



Remarks by the **EXECUTIVE MAYOR**



Unity in Action for 2017

Complements of the season 2017.

I'm pleased that we began this year with good rains while teaching has commenced in most schools in our city. We are equally pleased that some of our matriculates have done extremely well, and would like to encourage all others to strive for better performance. It was also pleasing that our resorts were fully booked during the festive season with thousands heralding the new year despite one drowning fatality at Riverton. Unfortunately the recent festive season has also seen an increase of 5% deaths on our roads compared to the previous period in Northern Cape.

Towards the end of last year, our municipality once more achieved an unqualified audit report on both its financial and performance audits. No material findings were reported on key performance areas by the office of the Auditor-General in the Northern Cape. Indeed this was a considerable achievements considering that we emerged from disclaimers of audit outcomes. Surely our interventions over the years is bearing fruits. Our strategy is to deal with past issues first before new issues could be resolved.

The collective value of all these measures has resulted in overall improvements in the affairs of the municipality, as well as the positive views of the independent analysts that the municipality is among the better performing local authorities in the country.

It on this basis that we encourage all to be active in the affairs of the municipality in building better communities. We need to ensure that all our communities have access to basic services and contribute to uniting the city and its people. As we pledged during the last local government elections, that as the majority party in council, together with communities, we will build on achievements made in delivering basic services to the people. This will include further improvement on the public participation and accountability of councillors. In our city we will work with all stakeholders to assist law enforcement agencies in reducing and combating crime. We will continue to improve the delivery of infrastructure projects like the resealing and patching of pot holes. Let us all roll up our sleeves and build a better city.

I thank you



Premier handing out houses with MEC's, Executive Mayor and the Speaker of Council.

Premier hands over Houses in Lerato Park



A total of five houses were handed over as part of a total of 100 houses by Premier Sylvia Lucas in Lerato Park recently. As part of the commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign, the houses were handed over to beneficiaries of whom the majority were women. It is not because we have forgotten about the men, but we want to focus on the vulnerable people in our communities, namely the disabled, the elderly and single mothers,” she said. The Premier urged community members to look after their homes and take pride in their community. People must also not make the mistake of thinking that they will qualify for a subsidy for a second time.

She further urged the community not turn the homes into drug houses and shebeens as they were very special and many people were still waiting for their own homes. With regards to the Santa Centre, there has not been any allocations done yet, for the 139 sites available. So far a business plan was submitted to COGHSTA for the 139 sites. Priority will be given to those who live in houses that needs to be demolished, then people living in shacks will follow. The business plan submitted to COGHSTA has not yet been approved, The business plan includes application for funding for Town planning, water & sanitation, and top structure. The intention is to demolish the old houses and build proper BNG houses. There was a meeting with the ward councillor and was requested to complete a comprehensive list for 139 inhabitants.

More Funding needed for Water Upgrade

More funding is required if we are to modernise some of our old aging reticulation network, the Executive Mayor Mangaliso Matika has explained. After spending more than half a billion rands on upgrades in the sanitation services, it was about time the city looked at how to remedy and deal with water services infrastructure as well including the number and size of places to be upgraded. Some of the areas required immediate attention, for example newton reservoirs. At Newton, we have been able to install new valves that allow us to isolate the network of dams however the pipes feeding the city leave much to be desired when it comes to their current quality after being in use for some time now. Some of the pipes are still made of asbestos which are prone to burst in the winter season. The new Intergrated Development Plan for 2017 to 2022 will seek to prioritise the replacement of old pipes to reduce the impact on business and the community as a whole. The required funding would most probably run into billions.

Attacks at Municipal Dumping Grounds

Several residents have been attacked by criminals who masquerade as people making a living at the landfill site. These matters are being investigated by the police and we have also instructed our security officials to conduct more patrols. We condemn the attacks against the public and will do everything to bring these thugs to book. We would like to advise the public not to approach the landfill site alone and to avoid the place at night. The revamping of the landfill site is progressing well and nearing completion as part of the improvement of the Infrastructure. The current project includes the Environmental impact assessment, Construction of a guardhouse, Ablution facility, Weighbridge building, Weighbridge, Recycling/sorting facility and a Garden refuse facility. The entire project is envisioned to modernise the landfill site and make it complaint with all relevant legislation



Bultfontein Pipe repaired temporarily



Temporary repairs has been conducted on the Bultfontein road 750mm pipe. It is important to note that the pipe is still corroded in some place and will need to be replaced as at some time to be communicated to the public. The team also successfully concluded repairs on a leaking pipe at Phakamile Mabija street and replaced 130 meters pipeline at the Old De Beers road. Several areas in mainly high laying areas were affected by the water supply interruptions. We would like to thank the public for their patience and cooperation. The Executive Mayor also

wishes to thank the teams from water works and electricity that worked on these repairs.