State of the Municipal Address by the Mayor of Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Dikeledi Mmetle at Letaba Showground on 02 June 2016

Programme Director and Speaker of Council, Cllr Machimana

Traditional Leadership from Bakgakga ba Maake, Mogoboya, Nkuna, Xihoko,

Nwamitwa, Modjadji and Mamabolo

The Chief Whip of the Ruling Party, Cllr Mangena

Members of the Executive Committee

Chairperson and Members of MPAC

PR and Ward Councillors

The Municipal Manager, Mr Monakedi

Secreatary of the GTEDA board, Sello Maake

CEO of GTEDA, Kwena Maphoto

Circuit Managers

Directors and Managers

Ladies' and gentlemen

On this day, exactly 5 years ago, I and fellow councillors took the oath of office in front of a magistrate, we took office with plan to deliver infrastructure to our poor communities

We had a plan to improve our towns, townships, villages and the farming community and reduce the service delivery backlog that we face at the time. You, the voters, our communities took to the polls and in that year and you gave us a 5 year mandate to represent you, to pursue your developmental agenda and to help you reach your dreams.

We took that mandate with great pride, and buoyed by your overwhelming support we hit the ground running and pushed forward projects that add value to your lives.

We advocated for projects that brought dignity to your lives

We fought for projects that brought convenience to your lives.

When we took office, the people of Petanenge did not have tar road nor the people of Thapane but today the story is different.

We have done our best, with the little resources at our disposal and in this address i will demonstrate how, with your help we have managed to take a step closer to a better life for all.

Programme Director

Our theme as government is "together we can move South Africa forward". This means that we must work together from all walks of life to achieve our developmental goals.

It was with this in mind that we rallied the support, first and foremost of our traditional leadership.

I'm happy to announce that all our seven traditional Authorities are represented in our executive committee and council.

This means that they are part and parcel of all decisions that we take. I would like to congratulate the Modjadji Royal Council and Queen Modjadji for becoming the first ever Queen to be recognised in South Africa.

In a landmark decision, President Jacob Zuma has proclaimed the recognition of the queenship of the Balobedu tribe. The queen will join the ranks of 10 recognised kings in South Africa. This calls for a celebration and ululations.

Let me also pay tribute to the councillors that we lost during our term of office, let us observe a moment of silence for the late Gezani Mushwana and Asnath Mogoboya.

Programme Director

We have also established ward committees in all our wards to help us govern at the grassroots level. We provide them with all the necessary support and i want to thank them for their selfless dedication and commitment to our people and their development. (call them to stand.)

Programme Director

As the people's government we believe that there can never be anything about the people without the people, that is the reason why out councillors are holding regular community meetings in their wards, that is why we continuously meet our people through the Mayoral imbizos, Our IDP/Budget consultation meetings, the IDP rep forum.

We also have community developmental facilitators (CDFs) in the cluster level overlooking all the wards as well as CDWs (ask them to stand)

The late President Neslon Mandela once said that education is a weapon that we can use to fight poverty, indeed we have heard testimony of our people who used education as a way out of poverty.

As the GTM we value the importance of education that is why we have strengthened our relationship with all the 10 circuits within the GTM.

Programme Director

We set up the Mayor's bursary which has in the past 5 years assisted over 200 young people from disadvantaged communities. Through this bursary we have given hope to our people and made it possible for them to access tertiary education. I'm pleased to announce that for next year (2017) we have set aside an amount of R1 million for the Mayor's Bursary.

Through my initiative and with the assistance of Council, in 2013 we took 10 young people to the Sumsang Academy for a 12 month training in electronics, in the same year through our partnership with the National Education and Empowerment Fund we secured R250 000 funding for 5 students all from our municipality to study in the institution of their choice. Each student received R50 000.

Programme Director

Year after year we meet with circuit managers, school principals, School governing bodies, teachers and learners through our back to school campaigns to ascertain the readiness of our schools and to intervene where there are challenges. We have also donated computers to various schools.

We have also hosted the Matric awards to recognise the outstanding work of educators and leaners. This year we hosted the mayor's breakfast where we committed to funding the registration of each top learner in each of the 10 circuits to the value of R9500.

In 2015 we officially open doors to two new libraries, one in Mulati and another in Shiluvane, these libraries cost government R10 million to complete. In these libraries we offer book loans as well as free internet access for educational purposes. This is what rural development means, this is what investing the future of our children means.

Programme Director

Our five libraries provide Free public access to the internet and wi-fi,
Access to balanced book collections, concentrating on school project
information. Information services, with the emphasis on school project help
Lending services which are not yet to be fully implemented at the Shiluvane
and Mulati libraries, Holiday programmes and book-related arts and craft
events, including an annual reading competition Room to study and
Assistance to schools.

In the past five years our libraries have received an average of 100 000 users per year which amounts to half a million users.

Programme Director

The progress that we have made in terms of roads infrastructure is massive, we have changed the landscape and the outlook of our municipality significantly in the past 5 years. You have seen the R71 road from Polokwane to Tzaneen and even beyond being rebuilt. Some of you will remember the stop and go.

Government has also upgraded Rita to Sekgororo road from gravel to tar, we have all seen the benefits of that road, we have also heard the complaints about the potholes in that road and we are engaging with RAL to address it.

You have seen the road from Thabine via Lephephane and Khujwane to the R36 undergo a massive upgrade, from gravel to tar.

Government spend R100 million to construct that road.

Just 12 months ago the people of Nkowankowa, Mariveni and other areas had to think twice about using the Nkowankowa to Letsitele road, but today we can say this government listened to your voices and rebuilt that road Today we do not have to think twice about using that road

Programme Director

About 18 900 people living in 3150 households in Ntsako, Bonn, Sedan and Mafarana villages bid farewell to a bumpy and sometimes slippery road linking the four villages. About 6.3 kilometres of the road has been tarred at a cost of R27.2 million.

The people of Muhlava and Petanenge will also bear testimony of their own development that despite all the legal problems and changing of contractors, the Greater Tzaneen Municipality led by the ANC has delivered a 9 km road that cuts through the village of Petanenge and connects the village to both Nkowankowa and Muhlava village. The Sasekani to Nkowankowa road was build at a cost of ...

They too will tell you that their lives have seen a drastic improvement, that road has survived the most recent rain.

In 2014 we completed the upgrading of the 7.2 km Senakwe to Morapalala road from gravel to tar at a cost of R 48 million. we had to blast through a mountain to do complete that road.

That road now benefits over 30 000 people. The road links the villages of Senopele, Senakwe, Morapalala and Manswi. An estimated 180 local residents were employed in the project and now over 100 homes have been built alongside the road.

On the 18th of October 2013 we completed the construction of a 12,5km road from Ramotshinyadi to Ga-mokgwathi for R53 million.

We also rebuilt the Claude Wheately street and revamped the Tzaneen taxi rank next to Tzaneen Mall for an amount of **R10 million**.

Through the department of public works we also paved sidewalks in Maake Village.

Mopani District Municipality upgraded the following roads in the past 5 years:

- Thabine to Maake road
- Modjadji to Mavele road
- Dan to Nkowankowa road

Programme Director

We are currently implementing the following projects

- The 12.5 km Rita to Mariveni Tar Road (R91 million)
- The 12.5 km Moruji to Matswi/Kheshokolwe Tar Road (R128.9 million)
- The 11 km Mafarana to Burgersdorp Tar Road (R76.6 million)

- The 2.9 km Tickyline to Makwibidung Tar Road (R21 million)
- Upgrading of Risaba to Musiphana Road, from gravel to tar is at the design stage of the process.
- We are also revamping the Nkowankowa Taxi rank for R11 million.

Fellow citizens

We have also completed the construction of the following bridges

- The R18 million Ramotshinyadi Bridge
- R1 million Motupa Low Level Bridge
- R1.5 million Mopye Low Level Bridge
- R 1 million Thako Low Level Bridge

We are currently implementing the construction of the following projects

- Rikhotso Low Level Bridge
- Mokonyane Low Level Bridge

We are soon to advertise a tender for the appointment of a contractor for Khwekhwe Low Level Bridge

Programme Director

What we should be celebrating today it the fact that we have connected electricity to more than fifteen thousand households since 2011.

We have connected electricity in following areas:

Khujwana, Segabeng, Mine View/ Hospital View, Madumane/, Botludi/Morutji/, MohlakongMarirone/Motupa/, Kubjana, Morapalala, Mopye/Sebabane, Pharare Extension, Pyapyamela Extension, Rwanda/Mandlazi Extension, Mawa Block 8, 9 & 12 just to name a few, the list is endless, we have actually covered almost all our villages.

It is also important to note that all our villages have been electrified and only extensions are outstanding.

Programme Director

We have made sufficient allocation for the electrification the following villages in this 2016/17:

- **R4.5 million** for the electrification of Khopo(Civic)
- R2.1 million for the electrification of Sunnyside/Myakayaka/Sepacheng
- **R8.9** *million* for the electrification of Thabina Valley
- R2 million for the electrification of Dan/Lusaka
- R1.3 million for the electrification of KhayalamC/Legobareng/Shiluvane Ext
- R2.9 million for the electrification of Leolo/Serare/Tshidinko Phase1

Programme Director

In the past five years we have managed to build 84km of electrical overhead lines thereby expanding our coverage of electricity supply to our communities.

In 2013 we started a project to install energy efficient lights. During the first phase, energy efficient lights were installed at Haenertsburg, Tzaneen, Nkowankowa, Lenyenye and Gravellote.

The second phase of the project continues in this financial year, 2015/2016, where outstanding streetlights in Nkowankowa and Tzaneen will be completed.

We have also installed Apollo lights in Burgersdorp, Dan, Khopo, Tickyline, Pelana, Mawa block 8, Mawa block 9, Nyagelani, Moloko, Motupa, Morutji. We have set aside in our budget an amount of R2.5 million for the High mast Lighting or what we call Apollo lights.

We also installed 35 streets lights in Nkowankowa at HANI Street.

Through a Government initiative **500** solar geysers we installed in the Lenyenye Township. This development does not only save electricity, it also helps our residents save money and live a much more convenient life especially this winter.

Programme Director and Fellow citizens

We continue to work closely with the provincial department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Coghsta) to ensure that our people have access to decent housing.

In the past 5 years despite our provincial government being placed under Section 100, we managed to deliver **3176** houses to our residents.

In the past five years, government has built **15 550** ventilated improved pit latrines (toilets) in all the wards in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality with an exception of ward 15, 19, 21 and 31. This initiative has restored the dignity of our people.

Programme Director and Fellow citizens

During the period 2011 to 2016 the following water projects were implemented. Some have reach completion and supplying water to various villages and others are still ongoing.

- Relela MWIG Project (Lepelele Northern water)
- N'wamitwa MWIG Project (Lepelele Northern water)
- Tours Water Scheme
- Thabine Water Scheme
- Lephepane Water Scheme
- Nkambako Water Scheme

The raising of the Tzaneen Dam wall is about to commerce in order to increase the capacity of the dam, which will increase by 25%.

We have also upgraded the following sewers

- Nkowankowa Sewerage Upgrade
- Lenyenye Sewerage Upgrade

Dan Sewerage Project

Because of ANC government, beneficiaries of government programmes, can stand and say that government is not doing anything, whilst in front of house built by government, in a tar road constructed by government, next to a new school built by government, while receiving child grants and free basic services.

They can say all of this with confidence because even when they the ANC government believes I n the freedom of speech

Programme Director

On the 22nd of April we officially opened a multimillion rand indoor and outdoor sport centre Nkowankowa Section C, our government injected a whooping **R13 million** to build.

We also rebuilt the Tzaneen Public Swimming Pool at a cost **R13.5 million**, the pool is Olympic size and the only one of its kind in Limpopo.

We have began with the process of building the Runnymede multi -Sports Facility for R28 million.

We are also going to build a multipurpose Community Hall in Relela for **R12.7 million**

We are currently upgrading the Lenyenye Stadium at the value of **R14** million,

We will also upgrade the Burgersdorp Sports Ground for **R13.6 million**. This facility is product of the 2010 FIFA World Cup Legacy, which built an artificial soccer field in each of the 52 South African Football Association regions in the country.

We are also going to upgrade the Nkowankowa Stadium for **R11.3 million**, the stadium has hosted so many major events and continues to be used for athletics training, soccer matches, church conferences and government events. It also boosts an atheistic athletic track, a tennis court and volleyball court.

Programme Director

The Julesburg Sports Ground will also be upgrade at a cost of **R13.6 million**. We will continue to invest in recreational facilities to keep our children and the youth off the streets, to promote healthy lifestyles through physical exercise as well as promote sports development at a local level.

Talking about sports development, we have established the Mayors Cup and Mayor's marathon, where people from all walks of lives are welcome to compete for prizes.

Programme Director

The Mayor's cup which is an annual event and also serves as a developmental vehicle for sport in the Greater Tzaneen received a significant cash injection for prizes estimated at more **R120 000**.

In marathon winners took home a combined **R76 000** in cash prizes.

The prize money for first position in the 21km race was **R5000**; the runner-up took R3000 and third place walked away with **R1500**.

In the 10km race the winner took home R2000, with the runner-up winning R1000 and third place taking R500.

Programme Director

We are facing very tough economic times, it is therefore advisable that we all tighten our belts, that is why we have introduced cost containment measures so that more money can be channelled into addressing pressing community needs.

We have established the Greater Tzaneen Economic Development Agency to help spearhead economic growth in the Municipality. The Agency is responsible for SMME development, business advisory, investment enticement and the promotion of the municipality. they have throughout the past few years been involved in various developmental initiatives such as the establishment of a local radio station, the resuscitation of Sapeakoe, the development of resituated land.

We have therefore budgeted an amount of **R6,735** million which represents an increase of **R1,2** million on the 2015/2016 annual budget to help this agency help us grow economically.

The total operational expenditure amounts to **R6,500 million** of which **R3,465 million** of the total expenditure represents salaries and an amount of **R1,1 million** of total expenditure represents general expenditure.

An amount of **R235 thousand** has been provided for IT equipment in the capital budget.

Programme Director

In June 2013 we held our first ever Agriculture, Land Reform and Forestry summit in an endeavour to find ways to improve the agricultural industry. This summit resulted in the launch of the Tzaneen Agricultural Expo which we hosted for the first time in 2014, we also held the Expo in 2015 and we will host another one this year.

In 2014 just over 1000 people participated and 900 participated in the 2015 version. We had 52 exhibitors in both the 2014 and 2015 editions. This has now become a platform for emerging and commercial farmers to interact and learn from one another.

Programme Director

In September 2013 we hosted the first Mural Encounter in Africa, drawing artists from as far as Brazil, Mexico and Europe. They have left a masterpiece in the civic centre.

Programme Director

In 2013 Government set aside R18,7 million to help the Batlhabine land claimants to run their farms. The Batlhabine-ba-Mogoboya community, which comprises 210 households, successfully claimed eleven farms with a total area of 1730 hectares valued at R50,3 million. To ensure the sustainability of agricultural production on the re-claimed farms, the Rural Development and Land Reform department came up with various initiatives to assist emerging farmers.

Programme Director

In 2013, i personally handed over the title deed of land worth more than R177 million to the Balepye Community on behalf of the Minister of Department of Rural Development and Land Reform Gugile Nkwiniti. The restored land acquired by the government for the Balepye Community from farmers for R 177, 3 million has eleven portions of farms measuring 25 800

hectares. The restored land is used for game farming, eco-tourism and livestock farming. The properties include the well-known Ndzalama Game Reserve.

Programme Director

In 2015 the khumalo clan of khujwana village received R3.5 million in compensation for the lost rights in land.

This came after the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform approved payments to the Khumalo family as compensation for their land. The Khumalo clan had occupied the land at Mohlaba's location presently Khujwane Village in the 19th century prior to dispossession.

The clan was dispossessed of its rights due to the racially discriminatory laws endorsed by the apartheid government.

The total extent of the land is 10445 hectares, however part of the land where the clan lost their rights was surveyed by the surveyor general and it is only 97 hectares.

Also on 2015 government reopened the land claims process to allow South Africans to launch land claims, government also launched the mobile land claims office, which rings true to our batho pele principles of taking services to the people.

Programme Director

In 2015 we employed 319 people from across our 34 wards as part of the

Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

We aside an amount R2 million in addition to the R1.8 million EPWP grant from the department of Public Works for the 2015/16 financial year.

EPWP is government initiative which was conceived through the Growth and Development Summit back in 2003 and officially launched in 2004.

With the programme we are able to provide an important avenue for labour absorption and income transfers to poor households in the short to medium-term.

EPWP Projects employ workers on a temporary or on-going basis either by government, by contractors, or by other non-governmental organisations. It is also pleasing to announce that more **1000** employment opportunities were created through the EPWP programme in all our projects and those of sector government departments.

Programme Director

Annually we write-off on average R6 million in irrecoverable debt due to our Indigent Programme. Through the indigent programme we subsidise on average just over 36 000 households across our 34 wards made of 125 villages and five towns.

Indigent beneficiaries get free 50 kilowatts of electricity and free six kilolitres of water every month. Indigent beneficiaries are exempted from paying for assessment rates, refuse collection and all service availability charges such as sewer, water and electricity availability in our towns and townships.

Programme Director

On the 24th of February at hotel@ Tzaneen we launched the local economic development (LED) forum aimed at curbing rife unemployment and poverty. This forum now provides information and resources to locals to make the environment more conducive for small medium micro enterprises. The forum is comprised of organized businesses, SALGA Limpopo, sector departments, traditional councils, civic organizations, private sectors, GTM, MDM, DBSA and other banks.

Programme Director

In 2015 the Khalanga Royal Lodge was officially opened for business, the lodge is a project funded by the Department of Tourism for R20 million. The lodge consist of 16 chalets in standard, luxury and presidential format. The Lodge also boast a conference hall, which can take up to 1500 people in a class room setting and 1000 in a roundtable set up.

The project employed 53 EPWP workers and the management is run by a cooperative and the Baloyi Trust.

This lodge is located next to another exciting tourism project the Tsonga Cultural Village funded by Department of Arts and Culture for R11 million.

M'wamitwa has seen multiple developments which include a tar road that connects a dozen villages, a multimillion rand multipurpose government centre, a youth development centre called Xitsavi, and soon N'wamitwa Dam.

Mopani District Municipality also built a multi-purpose centre at the N'wamitwa Royal Offices, which is now being used to render government services and host events.

Mopani District Municipality also built Tsongang pre-school in in Relela and Safe day care centre in Tickeyline.

Programme Director

In 2014 we built fourteen stalls at a total cost of R1.1 million with funding from the Limpopo Department of Economic Development and Tourism to house fourteen vendors operating at the Old Checkers in the Tzaneen CBD. Ten of the fourteen stalls boast a two plate gas stoves, a 9kg gas cylinder, a small extinguisher, and a sink.

Programme Director

In 2011, through Neighborhood Development Partnership Grant (NDPG) we rehabilitated the Ritavi River in Nkowankowa, the river was restored to its natural state. To complement this, 10 wooden bridges were erected across the river. The area around the river was developed into a recreational park with ablution facilities, paved walkways and underground irrigation system in selected areas.

The entrance to Nkowankowa Township was given a facelift with a signage wall, landscaping and steel bollards alongside the entrance.

The road to the Nkowankowa cemetery was upgraded from gravel to tar and the low lying bridge raised to the level of the road with a culvert bridge.

The cemetery's wire fence was also replaced with the 1,8m high palisade fence.

Programme Director

Relela Clinic was officially opened for business by the MEC for Health on 21 November 2014. The motypa clinic has also been upgraded.

As we speak the MEC for health is currently conducting the official opening from Maternity ward

In June 2013 we were crowned the winner of the 2013 National Greenest Municipality Competition at Marianhill Landfill Site in Durban.

The Award was accompanied by a R3.5 million prize money aimed at projects that promote environmental conservation or green economy initiatives.

In 2014 we were runner-up in three categories in the first Limpopo Communications and Media Awards. We scooped awards for the best local communicator, best marketed municipality and best marketed Mayor.

In June 2011,the Tzaneen (Georges Valley and Tzaneen Dam) Treatment Plant and the Letsitele Treatment Plant were awarded the Blue Drop Status by the department of water affairs.

At the time GTM was one of the three local municipalities to be certified blue drop in Limpopo and one of the 66 countrywide.

Virginia Madike, one of our employees also won National Blue Drop Woman's Award for 2011.

In 2015 we became the 1st Municipality in the Province to hold a Safety and Security Summit, we have also initiated crime awareness campaigns with SAPS and other crime prevention security measures.

We have also established Community Safety Forum and Street Committees in an effort to help reduce social crime.

Fellow Citizens

The budget for the **2016/2017** financial year amounts to **R1,099 billion**, which represents an increase of R59 million over the 2015/2016 financial year.

The total revenue budget includes an amount of **R291,1 million** which represents the equitable share allocation to the Greater Tzaneen Municipality.

An amount of **R95 million** will be levied by way of property tax and **R520,5** million will be sourced from user charges.

National allocations to fund operational activities amount to R3,759 million which includes the Finance Management Grant of **R1,810 million** and the EPWP grant of **R1,9 million**

An amount of **R1,047 Billion** has been made available on the operational budget for expenditure.

This substantial increase is largely due to the increase in salaries, repairs and maintenance, general expenses and ESKOM's tariff for bulk electricity purchases.

The Expenditure amount also includes **R241 million** for salaries, **R154 million** for repairs and maintenance and **R333 million** for the purchase of bulk electricity.

An amount of R133,6 million has been allocated for capital expenditure for the 2016/2017 financial year.

This amount includes the MIG allocation of **R85,3 million** which will be spend on roads and Sport and Recreational facilities.

Capital from own sources amounts to R21,3 million.

Mr Speaker, in the 2016/17 Financial year we are going to increase property rates by 6,6%, Electricity will go up by 8.64%, water will increase by 6.6% while sanitation and solid waste will both go up by 6.6%

Mr Speaker, Expenditure categories in terms of percentage of total expenditure is as follows:

Staff cost will amount to **30,0%**, bulk Purchases will be **31,0%**, while Repairs & Maintenance makes **17,8%** and **10,0%** of the budget will go to General Expenses

After the approval of the 2016/17 preliminary budget and IDP review in March we embacked on a public consultation programme which saw us successfully hold meetings in 27 of the 34 wards in the May.

The inputs received from the community amount to 110 in total and are mainly issues already addressed by the Budget Steering Committee. These inputs inter alia include the following:

- Grading of Sport fields
- Grading of internal streets
- Extension of electricity
- Building of bridges
- Ablution facilities
- Water reticulation
- Streetlights / Apolo lights
- Waste Management drop off centres.

The requests that cannot be addressed during the 2016/2017 financial year have been referred to the IDP to be prioritized during the drafting of the 2017/2018 Budget.

Programme Director

In the 2016/17 financial year we are going to spend the Municipal Infrastructure Grant on the following projects:

R22.8 million on the Rita to Mariveni: Upgrading Road from Gravel to Tar-Phase 3 of 4

R24.7 million on the Moruji to Maswi: Upgrading of road from Gravel to Tar: Phase 3 of 4

R21.1 million on the Tickyline to Mafarana: Upgrading of Road from Gravel to Tar: Phase 3 of 4

R16 million on the Upgrading of Runnymede Cluster Sports facility: Phase 2 of 2

R700 000 on the Upgrading of Burgersdorp Sport Ground: Phase 1 of 3 **R2.5 million** on Apollo lights

R2.6 million on the Construction of Low Level Bridge at Khubu Village And **R4.5 million** PMU Management

Mr Speaker, we are going to take a loan of **R20 million**. The R20 million will be used to finance capital projects. The **R20 million** from own sources allocated for Capital Projects will then be allocated to accommodate Operational expenses.

The **R20 million** loan will be used for the following projects:

R900 000 for Parks ablution block

R1.3 million for Khwekhwe low level bridge

R2 million Rikhotso low level bridge

R500 000 for Mohonyane low level bridge

R3 million for the purchase of land

R7.5 million for Renewal Repairs & Maintenance Electricity

R2.5 million for Renewal Repairs & Maintenance Roads

If there is anyone who doubt our ability to deliver services to our people, that person is a pessimist, we acknowledge our shortcomings, our strengths and

our weaknesses, our strength lies in your support, your support gives us confidence to fight for you, to fight for more, to fight harder and never to give up. We will take a bow on the 3rd of August, we are only left with only two months as a council.

I want to thank all the councillors for your support throughout the past five years.

I'm also grateful to all the officials and administrators who carried us through, thanks for your advices and for executing our resolutions and instructions.

Thanks to our traditional leadership for your supports and participation in council matters

Last but most importantly, I want to thank our residents, our voters, mothers and fathers, the youth, the children and the elderly who gave us their support whenever went.

I thank You