

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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**MINUTES**  
Of an  
**ORDINARY MEETING**

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**MANGAUNG**  
**METROPOLITAN**  
**MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

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

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**THURSDAY**  
**31 JULY 2025**  
**AT 10:00**

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**MANGAUNG**  
**METROPOLITAN**  
**MUNICIPALITY**

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**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING**  
of the  
**MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
held  
**IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, FIRST FLOOR, BRAM FISCHER BUILDING**  
**BLOEMFONTEIN**  
on **THURSDAY, 31 JULY 2025 at 10:00**

**ATTENDANCE REGISTER**

#	NAME	PARTY	LEAVE
1	<u>Speaker</u> Cllr Mathae (Bongani Lawrence)	ANC	
2	<u>Executive Mayor</u> Cllr Nthatisi (Gregory Mosala Solomon)	ANC	
3	<u>Deputy Executive Mayor</u> Cllr Titi-Odili (Lulama Magdeline)	ANC	
4	<u>Council Whip</u> Cllr Nikelo (Vumile Edwin)	ANC 28	
<b>SECTION 79 CHAIRPERSONS</b>			
5	<u>Rules</u> Cllr Mokgothu (Tona Kenosi Wilfred)	ANC 2	
6	<u>MPAC</u> Cllr Makoloane (Itumeleng Justice)	ANC 36	
7	<u>Petitions and Community Liaison</u> Cllr Morake (Molefi Andries)	ANC	
8	<u>Remunerations</u> Cllr Tladi (Motshewa Martha)	ANC	
9	<u>Public Places and Street Naming</u> Cllr Mogotloane (Thabo Joel)	ANC 39	
<b>MEMBERS OF MAYORAL COMMITTEE</b>			
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</u> Cllr Tsoleli (Sibongile Pearm)	ANC	
13	<u>Technical Services</u> Cllr Soqaga (Vusumzi Simon)	ANC	
14	<u>Finance</u> Cllr Kruger (Caprice Logan)	ANC 16	Absent with apology
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
18	<u>Corporate Services</u> Cllr Letawana (Manthuse Maria)	ANC	Absent with apology

<b>PR COUNCILLORS</b>			
19	Cllr Bothma (Andries Francois)	DA	
20	Cllr Bouwer (Chadwine Lyle)	DA	
21	Cllr Davies (Maryke)	DA	Absent with apology
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	
30	Cllr Lipale (Gopolang Jeremiah)	EFF	
31	Cllr Makau (Pitso Elias)	EFF	
32	Cllr Malebo (Deliwe Lettia)	EFF	
33	Cllr Maliela (Motiki Edwin)	DA	
34	Cllr Matobole (Mosala Abel)	DA	
35	Cllr Matsoetlane (Maditaba Joyce)	ANC	
36	Cllr Mogotsi (Mamahlape Elisa)	EFF	
37	Cllr Mohlamme (Lebohang Lerato)	DA	
38	Cllr Mokoena (John Itumeleng)	AASD	
39	Cllr Mongale (Mojalefa William)	AASD	
40	Cllr Moreeng (Kabelo Christopher)	DA	
41	Cllr Mtshakazane (Eunice Xoliswa)	EFF	
42	Cllr Njiva-Lebajoa (Mamotse)	DA	Absent with apology
43	Cllr Phohleli (Tsholwane Eddy)	EFF	
44	Cllr Ramatlama (Mpho Joseph)	EFF	

45	Cllr Rammile (Tumelo Kingsley)	DA	
46	Cllr Rampai (Pule Joseph)	ACDP	Absent with apology
47	Cllr Sebolao (Jankie Elisha)	EFF	
48	Cllr Shale (Nkahiseng Reginah)	EFF	
49	Cllr Snyman (Pieter Adriaan)	DA	Only until 14:00
50	Cllr Snyman van Deventer (Elizabeth)	FFPlus	
51	Cllr Swartz (Sophia Mametjie)	PA	
52	Cllr Terblanche (Arthur Phillip)	DA	
53	Cllr Thomas (Johannes Beleme)	EFF	Absent with apology
54	Cllr Viviers (Benhardus Jacobus)	DA	
55	Cllr Vorster (Braam)	FFPlus	
56	Cllr Wewege (Mare-Lize)	FFPlus	
<b>WARD COUNCILLORS</b>			
57	Cllr Sefaki (Samuel)	ANC 1	
58	Cllr Machachamise (Tshepiso Oudious)	ANC 3	
59	Cllr Supi (Mahoko Harold)	ANC 4	
60	Cllr Lecoko (Lehlohonolo Nathaniel)	ANC 5	
61	Cllr Moiloa (Tshidiso Petrus)	ANC 6	
62	Cllr Sehloho (Siza Clement)	ANC 7	
63	Cllr Nyaphudi (Likeleli Julia)	ANC 8	
64	Cllr Tlhakung (Betty Masetlhabi)	ANC 9	
65	Cllr Setlai (Teboho Lesley)	ANC 10	
66	Cllr Hashatsi (Rafedile)	ANC 12	
67	Cllr Siteo (Nombulelo Dorcas)	ANC 13	
68	Cllr Lekgetho (Lebogang Winston)	ANC 14	
69	Cllr Mohibidu (Pulane Martha)	ANC 15	
70	Cllr Mohatle (Mampone Sally)	ANC 17	Absent with apology

71	Cllr Van Noord (Gregory Owen)	DA 18	Absent with apology
72	Cllr Peter (Seth Qondile)	ANC 19	
73	Cllr van Rensburg (Corize)	20 DA	
74	Cllr Lotriet (Pieter Adam)	DA 21	
75	Cllr Cronje (Jan-Hendrik)	DA 22	
76	Cllr van der Walt (Tjaart Botha)	DA 23	
77	Cllr Kotze (Gerhardus Dirk Petrus)	DA 24	
78	Cllr Kotze (Paul Mare')	DA 25	
79	Cllr van Niekerk (Hendrik Johannes Christiaan)	DA 26	
80	Cllr Banyane (Zachous Nechodemus)	ANC 27	
81	Cllr Matsephe (Dikololo Elias)	ANC 29	
82	Cllr Tukula (Teboho Daniel)	ANC 30	
83	Cllr Mabena (Mere Joel)	ANC 31	
84	Cllr Menyatso (Thabang Victory)	ANC 32	
85	Cllr Mohono (Tshidiso Augustine)	ANC 33	
86	Cllr Tshwane (Kabi Daniel)	ANC 34	
87	Cllr Fantisi (Teboho Samuel)	ANC 35	Absent with apology
88	Cllr Ramolelle (Mmota Simon)	ANC 37	
89	Cllr Matsoso (Molahloane Florenciah)	ANC 38	
90	Cllr Pholoholo (Ntebaleng Petunia)	ANC 40	
91	Cllr Dintlhwane (Mantja Agnes)	ANC 41	
92	Cllr Mothupi (Maqoma Lazarus)	ANC 42	
93	Cllr Nkiane (Mpho Elizabeth)	ANC 43	
94	Cllr Pretorius (Selmé)	DA 44	
95	Cllr Mathe (Lisiwe Jeanette)	ANC 45	
96	Cllr Majoro (Mpho Samuel)	ANC 46	

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

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

#	DESIGNATION	NAME/S
1	CITY MANAGER	MR SELLO MORE
2	CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	MS ZUZIWE THEKISHO
3	HOD: TECHNICAL SERVICES	MR REVELATION MASOBENG
4	HOD: PLANNING, ECONOMIC & RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS	MS NOKUTHULA CHAKANE
5	HOD: CORPORATE SERVICES	MR MOKETE DUMA
6	HOD: PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY	MR ISRAEL KGAMANYANE

**Note by Secretariat**

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

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

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

**6. Meeting rules:**

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

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**7**  
**MINUTES**  
**(OPEN COUNCIL)**

**120.**  
**OPENING**  
**(MOMENT OF SILENT CONTEMPLATION FOR MEDITATION AND PRAYERS)**

The Speaker officially opened the meeting at exactly 10h00.

He confirmed that 62 Councillors were in attendance therefore quorating to continue with the meeting.

**NOTED.**

**121.**  
**NOTICE OF THE MEETING**

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

**NOTED.**

**122.**  
**APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

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

**NOTED.**

**123.**  
**ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

Cllr JM De Bruin raised an issue that two of his submitted Rule 38 questions had not been answered, although one was addressed in the current meeting. He felt it was unfair for only one Rule 38 question to be answered and planned to address this under item dealing with Rule 38 questions.

Cllr GDP Kotze proposed combining items 128.7 with 128.8 and 128.1 with 128.2 on the agenda. Previous communication about combining the two other items was acknowledged.

Cllr LJ Mathe moved for adoption of the agenda as amended.

Cllr BJ Viviers seconded the proposal by Cllr GDP Kotze.

**A humorous exchange between Cllr BJ Viviers and Cllr TKW Mokgothu occurred about the appropriateness of the member's jacket possibly being ANC regalia. Which was clarified by Cllr TKW Mokgothu as being from the Department of Education.**

**Cllr GDP Kotze stated that outstanding motion from a recent Section 79 Committee: Petitions and Motions meeting had not been tabled, as the meeting was postponed for 21 days. The DA requested a special Council meeting to address all outstanding motions and Rule 38 questions.**

**The Speaker asked whether Cllr GDP Kotze was a member of that Committee and Cllr GDP Kotze replied that he was only invited to attend the meeting because of the submitted motion of no confidence.**

**Point of order raised by Cllr MM Tladi who clarified that an invitee (such as Cllr GDP Kotze) attends as an observer and cannot decide on Committee actions. She stated that Committee reports must be formally submitted to Council for deliberation.**

**The Speaker sustained the point of order.**

**Cllr MA Morake stated the following:**

- The Committee is handling matters referred under Section 79 until a report is ready for the full Council.
- Emphasised that there is no need to raise unnecessary concerns or cause panic.
- The Committee represents the council officially, not just individuals.
- Any report or motion outcome will be presented to the Council by the Speaker.
- Reports or motions are not finalised or announced outside the council until officially presented.
- Importance was stressed on following proper council processes to avoid confusion or "clouding" of issues.
- The committee cannot process an excessive number of motions at once (such as 500), and motions must be processed according to established council criteria.
- Only one motion is currently acknowledged by the Speaker; any additional motions must follow official submission and processing procedures.
- The committee is open to addressing all Council issues, provided procedures are followed.

**The Speaker confirmed that the Committee would meet in 21 days to address the outstanding motion, and only motions properly submitted and received by the chairperson would be dealt with. The Council agreed to await the formal report from the Committee after the 21-day period.**

**Cllr TI Ferreira questioned the Speaker's claim of not knowing about any petitions, stating that he has a petition stamped by both the City Manager's Office and the Executive Mayor's Office, and requested clarification on how it would be addressed.**

**Cllr JM De Bruin mentioned that the Committee agreed to table the motions concerning the Speaker, the Executive Mayor, and the City Manager and therefore request a special meeting to address these motions.**

**Cllr NP Pholoholo stated that Cllr JM De Bruin was part of the Committee and must not mislead Council. Councillor NP Pholoholo further continued by stating that the Committee had agreed that they will go ahead with the motion received against the Speaker and thus not discuss anything else.**

**Cllr JM De Bruin raised a point of order** regarding respect among Councillors and requested communication be in English for clarity. The Speaker mediated interruptions, asking councillors to allow each other to speak.

**Council Whip Cllr VE Nikelo** stated that there is nothing on the agenda that outlines that this Council should discuss things that involve Motions and Petitions. Ensure the petition referenced by Cllr TI Ferreira is acknowledged and properly addressed by the committee. In addition, he proposed that Council schedule the special meeting to discuss the motions against the Speaker, Executive Mayor, and City Manager.

Confirm the committee's timeline for meeting and reporting back to Council.

A requested was made for clarification on standard Council practices regarding proposals, seconding, and subsequent voting.

Emphasised the desire for petitions and motions to be referred to the appropriate committee by the City Manager.

**The Speaker clarified that the matter in question is procedural and does not require a division of vote. Furthermore, explained that Council cannot interfere with the internal processes of the Committee.**

- That the relevant Committee has agreed to review matters before them and will report back within 21 days.
- Members were asked to be patient for the committee's report.
- Assured that once ready, the Committee will present their findings and members will have the opportunity to debate the report in Council.

**NOTED.**

**124.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Speaker afforded Councillors to make announcements.**

**Cllr GDP Kotze:**

- That the DA reminded the Council that a motion for a forensic audit on all municipal and Centlec accounts was submitted to the Office of the City Manager two months ago, on 28 May 2025.
- The motion has not yet been tabled in Council, meaning no formal discussion has occurred among Councillors. The DA therefore expressed disappointment that the motion was not on the agenda for this meeting.
- The DA thanked residents for Mangaung for supporting their petition related to the audit.
- That the DA will deliver the petition to the Office of the Auditor General in Mangaung the next day, formally requesting the forensic audit. Further deliver the petition to the Office of the Auditor General as planned.
- Follow up with the Office of the City Manager regarding the status of the motion for a forensic audit.

**Cllr JE Sebolao:**

- Expressed gratitude to the Speaker and extended thanks for allowing him to address the Council.
- Provided an update on Cllr JB Thomas, noting he is recovering and is expected to return to work soon.
- He questioned the clarity of their roles within the municipality, noting a disconnect between being called employers and the reality of taking instructions from officials.
- Raised concerns about the actual power and authority held by council members versus municipal officials.
- Further highlighted ongoing frustrations with parking arrangements, stating that Council members do not receive equal access to parking as officials do.
- Expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of communication regarding changes to the use of the security gate.
- Emphasised that all are public representatives and should not be treated differently regarding access and parking privileges.
- Resolve disparities in parking allocations between council members and officials.
- Improve communication about changes to security gate usage and access policies.
- Clarify roles and authority of council members within the municipality.

## 7D

**Cllr SP Tsoleli** state the following that:

- That Councillors were reminded to submit car registrations for issuance of parking discs and to display the discs when entering the city precinct.
- Some councillors have not yet submitted their details, and there are repetitive issues with expired discs not being renewed.
- Envelopes with parking discs are being distributed to parties that have complied with requests for updated car information. The system allows for two stickers per person, corresponding to two cars.

**Cllr JE Sebolao** raised questions about multiple cars and sticker allocations; clarification given that only two cars can be registered per councillor. Designated parking for Councillors during council meetings aims to ensure they are not forced to park outside the Bram Fischer building precinct.

**Cllr TI Ferreira** reported difficulties finding traffic officers upon arrival and struggled with parking arrangements on the day of the meeting. There was confusion regarding where councillors are allowed to park, and being redirected by security to park outside despite having a disc.

**Cllr SP Tsoleli** stated that the number of designated Councillor parking spots outside the precinct is 85, with additional space for MMCs and Section 79 Committees. Some parking spots inside the basement are occupied by daily paid parkers, limiting availability.

**She then outlined the following:**

- The City is implementing a new biometric entry system as part of broader security reforms.
- Councillors and staff are requested to complete biometric registration in basement two to avoid entry issues.
- Security measures are being piloted to increase safety, including screening for weapons with the first week intercepting 17 guns and other dangerous items.
- Councillors who do not comply with biometric registration will be treated as ordinary citizens by security.

**Cllr DJ De-Huis** raised concerns about not receiving emails or official communication regarding new security measures and parking updates.

**Clarification was provided by Cllr SP Tsoleli that information is sent via bulk emails, not individually. Councillors are urged to check these bulk communications for updates.**

**The Speaker emphasised the importance of submitting car registration details and called for no further debate on the announcement, assuring concerns are noted.**

Furthermore, urged the Councillors to submit or update their car registration details as soon as possible and encouraged to check bulk emails regularly for updates on parking and security measures.

Councillor SP Tsoleli to ensure all communication regarding parking and security is clearly disseminated to councillors and that Councillors should complete biometric registration in basement two to streamline building entry and security checks.

Cllr JM De Bruin congratulated MMM for cleaning Heidedal, questioning the motivations behind the clean-up and whether it was due to COGTA or recent Council meetings.

The Speaker stated that we are not on motions of sympathy and congratulations.

Point of order raised by Cllr MJ Mabena who emphasised the need to follow the agenda and avoid unnecessary delays or deviations during the meeting and there was an appropriate time for congratulatory motions versus announcements led to clarification that such items must be raised during the designated agenda point.

Point of order sustained by the Speaker.

The Council Whip acknowledged Cllr JM De Bruin's recognition and congratulated him for noticing the improvement in Ward 16.

The Speaker reiterated the need to respect the speaking order and maintain decorum in the chamber.

The Council Whip made the following announcements:

- Stated that the Business unit will be available on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of August to assist Councillors with SARS-related matters.
- That the Deputy President of South Africa will visit Mangaung on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August, engaging with the communities in Ward 45 and Ward 16. All Councillors are invited to attend.

Councillor JE Sebolao requested clarity on transport and logistics for attending the Deputy President's event, noting concerns about equitable treatment for all, including EFF members.

The Speaker confirmed there would be no transport provided for councillors but promised logistical support in the form of identification cards for easier venue access.

Cllr JM De bruin requested clarity from the Council Whip regarding the announcement he made.

Point of order raised by Cllr MJ Ramatlama stated that there is appropriate timing for congratulatory motions and announcements. And clarified that such items must be raised during the designated agenda point.

**Announcements by the Speaker, that:**

- Declaration forms have been attached to the agenda packets for all councillors; completion is required by the end of September as per the municipal code of conduct.
- Quarterly ward committee report forms are available and should be collected by councillors for proper reporting.
- Clarification provided regarding different reports: ward committee reports (for tabling in council) and councillor reports (individual reports on public participation, required by law and the MEC for COGTA).
- All councillors are reminded of the legal obligation to submit their individual reports, and that both quarterly and monthly reports must be submitted to the Speaker's office.

**NOTED.**

125.

**MOTIONS OF SYMPATHY AND CONGRATULATIONS**

**Cllr JM De Bruin** congratulated MMM for their work cleaning Heidedal but raised questions about the reason for such thorough cleaning.

- He mentioned community rumours about a private cemetery in Heidedal being auctioned and the lack of a participation meeting before the auction.
- Emphasised that the issue of the cemetery auction had not been discussed in council and called for transparency and better community engagement.
- Expressed that the community would have liked a formal invitation to relevant council discussions, noting poor attendance (only 10 – 20 people).

**Point of order from Councillor CL Kruger:**

- Clarified that the cemetery is on private land and that the SPLUMA excludes political involvement in the process.
- Reported having meetings with the GM (General Manager) of spatial planning, where community leaders were present and satisfied with the explanations provided.
- A further community meeting was arranged for the GM (General Manager) to present the process and ensure compliance, though the councillor who raised concerns could not attend due to by-elections. The absent councillor expressed support for the development following clarification.
- Emphasised that the community of Mangaung, especially Heidedal, not be used for political point-scoring and called for continued respect.

**The Speaker intervened to maintain order and reminded Councillors to remain on item, specifically motions of sympathy and congratulations.**

**Cllr DL Malebo:** “Honourable Fighters, Council members, Mister Speaker, Commanders, Ground Forces, and the glorious people of South Africa, we rise today with revolutionary pride and joy to extend a heartfelt message of congratulations on the 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Economic Freedom Fighters, celebrated in unmatched style in Khayelitsha, Western Cape. The 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2025 was not just a birthday it was a statement of power, a spectacle of red excellence, and a reminder of what disciplined revolutionary movement looks like.

We salute the leadership of the Commander-in-Chief and President, Julius Malema, and the entire Central Command Team for once again demonstrating what organisation, vision, and people-centred politics look like. The Dome of Red that rose in Khayelitsha did not only shake the ground it shook the very foundation of mediocrity in South African politics.

Thousands of Fighters marched in unity. Red berets covered the skyline. Songs of liberation echoed through the Western Cape. This was not an event it was a revolutionary experience, a mass political education, and a celebration of our 12 years of fearless struggle for land, jobs, dignity, and justice.

The EFF is not just a political party. It is a home of the poor. It is the voice of the voiceless. It is the only force that has confronted capital, racism, and corruption without compromise. From rural villages to metros, from Parliament to the streets the EFF has never sold out.

Let us continue to build on this momentum. Let us honour the blood, sweat, and tears that birthed the EFF in 2013. Let us go forward with greater discipline, unity, and courage because the next 12 years will define our path to power.”

**Cllr MS Majoro:** “Greetings Executive Mayor, HOD’s, Honourable Speaker and my colleagues Councillors. I propose a motion of sympathy on behalf of the families of the late Mafa Nkgabo, the former MMC and Councillor, and the late Jake Matutle, a former Regional General Manager in the Municipality. Both individuals are recognised for their significant service and the lasting impact they made in the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality community. I emphasise the importance of honouring their memories and offering condolences to their families. This motion was brought forward as a mark of respect and in recognition of their invaluable contributions. I hereby, request that Council formally adopt the motion of sympathy and communicate condolences to the families of the late Mafa Nkgabo and Jake Matutle.”

**Cllr GDP Kotze:** “Mister Speaker, the DA would like to extend congratulations to the Junior Boks for winning the World Rugby Under 20 Championship, highlighting national pride. We congratulate the Proteas test team for their victory in the World Test Championship Series, which was a world-class performance.

Congratulations to Cornè Coetzee for winning a gold medal in the 100m backstroke at the Aquatic World Championship, which was a significant achievement for South African sport.

## 7H

We want to express our condolences for a former councillor Kobus Spies from the Mangaung Metro, who suffered a fatal accident resulting in his wife's passing and leaving him hospitalised. These victories show what's possible when talent meets determination. The DA recognises Women's Month and calls for continuous protection of women and children, emphasising that action is needed every day, not only during designated campaign periods. Spending large sums such as R600,000 on marches will not help with gender-based violence. I state that meaningful change comes from education specifically teaching boys and men that women are not objects. They must treat women and children as equals who are deserving of respect and safety.

Mister Speaker I want to congratulate and sympathise with Emma Pel, an MP. I recognise her dedication and hard work for South African citizens. I sympathise with Emma Pel for being targeted by the corrupt ANC, I hereby call for the ANC to stop interfering with DA MPs, MPLs, councillors, and activists.”

**Cllr NP Pholoholo:** “Honourable Speaker, Honourable Executive Mayor, Honourable Deputy Executive Mayor, Honourable Council Whip, Honourable Councillors and the community of Mangaung, more especially the community of Ward 40, where I am the Ward Councillor, dumelang!

Honourable Speaker, this year on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025, South Africa and the African National Congress Celebrated the 70 years anniversary of the Freedom Charter, the real congress of the people" which was held in Kliptown, Johannesburg. This is a fundamental document for South Africa's democracy, which outlines a vision for non-racial, democratic society where all citizens have equal rights and opportunities. This achievement and milestone, Honourable Speaker, was not just one of the historical achievement in South Africa, but was also a turning point in liberating our people from the bondage's of apartheid, and this was not just a reminder to us of the true sacrifices of our fore-bearers and strides made by the true revolutionaries, sons and daughters of the soil who despite the hardships and attack by the oppressors did not despair but they persevered.

Our leaders, Honourable Speaker, crisscrossed the length and breadth of the Country soliciting the views of those that were oppressed and denied opportunity to take full responsibility of their own life and this became a worrying factor to those that thought that the right to life and dignity is only meant for them. However, what surprises us today, Honourable Speaker, is how soon and how quickly some have just developed an amnesia and pretend to be the real voices of our people. They are quick to pretend to be representing those that are marginalized and less fortunate, while the only thing they know, is oppression and segregation.

Today, Honourable Speaker, we are all able to live side by side with our oppressors, because of the strides that were made in building a united and prosperous South Africa, because of the vision inculcated by those who sacrificed their lives for this beautiful Country. Today, we are able to live up to what Madiba fought for and as we do that Honourable Speaker, we must not also forget the contribution made by our local unsung heroes and heroines.

We would like to thank ANC lead Municipality ka go bona go tshwanela e bile e le justice gore ba ise Councillor sekolong ba sa kgethe mmala, gender kapa yone political affiliation.

Thata thata Ke rata go tsaya manyetla o no to congratulate group Cllr NP Pholoholo on their 100 percent on their first activity this proves that teamwork is the best remedy.

As I conclude Honourable Speaker, I would like to sympathize with Councillor MW Mongale, to say ANC lead Municipality will see to it that you get your student card gore le wena o tshwane le mongwe le mongwe o isene sekolo ka e le e ngwe ya dishwanelo tsa gago. Thank you.”

**Cllr SP Tsoleli:** “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2024, the Hauweng Bus Service went live on the Brandwag bus corridor. The service has reached a milestone of providing an uninterrupted 365-day service to our people. Honourable Speaker, the integrated bus service has, had many challenges in the past. Under the leadership of the current Executive Mayor, we have seen positive spinoff in making sure that the people of the city enjoy safe and reliable public transport. We wish to appreciate the work of the Public Safety and Transport, Section 80 Committee, for making sure that they hold us accountable, and also for constantly doing oversight individually in making sure that the service is provided optimally. Let me further congratulate the team led by the HOD: Public Safety and Transport, Mr KI Kgamanyane, the IPTN team, the vehicle operation company team, and finally, the commuters of Brandwag corridor for supporting our service.”

**Cllr CL Kruger:** “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable speaker, as the Ward Councillor for Ward 16, we just want to congratulate once more Ouma Katie the oldest resident in ward 16. We had a beautiful party on Monday where we celebrated 100 years birthday party for Ouma Katie. But sadly, on Saturday, we have a funeral for the second eldest resident, Ouma Clara Jansen. An astonished member of The Methodist Church in Heidedal. We just want to convey our condolences to Ouma Clara and the family.

Lastly, Honourable Speaker, we just want to thank the Executive Mayor in collaboration with the Angel Foundation, NGO and Mister Central South Africa, NGO in Heidedal for successful Mandela Day celebration. Honourable Speaker, they were trying to sabotage us, but they did not succeed forgetting that we are doing it for the residents. There are certain areas we must never play politics. So, it was successful, Honourable Speaker, Executive Mayor, well done. And the narrative they want to push that the coloured community is excluded from this government, it will never suffice because this government will consistently prove them wrong. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

**Cllr GJ Lipale:** “Chairman, I have just consulted with the whip, who says that in the Whippery, meeting, they agreed that there should only be one speaker per political party per item on. Because I have seen several people from different political parties making the same announcements and whatever. So, I just wanted clarity on that one. Thank you.”

**The Speaker remarked:** “I have not been informed as the presiding officer about that decision. I will take Council from the Council Whip if there was such an agreement amongst the whips of different political parties. But I allowed members to express motions of sympathy and congratulations, simply because members had raised their hands. As to the debates, I will have to hear from Council Whip.”

## 7JA

**Council Whip:** “Kealeboha Motsamaisa wa Dipuisano. Ke nnete seo Molekgotla GJ Lipale a se tshalosang, hore d-itemeng kaofela tseo eleng hore di teng, ho be le seboledi se le seng fela empa mona ho *Mehauhelo, le ho Tlotlomisa*, e ne ele ntho ya hore kannete, hoele, bana ba batho batla ba imetswe, ba batla ho tlotlomisa ba bang kapa ho hauhela bao eleng hore ba lahlehetswe ke malapa a bona. Ha ke bone letho le phoso ha ebe Motsamaisa wa Dipuisano o dumeletse taba eo.

Yo ho qetela, Motsamaisa wa Dipuisano, ke ya hore fela kannete e kgotswa, ele maoto a mane, e be ha reya tsebisa Motsamaisa wa Dipuisano ka nako ho latella tumelano eo re bileng le yona. Empa, ho latela bongata ba items, re dumelane hore e be motho a a le mong ka item. Kealeboha.”

**Cllr ME Denis:** “Thank you, Mister Speaker on a point of clarity, I did send you an email last night and also to the Council Whip. The Council Whip made a proposal to the Whippery that only one speaker per item, per political party will speak. I said during the caucus meeting, my Councillors were not amenable to the suggestion of only one speaker per item that was proposed by the Council Whip. We feel that it is an infringement on our rights to free speech. I understand it is long agenda, and I understand that we are here to debate on these items. Thank you.”

**The Speaker requested clarity on whether it is one speaker per political party or one speaker per item.**

**The Council Whip responded that they agreed on one speaker per political party per item, and that it cannot be that in a chatgroup of 9 political parties, and only one party that state that they were not amenable to that. It was wrong that the Democratic alliance state in Council that they did not agree as if they were the only party in a multiparty whippery. Therefore, implore to the Speaker to adhere to the decision of the majority of the political parties in the multiparty whippery chatgroup.**

**Cllr BJ Viviers raised a concern that the DA’s freedom of speech would be oppressed because the Council meeting is not held on the correct date, not sticking to the scheduled and now Council have 20 items on the agenda. That they did send through the list.**

**The Deputy Executive Mayor proposed that the Council conclude on the issue and vote on it and Cllr GJ Lipale concurred.**

**Cllr E Snyman Van Deventer agreed with what Cllr BJ Viviers said and that if it is two Councillors per item per political party in some items, is to support the proposal by the first Councillor.**

**The Council continued to debate whether the Speaker should only afford one speaker per political party, per item.**

Whereafter the Speaker ruled that the Council would proceed as per what has been raised by political parties, that where there is a need for political party to second the motion/ item, he would allow that however, he would also not allow a speech.

NOTED.

126.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**i. Ordinary Meeting: Wednesday 30 October 2024**

Cllr MJ Matsoetlane moved for the adoption of the minutes and was supported by Cllr Tlhakung.

**ii. Ordinary Meeting: Thursday 7 November 2024 (continuation of meeting held 30 October 2024)**

Cllr MJ Lekhwele moved for the adoption of the minutes and was supported by Cllr Setlai.

**iii. Special Meeting: Thursday 12 December 2024**

Cllr Ramolelle moved for the adoption of the minutes and was supported by Cllr Siteo.

**iv. Ordinary Meeting: Friday 31 January 2025.**

Cllr Mohono moved for the adoption of the minutes and was supported by Cllr Dintlhwane.

The minutes were duly adopted.

NOTED.

127.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None.

NOTED.

128	<b>REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR</b>
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**The Executive Mayor presented to Council the reports as follows:**

- Firstly, greeted the Deputy Executive Mayor, Council Whip, whips of various parties, MMCs, Councillors, and all present in the Council meeting
- Commented on observing debates and arguments, drawing attention to individuals' character and upbringing.

**A point of order was raised by Cllr MW Mongale who stated that time should be respected and that they are not there to attend a history lesson. He requested that the Executive Mayor proceed with the relevant item.**

**The Speaker thereon dismissed the point of order.**

The **Executive Mayor** continued:

- He made statements regarding the understanding of political mandates and policies, with specific mention of the Freedom Front Plus and critique of parties using democracy in their name.

**Cllr MW Mongale** raised a point of order and an objection regarding language and a suggestion that the statements had racist undertones.

**Councillor E Snyman Van Deventer** clarified that the **Executive Mayor** did not ask anyone to change their name or party's name but commented on other parties misrepresenting their values.

**The Speaker** acknowledged the clarification and allowed the **Executive Mayor** to proceed.

The **Executive Mayor** expressed appreciation for the clarification, commending the ability to listen and intervene effectively in Council discussions. He continued as follows:

- Emphasis on the fiduciary duty to guide each other and learn from debates.
- Proposed that, for efficiency, items that are only to be noted should be combined and fast-tracked, as previously endorsed by the Council.
- Confirmed that items 128.1 and 128.2, be discussed simultaneously as well as items 128.7 and 128.8, for consideration.
- Tabled items 128.1 to 128.16 for Council consideration.

**NOTED.**

1.

**APPROVAL OF THE REVIEWED RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY**

**Cllr J H Cronje:** “Thank you, Speaker, we welcome the reports detailed analysis of strategic, operational, and compliance risk. However, we cannot ignore the recurring patterns of failure it continues to highlight regarding the administration and the different departments and HODs. This is not the first time we are confronted with risk relating to unauthorised expenditure, weak internal controls, crumbling infrastructure, and non-compliance with legislation. Yet time and again, there's no real accountability for these failures.

The Committee rightly points out that some departments still do not take the risk management seriously. Risk registers are submitted late, mitigation plans are poorly implemented, and consequence management remains almost entirely in absence. Moreover, the Committee highlight the silent mentality among departments with poor co- coordination of projects and no clear indication of how 80 to 90% of available grants will be spent by the end of the financial year. This alone signals a looming crisis of underspending and loss of service delivery opportunities. It raises a crucial question. What is the point of having a risk management framework if its recommendations are ignored and its warnings not acted upon?

A particularly serious concern raised relates to the appointment of service providers to collect outstanding municipal debt. There are disputes between the finance department and service providers regarding the verification of work done and the submission of invoices. This is quite a risk that we need to look into. Another deeply disturbing issue is the emerging risk relating to 49 unburied bodies reportedly linked to food poisoning incidents steaming from non-compliant spaza shops. This was reported as back as February 2025. We are in July, and we are still there. Let us stop paying lip service to good governance. We support the risk committee's recommendation to strengthen integration between risk management, budgeting, and service delivery.

But let us be honest, this will remain a paper exercise unless, council leadership drive implementation with urgency and consistency. We further support the committee's recommendation that HODs must take direct responsibility for the departmental risk report, and that these reports be linked to their performance evaluation.

In conclusion, Speaker, the time to act is now. This report is a mirror held up to this institution. It shows the cracks. The question is, will we fill them with strong leadership and urgent reform? Or will we ignore them and let the house collapse? The people of Mangaung deserve a government that is proactive, ethical, and accountable. Honourable Executive Mayor, let us act on this report. Not just acknowledge it, but act on it. Thank you.”

**Cllr JI Mokoena:** “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. A lot of what, Councillor J Cronje said has already been alluded to. Honourable Speaker, I just want to make one comment on the review policy. Is always a very helpful guide that whenever there are policy reviews that very clear, numeration or the way that reviews are named assist all of us. I would prefer, and I would suggest that whenever there is a review policy that it be indicated what the review version is, for which year.

## 8B

But more importantly, Chairperson, it is that whenever there are any amendments made within a policy, that it be indicated against what the previous provision would have entailed so that it helps, with the review. That is one first comment that I would like to make.

However, I would also want to comment in terms of the Risk Management Committee report. There are those that understand the importance of risk and risk is always denoted as a way in which after you have set your objectives and you decide what your goals are from that, you are able to then think about what are the potential things that can undermine your ability to reach your goals or objectives. And in this regard, we know that Mangaung is in a fairly very distressed state, that the service to our community has been undermined by different things, both internal and external. That as a result, in the interest of serving our people, we have set objectives within the IDP and relevant components of our activity.

And to that extent, there is also the view that within those documents, we have identified things that might go wrong, why they might go wrong, and how they might go wrong. So, when they do go wrong then, as Councillor J Cronje has indicated, we then need to take corrective actions. The risk review report is not just in our thing, it is to help those who manage on behalf of Council, the executive authority and the activity of ensuring that we deliver on the mandate to our people. That they take corrective actions, further that they are able to continue to monitor because the outcomes of the reviews are signals of need either to review, to redirect, or to actually hold people accountable or strengthen their ability to reach the objectives that we have set ourselves.

And as a result, I want to reiterate and second his view that there is need for these reports to be taken seriously, not just by the relevant reporting authorities within the institution, but ultimately the Executive Mayor in looking at this report and knowing that you need to take action because it contains some very disturbing things that can undermine our ability and that Council continue to hold the executive accountable to ensure that our people get what they deserve. And that is my submission, and I thank you very much.

I would like to say to even, the City Manager, who is being managed by the Executive Mayor, that these reports are really very important for you to hold your HODS accountable and to make sure that we are all aligned, and we all work together to make sure that Mangaung becomes the place and the city that we all deserve. I thank you.”

**Cllr E Snyman Van Deventer:** “Agbare Spreker, die doel van die Risikobestuurkomitee is om risiko's wat die funksionering en finansiële volhoubaarheid van ons munisipaliteit bedreig, te identifiseer, te evalueer en te bestuur.

Spreker, die verslag bevestig wat baie van ons reeds weet: die Metro bly blootgestel aan ernstige operasionele en finansiële risiko's. Van swak kontrakbestuur en onreëlmatige besteding, tot verouderde infrastruktuur en gebrekkige bestuurstelsels -hierdie is nie nuwe probleme nie, maar dit word steeds nie reg aangespreek nie en dit is ook nie geïdentifiseer deur die komites nie.

Maar die komitee het wel baie belangrike probleme of risiko's geïdentifiseer insluitend: probleme rakende skuldinvordering; onderspandering van toelaes/toekennings vanadium nasionale regering; POPIA nakoming; die toestand van Munisipale gebou.

Waterhervorming; spaza winkels en litigasieregister. Die komitee het ook aanbevelings gemaak rakende die risiko-bestuur in die verskillende departemente. Die Vryheidsfront Plus ondersteun aanspreeklikheid en gevolgbestuur. As risiko's geïdentifiseer word, moet aksies volg. Op bladsy 6 blyk dit dat die besluite van die komitee tot 'n redelike mate geïmplementeer word.

Spreker, hierdie risiko-verslae mag nie 'n blote formaliteit wees nie. Die inwoners van Mangaung verdien dienslewering wat betroubaar en doeltreffend is deur stelsels wat regtig werk. Die VF+ bedank die Komitee vir hierdie verslag. Ek dank u.”

**Cllr SM Swartz:** “Thanks, Honourable Speaker, honourable Councillors, and the community of Mangaung. The Patriotic Alliance support the approval of the reviewed risk management policy as outlined in annexure A. However, we propose two critical enhancements to ensure it serves our communities effectively.

First, the policy must include a clause mandating quarterly public reports on key risks, particularly those affecting service delivery, such as water interruptions and illegal dumping, which I, and all The Patriotic Alliance have raised in previous discussions. Transparency in risk reporting fosters trust, Honourable Speaker, with our ratepayers and ensures accountability, addressing past concerns about financial mismanagement.

Secondly, I urge the inclusion of mandatory community consultations in risk assessments involving ward committees and residents to prioritise local challenges like unemployment and infrastructure decay. This aligns with Section 152E of our constitution, which encourages community participation.

Additionally, to prevent oversight gaps, I request that the Risk Management Committee submits quarterly progress reports to this Council detailing how risk is mitigated, especially in high-risk areas like Municipal finances. These amendments, Honourable Speaker and our honourable Councillors, will make the policy a robust tool for accountability and for accountable governance. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

**Cllr DL Malebo:** “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, the EFF Caucus today likes to bring political clarity on the matter of the reviewed, Risk Management Policy as presented to the IDP committee. This is not an ordinary document. It speaks to the heartbeat of municipal governance, transparency and accountability in a Municipality that has far too long, been engulfed in dysfunction and administrative chaos. Let us be guided, by the law, Honourable Speaker.

Municipal Finance Management Act, Section 62 (1) places a legal, obligation on the accounting officer to maintain effective, efficient, and transparent systems of financial and risk management. This is not optional. It is a constitutional and legislative imperative.

## 8D

We in the EFF stand firm that any policy before this Committee must not only comply with this legal mandate but must go further to correct systemic weakness. Systemic weaknesses that have collapsed basic service delivery in Mangaung.

The EFF acknowledges the references to National Treasury Risk Management Framework of 2010, which rightly sets out that councils, not just administrators, must lead the change in setting the tone for sound, governance. This must include emerging risks from cyberattacks and infrastructure sabotage to collapsing sewer systems and corrupt supply chain practices. If the reviewed policy does not reflect this evolving risk landscape, then it fails before it even begins.

On the matter of governance, Speaker, we affirm the relevance of Risk management it must not be reduced to a bureaucratic tick box exercise. It must be embedded in our IDP, in the SDBIP, in performance agreements and in the political culture of leadership. Council must not delegate its governance role to technocrats without political oversight. The policy, if it is to be meaningful, must speak clearly on risk appetite and tolerance thresholds. Contextualised for Mangaung, a metro battling financial stress, poor audit outcomes, and decaying infrastructure. Without setting boundaries of what risks are acceptable and what risks cross the line; the document will remain abstract and useless in practice.

Honourable Speaker, the Auditor General's, repeated disclaimers should not be ignored. They are damning reflection of fraud, collusion, and neglect. This policy must directly confront these, realities with, firm provisions for enforcement, routine updates to the risk register, and clear implementation mechanisms. We will no longer accept policies that sounds good on paper but fail in practice. The report acknowledges poor inter-directorate collaboration. The silo mentality has undermined integrated planning, delayed project delivery, and squandered grant funding. The lack of cohesive coordination between technical services, infrastructure, and finance directorates continues to put national conditional grants at risk, including municipal infrastructure grants, water services infrastructure grant, and Integrated, Integrated National Electrification Program. These grants are not political favours. They are lifelines to the poor and underspending them is not just fiscal mismanagement. It is an assault on service delivery, Speaker.

The EFF Caucus fully supports committee's recommendation to introduce the project, specific risk, register, and calls for its tabling at the next IDP sitting. However, we go further to demand the establishment of an executive-led inter-directorate task team to break down coordination failures supported by the appointment of risk champions in every directorate, who reports quarterly to council. Let those who delay implementation and mismanage funds be named, recorded, and held accountable. We are also deeply concerned by the committee's warning that there is no assurance that 80 to 90% of grants will be spent by the end of the financial year. This is fiscal malpractice. The EFF calls for the immediate tabling of departmental spending performance to date and for monthly grand expenditure report to be submitted to Council Finance Committee. In addition, we propose an internal audit review of all grants funded projects from the past three years to expose recurring implementation failure patterns. On the matter of municipal safety and, compliance, the committee confirms that safety representatives have been appointed, and evacuation drills are being planned.

This is welcomed. However, without a time bound structural safety action plan, this is a half measure. We insist that the Safety and Loss Control Unit submit a monthly risk tracking dashboard to the Municipal Manager and Council linked directly to liability insurance and legal compliance threshold. Residents and workers deserve safe, structurally sound public building, not vague promises and piecemeal drills.

Regarding the water reform strategy, Speaker, being led by Technical Services, the EFF knows the commitment to tackling high non-revenue. However, unless this program is funded adequately and paired with hard infrastructure upgrades, Councillor VS Soqaga, not just administrative detection, it will not reduce the catastrophic levels of water wastage and that undermines both revenue and public trust. Water is life, and Mangaung cannot afford to lose it in leaking pipes while its people queue with empty buckets, Speaker.

This item must be fully integrated into municipal risk register, and community water saving campaigns must be rolled out to complement the technical interventions. The Risk Management Implementation Progress Report presented by the HOD is underwhelming and vague. The EFF demands that future reports clearly indicate Mangaung's risk maturity model level. I thank you, Speaker.”

**Deputy Executive Mayor, Cllr LM Titi-Odili:** “Thank you v, Honourable Speaker. Firstly, I just want to thank all Councillors who participated in these items, both of them. It is like all of them were part of the Section 81 we are discussing, the progress report and also the policy in terms of the risk management. All the inputs that they put, thank you very much Councillor J Cronje because you contributed to the council exactly what we discussed, in the committee. Thank you very much, Prof (Cllr E Snyman Van Deventer), . I think, Councillor B Vorster really briefed the caucus of Freedom Front Plus very well in terms of the discussion. I know that you are not part of our committee, but what you raised definitely is what we, spoke about. Councillor DL Malebo, you too.

We know that Councillor MJ Ramatlama, you wanted Councillor JE Sebolao to be part of the meeting. However, you really did not mislead your caucus. He explained exactly what the deliberation in the committee was. I just want to indicate to Ms. Zwane, I know that you are a member, but you are not part, you rendered your apology. But what I wanted to say in this meeting is that the policy in terms of the regulations, we submit this policy every new financial year where we are reminding different departments that there are policies here and definitely the committee will detect the risk per departments and we believe that those risks will be implemented, as stipulated in the report.

In addition, the same report, honourable Councillors, in terms of the regulations is what we are submitting this report twice a year. Every six months we are submitting the report, progress reports because we are giving department length time to really respond on the recommendation of the committee. Now this committee really, worked hard and we want to thank the Chairperson of the Risk Committee in his absentia that the committee worked hard. You can check the progress report this committee is really working accordingly to the plan that they submit bi-annual reports to the Council.

We even took a decision in the committee that we will be sitting only according to what we are going to do. We are going to focus on the recommendations of the Risk Committee and the Audit and Performance Committee. Because if we are not doing that, we are not going anywhere as the committee. We are not going to advise the Executive Mayor correctly and also the Council.

Now the recommendations are very straightforward, we identify that, yes, we are talking about seven cases." What are those seven cases and what do we need? Where is the status of those cases? And definitely next week we'll get more response regarding this and also the issue of inspecting the buildings of the Municipality. We said it's not supposed to be only Glasshouse, but all the buildings of the Municipality must be inspected it must not take four years without inspection. However, Speaker, there must be a period. If it is yearly, it must be yearly. If it is six months, it must be six months.

And we also say the issue of our Debt Collectors, where is the status of that? And I know that the CFO will give us a proper response, but we are saying we are going to categorise the responses. Regarding the Debt Collectors because the funds are there, we need to see the funds in the bank account. And that is the recommendation of the Risk Committee. Let us respect the recommendations, honourable officials and councillors of the Risk Committee and also the Audit Committee because Auditor General will be implementing this resolution.

As we are putting them as noting and we are also, supporting the policy. I know they will ask that you must identify if there are changes in the policies only the issue of the abbreviation. In the last committee we did not outline the meaning of the abbreviations. It is only page 3, but the policy is still the same.

Honourable Councillors, we really support the approval of the policy and the noting of the report. Let us work hard to make the municipality shine. Thank you, Honourable Speaker."

**Speaker announced that the Council voted unanimously.**

**It was thereupon**

**RESOLVED** that Council approved the reviewed Risk Management Policy (Annexure A).

**2.**

**RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE SECOND BI-ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024/2025 FINANCIAL YEAR**

**The item was discussed simultaneously with item 128.1 above.**

**Council did not vote as the item was for noting.**

**It was thereupon**

**RESOLVED** that Council took note of the Risk Management Committee Report for the second Bi-annual of 2024/2025 financial year.

3.

**SECTION 52(D) REPORT OF QUARTER 4 ENDING 30 JUNE 2025 REVISED SERVICE DELIVERY AND BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

**Cllr GDP Kotze:** “Mister Speaker the performance agreements of senior managers are yet again tabled late. The performance reviews that should hold our leadership accountable have not been presented to Council. And the people of Mangaung are left to wonder, "What exactly are we paying for?" Let us go look at the engineering and water services. Our residents still open taps to find no water, infrastructure is crumbling, maintenance is delayed, grants pending far below expectation. Our projects are stalled, contractors are poorly managed, and communities remain in limbo. Electricity and energy power outages and lack of maintenance are the norm.

They keep operating silos with little coordination and accountability. Debt collection is weak. Revenue is declining and our consumer debt book is growing. The supply chain management system is riddled with delays and irregularities. I believe Supply Chain Management is captured. Urban planning and development. Town planning is slow. Land release investment attractions are almost non-existent. There is no strategic alignment with the economic development goals. Health and environmental safety. Spaza shop inspections exposed a public health crisis, but we lack capacity. There are 49 unburied, unidentified bodies due to no funding. Waste collection is inconsistent Fire and disaster units are stretched thin. No new resources, no vehicles, and no training. Corporate Services and ICT POPIA compliance is still incomplete. Vacancies in critical positions remain open. Internal audit and risk management. Audit findings from prior years remain unresolved.

Mister Speaker, I would like to ask the question now. How can the City Manager give himself 100% compliance for this year? And with all this, I must tell the residents outside there, last year, at the end of this month, under the leadership of the ANC, resulted in salary increases of up to R545,000 for all heads of departments and the city manager. Half a million rands more per person in a time-of-service collapse and financial strain. How can you give yourself 100% if you knew that you appeared before COGTA this week?

In conclusion, Mister Speaker, how can we in good conscience look residents in the eye and explain these failures, while rewarding executives with half a million-rand salary increases? The citizens of Mangaung do not need more excuses. They need clean water, they need working infrastructure, they need ethical leadership that delivers. Performance must mean something. Accountability must mean something. Let us not turn a blind eye to the betrayal of public trust. The time of sugarcoating is over. We demand answers, we demand action. And most of all, we demand that public money serves the public. I thank you.”

**Cllr MW Mongale:** “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I do not want to be long on this issue. Safe to say, the councillor who spoke before me has also addressed one of my questions that

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gave me stress. Yesterday, when I was going through the document. I questioned the logic of the office of the City Manager getting 100% consecutively for four quarters when other departments are struggling? And they seem not to be getting their 100%. Now the issue here is, who is his supervisor or is he working alone without any supervision? And is he not working in line with the departments? Does their performance not also reflect his performance? perhaps am speaking out of ignorance, we might be assisted with a workshop for Councillors where we are taking only workshop on the point scoring system on their performance, for department and also for individuals. So that we can know, when they get performance bonus, what is the criteria that is used, so that we can be able to be on board. We should not have assumptions about it.

The issue of Khayelitsha, there next to the stadium, there is a road that remains incomplete there. The road has not been completed. And in that street is a trench, and after that trench there is another trench. But there seems not to be any completion of road, but I am happy that the Deputy president is going to Khayelitsha and Bergman, Ward 45 will plead that maybe because Councillors should be allowed, that will be given access so that I can whisper in his ear to say,

There is a place that I want to take you to, of a project that was not finished but the money is finished. So that he can see that even what portfolio committee have uncovered is nothing compared to what is practically happening on the ground. There is a stench on the street next to the highway in Dr. Belcher, next to the Supermarket. It is opposite the area that is called Freedom Square Extension. That area is very smelly. And there seems to be no effort to try and address that problem. But there are people who are living there. And then there is another stench that you will find at the old Railway Station. It is next to Phola Park. When we follow that road up until you get to the Old Jacaranda you will find that area, there is a tunnel that also smells bad. And we feel for the people there because I do not think they are able to open their windows in winter. I do not want to imagine what is going to happen in summer.

So, I am saying, as we are discussing this revised SDBIP we must also consider those areas. Those areas where there should be an immediate intervention and focusing in those areas. Deputy Executive Mayor, I know you are listening to me, and I know you will do something about this because I have seen your passion that you love this institution and want it to keep going forward. And you, you are so particular you listen to every speaker when they speak, and you hear exactly what they have say.

Now, when we get here on the SDBIP, I do not think it was written well Honourable Speaker, something went wrong. I do not know whether it was time that was against the officials or not, but there seems to be a misalignment of how the report was captured in the document I think what should have been done, the document should have been fine properly so that it can also be readable, easily readable. It does not look nice, it does not look professional, and it also reflects bad on us if these are documents that end up being given to the higher institutions. And then we also have the delay.

When we check on page two, there is a serious delay on sewer connection. And that is also very disturbing and in closing, I would also like to see what is happening on that project next to Coca-Cola in Church Street? The project seems to have stopped. Is the money finished?

If the money finished, what happened with that money? Because the project should have been on by now and it should have been maybe somewhere towards moving towards its completion. Thank you.”

**Cllr SM Swartz:** “Thanks, Honourable Speaker.

Regarding the Section 52D SDBIP report for the fourth quarter ending the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2025, we, the Patriotic Alliance, propose three actions to ensure it meets the needs of the Mangaung residents.

First, before approving the report, we request a detailed breakdown of key performance indicators, particularly for water supply, sanitation, and waste management. Many of our communities in Mangaung have faced persistent service disruptions, and we need clarity on why targets were met or missed and how these funds were allocated.

Secondly, to uphold transparency that we consistently advocate for, we propose that all annexures referenced in the SDBIP report be published on the municipal website alongside a plain language summary, making it accessible to our ratepayers.

Finally, Speaker, we urge the Council to confirm that the revised SDBIP prioritises community needs such as job creation and infrastructure upgrades, which are critical to addressing unemployment and poverty. We further propose establishing a public feedback portal for our residents to comment on the SDBIP's effectiveness. These steps will ensure the report reflects our com- our commitment to accountable and community-centric governance as mandated by the Municipal Finance Management Act. Thank you, Speaker.”

**Cllr JH Denner:** “Honourable Speaker, I stand here today to comment on the Municipality's performance on the SDBIP for the quarter ended 30 June 2025.

Honourable Speaker, one of the very first things that stood out in this document is the fact that the City Manager is recorded as having achieved 100% of his KPIs. Now I must ask plainly - how is this possible? How is it that the person responsible for overseeing a municipality that is, by every visible measure, falling apart, can score a perfect 100%?

Surely, Speaker, there must be a correlation between a leader and the performance of the departments they manage. If the system beneath the City Manager is dysfunctional, can he really be said to have performed perfectly? The logic simply does not hold.

Furthermore, we see in this report that 67% of the municipality's KPIs are marked as "Fully Effective" to "Outstanding Performance". But Speaker, I ask you - and I ask every Councillor in this Chamber - do these figures reflect the reality on the ground? Does this mirror what the people of Mangaung are experiencing daily?

We all live here. We drive on these roads. We witness the failing sewage systems, and the decaying infrastructure. Is this report not more akin to the old saying: *"I set the test, I wrote the test, and I marked the test myself"*?

Speaker, we are told that 4 out of 5 on revenue collection is something to celebrate - yet, in the very same meeting, we are discussing the need to write off R2.8 billion. That is not success. That is not performance worth applauding.

Even more troubling, this report claims a 96.9% response rate to sanitation and wastewater callouts within 48 hours, and 87.3% for water-related callouts. Speaker, this is simply not true. Most of us here is on community WhatsApp group - we see the complaints, the ignored service requests, the constant frustration of our residents. These numbers are not just inaccurate - they are an insult to the people of Mangaung, and to the intelligence of this Council.

Let me end with this, Speaker. While I am glad that something is being done to maintain the gardens at the Bram Fischer building, I must question the logic behind spending R677,000 on landscaping. Yes, the gardens are pretty. Yes, the City Manager has his perfect 100%. But it all smacks of maintaining the ivory tower while the rest of the city collapses.

The people in the townships, in the suburbs, across this entire Metro - they are the ones who deserve a 100% performance. Not in a report, but in reality. I urge this administration: take your so-called success and measure it not by what is written in a report, but by what is visible on the streets of Mangaung. Thank you..”

**Cllr MJ Ramatlama addressed the Council:** “Chairperson, we have carefully reviewed the Fourth Quarter Section 52D Report and the Revised SDBIP for the 2024/2025 financial year. What we see, once again, is a document dressed in percentages and padded with performance jargon but one that hides more than it reveals, especially when it comes to the real state of service delivery in Mangaung.

We must ask, how does the Office of the City Manager award itself a perfect 100% performance score, while key departments such as Planning and Human Settlements collapse at a dismal 53%? This is not just statistical confusion it is political dishonesty. It is the manipulation of numbers to paint a false picture of a city that is in crisis. There is no indication of independent audit, peer verification, or community validation of these self-congratulatory scores. What process allows the city to approve such a report when the lived experiences of residents tell a completely different story? Is the City governing for its own internal scorecards, or for the people who wake up daily in informal settlements, living without houses, without electricity, without basic dignity?

Chairperson, Human Settlements’ failure at 53% performance is a national disgrace. This is the department tasked with delivering shelter, redressing apartheid spatial inequality, and restoring dignity to the poor yet it performs the worst. There is no evidence of corrective action, no meaningful shift in outcomes, and absolutely no political accountability. The same patterns repeat quarter after quarter missed targets and empty promises.

Chairperson, despite all these contradictions and outright fabrications, the report has the audacity to classify 48 projects as “fully effective,” while admitting that 15% of KPIs are still outstanding and 7% are “unacceptable.”

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And still, we are being asked to approve this report. It is an insult to both logic and leadership. Why are non-performing directorates repeatedly rewarded? What consequence management has been applied?

What we are seeing, year in and year out, is the repetition of hollow indicators, reworded to create the illusion of progress. The baseline remains static, the community impact negligible yet reports grow thicker and the truth more buried. This is bureaucratic propaganda, not developmental governance.

EFF recommendations to the committee:

1. Defer approval of this Fourth Quarter Report until each directorate submits site-verified performance evidence, not spreadsheet statistics.
2. Commission an independent audit of all reported capital projects, especially under Centlec and Human Settlements.
3. The City Manager must explain the 100% score in writing, with full detail on methodology and oversight. This we have raised over and over every quarter.
4. A ward-level breakdown of all capital projects (lighting, electricity, roads, housing) must accompany future SDBIP reports and be available to all ward councillors and the public.
5. The performance reporting model must be overhauled remove self-scoring, and replace it with community verification, peer review, and independent oversight.

In conclusion, the EFF Caucus rejects a governance model based on paper performance and political protectionism. Our people are not statistics. They are citizens. They deserve honesty, delivery, and transformation not manipulated numbers and recycled failures. We demand truthful reporting, radical transparency, and consequence-based leadership. Until that happens, this report will never be supported by the EFF. Comrade Mokete Duma. Thank you.”

**Cllr TO Machachamise:** “Greetings, Honourable Speaker, the Executive Mayor, Deputy Executive Mayor, the Councillors and Mangaung at large. The purpose of the fourth quarter report as tabled by the Executive Mayor is to highlight the following.

First and foremost, to assess the progress of the implementation of the SDBIP for the financial year which ended June 2025. Which indicates a much better performance of 68%.

Secondly, was to identify which program and project are falling behind and why. And what corrective action are in place to get the project back on track. In this case, each department have highlighted such on-Annexure A of this report.

Thirdly, that the spending of the budget collaborates with the actual performance on the ground. And thus, our people feel the impact. I can confirm as the Ward Councillor of Ward 3 that, at this point, the impact is minimal in my community, and I request that improvement be made in this regard. Honourable Speaker and Councillors, based on the above points. I do acknowledge the performance as reported and tabled by the Executive Mayor. And as a Councillor, I remain steady in this request to see that lives of our community get improved and getting reliable provision for service delivery.

As I conclude, the heads of Department should always bear in mind that this Council is not here to be the enemy, but to provide support of administrative oversight. This is where the planned Section 80 of IDP and OPM assessment led by the Deputy Executive Mayor, and myself and the entire committee. Which is very important with both political heads and administration. I therefore submit for the approval of Quarter Four, Section 52D report. Thank you.”

**After voting, the Speaker announced: 43 votes in favour, 39 against and 0 abstained.**

**It was thereupon**

**RESOLVED**

- (a) That Council approved the MFMA Section 52(d) SDBIP 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report (01 April 2025 – 30 June 2025).
- (b) Noted that the report will be published on the Municipal website and be submitted to the National Treasury.

**4.**

**MUNICIPAL FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT (MFMA): PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT REPORT IN TERMS OF THE MFMA, SECTION 52(d), FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

**Cllr AF Bothma:** “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, honourable Executive Mayor, and the members of Council, Municipal officer, officials, and all stakeholders.

In compliance with section 52D, the Municipal Finance Management, I would like to convey my input on the quarterly budget and performance assessment report for the period ending 30 June 2025. The report reflects the municipality's progress in implementing the approved budget and highlights the current state of our financial affairs.

Firstly, on the statement of financial performance, according to table C, which in my reference always a year-to-date revenue is R10.3 billion, falling short of the target of R11 billion. On the expenditure side, we spent R9.165, also below the target of R10.594, R1.8 billion is debt impairment, actually has still to be journalised with other entries as well, raising a concern about the accuracy of this report on this date on table 4. However, there are major areas of concern to me. The manual processing of financial transactions, especially regarding mSCOA assets model seven, the most unsolved delayed transparency. Number 14, the revenue variances are water positive is 56, which is very good, but then again, we must look at a 49% loss.

The property rights positive variance R138 million that is to be, 8%, that is a very good achievement. Electricity revenue is a problem. It is a negative variance of R786 million, and the expenditure, Speaker, exceeds R133 million.

So, we have a net variance of income and expenditure on our electricity account of an amount of R918 million. Numerous invoices are outstanding across departments. The CFO raises concern about the lack of cooperation from HODs to submit these. The Municipal Manager must urgently address this to avoid misstated financial statements. Overtime spending, I am not going to elaborate on that because it is the R145 million overspend is, atrocious. There are irregular overtime submissions, which we learned of in our meeting and will have to be corrected. Corrections on these matters could resolve even in more matter's, Speaker, I am not going to elaborate. We all know that R12.6 billion and a total of R10.5 billion is long term, more than 180 days. But for me, the collection disparities are concerning with a 3% collection rate in the southern suburbs and 19% in northern suburbs. We have got to see what is working in the north so we can, actually execute it throughout the municipality. Billing inaccuracy, we need to calculate the total BPS system so we can actually regain public trust. But mainly because of the electricity bill, the currents, and the payment agreement on, Vaal Water Central.

I would just like to mention that there was some misinformation given on social media regarding this, which is incorrect. So, we owe R501 million, which is outstanding. My concern is a manual transaction for mSCOA non-compliance. Now I got remedial action to fast track the implementation of mSCOA, especially on assets.

The second one, inaccurate financial reporting. Immediate directive to HODs to submit all invoices, enforce accountability. Excess overtime must change implementation of the shift system must happen to improve the oversight, enforce proper overtime controls. Then on high debtors' book to strengthen revenue collection in low performing areas, enhance billing system accuracy, and expenditure of capital project, prioritise invoice processing, improve planning and protect execution.

Repairs and maintenance. Increase the allocation in the next budget for these assets for urgent maintenance. Then Honourable Speaker, the administration must be committed to improve financial management and service delivery. We invite Council to use this report, and we welcome constructive input to ensure better outcomes in, in the new financial year. Thank you.”

**Cllr B Vorster:** “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. All protocols observed. The City Manager, in his newsletter dated 30 July 2025, referred to the recent oversight visit by the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Corporate, Governance, and Traditional Affairs. He indicated that the Metro attempted to respond to issues raised by this committee, such as unauthorised and wasteful expenditure, excessive overtime, underspending of grants, and the ongoing uncertainty around the Metro's status as a going concern relating to the 2023/2024 financial year. The City Manager further stated that these challenges stemmed from the previous administration, and that the current leadership should not be held responsible. This sentiment was also being expressed by the honourable Executive Mayor, who over the past few months repeatedly pointed to the political stability brought under his leadership, the appointment of the City Manager and senior officials, and the claim that the current administration inherited these problems.

Now, Honourable Speaker, in light of these remarks, the Freedom Front Plus wishes to pose the following clarity-seeking questions concerning the 2024/2025 financial year, a year fully

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administrated under the leadership of the current administration. Why did this administration once again incurred fruitless and wasteful expenditure totalling R31.5 million, an increase of R18.8 million compared to the previous financial year? Why was there again overspending on acting and other allowances in an amount of R74.2 million? Why did unauthorised expenditure on overtime increase to R136.5 million, R14.9 million more than in the 2023/2024 financial year? Why did water losses increase from an already alarming 48% to 50.64%?

Why did electricity distribution losses rise from R166 million to R239 million? Why did the outstanding government debt increase from R1.5 billion to R2.2 billion under this administration? Why was only R699 million of the capital budget set at over R1.1 billion actually spent? Why did the Metro end up with an operating budget deficit of more than R684 million a R121 million increase from the previous year? Honourable Speaker, the essence of these questions is simple. Why is the same pattern of financial mismanagement repeating itself under the current administration?

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, who will be blamed this time for the worsening financial position of the Metro in the 2024/2025 financial year? Will consequence management be applied immediately, or must this Metro again wait for a visit from the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee before taking action? Most importantly, can this Metro truly continue as a going concern? The Freedom Front Plus must ask, in all seriousness, can this Municipality still claim to function as a Metropolitan Municipality? I thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

**Cllr BJ Viviers:** “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I second everything that was said by the previous two speakers, Councillor B Vorster as well as Councillor AF Bothma. I will now hand over my speech to the Executive Mayor raising major concerns, but also giving solutions, and I pray that he will read through it. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

**Cllr DL Malebo:** “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. As we rise on this day, not merely to comment on financial figures, but to expose the failures embedded in the physical DNA of this Municipality. A municipality that continues to drown in financial mismanagement, administrative incompetence, and ideological bankruptcy. This is not just a numbers report. This is a reflection of governance collapse, a Council with no grasp of proper budgeting, of constitutional obligations, or of its developmental mandate as enshrined in Section 152 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, which calls for sustainable service delivery and financial accountability.

Honourable Speaker, on the budget deficit and the revenue collapse, the report confirms a budget deviation of R1.132 billion, with a budgeted surplus of R448 million turning into a devastating deficit of R684 million. This is not just a technical error. It is a betrayal of people of Botshabelo, Thaba Nchu, Bloemfontein, and Naledi. And all other wards denied their rightful development. This variance of symptomatic flaws is of either deliberate misrepresentation of revenue expectations or institutional collapse in revenue collection.

It proves without a doubt that this municipality lacks a functioning physical brain. We at the EFF demand immediate physical surgery, not cosmetic accounting, because poor households should not carry the burden of budget shortfalls created in air conditioning boardrooms.

## 9C

On electricity revenue underperformance, Honourable Speaker, a staggering R786 million revenue shortfall in electricity is recorded, a core income stream, yet this council continues to fumble basic functions like seasonal forecasting, FBE processing, and tariff alignment. In winter, when electricity demand is at its peak, the municipality under collects. How does this happen unless there is mismanagement or manipulation?

Electricity is no longer a reliable source of revenue in this Municipality, not because of indigent communities, but because of technical incompetence and misaligned billing systems. The EFF rejects any attempts to punish communities through load reduction or excessive tariffs due to this revenue shortfall. On municipal underspending, despite financial collapse, this municipality under-spent by R389 million. This is not prudence. It is paralysis. Underspending in a municipality with pit latrines, leaking roofs in RDP houses, and raw sewage flowing in streets, drains is a political crime against the poor. It reflects missed infrastructure opportunities, stalled grant rollouts, and zero economic stimulation for township businesses.

The EFF will not celebrate underspending while clinics remain under-resourced and informal settlements go un-serviced. On so-called favourable variances, the reports highlight the so-called variable variances, R138 million in property rate, R66 million in water revenue, and R20 million in investment interest. This Council must not pat itself on the back, Honourable Speaker. They are not wins. They may be symptoms of overcharging the poor while still failing to deliver. It is immoral to charge township residents exorbitantly while their taps run dry, refuse piles up on the streets, and public lights remain off. The EFF policy is very clear.

Revenue must be meshed with tangible service delivery outcomes. Anything less is theft by inflated budget. On debt and credit control failures. The municipality's inability to collect from traffic fines to major debtors signals a crumbling revenue control system. A R7.2 million shortfall in traffic fine revenue may seem minor in numbers, but it represents a deeper illness, a culture of impunity and no collection enforcement. The R1.8 billion debt impairment further reveals the extent of financial mismanagement. Thank you, Speaker.”

**Cllr MW Mongale:** “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, it is just by luck that the community is not aware of what we are about to discuss, because the item here is written approval of application from applicants under grant in a policy, but the contents are different. But we, we understand is a human error.

Now, when you look at page three, we have assessed that there is a deficit that shows that the municipality suffered a deficit. And I am happy that you also accepted it at the portfolio committee, that there is a problem with the municipality. So, we are not going to fight over it. We are not celebrating it also. The issue of the crisis at CENTLEC, whereby we have the unfavourable variance due to lower use, due to lower user consumption than what was budgeted for, we saw it coming because we have been saying our tariff system is too high for ordinary people that are living in Mangaung. And we need to review it.

And we are still making that call even today to say, we can sit around the table, talk about it, not go for a quick fix, but we might even have some kind of a strategic workshop where we can discuss the tariffs.

We are aware also ESKOM is another factor that is influencing the pricing, but we are saying we need to find a way of sitting around a table trying to find a mechanism of at least mitigating the impact of tariffs on our people, which is the community of Mangaung. That is what I am asking for. The water leakages, that is standing at 50.64% It shows that we are giving Bloem Water almost half of the money that we never used. It is the leakages, according to the report.

Our failure to finalise the transfer of certain services that belong to the Mangaung Metro at Lengau, Centre especially the one in the registration section, because that function must come to Mangaung so that Mangaung is able to generate revenue. In order to assist Mangaung. The other issue is, this one of a licensing or accreditation for housing where the function of a human settlement, the one of housing must move from province, must be given to the municipality. We need to speed up that process if we really want to fix the current financial condition that the municipality finds itself in. Overspending due to overtime. This one, we must have a contingency plan. And we cannot keep on postponing it and also reasoning about it to say, "We are going to make a plan. We are going to make a plan." But there seems to be nothing that is coming to the fore in trying to mitigate the issue of overspending on overtime.

The debt of businesses needs also to be collected by this Municipality. The government debt, we thought it is improving, cause last time when we checked the document, it was about R1.4 billion, but it went back again more than two below, which shows that it is business as usual for government. They are not supporting the Municipality. They are not honouring their obligation. And there is also about R8 billion that is owed by our community. And we have not found a mechanism. Or maybe other ways of putting some sweeteners that will make our people attracted to pay for the services, because some of the community members are saying, "we are not refusing to pay for the services. We want to pay, but the current condition that we see here does not inspire us." Now, we need to put some kind of excitement to our people so that they are able to enjoy paying for services, or we must justify why they have to pay for services."

**Cllr CL Kruger:** "Thank you, Honourable Speaker. If we are under collected R742 million and we have overspent with R389 million, resulting in a deficit of R1.1 billion, then consequence management should be a lifestyle, and it cannot be treated as anything else because accountability and an explanation must be given. But equally, let us give context. In terms of under collecting, the R742 million, but this is also as a result, unfortunately, of the CENTLEC issue, where CENTLEC, unfortunately, in terms of what the anticipated usage will be, that calculation was outward with 18%. When we talk about tariffs, tariffs unfortunately do not emanate from the Municipality.

Unfortunately, we know it is ESKOM and it is a NERSA issue. So be it as it may, that 18% of CENTLEC, that resulted in R786 million that we have under-collected, which is almost the same amount in totality. So, it simply says the effect that the CENTLEC issue had on Mangaung. Then Honourable Speaker the Finance Section 80 Committee and the CFO and officials in revenue management sub-directorate and embarked on a service centre visit in all regions. We wanted to see, is our offices fully functional? If not, what is wrong and how should we rectify that?

Because it is an influence on revenue collection. That report will be presented to the council in the next council meeting. The report, honourable speaker in terms of the MFMA Section 52D which we are all conversant with, the report is preliminary. As we know, that as much as the year ended the quarter of 30th June 2025 there are transactions that takes place post this date, especially on expenditure side, where invoices continue to be received, but we have officially closed on the 28th of July 2025. I am, making the statements so that we understand the expenditure in terms of grant expenditure is still not a true reflection because when we prepared this, other invoices were not taken into consideration. So, we wanted to have an impact on the final amount in terms of grant expenditure.

And then Honourable Speaker, water performed well in terms of sales and in terms of billing, but I need to mention that we are starting to see the fruits of our relentless approach to collection. The documentation we received from debt collectors; we applaud the officials for achieving a 99.6 collection rate for the fourth quarter. One step forward is worth noting but not celebrating as yet. We are yearning for a consistent average collection rate of 95% and we will be benchmarking with cities who are recommended by National Treasury on a 100 to 105 collection rate. And Honourable Speaker, what is also important that Deputy Executive Mayor mentioned, they wanted to understand these debt collectors, when they collect money, where does the money go to? Now let me allay their fears, Deputy Executive Mayor and, the audience at large, payments are made directly into the MMM bank account, and the commission is at 8.2% and a detailed report will be presented in the next Section 80 Committee of Finance and subsequently to Council. The pain points remain in the operational budget, employee-related costs exacerbated by overtime.

These are the things, Honourable Speaker that need attention. But we want to see the impact in terms of the shift system and also in terms of now that Mangaung has passed, in terms of adopting a structure. Now if we start employing, what will the benefits be in terms of that. I do not have to elaborate much on others because previous speakers already alluded to that. I want to give overview regarding the capital budget. Like I have said, now it says 63% in terms of expenditure, but it is not a true reflection because there is still outstanding invoices and we anticipated this will move from 63% between 85 to 95% if everything else is captured. And then also, Honourable Speaker, taking into cognisance the recommendations and I fully support the recommendations as is. I thank you.”

**Point of clarification raised by Cllr HJ van Niekerk:** “This is in regard to the indigent register. Honourable Speaker, we did not see anything on all these points in the agenda. Last month we had a special meeting and then they said, "No, only in the ordinary meeting can that be handled." Now today, there is an ordinary meeting and still there is nothing. But out there, there is a lot of residents in Mangaung, and especially in my ward and especially in the suburb Wilgehof, that is sitting without a drop of water for the last three to four months. Water was disconnected in May already. It is now the end of June.

We still do not have that register. We still cannot approve it. The municipality can still not go back and reopen the water. There is up to six or eight residents in one house, they do not have a single drop, only that minimum flow. So, we have to know exactly what is going on.

Why can't we get this through? Where is this register? When will it come here? In the meeting of June, there were several councillors that asked, "Please bring that register." And, you know, it is not money that is thrown down the drain. We call that equitable share. We will get that money back from national. We just have to get it through council, give it out and see that the water is restored. Please, this is urgent, and we request, we actually plead with the MEC of Finance, please get this thing through. Table it to the council as soon as you can. Thank you, Speaker."

**Executive Mayor requested that Cllr CL Kruger must follow through as that was a plead from a senior member of the community.**

**Council did not vote as the item was for noting.**

**It was thereupon**

## **RESOLVED**

That, in compliance with Section 52(d) of the MFMA

1. That Council took note of the report on the implementation of the budget and financial state of affairs of the municipality for the fourth quarter of 2024/2025 ended 30 June 2025.
2. That the report be submitted to National Treasury and be published on the municipal website.

## **5.**

### **MANGAUNG GENERAL VALUATION PROCESS FOR IMPLEMENTATION DURING THE FOUR-YEAR PERIOD COMMENCING ON 01 JULY 2026 TO 2030**

**Cllr VB De Kock:** "Geagte Voorsitter. Ons neem kennis van die voorgestelde algemene waardasie prose vir die tydperk 2026 tot 2030. As die Vryheidsfront Plus wil ons dit duidelik stel: ons ondersteun wetlike naakoming en prosedures wat verseker dat eiendoms waardasies regverdig, deursigtig en markverbant is. Hierdie verslag voldoen aan die bepalinge van die Municipale Eiendoms Belasting Wet, en sluit aan by die vereiste dat 'n algemene waardasie minstens elke vier tot vyf jaar gedoen moet word.

However, what remains concerning, is that the recommendations in this report do not clearly define what is expected of Council. Are we required to formally approve this process, or are we merely noting it? The distinction between administrative noting and formal approval has legal and governance implications, and we request that that be clarified. Wat vir ons as die Vryheidsfront Plus verder belangrik bly, is dat hierdie proses nie net 'n administratiewe oefening moet wees nie. Dit moet in dienst staan van die gemeenskap.

Communication with residents, especially during the inspection and objection phases, must be a priority. We need to keep residents updated in every step of the process on all media platforms. Residents are more than often confused or uninformed when new property values are presented to them. Ons wil ook versoek dat kleinboere, afgetrede huishoudings en besighede wat reeds finansiële swaarkry spesifiek beskerm word teen buitensporige verhogings. Wat nie markverwant of ekonomies volhoubaar is nie. Die Vryheidsfront Plus sal hierdie proses monitor om te verseker dat elke stap van data-insameling tot die finale waardasie lys eerlik, regverdig en inklusief is. Ek dank U.”

**Cllr AF Bothma:** “Thank you, Speaker. Today I want to speak on a matter that has direct impact on the financial health of the municipality and the fairness of our rate system, the general valuation process to be implemented. Every metro municipality is required to undertake a general valuation within its boundaries at least every four years. This process determines the market value of property at a specific date and ensures that property values are based on current and equitable values. But why is this important? The general valuation process is not just a legal requirement; it is the foundation of our revenue base. Property rights are one of the municipality’s most significant and stable sources of revenue. This revenue is used to fund essential services as road maintenance and infrastructure, waste collection, public safety, community facilities, street lighting, and urban development and housing services.

A free and accurate valuation ensures that property owners contribute proportionally to the service they receive and that the burden is shared equally across the city. How will this proceed? We have a qualified registered professional valuer that we have actually appointed and will be under the guidance of the Chief Financial Officer. I must mention in this regard that the DA did request rule 38 question a report on the appointment of evaluator tender. The answer is still anticipated. The process of valuation must involve valuation date. We have done that inspection and data collection. Valuers must use a combination of physical inspection, satellite imaging, building plans and, and sales data. Compilation of the valuation roll, this roll must list all properties, their owners, their physical descriptions, and the market value, inspection and objections. The draft roll must be open for public scrutiny for 60 days. Property owners will be able to inspect the roll and lodge objections if they believe their property is valued incorrectly. Final roll and implementation will be then the 1st of July 2026. Community participation, transparency and public participation will be central to this process.

A series of public awareness campaigns, ward-based consultation, and rate payer's engagement must be conducted to educate residents on how the property is valued, the rates that are calculated, how to object to the evaluation, and the rights and responsibilities of property owners. We urge residents and property owners to engage fully with this process. Your voice matters and your participation ensure integrity of the system. There is a guideline Speaker, that in the year of the revaluation the tariffs should actually not be increased. And we must remember this because the previous year we had quite a discussion regarding that. Commitment to fairness and accuracy.

The Municipality must be committed to ensure that the general valuation is conducted with professionalism, accuracy, and impartiality. We must embrace technology and legislative compliance to promote fiscal sustainability.

## 9H

Although the municipality mentioned in Local Government Municipal, Rates Act Number 6 of 2004, the evaluator cannot follow a blanket approach and value properties on Google Maps because they are situated in Mangaung. A property in Botshabelo, Thaba Nchu, Soutpan, Dewetsdorp, Wepener, Van Stadensrus, and Tierpoort cannot be valued the same as property in Bloemfontein. The evaluator needs to physically visit all areas in Mangaung and jurisdiction before setting valuations.

A 200 square meter property in Dewetsdorp cannot have the same value as 200 square meters in Bloemfontein. We are also mindful of the economic pressure on households and businesses. The general valuation will provide the basis for a review of the rates policy, including possible rebates, exemptions, and phased-in approaches where appropriate. In conclusion, Speaker, the general evaluation is not simply an administrative exercise. It is a cornerstone of financial justice, development, and service delivery. Let us work together to ensure that it is implemented effectively, transparently, and in the best interest of our city and its people. Let us use this opportunity to strengthen public trust, build sustainable revenue, and ensure that Mangaung continues to grow as a well governed, inclusive, and financially viable Metro. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

**Cllr MW Mongale:** “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Dr BL Mathae. We have looked at the other properties of the Municipality. Which are in need of improvement and increase their value. Amongst them is Klein Magasa that has collapsed. It needs to be revitalised. And another one is the Zoo, because if we do not improve the quality of Zoo, it means the value of that particular area will not be at expected level, as some of the departments might also be transferred. Like we have heard about the issue of the solid waste.

Now, the issue of industrialisation, because when we look at the N8, we found that there are a lot of properties there that have been left abandoned. And it will also affect the value of the properties of the people that are staying in Mandela View, Raceway, and other areas that are within the range of that particular area. So those are the issues that I wanted to raise. Because part of valuation is the issue of buying and selling. So, you will not be able to buy or sell your property at a rate where you want it if the area is affected negatively. And that is the argument that I also want to discuss with regard to the contribution.

With regard to Vista Park, because I have raised this issue in the Committee to question whether Vista Park is a township or a suburb? Because if the infrastructure there is of poor quality, it means it will also affect the value of the properties of the people of Vista Park.

With that being said, those are the issues that I wanted this Council to consider. Because along our journey, we are going to cross roads with communities where you will find that part of the properties is being valued at this particular price, but when you get to that property, you find that in the township, the people are staying there, none of them are working, which will be another issue to say, "Are you expecting those people to pay that particular rate that we have created as influenced by the value of the property?"

Therefore, these are the factors that we need to consider when we are doing this job or else we will end up being crossing roads every now and then with the community because we have

not done our own scientific analysis about this property valuation or maybe general valuation. Especially when it goes to areas like township, there is a crisis there. And the Municipality needs to find a way of zooming in and coming up with a scientific formula that will be able to address the challenges that are prevailing in the township with regard to those properties, or else we will not be able to get anywhere. Thank you, Speaker, for the opportunity.”

**Cllr SQ Peter:** “Thank you Speaker, I need to indicate the purpose of this report is to the attention of council that the current general valuation rolls that the city is using to levy rates and taxes is coming to an end in June 2026. The process to compile a new general valuation roll has begun as per the legislation, the compilation of the general valuation roll is done in terms of particular legislations as cited. And considering the lifespan of the current one that we have, specifically for the metros it is four years, and then for the normal municipalities, it will be for a period of five years. We need to indicate that the timetable has been compiled and shared with Department of COGTA because normally things that are related to your rates and properties and your valuations needs to be shared with them so that they are aware what is our program schedule and so on and so forth. The important thing here Speaker, is for the Council to approve the recommendation as per the legislation requirement.

I need to indicate this one because I heard one Councillor saying, "we are not clear in terms of the recommendations." The purpose is to approve that. I will expand further when I am about to complete. Therefore, designate the municipal valuer as the person who by law would be able to sign the general valuation roll with the City Manager. We need to indicate that this process on its own does not include the appointed general valuer alone but needs to do that in conjunction with the City Manager. Again, it is important that the administration as part of the implementation process as indicated earlier on needs to be consistent in terms of communicating these decisions of the Council. And also informing the relevant community or affected community by means of different communications, social media, radio and all other forms.

The idea for that kind of communication is to actually limit the objections and the appeals that might normally arise from this process. I heard Councillor MW Mongale raising some of the issues of properties. So, by doing so, we are trying to eliminate and manage time in this regard. therefore, it is therefore important to also note that, honourable speaker, it is not only the City manager but municipal valuer also who will be dealing with this. Through the office of the Speaker, there are a number of different departments or directorates who will form part of this process. For example, finance, ICT, planning, building control inspectorates, in a nutshell, we are saying we need to approve this so that the City manager and appointed municipal valuer can complete the job without any hassles. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

**Speaker announced that the Council voted unanimously.**

**It was thereupon**

**RESOLVED that**

## 9J

- a) In terms of section 31(1) of the Municipal Property Rates Act no.6 of 2004 (MPRA Act no.6 of 2004), as amended the date of valuation be determined as 01 September 2025.
- b) The General Valuation roll be implemented effective from 01 July 2026, to comply with provisions of Section 32 of the Act as amended.
- c) That Mr Ngole Aurthur Lelosa (Manna Holdings Pty Ltd) be designated as the Municipal Valuer to comply with provisions of Section 33 of the Act as amended.
- d) That the new certified valuation roll be submitted, to the Municipal Manager on or before 31 January 2026.
- e) That the City Manager or his nominee must on continuous basis issue newspaper notices, WhatsApp voice notices and also attend public meetings as and when invited by Councillors for the purpose of keeping the rates payers informed.

6.
  - I. **REPORTING TO COUNCIL ON THE OLD CUSTOMER DEBTS WRITTEN OFF THAT WAS DEEMED TO BE IRRECOVERABLE AND WITHIN THE DELEGATED POWERS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND CITY MANAGER AS PER THE WRITE OFF POLICY (2024/25).**
  - II. **TO REQUEST COUNCIL TO WRITE OFF THE INTEREST COMPONENT THAT IS IN THE DEBTORS BOOK THAT AMOUNT TO ABOUT R2.8 BILLION AS AT 30 JUNE 2025**

**Cllr JE Sebolao:** “Greetings Honourable Speaker and members of the Council. The Economic Freedom Fighters Caucus rise firmly on this item to express serious concern regarding proposed write-off of long-standing Municipal debt amounting to R26.5 million as tabled under the item. This is not just a mere administrative act. It is a political decision with far-reaching consequences for equity, justice and integrity of municipal governance. Legal and policy compliance must be paramount. The Council cannot proceed with the write-off of this magnitude without strict adherence to national legislation and municipal policy framework. The Municipal Finance Management Act, particular Section 96, places direct duty on the accounting officer to ensure that all money due to the municipality is collected. Similarly, Section 64(2C) of the MFMA applies municipal to reconcile revenue collection regularly. This can only be declared irrecoverable once all efforts, legal, administrative and financial, have been exhausted.

Moreover, the Municipal Assistance Act, Section 96 and 97, requires adoption and enforcement of credit control and debt collection policies. This means no write-off is lawful unless the municipality can prove that its own policies were followed to the letter. The EFF is not satisfied that all these laws and policies were properly considered or that national treasury guidelines on debt relief were followed. Administrative integrity and procedural clarity. The write-off of municipal debt must be based on clearly defined, justifiable process. If there's no means to distinguish between indigent household and affluent property owners, the entire process is compromised. Relief meant for the poor must not become a shield for the privileged, where legal avenues, disconnection strategy and debt repayment plans fully exhausted before surrendering revenue.

These are the minimum steps expected in a municipality governed law, not politics. Partial justice cannot be ignored. We know this disturbing evidence that wealthy suburbs such as Woodland Hills have disproportionately benefited from this write-off while historically disadvantaged community like Bergman have no meaningful relief. This cannot be allowed to stand. Debt relief in Mangaung must be informed by special justice and equity, not class privilege. Any process that favours the affluent while ignoring the poor is a direct betrayal of our constitutional value and transformative vision of local government.

The EFF reject this with contempt any class-biased implementation that protects wealth while punishing poverty. This write-off must reflect the socio-economic reality of Mangaung, not the financial comfort of select suburbs. Transparency and full breakdown. Council has been asked to endorse this R26.5 million write-off without being given a proper Ward level or suburb-specific breakdown. We demand a full report showing who benefited and which areas fall under which category of account: resident- residential, indigent, commercial, government, et cetera.

## 10A

We further insist on knowing how many accounts were fully written off, how many partially written off, and how many were placed on alternative repayment arrangements. As it stands, the report lacks credibility and undermining public trust and audit readiness. The EFFs position is pro-poor, anti-elitist. The EFF unequivocally support debt relief for poor and working-class household, particularly where poverty, unemployment and inequality remain deeply entrenched. But the support is not unconditional. We reject black blanket write-offs without legal grounding, write-offs that benefit commercial and affluent clients, processes that undermine transparency, oversight and fiscal sustainability. Let it be known the people of Botshabelo, Thaba Nchu and Bergman must not be ignored while municipality quietly reward the wealthy. Our demands and final resolution: In the interest of justice and clean governance, EFF Caucus demand the following before the council proceed with approval. A full legal justification for the debt written write-off, citing all applicable legislation and internal police. A detailed word by word breakdown of who benefited and how eligibility was determined. A clear explanation of why, places like Woodlands were included and Bergman excluded, if indeed that is the case. Thank you, Speaker.”

**Cllr JM De Bruin:** “Geagte Speaker, op item no 128 (6), Verslae van die Uitvoerende Burgemeester,

Ons die Patriotiese Alliansie verwelkom die versoek dat die Raad ou oninvorderbare skuld wat ouer as 5 jaar is, moet afskryf wat ingevolge die Verjaringswet voorgeskryf is.

Ek wil graag weet of alle gemeenskapslede wat aansoek gedoen het om Behoeftige Status ingesluit is by hierdie afskrywing van ou oninvorderbare skuld?

Indien nie, wanneer sal daardie aansoeke van gemeenskapslede wat sedert 2015 en selfs voor dit, elke jaar aansoek gedoen het om Behoeftige Status, en nie ingesluit is by hierdie lys van name wat voorgelê is, gehelp word en wat is die rede vir hul uitsluiting?

Gaan die Mangaung Metro Munisipaliteit alle konvensionele stelsels vervang met nuwe voorafbetalde stelsels, sodat die verbruiker kan betaal vir water? Op hierdie manier sal die Metro inkomste vir diens gelewer kan verhaal.

Dit is deur die onbevoegdheid van amptenare wat nie hul werk reg kan doen wat die Metro met die dilemma sit en nou so 'n groot bedrag geld moet afskryf. Ek dank U byvoorbaat Meneer die Speaker.”

**Cllr AF Bothma:** “Thank you, Speaker. We are reporting to the Council regarding the old customer debts. Firstly, and I will speak to that, as I stand before you today to formally report as per our governance obligations and financial oversight responsibility on the matter of our customer debts that to be written off in line with the municipality's approved write-off policy. These debts, Honourable Speaker have been assessed and categorised as irrecoverable after we had trusted that all reasonable efforts to collect them were exhausted. We were assured by the CFO that this actually happened in our Section 80 Committee meeting.

## 10B

They pertain to accounts that are no longer economically viable to pursue, whether due to the age of the debt, the absence of traceable debtors, insolvency proceedings, and indigents where recovery is unjust and administratively burdensome. In terms of the delegated authority provided to the Chief financial officer and City Manager, this category of debt write-off has been executed within the financial thresholds and procedures outlined in our policy.

This was given assurance to us as well. The decision to write-off these debts was not taken lightly. The finance director must have followed the due process, including firstly, verification of the debtor's status, the consideration of legal and collective history, evaluation of cost benefit regarding further recovery attempts, and confirmation that all internal controls and policy requirements were satisfied. Honourable Speaker, you cannot, throw good money after bad money. That is what I am trying to say here as well.

Allow me to briefly outline the summary of the debts written-off under this delegation. The total number of accounts is 5,299. Aggregate value of this debt written off is R26,571,125. Our category accounts, these include the seized estates with no assets, indigent households verified through the Indigent Register, accounts prescribed in terms of the Prescription Act and closed accounts with non-traceable customers.

Let me also relate that the write-off of these debts does not equate to the cancellation of liability. Should future circumstances arise that allow recovery such as locating a debtor or estate appropriation, appropriate action should be taken to reinstate and pursue the debt in line with the law.

Secondly, the second part of our item is to request Council write-off the interest component to the amount of that R2.8 billion. The total number of 217,517 accounts deemed to be written off has been identified and tabled in this report. This is the interest part. Note must be taken that the total number of households that have been certain is a total of 240,000. So, we can do the maths the Speaker. This is an exercise which I find very necessary as we need to clear our debtor's book from items that cannot be collected. This is a cleanup of our debtor's book. My problem is that we do not have budget adequately for this amount to be written off. I could actually see that there's R2.2 billion, earmarked for getting payments for 2025. We are looking at unauthorised expenditure, so we must try to work on this Mister Speaker. The following is imperative to both requesting write-offs. The action must not stop here and should be continuous especially for the next three years. We must have a realistic debtor's book and must not reflect in our financial statements showing incorrect amounts to be collected, thus inflating our debtors and result in, incorrect representation.

The committee emphasised that the proper measures must be enforced during the recollection actions. All appropriate steps must be taken to minimise the writing-off of these debts. Honourable Speaker, this report forms part of our broader commitment to responsible financial management and adherence to treasury regulations, the MFMA provisions, and our internal policies. It is also the Municipality responsibility to maintain more accurate and realistic accounts, receivable balances, and to focus on limited resources on revenue streams that are viable and collectible. Finally, I call on Council to acknowledge that the write-offs were done within the approved delegation and policy framework. I thank you, Speaker.”

## 10C

**Cllr E Snyman Van Deventer:** “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. This report on the write-off of old customer debts is tabled for noting. However, this report raises serious red flags about the integrity of our billing system and the effectiveness of the management of our debtors' book.

Let me point to some specific examples. There are numerous entries for ridiculously small amounts — 1 cent, 8 cents, 12 cents, 16 cents, 26 cents. Why are these amounts still on our books? This is administrative clutter and reflects poor system controls. It is not efficient, and it is certainly not credible.

Further to that, there are serious concerns about how accounts are classified as "inactive." What criteria is being used? Who determines when an account becomes inactive, and on what basis? How is it possible that accounts belonging to organs of state, including both the Free State Provincial Government and National Government departments, are listed as inactive and deemed non-collectable? Even the accounts of the Mangaung Metro Municipality.

Speaker, according to this report, the Free State Government alone owes over R100,000 to be written off. Transnet Ltd is listed at over R90,000. Airports Company South Africa: R84,566.95. How can we write off these amounts from entities that clearly have the means and capacity to pay?

And what about business accounts? Take, for example, Levona Construction & Development (Pty) Ltd - an active company that continues to develop properties throughout Mangaung. Why are these debts not collected? Why are accounts not linked or consolidated to ensure recovery?

And then there is Woodlands Hills. Speaker, through you, can it please be clarified: are the accounts for Woodlands Hills those that were the subject of the court order?

This report does not provide enough context or explanation. It limits Council's ability to exercise its oversight responsibility. We cannot simply note it and move on. The Chief Financial Officer and City Manager must urgently review these write-offs as part of their delegated functions and provide detailed justifications., Honourable Speaker. Thank you.

**Cllr M Wewege and Cllr JE Sebolao seconded what Cllr E Snyman Van Deventer proposed.**

**Cllr JI Mokoena:** “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to recognise and appreciate the comments that have been made by Cllr JE Sebolao, Cllr AF Bothma and Prof (Cllr E Snyman Van Deventer). I stand here today, Honourable Speaker not just as a mere public representative, but I believe also as a voice for those who are not in this chamber.

Taking everything into consideration and recognising the constraints and the tension that is always there, in how public policymakers, our state should address the issues relating to its citizens and which you will always find that it is not very easy to balance the different interests, but because of the incumbent interest embedded in some of the choices that we have got to make.

## 10D

Today, I want to align myself only to one issue, Speaker, in relation to what I understand that is standing before me, and not relate to 6.1, but address myself to 6.2. Speaker, it is quite obvious that over the past while, 10 years or so, the low economic growth, the high unemployment, COVID, and all other related constraints that has befallen our country, that there has been a lot of pressure on our citizens, and to that extent that a lot of them are facing hardships. But second to that, Honourable Speaker, is the issue relating to the fact that as municipalities administering what are called administered crisis, we know that at the moment we are sitting with one of the highest electricity tariffs of close to R4 per unit, which means a person who used to buy units for R100, today can only buy for 25 units.

The issue of water and because of the leakage of water, we are paying for it, but people are not consuming it. All of these issues that Prof (Cllr E Snyman Van Deventer) has raised about the integrity of our database, and the fact that some of the issues that we found on our database and our debts are questionable and are contested by others also adds to the mix of what we are facing today.

However, I want to say, Chairperson, barring all of those things, we have got to be compassionate. We have got to be able to tell our people that we hear their plight. We are supposed to be able to say irrespective of the tensions and the financial sustainability that we want Mangaung a distressed municipality to go through, we are going to go through it with you. If you are able to pay for your services, if you are able pay for your debts. However, we cannot be ignorant of the burden that is there on them. As a government that is responsible which is based on a constitution that is social democratic, we need to be able to be there for our people at some of the worst of times. And to that extent, that's how I address myself to this particular issue of writing off but the interest that has accumulated, the interest that continuously distort our financial planning each and every year, because we recognise interest as part of revenue which is irrecoverable.

So, who are we deluding and who are we misleading? It is us that have got to take the responsibility to ensure that this Municipality is functional. However, we cannot delude ourselves that we can collect what might have been declared uncollectible. As to what measures have been used, Honourable Speaker, I do not know, and I would like the Executive Mayor to take up some of the recommendations of the other councillors to go and relook at possibly getting to a clearer, better policy.

However, I want to say to our people, we hear you, we see you, we want to unburden you with the debt that is there for you. We want you to pay for what you consume. However, the write-off of this historical interest, I believe might be the right thing to do, and I would strongly urge my fellow councillors to say, let us relook at this thing. Let us have compassion for people. I know the rich might benefit out of it, but it does not mean the poor have got to be in the basket. We have got to make the choice. We don't have a very clear and, categoric system that can assist us in being able to see who is going to benefit, who is not going to benefit. Sometimes in the mix, others benefit who should not be benefiting.

But I'm more interested in the plight of our poor, and that is why I would want to say, as a social democrat, I would want to urge all of us to say let us write off the current interest debt to be

able to show our people that we are on the path of repairing Mangaung we are on the path of making this city work, because they deserve better, and they deserve our concern and our consideration. I thank you.”

**Cllr CL Kruger:** Thank you, Honourable speaker. I would want to highlight that in terms of what the previous Councillors have said. I fully concur with the sentiment behind it. But now we need to look at the financial liquidity of the municipality. It simply means, and I think the Councillors have said it perfectly, giving context to the challenge at hand. We sit with a debtor's book of almost R13 billion. We need to take the data, we need to purify it, we need to clean it, and the writing off is within the policies of this Municipality, so here we are, we are functioning within the ambit of the law. And as you have rightfully said, Cllr JI Mokoena, that two billion is not a true reflection of the debtor's book.

Its interest, and it is immediately irrecoverable. So, we are looking to take the Municipality to a financial liquidity state, and it simply means we have heard previously in previous Councils where our Councillors have said, please, can we deal with the write-off so that we can have a true reflection of what the debtor's book actually is?" National Treasury has cautioned us. Now we are coming as a department to say, let's take this debtor's book. Let us dissect it. Let us see exactly what is true, what is recoverable, what is prescribed, and what can be dealt with, with the powers vested in the City Manager as well as the CFO within their delegated powers and subsequently the, the write-off, off the almost R2 billion in terms of the second portion of this item.

I just wanted to say, I support, what Cllr JI Mokoena has said, and I would have sat down, because I think he's encapsulated it in totality and holistically, because what you are saying as the other Councillors, we are not against it. But I am saying now we are moving forward. Now we need a true reflection. You cannot solve something if you are not familiar with the root cause of the problem. 13 billion of the debtor's book is not a true reflection. Like you've said, Cllr AF Bothma, let's take Mangaung further.

In conclusion Honourable Speaker, you have said it well Cllr JI Mokoena, in the process of assisting and applying the law some beneficiaries will fall through the cracks, unfortunately. But we don't run a municipality based on our emotions. We are governed by policy in the constitution. So, I'm saying as long as we function within the ambit of the law, we want to clean this the debtor's book. We have appointed our debt collectors. We are looking forward in terms of employing staff to augment our staff complement within the finance department so that we move the department to the next level that we want as Mangaung Municipality. Honourable Speaker, as I submit.”

**The Councillors voted as follows for the proposal raised by Cllr AF Bothma: 13 voted in favour, 48 against and 24 abstained.**

**Voting for item as is: 75 in favour, 13 against and 0 abstained.**

**It was thereupon**

**RESOLVED**

1. That Council took note of the old debts from closed accounts written off as per Delegation of Powers by Chief Financial Officer and City Manager.

Description	Total amount to be written off.	Total Number of Account.	Detailed Report Number.
Old debts from closed accounts written off in terms of Delegation of Powers by Chief Financial Officer and City Manager.	R 26 571 124.53	5 299	Schedule A

2. That Council approved the write -off of the interest portion as contained in the municipal debtors' book as of 30 June 2025.

Description	Total amount to be written off.	Total Number of Account.	Detailed Report Number.
Total interest due in each account as of 30 June 2025.	R 2 896 246 367	217 517	Schedule B

**7.**

**SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 JUNE 2025 (2024/2025 FINANCIAL YEAR)**

**Cllr MH Supi:** “Honourable Speaker, Executive Mayor and Councillors, the purpose of item seven and item number eight is just to give an overview of the supply chain processes in terms of the supply chain management policy, which complies to Section 101 and 112 of the MFA Act. I must indicate to Councillors the importance of this report. So, I am hoping when I am noting this particular report, the purpose of noting, it gives them a standard as to how we're going through and, and how far we are as the Mangaung Metro Municipality in terms of the compliance of the policy of supply chain.

Section 7 of the Mangaung Metro Municipality's policy indicate a system of delegations that the Councillors have delegated these powers to the accounting officer, which among others, maximise administrative and operational efficiency in the implementation of this policy, It also enforces reasonable cost-effective measures for the prevention of fraud, corruption, favouritism, and unfair irregular practices in the implementation of this policy.

We also noted on this particular report, Councillors, that the bid committees are functioning effectively. As tenders are awarded in terms of attracting other bidders through the process of annexure A of this particular report. Councillors, the accounting officers is refined or is committed in terms of council resolutions, which is promulgated by the municipal supply chain of the 30th of May 2025. The Mangaung Municipality supply chain policy was approved by this Council on May 2021.

In conclusion Honourable Speaker, may I refer the council to report on page 19 to 26 quarterly inventory stock count that took place on the 25th and the 28th of September 2024.

## 10G

Therefore, there is no surplus to identify with regard to that particular first quarter submitted to the main inventory stores. This report is for noting. Thanks Speaker.”

**Cllr GDP Kotze:** “Thank you, Speaker. Today I address in this chamber on the findings of the latest Supply Chain Management Report for financial year ending June 2025, a report that reflects not only how public money is spent but how transparency, accountability, and public trust are being eroded by unchecked spending and poor oversight. Let us begin with the COSAFA Soccer Tournament. This Council approved a staggering R6 million to host the event, a promise of tourism, international visibility, and economic impact. Yet this report reveals that only R96,000 was actually spent, and that was just on catering. Not a cent is shown for infrastructure, logistics, or operations. So, the question must be asked, where is the rest of the money? Why are millions approved but not accounted for? Then we have the Mayor's Investment Summit, a one-day event that cost taxpayers an astounding R2.97 million. The breakdown is just as concerning, R980,000 for venue and setup, R645,500 for catering, R485,750 for marketing and printing, R430,800 for sound and visuals, R437,500 for promotional items. Speaker, these are not the priorities of a City facing collapsing infrastructure, broken traffic lights, sewer spills, and dry taps. And while our communities struggle with these basic services, the Municipality spent a staggering R6.1 million on catering alone over the past year. That is over R6 million on food enough to fix streets, replace transformers, and buy critical water pumps.

We must also draw attention to the R14.4 million spent under emergency open order plumbing maintenance. The contractors paid include Mod-zero Trading Projects, R3.9 million, Phakama Pule Trading, R3.3 million, Reatele Plumbing and Projects, R3.07 million, Rammiskant Trading, R2.7 million, Morere General Trading, R1.39 million. Despite this massive spend, many communities continue to suffer from burst pipes, leaking sewage, and unreliable water supply. What was fixed? Where is the work done? These questions must be answered.

Even more troubling, Council still awaits a formal report from the mayor on the Investment Summit. What investments were secured? What outcomes were achieved? To date, there has been no report, no presentation, no accountability. We cannot keep spending recklessly while our residents suffer. Council must demand a full breakdown of COSAFA CUP spending, the long overdue Executive Mayor's report on the summit, a forensic review of emergency plumbing expenditures, and a full audit of catering contracts and service providers. We owe it to the people of Mangaung. We must protect their hard-earned rates and taxes from waste and abuse. I thank you.”

**Cllr M Wewege:** “Speaker, all protocols observed. This latest Supply Chain Management report-covering both the final quarter of the 2024/2025 financial year and the year as a whole-raises serious concerns about the state of governance and accountability in this Metro.

The report is riddled with the same problems we have seen before: incomplete descriptions, vague entries, poor grammar, and a lack of basic information. It reflects badly on the professionalism of this institution.

## 10H

A few examples:

Panel procurement - Entries No. 1 and 2:

No. 1 says only: "Appointment of professional service provider for construction of a new..." A new what? There's no way to assess the scope.

No. 2 simply states: "Appointment of a professional engineer for water," Water what? There is no detail on the type of service or project.

Entries No. 78 and 79 mention: "Appointment of 3 health and safety..." — and then stop there. No project reference, no role description, nothing.

How can we possibly exercise proper oversight with half a sentence?

Internal Capacity - Where Are the Town Planners?

Mangaung is a Metro, yet we are still outsourcing core town planning functions. Why don't we have town planners permanently employed by the Municipality? This is a basic internal function. Outsourcing it repeatedly not only drives up costs but also erodes our institutional knowledge and capacity.

Fencing Projects - Serious Red Flags. Two large fencing contracts listed in the report need clarity:

No. 65: Fencing of Plot 107 by Farisa Construction - R824,914

Connected to entry 81, where the available budget is listed as R7.5 million. What type of fencing it is?"

**Cllr DL Malebo:** "Honourable Speaker, we rise sharply and unapologetically on this critical item. The quarterly and annual Supply Chain Management report ending the 30th of June 2025. The report before us today, instead of showcasing transparent governance and a commitment to clean administration, reeks of irregularities, secrecy, inflated pricing and questionable procurement practices that threaten the integrity of this Municipality.

We are disturbed, Mister Speaker, to read of an R870 million expenditure on licensing for the so-called Freshmark system. Specifically for software such as a system known globally for being free or extremely low cost. This is a state capture in plain sight. How does a Municipality justify spending nearly a billion rand on software licenses that could cost a fraction of that? Where was the value for money assessment? Was this deal scrutinised by the bid adjudication committee? Was it flagged by internal audit, or have we now normalised grand scale looting under the pretence of licensing?

The EFF calls for an immediate forensic audit of this transaction, Mister Speaker. And if criminality is found, we demand full prosecution under the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act. This report reveals a disturbing pattern of inflated tender pricing. It is now a well-known fact in this city that tenderpreneurs inflate the prices for ordinary services, and yet they are rewarded again and again with municipal contracts.

The Auditor General has repeatedly cautioned this municipality about fruitless and wasteful expenditure, yet no consequence management follows. MFMA Circular 62 clearly warns municipality to conduct benchmarking and cost comparison, especially on high value contracts. Has this been done? The answer is obvious. It has not. We must institutionalise price benchmarking audits on all contracts above five million rands and stop treating public money like private pocket change. The EFF is not blind to what is happening in Mangaung. There is a pattern of tenders going to politically connected individuals, to companies ran by the same families and to serial contractors who deliver substandard work yet are paid in full. Let us remind the house, Section 12 of the Corrupt Activities Act criminalises the awarding of contracts under influence.

It is also a criminal offence for public officials to fail to disclose conflicts of interest. What vetting is being done through the central supplier database? Who among these tender awardees is connected to councillors or officials? The time has come to end this culture of cover-ups. We must expose and blacklist all suppliers who engage in corrupt collusion or deliver poor service. The EFF is not just worried about inflated figures and mysterious service providers. We are angry, Mister Speaker, because real people suffer when tenders are looted. When R870 million disappears into thin air, it is the communities of Botshabelo, Thaba Nchu and Bloemfontein who sit without roads, without water, and without jobs Mister Speaker.

Each corrupt contract is a betrayal of the poor. Each inflated invoice is an insult to the unemployed youth. Each hidden supplier is a slap in the face of their constitution Mister Speaker we are not here to complain Chairperson. We are here to govern. Therefore, the EFF caucus makes the following non-negotiable recommendations.

1. Immediate publication of all our debt tenders with names, directors and amounts in every SCM report.
2. Full forensic audit into the suspicious R870 million expenditure.
3. Price benchmarking audits for all large value tenders above five million rands.
4. Conflict of interest vetting via CSD and SARS for all companies.
5. Mandatory submission of SCM reports to MPAC an internal audit before they reach council.
6. A supplier evaluation scorecard to track post-award performance and service delivery.
7. Prioritise the local supplier and end monopolies by spreading opportunities equitably.

In conclusion Mister Speaker, the EFF will not stand idle while corruption hits the soul of this municipality. We are here to fight for the working class and the poor. We are here to ensure that every cent of public money is used to restore dignity, not to enrich cronies. The SCM report must not be noted, it must be interrogated, audited and corrected. Anything else is the trial of the oath we all took to serve the people of Mangaung. Thank you.”

**Cllr MW Mongale expressed the following sentiments:**

- Expressed pride in being a citizen of Mangaung.
- Raised a concern about the influence of non-locals in the Mangaung Municipality, particularly in relation to leadership and decision-making roles.
- Suggested that some Municipal leaders have ties to other regions (Limpopo, Eastern Cape, Gauteng) and may prioritise those connections over the interests of local citizens.

## 10J

- The impact of "outsiders" was linked to issues of local resource allocation and alleged undermining of local people, especially during times when officials return to their home villages.
- Questioned the design of the supply chain management, with an emphasis that it should prioritise the wellbeing of Mangaung citizens, citing the Constitution (Section 153, Subsection 1, Paragraph C).
- Concerned that if the supply chain management benefits those outside Mangaung, it violates constitutional duties.
- Noted improvements in a report regarding the filling of 36 vacant positions in health supply chain management and the provision of training.
- Placed importance on ensuring locals receive needed training to be eligible for promotions; lack of training was seen as a deliberate barrier to advancement.
- Concerned about qualified interviewees being denied positions due to not meeting minimum requirements, with only employment equity considerations offering some exceptions.
- Emphasised that the supply chain management was established specifically for Mangaung, not for individuals from other municipalities.
- Appreciated the previous speakers, particularly Councillor DL Malebo, for making him feel proud to be from Mangaung.
- Agreement with Councillor MH Supi regarding positive changes in the referenced report.
- That after reviewing the report, it was crucial to double-check details related to job postings and training to ensure accuracy and fairness. Further to ensure the filling of 36 vacant positions in the health supply chain management as indicated in the report and that required training be provided to relevant staff to support eligibility for promotions.
- Therefore, it was crucial to review the supply chain management policy to prioritise local citizens in accordance with constitutional requirements.

### **Executive Mayor stated the following:**

- Emphasised the importance of Councillors making chronological assessments when handling issues, referencing past discussions and future directions.
- Urged that statements about corruption should be backed by action rather than just rhetoric; responsible citizens should report and act on knowledge of corruption.
- Highlighted available channels for whistleblowers: law enforcement units or approaching leadership in the institution for support.
- Stressed that grandstanding or making statements without evidence does not aid progress or accountability.
- Mentioned submission of a macro structure and a related budget to the council, particularly regarding the filling of posts.
- Addressed concerns about potentially bloated prices or mismanagement, inviting proof and promising action if substantiated.
- Noted the need for factual evidence rather than unsupported claims, especially regarding network work and cyber-attack costs.
- Asserted that all political parties and their policies must ultimately align with the national constitution.
- Warned against pursuing party policies that conflict with constitutional principles.

## 10K

- Raised the issue of racism, urging careful self-reflection to avoid inadvertently perpetuating discrimination in Council actions.
- Discussed the presence of large businesses (e.g., Shoprite, Sasko) in various provinces and the right for anyone to do business anywhere in the country under a unitary state.
- Criticised perceived double standards applied to black businesspeople versus others.
- Reminded the Council about the capitalist nature of the economy, emphasising competition and the need for local regulation to protect community interests.
- Warned against creating local policies that contradict national law, equating such actions with undermining the constitution.
- Councillors should reference previous discussions and documents for better context and continuity in deliberations.
- Anyone with substantive evidence of corruption should report it through official channels or to council leadership.
- Encourage all policy proposals to be reviewed for constitutional compliance before implementation.

### **Cllr CL Kruger provided clarity regarding the deviation:**

- ✓ Concerns regarding statements made about deviation, emphasising the need to clarify to avoid sending the wrong message.
- ✓ That deviation does not imply non-compliance with the law; the law provides for deviations under certain circumstances.
- ✓ The specific reason for the referenced deviation was that the service provider is the sole supplier in the Country.
- ✓ Subjecting a sole supplier to the standard supply chain advertising process would not be appropriate.
- ✓ The City Manager is permitted to authorise deviations within their delegation of powers, provided proper justification is given.
- ✓ That the process followed was lawful and that no funds were mishandled or "evaporated."

### **Cllr GJ Lipale remarked:**

- Persistent issues of corruption are frequently highlighted in the Auditor General's reports.
- Long meeting agendas prevent thorough scrutiny of these reports, causing frustration among Council members and the public.
- Public perception is that corruption issues are repeatedly discussed but not effectively addressed.
- The IPTN committee often deals with concerns about inflated tenders and excessive billing for awarded contracts.
- There is ongoing worry about extra charges being added to tenders after the fact, contributing to corruption concerns.
- Efforts by Council members to reach out to the Executive Mayor for clarity and discussion on corruption matters have been unsuccessful.

- Multiple attempts to arrange appointments with the Executive Mayor have not materialised, with the Executive Mayor missing agreed-upon meetings.
- Frustration is expressed about the lack of responsiveness from the Executive Mayor, hindering efforts to address corruption collaboratively.

**Executive Mayor responded:**

- ✓ emphasised that Cllr GJ Lipale not to act as a spokesperson for Cllr MJ Ramatlama, stressing personal interactions should not be generalised.
- ✓ Clarified that they are not the sole authority to prevent or address corruption and that established institutions exist for this purpose.
- ✓ Encouraged the use of proper institutional channels to report or address corruption concerns, reassuring that this is the correct procedure.
- ✓ Mentioned that the IPTN report was submitted to MPAC as directed by the council.
- ✓ Noted discrepancies between corruption allegations voiced in the council and what is documented in the report.
- ✓ Recommended that MPAC, Law Enforcement, and the Asset Forfeiture Unit thoroughly review the report as it has already been referred to them.
- ✓ Stated that unless these institutions reach a conclusive outcome, the report cannot be definitively used as proof of corruption.

**The Speaker referred to Rule 13.12, of the Standing Rules and Orders that each party was allowed to record their dissent, support, or abstention since the item was for noting only.**

**Cllr BJ Viviers questioned the value of discussing the item if it was not subject to a vote, expressing difficulty in formally recording support or opposition.**

**The Speaker clarified that although the item is not for voting, parties are being given a chance to state their position for record purposes. Further emphasised that this approach does not set a new procedural precedent, but ensures opposing views are noted when voting is not applicable.**

**The Council recorded their views as follows:**

**Cllr DL Malebo – EFF not supporting for the report.**

**Cllr GDP Kotze – DA not in support.**

**Cllr MW Mongale – AASD not in support.**

**Cllr ML Wewege - FFP not in support.**

**Cllr JM De Bruin – PA not in support**

**Cllr PS Twala – ATM support the report.**

**Cllr VE Nikelo – ANC in support that both reports be noted.**

**Council did not vote as the item was for noting.**

**It was thereupon**

**RESOLVED**

- (a) That Council noted the progress report on the implementation of the Council's Supply Chain Management Policy for the quarter ended 30 June 2025.

**8.****SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT FROM 01 JULY 2024 – 30 JUNE 2025 (2024/2025) FINANCIAL YEAR)**

**The item was discussed simultaneously with item 128.7 above.**

**Council did not vote as the item was for noting.**

**It was thereupon**

**RESOLVED**

- (b) That Council noted the progress annual report on the implementation of the Council's Supply Chain Management Policy for the financial year ended 30 June 2025.

**9.****SUBMISSION FOR THE DISPOSAL OF MUNICIPAL ASSETS THROUGH PUBLIC AUCTION PROCESS**

**Cllr B Vorster:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. This item was tabled before the Finance Committee for the first time on the 29th of May 2023. The Committee then, chaired by the now Deputy Mayor, resolved that this item be referred back to the administration. One of the main reasons for this referral was concerned rise by the Freedom Front Plus that the report did not confirm whether all relevant data and information regarding to the water meters to be disposed of had been properly recorded and captured on the financial system. The importance of having sufficient records of this data and information cannot be overstated seeing that these records are essential to resolve any further disputes that may arise concerning water meter readings in the future.

The same principle also applies to all computers and laptops listed to be disposed of. Before any of these items are disposed of, all data must be transferred to a central database for safekeeping and potential future use. You must also keep in mind that this is going to be sold to third parties, and do we want our information that is on those computers and laptops to be sold to third parties? Unfortunately, Honourable Speaker this item is tabled before council without confirmation that the relevant data and information has been captured on the financial system and/or database.

The Freedom Front Plus therefore cannot support this item in the current form until compliance with the above-mentioned requirements has been met and confirmed. In an effort not to further delay this process unnecessarily, the Freedom Front Plus proposes that a third recommendation be added to the current recommendations as follows:

*That no water meter, computer box or laptop may be disposed of before all relevant information and/or data have been captured and transferred to the financial system and/or central database for safekeeping, and the Council is provided with a report confirming that this process has been duly followed. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.”*

**Cllr LW Lekgetho:** “Honourable Speaker, Executive Mayor, Deputy Executive Mayor, Chief Whip, Councillors, and people of Mangaung This item is a item that speaks about disposable of municipal asset through public auction process. The report asks Council to dispose redundant and unserviceable assets through auction processes to free our asset register as it is loaded with this asset that are supposed to be disposed. In line with the supply chain management policy of MFMA, asset which are valued to be one million and above shall be referred to Council for decision. Now, this item is coming to us for a decision as Council because the value of the amount, if you go to page two of the document, it will show that the amount is above, R13 million. That is why it's coming to the Council. Now, I heard the previous Councillor speaking about the item went to the Section 80 on the 23rd of May 2023.

But it does not explain further to say that period of that was given to Council then was then to Section 80 has expired. That is why this item is coming back to Council for disposable of this asset. He is mentioning that there is laptops and if you go to that page two, you will see that the document speak about mechanical issues that fall through, fleet and waste management, where there is no item like laptop and they are only talking about mechanical items only in this item. You go through the document; you will get it is only items that are mechanically related. We, as the ANC we support the item as it is with their recommendation as it is. I thank you, Speaker.”

**Cllr M Wewege supported the proposal by Cllr B Vorster.**

**Cllr TI Ferreira:** “Thank you, Speaker. Mrister Speaker, the DA supports disposal of municipal assets that are redundant, obsolete and unserviceable. We actually discussed this during the Section 80 waste and fleet. Motor vehicles, fleet and waste management with a residual value of 30 million be sold at a public auction.

With regards to water meters Speaker, I completely agree with Cllr B Vorster. We request an additional recommendation, Speaker, that reads, "Recommendation number three: Before finalising the decommissioning of water meters, the final reading and data available must be recorded and kept in the system for further reference. If we can add this third recommendation, Speaker, to the point, we can support it. Thank you, Mister Speaker.”

**Cllr AF Bothma seconded the proposal for the recommendation to be added.**

**Cllr DJ De-Huis:** “Thank you, Honourable Speaker, today the EFF rise on item with deep sense of duty and concern for the people of Mangaung, who continue to suffer from broken services, collapsing infrastructure, dysfunctional administration, and there is no clear plan of economic justice. We are discussing the proposed disposal of Municipal assets, including vehicles, IT equipment, office equipment, and other capital resource.

## 11B

This is not a routine administrative exercise. It is a decision that would touch the nerves of a service deliverer, accountability and long-term development of our community. Honourable Speaker, Section 14 of the MFMA is crystal clear.

The Municipality may not dispose any assets that is still in need of basic services unless certain harsh conditions are met. This include full assessment whether the asset is in need of consideration of economic and community value, and resolution of meeting open to the public. But what we are seeing here, honourable Speaker, is an attempt of sweep assets out of the municipal register without sufficient transparency, technical assessment and consultation. This is not compliance. This is a cover-up. And we as the Municipality, we as the Council, we cannot allow that. Honourable Speaker, the EFF therefore demands that no fleet vehicle be disposed of without certified mechanical assess report, including service history, mileage, the cost benefit of the repair. The people cannot suffer because officials want convenience. The disposal process is being conducted through proper controlled asset. Being cleared for scraping, do not appear which serial numbers, photos, location, or asset history logos. This is a perfect recipe for theft. To prevent this, honourable Speaker, the EFF propose the following:

1. We propose a public disclosure of all disposal list.
2. We also propose publication on municipal website and notice boards.
3. We propose the chain of custody audit.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, the EFF do support this item. Because if you can go to that place where the auction is going to take place, there are many vehicles which are sold starting from 30,000. There is a Condor, Honourable Speaker, which is rated at 5,000 to be sold. So, people of Mangaung can also benefit. This auction does not only benefit the politicians. People of Mangaung must take part in this. We stand for transparency, honourable speaker, as we always say, things must be done transparently. We stand for the people of Mangaung. And we will continue to fight for the Municipality that serve the poor working class, not looting high benefits tender documents. We thank you.”

**It was thereupon unanimously.**

**RESOLVED** that

1. That Council to consider disposal of scrap, redundant, obsolete and un-services assets, in line with powers vested in Council to approve disposal of assets that are above R1 million.
2. That Council authorized Supply Chain Management Unit to dispose of all the above-mentioned assets through public auction process.
3. ***That no water meter, computer box, or laptop may be disposed of before all relevant information and /or data has been captured and transferred to the financial system and/or central database for safekeeping, and that Council be provided with a report confirming that this process has been duly followed.***

10.

**MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY ANNUAL STOCK COUNT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2025**

**Cllr VE De Kock:** “Voorsitter, die Vryheidsfront Plus wil graag ons opregte waardering uitspreek teenoor die vyf amptenare wat betrokke was by die uitvoering van die jaarlikse voorraadopname. In 'n omgewing waar doeltreffendheid en uitvoering dikwels te kort skiet, is dit belangrik om diegene wat hul pligte ernstig opneem, erkenning te gee.

We do, however, need to express our concern regarding some of the findings in the report. The city is currently experiencing unacceptable delays in the repair of basic infrastructure - water leaks, for example, often take weeks to fix, whereas the standard is supposed to be within 48 hours.

In hierdie konteks is dit uiters ontstellend dat die voorraadopname nut beskikbaarheid toon van kritieke onderdele soos Plasson- en HDPE-koppelstukke, PVC-pype, adaptors en escouplings. Sonder hierdie basiese materiaal is dit onmoontlik om tydige herstelwerk aan water- en rioolnetwerke te doen.

We therefore address the following questions to the administration:

1. Is there sufficient stock available, specifically regarding water and sewer components, to ensure basic service delivery?
2. Are suppliers of these components paid on time?
3. If there are payment arrears, how are repairs planned and prioritized?

It is unacceptable that clean, treated, and paid-for water continues to flow like rivers down our streets and through residents' yards, while the municipality pleads capacity constraints. The problem is not just technical - it is managerial.

Wat betref die aanbeveling in die verslag dat amptenare wat aan die voorraadopname deelgeneem het, met verlofdae beloon moet word:

Die VF Plus ondersteun prestasie-erkenning, maar basiese administratiewe nakoming van wetlike verpligtinge kan nie as uitsonderlike prestasie beskou word nie. Hierdie opname is 'n standaardwetlike vereiste. Verlof as aansporing behoort slegs oorweeg te word in gevalle van buitengewone resultate of instance werk- nie blood vir deelname nie.

Aansporings behoort eerder uitgebrei te word in gevalle waar daar werklik besparing bewerkstellig is, waar geen voorraadtekorte voorkom nie, waar dienslewering prestasie-gedrewe geskied, en waar bv herstel van lekkasies konsekwent binne die voorgeskrewe 48 uur plaasvind. Dít is die tipe resultate wat motivering en erkenning regverdig.

We must guard against the normalisation of rewarding officials for simply doing what legislation requires. In a metro facing service delivery collapse, this kind of incentive system sends the wrong message.

Voorsitter, die inwoners van Mangaung betaal vir diens. Diens wat nie gelewer word nie, omdat voorraad, toerusting en voertuie ontbreek, is 'n belediging vir elke belastingbetaler. Ons dring aan op eerlike antwoorde, beter bestuur, en onmiddellike optrede om hierdie basiese dienslewering agter te laat. Ek dank u.”

**Cllr LW Lekgetho:** “Honourable Speaker, the item is straightforward which is 128.10. This annual stock count report is for the year ending 30 June 2025. As the objective is to ensure that the physical stock which measure the record on the system to identify shortfalls and surplus and damage to stock.

The annual stock count report is in line with the inventory management framework and Supply and Municipal Financial Development Act of 56 of 2003 as amended. The report provides us with items such as quantity, rate, and opening and closing of the value of the item for the municipality. We, as the ANC support the item as it is, and we ask Council to support the recommendation as it is. Thank you, Speaker.”

**Cllr JE Sebolao:** “Honourable Speaker, Executive Mayor, and Councillors. The EFF caucus reflect on annual stock holding report as presented for the period ending 30 June 2025. The report account on a total stock holding of over R12.6 million divided across the general store, R7.4 million, consumable store, R1.9 million, and stationary store, R3.2 million. While this stock holding reflects a significant financial value, it is not just a bookkeeping exercise.

It is a frontline indicator of whether this municipality can deliver basic service efficiently and honestly. Section 63 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, MFMA, raises clear responsibility on the accounting officer to save that municipal asset. The EFF remains concerned that year after year, the auditor general raises red flag on inventory mismanagement, ghost stock, inaccurate evaluation, and poor control. This cannot be business as usual. We must ensure that state's stock taking is not a once-a-year routine but a continuous control management. The EFF therefore calls for quarterly audit and digitised stock logs that are verified by internal audit and the MPAC. We demand to know that the stock on paper is stock that exists in reality, especially when that stock includes critical tools, material, equipment communities rely on daily. We know the in sensitization of officials who which took part in this stock take process.

The EFF supports this only when it is tied to big performance measures, clean audit, verified accurate. Reward without accountability is becoming another pothole for abuse. And this municipality must also consider rotating stock officials to prevent collusion and entrenched corruption networks. It is alarming that stock supplier approvals amount to 121. This mismatch with total inventory suggests either a reporting issue or deeper procurement concerns. Stock evaluation method must be independently audited to confirm accuracy. The EFF rejects any system that allows overstatement, ghost inventory, or unaccounted stock losses.

In closing, the EFF caucus are firm that stock holding is not a back-office function. It is a direct service delivery issue. Delayed access to tools, stationary, safety gear, or water pipes means delay in fixing what our people need fixed; therefore, quarterly audit must be standard, not optional. Internal audit must verify every movement of high-value stock.

## 11E

Performance-based incentives must replace blanket rewards. Transparency and digital tracking must be enforced across all the departments. Let us manage the Municipal inventory with discipline and integrity it demands. Failure to do so is failure to serve our people. Thank you.”

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

**RESOLVED** that

1. Council to take note of the stock count report for the period ending 30 June 2025.
2. Council to approve stock count balance report amounting to **R12 622 459.26.**
3. Council to approve stock surplus amounting to **R121.00.**
4. Officials involved in stock count process be incentivised through leave days.

11.

**APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION FORM APPLICANTS UNDER GRANT IN AID POLICY**

**Cllr SQ Peter:** Thank you once more, Honourable Speaker. This item is a straightforward item. During our State of the City address on the 27th of May 2025, we actually as council approved this line item, this granting aid to the tune of R50 million. In a nutshell, what we need to indicate is that the program or the aid itself is derived from the Section 67 of Municipal Finance Management Act, which actually deals with that kind of granting aid.

In particular it outlines that what the process for municipalities is in terms of how to transfer funds to organisations and bodies outside government, in particular your NGOs, your NPOs, etcetera. Therefore, we want to indicate that this is not a new item by the way, because it even went through Council. So, for now, we just wanted to come and present to you in terms or in line of Section 67, we had to prepare or draft an application form that can be used for applicants so that they can either be accepted or approved or rejected, whichever way.

However, we also need to indicate to the community of Mangaung that previously they used to understand that we used to have an item that was called a discretionary fund that would normally fall within the office of the executive mayor. But in line with this act, we then try to make things much better and easy for purpose of smooth processing and accountability. Therefore, as a result, honourable speaker, we ask council approval for this item. I thank you.”

**Cllr M Wewege:** “Mister Speaker, the recommendations are straightforward. Legally, the application process is aligned with Section 67 of the MMA and Circular 131, which ensures we stay within the correct legislative framework. Financially, we are dealing with R15 million in public funds — and that makes proper vetting of applicants non-negotiable.

The form must be accessible. Making it available on the municipal website is a good step, and it is important that the appointed committee also follows through with outreach to ensure all potential applicants are aware of it. All Councillors have a role to play here not only Ward Councillors. This is about transparency, accountability, and fairness. The form supports that, and the recommendations provide a clear way forward. The Freedom Front Plus supports the item. Thank you.”

**Cllr DJ De-Huis:** “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. The EFF rise to address the matter of approval of application form under the grant-in-aid policy. As the EFF, we welcome the intention to formalise and streamline the application process for funding support to NGO, NPOs, and deserving community-based project. However, we came with firm and principled contribution to ensure that policy becomes a tool of empowerment, not an instrument of exclusion. We note the recommendation that council approve the application form. While this is positive step, we allege this house that an application form cannot serve its purpose if it is only accessible to educated individuals. Many of our residents, particularly in rural wards informal settlement and elderly, added households struggle with English and formal regulations.

The constitution grants the right to access information in language and format that people understand. Therefore, we demand that this form being made available in Sesotho, IsiXhosa, Afrikaans, and many other dominant local languages. Furthermore, we must insist that the form design in a simple, in a simple way so that people can understand it.

## 12A

Honourable speaker, the community adopts the Municipal adopted Council resolution 134 on the 30th of August 2021, committing to reimburse direct control policy, which include the suspension of electricity meters to households and business in default, disconnect of savings of non-payment to property rates, tax and water, and indigent policy to protect poor while targeting other certain individuals. If the burden of enforcement is fairly only in working class communities, while politically connected commission and government users are left untouchable, then the council cannot adhere to that.

Honourable Speaker, as the EFF, we recommend to council the following: full transparency, public participation, to strengthen credit control enforcement, to protect indigent households, savings to the debt relief program, resolve for secular debt trap. Honourable speaker, that relief must become a hidden bailout for administrative failure. It must restore financial integrity, rebuild public trust, and most importantly, deliver real savings to people who need it most. We are watching the public, and the public is watching, and history will judge us on the results, no reports. We support this item with our submission. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

**Cllr SQ Peter stated that he thought Councillor DJ De-Huis would say it is an additional recommendation. She would just request and say, can the form be made in a multilingual format, because it is now in English, so that at least it can be accessible easily.**

It was thereupon ***unanimously***

### RESOLVED

1. That Council resolved to approve the application form to be used by applicants when applying for grant in aid, ***which should also be translated in different languages used in the Municipality.***
2. That the application be loaded on website for easy access and download.
3. That the appointed committee embark on an outreach programme to ensure that potential applicants are aware of the form.
4. That all Ward Councillors share the form within their constituencies.

### 12.

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

**Cllr AF Bothma:** “Honourable Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to present this month's update on our compliance with MFMA Circular 124. This specifically relating to our participation ESKOM Debt Relief Programme over the three-year period. I am pleased to report that the municipality continues to adhere to most of the important requirements as set out by National Treasury and ESKOM.

## 12B

The Chief Financial Officer has confirmed that these obligations are being adhered to, and that CENTLEC is constantly paying for the current electricity accounts in line with the program stipulations. We remain committed to follow the prescribed payment conditions as outlined in the framework. Further details relating to our electricity account have already been provided in the previous agenda under item Section 52 report. However, we must also report that a few operational challenges remain, and I would like to bring the following key issues to council attention. Account consolidation. We continue to experience, complications in this on the consolidation of the account between Mangaung Municipality and CENTLEC, which requires further coordination and administrative alignment.

I am in favour of meeting with other metros such as Joburg City to learn from best practices. We can therefore learn from the experience to apply this requirement. Credit control is the next one, is there is a notable concern about the enforcement of our credit control policy particularly relating to low payment rates from consumers. High levels of outstanding municipal debt, and limited revenue collection, especially from satellite offices or the outer areas. We acknowledge the effort that administration has conducted in the recent past. Collection rate increased dramatically as we could see in the rate 9% of collection in the last month. But this needs to be done on a continuous way, so we can already give that to the National Treasury.

The suspension of services. In line with recent regularity amendments, we are now authorised to suspend electricity supply for non-payments, including accounts in arrears for rates, sanitation, refuse removal and water services. This expanded authority must be exercised judiciously, but firmly to improve revenue collection and service sustainability. Speaker, while our compliance with the ESKOM Debt Relief Programme is on track, the broader financial ecosystem remains under pressure. These challenges require continued oversight, strengthened enforcement mechanisms, and improved interdepartmental collaboration. We will continue to update council on the progress, risk and interventions being implemented. I thank you.”

**Cllr M Wewege:** “Mister Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus appreciate the Monthly Compliance Monitoring Reports. They are essential tools that help us fulfil our oversight responsibilities and hold the administration accountable. However, appreciation must be matched with action. The inclusion of the Monitoring Plan in this report, as required by MMA Circular 124, is noted. But now the focus must shift to implementation.

The payment of Eskom's current account is a non-negotiable condition, and we acknowledge the submitted proof. Yet key issues like consolidated billing remain unresolved. We expect urgent finalisation of this matter.

The credit control system must be fully operational-over 24,000 notices have been issued, and we welcome the upcoming demonstration for Councillors. CENTLEC'S revised policy allowing suspension of electricity meters for debt recovery is another necessary step, but implementation must be prompt and fair.

Lastly, as said before, Councillors are not call centre agents. We urgently need a fully functional call centre system to redirect service complaints and allow us to focus on governance.

## 12C

Let us ensure our participation in the Eskom Debt Relief Programme is backed by real action, accountability, and visible results. Thank you.”

**Cllr MW Mongale:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I have read this document, and I had chills on my spine when I realised that this document is giving certain ultimatums about us if we do not comply with the conditions of debt relief. Let me just reflect on 6.1. It says, "in terms of National Treasury approval, the Metro must comply with conditions in 6.1 up until 6.14 of MFMA circular 124, including the additional conditions specific to the Metro set out in the National Treasury debt relief." It goes further to say, "the Metro still run the risk of, of being terminated from the program due to inconsistency on compliance with conditions 6.3, 6.6, 6.8 respectively." And that is very worrying.

When you look at on page 4, it goes further to say there is a high possibility that we might even lose the license of electricity. And in this condition, when you look at what is written on page seven, it says, under the NERSA license it states that the NERSA license will be effected should the Metro be terminated from the program due to non-compliance with debt relief conditions." And it further states, "By having applied for Municipal debt relief, the Council", which in this particular case is us, the Mangaung Metro Municipality, affirms that throughout duration of municipal debt relief program, if it fails to comply with any conditions of the relief, has agreed to make an application to NERSA to voluntarily revoke, meaning to take away, the municipality's license in terms of Section 17 of Electricity Regulation Act of 2006.

It is noted that this condition will only come into effect if the municipality's participation with the debt relief program is terminated. It sent chills down my spine because I am aware that if we do not comply with these regulations the license of the municipality will be terminated, which will also have dire consequences to us because that would mean the service will now be taken over by Eskom or any other entity that the National Treasury who, which owe that might be seen to be fit and proper to run the process. And there is somewhere here in the document where it is saying that there has been non-compliance with regard to consolidation of bill of Mangaung Metro and CENTLEC. And I do not know what the problem is, whether it is difficult for CENTLEC and Mangaung Metro to have one meeting and put two weeks aside to say, "We work out a program of making sure that we comply with these conditions so that we should not end up being on the wrong side of the debt relief where we will end up being told we are non-compliant and the contract is being terminated, which will also have dire consequence to our community.

So, I do not know whether I am the only one who is panicking about it or do we all not really do we all really not have the same understanding because I have fears that if this is how it will end, it means it will end in tears. Not for us alone but also for the community. Now, I will plead with you, MMC. I will plead with you to try and see whether you cannot establish a Steering Committee that will be able to have components of Mangaung where you try to bring the best of the best in your team in order to try and make sure that at the end of the day, we escape losing the license. Because once we lose the license, there will be a crisis in this municipality. We are already struggling with the cash flow in terms of revenue.

## 12D

We cannot afford to lose CENTLEC. And in this particular case, I am raising this also with an understanding that we all love this city, and as Councillors, we have a moral obligation. Actually, it is our fiduciary duty to protect the interest of the community that has voted for us. That is my humble plea to say this matter should be treated as an emergency. It is an emergency, and it should not be treated casual because at the moment, I am not seeing any sign that shows that we are dealing with any emergency here. So that is my humble plea, and I thank you for the opportunity to speak.”

**Cllr JE Sebolao:** “Honourable Speaker, Councillors and the broad community watching today. The Economic Freedom Fighter has asked this council to make critical and constructive comments on the matter before us. The monthly compliance report on MFMA circular 124 and our Municipal participation in the ESKOM Debt Relief Programme as enabled by the ESKOM Debt Relief Act Number Seven of 2023. We do so, not out of opposition for the sake of opposing, but because we represent the interest of the people, and because financial discipline without service delivery is a hollow achievement. ESKOM Debt Relief Programme, a vendor of fiscal responsibility. The ESKOM Debt Relief Programme was proclaimed by the president in 2023 as response to ESKOM ballooning Municipal debt crisis rooted in years of nonpayment, poor governance, dysfunctional relationship between municipality through power distributors like CENTLEC.

The act combined with MFMA circular 124 issued National Treasury outlined very clear non-negotiable conditions. Monthly ESKOM accounts must be paid in full and on time. No further debt accumulation is permitted. Municipality must implement credible credit control and debt collection mechanism. Regular reports must be submitted to National Treasury as per Section 72 of MFMA. We support the recommendation to upload the form on the Municipal website, but this cannot be only channel of access. And I will speak and let us not forget the digital divide still affects many of our communities. In terms of villages and farms, many potential applicants do not have smartphones, internet access, printers, or even basic digital literacy. Therefore, the EFF call for the following. Hard copies of the form must be available at all ward Councillors offices, community halls, municipal reception points free of charge.

These forms must be restored regularly and not gate-kept by Councillors or politically affiliated staff. This must be a budgeted for under public participation or special program in the current financial year. On our outreach public awareness, I will speak towards the recommendation that outreach program be undertaken is welcomed. However, the EFF cautions against making such outreach exclusive to a selected few Committee members or Ward Councillors. If we are truly building a people's municipality then the process must be inclusive. Section 68, subsection 1A of the Municipal Assistance Act obliges the municipality to create opportunities for all the community members to participate.

Therefore, outreach must include PR Councillors, community service officials, public participation officers, community-based organisations, religious institutions, and local leaders must also be included. Outreach schedules, budget, stakeholders list must made transparent and submitted to Council. Political neutrality must be enforced so that the program does not become a campaign tool. On the role of PR Councillor and civil society, EFF takes issue with the clause that only Ward Councillors are tasked with distributing forms.

## 12E

This is unconstitutional. It is exclusionary and politically biased. PR Councillors represent constituency around the Municipality, particularly those not living in formal Ward boundaries. They too must be mandated to distribute the form.

We propose that the resolution be amended to state that all Councillors, PR Councillors and records. May civil society organisations be tasked to share and promote the grant aid application from within their constituencies. They promote fairness, strength and accountability, and ensure no community is left behind. On monetary evaluation and transparency, Speaker Section 77 of Municipal Finance Management Act is clear. Municipalities that provide funding to external entities must ensure it is transparent, monitored and aligned to service delivery outcome.

Therefore, EFF calls for the following. Regular monetary and evaluation report must be submitted to Council outlining who has received grants, how much and for what purpose. Usage reports and audited financial statement from grant recipients must be required to prevent abuse. The report must make publicly access to the municipal website at the help desk. Clear penalties must exist for any fraudulent use of funds and enforcement must be reversible, non-partisan. On dedicated grant access, we propose that dedicated counter or help desk be assigned at the main municipal building where anyone can collect or submit grant aid form. This reduces gatekeeping and increase institutional transparency. Thank you.”

### **Cllr CL Kruger: Stated the following:**

- Monthly progress report discussed, focusing on compliance with ESKOM debt relief conditions.
- Budget approval and funding are contingent on maintaining compliance with ESKOM debt relief agreements.
- There are 14 outlined compliance conditions; the municipality is fully compliant with 11.
- The significance of maintaining compliance was emphasised for both credibility and financial stability.
- One challenge is the timely payment of the ESKOM account; while no further debt is being incurred, discrepancies can arise when accounts are closed, and payments are made.
- The collection rate is not consistent at the required 95% as per National Treasury standards, though the target was achieved in the last quarter of the previous financial year. Maintaining consistency is a current challenge.
- Consolidation of accounts remains problematic due to differing compliance requirements between Mangaung municipality and CENTLEC is (a state-owned entity), particularly regarding which account receives payment and under which regulations (CPRO, Companies Act).
- Technical issues stem from compliance differences between the two entities, making consolidation less straightforward.
- Two CFOs from the entities have met and are at an advanced stage in developing a solution.
- Benchmarking has been done with municipalities like the City of Johannesburg, which faces similar structural issues.

## 12F

- Commitment was reaffirmed from leadership, including directives from the Executive mayor, to prioritise compliance.

### **The Speaker stated the following:**

- An existing agreement with Eskom contains binding conditions that remain valid for the Municipality.
- National Treasury has imposed further conditions, including the risk of withdrawal of equitable share if there is default on payments or third-party liabilities.
- Eskom's conditions (particularly condition number six) empower them to freeze or attach the Municipality's banking account in the event of non-compliance.
- A new amended deal has been introduced, allowing Municipalities to submit proposals aimed at relaxing some of the stringent measures.

**Cllr MW Mongale emphasised the importance of SALGA's leadership and support for municipalities, particularly regarding the funding model. That discussions on the funding model should remain active at the SALGA level to help municipalities overcome current crises.**

**The Speaker clarified that the review process for the White Paper on Local Government is still ongoing, with consultations between SALGA and Municipalities. The finalisation of this review is expected by March next year, but all Municipal inputs should ideally be consolidated by October. Further that:**

- The current fiscal allocation sees municipalities receiving only 10% of Nationally generated funds, which is inadequate for effective service delivery.
- High unemployment among taxpayers and ratepayers leads to payment defaults, resulting in increased Municipal debt write-offs.
- The formula for fiscal allocation (the 90/10 split) will be a major focus of the ongoing discussions between Municipalities.
- Most Municipalities have already submitted their initial inputs for the funding model review.
- Preliminary inputs have also been received from the Municipality represented at the meeting.
- There is a plan to request the Council Whip to coordinate a meeting with all parties to review and further refine the Municipality's submission, aiming to enrich the final input.
- Council Whip to organise a meeting of all parties to review and refine input submissions.
- Municipalities to ensure all inputs are consolidated before the October deadline.

**Council did not vote as the item was for noting.**

**It was thereupon**

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) that Council noted the progress report made to date on Eskom debt relief programme.

13.

**REQUEST FOR THE APPROVAL OF MANGAUNG METRO ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY BUSINESS REFORM STRATEGY AIMED AT VARIOUS GRANTS TO IMPROVE ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF MANGAUNG METRO MUNICIPALITY**

**Cllr JI Mokoena outlined the following:**

- Discussion centred on the request for approval to reform the energy business strategy, including the acceptance of various grants.
- The proposed strategy aligns with the Treasury's framework for Metro Municipalities to develop trading services reform strategies.
- CENTLEC division is being recognised as a separate business unit or SOE within Mangaung, with an intention to realign with the expected framework.
- Mention of participation in the ESKOM debt relief program and a waste management services proposal, both seen as part of broader service delivery improvement efforts.
- Recent approvals, such as the fresh produce market, were referenced, suggesting multiple ongoing reform initiatives.
- Uncertainty expressed about whether there is sufficient coordination at the Executive or Mayoral level to align the various reform initiatives.
- Concern that current initiatives may be siloed rather than integrated institutionally, potentially leading to inadequate fiscal or resource support.
- Emphasis on the need for an overarching institutional framework to support and integrate these reforms.
- Governance challenges at CENTLEC highlighted, including ongoing labour-related issues and conflict between the board and CEO.
- Noted that similar issues existed with the previous board, raising concerns about repeating governance failures.
- Call for the Executive Mayor to address rumour's and take Council into confidence, suggesting either dismissing unfounded rumours or addressing them if substantiated.
- Warned that unresolved governance problems could undermine service delivery reforms and public confidence.
- Reforms and funding should benefit the broader Mangaung community, not just select individuals.
- Urged collective commitment to decisions and alignment in working toward the best interests of Mangaung.

**Cllr S Sefaki:** "Thank you, Honourable Speaker, the Executive Mayor, Deputy Executive Mayor, the Council Whip, members of the Council, City Manager and his team, as well as the community of Mangaung.

Honourable Speaker, I heard what has been raised, there but there is an item which is in Committee, item 134.2 that deals with the issue of CENTLEC. Especially when it comes to issues of governance and the board. I think when we get there, we will get clarity on the matter that he raised during his speech honourable Speaker, I would like to outline CENTLEC's electricity and energy reform strategy for the Mangaung Metro. This plan was developed by CENTLEC with one clear purpose.

## 12H

To improve our electrical infrastructure, ensure better service delivery and to unlock much needed grant funding to power the future of our city. We all know the challenges our community face regularly power failure, slow response time and aging infrastructure. Our own operations struggle to keep up with the demand. This strategy responds directly to those concerns. Here are, just some of the positive actions proposed.

Refurbishing high mast lights and streetlights to improve safety in our public areas. Two, rolling out smart meters to reduce electricity theft and meter tampering. Upgrading the customer service system including mobile app and CRM system so that the residents can easily log faults and get quicker response back. Introducing an outage management system to help CENTLEC respond faster during power failures. Investing in alternative energy sources such as solar farms to ensure long term sustainability and cost effectiveness. Making sure our electricians have proper tools, training and systems to serve the people more effectively.

Expanding the network to meet the electricity demands of new developments in and surrounding areas. All of this will help us to improve the reliability reduce load and to ensure that every household and business in the metro has stable and affordable electricity. This plan is also a gateway with Council's approval. CENTLEC will be able to apply for funding from sources like USDG Grant, IUSDG and BFI. That funding could bring hundreds of millions into our local infrastructure. Council must be bold. We must show leadership and embrace innovation. The community deserves better, and this strategy will give us a roadmap. In conclusion Speaker. I therefore move forward, one, council approves the electricity and energy business reform strategy to enable CENTLEC to apply for grant funding from various national resources. Two, council note that the resolution will be submitted to national treasury to meet the requirements of strategy adoption under the Metro Trading Service Program. Let us, not miss this opportunity to build a stronger, smarter and more assistance for Mangaung. I thank you, Speaker.”

**Cllr JH Denner:** “Honourable Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus has, on record, previously raised serious concerns regarding the maintenance and reliability of our electricity network. We have seen the consequences of neglect – frequent outages, damage to infrastructure, and public frustration. It is therefore encouraging to see this administration now taking steps toward a structured and funded reform strategy aimed at stabilising and strengthening our electricity supply.

Speaker, we welcome this plan, which appears to be carefully considered. It includes important components such as improved customer service, technical support, new software solutions and integration, HR services, performance monitoring, and compliance measures. It also addresses critical areas such as failure response planning and ICT infrastructure. This is the kind of comprehensive approach that has been lacking for far too long.

A turnaround strategy has been urgently needed in Mangaung. We have reached a point where even minor weather events result in widespread blackouts. This is not only disruptive but dangerous - and it undermines economic growth, and public trust. That said, Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus must raise a concern regarding the issue of solar compliance and the possibility of levies or taxes on solar energy users.

Let us be honest: the move toward solar and alternative energy sources was not made out of luxury or convenience. It was made out of necessity. Residents and businesses turned to solar because the municipality failed to deliver a stable and reliable electricity supply to stimulate growth and sustain business. If it is the intent to penalise the same people with additional fees would be and counterproductive.

Yes, we understand the need for regulations and basic compliance. But we must draw a clear line - we cannot treat those who reduce the load on our strained network as if they are part of the problem. On the contrary, we should be supporting and incentivising them. They are helping to lighten the burden we have been unable to carry.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus is prepared to support this strategy, be assured we will keep an eye on the progress and the implementation.

**Cllr S Pretorius:** “Honourable Speaker, Colleagues, and Residents of Mangaung. This reform is not just desirable – it is urgently necessary.

Centlec is battling significant challenges:

1. Aging and decaying infrastructure is directly responsible for repeated power outages across our Metro.
2. Years of underfunded maintenance have left us with failing substations, unreliable feeders, and deteriorating transformers.
3. Vandalism and theft continue to compromise our infrastructure and delay repairs.

Despite Centlec's efforts, the system is overwhelmed, and the public is losing confidence. If this is not addressed with clear strategy and committed funding, Mangaung's energy system will collapse further-threatening economic growth, basic service delivery, and public safety. This Reform Strategy gives us a framework to modernize, stabilize, and sustain Mangaung's energy systems, by focussing on the following strategic objectives:

**Maintenance and Refurbishment:** CENTLEC has identified a wide scale need for maintenance and refurbishment of the distribution network. This will: improve reliability, modernize the grid, reduce outages, and enhance safety. Delays or underfunding will deepen infrastructure failure and increase operational costs.

**Fleet Replacement:** Outdated vehicles are slowing fault response and maintenance delivery. Benefits of fleet replacement includes Increased mobility, faster fault resolution, and better resource planning.

**Supporting Economic Development and Growth:** The strategy includes a Network Expansion Program and Bulk Infrastructure Plan. This plan will: Support businesses, attract investment, and expand our revenue base. If not implemented it will lead to: Grid instability and load shedding, which will drive investors and jobs opportunities away.

Ensuring Financial Sustainability and Adapting to Market Trends: Introduction of full cost recovery models. Time-of-use tariffs, demand charges, and specialized rates for different consumer categories. Benefits include Long-term financial health, fair pricing, and reduced strain on municipal budgets. Risks include Risk of customer pushback without proper consultation and phased rollout.

Electrical Network Security: As we move toward a digital smart grid, physical and cyber threats are increasing. We need to ensure infrastructure resilience and continuity of supply. Exposure to sabotage and hacking without proper protections must be a key priority. The Strategic Goal of this Reform Strategy is the critical unlocking of essential Grant Funding, including:

Urban Settlement Development Grant (USDG)

Integrated Urban Development Grant (ISUPG)

Approach to Distribution Asset Management (ADAM)

Budget Facility for Infrastructure (BFI)

And others under the National Treasury Metro Trading Services Reform Programme (MTSP)

With grant funding, **we can:**

1. Reduce over-reliance on internal capital reserves,
2. Accelerate infrastructure upgrades,
3. Improve planning and long-term service reliability,
4. Deliver better value to residents without increasing tariffs beyond sustainability.

In conclusion Colleagues, this strategy is not just a document-it is a rescue plan for our electricity system. It offers a real opportunity to transform CENTLEC into a reliable, modern, and efficient energy provider.

As the Democratic Alliance, we support this strategy —but we call for transparency, accountability, and delivery. Let us not miss this opportunity to restore our residents' trust and ensure a sustainable energy future for Mangaung. Thank you.”

**It was thereupon unanimously**

## **RESOLVED**

1. that Council approved the Electricity Reform Strategy with the upshot of enabling CENTLEC to access Grant Funding from various sources.
2. That Council took note that the Council Resolution will be taken to the National Treasury as part of the requirements.

14.

**REQUEST FOR THE APPROVAL OF MANGAUNG METRO MUNICIPALITY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT REFORM STRATEGY AIMED AT IMPROVING WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES IN MANGAUNG METRO MUNICIPALITY**

**Cllr B Vorster:** “The Freedom Front Plus will support any plans that improve service delivery, particularly regarding to waste management within the Metro. However, the reform strategy presented to the Council today raises several serious questions and concerns, and I will highlight only a few of these today:

This reform strategy represents a radical departure from the current waste management system by proposing the creation of an independent management unit within the Municipality. If this business unit becomes too independent, it may escape municipal oversight and public accountability.

For example, the Project Management Unit was also established in this Metro and reports directly to the City Manager. To date, neither this Council nor any of its committees has received a report from this unit regarding its activities, severely hindering the Council's oversight role.

In some respects, this proposed unit resembles the formation of the ITPN, and we are all aware of the financial strain that program has placed on the Metro. While the cost of establishing the unit and initial capital projects will be grant-funded, the long-term operational costs will need to be covered by internal municipal funds. For instance, the unit will result in changes to the organogram of the Municipality and the appointment of an additional Head of Department. Two managers under the HOD, four general managers, and nineteen additional managers.

Honourable Speaker, how will this Metro afford such expenditures? The establishment of this business unit may also set a precedent, encouraging other departments to follow suit, leading to a Metro eventually run by separate internal business entities. Honourable Speaker, this would render the Council of this Metro obsolete.

Lastly, this reform strategy will, in essence, replace the Integrated Waste Management Plan already approved by this Council. According to the Waste Act, Chapter 3, a municipality must, before finalising its Integrated Waste Management Plan, follow a consultative process as contemplated in Section 29 of the Municipal Systems Act— either as a separate process or as part of the IDP consultative process.

The Freedom Front Plus is therefore of the opinion that this Solid Waste Management Reform Strategy must follow the same legally required process before it can be finalised. This process has not been followed. We therefore recommend that this item be referred back to allow for proper consultation with all relevant stakeholders and further engagement with Councillors. For this reason, the Freedom Front Plus will not support this item. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

**Cllr TI Ferreira:** “Mister Speaker, in the Section 80 involving CENTLEC...(inaudible) there was certain issues that we have, we believe that a separate company like that, either private owned or by municipality will do very well.

So, we have just got certain issues, especially the organ-o-gram that we approved, and the Executive Mayor also spoke about it, the macro structure and the fact that we do not have a business plan for this. So, Speaker, I am going to read my speech. It might sound a bit negative, but we believe that something like that will do well with the municipality, but there are certain hurdles at this stage. So as a member of the Section 80 Committee: Waste and Fleet, I want to request that this item be referred back to the committee. The report before Council is completely different to the report that we discussed in the Section 80 Committee: Waste and Fleet. The idea is not against the private company or functional municipal owned business entity that can deliver services to our communities. We want service delivery to our communities as well as a financially viable private company or municipal owned company like CENTLEC that can generate its own funds and profit.

As was explained to us in the waste reform. The waste reform will be discussed like it was discussed in the Section 80 Committee: Waste and Fleet, and not only a separate department in the municipality with more vacancies that cannot be filled. Section 152 of the Constitution states that the municipality should provide sustainable service delivery. Municipalities must aim to provide essential services to their communities in a way that is environmentally friendly, socially and financially sustainable.

Now, Mister Speaker, in 2016 to 2021 Council term, at the beginning of 2021 we had a separate department named Waste and Fleet and the HOD was our current City Manager Mr S More. It did not function. There were strikes and unrest. During that time, our city hall was set alight and burned down. Why would it be different now if it is just a separate department? With a separate department and only an HOD? This needs to be discussed in the Section 80 Committee: Waste and Fleet together with the current organ-o-gram does not allow for an additional HOD of Waste and Fleet.

The current macro structure approved nationally and provincially only makes provision for seven HODs. Is Council able to add another HOD while Mangaung is still under Section 139 and a financial recovery plan? Can Council approve the creation of another department with a new HOD? According to the report, we will get funding from National Treasury, but with no amounts given to us, with no grants and no terms and conditions. In the Section 80 Committee: Waste and Fleet, we are also concerned about how this strategy will affect waste collection tariffs with no answers to these questions. We requested figures and amounts, to make an informed decision, but nothing was shown in this report. At this stage, Speaker, we currently do not have enough information to support this point. Speaker, please refer this item back to the section so we can discuss it more. Thank you, Speaker.”

**Cllr JH Denner seconded Cllr B Vorster**

**Cllr AP Terblanche seconded Cllr TI Ferreira**

**Cllr TE Phohleli:** “Chairperson, Honourable Councillors, and Fellow Residents. The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) Caucus welcomes the Solid Waste Management Reform Strategy. But we do not come here to clap hands. We come to speak truth and make real contributions.

## 13B

Mangaung is dirty today not because people are dirty but because the municipality has failed. Our people live next to rubbish. Trucks do not come. Landfills are a mess. And in informal settlements, there is nothing not even a dustbin and collection of refuse. This is not by mistake. It is because of years of corruption, mismanagement, and cadre deployment without skills. The people suffer while politicians enjoy clean offices. We ask:

1. Where did the money go that was meant to fix the trucks and landfills?
2. How much was spent before on failed plans?
3. How will informal settlements benefit now, not just in reports but in reality?
4. Will this new "business unit" be accountable, or is it just another tender gate?

The EFF proposes the following clear solutions:

- i. Form waste cooperatives in every ward, led by the youth and women. Let our people clean their communities and get paid.
- ii. Hold ward councillors accountable. Waste collection must be monitored monthly and reported publicly.
- iii. Use GPS in waste trucks and allow residents to report missed pickups via WhatsApp.
- iv. Invest in recycling centres and upgrade landfills. Send mobile waste teams to informal areas weekly.
- v. Launch community education campaigns in all local languages, using schools and clinics.

Chairperson, this strategy must not just clean rubbish it must clean governance too. It must end contracts that enrich the connected and ignore the poor. The EFF supports reform with conditions:

- o Transparency.
- o Jobs for locals.
- o Real delivery in informal areas.
- o No more lies.

Let this be a revolutionary plan, not another dusty document full of empty promises. The people of Mangaung deserve clean streets, clean leadership, and a clean future. We support the item based on the submissions we have made. Thank you.”

**Cllr JI Mokoena:** “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I won't be too long on this particular item for the simple reason that some of the issues relating to the overall strategic objectives of these reforms as they relate to achievement of the vision of Mangaung, I've highlighted in the previous, address. However, I think some of the Councillors have covered around some of the potential impacts of this particular transformation now, the journey that we are undertaking. It has been so appropriately raised by Councillor TI Ferreira and Councillor B Vorster, around what the consents are, which I hope that the Executive Mayor and his team will take to heart, that the Councillors have not indicated that they do not want Mangaung to continue to provide services to our community. They have indicated that they are aligned with that objective their responsibility in ensuring that there is appropriate service delivery. It is the mode and the manner that we do it.

And as a result, have expressed concern about what has been proposed as a path, not necessarily the objective of the intended reform program. I hope that I is very clear, the way that I understand it, is that all of us are committed to service delivery that is efficient and effective, and all of us appreciate and embrace the national agenda for supporting local government in terms of additional funding to be able to meet its objectives. However, as they have indicated, the issue has always been how we have undertaken that responsibility, how we have applied our minds to different potential strategies, and how we, as a Council, needs to appreciate that we need to act responsibly and act in the interest of the Mangaung. And that is how I understand their speeches, and it is for that reason that I rest my case. Thank you.”

**Cllr SC Sehloho:** “Honourable Speaker, Executive Mayor, fellow Councillors, City Manager, HODs, and the residence of Mangaung.

The recommendation to establish solid waste management business unit has been considered against other critical options involving municipal-owned company and external Municipal entity. After thorough consideration of these options, we are contending that a business unit model is best suited for Mangaung under current recovery path.

To solidify internal stability, we need structures that are integral part of the Municipality as this is critical towards restoring the confidence the local community to this Council. During our discussions at the committee level, other councillors argued strongly in favour of the establishment of the municipal owned company.

On the contrary, we are of the opinion that such option would compromise the autonomy of this August House. This is because solid waste management is a primary responsibility of any municipality and delegating it to any other private establishment would raise more questions about our intentions to improve institutional capacity in this regard.

However, we are equally not ignorant of the emergence, of the right-wing populism that is lobbying for private ownership of this very paint responsibility. They hide their wicked agenda behind the fight against corruption, while advancing regime change agenda. The principle of the people’s government by the people is the main target.

There is no doubt that the envisaged reform of solid waste management restores more power to this Council regarding political oversight function and enforcement of accountability - where necessary. And if so, why does it pose a threat to others. The answer is simple: theirs is private ownership.

The business unit on solid waste management therefore provides for the direct oversight and control of the Council and its political structures. I also wish to emphasise the fact that, this establishment of the business unit, does not close doors for those efforts of patriotic private formations including those who have been assisting us in this area.

We have since declared local governance as everybody's business! The doors of this Council remain open for any public-private partnership endeavours in promoting the just cause of a better life for all.

This reform further amplifies of financial recovery plan since it propagates a business approach which believe will become the best model towards improved own-revenue, and professionalizing the local government as propagated through municipal staffing regulations and other pieces of legislation.

Challenges in this context include human capital and financial resources. This is why our waste management reform strategy seeks to modernise, professionalize and commercialise waste management sector in Mangaung. Another critical factor that addressed in the reform strategy relates to lack of public awareness and participation.

Let me be very clear on this, this Waste Reform Initiative is not a luxury it is a lifeline. We are proposing a full-scale institutional and operational renovation of how Mangaung manages its waste from collection and disposal to recycling, revenue generation, and community education. Increased public participation is encouraged in all processes. The reform brings great economic spin offs for the City.

Firstly, revenue opportunity: The unit is envisaged to generate income by creating a semi-autonomous waste entity similar to CENTLEC that charges for commercial collection, attracts private investment, and reduces dependence on grants. The intention is to turn our landfill into a revenue-generating asset instead of their current state of being liabilities.

Job Creation & Empowerment: Waste reform means, training cooperatives, empowering youth, supporting informal recyclers, and creating sustainable green jobs. This is real economic empowerment, especially in our poorest wards. I therefore, urge all Councillors to support this progressive reformation of solid waste management in Mangaung. Thank you.”

**Point of order raised by Cllr E Snyman-Van Deventer that no one made reference about private ownership”**

**Cllr GJ Lipale requested clarity on the Committee siting.**

**Cllr NP Pholoholo seconded Cllr SC Sehloho.**

**The Speaker tasked the relevant MMC and the Section 80 Committee to look into matters raised by some of the members.**

**Council voted as follows to refer the item back: 30 voted in favour, 45 against and 11 abstained. For the item as submitted: 66 in favour, 30 against and 0 abstained.**

**RESOLVED** that Council noted and approved the following:

- A Waste Management Business Reform Strategy has been developed proposing a complete reform (or turnaround) from the current management principles of waste management in MMM to a business unit that manages the waste management business within MMM from a single point of accountability by establishing a semi-autonomous department for waste management. The objective of the proposed waste management business unit is to ultimately enable a holistic asset management approach.

- The proposed reform is as per option two (2), identified in Figure 1 of this document, which is a municipal business unit within the municipality but without a separate assembly. It must adopt a business approach and establish a corporate culture and identity separate from (but linked to) the municipality, with separate financial statements, a focus on customer orientation and with its own call centre.
- That Council approved the Solid Waste Reform Strategy.
- That Council noted and approved progress on the A1 (waste management institutional roadmap) and the A2 (business and investment plan).

## 15.

### **UPDATE TO THE MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AT HILLSIDE VIEW, VISTA PARK EXTENSION 3 AND EXTENSION 3 CATALYTIC LAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

**Cllr MJ Mabena:** "Chairperson, we are discussing the issue with regard to, the three catalytic land development project that is Hillside View, Vista Park Two and Three. And we are to give an update on the progress in addressing the implementations, challenges associated with the three projects. And in a sense, there were very serious material deviation in terms of reference. When we discussed this matter last year, on the 12th of December we took a resolution item 204.1. And when you check your resolution number three says, City Manager instruct head corporate service to embark on a dispute and refer the matter for arbitration and mediation." Going further, we resolved that this matter be referred to Council for discussions and for approval as we are here. Very clear instructions were given to the Law firm attorneys that must ensure this municipality complies with their obligations entered in the original tender document.

When you go to Vista Park One where we refer to the PRZ, legal review has determined the contract entered with the PRZ were not the as a result of a lawful and valid process as required by relevant legislation. And also, Calgro M3 Holdings was the one appointed after a lawful and tender processes were followed. Therefore, the contract with PZR is declared unlawful and invalid. If you check all those things from the law firm and you go to Vista Park Two, all those terms of reference were not followed. And also, if you go to Hillside, all those things were not not followed. And all the three, contractors entered between Mangaung Municipality and the developers are in violation of Section 270 of the Constitution, Municipal Finance Management Act, Supply Chain Management Act, policy of Mangaung and Treasury instructions notes governing, procurement.

When you go down and read the report and you go down and begin to understand there were many hiccups there. And this frame of attorneys picked up very important things and made recommendations. Then we are not saying you got to leave things as they are. If you check recommendations number one, 6.1 and 6.2 you will begin to think that we will end there, but what sums this up you go to recommendation number three, that the council mandates the City Manager to initiate consequence management to all responsible parties implicated within 90 days then the report will be given to us.

Councillor MW Mongale was very happy in our Section 80 Committee understanding correctly that consequence management will be employed so that everyone who took part in these unlawful acts will actually be punished, and that consequence management will be adhered to. Thank you.”

**Cllr CL Bouwer:** “Mister Speaker, residents of Mangaung, and fellow colleagues, as the Democratic alliance, we support the item as we did in the Committee. However, once again, we're compiled to raise serious concerns regarding the quality of the documentation that was presented in the Committee meeting. One of the items that was actually due to serve in council had to be sent back due to poor standard of compilation and a standard that fell short of what both the committee and this council deserves.

A signature was missing, even some documents went through. Although the city documents went through the relevant, departments, HOD, who is not here. I also want to reiterate the importance of this item. Some concerns were raised in the committee meeting, and our support for this item is not simply because the expediting of the recommencement of this project. By advocating the meaningful consequence management as my fellow colleague mentioned, we could not allow urgency to restart or to continue a project to override accountability. Noting the corrective actions taking place, yes, we as a Council should also acknowledge it would be particularly troubling to some extent should we just have to re-enter agreements with the same developers who knowingly entered into unlawful contracts with the municipality and proceeded regardless as mentioned in the filing.

Our oversight role therefore should be strengthened. If not, it will give the impression that we are being over lenient or even dependent to some extent on these developers which sets a bad precedent, especially with our current financial recovery stance. We should be hammering, hammering and even be more emphasised on the corrective actions taken. And City Manager, within the 90-day period, should give us a follow-up in that said period with amended delays regarding this financial consequence management and the administrative accountability. We believe that as the Metro, this Council as a whole, it is committed to seeing proper administrative and financial consequence management, as I mentioned, that should be implemented within the 90-day period, as my colleague also mentioned. The unlawful agreements and repeated misuse of municipal funds must be addressed, and accountability must follow for each party involved. Thank you.”

**Cllr JI Mokoena:** “Honourable Speaker, because I am slow, I am going to start first with reading what the recommendations are saying vis-à-vis what I understand the report to be saying. In that under A that the recommendations that council accepts the legal opinion, and in B it says that the recommendation in annexure C to the attached report is supported for action. And then states that the Council mandates the City Manager to initiate consequence management. Now, I am not so sure whether that relates to the recommendation that are part of paragraph F, page 48 of annexure C, in the submitted documents. In and by themselves propose that the contracts between the four parties be cancelled by or terminated by mutual consent, and then that the municipality can then enter into any agreement with Calgro, which is what I do not see in the recommendations before Council.

## 14B

In addition, the contract, it makes a point that, as you know, in terms of certain legal precedence that until such time that a matter has been set aside by a court, including the Oude Kraal and Merafong City Local Municipality, vis-à-vis Anglo Gold Ashanti Limited, the contract remains legally binding until reviewed and set aside by a court of law, which is what I do not understand or see in the submission made by Council. I need to find out whether it is that the intention of a mutual agreement set aside exists and what happens to what has been already paid and concluded in terms of this contract.

But again Speaker this, just brings us to the point that we have got to be fairly very cautious that in drawing investments and engaging private sector in the municipality, this irregular and unlawful acts of people within the municipality needs to be addressed without being unashamed about, because we are sitting here with what could jeopardise and prejudice the municipality, even around those that might have intention of coming into the Municipality. Because now we have three or so developers that have put their money into a project, but that was mismanaged in one way or the other. And those costs go to affect service delivery to our people. Because at the end of the day, it is about undermining the potential to be able to conserve our people, and that I think we Honourable Speaker, in the greater scheme of things, these things are fairly very worrying and in Mangaung getting on a path to recovery and trying to do things properly, one would urge that these issues be addressed unapologetically without protecting anybody. And those that have been part of this, they must face all the necessary consequences without making them feel like they are being attacked by all of us when we require that accountability and consequence management be made.

Honourable Speaker what is happening here is extremely worrying. This is going to undermine the Executive Mayor's intent to try and draw for the seven parcels of land developments and whatever. You know, these things are those that people normally in the business sector says they are undermining a conducive environment for people to engage with us knowing that we are reliable, we will be authentic, and things would be properly dealt with. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

**Cllr PE Makau:** Honourable Speaker, fellow Councillors, as the Economic Freedom Fighters, we would like to raise sharply on this item to make it clear: we support housing development, but not at the cost of legality, ethics, and accountability. The report before Council exposes nothing less than a systemic collapse in governance around the Hillside View, Vista Park 2, and Vista Park 3 catalytic projects.

Let us be blunt. These housing projects meant to uplift our people have been hijacked by unlawful contracts, backdoor procurement, and political convenience. We are told that the contracts with Calgro, PZR Imido Inc., and Kenta Developers violate Section 217 of the Constitution, the Municipal Finance Management Act, and Treasury regulations. How is this allowed in a municipality already under national intervention?

The EFF demands full disclosure and accountability:

- Who signed off on these illegal contracts?
- Why did the legal department and senior officials fail to flag such violations?

## 14C

- And how much of the public purse has been wasted on inflated legal fees, including to Ndu Attorneys Inc.?

Our communities in Vista Park and Hillside View are still waiting for decent housing, while politicians and developers profit from flawed deals. This is not governance; this is corruption dressed as development.

We support the report's recommendation to annul the unlawful contracts and restart the procurement process lawfully and transparently. But that is not enough. We want consequences. Officials and politicians responsible must be suspended and prosecuted. The legal fees must be audited. And Annexure C must be made public not hidden behind technical jargon and secrecy.

The EFF reiterates, we will never allow a situation where the poor are robbed of their dignity under the banner of "progress." No house must be built if it is rooted in corruption. No developer must benefit if they came through the back door. This Council must choose clean governance or continued looting. The people of Mangaung are watching. Thank you."

**Cllr NA Nhlapo stated that annexure C includes legal opinions.**

**Cllr JI Mokoena mentioned that 126.1 to 126.12 must be closed.**

**Cllr CL Boucher said that did not indicate properly it has an element of either or.**

**Cllr MW Mongale:** "There must be a consensual agreement between all parties involved regarding the contracts whether to terminate the contracts for those who cooperate and the legal route for those that do not."

**Cllr NA Nhlapo stated that it was the exact same document that the Council had agreed on to be added nothing else was changed only consequence management was added.**

**Executive Mayor:** "Deviation of Land availability agreement as well as service agreement but what is key and critical is that the power of attorney was give to some of these contractors. They therefore infringed on the powers of the Municipality some agreed on revising the agreement. The Legal route would be taken for those that do not comply with regards to regulations of the MFMA."

**The Speaker announced the outcome of voting as follows: 80 votes in favour, 0 against and 4 abstained.**

**It was thereupon**

**RESOLVED**

- (a) that the Council having fully considered the Legal opinion and representations thereon, resolved that Council accepts the legal opinion on contracts concluded between the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality and Calgro, PZR Emendo and Khentha Developers and,
- (b) It is resolved that the recommendation in Annexure "C" to the attached report be supported for action.
- (c) That the Council mandated the City Manager to initiate consequence management to all responsible parties implicated within 90 days and report back to Council.

**16.**

**REPORT ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHT COMMISSION FREES STATE PROVINCIAL OFFICE INQUIRY INTO THE STATE OF SERVICE DELIVERY AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL IN THE FREE STATE**

**Cllr LL Mohlamme:** "Honourable Speaker, today, I rise not just as a representative of this council, but as the voice of many residents who feel unheard, undeserved by the state of service delivery in your municipality, Mangaung Metro. We cannot ignore the growing frustration in our communities. Speaker, service delivery is not a privilege from the government. It is a constitutional right. Mangaung runs a proud Metro in the Free State. It is now crippling with severe service delivery.

Honourable Speaker, some citizens still use pit toilets years on after democracy, within their yards. Residents from the following sections in Botshabelo section D, E2, L, M, N, T, U, V and W, still rely on pit toilets, facilities that are unsafe, undignified and a reminder of inequality. Pit toilets are more than just outdated infrastructure. They represent the failure to deliver on the promise of dignity, safety and human rights. Dignity should never be negotiable. The South African Human Rights Commission has issued recommendations aimed at improving accountability and restoring dignity to the affected communities.

Furthermore, the recommendations indicate that Committee Services will distribute the responses to the Councillors. The DA would like to ask, when will this finally happen? Submitting this report to Council four months after the recommendations due date with still no answers provided is unacceptable. The report was handed to MMM last year, meaning the three-months period given in the report response started from the date. Where are the answers to the HRC? Why were they not served in council as required?

The submission to the HRC report to council eight months after MMM received it is nothing short of a joke and a slap in the face of every citizen's affected by the findings. This blatant disregard clearly shows what the governing party thinks of the people of Mangaung. The HRC, report stated that all submissions to the commission regarding how municipalities plan to address the issues raised must be approved by the Council before being submitted.

## 14E

However, no action plans related to HRC report were represented to the council for approval. We will escalate this matter to our members of provincial legislature. Mangaung deserves more than broken promises. It deserves dignity, progress and a government that serve its people. Thank you, Speaker.”

**Cllr E Snyman Van Deventer:** “Agbare Speaker, die Vryheidsfront Plus wil die aandag vestig op die belangrike aanbeveling wat bepaal dat die planne wat aan die Suid-Afrikaanse Menseregtekommissie voorgelê is, beskikbaar gestel moet word aan alle raadslede. Ons versoek dat hierdie dokumente so spoedig moontlik aan raadslede voorsien word, sodat ons in staat is om ons grondwetlike oorsigverantwoordelikhede na kan kom.

Deur toegang tot hierdie inligting te hê, kan raadslede hul werk meer effektief doen, en dit sal help om deursigtigheid en aanspreeklikheid in ons besluitneming te bevorder.

Verder wil die Vryheidsfront Plus dit duidelik en ondubbelsinnig herbevestig: die reg op basiese dienslewering is nie 'n voorreg nie: dit is 'n mensereg, gewaarborg deur die Grondwet van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika.

Die reg op water, in die besonder, is 'n fundamentele mensereg, en as 'n metro het ons n plig om te verseker dat hierdie reg deurgaans beskerm, gerespekteer en bevorder word. Wanneer inwoners van Mangaung nie toegang het tot skoon water nie, faal ons in een van ons mees basiese pligte as plaaslike regering.

Ons moet nooit toelaat dat swak beplanning, korrupsie, of administratiewe nalatigheid lei tot die skending van hierdie basiese regte nie. Dienslewering mag nooit as 'n guns of 'n politieke hulpmiddel behandel word nie - dit is 'n reg waarop elke burger geregtig is.

Agbare Speaker, die Vryheidsfront Plus doen daarom 'n ernstige beroep op die uitvoerende bestuur van die Metro om die nodige dokumentasie onmiddellik beskikbaar te stel, en om alle toekomstige aksies ten opsigte van dienslewering binne die raamwerk van menseregte te plaas - soos dit betaam in 'n demokratiese en grondwetlike bestel. Ek dank u.”

**Cllr NR Shale:** “Honourable Speaker, the Economic Freedom Fighter rise on this item with both fury and vindication. The findings of the South African Human Rights Commission Free State Provincial Office inquiry are damning, but unfortunately, they are not a surprise. The EFF has been saying this from day one since we entered this Council chamber. After the first local government election, we have consistently warned that the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality has been violating the basic human rights of our people. Let the record reflect our very own fighter went to the commission and has raised this matter in the Council, in the Human Rights Commission. And as the EFF Councillors, we have done this in Committee meetings and directly to the administration. Refer to page 80 to 82 and again on page 148 to 149 of the South African Human and Commission report you will see the voice of truth, the voice of the people, and the voice of the EFF loud and clear. We have documentation, we have pictures, we have evidence.

Executive Mayor, if you want the proof, we will give it to you, but the worst proof is in our communities. People are living with raw sewage running in their yard. Children walk to school through rivers of waste. People in our townships are being infected with tuberculosis and yes some have even died because this municipality has failed to provide the most basic service to keep our people alive. Section 10 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa honours the right to dignity. It says clearly everyone has an inherent dignity and the right to have their dignity respected and protected. Sewage in the street, dirty drinking water and crumbling infrastructures do not reflect dignity, they reflect decay.

Section 24 gives every person the right to an environment that is not harmful for their health or well-being. Speaker, how can anyone defend the environmental crimes committed daily in our informal settlements? Section 27 guarantees the right to healthcare, sufficient water and social services. But what we see in Mangaung, is the privatisation of pain and the commodification of suffering. Services are for the elite. The rest are left to rot in filth. This municipality has become a human rights violator. And now the South African Human Rights Commission has confirmed it. This is not a technical error this is a political crisis. These violations are not the result of capacity gaps. They are the result of corrupt leadership, misplaced priorities, and the ANC-led administration that has lost their morale and political will to serve the people. The EFF has long said, when a municipality cannot provide sanitation, it is not just an administrative issue, it is a crime against the pure.

It is a system oppression carried out through incompetence and shielded by empty report and failing resolutions. What is the plan, honourable Mayor? Because the people are dying slowly. What consequences will there be for those who have allowed sewage to become the daily reality of Black life in Mangaung? We demand an urgent action plan to address sewage spillage with clear deadline and budget allocations. EFF final word, the EFF position is unshaken. We will continue to be the voice of the forgotten. We will not be silenced by the ruling class, not intimidated by denialism. The South African Human Rights Commission has confirmed what we have shouted for years. Mangaung is in crisis and people are suffering because those in charge do not care. In conclusion, let this Council act or let history record that while the people were dying, this house was silent. Thank you.”

**Council Whip Cllr VE Nikelo Stated the following:**

- Referenced Section 152 of the South African Constitution to frame the discussion.
- Emphasised that issues affecting citizens should be addressed as a matter of responsibility, not competition.
- Noted concern that the HRC report was delivered four months late; significant events have occurred since its expected delivery, and more developments are expected.
- Stressed that despite the delay, presenting the report is preferable to not addressing it at all.
- Mentioned that both council members and opposition parties have requested discussions on this report, including writing letters to press for its presentation.
- Report is now being brought forward, with responsibilities already being apportioned in response to the HRC findings.

## 14G

- Responsibilities for responding to the HRC are being assigned, including submitting responses both to the HRC and the Council.
- Progress will be tracked to measure success against the recommendations in the report.
- Proposed that an action and progress report related to the implementation of HRC recommendations be presented to the Council quarterly for transparency and ongoing clarity.
- Submit the overdue HRC report to the Council as soon as possible.
- Prepare and present quarterly progress reports on the implementation of HRC recommendations.
- Ensure responsibilities for responding to the HRC are clearly allocated and tracked.

**Deputy Executive Mayor Cllr LM Titi-Odili** supported the Council Whip Cllr VE Nikelo's recommendation.

### **Cllr MW Mongale outlined the following:**

- Raised concerns about the municipality's lack of sensitivity to the community's current struggles in Mangaung.
- Stressed the importance of taking seriously any matter investigated by the Human Rights Commission, as it indicates a human rights violation.
- Expressed gratitude to individuals such as former Cllr MJ Ramatlama and Dr. Roy Jenkinson for their roles in bringing these issues to light.
- Highlighted that this is the first time the municipality has been held accountable by the Human Rights Commission and found at fault.
- The municipality was given a three-month ultimatum to address sewage issues, infrastructure problems, leaks, and refuse collection shortcomings.
- Identified persistent issues such as sewer spillages, failing infrastructure, and misleading "VIP toilets" projects.
- Criticised inadequate refuse collection practices, leading to the creation of rubbish heaps instead of proper disposal.
- Raised concerns about the poor state of the landfill site, especially its proximity to the graveyard and the lack of visible improvements.
- Expected the municipality to provide detailed reports to Councillors outlining their plans to resolve the crisis, echoing the requirements of the Human Rights Commission.
- Emphasised that Councillors are active participants, not just observers, and wish to monitor municipal compliance.
- Reiterated willingness to work together, extending an "olive branch" and requesting transparent sharing of the commission's report.
- Warned that failure to cooperate would lead to further action through the Human Rights Commission, with repeated violations reflecting poorly on the municipality.

**Council Whip Cllr VE Nikelo posed a question to Cllr MW Mongale:** "When were VIP toilets installed in Botshabelo and who was the Executive Mayor at that time"?

**Cllr MW Mongale highlighted the following in answering the question:**

- Addressed a question related to an event that occurred 20 years ago, noting an inability to recall who the Executive Mayor at that time was.
- Emphasised that even if the former mayor's identity is clarified, the blame is suggested to rest with the African National Congress (ANC) for not allowing the mayor to finish their term.
- Stressed the importance of allowing a leader to complete their designated term in order to accurately evaluate their performance.
- Argued against placing blame on an individual who was denied the opportunity to fulfil their duties, describing such blame as unfair.
- Accused the other party of recklessness in how they assign blame for past failures.

**Executive Mayor stated the following:**

- Discussion centred around issues related to the Human Rights Commission and the challenges facing the metro at that level.
- Executive Mayor emphasised the need to synchronise the debate around all existing issues, particularly those that have persisted.
- Key problems identified include sewer spillages, lack of water, and related infrastructural issues, exacerbated by the metro's financial distress.
- Concerns raised about financial decisions impacting the U-W-I-F and potential repercussions if funds are redirected.
- Ignoring financial needs to "play it safe" could invite further scrutiny or intervention from the Human Rights Commission.
- The importance of understanding the metro's current status and challenges was reiterated.
- That the ANC has been and remains the ruling party in power.
- That the party must take responsibility for ongoing issues.
- Emphasis made on protecting the ANC's policies, as they continue to enjoy majority support.
- The main problem identified was failure to implement existing policies, not the policies themselves.
- Some individuals who failed in implementing policies leave the party, criticise it, and leave unresolved challenges behind.

**Cllr BJ Viviers remarked, that:**

- The Democratic Alliance (DA) formally recorded their dissent regarding a particular report and agenda item.
- That the report was late and that no action was taken within the three months prescribed by the Human Rights Commission.
- That they had previously warned the Executive, Mayor and TROIKA, multiple times about this issue.
- Concerns raised over the ANC-led Metro, that it does not respect human rights or Chapter 9 Institutions.

**It was thereupon with 72 votes in favour, 20 against and 0 abstained.**

**RESOLVED**

- (a) That Council took note of the South African Human Rights Commission's report and recommendations made to address the complaints in the report. However, the submitted plans to SAHRC will be made available and shared with Committee Services to send to all Councillors, to ensure oversight monitoring by Councillors.
- (b) ***That the action plan and progress report be submitted to Council on quarterly basis.***

129	<b>REPORTS FROM THE SPEAKER</b>
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None.

**NOTED.**

130	<b>REPORTS FROM MPAC</b>
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1.

**ANNUAL WORK PLAN OF THE MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.**

**Cllr IJ Makoloane, the Chairperson of MPAC tabled the report as follows:** Honourable Speaker, Executive Mayor, Deputy Executive Mayor, Council, and Fellow Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Our goals can only be reached through a vehicle of a plan, in which we must fervently believe, and upon which we must vigorously act. There is no other route to success in ascertaining Good Governance, in Promoting Transparency and Accountability if there is no existence of a plan.

Honourable Speaker, please note that we as MPAC Committee managed to put together this plan for the Council to approve. In its meeting held on 28th August 2023 and 26th September 2023 respectively, the Committee discussed and resolved on Annual Work Plan for 2025/2026. The Committee when deliberating on the matter, understood that this work plan must align with Council activities and reflect the timeframes in the MMA for planning and budgeting cycles, and preparation as well as the adoption of the Oversight Report on the Annual Report.

In summary, this Annual Work Plan 2025/ 2026 covers among others:

1. Unauthorised, Irregular, Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure in line with section 32 of MMA. In this regard, the Technical Committee has been established to assist in addressing the historic and current backlog of UIF&W Expenditures.
2. Public Participation/ Public Hearings to solicit community inputs on Annual Report 2024/ 2025 in line with Section 129 of MFMA
3. The quarterly Report of the Mayor on the implementation of the budget and the situation of the municipality/ SDBIP in line with Section 52(d) of the MFMA
4. Mid-Year budget and Performance assessment in line with Section 72 of the MFMA
5. Mid-Year budget and performance of assessment of Municipal entity (CENTLEC) in line with Section 88 of MFMA

It is therefore against this background to present MPAC Annual Work Plan 2025/ 2026 for Council's approval. I thank you."

**Cllr MW Mongale questioned the Chairperson of MPAC, about the exact date when the mayor's report was received. There is apparent confusion or dispute regarding the timeline, as another report was also provided to the COGTA portfolio committee. The question aimed to clarify when the MPAC chair officially received the report.**

**Cllr IJ Makoloane responded by stating that the report was received on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2025.**

**Point of order raised by Cllr JM De Bruin that the Chairperson was supposed to inform the Committee that he had received the report from the Executive Mayor he was not transparent as a virtual meeting had already taken place.**

**Point of order raised by the Deputy Executive Mayor that the item was on Work Plan of MPAC for approval therefore other discussions should be halted focus must be placed on the work plan.**

**The Speaker ruled that the point of order was sustained. Further requested that the Chairperson of MPAC Cllr IJ Makoloane withdraw information regarding the IPTN and present a work plan.**

**Cllr IJ Makoloane withdrawn.**

**Cllr ZN Banyane indicated that there are procedures to be followed, the Chairperson of MPAC will discuss this in the next meeting.**

**It was thereupon unanimously**

**RESOLVED** that Council approved the proposed work plan for the 2025/2026 financial year.

131	REPORTS FROM AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE
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None.

NOTED.

132	REPORTS ON WARD COMMITTEES/CONSOLIDATED REPORT ON WARD COMMITTEE
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The Speaker stated that there were errors on the report, that there were other Councillors who had submitted their quarterly reports which had not reflected on the agenda however they will be included at the next ensuing ordinary meeting.

The item was not for discussion.

NOTED.

133	REPORT ON SALGA ACTIVITIES
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None.

NOTED.

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

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

1.

#### CONFIRMATION OF IN COMMITTEE MINUTES

1. Thursday 7 November 2024 (continuation of meeting held 30 October 2024)

Council Whip moved for the adoption of the minutes and was seconded by Cllr MW Mongale.

2. Thursday 12 December 2024

Council Whip moved for the adoption of the minutes and was seconded by Cllr MW Mongale.

3. Friday 31 January 2025.

Council Whip moved for the adoption of the minutes and was seconded by Cllr MW Mongale.

The minutes of the In Committee meetings were duly adopted.

NOTED.

2.

**THE MEDIATION AND INVESTIGATION REPORT: CENTLEC**

The Council voted as follows: To dissolve the Board: 55 in favour, 0 against and 27 abstained. For the Executive Mayor to submit the report in 14 days: 62 in favour, 0 against and 23 abstained.

It was thereupon

**RESOLVED** Council noted and resolved the following:

- (a) That the Executive Mayor's intention to dissolve the Board of Centlec has been considered and approved based on the recommendations of investigation report.
- (b) That Council delegated the Executive Mayor *to report back to Council within (14) days with regard to the establishment of a Caretaker Management Team taking into account the memorandum of incorporation (MOI)*.

135	MOTIONS
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None.

**NOTED.**

1.

**Cllr JM De Bruin:** “Op item nommer 136.1, Speaker, in terme van Reël 38, let ek op dat daar terugvoering was op een van my drie Reëls 38 wat ek op 17 Maart 2025 ingedien het. Ek wil graag weet wat die rede is dat ek nog nie terugvoering ontvang het ten opsigte van die ander twee Reëls wat ek saam ingedien het nie.

Punt 1: Die eerste Reël 38 is die Standaard Reël en beveelings met betrekking tot die ooreenkoms tussen Mangaung Metro Municipality en die Lougenkui Foundation oor die munisipale eiendom geleë te Lekhuisstraat 1, Heidedal, Bloemfontein.

Punt 2: Die tweede Reël 38 is ook 'n standaard Reël en beveelings waarin ek my kommer uitgespreek het oor die tweeslaapkamerhuise in Heidedal wat aan MMM behoort, en waarvan die titelaktes nog aan die inwoners van hierdie huise toegeken moet word. Hierdie huise word tans verbou sonder enige goedgekeurde bouplanne. Met ander woorde, daar is 'n huis wat aan twee huise behoort, en daar word op slegs een van die huise 'n dubbelverdieping gebou sonder bouplanne.

Ek het tot dusver nog geen antwoord hierop ontvang nie. Ek wil hê dat die agbare Speaker kennis neem dat ek hierdie twee Reëls 38, waarop ek nog geen terugvoer gekry het nie, weer aan die orde stel in vandag se sitting.

Agbare Speaker, ek vra dat ek so gou as moontlik my antwoorde kan ontvang. Ek heg weereens my twee Reëls aan u binnekantse, saam met my opvolgbriewe, want dit voel vir my asof die City Manager ons kansels disrespekteer. Dis hoe ek vandag voel.

Ek weet nie waar ek die Agbare Speaker uitkyk nie. Salute!”

**Cllr E Snyman Van Deventer stated the following to the Speaker:** “You are waiting for the answers of three questions. We are waiting for more than 30, but I will not go through all 30 now. However, I just want to ask through you to the Mayor. He said in a meeting that all questions are answered, etc., and we said no, and he said we should send him all the questions. We did so, and we still do not have answers for 30 questions. So, please, through you, City Manager, the Executive Mayor, please answer our Rule 38 questions. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.”

**The Speaker** after consulting with the City Manager, it was confirmed that some Rule 38 questions remain unanswered. The City Manager explained that:

1. Several departments are involved in these questions, and he is still waiting for consolidated responses before replying.
2. There is no time frame in the Council's rules requiring when Rule 38 questions must be answered, creating a technical gap that limits accountability.

**The Speaker noted that certain questions remain pending due to this process and said a ruling will be made on the matter.**

**Cllr MW Mongale outlined the following:**

- Emphasised the importance of being genuine and understanding in responses, both for the Speaker and the City Manager.
- Discussed the EMT structure and how all relevant people are present in those meetings.
- Stressed that there should be clear communication, especially when deadlines (21 days) cannot be met due to complexities.
- Suggested it is common courtesy to update relevant authorities proactively about delays and the status of ongoing matters.
- Stated the importance of partnership and working together rather than being adversarial.
- Mentioned that matters should not be left unresolved or ignored with the expectation that issues will disappear without proper follow-up.
- Clarified the issue is not with the response itself but with a sense of complacency that results in no progress.

**Council Whip Cllr VE Nikelo highlighted the following:**

- ✓ Emphasised the need to align with Councillor MW Mongale suggestions regarding procedural improvements.
- ✓ Proposed the establishment of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for handling Rule 38 questions.
- ✓ Stressed that having defined SOPs will ensure a clear process is followed when Rule 38 questions are raised.
- ✓ Noted that adhering to these SOPs would help prevent recurring issues of unanswered Rule 38 questions.
- ✓ Highlighted that some questions remain unresolved for an extended period, which is unacceptable and must be addressed.
- ✓ Develop and implement clear SOPs for Rule 38 question handling.
- ✓ Set defined timelines for concluding Rule 38 questions to avoid backlog.

**The Speaker ruled that he will be expecting a reply from the City Manager within 21 days regarding the outstanding responses to Rule 38 questions.**

**NOTED.**

137	<b>CLOSING OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING</b>
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**The Speaker officially declared the meeting closed at 20h50.**

**SECRETARIAT UNIT  
COMMITTEE SERVICES**

