

## CHAPTER 2

### HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CENTURION

#### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

The objective of this chapter is to provide background information to serve as frame of reference of the area of research viz the Centurion Metropolitan Local Council and the Greater Pretoria Metropolitan Council. A specific research area is identified in order to determine the *status quo* and to understand the problem to be addressed. This is required to create a specific model for the development of institutional capacity creation and the empowerment of designated local government employees.

Attention will be given to the origin of Centurion and the establishment of the Centurion Metropolitan Local Council. Its extended area of jurisdiction, established by proclamation, will be described and explained. An explanation of the population growth experienced in the area and the correlation with the creation of employment opportunities will also be provided. Attention will be given to the establishment of the Greater Pretoria Metropolitan Area. It will include a description of the different statutory prescribed transformational phases. These descriptions provide the environment within which the personnel of the Centurion Metropolitan Local Council have to be empowered, appointed and promoted according to the *Skills Development Act, 1998* (Act No. 97 of 1998) and the *Employment Equity Act, 1998* (Act No. 75 of 1998).

## 2.2 CENTURION METROPOLITAN LOCAL COUNCIL

### 2.2.1 ORIGIN OF CENTURION

The origin of Centurion can be ascribed to the important transport routes. The founding of the first small town, Irene, (1902) was partly due to the construction of the main railway line between Pretoria and the Witwatersrand. The establishment of Kloofsig (1906) and Lyttelton Manor (1908) can be ascribed to this important transport connection. The founding of Clubview (1941) is due to it serving as an important station on the old mail-coach route where horses were changed. It is this strategic location and the approachability of the area via connecting routes which, *inter alia*, makes Centurion prominent (Centurion Metropolitan Local Council, 1999(a): 7).

### 2.2.2 HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

A Health Committee for Outer City Areas was established in 1944. The former Verwoerdburg was part of this Health Committee's jurisdiction. Before this the interests of the residents were dealt with by a local Vigilance Committee. A member of this Committee was nominated from the Pretoria South Local Area Committee. After a petition was compiled in order to establish a local health committee, the Lyttelton Health Committee was established in 1950. In 1955 the town's status was upgraded to that of a town council and in 1960 to a city council. During this period the town Lyttelton covered seven hundred and fifty hectares (Centurion Metropolitan Local Council, 1999(a):6).

### 2.2.3 EXPANSION OF THE AREA

In 1964 the surface area increased substantively when the area of the town was increased to 6 000 hectares. The town borders increased again during 1973 to 20 000 hectares. Further expansions of the area are listed in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Increase of Jurisdiction Area of Verwoerdburg/Centurion after 1973**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total area of jurisdiction</i>	<i>Legislation</i>
<b>1993</b>	33 090 hectares	<i>Local Government Transitional Act, 1993 (Act No. 209 of 1993)</i>
<b>1995</b>	35 500 hectares	<i>Premier Proclamation No. 43, 1995</i>

(Source: Chalmers, 1996.)

### 2.2.4 CONTEMPORARY DEVELOPMENT

Centurion developed differently from other towns in the country. Centurion developed as a dormitory suburb that used to house employees of neighbouring areas to a town in own right, with a distinctive character which delivered services to the Greater Pretoria Metropolitan Area. This hand-over-hand growth was not limited to housing or employment opportunities. It developed spontaneously, without the discovery of minerals, without a capital

city function, and major state initiatives, into a town of commercial importance within only 30 years. The unprecedented growth places tremendous pressure on Centurion's city council departments to stay in pace with the accelerated tempo of growth. (Chalmers, 1999). At the current

population growth rate a population of 128 000 is expected by the year 2001

Special focus was placed on the supply of shops, schools, sport and recreational facilities and other essential community services. The service that Centurion renders to the Greater Pretoria Metropolitan Area can be linked directly to the future economical development (Centurion Metropolitan Local Council, 1999(a): 1). The favourable location of Centurion, with national routes, through roads and airports within its area of jurisdiction or within short travelling distance should strengthen its role in the Greater Pretoria Metropolitan Area.

above are more than transport axes. It is also some of the

most important development axes in the country. The Pretoria-Johannesburg

important development corridor in Africa

(Centurion Metropolitan Local Council, 1999(a): 14). Approximately sixty

The sustainment of services to cope with the sharp population growth of

Centurion and the provision of a substantive amount of employment

opportunities provide an indicator of the unique development and progress in

the area. There is a direct positive correlation between the population growth

and the development of employment opportunities in Centurion (Centurion

Metropolitan Local Council, 1999: 10 and 43).

UNION METROPOLITAN

LOCAL COUNCIL

In 1970 approximately 18 230 people resided in the former Verwoerdburg. In

the 10 years following this, the population nearly doubled to approximately

47 700. At that stage 10-15% of the economically active residents of the

former Verwoerdburg worked in its area of jurisdiction. A continuous

increase in the population was experienced and during 1986 the former

Verwoerdburg had approximately 59 000 residents (an increase of 10 000 residents in six years). The current population is approximately 108 000 residents including areas under its jurisdiction during 1995 (i.e. Laudium, Claudius, Christoburg and Erasmia) (Chalmers, 1999). At the current population growth rate a population of 128 000 is expected by the year 2001 (Centurion Metropolitan Local Council, 1999(a): 10).

## 2.2.6 AREA CONTEXT AND FUNCTION

From the above it is evident that the unique role of Centurion within the metropolis is firstly due to its historical location, secondly its important transport and development axes in the area and thirdly the growth of the town. The axes described above are more than transport axes. It is also some of the most important development axes in the country. The Pretoria-Johannesburg development corridor is the most important development corridor in Africa (Centurion Metropolitan Local Council, 1999(a): 14). Approximately sixty four million vehicles move annually through the area on four important through routes. This factor necessarily requires Centurion to be able to provide particular services. This in return requires officials to render such services.

## 2.2.7 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTURION METROPOLITAN LOCAL COUNCIL

The Centurion Metropolitan Local Council was established and the new area of jurisdiction was determined according to the *Premier Proclamation No. 38, 1994* read in conjunction with *Premier Proclamation No. 43, 1995*. Powers and functions of local authorities are described in Schedule 2 of

the *Local Government Transition Act, 1993* (Act No. 209 of 1993). Principles and approaches for public administration in local government institutions such as Centurion Metropolitan Council are contained in the *White Paper on Local Government, 1998*. The Centurion Metropolitan Council developed within the constitutional, other statutory and metropolitan frameworks. These matters will be dealt with under appropriate headings in the relevant topics.

## 2.2.8 CENTURION

The Centurion Metropolitan Local Council had the name Town Council Verwoerdburg which was used since 1964 (Centurion Metropolitan Local Council, 1994(a) : 9). On December 8, 1994 according to *Premier Proclamation No. 38, 1994*, the Southern Pretoria Metropolitan Substructure as part of the Greater Pretoria Metropolitan Council was proclaimed (Centurion Metropolitan Local Council, 1995: 1). The name Centurion was introduced after an inclusive community election was held. This was proclaimed in accordance with the *Premier Proclamation No. 43, 1995* (Centurion Metropolitan Local Council, 1995: 1).

## 2.2.9 AIM, VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

### (i) Aim

The aim of the Centurion Metropolitan Local Council is: *Community development through the rendering of services and goods*

to the citizens of Centurion (Centurion Metropolitan Local Council, 1995: 5).

## (ii) Vision

The vision of the Centurion Metropolitan Local Council is:

*A transparent local authority who adequately consults with its community and who, through the availability of affordable services and infrastructure creates an environment where members of the community can live, work and relax in safety and harmony (Centurion Metropolitan Local Council, 1995: 6).*

## (iii) Mission

The realisation of the vision is established through the following mission:

*The optimal and responsible handling of community needs and problems by means of meaningful community participation, purposeful development and utilisation of all human and physical resources and socio-economic upliftment of the entire community (Centurion Metropolitan Local Council, 1995 : 6).*

After analysing the above corporate statements, it becomes clear that the Centurion Metropolitan Local Council is required to face the challenges of a new constitutional dispensation. This overarching positioning of the Council should be instrumental in the development of strategies and action plans

specifically designed to meet the standards of and to achieve the reconstruction and development objectives.

## 2.3 GREATER PRETORIA METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

### 2.3.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Local Government has undergone major legislative and structural transformation since 1994. A cryptic description of the pre-interim phase is provided to explain the historical base of the present structures.

#### (i) Pre-interim phase

The Greater Pretoria Metropolitan Negotiating Forum introduced the pre-interim phase (1994-1995) applicable to the area under discussion. The Forum reached an agreement regarding the identification and definition of powers, duties and functions of the Greater Pretoria Metropolitan Council. The area of jurisdiction of the Greater Pretoria Metropolitan Council was promulgated by *Premier Proclamation No 38, 1994* (Greater Pretoria Metropolitan Council, 2000: 4.)

#### (ii) Interim phase

The interim phase commenced on November 1, 1995 when the communities in the Greater Pretoria Metropolitan Area elected their political representatives on the following metropolitan government structures:

- Greater Pretoria Metropolitan Council;



- City Council of Pretoria;
- Centurion Metropolitan Local Council; and
- Northern Pretoria Metropolitan Substructure.

• Amandebele;

Local Government is approaching the final stages of the interim transitional phase which will end with local government elections on December 5, 2000. (Greater Pretoria Metropolitan Council, 2000: 6). The area of jurisdiction is to be extended further due to the demarcation process provided for in the *Local Government Demarcation Act, 1998* (Act No. 27 of 1998). Thus the geographical features of the different local government bodies will only be determined once the final stage in the transformation of local government has been completed.

## 2.4 CONCLUSION

### 2.3.2 EXTENDED AREA

This chapter dealt with the background of the research area and provides a  
As a result of the demarcation by the Demarcation Board in terms of Section 21 of the *Local Government Demarcation Act, 1998* (Act No. 27 of 1998) read in conjunction with Section 6(a) of the *Constitution, 1996*, the following areas are included into the newly demarcated Greater Pretoria Metropolitan Area (Annexure A):

- Ga-Rankuwa;
- Mabopane;
- Hammanskraal;
- Pienaar's River;
- Crocodile River;
- Temba;

- New Eersterust;
- Stinkwater;
- Majaneng;
- Amandebele;
- Lebelo; and
- Marokolong.

To move from the interim transitional phase into the final transitional phase, requires the current structures to change into a structure that is focused on governance and has open participatory systems that will meet institutional and community needs of institutional, economic and social upliftment.

## 2.4 CONCLUSION

This chapter dealt with the background of the research area and provides a frame of reference regarding the physical environment. The establishment of the respective councils that will be included in the research was described. As stated in chapter 1, specific reference was made to the Centurion Metropolitan Local Council. This provided an indication of the geographical area that has to be served by officials appointed in the organisational structure to provide services to the residents, businesses and individuals requiring resources.

The chapter serves to identify the physical, financial and social environment within which local government officials operate. With this in mind the next chapter deals with the external environment affecting the operations of local government officials in the Greater Pretoria Metropolitan Area.