SOCA 2020
STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

20 years of a responsive and modern public service partner that fosters change towards building a better Ekurhuleni

CLLR MZWANDILE MASINA
EXECUTIVE MAYOR

#SoCA2020

a partnership that works
www.ekurhuleni.gov.za
It gives me great pleasure to stand before you on the occasion of the delivery of what is undoubtedly one of the most important addresses in the calendar of our beautiful City. The State of the City Address (SOCA) captures most succinctly our aspirations and serves as a reminder of our commitments to the people of this dynamic City.

We are sincerely grateful to the Council and to the people of Ekurhuleni for once again entrusting us with the responsibility of accounting for the work that we have done, and for giving us an audience to unpack our plans to accelerate service delivery in the year ahead. It is an honour and privilege that we do not take for granted.

I therefore wish to submit that effective Metropolitan Governance is called for if a functional region as a whole is to reach its full potential; hence the idea of community based planning and the process we must thrive to bring along the society in general on service delivery gains.
Ekurhuleni is a Polycentric City, which requires innovative space developmental strategies and governance structure of a special type in order to meet the circumstances of a rigorous transformation of the physical structure and spatial patterns.

It was in 2000 that this City came into existence in a unique and first of a kind merger in South African history; the amalgamation of nine towns and cities and 11 administrations. We deliver this State of the City Address on the 20th anniversary of this conglomerate.

This is the reason why we have themed this SOCA 20 Years of a Responsive and Modern Public Service Partner That Fosters Change Towards Building a Better Ekurhuleni. It is a theme that reflects the coming-of-age of this City, celebrating its responsiveness to service delivery issues and its significant role in fostering transformative and radical change in the building of a better City.

The last 20 years have been characterised by unmatched dedication on the part of various administrations of the City. This has seen radical transformation in the lives of ordinary people, particularly those in townships and informal settlements who have historically been hurled at the margins of existence. The exponential growth in our population size demonstrates that the City of Ekurhuleni is a destination of choice for many who are seeking a better life for themselves, and their families.

This growth is a source both of challenge and of opportunity. Above all, it is a stamp of approval on the work that has been done over the last 20 years – work that is geared towards building a local economy that grows in the hands of the people through sustainable investments and strategic partnerships with the private sector and civil society.

The City of Ekurhuleni that was inherited by our first-ever mayor, the late Ambassador Bavumile Vilakazi, is not the same City that we find ourselves in. Ambassador Vilakazi and his successors, namely Honourable Duma Nkosi, Honourable Ntombi Mekgwe and Honourable Mondli Gungubele, inherited a City confronted with significant challenges arising from our history of separate development.
The establishment of this City was the logical conclusion to a protracted struggle by the democratic government of South Africa to annihilate the vestiges of our apartheid past – a past that continues to find expression in our spatiality. Merging these historically fragmented locales into one City, the democratic government succeeded in undermining the legacy of separate development that had made it improbable to bring about meaningful material change in the lives of the oppressed majority, who to this day continue to navigate the difficulties informed by that legacy.

We are a place of peace not only because we were able to defeat the violence and terror of the apartheid regime and those who became pawns of its repression, but because we continue to demonstrate unwavering commitment in pursuit of a better life for all.

In spite of the many unique challenges that confront us, we have been able to create and sustain a City that can proudly boast achievements that surpass those of our counterparts that are bigger than us. I will touch on some of the success stories later on.

We deliver this policy statement three day before Human Rights Day - a day that is etched in the archive of our collective memory in which we remember the brutal massacre of our people in Sharpeville and Langa, killed for protesting against a savage regime that had no regard for the value of human life.

This day in our history must serve as a reminder of what we have overcome and of what we should never again become - and of why we have a moral obligation to defend this democracy at all cost.

Sadly, this policy statement is made at a time when the whole world is grappling with the issue of Coronavirus (Covid-19). We have seen how the pandemic is spreading like wild fire in some parts of the world, and unfortunately South Africa is not exempted. As a City we welcome the decisive, prompt and strategic leadership provided by our government under the leadership of President Cyril Ramaphosa on this matter.
The interventions and clear directive given by President Ramaphosa for declaring the **National State of Disaster** is a move that clearly demonstrates that we are a government that is compassionate and prioritises the lives of the people.

As part of the City’s immediate contribution to curb Coronavirus in our space, we have resolved to use our emergency fund to procure the vaccine Interferon B from Cuba and other related medicine from elsewhere that could prove to be an answer to the current situation. Obviously this is subject to the approval of the Medical Control Council, which is the relevant authority when it comes to these matters. Once approved, this medication will be administered by our trained professionals.

All this is being done in consultation with the Gauteng MEC for Health Dr Bandile Masuku.

After this Council meeting I will be announcing further extraordinary measures that the City will be employing in trying to deal with this pandemic.

At the present moment we have four confirmed cases of the virus in Ekurhuleni, and our health authorities are dealing with the matter. We remain vigilant in monitoring the situation, and we are ready to work together with national and provincial governments to combat the spread of this dreaded virus.

As we do this, we re-iterate our call for people not to panic and follow the guidelines issued by the government with regard to the high standards of hygiene.

In the meantime, we have set up a Joint Operation Centre which is monitoring the situation and giving the administration a blow-by-blow of the situation.

At this point I wish to appeal to the community to work with us as we manage the pandemic.
Madam Speaker,

The month of April marks the 27th anniversary of Chris Hani’s brutal assassination – an assassination so devastating to our quest for liberation that it threatened to plunge our country into a civil war. As we commemorate the life and times of Cde Chris Hani, we do so convinced that Tshonyane would have been proud of the track record of this municipality towards realising the HHH Campaign – the provision of decent housing, quality health care and our efforts in the fight against hunger.

I am happy to announce that the Dawn Park home of Chris Hani has now been declared a heritage site, and a family museum depicting the life and times of this stalwart will be opened on 10 April. The opening of the museum will present new tourism and economic opportunities for those living in the neighbourhood, and as a City we invite them to sponsor ideas on how we can make the facility an even bigger success.

Madam Speaker,

This is the penultimate State of the City Address under our administration. A year from now, we will be delivering our last address to this Council, to account for the totality of the five-year term that voters afforded us.

Our people mandated us to provide them with decent housing, proper access roads and quality services; they asked us to tackle corruption and expand health care services, among others. The people further appealed to us to, among others, ensure that we make informal settlements more liveable so that we restore human dignity.

We heard this mandate and came up with a ‘Pro Poor’ programme aimed at fast-tracking and sustaining service delivery.

As an action plan to achieve this outcome during this term of office, we put in place a manifesto that is informed by the will of the people.
As previously alluded to, at the heart of this clear pro poor programme has always been the landmark *Siyaphasha Mayoral Outreach Programme*. This programme has made a tremendous impact in fast-tracking service delivery within our communities while ensuring an improved turnaround time to public complaints.

This was a deliberate act by this administration to have employees do more work on the ground, than sitting in offices.

*Madam Speaker,*

**GOVERNANCE CLUSTER**

We must appreciate that that the systems that we have put in place to deal with Capex challenges are bearing fruit. While our counterparts in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Tshwane have struggled to spend, with the former sitting with over **R2 billion** in unspent grants, our City managed to record a **94.31 percent** Capex spending against the planned **95 percent** target.

The overall spending on grant funding was **94 percent**, amounting to **R2,067 billion**, on a total capped grand funding of **R2,197 billion**. Through accelerated efforts of the City, all Capex grants were spent **100 percent**, apart from PTNG and NDPG. Challenges resulting in the non-spending were, amongst others, community disruptions.

In addition to this, our liquidity position remains greatly satisfactory. The City generated a positive cash flow of **R3 billion** from its operating activities. The cash on hand was **R3,4 billion** and **R1,9 billion** invested for the repayment of long term borrowings and the cash on hand averaged 30 days at year end. Furthermore, we have invested **R1 billion** of our own revenue in capital replacements and repaid long term loans of **R400 million**.

As of the second quarter that ended on the 31st of December 2019, our total current assets amounted to **R13.5 billion**, while our total current
liabilities amounted to **R8.4 billion**. The current ratio is therefore 1.6:1 which indicates that the City can meet its working capital requirements.

The state of our entities is of great concern to us, and we are in the process of finding lasting solutions to the challenges they are confronted with.

*Madam Speaker,*

The Auditor-General recently detailed for us what the fiscal health of our City is. The City of Ekurhuleni has again achieved an unqualified audit. It is the General-Auditor’s judgment that our municipality’s financial statements are fairly and appropriately presented, without any identified exceptions, and in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles.

The City achieved an unqualified audit with a clean audit on financial statements:
- Zero unauthorised expenditure;
- Zero fruitless and wasteful expenditure;
- Irregular expenditure has decreased from **R215 million** in the previous financial year to **R5 million** in the 2018/19 financial year;
- Collection rate stood at **91 percent**; and
- Clean Audit on financial statements.

Our Human Resource systems are on the right track, and this was recently confirmed by the **South African Board for Personnel Practice** (SABPP) which awarded the City with the Overall Winner of Public Sector for HR Standards in 2019.

It must further be pointed out that our healthy relationship with other stakeholders through the **Local Labour Forum** (LLF), especially the trade unions, has led to stability in the workplace, thus ensuring that more work gets done and that we avoid unnecessary work stoppages.

As we migrate to become a Smart City, our efforts to rollout the **Enterprise Resource Planning** (ERP), which will integrate all our
systems while ensuring quality management of information, is entering its final stages. This intervention, plus the speedy rollout of broadband, will ensure our City’s effectiveness and automated way of conducting its business.

In actual fact, we continue to improve our service delivery app, which has made reporting and turnaround time to service delivery interruptions much easier. The facility already enjoys 133 000 users and our target is to have at least double this figure within the next six months.

Furthermore, we look forward to the introduction of the of 24-hour news portal, which is linked to this new app. This portal will ensure that our people get updated information in real time.

Madam Speaker,

Our work cannot be complete if we do not pay special attention to risk factors which may derail our work. As such, our Risk Management Team must continue to assist us with proactive situational analysis to avoid unexpected external forces that may derail the government course.

INFRASTRUCTURE CLUSTER

Since the beginning of our term of office, we have steadfastly stated that our key priority is in ensuring that every citizen’s life in this City is of value, and that all our people live in dignity.

It was a very touching and emotional moment when the City handed over keys to uKhokho Sarah Ndlaleni Ngozo, a 103-year-old who became a first time owner in MacKenzieville Extension 2. Today, uKhokho can sleep peacefully in a safe and comfortable home. We are determined to realise the aspirations of the Freedom Charter.

Having long had this understanding, we have always prioritised the electrification of the City, including informal settlements. Since the beginning of our term of office, 34 of the 119 informal settlements have been re-blocked and electrified, resulting in almost 50 000 people
enjoying electricity for the first time. This includes an additional 6 546 electrified informal settlement households under the Eskom licensed areas.

Since the beginning of this term of office, a number of informal settlements were added to the electrification programme and by June this year, a total of 22 000 homes will be connected – bringing the total number of households connected to the grid since year 2000 to 93 000.

In our quest to minimise the threat of our people becoming victims of crime, we have rolled out 3 646 streetlights across the City and 295 high mast lighting, mainly in previously disadvantaged areas and new establishments.

In his State of the Nation Address delivered last month, President Cyril Ramaphosa focused greatly on the electricity challenges that confront our country. He correctly asserted that the load-shedding of the last few months has had a debilitating effect on our country and severely set back our efforts to rebuild the economy and to create jobs. Importantly, it disrupts people’s lives, causing frustration, inconvenience and hardships.

We heard President Ramaphosa clearly when he said that municipalities will now have powers to procure their own energy sources. We welcome this intervention as it speaks to our priority to boost our grid and stabilise the supply.

In the new financial year, we will finalise the implementation of the City programme to purchase electricity from the appointed power producers. A total of 46 companies have already been awarded a tender to generate additional energy for the City.

Cable theft remains a challenge that destabilises the effective functionality of government, business and the community at large. However, I am pleased to mention that we have now deployed new technology to fight cable theft and we are also seeking an alternative to copper to minimise power theft for illegal trade. Since August last year, over 116 arrests have
been made, and we wish to iterate that we plan to take no prisoners in dealing with cable thieves.

_Madam Speaker,_

Our Aqua-Leap Programme, which aims to address the security of water supply, is on track. In this regard we are the first City in the country to have embarked on a programme to construct 29 reservoirs and towers simultaneously – this to the tune of **R1.2 billion**. One of these will be the biggest in the continent and among the biggest in the world. It will be commissioned by the end of June 2020.

Dust and cranes can be seen in various parts of the City as work to deliver these on time continues. Three were completed and commissioned in the previous financial year and four more will be completed by June this year.

The remainder of the reservoirs are at a planning stage so that they can be constructed and delivered by the end of the term. This infrastructure will add an additional **417** mega litres of storage to the existing **954** mega litres.

Recognising the importance of saving water, we have done well to improve water losses from **34.3** percent in the 2017/18 period to **30.79** percent. While this is a much welcomed move, we agree that we need to more through our War on Leaks Programme. In a water scarce country that is battling water shortages, this is a significant intervention that will go a long way in contributing to the saving of water.

As we continue bringing dignity to our people, we are still providing mobile chemical toilets at **1:5**. We will, however, soon start exploring sustainable alternative sanitation technologies.

As we turn to **Roads and Stormwater**, for the past 15 years we invested R6 billion on the road infrastructure upgrade programme. A further **R5 billion** was invested in asset management to keep our **8 500km** road network in a good and driveable condition.
It must further be remembered that from the time we assumed office, we made it clear that there would be a deliberate bias towards the eastern region because the area had been overlooked over the years.

Among the major projects under way in the roads infrastructure are:
- **30km** of non-motorised transport completed;
- **27km** of newly constructed roads across the City; and
- **309km** of the existing road network were rehabilitated.

Furthermore, a total of **121km** were paved as part of the Pavement Management System, making the movement of our people easy.

A number of catalytic projects have been lined up for implementation. These include:
- The doubling of **Barry Marais Road** – the modelling and planning has been completed with various state organs and actual construction will begin in 2020/21 financial year;
- We have gone on to introduce a bridge management system and a total of **198** bridges were assessed. We took this proactive stance in an effort to mitigate any possible threat to our people. In this regard, we identified that 12 bridges that need the City’s urgent attention;
- We will in the new financial year start with the **rehabilitation of Kaalspruit**, a project we aim to implement in phases;
- The feasibility study for the **widening of Nyoni Park Road** has been concluded, and construction gets under way in the 2020/21 financial year.
- The PWV15 is expected to be completed in three phases over the next decade. The **35km**-long dual carriageway’s preliminary designs have been completed; and
- The upgrading of the **N12/Daveyton CBD interchange** is expected to start soon, following the resolution of outstanding matters with the South African National Road Agency Limited (SANRAL).

We have a responsibility to provide an adequate and efficient public **Transport** system. In this regard, four years ago we vowed to fast-track
the completion of the Bus Rapid System for ease of movement of our people between home and places of work.

Since the launch of the system, we have moved swiftly to continue to accelerate the rollout of the service. This has resulted in the construction of dedicated lanes from Rabasotho Hall to R25 Zuurfontein interchange, the purchasing of 40 buses, and we will be completing the nine median stations by the end of the financial year.

At the present moment, the BRT operates between Tembisa and Isando and Tembisa and OR Tambo International Airport. The extension of the system to OR Tambo resulted in the steady increase in ridership from an average of 11 000 to 70 000.

We have also extended the service from Tembisa to Bartlet Road in Boksburg due to the need identified in servicing the people working in the industrial park in the area. The significant increase in users of the BRT service demonstrates the hunger of our people to safer, more reliable and affordable public transport system.

Efforts are at an advanced stage to ensure the completion of the Vosloorus and Bluegumview taxi ranks. Contractors have already been appointed and these facilities will be completed by the end of the financial year and open for public use.

It is a matter of fact that the demand for Waste removal has been on the rise in the City in line with the increase in the population, new township establishments and the immigration which has seen a huge leap in the number of backyard dwellers seeking jobs and economic opportunities.

This has put a strain on waste removal efforts, mainly the round collections. This has also resulted in disruption of the service in some parts of the City – as recently experienced in Kempton Park, among other areas.

In response to this challenge, a comprehensive strategy was developed and is being rolled out incrementally to date. This problem has been
stabilised and continuous monitoring is ongoing to ensure that we deal with the problem once and for all.

A new five-year waste collection contract will soon be advertised with new improved features aimed at increasing our efficiency. The contract will cover eight broad areas and is aimed at improving our services based on the recently adopted turnaround strategy. We are further proposing the introduction of a two-shift system which will ensure that our City remains clean at all times.

We have re-modelled the Clean City Project which is now under way. The programme has resulted in the appointment of 1 172 people. These are mainly brigades, supervisors and customer care co-ordinators, which will ensure that our environment is clean and properly looked after.

The programme intends to intensify the partnership with communities in keeping their own wards clean. Beneficiaries will not only be engaged in the cleaning but will be instrumental in promoting education and awareness on issues affecting the environment.

In our efforts to provide our people with quality recreational facilities while promoting healthy lifestyle, the City is rolling out multi-purpose ideal parks and maintaining existing parks, which we believe are instrumental in protecting and preserving the natural environment.

The newly-constructed parks include:
- Murray Park;
- Boksburg Lake;
- Welgedacht; and
- Palm Ridge.

As we continue to pursue our Big Ideas and Focused Development agenda, our quest to establish world-class botanical gardens in Ekurhuleni is well underway. In our preliminary design and consultation phase, we have earmarked Gillooly’s Farm for this project.
It is important to understand that the City is pursuing the idea of the Botanical Garden because it will have significant benefits for the residents of our City, as well as a positive impact on the environment. Botanical gardens devote their resources to the study and conservation of fauna and flora, providing opportunities for learning, research and the overall maintenance of healthy living.

The City is also on the verge of pursuing the establishment of a zoo for recreational, tourism and educational purposes, among others.

*Madam Speaker,*

We are proposing three private cemeteries to be commercialised through our SCM process. We are further conducting studies for the provision of alternative burial methods which include, but not limited to, cremation.

Dr Tshilidzi Ratshitanga argues, and I quote:

>“The racial-spatial-inequality nexus makes it possible to understand the link between racial exclusion and spatial formation, since this is the major defining characteristics of the legacy of apartheid colonialism in South Africa. Its proposed solution is total National special reconstruction, to be spawned by the creation of many new mega city regions that will germinate new economies for South Africa and the rest of the continent.”

**City Planning** - Noting the above, in its re-discovery, the City of Ekurhuleni approved the Municipal Spatial Development Framework (MSDF) in 2015 and is in the process of completing a gap analysis to inform the next generation of the MSDF, as well as its lower level Regional Spatial Development Frameworks (RSDFs), from which the reconfiguration of our development patterns - particularly of human settlements, mega projects and our economy - would be anchored.

The purpose of this drive is aimed at undermining the apartheid racial development legacy. We have approved the Ekurhuleni Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan which outlines the sectoral infrastructure needs against aligned financial requirements for long term infrastructure
development in line with the vision of the GDS and the MSDF over 30 years.

To enable more developments to take place in places that were restrictive, the City has:

- unlocked 4,900 hectares of land, deemed to be dolomitic, in the Katlehong, Vosloorus, Springs and Duduza. We have also employed sinkhole contractors to assist with rehabilitation processes, and the accelerated plan to address high risk sinkholes, will yield results in the previously disadvantaged areas;
- advanced bulk investments in roads, sewer and water pipelines and substations to enable mega projects/strategic urban developments that would not have been realised in the short term, or would have been costly to the private sector. The return on investment on rates to the City is expected at R1 billion by 2021, and will be more once third parties start taking up spaces for developments – especially warehouses that service the Aerotropolis Precinct; and
- through township regularisation, we realised over 95,000 stands to enable developments, specifically shops for local businesses.

The City’s future spatial trajectory will ensure that historic challenges are aligned and budgeted for in realising the Sustainable City.

In the area of Real Estate, as part of the Land Release Programme the following projects will be undertaken:

- There is a capital injection of over R5 billion in development projects in the 40 identified Strategic Land Parcels; and
- Four Public Private Partnerships have been approved by National Treasury, and two are already being pursued – namely the Germiston Parkade and the Civic Tower.

In all these projects, 30 percent of this investment will be contracted to SMMEs within the City. Furthermore, in our efforts to encourage investors to do business with the City, we have resolved to give these investors a 24-month rental holiday and/or incentive as per the recently approved Council policy.
Procurement for these projects will get underway at the beginning of the new financial year. Site establishment is targeted for July 2021.

Since the dawn of democracy, our government has been hard at work trying to reverse the demonic legacy that our people had to endure. At the canter of the interventions has always been the provision of decent livelihood of our people.

We continue to argue that Housing is not only a basic human right, but a foundation on which human dignity is built. In the past 20 years we have migrated from just providing housing units to human settlements, which loosely translated means we are now building communities that have social amenities, schools and many more. This new way of thinking has also seen us rolling out more liveable informal settlements with better service delivery and amenities.

The City of Ekurhuleni is deeply passionate about resolving the housing backlog that it is faced with, hence the ambitious goal we have set for ourselves – the provision of 100 000 housing units and 59 000 service stands. To date, a total yield of 29 405 units have been delivered (jointly by the Gauteng Province and the City), and 17 944 service stands have been delivered. We are now busy with verification of those units delivered by private developers.

It is our resolve and determination to do our best to realise these targets, nine mega projects are already underway. We have also added another three, namely Brakpan Old Location, Esselen Park and Palmietfontein, which alone will yield a total of more than 18 434 units, taking the total to 216 670 by the end of current term of office and/or soon thereafter.

In actual fact, just recently, we had a sod turning event for one of these projects – namely, the Tembisa Ext 25 Mega Project. This project will yield a total of 3 510 housing units. Of these, 3 159 are Public Housing Units and the remaining 351 are Social Housing Units which are being built as four storey walk-ups. These housing units are being constructed using Alternative Building Technology (ABT), a technology that will expedite the
delivery of the units while reducing the cost by between 10 and twenty percent.

We have since been awarded Level Two Accreditation, which means we can now build houses at the request of the Provincial Government.

In an effort to realise our priority of providing land distribution and security of tenure for our people, we have released 8 208 title deeds since the beginning of our term of office. We still have an additional 14 837 title deeds which must also be distributed to our communities. We are in the process of tracing their rightful owners.

We continue to accelerate the proclamation of our black townships to enable our people to enjoy full security benefit of their properties.

Madam Speaker,

In the City of Ekurhuleni, our policies are geared towards the development of the most vulnerable in our society. This is expressed on our allocation where we direct most of our investments in infrastructure development.

Through our Social Labour Plan, we have developed a partnership with AfriSam to construct 20 houses for people with disabilities and youth-headed households in Mackenzieville. The project commenced in December last year.

SOCIAL CLUSTER

In the past we have taken pride in the increased number of people accessing health care from our facilities. As a matter of fact, a demonstration of a healthy community can only be derived from the decrease in the number of people seeking health care.

It is our resolve as this administration that we need clear programmes that will encourage healthy living, notwithstanding the fact that we must forever strive to provide quality health care at any given time.
In realising the above, we will continue to provide innovative ways to render primary health care to our people. That is why we have recently introduced 11 Pele boxes at different clinics, over and above the 115 chronic medication pick up points. By the way, the Pele Box Smart Locker facility is the first and only one of its kind in Africa. Among the clinics that already have operational facilities in the City, are Germiston, Winnie Mandela, Phola Park, Phillip Moyo and Daveyton Main Clinic.

We are in the process of launching an additional five Pele Box facilities in J Dumane, eSangweni, eThafeni and Tsakane. There are also plans to extend them to malls across the City.

These interventions have revolutionised access to medication for over 170,000 patients, while at the same time reducing the queuing period at our health care facilities.

The City has made tremendous gains in reducing mother-to-child HIV transmission from 0.9% in 2018/19 financial year to 0.7% in the year under review. We remain on course and are optimistic to eliminate this kind of transmission. This way we ensure that our new-born babies have a favourable chance of survival.

In preparation for the National Health Insurance (NHI), we are actively participating in the ideal clinic national project. These clinics are facilities with good infrastructure, adequate staff, enough medicine and supplies, including good administrative processes. All 93 clinics in the City are continuously assessed and achieve positive outcomes.

In our efforts to access our people in far-flung and under-developed areas, we have a fleet of 15 mobile clinics spread through-out the City. To ensure that primary health care is available to our people around the clock, we continue to have nine clinics operating on a 24-hour basis, while 18 open on Saturday, and two operate 12 hours a day.

In our quest to try and push back the frontiers of poverty over the last 20 years, all administrations of the City have demonstrated commitment to providing relief to poor households.
This is evident in our commitment to increase the number of deserving applicants on our indigent household’s database, as part of our interim poverty alleviation measures. This includes providing effective provisioning services to communities who are classified as indigent households by utilising a technology platform that is seamless, integrated and robust.

With the scourge of drugs and substance abuse ravaging our communities, the City will continue to work with the Provincial Government and other stakeholders in turning the status quo around. In partnership with the Gauteng Provincial Government we have established four rehabilitation centres - in Palm Ridge, Dukathole, Alra Park and Motsamai Clinic.

Furthermore, we continue to give special attention to Early Childhood Development in our efforts to invest in education that would develop with these young leaders of tomorrow.

Madam Speaker,

As we continue to promote our rich heritage, special attention had to be given to the renaming of streets and major roads after stalwarts of our liberation struggle. Indeed, various street and road names have been renamed after Mama Winnie Mandela, Amina Cachalia, Thabo Mbeki, George Bizos and Thomas Nkobi among others. We are busy now engaging with province and national regarding the renaming roads that fall outside our authority.

To immortalise the legacy of the eminent leader of the South African people, Oliver Reginald Tambo who is the Freeperson of the City, the building in which we are hosting this State of the City Address was once the Germiston Civic Centre. The precinct, however, of both the Legislature, EGSC, and the Executive, Civic Centre, is now officially renamed in honour of one of the greatest icons of our time – Oliver Reginald Tambo.
The former EGSC is now the OR Tambo Government Precinct: Administration Building, while the Executive office will now be known as the OR Tambo Government Precinct: Civic Centre.

Other monuments that have been renamed include the former Germiston Theatre, which today bears the name of Dumisani “Dumi” Masilela, an extraordinary son of the soil – an artist, a musician and a talented sportsman whose young life was cut short in a car hijacking here in our City. The facility has gone to host a number of shows since the official opening.

For the first time in the history of the City, in July we are going to host a memorial lecture in honour of the late Dr Godfrey Pitje, a former acting ANC Youth League President and academic who hails from Daveyton. Of more interest to note is that Dr Godfrey Pitje’s grave has been nominated for declaration as a heritage site.

Turning to **Sport, Heritage, Recreation, Arts, and Culture** (SHRAC), the City has made great strides to promote the culture of sport in our communities. Some of the key highlights is the kiddies Olympics which attract hundreds of children, and the annual Ekurhuleni Diski Challenge. We have also invested millions in the upgrading of various stadiums including Makhulong, Tsakane, Huntersfield, Sinaba and KwaThema stadiums among others. All these stadiums will soon be renamed and we invite members of the public to assist us in this regard.

We do this and many other activities because we want to reclaim our position as a sporting mecca of the province, which once produced stars such as Teenage Dladla, Scara Ngobese and Pollen Ndlaya among others. We further believe that sport can help us free our youngsters from the shackles social ills, while also promoting social cohesion.

*Madam Speaker,*

**DEMS** - Our firefighting capabilities have been boosted by the delivery of **eight** new specialised firefighting and rescue vehicles were delivered in
January 2020. The delivery coincided with the opening of the old Germiston Fire Station which has since been turned into a museum.

Additionally, the Olifantsfontein Fire Station will be operationalised before the end of the year. Furthermore, we have built nine new fire stations, mainly in previously disadvantaged areas in order to improve our turnaround time to fires and other disasters.

The City continues to build its capability to effectively respond to major fires and disasters in and around the City. In this regard, we already possess, among others, a High Volume Water Relay System which is a first of its kind in the continent. Our training academy in Boksburg is already attracting interest from neighbouring countries such as Botswana and Namibia, among others, who come here for training.

**EMPD** - In an effort to fight crime and strengthen law enforcement in the City, we have embarked on a process of building the capacity of our law enforcement agencies. There are 500 recruits currently in training for the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Police Department. We are in the process of recruiting 100 more – bringing the total of EMPD officers to 3,500 and still counting. A total of 247 cadets passed out in the last financial year.

We continue to address the need of safer communities through the roll out of, among others, new well equipped Metro Police Precincts as and when the need arises. In this regard, we have built 10 new Metro Police Precincts in the past 20 years to bring our crime fighting efforts closer to our communities.

This is material evidence of our commitment to combat crime in our City, for we recognise that safety and security are the most basic job of government.

All these efforts will amount to nothing if communities do not join hands with us to fight the scourge of crime that has devastating implications for all of us. We believe very strongly that fighting crime requires a partnership between the police and the community – one that is anchored
on mutual respect and the desire to create a mutually beneficial safe and sustainable living environment.

For this reason, I want to urge the community of Ekurhuleni to work closely with law enforcement agencies by reporting incidents of crime.

Madam Speaker,

The Economy - While our agenda has been driving service delivery, the time has come for us to start investing most of our time to developing capable humans who can take the City and the country forward.

We commit ourselves to addressing the above-mentioned strategic focus by encouraging and implementing human capital development interventions on behalf of community members. The provision of financial assistance is one of the many initiatives that the City is implementing to achieve its goal of increasing the skills base of the region.

Over the past four years, we have allocated R400 million to bursaries, benefiting a total of 8 189 students. Of the R100 million annual bursary investment, R5 million is allocated to the 19 students who are part of the Breda University International Scholarship Programme in the Netherlands.

In addition to the 449 local graduates of financial year 2019/20, our international graduates are expected to return home in July 2020 to join this successful group of young people.

In the quest to increase the numbers of students receiving financial assistance to pursue higher education, the Office of the Executive Mayor launched the One Business One Student Campaign.

The campaign seeks to encourage the private sector to get involved in educating the City’s learners by adopting students and donating full bursary support for the duration of the course. To date we have raised an additional 10 full bursaries through the programme.
Let me take this opportunity to congratulate one of the first beneficiaries of this campaign, Queen Mphahlele from Alafang High School in Katlehong, who obtained seven distinctions including 92 percent in Physical Science and 89 percent in Mathematics. She is now studying medicine at the Sefako Makgatho University.

Turning to the **OR Tambo University of Science and Technology in Ekurhuleni**, the apartheid education system failed both our youth and the economy by producing poorly educated graduates - most of whom are unemployable and lack entrepreneurial capacity.

This is the enigma between education versus qualification; research shows that most graduates only possess the latter. This failure suggests that we seek an alternative method of educating our youth using global standards underlined by African values.

The most reckless oversight at the end of the apartheid era was the accelerated access of the majority of South African into universities without supplementing secondary or adjusting living conditions to bridge the transition.

**Madam Speaker,**

Qualifications are expensive and speak to the commodification of learning opportunities. In many ways, the qualification system objectifies students and produces second class professionals, who hold a qualification that is not relevant, required and useful skillset.

In contrast Madam Speaker, a system aimed at educating and not only qualifying students would focus on a holistic development, acknowledge and supplement the imbalances of the past and inferior secondary grooming.

We therefore argue that challenges are immense, since correcting the injustices of the past has to start at early childhood development. That said, South Africa has many older learners trapped in the cycle of education-poverty through ineffective formative experiences.
We thank President Cyril Ramaphosa for the bold pronouncement of this new generation of University of Science and Technology here in Ekurhuleni. We have an opportunity to collectively redress the historical and current injustices to enable this generation to be whole and economic effective citizens.

What is now urgent is to push for the enactment of this new institution through the Act of Parliament. This should be followed by engagement with National Department of Higher Education on the methodology of teaching.

What we are proposing is the “Swiss Dual Apprenticeship” method which will greatly form part of the system.

The proposal is to divide students’ time between theoretical classroom learning and practical professional training in the work place. This will result in confident and work-ready graduates who are easily assimilated into the world of work.

If this proposal is accepted by National Department of Higher Education, it will result in the new ways of teaching where a student is educated and graduates with a four-year degree coupled with four years’ work experience.

_Madam Speaker,_

In this regard, I’m happy to announce that a comprehensive proposal has been received on the new model and will be handed to the department.

The feasibility study and business plan is also completed and will be handed as a package to the relevant department.

We have also secured through donation a 43-hectare piece of land, to locate the university, from a private developer around Germiston-Boksburg area.
Madam Speaker,

With all these, we seek to reposition Education and Training not only in Ekurhuleni but in SA through a well-researched approach. We dare not fail our youth which constitute our prospective future as a nation.

With an investment and land demarcation of 400 hectares, the City of Ekurhuleni could be the home of Disney Africa, a first of its kind on African soil. Throughout the continent, there is no theme or amusement park of this magnitude. Currently, the Disney network stretches across first world cities, such as Paris, California, Florida, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Tokyo.

The City must never stop these ambitious DREAMS which are aimed at transforming our area into one of the most exciting cities of the world.

The greatest and revolutionary Thomas Sankara would not have captured our situation as Africans better than when he said, “It took the madmen of yesterday for us to act with extreme clarity today. I want to be one of those madmen. We must dare to invent the future”.

Indeed, we are inventing the future.

Disney Africa in the City of Ekurhuleni will serve as a world-class entertainment centre, drastically increasing tourism domestically, whilst attracting tourists from other African countries and the rest of the world. The City has the capacity to implement a project of this nature, as it will leverage off the existing world-class infrastructure, such as the OR Tambo International Airport, the Gautrain, prime residential estates, glitzy entertainment venues, mega shopping malls and recreational facilities.

In addition to the Tourism Sector, Disney Africa at the City of Ekurhuleni presents several opportunities for the development and enhancement of other priority sectors that contribute towards the South African economy, such as construction, real estate, ICT and the creative industries, further creating job opportunities amongst many others for our citizens.
Fellow Councillors,

The 2019 Automotive Export Manual indicates that the Automotive Sector is regarded as one of the most global of all industries with value chains spanning multiple countries across the globe.

The Automotive Sector contributes 6.8 percent towards the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and continues to reflect the power of combining good industrial policy and foreign investment. It is not only the backbone of the industrialisation drive in South Africa, it is also key to ensuring greater economic growth.

Stemming from the Automotive Sector, the Formula 1 is one of the most viewed sports across the globe, with approximately 1.77 billion viewers in 185 countries per annum. Out of the 21 countries that host the Formula 1 races across the globe, only the British Grand Prix is funded by government. The remaining 20 races are funded through public-private-partnerships or exclusively through private funding.

According to an article published by Forbes in March 2017, the total construction cost of a standard Formula 1 racing track is approximately 270 million US Dollars. Taking into consideration an inflation rate of six percent per annum, the construction cost can be estimated to 322 million US Dollars, which equates to just under 5.4 billion South African Rands.

However, carefully constructed alongside other side-line events and opportunities, the construction of the Formula 1 race track and the hosting of the actual Grand Prix at the City of Ekurhuleni has the potential of injecting approximately 25 billion South African Rands over a five-year period. Immediate benefits from the investment will include the creation of 9 000 permanent and temporary jobs per annum. Other benefits will include the promotion of Brand South Africa, an increase in investor confidence in the local, continental and global economy, stimulate trade and exports and of course, social cohesion through the socio-economic impact.

Furthermore, the nature of this sport calls for technical expertise in the
Automotive, Manufacturing and Engineering sectors. This is perfectly aligned to the desired outcomes of the Science and Technology University, as it will stimulate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Education, securing employment for its alumni and/or graduates.

Madam Speaker,

An International Convention Centre would be listed among those that have a demand at the City of Ekurhuleni. In addition to the proposed Disney Africa and Formula 1 race track, the Ekurhuleni International Convention Centre will enable the city to bid for mega conventions, conferences, summits and signature events, creating yet another revenue stream or contribution towards the growth of the economy and the creation of job opportunities.

A paper produced by the Graduate School of Business at the University of Cape Town in August 2002 gave the projected economic contribution of the Cape Town International Convention Centre. The study set out to measure the macro-economic impact of the Convention Centre as well as identify industries that could be promoted by the existence of the Centre.

The construction of the Cape Town International Convention Centre, hotel and offices, including multiplier effects, was projected to add over 1.2 billion South African Rands to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over a two-year period, with the generation of over 4,000 direct jobs and 14,000 indirect jobs.

Within the first year of opening (in 2003) it was projected to make a direct and indirect contribution of R709 million towards the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and R25 billion after 10 years of opening (in 2012). At the same time, a total of over 8,700 sustainable direct and indirect jobs created in the first year after opening and over 47,000 jobs after 10 years of opening (in 2012).
From an economic perspective the most important and measurable economic impact of the Cape Town International Convention Centre are evident in the contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and job creation.

Similarly, to the construction of Disney Africa and the Formula 1 race track, the Ekurhuleni International Convention Centre will form part of the Aerotropolis Master Plan and support the priority sectors set out to grow and develop the economy, create job opportunities and aid skills development.

Honourable Councillors,

We intend to unlock the development potential of the OR Tambo International Airport and its surrounding areas by increasing the number of aviation-oriented businesses and commercial service to cluster around the airport and outward along strategic highway corridors.

We continue to roll out the Aerotropolis master plan.

In this regard, we have established and tasked the OR Tambo International Airport Transport Infrastructure Task Team to implement the OR Tambo International Airport and Aerotropolis master plans.

Projects currently under implementation include the ACSA Western Precinct Development, which is presently under construction. This is a commercial development situated adjacent to OR Tambo International Airport. ACSA will spend **R4.5 billion** in developing Phase 1 of the Western Precinct comprising three six-storey building.

Additionally, the feasibility study for the Rhodesfield OR Tambo link. A feasibility study has been completed and the project is now at the preliminary design stage. The Tambo Springs Inland Port is under implementation with the Statutory Approval and funding approval. The appointment of the bidder is concluded, and bulk infrastructure installations are under way.
As part of the 2019/20 financial year we announced the need to develop an investment book for the City, which will combine both public and private sector driven projects and consolidate incentives from all spheres of government into a comprehensive investment strategy.

Amongst our key achievements thus far in this financial year is the finalisation of the **Bulk Contribution Policy**, the finalisation of the Development Incentive Policy, the approval of the Investment Framework and the reconstitution of the Investment Committee.

All these interventions will contribute significantly towards building a local economy that grows in the hands of the people to ensure that we build a responsive and modern public service that fosters change towards building a better Ekurhuleni.

Entrepreneurship has been identified as an important contributor to the economy in terms of employment, growth, innovation and competitiveness. It is within this context that the **Pitching Booster** programme will focus on sectors that are labour intensive and have the potential to scale up and above all are aligned to the City’s strategies.

In the last **State of the City Address**, we pronounced on a re-engineering of the enterprise development environment in the City in order to stimulate the economy and to unlock economic opportunities for the community of Ekurhuleni.

On the 31st of November 2019, Council approved the ground-breaking policy to give effect to the R120 million **Ekurhuleni Community Enterprise Development Fund**. The fund has since attracted over 700 applications under Phanda and 316 applications under Ximilani. These applicants stand a chance to receive funding of between R50,000 and R6 million to realise their business ambitions.

The fund seeks to unlock and open the economy to non-traditional economic players who in turn would trigger economic activity and enable the economy to be more dynamic, competitive and inclusive. This would
enable the facilitation of job creation in a sustainable manner at a cost-efficient rate of inclusive economic growth.

We have successfully made available at least 56 agricultural farms comprising 2,747 hectares valued at R120 million for the benefit of emerging farmers. As this process is currently undergoing the supply chain process, we envisage that these farms will be released before the end of the financial year.

In anticipation of the farm release process, we have progressed to rename the Springs market to the Ekuruleni Fresh Produce Market, as per Council approval, and have successfully constructed an additional 20,000sqm trading facility to house the Fresh Produce Distribution Centre. This approach will enable the City to increase revenues and to mainstream both commercial and emerging farmers by opening new market opportunities.

Honourable Speaker,

It has been a long 20 years since the birth of Ekuruleni. It has been a period in which we put in a lot of hard work to ensuring that we indeed uplift the standard of living of our people while ensuring that we run a stable and capable administration. Despite the many hardships we may have come across it gives me great pleasure to share some of the key highlights of the past 20 years. Among these:

- The former Johannesburg International Airport was renamed OR Tambo International Airport;
- Established a single city identity;
- Conferred the Freedom of the City to OR and Adelaide Tambo and Chris Hani;
- Establishment of the EMPD and training academy;
- Introduced the Integrated Public Transport Network system;
- Unified the town planning scheme;
- 20 customer care centres rolled out and actioned throughout the City;
• Migrated from the provision of houses to the establishment of human settlements;
• Increased the bursary package from R10 million and R100 million;
• Consolidated the Labour Relations Policy;
• Chris Hani house purchased with intent to convert it to a museum;
• Sam Ntuli, Chris Hani and Oliver Tambo’s graves declared national heritage sites, among others;
• Introduced the anti-fraud hotline; and
• Introduced My Ekurhuleni service delivery app.

As we leave here today, we are left with just under 14 months before the end of our term. This is hardly enough time, but it is the time that we have to concretise the plans that we have for this City. Plans at whose heart is the commitment to build a local economy that grows in the hands of the people, and to develop our communities economically, socially as well as culturally. I cannot over-emphasise the importance of all of us employing a great degree of urgency in the work that we are doing.

Madam Speaker,

As this administration, we owe a great debt to our coalition partners who have supported and contributed to our work since we assumed office. It is their commitment to the principles of good governance, people-centered service delivery and the maximisation of the democratic dividend that has carried us to this point. We are immensely grateful for the rigorous support that we receive from Council in our collective bid to fulfil our respective mandates.

One of the most important lessons that a coalition government has taught all of us is expressed in the words of a brilliant young feminist activist, Palomino Jama, who speaking of what it means to wage a non-partisan struggle contends that, “being non-partisan does not mean that we denounce our political homes but rather that we unite behind a certain cause despite those different affiliations”. In the City of Ekurhuleni, we have been able to maintain a strong coalition government while others have crumbled precisely because we are anchored by the sentiments expressed by Ms Jama.
We are grateful to councillors with whom we have been working to ensure that ours is a City that prioritises the livelihoods of all men and women – a City that is deeply invested in building a responsive and modern public service that fosters change towards building a better Ekurhuleni. Their selfless dedication to the people of Ekurhuleni is immeasurable.

I would like to also extend sincere gratitude to the African National Congress Caucus and the political leadership of the Regional ANC for the overall guidance and support, without which much of the achievements that we have tabled today would have never been possible.

I wish to thank my family, in particular my wife Mrs Sinazo Masina, who continues to be a pillar of strength for our family and to support me in my work. Her strength has carried me under the most difficult of circumstances and to her, I owe huge gratitude.

In delivering this State of the City Address, we reflected on our journey of the last two decades, and of the commitments we have made in ensuring that we build a responsive and modern public service that fosters change towards building a better Ekurhuleni. We have been honest about our challenges and humble about our achievements, for we recognise that they were made possible not only through our efforts alone, but because we stand on the shoulders of giants.

In closing, I wish to pass the City’s sincere condolences to the families and loved ones of the late Cllr Greg Malebo and other workers of the City who perished recently. These men and women dedicated their lives to selflessly serving the people of our City. They were committed to the pursuit of justice, democracy and the realisation of a better life for all.

I thank you.