

## **State of the City and Budget Address, 21 May 2009**

delivered by

the Executive Mayor, Dr Gwen Ramokgopa

### **TSHWANE, OUR CITY, OUR HOPE, OUR VISION, CONSOLIDATING OUR ACHIEVEMENTS**

The Honourable Speaker, Cllr Khorombi Dau;  
Madam Chief Whip of the Council, Cllr Tebogo Komane;  
Leader of the Opposition  
Councillors  
City Manager and officials  
Honoured guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr Speaker, we meet today, a few days after we have hosted, witnessed and have been warmed by yet another sunrise of our democracy at the inauguration of President Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, the fourth president of a free, peaceful and democratic South Africa. The bursting of the clouds into a torrential fall and their subsequent recession to usher in a clear blue sunny sky welcoming Madiba, Mr Thabo Mbeki, Mr Kgalema Motlanthe and the entourage of the African Union, heads of state and country delegates projected an affirmation of the maturity of our democracy and indeed a confirmation that the time has come for our city to be remembered as a midwife to a free, democratic and just society. With the pain of the past oppression of one over another gradually receding, the new era ushers in celebrations of being one but many, of being united but diverse, and of a common vision from our many dreams.

In his message President Zuma recaptured the value of being a South African, which all of us need to embrace – black and white, young and old, men and women, rural and urban. He also reflected on the importance of respect for one another's contributions and our shared aspiration of a more equal, safer and prosperous country, free of the huge burden of poverty and underdevelopment.

It is events such as this inauguration ceremony and the achievements we have made together that should inspire all of us residing in the capital city to beat and play louder and louder the drums and horns of a common citizenry, a common hope and a common vision for this excelling and prospering community.

Mr Speaker, the hope and the vision for our city and her people go far beyond how much brick and mortar we have laid. Yes, that too is important but of equally fundamental importance is the extent to which we can embrace with honesty and integrity one another across the generation gap, the cultural diversity and class divide for the good of the generations of today and tomorrow. This hope and vision for our city should have its foundation in our common humanity, our being made after the image of the living God, our common heritage, common dignity and our oneness. It is when we know that my brother is me and I am he and my sister is because I am, that we can come closer to the firm foundations of being truly one city with one hope and one vision.

As the people of Tshwane we are all called to truly live our motto: *Tshwane re a tshwana ka moka. Re swanetše go swarana ka diatla tše pedi go tliša le go godiša toropo ya rena gore bana ba rena ba be le bokamoso bjo bo kaone.* (We are the same in Tshwane. We should strive towards togetherness to build our city so that our children can have a better future.)

As we welcome the new leadership and congratulate Mme Nomvula Mokonyane as the first woman premier in Gauteng, we also welcome the changes that may impact on local government that the new administration has introduced, such as –

- the establishment of national Ministries of planning and monitoring and the provincial planning commission;
- a dedicated Ministry of Economic Development to ensure the focus is squarely on economic and job creation issues;
- moving emphasis away from building houses to building human settlements and sustainable communities, and the merging of Local Government and Housing in Gauteng;
- a dedicated Roads and Transport Department in Gauteng; and
- last but not least the introduction of a new Ministry for Women, Youth, Children and People Living with Disabilities.

We congratulate all the members of Cabinet and the Executive Council as well as members of other political parties who are now members of either the provincial or national legislatures. We also have a vacancy on the Mayoral Committee with the departure of Ms Patricia Chueu.

We thank all our officials and partners who were part of the smooth running of the presidential inauguration. This indeed was a successful dry-run for the Confederations Cup.

This is a special City Address – special because it incorporates both the State of the City Address and the 2009/10 Medium-term Revenue and Expenditure Framework Budget Speech.

Mr Speaker, we are faced with difficult economic times, characterised by daily threats of job losses and the shutdown of businesses locally and globally. We are also aware of the impending threat that the global economic meltdown could slow down the pace of our country's socio-economic agenda.

In spite of these trying times we are determined and would like to encourage our citizens to work hard in maximising our input during these hard times so as to minimise the effects of the economic meltdown and to maximise our benefits. We also call on businesses to reserve retrenchments as a last resort and to exhaust all avenues to work together with government and the labour movement.

Our city continues to do well and we are happy that we have been recognised in the fields of education – Best District in Education, TB Award for Health, Bontle ke Botho and LG Vuna Award for most financially viable city – as well as a recognition for road safety. We also want to congratulate Councillors Chueu and Pillay for successfully planning the Inaugural Infrastructure and Investment Conference that will start on Wednesday, 27 May, and end on Friday, 29 May.

Mr Speaker, we are almost one month away from the FIFA Confederations Cup 2009™ and 385 days away from the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup™. We are constantly receiving favourable feedback from FIFA, the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and national government on our state of readiness.

Throughout the city you can see billboards, flags, buses and bus shelters flying the colours of the FIFA Confederations Cup 2009™. Road upgrades and the resulting traffic flow interruptions are, quite frankly, causing a forced awakening to anyone still oblivious of the upcoming privilege

of hosting the greatest football event of all. It is now time for the residents of Tshwane to catch the vision and join the fun!

The FIFA Confederations Cup 2009™ and the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ are happening! Ke nako, let us go buy tickets and fill all the stadiums during all matches as we host the USA, Brazil, Italy and South Africa next month.

A year ago we called on the people of this prospering city to join hands in helping one another as we all strive to excel and do the best for our families. We also announced nine focus areas about which I am pleased to announce that significant progress has been made.

1. The Indigent Programme: While working with ward councillors we saw the registration of more than 10 000 families on our database. Over the next few weeks the Mayoral Committee and I will be visiting all regions to popularise this programme and to ensure that no qualifying family is missed. Although we will be working with the ward committees, we ask institutions of worship, non-profit organisations, civic organisations and workplaces to inform all their members, beneficiaries and/or employees about this programme so that we all reach out to those who are in need but may not be aware of the support we can provide collectively. We thank the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and the various experts who have agreed to serve on our advisory committee for the Indigent Exit Strategy, which aims to enable people to earn their own income through access to decent work. The package for the Indigent Programme in the next financial year amounts to R212 million.

Free basic services include a monthly 100 kw of electricity, 12 kl of potable water and 6 kl of water for sanitation. We have created a dedicated budget for the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) in addition to labour-intensive approaches to infrastructure projects.

2. The Neighbourhood Improvement Programme

Since their one-stop centres have been operationalised, the five regional offices have moved closer to their communities and customers. Through the Office of the Speaker, new ward committees have been elected and their members have been inducted. The Council has approved regional spatial plans and the City of Tshwane has become a construction site so to speak.

While we are aware of a few areas where residents requested us to regularise their water connections, we are happy to announce that we succeeded in meeting the national target of basic water for all throughout the city, by December 2008. By the end of this year we will upgrade these services from 200 m from households to intermediary services of a tap in the yard as approved by the Council.

We also wish to announce that other than the areas where house allocations are not complete and Eskom capacity is constrained, the city has no backlogs in providing services to new residential and business customers. We have also completed the Winterveldt electrification programme of 3 000 households.

The turn-key project of tarring all the dusty roads in the old Soshanguve area is on track. When the work is completed this township will never be the same again. Work to ensure that the roads in Mamelodi are upgraded and maintained is also yielding results and improving the quality of life of our people.

Currently new housing and related construction sites, many in partnership with the leading banks in the country, are underway in all regions in the city.

In its endeavour to build sustainable communities, the city also continues to invest in safety, health, recreation and environmental services across all regions.

Mr Speaker and honourable members, all this work has been facilitated by various ward councillors and ward committees and we thank residents for bearing with us during constructions and for coming out in their numbers to support various activities including the community police forums, health committees, school governing bodies, community liaison officers and the many active community organisations.

We wish to make a call once more that we be proactive in supporting the work of ward committees. From our side we have agreed with the Office of the Speaker that my office will be copied all correspondence from these ward committee meetings and we will set standards for responsiveness. A framework will be sent to all ward committees for comment by 1 July 2009.

Some of the exciting integrated neighbourhood development projects that are off ground include the following:

- The Solomon Mahlangu precincts (including Denneboom) to be developed as a cultural, inter-modal hub, retail and mixed-use residence, using the demolition of hostels as a catalyst in the 2009/10 financial year.
- The Saulsville precinct development as a intermodal transit area with commercial activities and mixed residence to promote the principles of breaking new ground.

The Mabopane station development as a move towards promoting transit-oriented development and mixed-use development.

The Hammanskraal train station re-development as part of the capital core and Hammanskraal rail revitalisation programme.

The Olievenhoutbosch development comprising the transit zone, and retail and office park development

The Mandela Corridor and Sunnyside developments, with major investments in the Sunnypark precinct and the Unisa Sunnyside project

The Hatfield private sector-initiated investments that are leveraging the Gautrain project to revitalise and modernise the area.

Mr Speaker, as promised in our address last year, the Bloed Street Taxi and Retail Mall was opened, and I would like to thank all those who made this impossible task possible. The City Planning, Development and Regions Department has been instructed to develop the next phase that should see the whole of this precinct befitting a thriving capital city of excellence. We call on property owners in the area to collaborate, because it is in all our interest to improve the safety and environment of trading and doing business for the better. This project is one of our contributions towards revitalising the inner city through the Re Kgabisa Tshwane joint initiative with National Government.

The first phase of this initiative will be completed by the end of this month and includes the following:

- National Department head offices completed:
  - DTI
  - National Library
  - National Department of Science and Technology
- National Department head offices in the building phase:
  - National Department of Health (Civitas)
  - National Department of Education
  - National Department of Minerals and Energy
  - National Printers
- National Departments' placements that have been finalised:
  - Department of Justice
  - Department of GCIS (Government Communication and Information Systems)
  - Department of Correctional Services

### 3. Entrepreneur and Skills Development Programme

We are happy to announce that our goal to train and support a minimum of 8 000 SMMEs and/or cooperatives by 2011 is about to be a dream come true. To date, just over our mid-term period, more than 7 000 have been supported. The Entrepreneur and Skills Development Programme is maturing from pilot projects to a fully fledged strategic programme. We appreciate the value our various partners, including the beneficiaries themselves, have added to our efforts.

Please note that the following centres are open for business in our City:

#### 1. NORTH-WEST REGION

The Mabopane Skills Centre and the Rosslyn Skills Centre, with the following business types:

Computer training, internet café/information centre, baking, hairdressing, artwork manufacturing, pension fund operator, counselling services and call centre training.

Rosslyn Centre business type - automotive training facility, in partnership with the SEDA Automotive Technology Centre.

## 2. NORTH-EAST REGION

The Hammanskraal Centre in partnership with GCIS having five business units and providing –

- training, recruitment and placement; and
- a communication and information centre.

The Sekampaneng Centre with 13 business units and business types:

- Adult basic education and training
- Skills development

## 3. EAST REGION

The eastern region currently does not have a dedicated skills centre. Local Economic Development will engage with the regional manager to –

- identify vacant premises which can be converted into a skills centre;
- identify vacant land which will enable a skills centre to be built;
- identify a suitable and available property which can be bought by the Municipality to be used as a skills centre; or
- facilitate the temporary use of existing facilities for skills training.

## 4. SOUTH REGION

An incubator centre in Olievenhoutbosch.

## 5. CENTRAL WEST REGION

Currently being conducted in the City Hall or the Sammy Marks Auditorium.

#### 4. CELEBRATING TSHWANE AS A CAPITAL CITY

We promised to spare no effort in marketing the city as a preferred tourism and investment destination. Over and above the overwhelming success of the celebrations of national days, we hosted the Mzansi and Metro FM Awards which have exposed some of our talent. In this regard we congratulate our own Rhythmic Elements for winning not only the Metro FM and Mzansi Awards, but also the subsequent MTN SAMA awards hosted in Sun City a few weeks ago. Many were not aware that concurrent with the preparations for the presidential inauguration, the city prepared for and successfully hosted other significant events on the same day.

I want to thank the principals of the Pretoria High School for Girls and Pro Arte Alphen Park for the invitation to join in the hosting of a National Girls Schools Festival and the spectacular dance presentation respectively.

At the Pretoria High School for Girls I would like to specifically thank Thato Mabudusha, the head girl, for welcoming and looking after me during my stay, although I could not help but marvel at the 800 girls as the guest speaker gave her a kiss after she thanked him on their behalf. And guess who this was – none other than the handsomely fast world champion known as the Blade Runner, Oscar Pistorius. In his motivational speech he acknowledged the role of many, including the Pretoria High School for Boys, in his journey of finding self-confidence and being the best he could be despite undergoing the amputation of both his legs in his early childhood.

What I can only refer to as a spectacular dance by the 2009 Pro Art Dance Class served as an inspiration and a firm basis for my hope and faith that it is would not take too long for this great city to host month-long annual cultural festivals as we showcase our talent and diverse cultures to the world.

Let us make time to support schools and other youth events and activities in the city, even if sometimes we might feel out of tune or out of place owing to the generation gap. Sometimes what matters most is just being there and providing the needed support in nurturing and celebrating the vast talent in our city. The Council has already approved the establishment of the Tshwane Heritage Council, and we welcome inputs on how in

going forward we can ensure that all cultures are celebrated as a heritage for all our children. This is our city, this is our hope and, I have no doubt, our common vision.

#### 5. On women

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many women of our city that joined hands with us and various faith-based organisations to integrate the communities after the xenophobic attacks the city and the country experienced. Indeed, a number of South Africans also suffered just because their skins were darker or they happened to have married a non-South African. It is during times of conflict that children and women become more vulnerable and we want to thank those who put in a helping hand. *Le ile la e tshwara thipa ka bogaleng basadi ba gabo rena.* (You have been brave women.)

The City of Tshwane will continue working with women to consolidate the skills development programmes for SMMEs and cooperatives and to ensure that they continue to create a climate conducive for women to participate in shaping their destiny.

In this regard, after extensive consultation and representations, I have decided to appoint Ms Tebogo Komane to the Mayoral Committee team with effect from next Monday. She brings with her diligence, tenacity and innovative thinking among the many leadership experiences and qualities she possesses. There are many men and women who are equally valuable, but I want to thank the ANC in the region for not differing with me on the principle of maintaining gender representation on the Mayoral Committee.

#### 6. On the Smart and Innovative City Programme

We can confidently report that the Innovation City Office is operational with a team appointed, and work with the technical team from Oulou, Finland has also begun. The tender for the citywide broadband request for information is closing this month with the request for proposals scheduled to be issued next month.

An accessible city portal will be in place within the next three months. Citywide Wi-Fi hotspots to provide public internet kiosks in strategic areas will go live in the next two months, with free internet access at six city libraries and six customer care centres. This means that the vision of free access to the internet for those that need to do research for

homework or seek valuable information to improve their lives, or even to hold us accountable, will become a reality.

With regard to the E-billing System, consultants have been appointed and we expect full implementation by this time next year. Our aim is to ensure that we introduce an open system that will be accessible and also affordable to maintain in the long term.

7. With regard to customer services and *Batho Pele*, we promised to add value to residents' contributions to the city by, among other things, upgrading the customer care centres and maintaining good credit ratings. With the operationalisation of the regional office model and introduction of easy and free connectivity, we have no doubt that the quality of services will be visibly improved. Despite the cash flow challenges that we are continuing to manage responsibly in the same way as any other business, we are excited to report that we bring you the National Vuna Awards for a Financially Stable Metropole as well as improved credit ratings. We once more call on all customers to pay their services on time and all the time.

8. Fast-tracking economic investments and lead projects

I am happy to announce that the City of Tshwane has been cited as having processed the most number of development applications of all metropolises. Already this year more than 11 600 applications having been processed, more than 152 000 m<sup>2</sup> of office space, 97 500 m<sup>2</sup> of retail space and 148 700 m<sup>2</sup> of warehouses/industrial space. We are aware that there is still room for improvement and we thank the relevant departments for working together in a customer- and efficiency-focused manner.

8.1 High-impact projects and budget allocated per region

a. North-east Region

- Tap in the yard project in New Eersterust, Lephengville and Ward 73
- Stormwater drainage (EIA already approved)
- Sanitation
- Waste treatment plant

b. North-west Region

- Tap in the yard in Ward 74, 1 700 RDP houses to be build.
- Stormwater in Majaneng and areas around Majaneng
- Sanitation
- Roads and stormwater in Soshanguve and to complete the tarring of roads in old Soshanguve.
- Giant Stadium, Klip-Kruisfontein and Mabopane train station refurbishment.

c. Central Region

- To conclude the refurbishment of Super Stadium
- Finalise hostels re-development programme
- Extension 7 formalisation
- Complete Loftus Stadium refurbishment and the expansion of Charles street
- To complete work on Gautrain station, Sunnypark, Unisa Sunnypark
- Re Kgabisa Tshwane programme
- Priority will be given to Lady Selbourne and Marabastad

d. South Region

- Olievenhoutbosch
- To work with business representatives to resolve the Centurion Lake challenges
- CoT will participate in the Gauteng Highway Improvement Plan

e. East Region

- Menlyn - particularly the deadly intersection of Garsfontein and Hans Strydom
- Mamelodi Hostel; Nellmapius; HM Pitje; Solomon Mahlangu precinct; Motor City; New autocluster.

Other areas of priority focus include the following:

## HOSTELS

As we build on our achievements, we are excited to announce that the hostel system that served as a reserve for cheap labour will soon be a thing of the past.

- In 2006, the city developed and converted 356 units in the Soshanguve hostel into family units, thereby ensuring that the old dormitory hostels were eradicated.
- In Saulsville, 919 hostel units have to date been completed and converted into family units and 129 units are currently under construction to be completed by the end of 2009.
- In Mamelodi, 98 hostel units have been converted into family units and plans are afoot to develop about 3 000 units in Mamelodi over the next five years.
- The construction of 148 units has commenced to be completed early in 2010.
- About 300 temporary residential units have been completed to accommodate residents currently occupying blocks to be demolished.

## INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

Having formalised 24 occupied areas over the past months, we wish to announce that 20 more areas will be formalised by June 2009. Some of these areas are:

- Soshanguve SS X 1
- Soshanguve KK X 1
- Winterveld X 4
- New Eersterus
- Stinkwater Ditenteng
- Hammanskraal West X 2
- The K54 Road in Mamelodi (relocation)
- Part of Plastic View in Soshanguve (relocation )
- Various school sites in Soshanguve

## PREVIOUSLY DISADVANTAGED AREAS

We will consolidate the developments in Nelmapius and Olievenhoutbosch.

We will also put greater focus on the investments and revitalisation of the old black townships as well as the areas where poor whites were left to fend for themselves. These areas include

Mamelodi, Eersterust, Atteridgeville, Laudium, the Tshwane West, Ga-Rankuwa, Mabopane, Winterveld and Temba.

We have agreed on several projects to revive the old established townships:

1. MAMELODI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Youth and Road Safety Campaign</li> <li>▪ The Real Rovers/Serapeng Road Project</li> <li>▪ Moretele Park Resort</li> <li>▪ Youth Development Programme on HIV and Aids</li> </ul>
2. HAMMANSKRAAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hammanskraal Multipurpose Sport and Recreation Centre</li> <li>▪ Hammanskraal Cultural Centre</li> <li>▪ Upgrading the Temba Library</li> <li>▪ Hammanskraal reservoir – new 12 Ml reservoir</li> <li>▪ Basic sanitation (UDS toilets) – 596 in Mandela Village</li> <li>▪ Youth Development Programme on HIV and Aids</li> </ul>
3. MABOPANE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mabopane (Odi) Library</li> <li>▪ Development of a new resort</li> <li>▪ Mabopane – new bulk and network water system</li> <li>▪ Mabopane Taxi Rank</li> </ul>
4. GA-RANKUWA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Basic sanitation (UDS toilets)</li> <li>▪ Road works and new taxi rank</li> <li>▪ Public swimming pool</li> </ul>
5. ATTERIDGEVILLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Shova Kalula Cycle Project</li> </ul>
6. SOSHANGUVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development of a new Soshanguve resort</li> <li>▪ Three Turkey Project</li> </ul>
7. WINTERVELD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Winterveld new bulk and network water system</li> </ul>

We have agreed that there is a need to look at infrastructure from our Capex and Opex to ensure that all communities feel that they are cared for by this municipality. I want to invite ward councillors in all these areas to ensure that the ward committees involve people in their areas and establish structures that will interact with us. It is not possible to prescribe if local people are not involved, we will only achieve success if we participate actively so that when solutions are arrived at, these are not seen as impositions. I speak specifically because of the delays that we have had in Laudium and Eersterust in particular with the resolution on the new dispensation

with regard to rental stock. It is important that we enable our communities to participate and investigate what we propose and also to be fully capacitated to understand the benefits. We will look at the possibilities of giving title deeds, both in Eesterust and Laudium as well as in the Tshwane north area.

Today, on behalf of the residents of Tshwane, I also present a proposed budget of R15, 4 billion. We will be successful in implementing this budget if we continue working together. It is important to also note that our residents are experiencing economic difficulties themselves. It is in this context that I want to share the concern that many have aired about the 34 percent electricity tariff increase in the 2009/10 financial year. It is important for us to continue engaging national government that we understand that it is necessary to invest in electricity infrastructure but we must find ways and means of not passing it on to already burdened consumers. We will continue interacting with Salga and the provincial government to intervene in this regard. I wish to propose to Council that it considers favourably the recommendation that we should not pass the total increase of 34 percent to residents but that we consider ways and means of absorbing part of this huge increase.

Similarly, the expected 34 percent electricity tariff increase will have a negative impact on the affordability levels of consumers, resulting in an increase in bad debts which will further lead to cash-flow challenges currently experienced by the city.

The annual increase in tariffs from 01 July 2009, within the range of the consumer price index principle, is therefore as follows:

Property rates	-	13%
Water	-	13%
Electricity	-	34% (pending engagement as suggested above)
Waste removal	-	17%
Sanitation	-	13%

The City of Tshwane continued its track record of sound revenue growth with an increase of 17,8% against the 2008/09 adjustment budget. Revenue amounts to R15,4 billion, R16,9 billion and 17,5 billion for the 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 financial years respectively.

Government grants and subsidies increased by 22,6% compared to the 2008/09 adjustment budget.

The total operating expenditure increased by 12% against the 2008/09 adjustment budget, and by 17,4% against the 2008/09 approved budget.

The total draft capital budget currently equates to R3,5 billion, R3,6 billion and R3,1 billion in the 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 financial years respectively.

Council funded capital projects equal 61,9% of the total 2009/10 capital programme compared to 59,3% in the two other financial years.

As we sit here today, I am happy to report that in the main we have surpassed what we set ourselves to do. We have exceeded expectations in our housing, water and roads service delivery goals. Honourable Speaker, I am comfortable in the knowledge that many of the initiatives that I committed myself to in my inaugural budget speech have been realised and are bringing comfort, security and dignity to thousands of residents in Tshwane. We met our 2008 basic water provision targets and even received the Blue Drop Status trophy for, among other things, monitoring quality drinking water. And one of my leading commitments centred on an initiative to attract additional funding for all the key strategic objectives.

The ANC led government has made much progress over the past 15 years in the provision of housing, water and electricity to millions of homes. Our economy has grown, more jobs have been created than in any other time in our history, and we have deepened our democracy. And we have extended social protection to millions of South Africans through the provision of social grants.

Social cohesion is also about creating a climate where all feel they belong and they have an equal say in the city. To this end we have institutionalised our systems of responding to petitions, marches and matters raised at the *izimbizo*. We are developing for ourselves systems with norms and standards to enable optimal dialogue and responsiveness on matters of common concern.

In the past financial year agreements have been signed in a number of areas of collaboration with the following institutions: the University of Pretoria, Unisa, the Tshwane University of Technology and the HSRC. The Foundation for Professional Development has agreed to fund

and provide a secretariat for the work of the newly appointed AIDS Advisory Council. The Board of the Housing Company Tshwane has also been finalised. Youth Officers have been appointed to serve on the Youth Development Unit. I also wish to mention our fruitful collaboration and partnerships with the following institutions:

- The African Character Architectural Design Advisory Panel that was recently appointed
- The Aids Council Advisory Group
- The Poverty Reduction Advisory Group
- The PWMSA – Tshwane Chapter
- The Tshwane Business Forum
- The Safer City Forum
- The diplomatic community

We applaud our exceptionally and fruitful partnership with various stakeholders, and celebrate our heroes and heroines:

- Tshepo Modikoe and Brian Baloyi, Mandela Village champions, for representing our city and country at the Roller Sport World Championship in Spain
- Oscar Pistorius – a double amputee. This South African phenomenon is the world record holder in his category for the 100, 200 and 400 meter sprints. In September 2008, with the eyes of the world on him as he raced in Beijing, he became the first Paralympian to win gold in three events.
- Blue Bulls Rugby – in 2008, they won the Motel District Tournament and the Best Overall Team Tournament in Nelson Mandela Bay.
- Dr Anna Mokgokong on being awarded an honorary degree in commerce by our own University of South Africa
- SuperSport United for successfully defending the much sought after PSL title, making it a back-to-back achievement
- Busisiwe Ndimeni, a 17-year-old Soshanguve lass, has secured a soccer scholarship to Iceland
- Zelda Breytenbach (a City of Tshwane official) obtained national colours in the duathlon in 2008 and represented the city and the country in the World Duathlon Championship in Italy.
- Kgotlelelang Primary School from Soshanguve represented the City of Tshwane in the Korean World Youth Football Tournament for Boys under 12 in 2008. The team reached the quarter finals.

- Rhythmic Elements for winning the Metro FM and Mzansi Award in the South African Music Awards (SAMA).

Mr Speaker, I am certain that you will agree with me that these achievements are indicative of our continued quest in keeping with the vision and values of working together to achieve excellence, innovation, success and prosperity in the city, the province and the country. Indeed, we are a city of champions.

"Working together we can do more." I implore you that we collectively redouble our efforts to build and strengthen a cohesive society that celebrates diversity by upholding the fundamental values of respect, integrity, *ubuntu*, compassion, openness, and solidarity.

Finally, *vir ons met "blou bloed"*, we wish the Blue Bulls a sterling performance in their Super 14 semi-final on Saturday.

I THANK YOU. *KE A LEBOGA*.