



Tshwane Mayor, Solly Msimanga. Photo: Ron Sibiya

Mayor’s Christmas message

‘Let us extend our hand to the vulnerable and those less fortunate than we are. Let us also use this period to rest, rejuvenate and spend quality time with family and friends.’

Liam Ngobeni

Residents can welcome Christmas this year, knowing that Tshwane is a better place to work and live in.

This was according to Tshwane mayor Solly Msimanga in his annual Christmas message to residents this week.

He thanked residents for their patience, while his team “worked to bring changes to the capital city”.

Msimanga’s message highlighted his administration’s successes.

These included anything from the appointment of a new police chief and a R50 000 donation for the development of women’s cricket to the metro getting a clean audit.

Also mentioned was a move to write off R754 million in debt incurred by poor residents of Tshwane’s so-called ‘Mawiga zone’ – Mabopane, Winterveldt and Ga-Rankuwa.

It was believed this move would address the plight of poor residents and stabilise the metro’s finances.

The launch of an inner city rejuvenation project and to improve, among other things, the cleanliness and viability of the city, also made his speech.

Other highlights included:

City of Tshwane partnering with SAB and AB InBev to increase its water capacity and save the metro R33 million.

The creation of over 6 000 EPWP public works job opportunities to help alleviate poverty.

The metro’s participation in the global

‘A Place To Call Home’ campaign to end homelessness by 2030.

A clean bill of health to Tshwane clinics by the Office of Health Standards Compliance (OHSC), an independent healthcare sector regulator, in their annual inspection report.

The unveiling of 103 vehicles intended for the anti-cable theft unit to help fight “this scourge subjecting Tshwane residents to rolling power outages”.

Re-opening of Church Square after an infrastructure project aimed at rejuvenating this historic area.

Repairs to the sinkhole in Jean Avenue in Centurion.

The Cosup community-oriented substance use programme, which “seeks to engage with drug users ideally before their use of drugs becomes a serious problem”.

This new programme was implemented by the metro in partnership with the University of Pretoria.

The Tswelopele clean-up campaign, focusing on encouraging volunteerism in the city when it comes to protecting our natural environment.

“The intention is that on the first Saturday of each month we will be having Tswelopele clean-up campaigns in different locations in the city,” said Msimanga.

“For that we will rely heavily on our residents and local businesses to champion clean-up efforts in their areas. We cannot do it without their support.”

Successfully hosting the 2018 World

Choir Games, the world’s largest international choir competition.

Msimanga said it was important to remember those without any proper shelter or enough food as we celebrate Christmas.

“Let us all work together to overcome these challenges,” he said.

“I urge every citizen who has the means, to open their homes to an orphan or homeless man or woman in an effort to end

their festive season loneliness.”

“Let us extend our hand to the vulnerable and those less fortunate than we are.

“Let us also use this period to rest, rejuvenate and spend quality time with family and friends.

“To all those who will be travelling during the festive season, I would like to remind you that road safety is the responsibility of us all.”

