted motions right here in this very Council calling for the renaming of public spaces that is to honour the dignity of our people.

We have been on the ground with communities listening, educating and fighting to ensure that names reflect the heritage, struggle and victory of black people. This is not symbolism for us. It is a necessary part of correcting historical injustice. That is why names like Langenhoven Park, and many others must fall. These names are not innocent, they are statues in words reminding us of depression, exclusion and brutality. They belong in the museum out, not in the streets of our children and walk daily. Thanks, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr PJ Rampai stated that the ACDP in the Free State support the item.

The block votes were as follows:

Cllr VE Nikelo, Council Whip – ANC 47 voting in favour

Cllr ME Dennis – DA 22 voting in favour

Cllr GJ Lipale – EFF 9 voting in favour

Cllr JM De Bruin – PA 2 voting in favour

Cllr JI Mokoena – AASD 1 voting in favour

Cllr JH Denner – FFP 4 abstained

Cllr PJ Rampai – ACDP 1 voting in favour

Cllr A Qai – AIC 1 voting in favour

Cllr PS Twala – ATM 1 voting in favour

The Speaker announced the voting outcome as follows: 84 votes in favour, 0 against and 4 abstained

It was thereupon

RESOLVED

- (a) That Council approved the recommended names for proposed township and streets as indicated in paragraph 3.1.1 of the report. These are the substitute names because the proposed names did not fit into the spirit and letter of the policy.
- (b) That Council approved that the process of public participation as contained in paragraph 6.2 of the policy should be dispensed with and the proposed names should be treated in terms of Section 6.5.1.4 of the Policy which stipulates that the procedure under 6.2 will only be followed if any part of the area for which names are proposed is populated.

3.

REPORT ON COUNCIL RESOLUTION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/23 FINANCIAL YEAR, THE REPORT COVERS THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTER (JANUARY 2023 – JUNE 2023), FULL FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/24 (JULY 2023 – 2024) AND FURTHER COVERS FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/25 (JULY 2024 – MARCH 2025)

Cllr GDP Kotze addressed the Council: “Fellow residents of Mangaung, I stand before you today with a clear message: Oversight matters. Resolutions matter. And when the council fails to monitor and enforce the very decisions it makes, residents suffer. Council resolutions are not symbolic. They are binding decisions meant to improve services, address challenges, and protect the rights and safety of every resident. But what happens when those resolutions are ignored? Or worse, when they’re manipulated for political gain?”

Since the election of the current Speaker of Council, the tracking and implementation of resolutions have collapsed. The Speaker is consistently late with updates and progress reports. And because of this, oversight has failed. No one is held accountable, and the same mistakes keep happening. Let me be clear: the Democratic Alliance has not supported many of the reckless resolutions passed in this Council.

Time and again, we have warned the ANC and its partners in the AIC and ATM of the consequences. But instead of listening, they laughed — they jeered while we raised valid concerns.

Now, I ask: Why are we the worst-performing metro in South Africa? Why are we constantly receiving qualified audit opinions from the Auditor-General? Because the ANC refused to listen. Because they put politics before people. Let me give you just one example: In November last year, the President of South Africa announced that all municipalities must amend their bylaws to regulate Spaza shops — to ensure resident health and safety. To date, Mangaung has not approved amended bylaw, but the ANC has already issued licenses.

So, I must ask: Is the ANC looking after the well-being of residents who buy food and goods from Spaza shops? Or did they take money from the corrupt to issue licenses without legal backing? This is not just bad governance, this is betrayal. The ANC councillors and their enablers in the coalition have shown us what they really prioritise. Not the safety, health, or dignity of residents, but the pockets of corrupt officials and councillors.

The DA will continue to demand proper oversight, enforcement of resolutions, and protection for all Mangaung residents. We are not here to be silent. We are here to stand for what's right.

To conclude, Mister Speaker., I have submitted a letter to the MMC of Finance and the MMC of Corporate Services. Now that these resolutions will be tabled in Council, will you allow us to do our oversight as we have requested? Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Cllr E Snyman Van Deventer commented: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. The Freedom Front Plus wishes to extend appreciation to the Office of the Speaker for providing the register of resolutions. It is of course welcome and it is necessary if we have a well maintained and regularly updated register of resolutions which can serve as the conscience of this Council. It is a reflection of our commitments and the actions we want to take and the actions that need to be taken by both the Council and the Metro's officials.

But, Mister Speaker, we must express our concern. The last time this Council received a register of resolutions was during the tenure of former Speaker Councillor Stephanie Lockman. That's a very, very long time ago. So, we urge that moving forward, this register will be made available at regular intervals, preferably after each quarter. Timely access to this document is essential to ensure and all the fashionable words, transparency, accountability and effective implementation. So, this document will assist Councillors to make sure that there is effective implementation of Council decisions.

This is specifically important when it comes to the resolutions taken by MPAC, all that comes from MPAC and then approved by Council and also other recommendations that requires urgent implementation, but especially the MPAC recommendations linked to that without clear timely updates, we cannot fill out oversight role as Council. We cannot perform our duties effectively if we are kept in the dark about the status of our resolutions.

It's often very difficult to know whether the officials have actually implemented a Council decision. When resolutions are passed by Council is not implemented, it sends a very bad message to our constituencies, it suggests that the decisions of Council is being ignored and that we are disrespected and that oversight responsibility entrusted to us by our constituencies are being undermined and such negligence, is unacceptable and it erodes the public trust in Council.

This also refers to the huge number of items withdraw or referred back. We need to look at that and if you think about the item that's just the first item of the Speaker. We look at that if we have regular meetings, if we follow that process, there will be less items referred back because it would have served at the relevant Committee. So, from the Freedom Front Plus side, we want to ask, let us all commit to accountability. Let the register of resolutions not be a formality but let us use it rather as a working document that tracks our progress and that reminds every official, but also every Councillor of our responsibility to the Metro and its people. This document can assist us as Councillors in our oversight role. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr DL Malebo addressed the Council: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. The EFF rise on this important occasion, Mister Speaker, to reflect on all Council resolutions passed between January and March of this year and to place it on public record that, we have participated with integrity, clarity and revolutionary consistency in every item, guided by our unwavering commitments to the poor, the marginalized and the forgotten masses of Mangaung. We did not come to this Council to be passive participants, we came to be the voice of the landless, the unemployed, the excluded and the working-class majority, whose struggles are often cast, erased in elite political games and narrow budgetary priorities.

Over the course of these three months, resolutions have been tabled, debated and adopted, and the EFF has engaged with every single one of them with discipline and purpose. When the matter was just, when it advanced the lives of the people, and when it aligned with our values of economic justice, access to services and clean governance, we voted in favour, but equally, where resolutions were vague, anti-poor, corruptly motivated or geared towards protecting political cronies and enabling mismanagement, we did not hesitate to abstain, we rejected or boycotted those items. Our abstentions and rejections are not a sign of indecision. They are a firm declaration that we will not be complicit in decisions that further harm the poor.

We are proud to say that from January to March the EFF registered every vote not for convenience, but for conscience. We voted against bloated expenditure, travel and catering while clinics remain under resourced, we abstained from supporting unfunded and unrealistic projects which serve more as political peer than service delivery, and we boycotted sittings or items where the process was manipulated to silence the opposition and where transparency was deliberately avoided.

We want to say clearly to the public, EFF's presence in this Council is not ceremonial, it is revolutionary. Every position we take is rooted in the lived realities of the people who send us here. Every vote we cast or refuse to cast is a brick in the founding of the new South Africa. We are building a South Africa that works for the people, not for tenders and private gain.

In conclusion, Mister Speaker, the EFF will continue to be the conscience of this Council, the watchdog of the people's interest and the loudspeaker for the voiceless. From January to March and beyond, we remain on the side of the truth, accountability and the poor, and we will continue to fight for resolutions that uplift, not exploit.”

Cllr MM Tladi commented as follows: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. As the ANC, we want to thank the Office of the Speaker to bring to the attention of the Council to take note of the resolution of Council and its implementation for the year 2022 to 2023, 2023 to 2024. As the ANC Honourable Speaker, we take note that all the resolution of Council were implemented and as ANC Honourable Speaker, we want to advise the office of the Speaker and to make sure that they should not give priority to other items and should also take note that their items are important. We have noticed that all the items are being given priority, like the compliance items, public participation items from the Office of the Speaker, oversight items and service delivery items and also it is important for the Council to take note of their resolution and its implementation. As the ANC, we support the item, and we take note that this item was for noting. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Council did not vote as the item was for noting.

It was thereupon

RESOLVED that Council took note of the progress on Council Resolutions.

The Speaker afforded the Chairperson of MPAC, Councillor IJ Makoloane an opportunity to table the four (4) items of MPAC to Council and he presented the items as follows:

“Honourable Speaker, e re ke nke monyetla ona ho dumedisa baahi ba Mangaung le ho dumedisa Balekgotla ka kakaretso.

Honourable Speaker, it is with great humbleness and pleasure to submit to Council four (4) reports for consideration as they are stated under item 113 of the agenda.

Honourable Speaker, our first report seeks to request the condonement from Council for the late submission of MPAC oversight report. It is quite unassuming to report that there were some developments which delayed the submission such as lack of availability of senior managers especially from Mangaung MPAC public participation meetings to respond on concerns and questions raised by the community. Clash of the meetings of the Committee with other committees which resulted in the unavailability of venues.

The questions raised by MPAC covered a wide range of issues including amongst others budget allocations, expenditure reports, procurement processes, financial control and basic service delivery. However, the responses provided were in somewhat inadequate as there was a need for thorough clarities and follow ups with administration which has also contributed to the delays in the finalisation of the oversight report.

Honourable Speaker, the second report relates to the establishment of the Technical Committee to assist MPAC to addressing the historic and current backlogs investigating of unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

Honourable Speaker, as we are aware that our Municipality is operating within parameters of Financial Recovery Plan, the MPAC has concluded to utilise the already existing resources in form of human capital to constitute the cheap instead of outsourcing the processes which would have dire financial implications. The Technical Committee task team will report directly to the MPAC which will ensure that the reports of UIFWE are submitted to Council accordingly.

Honourable Speaker, the third one relates to consideration and noting of revised terms of reference of MPAC. This submission comes as a result of advice from National Treasury to MPAC following the amendments made in terms of Municipal Structures Act No 3 of 2021.

Honourable Speaker, the fourth report is the consideration of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee Oversight Report 2023/24. It should be noted that our work as MPAC is not only to hunt mistakes but ensure good governance, sound and accountable administration, promotion of some financial management and effective service delivery. And lastly, we stive for a clean audit.

Honourable Speaker allow me to dedicate this MPAC oversight report on annual performance report 2023/24 to men and women of stature in the likes of Councillors serving in MPAC, Office of MPAC, Technical Advisors of the Committee, and Committee Services. These people have performed stunning work beyond their official duties to ensure the development of this report.

Honourable Speaker, ke re nakong e tlang pele ke e kwala, ke nale ho dumedisa. Jwale, nna moo ke ahileng teng ke rutilwe hore, ha ke dumedisa, ke re kgotso Ntate Mathae, le wena o tlamehile hore kgotso Ntate Makoloane. Jwale nakong e tlang, ka hobane ken ale ho dumedisa Bo Molekgotla ba tla beng ba thotse, o seke wa mmakalla ha ke se ke sa dumedise, ke re kwete. Ka mantswe ana, ke re tanki ha ngwe, habedi, hararo. Ha e be kgotso!”

At this point, the Speaker referred to Rule 17.1 of the Standing Rules and Orders which read as thus: “the council or a committee may adjourn a meeting to any date or hour, but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting except such as was set out in the notice for the meeting of which it is an adjournment”. Adjourned the meeting and that it would continue as agreed on the 1st July 2025 at 15h00, Virtually on MS Teams.

NOTED.

1.

SUBMISSION: CONDONEMENT ON THE LATE SUBMISSION OF THE MPAC OVERSIGHT REPORT ON THE 2023/2024 ANNUAL REPORT

The Speaker requested clarity from the Chairperson of MPAC, Councillor IJ Makoloane on how to approach the item as Cllr JM De Bruin indicated that the members of the Committee agreed that all items of MPAC would not be discussed and the Chairperson of MPAC, Councillor IJ Makoloane indeed confirmed that the items would not be discussed.

After a thorough debate with regards to whether the Speaker would allow Cllr M Davies an opportunity to make corrections to item 113.3, recommendation (4) that the month be corrected as already it was the last day of June 2025 and the item still needs to be circulated to National Treasury, COGTA and SALGA for comments. The Chairperson of MPAC, Councillor IJ Makoloane whereafter proposed that the month be amended to August 2025.

Cllr JM De Bruin then asked where was item 5 that was supposed to be added to the agenda.

On a point of order, Cllr GJ Lipale requested the Speaker to call Cllr JM De Bruin to order as he is a member of MPAC, he should have asked the Chairperson when he received the Council documentation why was the item not added to the agenda.

Cllr JE Sebolao concurred with what was raised by Cllr GJ Lipale that the Council must stick to item as presented by the Chairperson of MPAC.

The Speaker stated that the point of order was sustained. He then afforded the Council to vote on the four (4) items of MPAC. The block votes were as follows:

Cllr VE Nikelo, Council Whip – ANC 47 voting in favour

Cllr ME Dennis – DA 22 voting in favour

Cllr GJ Lipale – EFF 9 voting in favour
Cllr JM De Bruin – PA 2 voting in favour
Cllr JI Mokoena – AASD 1 voting in favour
Cllr JH Denner – FFP 4 voting in favour
Cllr PJ Rampai – ACDP 1 voting in favour
Cllr PS Twala – ATM 1 voting in favour

The Speaker announced that **87 Councillors voted in favour, 0 against and 0 abstained.**

It was thereupon **unanimously**

RESOLVED that Council to condoned and approved the late submission of the MPAC Oversight Report on the 2023/2024 Annual Report.

2.

SUBMISSION: ESTABLISHMENT OF A TECHNICAL COMMITTEE TO ASSIST MPAC TO ADDRESS A BACKLOG OF INVESTIGATING UNAUTHORISED, IRREGULAR, FRUITLESS AND WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE

The item was discussed and voted for simultaneously with item 113.1.

It was thereupon **unanimously**

RESOLVED

1. That Council approved the establishment of a Technical Committee to assist MPAC with the clearing of both historic and current UIFW Expenditures for duration of the current MPAC term.
2. That the Committee to be comprised as follows.

Member of the Risk Management Committee (Convener)
2x Officials from Risk and Anti-Fraud Units
2x Officials from Internal Audit Unit
2x Officials from Legal Services
2x Official from MPAC Office

Support Staff to the Technical Committee

3x Officials from Finance (assist with sorting of information)
2x Officials from SCM (assist with sorting of information and SCM related matters)

3. That the Council approved the Terms of Reference of the technical committee attached as annexure A.

3.

IN RE: CONSIDERATION AND NOTING OF REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE OF MPAC

The item was discussed and voted for simultaneously with item 113.1.

It was thereupon unanimously

RESOLVED

1. That the Council considered and approved the report.
2. That the Council considered and took note of the *Draft Review Version, 2025 of the Terms of Reference of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee.*
4. That upon noting by the Council, the Draft Revised Terms of Reference be circulated with the National Treasury, COGTA and SALGA for further comments and inputs.
5. That the final Revised Draft Terms of Reference be submitted to Council for consideration and adoption by **August** 2025.

4.

MUNICIPAL PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT REPORT FOR 2023/24

The item was discussed and voted for simultaneously with item 113.1.

It was thereupon unanimously

RESOLVED

1. That Council having considered the Annual Report 2023/2024 of the Municipality and representation thereon, adopted MPAC-Oversight Report in line with Section 129 of the MFMA, Act 56 of 2003, as amended.
2. That the Council approved Annual Report 2023/2024 with reservation. Management did not adequately address prior year findings raised due to slow response and deficiencies in the internal control systems as a result there are still some repeat finings that were raised in the current year.
3. That the City Manager (Accounting Officer) must provide the MPAC with a report on how issues raised under paragraph 8 above have been addressed within 14 days following the approval of the Oversight Report by the Council.
4. That the Executive Mayor and the City Manager must provide the MPAC with the outcome of the investigations of IPTN within 14 days following the approval of the Oversight Report by Council.
5. That Council to expedite the approval of MPAC Report on the establishment of the Technical Committee to assist MPAC with investigation of the Unauthorised, Irregular, Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditures.

1.

SUBMISSION OF THE AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL FOR QUARTER 3 AND QUARTER 4 OF 2024/2025 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Chairperson of the Audit and Performance Committee: Ms DP Sempe presented the report to Council via MS Team.

Cllr GJ Lipale addressed the Council: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. The last AG’s report when he was here, I stood up to say, can we sometimes have that item for the day and not in a very long agenda like this, so that we are able to scrutinise and ask through questions and be clarified because it seems as if sometimes these things are deliberate that we get such a report from auditors and the next thing we are in a hurry that we speed up the process in terms of the agenda. It is wrong Chairperson.

I heard the auditor talking about some of the things that we have been frustrated about. She said member is lost and not yet replaced. I don’t know whether that position is funded or not funded and if it is funded, why that person has not yet been replaced?

We have written an email to the Executive Mayor, yourself Speaker and the City Manager regarding the Centlec Board. It seems as if we have hired SASSA there. There are 72, 74...we have hired SASSA. It is very dysfunctional. In this report, we have unqualified report from Centlec because at the end of the day, we have people who are dysfunctional or who are not assisting operations or ensure things are done or hold certain individual accountable and that is why we are where we are. We have requested the Executive Mayor to disband the board because it is not doing anything.

With regards to grants, overtime etc, we have been talking about it for some time because some of the youth, they are sitting out there and not employed and we are still discussing overtime because the same overtime, would be employing the youth. Some people earning R15 000, will get extra R15 000, but how about that R15 000 go to another person in terms of employment. The youth are sitting out there, frustrated and not seeing the future, but we are still talking about overtime.

The AG’s recommendations are not implemented. The last time we were here, the EFF said please give MPAC teeth to bite, but MPAC is just there, there is absolutely nothing that MPAC is doing. They are basically just MPAC, they seem to agree on everything. So please, can we give MPAC teeth to bite, so that AG’s recommendations can be implemented because I know that AG has the best interest at heart, not conflicted. So, if the AG put recommendations, can they be followed, so that Mangaung can be a better, functional Municipality. So that Mangaung Municipality can deliver services to our people. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

Cllr VE De Kock addressed the Council: “Mister Speaker, this report comes at a critical time — not only are we nearing the close of the financial year, but we are doing so under the continued shadow of a Section 139(7) intervention. And yet, despite the intense spotlight that such an intervention ought to bring, this report still paints a dark picture.

The Freedom Front Plus is deeply concerned by the continued presence of non-compliance, mismanagement, delayed reporting, and a serious lack of responsiveness from the side of Management. These are not new issues. These are recurring issues, and the residents of Mangaung are the ones paying the price.

We take note of the recommendations by the Committee and wish to highlight the following: Firstly, on the financial position: the report clearly states that overtime expenditure still remains excessively high — an issue that has been raised repeatedly in the past. While we note that a shift system has apparently been implemented as of June 2025 to address this, we insist on regular reports to monitor the impact thereof closely. Words and plans are not enough — we want to see results that reflect in the next audit outcome.

We also strongly support the recommendation that the Metro intensifies its debt collection drive. It is unacceptable that monies owed — particularly by government departments, businesses, and rental tenants — are left unrecovered while service delivery continues to suffer.

Further, the dismal performance on conditional grant expenditure is a great concern. A mere 31% expenditure by the end of March 2025 is unacceptable. These grants are meant to deliver critical services and infrastructure. The Metro cannot afford to lose funding due to underperformance.

Lastly, the continued over-reliance on consultants must stop. Internal capacity must be built and strengthened if we want sustainable improvements.

Secondly, on performance management: quarterly performance evaluations must be mandatory — not only on paper, but in practice. This is the only way to track and address shortcomings before they become systemic failures.

Thirdly, on the Audit Action Plan and AG findings: the Freedom Front Plus shares the Committee's concern over the slow pace at which management is addressing the Auditor-General's findings. These are not optional suggestions — they are mandatory corrective measures that speak directly to governance failures. Time is of the essence, and delays only enhance dysfunction.

Lastly, on the recommendations from Internal Audit and the Committee itself: Management must stop treating these recommendations as optional. There must be clear accountability frameworks and consequences for inaction. The same findings year after year indicate that recommendations are being ignored.

Mister Speaker, the residents of Mangaung deserve more than endless reports, plans and excuses. They deserve a Metro that functions, that manages its finances responsibly, and that acts with urgency to correct its course.

Mangaung's residents demand action — not just promises. I just need clarity that this report state that the technical comm has been established to investigate UIFW expenditure, but the item is on today's agenda for approval of such a committee.”

Cllr JC Pretorius addressed the Council: Thank you, Mister Speaker, through you to the Executive Mayor, the Audit and Performance Committee (APC) has presented its report covering the third and fourth quarters of the 2024/25 financial year, and the findings are deeply troubling. This is not political opinion—these are the facts presented by an oversight body that reports directly to Council.

One of the key concerns raised is the ongoing failure to monitor SDBIP targets against budget expenditure. This gap continues to pose significant risk to financial stability and operational effectiveness. A major point of concern is the delayed implementation of the Audit Action Plan, along with ineffective overtime controls and the worsening financial and operational condition of Centlec.

Centlec has suffered a staggering financial shortfall of R314 million, and the entity faces significant debt—much of which is considered irrecoverable. In simple terms, Centlec is spending more than it earns and is failing to recover money owed to it. This places further strain on an already fragile financial position.

Even more alarming is that management has failed to submit a complete Audit Action Plan with specific actions and timelines. This has hamstrung Internal Audit's ability to perform its oversight role effectively.

The APC expressed serious disappointment over the fact that the overtime shift system is only being implemented from June 2025. There is also no supporting documentation to verify overtime claims. This raises the risk of a repeat qualification by the Auditor-General.

Regarding ICT, the Committee stressed the critical need for consistent reporting. However, the reports submitted lacked progress updates, and the Q3: Risk Management report could not be reviewed as it was still "enroute" to the RMC (Risk Management Committee) for processing. This reflects poor planning and coordination on the part of management.

The committee has flagged further alarming issues:

- Overspending on overtime contributes to unauthorized expenditure.
- Performance on conditional grants is dangerously low, with only 31% spent as of 31 March 2025.
- There is an over-reliance on consultants, despite the City already carrying a bloated salary bill.

It is unacceptable that on the critical issue of unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, the City Manager only provided a verbal update. Was the City Manager too busy to provide a proper written report? What message does this send about the level of respect the administration has for this Council and its oversight committees?

The APC has further noted with concern the ongoing lack of response from management to Internal Audit reports.

This is not just negligence—it is a clear sign of disrespect towards this Council and its leadership.

Management appears disengaged—reading newspapers in offices, attending endless meetings, collecting salaries, while failing to implement critical resolutions or address audit findings.

Let me be clear: these are not the DA's words. These are the official findings of the Audit and Performance Committee, a structure mandated to hold this administration accountable.

Honourable Speaker, the time for excuses has passed. This Council must now act. The political leadership of this Metro must recognise that this administration is misleading Council about performance. There is a systemic collapse of accountability and delivery. It is time to commission a full skills audit of all municipal staff. This will give us a clear picture of who is qualified, who is delivering, and who is failing the residents of this Metro.

I just want to pose this question to the Chairperson of the Audit and Performance Committee; we see they appoint 4.10 the progress of the MI's. The committee now, the program is not resolving the material and presented by the City Manager. Can she just mention a few of these programs and items that they noted. We just want to know, what progress is there? Thank you.

Councillor NL Lecoko addressed the Council: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker, greetings to the house, Executive Mayor, Deputy Executive Mayor, the Chief Whip and the people of Mangaung and the residents of Ward 5 where i reside.

Honourable Speaker, this report of the Audit Performance Committee highlights the true reflection of the challenges and the progress of what is happening in the Mangaung. So, its purpose is to bring forth to the Council and the people of Mangaung to understand the challenges that are happening here in the Metro. It highlights key issues that needs attention.

We always talk about the issue of overtime that the City is spending too much money on overtime. That is exactly what the City should address that challenge in personnel operational expenditure and outlined on the MFMA financial reports for January, February, March April and May 2025. This will help to identify arears where overtime spending can be optimised. The other issue is spending on Consultants. It has been a cry that as the Municipality, we are spending too much on the Consultants but now the Audit Committee is reflecting that the Municipality must deal with this issue.

There must be systems in place and also to check that we should not be spending on issues of Consultants. But, to move forward, the Municipality can implement Audit Committee's recommendations. Focus on the implementation of recommendations to address the financial management, service delivery and other challenges and enhance oversight. It must strengthen oversight mechanism such as regular monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the Municipality stays on track with its goals and objectives. It must also improve its financial management and prioritise the improvement of financial management including budgeting, procurement and expenditure management to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of resources.

Now Honourable Speaker, we as the ANC, we support the recommendations of the Audit and Performance Committee, and that Council should discuss and approve

the Audit and Performance Committee report for the quarter 3rd and 4th according to the provision of the MFMA Section 166, 2 of regulation 64 of Local Government Planning and Performance Management Regulation of 2001. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

The Chairperson of the Audit Committee: Ms Sempe responded as follows:

- ✓ That the APC (Audit and Performance Committee) take note of questions and comments made by honourable Councillors and further acknowledge Councillors agreeing to the recommendations of the Committee.
- ✓ That with regard to replacement of a member lost, the Municipality need to look for someone with legal background to expeditiously finalise the process.
- ✓ That on point 4.9 of the report, the City Manager informed the APC that the Council would be appointing the Technical Committee to assist with investigation of UIFWE.
- ✓ That the APC still reiterates the AGSA findings that the Municipality needs to account for every cent in the books.

Councillor JC Pretorious made the request that on the Chairperson’s response, the Councillors be forwarded the report and also the progress the APC spoke about in the document that the City Manager gave the Committee together with the MI (Material Irregularities) report.

Councillor JM De Bruin interjected and asked for the 5 minutes caucus with the parties’ Whips and the Speaker agreed to the request.

Council Whip, Councillor VE Nikelo reported back as follows: “Honourable Speaker, we went and met as requested by Councillor JM De Bruin of the Patriotic Alliance and in the main Honourable Speaker, I just want to indicate that what was needed was the clarity on item 8 and also part of it was that Councillor JM De Bruin wanted to apologise to me for attacking me in Council for postponing the meeting within 24 hours and but further to that, let me just indicate that we also got the opportunity to deliberate on the item that is on the table as presented by the Audit Committee and we have noted on the issues and the remedial actions or rather the recommendations of the Audit and Performance Committee.

And for that we understand clearly that this committee is one of the most important committees that is at least giving us the sense of where the Municipality is and also give us the account on how best can we improve internally. Further to that we, wanted to put in the Council as well that following the approval of the report of the Audit Committee, we want to implore also to the Executive to make sure that there is some kind of the remedial actions or rather an action plan that is implemented in making sure that all the issues that has been raised, because remember the Audit Committee is raising issues administratively and bring to the Council for oversight.

Therefore, the Executive must follow up the issues that have been raised and make sure that the same report, because we took note that for the last previous quarters, all the same issues has been raised over and over by the Audit and Performance Committee. In order to deal with that, we therefore want to implore to Executive to make sure that there is some kind of an action plan that is developing in particular in dealing with these matters.

Were necessary, Consequence Management must be the order of the day in making sure that the Municipality moves out of the issues that has been indicated. So, I think that is one of the issues that we wanted to bring to the attention of the Council and would be much happy, perhaps maybe if the recommendations of the Audit and Performance Committee would be uproot in consideration to what has been indicated. I also then think that Councillor JM De Bruin will also give a two-minute report in the purpose of other engagements with regards to the report.”

Councillor JM De Bruin remarked: “Thank you, Mister Speaker for the extra time that you gave me. I think next time I will, like I said I did not want to expose our Whip of the ruling party, but I said to you, lets hope our normal meetings will hold every month before Council to avoid wasting time. My second one is that, just to add, Whip we were supposed to have an item in todays meeting for approval of indigent. So, we as Councillors asked three months back, we asked for a deadline of today for we will approve the other list of indigents, but we never put it on today’s agenda. Can we have another extension date for the next Council meeting? Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

Councillor JC Pretorius raised a concern: “Mister Speaker, I am a little bit confused, Councillor JM De Bruin stopped us from voting for this item. The Audit Committee is sitting there, we are wasting their time discussing the outcome of the caucus that has nothing to do with them. I do not understand, lets get order here please.”

The Speaker responded. “I am in your shoes Councillor JC Pretorius, I perfectly understand your concern. Are you in agreement Councillor JM De Bruin and other Councillors that this item should be supported, and the recommendations should be adopted?”

Councillor BJ Viviers remarked: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, maybe if Councillor JM De Bruin and Council Whip can assist if we are going to add a recommendation on consequence management or not? Thank you.”

Council Whip, Councillor VE Nikelo: “Honourable Speaker, we request the Council to add the recommendation that say: *The Executive must therefore Implement the recommendations of the Audit and Performance Committee, and where consequence management is required, then let it be.* Thank you.”

The Speaker thanked the Chairperson of the Audit Performance Committee, Ms Sempe and that the report was duly approved. He then allowed her to leave the meeting.

It was thereupon unanimously

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Council discussed and approved the Audit and Performance Committee report for Quarter 3 and 4 in accordance with the provisions of MFMA Section 166(2) and Regulation 14(4)(a)(iii) of the Local Government Municipal Planning and Performance Management Regulations of 2001.

- (b) *That the Executive play an oversight on the implementation of the Audit and Performance recommendations and where required, consequence management must apply.*

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

NOTED.

116	REPORT ON SALGA ACTIVITIES
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None.

NOTED.

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

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

1.

REVIEW OF THE MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY'S STAFF ESTABLISHMENT IN LINE WITH THE MUNICIPAL REGULATIONS GNR 890 AS PUBLISHED IN GOVERNMENT GAZETTE NO 4518

RESOLVED

- (d) That Council approved the draft organisational structure for the period 2025 to end of 2026 until the local government election has been held.
- (e) That Council approved the comments made by the MEC in this regard and provide report that is required in terms of preparation 6, 7, 9 and 10.
- (f) That the Council approved the quarterly reviews on the implementation of the structure with a report that will be tabled in the Council when the reviews has been initiated.
- (g) That Council noted that the political offices are regulated however with the deviation that is required, there will be a separate submission to both the MEC and the Minister for a waiver approval for additional posts. The Council will be informed as soon as the Minister confirmed.
- (h) That the comments of the MEC are based on the ideal structure consistent with the prototype.

118	MOTIONS
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None.

NOTED.

119	CLOSING OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
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The Speaker officially closed the meeting at 20h20 on the 30th June 2025 and 17h43 on the 1st of July 2025.

SECRETARIAT UNIT
COMMITTEE SERVICES