STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE MAYOR OF THE GREATER TZANEEN LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, HIS WORSHIP MARIPE MANGENA: LETABA SHOWGROUND, TZANEEN  
25 May 2018

“WE SET FORTH AT DAWN – THUMA MINA”  
Madam Speaker  
Vho MEC Coghsta Jeremiah Ndou  
Executive Mayor Mopani District  
Local Mayors of Mopani District  
Ximokonkulu xa Masipala  
Chair of Chairs  
Chair of MPAC  
Fellow Executive Committee Members  
Fellow Councillors  
Our 7 Royal Councils  
Leaders of Political Parties – Both in Council and community at Large  
Municipal Manager and All GTM Staff  
Local Municipal Managers - Mopani District  
Ward Committees  
Special Guests – Sports, Music, Tourism and our future which is our learners and students  
Leaders of Business  
Organised Agriculture  
Organised Labour  
Faith-based Communities  
People of Greater Tzaneen, District, Education, health and other departments  
Fourth Estate, the Media  
Comrades and Friends

Good Morning,  
“Until the lions have their own historians, the history of the hunt will always glorify the hunter.” Here I am drawing from the wisdom of Africa’s Man of Letters, popularly known by his peers as the Nelson Mandela of Literature. I am referring to the late Chinua Achebe.  
All of us will concede that history is important to each and every nation and generations. It gives us a sense of being and worth. In line with this view of Achebe, Minister of Basic Education Angi Motshekga recently announced plans to implement a new history curriculum at schools over the next seven years people of Tzaneen must welcome this move.   
These changes to the curriculum will see history becoming compulsory.  
Minister Motshekga’s radical curricular changes resonate more and better with today, 25 May 2018. Today marks Africa Day. Africa Day is the annual commemoration of the foundation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) on 25 May 1963. The day is celebrated in various countries on the African Continent, as well as around the world.  
South Africa and many other countries owe their freedom to the OAU and its organs and member states. The OAU has since evolved into the present day African Union (AU) which until most recently was led by one of us, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma as chairperson.  
South Africa hosts the Pan African Parliament (PAP) which is currently in session in Midrand, Gauteng Province. The Pan African Parliament is the legislative organ of the African Union and held its inaugural session in March 2004. Limpopo Province is today celebrating Africa day in Polokwane.  
That we are meeting today on Africa Day, cannot go unnoticed. This day is a significant milestone in the history of Africa and South Africa’s attainment of freedom, democracy and Peace. It is against this background of Africa’s rich history that we need to celebrate this and pass its significance and abundance to future generations.  
This year also marks the centenaries of our icons, the late Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu respectively. We need to in our individual and collective spaces remember and honour them through emulation. Let us be like the two icons and follow in their footsteps of selfless servant leadership. Our people deserve nothing short of the best.  
The African National Congress National Executive Committee through its annual and historic January 8th Statement among other issues made the following clarion call, which becomes an instruction by the ruling party:  
“In recognition of the enormous responsibility we have to unite, rebuild and revitalise the movement and lead an urgent programme of economic growth, job creation and transformation, the NEC declares 2018 as “100 YEARS OF NELSON MANDELA: THE YEAR OF RENEWAL, UNITY AND JOBS.”  
We therefore invite business to join GTM and increase to 100 or more beneficiaries of MSFAS.  
This clarion call has found resonance in the State of the Nation and Province Addresses delivered by President Vho-Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa and Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha.   
Today in the continuum of Cooperative Governance our State of the Municipality Address we will localise the call in line with our mandate and our priorities.   
“ We declared in 2016 that together we shall advance peoples power in every community”  
“that Local government is in your hands” our 2018/19 and 3 year plan will transport those manifesto ideals into real and tangible activities.  
When the budget is tabled it will be to give concrete expression and add details to the call for renewal, unity and jobs.

MADAM SPEAKER  
Tzaneen is an intergral party of the world and we therefore pledge our   
SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE  
The People of Palestine live under the same circumstances as Black People did in Apartheid South Africa. Just as Black People suffered violent land dispossession, oppression and exploitation under Apartheid, People of Palestine continue to suffer just like we did then.  
The evil of Apartheid that we fought and defeated, is the evil the People of Palestine are fighting. In the struggle for liberation and restoration of stolen lands, the ANC stood with the Oppressed People of Palestine.  
Today councillors and private citizens are wearing the Keffiyeh, the symbol of Palestinian Revolution against Apartheid Israel. This is a gesture of Solidarity with our Brothers and Sisters.  
Our act of Solidarity with the People of Palestine is historical, we suffered from the same evil of apartheid and shared trenches of struggle. We would recall that the revolutionary leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Yassir Arafat, in his trade mark black Keffiyeh, was a notable and popular figure at the inauguration of President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.  
After the recent massacre of innocent and unarmed Palestinians by the Apartheid Israel military, the South Africa government recalled its Ambassador in outrage. Soon we will downgrade the South African Mission in Tel Aviv to a Trade Mission. Our thoughts are with Palestinians and other nations of the world suffering from Colonisation and oppression.  
As former President Nelson Mandela Famously said:  
“We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinian.”

MADAM SPEAKER  
We dare not fail those who entrusted us with the mandate to serve in line with obligations as clearly spelt out in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. As we expound the past and elaborate our future through this SOMA, I quote from the poem of African-American poet Langston Hughes credited with has come to be known as the Harlem Renaissance.

LIMPOPO HOUSE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS, WE THE PEOPLE OF TZANEEN AND BOLOBEDU IN PARTICULAR CELEBRATE THE RECOGNITION OF MODJADJI QUEENSHIP

On 07 April 2018 President Cyril Ramaphosa led multitudes of Balobedu and guests in the celebration of the recognition of the Modjadji Queenship at the Mokwakwaila Stadium in Bolobedu Ca-Modjadji. The Celebration was a sequel to the official recognition of the Modjadji Queenship in March 2016 on the recommendation of the Commission on Traditional Leadership Disputes and Claims. We want the world to treat Modjadji Queen as it does to the British Queen for we are a no lesser queen.  
Let us join the country to congratulate the People of the Rain Queen for the much deserved recognition of the Queenship. It was long overdue.   
Pula.  
Ke zwazweo Balobedu, khilo khekhingwe le khekhingwe kheno le nako ya khona!!!  
Madam Speaker  
Allow us to now reflect on the State of the Municipality. We present the 2018 SOMA with a reflection on the work done, the work we do and our future plans as guided by the manifesto of the ruling party. We have promised to enhance the capacity of local state to deliver on its mandate.

CORPORATE SERVICES  
After running the municipality without the full complement of the strategic management team for an extended period, we can today proudly and confidently declare that our days as Hollywood are over! The Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality resembled one huge movie set with many actors. This was the stage when we ran the municipality with few permanent executive managers. Most of executive managers in strategic postings were acting, hence our municipality being famously declared as Hollywood, the world’s capital of movies and acting.  
Among managers in acting capacity, was the crucial Municipal Manager and Chief Financial Officer. The acting arrangements impacted negatively on the capacity of the municipality to render basic up to standard services to communities. Our capacity as an institution was adversely affected.  
Confidence of our clients and staff had dwindled to low levels.  
That was then, today we are at full capacity. All key positions have been filled by excellent and experienced local government practitioners. The outstanding vacancy is that of Director, Engineering Services. It will be filled with effect from 1 June 2018.  
Since filling the crucial Municipal Manager, Chief Financial Officer and Community Services Director positions, our turnaround time on service delivery has remarkably improved. Confidence on the municipality is being restored day by day, service by service. I am confident that soon our clients and partners will be satisfied with our service standards.  
Even our critical partners of the Forth Estate, the Media, have toned down a bit in their criticism of the municipal. A welcome and refreshing development to be applauded by all. The municipality has in recent times much positive media coverage, not as a favour but because of responsiveness to the community concerns. Positive portrayal in the media is not given, it is earned. We are enjoying the honeymoon with the media I must say.  
Ladies and gentlemen of the media, we are going to do more to earn positive coverage from yourselves. We want to create a dilemma of positive coverage for the media. This we seek by always putting our best foot forward.  
We have directed the municipality management to ensure that resources, be put to best use all the time to enhance quality delivery to communities. Our communities deserve nothing short of the best. In the Ultimate end the rural masses must also enjoy equal services.  
We want to further impress on staff, and equally on municipal councillors to be prudent in the employment of resources to avoid wastage and maximise value extraction. We are going to attain prudent utilisation of municipality. This will come about through curbing frivolous expenditure that is fruitless and wasteful. We shall assess all trips and their value for money.  
In the spirit of the democratic government’s Batho Pele Principles, we look forward to much improved discipline from municipality staff in pursuit service delivery excellence. The municipality staff must avail itself to the best service to the public without fail.  
To enhance efficiencies and effectiveness of our administration, we have invested generously in securing tools of trade for staff and improving their working conditions. In this regard we are going to procure much needed vehicles for our electrical department and waste collection services. The procurement of vehicles will enhance our response time in emergencies and call out. Our current response time is not satisfactory at all. We do not lease but buy cars from the dealer.  
We will also refurbish and upgrade our IT infrastructure to bring it to optimum levels of performance to enhance municipal communications and information dissemination to all our publics.  
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.  
The large part of the distribution network supplies farming areas through overhead power lines. Electricity is our main source of income.  
Some of the major challenges confronting the Electrical Engineering Department are the following:  
- Increased power outages due to insufficient vegetation control. The power distribution areas are characterised 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:  
1. Vegetation Control

The municipal area is characterised 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 utilises internal capacity and sometimes it outsources the service to private contractors to offset backlogs.

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 loan is for the renewal and maintenance of the electricity network. Although this amount doesn’t match the need, it is anticipated that it will be a starting point to stabilise the network and obviate power outages.  
The municipality is committed to further recapitalisation of the network from own revenue. Various projects have been identified for implementation during the MTEF period. Implementation of these projects will also contribute to temporary job opportunities in the municipality.

3. Ageing Fleet

The Electrical Department fleet of vehicles 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 of vehicles.   
The municipality has budgeted for the replacement costs of the ageing fleet of the Electrical Department. 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 telephone management system has been procured and will come into operation shortly.  
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. We call it a moving target. We are happy to note that there are no more protestors demanding electricity.

ENGINEERING SERVICES

Local Government Functions   
Our municipality remains keen and determined to provide basic services to all residents within our area of authority. These basic services includes recreational facilities, community halls, water, sanitation, electricity refuse removal, roads and storm water infrastructure.

Our municipality is devoted to delivering quality service to all communites by stimulating social and economic development, providing sustainable service, effective and efficient utilization of limited resources, promoting environmental sustainability, promoting effective stakeholder and community participation through our Integrated Development Plan (IDP).

As the leadership of the government, we will relentlessly continue to fight poverty, unemployment, and inequality by creating a better life for all our people.

Accomplishments   
Provision of clean running water remains a challenge not only for Greater Tzaneen Municipality, but the district and the country as a whole. With global warming challenges, it becomes imperative that our municipality becomes vigilant in drafting practical strategies for provision of water to all the households. Despite the challenges in terms of human capital, our team has worked tirelessly to ensure that water is provided to the communities.   
As a water service provider, GTM and this leadership has a responsibility to comply with the Bill of Rights Chapter 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, which prescribes the right to clean water to the citizens of the country. In executing this mandate, GTM and MDM have managed to increase the provision of household water to 17 576 homesteads. We are determined to maintain the quality of portable drinking water in all water systems that fall under our area of operation. MDM has invested more than 300 million worth of projects in Tzaneen to improve access to water. We are happy for the 9 million dedicated to resolve the problems of Lenyenye.  
Through the Expanded Public Works Programme, employment opportunities have been created for nine hundred and forty-one (941) people of which 661 are female, 331 youth and 13 for people living with disability.  
In the current financial year, we anticipate to finish two major roads projects, namely, the tar road from Moruji to Matshwi and the one from Rita to Mariveni. In addition to this, we have set aside R30million for the next financial year, to rehabilitate our road infrastructure in the Tzaneen CBD, Haenertsburg, Letsitele, Nkowankowa and Lenyenye. Completion of these tar roads will provide efficient modes of transport which will improve accessibility for our citizens.   
Our municipality has been performing outstandingly well in terms Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) allocation, to the extent that we received additional grant of R60million and R5.8 million for the 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 financial years respectively. With this windfall we hope to improve service delivery to our communities.  
Last but not least our municipality remains enchanted to be the Greenest Municipality in the Limpopo Province hence our vision is be “A Green Prosperous and United Municipality that Provides Services to all”

OUR PLANS  
It is our main business as local government that through the five year Integrated Development Plan (IDP) of the municipality, we build better communities and together advance people’s power in every community.  
We have succeeded to acquire reasonable funds from different government sector departments, private institutions and our own revenue income which will ensure that our roads infrastructure is properly maintained, new infrastructure projects are built and safe drinking water is provided to all our communities.

COMMUNITY WORKS PROGRAMME (CWP)

Introduction  
In the year 2007/8, a community of ward 34 were participating during Soul City programme called Kwanda. In June 03, 2009 the President of the Country by the then Mr. Zuma, during his State of the Nation Address committed Government to ‘fast-track’ the CWP. The purpose of the CWP is to create access to a minimum level of regular and predictable work opportunities for those who need it, targeting areas of high unemployment, where sustainable alternatives are likely to remain limited for the foreseeable future. Ward 34 was the first to pilot the programme with high number of beneficiaries before extended to other wards.

CWP Implementation

Community Work Programme 2018/19  
Wards participating Number of cooperatives Number of jobs Output (work done)  
Ward 16 430 • School support programme  
• HIV/AIDS  
• Crime prevention  
• Construction  
• Cemetery cleaning  
• Agriculture  
• Road maintenance  
• Early childhood development  
Ward 18 122   
Ward 22 110   
Ward 29 110   
Ward 30 110   
Ward 32 434   
Ward 33 116   
Ward 34 2 (Badira Mmogo Farming Primary   
Co-op & Phaphamang Primary Co-op) 693   
Ward 35   
Total no of Participants 2125   
Total no of Coordinators 80   
Total no of site staff 8   
Total no of CWP members 2213

The focus is on women and they work for 2 days a week, or eight days a month. The CWP current wage rate as per the Ministerial Determination is R92.00 for participants and R120.00 for Coordinators / Storekeepers per day. The wage rate is reviewed annually to align it with inflation. The programme is currently implemented in the wards presented here under:

CWP Programme  
Ward Village Ward Councillor  
16 Topanama and Khujwana Cllr R. Rikhotsi  
18 Dan, Muhlaba Cross, Part of Khujwana and JB Cllr N Mukhansi  
22 Rita, Lefara, Khopo, Mankweng and Mafarana Cllr C Makwala  
29 Sunnyside, Myakayaka and Burgersdorp Cllr E Phakula  
30 Tickline, Marumofase and Matshelapata Cllr R Rapitsi   
33 Leolo, Bokgaga Cllr S Rakganya   
34 Topanama, Khopo, Rasebalana, Longvalley and Lephepani Cllr M Letsoalo  
35 Bokgaga, Sunnyside and Myakayaka Cllr N.A Masila

2018/19 Roll Out

This financial year, CWP will be rolled out in Ward 12 with 100 beneficiaries, under Tribal Authority as per the decision by Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA). The service provider has been appointed to assist the Ward Stakeholders with the recruitment.

Main objective  
• To create jobs to address the unemployment rate  
• To promote safe and healthy living environment  
• To promote healthy eating amongst poor people and those infected or affected by diseases

Activities

• Awareness campaign about the risk factors of alcohol, teenage pregnancy, high rate of crime and rape.  
• To establish food gardens at public buildings (Schools, churches and clinics).  
• Cleaning and paving public area (clinics, schools, churches) and removing unwanted grass, weeds, shrubs etc  
• Landscaping/Vegetation control  
• Sewing   
• Regravelling main roads and streets   
• Pavement at schools and churches using bricks and sand

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  
Environmental Health  
The Division of Environmental Health has coordinated and won the Mopani District and Provincial legs of the Greenest Municipality Competition. A lot still has to be done to raise the municipality to aesthetic levels of cleanliness and beauty. Areas requiring most and urgent attention are places of most feet traffic like taxi ranks and hawker trading places. To win the battle against grime and crime we will need all hands on deck, including communities and traders.  
The municipality is hosting a Climate Change and Adaptation Workshop for school principals. We further played a significant role in the recall of ready to eat products from Enterprise following the recent outbreak of Listeriosis. With the assistance of the National Institute of Communicable Diseases and the National Department of Health we collected a total of 117 samples to isolate Listeria at two abattoirs. We instruct our division and the District to inspect shops in and around Tzaneen and close or impose fine on those that do not promote hygiene standards.  
We promised our community that together we shall fight crimes Safety and Security  
We have a duty to create an environment which is safe and secure for the people of Greater Tzaneen and visitors to our beautiful area whether they are here for pleasure or business. In the endeavour to convert our area into a haven of safety and security, we have created a matrix of partnerships. Our communities have also organised themselves into Community Policing Forums and Village Committees to ward off crime. Those remaining communities must also launch their street committees. The safety of the community does not necessarily lie in the hands of distance security personel but the community itself  
There is a good relationship between the Municipality, law enforcement agencies of government and private security companies. Instead of competing against one another and spreading our resources too thin, we are working together and making immediate and lasting impact.  
The Greater Tzaneen Municipality’s Community Safety Forum (CSF) obtained position one in the province during the annual Premier Excellence Awards. We developed our Community Safety Plan and the policy on Safety and Security, they have both been adopted by council.  
The theft of municipal assets has been radically reduced as a result of preventative measures put in place.  
We have now started a programme on the establishment of Street Committees, and their members have undergone training. The training of members of the Community Safety Forums is in the pipeline. Together with the SAPS and other role players, we plan to develop and implement Crime Prevention Programmes. We call on all peace loving people of Tzaneen to join hands and win against crime. Criminals are very few, why not become one and defeat them? Than have us in our thousands running away from them.

Waste Management

The mandate of the Municipality is to render a waste management and minimisation service to the community, both in the rural and urban area. In the execution of this mandate, the municipality is guided by the Constitution, Laws and Policies to ensure the maintenance of minimum standards and the protection of people and the environment.

Other Waste Management and Minimisation interventions come in the following ways:   
- Recycling  
- Collection and transportation  
- Hazardous Waste Management  
- Pollution Control  
- Environmental Law Enforcement  
-   
Law Enforcement  
In increasing road safety, the municipality has invested in a traffic Law Enforcement Division charged with the responsibility of the management of all traffic related transgressions. These responsibilities include summons for traffic violations, speed checks, attending to accident scenes, point duties, scholar patrols and general road safety.  
Plans are afoot to expand our traffic services to the outlying areas and villages throughout our policing areas. The motorists owe GTM more than one hundred and three million in traffic fines. We instruct the management to recoup that money by intensifying road blocks.  
Licensing Services  
The Greater Tzaneen Municipality renders Licensing Services in accordance with the National Road Traffic Act 93/1996, K53 Manuals, Service Delivery Standards of the Department of Transport and Municipal by-laws.  
Due to the high volumes for our Licensing Services we have extended operating hours to Saturdays. We operate two testing stations, that is Tzaneen Testing Station Graded A and Nkowankowa Testing Station at Grade B. Both Testing Stations offer full licencing services from learner to full licencing. We urge our community to stop paying bribes and officials to stop asking for bribes for our poor children to pass their license.  
The Nkowankowa Testing Station was recently reopened for business by the MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Mme Makoma Makhurupetji. Madam MEC Makhurupetji, we are grateful for your unwavering support in this regard. The reopening of the Nkowankowa Testing has improved service delivery remarkably.  
The Tzaneen and Nkowankowa Testing Stations also offer license renewal and application and issuing professional driving permits. We are in the process of extending Electronic Learner Licensing at both Testing Stations.  
Services provided at the municipality headquarters are vehicle renewal, registration and licensing of vehicles. We have given instruction for improvement on the turnaround time at all service points.

We have promised our people that together we shall promote education at APEX priority in Local communities  
Library and Heritage Services  
In the quest of creating and nurturing a reading culture the Municipality administers the following public library outlets:  
- Tzaneen Town Main Library  
- Haenertsburg Branch Library  
- Letsitele Branch Library  
- Shiluvane Branch Library  
- Mulati Branch Library  
The Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture has made a commitment to build, equip and stock up a library in Runnymede. A site for this purpose has been identified and funds committed. Construction is scheduled for the 2018/2019 Financial Year.  
The Motupa Circuit Education Development Project (MCEDP) in the Bolobedu South area of the Relela Cluster has received a generous funding from the Rand Water Foundation for the construction of a Communal Library in the Moleketla village. This project will go a long way to offset the backlog of libraries in the municipality.  
Parks, Cemeteries, Parks Arts and Sports   
The Department of Community services is also seized in the provision of parks and horticultural, Cemetery, arts and sports services to enrich and dignify the lives of the people within the jurisdiction of the municipality.  
Details on these are contained in our Integrated Development, copies of which can be found online through our website, municipal and traditional offices and Thusong Centres. In the next financial year all municipal parks will be maintained. To benefit the youth we have constructed multi-million facilities in various clusters.  
Tzaneen Museum  
The Tzaneen Museum is crammed full of artefacts of the local Tsonga and Northern Sotho people’s pottery, beadwork, basketry and many other items. Items in this museum are the private collection of curator Jürgen Witt. The museum also conducts story telling sessions for primary school pupils in particular.  
The Museum is a hit with cultural and heritage tourists from abroad and in the country.  
Here is a piece of culture, heritage and history the municipality has to maintain so that it doesn’t close down and its value lost forever to the local people whose heritage and history it preserve.   
DISASTER MANAGEMENT SERVICES  
The key focus areas of the Disaster Management Services is the prevention and mitigation of the occurrence of disasters within the area of jurisdiction of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality. Disaster common to the municipal areas are the following:  
- Storms (Wind and Hail).  
- Floods.  
- Epidemics.  
- Uncontrollable Fires.  
During the year under review disaster management services made many interventions in collaboration with other parties like the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA).  
The Unit also conducts disaster management awareness campaigns in communities, in particular the most vulnerable and those resident in disaster prone areas.   
We promise that together we shall build spatially integrated Communities  
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
Human Settlement  
The municipality in trying to deal with issues of human settlement has approved the township establishment which covers Pusela, Hamawasha (including Talana), now known as Ext 105.The area will cover both the low cost and middle class housing. Approximately 949 social units will be constructed in the area. The municipality has also finalised the purchase of land in Letsitele (the transfer has been effected). It is important to mention that the two parcels of land will also accommodate the gap market (those people who don’t qualify for subsidies or RDP houses). We call on all Royal Councils not to give Land without allowing GTM to do the planning.  
Local Economic Development (LED)  
On strengthening Local economy, Council is in the process finalising the reviewed Local Economic Development Strategy (LED).The reviewed strategy is in line with the National Development Plan (Vision 2030) and Limpopo Development Plan 2015-2019.  
Council has also adopted the Rural Development Strategy together with the Spatial Development Framework (SDF).  
In terms of SMME, the municipality has signed the Memorandum of Understanding with Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) to capacitate the local SMMEs.  
The annual Agri-Expo continues to grow in influence and sharing of information.  
The Limpopo Tourism Agency (LTA) hosted the Tour de Limpopo from 23-27 April 2018. The event started in Polokwane and ended in Tzaneen. The cyclists spent three days in Tzaneen during the event with attendant economic spinoffs for the area. This event will return to Tzaneen in the next two years. It offers local SMMEs an opportunity to cash in the event. In June 2017 we promised to bring NYDA to GTM. The SLA is now signed. NYDA will use on ADHOC basis, the GTEDA offices. We are delighted to announce again that the Nkowankowa industrial park revitalisation is on with the whole area fenced as phase one.   
We welcome the visit by the Deputy Minister of SMME’s and our youth is encouraged to cease the opportunity.

Spatial Planning  
The municipality has appointed the Municipal Planning Tribunal in line with Section 35 of the SPLUMA. Since the inauguration of the tribunal the municipality no longer has backlogs of development applications.  
Furthermore council has approved the Spatial Development Framework (SDF) in terms of Section of the SPLUMA to guide planning and development decisions across all sectors of government.  
In the new financial year, council will begin the process of drafting the Land Use Scheme in terms of Section 24 of SPLUMA. The purpose of the Land Use Scheme is to give effect to the Spatial Development Framework and also to determine the use and development of land within the municipal area.  
Furthermore the municipality has purchased land in Letsitele (transfer has been effected)  
Allocation of Housing Units  
The Municipality has received the following Allocations of Housing Units from the Department of Cooperative Government, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA) by numbers and by financial year to offset backlogs and to ensure that the most vulnerable people in the community are adequately housed.

2016/17 Financial Year  
600 Units Allocated and Completed  
15 Veteran Housing Units Allocated and Completed  
20 Blocked Housing Units, Only 13 Are Completed

2017/18 Financial Year  
700 Units Allocated but Only 534 Allocated To Developers  
166 Units Outstanding

Progress Report  
Foundations = 102  
Wall plate = 94  
Roof/finishes = 71  
Completed = 87  
2018/19 allocation is 300 units only against the backlog of more than 12000.

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”.  
GOVERNANCE  
Limitation of resources notwithstanding, municipal structures such as council, executive committee and others continue to transact their mandates to the maximum requirement of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and applicable legislation. Engagements in meetings of the structures of the Municipal lends itself to consensus building and enhanced decisions in which everybody’s opinion has been canvased.

The numbers of meetings held are as follows:

Structure   
No. of Meetings  
Council 10  
EXCO 13  
Budget Portfolio Committee 6  
Budget Steering Committee 6  
IDP Rep Forum 5  
Chairpersons Committee 5  
Corporate Governance Portfolio Committee 10  
Economic Portfolio Committee 7  
Health Portfolio Committee 5  
Infrastructure Committee 6  
Programing Committee 9  
Public Transport Portfolio Committee 11  
Rules and Ethics Committee 6  
Sport and Culture Portfolio Committee 5  
Special program 4

We are indeed at work to ensure a better life for all irrespective of colour and creed.  
OFFICE SPACE AND ACCESSIBILITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
The 2018/2019 Budget provides for refurbishment and procurement of additional office space. The additional work space to be created will offer relief to employees from overcrowding and create a conducive environment for effective performance.   
In February this year, together with officials of the municipality I met Adv. Bokankatla John Malatji of the South African Human Rights Commission to deal with Rights of People with Disabilities. The purpose of our meeting was to sign an agreement with the Commission to commit Council to address limited accessibility in the main municipal offices by people with disabilities.   
The refurbishment of the main office will bring with it, the installation of a lift to ensure easy access for people with disabilities of all floors. This development will ensure that we do not unfairly discriminate against people with disabilities. We will fully comply with the Bill of Rights as enshrined in the Constitution.

AUDIT OUTCOMES  
The Municipal Audit Outcomes for the 2016/2017 Financial Year as released by Auditor-General Kimi Makwetu on Wednesday, 23 May 2018, in Cape Town revealed that the overall audit outcomes of the 257 municipalities in the country have regressed.  
In his report, the Auditor General said that of the 257 municipalities audited, 45 regressed and only 16 improved. Only 33 municipalities (13%) managed to produced quality financial statements and performance reports and complied with all key legislations, therefore receiving a clean audit.  
The audit outcomes are a serious cause for worry for how the tax payers’ hard earned money cannot be fully accounted for,  
Our municipality audit outcomes have stabilised for the better. For two years in a row, the municipality has receive an unqualified audit opinion. What this means in simple terms, is that our audit report is clean.  
With this audit outcome, it is clear that we are on course to a clean audit opinion. Now that we have filled all key positions in the municipality’s organisational structure, like municipal manager and chief finance officer, there is no reason why our next audit outcome cannot be a straight clean audit outcome.  
I have full confidence in the municipal manager and Directors that they will deliver us to the New Jerusalem.

Madam Speaker

We have promised the people to intensify the fight against ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION in Local Government  
The Greater Tzaneen Municipality is committed to protect public funds to ensure that municipal activities are carried out according to principles of openness, honesty and integrity.  
Quoting President Cyril Ramaphosa, the Premier of Limpopo Mr Stanley Mathabatha that, “we should fight corruption, fraud and collusion in the private sector with the same purpose and intensity as we do in government. We must remember that every time someone receives a bribe there is someone who is prepared to pay.  
The Auditor General of South Africa has also come down hard on unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure in municipalities. The municipality therefore commits to clean governance. Transgressors will be dealt with harshly to deter all potential transgressors out. This should stop them dead in the tracks. Inexplicable expenses are financial misconducts and should be dealt with accordingly.

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

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS  
In the 2018/2019 Financial Year we continue to roll out infrastructure projects through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG). Among these infrastructure projects are the following:  
R 3.1 million, Mawa Block 12 Low Level Bridge   
R 9.2 million Nkowankowa Codesa Street to Hani Street  
R 4.4 million Nelson Ramodike Street Paving: Phase 1 of 3  
R 6.5 million Mopye High School Access Road: Phase 1 of 2  
R3.3 million for Mulati Access Road Paving Phase 1 of 3  
R 8.8 million Upgrading of Access Road Mbambamencisi  
R3.3 million for Upgrade of Khujwana to Lenyenye Access Road Phase 1 of 4  
R32.7 million for Moruji to Matshwi: Upgrading of road, Gravel to Tar: Phase 5 of 5  
R10.5 million for Lenyenye Taxi Rank Phase 1 of 2  
R0 million for Tickyline to Makhwibidung Storm water Management  
R2 million for Thapane Cross, Mandlakazi to Nwamitwa Road: Phase 1 of 4  
R2 million for Dr CN Phathudi to Pharare Access Road Paving and Storm Water Control Management: Phase 1 of 4  
R2 million, Matapa to Leseka Access Road to School: Phase 1 of 4  
R2 million, Upgrading of Musiphane to Risaba Access road: Phase 1 of 4  
R2 million, Relela Access Road: Phase 1 of 4  
R4.6 million, PMU Management.

TARRIF INCREASES  
Consumptive based tariffs will be increased as follows:  
• Electricity (average) 6,84%  
• Water 5,3%  
• Sanitation 5,3%  
• Solid Waste 5,3%

BUDGET BREAKDOWN  
Our budget breakdown is as follows:   
• Employee cost 30%  
• Bulk Purchases 29%  
• Repairs & Maintenance 17,1%  
• General Expenses 10,7%

In the spirit of intergovernmental relations and provincial fiscal allocation, the Road Agency Limpopo has promised to in addition to the roads that the municipality will be constructing to construct the following roads:  
Mokwakwaila – Mawa

IN CONCLUSION  
From the aforesaid we have made it abundantly clear that as the country is experiencing a “New Dawn”, so are we as the Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality. The New Dawn is our only way out from the Low Road of the past, to new highway of the future.  
South Africa with its mineral wealth, agriculture, tourism and other economic prospects, has an edge over countries in Africa and the world. These prospects will remain just that, prospects, as long as they are not exploited and beneficiated.  
Tzaneen is in the same prospective space as the country. With the New Dawn we are set on a new development trajectory that will see the municipality turning a new leaf. This new leaf will put us in a position of exploring and exploiting every potential and possibility at our disposal.  
The New Dawn is by no means an easy way out, neither will it be popular with slackers who are not beholden to hard work and results.  
In this new trajectory I call on all of us, without exception, to put their shoulders to the wheel. All of us means all of us in the real sense of the word. We are enjoined to a common destiny.  
The greater heights we seek to attain as the municipality well require that we shed our petty differences in favour of the people and the growth and success of the municipality.  
We are changing our narrative and in the process, changing the narrative about us. A new story about and of Tzaneen is writing itself. It is a story inspired by President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa unveiling a new vision to rally the country behind.  
Recently the President launched the Thuma Mina, Send Me, volunteer movement which seeks to mobilise and unite the country behind the New Dawn for the country. It would only be too fitting to return to the source of the Thuma Mina Volunteer Movement made popular by our late jazz legend, Hugh Masekela.  
The lyrics of this immortalised song should find expression during this auspicious occasion.  
We too should return to fortify our long walk to freedom like our iconic Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. Here we go as we cite the lyrics of Masekela’s Thuma Mina, Send Me Classic Song:  
“I wanna be there when the people start to turn it around  
When they triumph over poverty  
I wanna be there when the people win the battle against AIDS  
I wanna lend a hand  
I wanna be there for the alcoholic  
I wanna be there for the drug addict  
I wanna be there for the victims of violence and abuse  
I wanna lend a hand  
Send me  
The message in the song is call to all of volunteer to lend a hand in the true spirit of Thuma Mina, Send Me.  
With this State of the Municipality Address we launch our local version of the Thuma Mina Volunteer Movement of President Ramaphosa. We join the South Africa Nation at Work to usher in a better life for all irrespective of colour, class, gender, creed or religion.

Madam Speaker  
CELEBRATIONS AND CONGRATULATIONS  
Let us join the province to congratulate the following football clubs surviving the relegation chop from the Premier Soccer League:  
- Baroka Football Club.  
- Polokwane City Football Club  
This means the province’s soccer loving people will continue to enjoy great football in their backyards. The multiplier effect to their remaining in the PSL is the much needed economic boost to the province.   
As we meet here today, Black Leopards football club is on the brink to make the big return to the PSL. In the most likely event of Black Leopards win in the playoff with Jomo Cosmos and Platinum Stars, Limpopo will boast three clubs in Premier Soccer League.   
We will be spoilt for choice of PSL games on our shores. Bravo Baroka, City and Leopards.  
I would be failing in my duty if I don’t congratulate Her Worship Executive Mayor of Polokwane Municipality and SALGA Limpopo provincial chairperson, Her Worship Thembi Nkadimeng, as one of the SALGA national deputy presidents. This is the signal that Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela didn’t die, she multiplied.

Madam Speaker  
IN MEMORY  
During the year under review we lost the following great South Africans:  
- Bra Willie Keorapetse Kgositsile, Poet to the Nation.  
- Bra Hugh Masekela, Iconic Musician.  
- Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Mother of the Nation.  
- Dr Zola Skweyiya, leader par excellence.  
- Sam Nzima, Lens man to the Nation.  
- Phillip Tabane, the Jazz Maestro  
The nation morns their loss. They however leave us with a rich legacy to draw solace and inspiration from their contributions.   
Closer to home we mourn the loss of Marothi Letsoalo, the gentle giant and selfless servant of the people who was part of the Mayoral Support Staff. At the same time we mourn those of staff members who lost their lives during the year under review.  
May their Souls Rest in Eternal Peace.

Madam Speaker  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS  
Madam Speaker  
I take this opportunity to make the following acknowledgements:  
My family for the love, care and support when I traversed the length and breadth of the municipal area, province and country.  
The Executive Committee has been the pillar of strength in the discharge of our executive functions. I could have asked for a better team.  
My gratitude further extends to Municipal Council in its diversity, which we harnessed to the greater benefit of our communities in their equal diversity.  
I am indebted to our officials, old and new for their commitment to the fulfilment of our Constitutional Mandate as further elaborated and clarified in various pieces of legislation and other prescripts.  
A further acknowledgement must go to the Municipal Manager who like a true cadre of the developmental state, hit the ground running. In a short time you have won back the trust and confidence of our community. Under you stewardship, Greater Tzaneen Municipality can only grow from strength.

CALL TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MAYOR’s SPEECH  
In the build up to the State of the Municipality Address (SOMA) we called for public contributions. The response from the public was overwhelming and we are still sifting through every one of them. I cannot acknowledge each one of them.  
What I can say to this overwhelming gesture of public participation by our people are the following:  
- We appreciate the public’s interest and participation in the programmes of the Municipality. This is in the true traditions of democracy, government of the people by the people.  
- Every response has been considered. Issues raised are taken seriously and will be dealt with through all our planning tools such as the IDP, Budget and the SOMA that I am in the process of delivering.  
- Those responses that are not covered through the aforementioned planning tools will be referred to our line function departments. None of these comments will fall between the cracks.  
- Those that require intervention by other spheres of government will be directed accordingly.  
Among those who responded to our call for inputs are:  
Shai M.A, Maruping Ramodike, Daniel Rene Ngobeni, Mpho Mohale, Dankies Kgatle, Hutchings Amukelani Shingange, Manyike Inno…  
They are too many to mention all. I thank you all for being active citizens of our municipality.   
I thank the Fourth Estate, yes the Media. We have a chequered relationship, I know. We need your scrutiny so that we keep to the highest ethical standards.  
There are also our corporate citizens who are worthy of acknowledgement for their generosity and patriotism:  
- Wisani Burial Society  
- Magic Build Hardware  
- Hillside Hardware Lenyenye  
- Hillside Hardware Mogapeng  
- MIH Hassim Hardware  
If all our corporate and private citizens with the wherewithal could be this generous and patriotic, we would overnight roll back the frontiers of poverty, inequality and unemployment.   
These corporate citizens emulate President Cyril Ramaphosa who donated half his presidential salary to a new fund to be launched in honour of the 100th Anniversary of former president Nelson Mandela’s birth. .  
Lastly and most importantly I acknowledge My ANC, for trusting me with the mandate to lead the Greater Tzaneen Municipality. Like I said at the beginning of our term and I repeat it here today, I commit to give all to this mandate. I owe you and the people of Tzaneen, the debt of success and excellence.  
As a parting shot of the State of the Municipality Address I draw from the wisdom of the late president-general of the ANC, Oliver Reginald Tambo’s New Year Address to the party External Mission in 1971:  
“We who are free to eat and sleep at will, to write, to speak, to travel as we please, we who are free to make or break a revolution, let us use our comparative freedom, not to perpetuate the misery of those who suffer, nor to give indirect aid to the enemy they fight by withholding our own contribution.”  
This concludes the 2018/2019 Greater Tzaneen State of the Municipality Address (SOMA).  
Maatla.  
Matimba.  
Power.   
Sterkte.  
I thank you.