



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

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100 Days of Progress in Joburg

1 December 2016

*Note to Editors: This is an extract of the speech delivered by Executive Mayor, **Herman Mashaba** to mark his first 100 days in office.*

On the 3rd of August 2016, the voters of Johannesburg unseated one government and elected another.

This is a great achievement in our young democracy.

For the first time in the democratic history of Johannesburg, there has been a transfer of power. Never again will the residents of this City be subjected to abuse by their government.

Our residents have elected a government with many different political parties. This will bring a diversity of solutions to our many problems, I welcome this.

A lot of people focus on the so called instability of a coalition government. I think they are missing the most important point about this coalition.

The fact that our government is required to engage and collaborate with different parties to find solutions to our many challenges is proving to make our government stronger. This is what the voters wanted.

At the very heart of our new administration, the DNA of our approach going forward is the demand for change.

This voice has grown from a quiet whisper of a few, to the loud shout of the many in our City after years of arrogant indifference exhibited by previous administrations.

Behind these shouts are people who believe in the potential of a City that could be great, but they want a government who can lead this City to greatness.

They want a government that will lead the way and will deliver the change that stimulates job creation, fast-tracks service delivery and stops corruption.

Since I have come into office on the 23rd of August 2016, 100 days ago, I have come to learn that the City is not what I thought it was during my election campaign.

It is far, far worse than I had thought.

I am in the unfortunate position of inheriting a Budget and an Integrated Development Plan that was passed by the previous administration, just two months before voters demanded change.

As a result, our administration has to operate off a Budget and IDP that represents the kind of 'business as usual' that voters rejected in the elections.

We have to operate with this Budget and IDP for the remaining ten months of the financial year.

As a new administration, we cannot make amendments to the budget until the end of February 2017 when the Auditor General permits adjustments to our budget, providing they are not substantial.

We have inherited an Integrated Development Plan where hundreds of millions of Rand are committed to vanity projects.

What they did not tell you on those radio adverts and billboards, is that long-term neglect has produced a 10 year, R170 billion funding gap on capital infrastructure.

The City of Johannesburg:

- Stands at 42% of the debt to revenue ratio that National Treasury limits to 45% as a debt ceiling;
- Has 881 000 unemployed people – with an unemployment rate over 30%;
- Under the previous administration, 190 000 people joined the ranks of the unemployed;
- Has a stagnant economy, with growth of around 2%;
- Has a housing backlog of over 300 000 and an average delivery of only 3500 housing units being constructed per year; and
- Is home to over 180 informal settlements, with more than half of these with no basic services at all.

Since taking office, we have been inundated daily with cases of corruption, nepotism and fraud.

It has gotten to the point where we could not investigate as quickly as the cases were rolling in.

Another trend that has disturbed me, is the extent to which the City has institutionalised denialism.

I sit in meetings where the official performance reports of the City read that the City has become a safer place for our residents.

I have to ask these people if they live in the same City that I live in. Because no resident would agree with such a pronouncement.

Previous administrations have allowed our Inner City to be taken over by criminal elements, drug dealers and slum lords.

We have over 115 000 people illegally occupying buildings in our Inner City, most of who are living in the most appalling conditions.

The previous administration, whose budget we have inherited, were obsessed with the City's international image.

This City spent hundreds of millions of Rand promoting an artificial image of the City that not even their strongest supporters actually believed.

R153 million spent in two years on self-promoting advertising, R193 million spent in three years on travel.

These are the symptoms of an administration that was out of touch with the needs of its own people.

It would merrily spend R340 million on a new state of the art council chamber when it could not electrify informal settlements, issue title deeds, or lift a finger to combat the rampant drug trade in our City.

Our residents need the support of their government. A government that delivers services, fights corruption, creates jobs and is trustworthy.

I am pleased to stand before you today to tell you that this new administration will be that government for the people of Johannesburg.

When I took office, I met with the senior administration and the political leadership of the City and we devised what today is known as the Ten Point Plan:

1. Every employee of this City must adjust their mindset to the environment of a new coalition government – and I am pleased to see the progress we are making in developing this understanding;
2. The City must run a responsive and pro-poor government. When we determine our budget of the 2017/2018 financial year, we will focus on the most deprived in our City;
3. We aim to grow the City's economy by a minimum of 5%. This is essential if we are going to turn around the high unemployment rate in our City;
4. As part of creating a professional civil service, I have announced a "Service with Pride" campaign within the City. I have also initiated a skills-audit to ensure every manager in the City is in their position because of what they know and not who they know;
5. Corruption has been declared public enemy number one and I have already appointed former Head of the Gauteng Hawks, Mr Shadrack Sibiyi to head our new internal investigations unit;
6. A list must be produced of all semi-completed housing units within the City that require work in order for our people to take occupation of these units. This list has been completed and we will seek funding to urgently complete over 3000 units to house our people;
7. Producing an official housing list, open and transparent, available to residents in government offices and on the City's website. I am pleased to announce for the first time in the history of Johannesburg, a housing list have been completed. I am in possession of a housing list which bares the details of 79 000 people who have registered for housing dating back to 1996;
8. Title deed delivery to the beneficiaries of the City's housing projects must be fast-tracked. In 2013/14 not a single title deed was handed out in Joburg. Within a week of our new administration we had 2000 title deeds ready for processing;

9. Initiating a pilot project for a clinic to operate for extended hours. On the 31st of October 2016, together with the MMC for Health and Social Development, I launched this pilot project at the Princess Clinic in Roodepoort. Today I am pleased to tell you that this clinic now operates from 7am to 10pm Monday to Friday, and is open Saturdays from 7 am – 1:30 pm. Previously it was only open from 8am to 4pm, Monday to Friday. Preliminary reports indicated that this project is working;

10. Revitalising the Inner City. By world standards the infrastructure of our Inner City is young and it has the potential to become a model for a modern, post-Apartheid, South African city.

Investors and developers with millions invested in the City are dedicated and passionate – they just need a government who can clean up the City and get the basics right.

We are going to be that government.

With only R10 billion set aside annually for Capital Expenditure, and a R170 BILLION funding gap for capital infrastructure over the next ten years, we need to work with the private sector.

The private sector can easily pour R20 billion each year into our Inner City and turn it into a construction site within a matter of months. We need to create quality low cost housing for our people and rental space for small business and entrepreneurs to flourish.

Under our new administration:

- Council will vote at our next council meeting in December on an amendment to the Supply Chain Management Policy that will start the very first open tender system in the City of Johannesburg;
- Initiate a process of reviewing this policy with the intention of ensuring tenders are broken down into smaller parts in order for small businesses to benefit;
- In revenue, by the end of December, we will have concluded a diagnostic exercise focusing on the four elements of our billing system;
- We will regard Inner City rejuvenation as a key priority;
- We have already doubled the cleaning shifts of Pikitup in the Inner City including a night shift to serve the businesses operating at night;
- JMPD have invested a massive presence in the Inner City to manage traffic flows, enforce by-laws and provide visible policing;
- A team of human rights lawyers will be assembled to assist us to reclaim the Inner City from slum-lords;
- We will provide the support small and medium sized businesses need to expand into larger businesses that employ our people;
- As of 21 November 2016 we have established seven SME Hubs throughout the City and since 25 August 2016 the City has proved supported to 2895 SME's. Our plans are to expand this to twelve Hubs over the next year;
- An investment fast-track team is being established;
- We have initiated a review of all by-laws in the City, with a focus on those by-laws that are involved in the decision making processes pertaining to economic development;
- We are expanding the rollout of our free Wifi network across the City;
- We are re-positioning Johannesburg's image as a tourism destination;
- Last week we unveiled a specialist K9 Drug Unit under the JMPD; and
- Yesterday I launched the expansion of our City's Early Childhood Development Programme.

Beyond what we have achieved, it is important that our residents know where we are going as a new administration.

The fundamental approach of this government is going to be about a long-term focus on our socio-economic challenges.

Employment is the great liberator of our people out of poverty. We will incentivise businesses to establish themselves in close proximity to our townships so that employment opportunities can be obtained.

But I maintain that government's role is to help people up and not to hold them down in a cycle of dependency. Our aim must be to provide a hand up, and not an eternal hand out.

This City also has to change its approach to budgeting. This is essential if we are to move Johannesburg forward.

Service delivery cannot be an afterthought once we have budgeted enough for luxuries, nice-to-haves and non-essentials.

We have big plans to fundamentally review our service delivery model in Joburg. I am tabling a motion before Council in December to absorb all City Entities so as to ensure that we fast-track service delivery to our people.

I plan to decentralise the rollout of service delivery into our regions. In this respect, we will be structuring and empowering our regional structures to become the service delivery hubs of our City.

We need a fundamental change to our housing backlog. Our policy cannot be to address a housing backlog of 300 000, by delivering 3500 housing units per year. At that rate it would take a century to catchup with the current backlog alone.

It is for this reason that I am going to initiate a review of our strategy.

While the drought is beyond our control, the serious neglect and failure over decades to maintain our water infrastructure has made matters worse.

Our City loses approximately 40% of its water through leaks and bursts in its aged infrastructure and illegal connections, and while we have been able to manage the water crisis, we implore our residents to continue conserving water.

It is without doubt the greatest honour of my life to have the opportunity to serve our City and its residents. I intend to use every day that I am tasked with this important responsibility to make this City and its people realise their true potential.

Councillor Herman Mashaba

Executive Mayor

City of Joburg

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