



**MINUTES OF THE 1<sup>st</sup> SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG MUNICIPALITY IN HONOUR OF THE LATE COUNCILLOR CONZELIA LEHLOHONOLO MOLOTO HELD AT THE CONSTANCE CONNY BAPELA COUNCIL CHAMBER AT THE METROPOLITAN CENTRE, BRAAMFONTEIN ON THURSDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2022, AT 08:00. IN LINE WITH DIRECTIVE 6.7 OF THE REGULATIONS ISSUED BY THE MINISTER OF COGTA ON 3 JULY 2020 READ TOGETHER WITH ADJUSTED LEVEL 1 REGULATIONS ISSUED BY THE MINISTER OF COGTA ON 30 DECEMBER 2021.**

**These Minutes comprise:**

- 1 OPENING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**
- 2 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**
- 3 MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR**
- 4 MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS**
- 5 MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE BY POLITICAL PARTIES**
- 6 COMMENTS BY FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE**
- 7 ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 8 CLOSURE**

**1A MEMBERS PRESENT**

The Speaker: Councillor Da Gama, V M

The Executive Mayor: Councillor Phalatse, M

Alexander, W R	Ismail-Moosa, I
Amad, T	Jacobs, B
Amod, C J	Kaldine, J
Arnolds, M S	Kgeletsane, M O
Baloyi, D L	Khanyile, N M
Benjamin, R F	Khumalo, X I
Bittkau, R	Kiviet, A
Boer, C	Knott, L R
Bolani, M G	Koekemoer, M
Buthelezi, T C	Komane, S A
Cele, D W	Landis, R
Chair, C A	Lebatlang, T Z
Chame, F	Lebea, M G
Chauke, K L	Lebotse, E W
Chetsanga, H	Lefutso, L
Coogan, L C	Leshilo, R S
Coutriers, M J	Liebenberg, E
Coverdale, D L T	Lobi, M
Crichton, M	Louw, M A
Da rocha, C M D	Maake, M J
Dammie, B H	Mabaso, M P
Davids-Green, I C	Mabelebele, S S
Davis, M R	Mabuke, T A
Dellwaria, N	Mabunda, T E
Deppe, A J	Mabuza, S K L
Diadla, D	Machaba, L M U
Dlamini, B	Machethe, S
Dlanjwa, M	Madiba, T J
Du plessis, N S	Magwaza, B L P
Durand, G V M	Magwentshu, L C
Dyers, S	Maila, S M
Echeozonjoku, B C	Majola, S
Edward, N	Makamo, S S
Finn, C E	Makhuba, H N
Foley, D T	Makhubele, T C
Fourie-Shawe, C	Maluleka, T
Fresling, R R	Manganyi, D B
Galeshewe, T M	Mangena, T D
Gantsho, L	Marais, A F
Goosen, J W	Marais, S I
Harris, R	Marema, V A
Hlatshwayo, S M	Marumo, T
Hoén, J N	Mashinini, S
Homer, C	Masoga, L M
Horwitz, J	Masuku, L

Maswazi, R	Ngema, S V
Mathe, G	Ngoepe, C S
Mathe, Z E	Nguse, S
Mavhona, L S	Ngwenya, F N
Mazibuko, A L	Ngwenya, J A
Mazibuko, N	Nhlapo, C P
Mazibukwana, M	Niemand, G J
Mbundu, N N	Niemand, Z
Meyers, T	Nkokou, T P
Mgaga, B	Nkomo, B
Mgcina, S E	Nkomo, E T
Mhlari, T M	Nkomo, P T
Mkasi, G	Nkosi, R A L
Mkhonto, M S	Nkubungu, L
Mmbengwa, M N	Nkwanyana, P B
Mmota, L	Nofemela, N
Mngadi, W B	Nonkumbi, I M
Mnyameni, M	Nontenja, C T
Modladlaba, D S	Novela, M
Modukanene, L C	Ntoele, N L
Modupi, D N	Ntshidi, T E
Moepi, N J D	Papo, M M
oeti, O T	Phakathi, S
Mofokeng, J	Pietersen, J
Mofokeng, M P	Pietersen, N
Mofokeng, N M	Ponsonby, D A
Mogapi, T A	Radebe, N P
Mohlala, P K	Radebe, T T
Mokoena, G	Rahn, N J
Mokoka, M L	Raholane, M W
Mokwena, T M	Ramafikeng, D J
Molefe, M	Ramaru, G
Molefe, S B	Rambani, N S
Molise, L D	Raphadu, A T
Moloisane, D	Raseruthe, S H
Moodey, J C	Reddy, K
More, E	Reddy, V M
Mosehla, K J	Reinten, I M
Mothopi, O Z	Roberts, F C
Mphefo, L M P	Santana, C G
Mposula, T	Sauls, A
Mpotulo, G S	Schay, D
Mulelu, M	Seema, S M
Munyayi, V E	Seerane, M K
Ndlela, M C	Sekhu, M V
Ndou, N L	Sekwaila, B J
Ndou, P	Sesedinyane, M I
Ndzondo, C M	Shabangu, L
Nefdt, P W	Shackelford, L M
Nenemba, T	Shange, P A

Nethamba, R

Sherman, G J

Shumba, K A	Tshehlo, G J
Sifumba, N	Tsotetsi, L Y M
Simelane, P	Twala, Y A
Simelane, S O	Van der Merwe, M
Sindani, F P	Van der Schyf, C
Sithole, A M	Van Dyk, N J
Sobey, A	Van Wyk, W M
Steenkamp, D	Wax, K P
Steer, B	Williams, M C
Stewart, P S	Wilskut, D
Stewart, A J	Wissler, S T J
Suddaby, J	Wittman-Potter, D D
Sun, Y H	Xuma, L
Tabane, M C	Zazini, A
Tambani, P S	Zitha, S L
Tefu, P V	Zungu, N G
Telekoa, A T	Zwane, S
Tembe, D S	

## 1 OPENING

*The Speaker requested Council to observe a moment of silence for prayer and meditation.*

*The Speaker welcomed the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg - Councillor Phalatshe; Chair of Chairs - Councillor Colleen Makhubele; all political party leaders and Whips; Whip of Council - Councillor Tyrell Meyers; all members of the Mayoral committee; fellow Councillors; Acting City Manager in his absence; Secretary to Council in her absence; officials of the City of Johannesburg; members of the public and members of the media to the 1<sup>st</sup> Special meeting of the City of Johannesburg Municipality in honour of the late Councillor Conzelia Lehlohonolo Moloto.*

*The Speaker informed Council that the Secretary to Council was ill, therefore Ms Judith Moremi will be acting on her behalf and making necessary announcements.*

## 2 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

*The following application for leave of absence from this meeting was granted:*

*Councilor K Gwamanda*

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*Private Business*

### 3 MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

*The Executive Mayor addressed Council as follows:*

*"It is indeed a sad morning. Last term I stood here, paid my condolences at a similar event. I think in the 2016 – 2021 administration, we lost more colleagues than has ever happened, probably in the history of this Council, and when the term ended and a new term started, we all had one hope that we would not relive the horror of having to bury one of our own, three months into the new term, I can only say that it happened too soon. It is indeed a sad day that I hope has been deferred, that we can all live, all 270 of us that took an oath of office on that day, 22 November 2021, that we can all serve together until the end of this term. We've had a turbulent three months.*

*I never got to know Councillor Moloto, and that is one of my greatest regrets. When I sat and I thought about this morning, celebrating her life and saying goodbye, I realized how little I knew her, and it's because of the business of trying to get the City going, trying to get this Council organized, we neglected to make time, to get to know each other, spend time together. I think if there's one lesson for me in all of this, is that from this day forward, I need to make time for my colleagues. Work will always be there, the City of Joburg will always be there, but we never know when the last day will be when we'll see our colleagues.*

*I would like to share my favourite scripture with you and it's Ephesians, chapter 2 verse 10, it says that, "We are God's workmanship. Created for good works, which he prepared in advance that we should walk in them". What it means is that, if you believe in the Bible – is that we were all created for a purpose, and that we all come to this earth to fulfil a specific purpose, and that before we were even created that purpose was already established, and that we come to this earth to live out our purpose. When somebody goes on to be with the Lord, the first thing I think about is, did they get to live their purpose? Councillor Moloto had been a City Councillor for under three months, and I found myself celebrating. I do not know what her aspirations were growing up. I don't know what her career aspirations were and what she felt her life score was, but the fact that she put her hand up to serve her city, at least to me, means she made it. Even if she made it just under three months before she went on to be with the Lord, she still made it. On that day, November 2021, she made it. She made it into her mission of being a voice for her people, a voice against justice, a voice for justice in her community.*

*It made me also realize that we hardly celebrate. Our lives and the opportunities that we have, even the rest of us who are here today, and it made me wonder if we realize that we too, made it. We made it on that day in November 2021, we were given an opportunity to serve. To serve our people, our communities, to build our city, to pick it up and pick up its ruins. Indeed, we are all on assignment, and though we come in different shapes and different forms, we come in different political colours, different regalia. I always say, there is one thing that connects us and that's our love for our city and our people, and it is my prayer that from today we will remember to love each other. We will remember to make time to get to know each other and to celebrate our common mission, to celebrate what brings us here, together.*

*To the family, I want to say that you too made it. It is a sad day today, that we've had to lay our loved ones to rest, but you made it. Your loved one made it into probably one of the most integral, one of the most privileged positions, the position of being a servant in the city and I want to congratulate you, that one of your own made it.*

*It was indeed an honour to serve with her, even though from a distance and yes, I wish I had more time to get to know her, but this there's one thing I know about her, even though I never knew her, is that she must have loved her city. She must have loved her people, and she must have loved her country, and for that I celebrate her today. May her soul rest in eternal peace. Thank you, Mr Speaker."*

*The Speaker addressed Council as follows:*

*"Fellow Councillors; the Moloto family; officials and community members present in this special Council meeting. Allow me to draw strength from this quote: it is very sad that just as a new journey unfolds in one's life, the journey to serve and better lives of Joburg citizens, that death robs us of one such opportunity. I wish I could take all this pain and sorrow from all of you. The loss of our fellow councillor, Councillor Moloto is painful, losing someone close to you through death in the family is hard. Along with the initial shock, it is a challenge when you have to go and learn how to navigate the future without them on your side and because the grieving process is different for everyone, it can often be lonely and isolating, but take courage, endure and know that the sun will shine again. Let us allow ourselves to feel sorrow, we lost one of us, but let us not allow ourselves to sink under the oppression of bereavement.*

*We bid you farewell, strong woman of Ella. The one who was a symbol of strength and integrity. Who was light in the darkness, who was a servant leader.*

*We continue to wish the Moloto family peace and strength, to continue to face the days ahead under their new circumstances, as you navigate life without the physical presence of our beloved Councillor Moloto. May the spirit of Councillor Lehlohonolo Conzellia Moloto rest in perfect peace.*

#### **4 MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS**

*Councillor Raseruthe SH (EFF) addressed Council as follows:*

*"Thank you very much Speaker. Speaker, it's only through dedication, commitment, and radical action that we shall attain economic freedom in our lifetime. Revolutionary greetings to the family of our beloved and departed combatant, Councillor Lehlohonolo Moloto. I further extend my warm greeting and salutations to the highly disciplined battalions of the revolution. The ground forces, these are the true vanguard of the revolution, who are prepared to lay down their lives in their quest for the total liberation for economic freedom in our lifetime.*

*On the 17 February, exactly a week ago, we bade farewell to our sister and trusted force of the EFF Johannesburg region. On the very same day, the Commander in Chief of the fastest growing political organization in South Africa, the Economic Freedom Fighter, President Sello Julius Malema, appeared in Johannesburg High Court in a case brought forward by the racist, imperialist AFRIFORUM, for exercising our freedom of speech, in our country of birth, through a song. Black child, it is not yet Uhuru.*

*I am tasked by the revolutionary movement to bid farewell to fighter Lehlohonolo Moloto, and to salute her for her bravery and dedication, to volunteer her entire life to fight for the total liberation of the dejected masses of our people. In the EFF, when we say rest in peace to one of our own, we do not mean that they should rest in peace, but we rather say, rise in power and multiply. Fighter Moloto is a very progressive seed that fell onto their fertile grounds that have germinated and multiplied in many other progressive Molotos, who will continue with the fight for total liberation of economic freedom in our lifetime. Our beloved sister, the daughter of the soil. We are truly humbled to have been led by such a pragmatic and dedicated ground force. The void that you have created by your physical absence will always be felt. You were a disciplined fighter, a loving comrade and a dedicated branch member in good standing. As we have launched our one million membership campaign and have declared 2022 as the year of the branch, we are going back to basics, building our branches from the ground up. We shall forever be indebted to you, our beloved sister. Look over us, remain with us, fight alongside us, we will forever be a unit. Rise in revolutionary power and multiply. Mogapa o wele .....Robala ka kgotso Motlhaloha. Thank you very much."*

## **5 MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE BY POLITICAL PARTIES**

*Councillor Sithole AM (ACDP) addressed Council as follows:*

*"Speaker; the Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Councillor Mpho Phalatse; our fellow Councillors and the Moloto family, receive greetings from the ACDP (African Christian Democratic Party).*

*We as ACDP, standing today for the very first time, especially myself, in this kind of occasion, where we lost one of our Councillors. To the Moloto family, I would like to say the following: we know that when we go to the field of war, we can go there being 270, but to arrive is not guaranteed. That is how life is, life is not guaranteed to anyone. You might be a doctor, you might be a president, you might be a mayor, in this case Mpho Phalatse, and you might be a Councillor or MMC, or a pastor or a bishop. Life is not guaranteed.*

*When God said to Moses, "take the children of Israel out of bondage", he did not tell them that along the way, some of them will fall, but as I said in the beginning, that life is never guaranteed. This is what has happened today, to the Moloto family. You have lost one of your family member, she might be breadwinner, a loving sister, a mother to her children, but what I can say today as a pastor, I remove the cap of the Councillor and put it aside, and I will speak as a pastor to say. Apostle Paul says in the scripture, "do not weep like unbelievers that do not have hope of second life". The*

*Bible promises us that after this life, there is another life. For choice comes to us as people, what do you choose? Which life do we want to enjoy in the internal life one? As a pastor I also want to say to the Moloto family, that you did not know that Councillor Moloto would depart from you, it is only God who knew that she would leave you. I believe if you knew, or she knew that she would leave you, she might have run, but the Bible promise that there is a life after death. I want to encourage the Moloto family, I cannot say we are feeling what you are feeling, no one feels the pain of loss more than the direct family. With those words ACDP and the City of Johannesburg is offering you heartfelt condolences, and please continue to take care of the legacy she left for you. God bless you."*

*Councillor Mposula T (ActionSA) addressed Council as follows:*

*"Thank you, Speaker of City of Johannesburg, Vasco da Gama; the Executive Mayor, Councillor Mpho Phalatse; Councillors; Moloto family; ladies and gentlemen, I want to greet you today. When we received the news of the passing of our colleague, we were deeply saddened especially because she was a Councillor for only three months, and we wish that we could have spent more time with her. But there were words that were spoken by Paul, who said "I've ran a good race. I have fought a good fight and I have kept my faith. What is left for me, is to receive a crown of glory". We would have wished to spend more time with Councillor Moloto, but she ran her course, and we are grateful that we spent this little time with her. I want to convey my condolences to the family from President Herman Mashaba and his family, the whole ActionSA family, we just want to say condolences. May the Lord strengthen you; may the Lord be with you in this difficult time. Councillor Moloto went to be with the Lord and colleagues, EFF family we want to say in honour of Councillor Moloto, celebrating her life will ensure that we execute our duties with distinction, in memory of Councillor Moloto. As councillors in the City of Johannesburg, the only way to celebrate her, is to roll up our sleeves and serve our people with dignity and pride. So that when she looks down, she can smile and say "I have left people who are going to bring hope to the hopeless. People who are going to bring paradigm shift", and we will make her proud wherever she is. The book of Psalms 90 verse 12 says, "teach me how to number my days so that I may gain the heart of wisdom". The wisdom that we are getting there is that, all of us in this Chamber, our days are numbered. One day we will also depart, but the question that we need to ask ourselves, what legacy are going to leave behind. With those words I want to say, councillor Moloto, farewell. Thank you so much."*

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

*"Greetings to the Moloto family. Morning presiding officer, to all political party leaders present, but most of all, once again, good morning to the Moloto family and the Economic Freedom fighters. The African Independent Congress today wants to convey their heartfelt and sincere condolences to the EFF and the Moloto family. It is difficult losing a family member, no matter what everybody says to you, it's only you that know how much it hurts. You might be even feeling numb right now, but I know what you are feeling. And I'm saying this because in November, I lost my daughter to HIV. A daughter that did not take her medication, in March last year, I lost my brother. Councillor Moloto was part of a family, she was part of this family of this City Council,*

*irrespective how long she served here. She was our family member and it is difficult to lose a cadre, losing a colleague and it is even more difficult losing a family member. Going back to the previous Council, previous term, we lost almost 20 and I stand to be corrected. But this term, we are three months into the term and we have not even started working in this council, there is no services that has been delivered and already we are saying condolences. As I said before, I am still trying to come to terms with my own loss. What I can say to the family is, Psalm 34 verse 18, "God is close to the broken hearted, and serves the crushed in spirit". May the soul of Councillor Moloto rest in peace and rise in glory. And may we, as Council, as a municipality ensure that her legacy lives on, it is a woman that has died. I thank you."*

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

*"Thank you, Speaker. Thank you, madam Mayor. Death be not proud. It is with great regret and heavy heart to stand before you today, in memory of our own Councillor Moloto. [clan names] I stand before you as Councillor Machete on behalf of African People Convention (APC). We would like to send our condolences to the family, your loss is our loss. However, we should find comfort in knowledge that this was all part of the plan, God's plan, he gives and takes. We should always be grateful for the time borrowed to us. May your soul rest in peace [clan names]. Thank you"*

*Councillor Magwentshu LC (ATM) addressed Council as follows:*

*"Greetings to the Moloto family, presiding officer, to the Executive Mayor, to the Chair of Chairs, to the Whip of Council and greetings to all Councillors. The African Transformation Movement in the City of Johannesburg wishes to convey a message of condolences to the Moloto family and all acquaintances on the untimely death of Councillor Moloto. To the Moloto family and the EFF family, we are with you in prayer. Do not harm yourselves, we are all here. Councillor Moloto joined the struggle for the total emancipation of our people. In her honour we shall carry on fighting the total emancipation of our people from the scourge of poverty and unemployment. We shall ensure that our people's dignity is restored. It cannot be correct that for three years the people of extension 4 in Orange Farm are subjected to life with no electricity due to transformer issues. We shall intensify the fight against that abuse, by not only dealing with those who sell drugs on the streets, but also ensuring that the drug lords account. We will ensure that we close that tap. As the ATM in the City of Johannesburg we have declared this year as the year of restoration. The City of Johannesburg shall be restored to its former glory as a City of gold, aluta continua. Let there be peace in the City of Johannesburg. Thank you"*

*Councillor Manganyi DB (IFP) addressed Council as follows:*

*"Thank you, Honourable Speaker Vasco da Gama; Executive Mayor, Mpho Phalatse; Chair of Chairs, Councillor Makhubele; Leader of IFP caucus, Councillor Mlungisi Mabaso; colleagues and the family of the late Councillor Moloto, Ndi Matsheloni.*

*Sa Dzangano la IFP, line la rangiwa phanda nga mupresidente, Vho VF Hlabisa...Ro da fhano namusi u elelwa nga vhutshilo ha Mu councillora vho Moloto, ri ri zwo salaho ri do zwi vhulunga nga vhudele. Vha muta wa ha Moloto kha vha fhumudzee, dzi mbilu kha dzi rule.*

*The Inkatha Freedom Party caucus in the City of Johannesburg Metro Council sends its deepest and sincerest condolences to the EFF caucus as well as the family and friends of Councillor Moloto. It is very unfortunate that the residents of City of Johannesburg have lost another dedicated public servant who still had so much to offer.*

*May you find comfort in the words from the book of Isaiah 47 verse 10, when God spoke and said, "fear not, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold you with my righteousness". It is our hope that with these words and the happy memories, will bring the Moloto family comfort during this difficult time. May her soul rest in peace. Thank you."*

*Councillor Horwitz J (DA) addressed Council as follows:*

*"Good morning everyone. In death we are all the same. We are here today to celebrate the life and memory of Councillor Conzellia Lehlohonolo Moloto, perhaps more fondly known as Hloni. Hloni fought for the EFF in ward 21, and she fought a valiant battle. She brought everything to the battle as a Councillor. I think we know Hloni as small person in stature, but she was enormous in so many other ways. For starters, she had the most enormous smile that would light up the room and people's hearts. A spiritual woman, very solid in her beliefs. Even though we have opposing political views, one thing we can admire and honour, is that Hloni was a warrior fighting for her course. The Democratic Alliance wishes to express its condolences to Hloni's family, friends and colleagues. Baruch Dayan Ha'Emet – Blessed is the True Judge".*

*Councillor Sesedinyane MI (ANC) addressed Council as follows:*

*"Thank you very much, Speaker of Council; Moloto family; Councillors; Comrades; friends and all protocols observed. Allow me the opportunity to send revolutionary greetings to you on behalf of the 1912, January 08, liberation movement, the African National Congress, Johannesburg caucus. It is moments like these, that one needs to draw their strength from the holy book. We find the story in the book of Samuel 2, Chapter 1 verse 19-22. It is the story of how king David mourned the king and his son Jonathan. It reads like this, "Your glory, oh Israel, lies slain on your heights. How the mighty have fallen. Tell it not in Gath, proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon, lest the daughters of the Philistines be glad, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised rejoice. Oh, mountains of Gilboa, may you have neither dew nor rain, may no showers fall on your terraced fields. For there the shield of the mighty was despised, the shield of Saul-no longer rubbed with oil. From the blood of the slain, from the flesh of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan did not turn back, the sword of Saul did not return unsatisfied". King David wrote this poem, which was turned into a song, that the future generation can learn, never forget how Saul and Jonathan died in the battle before it was over. Future generations were expected to get a message in the song that the battle is not yet over. This meant to mourn the fallen king, but the spirit of this poem was also saying that the battle is not yet over. It is fitting, therefore, today, to*

*announce that one of us, a distinct African is no more. She felt as the battle to transform the life of the Africans, this side of the Limpopo River was still waging. We mourn her passing but we are also emphatically saying, aluta continua. At the funeral of Karl Marx, with only eleven people in attendance, Frederic Angels said the following as he summarizes the work of Karl Marx's, "Mankind must first eat, drink, have shelter and clothing. Before it can pursue politics, science, art and religion". This daughter of the soil that had shelter and clothing before they can do anything, it is this struggle that should unite all of us beyond race and ensure that the lives of the people are changed for the better. Fighters, yours is to take off where she left off. Let us allow Councillor Moloto to rest. She was the fighter, she defeated death. She conquered sickness, she emerged victorious, at the end we should take over the baton and run this important race towards liberating our people from the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality and we dare not fail. Please receive our deepest condolences from the African National Congress caucus in Johannesburg. That the revolutionary fighting spirit of Lehlohonolo to continue to rest in power. We say the following words to the Moloto family, that Lefu ke ngwetse ya malapa ohle... fighter Lehlohonolo, good night my sister. Sleep well, you have run your race. I thank you."*

*Councillor Saul I, A (PA) addressed Council as follows:*

*"To the Executive Mayor; Mr Speaker; to my fellow Councillor; colleagues; to the friends and family of the Moloto family, greetings. May I start at the beginning by wishing the Secretary of Council a speedy recover. You're in our thoughts, in our prayers. I want to read a scripture, from psalm 139 verse 7-12: "Where can I go from your spirit. Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in depth, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me", even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you". It is very easy for people to come and share messages of comfort. We do that out of our hearts, but often when we wish and give messages of comfort, we don't really feel what those who suffered loss feel. I want to let the Moloto family know, I know how it feels. Because yesterday I lost my uncle, my mother's eldest brother. As I stand with you here today, I know what it feels like. It feels like you are nowhere, where you look around, when you wake up in the morning, it feels like there's no progress in your life. It feels like everything has stood still. It made me question if there are places called nowhere? When somebody dies and when you lose somebody, there's two things you ask, at least I did. First thing you ask is why? And the second thing is, where was God? I cannot answer why, but sometimes it feels like God is nowhere. Nowhere seems to be like a place, nowhere seems to be a place not of physical or geographical location. You cannot find this place on the GPS coordinates, but when you are in place where I am and where you are right now, it is an emotional place, it is a psychological place. There is a place called nowhere, because I feel like I am in a place called nowhere. But David writes, and David say no matter where I go, no matter where I am, God is there. And I want to encourage you as a family today. I feel like I am nowhere, nowhere is a place, but even in a place called nowhere, an emotional place called nowhere, God is*

*there. And when I realize that even in this emotional state I am in, God is here. God is here. God is in a place called nowhere and all of a sudden with that realization, a new sense of hope arose in me, and I understand that the word nowhere, I can break up and split in two and realize that in my place of nowhere when I break the word in two it becomes "now here". I want to encourage you that even in my pain, like in yours, God is now here. God is now here, He will never leave you, He will never forsake us. Weeping last, but only for a night, but joy comes in the morning. As I speak to you, I speak to myself, may God be with you. On behalf of Patriotic Alliance; our President, His Excellency Gayton McKenzie; our deputy President, the Honourable Kenny Kunene; every single patriot in this country, God be with you. Long live the fighting and undying spirit Councillor Moloto. I, thank you."*

*Chair of Chairs, Councillor Makhubele TC (COPE) addressed Council as follows:*

*"Thank you, Mr Speaker. To the Executive Mayor; Whip of Council and my sincere and saddened greetings to the family of Councillor Moloto. Having listened to the previous speaker and his words of comfort, I am truly sure and believe in my heart that you are recognizing that we are here to speak to you as a family and to speak about Councillor Moloto, not only as a Councillor, a politician, a servant of the people, but to remember her, speak of her and talk to you as someone that you loved. Someone that when we finish here and we go back to our day-to-day lives now, you are not going to pack her somewhere and carry on with your life. You are going to go home and face the vacuum that is in your heart. You are going to go home to a bedroom she will never occupy again. You are going to go home to a telephone that will never ring with her name on it and that is a pain that is not for this moment that we pause to remember her. It is a pain that lasts longer, and it is deeper, and we must acknowledge that and truly say please, as the Congress of the People; as the Councillors of City of Johannesburg, accept our sincere and deepest condolences. I look at mama and she remind me so much of my mother and I get teary, no one should bury their daughter, no one should bury their child. It is not something that anyone in life prepares for and should have to go through. We all give birth to our children with hopes and dreams that we wish to see unfold and we wish to see them reach heights that we ourselves have never reached, and for most of us, black families, we grow up to be the hope in the family, that breadwinner that the previous speaker spoke about. That person that really broke barriers and ceilings, that perhaps a lot of people may not understand, but only the family can really understand and relate to. So, we do sympathize and acknowledge this loss in ways that are deeper than singing struggle songs and really saying a few words of comfort here. We just want to ask you to please find comfort in the wisdom of the words in the Bible, which I stand on and I believe in. The Bible says there is no temptation that has ever overtaken anyone that is not common to man, and within that God gives you the strength to endure it. And as I say those words, we also want to reflect as ourselves as Councillors, because we also know that no one has promised us tomorrow. I know that for some people, we always say we are here today and gone tomorrow or whatever they say, but Councillor Moloto, I never knew her. For me she is here today and gone today and never had an opportunity to meet her, to interact with her, but I also know that birds of the same feather flock together. When I look at the fighters and look at their passion, I look at the love that they have for this*

*country, for one another. I look at their attitude and really, they are bulldozing ways. I can only imagine the person that you have raised, to take up the mental to serve the City, to serve this province and by extension to serve the country, and with that I salute you mama. I salute your sisters, daughters, their sons. And we are saying please be comforted. Know that we are not speaking for this moment only, we are going to be praying for you. We are going to be uplifting you so that God will bring healing in the deepest part of your heart that we cannot even acknowledge today. May God bless you, nurse you and give you internal peace, Amen."*

*The Speaker thanked all political parties for their messages of condolences to the family. He stated that on 22 November 2021, the late Councillor Lehlohonolo Conzella Moloto was inaugurated to serve in Council. She represented the EFF as a PR Councillor, she was sworn in along with other 269 Councillors. On 9 February 2022, she passed on and she was laid to rest on 17 February 2022. At this Special Council meeting, they observed a moment of silence and honoured her name. The flag was removed and placed on the podium with our code of arms. Councillor Moloto's seat was draped with a black cloth symbolizing that she will never sit on it again. The Special Council meeting is not only being held to give all political parties an opportunity to represent their messages of condolence and separate the period Councillor Moloto spent in this City of Johannesburg but also being held to officially remove Councillor Moloto's name, a ritual known as "ukusulwa kwegama". The Speaker said as sad as it is for all, it is the reality they must accept.*

*He asked the drill squad commander and Mrs Shirlyn Serobatse to do the honours.*

## **6 COMMENTS BY FAMILY REPRESENTATIVES**

*Ms Thokozani Moloto (Daughter) addressed Council as follows:*

*"Thank you so much, mommy we are very proud of you. You made it, We made it, Good morning Mr Speaker; EFF forces; City of Johannesburg staff and representative from other political parties, dear guests. My family is humbled by this kind gesture. Our mother was a strong fighter and a hard-working mother. She may be resting, or as they say, the spear has fallen, but the fight towards economic freedom fight remains. And with those words I would like to say a warm thank you on behalf of the Moloto family. Our mother leaves behind her children; her sisters; her brothers; her community; her nieces and nephews and close to her heart her grandkids. Thank you so much."*

## **7 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*The speaker reminded Councillors of the Ordinary Council meeting that would be convened immediately after the Special Council meeting at 10:00.*

**8 CLOSURE**

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 09:45.



SPEAKER OF COUNCIL  
CLLR VASCO DA GAMA

14/07/2022.

DATE