



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG
METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

CITY OF JOHANNESBURG COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE 19TH EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING (CONTINUATION OF THE DEBATE ON THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS), OF THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG MUNICIPALITY HELD ON TUESDAY, 13 JUNE 2023 AT 10:00, AT THE CONSTANCE CONNY BAPELA COUNCIL CHAMBER, METROPOLITAN CENTRE, BRAAMFONTEIN

These Minutes comprise:

- 1 OPENING**
- 2 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**
- 3 CONTINUATION OF THE DEBATE ON THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BY POLITICAL PARTIES**
- 4 RESPONSE BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR**
- 5 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

1(a) MEMBERS PRESENT

The Speaker: Councillor Makhubele, T C

The Executive Mayor: Councillor K Gwamanda

Abdool, F	Harris, R
Amad, T	Hlatshwayo, S M
Amod, C J	Hoén, J N
Arnolds, M S	Homer, C
Atterbury, E	Hooper, R S
Avant-Smith, C	Horwitz, J
Baloyi, D L	Huggett, E A
Benjamin, R F	Hughes, Z
Bini, L	Ismail-Moosa, I
Bittkau, R	Jacobs, B
Boer, C	Jainoodeen, Z
Bolani, M G	Johnson, N
Brand, D G	Kaldine, J
Buthelezi, T C	Kgeletsane, M O
Chabalala, M D	Khumalo, X I
Chame, F	Knott, L R
Chauke, K L	Koekemoer, M
Chetsanga, H	Komane, S A
Christians, A	Kunene, K
Coogan, L C	Kwapeng, C
Coutriers, M J	Lebatlang, T Z
Coverdale, D L T	Lebea, M G
Crichton, M	Lefutso, L
Da Gama, V M	Leitch, A N
Da rocha, C M D	Leshilo, R S
Dammie, B H	Lobi, M
Dauids-Green, L C	Louw, M A
De Lange, F C	Maake, M J
Dellwaria, N	Mabaso, M P
Deppe, A J	Mabelebele, S S
Dewes, D S	Mabuke, T A
Dladla, D	Mabuza, S K L
Dlamini, B	Machaba, L M U
Durand, G V M	Machethe, S
Echeozonjoku, B C	Madiba, T J
Edward, N	Magwaza, B L P
Finn, C E	Magwentshu, L C
Foley, D T	Maila, S M
Francisco, D B	Majola, S
Fresling, R R	Makamo, S S
Galeshewe, T M	Makhafola, E
Gantsho, L	Makhuba, H N
Goosen, J W	Maluleka, T

Manganyi, D B	Moloisane, D
Mangena, T D	Morero, S E
Marais, S I	Mosehla, K J
Marema, V A	Mothopi, O Z
Marumo, T	Mphaho, M A
Mashala, K	Mphahlele, M
Mashinini, S	Mphefo, L M P
Masoga, L M	Mpolobosho, M M
Masuku, L	Mposula, T
Maswazi, R	Mpotulo, G S
Mathe, Z E	Mthembu, M N
Mavhona, L S	Mulelu, M
Mazibuko, A L	Munyayi, V E
Mazibuko, N	Mutavhatsindi, N T
Meyers, T	Nair, R K
Mgaga, B	Ndlela, M C
Mgcina, S E	Ndou, N L
Mhlari, T M	Ndou, P
Mhlongo, T A	Ndou, P
Mkasi, G	Ndzondo, C M
Mkhize, T	Nefdt, P W
Mkhonto, M S	Nenemba, T
Mkhonza, N F	Ngema, S V
Mmbengwa, M N	Ngobeni, L M
Mmota, L	Ngobeni, R F
Mngadi, W B	Ngoepe, C S
Mnisi, N D	Nguse, S
Mnyameni, M	Ngwenya, F N
Moatshe, K	Ngwenya, J A
Modladlaba, D S	Niemand, G J
Modukanene, L C	Nkokou, T P
Modupi, D N	Nkomo, B
Moepi, N J D	Nkomo, E T
Moeti, O T	Nkomo, P T
Mofokeng, J	Nkosi, R A L
Mofokeng, M P	Nkubungu, L
Mogapi, T A	Nkwanyana, P B
Mohlala, C	Nofemela, N
Mohlala, P K	Nonkumbi, I M
Mokoari, Z	Nontenja, C T
Mokoena, G	Ntoele, N L
Mokoka, M L	Ntombela, M J
Mokwena, T M	Ntshidi, T E
Molefe, E W	Nyembe, M M
Molefe, M	Nyembe, Z P
Molefe, S B	Nzimande, C
Molise, L D	Papo, M M

Pelzer, R
Phillips, L E
Phometsi, P S
Pietersen, J
Pietersen, N
Ponsonby, D A
Radebe, N P
Radebe, T T
Rafferty, P D
Rahn, N J
Raholane, M W
Rakosa, P M
Ramafikeng, D J
Ramaru, G
Rambani, N S
Raseruthe, S H
Reddy, V M
Reinten, I M
Roberts, F C
Rohlssen, C K
Santana, C G
Schay, D
Seema, S M
Seerane, M K
Sekhu, M V
Sekwaila, B J
Shackleford, L M
Shange, P A
Sherman, G J
Shumba, K A
Sifumba, N
Simelane, P
Simelane, S O

Sindani, F P
Smit, P A
Sobey, A
Steenkamp, D
Steer, B
Stewart, A J
Suddaby, J
Sun, Y H
Supe, N P
Tabane, M C
Tambani, P S
Telekoa, A T
Tembe, D S
Truluck, T F
Tshawaku, M
Tshedo, J G
Tshehlo, G J
Tsotetsi, L Y M
Twala, Y A
Van der Merwe, M
Van Dyk, N J
Van Wyk, W M
Wax, K P
Williams, M C
Wilskut, D
Wissler, S T J
Xuma, L
Zazini, A
Zitha, S L
Zondo, L T
Zungu, N G
Zwane, S

1 OPENING

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

The Speaker welcomed the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Councillor Kabelo Gwamanda; Whip of Council, Councillor Zungu; Chair of Chairs Councillor Phillips; all political party leaders and Whips; Members of the Mayoral Committee; Chairpersons of the Section 79 Committees; fellow Councillors; City Manager, Mr Brink; Acting Secretary to Council, Mr Gobinca; officials of the City of Johannesburg; residents of the City of Johannesburg; members of the media; guests; ladies and gentlemen to the continuation of the Debate on the State of the City Address that was convened on 7 June 2023.

The Speaker thereafter addressed Council as follows:

"As we have alluded, this is the continuation of the State of the City Address Debate. We are not going to be acknowledging our guests individually in this session, but I do have a list of all the guests who have joined us here and those who will be joining us at 14:00. I will be doing all the acknowledgements at 14:00, for now, I want to give all the time to the Debate and give sufficient time to our Executive Mayor to respond to all the political parties that have raised their addresses, speeches, suggestions, and comments. I would like to firstly welcome again the Executive Mayor, and we thank you for joining us. We are thankful that you have recovered well, and you can be able to join us today.

Political parties, I do expect, as we have asked and appealed in our last sitting that you are going to raise your arguments sharply, in a robust manner, however, we are going to do that in a respectable and orderly manner. I would like to ask again that we refrain from provoking disruptions, and walking around when other speakers are on the podium. I would like us to again remember the Rules of the House and that we are not playing a ball. On that note, I want to thank you once again for coming through to this Debate and I wish you Godspeed."

The Speaker requested Legal Advisors to confirm the number of Councillors present to confirm the quorum.

2 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

<i>Councillor Kreuzsch S</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Marais A F</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Phalatse M L</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Landis</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Khanyile NM</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mchunu A</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Maternity Leave</i>
<i>Councillor More E</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Coverdale D L T</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>

<i>Councillor Mabunda T E</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Liebenberg E</i>	:	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor van der Schyf C</i>	:	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Nhlapo C P</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Nethamba R</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Doyle T</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Raphadu T A</i>	:	<i>Urgent Ward Business</i>
<i>Councillor Tefu P V</i>	:	<i>Urgent Family Business</i>
<i>Councillor Sesedinyane M I</i>	:	<i>Exam Leave</i>
<i>Councillor Mathe G</i>	:	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Mazibukwana M</i>	:	<i>Ill Health</i>

The following Councillors requested to arrive late:

*Councillor Dellwaria N
Councillor Chabalala M D
Councillor Ngobeni R F
Councillor Zungu N G
Councillor Morero S E
Councillor Marema V A
Councillor Fourie-Shawe C
Councillor Jonker N
Councillor Molefe M*

Councillor Mofokeng J requested to leave the meeting early:

Councillor Tshwaku requested to leave early for an urgent matter and will be back after 12:00.

3 OFFICIAL NOTICES

A special welcome was extended to the new Councillor from ActionSA, Councillor Matabane O.

4 CONTINUATION OF THE DEBATE ON THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BY POLITICAL PARTIES

MMC Magwentshu (ATM) addressed Council as follows:

"Greetings to the Speaker of the people, Councillor Colleen Makhubele. Greetings to the servant Executive Mayor, Councillor Kabelo Gwamanda. Greetings to the Whip of Council in absentia, Councillor Zungu. Greetings to the Chair of Chairs, Councillor Lloyd Phillips. Greetings to all Chairpersons of Sections 79 Committees; and greetings to all the servants of the people in the House.

Servant Executive Mayor, as the ATM, we welcome your SOCA maiden speech. It was proper, you served humbling pies to your detractors. I'm here as a servant of the people, and as such I will not give you my political analysis for your SOCA speech. I'm here to give you the views of the people on the ground, whether good or bad.

Resident from Ennerdale appreciates the progress made about Southern farms but feels that once again, Ennerdale is being neglected. She says Ennerdale has never seen an RDP house since the dawn of democracy, but the composition of this GLU gives the hope that finally, Ennerdale will not be neglected. They would like you to visit Ennerdale to see for yourself the land that was put aside for housing development, which they are guarding to make sure that it is not invaded, and with the hope that the 732 houses that they were promised would eventually happen.

Resident Mutala, Lenasia Extension 1, although she is happy with the feedback received from you via the City Manager's Office, on the issues of Mosquito Valley. She feels that you missed an opportunity to address the environmental issues of climate change, especially since you delivered your speech on World Environmental Day. She feels that the City does not have the capacity to deal with Disaster Management and wants to know what plans the City must improve on this.

Resident Fungisa, from Lehae, commends you for opening the long-awaited Lehae Library and commends your selflessness in that you came to open the library, though you were not well. Speaker, I must say that Councillor Molefe indicated that the people of Ward 4, are also waiting for the Driesik Library with renewed hope. Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, we have the bad news that some transformers were stolen in that very same library.

Resident from Joubert Park, was hoping that you would talk more on the issues of youth employment. Given the fact that during the IDP processes, it was made clear that majority of the people that are unemployed in Johannesburg are the youth and wants to understand the plans of the City in terms of dealing with challenges brought about by substance abuse - but understands that you might not have had enough time to touch base on everything. Seeing that you are also a young person, she has faith in you and your capable team.

Thulani Mthembu gave me a long list, I just took a few from the list that is here, and I will forward it to you. He says he is very concerned about the rate of crime and untidiness, especially around the CBD. However, appreciate your commitment and the work, he has seen by MMC Tshwaku. He envisages a situation where residents will walk freely with their cell phones in town without fear of criminals. On highjacked buildings by foreigners or whoever, he is happy that he is seeing that something is being done, but you must find ways to fast-track this issue so that we can claim our City. He is also concerned about the destruction of infrastructure that is on the rise and feels there's little being done to quell this, and perpetrators must be sent to jail for a very long time. On the issues of water, he asked you to prioritize water safety for human consumption.

Themba Masuku from Protea Glen is pleased to hear that you refused to surrender the City to the criminals, and pleads with you to focus more on crime that seems to be on the rise in Protea Glen. As the ATM, we support all endeavors that seek to put our residence first, in terms of service delivered. I thank you, Speaker."

Councillor Phillips L (GOOD) addressed Council as follows:

"Madam Speaker; Executive Mayor; Members of the Mayoral Committee; Chairpersons of Section 79 Committees; fellow Councillors; officials; members of the media; guests in the gallery and the residents watching online, greetings.

Madam Speaker, the GOOD party in Johannesburg remains concerned about the dire financial state of the City, which has pushed service delivery to the brink of collapse. The State of the City Address highlighted the urgent need for stability in the leadership to ensure that the finances and service delivery get back on track. As GOOD, we welcome some of the necessary measures that have so far been taken to restore the fiscal health of the City, including the 2 billion DBSA loan. While this is a starting point, Mayor Kabelo Gwamanda should aggressively pursue other means of generating the much-required revenue.

Also key to note, is the extension of the power purchase agreement with the Kelvin Power Station for another three years. Currently, the City purchases 87% of its power from Eskom and Kelvin supplies the City with a balance of 13%. However, we are concerned that the speech was thin on details regarding a clear path to invest in new City Power infrastructure and the review of the business plan. City Power's overdraft has ballooned to 9 billion and it has experienced liquidity issues in the past 17 years. GOOD will use available avenues to appeal for a clear pathway to revise City Power's business plan. Without the overhaul of the business plan, all other endeavors to stabilize electricity in the City will be futile. The proposed rollout for solar rooftop energy for disadvantaged households will be a failure if the City does not implement a feasible strategy to secure its infrastructure. While the Mayor acknowledges the problem of theft and vandalism, he failed to outline how to practically deal with this.

Good is disappointed in the lack of focus on the collapsing 13 599 kilometres of road network, as well as the rollout of an improved stormwater drainage system. The patching of potholes is simply not a sustainable solution. While the lack of stormwater drains continues to destroy roads and has placed the lives of residents at risk during the rainy season. There was also no mention of the perpetual problem of water leaks caused by the aging infrastructure across the City. The leaks have caused the City to lose about 40% of its revenue and must be urgently addressed.

GOOD commends the Mayor for acknowledging the long-standing issues of illegal mining in Riverlea, and the accompanying criminality it causes in surrounding communities. Through our position in the Legislature, we have already been working to mobilize relevant stakeholders to address the issue. Furthermore, we are encouraged by the proposed district development model, which will ensure coordinated crime fighting efforts between Local, Provincial and National governments sphere.

The proposed appointment of the 2000 Crime Fighting Wardens is also a progressive step towards creating safer communities. We hope the efforts to rid communities such as Eldorado Park regarding the issue of gangsterism and drug dealers will be accelerated and extended to other areas. Good has led campaigns against gun violence in these areas and communities and will continue raising advocacy. While we are also pleased with the partnership with the private sector to roll out CCTV cameras in the Inner-City, officials need to ensure that the cameras are always in working order.

Lastly, Madam Speaker, the announcement of the proposed gender-based violence Advisory Committee to bolster efforts to address the scourge of gender-based violence is encouraging. We hope that the Mayor will ensure that the committee is well capacitated and accessible to marginalized communities. I thank you."

Councillor Arnorlds M (AIC) addressed Council as follows:

"Greetings Speaker, Councillor Colleen Makhubele; Executive Mayor, Kabelo Gwamanda, who is also the Secretary of the minority governing parties; Chair of Chairs, Councillor Lloyd Phillips; Whip of Council in absentia, Councillor Zungu; City Manager, Mr Floyd Brink; AIC Regional Executive, led by Comrade Glennis Williams, good morning, everybody.

Speaker, allow me to say a wise man once said, "Learning from the past is the only way to shape the present and the future". As the government of local unity, we have learned from the past and understood the fact that with the past we can rebuild our great future, no matter how bad the past is. We are still the servants of the people, it is upon us to understand where we come from, and so we create the present that will bring an incredible future that our residents deserve. Everybody else has spoken about everything that the Mayor has said, but I have chosen the following, the energy mix.

Speaker, as we welcome the 11 Key Strategic Priorities which capture the vision and intentions of the GLU about the City, we should not forget the third priority, which is the energy mix, which was a brainchild of the late Honourable Mpho Moerane, may his soul rest in peace. So, it is a great thing that our Executive Mayor has decided to continue with the legacy of our great stalwart who has passed on.

On crime, Speaker, allow me to pay tribute to the family of the late Jan Fourie, a 12-year-old who was shot dead by armed suspects who opened fire at a party in Westbury. This is a painful reality that paints a bad picture about the safety of residents in our city, but we are also hopeful when the Mayor speaks about the wardens. We welcome the citywide crime prevention strategies mentioned by the Executive Mayor during the State of the City Address. We welcome the By-law Enforcement, Road Traffic Management, and Emergency Management Services declared by the Executive Mayor. However, without the City's municipal courts, crime prevention forums, and victim empowerment centres, our fight against crime is a miss.

The AIC would also ask the Executive Mayor to start establishing local drug action committees to maintain integrated drug policies in collaboration to prevent drug related-crime. Through you Speaker, in our fight against crime and social injustice, I would like to plead with the Social Development Department to stop being a vegetable Department. The Department needs teeth, it should not be known for only handing out vegetables during funerals. The department must intentionally fight gender-based violence and drug abuse and address issues that are facing the LGBTQI Community.

Skills Development, Executive Mayor, we support you fully in recognizing the need for skills development in some regions of the City, truth be told, the entire City needs a comprehensive plan to address the skills gaps.

Township Economy Bill, we welcome the adoption of the Township Economy Bill which seeks to promote economic growth and development in the townships through the support of small businesses and entrepreneurs, and let it be our people. There's a need to create an enabling environment for businesses.

Mr Mayor, I was excited when you spoke about the intergovernmental relations. Speaker, the South African Constitution outlines that there are three spheres of government. These three spheres must work together to ensure that quality of service is delivered efficiently, and we welcome the efforts made by this administration to ensure that intergovernmental relations are fostered. The Executive Mayor mentioned the government of local unity, through the district development model ensuring that the three spheres of Local, Provincial and National work closely together. The AIC confirms that truly the alignment of different spheres of government serves as an enabler of prospects of impactful solutions for our residents' daily lived experience.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I would like to wish the South African Netball Club all the best for the upcoming World Cup, which is planned to take place in Cape Town. We would like to thank the Community Development Department for the idea of dedicating Fridays as Netball Friday.

I would also like to congratulate Vincent Singh, COJ driver, for his time being placed at no. 208 at the Comrades Marathon, with 6:44:09.

*We are truly heading in the right direction. We are preparing our people to take centre stage in governance.
I thank you."*

Councillor Mogapi (EFF) addressed Council as follows:

"Greetings to the Chairperson of EFF, Councillors Sepetlele Raseruthe; the 29 battalions of the EFF; the resident of Johannesburg, and greetings to the rest of the Councillors.

Speaker we would like to begin the debate by congratulating the youngest Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, who emanates from humble beginnings like the majority of Johannesburg residents on his maiden speech. Mr Mayor, as the EFF we are committed to support every Mayor who prioritizes the poor and the down-trodden to

ensure that they are uplifted from squalor conditions. Uplifting poor people is done through providing basic services, providing infrastructure, assisting the indigent, and supporting businesses, to name a few. Mr Mayor, rest assured that the day you forget about poor people is the day that you will experience the wrath of the mighty EFF.

We are particularly impressed that you agree with the EFF, Mr Mayor, that an overall performance of 66% is unsatisfactory. During the 2023/2024 financial year, we would like to propose a new target of at least 76% overall performance. We would like you to say in front of 6 million residents of the City, that you commit to achieve a new target. In addition, to the legal requirements of publishing your scorecard, we would like you to communicate your scorecard to ordinary residents of the City in a simple language so that they hold you into account.

The State of the City Address presented in this Council Chamber last week Tuesday, was pretty balanced. However, Mr Mayor, we would likely be happier if you describe the existing challenges and outline future plans in a manner that makes it possible for ordinary residents to comprehend. For example, the Mayor did not explain how patient inequality in Johannesburg is going to be addressed. As the EFF, we believe in explaining government policies and programs in plain language as opposed to hiding behind technical language.

For a City with over 180 informal settlements, mentioning the word "informal settlement" less than three times shows the priorities need to be revisited. People in informal settlement suffer the most from disasters such as floods and fires, to name a few, which results from poor infrastructure, and we would like the Executive Mayor to incorporate how such issues are going to be addressed during the 2023/2024 financial year. This winter, we do not want to hear statistics of families who have lost lives and livelihoods because of fire.

Many people in Johannesburg are living with one or more chronic conditions and many more are prone to different kinds of disease, however, the Mayor did not say much about intervention to address health in the city. Access to health facilities remain a challenge for many, which are public facilities. Many people are still turned away in the City owned clinics without receiving treatment. Residents want to hear a clear plan from you, Mr Mayor, on how such will be addressed.

The active citizenry was a buzzword in your speech; however, regional offices are not functional. Many residents who have grievances in different regions do not know where to take those to, as the offices are not functional. We would like to see more resources being channeled to ensure that Ward Councillors do not use the lack of infrastructure as an excuse for not being able to assist residents 24/7.

Overall, as the EFF, we are happy with the State Of the City Address, and we plead with you to incorporate these inputs to ensure that residents, regardless of their literacy levels, understand the business of the City fully and ultimately hold you into account.

We, as the EFF caucus, would like to invite the residents of Johannesburg to the festival of the poor and the poorest; the 10th anniversary of the EFF, at FNB Stadium, on the 29th of July 2023. Thank you."

Councillor Rafferty PD (PA) addressed Council as follows:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. Greetings to the PA caucus leader, Councillor Kenny Kunene; Honourable Executive Mayor; MMCs; Whip of Council; Chair of Chairs; Section 79 Chairpersons; leaders of political parties; members of the media, and most importantly, the residents of the City of Johannesburg.

Last week's maiden address by the youngest Executive Mayor we have seen in this Council, was a cause for both optimism and some deep reflection. One must commend the Executive Mayor for his honest assessment of the many challenges that we face in this metropolis. From the decaying state of our infrastructure and the slow pace of development to our fight against numerous forms of crime and high unemployment, especially amongst the youth. Let me also take this opportunity to send our condolences to the Fourie family for their loss, it's one too many.

The Mayor did not try to sugarcoat the realities and also went to the often unquestioned narrative, that the multi-party coalition government that oversaw the running of government for most of the financial year under review, was without blemish. We know this is an illusion and our City was heading for financial ruin if not for the return of the government of local unity. Cities are not saved by good public relations friends in the media, or spin doctors or hashtags, they are saved by political leaders and administrators who are willing to do the work, make the right decisions and bring tangible change on the ground. This government is committed to this, and the PA will continue to hold those of us in power, including ourselves, to account and to use this power wisely. One thing is for sure, ons speel nie met krag nie.

People from Cosmos City, Eldorado Park, Fine Town, Ennerdale and many other parts of the City, have seen road maintenance like never before. Cosmos City for the last few years looked like a war zone. We know the SpongeBob battalion, they will say a lot of things, but we are getting there.

We remain committed to being part of the running of this administration in the true spirit of collaboration that recognizes that all twelve parties in this coalition matter, nie die Wes Kaap mentality nie. All of us have valuable inputs and contributions to make the success of the City. All of us were put here by residents and we have to cooperate in the best interest of Johannesburg's 6 million inhabitants. We know the challenges are manifold, but Johannesburg is South Africa's biggest Metro and is indeed too big to be allowed to fail. We shall never give up and never surrender, our City of Gold will indeed glitter again.

That goes without being said, we also must take a firm stance against the illegal migration and the hijacking of buildings, especially in the South. Many people are selling their houses or even leaving their houses, at the risk of being victimized, and as a City, we cannot stand around and look the other way as if we don't have a duty to support those residents. Mr Mayor, our fight to regain the glory days of the City of Johannesburg is in our hands and I call on every one of us across political lines, that at times we must leave the politics aside, hold hands and foster forward to realize the beautiful dream that we all want to see. Salute! Ons baiza nie."

Councillor Amad T (Al-Jama-Ah) addressed Council as follows:

“Dumelang Speaker saseka; the Executive Mayor; Whip of Council in absentia; and all political leaders.

Mr Mayor, we welcome the speech and the programs that you've outlined, and we also would like to put emphasis and recognize the challenges faced by persons with disabilities, the PWDs. The Executive Mayor clearly outlined the massive plan, which is inclusive together with the programs that ensure the City remains a place where people live, work, and a safe place.

Executive Mayor, Kabelo Gwamanda, we can attest as Councillors that you represent the government that cares for the people. As Al Jama-Ah, we would like to emphasize the challenges faced by the PWDs. We would like to request that in your IGR engagements, please ensure that there is inclusive dialogue that will clearly outline the needs of the PWDs. We need inclusiveness in all educational fraternities, that would be your Early Childhood Development (ECD), in a sense that when a child goes into an ECD Program, you need to cater a special school for them or primary school or the high school, but when they get to universities, the dynamics change. Children need to be prepared from an early age. Another example that we can give is the issue of the braille, if a blind person goes to fill in an affidavit at the Police station, the documentation does not accommodate the blind or the semi blind. So, these are the issues that you need as the City, to take priority and then when you engage the intergovernmental relations, these are the issues that you need to advocate for and many more.

We also understand that your speech was time bound, it was not deliberate that you omitted the advocacy of the PWDs, but we also need to know the clear plan from the City. What is it that the City would do? I remember the last time in Council, I saw a hand there on the screen when one of the Councillors was talking about the issue of PWDs.

Mr Mayor, we would also like to propose that you let the residents of Johannesburg know that there was 11 million that was lost/stolen in this Council by the previous government, and that will never go unrecognized because that is the finances that would have assisted the City to champion service delivery. Thank you, Mr Mayor.”

Councillor Ngwenya (ANC) addressed Council as follows:

“Speaker of Council, Councillor Colleen Makhubele; Executive Mayor, Kabelo Gwamanda; Members of the Mayoral Committee; the Whip of Council, Councillor. Zungu; Chair of Chairs, Councillor. Philips; all Chairpersons of Section 79 Oversight Committees; City Manager, Mr. Floyd Brink; fellow Councillors; distinguished guests and all residents of Johannesburg.

Let me start by commending the Executive Mayor for an inspiring State of the City Address that gave an honest account of when we are as the City of Johannesburg. Indeed Mr Mayor, there comes a time where we must put the residents of Joburg first by prioritizing service delivery, job creation, sustainable financial and inclusive growth, and a safer City while working towards attaining a Smart City.

Executive Mayor, we understand the extent of the financial damage left in the city's coffers thanks to the DA-led coalition government. This exposes a not so clean coalition that constantly threw stones at the GLU government, yet they were in a glass house as we now know. It is evident that fiscal responsibility and transparency as pillars for effective governance were a foreign concept to the DA-led coalition.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Youth Month, it is critical to give special mention to highlights of the speech and how they affect young people;

- *As the youngest Executive Mayor of our City, indeed your story is one of hope and possibility and every young person will draw inspiration from your journey to wearing the mayoral chains, more especially as your journey reassures young people that personal circumstances do not limit the level of success one can achieve.*
- *Young people in Johannesburg are resilient Mr Mayor, given the struggles they have to navigate, however, it is the duty of the GLU coalition and all of us as Councillors to provide a conducive environment for them to thrive socially, professionally and economically.*
- *Post 2016 politics and governance challenges produced by the harsh reality of coalition government in the City, saw the purging of 130 young African competent and qualified professionals, who were purged by the DA-led multi-party coalition. This went against the ideals of sustainable job creation and plunged 130 families into immediate poverty and economic hardship! Shame on you DA led coalition! Asikakhohlwa!!"*

Councillor Knott L (DA) reminded Council there was a court order regarding the matter and asked Councillor Ngwenya not to mislead the House.

Councillor Ngwenya continued with his debate as follows:

"The commitment to serve the residents of Johannesburg and meet their most basic needs and expectations is reassuring Mr Mayor, as it indicates a commitment to serve and deliver services without discrimination of socio-economic status, something which became a norm under the DA-led multi-party coalition. Mr Mayor, we note the performance level of 66% at the end of the third quarter and can only anticipate improved and better performance in the fourth quarter as you lead us to improve on the underachieving DA-led multiparty coalition government.

Speaker, we agree with Councillor Belinda, when she said that the hijacking of buildings continues to be a problem to the City but let me remind the house as well. It was the multi-party government that used GFIS as CIA and FBI of Johannesburg, instead of dealing with the issue of hijacked buildings."

Councillor Echeozonjoku B (DA) reminded Councillor Ngwenya that there was a court order regarding GFIS matter and asked that he does not mislead the House.

Councillor Ngwenya continued with his debate:

"As the ANC we agree with you Mr Mayor, Johannesburg faces a lot of Developmental challenges such as;

- *Persisting Spatial inequality which Affects young professionals and workers who have to travel the length and breadth of the City to access economic opportunities;*
- *High levels of unemployment which negatively affect our residents as they lose hope and find creative but illegal ways to survive.*
- *Poor living conditions mean that upcoming generations are doomed to a blurry future because of Service delivery gaps.*
- *Women and children being at the receiving end of gender-based violence and femicide requires capacitating our Police to better prevent and bring to book perpetrators of these crimes.*
- *poverty and inequality brought about by poor economic growth patterns.*

All of these challenges affect the residents of Johannesburg therefore we cannot over emphasize the need to resolve them and make Johannesburg a City worthy of its World class status.

We note that the City is struggling to find innovative, novel and financially prudent mechanisms to ensure that service delivery continues. As the ANC we agree that Public-Private Partnerships (PPS) is one of the innovative mechanisms to meet the service delivery needs of residents. The pothole patrol initiative by Discovery as an example will go a long way to augment the City's finances and we implore the leadership collective to explore other viable partnerships with public sector entities. Addressing the increasing cases of vandalism and cable theft to the electricity infrastructure is a matter of urgency. Prevention is better than cure therefore more resources must be channeled towards protecting existing infrastructure as opposed to replacing stolen cables which is a strain on much needed financial resources.

Mr Mayor, we welcome the roll-out of rooftop solar installations for disadvantaged households in our City's disadvantaged areas by promoting renewable energy. This initiative will prevent the unnecessary loss of life and give indigent families their dignity back by enabling access to power despite economic status.

The People's IDP Plan is a testament to the GLU's commitment to follow towards legislative community engagement imperatives and bring government closer to the people. Executive Mayor, we must applaud you and the Mayoral Committee collectively for the People's Plan which establishes a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and shared responsibility. These IDP sessions give a clear mandate on the direction the City should take. We are happy that the Executive Mayor has heard the concerns of the residents and we expect to see developments happening from region A to region G. The residents of Ward 107 will be delighted when Sankopano resource centre is converted into a multi-purpose centre as the current state of the facility leaves a lot to be desired given that it is a significant public facility that serves many functional purposes in the community of Alexandra. We welcome the task team on illegal mining which will soon be announced to deal with issues of illegal miners

who are currently pose a huge risk to the communities they are infiltrating by bringing lawlessness.

We further welcome the Deployment of police to hotspots such as Riverlea and Westbury to support JMPD as these areas have high crime rates so we hope that this deployment will help to alleviate crime in those communities.

Joburg Water is investing to build and upgrade the bulk water infrastructure. We hope this will assist in dealing with the challenges we are currently facing which contribute to water shortages.

We welcome the plan to implement a geyser installation accredited training programme in all regions of the city targeting 140 residents as part of our comprehensive skills development strategy. This will not only alleviate unemployment but also leave people with valuable skills.

We welcome the plan to recruit approximately 2000 crime Wardens who will work alongside the law enforcement agencies, communities, and stakeholders. These crime Wardens have recently been termed as "AmaGwamanda" by the MMC of GCSS Councillor Loysio Masuku and hope that their visibility on the streets will help alleviate the crimes we are currently facing.

Madam Speaker allow me again to correct the newly elected caucus leader of the DA, Councillor Belinda Echeozonjoku, for misleading the House in saying that the Executive Mayor spoke about a Youth Advisory board, when in fact he spoke about a restructured and capacitated Youth Directorate, to consolidate and enhance youth development. It will collaborate with various stakeholders to ensure maximum impact and that ordinary young people in the city have a dedicated structure to serve their needs.

We welcome the psychological support and legal assistance that will be provided by the city to GBV survivors, as the GLU we care about women in society and want to ensure that they are given the necessary support. Mr Mayor, we welcome the plan to establish a GBV advisory committee to address these issues comprehensively. We welcome the aim to establish self-sustained food gardens in various communities specifically targeting child headed families, and vulnerable women headed indigent families. There are many children headed families and vulnerable women heading indigent families so this initiative will go a long way in ensuring that they have something to eat.

In parting Madame speaker, I wish to agree with the Executive Mayor, that we must be people centered and this we must achieve by realizing the objectives of the GDS 2040 as outlined by the EM. Achieving these objectives will mean we are prioritizing development by building a better future for the next generation. I, thank you."

5 RESPONSE BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

The Executive Mayor responded to the Debate as follows:

“Speaker of Council, Councillor. Coleen Makhubele; Chief Whip of Council, Councillor. Zungu; Chair of Chairs, Councillor. Philips; all Chairpersons of Section 79 Oversight Committees; Members of the Mayoral Committee; fellow Councillors; City Manager and head of administration, Mr. Floyd Brink; Chairperson of the Political Management Committee, Mr Sasabona Manganye; Chairperson of the minority governing parties Councillor Margaret Arnolds; political leaders of all parties represented in the Government of Local Unity; opposition parties represented in Council. A humble acknowledgment to the Royal families gracing us with their presence today; distinguished guests; residents in the City of Johannesburg; members of the Media; ladies and gentlemen.

I would like to take this opportunity to firstly express my gratitude to the Speaker and to the House, for affording me the opportunity to present to yourselves and the residents in the City of Johannesburg, the State of the City Address, as well as your consideration when I was not well. And your indulgence in allowing the meeting to adjourn to afford me an opportunity to recover enough to fully dispatch my duties as Executive Mayor, and for that, I thank you.

Madam Speaker, through your indulgence if I may, and this is just for interest’s sake. South Africa is the only Country on the entire continent where the retrospective regime that is malevolent in nature, continues to conduct oversight on the state in a form of opposition, and I am citing this Madam Speaker, purely on the basis of projecting the progressive nature of our constitution in South Africa.

When we crafted our theme, “understanding the past in building a resilient Johannesburg that is people centric”, it was on the basis that we understood that those who do not or rather choose not to remember their past are condemned to repeat it. And truly, Madam Speaker, the role of opposition is becoming difficult by the day, when the only thing that we as Councillors can point out is the inheritance of something as trivial as a BMW. Councillor Ngobeni, I’m not a mechanic, but if Cape Town was a buyback centre – but then I’m just saying that under correction. It was registered in the House Madam Speaker, by Councillor Ngobeni, that I have inherited a big BMW in my role as Executive Mayor, he is correct. We have inherited a big BMW which he and the multi-party coalition turned into scrap and left immobile. The multi-party government left the City without a City Manager; a Group Financial Officer and a Chief Operating Officer, these three most critical components for this BMW to move – they practically looted the engine, the gearbox, and the wheels. Take note, fellow residents, mine is not an inherited BMW, but an inherited City in tatters.

My view Madam Speaker, or rather assessment of submissions from opposition, during the Debate and my conclusion thereto, is the fact that; there is nothing fundamental to contradict in the State of the City, but rather to provide input and to some degree seek clarity, which I am happy to provide, and as the Government of Local Unity we collectively welcome the inputs from opposition in that regard.

But perhaps before I begin with my response to the debate Madam Speaker, and once again through you, I think it would be prudent Councillor Ralf Bittkau, to bring to your attention the fact that English is not my mother tongue, and therefore, should it be the case that my pronunciation of words bothers you, kindly note that English is but your medium of instruction, and perhaps I need to reintroduce myself for the benefit of this House and record purposes;

Councillor; Ngiyi Sabelo Sakwa Gwamanda; uMutwa, iSlima, uMutwa o Ntloko Nzima; oPhatha nge Sokhohlo eSok'nene si'hlezi; uManzini, Ncwane, Mjula, Makhoba, Socumashe, Sabelo, Yengwa, Sondini; uGwamanda owa Gwamanda Izinkomo Žabe Sotho.... uGwamanda om'hlophe othi angaba Mnyama uFuze ko'Nina.... oNyama ayishi isha ngaba bhebhezi... oManzi, oSlumbo, owa'Lumba amanzi wawenza utshwala baphuza abafokazana uMutwa onga ncenge nto yamuntu.

Whilst I allow you to process that, let me give you a high level of what that means, it means that I am a gift from my ancestors to the modern-day struggle against O ndlebe zikhanya ilanga.

And to the former MMC Housing, Councillor Mlungisi Mabaso, perhaps the emphasis on my youth and the antagonistic nature of what I represent is critical to the psychological realignment of our generation. Like the Commander in Chief of the Economic Freedom Fighters once said, in his days as a youth leader, "We inspire the youth that we seek to liberate". We do this Councillor, because, in the deliberate amplification of such, we invoke a sense of pride and duty in our youth, enough to activate competitive participation in the agenda towards a resilient and developmental Johannesburg and South Africa as a whole.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, kindly allow me to highlight or rather clarify some of the issues raised by the opposition. I am indeed very much cognizant of the fact that my ascension into office is in fact in law and title, Councillor Ngobeni. In fact, Councillor Echeozonjoku, I have only been in the big car for a little over a month and I have for the most part experienced and interacted with the Inner City in a way that might be inconceivable to someone like you. Given the fact that I am from Soweto and understand fully what iJozi means to someone like me, who has a rooted interest in the regeneration and revitalization of the Inner City.

The Johannesburg Central Business District is the only one of its kind in the City of Johannesburg, operating like a central nerve system for the entire Province, if not the country. Madam Speaker, winning the war on the rejuvenation and restoring the dignity of the Inner City therefore becomes critical in our Endeavor to inspire investor confidence; Have you ever heard the saying "Take care of the rands and the cents take care of themselves"?

We have an Urban Renewal Precinct based Plan that is currently being finalized by my office, Councillor Echeozonjoku, that deals with our approach to bolstering of rejuvenation of the Inner City as well as other CBDs in the City like, the Environmental Upgrade in Lenasia; and in Region B Randburg CBD; the Urban Development Framework as well as in Roodepoort, the Transport Master Plan, which is in fact indicative of our inclusive approach towards CBD's within the City in general.

Madam Speaker, On the issue of the utilization of GFIS. According to popular belief, it is without a doubt that the capacity of GFIS is in such a way that it competes on a level of intelligence, together with all the issues surrounding it. And I would like to agree with you Councillor, that the crime combating Unit in the office of the City Manager is one that could be used to bolster our efforts in tackling the challenging surge of hijacked buildings and the far-reaching implications on a variety of issues thereto. However, Madam Speaker, I have undertaken to conduct an audit on the nature of tools of trade that the Unit utilizes in its line of work from pens to desks; to firearms; if any, as well as any software and hardware. This is a preliminary compliance measure to decide on whether the Unit is in line with its scope, competency and most importantly, its service delivery mandate. This process, Councillor Santana, is aimed at demonstrating our Priority on Good Governance and most importantly allow us to apply appropriate measures of consequence management should it be that there are any adverse findings in line with your inputs.

Madam Speaker, I would like to further concur with former MMC of Development Planning, Councillor Echeozonjoku, that it is indeed not the role of the Government to create jobs even though Government, as an institution, relies heavily on Human Resources to carry out its constitutional obligation. Or maybe your interpretation is in fact that the Government should contribute to the unemployment statistics like the 130+1; or perhaps the EPWP Health worker contracts that were terminated; or maybe Senior officials that were purged during the period December 2021 to January 2023 under your Administration.

We, as the Government of Local Unity, Madam Speaker, will do all that we can within the legislative confines to ease the burden of unemployment in the City of Johannesburg for women and the youth. Starting with filling of all 1154 funded and vacant positions in the core administration as well as the further 1233 across all municipal entities. We are acting on this firstly as a means to boost staff morale to improve the quality of service that the City renders. And secondly to play a role in the reduction of unemployment in the City of Johannesburg rather than importing warm bodies from other cities like Cape Town.

Let me continue by apologizing to the Residents in the City of Johannesburg, as per the advice given by the official opposition, because it would appear that I speak over their heads. Therefore, Madam Speaker, allow me to refer to our Strategic Priority Number 9, which is sustainable service delivery and subsequently refer back to my acceptance speech where I highlight the fact that I am introducing an overarching priority which is to improve the quality of service that this administration delivers across all departments and municipal entities.

With that said, Madam Speaker, allow me to further clarify to the opposition on our Priority Number 9 as proof of this with regards to our sustainable service delivery. The interpretation of service delivery in the context of the City of Johannesburg in general requires perspective to understand, and that's the first part to note Madam Speaker.

The interpretation of service delivery for business considers an enabling environment, and in our words as this government, the ease of doing business within or with the City of Johannesburg across all different sectors. But equally as important Madam Speaker, is our resident's interpretation of service delivery, for instance, the more

affluent areas want to live and work in a safe and clean City. They want to travel on maintained and tarred roads. They want to open their taps every morning and find clean water flowing and the grass on municipal land well-kept and maintained. But most importantly they want a quality service that is equal to its worth in rates and taxes as a standard Institutional Competency of Government.

However, Councillor Echeozonjoku, the majority, which is black and previously disadvantaged, their interpretation of service delivery in simple terms is defined as Restitution. So, in our consideration of the historical backlog emanating from Spatial Planning and current conditions, this Government, through its collective 11 Strategic Priorities, as informed by the GDS2040, we are prioritizing projects like the Southern Farms; the Kliptown Development; as well as the Allandale and Frankenworld Integrated Development projects in our efforts towards delivering on the expectations of our diverse residents across the City.

Our keen outward look towards the re-establishment of Intergovernmental Relations, especially for a City with Comments from the National Treasury that highlights a concern around the financial stability of the City. It is not because of a lack of planning; however, it is in with a clear intention of alignment with all spheres of Government to leverage the most competencies that are not within our ambit as Local Government. It is also to align with grant funding opportunities that are rebased on our budget as the City, but most importantly to activate multi-disciplinary task teams that seek to address issues like:

- *A full-scale advance on the complete eradication of the surge of Illegal Mining through the Rehabilitation of Mine Dumps in the City of Johannesburg*
- *The bolstering and expansion of City Power as a Municipal Owned Entity to serve as an instrument that will champion the Energy Crisis Mitigation Strategy.*

By the way, Councillor Bitkau, allow me to refresh your memory that the Kelvin Power station was commissioned long before the multi-party coalition existed, but I can understand why you would want to gravitate to placing emphasis.

- *Expanding the City's Social Housing development plans and ensuring that all Provincial roads in the City of Johannesburg are well maintained.*
- *Revisiting Memorandums Of Understanding for the re-establishment of ambulance services as the City under the EMS department starting with the 50 ambulances that are currently grounded and not utilized.*
- *To accelerate the implementation of the Presidential Smart City Project in Lanseria*

These are but a few initiatives that drive our efforts to reestablish and solidify intergovernmental relations with both Provincial and National Government as the City of Johannesburg.

And before I conclude Madam Speaker and all the Residents in the City of Johannesburg and beyond. I would like to note that there is a fine distinction between fact and fiction, service delivery and grandstanding, leadership and acting, but most importantly the blurred distinction between news reports and driving sponsored narratives. With power comes responsibility and the notion that suggests that "mere perceptions are everything" is detrimental to our society.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, allow me to educate fellow Councillors in the opposition and in the same breath assist our residents with information regarding the roles of an Executive Mayor in accordance with Chapter 4 of the Standing Rules and Orders of Council, Section 35(2), which is clear and nowhere does it stipulate that an Executive Mayor is obligated to subjecting him or herself to social media and media houses for interrogation.

In conclusion Madam Speaker, I am Councillor Kabelo Gwamanda. The duly elected Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality. And I would like to assure the residents that Government in its current form is stable, and that there is no leadership crisis in the City of Johannesburg, apart from the frivolous sponsored narrative from the opposition, and rhetoric that have no bearing on my fiduciary duty as a Councillor, and Constitutional Obligation as Executive Mayor nor in the daily lived experience of residence. We are therefore, as the Government of Local Unity reiterating the fact that we are here and are at the service of all 6 million residents. The Revolution of which I advocate for, Councillor Mabaso, and for this generation in particular; is the simple fact that we demonstrate through action that we are more than capable of Governing and effectively so.

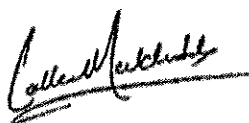
Madam Speaker; fellow Councillors; City Manager; the minority governing parties; the government of local unity; members of the opposition; members of the Media; citizens and the Youth in the City of Johannesburg, I now call on each and every one of you, to collaborate in bringing back the heartbeat of the City of Johannesburg.

I thank you."

5 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

None.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:45.



.....
SPEAKER OF COUNCIL

05/09/23

.....
DATE