



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS (SOCA), OF THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG MUNICIPALITY HELD ON THURSDAY, 21 APRIL 2022, FOLLOWED BY THE DEBATE ON FRIDAY, 22 APRIL 2022 AT 10:00 (BOTH DAYS) AT THE CONSTANCE CONNY BAPELA COUNCIL CHAMBER, METROPOLITAN CENTRE, BRAAMFONTEIN

**SPEAKER OF COUNCIL
COUNCILLOR V DA GAMA**

These Minutes comprise:

- 1 OPENING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**
- 2 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**
- 3 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR (21 APRIL 2022)**
- 4 DEBATE ON THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BY POLITICAL PARTIES (22 APRIL 2022)**
- 5 RESPONSE BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR (22 APRIL 2022)**
- 6 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

1(a) MEMBERS PRESENT

The Acting Speaker: Councillor Makhubele, T C

The Executive Mayor: Councillor Phalatse, M

Alexander, W R	Galeshewe, T M
Amad, T	Gantsho, L
Anolik, S	Goosen, J W
Arnolds, M S	Gwamanda, K
Badal, K	Harris, R
Baloyi, D L	Hlatshwayo, S M
Benjamin, R F	Hoén, J N
Bini, L	Homer, C
Bittkau, R	Horwitz, J
Boer, C	Huggett, E A
Bolani, M G	Ismail-Moosa, I
Brand, D G	Jacobs, B
Buthelezi, T C	Johnson, N
Cele, D W	Jonker, N
Chair, C A	Kanda, M
Chalufu, S T	Kgeletsane, M O
Chame, F	Khanyile, N M
Chauke, K L	Khumalo, X I
Chetsanga, H	Kiviet, A
Coogan, L C	Knott, L R
Coutriers, M J	Koekemoer, M
Coverdale, D L T	Kwapeng, C
Crichton, M	Landis, R
Christians, A	Lebatlang, T Z
Dammie, B H	Lebea, M G
Dauids-Green, I C	Lebotse, E W
Davis, M R	Leshilo, R S
De Lange, F C	Liebenberg, E
Dellwaria, N	Lobi, M
Deppe, A J	Louw, M A
Dladla, D	Maake, M J
Dlamini, B	Mabaso, M P
Dlanjwa, M	Mabelebele, S S
Du plessis, N S	Mabuke, T A
Durand, G V M	Mabunda, T E
Dyers, S	Mabuza, S K L
Echeozonjoku, B C	Machaba, L M U
Edward, N	Machethe, S
Finn, C E	Madiba, T J
Foley, D T	Magwaza, B L P
Fourie-Shawe, C	Magwentshu, L C
Francisco, D B	Maila, S M
Fresling, R R	Majola, S

Makhuba, H N	Mphefo, L M P
Maluleka, T	Mposula, T
Manganyi, D B	Mpotulo, G S
Mangena, T D	Mulelu, M
Marais, A F	Munyayi, V E
Marais, S I	Nair, R K
Marema, V A	Ndlela, M C
Marumo, T	Ndou, N L
Mashala, K	Ndou, P
Mashinini, S	Ndou, P
Masoga, L M	Ndzondo, C M
Masuku, L	Nefdt, P W
Maswazi, R	Nenemba, T
Mathe, G	Nethamba, R
Mavhona, L S	Ngema, S V
Mazibuko, A L	Ngobeni, L M
Mazibuko, N	Ngobeni, R F
Mazibukwana, M	Ngoepe, C S
Mbundu, N N	Nguse, S
Mchunu, A	Ngwenya, F N
Mgaga, B	Ngwenya, J A
Mgcina, S E	Nhlapo, C P
Mkasi, G	Niemand, G J
Mkhonto, M S	Niemand, Z
Mmbengwa, M N	Nkokou, T P
Mmota, L	Nkomo, B
Mngadi, W B	Nkomo, E T
Mnisi, N D	Nkosi, R A L
Mnyameni, M	Nkubungu, L
Moatshe, K	Nkwanyana, P B
Modladlaba, D S	Nofemela, N
Modukanene, L C	Nonkumbi, I M
Modupi, D N	Novela, M
Moepi, N J D	Ntoele, N L
Moerane, M	Ntombela, M J
Moeti, O T	Ntshidi, T E
Mogapi, T A	Nyembe, Z P
Mohlala, P K	Nzimande, C
Mokoari, Z	Papo, M M
Mokoena, G	Phakathi, S
Mokoka, M L	Phillips, L E
Mokwena, T M	Phometsi, P S
Molefe, M	Pietersen, J
Molefe, S B	Pietersen, N
Molise, L D	Radebe, N P
Moloisane, D	Radebe, T T
More, E	Rafferty, P D
Mosehla, K J	Rahn, N J
Mothopi, O Z	Raholane, M W
Mphaho, M A	Ramafikeng, D J

Ramaru, G	Stewart, A J
Raphadu, A T	Sun, Y H
Raseruthe, S H	Supe, N P
Reddy, K	Tabane, M C
Reddy, V M	Tambani, P S
Reinten, I M	Tefu, P V
Sauls, A	Telekoa, A T
Schay, D	Tembe, D S
Seema, S M	Truluck, T F
Seerane, M K	Tshedo, J G
Sekhu, M V	Tsotetsi, L Y M
Sekwaila, B J	Twala, Y A
Sesedinyane, M I	Van der Merwe, M
Shabangu, L	Van der Schyf, C
Shackleford, L M	Van Dyk, N J
Shange, P A	Van Wyk, W M
Sherman, G J	Wax, K P
Shumba, K A	Williams, M C
Sifumba, N	Wilskut, D
Simelane, P	Wissler, S T J
Simelane, S O	Wittman-Potter, D D
Sindani, F P	Zama, A A D
Sithole, A M	Zazini, A
Sobey, A	Zitha, S L
Steenkamp, D	Zondo, L T
Steer, B	Zungu, N G
Stewart, P S	Zwane, S

1 OPENING

The Acting Speaker requested the Council to observe a moment of silence for prayer and meditation. She further requested Council to remain standing as they sang the National Anthem.

She welcomed the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg - Councillor Mpho Phalatse, Whip of Council - Councillor Tyrell Meyers, Members of the Mayoral Committee, Political Party Leaders & Whips, fellow Councillors, Acting City Manager - Mr Floyd Brink, Acting Secretary to Council - Mr Andile Gobinca, officials of the City of Johannesburg, residents of the City of Johannesburg and Members of the Media to the State of the City Address of the City of Johannesburg.

She further acknowledged the following guests who had attended the meeting:

- *Ms Sophie de Bruyn - Freewoman of the City*
- *Councillor Henry Hullet Hild – Mayor of West Rand District Municipality*
- *Councillor Peter Teixeira – Mayor of Midvaal*
- *Speaker of Council, Councillor Raymond Dhamini – Ekurhuleni Municipality*
- *Speaker of Council, Councillor Sibongile Sonxuza – Emfuleni Municipality*

- *Speaker of Council, Councillor Allan McLaughlin – Midvaal Municipality*
- *Colonel Siphon Majombozi - SANDF Reserve Force*

The Acting Speaker thereafter addressed Council as follows:

"Ladies and gentlemen, good morning, and a warm welcome to all of you, to the first 2022 State of the City Address of the current term of office under the multiparty coalition. Unlike an ordinary sitting of Council with an agenda for discussion, this is an annual event hosted by the Office of the Speaker to allow the Executive Mayor to deliver her State of the City Address.

Before we begin, can we kindly stand to acknowledge a moment of silence at the passing away of the Speaker's son. May his soul rest in peace and may God grant the family strength during this time.

Thank you Councillors, this also explains my presence as Acting Speaker of Council for today. We also want to acknowledge other countries that are going through their own turmoil and conflicts. Ukraine, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Yemen, and those countries affected by civil and terrorist conflicts.

Whilst we are privileged to enjoy relative peace in our country, Johannesburg is plagued by issues of crime, poverty, service delivery failures, unemployment, and housing just to name a few. We are also aware of the social issues regarding our special groups, women, youth, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA, faith based organizations and also the business environment that needs agents stimulus.

We are also cognizant of the water and electricity issues that have been bubbling recently. Let us now listen attentively to the Executive mayor speech which I trust will address some of these issues accordingly and also prepare us as Councillors for the debate tomorrow."

2 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

NOTED

3 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR (21 APRIL 2022)

The Executive Mayor addressed Council in this regard (copies of the speech were distributed after the meeting).

AT THIS STAGE, THE TIME BEING 11:09, COUNCIL ADJOURNED UNTIL FRIDAY, 22 APRIL 2022 AT 10:00 FOR THE DEBATE ON THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S SPEECH.

On resumption, Friday, 22 April 2022, the following Councillors were present:

MEMBERS PRESENT

The Acting Speaker: Councillor Makhubele C

The Executive Mayor: Councillor Phalatse, M

Alexander, W R	Galeshewe, T M
Amad, T	Gantsho, L
Anolik, S	Goosen, J W
Arnolds, M S	Gwamanda, K
Badal, K	Harris, R
Baloyi, D L	Hlatshwayo, S M
Benjamin, R F	Hoén, J N
Bini, L	Homer, C
Bittkau, R	Huggett, E A
Boer, C	Ismail-Moosa, I
Bolani, M G	Jacobs, B
Brand, D G	Johnson, N
Cele, D W	Jonker, N
Chair, C A	Kgeletsane, M O
Chalufu, S T	Khanyile, N M
Chame, F	Khumalo, X I
Chauke, K L	Kiviet, A
Chetsanga, H	Knott, L R
Coogan, L C	Koekemoer, M
Coutriers, M J	Komane, S A
Coverdale, D L T	Kwapeng, C
Crichton, M	Landis, R
Christians, A	Lebatlang, T Z
Da rocha, C M D	Lebea, M G
Dammie, B H	Lebotse, E W
Davids-Green, I C	Lefutso, L
Davis, M R	Leshilo, R S
De Lange, F C	Liebenberg, E
Dellwaria, N	Lobi, M
Deppe, A J	Louw, M A
Dladla, D	Maake, M J
Dlamini, B	Mabaso, M P
Dlanjwa, M	Mabelebele, S S
Du plessis, N S	Mabuke, T A
Durand, G V M	Mabunda, T E
Dyers, S	Mabuza, S K L
Echeozonjoku, B C	Machaba, L M U
Edward, N	Machethe, S
Finn, C E	Madiba, T J
Foley, D T	Magwentshu, L C
Fourie-Shawe, C	Majola, S
Francisco, D B	Makamo, S S
Fresling, R R	Makhuba, H N

Maluleka, T	Mposula, T
Manganyi, D B	Mpotulo, G S
Mangena, T D	Mulelu, M
Marais, A F	Munyayi, V E
Marais, S I	Nair, R K
Marumo, T	Ndlela, M C
Mashala, K	Ndou, N L
Mashinini, S	Ndou, P
Masoga, L M	Ndou, P
Masuku, L	Ndzondo, C M
Maswazi, R	Nefdt, P W
Mathe, G	Nenemba, T
Mathe, Z E	Nethamba, R
Mavhona, L S	Ngema, S V
Mazibuko, A L	Ngobeni, L M
Mazibuko, N	Ngobeni, R F
Mazibukwana, M	Nguse, S
Mbundu, N N	Ngwenya, F N
Meyers, T	Ngwenya, J A
Mgaga, B	Nhlapo, C P
Mgcina, S E	Niemand, G J
Mkasi, G	Niemand, Z
Mkhize, T	Nkokou, T P
Mkhonto, M S	Nkomo, B
Mmota, L	Nkomo, P T
Mngadi, W B	Nkosi, R A L
Mnisi, N D	Nkubungu, L
Moatshe, K	Nkwanyana, P B
Modladlaba, D S	Nofemela, N
Modukanene, L C	Nonkumbi, I M
Modupi, D N	Nontenja, C T
Moepi, N J D	Novela, M
Moerane, M	Ntoele, N L
Moeti, O T	Ntombela, M J
Mofokeng, J	Ntshidi, T E
Mogapi, T A	Nyembe, Z P
Mohlala, P K	Papo, M M
Mokoari, Z	Phakathi, S
Mokoena, G	Phillips, L E
Mokoka, M L	Phometsi, P S
Mokwena, T M	Pietersen, J
Molefe, M	Pietersen, N Radebe, N P
Molefe, S B	Rafferty, P D
Molise, L D	Rahn, N J
Moloisane, D	Raholane, M W
More, E	Ramafikeng, D J
Mosehla, K J	Ramaru, G
Mothopi, O Z	Rambani, N S
Mphaho, M A	Raphadu, A T
Mphefo, L M P	Raseruthe, S H

Reddy, K	Stewart, A J
Reddy, V M	Suddaby, J
Reinten, I M	Sun, Y H
Santana, C G	Supe, N P
Sauls, A	Tabane, M C
Seema, S M	Tambani, P S
Seerane, M K	Tefu, P V
Sekhu, M V	Telekoa, A T
Sekwaila, B J	Truluck, T F
Sesedinyane, M I	Tshedo, J G
Shabangu, L	Tsotetsi, L Y M
Shackleford, L M	Van der Merwe, M
Shange, P A	Van der Schyf, C
Sherman, G J	Van Dyk, N J
Shumba, K A	Van Wyk, W M
Sifumba, N	Wax, K P
Simelane, P	Williams, M C
Simelane, S O	Wilskut, D
Sindani, F P	Wittman-Potter, D D
Sithole, A M	Zazini, A
Sobey, A	Zitha, S L
Steenkamp, D	Zondo, L T
Steer, B	Zungu, N G
Stewart, P S	Zwane, S

OPENING

The Acting Speaker requested the Council to observe a moment of silence for prayer or meditation.

Acting Speaker welcomed the Executive Mayor, Councillor Mpho Phalatse; Whip of Council, Councillor Tyrell Meyers; all political parties; leaders and Whips; all Members of the Mayoral Committee; fellow Councillors; acting City Manager, Mr Floyd Brink; acting Secretary to Council, Mr Andile Gobinca; officials of the City; members of the public; members of the media to the Council meeting to debate the State of the City of address, as presented by the Executive Mayor, Councillor Mpho Phalatse, on the Council meeting which was held on 21 April 2022.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Councillor Mosehla (EFF) registered a concern regarding the use of roving microphone without being sanitized. He said that the mics were just being given from one Councillor to another and Covid-19 protocols were not followed.

The following applications for leave of absence from this meeting were granted:

<i>Councillor Roberts, F C</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Amod, C J</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Smit, P A</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>

<i>Councillor Nkomo, E T</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Kaldine, J</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Ponsonby, D A</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mthembu, M N</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Tembe, D S</i>	:	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Wissler, S T J</i>	:	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Mphahlele, M</i>	:	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Radebe, N P</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Tshehlo, G J</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Twala, Y A</i>	:	<i>Council Business</i>

The following Muslim Councillors requested to leave at 12:00 for religious purposes:

*Councillor Amad, T
Councillor Chame, F
Councillor Christians, A
Councillor Dellwaria, N
Councillor Gwamanda, K
Councillor Ismail-Moosa, I
Councillor Landis, R*

4 DEBATE ON THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BY POLITICAL PARTIES (22 APRIL 2022)

Councillor T Nkokou (PAC) addressed Council as follows:

“Greetings to all the Councillors; acting Madam Speaker; PAC constituency and the residents of the City of Johannesburg. Madam Mayor, your speech reminded me of the wise words of Marcus Garvey who once said, “A leadership that teaches you to depend upon another race, is a leadership that will enslave you”.

It was surprising that your first ever speech, in the new administration, literally perpetuated the Neo-Liberal view. Neoliberalism affects an economy in multiples ways: its first effect is an inequality in the distribution of wealth. The 1% class, which is your settlers by the way, acquires more wealth due to the increase of the privatized economy, while the middle class grows, and more people are under poverty line. The second concern of neoliberalism is an unethical commercialization of goods and service in the markets. Marketisations increase human exploitation and degradation because what should be accessible to all classes of society such, as education, health care and infrastructure, is no longer freely available. The third effect of Neoliberalism is the growing corporate influence in government, in your Neoliberal policy. The wealth start producing goods and services a government should be producing, which then privatizes the economy.

The political economy of the land dispossession, political oppression, social degradation, economic exploitation, Dehumanization and Enslavement. It now continues clothes in the liberalism clothes and colours. The frills and trappings that Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe alluded to, all designed to hoodwink and deceive the African people in general, the workers in particular.

Life must be lived forward, but it can only be understood backwards. Roman philosopher Cicero put it many years ago, "To remain ignorant of the things before you were born, is to remain a child". For his part, Doctor John Henry Clarke, an African American professor of history has written, "History is a clock that tells a people their history time of the day. It is a compass that people use to locate where they have been, where they are now and most importantly where they still must go". Indeed, our own, Doctor Muziwakhe Anton Lembede, an Africanist, that great philosopher, an awakener of youths of his generation has written, "One who want to create a future must not forget their past". Many people with regard to this country, preach a gospel of forget the past, but when there are issues involved, they do not only remember the past, but they commemorate.

The city departments are still taking the residents from pillar to post, this administration has not done as promised. The promise in the speech that the entities of the City should not work in silos, the City departments are still working in silos and rendering service delivery ineffectively. One of your priorities is to get the Basics right, however they are doing it continually disadvantaging the society as a whole.

Madam Mayor, I went to one of these opportunity centres for business you proudly mentioned. It is a room with less than five computers, not even connecting to stable internet and personnel taking these lists of business without any proper programme of accelerating these businesses to the next level.

EPW has been of empty promises made to our city residents. I heard you mention that your administration will commit in making the process fair, this has been going on for a while now, our people are still desperately awaiting economic opportunities.

You mentioned a commitment of the city in reducing the high unemployment rate and boosting staff morale. However, Madam Mayor, your administration has fired more than 120 young, African professionals. I know that you are not an Africanist, by the way, but how is this Pan Africanist, Madam Mayor? South African unemployment rate is very high, one of the ways to combat unemployment is effectively empowering SMMEs. As the PAC, we will be monitoring closely all the things promised to the city residents. I thank you. Izwe lethu"

Councillor Magwentshu, L (ATM) addressed Council as follows:

"Greetings Madam Acting Speaker, Greetings Madam Executive Mayor, Greetings all.

Madam Executive Mayor, As the ATM we appreciate and welcome your maiden speech of the SOCA. When we went to the polls last year November, there was no outright winner, this was a clear message from the residents that they want an administration that will listen to them and prioritize their needs, as they felt theirs were no longer being listened to or prioritized by the previous administrations.

Your speech inspires hope to the residents of COJ, that this administration is putting them 1st.

As the African Transformation Movement, our focus is service delivery to the people, but with a clear and unambiguous focus to the poor. As such we represent our people on the ground. I am not here to give you my political analysis about your SOCA speech, I am here to give you the view of the people on the ground.

- *Themba Masuku, Lebone Mashigo and Thandazani Msimango: Feel that, whilst they commend you for the 7524 potholes filled in 7 weeks, it is just a drop in the ocean if you compare that to the real state of our roads, which is as a result of serious neglect over the years. They also feel that we need to address the issue of durability, light rain re-opens these potholes, meaning in a month you might be required to resurface one pothole 3 times.*
- *Pastor Makhuba(Unity Fellowship Church in Chiawelo): Noted your remarks on the creation of a Safe City, but she asked me to ask you how she must feel safe when nothing is done to the JMPD personnel that fired live ammunition to unarmed congregants and there is not even an enquiry to this incident that happened on the 28 February 2021.*
- *Thuthuzela Maxakatho from Joubert Park: Has taken note of your comment on informal traders, but she believes that the COJ needs to amend the by-laws to accommodate these survivalist entrepreneurs during these hard-hitting economic times. This would avoid the harassment they are subjected to at the hands of JMPD. Thuthuzela also seeks your opinion on operation Dudula and what the city is planning about illegal Immigrants in the CoJ.*
- *Nokuthula Ngudle from Lawley /Kokotela Area: Welcomes the Energy Indaba as she is currently frustrated by the new norm of not having electricity for 3 days every week, as Transformers keep on failing.*
- *Mrs Ntumba (from Rosettenville): Says the City's billing system discourages residents from paying rates, a water bill of R30k just for one month compels a resident to go the illegal route of connecting.*
- *Thomas Sibankwana (Ward 122): Is concerned about the regular/constant Water challenges in Zakariya Park and surrounding areas. A reservoir has been built but is not operational. What is the city doing about this?*
- *Nomvula Msimanga, from Naledi: Is concerned that when you dealt with Special Economic Zones and Job Creation you mentioned only the youth, she feels that the COJ is systematically excluding those above the age of 36, in the same manner it does when it is advertising posts? What must they do when they are denied all opportunities? Must they follow a life of Crime?*

As the ATM we will support all endeavours that seek to put our residents first in terms of Service Delivery issues."

Councillor Machete, S (APC) addressed Council as follows:

"Greetings to all Councillors; acting madam Speaker; APC constituents and the residents of the beloved City of Johannesburg. Acting Speaker, allow me to respond to the State of the City address, delivered here in the Chamber yesterday.

Executive Mayor; let me start by congratulating you for delivering your first State of the City address, as the first ever democratically elected female Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg.

Madam Mayor, as you have mentioned in your speech, the City of Johannesburg can only be restored with each of us doing our part. You said we need to start by uniting behind a common goal. Madam Mayor, how do we unite behind one goal, if you and your mentioned multi-party government fire our black brothers and sisters? Your administration has just served over 130 City employees with a letter of termination of employment. How do you justify this with the statement you made in your speech, that the city is committed to reducing the high unemployment rate?

Madam Mayor, you have just contributed to the high unemployment rate in South Africa by making sure that within the first six months of your administration, over 100 people are unemployed. You have celebrated the birth of multi-party government, more than ten times in your speech, but you were very silent about how this over-praised coalition is going to deal with illegal immigration in our city. A mere paragraph on the review of migration policy, showed that your administration does not have a clue or any idea of how important and urgent the issue of illegal immigration is. Madam Mayor, yesterday you mentioned the "Buya Mthetho" initiative, how will that work when you have fired our brothers and sisters? What would their children eat, Executive Mayor? Black children/communities are suffering.

You said a lot in your speech, Executive Mayor, but you didn't mention anything about electricity; you did not mention the incident that took place in Diepsloot; no one knows your views therein. Our government also does not support Minister Aaron Motsoaledi, they also do not support Nhlanhla Lux. Earlier this month one of your MMC was seen video recording himself at a hospital where undocumented migrants, burdened service to the extent that South African pregnant women were laying on the floor for days without getting help.

Madam Speaker, issue of illegal immigrant is another pandemic faced by the country. Madam Executive Mayor, please help my people. I know in government others own mines and cigarette companies in Zimbabwe, please look into that. Johannesburg being the most targeted requires decisive and urgent action."

Councillor Shabangu, L (AHC) addressed Council as follows:

"Greetings all Councillors; Executive Mayor; minority-block opposition.

As the AHC, we would like to note that the Executive Mayor's route map is misleading the City of Johannesburg and its residents. As a new Councillor, I thought I would have something to share with our constituency, but I did not hear anything said by the mayor, that I would be able to take back and share with our residents.

We have officials working in the offices, we are very concerned as minority-block opposition, that when you say you are bringing back umthetho, what kind of umthetho are you bringing to us? As a South African, as members of this Council and as Councillors, you cannot get rid of more than 120 people, so that they can go and sit at home, you as a woman.

Madam Mayor, as women we had put our hope on you as a woman, that you would lead differently because you are a woman and a mother. I think you need to rethink the phrase "buya umthetho" and maybe change it, buya umthetho is our language and we understand it in a different way. Now you are saying "buya umthetho", but we do not have electricity; "buya umthetho", but we do not have water; "buya umthetho", the crime is high.

I want to talk about Ivory Park - and I am not talking about the recent floods. There were floods previously experienced at Ivory Park, I did not hear anything from you, Mayor, that there were floods and lives in danger because you were already the mayor. Diepsloot crime, I was so surprised when I saw the mayor show up on the last day of work, after all the hard work was done, I did not understand if the Mayor is leading this Joburg or somewhere else?

I saw on TV madam Mayor, one of our Councillors from the ANC was crying that the community was burning tyres on her front door. I did not see you comforting that Councillor in your speech yesterday because that was painful even to the Councillor's family. Madam Mayor, as African Hearts Congress, we ask that you go back and re-evaluate the issue of 130 officials because we cannot allow them to go and stay home."

Councillor Edwards, E (ACTIONSA) addressed Council as follows:

"Madam Mayor; Acting Speaker of Council and Chair of Chairs, Councillor Colleen Makhubele and all protocols observed.

ActionSA would like to congratulate the honourable Mayor on her maiden State of the City Address on 21 April 2022. I would like to quote the wise words of Oprah Winfrey, "The world's most prominent women leaders show the importance of honesty, courage, impact, decision and decisive action in leadership."

Your leadership and SOCA speech madam Mayor, are characterized by the above phrase. I do not want to admit it, but the city of gold was once identified by beautiful buildings and business activities. The largest City in South Africa, Johannesburg, was once the wealthiest in the African continent. The City was once recognized as a financial capital of South Africa and was home to 74% of corporate headquarters,

including the Johannesburg Securities Exchange. The inner City of Johannesburg and surrounding areas are now dangerous and have high levels of crime and are drug dens. Beautiful buildings in the inner City and surrounding area have now become hubs of criminal activity, driven mostly by illegal immigrants.

We as ActionSA, we envision a city of gold that is vibrant, that is safe, that is full of opportunities for its residents and generations to come. Functional municipalities present a foundation for a prosperous South Africa. We firmly believe that to get things right again, the basic service delivery at municipal level must be fixed. We believe in decisive action that would improve the quality of life of all South Africans.

We believe in customer centric government. We believe in ethical and professional public service. We also believe in efficient and effective administration. We believe that ineffective administration that outsources core services to entrepreneurs or inefficient municipal entities will cut down on millionaire managers while insourcing frontline staff and essential services such as cleaners and securities. Our touch points also, include the caring and inclusive government, a municipality that is customer centric, delivers service with pride. Free basic services should be accessible to indigent residents in need. The old and dysfunctional infrastructure has affected basic service delivery. Water and electricity supply have been negatively affected due to dilapidated infrastructure. We welcome the commitment made to repair and maintain the existing infrastructure and invest in new infrastructure. The upgraded infrastructure will bring stability to the electricity supply. Over the years, electricity rate has increased and have left most residents unable to pay due to the volatile economic climate. The residents of Soweto and other areas have experienced unstable electricity supply from Eskom. Electricity network upgrade investing in replacing aged infrastructure and procurement from independent power producers to increase competition and reduce tariffs for our residents is progressive, and would improve the quality of lives, an alternative energy supply and non-reliant on Eskom.

Where the City encourage small business growth opportunities and bring back confidence in the government system of the municipality. The acknowledgment and commitment to address the instability and electricity interruptions by ensuring that the municipality transmission grids are properly maintained is welcomed, and it is a step in the right direction. Illegal connections have been a burden on the electricity supply grid. On a daily basis, residents are faced with infringed rights of electricity due to law breakers that steal cables. Last week in Kliptown, Pimville, residents allegedly tried to take matters into their own hands by apprehending cable thieves, which resulted in a loss of life. Sad indeed. We applaud the Mayor and the team for planned efforts to crack down on illegal connections and cable theft.

Madam Speaker, our city is in dire situation at the moment, and thus hosting of Indabas should be progressive and results driven. Business has been affected negatively by power outages and an unstable power supply. The proposed multi-party government hosting of energy Indaba in the month of May, gathering all relevant stakeholders, and their collective input into solving the energy crisis must be an urgent intervention that will lead to an introduction of an alternative, independent power producers and small-scale energy generators.

As ActionSA, we strive to ensure that everyone has a dignity of adequate sanitation. We look forward, with great anticipation to have a city that achieves universal access to basic sanitation regardless of their constituencies that is both formal and informal communities. Aging municipal sanitation infrastructure and shifts that will be increased to accommodate high density areas like informal settlements.

MMC Nkuli Mbundu, has facilitated the appointment of qualified and ethical leaders to serve on the boards of the Department of Economic Development entities, including the newly established Johannesburg Tourism Company. Roads make crucial contribution to economic development and growth and bring important social benefits; they are of vital importance in order to make a city grow and develop, in addition, providing access to employment, social, health and education services.

We applaud the MMC of Transport, MMC Fonzela Ngobeni, for the reintroduction of every initiative. This is original based initiative and the phase one of the "A re sebetse" initiative, that was launched in February 2022. "A re sebetse" initiative was spearheaded by the former Mayor of this City, Mr Herman Mashaba, in 2016. It is a multi-disciplinary approach that integrates multiple departments and entities to maintain damaged infrastructure. To date, MMC Ngobeni has filled 7524 potholes in just seven weeks, which is an excellent achievement. The city has promised to increase investment into maintenance and upgrading of roads to improve transport network.

We as ActionSA, we believe in fixing our municipality by providing safety and security measure in the city. Our component of fixing the city will be to provide safety and security through law enforcement. As ActionSA we untimely strived to have a minimum of one municipal law enforcement officer for every thousand residents in our municipalities. MMC David Tembe deployed 1800 JMPD officers.

MMC Nkuli Mbundu initiated a proper audit of 29 000 city owned properties and in turn property evaluation, repair and maintenance of dilapidated buildings.

To conclude Madam Speaker, we urge you to continue to deliver results. Madam Mayor, on your promises made to the residents, we urge you to bring back to life the dead bone that you referred to in your speech. Thank you."

Councillor Steward, A (DA) addressed Council as follows:

"While the ANC led coalition saw the COVID-19 pandemic as the ultimate cover to engage in opportunistic tenderism and allowed for frontline entities to almost grind to a halt. The multi-party coalition is focusing on a citizen-centric approach, it may seem obvious to most, but we exist to serve our residents. Yes, there may be many technical tasks and bigger picture issues that the City leadership must take on, that often our citizenry is unaware of, however, you never lose sight of the simple fact that the end result must place our residents needs first.

SOCA is an important event for our residents to get an idea of where we are and where we are headed. Without a doubt, many of our fellow politicians will try to win the day due to the media presence, however, Joburg residents have long since lost their patience with verbal tap dancing and vanity projects. They want action and they want to experience change in service delivery, and perhaps this provides at least a partial explanation for the 2021 election results. I could talk all day, detailing all the examples of civil service malaise and corruption which the multi-party coalition has uncovered, but I prefer to dwell on the positive. After all, none of us politicians are world-renowned experts on local government but what a difference it makes when good people with some basic sense take the helm of the city.

Rome was not built in a day, but our turnaround strategy will be implemented consistently and with drive. To touch on some positive change, I would like to reference some general City achievements, in line with the Mayoral priorities of a Smart City; Well-Run City and a City that gets the Basics right: We are planning for new IT systems to manage Leave, Employee Engagement, Learning and Development, Recruitment, Performance Management, Consequence Management, Productivity, and it will enable Hybrid working arrangement so that we are ready for the future of work and how our work environment is going to change as technology adapts and evolves.

A UIFW reduction strategy will be implemented to address rampant, wasteful expenditure that has never been subject to consequence management. Support for the implementation of the institutional review and organizational redesign to ensure that the city is optimized for service delivery, which is part of making the city an efficient organization, which is a pleasure to deal and interact with.

Specific to Development Planning, our MMC has ushered in some swift change, such as reducing the bloated JDA board from 15 members to nine members, which only enhances efficiency and saves our residents time and money. The drafting of a building bylaw to localize the national building regulations is in progress in order to assist with compliance at a local level. The department is also expanding their law enforcement arm, in order to begin the onerous task of addressing years of illegal building that was never effectively combated. A new online platform has been introduced for building plans to be submitted, saving Developers time and money, as well as improving business flow and assisting economic development.

Finally, we are not here to promise the people of Johannesburg the world, our promise made with a sense of humility is to get the basics right and to implement change that our residents can actually experience in their day-to-day lives. Ultimately, through action, we will show our residents what they actually pay their rates for. Thank you."

Councillor Reddy, K (UIM) addressed Council as follows:

"Acting Speaker to Council, Councillor Colleen Makhubele; Executive Mayor, Doctor Mpho Phalatse; honourable Councillors and distinguished guests, a very good morning to you and thank you for your indulgence.

Firstly, please allow me to extend my absolute appreciation for the honour of being part of this very robust and integrated team within the City of Johannesburg metropolitan.

Madam Mayor, I would like to take this opportunity in commending you on a great speech yesterday, albeit that not every single person might necessarily appreciate that which went into your speech. I want to honourably acknowledge that great plan and planning has gone into what you had said yesterday, and I strongly believe that there is a plan in place and a lot of thought and planning has been put into making our beautiful City a number one, and a world-class African City.

I believe in your seven Mayoral priorities to the city, and it is most welcome madam Mayor. I believe that it is achievable. I believe with collaborative approach of unity; it is, and it will be achieved. I must say that you proved to not just be a pretty face, but your appointment as a vice chair to the C40 cities is a great achievement and an influential leader as such. It is a great achievement, and I think if we acknowledge that, I think we can take so much out of it. But having stated the above, I think that it is only fair that I touch on the heart rendering matters that tend to bring tears to our eyes.

On Tuesday, the Section 79 Chairs - well primarily the men, had gone through to the area of Alexandra township. And I think most of our Chairs here today would be able to stand up and say that there was one specific facility that brought tears to our eyes, and that was the Pillsbury Disability center, where we saw those little children and as a doctor, you will understand the love that those children show. But something that was raised to my attention was that the mommy of the house, mam' Angie, is completely blind, but with such zeal and zest she welcomed us, and she had prayed, praised and worshipped, and nobody would even know. But I think the softness of it was that behind the blindness that she was ensuing, it was the pain and the hurt of us looking at those children. And whilst I fully support the Mayoral priorities, I'm really moved when I look at the first priority, a city that gets the Basics right.

Madam Mayor, you would know that running water and access to the power of electricity is an absolute need, and I want to thank you for your efforts, together with your Executive team, for the engagements with Joburg Water and City Power. Whilst I am fully aware that this is not an overnight task, but I genuinely implore you that you keep your finger of the pulse, because we all know that when you keep them accountable it will be done, however, when we lose focus, how quickly and how easily one can lose focus, a day becomes a month, the month becomes a year and then it goes by.

In lieu of Johannesburg being a caring City, it is no secret that we as the citizens of Johannesburg are wired to care. It is therefore my earnest request Madam Mayor, that through your expertise and love for people, please lead us with your leadership. For after all, leadership is a function not a position. I humbly request that through your leadership, you will take our beautiful City forward, which is service and the minimal for our people. I know that our city is in great hands, not only because you're an exceptional leader, but because you vowed before man and God that you will never drop us as the citizens of Johannesburg.

I want to end off with a quote by a dear and father of our country, the late Tata Nelson Madiba Mandela, "It always seems impossible, until it is done. Many people in this country has paid the price, and many will pay the price after me." Madam Mayor, despite your critics – who will always be there, I implore you to keep going. You have what it takes, you will not fail. Thank you."

Councillor Phillips, L (GOOD) addressed Council as follows:

"Madam Speaker; Executive Mayor; Members of the Mayoral Committee; fellow Councillors and officials, greetings.

Yesterday the Mayor, Doctor Mpho Phalatse, delivered her maiden State of the City address, congratulations madam Mayor. However, in a city as complex as Johannesburg, having a list of nice to haves will not suffice. Jozi's residents are looking for action plans not wish lists.

The first major issue pushed under the rug, Madam Mayor, was the water and electricity rates, a brief truth? Joburg's residents pay far too much for the basics. Following the trend of most DA-led Councils, the Mayor failed to provide an action plan which would reduce the cost of basic amenities. Billions of investments in water infrastructure is a good idea but will mean nothing, if residents cannot quench their thirst.

Irregular expenditures seem to have dashed the Mayor's mind. In the last financial year, the Metro lost almost 6 billion in irregular and unauthorized expenditure. Operation "Buya Mthetho", the revenue collection program is welcomed, that being said, more can be done. Measures must be put in place to prevent the losses we saw last year. We hope the Executive Mayor details her plans as she pieces together the City's budget. No mention was made of combating homelessness either. A rough estimate of 20 000 people sleeps on Joburg streets, if you look out the window at the back, you will see how they are just laying asleep, nobody giving them any attention. The best response the mayor could offer, and I quote, "The City's policy on homelessness is under review." Considering most of her State of the City address was hot air, something more actionable would have been preferred.

GOOD welcomes establishment of an LGBTQIA+ advisory committee. The city has an annual budget of 73 billion, it is high time that some this money is spend defending vulnerable communities. With promises made in this year's address, we want to see plans surface, Johannesburg needs time to heal, as residents feel betrayed. If Mayor Phalatse does not give substance to her State of the City address skeleton, then she is doomed to follow her predecessors. The mayor must be reminded that working the campaign trail and sitting in Executive office are two different things. I, thank you."

Councillor Sithole, A (ACDP) addressed Council as follows:

"Deputy Speaker of the City of Johannesburg; the Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Doctor Mpho Phalatse; Whip of Council, ACDP Councillors; voters and supporters; and my fellow Councillors, I greet you.

ACDP welcome the State of the City address given by our Executive Mayor, Doctor Mpho Phalatse yesterday.

When the Executive Mayor stated that, and she vowed to return the city to good health, it reminded me of the scripture in the Bible, mentioned in the Book on Nehemiah: when Nehemiah was confronted by the walls destroyed in the city of Jerusalem, and what we have currently in the City of Johannesburg, today. We as a coalition government, are really confronted by the broken walls of the city and indeed, it currently lays in ruins as the result of long-standing challenges of neglect, crime, poverty, inequality, high employment rate and corruption which we found the city in.

We as the ACDP, wish to see the co-operation of all the department entities, working together to avoid seeing our beloved City of Johannesburg residents being sent from pillar to post, office to office when seeking an assistance. ACDP welcomes the immediate action which we call the "God start", which is the seven Mayoral priorities that are committing to give the residents, visitors, and business good health in the City of Johannesburg.

Mayor, in your address you mentioned the intention of introducing a partnership between the city and independent power producers and small-scale generators, to reduce the City's reliance to Eskom. ACDP wants to see this actioned as soon as possible, we need timelines as to when this will be done, so that our residents no longer carry the suffering and the burden of power failure by Eskom and City Power.

The mayor also stated that the Department of Housing is targeting 10 informal settlements and is planning to upgrade them, that entail the provision of permanent municipality services, such as water, sanitation, lights, and roads. As ACDP, we support that, the 10 among many is a good start. We would like to know which informal settlements would be upgraded.

The mayor also stated that 1800 JMPD officers has been deployed into the inner City, to restore law and order in creating a safe environment. As much as ACDP welcomes this initiative, we however call for this initiative to be extended to township, informal settlement, other residential areas, including the businesses in the township that are also suffering the very same violent crime which involve cable theft and vandalism to the City's infrastructure, that could be easily avoided when there is visibility of JMPD officers on the ground, like we have in the inner City. After all, these are the property of the City and JMPD as well belongs to the City.

As ACDP we support the initiative and the scheduled regular department integrated rights operations that ensure a compliance and shut down of problematic, non-compliance houses, restaurants, nightclubs, taverns and others. ACDP says to the mayor to please hands off the churches, because we do not want to see the city being the enemy of the church, as we have witnessed brutal actions by JMPD with one of the pastors, Pastor Makhuba's church in Chiawelo, and we do not want to find ourselves as the enemy of the church once more. It must be noted, the great work that has been done to community development through boots on the ground program, which has been executed by our MMC. And we have also seen recently, the launch of Naledi Park, Nike Sharp Center in Soweto, Jabulani Safe Hub, Patsing Park, Brixton Multipurpose Center."

Councillor Amad, T (ALJAMA-AH) addressed Council as follows:

"Thank you very much, Acting Speaker; Executive Mayor, Mpho Phalatse; Whip of Council; the chairperson of the minority coalition parties, Councillor Margaret Arnolds; the City Manager – I am being deliberate when I say the City Manager. Mr Floyd Brink, you deserve to be called the city manager because you are actually competent in doing your work, not acting, like the joker we saw; the amount of make-up in the movie that we watched yesterday.

We have seen racism being protected by black faces and patriarchy being prevalent in the City of Johannesburg. Being protected by a female face, following your constructive dismissal of a female CEO in Joburg Market, charging her for being sexually abused. No wonder why the so-called speech was silent on issues of GBV, but I will leave it to the women of the City of Johannesburg because the issues of GBV are a lived experience to my female counterparts.

"Do what I say and not what I do". This is subliminal tune of white privilege, spouted as misconstrued version of the truth and contaminating the ears of the public; of the residents; through acoustic from the lips of the experimental black doll in the hands of ventriloquists.

The public execution of senior officials, conducted under the cover of the in-committee meetings, was the first fundamental mistake of the DA led multi-party government, because your processes as per recommendations, in every public executions report were, not only bias and flawed but they were criminal in their nature.

The one-sided bribery report against the head of Group ICT, is a classic example of a criminal element in this Mayoral Committee. The report proves beyond reasonable doubt with compelling evidence against the flamboyant and accomplice MMC Mbundu, however, the MMC is allowed to continue in his duties and worse of all, to form part of this Council with a complete impunity. "A mirror of a man's heart is his actions."

The targeted conversion of the Joburg 130 is the next example of malicious intent in the criminal recommendations of your reports. The aggressive pursuit to terminate the employment of black professionals, whilst overlooking unqualified and illegal recruits who were also converted to permanent employment under the stewardship of the Democratic Alliance, with all of it bordering on suspicious circumstances as well as a criminal intent. This on its own, is evident of a government acting in bad faith.

Therefore, as Aljama-ah, we would like you to know and understand that in the absence of your public performance and scripted service delivery propaganda machinery. Therefore, Executive Mayor, you have said nothing.

In conclusion, Al Jama-ah erected he statue of Yasir Arafat, the former president of Palestine, to declare the City of Johannesburg apartheid free zone. Mayor, you took it away with the intent of depriving of ownership. Executive Mayor, where is the statue?"

Councilor Stewart, S (DA) addressed Council as follows:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good morning, all protocol observed.

Thank you, Madam Mayor for inspirational State of the City address. A daunting task lies ahead of you and the coalition government to re-imagine, re-invent and rebuild the city from where we are to where we can be. This task is about local renewal and creating sustainable change implementation with a collective mindset to put the people first. Our city and her people have been through so much over the years, from

apartheid to perceived freedom, to hope and then to hopelessness, but are ever so resilient. We need a new injection of hope to stimulate our emotions, to invigorate our mindsets and to free our imagination and be inspired by the vision of a better tomorrow. With all that has transpired, our people are divided by the invisible tension rising ever increasingly against the backdrop of the poor service delivery, maladministration, decay, corruption and unemployment.

It is unfortunate that we use racial tension amongst our black communities to spread division. We fail to mention all our black people who are suffering because of the so-called black government that cared more about cadre deployment than it ever will about them. Those people were fired because of the corrupt processes used to hire them in the first place. Political will along with the desire to see our city move forward from this unfortunate past and forge a new City from the dilapidated, shattered state we find ourselves in, will take courage, hard work and perseverance. A task that we must all be equal to, putting aside our differences, our personal agendas, aspirations for individual gratification and embracing a collective effort because that is what the situation demands of us all. If we claim to love our beloved Johannesburg and identify the human suffering, then we should all be jointly motivated to tackle the long term failures that have led us to deficit in skills, inadequate opportunities, lack of resources, increases in crime, drug addiction and other ills plaguing our people.

We in the DA believe that opportunities are the vehicle through which all people can be empowered to lives that they value, to pursue their dreams and to develop their full potential. I thank God that we are now entering into a new era of governance, where we embrace a back to Basics strategy as the building blocks of our city's future and as outlined in the Mayoral priorities. If we do not get the basics right, it would be like building a house without a foundation. Established cities such as Johannesburg should have had basics fine tuned by now but with the unfortunate political leadership of the past, we are forced to start over.

The department of EISD has the undesirable task of providing the most basic of services to our residents. It is not sexy nor terribly exciting, but it is critical to building a functional environment on which to build. The coalition government has hit the ground running, a little over four months ago, and have inherited a city with terrible aging infrastructure, this is a result of a lack of infrastructure investment by the City over many years and the chicken has finally come home to roast. There is some good news amongst the arrays of challenges that face our city and its various entities and they are making progress and forging the way forward to a brighter tomorrow.

I highlight some of the achievement for City Power: A new Board of Directors has been established, consisting of non-executive Directors, that made up of passionate professionals and experts who now steer the ship, along with MMC Michael Sun and the acting CEO Tshifularo Mashaba and her team. City Power is boasting its own internal capacity through the revival of their training college, and the absorption of 30 in-house trained technicians who will join the team to expedite restoration of services.

City Power implementing renewable interventions such as the installation of modernized substations and embarking on collaborative programs with communities to aid in minimizing cable theft, resulting in multiple arrests. Plans to roll out such more collaborative efforts together with communities in many other areas across Johannesburg has been planned. They are also in the process of establishing a multi-

disciplinary team together with JMPD and SAPS, focusing on operations to shut down unscrupulous scrap metal dealerships. With an intervention by City Power and the proposed tariff hikes of 20.5% by Eskom was curtailed to 8% through City Power's consistent objections to NERSA.

The highlights mentioned today are some of the success of the multi-party government and we still have a long way to go, but I am confident that with the ongoing commitment and hard work of the officials and MMC Sun, and the Board of Directors, that we will have a much more exciting story to tell. Sustainable chain will not be achieved overnight, so I plead with our residents to practice patience in the light of adversity."

Councillor Arnolds, M (AIC) addressed Council as follows:

"Thank you acting Presiding Officer. This is the response of the African Independent Congress, to the State of the City address by the mayor. A City of rolled gold opportunities and we all know what rolled gold is.

Acting Presiding Officer, good afternoon once again, Chief Whip of Council, Councillor Tyrell Meyers; Whips of all political parties represented in this Chamber; leaders of political parties present; acting City Manager, Floyd Brink, good morning sir, although you are not here; greetings to the media present.

Madam Mayor, I will address you as Councillor Mpho Phalatse. I found it difficult to respond to the media yesterday after you addressed this House. For the first time in the almost six years that I have been a Councillor, I did not have words. I could not respond when asked how your speech touched me? The emptiness of your speech echoed in this Chamber. If I feel this way, how does the residents of the City of Johannesburg feel? All the esteemed guests you invited that was sitting in the gallery with expectations of a fulfilling road map in your speech. But what your speech has indicated is as follows: you introduce your MMC's to us, at least now we know who they are and which portfolio they occupy, because except for MMC Sun and my partner MMC Mabaso and Ngobeni, we do not know the others.

You gave us the formula on how you added, subtracted and divided to get the multi-party government, or sometimes you say a coalition, but you did not tell us how the multiplication was done by those who brought you into the position of Mayor on the 22 November. You did not recognize them at all. Your seven Mayoral priorities, what basics did you get right because you have not even taken off from the ground? A safe City? When we are still unsafe and JMPD is still asks for cold drink. 14 million brought in by the JMPD has not been recorded in the City of Johannesburg financials. A caring City when you are purging your African professionals and sending the unemployment rate into infinity. Councillors can walk and chew at the same time but some of these affected black professionals are ratepayers. Business friendly, when you are killing the dreams of the youth who want to be entrepreneurs. A well-run dark and waterless City, a smart City where we cannot even walk up to the ATM to draw money because there is constant burning of substations – incidentally, Eldorado Park, is still dark, some of us had to bath in cold water.

People in Kliptown drank water filled with mercury, not so long ago. You condemned the GLU when we launched the partnership with Dial Direct and Discovery Insure, now you claim it instead of saying, "Well done to the GLU, we will continue with your programs." You include GFIS in your list of agencies that will protect the infrastructure, but you do not tell the residents that your ahead of GFIS, got equipment that is equivalent to equipment used for treason. He acquired his clearance certificate this week Monday, but it was backdated to 30 March. You failed the city during your tenure as MMC of Health and Social development. You gave a tender to a field band of 11 million and they knew nothing about substance, you threw us under the bus. Potholes are as big and deep as manholes. Grass in the locations are taller than me and I think I am the shortest.

Madam Mayor, please take us into confidence, tell us will it be a norm that you will meet candidates who has applied for positions or those shortlisted? You gave us the same story that another Mayor gave about procuring fire engines and dololo. You want to start a labour forum for the current one is not of the right colour and do not suck up to the Liberals. Conveniently, one FTC was converted to permanent and he is your GFIS head. Is it because he is protected?"

Councillor de Lange, F (VF+) addressed Council as follows:

"Thank you acting Speaker, Madam Mayor, all protocols observed, a special welcome to our guests and to the media present.

On behalf of the Freedom Front Plus, I would like to reply to the State of the City address only, I will not venture down on political grandstanding avenues, by highlighting a few achievements but also noting a few concerns that our party has. As mentioned, it is high time that the City's departments find new synergy to work together and to eradicate outdated culture of working in silos. There is no benefit to us as a Council and to the city if this continues.

The VF+ is grateful to hear of the new modernized equipment budgeted for to enhance service delivery across all the wards of the city. It is also a highlight that the Kelvin Power Station contract will be extended for the next 24 months as the City heads into cold winter months. We must just make sure madam Mayor, to clamp down on cable theft and illegal connections to protect our already fragile electrical network. It is also a belt under the heart to hear that R2.8m is budgeted for the maintenance of our water network.

The Executive Mayor mentioned that 7500 potholes were fixed over the past seven weeks, well done. My only concern is the quality of workmanship and the durability of this effort. As a caring City, the newly built, Bertrams Multipurpose Centre and the executive decision to finally move old age homes from the Department of Housing to Social development, is proof of this multi-party's caring nature. To stimulate economic growth in the City, we are moving in the right direction by actioning special economic zones, this has been hanging over our heads for a long time and hopefully we can get it right this time around. And for us to revive the inner-City Development initiative

block by block is the right approach, so our municipal can thrive again. Further to this, as planned by the Department of Development Planning, we can fast track the applications and the city can through this, stimulate job creating and economic stability, so at the end of the day we can become more business friendly, and we all can grow together.

On the housing front, the MPG's target for 2500 new housing units, already delivered 701 site and service stands, including the 3500 planned new JOSHCO units over the mid-term. If we can achieve this, we will set a new housing delivery record for the City of Johannesburg, but again a concern is that we as an administration we should no longer allow substandard contractors otherwise will not achieve this target.

It is critical for us as the city, to find new streams of revenue or new streams of funding, as provincial and national grants are and will dwindle in the near future. Our current collection of R4 billion per month, will strengthen our future financial position as we move forward. As far as good and clean governance, it is imperative for this multi-party government to make sure that all our city departments and the municipal owned entities receive clean audits.

We as the City, working together must uplift poor and vulnerable communities but we must never ever, forget the hard-working taxpayers that are still paying their municipal bills under trying economic circumstances, we must deliver services to those that are still willing to pay.

In closing, acting Speaker, I heard a lot of rhetoric around unemployment, inequality, infrastructure failure. Currently, South Africa has the highest unemployment rate in the world, we are also rated as a country that has the highest inequality. Sometimes I just wonder, and some are quick to forget of whom has been running this country over the last 27 years. May God bless South Africa. Thank you."

Councillor Mabaso, M (IFP) addressed Council as follows:

"Chairperson of Chairs; Executive Mayor; Members of the Mayoral Committee; Leaders of the Parties; IFP Councillors; Fellow Councillors and Residents

Allow me to begin by sending words of condolences on behalf of the IFP to the family of Councillor Vasco da Gama, may the grace of God be with them during this difficult time, may they find comfort in the book of Psalm 34- 18 which reads "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and save those who are crushed in spirit".

The IFP has observed several interventions and programmes that are in-line with what it wants to see achieved. In an ideal situation given the state of paralysis of our Municipality and decaying standard of living of the majority of our residents predominantly those who are black, we are left with no choice but to prioritize our citizens who are residing in this City.

As the IFP we want to see multi-party Party Government prioritizing Local Economic Growth and abolishing Poverty, we have said it time and again that Government is not a creator of jobs, but its role is to create a conducive and enabling environment for businesses, big or small to thrive and create jobs. I am happy Executive Mayor, that

even those who are on the left side of politics are beginning to see that. In growing local economy, we must go back to basic, "Revitalise Township Economy".

It is disappointing to say the list, that we have allowed our people in all townships of Johannesburg to consume counterfeit food products that are, even worse, sold by undocumented foreign nationals. This alone has led to unfortunate acts of vigilantism and lawlessness. To redress this sad state of affairs, as a first leap we must reclaim all

spaza shops and regulate them such that there must be a permit to sell food products and that permit must be made exclusive for South Africans, in the same vein Opportunity Centers must be made more accessible to people in our townships for them to attain much needed entrepreneurial skills and access to information.

Research suggest that investor confidence has declined in the city due to high levels of crime, corruption and decaying infrastructure and the IFP is calling for more resources to be placed on these areas.

It is high time that we embark on alternative power supplies for our residents, as Eskom has demonstrated beyond reasonable doubts that they are not going to resolve this man-made energy crisis that we are confronted with, and under prevailing circumstances it is close to impossible to run effective businesses.

Corruption remains a pandemic across Departments and Entities in the City, it is therefore prudent that we capacitate with suitable human resource, capital and required autonomy of Group Forensic and Investigation Services to conduct their business without fear, favour or prejudice. For a multi-party Party Government to gain public confidence we must restore order in the City, and we can achieve that by starting with our own employees and senior officials.

In Addressing Infrastructure and Housing Backlog we need to do more in strengthening Inter-governmental Relations for Grants to be made available because without them we cannot do much, however, there is a need colleagues for us to do twice as much in fostering Public Private Partnership across the length and breadth of the city, this backlog requires multiple approach, Private sector also has a role to play in rejuvenating this beautiful City.

Service delivery to the residents of Johannesburg remains an apex priority of the IFP, and the IFP will thus hold you Executive Mayor and your committee accountable at all material times and will be extra cautious on how budget is allocated, this is the time to touch lives of those who are marginalized and long forgotten in our communities.

Good work done during previous political administration should not be discontinued, if there are shortfall identified let us close those gaps and move forward because at the end of the day it is not about us, but about the residents getting what is due to them.

IFP wishes this administration all the best and we will continue to support all the pro-poor initiatives and economic boosting activities. Thank you all"

Councilor Sauls I, A (PA) addressed Council as follows:

"Acting Speaker; Executive Mayor; MMC'S; Chairpersons; Councillors; guests, I bring you greetings from every single patriot in the city and across the country. But I would like to bring a special greeting today from our president, and recently unopposed, elected District Mayor of the Central Karoo, the honourable, his Excellency Gayton McKenzie and our deputy president, the honourable Kenny Kunene.

The PA wants to commend you Madam Mayor, for your contribution to our cause, for rewriting the role of coloured people within our political history in this country. By you mentioning expressly, the role of Stanley Lollan, the Rivonia trialist that has been so easily forgotten. Madam Mayor, we also want to thank you as the Patriotic Alliance for expressing the value of the Patriotic Alliance and ensuring a stable government by forming part of this multi-party coalition. It gives us confidence that unlike what we have experienced in history, that the distorted history that gives the impression that only one particular party is responsible for the freedom of this country. Whereas there have been roles of many others together, called the Congress of the People, which ensured the signing of the Freedom Charter in historic Kliptown. It reassures the Patriotic Alliance that when we look back on the success of this multi-party government, that you will not say it is the DA, but we will say it is all of us together.

Madam Mayor, we welcome your leadership style of taking ownership, rather than blaming the previous administration when talking about Bophelong and Florida clinics. You could have mentioned the poor workmanship is the reason why it took longer to open, but you did not. Madam Mayor, could have mentioned that the city was supposed to pay a total of just over 30 million for the Florida clinic, but ended up paying 64.5 million because of corruption, but you did not, and so, the Patriotic Alliance want to commend you for taking ownership.

Madam Mayor, the Patriotic Alliance wants to reassure you that our portfolio will execute with military precision, truth and transparency on your promise to building ten new, modern and robustly sized clinics in the next three years. PA welcomes your move of alternative electricity. We want to take this opportunity to also thank yourself and acting, at the time, MMC Knot, for using a Good Friday to attend the electricity crisis within Eldorado Park. We want to also mention that the media statement went out that it will take seven days longer for the electricity to be restored, but because of the interventions of MMC Sun, we now know that the period is reduced and we are grateful, but we want to ensure that the citizens and the residents of Eldorado will not for longer period have to deal with the current electricity crisis.

In conclusion, Madam Mayor, we welcome the review of the migration policy, but we want to show the link between current electricity crisis and illegal immigration. I want to put it to you Madam Mayor, that 18 cable thieves were arrested by residents of Eldorado Park and all of them were illegal immigrants. Luckily, no one died but unfortunately, in Pimville Kgomotso Diale has died."

Councilor Chalufu, S (ACTIONSA) addressed Council as follows:

"Acting Speaker; Colleagues; Good afternoon to you all.

Madam Mayor, indeed, your address and this multi-party government comes on the backdrop of the most recent five-year term, which saw several coalition governments. We now see former Section 79 Chairs become MMC's, former MMC's returned to new executive portfolios, one former MMC returned as Executive Mayor. Indeed, we also saw one former Mayor return as the caucus leader of the second largest coalition partner, whilst another returned to lead the opposition.

Colleagues, some political parties are finding that the era of their existence is coming to an end, especially now that their access to our shared resources is significantly constrained. No doubt the leader of the opposition will lecture us at length, deflecting responsibility for many years of bad governance, but even he knows the truth. ANC yalimosha igoli, and now we are working to fix it! Indeed, some amongst us; may think of themselves as the leader of society, but the people of Joburg showed them, in very clear terms, that they too can be, and have been replaced, with new leaders in society, this is multi-party Government! We are in charge here!

Madam Mayor, as ActionSA, we note your admission of the fact that what often hobbles the City's execution of its programmes is the lack of partnership internally. We encourage you to lead with this in a way that fosters an environment which will ensure that the city works as one. The Departments, Entities, Officials, as well as your 10 MMC's with whom you lead this City, must work together collaboratively. They must work to ensure that the execution of the MPG's objectives, Executive Mayor, even when it may be uncomfortable, unpleasant or at times politically inconvenient. This is important, Madam Mayor, because people do not eat ideologies or ideas that excites some amongst us. They eat the fruits of the execution of our ideas. Abantu abanandaba ukuthi ubani oze nombono wokuthi iPikitup isebenze ngendlela thizeni, banendaba nokuthi uMaspala uwulandile na lodoti, enguwubeke ngaphandle ngelanga lokulandwa kwawo. Umaspala uyokwenzani ngodaba lokwandisa kwamathuba omsebenzi?

Madam Mayor allow me to highlight some of your points and remind us of other important programmes. We look forward to seeing the City's revised migration policy and contributing to it in the appropriate fora. We support and appreciate your recognition of the rights of South African Citizens. As ActionSA, we continue to affirm our position that we want people of the world to come to South Africa, and Joburg in particular, but they must do so lawfully, and when they are here, they must respect our laws. There can be no sound debate on the fact that the unmitigated disaster that is our current immigration system, places a strain on so many levers of our society.

- *Government cannot plan properly, which affects service delivery, manifesting in illegal electrical and water connections, costing us all a small fortune;*
- *Social cohesion is affected, when people can no longer enter those sectors of the economy with the lowest barriers to entry because they are competing on an unequal basis and often-times against organised crime cartels;*

- *The safety of all Johannesburgers is affected when anybody and everybody can come into our towns, cities and country, without government being able to track and trace them;*
- *When illegal miners, who it is becoming apparent are often times illegal migrants, dig up our old mines, it is our roads and ground infrastructure that suffers worst of all in a city with an ANC-fuelled infrastructure backlog fast approaching R200 billion (that is, a cost equivalent to providing over 3 million RDP houses).*

Madam Mayor, South Africa and Joburg in particular, cannot continue to be the dumping ground for other countries' problems. On this, we are unapologetic!

We welcome Madam Mayor, the move to finally approve the City's Informal Trading Policy. This policy has been languishing in the City's back offices for far too many years, with a history dating as far back as almost a decade ago, to a bygone time, when the City was led by another entity party, which I have been gagged from naming.

Acting Speaker, this policy is crucial as it is the foundation of informal trading in a manner that is both beneficial and acceptable to all stakeholders. Its effect will be to regularise the informal trading space and facilitate by-law enforcement. Further, this policy will undergird the City's efforts at rejuvenating the inner city, as it is difficult to market the inner city as an area attractive to investment, when it is not entirely clear who does what, where and how. The Joburg CBD must be restored as the centre of economic and recreational activity that it once was. Of course, many of us may remember that it was under the leadership of former Mayor Herman Mashaba, that the city was finally turned into a construction zone through the Inner-City Rejuvenation project. This project was set to generate R32 billion in investment, create 21 000 jobs and deliver almost 15 000 accommodation units, for low-income families and students. As ActionSA, we are excited that this project is squarely on the multi-party government's agenda and we look forward to the partnership between all the relevant portfolio's and MMC's, including MMC Belinda Echoezonjoku at Development Planning and MMC Nkuli Mbundu at Economic Development.

As ActionSA, we welcome the decision to return to work at 100% and the fact that no hybrid working will be allowed in our essential services units. We do so, mindful of the fact that the world around us is moving deeper into what is called the "new normal", having accepted that, broadly, the way we work may never return to what it used to be. On this, Madam Mayor and MMC Knott in particular, the Johannesburg City needs you to lead the way.

Sadly, the Corporate and Shared Services Section 79 Committee was informed last week that the city is not yet ready for what is called the "Future World of Work". How can we be ready when we rely far too much on manual labour for basic and monotonous labour? How can we be ready when the ratio of support staff, as against service delivery staff, such as technicians, engineers and healthcare, goes against global best practice? Of course, we must never forget that the situation is as it is by intention, by design, by some amongst us who I will not name in fear of descending this House into chaos, but we know that it was done intentionally and this must change, Madam Mayor. There are far too many unemployed engineers, of whom we are in need of, for the biggest City in the country to struggle to keep the lights on at

City Power, provide water at Joburg Water and fix the roads at JRA. Much has been made of the state of the City's roads. Indeed, they are not in a good way and there are valid criticisms and observations, but colleagues we must also not pretend that the state of affairs happened overnight. Nevertheless, we are proud of the work Transport MMC and ActionSA's caucus leader, Funzi Ngobeni, has chosen to deal with this issue in a way far better than any other political principal before him. Indeed, MMC, you are applying Maximum Pressure! As ActionSA we will support all efforts to turn this situation around.

Lastly, on this theme, allow me to remind us of one major programme that was in the last stages of finalization during the administration led by former Mayor Mashaba was the insourcing of vulnerable staff such as cleaners and security guards. We are aware that there have been unending issues since another administration took over after

Mashaba and his administration left the City. Madam Mayor, we encourage you to ensure that all remaining issues in this regard are finalized, these issues come to our attention as your Councillors, who are led by yourself and the Executive, as well as the Speaker and acting Speaker. We encourage you to ensure that all these issues are finalized at the earliest opportunity, as per our Coalition agreement.

Lastly, colleagues, let us be reminded that whilst there are repeated allegations of criminality, and the casting of aspersions at this executive, and in particular, MMC's not a single criminal charge has been laid with the relevant law enforcement authorities. Niwasabani amaphoyisa? You must go there, lay your charges and not be afraid ukuthi you may get there and not come out because niyazazi ukuthi kunabanye ngaphakathi kwenu aba ntshontsha imali yomphakathi during the early stages of the State of Disaster, under COVID.

Madam Mayor, whilst you can count on our support and encouragement where we see good work being executed in the administration, and services being delivered to all of the residents of Johannesburg, from Dainfern, to Diepkloof, to Douglasdale and Diepsloot. You can also count on us to not shy away from holding up a mirror of accountability where we see the opposite being done in all the relevant fora where we have your attention. Thank you."

Councillor Raseruthe, S (EFF) addressed Council as follows:

"Acting madam Speaker, first allow me to congratulate the mighty EFF, for winning Ward 3 by-elections, in Phokwane, Northern Cape, we are winning wards. I would like to remind everyone who is in this house today, that today marks exactly 151 days since the mayor was elected to office. On Monday, 22 November 2021, at 09h10 PM she was elected. In her acceptance speech that was delivered on Tuesday, 2 December 2021. The mayor promised us a Golden start, the beginning of a real meaningful change, and stated that, "From Orange Farm to the leafy northern suburbs, all communities will receive equal services." The irony to this statement is that the mayor has never set foot in Orange Farm, ever since she took over as the Mayor in the City of Johannesburg. The fact of the matter is that residents of Kaya Sand, Zandspruit, Rabie Ridge, Alexandra, Kliptown, Majazane, Nomzamo and Soweto to name but a few, they do not even know their mayor.

Mayor, in your speech you mentioned the issue of electricity cut when people cannot afford to pay, and you even smiled about it. Hopefully your programme will start that side of Sandton before touching townships or else you leave us with no choice but to protect ourselves as the poor of the poorest. We can only hope that the mayor's term does not also end with a golden handshake, as per norm, in the house of cards, the Democratic Alliance and others.

Yesterday the Mayor took to the podium, wherein she delivered a wish list while the state of the city she is entrusted to administer, has turned into a landfill site. Mayor, looking so clean, cannot be proud of running the city with so much littering and uncollected waste, which is found scattered in each corner in the streets of Johannesburg. The state of our roads has turned into a danger zone to drive on, not even a single traffic light is functioning in the city. The state of pathway and byways, Parks and Recreational facilities are a concrete jungle, the mayor should tell no lies and claim no easy victories.

As the Economic Freedom Fighters, we acknowledge the fact that in your speech you made mention of the two EFF sponsored motions, which you cited and did not acknowledge the EFF. When she made a bold claim about the City's revenue of informal trading by-law, she knew for a fact, that the initiative was an EFF sponsored motion, which was tabled in Council, in 2019. Again, she spoke about the provision of service stands. You know very well that initiative is an EFF sponsored motion.

The once City of Gold is now a pigsty, the youth unemployment rate is shockingly high, the youth has resorted to crime and drugs, and it does not bother you to even make mention of it in your speech.

The mayor must stop selling us dreams, which are sugar coated, by naming them Mayoral seven priorities for the city, which is fairy-tale. A promise of quality service to all residents is not a true reflection of what is currently happening here, in Johannesburg. These services that you talk about, are for the selected few, like my colleague up there, especially those who live in the suburbs.

Executive Mayor, in your SOCA speech you said "MMC Sun ensured that every household received waste services weekly including informal settlements". Which residents are you referring to? Which informal settlements are those? It is rather shocking that you begin your speech with acknowledging God then mention something which is not true in front of 6 million people of Johannesburg.

The EFF is representing the poor and downtrodden masses. We find it very distasteful when you always use words such as, "as well", "also" etc, every time she mentions informal settlements, as if they are sub-residents of the city. We know that your government will never do anything for them, however, refer them as residents of Johannesburg and stop othering them.

It is important to acknowledge failures as this will assist in making improvements in the future. JMPD is currently failing, that is why we even witness the raise of vigilante groups, who go around tormenting and murdering innocent people while disguising as crime fighters. It is anti-transformational when recreational facilities are

concentrated in Sub-region F, which is predominantly urban, we have been crying about this urban bias for years and we believe that the residents of Johannesburg deserve a government which will undo such biasness. With more 100 informal settlements around the city, targeting only 10 informal settlements for service delivery purposes shows that, as long as the government of the day is still on the helm, the poor people are on their own. We will however monitor very closely the upgrading of the 10 informal settlements mentioned in her speech and we will hold you accountable.

The mayor spoke of spending millions on potholes, however, when one drives around the streets of Johannesburg, all one sees are roads infested with large potholes. The EFF produced a comprehensive report which has pictures, locations, street names of where potholes are.

As a former MMC of Health and Social Development, the Mayor failed to make mention of the City's plans regarding the rollout of mobile clinics in our informal settlements.

The SOCA speech has made it crystal clear that the so-called "golden opportunity", by this multi-party government is only reserved for affluent communities who were also beneficiaries of apartheid, while the livelihoods of the majority in our townships and informal settlements deteriorate.

This is the most incoherent state of the city address presented in this chamber, when we say "the state" we are referring to the current state quo, so a well written speech was supposed to start with telling the residents of this City, what is the current state of the city before jumping into making empty promises. Stop selling us dreams and admit that the golden opportunities you refer to, are only reserved for the DA and others.

Madam Mayor, the residents of Orange Farm have lived without electricity for the past four years, and maybe it is because you do not care about them, you did not see the importance to include them in your speech. And I know for a fact, that when you get home, Madam Mayor, and find that your children did not switch on the lights, you would then ask them, why they did not? What about the people of Orange Farm? Which lights will they switch on? Please madam Mayor, we were happy when we made you a mayor, because we thought o mma ngwana, wa tshwara thipa ka bohaleng, take care of us as residents of Johannesburg, all of us, equally so. Do not be selective on the areas to prioritize, in fixing robots and access to electricity. Electricity must always be available, service everyone like you promised during your acceptance speech. Do not let anyone blackmail you Madam Mayor, with threats of non-payment to services. We as the EFF, as long as you prioritize the marginalized, you will have our support, we will support you because some of us here can help ourselves, please help those who cannot help themselves.

We love you Mayor and wish you the best, the best you can do is to do the right thing and cater to our people. We will always support you when you cater for the marginalized."

Councillor Moerane, M (ANC) addressed Council as follows:

"The Executive Mayor, Councillor Mpho Phalatse; acting Speaker of Council and Chair of Chairs, Councillor Colleen Makhubele; Whip of Council, Councillor, Tyrell Meyers; Members of the Mayoral Committee; Chairpersons of all committees of Council; fellow Councillors; leaders of all political parties represented in Council; acting City Manager, Floyd Brink; esteemed guests; the people of Johannesburg.

Let me first take this opportunity to send our deepest and most sincere condolences to the people of Johannesburg, who have lost their loved ones in the very unfortunate disaster that has taken place in parts of KwaZulu Natal and the Eastern Cape.

We know that the very nature of Johannesburg, being the magnet and the drawcard that it is, means that we have many within our city and perhaps within this very Chamber, who have lost loved ones in the disaster that has occurred Councillor Mabaso will tell you, he probably is affected as well, condolences.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have lost their loved ones, their properties and livelihood. We wish to express our condolences as we offer our solidarity with the various government departments, NGOs, the faith sector, as well as all those involved in the hard work of recovering not only bodies, but the very lives that have been permanently eroded.

Words are not enough to express our shock and horror at what we have seen and read in the media and on the social networks in the last few days. We believe that this is an opportunity for all of us as a country to unite ourselves to the efforts that are underway to try and rebuild the lives by the violence that only nature can mete out.

Let me also join the Executive Mayor by conveying our deepest condolences to the Speaker of Council, Councillor Vasco da Gama, who is currently in mourning following the passing of his son Robin, whom I have personally visited in hospital some time ago. We will put you in our prayers during this difficult time.

Madam acting Speaker, as we meet here to respond to the inaugural State of the City address, we find ourselves tongue tied. We do not know where to start. This is not because what we heard was music to our ears, but precisely because it was listening to someone who spoke as though they had been caught by surprise that they would be expected to deliver the State of the City address. The Executive Mayor seemed to be as surprised and unsure of herself as the day when she was elected as the Mayor of Johannesburg.

This being her first speech as the first citizen of our great City, we attempted to find something positive or kind to say about it. The most we could come with was that the Executive Mayor looked resplendent as she approached the podium. Looking at her, one could be proud to point her among the mayors of great cities of the world and say, "That one, is the mayor of our great City". Unfortunately, this was not the horse racing event, held in Durban, every July. It was the day on which the people of Johannesburg waited to hear what the leaders of their city had planned for them and

their future. It is unfortunate, that those who listened heard nothing, nothing new or original. With that said, this means we represent most Wards in the City, and we remain committed to doing so to the best of our abilities, albeit from the opposition side. The ANC is still the biggest political party in Johannesburg, and therefore, we will continue to push that the interests of the City's residents as articulated in the Joburg Growth and Development Strategy 2040, "Find expression in your government". I can assure you today that ours, as a liberation movement, is to ensure that the prescribed developmental mandate by the Constitution of the Republic for Local government is achieved, albeit from the opposition side.

The ANC is not in existence merely to access power and remain in power. Ours is to end racialism and colonial mentality in all its forms and transform Johannesburg in line with the ANC constitution's objectives and aims for South Africa, which is based on the principles of the Freedom Charter and non-racialism. You are guaranteed that the ANC as the biggest political party in this Council, we are going to use this strength to ensure that your political party, the DA, does not relegate disadvantaged communities that include Orange Farm, Alexandra, Soweto as well as Diepsloot, Ivory Park and the inner City as a second-class citizen of this great City. The ANC manifesto clearly articulates our commitments to these communities, alongside other priorities that include socio-economic development and programmes designed to revive our local economy and subsequently create job opportunities and shared prosperity.

Madam Speaker, looking at your "Golden Start", flowing from the seven Mayoral priorities being:

- 1. A City that gets basics right: How do you get the basics right if you cannot appoint a Municipal Manager?*
- 2. A safe City: I do not know, crime is high, cable theft and infrastructure damage is getting worse.*
- 3. A caring City, that fired 130 staff members - a caring City. And today, at this moment, I want to tell you Mayor, that they have won. The court has ordered that the City must pay the cost. Those who took the decision must pay the cost from their pockets.*
- 4. Inclusive City: Not sure about that, as our 87 Wards are not properly serviced, service delivery is bad.*
- 5. A well-run City: I am not convinced, as you are currently purging professionals in the city. How are you going to run a well-run City?*

Let me congratulate the Executive Mayor, for her election to the role of Africa Vice Chair for C40 Cities, and I wish to put it clear that this role was most likely an inherited role from the efforts of the late Executive Mayor, Councillor Geoffrey Makhubo. Under his leadership, the city revived its participation in global community and thought leadership discussions, and again under his leadership, the City of Johannesburg adopted the City's Climate Action Plan. Let me remind this Council that under the ANC and visionary leadership, the City of Johannesburg won the C40 Award in Paris at the COP21 for the Innovation in issuing the Green Bond to address climate change.

I also wish to thank the mayor by continuing with the ANC led GLU programmes: The Pikitup's strategy to work with local communities through Co-operatives is not going to be a new thing. Let me remind this Council that Co-operatives were an initiative begun under the Government of Local Unity (GLU), in the context of Co-production. And we are happy that the city is continuing with this initiative for the benefit of our community. Waste removal in the city as you outlined, but I must say that the GLU used to collect waste in township and informal settlements daily, but your speech says weekly, you are regressing Mayor. The continued City's Sustainable Energy Strategy and including the operational Call Centre for escalated queries is also welcomed.

With regard to the extended City Power purchase agreement with Kelvin Power station for the period of 24 months, which includes maintaining security and reliability of supply to the residents of the city. Let me take this opportunity to explain and clarify the misleading statement of the Executive Mayor. When the current government came in office after 2021 November, local government elections, the agreement was already finalised in negotiations that began under the GLU, do not take credit where it not due, give it to where it belongs. What needed to be finalized were certain aspects of the terms of the agreement and to look at options for a longer-term arrangement with Kelvin Power station.

The City's partnership with Dial Direct and Discovery, which were launched by former, late Mayor Geoff Makhubo, is also welcomed, but I thought you would acknowledge, since he started the project.

We have also noted that MMC for Health, is continuing to open clinics that the GLU started. Construction of the Naledi clinic started under the GLU leadership and was left with the appointment of a contractor. The Executive Mayor is misleading this Council and the City of Johannesburg communities, when she mentioned that 10 new modern clinics will be constructed in different parts of the city.

I am really not sure where these 10 clinics are going to be, and I do not think there are 10 clinics that are already constructed and done i.e. Noordgesig clinic, Florida clinic and Bophelong clinic.

Madam acting Speaker, the hostel redevelopment plan surely cannot be doing away with the apartheid spatial planning which is a much broader issues than just hostels. Corridors of Freedom articulated by the ANC government in 2012 under Executive Mayor Parks Tau, was intended to densify the corridors with spaces to live, work and play and restitch the city from its apartheid form. The upgrading of community residential units has long been started.

Acting Speaker, with regards to a loan market that is averse to lending money to municipalities, which the Executive Mayor indicated that shrinking grants is from the provincial and national spheres. It is not true, let me explain this, "the shrinking grants", are more of result of poor spending, therefore, it is not because of the provincial and national government. It is because there has not been necessarily a reduction in allocations to local government. Please do not blame the province and national if you cannot manage your resources. Any reduction in grants is due to

internal inefficiencies that cause underspending. My humble plea is that the focus should be on pushing spending of grants allocated not to play the blame game pointed to other spheres of government.

Madam acting Speaker, the investor roadshow is not where funds are raised but where the City leadership engages investors keeping them abreast with latest performance of the City which includes infrastructure developments. Perhaps the MMC should look back on some of the innovations implemented by her predecessors, in the past under the ANC governments, e.g. issuance of green bonds, exploring international financing options and other innovations to diversify the sources of funding.

The MMC Finance, Councillor Julie Suddaby can learn one or two crucial things from the ANC leadership. I just want to remind this Council that in May 2014, City of Johannesburg got a whooping four notch upgrade on both the global scale rating and national scale rate from Ba3 to Baa2, similar to sovereign and A2 to Aa1 respectively and under the leadership of the ANC in 2015 when Fitch Rating agency, upgraded the City of Johannesburg's national long-term rating to AA (zaf) by one notch from AA-(zaf). It was under the leadership of the ANC.

Fellow Councillors,

Weekly updates seem dangerous, really with regard to contract that are in final stage as to ensure that the City has full complement of fire engines. The Supply Chain Management (SCM) regulations gives effect to section 117 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, which preclude Councillors from participating in the operation of the SCM system, being specifically excluded from being a member of, or even an observer on any bid committee. Your weekly update means you are interfering with the process of Supply Chain, Madam Speaker. Instead, the Council must delegate supply chain management powers and duties to the City Manager, who is responsible for appropriate delegations within certain financial constraints, for the implementation of the SCM policy.

Madam acting Speaker, the statement mentioned that during the 2020/21 financial year, not even one of Joburg's entities received a clean audit or an unqualified audit opinion, the Executive Mayor needs to be corrected as she is misleading the people of Johannesburg. Corrections here, while no entity received a clean audit opinion, all entities except for MTC, received unqualified audit opinions. I repeat, all entities of the City of Johannesburg received unqualified audit. Please go back and re-read or fire the person who wrote your speech.

Madam acting Speaker, the Executive Mayor spent pages upon pages repeating projects that had been started under the ANC-led Government of Local-Unity. She basked in the glory of ideas that we had created, and which were only now coming in fruition. Listening to the Mayor, the people of the various parts of our city that have been poorly served and collectively punished by Eskom, are justifiably wondering when our own City Power will take over the reticulation of electricity in their areas and bring energy services served in line with the constitutional values of dignity and

fairness. Instead of the looking at the merits of the plan that was in place, the DA-led administration sought a narrow and partisan outlook. Instead of mapping a vision and future for the city, the Executive Mayor has spent part of her 100 days looking for boogiemens and wrongdoings under the rocks. This City is in desperate need of sincere and visionary leaders who have the bold and brave ambition to elevate this City to its exalted state as the premier metropolitan on the African continent, and not to be left in the hands of someone who finds petty pleasure in the blame-game that this Executive Mayor has indulged in, since her appointment.

In other cases, the Executive Mayor simply cobbled up existing idea and used new language to package them as if they were original ideas, hoping that nobody would notice. Unfortunately, for the Executive Mayor, some of us in this House have long memories. In fact, not only do we have good memories, we know these things because some of us have personally worked on them.

It is hardly a month that our own City was in the news because of the strife between local communities and foreign nations in Diepsloot. This national event, indeed, an event that has captured the imagination of the southern Africa region, did not seem to matter to the Executive Mayor. It did not seem to be deserving for her attention. This despite every warning that the question of the relations between foreign nationals and local South Africans is a powder keg that could explode at any time if not properly managed. The generic line about reviewing the City's migration policy, will ring hollow to the ears of both foreign nationals and locals desperate for the City to show leadership on this complex issue of migration.

In the context of what our country has suffered in terms of natural disasters, the people of Johannesburg would have expected that the City leadership reassures us that they will have a plan in the event of what happened in the KZN and Eastern Cape happens here.

Like someone lazy to cook, but very eager to eat or take in the praises of those served, the Executive Mayor spent her time on the podium trying to get credit for the projects that she arrived when the pot was almost ready for dishing. It is clear from the emptiness of the speech that the Executive Mayor, has not recovered from the fact that she did not expect to be the first citizen of this City. We expected better. The people of our city demand better of the city government.

To rehash and repeat plans that you have not created is not only a lack of imagination but failure of leadership. The people cannot afford to be led by those who are so lack in vision for the city, that they spend all their time looking at what has been accomplished by their predecessors.

Service delivery will not be achieved by slogans and platitudes. It can only be achieved by a leadership that appreciates that the point is not to sound good but to do good, and to be seen and felt by communities on the ground. The lived experience of the people of the City of Johannesburg must be the ultimate barometer of whether the city government is meeting its mandate.

As we speak, and as a party that has majority of Ward Councillors in the City, we have every reason to be worried. It is unfortunate, that in the context of what we have seen in other parts of the country, we need to be careful and sensitive in how we use the term disaster.

Madam acting Speaker, the current public spat between the Executive Mayor and the acting City Manager and the head of GFIS is highly regrettable.

Madam acting Speaker, on Tuesday, you chaired a meeting of Councillors that was called by the mayor to deal with water and electricity. We were informed that the mayor was in a cabinet meeting and could not attend the meeting. I would like to pause and give the Executive Mayor a quick lesson about Municipal Systems Act. Chapter 4 of the Structures Act provides for internal structures and functionaries for metropolitan municipalities which are:

- *Executive Committees: where parties representation is based on proportional representation that is used to determine seats in Council.*
- *Executive Mayor Systems: this one is adopted by the CoJ where the Executive Mayor appoints mayoral committee from among the Councillors to assist him/her*

Cabinet is appointed in terms of Section 91 of the Constitution, in terms of the Constitution, cabinet consists of the President as head of the Cabinet, a Deputy president and Ministers.

No local government legislation governing and regulating municipalities makes provision for Cabinet. So, it came as a shock that the city has a cabinet.

Madam acting Speaker, in closing, if these were different times, we would have a good reason to fear, that this leadership with its lack of foresight, original ideas and courage to meet the challenges of our day, is leading the city to a path of ruin. I thank you."

Councillor Nkomo, B (DA) addressed Council as follows:

"Thank you very much, acting Speaker of Council. I would like to first start by greeting you, the Executive Mayor; Chief Whip of Council; fellow Councillors and of course, the residents of the City of Johannesburg. I greet you all.

I would like to start off by congratulating the Executive Mayor, on her maiden state of the city address, as well as take this opportunity to thank her and the Executive, for their commitment and contribution towards the regeneration of our once beautiful City – and speaking of beautiful. I have heard the mayor being described as beautiful here on countless occasions, and I think it is such a lazy way to describe a mayor that has so much to offer the city.

Fellow Councillors, I have been in Council for eight years and in that time, I have seen five different Mayors, I have seen several MMCs, and I have heard countless slogans and promises, but what I have not seen is real and significant change for the six million residents who call our city home. So, if the mirror of a man's heart is his action, what will that say about us in this Council, if you fail to deliver on our promise?

Having been a Ward Councillor for those years, I have seen Councillors from different political parties disagree on many occasions, but one thing that I know, that we can all agree on, is that it is becoming increasingly difficult and impossible to be the solution our residents desperately deserve. This is not because we lack the passion or the will, but because the city we call home is deteriorating by the day. We all have residents who have lost faith in us politicians. We all have residents who have abused or criticized us. Some of us have even had our homes attacked by the very residents we have committed to serve, and who can blame them? Who can blame them for demanding consistent, and uninterrupted supply of water and electricity to study and run their businesses?

Just to give you a dose of reality faced by the residents of our city on a daily basis: On the 13 April, City Power recorded 3 893 calls logged on that particular day. Neglected OPEX has become unaffordable CAPEX. Who can blame them, when the community of Eldorado are being consumed by drugs and hopelessness, Councillor Rafferty? Who can blame the people of Alex for demanding work opportunities, when the COVID-19 pandemic has robbed them of their dignity and the little that they had, Councillor Raphadu? How do we blame our residents for demanding the basics? The same residents that organized to fill their own potholes and cut their own grass, in the spirit of active citizenry?

Councillors, the truth is that politicians and governments are fast becoming public enemy number one, and the reality is, history will not pick and choose who it decides to judge. Gone are the days where secretly blaming the ANC government, or the DA Mayor is acceptable in the eyes of our residents. Gone are the days where our residents blindly support Councillors and political parties based on history and catchy manifestos. Our residents need and wants results.

While many of us understand the significance and importance of the golden start for our residents and our crumbling City, my question is: Do we understand the opportunity the golden start represents for us sitting in this very room? The opportunity to leave a legacy we can be proud of. The opportunity to look forward while learning from our past, because as things stand, the glue is not holding.

Councillors, from this day forward, I challenge each of us to view the seven Mayoral priorities a little differently:

- 1. Through learning to respect and appreciate one another and the diversity we all come with; we get the Basics right.*
- 2. By encouraging an environment where we tolerate and accept one another's views, it creates a Safe City.*
- 3. A Caring City can only be realized if we start to appreciate the unique set of challenges, we, and our residents experience on a daily basis. We need to stop doing things for the sake of the vote.*

4. *The business spending City: We have committed to putting our residents and their needs first, so, let us cut the politicking and get down to business. Only then can we talk about putting a dent in the unemployment rate.*
5. *An inclusive City: We He have an opportunity to collaborate, share ideas, especially through our Section 79 committees. The Executive do not have all the answers, and experience taught me that they are willing to listen.*
6. *A Well-Run City: Joburg is our home, and we need to unite and play our part while there is a city to save.*
7. *A Smart City: If we are really going to get the city of gold shining again you will not only need to work fast, but we will also need to work smart.*

In conclusion, Speaker. The late Mayor Makhubo has been mentioned here on a number of occasions, and one thing that he used to say is "Ke mjipa, ga se kopie dice", and essentially what the phrase means, to me at least, is that although it might seem simple and basic from the other side, the task of running a city is not an easy one. It is going to take a collective effort from us all sitting in this room, but it needs to start today. We can get things done. I thank you."

5 RESPONSE BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

The Executive Mayor addressed Council in response to the debate from various political parties as follows:

"Greetings to the acting Speaker of Council and Chair of Chairs, Councillor Colleen Makhubele; greetings to the Whip of Council, Councillor Tyrell Meyers; MMCs; Chairpersons of Section 79 committees; leaders of political parties; leaders of the different caucuses; my fellow Councillors; members of the Media; ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you, to all the speakers. From the bottom of my heart, for taking time to read through the State of the City address. Thank you, for taking time to critique and thank you, for every bit of constructive criticism that has come through today. I appreciate the feedback, and I will now respond.

Let me first respond on issues pertaining to some of the things that have been happening in the City over the last few weeks

I delivered the State of the City address, it is true, I could have mentioned so many other things over and above what I mentioned in this address – I chose not to, I mentioned what I mentioned, we would have been here the whole day because there is a lot of good that is happening in the Executive.

When we talk about Diepsloot, as an example, as soon as we heard what was happening in Diepsloot, we were in an IDP meeting. MMC Tembe was immediately deployed to go and be part of the solution on the ground, and he immediately deployed resources from the JMPD to join forces with the SAPS as well as the Minister of Home Affairs, who was there, and they were part of the solution. As soon as I could, I also went. I went along with MMC Sauls I, as well as MMC Tembe. We had

a follow up engagement at the SAPS, with two SAPS Brigadiers, to discuss what is happening in Diepsloot and the role of local government in particular. A few things were identified: That there are issues pertaining to the built environment or environmental design, that need to be addressed by local government to assist with Policing in Diepsloot. The fact that you do not have proper streets; you have a settlement that is too dense; you have a settlement where the Police cannot just drive through and do their jobs, as they should; and a lot of criminals are able to get away and hide; the fact that you do not have street lights; the fact that you do not have regular grass cutting, those are some of the issues that were brought up, over and above the socio-economic conditions of the people in that area, that also contribute towards crime and criminality. All of those are being dealt with by the city, through regional structures. In fact, the Regional Director for Region A, was present in that meeting and an immediate plan of action was put together, and actions have started in that area.

Yes, I did not mention it in the State of the City address, it does not mean that it is not happening, and the same can be said for so many other things that I did not mention but are happening through this administration. We promised, as the multi-Party government that we are going to work in an integrated fashion to fight crime in the City of Johannesburg. We recognize that the JMPD does not have enough boots on the ground, as much as we have added to the JMPD force, we still do not have enough officers in Johannesburg, to fight crime in Johannesburg. And as we also recognize that we need to find solutions and one of those solutions is to Police smarter and better, hence we will be investing in smart Policing. Hence, I spoke about CCTV camera networks, integrating those networks, ensuring that all the cameras in the city are linked to the intelligence operating centre.

I would like to remind the Councillors in this House, that we came into office at the end of November. I would like to remind the Councillors in this House, that we inherited plans and budgets. I would like to remind the Councillors in this House, that as much as we had an adjustment budget, we could only adjust up to 10%, by law, of those plans and budgets, thank you. At least you know, so you appreciate the limitations and the time that we are in, and that is the reality of the environment we work in. Come first of July, we will start running with our own plans and our own budget as the job of multi-Party government. That is the law, and that was the timing of elections, we did not decide on it, we had to run with it.

And now I also want to address this idea, and it is very close to my heart. Councillor Moerane, I served as a technocrat in government, for many years. One of their frustrations, and you must ask any technocrat that works for government; is that politicians destabilize the work of governments. This obsession with original things. Everything new. Everything original. Each time there is a new administration, whether it is a year or two years, is destabilizing the governments of this country. Our officials are frustrated by politicians who come in and say, "I do not want this programme. Give me something new, it was brought in by the Democratic Alliance". I would like to settle this once and for all, because I do not want us to keep going back to the same issue. The Joburg Multi-Party government is not yet to make wholesale changes to the City of Johannesburg, that is not what we are here to do. We are here to fix a broken

City. We are here to build the City of Johannesburg and restore her to her former glory. That being said, as we settle this matter. If it is good for our residents, and if it works for our residents, and if it was implemented correctly, regularly and in terms of the law, we will continue and we will continue investing in it and we will make it even better for the sake of our residents. But where there is lawlessness and criminality; or programmes that do not make sense or are not cost effective and take away from our residents, instead of addressing the issues, those we will discontinue.

I have heard concerns about the theft and vandalism of infrastructure in the city, and we are also very concerned about that. And I will share with you what we have done ever since this has started – and by the way, this did not start in November 2021. In City Power alone, we have had 1 602 incidents, in the last 10 months. The damage costs about R21 million, over 10 months period, within City Power alone. Joburg Water, we have had 3 081 incidents over the last year. A damage of about R22 million. Now, what we have done about this? we have looked at the security in the city in its entirety, and we have concluded: that there is a need to review how the city is securing its assets, that review process is underway. Those internal processes are underway, and we will soon bring a report to Council, to ask you to review how we deal with security in the city. I will not give details at this point, at the right time, you will have the facts in the report that we will table before Council.

What we have also realized is that the JMPD has many officers that were deployed to various entities to assist with infrastructure protection, but that model is not working. A lot of those officers within those entities are ineffective, and they do not even report to the JMPD. What we are working on is, we will be consolidating all those resources, those officers will go back into this special patrol units, which will serve as a form of a tactical unit, which will provide support to security that is manning our critical infrastructure. But over and above that, we will be applying for our infrastructure to be recognized as critical infrastructure, in terms of the Critical Infrastructure Act. We will do that so we can access maximum resources for maximum protection of our infrastructure and the process is already underway.

The application for the main substations is already underway and we will be starting with the next level soon thereafter. We have also partnered with the SAPS at the national and provincial level, we have partnered with the State Security Agency as well as the Gauteng Hawks. And we will be starting our joint operations and our joint strategy will be implemented soon, in fighting the scourge of theft and vandalism of our infrastructure. That is just the high-level summary of some of what is happening in the background, where that is concerned – there was something about Ivory Park as well. I was in Ivory Park when we had the flooding. I was very concerned in fact, because the Regional Director was frustrated because the same people who were affected by these floods, were the same people that she begged not to occupy the land that they occupied illegally, along the flood lines – certain things you can see before they happen, and you can prevent them. Unfortunately, when she did that, the tyres of her car were slashed, as the community protested against her trying to stop this dangerous move of occupying land along flood lines. It is the role of Councillors, it is our role collectively, to continue to educate residents about what is right, and what is wrong and what is safe and what is unsafe. And I would like to urge us to continue doing that. It is unfortunate that what happened, happened, but it really could have been prevented.

In terms of Housing, I think we all are aware of the demand for housing. We have got over 480 000 people waiting for free housing, and we are in no position to be able to provide that number of houses and that is why we are looking at different modalities. As I mentioned in the speech yesterday, including service sites, which we have already started handing out to the residents.

In terms of the disaster in KZN, I would really like to convey, again, our thoughts and our prayers to the people of KZN. What the City has done, is we have deployed nine urban search and rescue Technicians, and we have deployed a two-ton canter truck, to assist in their recovery efforts in KZN.

The issue of the City Manager, I do not want to go into the matter as there are Council processes that are still in progress, so, I am going to leave that for now.

Questions around GFIS. I think there was something about GFIS head that was on FTC and now is permanent. I would like to urge the Councillor to please go back and have a look at firstly the job advert and then the appointment letter and look at the conditions, it is all in there. I am not sure if the Councillor was misinformed, or if they made their speech based on media reports that are incorrect, but I really would like to urge them to go back and look at the facts.

Allow me to quickly respond to a few of the Councillors that raised issues. There is a concern, and I hear the concern, about the distribution of wealth and whether all constituencies in Johannesburg are going to be serviced the same? I would like to remind this House, perhaps some of you are not aware, it was in Alexandra, that I put down my stethoscope and decided that I am going to join politics, so I can assist the poor better. I love the poor and it was for the poor that I joined this, and that has not changed. However, I would also like to caution us, against false dichotomy, that you can either serve the affluent or serve the poor. That does not exist. As the Joburg Multi-Party government, we are perfectly capable of serving the affluent and serving the poor, while we help them migrate up the social gradient.

The fact that we have committed to upgrading at least 10 informal settlements as a start. The fact that we have committed to building so many new free clinics, to give primary healthcare to those who cannot afford a medical aid. Those are examples of our commitment to the poor residents in our city. Including, of course, the fact that we have opened up the dead rehabilitation programme in recognition of the hard times that some people have come under, and we are now extending it to even include those who qualify for the expanded social package, who had been excluded by the original qualification criteria.

Councillor Magwentshu, I would like to thank you for that very thorough feedback. Thank you, for listening to our residents and thank you, for reporting back on what they would like to hear. It is true in terms of potholes; we are doing a lot and there is still a lot to be done. I also still get complaints, and we will ensure that we have adequate resources going forward to address those and again, we can only address resource gaps in the next budget which will be tabled in May of this year.

The Pastor Makhuba matter, again, it is before the courts as you know, Councillor Magwentshu, the matter is before the courts and for that reason, I would like to refrain from commenting on it.

In terms of harassment of our informal traders by the JMPD, we have had engagements with MMC Tembe and we both agree that there needs to be improvement on how we handle enforcement around informal trade. And yes, those changes will be effected into the JMD. We will communicate the deal of that in due course.

Operation Dudula in the City of Johannesburg, I would really like to say, we are all concerned about what has happened over the years, not only in Johannesburg, in the country and Johannesburg being the hub of migration is of course, affected the most in the entire country, by illegal immigration in the country. Now that being said, the role of regularizing migration remains the role of Home Affairs, and I am happy to see that there is some movement in the right direction under the current Minister, and I must commend him for that. In as far as the City's concerned, we will continue with our role through Social Developments Migration Unit, we will review the migration policy and we will continue to render services to migrants in the City through the different migrant health desks in the Regions, while we continue to support Home Affairs in regularizing what has happened. In certain spaces, as MMC Mbundu is starting to do with informal trade, for instance, we will ensure that there is fairness and that the rights of locals are not infringed upon, while we welcome migrants into our City.

There is the resident that spoke about the billing system discouraging rate paying, we are quite concerned about that as well. MMC Julie Suddaby is already working on regularizing data management in the City, doing integration of data, particularly between the entities and the core, so that we have clean, credible data and we can give good bills to our residents, and we can get the money in. But of course, that is going to have many other effects beyond just billing, we will have a city that works, we will have a city that can demonstrate what they are doing, even to our global partners or prospective partners. And we will be able to attract partnerships and attract resources globally as well as we are being able to demonstrate our alignment with the global agenda, for instance, the Sustainable Development Goals which we are signatories of, as well and the Green agenda, just to name a few.

The systematic exclusion of those above the age of 35 that has been brought up quite a few times, and I know MMC Leah Knott is working to change some of that because yes, it is true, those above 35 are feeling marginalized and that cannot be right. As much as we would like to have a youth friendly focus, we recognize that there is more than just the young people in our city, and that is under review, and it will be rolled out in the different services. So, at least a bit of good news for our people over the age of 35.

Councillor Machete of the APC, the issue of the "Joburg 130". I think the ANC, MMC Knott, celebrated prematurely without understanding what is going on. Again, that matter is before the courts, I would love to ask them to go and read what is going on with that matter. In the meantime, again, it is before the courts, and I would like to refrain from comments. But no, it is not true, they have not won the case, that is all I can say for now.

Councillor Phillips, you spoke about water and electricity rates. In fact, we have done a comparative analysis across municipalities and we are actually cheaper, particularly among low-income earners, we are cheaper. Where I felt that we charge more, than say the City of Cape Town, was on water for businesses and I did raise it. And as you know, we are busy going around doing public participation around rates and tariffs as well, and in May, we will be tabling the final report. So, I do hope to see an improvement there, because we want to bring business into Johannesburg. We want to bring investments into Johannesburg, and we cannot be expensive, but where the low social-economic groups are concerned, we are actually cheaper, so, I wanted to correct that as well.

In terms of homelessness, you will recall that I used to be the MMC responsible for Social Development in the City, and you will recall that I took a delegation to the City of Cape Town, to go and look at their programme. A very good programme, to address homelessness as we were not doing so well in Johannesburg. Unfortunately, a lot of the plans we had started rolling out were not continued in the last two years, we will be picking up on those plans -as I said, we will be rolling out own plans and our own budgets in the next financial year, which starts on 1 July. For instance, the establishment of a safe space. There is a lot of homeless people who do not want to go into our shelters, because of the model that we have adopted. We need to have different models that speak to the different types of homeless people in Johannesburg. You have got people who work in the construction industry in Sandton, as an example, who cannot afford to live in Sandton and end up living on the streets, they require a different approach to shelter, that is just one example, you have got recyclers, and so many others. And so yes, that programme will continue under the leadership of MMC Ashley Sauls I, and you will hear more about it as we announce our plans for the next financial year.

Councillor Sithole of the ACDP, we are busy with the IDP process and we are listening to communities, and you know, we have got over 200 informal settlements in the City of Johannesburg. In fact, I think MMC Mabaso, puts it at over 300 informal settlements in the city, and all of them competing for attention for very limited resources. You know, they need to be formalized, they need to be upgraded and we can only do so much at a time. So, for us to conclude on the 10, we will need to allow the IDP process to be concluded, so that we listen to where the most pressing issues are, and we can finalize on which are we will be targeting specifically. But that commitment remains, we want to uplift the poor and we do want to formalize as many of the settlements that can be formalized as possible. In terms of the churches, I would like to warn against – we love the church, I particularly love the church but we want the church to partner with City, in existing legally and responsibility within the City of Johannesburg and operating legally within the City of Johannesburg. I think I mentioned places of worship and I spoke about development planning, there are unfortunately churches that are illegal, and we would like to partner with the faith-based sector. We will be hosting an IDP for the first time for the faith-based sector, where we will be engaging with the church bodies on their challenges and how they would like the city to assist them, as we will also be pleading with them to operate legally and to see how we can

assist them to regularize the illegality, where there may be illegality. We respect people's rights to worship, and would like to support that, but that needs to happen legally. Unfortunately, where it is illegal and where there is no cooperation with regularizing that illegality, we may have to demolish, which is something we do not want to do. But yes, we are going to be fair, and we are going to treat all constituents of the city the same.

The other IDP sessions, if I might add, that we are going to be hosting for the first time, is for women; one for youth; one for persons with disabilities; I mentioned the faith-based sector; we will be having one with the development sector; we have already had one for the business as well. These are targeted stakeholders that we decided need to be engaged on their own, not just through the normal IDP process, so that we can really zoom into their specific issues, that is over and above the normal IDP meetings that we have been having in the regions, as you may be aware.

Councillor Amad, of ALJA-MA, I just want to say to you, that it is a girl and the sooner you accept it, the better. She wears makeup, the sooner you accept it, the better. You spoke about GBV, that I did not mention anything about on that. The last IDP session that I hosted with women – I was still the MMC for Social Development, I actually realized – it was a combined, it was a GEODI IDP session, where we had women, youth and persons with disabilities, those are three, very different constituencies. What we are doing this time around, is we are going to have only women, in their own IDP session, and that is where we will really deliberate on issues of GBV. But as you are aware, and now I speak as a sexual assault care practitioner, and someone who has seen many cases of GBV in my line of work as a medical doctor, is that GBV is strongly linked to the social-economic empowerment of women. Where we really need to focus, is to ensure that women are afforded opportunities at the same rate as men are, and that we close the gender gap, and that we are accessing them with information and that we build bridges for them to access those opportunities and all of that is already happening under the current multi-Party government.

In terms of your statue Councillor Amad, I would really like to say that all illegal structures in the City of Johannesburg will be demolished, and I would like to really congratulate the relevant department for their swift response. Before I could even go and see this statue, they had already dealt with it without even waiting for an instruction from political leadership. So, that was very good there and I would really like to commend them.

Otherwise, Councillor Arnolds of the AIC, I think one issue I was concerned about, in particular, is that you spoke about fire engines. Actually, if you remember, there was R200 000 000, in the budget for the fire engines that disappeared and concurrently, there was a bloated staff structure, and that needed that amount of money. So, do the maths and answer the questions.

Councillor Raseruthe, I hear your appeal for me to go to Orange Farm. There are places I have visited ever since I became the Executive Mayor, and I will not lie, I have not been to every part of Johannesburg, I have only been in office for so long. But I did visit Orange Farm before I became the mayor, the last few months, and I can tell you what I saw in Orange Farm, and I can tell you how we are addressing the challenges of Orange Farm.

We are going to Region G on Saturday, tomorrow. I think that is where the IDP is going and that community will be engaged, and we will still visit them again. But we are well aware of their issues because I have been there. If I have seen a place, if I have engaged with the residents, even before I became the mayor, it does not change, their issues have not changed because I am the mayor, their issues are there and those issues are being addressed because I did a data collection already before I became the Mayor of the City. So, just to clarify, that I have engaged extensively with the people of Orange Farm, and I will go. I just have not had a chance to, I have only been in office for a few months.

Now in terms of the informal trade policy being sponsored by the EFF. In fact, the truth is that the policy was already in draft form when the EFF motion came to Council, and MMC Leah Knott, who was the MMC for Economic Development at the time, had worked on that draft, but we understand how the EFF operates in Council. We understand that you wait for it and just before it comes to Council, you table the motion and that is okay, if you need the credit, it is fine.

Lastly Councillor Moerane, I think I have addressed the issue of "nothing new, nothing original". That is not what I was trying to do. I am trying to address the issues of our residents and our residents are very clear on what they need. They need their roads tarred. They need electricity. They need running water. They need a functional City. They need to see the economy grow. They need jobs created so people who have lost jobs can go back into jobs. They need housing. Those are the things that our residents need. None of our residents have said to me, "we need original ideas, we need new idea, we need big things", and we will govern with our residents in terms of the legislation being a constitutional democracy, we will continue to hear from them, as to what their needs are, and we will continue to speak to their needs. The issue of shrinking grants, I think Councillor Moerane may have misunderstood me. I was not trying to blame other spheres of government. I understand the challenges in the city that we have inherited. The challenge of under-spending is a big one, yes, and we have started addressing it and we will make sure that in the next financial year, we would have been fully in charge and fully in control, that does not happen.

Unfortunately, we have inherited those challenges, and we came in right at the end of the first half of the financial year, and because of the underspending, yes, some of the money had to go. But there is more than just underspending that leads to shrinking grants, it is also a lack of understanding of how the grant system works, and I have asked National Treasury to come and do a workshop on all the various grounds:

- 1. There are many grounds that the city is not accessing. We are not accessing a lot of free money that the National Treasury is willing to give to the city.*
- 2. We are not spending even the money that we are accessing.*
- 3. We are misunderstanding the use of some of the brands like USDG. For instance, it has been associated with only housing, when in fact it can be used to address infrastructure backlogs, JRA can benefit from it, City Power can benefit from it, Joburg Water can benefit from it. And because of that lack of understanding, you may find that we return money which could have just been appropriated elsewhere where there are gaps. That workshop will be happening, it was set for 29 April, I believe there has been a request for a postponement into sometime in May, but it is still in time for*

it to be factored into the budget, and then we will really be able to attract money from National Treasury. All various grants that are available, including project preparation and all others, we will be able to attract them, and we will make sure that we are spending that money, and that our residents are benefiting from all those projects.

Again, I have spoken a bit about attracting funding from international sources. I have spoken about the need for re-orientate internally. Unfortunately, when we were told by the finance team, that when previous budget was passed, it was hoped by the previous administration that we would attract R3.5 billion in loan funding, and when that money did not come in, it was a bit of a crisis. And I have looked at why we were unable to attract that money: From development funding agencies, they did not respond to tender type requests and therefore, we systematically excluded them from participating in that process and that is why we did not get money from them. Only banks could participate and unfortunately, they were not forthcoming at the time. Of course, we have just had a 1.5 billion that has come in, that report is coming to Council. We will certainly attract more from banks and DFI, but we need to understand how DFI function. They want to know, how sustainable are we? How aligned are we with the sustainable development goals? How green are we? How aligned are we to the global green agenda? All of that influences even the cost of borrowing, but also our ability to attract grant funding from development funding agencies. And so, we need a re-orientation, and we need to adapt to a fast-changing funding environment as the city, and that work is happening under the leadership of MMC Julie Suddaby.

Last two things. I think that I would like to comment on what was raised by Councillor Moerane. The first one is oversight on supply chain. There is a lot of looting that happened in the City, and such will not continue under the Joburg Multi-Party government, and we will exercise oversight over procurement processes. An oversight is not interference, but we will exercise oversight over procurement processes.

Lastly, leader of the opposition Councillor Moerane, the meeting of the Mayor with the MMC is not legislated. You went to a lot of trouble explaining a lot of things which were really irrelevant. My meeting with the MMCs is not legislated. There is no legislation that dictates how we should meet, what we should call ourselves and all that.

Madam Speaker, thank you very much. If I did not call you by name, thank you for your inputs. It is either because you were agreeing or you were commenting, I really appreciate every single input that comes through. And I would love to finish by saying, the IDP process is underway. If we have not been to your area, we are coming into your area. I would like to commend the Legislature; the Speaker; the Chair of Chairs; the Whip for the great work that is happening in the planning and running of those meetings.

I would like to commend all the MMCs for coming out in their numbers at every single one and being present to hear what the residents have to say and for the work that you are doing to address their issues. I would like to assure every single Councillor in this place, you will be engaged as well outside of the IDP process, we will be having engagements with every single Councillor in this place, in recognition of the fact that you were voted by a constituency that we would like to service, and you are their voice, and we want to hear that voice.

Meetings have been set up by my office, dates will be communicated through the Speaker's office, and we will be engaging with Councillors. I would like to thank Councillors who have also come through, Region D you were the best. I have never seen so many Ward Councillors at an IDP sessions and I would like to urge the other Councillors to take a leave from their book. Let us go out, let us listen to our residents. Let us be there to listen to their issues. Let us unite regardless of our political differences. Let us build Johannesburg to its former glory. We can do it and we will do it. Thank you very much."

6 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Acting Speaker reminded Council of the Ordinary Council meeting scheduled for on Tuesday, 26 April 2022 at 10:00.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 14:42.



SPEAKER OF COUNCIL
CLLR VASCO DA GAMA

14/07/2022
DATE