

The 2009 'State of the City' address

26 February 2009

Executive Mayor Amos Masondo has opened the 2009 sitting of the City council with his annual State of the City address. The focus is on 'building of a caring society, Deepening democracy and making local government work for you'. Read the speech here.

Theme for 2009: "Building of a caring society, Deepening democracy and making local government work for you"

State of the City address by the Executive Mayor of
Johannesburg, Councillor Amos Masondo, Council Chamber, Metro Centre, Braamfontein –
Johannesburg

Madam Speaker – Councillor Nkele Ntingane
MECs and Members of the Provincial Legislature
Executive Mayors
Members of the Mayoral Committee
Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Leaders of all Political Parties
Chief Whip of Council: Councillor Bafana Sithole
Fellow Councillors
City Manager: Mr Mavela Dlamini
Managers and Officials of Council
Distinguished Guests
Members of the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION

Madam Speaker, it is often said that there are two things that are certain in life. Death and change.

There is a developing attitude amongst ordinary South Africans that the complex challenges

that face our City need to be managed with a sense of urgency. That such work should be carried out in a way that ensures more efficiency and effectiveness.

What we need is a forward movement. We cannot remain static. We cannot regress. Whatever the difficulties, we must advance to a future that ensures that the quality of life of people improves for the better.

Madam Speaker, most elected public representatives and the general public is aware of reports indicating that South Africa's GDP has, experienced a negative growth. This suggests that a recession is upon us. Yesterday's front page of the Business Day (25 February 2009) leads with the following headline: "*Recession stalks SA as economy shrinks 1.8%*".

Perhaps we should look at another period at another time in history: in 1929, about 80 years ago, an economic slump hit North America, Europe and other industrialised parts of the world and lasted until 1939. A full decade. The report speaks of:

- The 1929 October catastrophic collapse of the stock-market prices in the New York Stock Exchange;
- The 1933 collapse of the eleven thousand (11 000) of the United States' twenty five thousand (25 000) banks;
- The US manufacturing output that fell to 54% of its 1929 level; and
- The unemployment that rose to between 12 and 15 million workers (a total of 25 – 30% of the workforce).

Madam Speaker, the world economy is in a **worst position** than it has ever been in **several decades**. Countries **affected** include the **USA, Britain, France and many developing countries**.

This reality has dire and serious implications for all of us.

The Minister of Finance, Trevor Manuel, has said that "*South Africa is not as badly affected and we want to keep it that way*".

These words are not meant to lull us into a false sense of security and confidence.

We must brace ourselves for a tough road ahead. A slow economic growth rate means:

- Job losses. The ILO says "*more than 18 million could loose their jobs this year*";
- People will be struggling to cover their basic expenses; and
- The government will collect less taxes and therefore may not be able to meet its spending commitments.

The South African Minister of Finance, Trevor Manuel, says that in framing the budget, the government is guided by five (5) enduring principles:

- Protecting the poor;
- Sustaining employment growth and expanding trading opportunities;
- Building economic capacity and promoting investments;

- Addressing the barriers to competitiveness that limit an equitable sharing of opportunities; and
- In doing these things that we must maintain a sustainable debt level so that our actions today do not constrain our development tomorrow.

The South African government is responding, amongst others, by growing services that help poor communities, continuing to create more jobs through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), by spending over R780 billion on large infrastructure projects over the next three (3) years that include the following: Power stations, roads and railways, upgrading of water and sanitation, building more houses and other related programmes.

The City has a responsibility to reinforce these efforts and not merely rush into revising its 9% economic growth target downwards. We have a responsibility to align our programmes in a way that enhances the overall efforts of government to address the country's complex challenges.

We need to remind ourselves, especially during this period that the general challenges that face municipalities and local government remain similar worldwide:

- Urbanisation and migration;
- Growing the economy and job creation;
- Service Delivery;
- Globalisation
 - Negative effects and impacts of globalization, e.g. the present economic climate.
- Management of and resolution of ethnic and similar conflicts; and
- The Johannesburg specifics will include, though not exclusively so, grappling with HIV and AIDS, seeking to find and searching for meaningful solutions to the question of Informal Settlements and Urban Renewal.

The City's Vision Statement says:

"In future, Johannesburg will continue to lead as South Africa's primary business City, a dynamic centre of production, innovation, trade, finance and services. This will be a City of opportunity, where the benefits of balanced economic growth will be shared in a way that enables all residents to gain access to the ladder of prosperity, and where the poor, vulnerable and the excluded will be supported out of poverty to realise upward social mobility. The result will be a more equitable and spatially integrated City, very different from the divided City of the past.

In this World-Class African City for all, everyone will be able to enjoy decent accommodation, excellent services, the highest standard and safety, access to participatory governance, and quality community life in sustainable neighbourhoods and vibrant urban spaces ".

Madam Speaker, we derive our inspiration from the Freedom Charter and the Constitution of Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996. We remain committed to the creation of a nation that is united in its diversity. We are striving to attain the deepening of our democracy, the building of a non-racial and non-sexist society and the attainment of a prosperous South Africa.

Madam Speaker, the ANC has been in government for a period of fifteen (15) years. It has been fifteen (15) years of: nation building, reconciliation and democratization; advancing workers rights; pushing back the frontiers of poverty; promotion of gender equality; peace and stability; and the rebuilding our economy.

Many would agree that only those with their eyes closed and ears that cannot hear deny this unassailable truth.

- On the provision of housing – to date more than 2.7 million houses have been built from the year 1994.
- On the provision of water – many people now have access to clean drinking water and sanitation. Seventy three percent (73%) of households has access to sanitation, compared to fifty percent (50%) in 1994. The number of households with access to sanitation improved from 5 million in 1994 to 9.3 million in 2007.
- On electricity – millions of people have been connected to electricity. Seventy two percent (72%) of households have access to electricity, compared to fifty one percent (51%) in 1994. The number of households with access to electricity increased from 4.4 million in 1994/5 to 8.8 million in 2006/7.
- On the economy – the economy has grown consistently in the past 15 years. 1.8 million jobs have been created since the year 2003. The number of employed people increased from 11.1 million in 2001 to 13.2 million in 2007. The rate of economic growth has moved from 3.2 % in 1994 to 4.9% in 2004 to 5.1% in 2007.
- On democracy – we have deepened our democracy and more and more of our people have more say in the running of their affairs, e.g. Ward Committees, Clinic committees, Community Police Forums and many other similar platforms.
- On social protection and social grants – social protection and grants have become a reality. In 1996, only 3 million people had access to social grants. Today 12.5 million receive social grants. In 1996, only 34,000 children had access to social grants. Today nearly 8 million children younger than 14 years, receive social grants.

Madam Speaker, we are proud of our past. We have an understanding of our present challenges and we are confident of the future. We know that a lot has been achieved but we also remain aware that much more needs to be done.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The road ahead, given the difficult global environment, is indeed going to be a tough one. Part of our response should seek to ensure that government, business and labour work together to keep the damage to our economy at an absolute minimum.

Key economic goals for the City should include:

- Contribution towards City's sustainable growth, job creation and transformation.
- Facilitate provision of decent employment opportunities and market-led integrated skills development programme.
- Create an investment friendly environment in order to increase Foreign Direct Investments.
- Facilitate economic growth underpinned by a vibrant SMME sector.
- Defend and grow Joburg's position of being South Africa's economic hub.

Key programmes should, amongst others, include the following:

- Completion of the roll out of the Joburg Broadband Network Project.
- Provide funding to the value of R30m from the Jozi fund.
- Transfer of 14 000 properties through Land Regularization.
- Attract over R2bn into the Urban Development Zones of which 10% is BEE.
- Recognition of Prior Learning of 2000 artisans and train 1000 informal traders through the University of WITS partnership.
- 100% occupation of Soweto Empowerment Zone.
- Implement the Community Bank programme.
- Create Expanded Public Works Programme jobs and build on experiences of the past four (4) years.
- Roll out the Inner City linear and similar markets.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Some of the key challenges are:

- Institutionalizing the Expanded Social Package as a one-stop shop for social services.
- Working with other spheres of government and the private sector to scale up the Job Pathways programme to ensure decent employment and sustainable livelihood.
- Meeting the millennium development goals by 2014.

The key programmes that the department is prioritizing includes:

- The City Expanded Social Package Programme will be implemented through rolling out registration, ensuring benefits reach those registered and making referrals more effective and efficient.
- Development of the Soweto Theatre and Gauteng Craft Hub.
- Addressing the challenge of homeless people and children living and working on the street as well as Human Trafficking.
- Expanded Social Package (ESP), as next generation approach to targeting and distributing benefits and building a system that channels different levels of subsidy of city services to those with different levels of needs.
- Implementing cultural life programmes in poor neighbourhoods.
- Counter xenophobia and similar prejudices through, amongst others, the implementation of the Africa History Programme and the establishment of the Johannesburg Migration Advisory Committee and related relevant structures.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

We will continue to implement the Youth Development Strategy. We will enrich it further by practically supporting and reinforcing efforts of national service youth programme and the new National Youth Development Agency. Part of this focus will be on employment creation, skills development opportunities and building decent work opportunities for young people.

Strides have also been made to partner with various stakeholders like Umsobomvu Youth Fund to broaden the empowerment programmes through the Youth Advisory Committee soon to be set up in Orange Farm, Ivory Park and Diepsloot. Since December 2008 the

Youth Unit has embarked on broad based youth programme to address the problems of alcohol and drug abuse among young people through the KEMOJA campaigns.

A number of Women Development Forums have been set up in line with the Women Development Strategy of the city. These forums aim to mobilize and involve women in development programmes aimed at improving the quality of their lives. These forums will provide a barometer on the impact of our intervention programme aimed at economic empowerment, protection of women from abuse and advancement of their rights in communities.

2010 FIFA WORLD CUP

Madam Speaker, we are 112 days away from the 2009 FIFA Confederations Cup and 469 days away from the 2010 FIFA World Cup. As a City, we are constantly receiving favourable feedback from FIFA, the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and national government on our state of readiness.

In this regard, our key and visible achievements are as follows:

- Dobsonville, Rand and Orlando Stadiums have been handed over to FIFA and the Local Organising Committee (LOC) as training venues for both the events. We are especially proud that we officially launched the redeveloped state-of-the-art Orlando Stadium in Soweto on 23 November 2008;
- Ellis Park – the venue for the opening and closing ceremonies for the Confederations Cup is complete and work in the precinct is due for completion by April 2009;
- Soccer City – our flagship match venue for the opening and closing ceremonies for the 2010 World Cup is currently seventy five percent (75%) complete and the African calabash design is claiming its place on the Joburg skyline;
- The Soccer City precinct is fifty five percent (55%) complete that includes the promenade which links Soccer City to the International Broadcast Centre (IBC) on the NASREC site;
- Building accommodation for the media during 2010 at NASREC has been handed over to the developer and this concludes the City's commitment to hosting the IBC in Joburg; and
- The legacy projects – namely Rea Vaya BRT, Soweto Theatre, Diepkloof Hostel, greening of soccer fields, street furniture and Klipspruit River rehabilitation are currently being implemented and are on track.

The key challenges facing 2010 from the City's perspective are as follows:

- The international financial climate is leading to price escalations;
- Balancing the needs of the events with the legitimate expectations of our communities; and
- Challenge of brokering a sustainable agreement with the taxi industry in time for the Confederations Cup.

The key programmes leading to the two major events are as follows:

- The hosting of both opening and closing ceremonies for the Confederations Cup and the World Cup;

- The hosting the FIFA Congresses in 2009 and 2010;
- The hosting 4 000 journalists at the IBC;
- The hosting of Football for Hope in Alexandra; and
- Ensuring effective successful coordination and hosting of the best World Cup ever.

INNER CITY, ALEXANDRA RENEWAL PROGRAMME (ARP) AND SOWETO

The City will continue to use the lessons of previous years to reinforce efforts aimed at improving performance on present and future programmes. On the Inner City, the Inner City Charter Partnership Forum will continue to be a critical role player and collaborator. The Alex Renewal Programme remains an important part of our programme and agenda. The work in Greater Soweto and Kliptown needs to be consolidated and taken further.

HOUSING

Some of the key challenges are:

- Demand for housing exceeding supply.
- Well located land is scarce, expensive and difficult to procure.
- Addressing the phenomenon of bad buildings in the Inner City requires an increase in the delivery of housing, especially affordable rental accommodation.
- Recent court judgements are placing the City under increasing pressure to provide temporary or emergency accommodation.

One of the key programme that the department will be implementing for the remainder of the political term is **Formalisation and regularisation of informal settlements**. This will be done in partnership with the department of Development Planning and Urban Management (DPUM) and the Gauteng Department of Housing.

Madam Speaker, the Vienna declaration that came out of the World Conference on Human Rights of 1993, recognises that human settlements provide a context in which human rights are both exercised and abused.

The rapporteur on housing rights, appointed by the Commission on Human Rights stated that *"As fundamental as housing is in any society to the wellbeing of citizens, to the security and health of the population as a whole and even to the economy, very often housing rights are forgotten within the human rights domain."*

Every lecturer and every student of engineering and planning, I believe, should have a practical grasp of the question of informal settlements in our City. They should at least have been to one such settlement in the first quarter of a political term. They should consider, discuss and make a proposal on at least one envisaged pilot project. The University of Johannesburg's and the University of Witwatersrand's (WITS) foremost thinkers should grapple with this question as one of the key problems that face our city and be able through intellectual honesty to engage and ensure that a decent modern implementable solution is at hand.

So should the local government of the day.

What we need is a good practical insight that derive from a meaningful partnership that should be born out of a real tangible experience and a desire to arrive at real change characterised by such practical grasp and commitment.

The City has developed an approach that seeks to address every single informal settlement of the total of 180 such local settlements. Briefly presented, it captures the following objectives:

- To help us bring a level of security to residents within informal settlements other than the formal township establishment processes which are long and tedious.
- To help include all settlements into an appropriate regulatory environment:
 - For safety and to stimulate individual investments
 - To create an environment conducive to investment by the state
- To help us fast track the regularisation approach by providing legal recognition to occupants within informal settlements.
- To help us achieve part of the overall Millenium Development Goal of eradicating informal settlements by 2014.

What are we trying to do?

- By 2014 no settlement without legal status:
 - Residents in hazardous locations to be moved to safe locations
 - Dangerously overcrowded settlements de-densified
 - Settlements that are appropriately located should be formalized or regularised
- About 120 Settlements would remain but:
 - There would be security of legal status which would incentivise households to invest, gradually or depending on available resources rapidly improve their homes. This includes the possibility of obtaining or having access to micro-financing;
 - There would be a basic layout which would enable some de-densification, emergency services access, better refuse collection, house numbering, pegging, fencing and better containment;

Madam Speaker, I am confident that levels of servicing will improve over a reasonable period of time.

The programme has been classified into the following 5 categories:

CATEGORY	NO OF SETTLEMENTS
Upgrading Projects (COJ Housing)	65
Relocation Projects (COJ Housing)	16
Regularisation Projects (DPUM)	23

Programme linked settlements (COJ Housing)	28
Settlements NOT linked to programmes of Projects (DPUM)	48
TOTAL	*180

Category progress: Upgrading projects – 65 settlements

These includes settlements where in situ formalisation and upgrading is undertaken. Objective is to resolve all outstanding planning issues leading to opening of Township Registers; provision of clearances from MOE's re services, issuing of title deeds to beneficiaries. Examples are Finetown, Kanana Park Ext 1 & 2, Goniwe etc

Category progress: Relocation projects – 16 Settlements

These includes settlements that will be catered for in projects at another location, need therefore to relocate. Examples are Zevenfontein, Riverbend etc

The City is in the process of relocating the 16 settlements to the following greenfields housing developments:

- Lehae: Thembalihle, Dlamini, Mshenguville and Eikenhof
- Pennyville: Zamimpilo, Orlando East, Noordgesig and Riverlea
- Cosmo City: Zevenfontein and Riverbend
- Lufhereng : Protea South
- Kliptown: Fred Clark and Chris Hani.

Category progress: Regularisation projects – 23 Settlements

These includes settlements that will remain where they are but they will be legalised by virtue of resolving land ownership and land use issues. Basic layout plans will be developed for each settlement with the objective to de-densify where possible, to ensure access to basic services such as water and sanitation, but also refuse collection and emergency services in order to improve the safety and health of the settlement. Examples are Diepsloot West Reception, Motsoaledi, Happy Valley, etc

Category progress: Programme linked -28 Settlements

These includes settlements that are not linked to specific projects but has been linked to programmes that will formalise housing for the beneficiaries over the long term. Typical examples are:

- Lion Park: Thabo Mbeki and Malatjie
- Cosmo II: Itsoseng, War veterans and some of the smaller settlements in the vicinity.

Category progress: programme not linked - 48 Settlements

These includes settlements that are not linked to any programme or projects as yet.

Examples are New Canada, Kapok, Denver, etc

Housing Development

- Delivery of 100 000 housing units by 2011:
 - As a key area of focus the City is mobilising its resources as well as engaging with other stakeholders to ensure that the delivery of 100 000 housing units in this mayoral term is achieved. 50 000 of these units will be developed in mixed income housing projects.
 - The Pennyville project, near New Canada Station showcases some of the components that should be delivered as part of the mixed income housing programme and has set a standard to which all new housing in the City must strive to reach. This includes reflecting a choice of tenure, typologies, affordability as well as the relevant social and educational facilities.
 - Rejuvenation of the Inner City and older centres - The Inner City remains an area of priority for the City. Increased housing delivery for all levels of the housing ladder is required to cater for the demand.
 - The City seeks to ensure that the poor are catered for in the supply market. To date the City has been working with the Province, Social Housing Institutions, private developers, and other stakeholders to increase the scale of delivery as well as deepen the reach of affordability.
 - A key intervention is to develop temporary accommodation. The purpose of this accommodation is to provide interim shelter for households that are living in unsafe buildings.
 - Hostel redevelopment - in the City of Johannesburg there are 16 staff hostels and 10 public hostels. Development on the following staff hostels are currently being implemented or planned by the City through Joshco: City Deep, Van Beek, Selby, Anthea and Klipspruit hostels.
 - Addressing the Housing gap - the City is facilitating the delivery of housing projects by the private sector so as to ensure that gap market products are available. In this regard the City has determined that the product mix in mixed income housing should include approximately 25% gap housing.

CORPORATE AND SHARED SERVICES

Some of the key challenges include:

- We continue to strive towards meeting the Employment Equity ratios.
- The need to ensure Gender mainstreaming remains critical.
- Labour Relations Training programme:
 - The City has long identified the need to train and empower all 400 senior management in Labour Relations. This programme is ongoing.
 - The City accepts that in any workplace situation contradictions between management and labour are inevitable. It is important, however, to appreciate that the goal of ensuring sound labour relations is something that each party has or should have an interest in pursuing. Both parties should respect each other and realise that they are interdependent.
 - We have a responsibility to ensure effective communication and negotiations as well as to build interpersonal relations between employees and management. This is particularly important because the municipal managers

have a responsibility to make a positive contribution on labour relations and thereby ensure that employees are happy and that this translates in them becoming more productive. We should always strive to create a climate in which human resources are optimally utilised.

- We accept that every worker has a right to form and join a union and participate in its activities and programmes.
- We are opposed to any form of anarchy. Any action that endangers the life, personal safety or health of the whole or any part of the population, the local legislature or the work of the police will not find and enjoy our support.
- We will distance ourselves from any activities that seeks to bedevil good relations at the workplace.
- We will do everything in our power, where feasible, to support and empower unions and employees.

Programmes to be implemented:

- Skills Development Programme including Mentoring, Internships and Learnerships.
- Implementation of Staff retention & Succession Planning Programmes.
- Introduction of a change management programme based on the results of the organisational climate survey.
- Establishing five (5) more public conveniences in the Inner City.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Some of the key Challenges include:

- Increased demand for Basic Services due to population growth and migration.
- Need for Infrastructure refurbishment and capacity
- Limited Electricity and Water resources
 - Although, the City has a mandate to deliver services to all its citizens, it also has a responsibility to manage wasteful consumption of these resources. The consistent outages and load shedding experienced in the past year has had an impact on how the sector and the stakeholders looks at energy. The ongoing search for appropriate strategies ranging from our national needs to global warming are more than just topical questions.
 - Water - The fact that South Africa is a water scarce country, and the need to take extra ordinary measures to conserve water is dawning and becoming apparent to many.

Key programmes include the following:

- **Basic Services Programme**

The City will continue to deliver free basic services to the poor and indigent communities. This will range from 10 kilo litre of water to 100 kilo watts hour of electricity as well as the related relevant rebate on sanitation. The programme is aimed at reducing the service delivery backlogs and will be deepened and intensified as we implement the formalization and regularisation of the informal settlements programme.

- **Infrastructure upgrade and maintenance programme**

The programme expenditure will be mainly on infrastructure investments and maintenance. Where infrastructure is in place we will put emphasis on maintenance. Where none exist we will seek to invest and extend such infrastructure to these areas.

- **Demand Side Management programme**

During the 2008/09 financial year the department piloted several DSM initiatives in certain areas of the City. The projects are aimed at reducing water and electricity consumption levels and for the financial year 2009/10 these will be rolled out with the aim of realising programme objectives.

REVENUE

The last two financial years have seen the City of Johannesburg revenue collection soaring to R 7.47 billion. This collection was achieved in spite of the difficult economic and financial climate.

Some of the key challenges and responses include:

- **Implementation of the Municipal Rates Policy**

This policy was implemented in July 2008. The objections raised, given the complexity of this matter, remain minimal. Some of these, are being addressed in an ongoing way, they include problems related to sectional titles and addresses. We are confident that many of these will be amicably resolved.

- **Technology of Joburg Connect**

The technology of the call centre needs upgrading. The Mayoral Committee has taken a decision to upgrade what is in place and install a new technology that will adequately address the needs of the citizens and service delivery. The new telephony will assist with query differentiation, proper management and production of queries matched with feedback channels to customers.

- **Implementation of Programme Phakama**

With the implementation of Programme Phakama the City will have a single view of customers in an integrated IT system resulting in the speedy resolution of queries. The programme is currently engaged in the cleansing of the City's data which would enable the billing system to be accurate resulting in an increase in the revenue collected in both current and arrear debt.

TRANSPORT

Some of the key challenges include:

- Traffic congestion and increased private car use;
- Providing accessible, affordable and safe public transport

- Aging road infrastructure and aging public transport vehicles (buses and taxis)
- Delivering a successful 2010 transport experience
- To ensure a total buy in of Rea Vaya by the taxi industry in Johannesburg.

Key programmes to be implemented include the following:

- **Rea Vaya Bus Rapid Transit**

This is a new exciting public transport system that will comprise dedicated bus lanes and median stations. Rea Vaya which means "we are moving" will revolutionise public transport in Johannesburg with features like exclusive right of way lanes in the middle of the road, rapid boarding and alighting, CCTV cameras, pre-boarding fare collection, safe and comfortable enclosed stations, clear route maps, signage and information.

Phase 1A which includes the route from Regina Mundi to Ellis Park and includes a circular inner city route will start operating from 1 June 2009 and a second Phase 1B which includes a route to Sandton will start operating in time for 2010.

- **Well organized public transport operations for 2010 World Cup**

The City has been part of the transport upgrading of the Ellis Park and Nasrec precinct plans to ensure that all spectators have a safe transport experience. The transport upgrading which includes station and pedestrian route upgrading will also leave an important legacy.

In addition, the we are working on a 2010 transport operational plan building on the existing Park and Ride strategy for big events. This operational plan will ensure that there is limited congestion during the 2010 Soccer World Cup and visitors can move easily to matches, to recreational and hospitality venues and between cities.

This plan will integrate operations of BRT, Gautrain and Metrorail and provide additional services if required.

- **Improved transformation and integration of public transport operations in the city**

In addition to the implementation of BRT there is an ongoing imperative to improve all public transport operations. This includes modernization of Metrobus, formalization and improvement of taxi ranks around the city and supporting the taxi industry to convert their licenses and improve their services. Taxi ranks that are scheduled for improvement in this and the next financial year include Midrand, Cosmo City, Jack Mincer and Kazerne.

- **Ongoing maintenance and upgrading of road infrastructure including roads, storm water management, traffic safety measures and tariff signaling**

The JRA is involved in the ongoing maintenance of road infrastructure. Due to aging infrastructure, resources to repair and replace infrastructure must be carefully balanced. A storm water master plan has been completed as well as an assessment of our road infrastructure to assist us to plan and implement in a prioritized way.

After a community based planning and consultation process, each ward has identified

priority interventions to improve road and traffic safety. These measures include traffic calming, pedestrian signs, improved road markings etc will be implemented in this and the next financial year. The safety of our citizens, remains paramount.

We also continues to implement a gravel road programme building on the success of the Soweto Gravel Roads Programme in the previous term of office. Focus in this and the next financial year include *Ivory Park, Diepsloot and Orange Farm*.

- **Transport values**

The City initiated programme of transport values will continue in the next financial year. The transport values of Ubuntu, Honesty, Respect, Co-operation and Accountability will be promoted amongst all transport stakeholders.

ENVIRONMENT

Some of the key challenges and programmes include:

- Rehabilitation of wetlands and impoundments within the City to reinstate them to their ecological use: Bruma Lake, Lakeside and Orange Farm impoundments.
- Continued improvements of water quality at the hotspot areas (Alex/Wynberg, Bruma Lake, Bosmont, Princess Dump).
- Demand Management initiatives – aggressive education and awareness and regulation to reduce demand on energy, waste and water resources

The key programmes includes:

- Tree planting.
- Continued development on the Klipriver and Klipspruit corridor.
- Implementation of DSM interventions.
- Rehabilitation of Lakeside wetland area.
- Continuation of waste licensing.

HEALTH

Some of the challenges include:

- The Occupational Specific Dispensation (OSD) of the Public Service has negatively affected the department's attempts to recruit resulting in high staff turnover.
- Shortage of pest control staff.
- Increased risk of emerging and re-emerging disease outbreaks e.g. Cholera, Multi-drug resistant TB, Hemorrhagic Fevers, Meningitis etc
- Migration makes it difficult to maintain high immunization coverage of children and high cure rates of TB clients.
- HIV and AIDS.

The key programmes include:

- The New Protea Glen clinic will be completed by June 2009

- Increase in the number of the City's fixed clinics that provide comprehensive antenatal care.
- Programmes and projects aimed at capacitating community members to deal with the impact of HIV and AIDS – Jozi Ihlomile will be implemented.
- Increase access to comprehensive and integrated HIV and AIDS care, management and treatment services including Antiretro Viral treatment for the workplace and the community
- Maintain and sustain existing partnerships with different stakeholders and NGO's assisting with funding and implementation of HIV and AIDS programmes.
- Comprehensive and Integrated Health Promotion Programme - Healthy lifestyles (Chronic Diseases of Lifestyle)
- Children and Youth Health Programme
 - Expanded programme on immunization
 - Growth Monitoring and Promotions Programme
- Women's Health Programme
 - Antenatal care services including Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission programme
 - Cervical & Breast Cancer screening programme

MUNICIPAL INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME

In doing this work we are guided by the following broad principles:

- To support the attainment of strategic priorities.
- To promote economic and other related development through trade, investment and tourism.
- To enhance social development, poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability.
- To foster global understanding, solidarity, co-operation and social and cultural linkages.
- To share knowledge and expertise in local governance generally or in specific functional areas.
- To align the work that we do to the policies of the country.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Some of the key challenges include:

- The Xenophobic attacks experienced by the city remain vivid to the minds of many and has led to questions being raised about general disasters management co-ordination.
- The attaining of the goal to train 4,000 officers by 2010.
- Response times to incidents.
- Satisfactory security preparation for the FIFA Confederations Cup and 2010 World Cup.
- The Karabo Gwala Safety campaign will also be imperative to strengthening community awareness particularly around emergency number and call prioritization.

Some of the key programmes include:-

- By law enforcement, traffic management and crime prevention.

- Ongoing recruitment and training of metro police officers.
- Roll out of CCTV cameras throughout the Inner City.
- Partnership with the private sector on traffic management.
- A programme that ensures visibility.
- Partnership with the South African Police Service
- Disaster management simulation and preparation for 2010 and bigger events.

CONCLUSION

Madam Speaker, our commitments regarding the future are clear and achievable. The five (5) priority areas are:-

- Creation of decent work and sustainable livelihoods;
- Education;
- Health;
- Rural development, Food Security and land reform; and
- The fight against crime and corruption.

Together we can achieve more.

Government is about well being of citizens and residents. In our country we need to further deepen and enrich our engagement and interaction with people to ensure meaningful accountability and quality delivery of services.

Umasibambisene singenza lukhulu!

Thank you