



The Executive Mayor donated full uniform and sports merchandise to learners of Bartimea School for the Deaf and Blind earlier this year. The school is one of the best performing in the city.



Cllr. Thabo Manyoni, Executive Mayor

MANGAUNG A GLOBALLY SAFE CITY TO LIVE, WORK AND INVEST IN

As a budding metro, Mangaung continues to derive inspiration from its outlook on the future, as encapsulated in the vision of the city: 'A globally safe city to live, work and invest in.'

Key to our performance as a City has been our ability to stabilise the financial position of the Metro over the past few financial years. We have laid a solid foundation for financial sustainability and are financing most of our expenditure ourselves. We have improved our audit opinion from a financial disclaimer and we achieved an unqualified audit report for the 2013/2014 financial year. This means we're on the right path towards achieving a clean audit.

We have further improved the alignment between the City Council's priorities and the service delivery targets as espoused in the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan. This has ensured that we allocate our resources in such a way that they address what the City Council deems to be priorities and urgent. In this manner, the expansion of our bulk infrastructure for water and sanitation is at the apex of our prioritised expenditure to deal with the sanitation backlogs, but also

to ensure water security into the future.

The Metro has committed to eradicating sanitation backlogs within six years and, in support of this, has committed to building seven new reservoirs. Of these, two have already been completed at Longridge and Naval Hill respectively. The Sterkwater Waste Water Treatment Work capacity has been doubled from 10-million litres to 20-million litres. Critically, the expanded capacity will accommodate new development in the City, such as Hillside View Development, Vista Park, Lourier Park and Rocklands.

To reposition the City as a destination for potential investors, the City has also embarked on massive land development around the airport (the Airport Development Node) to ignite developments in the N8 corridor. This is our biggest project and we started by providing infrastructure, such as the Naval Hill reservoir and the North Eastern Waste Water Treatment Plant. Now that these have been done, the private sector is starting to move in. We now have close to 250 new residential houses that have come up as a result of the N8 development to the airport, and a hospital is currently under construction.

Eight parcels of land have been purchased by the City for the development of the

Botshabelo and Thaba `Nchu nodes. The development of the Botshabelo and Thaba `Nchu nodes is intended to ease an over-reliance on Bloemfontein as a commercial centre, but also to bring renewal, development and economic opportunities to other regions of the municipality. This will further see the escalation of the City's efforts to deal with rural development and the establishment of rural enterprises to ensure that our rural villages become vibrant and significant contributors to the economy in the long run.

The budget has been used to drive development, offer communities rich resources within which to grow, and ensure that basic services are modernised and upgraded on a regular basis.

We are continuing to focus on repairing our decaying infrastructure and are relocating some of the old pipelines under the roads. Not only is this allowing us to improve the quality of our roads in the inner city, but we are able to now limit the water loss we've been experiencing as a result of old pipes and systems. When we started the project, our loss was sitting at 45% and we have managed to reduce that to 30%. It is still high, but our investment is showing real results.



The city launched the Naval Hill and Longridge Reservoir in August 2014. These are just two of the seven reservoirs the city will build in order to unlock developments in Mangaung.



Atop Mangaung's prime tourist destination, Naval Hill stands 'The Edge' restaurant, which overlooks the city.



The Hoffman Square precinct has been rejuvenated to turn the city centre into a green oasis.



The city has prioritised eradication of VIP and pit-latrines toilets, with focus in Botshabelo and Thaba Nchu.

The Metro has shown serious keenness in ensuring that Mangaung claims its fair share of the increasing market share in the ever-growing tourism sector by developing Naval Hill into one of the prime tourist attractions in our Metro and country at large. Boasting viewing platforms, the second tallest statue of our icon Madiba and, most importantly, hosting the only digital planetarium in Sub-Saharan Africa, the latest development in the Naval Hill Masterplan has seen the completion of a restaurant atop this facility.

One of our primary interventions is the greening of our cities and this was driven by the fact that Mangaung, in particular the previously disadvantaged areas, doesn't have a lot. In Thaba 'Nchu, we are building a regional park. Sporting facilities, an amphitheatre, perimeter fencing, landscaping and play areas for children have also been constructed as part of phase one last year, and the second phase will soon follow.

The Metro has also prioritised and rehabilitated 15 different sporting amenities during the past financial year.

These included the rehabilitation of Free State Stadium and Heidedal swimming pools, a new community hall at Section N, Botshabelo, and upgrading the boxing arena. Earlier in February, contractors started with the construction and rejuvenation of the swimming pool at the Mmabana Stadium in Thaba 'Nchu. This is in line with positioning the City as a sporting mecca, while at the same time providing quality recreational facilities for our people and thus laying a foundation for an inclusive city.

This is one of a number of areas in which the Mangaung Municipality has invested time, money and effort to mitigate urban decay; another is the Hoffman Square development in the inner city. The area experienced significant decline and has been the focus of a number of upgrades that include roads, sidewalks and repairs.

The Hoffman Square Project has attracted fresh investment into the City and we've even seen some vehicle showrooms appearing along with the refurbishment of old buildings in the centre of Mangaung.

Mangaung's revival is a process and the past two years have seen the City experience a noticeable revival as dedicated projects make their mark. The area needed a vision for the future and, now that it has one, it is making impressive strides in achieving its goals.

It's a process and what we've done over the past two years is to reverse the climate of urban decay, but there's still a lot to be done. As long as we stay focused and continue to invest in the future, we will keep on seeing results.



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