



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG  
METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY  
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

## **CITY OF JOHANNESBURG COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS (SOCA), OF THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG MUNICIPALITY HELD ON TUESDAY, 6 JUNE 2023, FOLLOWED BY THE DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY, 7 JUNE 2023 AT 10:00 (BOTH DAYS) AT THE CONSTANCE CONNY BAPELA COUNCIL CHAMBER, METROPOLITAN CENTRE, BRAAMFONTEIN**

**SPEAKER OF COUNCIL  
COUNCILLOR N MOLWELE**

**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 (6 JUNE 2023)**
- 4 DEBATE ON THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BY POLITICAL PARTIES (7 JUNE 2023)**
- 5 RESPONSE BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR (7 JUNE 2023)**
- 6 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

**1(a) MEMBERS PRESENT**

The Speaker: Councillor Makhubele, T C  
 The Executive Mayor: Councillor K Gwamanda

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

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

Nyembe, Z P  
Nzimande, C  
Pelzer, R  
Phillips, L E  
Phometsi, P S  
Pietersen, J  
Pietersen, N  
Ponsonby, D A  
Radebe, N P  
Radebe, T T  
Rafferty, P D  
Raholane, M W  
Rakosa, P M  
Ramafikeng, D J  
Raphadu, A T  
Reddy, V M  
Reinten, I M  
Roberts, F C  
Rohissen, C K  
Santana, C G  
Schay, D  
Seema, S M  
Seerane, M K  
Sekhu, M V  
Sekwaila, B J  
Sesedinyane, M I  
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  
Tefu, P V  
Telekoa, A T  
Tembe, D S  
Tshwaku, M  
Tsheddo, J G  
Tshehlo, G J  
Tsotetsi, L Y M  
Twala, Y A  
Van der Merwe, M  
Van der Schyf, C  
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 the Council to observe a moment of silence for prayer, meditation and she committed the session into the hands of the Almighty.*

*She thereafter addressed Council as follows:*

*"To all our guests, to say that we are thrilled to see you today is an understatement. Our flags are indeed flying high. It is a great day, the one that we've been planning for, and we have prepared for. I am sure you will concur with me that the parade was excellent.*

*A long pending desire of mine has truly been fulfilled today. It is my distinct honor to welcome in our midst the honorable Member of Parliament and the President of Congress of the People honorable Lekota. I welcome you sir. I welcome in our midst the Member of Parliament, Honorable Hendricks, and the leader of Al Jamah. I welcome in our midst the Premier of Gauteng, honorable Lesufi. I welcome in our midst today the MEC of COGTA honorable Khumalo.*

*I would also like to acknowledge the Royal leaders of South Africa inkosi uLibandla Thomas Mabena, bayede! I also want to acknowledge the representative, chief TL Mgiba. He is a representative in Gauteng, ndabezitha! I also acknowledge Prince Tabani Manene from Rolesa, ndabezitha! I acknowledge all the other chiefs that are in our midst, ndabezitha! to you.*

*We have also the Regional Court President, Mr Modibedi Djaje, thank you for joining us. Let me acknowledge the leaders of various political parties. We have the President of the Patriotic Alliance, Mr G McKenzie, the ANC Provincial Secretary, Mr T Nciza, the ActionSA provincial chair, Mr M Beumont, the EFF Provincial Secretary, Mr M Koma, the Provincial Chair of Congress, of the people, Mr T Mofokeng and the Deputy Secretary General of APC, Ms P Lefothe.*

*We have in our midst representatives from various embassies. We have the representative of the Czech Republic, the representative of the Japan Embassy, the representative of the Palestine Embassy, the representative of Israel Embassy, and the representative of Western Sahara Embassy. I would also like to acknowledge the Mayors and Speakers from other municipalities. We have got the Mayor of Mogale City, Councillor D Thupane. The Speaker of Ekurhuleni, Councillor N Tshivhenga. The Speaker of the City of Tshwane, Councillor M Ndzwanana.*

*The Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Councillor K Gwamanda, Members of the Mayoral Committee in the City of Johannesburg, Whip of Council, Councillor N Zungu, Chair of Chairs, Councillor L Phillips, all Section 79 Chairpersons. We also acknowledge and congratulate the new leader of the official opposition, Councillor B Echeozonjoku.*

*We also have the members of the Junior Council. The Junior Mayor, Councillor A Maphiri, the junior Speaker, Councillor N Moodley. We are blessed in our midst to have various religious leaders that have joined us today. We acknowledge the*

City of Johannesburg Council 2023-06-06/07

MINUTES

*presence of Bishop J Mashashane, the President of the South African Council of Churches, the*

*presence of archbishop S Moreo of the Anglican Church, Archbishop A Sibiya, Bishop M Sono and all other ministers, all other pastors, all other religious leaders and leaders of faith-based organizations that have joined us today.*

*We also have business partners that have joined us. We have representatives from Coca-Cola, representatives from Vodacom, from Pen African Chambers, from the Old Mutual, Global Roundtable, Kuseni Dlamini Foundation and Vivian Mokome Foundation.*

*We also acknowledge the civic organizations that have joined us. The Assay Indian Legion and the Assay Soweto Legion, People with Disability Organization led by Mr M Nkhwashu. We also have the Olympic medalist Mr Godfrey Khotso Mokoena, the former Bafana Bafana star, Mr Mark Williams, and the award-winning actor, Mr Siyabonga Twala.*

*We have special guests in our midst today that we would like to honor this month of June. We remember and commemorate the 16<sup>th</sup> of June, and we do that in celebration of the whole month with various activities across the city. Today I am honored to have in our midst, the youth activist, Mr. Mbuyisa Makhubu. Mr. Mbuyisa Makhubu is the young man who was photographed carrying Hector Pieteron on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 1976. We also have Ms Antoinette Sithole, the sister of Hector Pieteron, who I believe may be joining us later or not come due to illness. Thank you for your presence and for assisting us to celebrate the month of June.*

*Finally, I would like to acknowledge our officials in the city, led by our City Manager, Mr Floyd Brink, Acting Secretary to Council, Mr Andile Gobinca, all city officials and all distinguished guests that I may not have acknowledged. You are truly welcome, and we thank you for your presence. To all our beloved residents who are here with us and those following us online or on television. We welcome you, ladies and gentlemen, and the members of the media we thank you for joining us today.*

*I welcome you to the 21<sup>st</sup> State of The City Address (SOCA) of the City of Johannesburg.*

*We have been having this State of The City addresses since 2002 and I am honoured to preside over the 21<sup>st</sup> SOCA, thank you very much."*

*The Speaker requested for Council to observe another moment of silence recognizing the lives that they have lost across the city and also across the nation. She mentioned that they have lost the Assistant Director, Mr Livashan Naick who played an important role in the Legislature for more than 14 years and that his service in the Legislature will be missed. She further mentioned that they have also lost two people who died after 10 shacks were destroyed by fire in Zandspruit informal settlements in the West of Johannesburg.*

*She stated that they also rise for a moment of silence for the life that was lost at Maponya Mall due to the looting activities, they have also lost one life the previous day in Protea Glen. She acknowledged the lives that were lost in the Lenasia cemetery shootout in the South of Johannesburg. She sent their deepest condolences to the family of former minister and ANC member of Parliament, honourable Tina Joemat-*

*Pettersson, and to all those that she may not have mentioned, the loved ones that have departed.*

*She would like them to remember them as they pause for the moment of silence and wish the family sincere condolences and pray that their souls will rest in eternal peace.*

*The Speaker said that the State of The City Address is in line with Rule 13 of the Standing Rules and Orders of Council which provides that at the official opening of Council each year, the Executive Mayor must deliver the State of The City Address. She further said that the State of The City Address is not just an ordinary event, it is a momentous occasion where the city leaders come together to paint a vivid picture of the future of Johannesburg. It is a chance for residents and stakeholders to hear about the city's progress and plans, and to be inspired to work together towards a brighter future for all, as The Legislature they are very intentional in its actions to ensure that they are as inclusive as possible in inviting all our citizens and representatives of various formations in the city, as noted with a guest list that they have gone as broad and as far and as wide as they possibly could to ensure that the democratic participation of all citizens of the city is upheld.*

*She appealed to all political parties represented in the Council to put their differences aside. Respect and honor the guests who have graced them with their presence. Instead to celebrate what brings them together, which is the City of Johannesburg, and allow the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg to make his presentation in the most dignified and honorable manner.*

*She stated that it was her pleasant duty and great honor to welcome the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Councillor Kabelo Gwamanda, to deliver his maiden State of the City Address.*

*The Speaker acknowledged the Inkatha Freedom Parties Members of Parliament, honorable Majozi, Deputy Chair of Gauteng, honorable Dlamini, Provincial Chair of Gauteng, Elderman Ngobese, Provincial Secretary of the Inkatha Freedom Party, and the Chair of Chairs of Ekurhuleni Municipality, Councillor J Mdluli.*

## **2 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

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

<i>Councillor Rahn, N J</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Deppe, A J</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Rambani, N S</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Papo, M M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Koekemoer, M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Ramaru, G</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Nkomo, B</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Phalatse, M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Dewes, D S</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Truluck, T F</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</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 Nkomo, P T</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>

<i>Councillor Liebenberg, E</i>	:	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Mosehla, K J</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Raseruthe, S H</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Nontenja, C T</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>

### **3 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR (6 JUNE 2023)**

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

*The Speaker announced that there would be a post-soccer media briefing in the Chamber and the SOCA debate will take place on Wednesday, 7 June 2023 at 10:00 in the Chamber.*

*She indicated that the distinguished guests will be ushered to the Joburg Theatre. That would be the guests of the Executive Mayor, the Speaker and MMC's guests. She said that all the political leaders and all those that she had acknowledged would remain in the chambers as they departed, and ushers would fetch them, and they would be taken to the shuttle that would transport them to the venue.*

**AT THIS STAGE, THE TIME BEING 11:36, COUNCIL ADJOURNED UNTIL WEDNESDAY, 7 JUNE 2023 AT 10:00 FOR THE DEBATE ON THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S SPEECH.**

*On resumption, Thursday, 7 June 2023, the following Councillors were present:*

## **MEMBERS PRESENT**

The Speaker: Councillor Makhubele, T C

The Executive Mayor: Councillor K Gwamanda

Abdool, F	Goosen, J W
Amad, T	Gwamanda, K
Amod, C J	Harris, R
Arnolds, M S	Hlatshwayo, S M
Atterbury, E	Hooper, R S
Avant-Smith, C	Horwitz, J
Benjamin, R F	Huggett, E A
Bini, L	Ismail-Moosa, I
Bittkau, R	Jacobs, B
Boer, C	Jonker, N
Bolani, M G	Kaldine, J
Brand, D G	Kgeletsane, M O
Buthelezi, T C	Khanyile, N M
Chabalala, M D	Khumalo, X I
Chame, F	Knott, L R
Chauke, K L	Koekemoer, M
Chetsanga, H	Komane, S A
Christians, A	Kreusch, S
Coogan, L C	Kwapeng, C
Coutriers, M J	Landis, R
Crichton, M	Lebatlang, T Z
Da Gama, V M	Lebea, M G
Da rocha, C M D	Lefutso, L
Dammie, B H	Leitch, A N
Davids-Green, L C	Leshilo, R S
De Lange, F C	Liebenberg, E
Dellwaria, N	Lobi, M
Diadla, D	Louw, M A
Dlamini, B	Maake, M J
Doyle, T	Mabaso, M P
Durand, G V M	Mabelebele, S S
Echeozonjoku, B C	Mabuke, T A
Edward, N	Mabunda, T E
Finn, C E	Mabuza, S K L
Foley, D T	Machaba, L M U
Fourie-Shawe, C	Machethe, S
Francisco, D B	Madiba, T J
Fresling, R R	Magwaza, B L P
Galeshewe, T M	Magwentshu, L C

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

Ntoele, N L  
Ntombela, M J  
Nyembe, M M  
Nyembe, Z P  
Nzimande, C  
Papo, M M  
Pelzer, R  
Phillips, L E  
Phometsi, P S  
Pietersen, J  
Pietersen, N  
Radebe, N P  
Radebe, T T  
Rafferty, P D  
Raholane, M W  
Rakosa, P M  
Ramafikeng, D J  
Raphadu, A T  
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  
Sesedinyane, M I  
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  
Tefu, P V  
Telekoa, A T  
Tembe, D S  
Truluck, T F  
Tshedo, J G  
Tshehlo, G J  
Tsotetsi, L Y M  
Twala, Y A  
Van der Merwe, M  
Van der Schyf, C  
Van Dyk, N J  
Van Wyk, W M  
Wax, K P  
Williams, M C  
Wilskut, D  
Wissler, S T J  
Wittman-Potter, D D  
Xuma, L  
Zazini, A  
Zitha, S L  
Zondo, L T  
Zungu, N G  
Zwane, S

## OPENING

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

*She welcomed the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Councillor Kabelo Gwamanda, the Whip of Council: Councillor Zungu, Chair of Chairs: Councillor Phillips, all political parties; leaders and Whips; all Members of the Mayoral Committee, Chairpersons of the Section 79 Committees, fellow Councillors; City Manager, Mr Floyd Brink; Acting Secretary to Council, Mr Andile Gobinca; officials of the City; residents of the City of Johannesburg, members of the media, guests and ladies and gentlemen to the continuation of the meeting to debate the State of the City of address, as presented by the Executive Mayor, Councillor Kabelo Gwamanda, on the Council meeting which was held on 6 June 2023.*

*She stated that the debate on the State of The City Address is in line with Rule 14 of the Standing Rules and Orders of Council.*

*She welcomed all the Councillors and thanked the guests who were in attendance at the SOCA. She further thanked the residents of the City of Johannesburg, various stakeholders, and those that were attending physically, including those that followed on various media platforms.*

*She said that if an event must be successful, there are usually people who must join forces together to make it happen. She was exceedingly glad and grateful for the diligent work that went into the planning and preparation for the 21<sup>st</sup> State of the City Address. She was extremely proud of the plenary team that consisted of both the officials from the Legislature, the Executive, and from various departments within the city. She recognized the extra time that was spent to ensure the delivery of what was expected of them as the city. She was grateful because the guests were very impressed by the beautiful and elegant performance and delivery of the State of the City. She said that herself, the Executive Mayor, the political leaders, and all Councillors were very grateful, and they are anticipating an even better budget presentation the following week.*

*She stated that the Executive Mayor delivered the State of the City Address and outlined the current conditions of the city, the city's progress, and plans to address the service delivery issues, the social and economic challenges.*

*The Speaker stated that she was expecting all political parties and political opposition to respond and debate on the SOCA address by the Executive Mayor. She appealed to all Councillors to debate in a robust manner. She urged all Councillors to remember the rules of the House and asked Councillors to play the ball, not the man. They can play their tactics on the ball but should not tackle the man and create fouls as it would disrupt and descend the sitting into chaos, and she will not allow that. She further asked Councillors to debate in a respectful manner.*

*She asked the legal team to check on the quorum. Legal confirmed that there were 192 Councillors who have signed the register and who are present in the chambers. She urged Councillors who did not sign the register to do so.*

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

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

<i>Councillor Ponsonby, D A</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Urgent Council Business</i>
<i>Councillor Gantsho, L</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Ntshidi, T E</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Johnson, N</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Jainoodeen, Z</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Kunene, K</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Urgent Council Business</i>
<i>Councillor Rahn, N J</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Deppe, A J</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Rambani, N S</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Papo, M M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Ramaru, G</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Nkomo, B</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Phalatse, M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Homer, C</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Niemand, G J</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Hughes, Z</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Reddy, V M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Dewes, D S</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Hoén, J N</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mhlongo, T A</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Raseruthe, S H</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Tshwaku, M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Council Business</i>
<i>Councillor Makhafola, E</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Mosehla, K J</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Baloyi, D L</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Ngobeni, L M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Coverdale, D L T</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Nkomo, P T</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Mkhonza, N F</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Maswazi, R</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>

*The Speaker indicated that the Executive Mayor submitted an apology for arriving late.*

*Councillor Knott (DA) raised a concern that if the Executive Mayor is going to be late, how is the debate going to continue without him being present because he has to respond to the debate?*

*Councillor Moosa (Aljama-ah) informed the Speaker that the Executive Mayor was not feeling well, he started at the doctor hence he is running late.*

*The Speaker conferred with Legal with regard to the issue raised by Councillor Knott and requested Council to break for 5 minutes to allow for the Executive Mayor to arrive.*

#### 4 DEBATE ON THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BY POLITICAL PARTIES (7 JUNE 2023)

*MMC Mnisi (ANC) addressed Council as follows:*

*"Thank you, Madam Speaker, the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Councillor Gwamanda, the leader of ANC caucus, Councillor Morero, the Whip of Council, Councillor Zungu, Chairperson and members of the Economic Development Section79 Committee, fellow Councillors, the media, our esteemed guests in the gallery and residents of our city.*

*Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Youth Month, we recognize the challenges faced by young people in particular and our society broadly. Joburg is a youthful city. Statistics tell us that there is a youth bulge, therefore any city strategy and plan should not only thank and recognize the residents who built Joburg into what it is but should plan for posterity. Posterity requires that any State of the City Address should not only focus on problem statements but should provide solutions to these problems.*

*Mr Mayor, we welcome the pronouncement in reconstructing and capacitating the Youth Directorate in order to enhance youth development. However, we believe there is more that the city can offer opportunities to young people. Karl Marx once wrote that I open quote. "Philosophers have only interpreted to the world; the point is to change it." Close quote. That's what young people expect from a mayor's speech.*

*Madam Speaker, we note that the Executive Mayor gave a speech and forgot to give an account of the 18 wasted months where targets were not met, Senior officials were purged, budget was cut in our communities. Unemployment, poverty and inequality remain the most critical issues that affect our residents. These demands of us to be resolute in our efforts towards socio-economic transformation and inclusive growth. Let us confront our reality upfront and accept that our levels of economic growth have been sluggish. Limited growth has not translated into jobs. Possible decline in investor appetite as a result of a load-shedding and other external factors to name but a few. Fellow Councillors, we cannot despair, we have to be resolute and we are determined in addressing the plight of young people, public employment schemes such as EPWP and the Community works program (CWP) are critical in enabling access to jobs and skills development.*

*As the city, we will focus on skills development, artisan training and reskilling programs to not only increase employability but also develop entrepreneurial capacity, particularly amongst the youth. Madam Speaker, as the city, we cannot do it alone. Partnering with our government and social partners is part of our critical path. In line with the Gauteng Township Economic Development Act (TEDA) the City of Johannesburg will develop and implement enabling by-laws, and take full advantage of the opportunities currently presented by the Gauteng Township Economic Development Act. These include the retail program, which is a refurbishment of spaza shops, the development of distribution centers, and the implementation of the last mile program, which is an online service delivery. Continue to be involved in the Alexander taxi hub refurbishment, a partnership with the taxi industry.*

*This work can only be fully achieved as a partnership between manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, distributors, funding agencies and institutions that are actively involved in these programmes.*

*Madam Speaker, our Spatial Economic Zones (SEZ) remain at the forefront of our industrialization and reindustrialization initiative partnering with the Gauteng Provincial Government, a programme management office, has already been set up to establish the N12 SEZ covering areas such as Protea, Protea Glen, Lufereng and the West Rand. Critical infrastructure issues have been identified and engagements with potential investors are ongoing. As part of the Lanseria Smart City development. Which the framework was adopted by the Council, the city is actively involved in facilitating investments. In the last budget speech by Minister of Finance: Minister Godongwane, the Urban Development zone tax incentives were extended. This tax incentive has been pivotal in the redevelopment of Braamfontein, Newtown, the Main Street Precinct and Maboneng. And this extension gives us the opportunity to extend the coverage of the CBD and urban renewal.*

*The district development model, a flagship residential programme, presents opportunities for horizontal and vertical integration. The model enables us to pull resources and leverage from both States and the private sector sweating our assets in Johannesburg Property Company, Johannesburg Tourism Company, the Fresh Produce Markets, and the Metro Trading Company. On JPC fellow Councillors, there is no doubt that the JPC is an economic lever for economic growth and investment promotion.*

*150 properties will be released on social and economic leases, including servitudes, and 15 real estates, large land parcels will be analyzed for market and best use for leasing opportunities. The rand value of investment to be attracted or business to be facilitated within City of Johannesburg boundaries based on the signed contract is targeted at 2.5 billion in the next three years, starting at 1.5 billion in the 2023-2024 financial year-end. This will yield 2000 job opportunities and 1000 SMMEs supported. In respect of Johannesburg Tourism Company. Madam Speaker, JTC will continue to position Johannesburg as a global business and lifestyle destination through innovation and expansion of product offerings, destination marketing and ensuring that the leisure rand is spent in Johannesburg. Expanding tourism-related establishments and businesses, particularly small, medium and micro enterprises, is an important area of our work. Increasing and introducing new signature events to attract tourism activities, including building for key conferences and events, will increase the number of visitors in and out of the city.*

*Collaboration with city safety and other safety programmes are critical in making Johannesburg a destination of choice. At the fresh produce markets, Madam Speaker, I would want to take this opportunity and congratulate the market for achieving a 9.4 billion business turnover by the end of May. The market continues to generate stable revenue streams, and strong relationship management with agents and marketplace or rather players remain a top priority to the department. The improvements of systems and the control environment will further strengthen the sustainability and viability of the market. The market is envisaged to be the smart market as a global player in the food security value chain.*

*The Metro Trading Company we want to align ourselves with the call by the Minister of Communication in building a broadband fibre. The Minister has announced that a 6.1 billion will be invested. It is a common cause, colleagues, that small, medium and micro enterprises, including cooperatives, remain the backbone of economic growth. As the Department of Economic Development, we are committed to the development and support of informal traders with the view of transcending them into thriving small and medium enterprises. The development and implementation of mutually beneficial by-laws is of paramount importance in creating and enabling an environment for informal traders' activities in our city.*

*The role of the department is supporting small, medium and micro enterprises, including the full utilization and capacitation of the city's business hubs. The part at the hubs will be an entire suite of services which include businesses, development support, business compliance, information on access to finance, information on access to markets, incubation and mentorship. These areas of support will enhance the stability of both emerging and growing small, medium and micro enterprises.*

*Ladies and gentlemen, In conclusion, as the Department of Economic Development we remain resolute and well on course to implement the GDS 2040 plan of action so that we remain on course in the transformation agenda of the city and deliver tangible socio-economic progress. Restore the city and partners for development. I thank you."*

*Councillor Bittkau (DA) addressed Council as follows:*

*"Madam Speaker, I must thank the speaker before me, there was more detail on the city there in her speech than there was in the old address yesterday. Madam Speaker, yesterday we heard about additional power from Kelvin Power Station. The statement needs to be corrected as it is an extension of a long-standing agreement. It should not be called additional power, but rather supplementary power. It must further be noted that the enrichment improvement energy mix was initiated by a two-day Indaba organized under the auspices of the DA.*

*The address talks liberally about broad strokes in this regard, involving the province, as this was the State of the City Address, it would have been prudent to have had a vision shared that detailed how locally service delivery in respect of power and water would be improved. Even something like getting Joburg Water to improve communications in line with City Power would have been very helpful. Unfortunately, this just proves that our mayor and his administration are floundering and waiting about in the morass created since 1994.*

*Madam Speaker, furthermore, yesterday it was said that over 2300 rand was made available to each of the families that lost someone in the shack fire, which is to be commended. However, at the same time, our mayor said, and I quote. "Last week Monday, residents woke up to the disturbing news of the death of a toddler whose life supporting oxygen machine could not support her because the load shedding and technical faults meant that the home she lives in was without power for 8 hours." It was actually five days. We do not need to be politicking around this tragic event, but we need to collectively own the failings of government to our people. The premature death of the toddlers is a stain on our collective conscience and should always serve*

*to remind us of the urgency with which we must find lasting solutions to our energy crisis. This statement as I view it, is the admission of guilt by association.*

*She was one of many that died because of lack of power. This three-year-old has a name. Neyamiah Eaton, remember it. Because she will be remembered, just like Hector Peterson, Stompie Seipei and Khwezi Khuzwayo. So, remember the name, Neyamiah Eaton because she will never be forgotten. Thank you."*

*Councillor Santana (DA) addressed Council as follows:*

*"Speaker, in reply to the Executive Mayor State of the City of Address yesterday. I am going to touch on core issues that are plaguing our Council and it actually speaks to at least five of the GLU strategic priorities, one of them being good governance, the other one being financial stability, infrastructure development and refurbishment, sustainable economic growth and a smart city. All of these are words, but I doubt most of our colleagues actually understand the meaning of those words, and the reason why I am saying that nowhere in the mayor's speech did he mention the actual state of the city. Nowhere did he mention the problem that we are finding ourselves in, nowhere did you mention, and I am going to coin this hashtag, hashtag the forgotten ratepayers.*

*We by design or should I say the ANC and its coalition governments by design, do not understand the countability nor consequence management. He didn't mention how we are going to deal with accountability or consequence management. Every day the city is floundering left, right and centre because of officials that flouter processes that allow our city to fall into disarray, that allow that there are no feet on the ground. So, when we look at all of these issues, the true state of the city is that we are actually in a crisis and I would wish that we would have honesty and integrity within this Council to actually put on the table what are issues so that collectively we can come up with probable and possible solutions that are reliable. But I guess we are going to find ourselves in two scenarios. Either we are going to voluntarily rectify the situation in the City of Johannesburg or we are going to be forced to do so.*

*The reason why I am saying that we do not want to understand or listen to our ratepayers in this Council. We continuously feel or think that it is an endless supply of money. We keep on putting projects out there that are mandated or unfunded Let's put it this way they are unfunded. We are portraying in this Council that we have an endless supply of funds we don't have a limited resource of money that needs to go throughout the city equally and equitably.*

*So, if we are going to say what we are going to do with it, Executive Mayor, I am going to give you a quick scenario of your roles and responsibilities. It is your role and responsibility as the only shareholder of all our entities in the City of Johannesburg, not the Council, it is you. We have to then start looking at the fiduciary duties of our entities and as to what is transpiring within our entities. Personally, we feel there are many entities in the City of Johannesburg that we do not need. It is unfortunate that to date we have yet to have an institutional review in this Council to deal with these issues. MMC just mentioned you want to carry on with MTC. Must I remind this House that MTC was supposed to be dissolved by resolution of Council. It then came back with an enhanced business model, which today none of us know what*

*that means. There are certain resolutions that were passed in this Council that we've yet to actually adopt.*

*My plea to the Executive Mayor is to review all our entities and I have mentioned many times in Council. Let us look at our core businesses. If we have to look at City Power. You talked about us incurring debt and putting the city into your crisis. It's not us, it's the entities that are spending unwillingly and there's no stop and will be no end to their spending.*

*I want to remind you in terms of the Companies Act, Section 76 of the directors' fiduciary duties and responsibilities. And we are going to hold all the entities to account in terms of those duties in this Council, because if we are trading recklessly, either we are going to voluntarily liquidate or we are going to force liquidation. I promise you this, We are going to get the city run effectively, efficiently and financially stable. Thank you.*

*Councillor Echeozonjoku (DA) addressed Council as follows:*

*Madam Speaker, Executive Mayor. Provincial leader of the Democratic Alliance present here today Mr Solly Msimanga. Fellow Councillors and residents of Johannesburg. Good morning. Yesterday we listened to the Executive Mayor Subject us and the residents of Johannesburg to a speech that was clearly not written by himself. It showed clearly that the Executive Mayor is completely out of touch with what is happening in the city Madam Speaker. The city that he leads. To say the executive mayor was vague is an understatement.*

*Firstly, the Executive Mayor is talking about a people's plan, which people's plan is he talking about when he did not even apologize to the residents of Johannesburg for his no-show at the IDP sessions, which could have also informed his state of the city address. I would like to thank you, Madam Speaker, for your much-publicized letter to the executive mayor and his MMC's regarding their failure to attend IDP sessions, showing a total disregard for our residents, and we agree that it is completely unacceptable. While I am there, I also would like to thank you, Madam Speaker, for the apology that you sent to the Mazibuko family. What is also alarming, is that the Executive Mayor had an opportunity yesterday to apologize to the residents of Johannesburg during his speech yesterday and he failed to do so. It is clear that the Executive Mayor has no plan.*

*He has a long list that is a wish list funded by the ratepayers, and he is clearly controlled from behind the scenes. He started off by saying that the GLU started a rebasing exercise. If he was really on top of things, he would have known that the rebasing exercise was started by the DA led Multiparty Government to work on a more realistic budget.*

*The Executive Mayor needs to acknowledge that he has no plan, and it is our residence that will suffer. All the plans currently in motion were initiated under the DA led Multi-Party Government and is offering nothing new as expected because he has been absorbed by the ANC. Starting with City power, the Executive Mayor must acknowledge that after nine months of hard work in 2022, the DA led Multi Party government already finished and finalized interventions called the Alternative Energy Mixed Strategy and unfortunately the mayor is still talking about outlining what was already announced in January 2023.*

*Madam Speaker, the IPP programme request for proposals had already closed in March 2023, but unless we are still in the dark on appointments, unless the GLU has some cadres that they want to benefit from this. Where are you getting your additional capacity from?*

*Let us go to Joburg Water. The Executive Mayor mentioned Joburg Water. We all know that water is a basic human right yet the mayor and his team of MMCs are failing to even communicate the challenges with regards to Joburg Water and Rand Water, which is a serious challenge to our residents at the moment. Our residents now have to contend with not only power outages but water outages as well. Mothers and children have to stand in queues to fight for water being delivered by tankers.*

*We see trenches being dug across the city and being left open, posing a serious danger of cars falling into these trenches. Despite promises that the backlog of reinstatements is being worked on, reinstatements are not getting done Mr Mayor. Nothing in the mayor's speech is giving us confidence that he knows what is happening in his entities. Since you are the shareholder of these entities. Pikitup, Madam Speaker, fellow Councillors, the city is filthy. Piles of refuse on every corner drive through Hillbrow, the Joburg CBD and go and see for yourself. Walk along Louis Botha, and see for yourself. Madam Speaker, I would like to ask Mr Mayor, when last did you take a walk? Not in your fancy car that is meant for the mayor with your protectors. They can work with you in town. Get out of the car and go and see what the city looks like.*

*The Executive Mayor mentions apartheid, spatial planning and a precinct plan 30 years into democracy. But he fails to mention that the precinct development had been initiated in the DA led multiparty government, even though it was planned all these years. He mentions only the Joburg CBD as if it's the only CBD in the city. He fails to acknowledge that under the DA led multiparty government the Roodepoort Master Plan had been finalized. The Randburg Transport Master plan had been approved by Council despite the GLU not supporting it. You also failed to acknowledge that under the DA led multiparty government, the Franken World Urban Development Framework was approved despite the GLU not supporting it.*

*In Health and Social Development, the Executive Mayor said nothing. It is clear that under this GLU, the homeless and the vulnerable and the LGBTQ community are on their own as we go into winter, there is a shortage of shelters across the city. No mention of shelters to accommodate families and the LGBTQ community. Under the DA led administration, Multiparty government, rehab centers were opened in Eldorado Park, Westbury and Dobsonville. The mayor said nothing about extending these to other regions.*

*Madam Speaker, why is the GLU banned on adding advisory committees for youth when the city already has a youth directorates that can be utilized to address issues affecting the youth. Or are there any ANC cadres or Aljama-ah cadres that stand to benefit from these advisory committees? Are they going to be paid? that is not clear.*

*Madam Speaker, under Public Safety, we are not safe in the city. Mr Mayor, we are not safe. Our children are not safe. Women are not safe in the city. The absence of*

*by-law enforcement and slow response to land invasion will cost the city dearly and make business to go to other provinces. The CCTV cameras across the city, I have to*

*commend, It will assist with by-law enforcement. We welcome this, but we will also want to caution that we will be scrutinizing these contracts to ensure that all correct processes were followed with the MOU and that it is not another ploy by the GLU to enrich cadres.*

*Under the DA-led Multiparty government we had fortnightly integrated operations. This happened to assist with compliance. It was not publicity stunts, Mr Mayor. We did not demolish buildings without following processes. We adhered to by-law enforcement to ensure that everything goes according to the law. We agree, Mr Mayor, with you that hijacked buildings are a big problem. But you did not tell the residents how you intend to deal with it. You said you will deal with it, but you have not told us how you are going to deal with it.*

*And I am sure all our residents want to know, if you do not know, Mr Mayor, the city has a unit called GFIS that can assist in investigating the issues of hijacked buildings. Under the DA-led administration, between 2016 and 2018, after thorough investigations, these buildings were returned to the rightful owners or repurposed for possible affordable housing. What happened to GFIS.*

*Madam Speaker, the Mayor mentioned 2000 traffic wardens. Where is the budget coming from for the traffic wardens when the mayor keeps telling our residents that the city is under severe financial strain or has the City of Joburg now become an extension of the Gauteng Provincial Government?*

*On the Human Settlements, the multiparty government approved the formalization of informal settlements. We hear that the Executive Mayor is talking about the upgrade of informal settlements. Where is the additional funding coming from? Or is it another unfunded mandate?*

*Mr Mayor, Economic Development. The Executive Mayor is talking about job creation. Madam Speaker job creation, yet he is not telling us how he will achieve this. I can tell you, Mr Mayor, it is not the duty of government to create jobs. It is the government's duty to create an environment for businesses to thrive so they can create jobs, and grow the economy of the city. Investing confidence in the city of Joburg is low. People are leaving for Cape Town in their numbers. Cape Town is the DA run municipality because the GLU cannot get the basic rights because of politics, while Cape Town and Midvaal have attracted massive investments, the City of Joburg is losing investments.*

*Executive mayor, what a shame that you did not mention anything about transport Mr Mayor. Surely residents need roads to go to work and from work. A third of our roads are in poor condition. You have given us no plan on how you are going to resolve this. No plan to work with the private sector to keep the robots working even during load shedding. You can only get economic growth if the roads are in good condition, when you have a stable power supply and stable water supply, Madam Speaker, the Executive Mayor mentioned nothing about the plan to implement the automated fair system. I am still on transport. Initiated by the Multiparty government. No mention of why that was not implemented, which leaves it on a cash-based system that is unsafe and prone to theft. Theft, which is a risk to both the passengers and the drivers.*

*In conclusion, Executive Mayor, I have a whole lot more to say, but I'm going to pause here. You have no plan. You are not in touch with the true state of the city. You do not care about the ratepayers who pay massive rates, get completely ignored and yet immensely assist with the upgrade of underdeveloped areas.*

*We are indeed a city in mourning, and today we cry for our beloved city, which once was on its way to be restored back to a city of golden opportunities now has become a city of filth, doom and gloom under the GLU. I would like to say to our residents, you can be assured, residents of Johannesburg that the Democratic alliance will not stand by and allow the Executive Mayor and his MMC's and the GLU to fool you. We will hold this executive accountable. We will hold this government accountable and ensure that you, as the residents of Johannesburg, get the services you deserve. I thank you."*

*Councillor Ngobeni F (ActionSA) addressed Council as follows:*

*"Thank you very much Speaker, greetings to the Executive Mayor. Greetings to the Provisional Secretary of Action SA, She's here this morning, Evelyn Mondlana, Fellow Councillors, and residents of the City of Johannesburg. Through you Speaker, Executive Mayor, let's start here. Number one, South Africa's unemployment rate is the highest in the world as a country battling with a number of economic headwinds, Statistics SA said recently that the number of people who were not economically active for reasons other than discouragement is sitting at 13.2 million. This comes as the economy likely entered a technical recession due to the intensified rolling power cuts by Eskom implementing stage six load shedding, crippling growth and investment prospects.*

*Number 2. South Africa's drinking water quality has deteriorated. The Department of Water and Sanitation told us on Tuesday when releasing the green, blue and no drop watch reports. The department issued noncompliance notices to 90 municipalities following the release of the 2022 Green Dot report ordering them to address their water challenges.*

*Executive Mayor, number 3. About half of South African students drop out of school before completing secondary education. Among the learners who write the end of high school examination, about 1/4 of them fail. Moreover, less than 5% of students who start primary school end up with a university qualification. The South African education system, characterized by crumbling infrastructure, overcrowded classrooms and relatively poor educational outcomes, is perpetuating inequality and as a result, failing many of our children. The poor are the hardest hit in this regard, and I'm saying don't take my word for it, read the Amnesty International report that was released recently.*

*Number 4, lawlessness ruins South Africa, Speaker. The latest statistics show that our country is one of the world's most dangerous countries. It is more dangerous than Iraq, Somalia and Russia, just to mention a few. Where still there is a chance that criminals who are committing this crime will get away with murder. According to SA police statistics that were released recently, they were crushed by the Institute of Security Studies. The ability of the police to be able to catch and resolve these crimes has fallen by 55% since 2022.*



*In short Executive Mayor, Kabelo Gwamanda, what I'm saying with those four issues, I am saying to you, the lot that is sitting behind you that normally sing struggle songs, have driven this country into a failed state. Thus they have destroyed South Africa and therefore the prosperity of our city and the country as a whole. When we say this, it is not rhetoric, when we say a prosperous South Africa and ANC cannot coexist in one space, this is what we mean. We think that one must die. and that will not be South Africa.*

*So Executive Mayor, your State of the City Address was an opportunity for you not only to tell us about the best state of affairs in our city but also for you to provide solutions to basic service delivery concerns. If I was to grant you some credit, I will say indeed you do understand the concerns of our residents and the challenges that face our city. You did touch on major themes that represent the city's challenges, and I think some of my colleagues who have spoken before me have already highlighted some of those challenges as well. You did touch on the city's finances that remain strained. You did touch on the existing crisis on electricity, and on crime. You did speak about water challenges. You spoke about housing backlogs, you spoke about unemployment, particularly youth unemployment. You spoke about the deteriorating state of the inner city, so you do have a grasp of the challenges that are facing the City of Johannesburg.*

*But your worship, let us face it. You did not take us into confidence about how you and your government are going to tackle these issues, you are lamenting about the bad that you claim that you inherited with your government of GLU. Without having a back-and-forth about that specifically, let us be clear. When you take office as the Executive Mayor, you inherit both the good and the bad. Executive Mayor you have inherited a big BMW. The point I am making is that you also going to inherit big challenges and you need to come up with solutions to those big challenges. But you see, it is for that reason that I am going to endeavour in my speech to offer you solutions because as ActionSA, we are a constructive opposition party. We exist to provide solutions and we do not heavily guard over our solutions. We are going to offer you some of the solutions, but I have already said the first solution is to ensure that you do not seek solutions from people who created the problems that we have in the country. They will not provide you with solutions.*

*Look and listen to us and we will provide you with some decent solution. So let us get to the solutions and I am going to focus on a few things because of time constraints. Let's talk about the city's financial standing. Next week we will be considering a new medium-term budget by MMC Dada Morero. That occasion presents an opportunity for your government to stabilize the finances of the city. It's an opportunity that you get once a year, and you need to use it. Do not begin the financial year by planning to fail.*

*What I mean is that you will need to ensure that the budget prepared which would be tabled here, and will be approved by this Council, is credible, and is based on realistic anticipation of revenue and expenditures. In other words, you need to ensure that the budget is funded due to the current economic climate caused by the ANC. The increase in the unemployment rate and the fiscal constraints impact all spheres of government, to that extent, the National and Provincial Governments are cutting their expenditure in line with available revenue.*

*Subsequently it is understandable that realistically achieved revenue streams for the municipality like Johannesburg will have to be reduced. However, this understanding of the economic climate and its impact on the individual and businesses in the communities from which revenue is supposed to be generated is sometimes not taken into account or reflected in the municipal budget, despite the reduced revenue collectable expenditure budgets of municipalities are not adjusted accordingly, and therefore municipalities in inadvertently plan to spend more than they can actually receive in revenue. To be honest with you, Executive Mayor and the MMC, the main contributing factor to our financial distress faced by all municipalities is because we want to spend more than what we can collect. This solution of this problem is simple. We should only spend revenue that we have received or which we are realistically likely to receive and use the revenue appropriately. That has been appropriate to us by the National and Provincial departments in the form of conditional grants for their intended purposes. The other solution, Executive Mayor, will need political will. It will need political fortitude. I am referring to issues like the hiring of consultants. For example, when we have skilled people that can be able to do that work in our payroll.*

*Revenue losses are incurred daily in local government and especially in the City of Johannesburg, through losses in the distribution of electricity and water as well as theft through illegal connections of these services in Johannesburg. You need to forcefully bring back Operation Buya Mthetho. Apart from the theft from some communities with regard to services, ageing infrastructure has not been properly and timelessly repaired and maintained which also contributes to the losses that I am talking about in terms of revenue. Due to a lack of skills in the financial and technical departments to budget adequately for such repairs and maintenance as well as a lack of proper planning, budgeting and implementation capacity for capital expansion networks revenue generation envisaged from these internally generated sources of the municipality is not likely to be realized because of bad planning. Poor management of this asset impacts the revenue generating capacity of the municipality. Also, as part of the solution, Executive Mayor, we need to fix the billing issues. We must ensure that the resident receives accurate bills and improve the ease of making payment. When queries do arise, we must ensure that we deal with them efficiently.*

*We must streamline revenue collection practices and processes to ensure that the residents who can afford to pay for services can do so easily and can do so continuously. We must also have 0 tolerance for frauds, residents and businesses that are abusing and exploiting municipal services without paying their fair share. Like I said, this part needs political will. It needs us to make sure that we bring Buya Mthetho so that we can be able to deal with this. We need to reform the procurement practices as well in the city, We must ensure also that our projects are adequately planned and adequately funded but let me touch also on the issue of inner-city regeneration. You spoke about it, Executive Mayor. In 2017, under MMC Mnisi, the city launched an inner-city revitalization plan as a mechanism to make city-owned properties available to the private sector. You'll know who the mayor at that time was.*

*During the first two phases of that project, 84 properties were made available from Council to the private sector to ensure that we get investment following the completion of the competitive tender process. These properties were awarded to*

*developers starting in 2019. These developments are expected to generate 22 billion in*

*investment. We still don't know what is happening with them and we want to see that continuing. As part of phase three of that project, a further 70 properties were made available by Council and ultimately awarded by the end of September 2019.*

*These properties are expected to result in another 10 billion in investment and it will trade 10,000 additional jobs and deliver about 5000 housing opportunities. The city had also identified 37 abandoned factories across the city as part of the process of making city-owned properties available to the private sector for development. These properties themselves, are going to yield nearly 3,000 housing opportunities and we need to see these plans being dusted off and being made a reality in the City of Johannesburg. This type of undertaking Executive Mayor could lead to the creation of thousands of jobs which will respond to the unemployment challenges that we have in the city. This will not require a huge budget from the city as the cost will be taken in by the investors. This way, executive mayor, we are saying to you, you will be driving economic activity. You will be creating employment and addressing the housing backlog all in one. We need to begin to see private capital as partners and not enemies so that we can be able to drive the development of our city.*

*Let me touch on the issue of electricity before I conclude it is a very important one on the matter of the electricity crisis. As a local government Executive Mayor, you are very limited on what you can do in the short term to deal with this man-made crisis that was created by the ANC. However, we hold the view that the extension of the power purchase agreement with Kelvin Power Station is a good move, considering the expected demand as we enter the most electricity-demanding period of winter.*

*But by now, Executive Mayor, you should know that the City of Johannesburg unveiled a R400 million plan to mitigate load shedding and reduce rolling blackouts by three stages over the short-term medium period, this was announced by former Executive Mayor Mpho Phalatse."*

*Councillor Marumo (ANC) rose on a point of order requesting Councillor Ngobeni to withdraw his statement that Eskom crisis was man-made by the ANC as there was no proof that suggested that.*

*The Speaker said that unless Councillor Ngobeni has the scientific proof that Councillor Marumo was requesting, he should kindly withdraw the statement of attributing the Eskom problems to the ANC.*

*Councillor Ngobeni (ActionSA) indicated that he would provide the proof to the Speakers' office in a day or so.*

*The Speaker requested Councillor Ngobeni to withdraw the statement and when he does have proof, he would then make the statement.*

*Councillor Ngobeni (ActionSA) withdrew the statement made that Eskom's problems were man-made by the ANC.*

*Councillor Ngobeni (ActionSA) continued with his speech as follows:*

*"So, I was saying to the Executive, Mayor, Speaker that unfortunately it is limited in terms of resolving issues of load shedding with all the plans that we have with regards to the IPP's and everything, we get 90% of our electricity from Eskom. So, we are going to have these challenges up until we remove ANC in 2024. But I am saying with all the pains of load shedding that bring to our lives and the residents of this city, as residents of the city we are adjusting, we are following the load-shedding scheduled but the challenge now becomes what can be called an extended loadshedding Speaker. When loadshedding is supposed to end at 4:00 o'clock, then we are told that a substation is broken down and therefore can be extended to another 2 hours."*

*Councillor De Lange (VF+) addressed Council as follows:*

*"Thank you, Madam Speaker. Start the clock now, please. Executive Mayor, all protocols observed. Madam Speaker, I believe not to play the man, but to address the problems within the city. I will also stick to the mayor's speech point by point in the six minutes that I have. Madam Speaker, with due respect, the problems in the City of Johannesburg started long ago, even before coalitions saw the light of day. This is unfortunately due to 20 - 23 years lack of ongoing maintenance within the city to rebase a budget through an adjustment means that the city failed to collect on our 90.5% projected rate. What the Mayor unfortunately did not allude to Madam Speaker in this financial term, there were two administrations in place. We had a six-month multiparty government and this month a 6-month GLU government. So, we must not shift the blame to easily regarding these matters. Then through you speaker, I think all my years in Council, I've given the respect. I think that I am respected as well. To my colleagues through you Speaker. A DA led multiparty government does not exist. That word doesn't exist. I have said here many times to my colleagues, you know, according to the coalition agreement, you are not allowed to say that you have 71 seats out of 270. We are looking at new coalitions out of respect for you, but please respect us as coalition partners as well. We cannot create jobs if the city is struggling to launch and fund our own internal projects and our maintenance rollouts.*

*The Council's functions should not be to create jobs, Madam Speaker, through spatial economic zones, through rebates, through government, we must stimulate the economy so the private sector can find it viable to invest in the city. We do not have the capacity to create 1.5 million jobs in the City of Johannesburg.*

*On the housing, Madam Speaker. Also, this is not the city's responsibility. We must provide bulk services to private development and bulk services like my colleagues from the EFF mentioned site and service. Then the province must come in and they must build houses for the poor. In June 2021, the city had a positive balance of 6 billion rand in hand. But that same month of June tended and poor, downgraded our credit rating. And that made it more difficult for us to secure loans on decent terms.*

*What the mayor did not mention through you Madam Speaker, the outstanding invoices in June 2021 were 4.8 billion Rand and by the end of December 2022, the outstanding invoices were 6 billion rand. Yes, that is true. But the sinking fund increased by 600 million rand. So it's much of the same.*

*Madam Speaker, I live in the Roodepoort area, and I drive East to West sometimes three times a day due to my daughter's school responsibilities and very rarely, I have seen JMPD vehicles on duty. Maybe we should utilize our police force properly and deploy them to guard our substations against criminal contractors. Madam Speaker, we are all subjected to load shedding. I have been around for a while, but unfortunately, the state of City Power's network is long overdue for proper maintenance. And unfortunately, outside of load shedding, our residents are left in the dark for extended periods, especially in the Roodepoort area on service delivery challenges, we must first start maintaining our existing infrastructure to make sure that our taxpayers are willing to keep on paying their bills. , if we do not bill, we cannot charge for services rendered, if you want to extend our electricity network, we must make sure that residents are willing to pay for those services.*

*Madam Speaker, there is a difference between a want and a need. Yes, we heard the cries about multipurpose centres, library, swimming pools and so forth. The question stands, How can we build the new if the existing is crumbling and falling apart? GDS 2040 will become a pipe dream if the city does not get back to the basics and restore what we already have. Security is not a future problem, it's a current problem due to lack of maintenance and widespread losses.*

*For instance, including infrastructure like the Kite Street on Horizon Water Tower that was decommissioned 20 years ago, the city is also under billing by 40% on water duty, technical and non-technical losses. Madam Speaker, through you, unfortunately, the Executive Mayor, through you, Madam Speaker, didn't speak the truth. The Southern Farms Housing project was not approved by this Council. Their report was withdrawn due to concerns of the Freedom Front Plus at our last Council meeting. It was referred back for further investigation. I sent all the documentation through to MMC Mnisi. Madam Speaker on the 2000 Crime Wardens. This provides about 14 wardens per Ward, how would they be deployed, trained, and what would their function be. Madam Speaker as far as the inner-city upliftment, good luck on that one. It will need a firm hand and an iron fist to read the CBD of crime and lawlessness. Thank you"*

*Councillor Mabaso (IFP) addressed Council as follows:*

*"Thank you very much Madam Speaker. When Johannesburg sneezes, the whole country catches the flu. Johannesburg must lead and everybody else will follow. People take lessons from us in Johannesburg. These are the words of the late Executive Mayor, Geoff Makhubo. The founding mayor of the Government of Local Unit. Honourable Speaker, Executive Mayor, colleagues in Council, City Manager and colleagues. as I begin my debate with the words of the late Executive Mayor. Yesterday the Executive Mayor presented what is meant to be a plan of action for the next financial year and other years to come. I was reminded of these words because Johannesburg leads, Johannesburg is the one to provide directions for the country. The Government of National Unity gave us hope and aspirations. They presented a vision for the country. It is the same hope and vision that carried us to reach a decision to call our government in 2019 a Government of Local Unity, the late Executive Mayor Geoff Makhubo used to say in the Mayoral Committee. And I quote " we are successors in law and in titles" close quote. Advising us not to spend time criticizing the previous administration, but to understand the challenges we have inherited and provide solutions. All administration will inherit good and bad things in*

government, but it does not mean you have to dwell on criticizing without providing solutions.

*Executive Mayor, you spent the best part of your time blaming the previous administration instead of giving hope, by providing workable solutions for our city. We appreciate and acknowledge inter-governmental relations because they are a key to better governance. However, over-reliance on the 3rd party Council is likely to render you a proxy Mayor of an individual we are a spear of government that is constitutional obligation and responsibility. Your plan seems to be over-reliant on the Provincial Government. Programmes must be inclusive. Taking cognizance of circumstances on the ground. Programmes must respond to the realities on the ground. Therefore, MMCs will have a responsibility now through their department business plan to elaborate further on the plan of actions to clarify some of the issues that were not clearly articulated by your address yesterday.*

*The city's plan on economic development must be clearly presented. People are in Johannesburg to advance their lives. They want to participate in the mainstream economy. We need to enable investment and make the environment conducive for economic growth, for job creations. Any attempt to bring alternative energy supply is a relief to the overburden and badly managed power utility Eskom, such as solar system must be introduced with a clear maintenance plan as we do not want to inevitably create a new problem. We welcome and support youth directory. It is a step in the right direction, but budgets must be allocated to support this directorate. Executive Mayor, some programmes that were being implemented have been discontinued with no reasons provided to the residents. Projects are not for MMC and Councillors. They are meant to develop our communities, Mayor, can you see the money for the hostels that we do not see anymore, we want it because their projects have been stopped. MMC Finance, we want it back.*

*As we celebrate the youth of 1976 and draw our aspiration from their struggle. We appreciate that you are a young Executive Mayor, but we will not support you on the basis of age. We want to support you on the basis of capability and competence. We need to demonstrate to the nation that as young people, we are ready to lead to the future and we need to build confidence in how we lead and give hope to the young people in the City of Johannesburg. Thank you"*

*Councillor Harris (ACDP) addressed Council as follows:*

*"Madam Speaker, Mr Mayor, MMC's Chief Whip, Chair of chairs, City Manager, fellow Councillors. I greet you in that matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Madam Speaker, this was a speech littered with missed opportunities. As the first citizen, our mayor missed an opportunity to weld this Chamber into a solid unit unified in the quest to deliver services. The repeated grandstanding in the polarization of the MPG and GLU is indicative of the fractured leadership of the city and the reluctance to work together for the progress of the city and the residents. Mr Mayor, you missed an opportunity to talk about the systems that make the city work.*

*It was a missed opportunity to bury Verwoed and his baby apartheid. That beast was to have died 30 years ago in the attempt to resurrect it and remind us of this monster's intellectual laziness, to put it mildly. We have had 30 years to deal with the apartheid spatial planning. It is criminal to use these hackneyed phrases as auditory stimulation*

City of Johannesburg Council 2023-06-06/07

MINUTES

*in an attempt to hide an inability to plan and deal with the proliferation of informal settlements and the inward migration to the city. The other side of this apartheid ghost*

*is the culture of nonpayment for services rendered as you bask in the glow of the GLU victory, it should have been reassuring to tell the residents the extent of the problem and how you are going to get residents who have been promised a free ride to start contributing to the fiscus. The sense of entitlement is what lies at the heart of COJ's revenue woes.*

*I urge every Councillor to read the audited financial statements for 2021-2022 to pick out and then conflict cash with payables is a schoolboy error that must be remedied. You have misled this Chamber and told half-truths to the residents of Johannesburg. You compared apples with pears and told us that vegetables are bad. If you look at page 13 of that report, there is an issue with the licenses there. No mention was made that the budget to collect revenue from fines was around R850 million rand. The actual collected was about R60.9 million rand. That shortfall of R789 million rands was because of the puppet masters that have withheld licenses from the city to collect fines from speeding motorists. It was a missed opportunity to tell slumlords, including JOSHCO and Human settlements, that the buildings they own and administer must be given a facelift. If you are to work on the aesthetic appeal of the city and to attract tourists to the city. It was a missed opportunity to assure residents that cholera and other manufactured pandemics would not spread to other parts of Johannesburg.*

*It is good to hear that the electricity of wars in Eldorado Park will be dealt with. This was a missed opportunity, though, to tell the residents that the cries for the removal of the stinking Goudkoppies landfill site and the informal settlement there, will be heard and dealt with. It was a missed opportunity to connect with Miss Sunira James on the passing of her daughter, Neyamiah Eaton, reportedly because of load shedding. Labelling Neyamiah, a toddler, indicates a cold and careless administration that has no empathy with this grieving family and so many other families suffering from actions that can be traced back to a lack of creativity and poor service delivery.*

*This was a missed opportunity to break the stereotype that residents of the Sophiatown precinct are drug addicts, drunkards and criminals. Goodness knows, Mr Mayor why you had to mention these disadvantaged areas when highlighting the social ill strangling the city. The ACDP trusts that a fair amount of the proposed 2000 crime wardens will be recruited from these and other ghettos so that the lives of young people can be changed permanently by proper training and per and plan skills transfer.*

*Finally, Mr Mayor, this was a missed opportunity to create a sense of civic pride and to build a national consciousness. The dream of us working as a collective to bring back the heartbeat of our world class city will not be realized as long as you cling to hatred, the desire for vengeance and the perpetual victim mentality. Where you come from is interesting but useless information. Where we are going determines our growth and prosperity. GDS 2040 is not worth the paper it is written on. If you insist on clinging for dear life to 1948, Godly governance is the bedrock of excellence. Without it, the city is going nowhere. This flaccid State of the City Address, with its bountiful hot air, is a clear indicator that the city is in trouble. The ACDP acknowledges having sat through this pain. Thank you"*

*Councillor Abdool (UIM) addressed Council as follows:*

*"Good afternoon, beloved colleagues, fellow public servants. This afternoon, I would like to give a special greeting to my colleague, Pastor Brian Marian from the United Independent Movement, the party that I represent today, as well as the other entity that I proudly represent, and that is the public of Johannesburg, our employers. Greetings to my fellow public servants, the people that are most important here are not the people that are sitting in this building. They are not the people who try to be relevant by screaming and shouting. It is the people that are sitting out there struggling and suffering because of the incompetence of what is happening in here.*

*I do not care who sits in governance or who sits on what seat, as long as the job is done. So, it would have been a fantastic idea, it is just a suggestion if we could have had civilians or civil groups in this building, for them to have the opportunity to ask the questions that are not being asked because the people, myself included, sometimes do not ask the relevant questions on behalf of the people. They are civilians that have sent in petitions to this body and the petitions have a backlog for as far as 2012. How on earth is that possible, Sir?*

*Very good speech yesterday. I did miss, however, a few words in the speech and I will never ever attack the speaker of the speech. But I did miss words like consequential management and accountability, of which we should all be responsible for the misappropriation of public funds. The salaries that are being paid to people that are suspended, which is mind-boggling, we need to clean the house. We cannot continue to waste funds by doing things like that. People are not in the building, they are not working and yet salaries are being paid. I would like to ask the Executive Mayor regarding the 2000 security wardens. Thank you, I don't know where the fund is going to come from, but it is going to happen, I suppose. Will it be representative of everyone? Will it be representative of the people, the descendants of the First Nation? People, in other words, the Koi and the San? Will it be representative of the South Africans from Asian descent, or will you be copying what the national government and provincial government are doing and that is to exclude certain people in this country that also contribute to this country's economy? What we need to understand is we are all South Africans sitting here and it doesn't matter what your history is, whether it is Chinese, Portuguese, Indian, whatever, Nigerian Zimbabwean, it does not matter. We are here and we are here to build this country. If people are going to criticize one another for where they come from, we are losing.*

*There are two group groups of people in this building, those who care and those who don't care. You have to decide where you sit. And then lastly, Madam Speaker, I am sure you will agree with me that one cannot wear the cloak of Deborah while you functions under the spirit of Jezebel. Thank you"*

*Councillor Nkougou (PAC) addressed Council as follows:*

*Thank you, Speaker. Izwe Lethu MaAfrica! Fellow Councillors, The Honorable Executive Mayor, Kabelo Gwamanda, PAC Constituents and fellow residents of the City of Johannesburg, good morning PAC acknowledges the state of the city address that was presented to this City of Johannesburg Council Chamber on the 6th of June*

*2023. Speaker, I would like to use the land reform coming from the adopted 1959 Afrikanist*

*Manifesto as point of departure, it discusses Oppressed versus Oppressor by saying that it was just over three months that the Pan Africanist Congress was born, but within that short period of time, PAC has successfully pinpointed the basic assumptions in our struggle, namely that:*

*The illiterate and semi-literate masses of the African people are the key, the core and cornerstone of the struggle for democracy in this country. African Nationalism is the only liberatory creed that can weld these masses who are members of heterogeneous tribes into a solid, disciplined and united fighting force; provide them with a loyalty higher than that of the tribe, and give formal expression to their desire to be a nation.*

*The struggle in South Africa is part of the greater struggle throughout the continent for the restoration to the African people of the effective control of their land. The goal of our struggle, therefore, is the formation of a United States of Africa.*

*In South Africa: we recognize the existence of national groups which are the result of geographical origin within a certain area as well as a shared historical experience of these groups. The Europeans are a foreign minority group which has exclusive control of political, economic, social and military power. It is the dominant group. It is the exploiting group, responsible for the malicious doctrine of white supremacy which has resulted in the humiliation and degradation of the indigenous African people. It is this group which has dispossessed the African people of their land and with arrogant conceit has set itself up as the "guardians", the "trustees" of the Africans. It is this group that perceives the African people as a child nation, composed of Boys and Girls, ranging in age from 120 years to one day.*

*And:- Economically, we aim at the rapid extension of industrial development in order to alleviate pressure on the land, which is what progress means in terms of modern society. We stand committed to a policy guaranteeing the most equitable distribution of wealth. As such, we affirm the Executive Mayor on adopting the Spatial Development Framework which is linked to IDP to focus on equitable distribution of resources and opportunities across the city.*

*Land robbery and political subjugation, Early European settlement of Africa, especially of its southern tip, was a direct result of the rise of European commercial capital. Wave upon wave of European settlers came to Africa and their penetration of the interior involved the loss of sovereignty by the indigenous peoples and the alienation of more and more portions of their land. With the rise of the industrial capital of Europe and its increased search for raw materials and more markets, the partition of Africa went apace and the doctrine of "effective occupation" was enunciated, a theory calculated to "sugar coat" the bitter pills of land robbery and political subjugation. More and more settlers came into the country, until today there are 5,000,000 Europeans who, up to the dawn of African liberation had constituted themselves as a ruling class over the 250,000,000 indigenous peoples. Africans had been successfully robbed of Africa. It is of course a noble gesture that The Executive Mayor of Johannesburg mentioned that he is standing tall on the shoulders of giants as a proud symbol of this current generation, it rests with all of us to play an active and meaningful role in shaping the future of Africa. Thank you".*

*Councillor Machethe (APC) addressed Council as follows:*

*"Thank you, Speaker, Good morning, Councillors, The Honorable Executive Mayor, Kabelo Gwamanda, APC Constituents and fellow residents of the City of Johannesburg*

*Speaker, allow me to debate on the State of the City of Address delivered in this chamber yesterday, APC welcomes the speech, which is intended to be a blueprint guiding the Government of Local Unity in serving the City's residents.*

*The Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg clearly outlined the plans and programmes that will be followed to ensure that the city remains a place where people want to live and work in a safe and clean manner. A place with maintained tarred roads, clean water, constant power supply, good governance, a stable administration, efficient and reliable service delivery.*

*Madam Speaker, APC welcomes the significant strides that are made in overcoming the challenge of the fragile state of finances that the city is facing. The city carefully reviewed the budget, re-evaluated expenditures and ensured that it generated more revenue while making sure that every rand is used efficiently and effectively. To show the seriousness of this, the Executive Mayor confirmed in his address that the Government of Local Unity Council approved a short-term loan to begin to clear the unpaid invoices and restore the city's financial stability.*

*APC also welcomes 11 key strategic priorities that are developed to ensure quality service is delivered to our residents. These priorities will allow the city to focus on infrastructure development and refurbishment, actively engaging with our citizens and facilitating job creation opportunities. They will ensure that the Government of Local Unity continues to double its efforts and leverage every available opportunity to propel Johannesburg to its full potential. The 11 priorities will indeed take us a step closer to a World Class African City we want Johannesburg to become as I quote the executive mayor's address delivered in this chamber yesterday.*

*Madam Speaker, South African Constitution outlines that, there are three spheres of government. These three spheres must work together to ensure that quality service is delivered efficiently. We welcome the effort made by this administration to ensure that intergovernmental relations are fostered. The executive mayor yesterday said the Government of local unity through District Development Model ensured that the three spheres, local, provincial and national work closely together to create synergy and coordination in resolving the challenges that face our city. APC confirms that truly the alignment of different spheres of government serves as an enabler of realistic prospects of impactful solutions for our residents' daily lived experiences. The inter-governmental relations will also see the city collaborating with other spheres of government to fight crime in the city, which is a plus for us. The city's new initiative which came in partnership with the private sector to give JMPD access to over 5,000 smart CCTV cameras is evidence that collaboration and working together will make Johannesburg a greater city.*

*Madam Speaker, as the country is battling with loadshedding, we welcome the contract extension of Power Purchase Agreement with Kelvin power station for another three years. This will ensure that the city's residents benefit especially in the coming winter where the demand is expected to be high. The contract extension enables the implementation of one of the 11 strategic priorities which is the energy mix. As APC we condemn the increasing cases of vandalism and cable theft, as these incidences come at a greater cost to the city's ailing budget and affect the city's residents.*

*Madam Speaker, allow me to address the executive mayor of the greater city of Johannesburg by saying, we, as APC, commit to the new vision of coalition, Politics re-imagined. We are with him in ensuring that new and innovative ways of dealing with many challenges the city face get realized. I am confident that as we embark on ensuring that IDP, the people's plan as he has coined it, becomes the cornerstone of how projects and programmes are delivered to our people. We welcome the comprehensive Spatial Development Framework that is linked to the IDP in addressing spatial inequalities in the city. This framework will ensure equal distribution of resources and opportunities across the city.*

*APC welcomes the strengthened focus on clean water supply, we will not want to see a tragic incident that happened in Tshwane Municipality, Hammanskraal happening in the city where people lost their lives because of unclean water. APC also welcomes the 181 recognised informal settlements to be upgraded by the city.*

*Supporting SMMEs and entrepreneurs remains the only solution for any economy to deal with unemployment. APC will pay a closer look at programmes and strategies the city will employ to support small businesses and entrepreneurs. I thank you."*

*Councillor Arnolds (AIC) indicated that the Executive Mayor was getting treatment as he was not well and asked Council to be considerate. She said that the Executive Mayor would be in and out of the meeting, but he would be back after lunch.*

*After lunch, the Executive Mayor was ill and could not continue with the meeting. The Whip of Council requested to have a meeting with the Whips of all political parties represented in Council to discuss if they should continue with the meeting.*

*After deliberations with the Whips, the Whip of Council said that it was agreed that the meeting be deferred as the Executive Mayor needed to be present at the meeting. He thanked the Whips for showing maturity and understanding.*

## **5 RESPONSE BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR**

*With consent of Council, it was agreed that because the Executive Mayor was not feeling well, this item be deferred to Tuesday, 13 June 2023 at 10:00 before the Budget Speech presentation.*

**6 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

*None.*

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 14:30.



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SPEAKER OF COUNCIL

05/09/23

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DATE

