



## WEST RAND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

### SODA 2023

**STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS BY THE WEST RAND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY EXECUTIVE  
MAYOR CLLR. H. H . HILD 15 MARCH 2023 IN CARLTONVILLE COUNCIL CHAMBER MERAUFONG  
CITY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**



Speaker of the West Rand District Municipality, Cllr G Kruger

The Hosting City, Merafong City Executive Mayor, Cllr Nozuko Best

Mogale City Executive Mayor, Cllr Tyron Gray

Randwest City Executive Mayor, Cllr Gladys Khoza

Speakers of Council from Constituent Municipalities

Chief Whips from Constituent Municipalities

Members of the Mayoral Committees and all Councilors present

Municipal Officials as led by respective Municipal Managers

Representatives of constituencies from various stakeholders

Sponsors of the event, our kind contribution is appreciated

Media personnel

Organisers of the event

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning

Goeie More

Dumelang



## PREAMBLE

Mr. Speaker let me commence with the following:

The report on the regional audit outcome status for the district and its constituent local municipalities following the 2021/2022 year-end audit, reflects the following:

- West Rand District Municipality got an unqualified audit opinion;
- Mogale City Local Municipality got a qualified audit opinion;
- Randwest City Local Municipality with an unqualified audit opinion;
- and lastly Merafong City Local Municipality with a disclaimer audit opinion.

In terms of movement in the Region, we have two municipalities in regression (Merafong and Mogale), One improved (Rand West City) and one with no movement (WRDM). This audit outcome and general state of affairs requires urgent attention and intervention. I strongly recommend that Audit action plans must be submitted, and individual municipalities should continue to monitor progress through their respective steering committees and internal audit committees. Ambitiously I am looking at a result that says Clean Audit for WRDM because we have made a tremendous stride to sustain a clean performance record – **We say - Well Done to both Performance and Supply Chain Management during this period of reporting.**

Ladies and Gentlemen, education like it should be in any leader, is the closest to my heart, and the Grade 12 Gauteng West Education results were a marvel to witness. Our District's performance was so admirable for a lack of a better word excellent, the observed improvement calls for a round of applause.

***May we all rise in honour of the Class of 2022.... Thank you!***



The challenge laying ahead is that of learner drop-outs, teenage learner pregnancy, exposure to drugs, substance abuse and generally as seen, lack of sporting facilities in our schools.

As a committed municipality, this calls for immediate response:

- Supporting Learner School Safety programmes,
- Active parent / guardian participation in learner welfare,
- Integrating school improvement programmes.

Speaker we as the district should continuously be in dialogue and consistent communication in learner educator programmes. Also, Speaker, to name but a few, we must follow-up on the commitment made by the Premier on eradication of asbestos schools in Gauteng.

The escalation of violence in schools is something that we cannot overlook, and we therefore urge all educators together with School Governing Bodies to urgently introduce disciplinary systems within schools in the entire region. MMC Gail Mphafudi is therefore appointed to liaise with all stakeholders in order to implement systems that will curb the violence in schools within the Region.

## **SERVICE DELIVERY**

Speaker the following is a report that reflects on what has been achieved for the period under review, with some challenges:

## **WATER SUPPLY AND WATER QUALITY**

Colleagues during the previous SODA it was indicated that we have a variety of programmes and activities on service delivery, and these are functions and responsibilities to strengthen local government integrity to render Service Delivery. The collaboration between District and the Constituent Local Municipalities cuts across Service Delivery related issues.



On Water Supply WRDM can be considered to be fairly good, particularly in the urban areas.

The function of the district on waste management is to develop regional plans and strategies for effective waste management, minimisation, recycling and safe disposal in line with the National Environmental Management Waste Act.

However, as municipalities across the region we will continue to maintain water infrastructure and expand access to water for all, while enhancing quality control and management for the sustainable use of our water resources.

As we know, water supply has been interrupted recently mainly due to loadshedding but unfortunately also due to theft of infrastructure. I therefore urge communities to report all activities of crime to the relevant authorities. We live amongst cable thieves and other perpetrators of crime, and we must at all times do the right thing and ensure that we report all criminal activities. We also urge the SAPS to move swiftly in apprehending criminals targeting infrastructure.

We are proud Speaker to share with you the following as key areas of development and celebrate this as achievements that will benefit our communities. We have what is referred to as a **Drop Forum**.

The Local Municipalities in the District are experiencing challenges concerning compliance issues around legislation and license conditions on Waste Water Treatment Plants, Water Quality and Water Conservation as per Water Services Authority Appointments (WSA) as such; The WRDM has therefore decided to establish a Forum to assist the LM's to address findings by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).

The Drop Forum is so named as it will address issues around Green Drop which talks about compliance issues around Waste Water Treatment and Disposal, Blue Drop which focuses on issues around Potable Water and No Drop which focuses on Water Conservation and Demand Management. The Forum comprises officials of DWS, SALGA (Provincial & National), MISA, Rand Water and the Local Municipalities.



The intention Ladies and Gentlemen is for the DWS to indicate the findings at the LM's, the LM's responses and the status of the interventions proposed. The Forum would then see how it can assist the LM's in complying with legislation and meeting their indicated interventions.

Due to the compliance deadlines set by the DWS, the Forum has focused on Waste Water Treatment and Disposal. Quarterly Forum meetings are being held. One on One Meetings with the Senior Managers at the Local Municipalities are also being undertaken to unlock reported challenges. Hopefully this approach will deliver services to our communities and offer a permanent and sustainable solution.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Let us also note that we are still faced with the challenge of connecting all our communities to the grid in terms of access to electricity. Our challenge is twofold, at a consumer level it remains an expensive utility for daily consumption, whilst at the supplier level we are faced with severe challenges known as loadshedding.

## **ENERGY SUPPLY**

Eskom had to recently shed 4 000MW of generation capacity to balance demand and supply and protect the national grid which led to load shedding. According to Eskom it was as a result of a shortage of generating capacity and a need to replenish and preserve emergency water and diesel resources. Progress towards universal access is now integrated with the use of renewable electricity from the sun, wind and water to power buildings, transport and industry is notably slow and hampers on growth and economic development within the Region. We are however looking forward to steps to be implemented by Provincial government.

## **ROADS ASSET MANAGEMENT**





Speaker and Colleagues on Roads Asset Management System please take note of the following:

The National Department of Transport (NDOT), as part of the S’Hambe Sonke Programme, has provided grant funding for the implementation of Road Asset Management Systems (RAMS). The strategic goal of the RAMS Grant is to ensure efficient and effective investment in rural roads through the development of Road Asset Management Systems (RAMS) and the collection of associated road and bridge inventory data, condition assessments, and traffic information. Improved data on roads will guide infrastructure investment, improve accessibility to and mobility of communities.

The RAMS program was extended to the West Rand District Municipality who then appointed a Service Provider to assist with the implementation of the project.

The objective of the grant is to assist District Municipalities to develop in-house skills and human resource capacity and to create employment for unemployed graduates. At the end of the project, District Municipalities (along with their Local Municipalities) should be able to fulfil their role as a Transport Planning Authority and utilise the RAMS as a planning tool for prioritising transport infrastructure expenditure.

The Programme has proceeded with great success. There are currently four technicians working on the program with the third round of visual condition inspections of roads and associated infrastructure being undertaken. The technicians have been capacitated on all aspects of the RAMS Programme with the Programme being implemented in-house in totality. It is intended that an additional two technicians will be appointed to the Programme in the current financial year with their capacity building being undertaken by the existing four technicians.

Speaker,



The **Neighbourhood Development Partnership Grant (NDPG)** is a National Treasury initiative aimed at improving neighbourhoods in various areas. This initiative has been successfully funding neighbourhood development projects so as to integrate marginalised and poor communities to improve the quality of life of residents in the targeted areas, generally townships. The project is currently in its 4th phase focusing in Finsbury where a Multi-purposed Sports Facility. The Service Provider did site establishment and purchasing of the material required for the project during August 2022 and sod turning ceremony was conducted on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

The Contractor is progressing well, and the works are underway. The project progress on site has been delayed by weather (heavy rains) during December 2022 and February 2023. This is causing the water table to rise making it difficult for excavators and tippers to work on the miry and muddy ground.

**Spatial Development Framework (SDF)** the report reflects that The West Rand District Municipality (WRDM) Spatial Development Framework (SDF) in line with the requirements of Sections 12 and 21 of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, Act 16 of 2013 was adopted by WRDM Council in June 2022. The SDF will also respond to the policy and legislative parameters established by National and Provincial Government and take cognisance of the municipal space economy in the context of the provincial and national space economies.

Ladies and Gentlemen and Colleagues, The West Rand District Municipal Planning Tribunal was established, in terms of the provisions of the Spatial Planning & Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA), to consider land use applications referred to it by the three Local Municipalities within the area of jurisdiction of the WRDM. The Tribunal consists of 24 members, comprising of 16 Internal Representatives and 8 External representatives.

WRDM is responsible for the administration of the Tribunal agreed in terms of the Memorandum of Agreement signed by all three (3) municipalities. The tribunal is ready to adjudicate on all applications that local municipalities are expected to



submit to the district. There has been a slow start as applications were not coming through from the municipalities however, we intend to expedite the process in order to address the backlog.

Speaker kindly note that Land Use Audit for WRDM was conducted in the previous financial year with the assistances of Gauteng COGTA. The Land audit was inclusive of Mogale City, Rand West City and Merafong City Local Municipalities and was aimed towards credible land use schemes of municipalities in order to comply with the requirements of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013 (SPLUMA). The West Rand Land Use Audit project was concluded during March 2022 and adopted by WRDM Council in May 2022.

## HUMAN SETTLEMENT

As in the past, the WRDM is still playing a co-ordination role within the region in the execution of projects delivering Subsidy Housing. of note here are the current and future projects for the West Rand, as an attempt to reduce accumulating backlogs. As part of implementing the Sustainable Human Settlements Plan there are several projects that are at different stages of development.

Mega Human Settlements Projects within West Rand Region are intended to deliver the numbers needed in terms of meeting the housing demand and aggressively transform the spatial patterns in Gauteng. This is a move away from one project delivery approach to a more clustered method – in order to maximize output in the provision of decent houses.

As the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements rolls out the Mega Cities programme, there is a need to form key partnerships to ensure proper planning and provision of all required infrastructure services such as water, sanitation, electricity, roads and social amenities.

The following are the projects that are in different phases of development within the region:



1. **Affri-village** is in Rand West City Local municipality that is intended to yield 9880 units in its completion and **2172** completed houses have been delivered to date.
2. **Montrose** is in Rand West City Local municipality that is intended to yield 13792 units in its completion, and nothing has been delivered to date. We request urgent intervention by the MEC of Human Settlement at this development.
3. **Westonaria Borwa** is in Rand West City Local municipality is intended to yield 6500 units in its completion and **2032** completed houses have been delivered to date.
4. **Western Mega** is in Rand West City Local municipality is intended to yield 9385 units in its completion and no actual units have been delivered to date. However, there are 2757 that are under construction.
5. **Dan Tloome** is in Rand West city Local municipality is intended to yield 22101 units in its completion and the actual units delivered to date are 2268.
6. **Elijah Barayi** is in Merafong city Local municipality is intended to yield 12491 units in its completion and the actual units delivered to date are 4138.

Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen, I need to emphasize that what is common to all the Mega Projects is insufficient bulk infrastructure supply which will require funding. We are also as a District Municipality expected to play a role in the process of title deeds registration. There has always been an intention to eradicate the housing backlog, however, we are still sitting with a backlog of title deeds to be issued within West Rand, which include houses from the pre and post 1994 RDP houses.

In order to accelerate the registration and issuing of title deeds it is important to streamline the work of various stakeholders such as Municipalities, Department of Human Settlements, Surveyor-General, Deeds Registrar, conveyancing firms and so on who are in the value chain of title deeds.



A total of **1436** title deeds registered in the first two quarters of the current financial year, Mogale city 169, Merafong City 202 and Rand West city 1436. This is a significant improvement looking at a total of **281** title deeds registered during 2021-2022 financial year.

Speaker, with regard to Social Housing, the Goldenwest Social Housing Institute completed the first 126 units with their turnkey construction partner, Messrs Crimson King Developments in the Westonaria Borwa Mega Human Settlements Project, situated in Rand West City LM. The project was halted due to a legal dispute. The Regional Planning Department is currently working on the demarcation of additional restructuring zones which upon approval, will be Gazetted in terms of the requirements of the Social Housing Act, 2008.

### **SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE**

The purpose of the SEZ is to transform the West Rand into a socio-economic production centre including agri-industrial, Solar Plant, Cannabis production and industrial hubs characterised by, amongst others, more foreign and domestic direct investments, more value-added exports and sustainable job creation. The SEZ will contribute to the efforts to reduce the over-reliance on the mining industry for economic opportunities in the area and kick- start the transition towards a post-mining economy in the region.

The SEZ is an opportunity for government and other partners to transform a region into a vibrant industrial centre through the development of infrastructure, research and development capacity, human settlements, small and medium enterprises, skills development, and other critical support measures for industrial and socio-economic development.

**Gauteng Department of Economic Development (GDED)** MEC has written a letter to Sibanye still water to request that Sibanye donate the different land parcels that are identified for different clusters of the SEZ and the matter is on the verge being finalized.





The GDED through its agency has appointed a **Project Management Unit (PMU)** to work with the West Rand team as part of steering team to drive and ensure that the SEZ take off. A service provider has been appointed to develop a master plan for the SEZ and is expected to conclude the study in September 2023.

The commissioned Masterplan will guide the development and designation of the West Rand SEZ and is envisaged for completion during September 2023. Land Preparation works are to be initiated from April 2023 (EIA and Specialist Studies). The SEZ speaker will act as catalyst to creating a post mining economy.

## FINANCE

Speaker, Ladies and gentlemen on budget there is a need for the WRDM to present a balance budget as at 30 June 2023. Further note that the adjustment budget was approved by council in February 2023 and totals more than R333 million.

The WRDM has received an unqualified Auditor General report with one finding. There were no fruitless or wasteful expenditure nor any irregular expenditure. The section 52 quarterly reports and the adjustment budget have been placed on the WRDM website.

We have managed to reduce our community wealth value from -R107 million to -R78 million.

The new supply chain regulations and procurement policy have been adopted by council and are now legally in force. We have new interns in the Finance department and are working toward a clean audit by the end of June. The municipality has made arrangements with its creditors and is working toward a funded budget.

Regrettably, Ladies and Gentlemen, our greatest challenge still remains as unfunded and under-funded mandates and I will elaborate a bit more on that as we move along.

Speaker, WRDM and local municipalities is still grant dependent and it is clear that a better and improved funding model is required for municipalities to efficiently perform on their service delivery mandates. A reform of Municipal Income must be investigated as a matter of urgency.

Speaker



Municipalities also receive what is known as the Integrated Urban Development Grant (IUDG)

In essence, the IUDG aims to achieve three main outcomes:

- Improved access to municipal infrastructure,
- Improved quality of municipal services through infrastructure that is in a better condition, and
- improved spatial integration.

Speaker now I need all Executive Mayors present to note their total Grant Expenditure and to ensure a concerted effort in effectively spending these grants in order to realise improved service delivery in their respective Municipalities.

The under-expenditure of these grants is noted with serious concern. The spending pattern by local municipalities necessitated a form of intervention and it is for this reason that the WRDM established a Grant Expenditure Forum, chaired by the WRDM Executive Mayor. Local Municipalities' Executive Mayors together with their Municipal Managers, Chief Financial Officer, Head of Department: Infrastructure and supporting staff must attend the Forum in order to monitor expenditure patterns on Grants.

## ENHANCEMENT OF TOURISM

We also have a Regional Tourism Organization which is in line with the Gauteng Tourism Development Strategy, to address the urgent need for ensuring optimal alignment of stakeholders within the province, the West Rand District Municipality, through the Department of Regional Planning and Reindustrialization, has established a Regional Tourism Organization (RTO) support function through the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Morame RTO that will be one of its strategic interventions to support tourism development initiatives in the West Rand Region.



This partnership and support function primarily entails tourism stakeholder/role-player alignment, management, delivery and support of tourism development in the West Rand and coordination of local tourism initiatives in the constituent municipalities (Mogale City, Rand West City & Merafong City) of the West Rand District. This will further entail coordination of activities through an institutional model that will address all spheres of public sector activity, ongoing private sector stakeholder engagement as well as the provision of platforms for labour and affected communities.

The partnership also seek to revive tourism sector that has been negatively affected by the covid-19 pandemic.

MORAME is an acronym for Mogale, Randwest and Merafong. Cities. They are incorporated as a Non-Profit Company to serve as a Regional Tourism Association representing the West Rand.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Speaker the following presentation or report has plenty of details and information on the following Pro-active Fire services/Fire Safety/Fire Risk Management/ Fire



Prevention/Training, Reactive Fire Services/Fire Suppression and Rescue Services forming an integral part of fire services.

The first thing to note is that there is lack of resources for Firefighting Services, and that is a huge challenge which is the main course for unfunded mandate.

Speaker, the Unit responded to a total of 741 fire related incidents and 568 Rescue and Motor Vehicle Accidents respectively.

In spite of the challenges faced by the Emergency Management Services, the WRDM still managed to meet and exceed our attendance time's targets of 80% in 10 minutes in urban areas (85% fire incidents and 88% rescue incidents) and 20 minutes in rural areas for both fire related incidents and motor vehicle accidents.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Fire and Rescue Services conducted multi-agency and multi focused live emergency exercises (simulations) at R28 close to Noordheuwel Country Club in Mogale City and NUFCOR on the N12 in Rand West City respectively, which objective was to test our logistics, physical capabilities, communications, knowledge and skills.

A Simulation Exercise simulates an emergency to which a described or simulated responses are made. The purpose of a simulation exercise is to validate and enhance preparedness and response plans, procedures and systems for all hazards and capabilities. The Emergency Service defined different types of exercises, including discussion-based table-top exercises as well as operations-based exercises such as drills, functional exercises and field/full scale exercises. The main aim of the simulation was to review and assess planning assumptions, procedures, operational plans, guidelines, and standard operating procedures and assess and test interoperability between these plans and procedures;

The Emergency Management Services have fire prevention section, which consist of firefighters who conduct building inspections to make sure they are compliant with fire codes; they also visit schools and day-care centers to make presentations about arson, malicious false alarms, and fire safety.



To ensure compliance with the national building regulations, the fire prevention section conducted 465 building inspections at various premises in the district. The section approved 334 building plans and conducted 578 hazardous material inspections.

A total of 52 fire investigations were conducted to determine the causes of fires. We firmly believe that effective fire prevention assists with limiting the number and size of major fires and fire related fatalities and also protect the economic infrastructure against fire damage.

Public Information Education and Relations section conducted a total of 153 awareness programs ranging from learn not burn, Household Energy Safety, Pre – Winter Launch (Household Energy Safety) and fireworks safety where vulnerable members of our communities were assisted through training sessions and workshops to minimize the effects of emergency incidents and to lessen the chances of fires occurring in their houses and communities. We managed to address 7 754 community members through the awareness campaigns that were conducted. The awareness programs assisted with curbing the number of community members perishing in fatal fires during our fire season.

On Fire Protection Associations, veld fires often become emergencies because they threaten life and assets on the property where they have started, or when they spread, or threaten to spread, beyond the boundaries of any one property, and require co-operation to manage the conditions that determine their occurrence, to prevent and control veld fires, and to use controlled burning for environmental and other purposes.

Effective management of veld-fires requires organisational structure, strategy, plans, information, networks, skills, and equipment that can seldom be provided adequately by any one landowner alone. Also, government cannot take on the duties and responsibilities of landowners for fire protection. The Act places this responsibility on the owner, where it belongs. The Act intends that FPAs should be voluntary, not only because of the right to freedom of association, but also be-



cause landowners themselves need to make firm commitments to co-operation by their own joint initiatives. On the other hand, this provision in the Act does place a duty on government to effectively promote and support FPAs, including financially where this is justified.

Speaker Ladies and Gentlemen, The Emergency Services Training Academy offers high level training in line with national and international standards, resulting in world accepted levels of competence in emergency management services. Courses on offer vary from basic firefighting and first aid training to more advanced training in Hazardous Materials and various Specialized Fire & Rescue courses. Also included is the Officer development and Competency training in support of our efforts to improve proficiency levels.

The Academy is applying to be registered at the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) to present the Occupational Certificate: Firefighter.

An Application processes at Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority (LGSETA) to present the National Certificate: Emergency Services Supervision: Fire and Rescue Operations is also in process.

Southern African Emergency Services Institute (SAESI) registration will be initiated once the abovementioned registrations have realized. This International recognized registration will allow us to present the Fire Fighter 1 & 2, Hazmat Awareness, Hazmat Operations and Rescue technician courses.

## COMMERCIAL TRAINING

The courses are aimed at businesses and individuals wishing to obtain basic competence in the fields of first aid, firefighting and hazardous materials as well as any Fire & Rescue related competency training.

### Fire and Hazardous Materials Training

The programmes in this course are aimed at emergency service personnel and are open to suitably qualified persons across South Africa.



## **RESCUE TRAINING**

The courses are aimed at employees within the emergency services industry wanting to specialize in technical rescue or persons required to perform such rescues as part of their jobs, and individuals involved in outdoor activities requiring basic rope skills. Values added are in line with our Tariff Structure and were added to indicate what the West Rand District Municipality (WRDM) would have paid for the specific training presented. Please take note that a visit to other Service providers websites indicated that they are much more expensive.

Speaker in this Department we have a section on COMMUNITY SAFETY it has worked tirelessly to improve the safety of our communities. The District Safety Plan speaks directly to matters relating in the enhancement of safety in the region. The District Safety Plan has been revised during the term under review and was adopted and approved by council in July 2022.

The following interventions are included in the Community Safety Plan:

- Improved By-Law Enforcement
- Improved Rural and Road Safety
- Reduction in Gender Based Violence
- Safety in public places
- Improved inter-agency relations
- Community participation
- Implementation of Community Safety Forums (Region Wide)

These are all part of daily Community Safety operations however they are not achievable by the WRDM in isolation but requires multi-discipline, multi-sectorial interventions. It requires strong relationship with stakeholders and day-to-day joint efforts.

In order to sustain these interventions, programmes such as the District Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee, Rural Safety Committees, Woman and Children Safety Campaigns,

Road Safety Campaigns and Victim Empowerment, programmes are of vital importance and includes stakeholders such as NGO's, SAPS, CPF's, local



Municipality Public Safety, Private Security Companies, other spheres of Government and more.

The Community Safety (together with Fire and Rescue) facilitated multi sectorial and multi-agency operations during the year to ensure safe and resilient communities during law enforcement operations and a multitude of safety operations during the festive season.

These operations included Arrive Alive campaigns and festive season road safety programmes which aim to ensure that our communities and visitors travel safely on the roads. We have also jointly planned Festive Season Operational plans with other Law Enforcement Agencies such as Local Traffic departments and SAPS.

On Road and Safety, we have the District Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee (DLECC) convened on a quarterly basis in order to plan for joint operations. It was through this forum that Road Safety - and Fire Operations and By-Law enforcement operations were arranged. The DLECC can be called at any time when special Joint Operation needs to be planned for specific purposes i.e. Elections or Easter Weekend.

The office of Community Safety facilitated all major operations as requested by SAPS, Fire Risk Management, Emergency Services, Disaster Management, Municipal Health Services and Local Public Safety Departments.

Also note colleagues that The West Rand District Municipality in conjunction with the Gauteng Provincial Community Safety, all local traffic departments, and SANRAL, has established the Road Incident Management System (RIMS) with the main aim of reducing road accidents and ensuring safe roads throughout the West Rand.

RIMS is legislated which makes the RIMS protocols law on all major routes and scenes. The key task of RIMS is to continuously conduct Post Incident Assessments (PIA's) at all serious accidents in order to put measures in place to prevent reoccurrence of incidents of a similar nature.



The Steering Committee of the RIMS is functional and holds meetings regularly. Regular RIMS simulation exercises are conducted on major traffic arteries across the District which involve all relevant agencies to ensure an effective response to major traffic related incidents. The Communication Hub also has a very large role to play in the response to incidents as per RIMS protocols. RIMS platforms exist also on Provincial as well as National level.

**The COMMUNICATION HUB & RESPONSE SERVICES**, which is **Social Media** driven based in the West Rand District Communication Hub was broadened further in order to assist with both response as well as prevention of elements such as crime, accidents, fires, etc. The Communication Hub again is a multi-stakeholder, early warning platform that also includes response. And it works exceptionally well.

It is currently very active in Mogale City, Magaliesburg, Randfontein and Merafong.

Out of the Communication Hub a new initiative was born (Collectively with Fire and Rescue, Disaster Management and Community Safety) which are *Response Services*.

Mogale Response Service was the first active unit and was followed by Magalies Response Service, and then Merafong Response Service. Response Services is a unit that involves ALL services, government, NGO and Private Services. The goal is to give training to everyone on a many different aspects so that when it comes to scenes everyone knows exactly what to do and how to do it.

**Most of the District functions on Public Safety touch on BY-LAWS and we have**

Two (2) By-Law Forums were also established i.e. Mogale City and Rand West. These By-Law Forums operates on a multi-departmental manner which involved all departments that has enforceable laws such as Health, Electricity, Traffic Department, Town Planning, Building Control, etc.

These forums planned and executed By-Law operations and inspections and take action against people who were non-compliance with Laws and By-Laws such as Illegal Occupation, Illegal Buildings, non-compliance to fire safety, health related issues, etc. Merafong By-Law Forum is to follow.



Speaker; The West Rand District Municipality is also legally mandated in terms of section 43 of the Disaster Management Act, Act 57 of 2002, to provide Disaster Management in its area of jurisdiction.

In 1993 the then Western Gauteng Services Council established an Emergency Operation Centre (107) in concurrence with the provisions of the predecessor legislations called the Civil Protection Act, Act 67 of 1977, and the 107 Emergency Services Act.

During the promulgation of the Disaster Management Act in 2002 the centre was therefore transformed to suite the requirements of the new act, now known as the Disaster Management Centre in terms of the said Act.

Ladies and Gentlemen and Colleagues, The West Rand District Municipality's District Disaster Management Plan was revised, adopted and approved by council on 27 October 2022. This was done in an effort to stay in touch with latest trends in Disaster Management and to form a part of the new WRDM Disaster Management Framework (as adopted and approved by council on 30 July 2020). This district disaster management plan formed an integral part of the WRDM's Integrated Development Plan, and also included the newly revised District Safety Plan.

Gauteng province has been classified a disaster area in February 2023 because of the flooding damage it has sustained during the flooding in December 2022, and January 2023. South Africa as a whole has now, also in February 2023 been classified a state of disaster because of the ongoing Eskom electricity crisis we all are faced with.

The Gauteng Provincial Disaster Management Centre (CoGTA) has assisted the WRDMs Municipal Disaster Management Centre with 100 salvage sheeting's, 1200 mattresses, and 1500 blankets to put us in a position where we could assist victims of flooding, shack and house fires as well as other disastrous events.

To further enhance the safety of our communities, the Disaster Management section is constantly doing Risk and Vulnerability assessments at schools, Filling stations, factories, shops and other institutions in order to assess the safety of structures and evacuation processes in conjunction with all relevant role-players.



The Disaster Management section compiles evacuation plans for shopping centres, schools, factories, etc. in a way that is easily executable and that complies with all standards. Aim is to prevent disasters rather than cure it.

However, when disaster strikes, Venue Operation Centres and Joint Operation Centres are quickly established *in line with the Disaster Management Act* with all relevant stakeholders in order to ensure rapid and efficient relief to those affected. The Disaster Management Section facilitated and coordinated winter and Summer Safety Plans every year in order to plan and educate people on diverse weather conditions and how to prepare for such.

The Disaster Management Advisory Forum is another example of a multi-stakeholder, multi-disciplinary approach in the way that forums are established in order to be as effective as possible.

## FINANCIAL RECOVERY PLAN AUDIT

On 22 November 2018 the Gauteng Provincial Executive resolved to intervene in the WRDM in terms of Section 139(5) (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996) (Constitution) read in conjunction with Section 139 of the MFMA. On 28 November 2018, the MEC for Finance communicated the Gauteng Provincial Executive decision to the Executive Mayor of WRDM. Subsequently, Council took cognizance of the correspondence on 7 December 2018.

On 16 August 2019, the Municipality received correspondence from the office of the MEC Finance dated 10 August 2019 regarding the approval of the FRP and the Financial Recovery Plan was adopted on 28 August 2019.

## THE FINANCIAL RECOVERY PLAN IDENTIFIES 7 STRATEGIES.

The following are the strategies identified:

1. Strengthening Governance
2. Organisational Restructuring



3. Human Resource Management
4. Infrastructure And Service Delivery Improvements
5. Improve Financial Sustainability, Administration and Control
6. Budget Restructuring
7. Cash flow Management

The municipality continues to implement Financial Recovery Plan (FRP) as a guiding tool towards improvement in the financial status of the municipality.

The municipality intends to improve its audit outcome as it has remained an unqualified with findings for more than two financial years, thus “doing things right the first time” is a new principle adopted by the management pertaining to the municipality’s overall performance management processes. The municipality continues to attain Unqualified Audit Reports from the Auditor General of South Africa. These positive outcomes are due to the concerted efforts of the Budget and Treasury Office, the Internal Audit, external (independent) Audit Committee and all other departments within the Municipality.

## GOVERNANCE

We continued to maintain good Governance structures in the form of our Sections 79, Section 80 Committees, Audit Committee, Performance Audit Committee, Risk Management Committee, Mayoral Committees and Council.

## FINANCE AND RISK ENTERPRISE MANAGEMENT

Municipality. The Enterprise Risk Management unit of WRDM has been active and effective in identifying and mitigating risks. On Enterprise Risk Management, The Accounting Officer has committed West Rand District Municipality (WRDM) to a process of risk management that is aligned to the principles of good governance, as supported by the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA), Act no 56 of 2003.

- The concept of risk management is not new to the public service as the basic principles of service delivery (Batho Pele, 1997) clearly articulate the need for prudent risk management to underpin the achievement of government objectives. Risk management is a valuable management tool that increases the



institutions prospects of success through getting it right the first time and minimising negative outcomes.

- Local and international trends confirm that risk management is a strategic imperative rather than an option within high performing institutions. High performing institutions set clear realistic objectives, develop appropriate strategies aligned to the objectives, understand the intrinsic risks associated therewith and direct resources towards managing such risks on the basis of cost benefit principles.
- The underlying intention of the enterprise risk management is that Institutions should through the risk management process achieve, among other things, the following outcomes needed to underpin and enhance performance:
  - a) more efficient, reliable and cost-effective delivery of services;
  - b) more reliable decisions;
  - c) innovation;
  - d) minimised waste and fraud;
  - e) prevention of fraud and corruption;
  - f) better value for money through more efficient use of resources; and
  - g) Better outputs and outcomes through improved programme and project management.

Speaker On Integrity Management Framework (Ethics, Code of conduct, fraud and corruption), note and building resilient institutional and societal capacity to deal effectively with any disaster, impact with influence of risk and consider improving governance across the West Rand Region to focus on delivering results and improving the quality of life of residents as well as enhancing ethics, integrity and accountability.

## ENVIRONMENT



Speaker, On Environment, Environmental level we have continued to fulfil our mandate of water quality management, air quality management and environmental pollution management across the entire Region

Speaker; in relation to the Environmental Management the WRDM aligns itself with the Gauteng City Region Over-arching Climate Change Response Strategy and Action Plan “the Strategy, approved in August 2020. Changes in temperature cause changes in rainfall. Temperatures over the South African interior are projected to rise at about 1.5 to 2 times the global rate of temperature increase. This results in more severe and frequent storms causing flooding and landslides, destroying homes and communities.

**Climate Change awareness campaigns** were held quarterly to sensitize community members on the effects of Climate Change and how to be environment- friendly. Furthermore, a total of 7 campaigns were conducted in conjunction with the three constituent Local Municipalities of the WRDM. Other campaigns were also conducted on environmental management services namely; water pollution control; waste and greening awareness following the **Environmental Celebration Days Calendar**.

The Municipal Health Services (MHS) Environmental Health Practitioners conducted a total of 1 193 **Inspections on privately owned premises**, which included certification and monitoring compliance to Health Regulations and WRDM MHS By-Laws of privately owned premises under the National Health Act 61 of 2003.

Out of the 1 193 inspections conducted; 659 were found to be compliant. A total of 171 inspections were conducted on **government owned premises** and 52 were found to be compliant.



For noting kindly acknowledge and observe that Air quality monitoring is done through the two **Air Quality Monitoring Stations** located at Mogale City & Rand West City Local Municipalities in order to ensure compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards as obligated by the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act. These stations monitor pollution levels of toxic various pollutants in order to ensure that communities are not exposed to polluted air. During the period in question, the two Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations were functional, however, most analysers and equipment require some repairs and replacement.

The District as an **Atmospheric Emission Licensing Authority** (AELA) has been issuing Atmospheric Emission Licenses (AEL) to industries and mines and a total of 7 licenses were issued out in 2021/2022 financial year and an income of R 42 000 have been generated. Industries are regularly monitored and inspected to determine the emission from the stacks and a total of **14 inspections were conducted**.

## SOCIAL AND HEALTH

The core mandate of the Health and Social Development Department is the provision of Municipal Health Services. The various Units perform their duties or functions and in relation to MHS, a total 3 817 **food inspections** were conducted against the planned target of 3 400. Furthermore, 219 **food samples** were collected for biological analysis in order to determine the safety of food handled at restaurants and other food handling establishments. **Food safety training** sessions were also conducted where 299 people were reached in 102 sessions. The MHS Unit still have more work to do in order to encourage safer food handling in accordance to Regulation 638.

Speaker, ensuring conducive environment at the Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDC's), the MHS Unit conducted a total of 801 **health surveillance of**



**premises** inspections on ECDC's throughout the West Rand in accordance to the MHS By-Laws of the WRDM and in collaboration with other state organs particularly Social Development.

Speaker; we are in a rainy season and threatened by water-borne diseases such as cholera but be reassured that the state of potable water quality in the West Rand is good. Over 544 water samples were taken for laboratory analysis in line with Water Quality Standards methodology South African National Standards 241 (SANS241). A total of 496 samples were found to be compliant therefore Potable Water in the WRDM complies with the Blue Drop Status with 91% having been achieved in that regard. **Council Speaker, which means our tap water is clean and safe for human consumption.**

Ensuring **safe disposal of the dead**; a total of 144 inspections were conducted at funeral undertakers as part of enforcement of proper management of human remains under the human remains Regulation 363 of 22 May 2013. Almost all funeral undertakers were compliant. Thirty-seven (37) unclaimed bodies and one (1) foetus were **buried as paupers** as part of the districts function to ensure adequate and proper management of human remains, a measure to comply with legislation and to prevent the spread of diseases.

In order to abate vector borne diseases, Pest control conducted a total 184 inspections on municipal owned buildings as part of outcome 7 which is to achieve healthy and safe living environment.

**Awareness and Education** on the impact of teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections continue at schools and communities. This program is done in partnership with the district Community Safety and other partners such as Lifeline, Love life, Provincial Social Crime Prevention and SAPS.

A total of 20 schools within the District were visited reaching out to 4 372 learners. The health talks target both girl and boy learners. In addition to Teenage pregnancy; Alcohol and substance abuse were covered. **Healthy Lifestyles** activities were also conducted targeting men and women with emphasis on Cancer.

Five hundred and six (506) people were reached through door-to-door education and information sharing settings in communities.



**GENDER BASED VIOLENCE** Remains a challenge in our community. In partnership with other stakeholders such as SAPS, Provincial Community Safety, NPOs, Health promoters from clinics, Public Safety and the Department of Social Development; door to door awareness education was conducted where a total of 503 people were reached.

To prevent childhood illnesses; all children should be fully immunised. Through the **ECD Integrated Monitoring** tool immunization booklets we checked for any missed opportunities. The menu for children to was also checked to encourage healthy well-balanced diet which is critical to child milestones development and growth. Early Childhood Development Centers are also educated on how to prevent and identify communicable diseases.

On the implementation of the Multi-sector District Implementation Plan (**MDIP**) – **on HIV, TB, and STIs**; the ward-based door to door programme which covered 100 wards, reached out to a total of 750 000 people in 275 000 households. People in need of specific services were referred to available various service points. A total of 501 140 condoms were distributed.

Gauteng Health and Social Development together with WRDM Gender, Youth and Disability Desk held a Men's forum on the 22 June 2022 at Westkoppies Psychiatric Hospital. This men's forum aimed at creating a platform where men were encouraged to talk freely "**KHULUMA NDODA**" on issues affecting their livelihood.

Men were urged to adopt an early health seeking behaviour for their physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. Men were also identified as key towards reversing gender-based inequality and violence. Several other workshops were conducted to capacitate people living with disabilities.

**Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture** can forge social cohesion within communities. Various schools were supported with soccer, netball, and volleyball coaching clinics. A total of 976 learners participated.

**Life skills** as the name says, learners are practicing their daily life activities and that is where culture of dance is established and developed. This is achieved through dance moves under the following genres: Pantsula Traditional dance and Choral music.



The unit supported schools within the region with the establishment of Arts during the first quarter covering 78 learners, second-quarter 93 learners, third-quarter 173 learners, and fourth-quarter 185 learners were reached, with a total of 529 been reached out to.

A number of **Early Childhood Development Centres** were supported by providing resources in the form of books and advisory services; these helps in developing **children story-telling** and reading skills. A total of 206 learners were assisted with reading skill development.

Speaker, a number of **community activities/programmes** jointly with the Gauteng Department of Sports, Art, Culture and Recreation were supported as follows:

- Regional **O R Tambo Soncini Games** were held and proceeded to the Provincial Games where some West Rand teams managed to receive awards.
- The West Rand was once again represented at the Provincial Rugby Games that took place at Hoerskool Hans Moore on the 5&6 March 2022 in Benoni Ekurhuleni Metro City.
- Farm schools' festival was held at the Greenhills stadium on the 4 June 2022 and a lot of potentials were picked up for future participation in the inter-sub district including the regional and national sporting events.

## GENERAL MATTERS

On Labour Peace and stability / on relations with organized Labour, We have continued to maintain good relationship with organized labour and are able to hold mature conversations in our Local Labour Forum to the point of disagreeing in order to agree in most of our deliberations.



On National and Provincial Initiatives, We continue to support both National and Provincial Initiatives across the Region which spanned across the implementation of Agricultural Hubs, Housing, Mega Projects, Title Deeds Restoration, Tourism, Manufacturing and Legacy projects.

## CONGRATULATIONS

*SPEAKER LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO APPRECIATE AND ACKNOWLEDGE AS I CONGRATULATE*

- THE CLASS OF 2022 who made us proud in their performance including the District in the year end results indeed they made the West Rand proud.
- 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.

## CHALLENGES

### – Financial constraints

- Municipal cash flow position is at all times low and municipal projects, programmes and activities are almost grounded to a halt because of this dire financial resource constraints. In the worst case



scenario, we still struggle to meet our obligations with Creditors let alone salaries.

– **Human Resource constraints:**

- staff shortages across front and back-offices service delivery operation, high turnover of staff, high vacancy rate in key positions and unforeseen industrial action.

– **Supply Chain constraints:**

- instability to implement procurement plan effectively, due to municipal cash flow position. Lack or delay in the implementation of powers and functions for the district.

## WE PLEDGE AND COMMIT THAT

- As a municipality we will at all times strive and ensure that we build an inclusive economy that creates decent jobs



- It is therefore essential that we proceed without delay to implement a comprehensive plan on youth empowerment, ensuring rapid growth and be sustainable in nature.
- As such our all-time goal should to build an economy which needs to create far more jobs for youth than it currently does; merely to keep the youth unemployment rate steady.
- We fully participate in programmes towards quality education that equips children with skills for the future.
- Continue towards the improvement of our public healthcare system.
- Accelerate the building of sustainable human settlement and spatial transformation with required amenities such as schools, clinics, Police Stations and sports facilities.
- Intensify fight against corruption and promoting integrity.
- Building a reliable, safe and affordable integrated public transport system

## IN CONCLUSION

## SPEAKER LADIES AND GENTLEMEN



**We are gathered here today in moments in the life of a nation when old certainties are unsettled, and new possibilities emerge.**

In these moments, there is both the prospect of great progress and the risk of reversal.

Today, we are faced with such a moment.

The path we choose now will determine the course for future generations.

That is why we are taking steps to strengthen our democracy and reaffirm our commitment to a constitution that protects us all.

We are working together to revitalise our economy and end the inequality and injustice that impedes our progress.

THANK YOU

KE A LEBOGA

BAIE DANKIE

ENKOSI