

**THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF
THE CITY OF POLOKWANE, CLR FREDDY GREAVER, DELIVERED AT
THE POLOKWANE NEW COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 10 JUNE 2013**

Honourable Speaker, Clr Caiphus Mathiba
Chief Whip of Council, Clr Ouma Mashiane
Members of the Mayoral Committee
Chairpersons of Council Committees
Honourable Fellow Councillors

His Grace Bishop Dr. B E Lekganyane

Accounting Officer and Senior Management team
Leaders of Business, Labour and Civil Society
Members of the Media
Distinguished Guests, comrades and friends

Ben Okri, A way of being free, 1997:

"There are no joys without mountains being climbed.

There are no joys without the nightmares that precede them and spring them into light...

The joys that spring from the challenges are profound; and the challenges will always be there. as long as there are human beings there will be challenges. Let no one speak of frontiers exhausted, all challenges met, all problems solved.

There is always the joy of discovering, uncovering, and forging ne forms, new ways..."

"Joy cometh in the morning"... all these challenges and mountains and nightmares that we face are merely a prelude to the joys and victory that will soon spring into light"

Youth Month.....

As we take this opportunity to reflect on the state of the City of Polokwane, we do so mindful of the critical role facing local government in meeting the challenges facing our people. This term of local government has been given the task to:

- Build local economies to create more employment, decent work and sustainable livelihoods;
- Improve local public services and broaden access to them;
- Build more united non-racial, integrated and safer communities;
- Promote more active community participation in local government; and
- Ensure more effective, accountable and clean local government that works together with national and provincial government.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Mr. Speaker, in our quest to translate our political freedom into human development we have to put the people first. We can no longer afford to approach the development of our communities like someone delivering toys to sleeping children. As a developmental Municipality it is our responsibility to mobilize, inform, educate and empower our people to expand their livelihood assets and capabilities, to participate in, negotiate with, influence, control and hold accountable institutions, like the municipality, that affect their lives and their well-being.

Guided by these principles we have put community participation and communication at the centre of our activities and programmes in order to ensure that these are guided and informed by the true aspirations of our people and that they meet their needs.

The IDP and budget that council adopted on the 30th of May is a product of broad consultation. Apart from the various cluster and sector consultation sessions, we also consulted the Rep-Forum, traditional leaders and for the

very first time we met and engaged with religious leaders and traditional healers. These were very insightful and enriching experiences that will remain part of our IDP consultation programme.

Likewise, we intend to build on the Mayoral Imbizo and council outreach programmes for they take council closer to the people and afford all of us an opportunity to hear from and see the conditions under which our people live everyday of their life.

The success of the city of Polokwane and the explanation for the drastic reduction in community uprisings lie in the dynamic and supportive relationship that exist between us and the people who elected us to serve them. The community's patience and support coupled with the councilors' efforts and commitment to serve have made Polokwane one of the most stable municipalities in our province and country. We are proud to serve a community such as ours.

In terms of the **credibility of the IDP, the 2012/13 MEC's IDP assessment** report confirms that Polokwane municipality is among those whose rating is HIGH. We endeavour of the institution to maintain that status.

BUDGET ALLOCATION

“Where there is no vision, the people perish” Proverbs 29:18

Honourable Speaker and members of Council, allow me now to reflect on the multi-year budget for Polokwane Municipality in respect of the 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 financial years.

This multi-year budget was tabled in terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA), No 56 of 2003 and in terms of the Municipal Budget & Reporting Regulations. The MFMA requires that the budget be tabled ninety (90) days before the start of the financial year and **we fully complied with this requirement of the MFMA.**

Inflation is forecast to remain within the target range of 5.4 to 5.6 percent, edging towards the lower end of the range in 2015 as the economy strengthens. This **was taken into account when the budget was compiled.**

Cognizance should be taken that the **SALGA Salary Wage Collective Agreement** was concluded and National Treasury has advised to make provision for an increase of **6.85% for the 2013/2014 financial year.** This is based on the average CPI of 5.6% plus 1.25% totaling 6.85%. As part of Government's aim to create jobs, **provision has been made to fill critical vacancies with effect from 1 July 2013** and the rest by no later than 1 January 2014.

We can only attain our vision if we tighten our belts and roll-up our sleeves. It is vital that we **curtail all the expenditure** that will not translate into service delivery imperatives and commit ourselves to robust and vigorous **maximization of the collection** of the debt owed to the municipality. We are aware of this challenge and we will not be apologetic in tackling this matter, we will leave no stone unturned.

Honorable Speaker; the need to drastically **improve our customer relations** cannot be over emphasized [**Guest House**]. The aim is to reduce the number of unresolved queries on our billing system and improve our ability to collect revenue. **Accurate billing of services is a critical aspect of sound and good governance** aimed at ensuring that all who benefits from municipal services pay for these services timeously.

The Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework (MTREF).The total revenue budget over the medium term is **R1.96 billion in 2013/14, R2.06 billion in 2014/15 and increase to R2.24 billion in 2015/16.** The total revenue increased by R37 million against the adjustment budget and by R93 million and R187 million in 2014/15 and 2015/16 respectively.

Expenditure for the medium term amounts to R1.94 billion in 2013/14, R2.0 billion in 2014/15 and R2.12 billion in 2015/16. This resulted in an operating surplus of R24.8 million, R61.1million and R125.6 million respectively which

will be utilized to fund capital projects.

During the compilation of the 2013/14 MTREF **operational repairs and maintenance** was identified as a strategic imperative owing to the aging of the Municipality's infrastructure and historic deferred maintenance. To this end, repairs and maintenance was substantially **increased by 40 per cent in the 2013/14 financial year, from R89.2 million (2012/2013) to R124.9 million (2013/2014)**. In relation to the total operating expenditure, repairs and maintenance comprises of 6.4, 6.3 and 6.2 per cent for the respective financial years of the MTREF.

For the 2013/14 financial year, 63.3 per cent or R79.1 million of total repairs and maintenance will be spent on infrastructure assets. Electricity infrastructure has received a significant proportion of this allocation totaling R15.5 million, followed by road infrastructure at R11 million. Community assets have been allocated R45.7 million of total repairs and maintenance equating to 36.5 percent.

The tariffs for water and electricity are largely influenced and determined outside the control of the city that is by NERSA, Eskom and the Water Board. We have heard the comments made during the IDP/Budget consultation process, and we have the structure of the electricity tariffs to lower the impact of the increase. We then reduced the electricity tariff increase from 8% to 7%.

Through the city's **stepped tariff structure for water and electricity** services, consumers can, however, manage their monthly bills. The principle is: the higher the consumption, the higher the cost per kilowatt-hour of electricity or litres of water.

Honorable Speaker, the social package assists households that are poor or face other circumstances that limit their ability to pay for services. To receive these free services the households are required to register in terms of the **Municipality's Indigent Policy**. There are currently plus minus **7400 debtors registered as indigent** and the target is to register more indigent households during the 2013/14 financial year. The **indigent will still**

receive 6 kiloliter water and 50 units of electricity free per month. An added relief is that from 1 July 2013 all properties with a value of R100000 or less will be exempted from the payment of rates.

Honorable Speaker; the focus on financial management is towards achievement of a **clean administration** in provincial departments, municipalities and entities. It is important for the House to note that this will require collective effort from all key stakeholders. Partnerships have been strengthened with various stakeholders including the office of the Auditor-General to implement processes that will contribute to clean audit reports.

To this end, various workshops with departments took place on the preparation of measurable targets and indicators in terms of predetermined objectives. The key focus area is on the interventions that the Provincial Treasury will implement working together with departments and the provincial **Auditor General's office**. We continue to work tirelessly on improving the provincial performance on the **payment of suppliers within 30 days**. This will call for tightening the administrative loopholes throughout the whole value chain of procurement. Accurate billing of services is very crucial aspect of sound and good governance aimed at the sustainability of the City

Honorable Speaker, the **Capital Budget for 2013/14 amounts to R504 million** and has been appropriated for the development of infrastructure. In the outer years this amount totals R363.7 million and R460.1 million respectively for each of the financial years. The majority of these projects are funded through grant funding by National Government.

	CATEGORI ES OF SERVICE PROVIDER S FROM JULY TO MARCH								

	2013							
				HDI	Women	Youth	Disability	Locality
TARGET				60%	10%	10%	10%	10%
ACTUAL				51,06%	38,85%	40,15%	1,34%	67,1%

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Honorable Speaker, we have committed to contributing meaningfully to the fight against the **triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality**.

The specific objective of local economic development should therefore be to promote the competitive advantages of Polokwane economy for the benefit of all its citizens. This objective should form the basis for job creation from which households can earn respectable livelihoods and the spatial diversification of production and service provision throughout the municipal area.

Eskom has identified the need to put up their provincial headquarters in Polokwane. The proposed development will require approximately 40 Hectares of land for the purposes of the construction of an 8 Ha regional head office.

As the municipality we believe that such development will act as landmark in Polokwane, it will enhance development and bring about job creation for local communities. The development will also stimulate economic growth and promote investment in the city.

The other important developments with huge potential for economic development and job creation are the proposed Polokwane Academic Hospital; the Motor City; and the expansion of Enterprise and Coca Cola.

The proposed motor city will be located adjacent to Thorn Hill shopping centre on the vacant land between Steer Park and Thorn Hill. The proposed available portion has the potential to create employment opportunities for the City of Polokwane and to further generate sustainable income for the city. All objections have been withdrawn and the development should now take off pretty soon.

EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME (EPWP)

Honourable Speaker, with the ever increasing figures of unemployment, the municipality is expected to promote the principles of Expanded Public Works Programme and re-structure its activities to facilitate and create greater employment opportunities. EPWP's targets are set annually by the National Government, which the municipality is expected to achieve. The City of Polokwane has thus far achieved 78% of the allocated national target of 3 754 by creating a total of 2939 job opportunities as at the end of April 2013.

The Municipality has also initiated one programme called "*Ema o iphidishe*" EPWP Community based Routine Maintenance programme in an effort to contribute significantly towards job creation and also to target our poorest of the poor. The objective of this programme is mainly job creation and poverty alleviation.

This is one alternative method that the municipality is exploring in enhancing maintenance whilst responding to the government's call for job creation.

The programme covers 18 wards and is implemented in the 20 areas within Polokwane Municipality a total of 500 people have been employed to carry out routine maintenance work in the identified areas, which include: maintenance of gravel roads, cleaning of open spaces and parks, vegetation control, litter picking and other activities.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Events and Facilities

Honourable Speaker and Members of Council, we continue to fulfil the constitutional mandate of social cohesion by actively maintaining facilities and bringing **major events to the City of Polokwane and the province**. These events not only give access to those who attend them, but generally contribute to the economic growth of the city. Events and facilities are deliberately used to empower disadvantaged communities and individuals, provide them with access to schooling, recreational activities as well as relief where needed.

Through partnership with the **Blue Bulls Rugby Union the municipality raised R920 000 which funded bursaries** for needy students from Polokwane. It connected with 24 needy communities that were offered **R840 000 raised through the Mayoral Golf Day** which is on its 3rd year. There is hope to continue amassing sponsorship that would make it possible to spread beneficitation to a far greater audience than what is being reached at the moment.

The flagship Peter Mokaba Stadium and its precinct continue to be a popular venue. In this financial year we hosted 28 Premier Soccer League (PSL) and knockout matches at the facility.

There are matches that attracted up to 37 000 fans, especially the last two Kaizer Chiefs matches. An average of 12 000 spectators per match attended the matches this season. All the games hosted at the stadium contribute significantly beyond the ticketing revenue at the stadium. Accommodation, restaurants, shops and other facilities benefit immensely when the matches are hosted. It is estimated that on a weekend where a game of more than 30 000 spectators is played, the economy of the city is estimated to generate between R3-5 million. The emergence of ticket fraudsters is one of our key challenges as we endeavour to make the Peter Mokaba financially less of a burden.

Peter Mokaba Stadium has hosted, on average, more PSL matches than any stadium in South Africa in 2012/13 and reached, statistically, higher spectator attendance than its peers. Since the 2010 FIFA World Cup the stadium has hosted 673,951 spectators, averaging 10,299 per match. Meetings, conferences, stadium tours and a number of other non-bowl activities are also hosted at the stadium.

In the process of assessing the possibility of hosting the Chad games next year.

Currently Council manages the stadium and, for the first time since the 2010 World Cup, the stadium **spending has been reduced by 50%** of what it was then. At this rate a break-even point should be reached in the next three to five years. It is the commercial model that is currently employed in the new Peter Mokaba Stadium that the municipality would like to use to maintain other such flagship facilities without heavy dependence of Council coffers. Council also resolved to spend **R4m to refurbish and demarcate offices for the IRPTN project** where we will lease office space to the project and increase the revenue collected at the stadium.

Black Leopards and Polokwane City... Congratulate Kaizer Chiefs!

The municipality continues to provide a marketing platform for the City through the hosting of the **National Motor Rally Championships**. This national event attracts TV coverage beyond the borders of the country, giving a glimpse into the sporting facilities that exist within our city.

The municipality has hosted other events that have directly benefitted the communities within the municipality like the Indigenous and Golden Games, the Mayoral Cluster Races and the **Mayoral Road Race**. **Interestingly this year's race attracted over 2 000 participants**, some of whom came as far as Zimbabwe and parts of East Africa. It has proven to be a good warm-up before the epic Comrades Marathon. This gives the municipality the opportunity to increase the distances that are run as well as the prize money offered in future races and to place this in the sporting

calendar of many South Africans. **[Ludwick Mamabolo and Rufus Photo]**

Honourable Speaker, we **hosted the SA Games** in the previous financial year are getting ready to host the **Drum Majorette and Cheerleading national finals** next month. Our city will also, for the very first time in its 50 year history, host the **Craven Week Rugby finals**. It will also be the first time that the under 13 national finals will be hosted in the same city as the flagship under 18 finals. Zimbabwe and Namibia are also due to participate.

Tomorrow marks the start of the **Sunshine Tour sanctioned Polokwane Classic** where we will be giving our armatures an opportunity to play two days with the professionals who will be participating. this is the only event of its kind where the hosting municipality does not contribute a cent. We are presenting this with private sector funding.

Cultural competitions for the youth and children were presented from cluster up to finals throughout the financial year. 500 artists participated on cluster level whilst 215 artists participated for the finals which took place on 24 March and 28 April 2013, respectively. The various arts genres that were contested included poetry, story-telling, comedy, mapadi, dinaka, modern dance, gumboots, kwaito, hip-hop, R & B, pantsula, gospel, wedding songs, mashamsham and drama.

The beginning of the financial year 2012/13 also saw the municipality venturing into a territory that was not common, that of hosting the first **Polokwane Literary Fair**. Not only was this the first, but its success hinged on the partnership that the municipality was able to forge with artists and Metro FM.

Esteemed writer and activist, **Dr Mongane Wally Serote**, **dub poet Lesego Rampolokeng**, **esteemed story-teller Gcina Mhlope**, **renowned performing poet Lebo Mashile** and a host of other essayist, novelists, play writers and performers were weekend residents of Polokwane sharing and imparting knowledge through this event.

The Polokwane Literary Fair, which will enter its second year in 2012/13,

has created an unrivalled literary event in Limpopo, the only festival that focuses on arts content in its format and execution. The City of Polokwane boasts great events, but none of them take place in winter, the gap that Polokwane Literary Fair has set out to fill. It is also aimed at creating a sustainable literary industry that can contribute to the local economy. It will take time for Polokwane to achieve a sustainable literary industry but judging from the number of published local artists who took part in the festival, one is tempted to believe that we will summit this mountain sooner rather than later.

To sustain the culture of reading and deepening intellectual prowess, the municipality continues to support **debating competitions**. During the current financial year 43 debates took place and approximately 640 learners took part. The finals were held on 22 August 2012. The winning team was **Eagles Nest School who received the Executive Mayor's Trophy during** a gala event in the Jack Botes Hall. The 2013 tournament is underway, 27 schools enrolled with 34 teams participating. The final debate will be held in August 2013 and we are planning to have it right here in the council chamber.

A great deal of work needed to be done to sustain the interest of learners beyond debating by making sure that they visit libraries regularly. Polokwane Municipal Libraries celebrated **National Library Week** during the week of 18 to 23 March 2013. As part of the programme, the focus was on Moletši Clinic and the theme centred around health issues. The Born-to-read project of the library was launched by handing out packages containing a Hello Baby book to mothers with babies. This project will be sustained by the Moletjie Library staff.

Five schools from Moletjie and 5 from Seshego were invited to be part of an essay competition, where after **50 learners were selected for a Book Camp during the night of 20/21 March 2013**. Various activities kept them busy, for example, mini debate, life coaching, talent show, creative activities and a physical work-out presented by Virgin Active. Well know radio personality **Ashifa Shabba and the ETV News journalist Kathy**

Mohlahlana kept the learners active throughout the night.

Whilst a great deal has been achieved within this field of Community Development, it is also in this area that we still experience problems, particularly those related to **maintenance of facilities**. There has been in the past a push of financial resources to areas that are commonly seen as of basic nature, sometimes to the detriment of maintenance of the municipal facilities.

The **swimming pools and some halls required major refurbishment which the municipality budget could not cater for. It is for this reason that a major shift has been proposed for the 2013/2014 budget that would see amongst others, revamp of flagship Polokwane Town Pool to take it to levels wherein it hosts national championships.** This and other facilities would be given priority needs.

SERVICE DELIVERY PROGRAMME

Water and Sanitation

Honorable Speaker and Members of Council, Anglo Platinum will invest an amount of R80 Million to refurbish the overloaded Polokwane waste water treatment works. It is anticipated that the plant will receive up to 41Ml/d when development reaches the urban edge.

By 2014, Polokwane will require spare capacity at Polokwane and Seshego WWTW's, which by then will be running at full capacity. This initiative will give the treatment plant additional 5 years to operate within the capacity. We must therefore set the record straight, that we are addressing the water and sewer **problems that caused the officials to scare investors off by announcing that we will put all future developments on hold.**

An amount of R10M funded by Department of Water Affairs is available during 2013/2014 financial year so that the municipality can continue with the refurbishment programme of Seshego waste water treatment plant until

it complies with green drop requirements.

The Department of Water Affairs has agreed to assist the City of Polokwane with funding for the new Regional Waste Water Treatment Work. An amount of R1, 5M has been set aside by the department to start the planning process during this financial year.

Honorable Speaker, during the 2013/2014 financial year, the City of Polokwane will continue with its programme of improving access to water through implementation of capital project in 14 Regional Water Schemes. An amount of **R112 million has been budgeted through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG)** for the provisioning of water infrastructure in rural areas. We are pleased to announce that, currently Engineers for all these projects have been appointed and are busy with preliminary designs.

An amount of **R40 Million has been budgeted through MIG to construct more than 4 000 VIP toilets** in rural areas of the municipality. The toilets will only be implemented to households that qualify as approved by Council during 2012/2013 financial year.

Challenges with Water Shortages

Honorable Speaker, we are currently experiencing a challenge of water shortages, caused mainly by the increase in the number of households in the city as well as in the rural areas. But, plans have been put in place to try and address these challenges.

Lepelle Northern Water is busy with an application to increase water allocation to the city while the municipality is hard at work with regard to the refurbishment of Borehole projects which will help to reduce the shortage of water in the city. The use of boreholes as additional sources will also be taken into consideration when planning for new projects in the rural areas.

Honorable Speaker and members of council, the state of Asbestos pipelines is a concern for the municipality. At the moment we are receiving between 6 and 10 reports of pipe bursts per day which is also a major

contributor to our water losses. Some of these pipes are more than 50 years old and have far exceeded their life span. The municipality has managed to secure a meeting with the Minister of Water Affairs where in all the water related challenges for the municipality were discussed.

Honorable Speaker, we have established a Technical Task Team comprised of Polokwane Local Municipality, Department of Water Affairs, Capricorn District Municipality, Lepelle Northern Water and MISA to look at possible ways of resolving some of these challenges. The task team has identified strategic projects that should be implemented as short term, medium and long term solutions. Refurbishment of asbestos pipes was also identified as a critical project. The municipality has also invested an amount of R5 Million to refurbish the asbestos pipe during 2012/2013 financial year.

Honorable Speaker, the 2011/2012 Auditor General's report indicated that Polokwane municipality has lost an amount of R85 746 484 during water and electricity distribution process. The implementation of Smart Metering can therefore go a long way in reducing the losses in the distribution system and also be used for demand management.

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, 8 AUGUST 2008, No. 31308 GAZETTE Schedule 2 *“(d) an end user or customer with a monthly consumption of 500kWh and above must have smart metering system and be on time of use tariff not later than 01 January 2012”*

Council has resolved that officials should do benchmarking with other municipalities with regard to Smart Metering and a report on this matter be submitted in the first Council meeting of the 2013/2014 financial year. We would like to encourage all the residents to use water sparingly and report any illegal water use and pipe leakages to the municipality so that we can continue to share this scarce natural resource.

Roads and Storm water

Urban Areas

Honorable Speaker, we have successfully completed the construction of a 45 Meter **Lawton Bridge** Project providing access between Nirvana and Westernburg. We have also completed the construction of the **3.1km road in SDA1** and the **widening 1.1km of Nelson Mandela road in Seshego** as well as the **rehabilitation** of 21km of Streets in Polokwane City, 24km of Streets in Seshego and 8km in Mankweng.

A total of 35 805m² was patched, 30 street crossings reinstated and 13 speed humps were constructed during Routine Maintenance Programme in the City, Seshego and Mankweng areas.

Rural Areas

Honorable Speaker, we have also succeeded in completing the construction of 12km new access roads as well as upgrading of 3.6km sidewalks with segmented paving in the rural clusters by means of EPWP construction methods.

During 2013/2014 financial year, an amount of **R65, 75 Million is budgeted for the construction of access roads in rural areas**. This amount include R0, 5 Million for the construction of low level bridges, R4,5 Million to start with the 1st phase of the 19km **Silicon Roads** and R9 Million for the Upgrading of **Sebayeng to Mantheding** arterial road.

Furthermore, a total of 48.5km of roads were re-graveled and 1 670 km graded during the 1st phase of re-gravelling of rural roads.

The municipality has received **new fleet** which will be used to re gravel rural roads in the coming financial year. Our plan is to ave a grader in each rural cluster of the municipality to take care of our road maintenance in a more effective and efficient manner.

Energy

Honorable Speaker, we have completed the provision of electricity network to 582 households in Moletjie, 971 in Mankweng and 161 in Molepo/Maja during the 2012/2013 financial year. We are currently in discussions with

ESKOM to connect all the completed projects.

During the 2013/2014 financial year, we have made an allocation of R35 Million to **electrify more than 3 100 households**. the communities of **Thakgalang, Mankweng Unit F and Makgwakgwana** are among the beneficiaries. The municipality has completed electricity demand side management projects to the value of R10 Million

During November 2012, supply of electricity to extension 65 (**Legae la Batho**) was disrupted due to damage to the 11KV Alpha substation caused by rain storm. The municipality has successfully repaired the substation and feeder cable to the area. Council has just approved **electricity bulk contribution policy which will assist the municipality in revenue enhancement**.

Backlog of Basic Services

Service	H/H	Access	Backlog	Target
Water	178 001	171 054 (96.1%)	6947	3000
Sanitation		77 869 (43.7%)	100 132	2500
Electricity		147 710 (82.9%)	30 291	7 000
Waste		92 000 (45%) (Urban)	86 001 (All Rural Villages)	The municipality will construct transfer stations in rural areas. The estimated number of people to benefit not determined
Roads		592km	3565km	15.9

Source: Source: Stats S.A, 2011

[Rural bias: R35m for Electrification; R66m for Roads; R122m for Water; R40m for

Sanitation... BRT to Moletjie]

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Emergency Services

Honourable Speaker and Members of Council, we can confirm that we are ready to deal with emergency situations that may occur within the municipal area. We are continuously advising both private businesses and sector departments on matters of emergency management, and safety compliance. Cooperation in this regard will play a critical role in ensuring emergency preparedness and ensure that Polokwane become a safe home for both the investors and the general public.

The **burning down of the court** must go down as one of key setbacks in respect of our ability to respond in a coordinated and systematic way to emergencies. **Notwithstanding the challenges of access and water pressure experienced on the day, we still have to work hard to get our employees responsive, disciplined and proactive.** We can't harbour ambitions of being a world-class city when we can't effectively deal with such challenges.

We have since **joined forces with Working on Fire and we trust that this will further boost our capacity to fight fires** from an aerial point, structural and ground-men support within the jurisdiction of the municipality.

Law Enforcement

Honourable Speaker, the safety and security of our community remains one of our priorities hence our active participation in the Community Safety Forums. We have successfully conducted a number of joint operations with other security stakeholder such as the South African Police Service, South African National Defense Force and the Department of Home Affairs where a huge number of counterfeit goods were confiscated and several suspects arrested. **Two bogus doctors have been arrested during the last operation and their case is still under investigation.**

The **brutal killing and raping of our women and children across the municipality especially in Mankweng necessitated a very successful prayer day that we had in partnership with the SAPS and the local churches.** We have to work tirelessly and support the law enforcement agencies to arrest and prosecute offenders who terrorize our communities. We accordingly, welcome the most recent arrest of the suspected **Westernburg molester.**

Call Centre

Honorable Speaker, we are pleased to announce that new and improved Call centre software has been installed in the Control Centre which will go a long way in improving on customer care and prompt response to the public queries.

New software has also been installed at the Helpdesk in the Rates Hall to enhance the call taking ability and to ensure prompt and efficient handling of incoming and outgoing complaints and to be of assistance to the public in a faster and effective manner.

- CCTV cameras in the CBD are 85% repaired, the target of crime prevention via CCTV cameras is achieved.
- SAPS investigation officers that are in need of video footage for incidents and emergencies are being provided with the video footage.
- The Municipal Control Centre will still maintain a 24 hour 7 days a week emergency and call taking centre for assistance to the Public and emergencies that take place in and around Polokwane and to ensure that the relevant emergency services will be dispatched to the relevant incident or emergency.

Traffic & Licenses

Honorable Speaker, we continue to render traffic and licensing services to

ensure the safety of all road users and that there is free flow of traffic and access to Licensing services. These services are currently available at the City cluster, Seshego, Moletjie and Mankweng Clusters and we hope to extend to other clusters in the near future.

Plans are afoot to **totally jack up our offensive on traffic offenders**. We will employ some of the most modern facilities and technology and implement a zero tolerance strategy that is going to make offenders and people who have not paid their traffic fines very unhappy and unwelcome in Polokwane. Consider yourself warned.

Environmental Health Management

Honourable Speaker, we are implementing an **Integrated Town Cleaning Plan throughout the municipal area**. This plan is intended to be a living plan that will continuously be adjusted and enhanced as information becomes available or as conditions change. The success of this plan depends not only on the municipal planning team but on the cooperation and involvement of all stakeholders, including the general public.

We have successfully implemented means to safeguard the highly endangered **bullfrog population** that we have in the municipality and have made provision for a fence to secure the endangered plant species **[Clavicola] that we have on the koppie around Sterpark** where we intend to establish a botanical garden. We are also **cautiously proud of our efforts to secure the Rhinos** in our game reserve. We intend to increase our capacity to secure our reserve while promoting greater access to the facility.

Council resolved to embark on a process to reallocate some of the illegally occupied grazing farms/plots to individuals or cooperatives who will use them for farming and food security. We agreed with Enterprise that they will support local **SMME's who can supply them with pigs**. The opportunity exists for us to help cooperatives of young people, women and the Military Veterans Association who can use these grazing farms more effectively.

Part of the funding may be secured through the **R10m that the Motsepe Foundation offered** to initiatives from Polokwane.

Waste Management

We will be rolling out Skip bins and rural waste management in the rural communities.

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Honorable speaker and members of council, council made funds available to further the programme of **establishing a township and allocating serviced stands to the people of Disteneng**. We were hoping for assistance from COGHSTA which was going to assist us to fast track the bulk service roll-out plan. in the absence of funding, we will engage the community and work with them to do what we can to restore dignity and to permanently rescue our people from the squalor and unhygienic conditions under which they live.

We have successfully launched the **Local Economic Development Forum and Polokwane Tourism Association**. Both these institutions will be expected to perform the following functions:

- Attract investment in projects that will enhance sustainable economic prosperity;
- The forum shall serve as a vehicle for channeling resources for socio-economic development in terms of their social investment obligations;
- Serve as a link between private sectors, SMME's and the civil society;
- Promote knowledge management and share "best practices".
- Polokwane Tourism Association will create a platform that

assists all the product owners to engage in tourism related activities with ease in the development of the city as a tourism destination of choice

Honourable Speaker, we have to focus on and **clampdown on illegal land uses** and restores law enforcement in this area. Illegal structures are everywhere across the municipality. We also have many businesses trading from what is a zoned residential property. Council approved a report that among others establish a team of internal and external stakeholders who will tackle this problem. Our open spaces have become a free-for-all and there is no sense of order and we are losing a lot of money in the process too.

HOUSING AND BUILDING INSPECTION

- **Govan Mbeki Awards**
- In May 2012 Polokwane Municipality achieved an Award and Certificate in the category of the Best People's Housing Process Project of the Year.
- **Housing Accreditation** has to be expedited.
- The City has been able to conduct the Consumer Education and the program was presented to Councilors, CDW and Ward Committee members. About 16 wards have been visited to date.
- Workshop for Energy Efficiency to address the non compliance of build structures has been organized for Architects and all Developers in the City and will take place on 13th of June 2013.
- **PHA has to be self-sustaining and grow a portfolio beyond**

the current social housing focus. Council is in the process of augmenting its mandate to include other forms of housing and especially the critical gap market.

TRANSPORT SERVICES

Procuring consultants for the project have to appoint before end of month to secure roll-overs and save the project. Running one month late. Council has to approve the report on the Sec 33 consultation and the appointed service providers.

Taxi industry went on study tour and is working very well with the municipality. Consultants must be paid on time.

Project will permanently transform the landscape of Polokwane including the Multi-Modal facility which will integrate bus, taxi and rail into one state of the art facility.

CORPORATE & SHARED SERVICES

HUMAN RESOURCES

To achieve all the above service delivery milestones, we need people who will implement all the projects. People therefore are our most critical resource. The quality of human capital is important in any organization. To provide all these services we rely on an organization that responds to the need of communities both in terms of human capital and organization fit. Polokwane's organizational structure was adopted in October 2011. This happened after an old organogram had been in operation for almost ten years prior to the adoption date. The current organogram has two thousand six hundred and four (2604) positions as compared to the old organogram which had one thousand six hundred (1600) positions. One thousand and four (1004) more positions have been created.

Placement of permanent employees (Phase 1) is now complete. The

second phase of the process is underway and the **filling of critical positions has started in earnest**. This process will continue until all the funded posts are filled and all employees in the corporate pool are deployed or redeployed.

By the next council we shall have all nine of the Executive Management positions filled. We currently have eight of the nine filled by four males and four females.

LLF has to function much better. We have to create more jobs for our people and reduce the number of temporary employees.

FLEET MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Council Realize that in terms of household numbers and the degree to which the fleet, which support the service delivery, the same household are kept at the rate at which it is possible for the fleet to enhance the required service delivery. A transaction advisor was sought to conduct the study and advice on a viable model that will best suit the municipality. A company by the name of Kguthatso Consultingworx Services was appointed through the normal supply chain bidding processes.

The transaction advisor conducted the study and made recommendations to the Council on a number of options that were found to best suit the municipality. **The Council took a resolution on a Full Maintenance Lease with 35% residual value over a period of five years.** Over and above the Full Maintenance Lease, the Council resolved that a comprehensive solution be adopted, which includes provision of fleet management system, disposal of unserviceable fleet units, incorporation of the existing fleet into a managed maintenance, and the automation of refueling services.

A tender for the provision of comprehensive fleet solution and related equipments over the period of five years was advertised. **Following a competitive bidding process in line with our SCM policy, Fleet Africa (Pty) Ltd was appointed.** A service level agreement to this effect was

signed on the 25th February 2013. An implementation plan was presented and agreed upon for execution.

It is with deep sense of pleasure to report the progress made to date. It is worth mentioning that the municipality is already benefiting from the implementation of this project. Amongst other things, a fully operational office is already well equipped with the fleet management system, which links directly to Fleet Africa's fleet management system and call centre, and two offices are connected directly, with two desk top computers supplied by Fleet Africa. 214 Maintenance Fund Vehicles are presently captured on the system and all their repairs are done through Fleet Africa's call centre. **The same vehicles have been allocated with individual fuel cards which enable them to refuel at any petrol filling station that accepts petrol cards.**

The FML units are already equipped with **On Board Computers** and are live on the system.

The down time which was caused by the process of producing orders is fully eliminated on vehicles that are repaired through Fleet Africa.

According to the approved delivery schedule, we expect the last unit to be delivered on the **23rd July 2013**. Put differently, by the 23rd of July 2013, we would have received all our fleet viz. the 233 units; which include plant and equipment (yellow, vanilla fleet and other equipment).

ICT AND THE SMART CITY CONCEPT

Honorable Speaker, on the occasion of Council adopting the budget and IDP, we placed significant focus on the current challenges which Polokwane Municipality faces and how the city should aim to resolve those. We intimated that the solution will largely come from us moving towards a smarter city.

The concept of smart city has become a prevalent one in the discourse of

those responsible for shaping the growth and development of cities in both public and private sectors. This can be attributed to the level of urbanization that cities all over the world experience and the subsequent need created for the cities to function more efficiently and interactively by becoming more interactive and using ever-increasing amounts of available and desired technology.

The term “smart city” has evolved from the pure integration of complex information systems or Information and Communication Technology (ICT) into the operation of urban infrastructure to a more holistic integration of technology-based innovation in the planning, development and operation of cities, for instance, multi modal transport integration interconnected systems and infrastructure.

The 21st century is characterized by large scale urbanization and population concentration in dense cities. However, the rapid influx of city inhabitants presents an overwhelming challenge to governments. This challenge presents the opportunity for cities, their governments and the citizens to grow, not only in a spatial sense but also in an innovative sense. Along with the positive benefits that accumulate from dense, diverse cities come in equal measure, the negative aspects such as informal development, traffic congestion, waste management, and access to resources and crime.

Elements of a Smart City

According to Giffinger et al (2007), the smart city can also be defined as a combination of six “smart” elements, namely:

- Smart economy
- Smart environment
- Smart governance
- Smart living

- Smart mobility and
- Smart people

All six of the aforementioned elements of a smart city can increasingly become more achievable and manageable by being connected through the use of ICT and developing technological systems. Furthermore, we believe that there is a great opportunity for this council to join other smart thinking cities the world over who see the opportunity to own ICT infrastructure which may be a major source of revenue in the future. Water is increasingly becoming a scarce resource and energy has seen the emergence of multiple alternative means of generation and escalating costs. ICT infrastructure is the future key revenue source.

Conclusion

Honourable Speaker and members of Council, the successes and future programmes we have outlined is testimony to our unwavering commitment to deliver quality and sustainable services to our community. Despite challenges around the triple challenges, we hope to continue with our endeavour to push back the frontiers of poverty, unemployment and inequality. We would like to urge everyone to cooperate with us to create a better life for all in line with our motto “working together we can do more”.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all the people of Polokwane for their support and understanding. Special thanks to His Grace Bishop Dr. B E Lekganyane for always being there for me and for being a pillar of strength to me. Your attendance here today is a profound blessing to us. I also wish to thank all other religious leaders who are in attendance and for always strengthening us with your prayers.

Comrades from the ANC deployed to lead this council, you are favoured with the daunting task of acting responsibly and with the necessary prudence. We must regard our majority presence here as an obligation

and never act irresponsibly. Your support and unity is what got us thus far and I certainly hope that we can do more together moving forward.

Members representing opposition parties, you have equally been active participants in the unique reality that characterize this Council. Your support, interrogation and loyalty to democracy put us, as a collective, head and shoulders above any other municipal council. I thank you most sincerely and assure you of our continued cooperation.

Magoshi, we can't thank you enough for your continuous support and for always helping us to deal with the most difficult situations in our communities. We are strong and in control because you make it possible for us, your subjects, to lead your subjects.

Special gratitude to my wife Chantal Greaver and family for their unwavering support through both the exciting and difficult times. I know how hard my choice of work impacts on you and the children emotionally, financially and socially. I hope one day you will understand why I am doing something that subjects you to so much pain, embarrassment and a declining bank statement and that you will find it in your heart to forgive me.

To the Municipal Manager, Connie Mametja, the Executive Management team, Managers, Assistant Manager and all Officials of this Municipality, thank you for the sacrifice. You are the rock stars of this institution. You do all the work and we get all the glory. We salute you and we know how much your families have to sacrifice in order for you to meet the challenges of your jobs.

The chairperson of the Audit Committee and all members as well as the chairperson of the PHA Board of Directors... thank you for all the hard work. Your heart is really in your job. We are so grateful to have appointed you.

The Ward Committee Members, CDW's and finally the people of Polokwane for their undivided support. My office personnel... Thank you!

Honourable Speaker, we have done well... we are doing well.... we plan to continue to do well yet, Let none of us speak of frontiers exhausted, all challenges met or even all problems solved. For, as long as there are human beings there will be challenges. But, Honourable Speaker, challenges are meant to keep us focused.

Our people's only hope of ever experiencing a better life rests on our shoulders. As we contemplate the 2013/14 financial year, next year's provincial and national government elections we should keep in mind that:

"There are no joys without mountains having been climbed.... and.... there are no joys without the nightmares that precede them and spring them into light..."

As for me, I look forward to tomorrow for I know that:

"The Lord is my shepherd.... I shall not want.... Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death... I shall fear no evil.... I know my cup will run over and have no doubt that goodness and mercy shall follow me... not just today or tomorrow, but all the days of my life!

Polokwane, it is a great honour and pleasure to be your leader.

Thank you!