

**STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS (SOMA) BY THE HON
MAYOR MARIPE MANGENA OF THE GREATER TZANEEN LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY:**

NEW RUNNYMADE SPORTS COMPLEX.

26 July 2019

'Khauleza, hurry up.'

Madam Speaker

Deputy Minister Mathale

Honorable MEC

Comrade Chief Whip

Fellow Executive Committee Members

Chair of Chairs

MPAC Chairperson

All Fellow Councilors

Councillors from Local Municipalities

Traditional Leaders

Leaders of Political Parties

Municipal Manager and Executive Management Team

Sector Departments

General Staff

Ward Committees

Special Guests

Leaders of Business

Organised Agriculture

Organised Labour in Particular IMATU and SAMWU

As we Congratulate the newly elected Leadership of SAMWU

Faith-based Communities

People of Greater Tzaneen, District, Province of the Country

Fourth Estate, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media

Comrades and Friends

Good Morning.

Darkest cloud befell our country when we lost, among many people, Johnny Clegg and Bra Ike Maphoto the hero of the Luthuli detachment. It is also with great sorrow that we lost two Councillors in Mogalakwena Municipality.

INTRODUCTORY QUOTE

“The New Dawn is upon us. The dark clouds of despair and hopelessness are retreating to settle in the comfort of a distant memory. The glitters of

sunshine which carry a promise of prosperity and a better tomorrow are within our embrace.”

With this opening Premier Chupu was setting the tone for the 6th Limpopo Provincial Legislature. Beyond this clarion call is for all of us in the Limpopo Province to live Mama Merriam Makeba’s classic song, Khauleza.

In simple translation, **Khauleza means, Hatlisa, Phakisetsa, hurry up.**

Khauleza is what underpins the confidence the people of South Africa and Limpopo in particular entrusted the African National Congress with to lead the Sixth Administration of our democratic dispensation.

The people of Limpopo expect nothing less than that the Sixth Limpopo Legislature must Khauleza, expedite the delivery of essential services as it rolls back the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

We draw our strength from the message delivered by the Executive Mayor of Mopani during his State of the District Address in Lulekani, when he said **“Let us move forward, guided by our collective responsibility to change the lives of our people in this District by providing quality basic services. This a task we have accepted with great humility and it is one task we commit to fulfil with precision and diligence.”**

This is the canvas on which we paint our role to dream of a free, democratic, united, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous Country.

Coming out of the celebrations of the life and times of the icon of our freedom and democracy, we recommit ourselves to our Mission as reviewed at our recent strategic planning session of 7 to 8 February 2019.

Our Vision is,

'A Green, Prosperous and United Municipality that Provides Quality Services to All.'

The Strategic Planning Session further resolved that **electricity, revenue enhancement, effective and efficient administration** become focus areas going into the 2019/2020 Financial Year and beyond.

This resolution is the enabler that will unlock the full potential of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality in its relentless war against poverty, unemployment and inequality. This is the war that will turn the lives of the vulnerable people of our Municipality.

As we embark on the protracted journey of realizing the South African Dream of a united, free, democratic, no-racial, non-sexist and prosperous South Africa, we do this fully conscious of the recent audit outcomes issued by the Office of the Auditor General and the challenges it poses.

AUDIT OUTCOMES

We received a qualified audit opinion from the Office of the Auditor General for the 2017/2018 Financial Year.

To arrest and reverse this audit outcome, we have developed an Audit Action Plan which has since been approved by the Council of the Municipality. The Audit Action Plan will address all the adverse findings by the Auditor General.

The Audit Steering Committee which is the custodian and driver of these remedial actions sits bi-weekly to fast track their implementation.

In this context, the municipality is working towards the achievement of a clean audit and clean governance which is the mission of our fully-fledged

and functional oversight Audit Committee. A Clean Audit Strategy will soon be developed with its implementation monitored by the Audit Committee.

The main reason for us to regress in the last audit, was the INEP grant front loading. I am pleased to report to the residents of Greater Tzaneen Municipality that this finding has since been resolved and we have communique from the Office of the Auditor General clearing the matter.

Building a capable and developmental local state

GOOD GOVERNANCE

During the 2017 SOMA, we prewarned officials and Councillors to refrain from wrong doings at the expense of our Communities.

In pursuit of all round good governance the municipality has developed policies to ensure that it conducts its business in line with the prescripts of the law.

Among the important policies approved by Council to ensure good and clean governance is the Consequence Management Policy, which is geared at dealing with acts of financial misconduct. Accordingly, Councilors and officials who willfully commit acts of financial misconduct will be held accountable and bear the consequences.

No acts of financial mismanagement will go unpunished.

Council has also reviewed the delegation of powers to ensure effective and efficient administration of the affairs of the municipality. The delegation of powers will enhance the taking of full responsibility of individual managers.

Council has started the implementation of the Performance Management System at the Senior Management level. The Performance Management

System will be cascaded to the next level of management in the 2019/2020 Financial Year.

The Implementation of the system coupled with delegation of powers will help the municipality to make a turnaround towards achieving an efficient and effective administration.

Taken together and implemented without fail, these systems and policies will result in improved productivity and positive attitude with enhanced morale among municipal employees.

To reverse the decline and bring the services up to speed, the municipality has now invested in a thoroughgoing refurbishment of the IT infrastructure. This refurbishment has resulted in a remarkable improvement to IT services.

The world is entering the 4TH Industrial Revolution and it is important as residents of Tzaneen not to be spectators of this epoch. We need to be active participants of this development and through improved technology our people stand to benefit the rewards of the 4TH Industrial Revolution.

It is against this background that we seek to provide free WIFI to our rural mases as they to deserve to participate in the emerging paradigm.

We are pleased to report that we have appointed a service provider, who will work closely with our Corporate Services Department to review our Organisational Structure. This Organisational Structure will among others be aligned to the five year strategy of the municipality and be a fit for purpose structure.

Madam Speaker

We have promised the people to intensify the fight against ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION in Local Government

RISK AND COMPLIANCE UNIT

Anti-Fraud and Corruption

The Municipality is committed to protecting public funds and ensuring that all its activities are carried out in accordance with the principles of fairness, honesty and integrity. The Municipality has a zero-tolerance for fraud and corruption.

In carrying out its functions and responsibilities the Municipality is fully committed to deterring theft, fraud, corruption and bribery whether it is attempted on or within its own structures.

We recognize that fraud and corruption undermine the municipal values and objectives, and also hamper service delivery.

The Municipality intends to intensify its measures to fight fraud and corruption by ensuring that compliance to laws, policies and other legal prescripts are adhered to without fail and exception. In this regard we also intend to promote integrity, equality, fairness and accountability within its staff members and stakeholders.

Further than this, the municipality has developed a Whistle Blower Policy and procured a Hot-Line in order to report suspicious activities in confidence, ensuring that fraud and corruption are rooted out from its structures. Our hotline number is **0800 44 66 44**.

The Municipality has furthermore established proper governance structures such as MPAC, Financial Misconduct Board and the independent Audit

Committee to provide oversight on matters of financial misconduct as prescribed by the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA). The Financial Misconduct Board will assist the Municipality to bring perpetrators of financial misconduct to book. The Board aims to effectively and promptly curb fraudulent and corrupt activities and any other acts of misconduct in the Municipality.

The Municipality, in terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act maintains effective, efficient and transparent systems of risk management and internal control to ensure that policies, procedures and processes are properly followed.

We are aware of the risks that are a hindrance to service delivery such as ageing Municipal infrastructure, low revenue collection/high debt book, high unemployment rate, non-compliance to legislative prescripts and community protests.

Already there are plans and actions in place to address the risks such as the review of credit control, reduction of litigation, conducting investigations through IMPAC, refurbishing electricity infrastructure with limited resources, ensuring compliance to legal prescripts and also liaising with relevant stakeholders on matters that affect service delivery negatively.

The legislative assignment of council continue to gain momentum with the following by-laws adopted by council. Inter-alia

- Credit Control and Debt Collection
- Public Transport
- Property Rates
- Nuisance

- Liquor Trading Days and Hour

Council adopted 18 by-laws in total. The process of gazetting the by-laws is underway and members of the public will be informed except for the Water By-law which is a jurisdiction of Mopani District Municipality.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Madam Speaker, through your indulgence, I would like to take this moment and share with the people of Greater Tzaneen today, the few benefits brought by the Finance Department.

- The new administrative leadership is providing immediate “hands-on approach” and leadership in the institution, through close contact and continuous unannounced visits to various work-stations, teams working on maintenance fields, the one-on-one engagements with Members of Executive Committee as part of monitoring and evaluation by the leadership, including oversight visits to various offices and work-stations. Austerity measures have been introduced in the areas of Revenue and Expenditure Management, especially debt management, credit control to continuously work towards improving our billing system. In the long run we aim to effect a fulltime customer Call Centre which is dedicated to resolving problems of Municipal accounts.
- We are currently re-aligning our departments to improve efficiency and effectiveness and thereby strengthening our monitoring administration at leadership level which is resulting into improved productivity.
- The budget has been drafted according to legislation and the Budget Steering Committee believes that the 2019/2020 budget planning initiatives and the accompanying collective budget process resulted in

not only a well balanced budget, but also one which is sustainable, equitable and representative of our communities. The projected overall expenditure envelope for the 2019/2020 MTREF amounts to R 1 279 268 702 1070 whereas, the operating revenue for the 2019/2020 MTREF amounts to R 1 330 933 1070 R and R 137 084 850.00 in the capital budget. The total estimated operational revenue for 2017/2018 from National and Provincial as grants and subsidies is R 505 850 000 and the other hand the proposed estimated expenditure for 2019/2020 annual budget is an average of 6 % higher than the current adjusted expenditure.

- The budget has been prepared within the context of reducing expenditure due to the municipality's weighty cash constraints and taking into consideration the implications of the increasing global costs thus to ensure that the financial sustainability of the council is sustained.
- A strategic municipal debt book review and write off undertaken in 2018/19/2020, should also have a positive effect on increased collection rates and also the implementation of new valuation roll should result in the revenue base increasing.
- Given the constraints on the revenue side, the municipality will expedite spending on capital projects that are funded by conditional grants but maintaining fiscal sustainability the commitment to deliver quality services. Maintaining assets at a level adequate to protect the capital investment and minimize future maintenance future maintenance and replacement costs. The R 90 million DBSA loan acquired will further assist in regeneration of the electricity network infrastructure and supply capacity.

- In the last financial year 2017/18, the municipality as at July 2018 had nine High Court cases. The municipality is currently having four High Court cases remaining in the litigation register.
- It is worth mentioning for the financial year 2018/19, the municipality had no expenditures for the June month which is a huge milestone considering our experience in the past.
- Gone are the days where the Sheriff will come and embarrass the municipality by removing assets and the municipality becomes a laughing stock of the Public.
- Council is currently in the process of validating the Indigents Register. We are aware that the current indigent register have many inaccuracies that is the reason why we are embarking on a verification process.
- As a caring government, we will continue to cushion the poor and vulnerable in our communities. All the approved households will continue to receive free basic electricity and water.

We promise that together we shall build spatially integrated Communities

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Jobs created

The municipality managed to create the following jobs in the 2018/19 financial year:

- CWP : 2251
- EPWP: 1188

The above Programmes will continue in the current financial year.

Agri Expo 2018

The Municipality hosted the 5th Agricultural Expo on 20-21 September 2018, at Tzaneen Country Lodge and the Agri Golf on 05 October 2018, at Tzaneen Country Club.

Tzaneen Agricultural Expo 2018 was an event aimed to create new opportunities within the agricultural sector and to facilitate networking among emerging, smallholder and commercial farmers. The Tzaneen Agri-Expo 2018 was focused on the Domestic and International market.

The Tzaneen Agricultural Expo 2018 was organized under the following theme:

'Farmers access to innovation resources and exhibition of retailers and agricultural careers'

The municipality in partnership with the Department of Agriculture took 22 farmers to the Joburg Market to see how the market operates.

Furthermore, the municipality as part of the EXPO donated 259 000 seedlings to 32 emerging farmers, the donated seedlings will be covering 6.3 hectares of land.

LIMPOPO BUSINESS REGISTRATION ACT (LIBRA)

Greater Tzaneen Municipality has been designated as a Business Registration Centre with effect from 01 June 2019 by the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. All businesses will be registered at Tzaneen and this will create a revenue in the Municipality.

2018/19 Tour De Limpopo

The municipality hosted the Tour De Limpopo cycle from 16-18 May 2019 in partnership with Limpopo Tourism Agency and Cycling South Africa. Greater Tzaneen was identified as the best place for the event due to its topography and scenery. The race attracted 184 international cyclists coming from 14 countries, vis: Italy, Belgium, France, Namibia, ETC. Tzaneen was well marketed through newspapers, video from the Cycling S.A website and radio. The race brought huge economic spin-off to our town. Next year will be the final year for the cyclist to come to Limpopo (**LTA negotiating to extend the agreement with Cycling SA**)

Human settlements

The municipality has been allocated 700 units for the financial year 2018/19. 558 have been completed and 142 outstanding.

For the 2019/20 the municipality has been allocated 300 units and three (3) developers have been appointed and allocated 100 units each.

15 units have been allocated for 2019/20 and 6 have been completed so far.

Level 1 Housing Accreditation

The municipality has made an application on level 1 Housing Accreditation with the National Department of Human Settlements and currently awaiting the final decision from the Provincial MEC of COGHSTA in Limpopo.

Upgrading of Talana Hostel

In pursuit of changing the lives of its people, the municipality is partnering with Social Housing Regulatory Authority (SHRA) to upgrade the Talana Hostel and Pusela 6.

Municipal Planning Tribunal

The municipality has a functional tribunal. In the previous financial year, the tribunal had 8 meetings and approved 30 land development applications. N.B. The municipality does not have backlogs on development applications.

Nkowankowa Industrial Park

We welcome the revitalization of the Nkowankowa Industrial Park by LEDET and we hope this initiative will attack the stubborn challenge of unemployment. As a municipality we will embark on an aggressive programme to attract investment in this project.

Madam Speaker

We promise that together with the people we shall help GTM to changing climate conditions, improve health, promote nation building and socially cohesive communities

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Library Services

The Greater Tzaneen Municipal libraries offer full services, including access to balanced book collections, study rooms and free Wi-Fi for easy internet access and use. The libraries are located in the following areas of our Municipality:

- Tzaneen Town Main Library.

- Haenertsburg Branch.
- Letsitele Branch.
- Shiluvane Branch.
- Mulati Branch.

To make it easy for users to reach the Mulati Village Library, the Municipality is improving the access road to the facility.

In partnership with the Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, and other stakeholders like The Rand Water Foundation, the Greater Tzaneen Municipality is extending Library Services to historically disadvantaged areas. For the current Financial Year, 2019/2020, the Department of Sport, Art and Culture is building a new library in Runnymede. Construction work has commenced on the project and it will be completed this 2019.

The Rand Water Foundation remains committed to build a library for the community of Bolobedu South at Moleketla Village of the Relela Cluster. A Memorandum of Understanding and Sub-Division of Land are being finalized for the physical construction of the library to commence. The Municipality is currently awaiting the transfer of the land where the site for the library will be built.

In the meantime, the Rand Water Foundation has released money for the construction of ablution facilities and two bore holes at the Bolobedu South Library site.

The Greater Tzaneen Municipality libraries, in particular the anchor library in town, are vibrant and well patronized by user across our area of jurisdiction. In the 2017/2018 Financial Year, the libraries were visited by 126,609 users. No less than 96,180 users visited our libraries from July 2018 to March 2019

alone. We are building reading communities by making books, through libraries accessible to users and free WIFI.

The libraries outreach, holiday programmes and special events that are much enjoyed by users, and receive rave media reviews locally, nationally and internationally thus putting us on the world map.

On World Book Day 8 September 2018, a successful international storytelling event was hosted at the Mulati Village Library.

Our Library Services are well-aligned to the National Agenda on the promotion of reading as expounded by the President of the Republic of South Africa at the launch of the National Reading Coalition in Johannesburg, Gauteng Province, on 15 February 2019. This is what he had to say on that occasion:

‘... I therefore call on our nation to start a reading revolution: a revolution that will unleash untapped potential in our nation. Reading is not just for the young people, it is for everyone. It will help us as a nation to continue with deep conversations we have always had, it will promote intergenerational exchanges that are key to preserving our identity as a nation, it will ensure that we engage better with the world from an informed base, and will thus increase our creativity and capacity to innovate.’

Environmental Management and Facility Cleaning

In the 2018/2019 Financial Year we won both the District and Provincial Greenest Municipality Competition with the total financial windfall of R320 000 which will be deployed in addressing environmental challenges in Central Business District of Tzaneen Town.

We are also first runner ups for the national leg of the competition with the prize money of R3 million.

We have submitted three soft projects for approval by the Department of Environmental Affairs. Once approved the projects will be implemented in the next Financial Year, 2020/2021.

Law Enforcement

The Greater Tzaneen Municipality traffic officers offer strong services to the public in the following areas:

- Control of traffic flow at interactions to reduce congestion and provide escort services to dignitaries and management of accident scenes.
- Scholar Patrols at specific roads near schools for the safety of learners and educators.
- Rural operations where we take law enforcement activities to communities to enhance their safety.
- Scrapping of vehicles that are not roadworthy.
- Serve Warrants of Arrests for outstanding traffic fines.

Safety and Security

Achievements

Challenges in the Safety and Security Division notwithstanding, the following achievements have been recorded:

- The Greater Tzaneen Municipality Community Safety Forum (CSF) is the leader in the Limpopo province in the establishment of Street Committees.

- Preventive safety and security measures have seen to the drastic reduction in the theft of municipal assets.
- A service provider has been appointed to enhance the safety and security of Municipal Assets like transformers and copper cables.
- The Division also ensured that through intensive investigation on the theft of Council money to ensure that the culprits are held to account with the Municipal Manager informed accordingly and the case being opened with the SAPS for further investigation and eventual prosecution. As a result, eight (08) municipal employees attached to the Budget and Treasury, and Electrical Engineering Services are currently under suspension pending the resolution of their matters through internal Disciplinary Processes and external court processes.
- The Safety Plan and Policy on Safety and Security have been adopted by Council. The State Security Agency (SSA) has workshopped Directors, Managers, Human Resources, Supply Chain Management, Internal Audit and Records Management on the Minimum Information Security Standards (MSS) which is critical in the vetting of personnel and safe-keeping of confidential information to minimize leaks.

Solid Waste Management

The Greater Tzaneen Municipality is the best in Landfill Management in the Limpopo and the country at large. We have hosted many municipalities coming from various parts of the country to benchmark against us on Landfill Management.

On Solid Waste Collection we are having a challenge of aging infrastructure which we plan to replace at our earliest convenience when our fortunes change for the best. Our challenges notwithstanding, we have extended our

solid waste collection to all our rural areas through the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP). We are number one in Limpopo on the implementation of the EPWP programme.

Parks, Cemeteries, Arts, Sports and Culture

The Department of Community Services is also seized with the provision of Parks and Horticultural Services, Cemetery Services, Arts, Heritage to enrich and dignify the lives of the people of Greater Tzaneen.

As a listening government we had heard your cry. In the new financial year the municipality will build ablution facilities for both Nkowankowa and Lenyenye cemeteries. This will also include erecting a fence for both places. The dignity of our people can no longer be postponed.

The Municipality has an Olympic –size swimming pool which operates from 01 September to 31 April annually.

We have constructed 5 X Combo (all in one) stadiums:

- Julesburg.
- Burgersdorp.
- Lenyenye.
- Nkowankowa.
- Runnymede.

We have one indoor sport centre in Nkowankowa Section C.

To deal with the shortage of equipment's, the Municipality bought some grass cutting machines in the 2018/2019 Financial Year to the value of R300 000.

We have promised our people that together we shall promote education at APEX priority in Local communities

TZANEEN HERITAGE MUSEUM

The Tzaneen Heritage museum is crammed full of artefacts of Tsonga and Northern Sotho people's works of pottery, beadwork, basketry and many other. If these important aspects of our history and therefore our identity are not preserved like in the Tzaneen and other Heritage Museums through the country, they will be wipe off and them our history and identity as people will go, leaving as empty shells.

Items in the museum are a private collection of the curator, Jürgen Witt who passed on 03 January 2019 passing the museum and its contents to his family the envisaged Foundation to preserve his legacy and work.

The Municipality needs to ensure that the museum keeps its doors opening for us, posterity and cultural tourists who have flooded it over the years.

Madam Speaker

WE HAVE PROMISED THAT TOGETHER WITH COMMUNITIES WE SHALL BUILD ON ACHIEVEMENTS MADE IN DELIVERING BASIC SERVICES TO THE PEOPLE

ELECTRICAL SERVICES

The Greater Tzaneen Municipality distributes electrical power to an area of approximately 3 200 square metres. Our distribution of electricity extends beyond our area of jurisdiction. Municipalities of Ba-Phalaborwa, Giyani and Greater Letaba are linked to our electricity grid.

Further than supplying neighboring municipalities. Greater Tzaneen is licensed to distribute power to areas around Haenertsburg, Georges valley, Makgobaskloof, Politsi, Campsies Glen, Agatha, Tzaneen, Letsitele Valley, Yamorna/Ledzee, Broederstroomdrift, Deer Park, Riverside, Letsitele, Gravelotte, Waterbok, and Letaba Ranch.

The large part of the distribution network supplies farming areas through overhead power lines.

Some of the major challenges confronting the Electrical Engineering Department (EED) are the following:

- Increased power outages due to insufficient vegetation control. The power distribution areas are characterized by natural vegetation that requires continuous trimming.
- Increased power outages due to ageing infrastructure
- Theft of infrastructure, mainly pole mounted transformers and copper cables.
- Ageing Fleet
- Insufficient Customer Communication

The following mitigation measures are underway and others are part of our routine maintenance:

1. Vegetation Control

The municipality area is characterized by natural vegetation which contributes to the natural beauty of the area. However, conservation of this natural vegetation sometimes creates conflict with the requirements of the overhead power lines. Continuous efforts are

made to control vegetation in collaboration with private landowners to ensure the balancing of both needs.

The municipality utilizes internal capacity and sometimes it outsources the service to private contractors the need basis to offset backlogs. A pool of contractors has been appointed to mitigate the challenges of backlogs. Appointments from this pool of contractors are done when the need arises.

2. Ageing Infrastructure

In order to mitigate challenges of ageing infrastructure the municipality has procured a loan of R90m from the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA). The DBSA further solicited a grant R10m to augment the loan.

The loan and grant are for the renewal and maintenance of the electricity network. Although these combined amounts do not match the need, it is anticipated that they will be a starting point to stabilise the network.

It is imperative to mention that work has begun to refurbish the electricity infrastructure and R 40 million has already been spent in last financial year.

The municipality is committed to further recapitalisation of the network from own resources accruing from a stable electricity network. Various projects have been identified for implementation during the 2019/2020 Financial Year. Implementation of these projects will contribute to temporary job opportunities in the municipality and ease the burden of

unemployment on the shoulders of many residents of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality.

3. Ageing Fleet

The Electrical Department fleet of vehicles of the Electrical Services Department has reached the end of its lifespan and needs replacement. The redundant and old vehicles threaten efficient and effective service delivery to prolonged breakdowns and unavailability. The municipality has budgeted for the replacement costs of the ageing fleet of the Electrical Department during the 2018/2019 Financial Year. Four (4) new vehicles and a crane to handle power transformers have since been as part of the programme to replace that has reached its lifespan. The replacement of vehicles will continue in 2019/2020. The replacement of the old fleet will improve service delivery remarkably.

4. Insufficient Customer Communication

Insufficient communication with consumers has been identified as one of the major challenges of the Electrical Engineering Department. Although a 24-hour service is available for fault reporting, the manual system used poses a challenge for reporting in terms of the license requirements and efficiency in dealing with customer complaints and queries. A fully-fledged call centre management system is being investigated and will be implemented soon after the finalization of the plan.

Furthermore, the Greater Tzaneen Municipality is proud to announce that all the villages within its jurisdiction have access to the electricity grid. However

due to the natural growth of our villages, electrification of extensions is ongoing to keep with demand. In previous financial year managed to electrify 956 household and Eskom electrified 319 household.

CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES

The Municipality predominantly depends on the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) to fund the implantation of civil engineering related infrastructure projects because of revenue collection. The MIG allocation for the 2019/2020 Financial Year is R94 263 000.

Projects to be funded the MIG cover the upgrading of streets from gravel to surfacing and storm water drainage system to improve access in all weather conditions, the construction of a taxi rank in Lenyenye and the erection of Apollo lights in Dan Village is to improve lighting and safety during the night.

Of the MIG funded projects, the following projects have commenced in the current Financial Year and have been allocated budget for continuation in the 2019/2020 Financial Year.

Madam Speaker

We therefore as the collective of GTM present the following major projects for 2018 in an effort to create linkages amongst our communities

The following projects will continue in this financial year as there are multi-year.

- Mopye High School Access Road

- Nelson Ramodike Access Road
- Nkowankowa A Codesa and Chris Hani Street
- Mulati Access Road
- Mbambamecisi
- Khujwana to Lenyenye
- Relela Access Road
- Matapa to Leseka Access Road
- Mawa B12 low level Bridge

The internal streets are as follows:

- Moseanoka to Cell C pharare
- Risiba,Mnisi,Shando to Driving School
- Ndhuna,Mandlakazi, Efrika, Zangoma, Mpenyisi,Jamba

The following projects are earmarked for implementation through own income:

- Expansion and Maintenance of Municipal Stores and Fencing for R750 000.
- Purchase back-up generator for R300 000.
- Upgrading of Haenertsburg Cemetery Road for R1,5 million.
- Replacement of Vehicles for R7,5 million.

The R7,5 million includes the purchase of municipality owned plant and equipment in order to fast track service delivery to affected communities at a minimal cost.

Between July 2018 and March 2019 the following projects were completed:

- The Upgrading of Mafarana to Burgersdorp Road from Gravel to Tar was finalized in November 2018 for a total of 12,5km.
- Length of 5 067km of roads were bladed in various villages.
- A total of 9 753 m² of tarred roads were patched in Tzaneen Town, Lenyenye, Nkowankowa and Letsitele. These exclude kilometres of roads which the municipality in partnership with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure repair on the provincial roads.
- Gravelling was done for a total of 97km in wards 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 22, 23, 25, and 33.
- Because of water related challenges facing the Mopani District Municipality as the Water Services Authority, the Greater Tzaneen Municipality continues to provide water through water tankers as a temporary remedial measure in areas facing acute water crisis.

We are hopefully that our struggle to gain a Water Service Authority is about to yield positive results. The Provincial Executive Council of Limpopo has considered our application and has mandate MEC Makamu to elevate the matter to the Minister of Cogta. We will closely be monitoring this process in the current financial year.

The raising of the Tzaneen Dam is a pleasing development. Finally the Department of Water and Sanitation has cleared all obstacles which caused a delays in the project. With this development the residents of Tzaneen will have water long into distant future.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Last year we announced our intention to partner with NYDA in order to address the plight of young people. I pleased to report that the offices of NYDA have been opened in Tzaneen and our young people don't have to travel to Polokwane to get assistance. We are also responsible for paying rent of the NYDA offices.

The Municipal Bursary Fund continue to assist needy students from disadvantaged background. In the previous financial year we assisted 92 students from all four clusters of the municipality. My appeal to our business community is that join hands with government to make education reality to our young people. " As OR Tambo said A nation which does not build the capacity of its youth, does not deserve a future"

Let me challenge the residents of our municipality to emulate the good work done by Dan Village residents. When criminals and gangsters were terrorizing the community. Men and women of honour took personal responsibility for the safety of their community and Children. The work of the South African Police Service can only succeed when residents join hands with our esteemed Men and Women in Blue.

We continue to make major strides against the scourge of HIV and Aids pandemic. The municipality has established a Local Aids Council which is constituted by civil society organisations and sector departments. The work of the Aids Council is premised on the zero strategy:

- Zero Aids related deaths
- Zero new HIV infections
- And Zero stigma and discrimination

- We appeal to the residents of Tzaneen to use condoms and have safe sex. Multiple partners is an unprovoked cause of this deadly disease.

We promised our people that together we shall improve

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Promotion of citizen participation in community development and governance is crucial for our democracy. Public participation helps in identifying and understanding community needs, which improves local planning and budgeting.

In addition to regular community meetings convened by ward councillors and Mayoral Imbizos, council has unveiled a Public Participation Programme. The rationale of the Programme is the involvement of stakeholders and communities in the review of the Integrated Development Plan and compilation of budget. In this regard, five IDP Representative Forum meetings were held. Public Participation meetings were also successfully held in 30 Wards to source community inputs for both the 2018/2019 IDP and Budget Development.

Public Participation improves responsiveness to the needs of the community and enhances rational decision making. We pride ourselves as one of the few municipalities which extensively consult residents on the IDP and budget. This indeed brings into reality the dream of our forbearers, who converged in Kliptown in 1955 in the Congress of the People to proclaim through the Freedom Charter that “The people shall govern”.

CONGRATULATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Let's congratulate the following persons for their brilliant work and achievements:

Ms. Miyelani Shandlale who works as EPWP Officer. She was selected by the Department of Public Works to attend a capacity building programme in

Italy. Through her hard work, commitment and dedication she attended the International Labour Organisation programme.

Ms. Winnie Baloyi has been elected as the president of Institute of Municipal Administrators in South Africa. She recently attended the Institute of municipal town clerks in the USA.

Mr. Sam Rameetse in Corporate Services has been elected the President of SAIMSA

Mr. Sam Lelope has being elected the Deputy President of AMEU

Mr. Tito Mboweni for being appointed Minister of Finance

Mr. Cassel Mathale for being appointed Deputy Minister of Police

Mr. Thabo Mokone for being appointed as MEC for LEDET.

Mr. Mike Shingange for being elected second Deputy President of Cosatu

Ms. Khanyisa Chawane for representing South Africa in the National Basket Ball Team at the recently held world cup and not forgetting our music icon

Mr. King Monada for recording sensational song "Idibala"

CONCLUSION

As it is commonly said, no man is an island sufficient unto himself. As this universal statement applies elsewhere, so does it applies to me as Mayor of Greater Tzaneen Municipality. I too, am not an island sufficient unto myself.

A crocodile draws its strength from the water and as taught us at the height of the struggle for liberation by Chairman Mao Tse Tung, a guerilla draws strength from the people.

I too have a support base from which I draw strength and inspiration in the discharge of my duties as Mayor of Greater Tzaneen Municipality.

Family and Friends who stood with me at every twist and turn in my life.

My formidable pillar of strength who lighten my work load, Members of the Executive Committee. All the strides and successes of this journey are owed to you. We are a true collective authority in the real sense of the word. I Salute You. Aluta.

The Municipal Council of Greater Tzaneen, you the Executive and Management on their toes.

Municipal Manager Mr Thapelo Matlala and your Executive Management Team, and your excellent support and loyalty are beyond reproach.

Organised Labour in SAMWU and IMATU you ensure the wellbeing of workers, bring work place harmony and increased productive.

Opposition parties, you make democratic pluralism come alive.

Service Providers, you are partners in the quest to roll back and eventually eradicate the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

The People of Mark Shope Sub Region, your love for the ANC is amazing.
We will not disappoint.

Most of all, I thank the African National Congress for nurturing me all the years and eventually trusting me with the position as captain of this battleship. I commit to serving to the best of my abilities and experience.

I have a dream for Greater Tzaneen Municipality,

I have seen the Promised Land

I thank you.