

**Official Statement Of The Honourable Executive Mayor Of The Mangaung  
Local Municipality Cllr. Dibeela Gertrude Mothupi On The Occasion Of The  
2nd State Of The City Address Held At The Bloemfontein Regional Office,  
Mangaung On May 16, 2008 At 14H00**

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**Building On The Foundation Towards A Prosperous City**

**Honourable Speaker – Councillor Mahlomola Ralebese**

**Honourable Premier of the FS Me. Beatrice Marshof**

**MECs and Members of the Provincial Legislature**

**Executive Mayors and Mayors**

**Members of Mayoral Committees**

**Members of the Diplomatic Corps**

**Leaders of all Political Parties**

**Chief Whip of Council: Councillor Mxolisi Siyonzana**

**Fellow Councillors**

**City Manager: Mr Thabo Manyoni and members of your executive team**

**Managers and Officials of Council**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Members of the Media**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Fellow Citizens**

Honourable Speaker, it is befitting that as we meet in this august house here today, we seize the opportunity presented to us to pay tribute and honour those men and women, young and old whose selfless sacrifice and/or martyrdom made it possible for us to be where we are today. We should in the same breath acknowledge the valuable contribution of those who came before us and laid a solid foundation for us to continue building.

Honourable Speaker, this address takes place against the background of very significant milestones in the history of our country in that it comes just a month after we have witnessed and observed the 15th anniversary of imperialists inspired and still very unfortunate assassination of the late Cde. Chris Hani by the apartheid regime, the month during which we also remembered one of the outstanding revolutionaries our continent and the world has known Cde. O.R. Tambo.

It also take place in the wake of the Freedom and May Day celebrations and within few months and weeks after we have witnessed our honourable Premier and her executive council being hard at work, giving us the State Of The Province Address as well as tabling of the various budget speeches. We are thus encouraged that as we deliver this address and shall further be tabling our budget on May 29, 2008, we have a comprehensive view of our immediate surrounding and a fair sense as to the contribution we should endeavour to make towards this environment and for the common good of us all.

Honourable Speaker, perhaps it is now opportune to recall the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jnr. on the occasion of his acceptance of Noble Peace Price, December 10, 2004, Oslo, Norway, when he said:

“I accept this award today with an abiding faith in America and audacious faith in the future of man kind. I refuse to accept despair as the final response to ambiguities of history. I refused to accept the idea that the “is-ness” of man’s present nature makes him morally incapable of reaching up for the eternal “ought-ness” that forever confronts him.

I refused to accept the idea that man is mere flotsam and jetsam in the river of life, unable to influence the unfolding events which surround him. I refused to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of

racism and war that the bright day break of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.

I refuse to accept the cynical notion that nation after nation must spiral down an illitaristic stairway into the hell of nuclear annihilation. I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.....

I have the audacity to believe that people everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centred men have torn down, men other-centred can build up.

I still believe that one day mankind will bow before the Altars of God and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed and non - violent redemptive goodwill proclaimed the rule of the land. And "lions and the lambs shall lie down together, and every man shall sit under his own vine and fig tree, and none shall be afraid. I still believe that, we shall overcome".

Honourable Speaker, we may agree that these words of wisdom in the context of the socio-economic challenges facing us today are relevant to our situation as.

The focus of this year's address will be to properly outline to our people, the state of our City in relation to our key constitutional mandate as local government i.e. service provision (stating current levels of service penetration and backlogs and go further to indicate where we want this municipality to be in respect of all these matters in the medium to long term.

This will constitute our promise of performance thus contributing towards the realisation of the promises of the CONTRACT we earlier entered with the people of Mangaung and indeed contribute towards the advancement of our commitment to making Local Government Work Better for our people.

In re-affirm the importance of the contract as entered into with the people and the need for local government to work better in addressing the basic needs of the people. We must commit ourselves to re-double our effort to ensure the realisation of a better life for all.

In this context, the President of the Republic in his state of the nation address made a clarion call to all and sundry to put hands on deck and commit ourselves to conduct the business of government in an enhanced fashion – business unusual.

Honourable Speaker, it is important to note that in the context of our overall strategic objective, both history and the objective conditions of our time requires of us to build on the foundation towards a prosperous city.

It is important for us to mention these points because at about the same time as we shall be delivering our 3rd State of the city address next year, we will be seriously grappling with the real questions whether we have done all we could to secure yet another decisive renewal of the mandate to continue bettering the lives of our people and in doing this, take cue from but not limited to the following national apex priorities:

- The further acceleration of our economic growth and development.
- Speeding up the process of building the infrastructure we need to achieve our economic and social goals.
- Improving the effectiveness of our interventions directed at second economy, and poverty eradication.
- Enhancing the impact of our programmes targeting the critically important area of education and training.
- Accelerating our advance towards the achievement of the goal of health for all.

- Revamping the criminal justice system to intensify our offensive against crime.
- Further strengthening the machinery of government to ensure that it has the capacity to respond to our development imperatives and
- Enhancing our focus on key areas in terms of our system of international relations, with particular focus on some African issues and south-south relations.
- Speeding up land and agrarian reform with detailed plans for land acquisition, better implementation of agricultural support services and household food support.

Honourable Speaker, we have over the last ten years embarked on infrastructural development programme to tackle the huge service backlog in the less privileged areas. However, despite the important strides we have made thus far in bettering the lives of the ordinary people. The huge challenge of addressing the basic needs of our people still remains as we celebrate the 14 anniversary of our freedom.

But those who are still grappling with lack of access of basic needs are still waiting to enjoy the fruits of freedom. As we pause today to reflect on where we come from, where we are and how far we still have to traverse to achieve local prosperity.

We will all agree that important strides have been made however insufficient they maybe. To date in the field of provision of infrastructure we have succeeded jointly with all the spheres of government to ensure that 10 000 households have access to portable water, 36.3 kilometres of streets are either tarred sealed, 1000 kilometres of streets are rehabilitated, 1 514 buckets are eradicated, 3000 houses are build, one library is build, 4 schools are build, 1 police station is build, 1 clinic is build, 3 sports facilities are upgraded among other things.

All of these things were done with the sole purpose to promote local prosperity and bettering the lives of the ordinary people. Despite the important but insufficient strides recorded to date the challenge of eradicating the huge social backlog remains. Hence, the clarion call has been made to all the spheres of government to adopt a new attitude and mindset of business unusual.

This attitude acknowledges that despite whatever achievements made thus far it is insignificant in comparison to the level of poverty and hunger that still affects many of our people.

In order to respond to these challenges that have the potential to create political instability there is a need for a new attitude and strategy of business unusual to be adopted. Because to continue with the current business as usual attitude the chances of us responding to the current challenges facing our people are remote.

We are confident that we have the capacity to respond to these challenges on condition that we work together as a team, with the other spheres of government in the spirit of cooperative governance. We might be seating in different spheres of government but in the final analysis our target audience and constituency is one.

**The team work approach requires that all spheres of government must take part in the IDP planning processes to ensure that the IDP becomes a true integration of planning processes for the government as a whole. It is a pity that despite the fact that the government has adopted the IDP as planning instrument we are still falling short of its ideal and vision.**

The IDP was designed as a planning instrument to ensure an integrated planning and execution of programmes and to do away with planning done in silos. **The business unusual attitude requires that we must move with speed towards a truly integrated planning.**

Our planning by and large is characterised by doing things in silos, being reactive, and piece meal and ad hoc in nature. We are still falling short of the ideal and philosophy underlining the IDP that of encouraging a systematic, scientific and integrated planning.

We are still suffering from the syndrome of building toilets in the veld like apartheid used to do without providing other services and amenities. Hence we are experiencing the serious problem of the huge service backlog. We are call upon to adopt a new attitude and mindset of business unusual if we hope to turn the corner. There are still many challenges facing us in our march towards local prosperity characterised as thus:

The growing informal settlements that put serious constraints on the limited financial resources and continuously throw our plan in disarray. The informal settlements force us to be reactive and ad hoc in terms of our planning cycle. They always compel us to provide services to them and neglect long established and formalised areas with service backlog.

There are about 3000 households within the informal settlement areas and the number is growing daily. This matter needs to be addressed vigorously if we hope to achieve our vision of local prosperity.

The eradication of bucket system remains a challenge that we are adequately responding to at the moment. We are confident that by 2012 all the bucket would have been eradicated and the VIP toilets would progressively be phased out.

The upgrading (tarring) of streets remains a critical matter to be addressed in the next decade in view of the fact that the current state of the road network impact negatively on the provision of other services such as emergency services among others.

The provision of recreation and sport facilities is one of the issues that need to be prioritised as part of our social cohesion and mass involvement in cultural and sporting activities.

The maintenance of existing infrastructure cannot be over-emphasised as part of ensuring sustainable development and to this end a plan needs to be put in place to address the worrying trend regarding this matter especially in the less privileged areas.

The financial sustainability of the municipality is a matter that needs to be put as our number one priority as we enter the second decade of democracy. All these challenges would remain unresolved without the municipality being in a healthy financial situation.

The provision of housing to the poorest of the poor in order to ensure that there is shelter and comfort remain critical to our overall plan of economic empowerment. We pronounced already during the Housing Lekgotla held on 25 Sept 2007, that there is a need for the housing backlog to be reduced significantly and for the inhabitants of Mangaung to be provided with quality housing in the process.

Further that, in pursuing this primary housing objective, the municipality was engaging in various housing delivery mechanisms and new approaches were being tested in order to improve delivery. White City Hostel Re-development is one such example of the new approaches referred to. In this project the municipality has delivered a new housing typology (semi-detached duplexes) that recognise all policies that encourage densification.

However, the estimated housing backlogs of 47 343 remain a key challenge that needs to be tackled vigorously in the years to come. This number represents the following figures in each of our three regions; Bloemfontein (19 411 representing

41%), Botshabelo (16 570 representing 35%) and Thaba Nchu (11 362 representing 24%) of the total backlogs.

We know that one of the major challenges facing the Municipality is the continued proliferation of informal settlements. Like all other growing urban centres in South Africa, MANGAUNG is finding it difficult to catch up with the demand for stands and housing, even if thousand stands are provided for occupation there will always be another thousand waiting. It is no doubt that the high prevalence of informal settlements requires:

- The constant conducting of social surveys to update informal settlements information.
- Proactive acquisition and development of land as well as allocation of serviced sites to residents ahead of the allocation of housing subsidies.
- The maintenance of a living Housing Waiting List, which will enable the orderly allocation of housing to the needy,
- The finalization of the Housing Chapter that contains reasonable and reachable five year housing targets, and
- The development and enforcement of by-laws to combat land invasion(squatting) in general

Informed by the outcome of a successful housing Lekgotla held last year on 25-26 September 2007, seven parcels of land have been identified to provide shelter to our communities and deal with the housing backlogs. Critically, we will be solidifying the partnership that we have forged with the private sector in providing the requisite infrastructure, building shelter for communities on these parcels of land.

We need to explore the implementation of development fees (developers contribution to the installation of bulk infrastructure) to ensure rapid installation of infrastructure to keep pace with development. The forged partnership with the

private sector is part of innovative mechanisms that will be used in leveraging resources for service delivery.

We will strengthen the solid foundation that we have laid in partnering with the provincial department of Local Government and Housing in providing shelter to our people. Strategic projects such as Project Phases 2 and 3 identified as part of the Presidential Priority Projects for eradicating informal settlements, 2010 Village and Accreditation of our municipality will be given undivided attention and leadership.

The resolution of these challenges must remain at the centre piece of our plans and programmes in the next decade. We therefore need to come up with creative and innovative solutions to these challenges and the following are worthy of being explored:

- The issue of the growing informal settlement based on the experience of other municipalities needs to be addressed through the promulgation of the Informal Settlement By-laws in order to make it unlawful for anybody to invade land. The illegal invasion of land is contrary and undermines orderly planning and sustainable development.

Our flagship project for the next financial year in the Bloemfontein region is the eradication of 2400 informal settlement in the Grassland area by the end of July 2009. In the Botshabelo and Thaba Nchu regions 3000 informal houses will be eradicated by the end of the next financial year.

The eradication of the buckets remains our key priority and we will continue to mobilise resources for the successful completion of this project by 2012. Therefore, we need to proclaim Botshabelo as a sanitation nodal point for the next three years of the budget cycle. The business unusual requires of us to

dispense off the piece meal approach to development for a comprehensive impact driven approach.

Our flagship project for the next financial year in this region is the eradication of the remaining 8224 buckets by the end of October 2008.

The state of our streets especially in the less privileged areas requires a different approach if we hope to make an impact in this field. We therefore need to develop a comprehensive Road Infrastructure Plan for the entire municipal area that outlines the type, level and standard of streets that we need to construct. However, the implementation of this plan should commence in Bloemfontein as our Roads nodal point.

This means our main focus areas in Bloemfontein would be road construction commencing from the old township areas, so that by the end of the next decade we would have finished the construction of the streets in Bloemfontein.

Our flagship project for the next financial year in this region is the paving (tarring) of 20 kilometres streets by the end of July 2009.

The provision of housing needs to be given the necessary impetus if we hope to reduce the housing backlog and thereby restoring the dignity of our people who stay in squalor conditions. In the past our approach to housing was characterised by an attitude of a drop in the ocean.

The building of a single RDP in the sea of shacks results into the RDP house becoming a glorified shack. The business unusual requires a different approach characterised by an impact driven approach.

These means moving into an area that is predominantly having shacks or mud houses and turn it around through the provision of RDP houses. If this approach is adopted across the breadth and length of the country people would see the

impact of our housing programme. Therefore we need to designate Thaba Nchu as the Housing nodal point.

This means that almost 70% of the housing subsidies must be directed to this area and the remaining 30% in Bloemfontein beginning from the 2009/2010 financial year.

The three nodal points should not be viewed as mutually exclusive but as a complementary totality that is supported by secondary initiatives from other spheres of government. But the three nodal points remain the key anchor projects for any development that take place in each region.

These three nodal points are but bridges that help us to move with speed towards our destination of local prosperity. Because in the words of Nelson Mandela as you reach the top of the mountain you realise that there are still many more hills and mountains to climb and rivers to cross before we can proclaim to ourselves that we have arrived.

Hence after attaining freedom in 1994 we find that there are still numerous challenges that face us the sad one being the ugly racism that rears its head from time to time at the workplace, on the farms, in the private spaces such as mobile phones, computers, and homes.

We therefore condemn in the strongest possible terms racism and racist practices that are still prevalent at the University of the Free. This requires that the transformation of this university must be put high on the agendas of all the stakeholders as we navigate through the second decade of democracy.

Education that takes place within a racist free environment is a matter of a top priority. Education, education and education of our young people remains a critical component of sustainable development. **If the situation is to remain like**

**that in our university, it is clear the kind of products it will produce for the society.**

**I have since proposed to the speaker of this house that we host a racism summit as Mangaung and invite our community to participate and share their views on this issue, not only on what happened at the university. As the community of Mangaung we need to find each other on matters that affects us all.**

### **On education**

**Though education is not our competency, we have a duty of ensuring that the environment is conducive for learning and teaching, together with the community.** Therefore, we need to ensure that the necessary support is provided to those poorly performing schools that are mainly in the less privileged areas. A call is therefore made to all and in particular to the business community to provide support to the talented but needy learners.

It is not going to help to cry about skills shortage while doing nothing concrete to address the problem. We hope that the business community will respond positively to this call by the people of Mangaung Local Municipality.

However, we take pride and congratulate the few top class schools in the less privileged areas that are among the high performers in the country such as Tsosetso, **Leratong** and Sechaba se Maketse Secondary Schools to mention but a few. These schools continue to demonstrate that poverty is not necessarily an obstacle to doing well in matric.

### **On sports and recreation**

The provision of recreation and sport facilities remains a critical matter as we approach 2010 and beyond as part of our national project to build social cohesion in the light of the rampant racism that is still bedevilling our national psych.

Our flagship project for the next financial year remains preparing ourselves and creating conducive conditions for the hosting of the ever successful 2010 Fifa World Cup in Africa. We remain focused and determined to complete the construction of the Free State Stadium by the end of 2008.

We should also upgrade sport facilities in the less advantaged communities, for them to also access better national standards facilities.

The maintenance of existing infrastructure is a matter we are called upon the by constitution of South Africa to do. As we gradually and progressively provide infrastructure to the less privileged areas we must not lose focus of maintaining what we have otherwise we undermine sustainable development.

### **Maintenance and backlogs**

**Mr Speaker fellow cuncilors, let me start with the national challenge the electricity crisis we are facing.**

**As Mangaung we are looking at activating our power station to generate electricity for our community.**

**We are learning best practices from different cities in the world which once experienced a similar problem, we will continue putting the community on board on this issue and will also continue raising awareness on energy saving methods.**

**We are appealing unto our community to make sure that they also save electricity.**

**Our flagship project for the next financial year regarding our maintenance and rehabilitation programme is to reseal 10 kilometres of our street network by the end of June 2009.**

**Stemming from all these, our NEW DEVELOPEMNTAL GOALS / OBJECTIVES shall therefore be to achieve the following by 2011.**

70% of land disposed and services procurement shall go to PDI(s) Previously Disadvantaged Groups

Housing backlog is currently 47 343 and should therefore be reduced by 100%. This backlog should be reduced by 25% annually in order to deal with it. Everything equal, this implies building and handing over of 11 835 houses per annum in order to completely address the backlog by 2011.

The current economic growth rate stands..... and .....unemployment rests at ..... and.....meaning .....jobs are needed.

We must ensure that by 2011 our SMME and economic development programmes should through partnership with private sector encourage and achieve growth rate of 7% for our city and create 35 000 jobs.

The current literacy rate is ..... and our skills level sits at .....  
By 2011 Skills level and literacy rate should have increases from ..... % to .... %

Poverty levels currently in our city are and we will reduce to .....%

Crime levels are presently at and shall have been reduced to ..... % by end of our term.

The City contribution to global warming activities is currently at ..... we shall ensure that we reduce greenhouse gases and all developments shall be comply with sustainable development practices.

Currently we only have the following academies in our City ..... At the end of our term, we should have ensured that there is at least one academy per sporting code in our City.

We currently attract less than ..... % of national, provincial and significant artistic, cultural and sporting / entertainment activities. To ensure City vibrancy. We should ensure that by 2011 ..... % of these activities nationwide happen in our City.

Honourable Speaker, we should perhaps reiterate our guiding principle at this stage as that of ensuring that:

There is universal service access and delivery at acceptable standards and to this end:

All formalised erven have access to electricity and receive FB electricity

There is universal access to water to all formalised erven and access to Free Basic water.

To attain all of this we continue to prescribe the following pledge and strategic intent

The City of Mangaung is committed to providing accountable quality services at an affordable cost on a sustainable basis. To this end, the City will systematically review its directorates, services and delivery mechanisms and will pursue the most appropriate methods and structures for providing quality service and best value for the municipal tax Rand.

For attainment of the above goals we will be inviting internal and external parties to submit projects which give effect to developmental goals of the municipality from recognition as Mayoral lead projects so as to encourage innovation and to push our developmental agenda. During budget process an announcement of how much is available shall be made.

We therefore expect that the administration will take time out shortly to put flash and strategise to achieve these and others presented in the state of the city address.

Once this is done we will all go to a lekgotla to agree on time frames and prioritisation. Thereafter, we will then jointly go to the electorate to present the contract detailing the legacy this leadership would have left behind come the end of our tenure.

Together with our budget and reviewed IDP we shall annually further spell out how far we will go and the resource allocation necessary for the achievement of the above.

We remain committed to the creation of an enabling environment for our people to take charge of their own destiny and bettering the lives of our people.

We therefore take this opportunity to thank all the employees and the executive management who have done their best in making it possible for the Council to continue rendering services to the people.

Finally, we part with you by quoting one of the scholars in the behaviour of human beings; Carl Jung: who said:

“The most decisive qualities in a person are often unconscious and can only be perceived by others “

**We must discard tendencies towards selfish departmentalism by which the interests of one’s own unit are looked after to the exclusion of those of others, lack of consideration for the whole and complete indifference to other departments and people is a characteristic of a selfish person. And in a business unusual environment we cannot afford selfish tendencies.**

**Mangaung must be like a piano and the employees must be like the fingers, in playing a piano all ten fingers are in motion, it won’t do to move some fingers only and not the others. But if all ten fingers press down at once, there is no melody.**

**To produce good music, the ten fingers should move rhythmically and in coordination both the officials and councillors should keep a firm grasp on our task and at the same time, around the central task of bettering the lives of our people. Wherever there is a problem we must put our fingers on it and this is a method we must master.**

**Last year I said our duty is to solve people’s problems and that we must master this duty, this year I am coming up with a strategy of mastering it, that is putting all our efforts together in ensuring that our people’s problems are solved.**

**The world before us and around Mangaung is progressing, the future is bright and no one can change this general trend of history. We should**

**carry on constant engagements with our the people for a bright future for Mungaung and progress of the world around us, this will build confidence in the success of the contract with the people.**

**In conclusion**

**The council must reconsider its performance management systems, to make sure that they are in line with the regulation gazetted in 2006. which therefore means that we must overhaul our policy, this is meant to make sure that it produces desired results, such that people will only get paid bonuses for having gone an extra mile in doing their work.**

**For an example if ED infrastructure services is expected to install water taps to 100 households in a given financial year and he installs the 100 and nothing more, he does not get paid a performance bonus because he did what he gets paid for every month that goes by.**

**But if he install within the same timeframe and same budget 110 or so, then he gets a bonus, that's paying him for going a mile extra in his work.**

**You be the judge!!!!**