



Cllr Rudolf Knight

NOTICE FOR REQUEST OF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT LANGUAGES POLICY OF THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

The public is hereby invited to submit written comments on the draft Languages Policy in terms of section 7(5) of the Rationalisation of Local Government Affairs Act 1998, Section 12 of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act no 32 of 2000. The draft Languages Policy is amended and reviewed to be consistent with the legislative requirements and for effective implementation.

The overall objectives of Languages Policy are:

- 1) To establish the language usage of the municipality's residents and take into account such language preferences;
- 2) To support impartial service delivery by promoting equal access to municipal services and programmes by removing communication barriers or language barriers;
- 3) To promote multilingualism amongst the councillors, officials and communities within the jurisdiction of the City of Johannesburg;
- 4) To promote and implement the use of the five official languages spoken in the area of the City of Johannesburg, namely isiZulu, Sesotho, Setswana, English and Afrikaans national census (1996 – 2011) and South African sign language in the affairs of the municipality;
- 5) To give effect to the equal status of the five official languages;
- 6) Upon request from people with disabilities and where practical, Council will make provision to address their special needs;
- 7) To support progressive elimination of disparity and lack of equity in respect of the indigenous languages;
- 8) To support progressive elimination of language barriers to participation by its members and clients in political, cultural, social and economic life;
- 9) To confirm the constitutional language obligation as a core obligation of all South Africans that requires careful planning and systematic implementation; Municipalities must consider the language usage preferences of their residents (6(3)(b)); and
- 10) To respond to the need for minimum standards in respect of the use of official languages within and by the City of Johannesburg.

The draft Languages Policy is aimed at strengthening the City of Johannesburg's compliance with legislation and enhancing communication with citizens.

A copy of the draft Language Policy may be obtained from the website: www.joburg.org.za and at the city's regional offices during the business hours from 08:00 –16:00 on weekdays. The public has 30 days commenting period from the date of this advert and the final date for comments is by end of business day on 02 July, 2021

Written submissions and enquiries may be submitted to the following email address: justins@joburg.org.za

Issued on behalf of Councillor Rudolf Knight, Chairperson: Section 79 Rules Committee

The Secretary to Council, Ms. Vicky Shuping

City of Johannesburg Council Legislature,

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