



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

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SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG EXECUTIVE MAYOR, CLLR. MPHO PARKS TAU UPON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GEF INVESTMENT INTO THE CORRIDORS OF FREEDOM ON TUESDAY, 09 FEBRUARY 2016 AT THE METROPOLITAN CENTRE, BRAAMFONTEIN ON TUESDAY, 09 FEBRUARY 2016

Members of the media

Good day

Thank you for joining us here today for this special occasion. Some of you may already know about the City of Johannesburg's *Corridors of Freedom, which takes centre stage today.*

This is a programme aimed at realising the agreed upon National Government programme to build a non-racial, non-sexist socially and economically cohesive South Africa - using Transit Orientated Development (TOD) and corridor development to transform space and the citizen's relationship with it.

The Corridors of Freedom are an antithesis to the apartheid spatial form, which are set to birth a fundamentally different society to the one a democratic South Africa inherited in 1994.



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The City of Johannesburg has through the Joburg Growth and Development Strategy 2040 (GDS2040) committed to *provide a resilient, liveable, sustainable urban environment – underpinned by infrastructure that is supportive of a low-carbon economy. This is exactly what the Corridors of Freedom seeks to achieve.*

The expanding Rea Vaya Bus Rapid Transit system, our award-winning Fleurhof development in the south west of Johannesburg, and the launch of a new green fleet of Metrobuses are just some of the programme's flagship examples.

To further advance the impact of the Corridors of Freedom within the framework that Johannesburg is committed to, which brings me to the gist of today's special occasion, the City has entered into a partnership with the GEF, which has pledged more than R120-million to the programme.

The global agency is a financial mechanism for both the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Its investment is a partnership and a vote of confidence in the Corridors of Freedom that is set to contribute towards greenhouse gas emission reductions in Johannesburg through an integrated urban planning approach using several pilot projects.

These pilot projects include ensuring sustainability, integration, and accessibility in the development and implementation of the City's physical plans, among others.



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The partnership projects will also see to the improvement of urban food security in the City by increasing the efficiency of food flows and improve peri-urban agriculture techniques.

The Johannesburg and GEF partnership will also result in a pilot process being launched in the City whereby aggregated data on resource efficiency will be used to make informed decisions on the metropolitan municipality's infrastructure investments. This will also see lessons learned taken to other municipalities across South Africa.

The GEF investment partnership comes as the Corridors of Freedom, which is a programme designed to reverse apartheid spatial injustices to create equal and sustainable access to opportunities for all the people of Johannesburg, begins to take shape.

Considering the current global economic markets' status, the City of Johannesburg welcomes the GEF's demonstrated faith in us as a City making progress through our developmental local government approach to governing.

Thank you.