CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING

MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

COUNCIL CHAMBER
FIRST FLOOR
BRAM FISCHER BUILDING
BLOEMFONTEIN

THURSDAY
29 JANUARY 2026
AT 10:00

MANGAUNG

METROPOLITAN

MUNICIPALITY

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING

of the
MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
held IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, FIRST FLOOR, BRAM FISCHER BUILDING
BLOEMFONTEIN
on THURSDAY, 29 JANUARY 2026 at 10:00

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

#	NAME	PARTY	LEAVE
1	Speaker Cllr Mathae (Bongani Lawrence)	ANC	
2	Executive Mayor Cllr Nthatisi (Gregory Mosala Solomon)	ANC	
3	Deputy Executive Mayor Cllr Titi-Odili (Lulama Magdeline)	ANC	
4	Council Whip Cllr Nikelo (Vumile Edwin)	ANC 28	
SECTION 79 CHAIRPERSONS			
5	Rules Cllr Mokgothu (Tona Kenosi Wilfred)	ANC 2	
6	MPAC Cllr Makoloane (Itumeleng Justice)	ANC 36	Absent with apology
7	Petitions and Community Liaison Cllr Morake (Molefi Andries)	ANC	
8	Remunerations Cllr Tladi (Motshewa Martha)	ANC	
9	Public Places and Street Naming Cllr Mogotloane (Thabo Joel)	ANC 39	
MEMBERS OF MAYORAL COMMITTEE			
10	MMC: Corporate Services Cllr SP Tsoleli	ANC	
11	MMC: Community Services Cllr A Qai	AIC	
12	MMC: Economic Development Cllr MM Letawana	ANC	
13	MMC: IDP and Performance Management Cllr MT Mosala	ANC 11	
14	MMC: Planning and Human Settlements Cllr NA Nhlapo	ANC	
15	MMC: Public Safety and Transport Cllr CL Kruger	ANC 16	
16	MMC: Agriculture and Rural Development Cllr PS Twala	ATM	
17	MMC: Technical Services Cllr VS Soqaga	ANC	
18	MMC: Waste & Fleet Management Cllr VE Jonas	ANC	

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

45	Cllr Ramatlama (Mpho Joseph)	EFF	
46	Cllr Rammile (Tumelo Kingsley)	DA	
47	Cllr Rampai (Pule Joseph)	ACDP	
48	Cllr Sebolao (Jankie Elisha)	EFF	
49	Cllr Shale (Nkahiseng Reginah)	EFF	
50	Cllr Snyman (Pieter Adriaan)	DA	Absent with apology
51	Cllr Snyman van Deventer (Elizabeth)	FFPlus	
52	Cllr Terblanche (Arthur Phillip)	DA	
53	Cllr Thomas (Johannes Beleme)	EFF	
54	Cllr Viviers (Benhardus Jacobus)	DA	
55	Cllr Vorster (Braam)	FFPlus	
56	Cllr Wewege (Mare-Lize)	FFPlus	
WARD COUNCILLORS			
57	Cllr Sefaki (Samuel)	ANC 1	
58	Cllr Machachamise (Tshepiso Oudious)	ANC 3	
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	Absent with apology
66	Cllr Hashatsi (Rafedile)	ANC 12	
67	Cllr Sitoe (Nombulelo Dorcas)	ANC 13	
68	Cllr Lekgetho (Lebogang Winston)	ANC 14	

69	Cllr Mohibidu (Pulane Martha)	ANC 15	
70	Cllr Mohatle (Mampone Sally)	ANC 17	
71	Cllr Van Noord (Gregory Owen)	DA 18	
72	Cllr Peter (Seth Qondile)	ANC 19	
73	Cllr van Rensburg (Corize)	20 DA	
74	Cllr Lotriet (Pieter Adam)	DA 21	
75	Cllr Cronje (Jan-Hendrik)	DA 22	
76	Cllr van der Walt (Tjaart Botha)	DA 23	
77	Cllr Kotze (Gerhardus Dirk Petrus)	DA 24	
78	Cllr Kotze (Paul Mare')	DA 25	
79	Cllr van Niekerk (Hendrik Johannes Christiaan)	DA 26	Absent with apology
80	Cllr Banyane (Zachous Nechodemus)	ANC 27	
81	Cllr Matsephe (Dikololo Elias)	ANC 29	
82	Cllr Tukula (Teboho Daniel)	ANC 30	
83	Cllr Mabena (Mere Joel)	ANC 31	
84	Cllr Menyatso (Thabang Victory)	ANC 32	
85	Cllr Mohono (Tshidiso Augustine)	ANC 33	
86	Cllr Tshwane (Kabi Daniel)	ANC 34	
87	Cllr Fantisi (Teboho Samuel)	ANC 35	
88	Cllr Ramolelle (Mmota Simon)	ANC 37	
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93	Cllr Nkiane (Mpho Elizabeth)	ANC 43	

94	**Cllr Pretorius (Selmé)**	**DA 44**	
95	**Cllr Mathe (Lisiwe Jeanette)**	**ANC 45**	
96	**Cllr Majoro (Mpho Samuel)**	**ANC 46**	
97	**Cllr Maartens (Jan-Rudolf)**	**DA 47**	
98	**Cllr Pretorius (Johannes Christiaan)**	**DA 48**	
99	**Cllr Lekhwele (Mohanuwa Julia)**	**ANC 49**	
100	**Cllr Monare (Thabo Nicholus)**	**ANC 50**	
101	**Cllr Mohulatsi (Mamoorosi Margaret)**	**ANC 51**	

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

#	DESIGNATION	NAME/S
1	**CITY MANAGER**	**MR SELLO MORE**
2	**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**	**MS ZUZIWE THEKISHO**
3	**HOD: TECHNICAL SERVICES**	**MR REVELATION MASOBENG**
4	**HOD: PLANNING, ECONOMIC & RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS**	**MS NOKUTHULA CHAKANE**
5	**HOD: PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY**	**MR ISRAEL KGAMANYANE**
6	**HOD: COMMUNITY SERVICES**	**DR THABANG THINDA**
7	**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: CENTLEC**	**MS ZOE WILLIAMS**
8	**HEAD OF DEPUTY EXECUTIVE MAYOR**	**MS BONGA MNCUBE**
9	**HEAD MPAC OFFICE**	**MR MOSES SEKAKANYO**
10	**GM: COMMITTEE SERVICES**	**MS XOLISWA QILO**
11	**ACTING MANAGER: COUNCIL SUPPORT**	**MS RINA MAMATELA**
12	**ACTING SENIOR ADMIN OFFICER: SECRETARIAT**	**MS N MANZI**

GUESTS

1	**BUL AGSA**	**MR ODWA DUDA**
2	**MANAGER: AGSA**	**MR BEUKEUS BOSHOFF**
3	**MANAGER: AGSA**	**MS NATALIE MAREE**
4	**SM: AGSA**	**MR SAM ZWANE**

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 Councilors 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:

   1. leave of absence is granted in terms of an applicable law or as determined by the rules and orders of the Council or
   2. that Councillor is required in terms of this Code to withdraw from the meeting**.**

6. **Meeting rules:**

   i. All Councillors must arrive at **least 15 minutes before the commencement** of the Council and all other Committee meetings;

   ii. Cellular phones **must be in silent mode** and **speaking on a cellular phone during the meeting is prohibited**; (Rule 50.2a)

   iii. A Councillor who speaks must **confine his or her speech strictly to the matter under discussion**; (Rule 31)

   iv. Unless expressly otherwise determined, a Councillor **may speak only once on a matter**; (Rule 32)

   v. No speech shall exceed **five (5) minutes** in length without the consent of the Speaker. (Rule 34.1)

   vi. Council members are reminded to uphold high level of good conduct during Council proceedings (No disruptions, no interruptions, no howling, no swearing to other Council members, less movement in the Chamber, no abuse of the PA system).

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MINUTES
(OPEN COUNCIL)

1.
OPENING
(MOMENT OF SILENT CONTEMPLATION FOR MEDITATION AND PRAYERS)

The meeting commenced exactly at 10h00.

The Speaker announced that 71 Councillors were present in the Council Chamber and thereupon officially declared the meeting open.

The Speaker warmly welcomed the Executive Mayor, Deputy Executive Mayor, Council Whip, Deputy Chairperson of SALGA Free State, Chairpersons of Section 79 Committees, Members of the Mayoral Committees, Party leaders, Whips, City Manager and Executive Management Team, CEO of Centlec, Secretariat, Representatives of the communities, guests.

The Speaker further made the following opening address: "Your term in this Council is marked by dedication, integrity and unwavering commitment to our people. We now serve with you in this chamber and beyond it. Honourable Councillors as we welcome Councillor Mhlakaza, it is equally important that we affirm It is with great honour and a deep sincere of responsibility that I stand before you to officially open this important occasion, the first Council sitting of the year 2026.

Your presence is not only a sign of commitment but a powerful reminder that work of local government is not seasonal, it is continuously demanding and requires dedication, discipline, unity and courage.

Honourable Councillors, a new year does not merely mark the turning of a calendar page, it represents an opportunity to reflect on where we have come from. To assess the work, we have done and to commit ourselves to the mandate entrusted to us by the people we serve. Today's sitting is more than a formal gathering; it is the beginning of a journey we will walk together this year.

Through challenges, hard decisions and victories we must achieve for our communities. As we commence this Council program let us be reminded that the chamber we sit in, is not a simple room debate. It's a platform of service where we translate our people's needs into actionable policies, where we convert community concerns into actions, where we must ensure that every decision, we take brings progress, dignity and hope to the residents of our municipality. Honourable Councillors our communities are watching, they are not only listening to what we say but they are measuring our leadership by what we do.

They expect accountability and transparency about service delivery. It is also fitting Honourable Councillors that at this first sitting of the year we formally acknowledge the important transition within this Council. We extend a sincere and respectful welcome to our newly sworn in Councillor, Malwande Nicolson Mhlakaza from the Democratic Alliance who joined this house to fill the vacancy left by the untimely departure of Councillor Dennis.

We do so with a profound sense of solemnity, because we recognize that this seat has not merely changed hands, it carries the legacy of service, the weight of responsibility and the trust of community.

As we welcome Councillor Mhlakaza into the work of the Council we also take this moment to honour the memory and contribution of Councillor Dennis whose departure came too soon, whose service will remain part of the history of this municipality.

Honourable Councillors there are people whose work does not end when they leave this earth, because their work becomes footprint and their footprint becomes a path. In the words of a celebrated work poet Antje Krog: we are here because of those who were here before us, and their labour continues to speak long after their voices have gone quiet. Ons is hier dank se die egene wat voor ons hier was, hulle arbeid spreek steeds lank nadat hulle stemme stil geword het.

Councillor Dalena Dennis served, not to applause but for impact. She understood that leadership is not a title we wear but a duty we carry. Antjie Krog reminds us, to live is to be marked by others. Om te lewe is om ondergemerk te word. Indeed, Councillor Dennis marked this Council, our communities and the work of this municipality with a spirit of service that will not be forgotten. Let us therefore honour her memory by committing ourselves to a Council that works. A Council that listens, a community that holds together even in difficult times. As Krog powerfully writes, what is broken can still be held, wat stukkend is kan nog steeds vas gehou word.

It is our responsibility through unity of purpose and integrity of action to hold our people together, to hold our municipality together and to hold the promise of local government together. Councillor Mhlakaza, we welcome you warmly, may you dearly without hesitation receive our collective commitment in building a Council that is inclusive, enabling and responsive to the needs of every member that serves in it. Councillor Mhlakaza leaves with a virtual impairment.

This is not a limitation of his commitment, his capability, his willingness to serve rather it’s a reality that calls upon us as a Council or as an institution, to create an enabling environment that allows him to execute his duties fully and with integrity. It is therefore appropriate that we call upon administration of this municipality to provide Councillor Mhlakaza with necessary tools of trade. Support systems that will make his work easier and ensure that he can participate effectively in the business of Council whether in this chamber, in community meetings or during community engagements.

Honourable Councillors, this is not an act of charity, it is an act of justice. It is good governance; a practical expression of our constitutional values and it is a standard of the municipality that understands that disability must never translate to exclusion. It is also important to acknowledge with empathy and respect that Councillor Mhlakaza was not born with this condition. He suffered with chronic diabetes from a young age of 5 and by the time the illness was discovered it had already affected his vision.

That journey speaks not only to the hardship he has endured but also to the resilience he carriers in this Council chamber. May his presence among us remind this house that leadership is not defined by comfort but by courage, not by ease but by endurance and not by circumstances but by purpose. Honourable Councillors this year, we must approach our responsibilities with renewed energy and a shared purpose. Let us raise above political differences and personal interest and put the needs of our people first because service delivery does not belong to one party, one ward or one individual. It belongs to all of us. As we begin, let us also remember that the strength of this Council is not found in the uniformity of opinions but in unity of purpose. We may differ in perspective, but we never differ in commitment to the well-being of our communities.

Honourable Councillors, as we open this first sitting, we do so with the understanding that, this year, we require decisive leadership, effective oversight and corporative governance. It will demand that we engage robust debate respectfully and work tirelessly. May this Council set the tone for the year ahead, a tone of professionalism, discipline, respect the rules of Council and clear focus on service delivery outcomes.

In conclusion I wish once again to welcome all Councillors, officials, and our guest present today. Let us proceed with today's sitting with the spirit of mutual respect and collective responsibility. Let us work together so that when this year comes to an end, we confidently say we served with integrity, we governed with wisdom, we delivered with purpose, and we served with pride in spite of all challenges and difficulties. Laat ons saam werk sodat wanneer hierdie jaar tot an einde kom met vertroue. Ons het met integriteit gedien,ons het met vysheid reageer, ons het met doelgeregheid gelewer en ons het met trots gedien teen spuyte van al die uitdagins en moilkheide.

NOTED.

2.
NOTICE OF THE MEETING

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

Councillor BJ Viviers: Stated that the revised Standing Rules and Orders was gazetted and promulgated on the 21 November 2025. According to the revised Standing Rules and Orders, a special Council meeting must be given 72 hours' notice that is excluding, Saturday, Sunday and Public holidays.

For an ordinary meeting like today's notice should be issued 96 hours before the meeting, that is excluding Saturday, Sunday and Public holidays. This only came to the largest portion of members in this Council now. This gives red lights because there was a Council meeting on 15 December 2025, whereby there was not enough notice given to the members. The was also Council meeting on the 30 December, where very important decisions were taken, but there were questions about our Bi Laws which is Standing Rules and Orders.

We have a similar problem today, but if you can bear with me, I will try to assist, because we are working together. Unfortunately, we did not receive enough notice of today's meeting. Certain Acts in the Republic of South Africa are more supreme than our Bi Law, for example we have Auditor General and its supreme Law or Act in the constitution, a chapter 9 Organization have to give Council feedback.

As DA and all of us here today we can justify the agenda. What the DA has done, we checked MFMA, Structures Act and all legislations to justify what we will be dealing with today. Even though we are not in time with our notice, we are not complying with our own Bi Laws and Standing Rules and Orders, we can justify continuing on 7 items. Unfortunately, after going through this agenda several times, we could find no justification, due to the fact that we have to comply to our Bi Laws and justify not adhering to our own Bi Laws, to only deal with 9.4,9.8,9.15,9.16 and 10.2."

The Speaker called Councillor Viviers into order, stated that he has gone over the stipulated time of 5 minutes. Further stated that the Councillor is unfortunately not assisting, He is already dealing with issues that are contained in the agenda, and the agenda is not yet accepted.

Council Whip: Councillor VE Nikelo commented as follows: "I wish to indicate that, I am happy that all of us are back. Speaker, I thought after the opening remarks that you have just made, everyone who has ears were listening from everything that you have mentioned. It was like you were part of the Multi party meeting we had yesterday. There is one thing that I would like to raise, that is what Honourable Viviers is indicating, is indeed true.

The Bi laws were promulgated, we had a Council meeting 15 November 2025 and the was no item like that on the Council agenda. On the 30 December 2025 we had another Council item and there was also no item like that on the Council agenda. We are having a Council meeting today, item 10.2 states that the published Standing Rules and Orders amended Bi Laws 2021 and for that matters we cannot implement Bi laws retrospectively because it is for the first time they are appearing in Council. As soon as Council deliberated approved and noted that indeed these promulgations were made, it is only then that we will start implementing them. Honourable Speaker, I want to accept the fact that there is nothing wrong in the issuing of the Council notice, instead we have improved everybody received the notice on time."

Councillor KC Moreeng raised the point of order and stated that the Council Whip has misunderstood what Councillor Viviers has said, Councillor Viviers is trying to clarify that the Bi Laws were promulgated on the 21 November 2025, and when it was promulgated, it was already in law.

Council Whip stated that he noted what Cllr KC Moreeng had said.

Councillor PA Snyman commented as follows: "I have to agree with Councillor Viviers, Council does not have the authority to decide on the implementation of Standing Rules and Orders, it was already in the provincial gazette, since the moment publication it is official standing rules and orders.

However, as the Freedom Front Plus we will give the Council this grace to go on with the agenda, however I have a request that after the elections, when the coalition government has this problem, we will be expecting the same from you."

The Speaker commented: "Thank you, Councillor. May I please draw your attention to the following. There is an agenda item that deals specifically with the matter of Standing Rule and Orders. It falls under speakers report, so please Councillors you may make your statements there. This house will reward those statements accordingly. I wish to proceed and step off the item that deals with notice. The notice is simple; it only enables us to convene a meeting. We cannot be gathering here without having followed those two provisions. The debates on the notice were not necessary, however I accept your views Councillor Viviers, you are free to record all those views when we deal with this item."

NOTED.

3.
APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

NOTED.

4.
ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Councillor BJ Viviers commented as follows: "We can justify a lot of the items that we will be dealing with today. Items of the MFMA, Municipal Systems Act, Municipal Structures Act and even SPLUMA, unfortunately due to the fact that our by-law is already in effect, it will not be in the best interest of this Council if we deal with the following agenda points today: item 9.4, 9.8, 9.15, 9.16, 10.2, 11.1, 15.1 and 15.3.

The reason for that Honourable Speaker and members of this August house is that those items do not have justification for supreme acts or laws. It is regarding policies and strategies. We cannot justify that; we are really taking a risk in attending to those items. We can move them to the next ensuing Council, that is the humble plea suggestion from DA. If we can withdraw those items, it will be very easy to continue with Council.

The Speaker requested clarity from Councillor BJ Viviers whether he was proposing that Council accept the agenda with exclusion of those items that he has listed.

Chief Whip commented: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker. You know, I do not want to say much because I think your opening remarks, once again, gave us confidence, and indeed they shaped the direction that we need to take in the spirit of togetherness, without necessarily being in competition with one another.

However, it would be wrong, Honourable Speaker, if, before I say whatever I intend to say, I do not express how I wish that our friends on the other side would consider changing their Whip and appointing Councillor Viviers as the Whip, so that he can be able to deliberate on these issues.

My question is this: yesterday, we sat for about two to three hours as the Multi-Party Committee discussing all the issues that Councillor Viviers is indicating, and none of the issues that are now being raised were raised by the DA when they were part of the Multi-Party Committee.

However, I want to indicate honourable speaker that as the multiparty we sat yesterday in consideration of the items that we need to discuss In the Council meeting today. We therefore proposed that item number 9.5 and 9.6 be combined as one item. However, when they are combined honourable speaker should any of the 2 parties, DA and ANC wish to have at least four speakers on the item they will be allowed to do so.

And on item 9.10 and 9.11 be combined as well, but on these 2 items only two speakers per political party as normally done including 9.12 and 9.13. I am not representing myself; Councillor De Bruin will agree with me. 9.13 must also be combined honourable speaker and there will only be 2 speakers on this particular item. Further, to that Honourable speaker, we also agreed as the multiparty that an item for noting must not be for discussions, other than questions for clarity from all political parties. In raising all of the issues because we sat and decided to say that is why I did not want to dwell much on everything that you have said, cause you spoke about issues of discipline, not political thinking while we are in these kinds of discussions, so that we are able to make sure that we deliver what our people expect us to deliver. What surprises me is that we were with the whip of DA in the meeting. There is another whip of the political party that is presenting something that is different from what we discussed yesterday. It shows that the level of communication in DA is a very serious problem, they need to go back and fix it. Thank you."

The Speaker requested guidance from the party whips on the matter.

Councillor JM Debruin: "Thank you Honourable Speaker. I think the time for wasting time in Council is over. We have serious matters to discuss, but we waste time in every meeting. What we had agreed in the previous day whippery meeting let us implement it and stop wasting time.

Cllr XE Mtshakazane: "Yithi ngibingelele ngaphakati kwendlu.Uyazi mina ngimangazwa yinto enye,ukuthi bekungekho mntu ozifihle ngaphantsi kwetafile Phakathi kwe meeting ye Whippery.Manje lha sengathi besingekho. Izolo sivumelane kahle,ngalento ikhulunywas ngu Councillor Nikelo,manje ngiyamangala ukuthi kwenzekani laphaya ku Khansila we Democratic Alliance. Hayi ngiyabonga."

Cllr PS Twala concurred with Council Whip.

Cllr A Qai concurred with Council Whip.

Cllr PJ Rampai: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Maobane re ne re nale meeting as multiparty whippery, and we have agreed with whatever the Council Whip has mentioned. Secondly, we have said, if in the item, there are no issues, there is no need to engage but just hore re dumelane ka yona fela.”

Councillor Mongale: “I agree with Council Whip, this is what we agreed on yesterday, but I also want to bring some corrections, ATM has submitted an apology Yesterday and AIC was not in the meeting with No apology. I want to put it on record that most of the parties were present except the two, It need to be understood that what the Whip said, is on behalf of all these parties except the two aforementioned.”

Councillor A Qai raised a point of order as follows: “I think I should correct one thing, all the items presented in Council, they start in Mayoral Committee, which both AIC and ATM are part of.”

Councillor PS Twala raised a point of order. “I would like to request Councillor MW Mongale not mislead the house. The agreements taken in the multi-party meeting, even in the absence of any political party, the Council Whip does give a briefing of the agreement taken. We have agreed with the Council Whip as the Chairperson of the multi-party.”

Councillor MW Mongale: “All I wanted was to give a true reflection of what happened Yesterday, I would not speak about anything that happened on the other side, that is not my responsibility. I was defending the decisions that were taken Yesterday where my party was present and that is where I stand.”

The Speaker requested Councillor MW Mongale to confirm what the Council Whip has said, and He responded by saying yes.

Councillor MJ Mabena: “As the ANC we are so much responsible, if you are unable to attend the meeting, you would Go to the Whip and ask what was discussed in the meeting and you concur with that. I agree with what the Whip has presented.”

Councillor KC Moreeng: “I think this has blown out of proportion; in the multi-party we had agreed on the issues that the Whip has raised. I think sometimes listening is an important skill, Councillor Viviers was raising issues of compliance. He was not raising issues that were discussed in the multi-party. I would like to agree with Councillor BJ Viviers proposal.”

The Speaker reprimanded Councillor KC Moreeng by saying Councillor BJ Viviers is saying something that is totally different from the agreement of yesterday’s whippery meeting.

The Speaker commented: “I want to divide the house on the basis of all indications from political parties. The DA through Councillor BJ Viviers, supported by Councillor KC Moreeng have made a proposal, and they have not been supported by any other party.

All seven parties, through their Whips and through their representatives, are in agreement of with the report from the Council Whip. I will therefore make the following ruling that the agenda will be as it is, supported by the majority parties and as a result the proposal from DA falls off."

Councillor BJ Viviers requested that it be noted and be on records that on the items they had mentioned, Council would not be complying with the Standing Rules and Order's by law.

The Speaker reiterated that the agenda is adopted as is with those combined items, 9.5, 9.6, 9.10, 9.11, 9.12, 9.13 and there will be no discussions on the items that are for noting.

Councillor GDP Kotze: "Mister Speaker you just stated that it is only for noting and there will be no deliberations, but are we allowed to ask questions?

The Speaker responded that Councillors would be allowed to ask questions.

The agenda was duly accepted.

NOTED.

5.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Council Whip stated that it was deliberated at multiparty whippery that Councillors should stick to making announcements.

Cllr GDP Kotze commented as follows: "Mister Speaker, I would like to announce and thank the residents of Mangaung. We received 1300 signatures for the petition of amendment of traffic by laws to make the roads safer and I do not know if the Chairperson of motions and petitions is in the house. Oh, there you are, I thought you still on holiday cause our motion is not on the agenda again, but we will submit this petition to you, and I really hope that at our next ordinary Council meeting all our petitions and motions will be tabled. Please do not be hopeful with the next months, your position will be vacated by the residents of Mangaung in Council, thank you very much."

Cllr JM DeBruin commented as follows: "Announcement will go directly to the Executive Mayor. Speaker, I think you said all of us must look after service delivery in Mangaung. My announcement is the matter that was discussed with the Executive Mayor in our MPAC meeting, the fruitless and wasteful expenditure that we need to see to service delivery. Our facilities are vandalized day by day.

After looking at Billy Murison stadium, it is now a dumping site and that is not acceptable. Facilities of the ward's windows are broken and now people are stealing the tomb stones that are meant for our buried loved ones. These are useless securities that you hire for tenders.

Can you please stop these tenders and give our neighbourhood watchers a chance to look after facilities. The time to enrich others with tenders must stop. If you can use the amount paid every month to enrich one person, you rather can divide it to communities to work for themselves and get salaries. Thank you."

NOTED.

6.
MOTION OF SYMPATHY AND CONGRATULATIONS

Cllr KC Moreeng addressed the Council as follows: "Honourable Speaker, Councillors, and residents of Mangaung, this Council records with profound sorrow two recent tragedies that have shaken our nation:

1. The road accident in the Vaal, Gauteng, which claimed the lives of learners whose futures were filled with promise and hope.
2. The devastating floods in Mpumalanga, which have destroyed homes, displaced families, and taken precious lives.

These events remind us of the fragility of life and the urgent need for safer roads, stronger disaster preparedness, and compassionate governance.

The Democratic Alliance

- Extends heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, friends, and school communities mourning the learners lost in the Vaal accident.
- Expresses solidarity with the families and communities in Mpumalanga who are enduring grief, displacement, and hardship due to the floods.
- Acknowledges the pain and loss felt across our nation and assures affected families that the people of Mangaung share in their sorrow.

May the souls of the departed rest in peace, and may their families find strength and comfort in the knowledge that their loved ones are remembered with dignity and compassion.

I would also like to pass my congratulatory message to the DA for securing significant victories in recent by-elections across multiple provinces, demonstrating growing public confidence in its governance model."

Cllr MJ Mogotloane commented as follows: "Honourable Speaker, before I proceed, please allow me to observe presence of the following honourable members:

1. The Executive Mayor
2. The Deputy Executive Mayor
3. The Chief Whip
4. Councillors from all political parties in this Council
5. The Traditional Councils present
6. Administrative Officials
7. The community members of the city

Honourable Speaker, as the African National Congress was celebrating the 114 of its birth on January 8th, it is vital that we also remember Heroin and Stalwarts of this revolution, a mother of the nation and comrade, Mme Moipone Martha Motlhakwana.

A short biographical background of Martha Moipone Motlhakwana:
Martha Moipone Motlhakwana was born on 23 December 1906 in Leqwala in the Thaba-Nchu District to the Makabane family. Contrary to the widely held views that in most cases, the struggle for liberation in South Africa was waged by males, Motlhakwana was amongst the few numbers of fearless women in the Free State who would challenge and take stand against the repressive government.

Motlhakwana's involvement in politics:
In 1912 throughout South Africa, government and politics were generally considered to be the exclusive province of men, and all women, black and white alike, were denied the franchise. The absence of women from political institutions did not necessarily lead to the absence in the political arena. The ways in which women worked with and in the ANC were complex, and it is not correct to say that the exclusion from full membership was the basis of the ANC's treatment of women as a separate category of members outside the scope of its regular activities.

In 1913 while Motlhakwana was almost 4 years old, the pass laws were introduced in South Africa in addition to the regulations and laws which were observed by black men. Later women were required to carry such passes. According to the Frene Ginwala, while all Africans were subjected to the conquest, colonial rule and dispossession, the way in which women and men experienced this differed, as did their political, economic and legal status. These differences shaped their particular response, helped to determine the issue they took up, and the methods of struggle adopted.

- Moipone was very instrumental and participated in 1956 anti-mass pass laws march. In the Bloemfontein area, she mobilized people to burn their passes. Her fearless organization strategies earned her the nick name in the community of Matabola Pasa or Machesa Pasa (the one instrumental in tearing up dompas or the one burning the passes).
- She was amongst the people who were arrested and detained during the Treason Trial and was acquitted and thereafter placed under house arrest.

In honour of her contribution to the liberation struggle in South Africa and not only to the Free State, but a tombstone was also unveiled at the Phahameng Cemetery adjacent to the Heroes Acre on Thursday 5 January 2012. Consequently, the unveiling coincided with the centenary celebrations of the ANC as the oldest liberation movement in Africa.

In closing, Honourable Speaker, the community of Mangaung and Free State in particular feels very grateful to have icons like Moipone Martha Motlhakwana and also in full support of the motion of the Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Authority to mark Motlhakwana's house in Batho together with Her grave in Phahameng Cemetery as Heritage site.

Speaker let me also take the opportunity to congratulate the matric class of 2025. Bokang Mokubung Secondary School in Thabo Mofutsanyana and Johannes Deysels of Jim Foucher Secondary School in Mangaung are celebrated as archivers of matric class of 2025.

Bokang is awarded the best overall Archiver in Mathematics and Physical Science, while Johanne's scooper is the top archiver in Mathematics. Free State continues to dominate the Education front. A total of 38 205 leaners sat for 2025 NSC Examinations, with 34 127 leaners passed resulting in 89,3% pass rate. Speaker, it is about time that we change the model of prioritizing matriculants over learners in lower grades. Thank you."

Cllr JM De Bruin addressed the Council as follows: "I just want to congratulate the DA with all the elections that we are winning as the green train and the fastest growing party in SA. I don't know, I heard the colleague speak about 114 years but in those 114 years it is bad to see what was happening in George Bay with 3 votes from the ANC. I don't know whether the ANC votes with the candidate with its mother-in-law or father-in-law or with his mother or father because that was just 3 votes for the ruling party and I'm not sure what will happen in 2026. I'm now coming to the DA you know in the WC, they said they will rule till Jesus comes because the ANC said so. In 2026 we will have a change because we just took 2 wards in George Bay. The green train is moving, and they must watch the space. We will take the 3rd one from the DA..."

Point of order by Cllr AP Terblanche: "Kan ons net een mal praat op die item wat gebeur nou. According to my 20 years het hy lank gesuig. Hy het gehoor DA het 2 wards gewen toe kry hy tweede kans om te praat. Mr Speaker jy weet ons kan keur praat om daai groen trein moet gestop word, want hy baiza nie. Hy kan die hele dag praat and hy suig tong."

Cllr SP Tsoleli: "Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I am standing here on behalf of the ANC to congratulate the ANC on its 114 anniversary. We are celebrating over a century of unwavering commitment to unity and service to the people of South Africa. As South Africa's oldest liberation movement, we honour the legacy of our founders, while recommitting to renewal economic transformation and improved local government.

In his speech on the celebration of the 114 years of the ANC, president Ramaphosa stated I quote "This year January 8 is not an ordinary one, it is a moment of reckoning, renewal and revolutionary reincurring. It's not an ordinary anniversary, because it marks 30 years of democratic constitution. The document that defines and shapes who we are and who we inspire to become. It also coincides with the 70th anniversary of the 1956 women's march. Malibongwe igama lama khosikazi!

We must honour and acknowledge their immense contribution in the struggle of this country. The president has declared 2026 the year of fixing local government and improve service delivery. We are therefore recommitting ourselves as the caucus of the ANC that we are going to directly do what the president of the ANC has directed us to do.

Honourable Speaker, let me also congratulate once more the MEC of the ANC for hosting a very successful Lekgotla, a very important platform that gives direction to what plans must be implemented decisively in government. The nicest thing whether you are not with us in this Council, but when it comes to the GNU, up there you have to implement what we have said must be implemented.

President Cyril Ramaphosa pledged the party's commitment to governance. Honourable Speaker, in conclusion we must equally congratulate the leadership of the ANC in government and its partners. For the implementation of good economic policies. And we are slowly seeing the results. The rand, Speaker, is at its strongest since 2022. This is a positive trend in boosting our economy, I thank you."

Cllr JH Denner: "Thank you Speaker. Please allow me to convey most sincere condolences to the family and the loved ones of Mr Chris, a loved, cherished and admired member of the Mangaung fire department. Who passed away in November. He was a true asset to the fire department at Mangaung, with institutional knowledge and enthusiasm. He inspired not only his colleagues but also the public and even little children who visited the station for demonstrations and tours through the museum, which he loved. He will be solely missed. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Someone once said that when a child dies even the sun stumbles. Over this festive season many families in Mangaung lost children due to drowning, motor vehicles accidents, illness and violence. Losing a child is the worst tragedy that anyone can possibly endure. We therefore convey our most sincere condolences to the families of among others, Timothy John Du Plessis, Handrew Venter and Henry Small. Who passed away over the holiday period. As well as all other families who lost their loved ones during a time for family celebrations and rest. May their souls rest in perfect peace. Thank you."

Cllr PJ Rampai: "Thank you Honourable Speaker, the ACDP would like to congratulate the Free State class of 2025. You have shown commitment in the Free State and the rest of the country."

Cllr MW Mongale: "Thank you Honourable Speaker, Dr. Lawrance Mathae. as AASD we would like to congratulate AASD on the 7th anniversary, which was on the 15th of January, we congratulate this young movement that is committed to change the lives of the people of Mangaung and any other Municipality that we set the foot on during the local govern elections.

Also, we would like to congratulate the Matriculants class of 2025. We know that there were challenges that they were faced with. We acknowledge that Free State is depressed because of position number 2. As ASSD we would like to congratulate them irrespective of the position of the province. What is most important is the achievement because we do not know the circumstances they were in.

We would like to appreciate the fact that in this year, AASD hope to have a meeting with MEC of Education to make them aware that we should not only have records of matric when they are doing matric, we should also have records of what happens after matric. Some of the students, although they have passed with bachelor's, are not accepted in the institutions of Higher Education. Not because of their points, others do not have funding nor accepted by NFSAS or other bursaries. We need to change that paradise, even if it means we have meeting with the institutions of higher learning to suggest that we have mechanisms of increasing the intake at the level of institution of higher learning so that we can have special admission to say what is the value of the child who got a distinction if the child has found 7 distinctions.

But the child still has to go for long queues of admission. The universities must also be able to offer such kids with bursaries. There must be a round table with all relevant stakeholders, including the National Skills Development strategy, I am aware that it is still at level four now, however that does not stop us from having discussions. I am also jealous of technical schools, I know that some are closed, and others are still operational, however you will see that the number of students in this field is getting fewer and fewer. The problem is that we do not have a program that is taking the message them, I was shocked to learn that others are not aware of the academy next to South Park that can participate in. Stakeholders, including the Municipality, must have carrier EXPO to try and assist these students to understand all the Departments that the Municipality is offering. This could also assist with the Cities tourism."

Cllr DL Malebo: "Thank you Honourable. Council meets today carrying both deep sorrow and historic responsibility. On one hand, we are confronted with tragedy; on the other, with a hard-won victory for the people of South Africa a victory achieved not by accident, but through consistent struggle and principled political pressure led by the Economic Freedom Fighters.

EFF notes with profound pain and sadness the tragic and horrific accident that claimed the lives of 14 innocent children last week. These young lives were stolen far too soon, leaving families, schools, and entire communities shattered beyond measure. As the Economic Freedom Fighters, we extend our deepest condolences and revolutionary solidarity to the bereaved families, relatives, classmates, educators, and the broader community. No parent should ever bury a child, and no society should ever normalize such preventable and senseless loss of life.

EFF further condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the reckless and criminal behaviour that continues to plague the public transport sector, particularly within the taxi industry. We issue a stern warning to taxi owners who employ unlicensed, unqualified, and reckless drivers, and to drivers who speed, overload vehicles, and show complete disregard for human life. This culture of profit-before-life is criminal and must be confronted decisively. The blood of our children must never become the cost of greed. The EFF therefore calls for strict enforcement of traffic laws, decisive action against non-compliant operators, and real consequences for reckless for reckless driving.

At the same time, Honourable Members and Council must also take note of a historic victory for the people, particularly the poor, the unemployed, the youth, and those in rural communities. The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, ICASA, has announced regulatory amendments compelling mobile network operators to roll over unused prepaid data, voice, and SMS bundles to the following month at no extra cost to consumers, and to allow subscribers to transfer unused data to other users on the same network, excluding only bundles shorter than seven days.

This is not a technical adjustment — it is a political victory. For years, mobile network operators exploited our people by allowing prepaid data and airtime fully paid for to expire arbitrarily. This practice entrenched the digital divide, undermined human dignity, and restricted access to education, employment opportunities, public services, and democratic participation. The EFF has always maintained a simple truth: data and airtime are not perishable goods — they do not rot, and therefore they must not expire.

ICASA's amendment of the End-User and Subscriber Service Charter Regulations confirms what the EFF has long argued in Parliament and in society — that consumer exploitation in the telecommunications sector is unconstitutional and immoral. Under this framework, unused data, voice, and SMS bundles must now roll over automatically, without penalty, provided the subscriber remains active. This victory is the direct result of sustained political pressure, fearless parliamentary intervention, and direct engagement by the EFF, including confronting mobile operators whose profits were built on the suffering of our people.

Congratulations to the Economic Freedom Fighters on this decisive data victory, which once again confirms the growing confidence of the masses in the EFF as the true alternative for economic freedom in our lifetime.

EFF also extends its heartfelt congratulations to the Matric Class of 2025. Despite difficult material conditions, failing public education infrastructure, and deep systemic inequality, they persevered. Their success is an act of resistance, and the EFF remains committed to fighting for free, decolonized, and quality education for every child of the working class and the poor.

Lastly, Honourable Speaker,

1. Honour the memories of the 14 children whose lives were tragically lost.
2. Demand accountability, regulation, and safety in the public transport sector, particularly in Mangaung.
3. Congratulate the EFF on the data victory and the fighters who continue to defend and advance the revolutionary program of the movement.
4. Congratulate the Matric Class of 2025 and reaffirm our commitment to their future.

May the souls of the departed children rest in revolutionary peace. I thank you."

NOTED.

7.
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. Special Meeting: 30 June 2025
2. Ordinary Meeting: 31 July 2025

Cllr MM Mohulatsi moved for the adoption of the two sets of minutes and seconded by Cllr MJ Dintlhwane.

It was thereupon unanimously resolved that the minutes of the meetings as indicated above be taken as read and confirmed as a true reflection of the Council meetings**.**

NOTED.

8.
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None.

NOTED.

8A.
PRESENTATION BY THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL ON THE 2024/25 AUDIT

The office of the Auditor-General South Africa (AGSA), Mr O Duda made a presentation as attached (Pages 1 – 20) whereafter the Speaker afforded Councillors to comment on the presentation.

The Deputy Executive Mayor appreciated the good work undertaken by the entity: Centlec. Furthermore, stated that it was critical that the Municipality focuses and strengthens the issues that had been identified by the office of AGSA. That the Municipality took note and acknowledged.

Cllr BJ Viviers commented as follows: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker, and all Councillors. Thank you AGSA for your trouble, irrespective of hearing the speech every year. I note that you also call for Council to step up. We are dealing today with Section 71 and 72 report and we cannot do proper oversight but only ask questions. Requested AGSA to note in that Councillors cannot do oversight due to gate keepers. Noted that when they engage with MMC's to do oversight they do not report back."

Point of order by Cllr CL Kruger that Cllr BJ Viviers must name and shame the MMC he is referring to so that everyone can know.

Point of order by Cllr GDP Kotze that Last year Cllr CL Kruger was the MMC of Finance and on the 23rd of June, the DA sent a letter to both the Executive Mayor and MMC requesting the oversight report of ICT system with no response. Noted that he will resend the letter again.

Cllr BJ Viviers continued: "Thank you once more Speaker. I hope the AG can attest on how difficult it is to do oversight. We have lot of plans in place, but the issue is the implementation of those plans. Last but not least next year I would ask again hopefully there will be replies. Cited what is happening at MPAC with no consequence management."

Councillor JE Sebolao commented as follows: "Thank you Honourable Speaker, let me welcome the presentation from AG. Requested AG to clarify in regard with the people who voted for us in office, and they are interdicted when questions are asked in regard to projects in their wards. Councillors they own projects in the communities as if it is their property as a result other Cllr are forced to take side of the community members rather than the Ward Councillor.

On activating the accountability ecosystem, can AG assist the Municipality with collection of rates from Government Departments, Mangaung has a serious problem with collecting rates from Government Departments, yet the communities are expected to pay for services provided to them, cited the planned deduction of rates from Councillors who owes the Municipality, the same arrangement of garnishing Government Departments should be considered.

On page 8, AG, reported about HOD's accountability, it will only be proper if people who are leading the Departments can do their job. For example, when MPAC goes to communities the Councillors do not have answers, and it becomes difficult and as a result Councillors are rendered useless by Community members. We plead with the HOD's to accompany the Councillors when they go to communities. On page 12 regarding the grants, there are things that are not happening when it comes to service delivery yet are budgeted for, what is happening to those funds? What is happening in Mangaung in general is not impressing, not sure whether National is withholding grants due to underspending. Congratulated CENTLEC for doing their best."

Cllr JM Debruin commented as follows: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to welcome the presentation from AG. Noted that AG is doing their best, however we had a problem of bringing the document to Council, we have established MPAC Technical team, can AG please assist to sort the matter out. Can the Executive Mayor please take responsibility and take those who have been misusing the Municipalities from 2008 up until now to HAWKS. Because we are now sitting with seven hundred and something fruitless and wasteful expenditure, and we cannot afford to waste anymore of the taxpayer's money."

Chief Whip, Councillor VE Nikelo called Councillors to order for talking while the other Councillors is given the platform to address the Council.

Cllr. JI Mokoena commented as follows: "I would like to ask one question from the AG in terms of processes, whether the AG in the Audit, in terms of certain dates like when Section 71 reports are presented, whether there is a way in which you would have reviewed some of the Council proceedings/minutes for purposes of understanding what always happen in those meetings.

Because one point that is made is that those reports are not used appropriately. If you can look on the comments always get to be made in Council by different Councillors in relation with the performance and the concerns that are raised in those reports, you notice that Council always ensures that it make appropriate recommendations in line with the AG, to take to the Executive to be able to implement and take corrective actions, however implementation on the accountability point of view where Councillors have no ability to ensure the is implementation, it becomes a serious challenge.

Highlighted that in 2021 March before the local government in Mangaung where people said Council needs to be dissolved, today 4 years down the line we still where we were, and that is serious concern. For purposes of clarification on what AG has presented it sounds like is more not transaction specific problems, but systematic issues that are faced by the Municipality.

Councillor CL Bouwer: **commented as follows**: “Thank you Honourable Speaker. I have two questions to ask to AG, what is the percentage of these documents, are there changes compared to the presentation that was done last year? Second question with the findings and the recommendations that were made a year ago, have we regressed yes, or no?

Cllr SQ Peter commented as follows: “Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Seated here listening to AG report and looking into the other agenda items, there are issues that are intended to address the issues that are raised by AG. Some of the issues stem from the last financial years hence at some point the office of AG reported that there is regress. Some of the issues are captured in the Audit action plan. It is very critical to notice that we are not lost but on the right track. We must also applaud CENTLEC for the good work done and in the next financial year Mangaung should learn good practices from CENTLEC. Thank you.”

Cllr B Vorster commented as follows: Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members of Council the Freedom Front Plus want to thank the Auditor General for their report and presentation, and ask the following questions:

Financial Management and Accountability
Basis for Qualified Opinion:

1. The AG noted an inability to obtain sufficient evidence for revenue from water sales and water distribution losses (page 117). What specific systemic failures are preventing the Metro from accurately billing residents and tracking water losses?

2. Unverified Overtime Costs: You reported an inability to verify RI 99.7 million in overtime pay due to inadequate internal controls (page 117 and 118). To what extent does this lack of internal controls signal a risk of widespread payroll fraud within the Metro? Can the Auditor General not conduct a separate and external employee, payroll, HR, and Skills Audit in terms of the Public Audit Act, in the alternative, National Cogta, while the Metro is still under Section 139 intervention?

3. Financial Sustainability (Going Concern): The report highlights material uncertainty regarding the municipality's ability to continue operating (page 1 18).
   With only 58% of the activities of the Financial Recovery Plan (FRP) implemented, what are the most immediate risks to the city's insolvency?
   What are the specific consequences for the Accounting Officer if the remaining 42% of the activities set out in the financial recovery plan are not fast-tracked?
   And by when should all the activities set out in the plan be implemented to save this Metro from total financial collapse?

4. Unauthorized and Irregular Expenditure: With regards to the RIA billion in unauthorized expenditure and R260.7 million in irregular expenditure (page 119).
   Why has there been a "slow response" from leadership to investigate these amounts and to hold officials accountable?
   Are there sufficient internal controls in place to prevent noncompliance with supply chain management requirements?

5. Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure: R27.6 million was lost, primarily to interest on late payments to suppliers (page 126).
   What specific bottlenecks in the Finance Department are preventing the Metro from meeting the 30-day payment legislated requirement, or is it a cash flow problem?

6. Reliability of Performance Information: You stated that the reported performance for basic service delivery was not comparable or understandable for measuring progress (pages 120 and 121).
   How can the Council rely on any department's "achievement" claims, especially in the quarterly SDBIP report, if the AG cannot verify the methods used to measure them?

7. Wastewater Treatment Failures: The report mentions that 8 out of 13 wastewater treatment works are only partially functional (page 121).
   Beyond budget constraints, what is the AG's assessment of the technical capacity within the directorate to manage these projects?

8. Mismanagement of Waste Landfill Sites: Four different landfill sites (Botshabelo, Wepener, Dewetsdorp, and Van Stadensrus) were flagged for material irregularities because they operate without valid licenses and cause substantial harm to the environment and community (page 129).
   What are the potential financial penalties from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment if these sites are not brought into immediate compliance?
   Can the AG maybe further confirm when the investigations by Destea will be concluded concerning the Northern and Southern landfill sites in Bloemfontein?

9. Ineffectiveness of Oversight Bodies: You noted that the Audit Committee's recommendations were often ignored, and consequence management is non-existent (page128).
   What specific actions must the Council take to ensure the Accounting Officer tracks and enforces these corrective actions, and should the implementation of the recommendations of all oversight bodies not form part of the accounting officer's yearly performance review?

In conclusion, the question remains whether this municipality can still operate financially and retain its status as a Metropolitan Municipality."

Cllr T van der Walt commented as follows: "Thank you, Mister Speaker. Auditor-General, based on the pattern of recurring unauthorized, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure and the failure to conclude investigations, does AGSA regard the municipality's current control environment as capable of preventing further UIFW in year? If not, what specific evidence or behavioural change by the Accounting Officer would AGSA need to see before concluding that UIFW is being effectively contained rather than merely reported?"

RESPONSES FROM AGSA

- Noted that limitations to oversight create confusion, while Council has a responsibility to conduct oversight mechanisms to enforce accountability must be developed.

- Recommended the usage of Audit committee, given that it is a formal committee of Council.
- Enforce consequence management.
- Consider improving in implementation of Council resolutions for better services delivery.
- Overtime payments could not be verified due to lack of substantial supporting evidence.
- It is not AGSA 's prerogative to determine whether the Municipality qualifies to be the Metro or not.
- The METRO remains on rescue phase in regard with Financial Recovery Plan, and is behind schedule, the rescue phase was planned for a period of 12 months.
- Stated that investigation on landfill site is done by DESTEA.

Executive Mayor, Cllr GMS Nthatisi commented as follows: "Honourable Speaker, let me greet you, Councillors in their discipline areas, AGSA and officials. Necessarily speaker in situations like these, you sit down and listen, that helps you to literally make an impact in ensuring that what is put before the Council is followed.AG I must indicate that listening to questions that are raised to you, I could hear point scoring than genuinely in terms of what came to you, that is the first thing I have picked up. The second that I picked up people crying at the wrong funeral..."

Point of order by Cllr BJ Viviers: "We have looked at it properly, there is nothing about compliance matters, we have said compliance matters must serve. Thank you."

Executive Mayor, Councillor GMS Nthatisi continued: "The Council has bodies in particular section 79 where Councillors meet and make serious impact on some of the issues that are on the table. I just want you to make some observations. Arguments at the start was to certain items must be taken out of the agenda, if you look at the items that were put out of the agenda, most of them relate to compliance matters. I just want to make reference to item 15.3 it speaks to appointment of CENTLEC Board, and it was said it must be taken out, whereas in the previous Council, it was agreed that it must co-exist for 3 months, we were supposed to meet on the 15 January 2026, I can imagine if we put this matter far back, what could be the implications, because it has serious implications on compliance matters. I just want to make an example with that one…"

Point of order by Cllr GDP Kotze that he wanted to mention that Council did not have the report, it will serve In Committee.

The Executive Mayor continued as follows: "One party contradicting each other, when we started the same party was pushing this item out, all of a sudden, the party awakened, and they realized that the matter is in committee. But I want to then say to you, AG, as much as we are all united to serve the people of Mangaung, but we are all not revolutionaries we are politicians with different interests, revolutionaries are always bound together by a common cause, politicians are for point scoring.

As much as we would like to work together, I realised that political interests are dominant, and that will determine the questions that come to you. Even the observations and suggestions we make are not based on actual facts.

In this Metro, we are able to sit together like this, and some of us, when we entered through these doors, were holding our hearts, hoping that anything could happen at any time.

All of us must acknowledge that there is stability. When we came to this Metro, these committees were established so that we could apply our minds to the issues being discussed. We could not merely sit and discuss matters casually, as these committees of Council are where issues are deliberated.

If your point of view is not raised at the appropriate point where an issue is being discussed, you cannot come later, cry at the wrong funeral, and hope that the AG will be the arbiter to convince others where you should have done so yourself. That being said, AG, I had an interaction with you. We looked at the findings, and they are telling, but they cannot leave the baby with the burn as compared to the past.

As you alluded, these are matters that can be attended to. On the basis of what you have outlined, we will throw our weight behind them and attend to them. The arbiter of our performance remains the people of Mangaung, with regard to how we have applied our minds as people in authority in adhering to Chapter 9 institutions. After all, we gave feedback to those institutions to ensure that they know we are doing our work.

I stand here before you, and besides what has been said, which might sound negative, we have shock absorbers to listen to colleagues. We will go back to the drawing board, apply our minds, and make sure that what is tabled before us is adhered to. This is not limited to consequence management. We are not going to be pressured into taking illegal steps. We will always adhere to legal prescripts. I just want to assure you that you will always get our cooperation. Thank you, Speaker."

The Speaker acknowledged the presentation and emphasized that Councillors must fully participate in Council Committees.

Councillor KC Moreeng remarked: "Speaker, I suggest that at least Councillors must be given the opportunity to make inputs in the reports."

The Speaker responded as follows: "Councillors will only be allowed to make inputs in writing through the office of the Executive Mayor and City Manager."

NOTED.

9	REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

Presentation of items by the Executive Mayor:
"Honourable Speaker, This tabling takes place during the most trying local governance times characterized by severe impact of the current global geopolitics on municipalities, not only in in South Africa but the global South wholly, due to the global trade tensions, and related tightened financial constraints, slow economic development. The brunt borne by municipalities in this regard is not only restricted to shifts of major investment opportunities towards us, high debt and poor maintenance but also financial instability which links intrinsically to poor service delivery and community unrest.

Despite all this, it remains a sacrosanct duty of this Council to place good governance above any other local governance issue now. This is inevitable since we are still operating under the provisions of section 139 of the Constitution.

This is why we are taking this moment of reflection on the performance of the city with a deep sense of reverence and respect for our intergovernmental relations partners including both the provincial and national spheres of government, and particularly the people of Mangaung who elected us to be their representatives in this august house.

This very achievement on the timely tabling of the mid-year budget and performance report is worth celebrating since it lays solid foundation subsequent compliance with other critical statutory deadlines for budget reporting. Timely reporting further promotes timely adjustments, monitoring and evaluation towards drafting of the annual budget.

This Report should therefore be embraced as a tool of accountability provided for in terms of section 72 of the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) in reviewing the financial performance and the quality-of-service delivery rendered during the first half of the financial year 2025/2026.

PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW
Though the rescue phase in terms of the financial recovery plan processes have lingered longer than anticipated, it is my singular honour to pronounce boldly that we have done more than enough to complete the remaining activities of this phase by end of the current financial year. This is because even both COGTA and the National Treasury count Mangaung among few cities with satisfactory recovery indicators.

As we prepare for stability and sustainability phases, we should never forget what it costs us to overcome leadership instability – politically and administratively. The complexities associated with latter have had a negative impact on the speedy transition to stabilization.

OPERATING REVENUE
The total operating revenue of the city is currently standing at **R5.803 billion** in the first half of the financial year 2025/26, representing **49,85%** of the total approved budget of **R11,640 billion**. The total revenue excludes capital transfers and contributions.

While the performance of this nature is commendably good and balanced for standard budget execution purposes, the worrying factor in this regard is the persistent low ratio of revenue collection, now standing at **79.36%**, which remains lower than the norm of **95%**.

Further, underperformance in water and sanitation has seen the revenue falling below year-to-date targets. This involves falling short of the budget by **13%** for water and **8%** for sanitation, a scenario calling for a focused recovery strategy.

This demonstrates some gaps in terms of institutional capacity to devise and implement corrective measures in accordance with our revenue enhancement strategy and credit control policy.

However, it is worth noting that during the first quarter, revenue performance exceeded expectations. During that period, the actual revenue of **R3.2 billion** exceeded the FRP target of **R2.2 billion** by **R940 million**, mainly supported by the 2025/2026 annual tariff increase, electricity revenue performing **14%** above the year-to-date target due to higher winter consumption.

OPERATING EXPENDITURE

The total operating expenditure amounts to **R8, 573 billion**, which represents **76%** of the approved budget **R11, 274 billion**.

Accordingly, the percentage expenditure has increased for this period influenced mainly by irrecoverable debts written off at the beginning of the financial year. Without the implication of this extraordinary item, the total operating expenditure would constitute **R 5,663 billion** spent for the year representing **50.21%** of the approved budget of **R11,275 billion** which is closer to the expected expenditure for the period.

Fellow Councillors, please allow me to draw your attention to the following major operating expenditure variances against the original budget:

- Employee related costs with unfavourable variance of **R43.450 million** (3%) on the year-to-date approved budget is due to overspending on acting and other allowances. The overspending on overtime to date is **R44.479 million** (Budget R42.253 million vs Actual R86.732 million). This overspending for the period to date on overtime has resulted in unauthorized expenditure in most of the votes. Hence precedence is given to the filling of all the vacant positions and the implementation of shift workers to address the overspending on overtime and acting.

- Interest – with unfavourable variance of R28.901 million (454%) %) due to interest incurred through court cases on default judgements and lost cases.

OUTSTANDING CREDITORS

The total creditors amounted to **R350.331 million** compared to an amount of **R400.441 million** in June 2025. That results in a decrease of **R50.110 million** for the period.

Payment agreement with Vaal Water, previously Bloemwater, to the value **R606 million** was processed for approval by Council. The current outstanding balance on the account is R 431 million and payments are made according to the agreement approved. The city made two payments of **R35 million** each towards the arrears amount during July and December 2025 respectively and have maintained its current accounts.

CAPITAL BUDGET

Speaker, there is a significant improvement in the capital expenditure since the overall performance is currently sitting at **34%**. This percentage could be higher if it were not for low spending on PTNG, which currently stands at **3%.**

While the ISUPG expenditure stands at almost 40%, the USDG is slightly above 43%. To meet our initial target of 45% for these two grants at mid-term, the Council will intensify the oversight mechanism, enforcing accountability.

Our efforts in this regard include the establishment of the Project Management Unit, which is aimed at the effective and efficient implementation of capital projects.

This implies the city's capital expenditure is currently at **R 456, 58 million** of the approved budget of **R1, 343 billion**.

The capital expenditure framework is funded from conditional grants and unencumbered reserves as of 30 June of the year preceding the start of the financial year, in accordance with MFMA Section 19.

CASH INVESTMENTS COST COVERAGE RATIO

Fellow Councillors, I am also pleased to report that the Council's cash flow situation has increased from a surplus of **R740.015 million** in June 2025 to **R1.295 billion** in December 2025. The municipality has continued to improve on the surplus of reserve and grant funds.

We will be building on this momentum in the second half of the financial year. The city can report that all conditional grants received are fully ring-fenced and that sufficient provision is made for significant expenditures including employee costs, Vaal Central Water bulk costs and loans.

DEBTORS AND REVENUE COLLECTION

The debtors balance as of 31 December 2025 is **R10.785 billion** including unallocated credits of **R190.791 million** (30 June 2025 – R12.632 billion including unallocated credits of R159.556 million).

These figures reflect a 14,62% decrease amounting to **R1.847 billion** during the first half of the financial year. This decrease is mainly influenced by the bad debts written off as well as improved collection rate in the second quarter of the financial year.

SPENDING CONDITINAL GRANTS COMPARED TO OTHER METROS
We are also making significant strides in spending conditional grants as allocated through the division revenue processes. Compared to metropolitan municipalities, Mangaung is currently ranking among the top five in terms of improved spending on the major grant allocations for the financial year under review. These include:

Fellow Councillors, the margins as illustrated herein are getting narrower at an accelerated pace. We will soon be able to fully spend all conditional grants allocated.

AUDIT OUTCOMES
Throughout this term, the Council has been striving for positive audit outcomes as this serves as a critical mirror reflecting on the effective implementation of the financial recovery plan and upholding the principles of good governance.

The office of the Auditor General has found our financial statements fairly presenting the financial position and performance, except for a few items that were qualified. These include overtime, financial commitments, service charges, asset impairment, and water losses, to mention a few.

All matters negatively affecting the city's audit report are estimated to be 108 in total and were considered extensively earlier this year with a detailed action plan that has been reviewed by Internal Audit and will be submitted to the Council in due course.

Honourable Speaker, before I sit down, I wanted to clarify the Honourable Councillor from the EFF that the issue of disaster resides with the province. We have not been accredited as a Municipality to deal with housing with regards our resources. Housing has to do with NHBRC and the requirements thereof, so we are not structurally qualified to touch any structure that could have been damaged, e specially at localities. What we can do is to provide remedial measures, which I believe during the disaster time we do. And necessarily as you are also recognized to be at the provincial government as the organisation, could you please also convey the message to your leaders to raise it sharply, so there can be actions with regards to alleviation of the challenges that our people are faced with.

Honourable Speaker the issue of vandalism that was raised, it's a matter that should first and foremost be acknowledged that those who conduct act of vandalism and destruction of our property resides within our midst, we know them, and can talk to them and as leaders we can take actions.

Honourable Speaker we do have law enforcement unit, but as we have claimed to be leaders in our own rights. I don't think we should come to this platform and cry, lets act because these things happen in communities where we live..."

Cllr JM De Bruin raised the point of order: "Thank you Honourable Executive Mayor, that you said we have law enforcement, but the law enforcement that you said we have, they said the Fire Departments is not even ready, that is why they cannot come when our communities need them for arresting people who are vandalising our facilities. Thank you."

The Executive Mayor continued: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I wanted to come to the point our children who were involved in a fatal accident. I would like to thank our first Deputy Secretary General, Ms. Nomvula Mokonyane, for literally going to those communities and made sure that the affected families are supported. But also thank Minister of Human Settlements for going and gave support to the communities that became victims the floods.

Honourable Speaker, may I conclude by saying, in this spirit clear eyed, In table 2025/2026 mid-term budget and performance report for the consideration of council and equal speaker to deal with all the items that would range from item one and for the purposes of time to the last item with the understanding of what was propose by the Whips to say item 5 and 6 be combined and 10 and 11 be combined and item 12 and 13 be combined. Thank you, Honourable Speaker."

NOTED.

1.
SUBMISSION OF THE ANNUAL REPORTS FOR MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY AND CENTLEC FOR 2024/2025 FINANCIAL YEAR

Councillor PM Kotze addressed the Council:

- Which specific Financial Recovery Plan milestones were due in 2024/25, which were missed, and who is personally accountable for each delay?
- How much fruitless, irregular and wasteful expenditure is currently under investigation, and how much has actually been recovered to date?
- Which departments are failing to respond to risk management processes, and what disciplinary action has been taken against responsible officials?
- What consequence management has been implemented for officials who failed to meet governance KPIs?
- Which communities make up 15% of households not receiving refuse removal, and what is the timeline for full coverage?
- Why are 26% of informal settlement residents still excluded from basic waste removal services?
- What percentage of internal audit findings are repeat findings from previous years?
- How many permanent jobs were created as a direct result of EPWP-linked programs?
- What is the municipality's concrete unemployment intervention strategy beyond permits and investment summits?

- What specific steps are being taken to correct the accountability culture concerns raised by the audit committee? And how many disciplinary cases against senior officials are currently active and how long have they been outstanding?

- How many disciplinary actions taken against senior officials are currently active and how long will they be outstanding. Thank you."

The Speaker thereon requested Councillor to share his questions with Secretariat for records purposes, however responsible MMC's will respond to questions.

Deputy Executive Mayor, Councillor LM Titi-Odili remarked: "I understand that item 9.1 is for noting, her worry is that the item, MPAC is still going to bring the oversight report to Council, and the same questions that Councillors are asking in terms of the consolidated report, they still have to go through those processes again in terms of the responses. MPAC should unpack this report and come back to Council for deliberation and approval of the oversight report in terms of the annual report. Further that her worry is that Councillors are opposing the question on the report that they still going to work on it."

Cllr E Snyman van Deventer commented as follows: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker. We have received the annual report and Councillors have the right to ask questions even though it will be referred back to MPAC. It has been always done like that and in the past, we even made speeches on it. The is no reason for us not to ask questions and not to be answered."

Councillors have received the annual reports to look at them and Councillors have the right to ask questions on them even though it will be referred back to MPAC. The item served in Council, and they want to ask questions on it, in the past they even made speeches on it because they did not adhere to the Standing Rules and Orders, there is no reason they cannot ask questions on it."

Councillor JM Debruin: "These questions on oversight report will give us problems with the investigations with the technical team if she can think about it, I think the Deputy Executive Mayor is right, this will put MPAC in a difficult position."

The Speaker made the following ruling: "I will allow questions to be raised however, if there is no reply at this moment questions will be noted and referred to be responded at a later stage. He knows that Councillor asked about 10 questions, and he doubts that Councillors will get a proper response now because the responded has not even recorded the questions."

Councillor PA Lotriet asked how are they going to ask these questions on a later stage, if they could not even answer Rule 38 questions. These questions should be addressed.

The Speaker made a ruling: "We will allow questions to be asked, however if there is no reply at this moment, we will note the questions and reply at a later stage."

Cllr AF Bothma asked clarity questions as follows: "Speaker, I would like to ask the following questions regarding the following:

1. **Qualified Audit Accountability:** What exact corrective actions were promised to Council after the previous qualified audit, which of those were not implemented in 2024/2025, and who is accountable for each failure?

2. **Repeat Findings and Consequence Management:** Why does this municipality continue to receive qualified audit opinions on the same issues year after year, and has any senior manager faced consequences for recurring failures—yes or no?

3. **Water Revenue Breakdown:** How did the municipality fail to produce reliable water consumption data for RI ,676 billion in revenue, and by when will Council receive verified figures it can rely on?

4. **Unbilled Consumers:** How many consumers were not billed at all, leading to a R291 million revenue understatement, over what period did this occur, and who was responsible for this breakdown?

5. **Water Losses and Bulk Purchases:** Why can the municipality not reconcile water purchased with water sold, resulting in unverifiable losses of R495 million, and what is the actual water loss percentage today?

6. **Infrastructure Asset Misstatement:** Why were infrastructure assets not impaired despite clear indicators, resulting in a R431 million overstatement, and who approved figures that misrepresented the municipality's financial position?

7. **Overtime Expenditure:** Why was nearly R200 million in overtime paid without adequate verification, which departments are responsible, and what disciplinary steps have been taken?

8. **Financial Recovery Plan Failure:** Why has only 58% of the Financial Recovery Plan been implemented since August 2023, and what consequences have followed for non-compliance with a mandatory plan?

9. **Revenue Collapse and Maintenance Underspending:** How does the Executive justify writing off 88% of receivables as uncollectable while spending only 2% of the budget on repairs and maintenance, knowing this guarantees further service failures?

10. **Going Concern Risk:** Given the R642 million owed to the water board and the Auditor-General's warning of material uncertainty, what concrete assurance can Council give residents that this municipality can continue operating without deeper financial intervention? Thank you."

Councillor SM Swartz commented as follows: "Thank you Speaker. We as the Patriotic Alliance rise on two questions regarding page 68 since we have only discovered through a berried written question that National Treasury has issued a correspondence threatening a section 216 subsection 2 intervention, a move to cut the equitable share, stop salaries and effectively liquidate the Municipality.

Can the Executive Mayor please explain why the threat was consoled from the main Agenda today, may he immediately table this correspondence so that Council can determine if Treasury has already lost faith in the Municipality recovery plan, before we are asked to just blindly approve it.

With regard systematic failure in Heidedal, given that we are entering the heatwave 37%, with the swimming pool effectively closed, and that is pushing desperate children to the quarry. Can the Executive Mayor also explain why ward 16 the report tabled today completely omitted the binding Parliamentary directive issued in November, specifically the orders to interdict the property sale, evoke the neglected buildings by law. Must we interpret this as the admission that the Municipality has defied National Parliament by leaving the quarry open and our Administrative directly liable for this tragedy. Thank you."

Councillor MW Mongale commented as follows: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Dr BL Mathae.

Speaker, our questions are very few today in regard to what is happening on page 6. There is a chat about the Socio-Economic challenges of the Municipality. We want to ask what the program of the Municipality regarding rural development is especially with the trusts in Thaba Nchu and Soutpan that are not utilized for the benefit of the community. If we can start utilizing those trusts, we can have farming activities that will create job opportunities. There seem to be no energy of trying to revive that Economic activity which can assist with creating lot of jobs. We cannot have a situation where we are sitting on a diamond, but we are unable to take advantage of it. I am raising these as issues that need to be responded to.

On page seven there is also an alarming issue that shows that there are 145 000 people that are unemployed. I know the number can be contested to say it is too small, but I am working on the one I have been given. What is the contingency plan that we have, in trying to make sure that we reduce the unemployment rate. What is our plan in regard with our abandoned factories.

Are we able to take advantage of the mining opportunity that is in the former Naledi in Wepener. There is also an issue in pager 9, where it talks about Public Safety, I would like to challenge the MMC for Public Safety and Transport to say we need to find a way of ensuring that we activate as safety forum, for making sure that the schooling in the township becomes safe, because there is mushrooming of gangsters that we can see that they are anti education. There is a likelihood that we can lose Engineers and Doctors in the process. We also need to work together with organizations like community against crime.

On page 18 there is the issue of IPTN, and I have been raising the issue that we need to find whether there is any other study that can be made by the Municipality in making sure that other mode of transport that will be cheaper, reliable and safe. The other issue is in regard with SCM, and I have been talking about to say if it can be used to cater for everybody and not give advantage to Mangaung people, it does not serve the purpose it was intended for."

The Speaker requested Cllr MW Mongale to submit written questions for the purpose of responding.

Councillor MT Mosala commented as follows: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Executive Mayor, MMC's, Councillors, City Manager, HOD's and CENTLEC Management and residents of Mangaung. Dumelang!

Honourable Speaker, given the fact that this item is for noting, I would also want to note the following: Operational expenditure exceeded yet to date by 2%, revenue is on target, capex is below target. Current rate is below the norm of 2 is to 1 is sitting at 1,05 it indicates that creditors are much high and control measures must be put in place. This also affects the liquidity of the municipality.

Through you Speaker, this might seem bleak with available cash the city has improved on creditors payment and archived 25 days. On financial directorates targets, they are all met with the exception of the collection rate. Our SCM performed well with no tenders cancelled for the mid-term.

Speaker, we must continue to note that CENTLEC remains steadfast in fulfilling its mandate, despite the fact that 2025 fiscal year was under a complex operating environment. Rising electricity costs are ongoing."

Point of order by Cllr BJ Viviers: "Just assist, I am not trying to be rude but, the MMC of Finance is Councillor Titi Odili, noting that MMC Mosala is not the MMC of finance and She is now making a speech."

The Speaker called the Councillor into order by stating that the Councillor has the right to reply because she deals with performance of the City.

Executive Mayor remarked: "Speaker, I do not understand why all of a sudden, my MMC's being pocketed in one role, when they sit in Mayoral committee and deals with all these issues. Stated that they have a right to apply their minds in any issue that is tabled in Council."

The Speaker agreed with the Executive Mayor stated that the majority of Councillors sitting here ask questions that belongs to committees that they never attended to. They meet with the question for the first time in their political caucuses, but they have the right to ask questions. Urged Councillors to allow others to speak whether she belongs to Finance committee or not she has the right to reply.

Cllr TM Mosala continued: "Once more Honourable Speaker, it must also be noted that CENTLEC demonstrated a serious improvement in financial accountability and revenue collection, and it has made progress in addressing infrastructure backlog investment. We must also note that the leadership of CENTLEC is executing their mandate exceptionally well. Speaker, I must also indicate that we are in process setting ourselves ready in improving value for money in all capacity building across all Departments.

Speaker, the Executive Mayor is not forced to respond to questions raised in today's Council, mainly because this item must be referred back to MPAC to consolidate the oversight report and thereafter table the item back to Council, and that is then the Executive Mayor will be required to respond. Thank you."

Cllr. Kotze raised a concern about the number of meetings the Chairperson of MPAC has missed, stated that the meeting is very important and AGSA has tabled the report and yet he is absent. There are lot of questions that require his response, and he is absent.

The Speaker responded that the question was important, but not relevant to be responded to in this meeting. The Chairperson has submitted leave of absence due to illness.

The Speaker explained that even if the item is for noting, Councillors are urged to submit their questions, so that when MPAC is dealing with this item they can at least reply to some of the questions. Or they can submit the questions to the relevant MMC so that the MMC can provide a written reply.

The item was submitted for noting, therefore Council did not vote.

It was thereupon

RESOLVED that Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality Council noted:

a) The Mangaung and Centlec' s Standalone – 2024/2025 Annual Reports and Annual Financial Statements.

b) The Mangaung and Centlec' s Standalone – 2024/2025 Audit Reports as presented by Auditor General and included as Chapter 6 on the Annual Report.

c) The Consolidated Mangaung 2024/2025 Annual Report and Annual Financial Statements.

d) The Mangaung Consolidated Audit Report as presented by the Auditor General.

e) That the presented Audit Reports by Auditor General will be incorporated in the Consolidated Annual Report.

f) Refer the above reports to the Municipal Public Accounts Committee, that will process the said report and develop the Oversight Report and thereon advise Council accordingly.

2. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL RECOVERY PLAN(FRP) FOR 1ST QUARTER OF 2025/2026

Councillor AF Bothma raised questions of clarity as follows: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker,

1. Credibility of Reported Progress: Of the 59% of rescue-phase activities reported as complete, which specific interventions were prioritised, and how has National Treasury verified that these were the correct and most impactful actions?

2. Stalled FRP Actions: Which FRP activities are currently classified as slow-moving or stagnant, what are the precise reasons for each delay, and who is accountable for them?

3. Acceleration and Deadlines: What is the revised, time-bound acceleration plan to complete all outstanding FRP actions, and by what date will this plan be submitted to Council?

4. National Treasury Feedback and Risk: What formal feedback has National Treasury provided on Quarter 2 FRP performance, and has National Treasury raised any concerns that place transfers, including the Equitable Share, at risk?

5. Threat of Sanctions: Has National Treasury indicated any intention to impose conditions, withhold, or reallocate future transfers, and has Council been formally briefed on these risks?

6. Governance Failures Under the FRP: Why are Council-owned properties still not fully audited and lease agreements unresolved, despite being core FRP commitments?

7. Consequence Management: What is the current status of investigations into unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, and why are these matters taking multiple years to conclude without consequence?

8. Institutional and Performance Reform: Why has the service delivery model and performance management system not been fully reviewed and cascaded throughout the organisation as required by the FRP, and when will this be completed?

9. Revenue Credibility and Cash Reality: How does the Executive reconcile a reported R1.7 billion cash balance with persistent inaccurate billing, delayed meter replacement, non-cost-reflective tariffs, and weak revenue collection?

10. Service Delivery Failures Driving the FRP: Why do water losses remain above 50% under a mandatory recovery plan, what measurable reduction targets have been set for the next two quarters, and what consequences follow if these targets are missed?

Councillor BJ Viviers: "Mister Speaker, unfortunately even after the Auditor-General gave us feedback today, we are now forced to ask questions, so it is good that questions are minuted, so there is a great possibility that Rule 38 questions would not be answered again, so at least they got it minuted so hopefully they can continue in that fashion."

The Speaker remarked: "I have got all the time Councillors, but I is just thinking that is it really fair if we got 15 questions you read them and you know very well that you are not going to get a reply now, a factual reply, if you want a reply for the sake of it, it might not be necessarily be a good reply, it has got to be investigated because some of the things that Councillors are asking, requires a proper responses."

Council Whip commented: "Speaker, you know I want to concur with you, the reason why there are Rule 38 questions that needs to be asked, is for the purpose for anybody who ask those questions to get proper answer, so they cannot be misled on terms of the answering would be provided in this house, so as you are saying that people have interest, they have proper time to be responded to. That is why we even spoke about this on the level of multiparty as well. To say all the questions that are being asked by different political parties they must also be forwarded through the multiparty so we can be able to make sure that they are followed up, and proper answers can be given. There is no time for us to sit here and waste so much of our time, on something that we know because tomorrow, somebody will be coming in this house and say, they were lied to under oath so, that is why we do not have to perpetuate in this Council. You were right when you said you have concluded on particular process and then let those questions be submitted, they will be recorded as such by the way; they must be submitted so that we can get the proper recording on the questions that have been asked."

Councillor E Snyman Van Deventer addressed the Council: "Thank you Speaker, I am glad the Council Whip use the words he use because he indicates what is the ANC 'thinks about wasting our time, this is not about wasting our time, this is opportunity for Councillors to raise questions, to ask questions, and yes, we can put them in the Rule 38 questions and then it take the ANC, officials and City Manager 5 years to answer the questions, so no this is my opportunity to ask questions and we shall do so. Thank you."

Councillor GDP Kotze addressed the Council: "Thank you, Mister Speaker.

Revenue and Financial Systems

1. Why has the integration of Mangaung's billing and revenue systems with Centlec still not been completed, despite this being a foundational requirement for financial recovery?

2. What specific deadlines have been set for fixing billing, metering, and tariff alignment and who is contractually and politically accountable for these failures?

3. How can Council be asked to approve recovery reports when revenue systems remain dysfunctional and cash-flow unstable?

4. At what point does the Executive Mayor acknowledge that this is not a capacity problem, but a leadership failure?

Governance and Audit Outcomes

5. Why is the Post-Audit Action Plan still stalled, and which senior managers have failed to meet their deliverables?

6. Why are land and asset records still unresolved, and how does management expect to restore financial credibility without reliable registers?

7. What consequences have followed for officials responsible for these governance failures?

8. Why is Council continually presented with reports that normalise weak controls and non-performance?

Water Safety and Service Delivery Risks

9. Why has the Water Safety Plan and SANS 241 compliance not been fully implemented, despite the direct public health risks?

10. Can the Executive confirm whether Mangaung is currently fully compliant with national water safety standards and if not, which communities are at risk?

11. What urgent interventions are being implemented to prevent water contamination, infrastructure failure, and service collapse?

Contracts, Agreements and Operational Stability

12. Why are there still incomplete service-level agreements and unresolved contracts critical to service delivery and revenue protection?

13. What financial losses has the municipality suffered due to these delays?

Institutional Reform and Accountability

14. Why does the institutional pillar of the FRP continue to reflect stalled reforms, weak structures, and unfilled critical posts?

15. How many performance investigations, disciplinary actions, or contract terminations have occurred as a direct result of FRP failures?

16. What measurable evidence can the Executive provide that the FRP is being implemented, rather than merely reported on?

Political Oversight

17. Does the Executive accept that the weakest performance areas - revenue, governance, water safety, and institutional reform - are precisely the areas under direct political and administrative leadership?

18. What immediate corrective actions will be taken within the next quarter, and what consequences will follow if the same failures are reported again?

Councillor MS Mohatle addressed the Council: "Ha ke dumedise Modulasitulo wa rona, ke bua ka Modulasitulo wa Lekgotla, Majoro wa rona le Motlatsi, di-MMC tsa rona le Ma-Councillor, le baahi kaofela ba Mangaung.

Ntho e tlhokahalang fela report e entswe, e beuwe tafoleng, a quarterly report, ene ha rona hase ntho e telele, kore re e note, re sekaseke, re tsebe hore hare voutele leho voutela, re note fela. Realeboha."

Councillor JH Denner addressed the Council: "I understand that a current priority is to enter into payment arrangements with staff members and Councillors who are presently in arrears, to the shocking total value R11, 339, 413 worth of outstanding Rates and Taxes. What measures are in place to ensure that recovery of these outstanding amounts happens before the end of this term in 10/11 months' time?

1. According to the AG, 50% of service delivery targets were achieved but 113% of the budget spent.
2. How does the Municipality intend to mitigate the ''stagnant'' or slow-moving activities within the Financial Management and Service delivery pillars, particularly regarding the R1.7 billion Eskom debt and 50.6% water losses?
3. What measures are being implemented within the institutional pillar to manage the budget impact for new vacancies and the rising costs of employee-related expenditure?
4. One of this municipalities longstanding challenges in Grant money. Why are we not able to spend grant money to the value of R285 million on capital projects while Mangaung are facing numerous pressing infrastructure and service delivery problems from which priorities."

Councillor JE Sebolao addressed the Council: "Thank you Honourable Speaker. The EFF want to congratulate Centlec, for the victory against Georgiou family. The court found Georgiou and his family liable to pay the R150 million, going to the Centlec. So, I ask myself, what is wrong with us Mangaung. We must get the people of Centlec to come and lecture us, to recover the money that is lying over here, so that we don't have problem with service delivery. All the items that are for noting, without wasting any time, we are going to submit Rule 38 questions, so as to get proper answers. We are going to ask, in the next Council meeting if those questions that were submitted have been answered. I will stand up here and ask that we submitted Rule 38 questions and did not get what we are supposed to get. Thank you."

Councillor MW Mongale addressed the Council: "Speaker, the AASD has the following questions.

Firstly, on the issue of the arrears of Vaal Central, what is the contingency plan? Is Mangaung going to implement it, and will the Municipality remain on Eskom debt relief? If so, how are we ensuring full compliance so that we do not lose that status?

Secondly, regarding provincial debt, is there a mechanism for collecting debt at provincial level? If such a mechanism exists, Council needs to be updated accordingly. There is also the issue of slow-moving and stagnant activities that have been raised in the Financial Recovery Plan. Perhaps, in future, those issues should also be reflected, particularly those that are proving difficult to implement and are frustrating the recovery process, so that we can move out of the rescue phase.

I also wish to raise the issue of monies to be collected from Councillors and staff. I am also referring to other politicians, including MECs, the Premier, and others residing in Mangaung who owe the Municipality. Do we not have a mechanism, or could we develop a policy, that would compel them to settle their outstanding debt? If recovery is not possible, could we obtain a court order authorising deductions from their salaries, in the same manner as is done with municipal employees and staff? I believe they are also citizens residing in this city.

With regard to the Institutional Pillar, where it proposes the reduction of the General Manager's post, I believe it is a good proposal, provided that it is implemented consistently. It should not be applied in a manner where one Councillor argues that the position should be retained while another argues that it should be abolished. There should be consistency in the approach to all positions, and we must ensure that such matters are not be undermined by the human factor.
We also have municipal property at Tempe, namely Tempe Airport, yet Council has not been provided with a feasibility study explaining why the Municipality intends to outsource it or dispose of it. As Councillors, we need to be updated on this matter.

Another concern relates to Centlec's reported electrical losses of 10%, which occurred over a one-month period. Have those losses now been addressed, or have measures been put in place to prevent them from recurring? Or was it merely a once-off occurrence, while the underlying problem continues to persist and may become more problematic?
Those are all my questions, Speaker. Should they not be answered today, I will submit them as Rule 38 questions.

Councillor SP Tsoleli: Honourable Speaker, let me start by reading section 142, of the MFMA that a Financial Recovery Plan must be aimed at securing the Municipalities ability to meet its obligation to provide basic services and its financial control and financial commitments.

Honourable Speaker, what is this oversight body, which is Council needs to respond to genuinely without diluting it to any political stance is, are we able to meet our obligations. Honourable Speaker this is a question that does not need a yes or no response nor a multiple choice question it needs for all of us to take stalk of all obligations we have already implemented and furthermore highlight the areas that we are not doing on it and begin to have a tangible plan in addressing those short comings, Honourable Speaker this calls all of us seated here in this August house individually or collectively to double our efforts in ensuring that collective oversight happen. Just remind the Councillors, the FRP bind the municipality, in exercise of both legislative and executive authority, achieving the objectives cannot be solemnly the responsibility of the executive. And its failures will be the reflection of a very weak oversight authority that we are having. Honourable Speaker the Councillors must note that we report on National Treasury on the FRP every month.

A national Treasury give us a dashboard report regarding the progress we have made, therefore what we are bringing to National Treasury, Honourable Speaker questions that are being asked here are supposed to be asked at the level of each Section 80 Committees if this house it is really doing its work. What is displaying itself here, is an indication of all of us, sleeping on duty. Because the questions that are asked, I repeat, questions that are being asked are supposed to be featured in Section 80 committees, every time we do our oversight work. Councillors need to provide effective oversight at the implementation of the plan, and not when the report is presented in Council. Each and every Section 80 Committees we are requesting them as people who are responsible for FRP, collecting information our work is just to make sure that information reach where it's supposed to reach, we are requesting them to feature FRP in each and every meeting and be able to hold the departments that are reporting in that Section 80 on the progress that is made in the meeting.

POO Councillor Snyman Van Deventer: Quite a number of Committees, do not sit at all, there is no way you can ask questions, I can count on my hand the Committee that sits quite often, the second problem is when the report comes to Council, Councillors can ask questions on it if it is for noting. It's not for somebody to decide what we can ask and what not. Thank you, Speaker.

POO Councillor PA Lotriet: I would like to know whether, if that is the case, we will be able to deliberate on this matter in the Section 80 Committee and summon the Municipality's top management to appear before the Committee and answer the questions. Thank you.

Councillor SP Tsoleli: Modulasetulo, ka tsebo yaka e tletseng Section 80 enegwe le engwe hae dula HOD engwe le engwe ya lefapha e tlamile hore atlo arabela dipotso tse hlahang moo haho ntho ere hlolang ebile re kgona leho bitsa City Manager atle ho arabela, hase ntho e ncha, like I already said if we are doing our work correctly, we shouldn't be coming here and cry in the wrong funeral.

Respond to Councillor Mongale: The reduction of the GM post, remember we do not look at the incumbent, we look at the function that the function is it necessary to have it separately or it has to be combined. That exactly what we are going to do, we want to promise in the next Ordinary sitting, we will be reporting on the progress we are making in terms of the placement Committee, we are establishing a placement committee that is going to make sure that all this positions that are appearing on the structures are not there and not disadvantage the incumbent but rather look and placing them to the relevant places where they are supposed to be.

The Speaker confirm that the report is for noting and as such we have concluded all our question, in the event there are other questions for which Councillors have not received any factual responses you are free to do a Rule 38 question so that in the next Council meeting we can then allocate time to discuss and consider the reports on those questions that have been submitted.

The item was submitted for noting, therefore Council did not vote.

RESOLVED that Council:

(a) Noted the progress made in implementing the Financial Recovery Plan (FRP) for the period of July – September (Quarter1 of 2025/2026) on the four pillars, Governance Institutional, Financial Management and Service Delivery.

3.
SDBIP SECTION 52(D) AND SECTION 72 REPORTS ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025

Councillor TO Machachamise: Motsamaise wa mosebetsi, Majoro wa sebaka, motlatsi wa Mayor, Chief Whip ya Council Chief Whip ya mokgatlo o moholo wa ANC, Comrade V Nikelo, MMC's, Councillors, Sechaba sa Mangaung se tshepang African National Congress, ere ke nke monyetla ona**.**

Point Of Order – Councillor MW Mongale: Thank you Honourable Speaker, Councillor Mathae, I am jealous about Council Whip, he is a Council Whip, he does not belong to the ANC, he belongs to this Council, I needed that to sink in

Councillor TO Machachamise continues: Honourable Speaker, Executive Mayor, MMC's, Sechaba sa Mangaung. Our meeting of today, is important because as it legislated the process that deals with the compliance reports following the Auditor-General report earlier it is clear that this Council have task in our hand. This observation is based on the following: The 2024/25 Annual report for Mangaung and Centlec shows that as the city we really need to put in efforts on service delivery and financial position of the city, the AGSA report indicated slide improvement on performance of information, although the actual performance of 50% of service delivery, is not impressive, but will move at some point. However, looking at the 2025/26 quarter, Section 52 (d) a 72-performance report as presented by Honourable Executive Mayor. It clearly shows that some slides are being made to improve the KPA of basic service delivery, or financial of the report for 69 performances. As a collective in this Council, we must ensure that we hold the City Manager and the HOD's to adhere to the particular to achieve the set target. I wish that all of us can continue positively in ensuring that as we conclude this term, will have at least tried to see that it is globally safe, attractive to leave and invest in. I support the item with the recommendation. Thank you.

Councillor PM Kotze: Honourable Speaker, I rise today armed not with allegations, but with evidence. The item before us-the Section 52(d) and 72 reports-is not a routine document.

This document is not a plan; it is a crime scene report. It forensically details the systematic collapse of our city under the watch of this Executive Mayor and this Municipal Manager

First, on Service Delivery: You promised development, but you delivered decay. The Department of Economic and Rural Development is the worst performer at 47%. The borehole project stands at zero percent. The comment? A promise to "find a solution" in January. How much longer must residents of rural wards wait for water?

Water and Sanitation is failing at 60% performance. The target was 1,303 new sewer connections. You achieved 110. That is eight-point four percent. The annual target is now mathematically impossible. What does this mean? It means raw sewage in our communities. It is a public health crisis playing out in slow motion.

Refuse removal in informal settlements is stuck at 53%. The excuse? "Acquiring of Fleet, fuel, and appointment of staff." This is not a plan; it is a confession of chronic operational bankruptcy. This is not just incompetence; this is a dereliction of duty.

Second, on Financial Management: You promised prudence, but you delivered ruin. The capital budget-money meant to build infrastructure-is being surrendered. Economic Development spent **1.22%** of its capital budget. Public Safety spent **0%.** Water and Sanitation managed only 25.9°/o. This is a catastrophic failure to implement. It means grants will be taken back. It means future funding is jeopardised.

Meanwhile, the city's financial health is in the ICU. The current ratio is a perilous 0.35 to 1%. Creditors are owed 210% of available cash. This is not a technical variance; this is the prelude to financial collapse. And most egregiously, multiple projects listed have **no budget allocation.** This is a fundamental breach of the MFMA. Are we to believe that activities are being planned and reported on with no approved funding? This is either gross negligence or deliberate malfeasance.

Third, on Accountability: You promised transparency, but you delivered evasion. Throughout these reports, failure is anonymous. It is always "SCM," "Management," or "the Contractor." Never a named Director. Never a named Manager. The Office of the City Manager reports a 94% performance while the departments it oversees collapse. This is a bureaucratic fiction.

The "Corrective Measures" columns are a graveyard of empty promises. "Management to implement" with no name, no deadline, no consequence. It is a script written to excuse failure, not to fix it.

We see Public Safety projects where capital expenditure is a flat, undeniably zero. This is not mismanagement; this is a deliberate strangulation of our city's future. The report confirms the vital signs are crashing: a current ratio showing potential insolvency, and a trade payables ratio indicating severe cash flow distress. The lifeblood of this metro is hemorrhaging, and the leadership is standing by, watching it bleed out. This financial catastrophe is not an accident. It is the direct product of a governance rot, meticulously documented in these pages. Every· failure is rendered anonymous. Projects are delayed by faceless "SCM processes." Corrective measures are assigned to a ghost called "Management." A fire station stands unfinished due to a lapsed contract, and yet, the report is silent on who failed to manage it. This is a culture of absolute impunity, engineered from the top.

The leadership has built a system where no one is ever to blame, where failure is documented, lamented, and then recycled into the next quarterly report. They even have the audacity to spin a 69% score-their own metric for "performance not fully effective"-as progress. This is the ultimate betrayal: not just failing, but dressing that failure in the bureaucratic language of achievement

And we know, with painful precision, who pays for this betrayal? The people of Mangaung. This report is about the smoking gun that connects the empty coffers to the raw sewage in the streets. It proves that the 92% shortfall in sewer connections is why families live in filth.

It proves that the frozen 47% performance on economic projects is why there are no jobs. It proves that the "limited resources" blamed for uncollected refuse are the very same millions this administration refuses to spend the empty buses, the broken water meters, the undrilled boreholes-this report catalogues them not as acts of God, but as directed consequences of human negligence and political failure.

So, I direct this question to the Executive Mayor, your own evidence shows money for services is being withheld. What have you personally done to unlock it? Do you accept that you are presiding over the deliberate denial of dignity to our people?

And to the Municipal Manager: This report is a masterpiece of evasion. When will you replace the column of excuses with a column of names-the names of the officials you will hold personally accountable, with their deadlines for delivery?

There is another way. It is the way of competent, accountable government where budgets are spent to deliver services, where officials are named and held responsible, where a 1% capital spend triggers a crisis response, not a quiet note to Council. That is the government our people deserve.

Therefore, we cannot and will not support this autopsy of our city as if it were a routine document. We demand this report be rejected and sent back. We demand a binding, detailed recovery plan in this Council, signed by those responsible. We demand an immediate investigation into this financial paralysis.

To the residents of Botshabelo, to the families in Heidedal, to the business owners in the CBD: your struggle is quantified in these pages. The empty promises have been given a page number. Today, we speak those numbers aloud. We see you. We have the evidence. And we will not rest until those who betrayed you are held to account.

Councillor ME Maliela: Honourable Speaker, the Executive Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chief Whip, MMC's, Fellow Councillors, Municipal Officials, Interpretation services, the media and the Residents of Mangaung.

In the 2024/2025 Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan Strategic scorecard, no Head of Department from this municipality qualified for a performance bonus which required a level 3 or a level 4 achievement to be affected. In the first two quarters of the 2025/2026 SDBIP Strategic Scorecard, HODs still achieve level 2 and 1 Key Performance Indicators scores, which translate to "Performance Not Fully Effective" and "Unacceptable Performance".

Honourable Speaker, the role of a Head of Department is not ceremonial. It is a position of strategic leadership, operational oversight, and ultimate accountability. Our residents rely on these offices to ensure that services are delivered efficiently, consistently and with professionalism. As it is, we are increasingly confronted with evidence that this responsibility is not being fully upheld.

We have seen repeated failures in service delivery implementation, poor coordination within departments, delays in project execution, and a lack of visible leadership when communities demand answers.

These are not merely administrative issues, they translate directly into suffering for our people who are faced with uncollected refuse, illegal dumps, deteriorating infrastructure, stalled maintenance programmes, overflowing sewers, unemptied toilet buckets, pothole riddled streets, the list goes on and on.

Honourable Speaker, what is most concerning is that some of these performance challenges have been raised previously, yet very little improvement has been demonstrated. Performance agreements exist for a reason. They must not become mere documents filed away, but instrument of consequence. Where there is underperformance, there must be accountability. Where there is complacency, there must be intervention. When this is not happening - a culture of comfort in failure is created, where underperformance is normalized and mediocrity is tolerated.

We must be honest with ourselves, if the City Manager does not crack his whip loud enough, no turnaround strategy will succeed. Where Heads of Department consistently fail to meet expectations, decisive steps must be taken in the best interest of service delivery.

Honourable Speaker, leadership is not about occupying office; it is about delivering results. Our communities deserve better. They deserve departments that work, leadership that responds and a municipality that puts people first. The DA will therefore not vote for the item.

Councillor MJ Ramatlama: Honourable Speaker, one day we will share our experience of the lectures that we got in 2012 MUCPP. When we were taught about the characteristics of ‘’Ace Magashule style’’ in the organisation and in government. Those who are criticizing or who are praising Centlec now in public, they must also do that in private. They must stop harassing us with nonsense of speaking ill about Centlec in the dark while in day light they are speaking a different story. ‘They know themselves.’’

Honourable Speaker, the report is presented as evidence progress improvement and institutional disability. On paper departments are scooring well, KPI’s are marked as achieved and performance indicators are largely green. But the EFF must state clearly, this report reflects paper performance not lead reality. KPI’s are not neutral numbers, they are political instruments that must answer one question only, what has materially changed, in the lives of our people, when departments award themselves high scores while community is continuing to experience delivery failures, then the problem is not capacity but dishonesty.

Across this report the departments claimed to have performed well based on total scores and internal assessment yet Council is not provided with credible, verifiable work based evidence to support those things. We were told targets were met but we are not told where and whom. This turns the SDBIP into a score board for officials instead of contract with communities. What has materially changed in the lives of our people, when the departments where themselves high scores while community is continuing to leave with potholes, sewer spillages, incomplete house projects, and unsafe roads, then the problem is not capacity the problem is dishonesty and self-assessment without accountability.

On page 13 of the document, the Pelonomi project is required 100% of the completion in the fourth quarter, yet the variance is negative and the KPI’s score are/is one.

How do you fail a target that is scheduled funded and time bound, seemingly, increased non refuse removal in Informal Settlement service critical to dignity health and safety scores only two, this is not a minor issue refuse removal is a front line service and failure here is failure against poorest communities reality of a situations, fellow Councillors, is that we are having MMC who seem to be very clueless as a political head of that Directorate. What even makes it worse is that the HOD of this Directorate is a doctor by a profession who are les to be paid protection fee to Councillors, we all ask ourselves ''hore Mokone ke Doctor yae ng? at this rate I suspect he is Dr ya Afrikaans''

Roads, Storm Water and Transport continues to insult the intelligence of Council, we never know the political head of this Directorate to be a creative person who could paint the opposite realities of our people even in his ability to convene Section 80 Committee meeting but today we are shocked to realise that both the MMC and HOD Technical Services elected to join all of them in paper performance competition.

Councillor VB De Kock: Performance indicators are in place, but achievement against targets remain inconsistent. The value of the SDBIP, as a management tool. In year reporting does not always provide clear expectation all variances making oversight by Council more difficult. Further refinement is needed to ensure indicators are specific realistic and aligned with available budget and service and service priorities. This report should demonstrate progress in service delivery. Instead, it shows serious underperformance in critical areas.

Out of 142 key performance indicators, only about 67% are rated fully effective or better. That means roughly one-third of our targets are underperforming, with 25 indicators not fully effective and 15 rated unacceptable. These are not just numbers they represent communities still waiting for basic services. Water and Sanitation is one of the most alarming areas, performing at only 53%.

Non-revenue water losses in Mangaung this means more than half of our treated water is lost through leaks, bursts, and failing infrastructure before it reaches residents. In financial terms, this translates into hundreds of millions of rand in lost revenue and wasted resources, while our region faces increasing water stress. Leak detection, pressure management, and infrastructure refurbishment must be treated as urgent priorities.

Economic and Rural Development is sitting at just 44% performance, severely limiting support for growth and rural communities. Finance is at only 52%, which raises serious concerns about financial control, budgeting accuracy, and the municipality's long-term sustainability. Roads, Stormwater and Transport achieved 62%, but residents experience the reality daily - worsening potholes, blocked stormwater drains, and flood damage after heavy rains. Poor preventative maintenance is costing both residents and the municipality, including rising claims for vehicle damage

Solid Waste Management, under Community Services at 64%, continues to struggle with missed collections, aging fleets, and illegal dumping. This is not just unsightly - it creates environmental and public health risks.

Electricity supply through Centlec shows 83% performance, yet communities still face frequent outages, slow fault response times, and infrastructure backlogs. On paper performance does not always reflect lived, reality.

Our residents are losing food appliances, small holdings, no power, no water. Mangaung should start to take care of this entity that is bravely fighting to deliver services. Do you know how much Centlec could do with the underspent grants.

The report also highlights delays in capital projects and under-spending, meaning infrastructure upgrades are not happening at the pace required. When budgets are not spent effectively, communities lose development opportunities.

Across these departments, the pattern is clear: weak planning, slow procurement, infrastructure neglect, and insufficient accountability.

The Freedom Front Plus calls for urgent action:

- A strong shift toward preventative maintenance
- Aggressive reduction of water losses
- Improved fleet and asset management
- Faster implementation of capital projects

And firm consequence management where officials or contractors fail to perform

Speaker, our residents are not asking for luxuries. They want water that flows, electricity that stays on, roads that are safe, refuse that is collected, /hat is the standard this SDBIP must meet.

The Freedom Front Plus will continue to push for accountable governance and reliable service delivery for every resident of Mangaung."

MMC IDP and Performance Councillor MT Mosala: SDBIP sets as the primary performance management report, and the report will be presented in front of Council in essence. The most important tools that are in abstract of the budget and the IDP. They are concrete, showing what will be delivered when and by a home, ensuring effective governance and service is delivered. The SDBIP is yet another step forward to realize the principle of democracy and accountable local government, enshrined in section 152A of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. These two reports been the second quarter section 52D and midterm Section 72 indicates an important. In fact, indicates an improvement when compared to the previous quarter and previous financial year's financial reports for this specific period. The average performance of 69% in the first quarter indicates that the city is in the award trajected, per in the lives of the community of Mangaung Mayor on this report are mainly on the service provision department, which must really ensure performance is visible underground and not only on Favor. The communities have already done their assessment of this municipality and its leadership, both political and administration, which is not positive, especially when comparing reality in our world and what will be put on.

Our responsibility is to ensure that we change the tide, strengthen service delivery, and provide reliable services. Speaker, it is important for Councillor's to look at the scoring methodology on page two of the SDPIP record. The scoring is regulated by the municipal system Act and regulations. Before so that we're able to comment or to debate accordingly, if as counsel as we understand the scoring methodology it will be easier for us to be able to debate according to speaker. There is a plant HOD and CM assessment session on the fifth 6th of February, and we are going to look at a 2024th, 25 audit outcomes be further for me to deal with a 2025/26 defence. This will be a platform to design good strategy and mitigative factors. Thank you.

The Council voted as follows: ***48 voted in favour, 23 against and 8 abstained***

It was thereupon

RESOLVED that:

(a) Council approved the 2nd quarter Section 52(d) SDBIP and section 72 (SDBIP mid-year) MFMA reports as Annexures A and B.

(b) Noted that the reports will be published on the municipal website and be submitted to the National Treasury.

4.
THE RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FIRST BI-ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025/2026 FINANCIAL YEAR

Councillor LN Lecoko: Thank you Speaker, it is a management committee by annual report. This report is for noting therefore, I will not go deeper to it. However, there's only one thing that I want to pass, that the Council is to note the risk management report. Typically, this means the Council is formally acknowledging and take cognisance of the reports content. 'Keya rona kaofela, as the Executive Mayor said that earlier: ke mosebetsi wa rona kaofela ho etsa bo sure ba hore dintho tse mola kaofela redi etse hore diphetahale. Kealeboha Speaker."

Councillor E Snyman Van Deventer: The Freedom Front Plus wants to thank the Risk Committee for this report and the work they are doing. Based on the report, Freedom Front Plus would like to ask the following questions

On page 2 the Committee raised concerns regarding the attendance of HOD's of its meetings and the impact thereof on risk management.

1. Did the HOD's submit apologies before the meetings?

2. Did the HODs have acceptable reasons for not attending the meetings?

3. Did the City Manager act/ took proper steps after these absences were reported to him?

On page 3 the Committee refers to the report on Blue and Green Drop status. The HoD, Technical Services, provided reasons for the problems in this regard. One real problem is the following statement: "reduction in investment in water treatment infrastructure". What steps are taken to rectify this problem? Has the HoD ensured that this will be addressed in the 2026/2027 budget?

On page 4, the Committee mentions that during the fourth quarter, 28% of the strategic risk mitigation strategies were not implemented, and 33% at the operational level. Are the HoDs taking any steps to ensure these recommended strategies are implemented?

On page 5 the Committee reported on the 29 strategic risks and 227 operational risks identified in May-June 2025. Are the HoD's taking any steps to mitigate these risks? Are the HoDs taking steps to ensure these risks are factored into both the budget and the IDP?

On page 6 the Committee refers to the litigation register and "indicated that the risk of litigation needs to be adequately addressed based on thorough analysis of the root causes as the litigation results in a direct financial loss for the City." Has Legal Services done this investigation and if so, has the department implemented any steps to limit this risk?

And lastly on page 8 the progress made is set out and of the 38 resolutions, there is still quite a number of previous years still not resolved as well as from 2025. What actions/steps are taken by the City Manager to rectify this non-implementation."

Councillor MW Mongale: The issues on this item of a risk committee report: there are other disturbing issues. There are serious disturbing issues.

The first one is the issue of overtime. I think giving or seems to be losing the plot on overtime. But under the report, there seems to be hope that there is a plan, because the report shows that there is a mitigation plan that has been established, trying to curb the overtime. But we are expecting the next set of the Council maybe to get the progress report in that regard. How far is the mitigation plan?

And then on the FRP, the argument is that there are inadequate funds to implement some of the activities. Now the issue is that if there is a shortage of funds to implement some of the activities that makes us comply with the financial recovery plan, what is the contingency plan that the municipality be providing in order to mitigate that shortage or maybe to respond to that shortage? Because doing nothing is not an option.

The issue of validity of indigent register, that one cannot overemphasized because we need to make sure that the indigent register has been cleaned, like we have been saying. And I hope that some other time, maybe when we get time, we will be able to just see some elements of those discrepancies.

On the issue of blue drop and green drop, I am sure that we are struggling to attain blue drop and green drop.

Even though there was a time in one of our Councils last year, we were given a report that there is an agreement between the Development Bank of Southern Africa and the municipality, where they are coming to build capacity in terms of water and wastewater and all that. We thought maybe those plans would also try to assist us to move in a particular direction, but we do not see here where it is being reflected. What has been the role of the Development Bank of Southern Africa in terms of capacity building of the municipality?

We have got a fresh produce market. We are expecting a progress report on the state-owned company that is supposed to be establishing that particular area. But we also need to get a report on whether, when the state-owned company is established, what can be the implication on the public in terms of pricing of fresh produce? We get maybe that response in the next meeting. And also, the debt market team plan.

But I am also disturbed by this one. I do not know. I suspect someone ontse aja chelete? lawyers have been appointed to collect money for the municipality, but they have not paid the municipality. Aye, yeah, Councillors gona le motho ontse baja lena! Bae qeta chelate ena, hae qeta ho fela ke hona ba tlabe batlang ho patala ho setse ho sena niks. Hona le motho a besig antse aja tshelete le di-Attorney tsena tse hanang ho patala Masepala because I do not understand what were the terms of agreement what is the memorandum of understanding between the two parties to say you collect and at a particular period you pay or you collect to pay to a particular account of the Municipality. I don’t understand why do they make the money as if it theirs, unless mona ho bapalwa ka rona hantle ntle ke taba ya majesana ho theohetswe ho etsuwa pap ya bana e potlakileng. There are issues that must be investigated so that we can get through to the bottom of this matter. We cannot stand here idling without getting a clear answer around this issue. It is an embarrassment to all of us as Councillors. Thank you, Speaker.”

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

RESOLVED that the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality’s Council:

1. Took note of the Risk Management Committee Report for the First Bi-Annual of 2025/2026 financial year.

5.
THE MUNICIPAL FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT (MFMA): BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT REPORT IN TERMS OF THE MFMA, SECTION 72(1)(A), FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Cllr AF Bothma asked the following clarity seeking questions:
Questions

Overall Financial Position & MFMA Section 72 Compliance
Does the Mayor and Accounting Officer agree that the Section 72 report constitutes an *early warning of financial distress* as envisaged by the MFMA?

What concrete corrective measures, beyond those already listed in previous years' reports, will be implemented in the second half of the financial year?

Revenue Underperformance & Collection
Why does electricity revenue show a R191 million shortfall despite tariff increases?

What proportion of the electricity and water revenue losses is attributable to technical losses, and what proportion to non-technical losses such as theft and illegal connections?

How many billing audits have been completed to date, and what value of corrected or recovered revenue has resulted?

Why does the collection rate remain below 80%, and who is accountable for the failure to reach the 95% benchmark?

Operating Expenditure & Cost Control
Why is overtime overspent by R44 million at mid-year, despite repeated Auditor-General findings on overtime abuse?

What controls are in place to prevent overtime expenditure from exceeding budget in the second half of the year?

What portion of the 454% increase in interest charges is linked to court judgments, and what is being done to reduce legal exposure?

Asset Management, Repairs & Maintenance
Why does repairs and maintenance spending remain just above 2% when the norm is at least 8%?

How much of the increase in depreciation is directly attributable to deferred maintenance?

Does the municipality have a funded and credible asset management plan, and if so, why is it not being implemented?

Capital Expenditure & Grant Performance
Which capital projects are most at risk of not being completed within this financial year?

What steps are being taken to prevent the rollover or forfeiture of conditional grants?
How many projects are delayed due to procurement failures, and who is responsible?
What consequences are imposed on underperforming contractors and internal project managers?

Cash Position, Liquidity & Solvency
What is the projected cash position at year-end if current collection trends continue?
How will the municipality fund operations if operating deficits persist into the next financial year?

Debtors, Write-offs & Creditors
Are any payment arrangements at risk of default, and what would be the service delivery impact?

Governance, Accountability & Consequences
What timelines exist for Council to receive progress reports on the remedial actions listed in this Section 72 report?

At what point will Council move from *noting* underperformance to enforcing consequences?

Forward-Looking Risk & Intervention
What emergency or turnaround measures will be implemented in the remaining six months?

Will Council be presented with a credible, time-bound recovery plan before the adjustment budget? Thank you, Honourable Speaker."

Councillor BJ Viviers asked clarity seeking questions as follows: "Honourable Speaker, through you Executive Mayor. The spelling mistakes and grammatical errors in this report are appalling.

R 2,9 billion more in expenditure than what was budgeted for, after taking into account the R 2,8 billion that was written off.

Why does overtime overspend to date R 44,479 000 million. What happened to stricter measures for paying overtime and what happened to the knight on the white horse called the shift system?

Why is only 33,97% of our Capital Expenditure Budgeted utilized, that is why our infrastructure and maintenance on it, are in the state it is?

Why only 36,05% of our Grants spend. Urban Development Finance Grant at 0% and the Public Transport Infrastructure and Systems Grant at 3,27%?

Why now the stern warning again, if we do not spend the Grants National Treasury will take it back.

On the current accounts and not on the over R 7,6 billion of Debt older than 1 year. Outstanding Debtors after R 2,8 billion was written off MMM still managed to let the Debtors grow with R 953 000 000.00, that is almost a further Billion rand. Debt older than a year standing on over R 7,6 billion. Our Third-Party Debt Collectors only collected 0,7% of the Debtors allocated to them a mere R 70 000 000.00.

Executive Mayor please sort out the Third-Party Debt Collectors, if they can only collect 10% it will be an additional 1 billion rand for MMM for greatly needed Service Delivery. Collection Rate at 79,36%, this is not a true reflection as the collection rate as it is only calculated.

Note the City is not able to pay its current or short-term obligations. Again, raising the concern or rather fact that the city cannot continue with its business as a going concern. Ons is bankrot as ons 'n gewone siviele besigheid was.

The recommendations to the report are greatly welcomed, but respectfully is that not the problem?

We, this Council and administration take days to, plan, create policies and strategies, but no implementation.
Recommendation H mentions that MPAC will do an oversight and will implement accountability, discipline and consequence management on the Administration.

When will the Executive Mayor realise that MPAC is not efficient?

Really is it only me, or did this Council not realize that MPAC is dysfunctional and ineffective, a lot to do also with the Chair of that Committee of Council

Executive Mayor, we did have this discussion out of Council, but it is high time that the Administration of this Municipality start implementing all that is mentioned here. They do not because there is no consequence management.

Respectfully your window of opportunity to fix this has actually passed and Councillors in the opposition are fed-up struggling to do proper oversight stopped by security and MMC's rather let them vacate their positions so that we can do a better job.

Stop being arrogant preaching that we are almost out of National Intervention, we still have a long way to go and do not even implement FRP**.** Fix MMM.

DA request that all questions and what was mentioned must form part of what is been sent through to Provincial National Treasury so there is better oversight of what is happening in this Municipality, so that National Treasury and 39 institutions like Auditor -General who were here today, cannot what the opposition is saying about this report, I second the proposal of Cllr.AF Bothma."

Councillor JC Pretorius second Councillor BJ Viviers and remarked: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you to the City Manager:

City Manager, you recommend that this report be noted only, and that it be submitted to the Free State Provincial Treasury and National Treasury. As the Official Opposition, we demand that our questions, objections, and concerns be formally recorded and attached to the version submitted to both Treasuries. Treasury must see the full picture-not a sanitized version of failure.

Mr Speaker, through you to the Executive Mayor: Executive Mayor, in your foreword you proudly state that your Community-to-Community Programme delivered title deeds and Permission to Occupy certificates to residents.

Yet this report contains not a single number, not a single location, and not a single measurable outcome.
So, I ask plainly: *How many residents? Where exactly? Or was this simply political rhetoric with no substance?*

You also claim that service centres have been enhanced and made more accessible to residents. The reality is that this Metro does not even have a functioning call centre. Residents cannot reach the municipality, Councillors cannot get feedback, and service delivery complaints go unanswered. Executive Mayor, please tell this Council where these service centres are, because the people of Mangaung clearly cannot find them.

Mr Speaker, through you, my next questions are directed to the Chief Financial Officer. CFO, your own report states that supplier and employee costs have reached over R7.6 billion year-to-date, against a target of just R4.4 billion. That is not a minor deviation - that is a collapse of financial control.

As the head of finance, how did this happen under your leadership? Who is actually running the finances of this Metro because it is clearly not being managed competently.

Your Quarter 1 figure show that Mangaung received R3.2 billion in revenue, while spending R5.8 billion. That is not budgeting. That is reckless overspending that drives this municipality deeper into financial ruin.

CFO, the quality of this report itself tells a disturbing story: spelling errors, grammatical errors, copied-and-pasted paragraphs, and incomplete figures. This is a document destined for National Treasury, yet it reads like a draft that was never checked. How does management sign off such a report? And why should Treasury take this Metro seriously when its own finance department does not? Why has your department failed to meaningfully reduce a debtors' book now exceeding Rl0 billion?

Why are government departments owing over Rl.9 billion still enjoying uninterrupted services while residents are threatened with disconnections? And when will this Metro finally conduct a skills audit, because the evidence of incompetence is now undeniable.

Mr Speaker, through you, my final questions are directed to the City Manager. City Manager, this report reflects unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure of an outstanding R9.6 billion. In the 2024/25 financial year alone, irregular expenditure sits at over R4 billion. These are not abstract numbers. This is money stolen from service delivery, from infrastructure, and from the dignity of our residents.

So, I ask directly:

- Are there investigations?
- Have any officials been disciplined?
- Have any cases been referred for criminal prosecution?

Because when public funds are mismanaged on this scale, accountability cannot end with "processes are under way". It demands consequences.

Mr Speaker, in conclusion, through you to the Executive Mayor, I will say this in Afrikaans to ensure there is no misunderstanding:

*Meneer die Burgemeester, hierdie munisipaliteit word tans vernietig deur swak leierskap en fatale bestuursverval. Die Stadsbestuurder en senior bestuur neem geen verantwoordelikheid nie, terwyl die inwoners die ptJJS betaal. Hierdie is vrot bestuur. Hierdie verslag is 'n skande. Die kiesers van Mangaung gaanjulle straf in 2026- en met reg.*Dankie, Mr Speaker."

Councillor JR Maartens: Honourable Speaker, through you, please allow me to just ask a couple of basic questions to all officials, as well as the CFO, and through you to our Honourable Executive Mayor:

At recommendation (b) in both reports, it states that the city has secured a full maintenance lease contract with two service providers. Are we allowed to know who these subcontractors are?

Have our officials heard of tools like spellcheck or Chat GPT? Is it necessary to embarrass this Council with the following errors — let me explain and I direct your attention to recommendation "That Council notes that collection of debt will be vigorously [what] the low collection rest" - this sentence needs VERB to be grammatically correct. Suggestions, vigorously tackled, vigorously attacked or vigorously addressed to rectify the low collection rate.

"The Council notes that a revised …of the Debt Settlement Incentive Scheme...." We need a noun, something, like a "plan" or an "incentive" anything. I am not really concerned with the specific noun this Council may decide upon. Could Council please look at changing these recommendations that they make sense grammatically? Thank you."

Councillor B Vorster: "Honourable Speaker and all protocols observed. Through you, Honourable Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus wishes to pose the following clarity-seeking questions to the Honourable Executive Mayor:

Employee-Related Costs

Why was it again permitted that the Metro **overspent by R44.4 million on overtime** within the first six months of the financial year?

Given that the Metro has already spent **R86.7 million on overtime** in the first six **months-R2.2 million more than the total annual budget allocation of R84.5 million-will** any further overtime payments be authorised in the remaining six months of the financial year?

Was the **unauthorised expenditure of R2.2 million on overtime** formally reported in terms of the MFMA, and when will **consequence management** be implemented against those responsible?

Does the administration intend to **allocate additional funds to overtime** in the adjustment budget, and if so:
From which budget votes will these funds be sourced?
Will these funds be diverted from **service delivery-related votes?**

When will this ANC-led administration acknowledge that the continued **payment of overtime without adequate verification and control mechanisms** will once again result in adverse findings by the Auditor-General, potentially leading to yet another **qualified audit opinion?**

When will management **fill critical vacant positions** within the Metro, given that **R30.7 million has already been spent on acting allowances,** which is **R29.6 million above the R1 million budgeted amount?**

Should additional funding be allocated to the acting allowance vote in the adjustment budget? From which votes will these funds be drawn?
Will this again come at the expense of **service delivery allocations?**

Expenditure Overrun
Why is total expenditure already **52% higher than the year-to-date budget,** and what **immediate and measurable controls** has management implemented to prevent further overspending, especially considering the severe pressure this place on the Metro's cash reserves?

Capital Budget and Grant Spending
How did this administration allow that only **R456 million of the R1.3 billion capital budget** was spent by mid-year, representing a mere **33.97% implementation rate?**

How did this administration allow that only R360 millions of just over R1 billion in conditional grants was spent, equating to 36.05%?

Is the Project Management Unit (PMU) fully operational, and if so, is it effectively performing the functions for which it was established?

Given that the PMU reports to the City Manager, when will a comprehensive report on its activities, performance, and project outcomes be tabled before Council?

How does the Metro intend to maintain, rehabilitate, and expand infrastructure and service delivery when the following departments recorded alarmingly low capital expenditure in the first six months:

- Community and Social Development - 21.5%
- Economic and Rural Development - 1.22%
- Roads and Transport - 30.3%
- Water and Sanitation - 29%
- Public Safety and Security - 0%

Risk Factors

What concrete measures will Centlec implement to reduce non-technical electricity losses amounting to R43 million?

For how much longer will the Metro be able to sustain the increased Vaal Central Water account, given that water losses currently stand at 48.6%, and what interventions are being implemented to reduce these losses?

What steps will be taken to prevent further legal costs, in order to avoid the estimated unauthorised expenditure of R11.6 million?

What measures will be implemented for the remainder of the financial year to avoid the projected unauthorised expenditure of R27.7 million for security services and R14.5 million for refuse removal?

Financial Ratios

What specific and time-bound measures will be implemented to **improve the Metro's collection rate,** which currently stands at an unsustainable **79.3%?**

Conclusion

In Conclusion, Honourable Speaker, how can the Executive Mayor state in the report that priority was placed on reinforcing internal discipline, clarifying accountability, and stabilising systems critical to effective service delivery, while this report indicates exactly the opposite?"

Councillor MW Mongale: "Speaker in just reporting that there is unfavourable variance on this particular issue but there seems not to be any plan to try and do away with such challenges that are appearing there and amongst them is the rate of unemployment and the issue of affordability of our community, one example is on the water revenue where it is reported that we are billing people who are unable to pay, it is obvious because of the issue is affordability and inequality.

With regards to Employee Related Cost, amongst them we are told that the challenge is Acting allowances and other allowances. And we have been made aware that in the previous Council that the Acting allowances will be stopped so that it can also keep misuse of funds or maybe cut overspending, but I know there was a moratorium of acting that was made by I don't know whether it disappeared. The issue of overtime overspending, we know there is a depot of IPTN, we hear it will be the one that will be resuscitated but the issue is that where is accountability with regard to the previous R60 million that was spent to on that depo, during that time when Hauweng bus were introduced to the Municipality, because there was that depot that was supposed to be there next to SPCA and other departments of Mangaung municipality.

On the debt recovery, we want to get an honest analysis. On the issue of debt recovery, we need to be honest about it .We are sitting here with a bill of almost R10 billion but we know on that R10 billion there is also a R6 billions of community that will not be able to pay for that service, but we keep flagging it as if it is money that we are about to recover, and it should not be creating a false expectation.

Councillor SQ Peter: "It described evident today that the Councillors have read the report in total. Now doing that, you can tell that they are able to see the spelling mistakes. However, it is surprising to see that they have omitted to check the report assessment. That is exactly speaking to what they have been raiding. If they could have checked that assessment report, it addresses exactly 90% of what they have raised**.**

Councillors should read that properly, with a better understanding and proper context. Then you would have seen that report addresses some of the issues that are raised in 161 reports. So, at this stage, I am withdrawing that, Speaker, in effect, because some of the recommendations that you find there are addressing what they agree is also the issue that are raised in the report. We cannot stand here and say the report is incomplete, yet there is a remedy to that, so I really plead with Councillors to say, sometimes when you do these things, we must be honest to ourselves, because the majority of those recommendations speak to them, and addressing even issues. Like Councillor Mongale raised, to say, what will happen to the issue of the Indigent register? Somehow, it is captured there to say, once we approve, he can say this day is actually what we are going to talk in order to remedy that situation. Most of the questions that have been raised, we will be able to reply to them either by Rule 38 or through the Section 80 Committee meeting.

Point of order by Councillor JC Pretorius: "Thank you, Speaker, the Councillor must refrain from misleading the house, I spoke on the Mid Term assessment report, and there are so many grammar mistakes and spelling mistakes. So please stop misleading the house. Thank you."

Councillor CL Kruger asked whether what Cllr JC Pretorius raised was a point of order.

Point of order Councillor BJ Viviers: "Speaker we have never said what is contained in the report is not correct; we have seen that. We ask why there is no consequence management? Why are we standing here? Thank you."

The Deputy Executive Mayor, Councillor LM Titi-Odili: "Thank you very much, Speaker. I think my Whip responded very well indicating to the community of Mangaung and Councillors that that the responses of Honourable Councillors are content in this report.

If we can check both 14 recommendations, Councillor Whip, those recommendations, twenty-eight of them, Honourable M Letawana, they are addressing most of the questions that Honourable Councillors are questioning.

We discussed details in Section 80 committee, and we came with the recommendations, and some of the recommendations that are coming from DA and from FFPLUS, are also appearing in these recommendations and appearing in this item.

We spoke in Section 80 committee, saying what we must do in terms of this report, that we must make sure that we monitor and play our oversight role. That is what we said in Section 80 Committee. The format of the report is not the format that we created as the municipality. It is the format that we are guided by the National Treasury on how we should report in terms of the section 72 report.

The Office of Corporate Services and the City Manager's Office they are dealing with the issue of making sure that they are working on the issue of overtime. I know that it is in the pipeline to make sure that the issue of the actings is coming to an end. Yes, we overspent, and we are not the first municipality. Even the Cape Town Municipality is overspending in overtime. We are reading a report. We are not only focusing on one municipality. We compare our reports with big Municipalities and check how can they improve as the city.

We are at 79% in terms of collection. Yes, we are below the target. In terms of debt, yes, we have debt collectors. We are not happy with the performance of the debt collectors that were appointed in terms of collections. We also have a resolution in terms of Section 80 that we must meet with those debt collectors and ask them what the problem is. If they fail in terms of their contract, and the contract indicates that they did not perform because of the targets that were given to them, we must take a decision collectively and come back and advise this Council.

Honourable Speaker, in the Country in terms of the performance of the USDG, we are number 3. We perform 43% The first is Cape Town, the second is Ekurhuleni, and the third is Mangaung. No money is going to be taken away. Instead, the national government is going to add the money because our responsibility, as stated in Section 80, is to see to the spending. That is why in Section 80 we said that the Section 71 report will always be discussed in Section 80, so that we can see the lights. That is why we are assured in terms of this report, because we discussed all the sections of the report and assessed them and checked where we are in terms of spending.

Are we really winning in terms of spending? Yes, we also saw that in terms of water losses. Councillor Soqaga I know you are working with the HOD. The 48% water loss is a concern. We have some plans to make sure that we are dealing with the issue of water losses, and we must put it categorically: why are we losing water? What makes us lose water? We cannot just say we are losing water. I think, Councillor N Nhlapo how many informal settlements do we have, and many of those people are using water? All these things must be unpacked when we address the issue of the 48%. We must also put it into the proper context. How did we lose that volume? Councillor Bothma we are in 2%, in terms of maintenance, the norm is 8%. We discussed with the CFO, in the last section80 she did promise us, Honourable Speaker, that definitely even the National Treasury and the Auditor-General are raising concerns that we cannot continuously sit at 2% while the norm is 8%. We must make sure that when we deal with the budget, we increase our percentage in terms of maintenance. We know that in the last financial year we budgeted R514 million, which is not enough in terms of the infrastructure that we have. That is why we must work on and reinforce the issue of collection. That is why, Honourable Cllr Marteen on recommendation number two, leave the grammar and leave the bombastic wording that has been put there, because that bombastic wording is saying exactly what you are saying. We want to make sure that Recommendation Number Two assists us and that we make sure the implementation part of it is carried out. Thank you."

Councillor BJ Viviers clarity seeking question: "Thank you Speaker for allowing me to speak. Possibly, if I ask, because you would have heard that I made a proposal that all the questions must form part of the record that goes to National, Provincial, and I was seconded by Councillor JC Pretorius in that regard. Could you be so kind as to give us clarity in that regard? Thank you so much?"

Speaker, Councillor BL Mathae: Councillor BJ Viviers, I have been focusing, and that is why I have been able to direct discussions up to this point. That item is only for noting. It does not require approval. So, you can rather submit a formal proposal to add an additional point for noting. We will vote on it and see if it carries.

Councillor BJ Viviers: Speaker, then I will rule to say we must add a further recommendation that all the questions posed by political parties here today must form part of the recommendations that go to National Treasury, etc. will that be acceptable for you Speaker?

The voting outcome on the proposal for an additional recommendation (o) were as follows: *In favour: 25, Against: 45 and Abstain: 7*

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

After having considered the full-year budget forecast, it is therefore resolved that:

1. Council noted the report as submitted, with the following additional recommendations,

   A. That Council noted that the approved annual budget will be revised and adjusted accordingly as a result of revenue and expenditure framework full year forecast, including project performance at mid-term.

   B. That Council noted that the city has secured a full maintenance lease contract with two service providers which are aimed at ensuring that the city has adequate fleet to support the operations and demand for services, and the financial implications be considered in the adjustment budget.

   C. That Council noted the direct focus of National Treasury as per MFMA Circular 132 on new reporting protocol on mSCOA Roadmap and underline the implications of non-compliance on Equitable Share transfers in the 2026/27 MTREF.

   D. That Council noted that collection of debt will vigorously address the low collection rate and that collaboration with CENTLEC be finalized and implemented whilst all efforts will be made of ensuring that the indigent application and verification is not further delayed to protect the vulnerable and destitute households.

   E. That Council notes that in ensuring successful debt recovery, that the revised Debt Settlement Incentive Scheme will be presented in the next Council as enquiries are increasing on the policy, and indication that there are customers who want to settle their debt.

   F. That Council noted that a fully-fledged/loaded revenue enhancement programme is being developed in partnership with private sector through competitive bidding which entails meter replacement programme as part of the offering to enhance revenue generation from trading services in order to meet the conditions and commitments made in terms of water and sanitation A3 PIAP already adopted with the budget, to support the Trading Services Business Investment Plan and Business Modelling for better prospects of contributing to internally generated funds to match the USGG as per the anticipated changes in conditions of the grant framework. This will be done taking into cognizance the conditions of MFMA and guidelines as stipulated in budget circulars on revenue management.

G. That Council noted that in the adjustment budget, it will consider the unforeseen and unavoidable expenditure reported to council – Vandalized electricity infrastructure at Vista Park 3 and pursue recovery of the funds from the developer based on the current status as reported by Project Managers (CENTLEC) that the project is still work in progress and not handed over to the municipality.

H. That Council notes that the MPAC and will continue to exercise oversight on budget implementation through quarterly reports submitted to them and that investigations will continue in accordance with their terms of reference and that the Financial Disciplinary Board will be presented with reports of possible financial misconduct for confirmation.

I. That provision be made for the Financial Disciplinary Board anticipated work in quarter 3 and quarter 4.

J. That Council noted that the SDBIP will be adjusted to align the objectives, output and impact anticipated from the approved annual.

K. That Council noted that with the first-hand experience in implementing the grant in aid policy, that the policy will be revised and amended to align with the practicalities that are prevailing when dealing with the applications.

L. That Council noted that in alignment with the audit action plan, the Assets Management Policy, the Credit Control Policy and other policies that requires amendment, be amended accordingly with an in-depth analysis of the impact on the extent these will redress the findings as raised by the Auditor General.

M. That Council noted that the city is considering e-billing, e-statement and e-communication for obvious benefits and efficiencies that can be derived of speed and costs to ensure timely delivery of accounts to those with updated customer contact information enabling electronic medium communication.

N. That Council noted that due to socio-economic challenges and urgency for families to access free basic services as per the Indigent Policy, that delegations be revised to allow for immediate approval, accordingly, that the policy be amended.

6.
MID-TERM BUDGET AND ASSESSMENT REPORT

The item was discussed simultaneously with item 9.5 above.

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

RESOLVED

After having considered the full-year budget forecast, it is therefore resolved that:

1. Council noted the report as submitted, with the following additional recommendations,

(A) That Council noted that the approved annual budget will be revised and adjusted accordingly as a result of revenue and expenditure framework full year forecast, including project performance at mid-term.

(B) That Council noted that the city has secured a full maintenance lease contract with two service providers which are aimed at ensuring that the city has adequate fleet to support the operations and demand for services, and the financial implications be considered in the adjustment budget.

(C) That Council noted the direct focus of National Treasury as per MFMA Circular 132 on new reporting protocol on mSCOA Roadmap and underline the implications of non-compliance on Equitable Share transfers in the 2026/27 MTREF.

(D) That Council noted that collection of debt will vigorously address the low collection rate and that collaboration with CENTLEC be finalized and implemented whilst all efforts will be made of ensuring that the indigent application and verification is not further delayed to protect the vulnerable and destitute households.

(E) That Council notes that in ensuring successful debt recovery, that the revised Debt Settlement Incentive Scheme will be presented in the next Council as enquiries are increasing on the policy, and indication that there are customers who want to settle their debt.

(F) That Council noted that a fully-fledged/loaded revenue enhancement programme is being developed in partnership with private sector through competitive bidding which entails meter replacement programme as part of the offering to enhance revenue generation from trading services in order to meet the conditions and commitments made in terms of water and sanitation A3 PIAP already adopted with the budget, to support the Trading Services Business Investment Plan and Business Modelling for better prospects of contributing to internally generated funds to match the USGG as per the anticipated changes in conditions of the grant framework. This will be done taking into cognizance the conditions of MFMA and guidelines as stipulated in budget circulars on revenue management.

(G) That Council noted that in the adjustment budget, it will consider the unforeseen and unavoidable expenditure reported to council – Vandalized electricity infrastructure at Vista Park 3 and pursue recovery of the funds from the developer based on the current status as reported by Project Managers (CENTLEC) that the project is still work in progress and not handed over to the municipality.

(H) That Council notes that the MPAC and will continue to exercise oversight on budget implementation through quarterly reports submitted to them and that investigations will continue in accordance with their terms of reference and that the Financial Disciplinary Board will be presented with reports of possible financial misconduct for confirmation.

(I) That provision be made for the Financial Disciplinary Board anticipated work in quarter 3 and quarter 4.

(J) That Council noted that the SDBIP will be adjusted to align the objectives, output and impact anticipated from the approved annual.

(K) That Council noted that with the first-hand experience in implementing the grant in aid policy, that the policy will be revised and amended to align with the practicalities that are prevailing when dealing with the applications.

(L) That Council noted that in alignment with the audit action plan, the Assets Management Policy, the Credit Control Policy and other policies that requires amendment, be amended accordingly with an in-depth analysis of the impact on the extent these will redress the findings as raised by the Auditor General.

(M) That Council noted that the city is considering e-billing, e-statement and e-communication for obvious benefits and efficiencies that can be derived of speed and costs to ensure timely delivery of accounts to those with updated customer contact information enabling electronic medium communication.

(N) That Council noted that due to socio-economic challenges and urgency for families to access free basic services as per the Indigent Policy, that delegations be revised to allow for immediate approval, accordingly, that the policy be amended.

7.
SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025 – 2025/2026 FINANCIAL YEAR

Councillor MS Mohatle: Ke rata fela hore ke hlakise hore Supply Chain Management report ya quarter e feletseng kadi 31 tsa December e beilwe ka pele ho rona rele Ma Councillor. Se tshwanetseng hore rese etse ka report ena yeo CFO ae hlahlobisitseng aba ae shebisisa aba ae phetola, ke gore re note, mme re tswele pele ka yona jwalo kaha e beilwe, mme ho yon arena le Bid ya Evaluation Committee e shebisisang ditsitsinyo tsa hore tsohle tse ngotsweng moo, di tlatseletswe ka hare ho komiti eo e etsang Bid Evaluation Committee.

Councillor AF Bothma: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Yes, Supply Chain Management is very near to my heart because that is where things can go wrong very quickly if it goes wrong. So, I will always have to ask questions regarding supply chain management.

Regarding bid committees and procurement processes, there is one case where a committee meeting did not actually happen. I would just like to know whether there is consequence management if officials do not actually attend, because it is so crucial that all of our adjudication and permitting meetings are held.

Some procurement processes are taking up to 12 months. I actually showed you a table there, and there are some procurement processes taking up to 12 months from advertisement to adjudication. What immediate steps will be taken to enforce turnaround times? If you can recall, Speaker, in the previous meeting and actually in my speech, I made a lot of suggestions on how you can increase efficiency and decrease that time.

Regarding contract management, the figures are worrying, with contracts under management and less than 5% monitored monthly. What is the plan to ensure proper oversight and prevent cost overruns and unauthorised expenditure? Why has a standardised contract management framework not yet been implemented, and when will all departments be able to utilise it?

How will Council be assured that service providers are held accountable for underperformance, given current weak monitoring practices, particularly on inventory and asset control? The report indicates that no surpluses were identified. We would like to know, because there is a history of audit concerns, what independent verification mechanisms are being applied.

Finally, on systems integration and compliance, another matter that is very dear to me, what is the timeline for full digital integration in line with MFMA requirements, and what measures will ensure accountability and effectiveness across all departments? Will efficiencies and compliance currently be reflected in the performance agreements of senior management? It must be there and it must be monitored.

On oversight and reporting, how often will high-value and high-risk contracts be reported to Council going forward, and what enforcement mechanisms exist if departments fail to comply? Given the repeated recommendations from the Auditor-General and National Treasury, why has Council not seen sustained implementation, and what specific corrective actions will finally stabilise supply chain management in the municipality? Thank you, Speaker.

Councillor GDP Kotze ‘’But I would just like to ask the Council: Do you remember the cost containment policy that we approved last year? I hope everybody read through it, especially our Council Whip.

Mr Speaker, was prior written approval obtained from the Accounting Officer as required by the Cost Containment Policy before R106,749 was spent on catering for the Council Whip regarding event? Who approved this? What cost-benefit justification exists for spending over R100,000 on catering for a single event in a municipality that cannot deliver basic services?

Why were multiple service providers used for translation and communication for one Council sitting, and who approved this deviation despite the Cost Containment Policy requiring cost-effective communication? Mr Speaker, we spent almost R100,000 on translation services, and all of a sudden, at the end of the year, it declined by 50%. Were those payments split into two payments for one contractor? Accounting Officer, please explain why payments were split into two.

Before approving flooring costs, did the CFO formally assess cheaper alternatives and the City's cash flow position as required by the Cost Containment Policy, or did this simply not happen?

Mr Speaker, why do we need to go to Macufe, but when the Free State Arts Festival asks for a donation, it is declined? Who are we trying to impress or are taxpayers' monies already being used for campaigning for the end of this year. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Councillor M Wewege: “Freedom Front Plus seek urgent clarity on this Supply Chain Management Report for Quarter ended 31 December 2025 to safeguard taxpayers' money from further waste.

The deviations total over R700,000, with six under one reference, VEV2024/25/21, all to the same provider for firefighting equipment, extensions and supplies after claimed failed bids. Why were these repeatedly awarded to one company without evidence of those failed tenders or alternatives? Does this not risk irregular expenditure and favouritism?

The reason cited is that no bidders met minimum requirements and safety compliance needs. What exact requirements failed, and why were the specifications not revised to encourage competition instead of using extensions?

The report states that software deviations were just renewals due to financial recovery. However, the municipality remains in distress with massive irregular and wasteful expenditure as reported by the Auditor-General. How is this considered effective without exploring cheaper options?

The report refers to a detailed report that was not provided. Will the Accounting Officer table the actual average number of days from advertisement to bid evaluation committee, from closing to evaluation, and provide the shortest and longest procurement processes to prove efficiency?

Recommendation D requires the Bid Evaluation Committee to verify bidder addresses and identify fronting. Will this apply immediately to all awards, including the 77 panels and the 16 local BBBEE Level 1 claims, to avoid fronting?

With no appeals but ongoing Auditor-General concerns on irregular expenditure, what assurance can the Accounting Officer give that these processes deliver transparency and value rather than continue patterns of wasting taxpayer funds in a struggling metro? Thank you, Speaker.

Councillor M Mongale: There are 36 workers that have been appointed out of 80, and there are still 44 vacancies in Supply Chain Management, which is unacceptable. It seems like we enjoy complaining about it, but there does not seem to be any plan in terms of filling those positions.

If we are struggling to fill 44 positions, I wonder what will happen if the vacancies are 1,000. It will take us 10 years to fill them because, since we arrived here, we have been hearing the same story that there are those vacancies.

There is also training that is supposed to be completed by National Treasury, where a certain percentage of Supply Chain Management staff attended and others could not attend, although they were supposed to. I have been raising this issue to say that those who have been trained stand an unfair advantage of being eligible for promotion because they have received the necessary accreditation from National Treasury. Those who have not been trained suffer an injustice because they are not able to be accredited and therefore cannot apply for such positions.

We need staff that are motivated, and this situation might lead to labour unrest, which is unnecessary. So, I am raising this issue so that it is recorded. The City Manager, in my view, is not here, but the Executive Mayor and the Deputy Mayor are here. They must make sure that this matter is resolved this year. We are not going into 2027 with the same story that positions are vacant, training is yet to be done, and people are not being trained.

The issue of Supply Chain Management in Mangaung being dedicated to the people of Mangaung cannot be overemphasised. I think even if you disagreed in the past years, now that elections are approaching, you will agree with me because you are going to get your votes from the people of Mangaung. Therefore, you need them in this process. You cannot go to Limpopo or Gauteng and campaign for elections knowing that you will lose there. You must stay here and campaign here, so these people must be looked after.

This will also address the failure of our communities to pay for services because, once you give them economic opportunities, they will also be able to pay for services. We are also fighting unemployment and inequality at the same time.

So, I am raising this issue that it must be given the attention and urgency it deserves. I am pleading with the Executive Mayor and the Deputy Mayor to hold my hand and make sure that the people of Mangaung are not left out of this process.

Those who are working in Supply Chain Management might not have a voice. The unions might be quiet about it, perhaps because they are comfortable, but as Councillors we are not comfortable because we have agreed that employees are our most important. Therefore, we need to look after them.

I think that is our understanding. Let something be done about them. Let us not come and sit here in the next Council meeting, or perhaps in June during the budget discussions, speaking about the same issue that posts have not yet been filled and people have not yet been trained.

I know the trainers from National Treasury are not in our hands, but by making a request and trying to do something, you cannot be blamed for trying. You can be blamed for sitting and doing nothing. Thank you."

Cllr AF Bothma commented as follows: Speaker, Honourable Mayor, Councillors,

1. **Bid Committees & Procurement Process**

- Why did a Bid Adjudication Committee Meeting fail. Due to lack of quorum? And what consequences have been imposed on responsible officials?
- Why are some procurement processes taking up to 12 months from advertisement to adjudication, and what immediate steps will be taken to enforce turnaround times?

2. **Contract Management**

- With 808 contracts under management and less than 5% monitored monthly, what is the plan to ensure proper oversight and prevent cost overruns or irregular expenditure?
- Why has a standardized contract management framework not yet been implemented, and when will all departments be required to adopt uniform KPIs for project managers?
- How will Council be assured that service providers are held accountable for underperformance, given current weak monitoring practices?

Inventory & Asset Controls

- The report claims no surpluses were identified — how is Council to trust this assertion, given the municipality's history of audit concerns, and what independent verification mechanisms are in place?

Systems Integration & Compliance

- What is the timeline for full digital integration of SCM systems with mSCOA, and what measures will ensure data accuracy and efficiency across all departments?
- How are procurement efficiency and compliance currently reflected in the performance agreements of senior managers, and will non-compliance carry tangible consequences?

Oversight & Reporting

- How often will high-value and high-risk contracts be reported to Council going forward, and what enforcement mechanisms exist if departments fail to comply?

- Given the repeated recommendations from the Auditor-General and National Treasury, why has Council not seen sustained implementation, and what specific corrective actions will finally stabilize SCM in the municipality? Thank you.

Cllr GDP Kotze commented as follows:

“Speaker,

1. Was prior written approval given by the Accounting Officer, as required by the Cost Containment Policy, for the RI 06 749 catering bill for the Council Whip gardening event, or was this payment made without approval?

2. What possible cost-benefit justification exists for spending over R 100 000 on catering for a single event in a municipality that cannot deliver basic services?

3. Why were multiple service providers used for translation and communication for one Council sitting, and who approved this duplication despite the Cost Containment Policy requiring cost-effective communication?

4. Before approving MACUFE tent and flooring costs, did the CFO formally assess cheaper alternatives and the City's cash-flow position, as required by the Cost Containment Policy—or did this simply not happen? Thank you.”

Councillor M Wewege read speech as follows: “Honourable Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus seek urgent clarity on this Supply Chain Management report for quarter ended 31 December 2025 to safeguard taxpayers' money from further waste under the governing party's administration.

Seven deviations total over R700,000, with six under one reference (DEV2024/2025/21) all to the same provider, Fire Quip, for firefighting equipment extensions and supplies—after claimed failed bids. Why repeatedly award to one company without evidence of those failed tenders or alternatives? Does this not risk irregular expenditure and favouritism?

Reasons cite 'no bidders met minimum requirements' and safety compliance needs. What exact requirements failed, and why not revise specs for competition instead of extensions?

The Synapsis Software deviation (R79,563) justifies renewal due to financial recovery—yet Mangaung remains in distress with massive irregular and wasteful spending per Auditor-General reports. How is this cost-effective without exploring cheaper options?

Table 2 timelines refer to a 'detailed report' not provided. Will the Accounting Officer table actual average days from the ad to (Bid Adjudication Committee) BAC, closing to evaluation, and fastest/longest processes to prove efficiency?

Recommendation B requires Bid Evaluation Committee to verify bidder addresses and include reports. Will this apply immediately to all awards, including the 77 panels and 16 local/BBBEE Level 1 claims, to avoid fronting?

With no appeal but ongoing AG concerns on irregular expenditure, what assurance does the ANC give these processes deliver transparency and value—rather than patterns wasting taxpayers' funds in a struggling metro?”

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

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 31 December 2025.

(b) That the Bid Evaluation Committee verifies addresses of recommended bidders for the awards and include the verification report as part of their report to the Bid Adjudication Committee.

8.
COUNCILLORS AND EMPLOYEE’S SALARY DEDUCTIONS DUE TO ARREARS ON MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTS

Councillor MH Supi read speech as follows: Ke dumedisa lekgotla le tletseng kwano, ke dumedise baagi ba mnagaung, Councillor Mongale ke tshepa hore nna lwena retla dumelana mongaka hore mona ha retlo bua ka rona rele ma Councilor or rele molekgotla or ba bereki mmogo. Re keke rare baagi ba patale ditshebeletso but rona resa di patale**.** Councillors and employee salary deductions due to arrears on municipal accounts is Item 9.8 assigned to me as a Councillor in terms of the Local Government Systems Act. No 32 of 20000

In terms of the Act, staff members of the municipality may not be in arrears to the municipality for rates and services. Chances are that people tend to lower than 3 months, and it is a known fact that there was a time when we did not agree with our Council Whip on this matter. Why ba tshamekela mo cheleteng tsa rona?? What was and rere why resaye court regarding this particular matter.

The maximum period for a staff member to settle arrears will be three months. The Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy, which is a policy related to the budget and was approved along with the MTREF budget 2004/6, gives direction to the administration in terms of handling outstanding arrears belonging to Councillors and staff.

Paragraph 28 of the approved Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy deals with staff members who have municipal accounts. The policy states as follows. I just want to make the point that point number five covers the issue I am referring to.

The following should be considered in that paragraph, which has five factors, but particularly number five, which implies to salary deductions in terms of Section 102 of Schedule 2 of the Systems Act.

It states that salary deductions will be implemented on all staff members and Councillors with arrears on their accounts, irrespective of whether they have entered into an agreement or not.

The deductions referred to clause 5 above may be implemented without notice or prior warning before the salary deduction. What does it mean? Whether you agree or disagree, they will proceed with the salary deduction.

This requires Councillors to disclose their debts for the purposes of the annual financial statements. The municipality has experienced challenges with cash flow, which has had a negative effect on service delivery. Therefore, this necessitated Finance and Revenue Directorate to fully implement the municipality's approved Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy and all other relevant frameworks. A healthy cash flow is important. Whenever you contest this particular matter, investigations must first consider the powers vested in the municipality to make deductions.

It is also important for Council to note that some Councillors and employees are residing properties that are not registered in their own names in terms of the deeds register records. The 2024 financial statements are attached for your attention."

Councillor E Snyman Van Deventer read speech as follows: 'Honourable Speaker, Council is posed the solution approving the deductions of arrears on municipal accounts of Councillors and employees from their salaries. The Freedom Front Plus supports the deductions already made and the ridiculous amounts collected through these deductions.

However, the Freedom Front Plus is concerned about the small reduction in the closing arrears balance. Are all the employees and Councillors from whom these amounts are deducted paying their current accounts in full? Are all the current accounts up to date? Are any of these account holders also on the list of debtors when there are water cut-offs? Are there any steps being taken to ensure that Councillors are fully paid up by the end of the year, as many of them may not be returning after the elections? Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Councillor JM De Bruin: Thank you, Speaker. I think this one is for you. According to our Rules and Regulations, they have been broken again here in this municipality because our rules state that if you owe the municipality as a Councillor and you cannot pay it within three months, then you have committed misconduct, and it must be recorded against your name.

There are a lot of Councillors sitting here who owe a lot of money and have committed misconduct. But now the Finance Department just comes and takes our money as they want to because we are not responsible for the old debt associated with the properties we are staying in. Now we realise that we must pay the whole debt incurred by other people who stayed there before us. So, can you please bring in a new rule in Council and treat us better as Councillors and office bearers? However, we know that we are the front face of our communities and that we must pay our bills before our terms end. Therefore, can we make sure that all these Councillors sitting here are going to pay their bills, or you must take it from their pensions. Thank you, Speaker.

Speaker: This item has been sufficiently dealt with; therefore, he ruled that it has been noted accordingly.

Councillor JM De Bruin: I just heard you saying that this item is noted and that you are still going to deduct the money. So, can you please get our Finance Department to come and work with us? Can we call all Councillors together so that we can address these problems, please?

The item was for noting, the Council did not vote.

It was thereupon

RESOLVED that Council noted the Salary deduction report.

9.
REPORTING OF UNFORESEEN AND UNAVOIDABLE EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING OPTIONS IDENTIFIED

Councillor GO Van Noord read speech as follows: "Honourable Speaker, Councillors and members of the public.

This item before us asks Council to approve unforeseen and unavoidable expenditure arising from the vandalism of electricity infrastructure at the Vista Park Development.

Let me begin by recognising the importance of this project. Vista Park 3 is not just another housing development. It is a presidential catalytic project identified in collaboration with the Department of Human Settlements. It includes social housing components, notably for military veterans and communities who have already waited far too long for dignified housing.

When the municipality was placed under administration, a site inspection on 26 October 2025 revealed that the electricity infrastructure had been severely vandalised and that urgent intervention was required to make the houses habitable again. In that narrow sense, the situation clearly meets the threshold set by Section 29 of the MFMA, which allows the Executive Mayor, in emergency or exceptional circumstances, to authorise expenditure not provided for in the approved budget.

The position is that residents cannot be punished for institutional failures, and restoring electricity was unavoidable at that moment. However, Speaker, approval of this item cannot be the end of the discussion. It must be the beginning of accountability.

The first question we must ask is: Why was critical electricity infrastructure on a high-profile catalytic project allowed to be vandalised in the first place? The infrastructure is worth millions of rands and was simply left unprotected in a high-risk area. This is gross negligence and another example of a municipality that is totally out of control.

Where was site security? Who was responsible for safeguarding these assets? Why were preventative measures clearly inadequate?

Secondly, the report confirms, based on Centlec advice, that the project had not been signed off as complete. This is crucial. It means that the infrastructure was still under the responsibility of the developer, Calgro M3, at the time the damage occurred. The City is now required to be reimbursed entirely for the costs incurred in restoring the vandalised works, amounting to a whopping R3 million, which could have been applied to good effect elsewhere.

While we support steps to protect the integrity of the municipal entity, let us make the point very clear. The city must pursue full recovery of costs from the responsible developer without delay.

Council must not allow a situation where developers walk away, municipal entities are left exposed, officials get away with negligence, and ratepayers ultimately carry the financial burden of vandalism and weak contract management.

Speaker, emergency, fruitless and wasteful expenditure is not just a financial inconvenience. It is a direct attack on service delivery, on public trust and on the credibility of this Council. Every rand wasted is a rand stolen from roads, clinics, water systems and housing. It delays progress, erodes confidence and leaves our residents paying the price for failures they did not cause.

Emergency expenditure must never become a convenient cover for poor planning, weak oversight or failed security arrangements. Section 29 of the MFMA is an exception, not a routine mechanism.

The impact of such expenditure is far-reaching. Funds that could have been used to repair roads, water and other infrastructure are lost. Public trust in Council's ability to manage resources responsibly is diminished. Financial instability is worsened because wasteful spending weakens our fiscal position, limiting our ability to respond to emergencies and invest in long-term development. Every unnecessary expense represents a lost opportunity to uplift our people, create jobs and improve living conditions.

This is not just a financial issue; it is a moral one. We are entrusted with public funds, and it is our duty to ensure that every cent is spent wisely, transparently and for the benefit of our residents. Accountability must therefore be the cornerstone of our governance.

The DA therefore calls for:

- A full report on the security failures at Vista Park 3;
- A full report on the negligence by the municipality to properly manage this grant-funded project responsibly, including consequence management to be implemented;
- Clear timelines for recovering costs from Calgro M3; and
- Firm assurances that similar projects will not be left vulnerable to vandalism while residents wait in limbo.

We do not oppose this expenditure because it is needed to protect residents and restore services. We do, however, insist on accountability, consequence management and financial discipline. Those responsible must face consequences because, without consequences, management and accountability are meaningless. That is what the law requires, and that is what residents deserve.

Councillor M Wewege read speech as follows: "Speaker, Honourable Mayor and fellow Councillors. The Freedom Front Plus welcomes any effort to restore essential infrastructure for vulnerable communities, especially the 30 military veterans' houses in Vista Park 3 that were ready for handover but were delayed due to the vandalism of electrical assets.

However, this report on unforeseen and unavoidable expenditure under Section 29 of the MFMA raises serious concerns for ratepayers and good governance.

Firstly, there is a clear dispute. Centlec insists that the project was never signed off as complete and therefore remains the developer's responsibility. Yet we are now asked to reimburse Centlec approximately R9,3 million from our maintenance budget, funds that could otherwise support struggling residents.

The asset is still listed as work in progress in the recent audited financial statements. So, why are we funding restorative maintenance on something that is not formally ours? If the insurance claim fails, and it appears to be at risk because the asset is not in use, who bears the loss?

The Executive Mayor, Councillor GMS Nthatisi authorised this under emergency powers on or around October 2025, but Council is only now receiving the full report in January 2026. We need clarity. Was the authorisation properly documented, and does this amount stay within any prescribed limits for such expenditure?

Practically, the report refers the matter to the Engineering Council of South Africa to arbitrate the sign-off dispute. What is the current status and expected timeline? Without ECSA's ruling, we risk paying out prematurely and only pursuing recovery later if it is determined that the developer is liable.

Further vandalism remains a threat. Recommendation D calls for safeguarding action by the responsible party. Who is that

party today? What immediate steps, whether fencing, patrols or other measures, have been budgeted to protect this and other extensions?

Finally, Recommendation E demands a detailed investigation into the takeover of services and custodianship. When will Council receive that report, and who will lead it?

Mr Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus cannot support blanket approval without these answers. We request that the administration table written responses to these points, including Annexure E-D progress on the ECSA process and the insurance status before any vote on the adjustment budget in February.

Ratepayers deserve assurance that public funds are protected, accountability is enforced, and veterans receive their homes without further delay. Thank you."

The Deputy Executive Mayor, Councillor LM Titi-Odili: "This budget was for three spheres of government. It was no longer only a national government project.

All spheres of government, two of them being local and provincial government, and the national government were part of this project.

Remember, the same land is the land of the municipality, and the national government gave us a grant through Human Settlements to make sure that we are doing infrastructure in that area, which we have done.

The vandalism, Honourable Speaker, is something that even if we have security, people plan for something and end up doing it. Centlec assessed the houses and found that, before they could be handed over to the beneficiaries, there had been a certain level of vandalism to the electrical wiring.

When we are giving people their houses, definitely the electricity must be there. This money can be accounted for, but it is just that the processes, in terms of the Supply Chain processes, were not done the way they were supposed to be done. I think that is why it is called unforeseen and unavoidable expenditure, Honourable Speaker.

As we speak, they are inside the houses, and they have electricity. It was our responsibility that we give Centlec that money and must be reimbursed, like the money that they used to make sure that they restored the electricity in that area.

Our people are happy, and we must make sure that the investigation is done in terms of making sure that the sign-off of the project is done correctly and why it took time to be done.

Recommendation E is there to make sure that even if we approve this item, certain processes must be followed. If we find something that requires a disciplinary hearing or some other action, then definitely action must be taken.

That is why this report has been brought here. It has to be open to Councillors and the community of Mangaung.

Honourable Speaker, we are supporting this item, and we are requesting that this item be noted and approved. Thank you very much."

Cllr CL Bouwer commented as follows: Honourable Speaker, Councillors, and Members of the Public. This item before us asks Council to approve unforeseen and unavoidable expenditure arising from the vandalism of electricity infrastructure at the Vista Park 3 Development.

Let us begin by recognizing the importance of this project. Vista Park 3 is not just another housing development — it is a Presidential catalytic project, identified in collaboration with the Department of Human Settlements. It includes social housing components, notably for Military Veterans, communities who have already waited far too long for dignified housing.

When the handover date approached, the municipality was placed under immense pressure. The site inspection on 26 October 2026 revealed that the electricity infrastructure had been severely vandalized, and urgent intervention was required to make the houses habitable again.

In that narrow sense, the situation clearly meets the threshold set by Section 29 of the MFMA, which allows the Executive mayor, in emergency or exceptional circumstances, to authorize expenditure not provided for in the approved budget.

The opposition accepts that residents cannot be punished for institutional failures, and restoring electricity was unavoidable at that moment. But, Speaker, approval of this item cannot be the end of the discussion — it must be the beginning of accountability.

The first question we must ask is: how was critical electricity infrastructure, on a high-profile catalytic project allowed to be vandalized in the first place? The infrastructure is worth millions of rands and was just left unprotected in a high-risk area; this is pure gross negligence and another example of a municipality totally out of control. Where was site security? Who was responsible for safeguarding these assets? And why were preventative measures so clearly inadequate?

Secondly, the report confirms, based on CENTLECs advice that the project has not been signed off as complete. This is crucial. It means the infrastructure was still under the responsibility of the developer, Calgro M3 / PZR, at the time the damage occurred. The City is now required to reimburse CENTLEC for the costs incurred in restoring the vandalized works, a whopping 9 comma 3 million Rands (R9 362 291, 70) which could have been applied to good effect elsewhere.

While we support this step to protect the integrity of the municipal entity, we stress this point very clearly: the City must pursue full cost recovery from the developer responsible without delay.

Council must not allow a situation where developers walk away, municipal entities are left exposed, officials get away with negligence, and ratepayers ultimately carry the financial burden of vandalism and weak contract management.

Speaker, emergency fruitless and wasteful expenditure is not just a financial inconvenience — it is a direct attack on service delivery, on public trust, and on the credibility of this Council. Every rand wasted is a rand stolen from roads, clinics, water systems, and housing. It delays progress, erodes confidence, and leaves our residents paying the price for failures they did not cause.

Emergency expenditure must never become a convenient cover for poor planning, weak oversight, or failed security arrangements. Section 29 of the MFMA is an exception — not a routine mechanism.

The impact of such expenditure is far-reaching:

- Service delivery delays: Funds that could have been used to repair roads, maintain water systems, or improve sanitation are instead lost.

- Erosion of public trust: Communities lose confidence in the Council's ability to manage resources responsibly.

- Financial instability: Wasteful spending weakens our fiscal position, limiting our ability to respond to emergencies or invest in long-term development.

- Opportunity cost: Every unnecessary expense means missed opportunities to uplift our people, create jobs, and improve living conditions. This is not just a financial issue—it is a moral one. We are entrusted with public funds, and it is our duty to ensure that every cent is spent wisely, transparently, and for the benefit of our residents. Accountability must therefore be the cornerstone of our governance.

The DA therefore calls for:

- A full report on security failures at Vista Park 3,
- A full report on the negligence by the Metro to properly manage this grant funded project responsibly, including the consequence management to be implemented.
- Clear timelines for recovering costs from Calgro M3 / PZR,
- And firm assurances that similar projects will not be left vulnerable to vandalism while residents wait in limbo.

We will not oppose necessary expenditure to protect residents and restore services. But we will insist on accountability, consequence management, and financial discipline. Those responsible must face consequences, because without consequence management, accountability is meaningless. That is what the law requires. That is what residents deserve. I thank you."

Council voted as follows: 67 in favour, 0 against and 6 abstained.

It was thereupon

RESOLVED that:

a) Council took note of the report on the unforeseen and unavoidable expenditure in terms of Section 29 of the MFMA.

b) Council took note and approved the expenditure that will be funded from the Maintenance budget, Vote number: 1443228361018P05ZZ11 to be created (GL structure has CAPEX Vote for CENTLEC) from the 2025/26 financial year budget to the amount of R9 362 291,70. to be approved in the adjustment budget.

c) CENTLEC submits invoices to the city for purposes of payment against the vote number which will be allocated funds through the adjustment budget in February 2026.

d) Possible action be taken to safeguard the development by the responsible party to prevent further vandalism.

e) A detailed investigation be conducted to determine if the take-over of services has been signed for purposes of establishing ownership and custodianship of the Vista Park 3 Electrical Infrastructure within the completed extensions of the township in alignment with the terms and conditions of the township establishment.

10.

APPROVAL OF THE POLICY ON IDENTIFICATION AND PREVENTION OF UNAUTHORISED, IRREGULAR, FRUITLESS AND WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE

Councillor GDP Kotze read speech as follows: Honourable Speaker, this item placed before us is yet another policy for dealing with unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, a matter that lies at the centre of Mangaung's financial collapse.

For years, this municipality has produced reports on UIFW expenditure. The amounts are shocking, yet very little changes on the ground. Infrastructure continues to fail, creditors go unpaid, and residents receive less and less value for their rates and taxes.

This policy correctly acknowledges that Mangaung has for too been long focused on identifying UIFW expenditure after the fact. It aligns with the MFMA and National Treasury directives, and it places emphasis on prevention, investigations, recovery of losses and consequence management. These principles are necessary. They are long overdue.

However, Speaker, Council must be honest with itself. Mangaung does not suffer from a shortage of policies, legislation or frameworks. We already have the MFMA, Supply Chain Management Regulations, Financial Misconduct Regulations, MPAC, Internal Audit and the Auditor-General. Yet UIFW expenditure has continued to grow.

Let us confront the truth. The crisis is not a policy gap. It is an enforcement failure. No policy, no matter how well written, will curb UIFW unless there is political and administrative will to act.

This policy will only succeed if officials who violate financial controls are disciplined without fear or favour, losses are actively recovered from those responsible, deviations and direct payments are stopped and not normalised, MPAC is allowed to function independently, and the Chairperson and not the Head of Department is not for purpose to take on take on UIFW and Council refuses to continue, authorising and writing off unauthorised expenditure as if it is.

The Democratic Alliance supports measures that strengthen financial discipline and protect public funds. But we place it firmly on record today: we will measure this policy by outcomes, not intentions.

We expect to see fewer deviations, fewer unauthorised expenditures, real consequence management, real recoveries and a demonstrable reduction in UIFW expenditure, not another cycle of reports without accountability.

The Democratic Alliance and the people do not trust the Executive Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, the MMCs and none of the Section 56 managers. They have been failing for the past three years. Mangaung does not need another document to manage decline. It needs decisive action.

I urge residents to vote the ANC out in the coming elections. Thank you, Speaker."

Councillor CL Bouwer read speech as follows: "Thank you, Speaker, fellow Councillors and the people of Mangaung at large. We are crying at the funeral, or so we hope, the correct funeral. This strategy seeks to address the recurring issues as we are deliberating on the report dated 16 February 2025 and submitted by the CFO and approved by the City Manager, dealing with unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, or UIFW as mentioned.

Let us be honest and bluntly clear from the onset. This report confirms that the municipality has incurred material unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure even after the Auditor-General's report last year. This is not a technical issue. This is a serious failure of good governance, oversight and consequence management, and that was pointed out more than a year ago. Whether there were around four Councillors or not, the cry was there. The phrase should actually be read as follows: there is a lack of consequence management due to political interference, which is crippling administrative work. Political interference impedes proper oversight as intended by the MFMA and the Act, which overrides a municipal policy.

MPAC should and could have provided this Council with firm recommendations rooted in proper consequence management that should result in good governance taking action. It is said that unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure should be zero. Zero. Not reduced, not explained away, and not undermined once again, if done so. It undermines not only us as Council, but also the residents of Mangaung. It should be zero. The target will not be achieved by reports alone. It does not just require the insertion of wording such as proper systems, disciplinary boards, workshops, investigations, documentation or policy and labelling it as a strategy. No. It requires implementation and leadership, not administrative favour, but good governance. Only then will this municipality be fruitful in achieving its goal.

The MFMA is very clear, and the Auditor-General has been explicit on this matter. Where UIFW occurs, there must be proper identification and prevention. It has been identified, but no proper administration or prevention has been done. There must be full and timeous reporting, which has not been done, and proper investigation, which seems to be hindered again. There must be clear findings, which we now have, but they are not firmly addressed. Specific disciplinary recommendations to Council for each individual case should be made. Anything less is non-compliant, and the AG will simply come back next year and repeat its findings.

The municipality cannot claim a lack of capacity. What capacity are we lacking, and what are we referring to? Is the Accounting Officer not qualified or experienced enough to do the work? Are the government officials and department heads not qualified or experienced enough to do their work? We already have structures in place, Honourable Speaker. We have MPAC and a disciplinary board, both of which are mandated to investigate and oversee unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure and make recommendations to this Council. So the question is not whether we have a strategy in place. The question is why committees are not allowed to do their work effectively, and the answer is political interference in administration and abuse of authority.

Our Accounting Officer and all other administrative heads must implement the policy. Politicians' role extends only to proposing and adopting a policy and then holding the administration accountable for implementing it.

Speaker, responsibility for failure cannot be outsourced or delegated away. The Accounting Officer must take full ownership of this strategy. Leadership means implementing the policy and then being held accountable for the extent to which the policy is implemented. Furthermore, all processes described by the AG must be strictly applied. UIFW expenditure cannot simply be written off, condoned informally, or remain in the register year after year. Only once proper processes are followed can matters be lawfully cleared from the UIFW register.

The opposition therefore warns this Council that if UIFW continues to be treated as a compliance exercise rather than a governance document, this municipality will remain trapped in repeat audit findings, financial instability and declining public trust.

As we reiterate, our support for this UIFW strategy does not mean that we totally agree with what is on paper. We will only agree once consequence management, transparency and unwavering leadership take place. Council owes the residents nothing less. Cllr De Kock you shared a quote with us today stating that one cannot change the past but without consequence action, this current Metro's administration has made the past AG report worse."

Councillor B Vorster read speech: "The Freedom Front Plus takes note of the UIF&W Policy before Council today. However, we want to make it clear from the outset that this matter does not suffer from a lack of policies. It suffers from a lack of implementation, accountability, political courage and willingness. Year after year, Council is presented with reports detailing reckless and wasteful expenditure. Year after year, the figures grow, and year after year, very few, if any, officials are held accountable.

This policy exists precisely because this Metro has failed, repeatedly, to protect public money. The objective of achieving zero UIF&W expenditure by June 2027 is commendable. But, Honourable Speaker, targets on paper mean absolutely nothing if the same officials who presided over financial collapse are now expected to police themselves. The Freedom Front Plus wants to know what will be different this time.

The policy clearly states that unauthorised expenditure results from overspending or ignoring Council-approved budgets. This is not an accident; it is a failure of management. Irregular expenditure does not happen by chance. It happens when legislation is ignored, supply chain rules are deliberately bypassed, and fruitless and wasteful expenditure is the result of negligence, poor planning, or outright disregard for consequences. Yet, too often, these are treated as administrative errors instead of what they really are: financial misconduct.

This policy correctly places responsibility on the Accounting Officer and senior management, but Council must understand its own oversight role. We are not spectators. We are not here to rubber-stamp reports that simply recommend losses be written off while residents sit without reliable services.

The Freedom Front Plus will not support a routine write-off of these expenditures. Where there is clear evidence of negligence, recklessness or non-compliance, writing off losses without consequence is not oversight, Honourable Speaker; it is enabling failure.

The strategy rightly emphasises consequence management. But consequence management does not mean endless investigations that lead nowhere. It means disciplinary action that actually happens, recovery of money from those responsible, and criminal charges where the law has been broken. Anything less is a betrayal of the MFMA and the residents who fund this Metro through rates and taxes.

Supply Chain Management remains the single biggest risk area in the Metro. Deviations, emergency procurement and contract extensions have become the rule rather than the exception. The Freedom Front Plus is warning today that if SCM abuse continues unchecked, no policy will save this Metro from further collapse.

Council must receive quarterly, measurable reports not vague assurances on UIF&W reductions, officials disciplined, funds recovered, and criminal cases opened.

Honourable Speaker, the residents of Mogalakwena are tired of policies, plans and promises. They want accountability. They want consequences. They want assurance that public money is no longer treated as disposable.

The Freedom Front Plus will support this policy but will both expose and challenge any attempt to dilute consequence management or protect those responsible for financial misconduct. Council must decide today whether this plan marks a turning point or will simply become another chapter in the Metro's long history of financial failure.

Councillor SQ Peter read speech: Thank you, Speaker. I think, as we have heard this morning, I only need to indicate that the Office of the Auditor-General has mentioned a few things that the City is battling with regarding unauthorised expenditure, mainly arising from deviations from legislation and financial management requirements over previous financial years up to date. The City therefore found it necessary to come forward with this policy.

Honourable Councillors will recall that sometime around November and December last year, National Treasury also made comments regarding UIFW. At one point, we were informed that if we did not come up with a strategy or policy to reduce this expenditure, we might be at risk of losing our equitable share tranche, including the December tranche and the March 2027 tranche.

As a result, the Executive and the Administration found it necessary to introduce a preventative mechanism in order to reduce and prevent UIF&W expenditure. I must also indicate that we know, in the past, Councillors have expressed the view that introducing another strategy or policy would mean the same thing because the same offences continue to happen. However, I must indicate that this time the matter will be dealt with differently.

If you look at page 2 of the report, you will see a number of changes that will be implemented. For example, Honourable Speaker, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer and the City Manager will ensure that all Heads of Department take responsibility, especially regarding expenditure against the line items and budget votes allocated to them.

In this case, there are a number of things that have not been working. However, we need to approve this policy so that, at the very least, we are able to address and deal with the issues that were also raised by the Auditor-General. I know Councillors have indicated that our UIFW register is very large, and it is frustrating. As a result, we are working towards reducing it and improving the situation. Hence, we are bringing this item before Council. With those words, Honourable Speaker, we ask for the indulgence of Council to approve this policy."

Councillor DJ De-Huis read speech: "From the EFF perspective, this is not a technical policy. It is a political statement on whether this municipality is prepared to defend public money or continue to normalise financial leakages as an administrative inconvenience. This policy represents a necessary shift away from a culture of managing findings towards a culture of preventing losses, enforcing responsibility, and recovering public funds.

The purpose of this policy is clear and correct:

- To strengthen the hand of the Accounting Officer and the Executive Mayor to prevent unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure before it happens;
- To ensure the proper investigation of all incidents;
- To enforce consequence management through disciplinary processes; and
- To break the cycle of recurring audit findings.

Honourable Speaker, the EFF supports the policy's emphasis on prevention rather than damage control. However, Honourable Speaker, where there is misconduct or deliberate abuse of public funds, disciplinary and criminal processes must follow, regardless of position or political protection. Public money is not a private resource.

Legally, the policy is sound. It is grounded in the MFMA, National Treasury Regulations, and the constitutional principles of accountability and transparency. It does not create new costs; it simply demands that existing structures perform their responsibilities. The real test, however, will not be its approval but its implementation. The EFF supports the approval of this policy and also supports the recommendation for comprehensive workshops across all directorates and Council structures.

This policy must not become another document that sits on the shelf while irregular expenditure continues unchecked. It must live in active practice, not merely on paper. Honourable Speaker, in closing, the EFF will support this policy so that the municipality can function effectively.

Council voted *unanimously.*

It was thereupon

RESOLVED that

1. Council approved the Policy.

2. That workshop be conducted with all directorates to create awareness including the whips of various Section 80 Committees and MMCs.

11.
UNAUTHORISED, IRREGULAR, FRUITLESS AND WASTEFUL STRATEGY

The item was discussed simultaneously with item 9.10 above.

It was thereupon

RESOLVED

1. That Council approved the Unauthorised, Irregular, Fruitless and Wasteful Strategy.

2. That the Unauthorised, Irregular, Fruitless and Wasteful Strategy be referred to Municipal Public Accounts Committee for implementation.

12.
SUBMISSION OF UNAUTHORIRISED, IRREGULAR, FRUITLESS AND WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE (UIFW) FOR QUARTER 1

Councillor MH Supi read speech: "The item that has been approved by this Council coincides with this particular item, numbers 912 and 913, and what it covers. Nonetheless, Speaker, regarding the submission of Unauthorised, Irregular, Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure (UIF&W) for Quarter 1, Council has approved policies that define the process for the identification and prevention of UIF&W. It is in accordance with the policy that this report is submitted for Council to note the UIF register for Quarter 1 of the 2025/2026 financial year and that the reported UIF&W be referred to MPAC for investigation and reporting back to Council on the findings.

Of importance to this Council, Speaker, is Section 32 of the MFMA, which requires that Unauthorised, Irregular, Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure be investigated. Depending on the outcome of the investigation, which has to be conducted by MPAC, Council may resolve to recover the financial loss from both Councillors and officials involved in the matter.

Point 2 of the recommendations is that the powers and responsibilities be delegated to MPAC to investigate.

Quarter 2 of the report contains the definitions of expenditure. Unauthorised expenditure is expenditure incurred in contravention of Section 15 or Section 11(3). Irregular expenditure is expenditure incurred in contravention of the MFMA and its regulations, which refers to non-compliance, while Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure is expenditure incurred in vain. National Treasury, through Circular No. 68, has prescribed the format of the UIF register. Therefore, the recommendation is the same as for Quarter 1."

Councillor LW Lekgetho: "As Councillor MH Supi has alluded, what we need to add is to say the Municipal Financial Management Act, no 56 of 2003, with its framework and financial statements require us as the Municipality to identify a report occurrence of Unauthorised, Irregular, Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure on a quarterly basis.

The National Treasury continue to communicate the challenges as highlighted on the Auditor-General report on the UIF&W, our policy which we just pass of the policy and strategy give us as Councillor to note and refer both report of Quarter 1 and 2 to MPAC for investigation and bring it back to Council in a report format, 'We as the ANC support the recommendations as they are, and ask the Council to support it. Thank you, Speaker."

Councillor TB Van Der Walt read speech: It is a good experience that on one end, I am thankful that you will know that we wrote to you on 6th November last year and one of the things that we asked for was that UIFW must be identified and reported to MPAC during the year, not just at the end of the year, so that is progress that we can be glad for. But, Speaker, the Auditor-General has been unequivocal. Unauthorized, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure in the municipality persists because investigations are delaying consequence management this week and UIFW is allowed recur without deterrent, with any systemic changes.

Against that background, the quarter 1 and Quarter 2 UIFW reports before Council are deeply concerned. Not because they are submitted now for the first time, but because they confirm that UIFW continues to arise, well at least that identified, mainly from interest on late payments and court orders.

Failures that are entirely preventable. Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure on quarter 15, 06, with no unauthorized or irregular expenditure reported in either quarter, which is simply impossible and shows there are still no systems in place to prevent and identify Unauthorized and Irregular Expenditure. These expenditures identified are not historical legacies, they are current year failures of cash flow management, contract management and compliance.

What makes this moment unique is the Council just approved revised the UIFW strategy and policy that introduces some stronger ground rules. Clear investigation timelines, defined accountability, inclusion of performance measurement of senior management of UIFW indicators, escalation mechanisms and tighter alignment with the MFMA financial misconduct regulations.

This policy removes the excuse of the process is still underway. But, Speaker, if we fail to address the UIFW with the urgency it demands, we place the municipality at real risk of further fiscal intervention, including the potential withholding of the future equitable share tranches.
That would not only collapse already fragile finances in Mangaung, but directly accelerate the collapse of basic services.

Council has a responsibility to ensure that MPAC and Chairperson in his absence today is firing on all cylinders every single day, enforcing consequence management, closing UIFW cases of the incomplete and reporting outcomes, not merely tracking amounts. We support the referral of these reports to MPAC, but with a clear expectation that investigations must be concluded, responsibility assigned, and recoveries or disciplinary outcomes reported back to Council with an enforceable framework. With the help of the Accounting Officer and the CFO by providing the necessary documentation at all times. Anything less would perpetuate the very failure of which the Auditor-General warned us about and continue to undermine basic service delivery."

Councillor KC Moreeng read speech: "Clarity Seeking Questions,

On Interest Payments

- Why were payments to Eskom and Benedemodderrivier consistently late, resulting in repeated interest charges?
- What systemic issue in cash flow or approvals caused these delays?
- Who was responsible for authorizing or delaying these payments?

On Court Orders & Writs

- What specific cases (e.g., 3868/23, 4881/24) led to multimillion-rand writs?
- Were these avoidable through earlier compliance or settlement?
- Which officials failed to act, leading to escalation into court orders?
- Why are some writs duplicated with adjustments (e.g., entry 26 vs 27 shows reversal of R100,487.02)?

On Vote Number Errors

- How did incorrect vote numbers (entry 17) slip through financial controls?
- What internal checks failed to detect misallocation before payment?
- Has corrective training or system tightening been implemented?

On Bank Adjustments

- Why were multiple bank adjustments (entries 28-32) recorded as fruitless expenditure?
- Were these errors in reconciliation, or actual financial losses?
- Who authorized these adjustments, and what corrective action is planned?

On Accountability & Recovery

- Which officials or Councillors are liable for each incident, and why are names missing in the register?
- Has MPAC initiated disciplinary or recovery processes (UI, DP, CC, TR, WO columns are blank)?
- What is the timeline for reporting back to Council with findings?
- How much of the R15 million is realistically recoverable, and how much is likely to be written off?

On Preventive Measures

- What reforms are being implemented to prevent recurring interest charges and writs?
- Is there a cash flow management plan to ensure Eskom and service providers are paid on time?
- How will Council ensure early detection of cases before they escalate into costly writs?

Councillor VB De Kock read speech: The UIFW reports for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 point to serious governance weaknesses. These are not just accounting figures - they reflect public money lost due to poor decisions, non-compliance, and weak internal controls. Council must ensure accountability and stop these losses from repeating.

Firstly -Court cases and Legal Matters:

How much of the fruitless and wasteful expenditure in these two quarters is linked to legal fees, court judgments, or settlements? And which departments' decisions led to these matters ending up in court?

Secondly – Preventability

How many of these legal costs resulted from avoidable failures such as unlawful decisions, SCM non-compliance, or not following proper procedures?

Thirdly – Supply Chain Management non-compliance:

What portion of the irregular expenditure arises from Supply Chain process failures, and are the same compliance issues recurring across both quarters?

Fourth – Contract and Financial Management:

How much UIFW resulted from interest on late payments, penalties, cancelled projects, or poor contract oversight? What controls are now in place to stop this pattern?

Fifth – Labour Disputes:

How much UIFW relates to CCMA cases, Labour Court matters, or employment settlements, and has any accountability followed where the municipality was at fault?

Sixth – Consequence Management

Of all UIF&W cases in Quarter l and Quarter 2, how many are under formal investigation, and in how many cases is recovery from responsible officials being pursued in terms of MFMA Section 32?

Lastly – Repeat findings:

Which UIFW categories appear in both quarters, showing ongoing governance failures, and when will Council receive a corrective action plan with firm deadlines?

Chairperson, these reports must be a turning point. If we do not fix the root causes especially legal missteps, SCM failures, and lack of accountability - we will keep losing money meant for service delivery. Thank you."

Councillor PE Makau read speech: "Honourable Councillors and Community of Mangaung. The Council was seized with the submission of the UIFW Register for Quarter 2 of the 2025/2026 financial year. The report was not merely a compliance document but a reflection of the state of financial discipline in the Municipality and a test of whether Council is prepared to confront financial misconduct head-on.

In line with the MFMA and Council's UIFW Policy, the submission places on record expenditure incurred during Quarter 2 that qualified as unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure. He noted that there is no unauthorised or irregular expenditure, the figure is financially, and politically alarming Unauthorised Expenditure is 0, Irregular Expenditure 0, but Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure amounting to R15 million had been reported.

He expresses concern that, despite the absence of unauthorised and irregular expenditure, the Municipality had incurred R15 million in fruitless and wasteful expenditure while struggling to deliver basic services to its citizens.

He submits that Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure results from poor planning, weak management and failure to act on time. He further stated that every rand lost to penalties, interest and avoidable costs is money taken away from service delivery and from the poor.

He notes that Section 32 of the MFMA requires UIFW expenditure to be investigated and that Council had to determine whether losses should be recovered or written off. He emphasised that writing off expenditure should be the exception and not become a culture. The EFF support for the referral of the matter to MPAC, supported by an independent Technical Committee, and stated that oversight must be objective and free from political interference. He further indicated that Council cannot investigate itself and expect credibility. He further stressed that investigations without consequences meant nothing and that, where negligence or misconduct is established, recovery processes and disciplinary action must follow without hesitation.

The EFF emphasize that persistent occurrence of fruitless and wasteful expenditure reflect the same weaknesses identified by the Auditor-General year after year and that, unless Council decisively implemented audit recommendations, such figures will continue to increase quarter after quarter. The EFF support the recommendations to note the UIFW Register for Quarter 2 of the 2025/2026 financial year and to refer all reported UIFW matters to MPAC for investigation and reporting back to Council.

In conclusion, he states that noting was not accountability, that public money must be protected, officials must be held accountable, and financial misconduct must have consequences. The EFF support the submission and will closely monitor the outcomes of the investigation.

Speaker, Councillor BL Mathae: The Quarter One and Two reports is submitted for noting and further referred to the MPAC for further investigation and to be considered by this house. Whilst that he also requests that they note the questions that have been raised, so in the next meeting they will provide written responses to those questions.

The item was for noting, the Council did not vote.

It was thereupon

RESOLVED that Council:

1. Took note of the UIFW Register for Quarter 1 of 2025/26.

2. That the reported UIFW be referred to MPAC for investigation and reporting back to Council on the findings.

13.

SUBMISSION OF UNAUTHORIRISED, IRREGULAR, FRUITLESS AND WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE (UIFW) FOR QUARTER 2

The item was discussed simultaneously with item 9.12 above.

It was thereupon

RESOLVED that Council:

1. Took note of the UIFW Register for Quarter 2 of 2025/26.

2. That the reported UIFW be referred to MPAC for investigation and reporting back to Council on the findings.

14.
AUDIT ACTION PLAN 2024/2025 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Speaker Councillor BL Mathae afforded an opportunity to Councillor MM Tladi to chair the Council meeting.

Councillor AF Bothma read speech: "As a matter of fact, the audit action plan is very much dear to me because this is where we can see if we are going to fail or proceed. On the annual audit, there are a few questions that I need to ask.

Firstly, on the overall audit action plan and accountability, can the Accounting Officer agree that the audit action plan must be treated as a genuine recovery plan rather than a compliance exercise? What mechanisms will ensure that it is implemented municipality-wide?

Secondly, which departments are formally assigned ownership of each risk finding, and how will Council monitor accountability?

Thirdly, on our high-risk areas highlighted by the Auditor-General, why do qualifications persist in areas such as overtime commitments, service delivery, asset employment, and water losses despite previous audit recommendations?

What specific corrective measures are in place to address repeated irregularities related to contract extensions, variation orders, and Section 33 MFMA compliance?

On oversight and monitoring, when will a monitoring dashboard be operational, and how will it ensure that Council and the Section 80 Finance Committee are consistently informed?

I just want a list. When can we have a full-blown UIFW register where we can actually monitor who is going to do what? How frequently will the dedicated audit action team meet, and what powers will it have to resolve challenges across departments promptly?

Administratively, what steps will the City Manager and political leadership take to enforce accountability when departments miss deadlines or fail to implement corrective actions? We have to have deadlines, and we need to monitor those.

How will Council ensure that the audit action plan is not treated as a year-end reporting exercise but as a continuous governance tool?

On reporting, will quarterly progress reports include verifiable evidence for all resolved findings, and can Council confirm that these meet the Auditor-General's standards?

What consequences will there be for departments that do not comply, and especially, how will these findings deliver measurable improvements?
Lastly, will the audit action plan be an integral part of the audit file that must be presented to the Auditor-General at the start of his annual audit? Thank you very much, Speaker."

Councillor BJ Viviers on a point of order: Because Madam Speaker, we have elected you. However, unfortunately, our Standing Rules and Orders state the following:

"19.1: If the Speaker of the Council is absent or not available to perform his or her functions, or during a vacancy, the Council must elect another Councillor to act as the Speaker, and the Acting Speaker shall chair the Council."

So, I can live with our speaker being present. He is not absent, but you are leading the meeting now. Therefore, sorry, Madam, I cannot call you the Speaker. Thank you."

Councillor MM Tladi remarked: "Honourable Councillor BJ Viviers, at least you respected me. When you were speaking to me, you stood up, and that is highly appreciated.

I am going to request the Chairperson of Rules and Orders to respond to that matter for me. Please respond in terms of Rule 19.2 of the Standing Rules and Orders. Thank you."

Councillor TKW Mokgothu: "Thank you very much Honourable Chair. Rule 19.2 on the current Standing Rules and Orders that are currently implementable, and operational, it says the Speaker must allocate functions and responsibilities to the Section 79 communities Chairpersons including municipal Account Chairperson. This includes presiding over certain Section or items of the Council agenda. If, for whatever reasons, the Speaker is incapacitated to do so, therefore, this Rule applies now."

Councillor MM Tladi: Councillor BJ Viviers, your point of order is dismissed. I am tempted to say with cost, and you should be careful that I am the Chairperson of Remuneration and Benefits, if there are cost, I am the one who is going to cost that. (On a lighter note)

Councillor BJ Viviers: I can see no reason, looking at the Structures Act, and that is the point I am trying to illustrate, my Chair, I know the Rule. But there is our Speaker for Council, there is no problem that the Deputy Chairperson continue but you not going to convince me that I must call her a speaker.

Councillor TK Rammile read speech: 'Honourable Speaker, Executive Mayor, fellow colleagues, the people of Mangaung. We are presented with an audit plan, action plan that highlights 108 qualified matters and 234 other important matters.

In the spirit of accountability and constructive oversight, the Democratic Alliance rises to pose the following clarity-seeking questions.

Now, on audit qualification, what concrete steps are being taken to ensure unstructured overtime is properly recorded, verified and reported before the next audit?

How will the contracts register be reconciled monthly, and who will be held accountable to variances between tender awards and contract records?

What corrective measures are in place to align township establishment, water meter installations, and building processes so that all property owners are equitably charged?

When will the conditional assessment of sanitation plants and water meters be completed, and how will these findings be reflected in the asset register?

What methodology will be applied to recalculate water losses to prevent overstated figures and ensure billing accuracy?

Now, on broader audit findings, with 342 findings in total, how will management prioritize which issues are addressed first?

Which findings pose the highest risk of regressing if not adequately resolved?

How will Council and the public be updated on progress? Will there be monthly scorecards or quarterly reports?

What mechanisms will prevent repeat findings, especially in areas like contract management and service charges?

Now, on strategic risk, how will the municipality investigate and correct the 42 material irregularities identified?

And what sanctions are planned for responsible officers and officials?

Given the 56 IT governance findings, what roadmap exists to strengthen information systems and controls?

How will governance weaknesses be addressed to restore trust and ensure compliance with MFMA provisions?

Now, the last one, on oversight and transparency.

How frequently will Council receive updates on the implementation of this audit action plan?

Will the municipality commit to publishing public progress bulletins so that the communities can track delivery and accountability?

How will Section 131 compliance be monitored to ensure both the Executive Mayor and Accounting Officer fulfil these obligations?

Honourable Speaker, these questions are aimed at seeking clarity and ensuring that this Council moves from noting reports to demanding measurable results. Thank you, Speaker."

The Deputy Executive Mayor, Councillor LM Titi-Odili: "The item that has been approved by this Council coincides with this particular item, numbers 912 and 913, and what it covers. Nonetheless, Speaker, regarding the submission of Unauthorised, Irregular, Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure (UIF&W) for Quarter 1, Council has approved policies that define the process for the identification and prevention of UIF&W. It is in accordance with the policy that this report is submitted for Council to note the UIF register for Quarter 1 of the 2025/2026 financial year and that the reported UIF&W be referred to MPAC for investigation and reporting back to Council on the findings.

Of importance to this Council, Speaker, is Section 32 of the MFMA, which requires that Unauthorised, Irregular, Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure be investigated. Depending on the outcome of the investigation, which has to be conducted by MPAC, Council may resolve to recover the financial loss from both Councillors and officials involved in the matter.

Point 2 of the recommendations is that the powers and responsibilities be delegated to MPAC to investigate.

Quarter 2 of the report contains the definitions of expenditure. Unauthorised expenditure is expenditure incurred in contravention of Section 15 or Section 11(3). Irregular expenditure is expenditure incurred in contravention of the MFMA and its regulations, which refers to non-compliance, while Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure is expenditure incurred in vain. National Treasury, through Circular No. 68, has prescribed the format of the UIF register. Therefore, the recommendation is the same as for Quarter 1. Thank you."

Deputy Chairperson, Councillor MM Tladi: The item was for noting and it is dully noted and we will await those reports to come back to Council to make sure we really implementing our Action Plan and it will make sure that our Audit next time it will improve our Audit Outcome as the City.

The item was for noting, Council did not vote.

It was thereupon

RESOLVED that Council took note of the Audit Action Plan of the City.

15.
REPORT ON INDIGENT REGISTRATION AND APPROVAL

Councillor ML Wewege read speech: “’Honourable Chair, the Freedom Front Plus, seeks brief clarification on the report on indigent registration and approval for Quarter 2 of 2025/26.

What is the latest status and expected response timeline from National Treasury on the indigent system contract validity and financial recovery plan? Of concerns, with no approvals in Quarter 1 or Quarter 2, what is the current backlog of pending indigent applications?

What interim steps are underway to verify and address the over 20,000 deceased-linked accounts?

Does the current indigent household policy, as per recent versions, strictly mandate quarterly Council approval for all batches, or are there provisions for more flexible handling? Have options like more frequent Council submissions, for example monthly, been considered to reduce the delays without policy amendment or delegation?

For the outreach programme and recommendation C, what are the key timelines and rollout plans? These clarifications will help us address the delays while maintaining Council's oversight and accountability. Thank you.”

Councillor MW Mongale: The issue here is that we wanted this item to be cleaned, and I do not know how do we go about it, but we were proposing that the discussion of this item today, even if the item can be approved, it should not be the end state.

We should also have a process of making sure that maybe in the next coming month we are able to have a workshop on this issue of indigent.

We discuss it thoroughly, make sure that we can remove all the misunderstandings around it, and also try to clean the data as much as possible.

Because, at the moment, it remains contested that, those you say the data has been updated, we are of the view that it is not being duly updated.

There are other people who are not supposed to be on the list, who are beneficiaries, who are not supposed to be on that particular list. Thank you for the opportunity.”

Councillor JM De Bruin: “We had a discussion yesterday with all the parties that we know that the indigent register is not updated. We need to intervene in that matter.

We delay our support to the poor, that they are suffering because we did not register the indigent on time. And we said nobody will get credit today in this Council Chamber because we are not going to use those tools to get credit.

We need a committee to be established to go and do that capturing downstairs, with all the files that are standing like that, to get our data capturing updated, because our people are looking to all our Councillors they need our help.

So, in our next meeting, can we have the biggest list that we will do it for the 20212026? Thank you."

Councillor SQ Peter read speech: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Let me not dwell too much into the background of this item. Just in a nutshell, I need to indicate that we could not submit the Indigent report in the second quarter for a number of reasons that have been cited here in the report. However, we are asking. In fact, we need to indicate two things, by the way.

Firstly, we have not got any feedback from National Treasury, as per our last communication with them. So, as a result, we realized that if we are not able to move fast with this issue, we might have problems in the long run.

Now, we also realized that the policy itself will need a bit of shifting or amendment, in the sense that in the policy, or in one of the Council resolutions, we said we will only submit quarterly, but that is hindering us as well.

Because now, if we have, in between, people who have applied, and others, you can tell that they really need those services. We therefore say, probably we need to come here and ask Council to say, we not have the City Manager sign together an authority to approve those indigents, as much as we have done those verifications and so on and so forth.

However, I need to indicate that last time we spoke here in this Council, we said probably we would go live by June, if I am not mistaken, 2025. So now, a number of challenges made us not go live.

Number one, the ICT Steering Committee met and discussed the matter. Upon doing that, they realized that it could be that the current service provider that we are using as the City, holistically, this contract could be classified as one of the evergreen contracts. So, as a result, it wasn't easy that we could go directly and implement or source the software.

As a result, then, we had to engage National Treasury in that regard as well. Hence, we have not got any response. However, that does not stop us as a city from coming with plans.

Now, what will be happening, we request Council to say, once we have approved this matter today, in terms of those changes, we will take this policy as part of the adjustment budget, because remember, it's a budget-related policy as well. It has to be reviewed and then come to Council on the 28th.

But from here, after approval, we will continue with the process because one will notice that one of the issues that was raised by the Auditor-General and that report was that around 20,000-plus can be deemed as people who have, in fact, passed on.

And necessarily, that obviously reduces the 67,000 or 60,000 that we have with us. So, we could not believe that because of the number of issues. We have to verify ourselves to say, is it indeed that this person has passed on before we remove that individual?

So now we are saying, we ask Council to approve this so that we can speed up the process. Anyway, let me just indicate that once we have approved this matter, we will be a bit quicker. We spoke about it in the Section 80 to say, once Council approves, we will find a way to use our own internal staff also, because we'll be having an app. But if we do not do that, we will forever have challenges, because the main issue here is not the application itself; it is the issue of verification, Councillors, because we do not have a system that is able to verify whether a person is a correct beneficiary of indigent. So, once we do that, it will make our lives very easy.

Therefore, we did not want to do that on our own in the Finance Section 80, but we ought to bring it to Council so that Council can give us a condonement for that matter. So, this issue is very important because, in terms of National Treasury, given the numbers that we have, the statistics indicate that we are supposed to be sitting at around 120,000 – 169,000 approved indigents.

Based on what we have now, we are not even half of that. So, it automatically affects our equitable share. I think you know that very much well. Here we are requesting Council to give us that permission so that we can start quickly with the process and see how best and how far we can go with this process of indigent registration.

Lastly, Councillor MW Mongale you are correct. There are issues that you are requesting so that we can cleans our data.

And remember, last year around June, some Councillors from the EFF even raised the matter to say they wanted to have that indigent register so that they could peruse it, based on the allegations that were presented that there were people who were not qualified appearing as applicants.

So having this system is going to make life easier because we have to go through the 67,000 or 69,000 records, start scrutinising them, and doing the verification. The system will automatically reject those who do not qualify.

The last issue is that, I think, the Auditor-General said, given the credibility of our indigent register, we are not in a position to say exactly whether those people are still there or whether they still qualify. They also raised the issue of turnaround time, saying it is not even explained in the policy itself. So now we are imploring Council to say that if we can go this route, it will be much faster and easier to approve those applicants through the Office of the City Manager and, obviously, the Office of the CFO. Thank you very much."

Councillor MM Tladi You know, Speaker, to act without powers, that is a disadvantage. Because if I was sitting there, I was going to stop Councillor SQ Peter. Now I cannot stop him because I cannot switch off his mic.

So, the Deputy Executive Mayor, I wanted you to answer there is a request for a workshop that will come with proposals. Can you please answer that before we go to the recommendations?

The Deputy Executive Mayor, Councillor LM Titi-Odili: "Madam Chair. We just requested permission, that on the 3rd of February 2026 we will be engaging with Councillors on the new valuation roll, and also the indigent policy discussion.

So, we can understand exactly both the valuation roll and the indigent policy, and where we want to take this municipality to.

That training will be on the 3rd of February 2026, Speaker.

The Speaker and the City Manager have already signed the letter. We will circulate the letter to all Councillors so they can diarise that date."

Councillor BJ Viviers: Chair and Speaker, on Rule 1312, will you allow me? Thank you very much.

Can you just note in the minutes that the Democratic Alliance abstains from voting on this item, as we have already explained. The revised Standing Rules and Orders have already been effective as from November last year. And on this agenda point, we did not receive enough notice, and based on legislation, there is no justification or requirement forcing us to deal with it now. Thank you very much, Chair and Speaker."

Councillor JM De Bruin on a point of order- ''Thank you Chair, I think when the Speaker was speaking, on this item, we as all the parties agree, that we're not going to vote as item in, we will just send it in for approval. So, it looks like Councillor BJ Viviers undermined us as the Whips of the parties. Now you come with your new stories here. It is not working like that. Respect us, thank you**."**

Council voted as follows: *53 in favour, 15 against and 0 abstained.*

It was thereupon

RESOLVED

a) That Council noted the report.

b) That Council considered reviewing and amending the policy to delegate powers to approve qualifying indigents to the Accounting officer to circumvent the waiting period caused by the current provision which delegates the power to Council with reports submitted quarterly. This will assist with applicants being approved immediately if they meet the criteria. The amended policy be submitted together with the adjustment budget.

c) That an outreach program be conducted through Ward Councillors to canvass the Indigent Policy for the City to meet the desired targets.

16.

CONCURRENCE FROM THE PARENT MUNICIPALITY ON THE RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD REGARDING A 60-DAY AMNESTY ON METER TAMPERING, ILLEGAL CONNECTION AND UNAUTHORISED METER SHIFTS

Councillor MS Ramolelle read speech: “Thank you Motsamaise wa mosebetsi, we are elected by the people of our government with the principle and compassion, The question before us is not whether it is legal or illegal electricity connections are wrong.

The real Council question is whether the response and the punishment are wrong if they are transformative course of non-compliance. Motsamaisi wa mosebetsi, batho bana le bothata bo boholo bo eleng ka bona batlo benefit haholo mona because tse dingwe tsa dintho o end up motlakase wa bona o tswile ele hore ese ka bomo or ese ka bona because ele batho ba basileng malapeng a bona. E tloba tlotla e kgolo ha ebe 60 days ya Amnesty on meter tampering and legal connection ha eka etsahala, e kaba tlotla e kgolo ho bane ba sebedisitse tse badi sebedisitseng ho phela le mathata. Ho motho ya seke a utlwisisa ke motho yasa tsebeng hore pitsa e ntsho e besetswa jwang, hore hape na paraffin e fahla jwang. The truth is that many of our people resort to illegal connections because of our senior citizens staying with grandsons and granddaughter, and grandchildren sometimes they are tampering the meters and in a developing local environment we cannot ignore this reality.

We must therefore consider an amnesty and irregularities programme that allows residents to come forward, forgiveness, and transition into the legal electricity system. As the Councillors, you must take Council beyond this chamber. It is our duty to go back to our communities and educate our people about the dangers and consequences of illegal electricity connections.
The correct and legal processes are available. Community education is not optional; it is a core function of leadership throughout consistent engagement. Community education and visible presence on the ground will address illegal connections and promote protection of lives and compliance based on understanding rather than fear. That is how we reclaim trust with purpose. Thank you.”

Councillor VS Soqaga: “Thank you Chairperson, Executive Mayor, Deputy Executive Mayor, Council Whip and fellow Councillors. I have been waiting for this moment for quite a long time, because I have been listening a very patiently all day when Councillors were making insinuation that there is no service delivery. There is service delivery, because even with this this item, we are responding to the challenges of our people in Mangaung. We know and we understand that some of them, might be causing a problem in terms of what the Auditor-General indicated on Centlec loss of electricity. So, with this item we are going to resolve that and try to put corrective measures, hence we are giving a 60 days’ notice, which we are expecting all Councillors regardless of political parties to notify their community so that they come forward to resolve the issues. We should not have a problem, that he is the old man, an old woman staying in the house, they have tempered electricity and, they do not have 15,000 to pay Centlec. We are saying, come forward, let us help you, because we are a carrying government.”

Councillor MW Mongale read speech: “Thank you, we are supporting the item, but also with caution that we do not want to find ourselves standing here next year. The same people that defaulted.

We found that they have defaulted again. Maybe due to problem of complacency or behavioural change that cannot happen because easy come, easy go. People did not work for it. Now they found it easy, and then they do not want to defend it.

Another issue, I understand the circumstances. There are those that their electricity cable was stolen by Nyaope guys. That one, is a common feature. It is understandable. We know it will happen again, but are there also, we need a contingency plan. We cannot come here to come and lament.

You must also have an explain in our streets. How do we link community against crime with the operations of what Councillors and also a South African Police Service in making sure that this theft does not continue and becomes to spiral out of control, because once they gain confidence that there are no consequence for those first, this thing will spiral out of control.

One of the challenges is the scrap yard. What is it that the people are selling scrap in the township? They are also encouraging people to steal these cables. Now, we are dealing with an institutional problem here. Now, we cannot just fix it any emotions to say, people do not electricity, let us give them electricity and then we are done. We must also try to diagnose it properly.

And it must go in political education; the Executive Mayor must go to the radio and talk to the people to tell them that this amnesty is not right. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity. You have been given a chance to reorganize your life. But at the same time, the community must also be made aware that should you be caught stealing a cable? What are the consequences?

And this issue that some people are not prosecutable, I think one of the weaknesses is that when Centlec takes someone to court, it should not be regarded as Centlec's matter alone; Mangaung Municipality must join the court proceedings. So that you are making it difficult for whoever that has been defended, even if they can be defended by the best legal mind on the planet, they must know they are faced with two senior Council.

The idea is to keep the situation and to protect the vulnerable, because when an old person's cable has been stolen and the person does not have 15,000 of reconnection, or the meter has been stolen. It is traumatic, but it is something that we cannot help because Centlec must run as a business. Now they must run as a business.

At the same time, we are sitting with a challenge of the community. How do we balance them? One takes away your right, your people to vote for you, because they will be angry with you, but another one is that you have a moral obligation of making sure that this institution functions properly.

I say, let's open our eyes, let's not come with balaclava and think about 2026, 2027 votes. Let us think beyond that. What is the contingency plan that you must put in place in order to make sure that this thing does not become a habit or people think that, no, as elections approach, we'll get the benefit, because it also creates a wrong precedence.

And we will also be creating catastrophe for ourselves, because if the number is big, that mean Municipality will be collapsing Centlec hindering. That is my humble submission. Thank you for the opportunity

Councillor BJ Viviers on point of order: "May I rise on Rule 13.12 again? Can you just minute our recent again for the reasons already given in the previous item, seeing that the Chairperson of Rules Committee now agrees that these new revised Standing Rules and orders have already been promulgated. Thank you."

Councillor MM Tladi: "Thank you Speaker we are now on item 10, and I am returning the Council meeting to you, and thank you for giving me this opportunity to run through these three items. Thank you so much."

The Council Whip, Councillor VE Nikelo: "No, Speaker, I was just… just requesting that perhaps the cameras check properly, because it looks like we are no longer live. So that we can be back on."

Council voted as follows: *<u>55 in favour, 5 against and 0 abstained.</u>*

It was thereupon

RESOLVED

1. That Council speed up the processing and approval of indigents on the indigents register.

2. That Council approved the concurrence as the parent Municipality on 60-days amnesty on meter tampering, illegal connections and unauthorised meter shifts.

3. That Council resolution upon concurrence be forwarded to the entity for implementation.

10	REPORTS FROM THE SPEAKER

1.

REPLACEMENT OF A PR COUNCILLOR: DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE

Councillor MA Matobole: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I feel privileged to have this opportunity on behalf of the Democratic Alliance to formally announce our new Councillor who replaces our former Councillor, Ms Delena, who will be replaced by Councillor MN Mhlakaza.

Councillor MW Mongale: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. On behalf of the African Alliance of Social Democrats, I rise to congratulate the Democratic Alliance on the election of Councillor MN Mhlakaza. We are also aware of his special challenges, but we appreciate that these have not hindered his potential. We further acknowledge this Council for ensuring that he is properly represented, as part of strengthening representation in this Council. From the organisation he comes from, they say, "nothing about us without us," and this is more relevant now than ever before. That organisation is also taking this Council seriously because of the Democratic Alliance's approach in accepting him.

We want to say we appreciate all the efforts, and we are honoured to have him here. He is welcome, he is at home. We respect him and recognise him as a Councillor like any other Councillor. He will remain honoured throughout this term. Thank you for the opportunity."

Council Whip, Councillor VE Nikelo: "I would also like to take a cue from what has already been indicated by Honourable Councillors in expressing our appreciation to the Democratic Alliance for bringing Councillor MN Mhlakaza into this Council.

I think the last time in this August House that we saw true representation of all sectors of the community was when Councillor Dalene the former Councillor, was still part of this Council. We are therefore pleased that we are once again alive to the possibilities that nothing can stop anyone from representing the communities of Mangaung.

The Democratic Alliance has done a commendable job in ensuring that sections of society that are normally not considered are today being included and represented. We therefore say to Councillor MN Mhlakaza that we are very thankful for your joining this August House. As has already been indicated by other Councillors, you will be respected in this House not only because we are different politically, but because you represent a segment of the community that deserves recognition and respect. This will also assist Council in improving its systems to ensure that you receive all the necessary tools of trade to execute your responsibilities effectively. The community of Mangaung is fortunate to have a person of your calibre. To the Democratic Alliance, we say thank you. On behalf of all political parties, we welcome you."

Speaker, Councillor BL Mathae: "Councillors, may I take this opportunity to officially welcome Councillor MN Mhlakaza, and may we give him a round of applause."

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

It was thereupon

RESOLVED that Council took note that Cllr Malwande Nilcoson Mhlakaza, being a candidate at the top of the party list for the Democratic Alliance (DA) has been declared elected as a Councillor of Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality by the Independent Electoral Commission effective from 23 December 2025.

2.
PUBLISHED STANDING RULES AND ORDERS AMENDMENT BYLAW, 2025

Councillor TKW Mokgothu read speech: "Good evening, Councillors. The item before Council is that, as the Chairperson of the Rules Committee, I present this matter to Council. This item has served in the Committee, and, in principle, it is important to note that the Standing Rules and Orders, as amended, were duly published in November 2025.

I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Committee, to present and submit to Municipal Council the published Standing Rules and Orders Amendment By-law of 2025 for noting by this August House.

Without going into background detail, I will proceed directly to the recommendations:

- That Council takes note of the formulation of the Rules and Orders Amendment By-law of 2025, Provincial Gazette No. 77 of 21 November 2025, General Notice No. 156 of 2025.

- That Council further notes that the amendments made to the Standing Rules and Orders By-law of 2016, as adopted on 31 January 2025 and 30 October 2025, have been published in terms of the applicable legislation, including the Municipal Systems Act, and are now applicable and enforceable.

- That Council takes note of the updated version of the 2016 Standing Rules and Orders By-law, as amended, to be used for meetings of Council and its Committees.

With that, I submit. Thank you very much, Speaker."

Councillor TD Tukula thank you Speaker: "Let me start by observing protocol as required. As my Chair has already indicated, this item relates to the Published Standing Rules and Orders Amendment By-law of 2025. I will briefly provide context so that the origin and purpose of the item is properly understood.

The purpose of this report is for Council to note the publication of the Standing Rules and Orders Amendment By-law.

Council initially adopted the Standing Rules and Orders By-law in 30 June 2016. It was subsequently published in Provincial Gazette Notice No. 44 of 15 July 2016. Further amendments were adopted by Council on 14 December 2017, and these were published in Provincial Gazette Notice No. 125 of 13 March 2020, in terms of the applicable provisions of the Municipal Systems Act, Act 32 of 2000.

Council further amended the Standing Rules and Orders By-law of 2016 to its sitting on 27 October 2020, and those amendments were published in Provincial Gazette Notice No. 78 of 27 November 2020.

Additional amendments were made on 31 January 2025 and 30 October 2025, and these were published in Provincial Gazette Notice No. 77 of 21 November 2025.

The relevant legislative framework includes Section 161 of the Constitution, which provides that municipal by-laws may only be enforced once published in the official provincial gazette. In addition, Section 13 of the Municipal Systems Act requires that by-laws adopted by Council must be published in the provincial gazette and brought to the attention of the public through appropriate means, and that they take effect upon publication or on a date determined in the by-law. I will not repeat the recommendations, as they have already been outlined by my chairperson. With that, Honourable Speaker, I submit. Thank you."

Councillor MW Mongale: Thank you Speaker? Mine is very simple. Now that the Standing Rules and Orders have been gazetted, we need to convene a workshop on them.

The purpose of the workshop would be to iron out any differences and ensure there is no confusion in the interpretation of clauses and rules. The only way to achieve this is through a workshop, because I come from a trade Union and I know that if people are not properly taken through such matters, we will face a crisis of interpretation. Not everyone here is a legal expert. This could lead to unnecessary disputes every time we apply the rules. However, if we follow the correct process of training and clarification, we will avoid these challenges. No one can later claim ignorance after a proper workshop, saying they did not understand the rules or their responsibilities in terms of those rules. Thank you."

Speaker, **Councillor BL Mathae** "Thank you, Councillor Mongale. We will definitely do that at the earliest opportunity and convene a workshop so that all of us are conversant with the revised Standing Rules and Orders."

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

It was thereupon

RESOLVED

a) That the Council took note of the promulgated Standing Rules and Orders Amendment Bylaw of 2025, Provincial Gazette Notice No.77 of 21 November 2025, General Notice No.156 of 2025.

b) Further that Council took note that the amendments made to the Standing Rules and Orders By-law of 2016 on the 31st of January 2025 and the 30th of October 2025 have been published in terms of and in the Amendment By-law mention in 4.1 of the report, and that they are now applicable and enforceable because they have been gazetted as required by the provisions of the Constitution and the Municipal Systems Act as mentioned in 3, herein above.

c) Further that the Council took note of the Updated Version of the Standing Rules and Orders By Law 2016, as amended, to be used for the meetings of the Council and its Committees.

11	REPORTS FROM MPAC

1.
REVISED MUNICIPAL PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2025 2026

Councillor PM Mohibidu read speech: "Thank you, Honourable Speaker. On this item, the MPAC Committee is requesting Council to approve the revised Work Plan for the 2025/26 financial year. As the MPAC Committee, we have had to revise our originally approved work plan due to a number of reasons, but most importantly due to a directive from National Treasury to municipalities to ensure that matters of UIFW (irregular, unauthorised, Fruitless and Wasteful) expenditure are addressed expeditiously.

This is also to avoid the implementation of Section 216(2) of the Constitution, which empowers National Treasury to stop the transfer of funds, including equitable share allocations, to municipalities as a result of non-compliance with financial management standards. Therefore, Speaker, the Committee requests Council to approve the revised work plan for 2025/26. I so submit, Speaker."

Speaker stated that the DA did not vote.

Councillor BJ Viviers replied: "Well, Speaker, I do not want to repeat myself, but as we already indicated at the start of this meeting, I would like to draw your attention to Rule 30.2. We will not engage on this item because we did not receive sufficient notice.

In terms of the applicable legislation and our own by-laws, which take precedence, we are not in a position to attend to this matter at this stage. That is why we are not participating in the discussion. Will you please note our decision? Thank you, Speaker."

Speaker, Councillor BL Mathae: Under our rules, it is either you vote against, abstain, or vote in favour. That is your prerogative.

Councillor BJ Viviers replied: For your own explanation, you may proceed as you wish. However, we have made it clear that there are certain agenda points that we will not entertain, as we are law-abiding members of this Council. We will not act outside of our own by-laws. Thank you.

Speaker, Councillor BL Mathae stated that Councillor BJ Viviers was violating the Rules of this house.

Councillor JM De Bruin on a point of order: "Chair, this makes it so difficult in this House; it looks like the Democratic Alliance does not respect us in this House. Because the Council Whip was agreeing with us yesterday, but now Councillor BJ Viviers is becoming a sell out here. Respect us in this house. Thank you.**"**

The Executive Mayor, Councillor GMS Nthatisi I would like to respond by reminding members of the behavioural pattern that has been displayed by the Democratic Alliance since the commencement of this meeting.

They have consistently expressed their views to the Auditor-General on items and, where necessary, and through the items they have voted either in favour or against items. That has been the established practice throughout the proceedings.

Now I ask that I be heard. There is dignity in listening to others, and integrity is central to this process. You cannot establish a pattern and reneged against a pattern in the middle of proceedings; we cannot be subjected to batho ba baleyang kale gamba basa tsebe ball. It cannot be that when it suits you, you participate, and when it does not, you change your position during the course of the meeting. You have established a pattern through your conduct in this House, and the records will reflect that. It raises questions of consistency and procedural maturity to now deviate from that established approach."

Councillor BJ Viviers read speech: "Thank you, Speaker. I wish to reaffirm our position, as stated from the outset, that there are items which we are not able to engage on due to the absence of sufficient justification within superior legislation and applicable rules.

For clarity, I will again outline the items: 9.4, 9.8, 9.15, 9.16, 10.2, 11.1, 13.2, and 15.1, 15.3 among others, on which we will not participate. We respectfully maintain that we will not vote or take part in these specific agenda items.

Where this may have been misunderstood, I wish to clarify that our position is guided by applicable legislation, including the MFMA, the Constitution, and the Municipal Structures Act, which are superior to internal processes.

We are therefore required to ensure compliance with those legislative frameworks, particularly in matters relating to financial management and governance. For this reason, and in line with our legal obligations, we will not be participating in or voting on the affected items. Thank you, Speaker."

Councillor CL Kruger remarked: "Speaker, what we are seeing here is the consequence of window dressing. You do not appoint someone as the Chief Whip and then overrule your own Whip in this Council. All the well-crafted explanations that have just been presented should have been communicated through your Whip, so that when he attended yesterday's meeting with all the Whips, he could have raised those concerns there. Unfortunately, it appears that you have disregarded him. We know he was appointed to ensure compliance.

Lastly, Honourable Speaker, if you want to portray the character of acting in accordance with the law, then it must be done consistently, not selectively. Your selective application of the rules ultimately undermines your own position. You must follow the rules not only those you like or prefer. Thank you."

The Executive Mayor, **Councillor GMS Nthatisi:** "I have not finished what I was saying. Your colleague raised a point of order, and it appears that I may now be subjected to several points of orders.

Be that as it may, whether you vote or do not vote is immaterial. What is important is that we establish the correct interpretation of the rules, rather than attempting to use them selectively. This Council cannot be divided into separate parts. It sat as one Council today. You had the option to walk out of the meeting, but once you decided to remain and participate, you became part of the proceedings.

You cannot then choose to be selective about which parts of the Council's processes or rules you wish to recognise. Once you participate, you are bound by the rules that govern these proceedings. You either comply with those rules in their entirety, or you do not. In fact, you initially argued that you had not been properly informed. However, in raising your point of order, you have contradicted yourself. Thank you.

Speaker, **Councillor BL Mathae:** My ruling is that this House is governed by majority decision. At the beginning of this meeting, we voted on the adoption of the agenda, and the agenda was adopted despite your suggestions.

My ruling is that the item will proceed. I have recorded the 20 Councillors of the Democratic Alliance who are present in the meeting, and they will be recorded as Councillors who abstained. There is no such thing as saying, "I' am not interested in participating." It is either you vote in favour, vote against, or abstain.

Accordingly, this matter is now settled. There are 56 Councillors in favour of the recommendations. There are 20 Councillors of the Democratic Alliance who have abstained. That is my final ruling on this matter, Councillors. Councillor, I have made a ruling."

Councillor Snyman Van Deventer: Thank you Speaker – I refer to Rule 13.12, which states that a member or political party may request that its dissent or abstention be recorded in the minutes. I therefore request that the abstention be recorded in the minutes.

Speaker, Councillor BL Mathae: "That rule I understand perfectly, and I accept that it deals with an abstention. Members have the right to request that their abstention be recorded in the minutes, and it will be recorded as such.

However, there is no provision that allows a member to decide not to participate in a vote. We must distinguish between abstaining and the voting process itself. You cannot simply decide not to participate in a vote. Your options are to vote in favour, vote against, or abstain. If you abstain, you are entitled, in terms of that rule, to request that your abstention be recorded because you did not agree with the matter.

I have already made my ruling, Councillors. We will record your decision accordingly that you abstained on the matter, and your abstention will be reflected in the minutes. I have concluded debates on this matter.

Councillor M Davies: "Our Standing Rules and Orders give us the right to have it recorded that we are dissenting from the item. Therefore, you need to record it as a dissent. You cannot record it as an abstention, because that is not what we did. We are dissenting from the item. You cannot change the Standing Rules and Orders to suit your interpretation. We are simply following the Standing Rules and Orders."

Speaker, Councillor BL Mathae: I do not know exactly what your understanding of that rule is. We have already indicated that we will record your decision not to participate. In my summary, I stated that your decision not to participate in this item would be recorded. As a result, that constitutes an abstention.

My final ruling stands, Councillors. We will record the decision of the Democratic Alliance not to participate in this matter. However, for the purposes of the voting process, it will be recorded that you abstained."

Note that the DA Councillors did not participate on the matter.

Council voted as follows: ***56 in favour, 20 abstained***

It was thereupon

RESOLVED that Council approved the Revised Annual Work Plan for 2025/2026 financial year.

12	REPORTS FROM AUDIT AND PERFOMANCE COMMITTEE

None.

NOTED.

13	REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS/CONSOLIDATED REPORT ON WARD COMMITTEE

1.
QUARTERLY REPORTS RECEIVED FROM WARD COUNCILLORS FOR QUARTER 2: 31 OCTOBER 2025 – 31 DECEMBER 2025: 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR

Speaker, Councillor BL Mathae: "the reports are noted in terms of those reports. May I draw attention to that particular schedule? Unless there is a Councillor who wishes to place on record and bring to the attention of this House that there are reports not indicated in this summary."

NOTED.

14	REPORT ON SALGA ACTIVITIES

Councillor MW Mongale ‘’Thank you Speaker: this issue of SALGA, I am very concerned that at every meeting there are no reports. Yet we have members who serve on SALGA committees. Either SALGA is not active, or we do not have proper representation in SALGA. It cannot be that there are no reports all the time. I am not saying that there must be a report at every Council meeting, but there cannot consistently be none. There is no such vacuum. There must have been some activity somewhere.”

Speaker, Councillor BL Mathae: I agree with you, Councillor Mongale. This is an anomaly because all Councillors who serve in SALGA participate in SALGA provincial working groups. Each one of you has been allocated to a provincial working group, and therefore it cannot be that every time we deal with this matter there is no report.

We will request the Chairperson of the Rules Committee to facilitate a mechanism through which we can coordinate reports from the various role players serving on the different working groups. Even if it is only to report on attendance.

We will therefore ask the Chairperson of the Rules Committee to develop an appropriate framework through which we can report on SALGA activities. There are many activities, including workshops, commissions such as the Women's Commission, and other programmes in which we participate. We need an effective mechanism for reporting on our participation and on the activities of SALGA. Thank you, Councillor Mongale, for bringing this matter to the attention of the House.”

NOTED.

15	IN COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

1.1 14 April 2025.

Cllr VS Soqaga moved for the adoption of minutes and seconded by Cllr PM Mohibidu. After the announcements of voting results, Cllr BJ Viviers requested that in terms of Rule 13.12, the DA’s dissent be noted.

Council voted as follows: _51 in favour, 0 against and 5 abstained._

The minutes were duly adopted.

1.2 30 June 2025.

Cllr JE Sebolao moved for the adoption of minutes and seconded by Cllr DE Matsephe. After the announcements of voting results, Cllr BJ Viviers requested that in terms of Rule 13.12, the DA's dissent be noted.

Council voted as follows: *<u>51 in favour, 0 against and 5 abstained.</u>*

The minutes were duly adopted.

1.3 31 July 2025

Cllr JM De Bruin moved for the adoption of minutes and seconded by Cllr TE Phohleli. After the announcements of voting results, Cllr BJ Viviers requested that in terms of Rule 13.12, the DA's dissent be noted.

Council voted as follows: *<u>51 in favour, 0 against and 5 abstained.</u>*

The minutes were duly adopted.

1.4 30 December 202

Cllr PS Twala moved for the adoption of minutes and seconded by Cllr SM Swartz. After the announcements of voting results, Cllr BJ Viviers requested that in terms of Rule 13.12, the DA's dissent be noted.

Council voted as follows: *<u>51 in favour, 0 against and 5 abstained.</u>*

The minutes were duly adopted.

NOTED.

2.
APPOINTMENT CENTLEC BOARD

Council voted as follows: *<u>52 in favour,6 against and 18 abstained.</u>*

It was thereupon

RESOLVED that Council

1. Noted that the Selection Panel for the recruitment and selection of the CENTLEC Board of Directors has executed its mandate assigned by Council.

2. The appointment of the seven (7) non-executive directors to the CENTLEC Board of Directors will be for a period not exceeding five (5) years, that will commence on 1st of February 2026, namely:
   Ms Gugu Pride Malaza
   Mr Elisha Didam Markus
   Mr Donald Barlow
   Mr Zamile Jacob Gcwili
   Mr Athenkosi Basil Godongwana
   Ms Maureen Judith Nthsudisane
   Ms Seneke Lethabo Tloubatla

3.
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIBUNAL AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING APPEALS TRIBUNAL

Council voted as follows: 45 *in favour,6 against and 9 abstained.*

It was thereupon

RESOLVED that

1. Council approved the appointment of
   (a) Four (4) external members of the Municipal Planning Tribunal.

	Name and Surname	Profession	Qualifications	Professional Registration	Years Experience	Recommendation
1	Mr Boiki Johannes Mokobori	Civil Engineer	Master of Civil Engineering	ECSA / SACE	10 Years	Meet all requirements
2	Mr MJ Kumalo	Town and Regional Planning	BSc Town and Regional Planning	SACPLAN	7 years	Meet all requirements
3	Mrs Anna-Marie Sassenberg	Civil and Structural Engineer	PR Tech Eng NHDT	ECSA	18 Years	Meet all requirements
4	Mrs Adele De Jong	Town and Regional Planning Architecture	Master of Architecture Masters in Town and Regional Planning	SACPLAN / SACAP	14 Years	Meet all requirements

(b) Council approved the appointment of the following internal members:

Internal members		
Position	**Directorate/Department**	**Position**
General Manager Engineering Wires (Centlec)	Centlec	Member
HOD Planning	PERHDS	Member
General Manager Technical Services	Technical Services	Member
General Manager Legal Services	Corporate Services	Member
Surveyor General or (Proxy)	Office of Surveyor General	Member
Deeds Registrar	Free State Deeds Registry	Member

2. Council approved the appointment of Mrs Adele De Jong as Chairperson of the Municipal Planning Tribunal and the General Manager: Legal Services as Deputy Chairperson.

3. Council approved the appointment of the MPT Appeals Authority.

MPT APPEALS TRIBUNAL		
	Department	Position
Executive Mayor	Office of Executive Mayor	Chairperson
City Manager	Office of City Manager	Secretary
CFO	Finance	Member
The Director (Or a Proxy)	Department Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) Spatial Planning and Development	Member

4. Council approved the appointment of the Executive Mayor as Chairperson of the MPT Appeals Tribunal.

5. Council approved the appointment of the Municipal Planning Tribunal and Appeals Tribunal for a period of five (5) years in terms of Section 81(1) of the Land Use Management Bylaw.

6. Council approved that the members of the Municipal Planning Tribunal and Appeals Tribunal be renumerated according to National Treasury Rates for Chairpersons and members of committees and commissions.

7. Council noted that internal members and Government officials are excluded from payment and remuneration to serve as members of the MPT and MPT Appeals Tribunal.

8. The City Manager is mandated that the MPT Secretariat structure and supporting staff be appointed in line with Section 85(1) of the Land Use Management Bylaw.

9. Council granted permission to advertise the appointment of MPT and MPT Appeals members in the provincial gazette in terms of Section 80(6)(b) of the Land Use Management Bylaw to commence its duties.

16	MOTIONS

None.

NOTED.

17	QUESTIONS

1.

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

Council Whip, Councillor VE Nikelo: "I am not sure, Speaker, but before we proceed to Item 15 or rather before the live streaming is switched off, I just wanted to raise a procedural matter. For the purposes of the live stream, and in relation to the questions on the agenda, perhaps we should deal with those questions first. Then, once we have concluded that part of the meeting, we will know that immediately thereafter we can proceed with the in-committee session and continue with the Council meeting accordingly."

Speaker, Councillor BL Mathae: "Thank you Council Whip. I think that is a fair request. Let us first deal with questions in terms of Rule 38 of the Standing Rules and Orders. If we deal with them under in-committee, it may deprive the community of the opportunity to hear what questions were asked and the responses provided.

Although we do not ordinarily debate reports, it remains the responsibility of Councillors to engage appropriately. If you have submitted a Rule 38 question, then when a reply is presented, and if you wish to request a discussion on that specific question, it should be recorded as such, and a formal discussion may then be allowed in the appropriate forum.

I have observed that in many instances questions are submitted, but Members are not afforded the opportunity to discuss the responses. Members should also be given the opportunity to express their views on replies provided to Rule 38 questions.

If that has not been the case up to now, I would like to confirm that Rule 38 questions have indeed been submitted, including those that are still outstanding. May we get an update from the relevant Councillors who submitted those questions so that, in the next meeting, we can present a report and allow for discussion should the need arise."

Councillor JE Sebolao: "I am sorry, Honourable Speaker, I just wanted to seek clarity something. If we continue sitting in meetings and we do not receive responses, that becomes a concern. I was going to verify this morning, and I noticed that our researcher did not forward all the questions we submitted to the Office of the City Manager.

I was also surprised when I went through the documents and saw that the EFF questions were not included. I am not sure what is happening in the municipality. Normally, what we do is ensure that questions are sent to the City Manager and copied to the Speaker's Office. I am therefore concerned that there may be a breakdown in this process. Thank you."

Speaker, Councillor BL Mathae: Let us make a commitment that we will follow up with the Office of the City Manager, because a number of Rule 38 questions require responses from different departments.

In many cases, a question may be service-related, and the City Manager must obtain input from the relevant department whether Technical Services, Community Services, or Human Settlements before a response can be provided.

I understand that at times it may be difficult to respond within a week or so, but Rule 38 questions must be answered. There must also be clarity on why, if a response has not been provided within a reasonable period, that delay occurs.

I am aware that the rules are not explicit on prescribed timeframes. They simply state that a Rule 38 question may be submitted 10 days prior to a Council meeting, but they do not specify whether responses must be provided within 30, 60, or 90 days. However, we need to establish a standard timeframe to ensure effective oversight and meaningful participation by Councillors.

In this regard, I will request the indulgence of the Chairperson of the Rules Committee to assist in developing a mechanism that ensures timely responses and tracks outstanding Rule 38 questions. This will help us address the backlog of unanswered questions and improve accountability. Thank you."

NOTED.

18	CLOSING OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

The Speaker thanked all members for contributions and being present until the agenda is completed.

The meeting officially closed at 21:32.

SECRETARIAT UNIT
COMMITTEE SERVICES