Madam Speaker- Cllr Nonkoliso Tundzi  
Chief Whip of council- Cllr Smuts Monoane  
Gauteng MEC for finance: Honourable MPL Barbara Creecy  
Executive Mayors: Cllr Mzi Khumalo Rand West City & Cllr Maphefo Letsie Merafong City.  
Member of Parliament: Honourable MP Peace Mabe  
SALGA Gauteng Chair and Sedibeng District Municipality Mayor: Busisiwe Modisakeng  
Former Executive Mayors: Mr Calvin Serane from Mogale City & Ald Faith Matshikiza WRDM  
Local Speakers and Chiefs Whips  
Members of the Mayoral Committee former & current. 
Leaders of Political Parties  
Councillors  
Municipal Managers  
Administrative Leadership  
Captains of Industries  
Religious Leaders  
Members of Media  
Distinguished Guests  
Comrades and Friends  
Ladies and Gentlemen  
Fellow West Randers  

Madam Speaker,  
The state of the district address today, bears testimony to the fact that as the leadership of the West Rand Region we dare to dream.  
In repositioning the West Rand for the advancement of radical social and economic transformation, we thought it is important to have One Region, One Plan, One Action and One System.  
This will enable quality service delivery to the community and the people of the West Rand.  

Indeed, this demonstrates our total commitment and support to the Gauteng City Region initiatives. Our aspiration is to address the fragmentation through standardisation and integration, and off course resource management efficiency. It is our duty to discharge our leadership accountabilities with dignity, determination and distinction which is highly admired.  
I have known no other honour than the honour of being able to stand before you as your leader of the West Rand to share the 2017 State of the District address.
The year 2017 marks the centenary of the late O.R Tambo, a national icon and hero of the liberation struggle, a hero that shaped the country’s vision, mission and value system. O.R. Tambo’s centenary prompts us to reflect on his vision for a united, non-racial and democratic society where diverse groups work and live under conditions of equality, peace and prosperity as South Africans.

It is this day the 17th March 1992, where this vision of OR Tambo could not be resisted in a white voter’s only referendum which came with an resounding large “Yes” vote to end Apartheid policy of racial, gender and clan segregation. On the same token, this serves as context and guides us to work collectively and as equals in building a peaceful and prosperous West Rand Region.

Madam Speaker, in September 2016, we embraced our Term of Office by ensuring that the Political and Administrative leadership of the West Rand were aligned around a common purpose which saw expression in the definition of our West Rand Regional Five Year Plan aligned to the NDP and Gauteng Transformation, Modernisation and Re-Industrialisation (TMR).

This Regional Plan marked the point of destination which is defined against the achievement of Fourteen Outcomes across the West Rand comprising:

Regional Outcome 1 - Basic Service Delivery Improvement;
Regional Outcome 2 - Accountable Municipal Administration;
Regional Outcome 3 - Skilled, Capacitated, Competent and Motivated Workforce;
Regional Outcome 4 - Ethical Administration and Good Governance;
Regional Outcome 5 - Safe Communities;
Regional Outcome 6 - Educated Communities;
Regional Outcome 7 - Healthy Communities;
Regional Outcome 8 - Sustainable Environment;
Regional Outcome 9 - Build Spatially Integrated Communities;
Regional Outcome 10 - Socially Cohesive Communities;
Regional Outcome 11 - Reduced Unemployment;
Regional Outcome 12 - Economic Development;
Regional Outcome 13 - Robust Financial Administration; and
Regional Outcome 14 - Institutional Planning and Transformation

Madam Speaker, I wish to acknowledge and appreciate our fellow Political and Administrative leadership of all constituent local Municipalities for their participation and commitment to the
development of the Regional Plan which provides a framework for prioritising and sequencing local municipalities’ programmes and development priorities for the next five years.

Madam Speaker, to enable effective delivery against the plan we have adopted a 100 day planning and monitoring cycle against the 14 outcomes. I am pleased to advise that we have made good progress against delivery of our plan during our 100 day cycle. Some of the key highlights comprise:

- Re- of the Functions and Powers for the District Municipality;
- Hosting of the West Rand Economic Summit;
- Regional Strategic Plan Workshop;
- Distribution of Bicycles to Schools;
- Busmark Partnership;
- Utilisation of Plastic Recycling Factory as Manufacturing Outlets for bus components;
- Sibanye Gold Partnership for Construction of the Incubator Programme;
- SLA with Gauteng Fashion Council;
- Procurement of 10 Fire Engines; and
- Establishment of Pine Haven Fire House

Against this background, the 2017 State of the District Address aims to indicate progress against where we come from, where we are currently and where we are going to. Honourable members, allow me to enlighten you on our progress against the Regional Outcomes.

**Regional Outcome 1 - Basic Service Delivery Improvement**

Madam Speaker, As a Region we have rooted challenges around the state of our aging infrastructure which inhibits our ability to effectively and timeously meet the demands and needs of our people.

Allow me to present the status of our current reality across basic service delivery areas.

**In terms of Water Sanitation and Electricity,**
In the Region the bucket system of toilets have been eradicated. All Informal Settlements are receiving potable water, however, many are being serviced by Water Tankers. Electricity is not being provided to Informal Settlements.

In Mogale City there are 120 informal settlements that receive tanker water. 79 informal settlements are serviced by Chemical Toilets.

In Merafong City there are 102 informal settlements that receive tanker water. 79 informal settlements are service by Chemical Toilets.

In Rand West there are 6 informal settlements that receive tanker water. 5 informal settlements are service by Chemical Toilets.

There are approximately 4 050, 7 500, and 14 000 households on the Indigent Registers in Merafong, Rand West and Mogale City Local Municipalities respectively. These Households receive 6KL Basic Water, a maximum of 80 kilowatt hours of electricity and free Solid Waste removal per month.

At Mogale City, there is a lack of bulk infrastructure in Muldersdrift to meet developmental needs. An upgrade of the Water Reservoir and pump station in Munsieville Township is required. A new 10ML/day Reservoir is needed to be constructed in Magaliesburg. Kagiso Township requires an upgrade of the existing bulk water, reservoirs and pump station to accommodate new housing developments. New Lindley Waste Water Treatment Works is required to facilitate development in the Lanseria Area.

Funding is required to upgrade ageing electricity infrastructure and ensure firm supply to all areas. Amongst others the Mogale Spruit substation and Transformer, Transmission Line between Factoria and Libertas Substations, etc. have been identified for upgrading.

This will require an investment of around R 5, 1 billion.

Merafong City: The Khutsong Reservoir and 900 mm diameter pipeline needs replacing due to sinkhole formation. The existing Welverdiend and Fochville Reservoirs needs to be upsized due to
lack of storage capacity. Khutsong Ext 3 Outfall sewer line collapsed due to sinkhole formation and needs urgent replacing. Fochville and Greenspark Outfall sewer line is overloaded and requires upsizing. Various sewer reticulation lines need upsizing.

The Khutsong Area requires a new electricity substation. Various existing electricity infrastructure requires upgrading due to age and capacity restrictions – this is hampering development.

Addressing these challenges requires an investment of around R 7, 2 billion.

In Rand West: Numerous Informal settlements do not have access to piped water. Water and Sewer Network upgrades are required due to ageing infrastructure. Network expansion and developments are being restricted due to insufficient storage capacity of reservoirs. New Zuurbekom Waste Water Treatment Works is required to facilitate development along the N12 Corridor Area.

We also seek funding to electrify Zenzelle informal settlement. The electrification of two room units at Mohlakeng Hostels and Mohlakeng Ext.11 is required. Upgrading of bulk electricity substations in all areas is required.

In addressing these challenges we require an investment of around R 6, 7 billion.

With regards to basic service delivery we are in the process of assuming a Water Services Authority which will enable a standardised billing system across the Region.

In terms of strategy to addressing these issues we have decided to adopt a more integrated and holistic approach to dealing with the issue of aging infrastructure and backlogs. We have embarked upon a process to develop a Regional Infrastructure Master Plan to help us identify low hanging projects and hot spot areas to enable us to have a consolidated picture around funding requirements and guidance around prioritisation of the capital and maintenance projects.

**In terms of Roads and Storm water backlogs,**

In **Mogale City Local Municipality** total road network is in an extent of 1200 km of which 120 km are gravel road. There is a current backlog of 120 km constituted by a lack of alternative funding and the inability to catch-up with new housing development.
An amount of R540 million will be required to address the backlogs. Current expenditure is in the extent of R27 million per annum (MIG funding), however R108 million per annum will be required over a period of five years to address the backlog sufficiently.

In terms of the Rand West City Local Municipality, the total road network is 835 km in extent of which 207 km are gravel roads. R675 million will be required to address backlog over a period of five years (R135 million per annum).

Current expenditure is R39 million per annum for the construction of new roads (MIG funding only). Within the current financial year an amount of R14 million is allocated to be spend on the maintenance of existing roads, however an amount of R30 million per annum is required to sufficiently address the backlog described above.

In Merafong City Local Municipality total road network is 1092 km in extent of which 385 km is gravel/unpaved roads. R375 million is required to address the backlog Current expenditure R25 - 30 million per annum (MIG funding only).

Madam Speaker the Roads Asset Management System Grant (RRAMS) project is currently unfolding, the project will enable improved data analysis around our roads network and will assist with Investment decisions.

A feasibility study on possibility of an Airport to explore options around economic growth resulting from airfreight logistics activities is being undertaken.

Madam Speaker, handling these challenges warrants us to have focussed collaborative strategies and plans to enable us to mitigate these challenges over the long term.

Madam Speaker, to maintain a school of active learners the Shova Kalula Bicycle Programme continues to supply learners with bicycles in order to address low cost mobility, health and access to economic opportunities, employment, skills and education. To date, we have supplied 4 498 learners with bicycles. For the current allocation 536 bicycles schools in the Rand West City and Magaliesburg area have been identified as recipients of the programme.

Madam Speaker, we have donated 10 Wheel chairs and assistive devices to People with Disabilities, in line with the Disability Day built up celebrations held on 25 November 2016 at Kokosi, in Merafong.
Through Ntirhisano we have managed to maintain an active citizenry. As a Region we are effectively coordinating all government departments to ensure that community queries and challenges are responded to within 5 days. We have conducted just under 30 Outreach programmes period ending Nov 2016, where we have continued to provide onsite services to around 35 000 community members. Our Ntirhisano in the West Rand is regarded as the best outreach programme in the province.

In collaboration with the Gauteng Infrastructure Financing Agency (GIFA), we have earmarked Eight Game Changer Projects for the West Rand for our current term of office. The feasibility studies for some of these projects have been finalised whilst for others they are at the stage of having transactional advisors being appointed:

1. **West Rand Logistic Hub Project** – has an estimated value of R600 million and will be located in Randwest. This will be a regional cross-docking point where products arrive, are sorted and delivered, while reducing costs associated with transportation, storage and distribution of goods from producer to consumer.

2. **Lindley Waste Water Treatment Works** has an estimated cost of R1.5 billion and will be a collaboration between West Rand District, Mogale City and City of Jo Burg.

3. **Biogas to Energy Project** has an estimated value of R16 million and will be in Randwest.

4. **Flip Human – Biogas to Energy** has an estimated value of R19.2 million and will be in Mogale.

5. **Solar Farm in Merafong** - Transactional Advisor has been Appointed - The Feasibility study will inform the project value.

6. **Bio Energy Park in Merafong** - Transactional Advisor Appointed - The Feasibility study will inform the project value.

7. **Busmark** - Bus Component Manufacturing situated in Randwest City - The Transactional Advisor has been appointed - Feasibility study will inform project value, Let me acknowledge the presence of
Busmark CEO Mr Phathuxolo Nodada.

8. West Rand Mega Agri Park- Project is done in collaboration with Sibanye Gold—Transactional Advisor Appointed- Feasibility study will inform project value.

On the other hand, we are in the process of entering into a collaboration agreement with Timbali Incubator for the establishment of an Agricultural Franchised Solution (Prototype Model for an Agri-park) at Merafong Flora and thereafter duplicate throughout the Region. Agri-Parks have proven to catalyse the regeneration of rural economies as they bolster urban linkages, promote the empowerment and participation of marginalised citizens and advance collaboration between numerous stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of rural development. Hence the agriculture and agro-processing will be fundamental to the re-industrialisation of the Region.

I am aware honourable members the above interventions and others to follow are ideas to create jobs, and a number of remember the words of Amilcar Cabral about ideas “Always bear in mind that the people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in anyone’s head. They are fighting to win material benefits, to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children...”

Madam Speaker, the above-mentioned interventions will see people’s lives go forward as 1000 new permanent opportunities will be created with the West Rand Logistics hub
150 new Jobs with Busmark
40 new jobs with Gas to Energy Projects
500 new jobs with West Rand Agri and Agro parks
These projects in total will create in total 1690 permanent jobs which is broken into 325 new management jobs, 570 New Operational Management jobs, 300 New Transport jobs, 215 new security jobs, 80 new ICT jobs, and 200 jobs that fall within the category of Farmers/produces. These projects positions the West Rand as a critical player within the Gauteng Province.

Regional Outcome 2 - Accountable Municipal Administration;

The results we strive to achieve at the Community level is impacted by the effectiveness and efficiency of our Administrative processes. Madam Speaker, the establishment of Political Accountabilities represents an important success criteria and I am pleased to advise that we have had all our MMCs sign performance agreements with the Executive Mayor which will become the
basis for performance reporting and monitoring. Phased 2 of the performance contracts will cover other councillors as way of committing councillors to be true representatives of the people. Contracts for municipal officials will have consequence management embedded in the performance in order to do away with non-spending of available resources like municipal grants.

Regional Outcome 3 – Skilled, Capacitated, Competent and Motivated Workforce

As a Region our overall skills reside at a level of medium to high. Vacancies and lack of specialised technical skills still remains a challenge. Attempts are being made to fill all senior Executive Positions over the coming three months in all municipalities in this region. We have currently embarked upon a Shared Services Feasibility Study, the outcome of which will enable us to define the approach and strategies to bridge the skills gaps and human capital challenges.

Regional Outcome 5 - Safe Communities

Madam Speaker, safety of our communities remains a high focus area.

As a Region we face challenges around drug trade and drug abuse, human trafficking, prostitution, illegal firearms, illegal dumping and public indecency, violence against women and children and Illegal occupation of properties. In an effort to eradicate these criminal activities, various Joint Collaborative Partnership operations have been conducted between the WRDM, Mogale City and South African Police Services (DPCI-SAPS) e.g. Siverite Street and Luipaard Street in Krugersdorp were targeted on the 18th November 2016, where drugs and human trafficking cases had to be handled, Col Phago and Officer Hadebe your presence is acknowledged. We shall continue targeting such hot spots throughout the region.

In complimenting these operations, the Close Circuit Television System of the WRDM captured over 382 incidences of which 188 constitutes criminal activities.

As a Region, we have inherent geographical challenges which warrant us to maintain a focussed strategy on emergency and disaster management. To mitigate the inherent risks around these potential emergencies and disasters we have:

a) Procured ten (10) fire and rescue vehicles at a cost of over R46million which are currently of service to our people.
b) We have committed to the establishment of fire houses/satellite fire stations at the respective townships and rural areas throughout the region in order to:
   • Bring the services closer to the people; and
   • Improve response times to distressed calls

c) We have established the first fire house/satellite station at Muldersdrift (Pinehaven Netcare Hospital), the discussions are currently at an advanced stage to open another fire house/satellite station at Brandvlei

d) Merafong City has been declared as a localised State of Disaster to elevate its prominence around exposed potential disasters.

e) Our Emergency Communications Centre (107) remains the apex of Public Safety services, which enables efficient response to emergencies. The Emergency Communication Centre to date has received a total of 11 663 incoming distressed calls.

Going forward, we will continue to ensure safe living conditions of our communities. To achieve this we plan to:

i) Embed the Reservist Programme in line with the recent and future establishment of firehouses

ii) Ensure improved on-scene management, particularly on complex rescue missions, this will be achieved through an incident command training provided to Senior Officers for all emergency services. These interventions have been planned in order to improve response time and the expansion of emergency services to preserve lives.

iii) The reduction of road accident fatalities and crime remains a priority for the West Rand Region, it is against this that we have planned a Multi Agency Festive Season Joint Operation programme.

iv) We remain committed to contributing to the improvement of Merafong into a safe and habitable environment. We are currently in the process of accessing disaster relief, rehabilitation and recovery grant in order to address the matter.

Regional Outcome 7 - Healthy Communities

Our health statistics confirms a satisfactory bill of health. This is achieved by:

a) The Joint Planning and Working Relationships between the Department of Health and other departments such as Social Development, Agriculture etc.
b) Maintaining our Blue Drop Status on drinking water which makes our water safe and is of good quality.

c) Inspections of food safety. We have conducted 2 206 inspections of which 768 inspections have been found to be compliant. This clearly demonstrates that we still have more work to do in order to encourage safe food handling.

d) Inspections of public institutions:

We have inspected 60 public institutions of which only 28 institutions have been found to be complaint.

We have inspected 54 Funeral Parlours in line with regulation No 363 of 2013 and 23 have been found to be compliant.

We have inspected 320 Early Childhood Centres and 117 have been found to be compliant – Honourable members, more work must still be done in this area.

e) We have educated 583 learners in 5 Schools on prevention of teenage pregnancy. In addition to the outcome, we have visited Matric study Camps and we met 10 000 learners. Our engagement with these future leaders, has enabled us to motivate them and encourage them to empower themselves in order to comeback and give back to their communities.

f) Conducted 252 000 Door to Door campaigns on HIV and Aids education and encouraged people to know their status. We have partnered with Gold Fields, and have ensured the establishment of Thusanang Informal Settlement in Randwest City receives a clinic.

**Going Forward**, we have planned to reach 350 000 people and 90 000 households through the HIV door to door education, we aim to encourage people to know their status thus seek medical treatment and reduce mortality.

g) Honourable members, the West Rand initiation schools are among the best managed in the Country, we have been awarded a certificate of safer initiation schools by CODEFSA which is an NGO recognized by COGTA, and is responsible for “PROMOTION OF SAFE TRADITIONAL INITIATION”.
We will continue to conduct inspections in order to promote healthier environments, safe food handling and safer portable water. Furthermore, we will continue to promote safety of public and private premises through inspections.

**Regional Outcome 8 - Sustainable Environment**

In the Region our environment has degraded due to uncontrolled economic activities for many years. However there are vast variety of biodiversity in the area that needs to be conserved. Wetlands also need to be protected for conservation purposes and to prevent flooding incidences.

A Climate change strategy has been formulated to address environmental impacts such as higher temperatures/ changing rainfall patterns etc.

Lack of funding to implement action mitigation plans, Lack of rehabilitation of mining land, deterioration of the natural environment and acid mine drainage still remains as a challenge.

Honourable members, Environmental sustainability of the West Rand Region remains a priority and the protection of our scarce resources will assist in the rehabilitation of our environment which will result in a safe and healthy community.

It is against this background that we have planted 500 indigenous trees across the West Rand Region and another 500 in line with the Arbor Day celebration that was held in Borwa Development, in Westonaria.

We have collaborated in the development of a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Response Plan through the Local Government Climate Change Support (LGCCS) program, with support from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale (GIZ). Through this programme we have managed to identify vulnerability indicators for the West Rand Region.

In line with education and awareness on environmental issues, we have attended to several clean-up and environmental campaigns in the following West Rand communities, in order to keep cities clean:

- Simunye; Zuurbekom; Mohlakeng; Toekomsrus; Khutsong; Glenharvie; and Waterworks
On air quality management, we have continued to monitor pollution levels of toxic various pollutants in order to ensure that communities are not exposed to polluted air. We can safely indicate that we comply with all ambient air quality standards, with the exception of Ozone which becomes exceeded from time to time. Furthermore, we have managed to generate R 425 000 in line with Atmospheric Emission Licensing, since the promulgation of the two pieces of legislation. In line with our Green IQ Strategy we will work with Gauteng Human Settlements to pilot alternative energy and waste management that will be both environmentally and economically beneficial to potential home owners. As part of the conclusion of the West Rand Economic Summit the WRDM, Gauteng Provincial Government and Chamber of Mines will prioritise Acid Mine Drainage, Water used in daily mine production and waste water treatment to PH levels that can be good for industrial including agricultural use. This will create sustainable jobs as well as address water scarcity as experienced by the country during droughts.
Madam Speaker, our communities in the West Rand are fragmented and this has been caused by apartheid planning. High emphasis is maintained on holistic integrated planning with a special focus on mixed development and mega human settlement.

Madam Speaker, on housing delivery and allocation, a total of 913 units have been completed and allocated.

We anticipate a further housing allocation of 1478 over the next 3 months. The allocations will be made in Kagiso Ext 12 – 55 units; Kagiso Ext 13 - 223 units; Mohlakeng Ext – 10 units; Dr Sefularo – 190 units; and Kokosi – 1000 units.

On Social Housing the project has been approved for implementation in Westonaria Borwa and shall comprise the development of 582 units, which is envisaged to be completed in the 1st and early 2nd Quarter of the 2018 / 2019 municipal financial year.

Madam Speaker, on Legacy projects:

For the West Rand Eastern Region,

In Chief Mogale:

- 725 housing units have already been developed, serviced and are occupied;
- 9 275 units are still in different stages of development (Residential mix: 40% fully subsidized; 20% rental; 20% bonded; and 20% FLISP subsidy)

In Kagiso Ext 13:

- 500 units completed and allocated;
- 300 – 500 additional housing projects planned….Madam Speaker, we envisage 750 – 1000 units for this project in total.

In Leratong Witpoortjie

- Phase 1 comprises of 500 housing units with all sites services approved but no development as yet.
• Phase 2 is planned for 12 000 mixed income houses
• The full envisaged range for this initiative is 17 000 mixed income houses and services.

For the West Rand Southern Region.

• Westonaria Borwa: Implementation is in progress
• Wagtterskop: Implementation eminent (Estimated 16 000 units) Over 100 000 square meters business opportunities and 70 h/a industrial development /
• Thusanang: No implementation (It is planned for 3 500 RDP Housing units and services. Mix of bonded houses)
• Syferfontein: Pending implementation (high priority) Syferfontein development is planned as a mixed tenure and mixed density city with capacity for 60 000 residential units. The bulk of the development will comprise medium to higher density areas (40 units/hectare and higher). The development will be complemented with a comprehensive range of community facilities, retail, commercial, light industrial etc.

For the South Western Region

• Kokosi Ext 6: 3308 planned units of which 2 580 are freestanding and 728 walk-ups.
• Kokosi Ext 7: A number of 7488 housing units are planned of which 2 328 units are freestanding and 5 162 are walk-ups.
• Kokosi 7 is ready for implementation, Merafong City is currently planning to construct a reservoir that will serve Kokosi 6 and 7 with potable water. The WRDM is working closely with the municipality and province on this matter given that the district municipality needs to play a role in bulk services provision.

For the West Rand Western Region

• Droogeheuwel: Development is currently on hold due to ownership issues
• Mohlakeng Ext 11: Currently under construction and 912 houses on the ground with 600 connected to electricity grid.

For the North Western Region
• Khutsong Ext 1, 2, 4: Implementation in progress. Development has potential to integrate with Carletonville town and form a mixed use development

**Madam Speaker, on Mega Projects:**

We have planned 13 projects to be clustered into 5 nodes as stated above, and these will cater for more than 120 000 housing opportunities. Madam Speaker, we want to use these Mega Projects as a vehicle in addressing the housing backlog and to aggressively transform the spatial patterns in Gauteng.

**Honourable members, on title Deeds Restoration**...we have continued to coordinate the process at municipal level in order to ensure that housing beneficiaries have security of tenure and that they can use their houses as assets – Madam Speaker, on 25 March 2017 we will be issuing 1515 title deeds covering:

- Rietvallei proper, 1,2,3,5;
- Munsieville;
- Kagiso 2;
- Mohlakeng and
- Westonaria Borwa

**On Land Use Planning,** Merafong City LM has already promulgated its by-laws in November 2016 and Mogale City LM and Rand West City LM will follow suit in March 2017. It is also envisaged that a Municipal Planning Tribunal for entire District will be established during the 2016/17 financial year and that efforts for the preparation of Integrated Land Use Management Systems throughout the region will assist in establishing a regional development approach.

Honourable members of council, the society of equals where white and blacks can work and live together under conditions of peace and prosperity as envisioned by the late President of the ANC OR Tambo is possible if we build integrated settlements closer to areas of economic activity. In this regard as part of the restructuring zones in each town in the municipalities, two sites are identified to pilot mixed housing starting in the 2017/2018.
Regional Outcome 10 - Socially Cohesive Communities

Madam Speaker, building socially cohesive communities occupies centre stage in terms of our priorities. This is gaining momentum through the promotion of Social Cohesion initiatives through Sports, Arts and Culture and our hosting of the Go West Festivities. These events ranged from, Cultural Day in Merafong City; Clap and Tap at Mogale City; Senior Citizens entertainment in Silver Star Casino; learners visit to Maropeng Heritage site; Colour run and the Grand Finale, the Music festival in Coronation.

The impact of the Go West! Heritage Month Festival goes well beyond what can be measured in economic terms. It contributes to the quality of life across West Rand Region by strengthening communities, providing unique activities and events, building awareness of diverse cultures, promotes social cohesion and provides a source of income for the community. Local Suppliers have benefitted to the tune of around R3.7 million and attendance has reached the 10 000 mark.

In the coming year through partnerships we plan to have month long activities that will draw participation of some sporting codes as part of a month long heritage month celebrations. Going forward we will work closely with Randfontein Publicity Association to foster social cohesion and strengthening business activities with in the region, Let me acknowledge the presence of Alderman Roy Harris, Randfontein Publicity.

We have furthermore promoted Social Cohesion through the Kasi Games, which was positively impacted by a mass participation programme hosted in Toekomsrus as a build up to the Kasi Games during the festive season.

Madam Speaker through Ntirhisano we have supported the hosting of 6 social cohesion games targeting areas like Khutsong, Kokosi, Zenzele, Ext 2&3 Rietvallei, Joe Slovo informal and Vukuzisetshe / Mphahlwa in Eastdriefontein. Two Combi courts were handed to Phahama Senior Secondary School in Mohlakeng and Toekomsrus Stadium. These Combi courts can each accommodate six sporting Codes.

Madam Speaker, going forward we plan to organise 8 sporting activities and events in order to maintain the momentum of integrating our communities through sports and art. West rand can’t afford to be absent in sports as it is home to the late Patrick ‘Ace’ Ntsoeleng whose name is
engraved in the Wall of fame, Peter ‘Terror’ Mathebula and current athletes in different sporting codes e.g Bred Pinder who is the former Krugersdorp High School learner and current world champion “Motor 3.”

Regional Outcome 6 – Educated Communities
Regional Outcome 11 - Reduced Unemployment;

Honourable members, whilst education is not our core competence we are inspired the words of OR Tambo to consider it, and I quote “The children of any nation are its future. A country, a movement, a person that does not its youth and children does not deserve its future”

Therefore Madam Speaker, education is the apex priority of this administration in order to develop local communities.

We will work together with parents, teachers, students, labour, SGBs and relevant stakeholders to take the Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign to communities. We will at all material time foster collaboration between all stakeholders in the interest of our children future.

We want to appeal to our communities to take ownership of these schools, colleges, universities and other public education facilities and protect them against any destruction that is aimed at derailing the development of our children.

Honourable members, the issue of education cannot be overemphasised. Indeed education is a societal issue. Our councillors should work hand in hand with all sectors at ward level to make this a reality. This administration is serious and committed to develop our youth and uplift them from the chains of poverty.
On that score we take this opportunity to congratulate our District on the outstanding 2016 matric results. Our District is the best performing district in the whole of Gauteng Province at 91.2%. A large number of our schools have obtained 100% pass rate in matric last year, including our township schools. We acknowledge the excellent work done by the leadership of the district led by Ntate Oupa Koapeng – the acting District Director, the principals, educators, and learners, organised labour, parents, SGBs and all stakeholders. Let us also acknowledge the presence of the Chief Director of our District Ntate Peter Skhosana. We will work closely with you this year to maintain our position. In our back to school campaign one of our highlights was the distribution of uniform, dignity packs for the girl child and science dictionaries in a career expo for peri-urban schools in Mogale City. This intervention was a combination of the WRDM, GDE and National Department of Public Enterprises represented by Executive Mayor Ald. Maneli, Honourable MP Peace Mabe, MEC Panyaza Lesufi and Deputy Minister Bulelani Magwanisha respectively. Currently the WRDM is concluding a partnership with CONLOG to help schools identified during the back to school campaign to be in need of libraries, school halls that can also be useful to the immediate community, laboratories etc. the CONLOG team will be visiting the region in due course to assess the situation.

In the West Rand District Municipality we have prioritised youth employment by introducing positions that should be occupied by the youth across all departments, a total shift from the employment of one youth coordinator to creation of a programme based Youth Unit. This is done within the constraints of our budget. We stretch the rand to absorb our youth as far as possible. Informed by resources Local Municipalities will follow suit. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Merafong Municipality whose Youth Coordinator Mike Musukwini received a Premier Award from GDED for his contribution through the youth office in economic development.

Through our interaction with the youth we will lobby them to seize employment opportunities in the different business sectors that we engage with. This should be coupled with skills development.

Madam Speaker
The skills development should be aligned to our development priorities. As a number one municipality in the country on rescue we will be implementing our proposed Disaster
Management Training Academy. In addition, we call for establishment of partnerships with universities to absorb the youth in skills development programmes.

We would also like to acknowledge the support of Messrs Anglo Gold Ashanti, Mintails, Sibanye Gold, Gold Fields and Busmark who have sponsored over 300 students to register in tertiary institution across the various disciplines and some with full bursary support. This is over and above the bursaries offered by Gauteng Department of Education to top 3 students in less privileged schools. In this regard Merafong City, Randwest City and WRDM in partnership with the Gauteng West District honoured learners and teachers in 3 separate but well-coordinated Matric awards Ceremonies, Let me acknowledge the presence of the Executive Vice President of Sibanye Gold Mr Johnny Wellington and Vice President of Gold Fields ltd, Mr Bony Sebola.

Furthermore, we have supported the informal libraries the Mohlakeng Underground Library with 48 brand new books at R6 000.00 bought by the senior management of the District from own pockets. These books will be handed over before the end of March 2017. This informal library was established by youth of Mohlakeng after communities burnt the existing library during the 2015 service delivery protests for purposes of continued educational support.

Madam Speaker, Educating our Communities and Reducing Unemployment represents a high focus area and remains a priority.

We have created 15 green jobs in environmental sustainability through the EPWP program and 30 more jobs on tree planting and parks maintenance.

To date, 54 permanent jobs have been created at the three Farmer Production support units of Bekkersdal, Merafong and Tarlton. Furthermore, in line with the GO West! Heritage Event we have created employment ranging from, Musicians (national and local), Technical personnel, Infrastructure personnel, Security Personnel, Hospitality personnel, Back stage hands, Runners and Drivers, Cleaners and Medical personnel.

In addition to the outcome we have facilitated assistance for Yeyethu Tshekela from Kagiso 2, a young writer for the publishing of her inspirational book titled “You are so close” for an amount of R10, 723.
Madam Speaker, Council has approved a business plan for submission to the Department of Public Works for the consideration of the establishment of a Regional EPWP office in the West Rand. This is not only about standardising conditions of EPWP, but also about linking EPWP to skills development that can carry people beyond this poverty alleviation programme.

In line with the Working Gauteng Tourism, 46 learnership opportunities were provided to beneficiaries of Mogale, Randwest and Merafong.

We have furthermore, facilitated a process where a total of 20 NYS (National Youth Service) learners have been supported through BJNP Renal Services sponsorship to enrol to train as Ancillary Nurses at Chamdor training centre over 12 months. We have also signed contracts with 180 NYS who will commence with work on 01 April 2017. They will be allocated to Libraries, Nthirisano, Health and Social Development Promotion Programmes.

Madam Speaker, we have acknowledged that a bright and prosperous future for the West Rand pupils is highly depended on their career planning and career decision making, against this, we have secured a partnership between the Rotary Club of Krugersdorp, West Rand Chamber of Business and West Rand Tourism in order to host the West Rand Career Exhibition on 14 – 17 March 2017. Madam Speaker, we have confirmed attendance by 7 000 learners over the four day period.

Honourable members, in addition to the outcome, jointly with Tshepo 500 000 and NYDA we have developed a programme targeting unemployed youth with grade 12+. This programme will empower them with life skills and entrepreneurial development. A total of 150 Youth have been trained in Kokosi.

Madam Speaker, we have made available R 59 700 to Boitumelo Komane from Kroomdraai and Pogiso Pule from Sterkfontein Dairy, both from Monash University, in order to obtain their degrees, as they were withheld by the University, due to outstanding fees.

Madam Speaker, going forward we have planned reading programmes on participating Primary Schools, in order to embed a reading culture and improve reading skills amongst West Rand pupils. We have acknowledged that reading at an early stage is key for Early Childhood
Development, against this, we will provide ECDCs with reading programmes for 3-4 year old children.

Madam Speaker, we view teenage pregnancy as a cradle snatcher for our West Rand pupils, against this, we will provide schools with in-service training on prevention of teenage pregnancy.

Madam Speaker, our focus in the short to medium term of plan to bridge the unemployment gaps comprises:

- The establishment of Regional EPWP Office to coordinate EPWP initiatives within the region.
- A Collaboration agreement with Timbali to convert Merafong Flora into an Agricultural production unit to increase job opportunities within agricultural sector.
- The realisation of the Transport Logistics Hub along N12 which will enable creation of 1 000 jobs.
- The MoU entered into with Busmark will to assist in establishing a manufacturing outlet for SMME’s.

Regional Outcome 12 - Economic Development

Madam Speaker, Economic Development represents one of our critical pillars to enable us to achieve repositioning of the West Rand and to create sustainable growth. Our high focus areas comprises:

a) The Revitalisation of our Township economy
b) Supporting growth of SMME’s and Corporatives
c) Investment in alternative industries (Manufacturing/agriculture) to address the declining Mining activities
d) Promotion of tourism
e) Revitalisation of the West Rand Development Agency and to use it as a vehicle to attract Investment opportunities

Our strategy to achieve this is by re-engineering the economic profile of the West Rand to focus on agriculture/manufacturing and tourism. Establishment of Transport Logistics Hub and the declaration of Special Economic Zone along the N12 will open up the accessibility of the West Rand and will facilitate mobility as well as economic opportunities.
Madam Speaker, allow me to share some of our high level achievements.

On 24 November 2016, we hosted a successful launch in the Bekkersdal Agri Park where more than 300 emerging farmers attended. The Agri parks will assist emerging farmers to access entry into the established market. We appreciate the plan by government to invest in the secondary level with the aim of pushing the primary level going forward. In that way farming will be more profitable. Currently, the Agri Park has two cooperatives including the one with people with disabilities. The cooperatives are operational with employees on site.

Madam Speaker, food security and reducing the cost of doing business for emerging farmers remains a priority – against this, we have assisted at least 20 emerging farmers with land for ploughing and we have cultivated 468 hectares to date. Furthermore, we have provided over 75 emerging farmers with agriculture mechanisation such as tractors, tractor drawn-trailers and agricultural equipment which includes rippers, ploughs, planters, disc harrows, sledges and row cultivators.

Honourable members, the heavy rains has been a blessing and has done a lot of good for our farmers’ livestock. The outbreak of army wire pest that is reported to be causing damage to agricultural crops, is something that we have been monitoring very closely and we will continue to monitor and keep under control. To date, we are grateful that we have not received reports in our region and farmers must regularly check their fields in order to mitigate against this.

With regards to Cooperative and SMME support we have supported cooperatives with industrial sewing machines and production inputs. This enables them to increase their production capacity and provides an opportunity for the cooperatives to gain market access. We will continue to support more cooperatives in order to address the joblessness challenge in our region.

Honourable members, we have created 110 jobs through the construction of the Isigayo milling plant which serves to unleash potential of local maize producers to create and develop income generating activities and sustainable decent employment whilst contributing to rural industrialization.
Furthermore, we have facilitated the establishment of a Regional Centre for Gauteng Innovation Ekasi Hub. The Hub will assist township entrepreneurs with incubation programmes.

On contractor incubation programme we have capacitated 30 enterprises in the construction input value chain, we have accredited technical training and development of 300 beneficiaries in the identified community and Integrated 30 graduating enterprises in the supply chain of market leading construction input companies.

In addition to the outcome, jointly with Tshepo 500 000 and NYDA we have developed a programme targeting unemployed youth with grade 12+. The programme will empower unemployed youth with life skills and entrepreneurial development. Already we have trained 150 Youth in Kokosi.

Madam Speaker, in February 2017 we held the West Rand Economic Summit in Merafong Local Municipality, where over 400 delegates attended. The summit was aimed at identifying opportunities and strategies to revitalize the West Rand economy through re-industrialisation.

Madam Speaker, the, Gauteng Province plans to spend around R42 Billion on infrastructure development to support the implementation of the GCR economic strategy whilst advancing the cause of black people, youth and women to enable them into become key economic players.

Madam Speaker, I can assure you that we are actively involved to obtain our share of this investment to enable us to realise the implementation of the West Rand freight and logistic hub and the Game Changer projects.

Madam Speaker, going forward in the near future we will provide 22 emerging farmers with mechanisation support and 6 emerging farmers will be trained on tractor driving. We will also expose 6 emerging hospitality owners to internal markets through the Tourism Indaba and we will facilitate the Tourism awards in order to recognise excellence in the hospitality and tourism industry.

Honourable members, we will provide training in line with construction material to 30 entrepreneurs who are members of the construction input incubator.

20 Matriculants will be exposed to career and job opportunities through the West Rand Career Expo.
Furthermore, we will enter into a 3 year lease agreement with SMMEs on the re-utilisation of the plastic recycling factory, this project will provide employment opportunities for at least 20 people.

We will formalise application for job fund for partial financing of the prototype farming model at Merafong Flora (Concept of Agri-Park: tunnels and intensified agricultural farming, this will be achieved through the collaborative agreement with Timbali and will benefit the Merafong community).

**Regional Outcome 13 – Robust Financial Administration**

Madam Speaker, the subject of Financial Management presents one of our critical challenges and hence is receiving our highest attention.

As a Region we are facing severe financial constraints. The region operates a budget of R 3.4 Billion with R1.3 billion being money appropriated through government grants and subsidies.

We currently operate at an annual income statement deficit of R245 million. The major contribution of this deficit is from Merafong City with an amount of R226 million deficit accounting deficit. This is owing to withholding of rates and taxes by the mines, on cash flow items include in the income statement, such as, accounting depreciation and impairments, provision for bad debts, actuarial losses and long services awards provisions.

In terms of Controls as a Region we have improved during the 2015/16 audit period. All municipalities in the region achieved an unqualified audit report status, with the District reporting and maintaining yet an unqualified report for the past 11 years. This is testimony to the District continued implementation of robust financial policies and procedures. In this regard let me acknowledge the WRDM former Mayor Executive Ald Mpho Nawa currently COGTA employee, Mogale City former Executive Mayor Calvin Serane, Westonaria Executive Mayor then Nonkoliso Tundzi current speaker of WRDM, former Mayor of Randfontein Cllr Mzi Khumalo current Executive Mayor of Rand West City and Former and current Merafong Executive Mayor Maphefo Letsie.

The financial opportunities lie in the District’s ability to faster implement the restored powers and functions; centralization of all Local Economic Development unit within the WRDA and also fast track implementation of recommendations from the Shared Services Feasibility study which is planned for completion in May 2017. The WRDM will for the first time have direct transfer of mining town’s allocation amounting to R128m in the 2017/18 financial year and possible grant
allocation similar to USDG as agreed in the Human Settlements MINMEC meeting to bolster our infrastructure budget. Furthermore we have appointed a Project Steering Office to mobilise alternative funding sources for our plans. The details will be dealt with in the 2017/18 budget to be approved by the WRDM not later than June this year. We will also be working with the province on the 1.3 billion that is earmarked for the western corridor.

Madam Speaker, we have ensured a focused approach on improving our internal controls, against this we have continued to obtain unqualified audit opinions from the Office of the Auditor General of South Africa. Furthermore, the regional audit opinions for the 2015/16 financial year have improved significantly. The Rand West Local Municipality (former Westonaria and Randfontein Local Municipality) has improved from adverse audit opinion in the previous 2014/15 financial year to an unqualified audit opinion. The agency (West Rand Development Agency) has also been consistent for the last two financial years in obtaining unqualified audit opinion.

Honourable members, on implementation of the Municipal Standard Chart of Accounts (mSCOA) we’re on track and we are monitored on a monthly basis. We are confident that the District will be compliant effective from the 1 July 2017. Madam Speaker, we have been providing support to Local Municipalities in line with mSCOA compliance. Rand West Local Municipality is on track with progress on implementation on mSCOA as they are using the same financial system as the district. We are currently embarking on a support plan together with Provincial Treasury in order to assist both Mogale and Merafong who are on a different financial system. We are anticipating to have one financial system for all municipalities in the district in the near future.

**Regional Outcome 14 - Institutional Planning and Transformation**

Madam Speaker, Our Five Year Regional Plan serves as our Directive to what the Current Leadership has signed up for and hold the Accountability to deliver over the next five years. Achievement of this Plan is contingent upon the robustness of our Institutional Structures, Governance processes all supported by an engaged and committed workforce.

Various processes have been embarked upon to create the delivery model and vehicle to enable achievement of our Five Year Plan. To name a few:
a) The embedding of the new Functions and Powers. This can only be successful through high level of teamwork and collaboration between the District and the Constituent Local Municipalities,

b) The Implementation of the Performance Management Framework and System to enable seamless planning, reporting and evaluation of the Five Year regional Plan

c) The Completion of the Shared Services Feasibility Study and the speedy implementation of its recommendations

d) Embedding of key Stakeholder Joint Initiatives

e) Improving our Communication with the Launch of our new eCOMM system

Madam Speaker, allow me to share more context around these initiatives.

Madam Speaker, in line with institutional transformation, in 2016, the Demarcation Board passed a resolution to adopt a phased approach towards the creation of a single municipality for the West Rand. Phase 1 of the process comprised the merging of Westonaria Local Municipality and Randfontein Local Municipality into Randwest City Local Municipality with the amalgamation of the remaining Municipalities remaining as a Vision for 2021.

Madam Speaker, in December 2016, the Functions and Powers were restored to the West Rand District Municipality in line with the Municipal Structures’ Act 117 of 1998, Section 84 and in support of the Vision above, the West Rand Regional Strategic Planning Session was held with the objective of addressing gaps to alignment, to enable delivery of the Regional Plan, Outcomes and to obtain recommendations around the implementation of the new functions and powers. The Strategic Planning Session was held in February of this year at the Carletonville Civic Centre with the Executive Mayors, MMC’s, Chief Whips, Municipal Managers, HOD’s, Managers from the West Rand Constituent Municipalities and Stakeholder Representatives from CoGTA, SALGA, Provincial Treasury and WRDA in attendance, including other National and Provincial Government Departments.
Madam Speaker, this resembled a defining moment in our Region as it enabled us to align to a common purpose. During this session, I contextualised the workshop against the importance of the Constituent Municipalities working together towards a common goal and, I, highlighted that the achievement of One Metro status should be something that is earned, resulting from joint successes across the Region.

Madam Speaker, the workshop was launched with an aspiration of the future against the concept of 1R, 1P, 1A, 1S (One-Region, One-Plan, One Action, One-system) which is intended to serve as one common unifying message which must guide Regional Planning, Regional Commitment, Regional Delivery and Regional Monitoring against the Regional Plan.

Madam Speaker, the Regional Plan has presented an opportunity to optimise effectiveness and efficiency across all municipal functions, through a shared services approach. Work has already commenced in this regard, we have appointed a service provider to complete a Feasibility Study over the next three (3) months.

Honourable members, the modern world of work is constantly changing and transforming, as public servants we have realised that, it cannot be business as usual, we need to explore alternative service delivery models in order to remain relevant and keep up with the community needs and expectations. Against this, we are venturing into two (2) strategic partnerships:

*Firstly, our strategic partnership with Messrs Timbali* for the implementation of a turn-around strategy for Merafong whereby an Agricultural Franchised Solution (Prototype Model for an Agri-Park) will be introduced. Timbali provides market access via global gap pack houses to clustered small holder farmers to enable small holder farmers to compete with high-volume large-scale agri-businesses. The prototype concept was pioneered in the cut-flower industry 8 years ago and has been successfully duplicated with vegetables.

The Timbali model is robust. The model can be applied in three different versions depending on the amount of resources funders have available, what the requirement and available resources of the beneficiaries are and the situation of the geographical environment. Model A is an intensive agri-park incubation as suggested for Merafong agri-park where a prototype model is developed.
that could be duplicated as model B and C land where farmers own their own land or have land tenure.

Madam Speaker, on our strategic partnership with Messrs IBM ..... Pro-bono sophisticated consulting services that intersect business, technology and society are provided to the municipality in order to address projects that will benefit the community i.e. small businesses, educational institutions and non-profit organisations. Consulting services provided range from business consulting and skills development to help improve local conditions and foster job creation.

This initiative commenced in Turkey in 2009 and has since expanded to encompass 12 countries: Turkey, China, Egypt, Kenya, Tanzania, Mexico, UAE, Ethiopia, Angola, South Africa, Morocco, and Rwanda. To date, IBM has deployed a team in South Africa that will work closely with the municipality, the team will be leaving South Africa end of March 2017.

Madam Speaker, in line with strengthening intergovernmental relations, we have, for the first time concretely concluded an approach where the WRDM is in the Centre for interaction with Mining Houses. The effect of this has led to Mining Houses agreeing on using the IDP to inform their SLP’s. As a result they have postponed the SLP December submission in order to link it with the IDP. Our discussions are not only about labour recruitment and project hand-outs, but about partnership which will open up the procurement process of mines to our people and leveraging on the assets to unlock economic activities, Social closure beyond mining.

On Building institution and administrative capabilities we have managed to swiftly appoint the Municipal Manager and the letter of concurrence from the MEC has been received. We have prioritised the filling of vacant posts for the Senior Management positions.

Madam Speaker, in line with broadband expansion we have installed the Gauteng Broadband Network (GBN) core which is hosted in the WRDM and is the gateway for the entire West Rand Region broadband connectivity. The fibre infrastructure is on the ground which will deliver converged services (e.g. video, voice, and data) on all municipal offices, schools, libraries and provincial government departments.
The physical fibre and microwave connection has been completed and we are currently working on the architectural design to link up all municipal offices including libraries, schools, clinics, MHS, EMS and WRDA to use a single point of entry for accessing the internet. The architectural design phase should be completed by end of March 2017.

Madam Speaker, we have decided to use the West Rand Development Agency as the vehicle to enable economic growth and transformation within the Region. To this end we developed a re-engineering strategy and have finalised the recruitment of a new Board for the WRDA.

In line with our predetermined objectives, our non-financial performance, we have achieved 89, 2% against our target, a variation of 10, 8%. Madam Speaker, this exemplifies a clear demonstration that we are on track in line with the predetermined objectives for the 2016/17 financial year.

Honourable members, effective and timeous Communication represents an important contribution to improved institutional morale and organisational efficiencies. I am pleased to announce the launch of our new eCOMM system at the WRDM which will enable us to communicate more timeously across different functions.

The plan is to roll out the system across the Constituent Municipalities at the end of April of this year.

Madam Speaker, we acknowledge and appreciate that we would not have achieved this without the support from our administrative leadership. We have worked well and have managed to maintain clear political and administrative interface. We have observed a collaborative relationship with our local municipalities for the 1st time in history. Madam Speaker, this exemplifies great progress in line with regional planning and development - we see the West Rand working together.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to:

- To the voters of the West Rand, who gave us the mandate to better their lives.
- To Faith Based Organisations for their prayers in particular my MCSA Rand West Circuit Mohlakeng Society, Reverend Zola Mtshiza for spiritual counselling work on me.
- To My wife and kids for their support at all times in my work.
- To My Political Party, the ANC, which has been a tower of strength and support.
• To the Council of the West Rand for patience, understanding, engagement, tireless support in our variety of decisions
• Troika for the political support that enabled me to shape my vision
• To members of the mayoral committee who shared energetically in my delegated powers from the council.
• MPAC and Chairpersons of the Section 79 Committees for their sterling work in ensuring good governance.
• The Team West Rand Administration, led by the Municipal Manager for working tirelessly in implementing our resolutions.
• The Political and Administrative leadership of our Constituent Local Municipalities for their undoubted inter Municipal commitment, co-operation and participation toward our journey of 1R1P1A1S.
• The communities of the West Rand in general and our various Stakeholders for their continuous engagement and support of our mandate in particular the Swaneville Community represented by a delegation here today for identifying the potential in me by electing me as their first ward councillor in 1995.
• Finally each one of you who are here this afternoon for your patience in listening to us.
• Indeed, Madam Speaker, the future of West Rand is filled with hope and opportunity.

In conclusion Madam Speaker, one thought it is imperative to conclude by using Ben Okri when he said “Time is growing....when our suffering will bear fruit? One great thought can alter the future of the world. One Revelation. One dream. But who will dream that dream? And who will make it real?”