Well, it is hard to believe that it is already time to say Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. What a year we have had in the City of Tlokwe. Of course, this past year has been a year of mixed blessings, many accomplishments and also some shortcomings.

Most of our accomplishments have been nationally acclaimed and recognize through a number of awards I will not repeat here. Equally some of the municipal’s shortcomings are best known by each individual resident in relation to our mandate to create infrastructure and deliver services. We have acknowledged these and committed ourselves to work tirelessly until all these are addressed.

However, for now I wish that we can all join the nation and the world for a brief retirement, having one spirit of goodwill fraternal relations in and amongst us all. But in celebrating this season with family and friends, let us also use the time to reflect and count our own individual and personal blessings.

The celebration of Christmas in our land is when all South Africans, regardless of their religious or cultural background, can reflect on how fortunate we are to live in a country that has fought for and enjoys democracy, freedom of rights and freedom of association.

The festive season is a time for people to get together with family and friends and a time to care and think about others, especially those who are less fortunate and who find the festive season more painful than cheerful. We must think about the needs of the child headed families, the lonely and the neglected elderly who at times feel deserted and very alone, especially those with no family ties at all.
To those who are traveling away to visit family and friends, may you have a safe and enjoyable journey, and to visitors to our city who have come to spend quality time with family and friends, I sincerely welcome you in the area and hope you have an enjoyable festive season.

On behalf of the Councilors and Council personnel, we wish you a Christmas that gives contentment, happiness and love, and we wish one and all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year!