

MOLEMOLE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



2012/13 BUDGET SPEECH



DELIVERED BY THE HON. MAYOR
CLLR PAULINE MAKGATO

1.

Madam Speaker,

Chief Whip,

Members of the Executive Committee,

Councillors,

Municipal Manager Senior Managers and Staff,

Honoured Traditional Leaders,

Ward Committee Members,

Different Political Parties,

Esteemed Religious Fraternities

Media Houses,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Madam Speaker

Nearly a year ago, on the occasion of our inauguration as a new council after the May 18 2011, we immediately set in motion our social and economic development agenda for the term whose embryonic and foundational phase is currently unfolding. On that occasion we were introduced to the immense challenges of putting in place governance structures appropriate to map out our five-year service delivery agenda to serve as a blue print for the next five years.

I'm therefore singularly privileged and distinctly honoured to deliver the first State of the Municipal Address The characteristic purpose of this address is thus to update the citizens of our city on our efforts to facilitate veritable social and economic development in their lives.

Madam Speaker allow me to extend a word of welcome to all who honoured and turned up here today. This is the special month for women celebrated by YWCA world wide under the theme . ***I am a woman and I have the right . We are women and we have the power.*** This occasion is held where the ANC icon was born and walked. This icon was the first black woman to achieve B. Sc , the first to participate in King 's Court in the Eastern Cape, the first black woman principal in Polokwane, co- founder of Wilberforce Institute, the mother of ANCWL and many firsts. Our one and only Makgomo Maxeke born Makgomo Charlotte Mannya. Inspired by her we have to make this IDP-Budget work.

We are also directed by section 153 of the constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996 to-

- (a) Structure and manage the administration, budgeting and planning processes of the municipality to give priority to the basic needs of the community, and to promote the social and economic development of our communities, and
- (b) Participate in national and provincial development programmes.

Chapter 5, section 25 (1) of the Municipal Systems Act, 32 of 2000 requires each municipality to within a prescribed period after the start of its elected term to adopt a single, inclusive and strategic plan for the development of the municipality which—

- (a) Links, integrates and co-ordinates plans and takes into account proposals for the development of the municipality;
- (b) aligns the resources and capacity of the municipality with the implementation of the plan;
- (c) forms the policy framework and general basis on which annual budgets must be based;
- (d) complies with the provisions of this Chapter; and

(e) is compatible with national and provincial development planning requirements binding on the municipality in terms of legislation.

Section 21 (1) (a) of the Municipal Finance Management Act of 2003 stipulates that as the Mayor of this municipality, I must co-ordinate the processes for preparing the annual budget and for reviewing the municipality's integrated development plan and budget-related policies to ensure that the tabled budget and any revision of the integrated development plan and budget-related policies are mutually consistent and credible.

Our mandate is derived from Outcome 9 of the Presidential Outcomes which aims to ensure "**A RESPONSIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT**". To this end, the municipality has established a fully functional governance structures as a direct response to the above clarion call. All our five portfolio committees and Executive Committee successfully convened their quarterly meetings as well as special meetings which preceded all council meetings. The Municipal Public Accounts Committee was established during the second quarter of the current financial year and it is also fully functional.

The municipality is committed to the issues of good governance, quality assurance and compliance enforcement on its operations . This has been proven by the establishment of the Internal audit and Risk management unit. The functional Audit Committee is also in place to strengthen accountability and transparency to the community we serve. The appointment of this Audit Committee will also play a significant role in improving our Audit opinion from the Office of the Auditor General and will assist in achieving the 2014 clean audit as requested by Local Government.

To this end, the Office of the Mayor held three successful Imbizo outreach programmes which were all well attended. The programme enabled the municipality to interact with stakeholders on a host of service delivery matters affecting communities. The municipality also had a social networking cocktail session with established commercial

farmers. As a consequence of the networking session, some agricultural produce and art and hand craft products were exhibited at Tshwane International Infrastructure Investment Conference.

Madam Speaker

During this quarter, death robbed us of veterans and stalwarts of outstanding and impeccable struggle credentials. Top on the list is the Minister of Public Service and Administration Mr Roy Padayachee, former Minister Sicelo Shicaka, Member of Parliament Florence Nyanda, former MEC of Public Works in Limpopo Mr George Padagi, Former Free State Speaker Rev Chabaku and our own former councillor Raymond Ramalatso. May their souls rest in peace.

Madam Speaker, since we came into office, our council have strived gallantly to pursue the strategies and objectives as set out in our credible Integrated Development Plan. Allow me therefore to highlight some of the important milestones reached by this municipality.

We have in partnership with the national department of Human Settlements and Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs successfully implemented a Youth Build Project to mark 35th anniversary June 16, 1976 student uprising. The project provided 100 young aspirant contractors with life skills on various building construction methods during the construction of 75 RDP houses.

We have also used our own resources to de-bush the area where 100 RDP houses were built for the Tshewe/Mokganya new settlement within ward 2 of our municipality. As we

speak now, those houses have been allocated to the deserving beneficiaries and families have moved in. We are currently in the process of ensuring that Eskom provides electricity to the area. The municipality also upgraded electrical infrastructure network in Mogwadi to the tune of R862,581 as direct response to previous power disruptions.

The three combo facilities which provide pre-schools and community halls for the communities of Ga-Sako, Phasha, and Makgato are in the process of being commissioned and handed over to the end users. We are also putting in place institutional frameworks for the management and utilization of the facilities to ensure responsible ownership by the beneficiary communities.

Madam Speaker

We are in partnership with our water service authority, Capricorn District Municipality in augmenting water supply to Mogwadi town. The project comprises of equipping of boreholes, bulk distribution network and a purification plant. The project is at 95% completion stage and we are confident that it will be completed before the end of the current financial year. Mogwadi Waste Water Treatment Plant project is also at 60%. As once alluded by former President Mbeki "*A major component of poverty eradication is ensuring that people are not denied access to a basic water supply, if they are unable to afford it.*"

We are overly proud to announce that water delivery projects at Makgato, Maupye and Ga-Mokwele have been completed. Once commissioned, the projects will go a long way in alleviating the sufferings our people are experiencing on a daily basis due to shortage of potable drinkable water. As water service provider we have spent R1,157,636 for operations and maintenance in the current financial year and intend to spend R2,120,000 in the ensuing financial year.

The municipality intend to spend R33, 953,396, over the next financial year in completing the tarring of Matipane/Madikana road, construction of Morebeng internal streets and Makgato access road projects. Other roads lined up for future development are Maupye to Thupana, Mohodi to Maponto and Mogwadi internal streets.

We have also through partnership with CDM provided VIP sanitation benefiting Mphakane communities. We are therefore envisaging a much healthier and user friendly environment in the coming years as some basic waste equipments will be procured to allow for more efficient and effective services.

Madam speaker we have enhanced the realisation of a long held ideal of our people and commitment of government for a people driven government, we have strengthened our public participation machinery, to this end we have successfully established ward committees in all our 14 wards who have been trained and are making meaningful inputs into municipal governance processes. Already we have hosted a successful ward committee conference the outcomes of which will go a long way in informing the municipality's development needs and plans.

We have also finally completed our new office block which has experienced prolonged periods of delays and shoddy workmanship. We have therefore delivered a valuable and high quality facility and have installed with state of art technology to improve on our ability to operate efficiently and economically.

Madam speaker we made a commitment in the beginning to continue with the improvement of the administrative capacity to ensure a responsive and efficient municipal administration. I am elated to highlight that thus far in the 2011/2012 financial year we have made 32 new recruitments comprising of 14 females and 18 male employees thus further improving our employment equity profile. Included in the new recruits are 4 new appointments of senior managers that is senior managers for

Local Economic Development & Planning, Community Services, Corporate Services and Technical Services. A process to fill the vacant position of Chief Financial Officer is under way and should be finalised in due cause after which we believe we will have a full capacity to adequately improve on our prior year performance.

The municipality has proved to be responsive in addressing service delivery queries and complaints; thus far we are reported to have resolved 100% of cases emanating from both Presidential and Premier hotlines. We encourage the public to work with the municipality in the identification and resolution of service delivery needs and challenges.

Madam Speaker, to ensure that as a municipality we improve on service delivery to address the needs of our community, operating effectively throughout the entire municipality and sustaining financial stability, we have integrated our risk assessment process with IDP and Budget process. This allowed us to prioritise the most important risks facing the municipality and developed strategies to reduce/eliminate the threat or an event that creates those risks. We have ensured that all staff in the municipality have a responsibility for maintaining effective systems of internal control that is consistent with their delegated duties.

In our endeavour to ensure sustainable local economic development, alignment of our plans and programmes to National, Provincial and District Economic Development Framework is of critical importance. As a result, we have in conjunction with COGHSTA, developed Molemole Local Economic Development Strategy which we will request this Council to adopt today. The Strategy is a thoroughly researched and detailed exposition of our economic potential and programmes to unlock such potential, for the benefit of our community through investment promotion

Investment promotion remains one of our key aspects of job creation. We will be packaging all investment opportunities in tourism, mining and manufacturing sectors in a brochure and DVD which will be exposed to potential investors in a concerted effort to

attract them to invest in our municipality. Skills Development also remains one of our key Economic Development imperatives, which will contribute towards job creation and poverty alleviation.

Through our partnership with LIBSA we will be able to train and capacitate our SMME's. We also have a plan with our organised farmers and The University of Limpopo to develop a learnership program for our unemployed graduates which will ultimately capacitate them with skills and at the same time creating employment opportunities.

Agriculture remains one of our core Economic activities. We have a plan as a municipality to establish an Agricultural Logistic Hub within a certain radius of production of agricultural commodities. It will harness the beneficiation of primary commodities such as Tomato, Potato, Garlic, Butternut etc. along the value chain.

Spatial arrangement of South Africa is not only the product of growth but also apartheid spatial planning – a disjuncture exist between where people live and where economic opportunities exist, most of our residents travelled long distance to their workplace e.g to Polokwane & Makhado. We say "*none of us can sleep peacefully until our residents say- i can see a better future, i can find a job and can learn a skill.*" Our people want action on jobs, growth and poverty. The process of securing the Developer to develop Mogwadi Shopping Complex is on pipe-line, and with the good partnership we have with Magoshi, and we have a plan to do the same on N1 Corridor.

We will be installing Geographic Information System in the next financial year. With the assistance from COGHSTA, we are going to review our Spatial Development Framework in order to identify spatial priorities and spatial logic which guides private sector investment.

Madam Speaker this year we present to this house a spending plan of R 157, 166, 450 made up of CAPEX of R 53,011,396 and OPEX of R 104, 155, 055 . The municipality

anticipate raising revenue (Income) of R 157, 467, 764. Our budget has a Surplus of R 301,313)

In conclusion, I wish to heartily congratulate Dendron Secondary School 2011 grade 12 learners for again proudly putting our municipality in the spotlight in terms of their successive 100% pass rate achievements. We similarly congratulate George Tladi Technical College for being the most improved school. I would also like to acknowledge and appreciate the efforts made by management and the entire staff of Molemole that lead to our municipality being pronounced at Executive Council Lekgotla in November 2011 as the most improved municipality in the province.

I also wish to heartily congratulate and applaud a team of twelve that organised and launched a Botlokwa Career Day. You really made me the proudest Mayor for the simple reason that you took out of yourselves and gave to your local high school students. I pledge that this event will be even bigger come 2013. To our traffic officers you did a splendid job over the festive season and Easter weekend. I want to further congratulate the leadership collective which emerged out of a watershed ANC Peter Mokaba Regional conference which retained Comrade Makgabo Lawrence Mapoulo for a second term at the helm of this mighty region.

Honourable Speaker,

I wish to particularly thank you and our diligent Chief Whip Cllr Rakubu for guidance and unrelenting support throughout our first term of office. I say many thanks to my fellow councillors who served this institution with dedication, honour and unparalleled commitment. I am also over-pleased with the professional conduct and dedication of the Staff of Molemole municipality under the leadership of Mr David Nkoana. Magoshi a rena, you have always been dependable partners who have demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt that you really care about the welfare of your communities

To our ward committee members and CDW's, I wish to state that indeed you have also proven your worth as service delivery foot soldiers. Many thanks also to CDM and sector

departments for the supportive role in strengthening the institutional capacity of Molemole Municipality to deliver quality services. Finally, I wish to extend a word of gratitude to our NGO's and CBO who have played a meaningful role in enriching our development and budget plans for the next three financial years.

Thank you.