



MINUTES OF THE 22ND ORDINARY MEETING (BUDGET SPEECH) OF THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG MUNICIPALITY, WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, 14 MAY 2024, AT 10:00 FOLLOWED BY THE BUDGET SPEECH DEBATE AND CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS ON WEDNESDAY, 15 MAY 2024 AT 10:00 AT THE CONSTANCE CONNIE BAPELA COUNCIL CHAMBER, METROPOLITAN CENTRE, BRAAMFONTEIN.

**SPEAKER OF COUNCIL
CLLR M ARNOLDS**

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MEMBERS PRESENT

The Speaker: Councillor M S Arnolds

The Executive Mayor: Councillor K Gwamanda

Abdool, F	Horwitz, J
Amad, T	Huggett, E A
Avant-Smith, C	Hughes, Z
Baloyi, D L	Ismail-Moosa, I
Benjamin, R F	Jacobs, B
Bini, L	Jacobs, K
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	Koekemoer, M
Christians, A	Komane, S A
Chuma, A T	Kreusch, S
Coogan, L C	Kwapeng, C
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
De Lange, F C	Lobi, M
Deppe, A J	Louw, M A
Dewes, D S	Maake, M J
Dladla, D	Mabaso, M P
Dlamini, B	Mabelebele, S S
Doyle, T	Mabuke, T A
Durand, G V M	Mabunda, T E
Echeozonjoku, B C	Mabuza, S K L
Finn, C E	Machaba, L M U
Foley, D T	Machethe, S
Fourie-Shawe, C	Madiba, T J
Francisco, D B	Magwaza, B L P
Fresling, R R	Magwentshu, L C
Galeshewe, T M	Maila, S M
Gantsho, L	Majola, S
Goosen, J W	Makamo, S S
Harman, L J (DA)	Makhafola, E
Harris, R	Makhuba, H N
Hlatshwayo, S M	Maluleka, T
Hoén, J N	Manganyi, D B
Hooper, R S	Mangena, T D

Marais, A F
Marema, V A
Marumo, T
Masera, H
Mashala, K
Mashinini, S
Masoga, L M
Masuku, L
Maswazi, R
Matabane, O
Mathe, G
Mathe, Z E
Mavhona, L S
Mazibuko, A L
Mazibuko, N
Mazibukwana, M
Mchunu, A
Meyers, T
Mgaga, B
Mgcina, S E
Mhlari, T M
Mhlongo, T A
Mkasi, G
Mkhize, T
Mkhonto, M S
Mkhonza, N F
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
Mokoari, Z
Mokwena, TM
Mokoena, G
Mokoena, P
Mokome, J M
Mokwena, T M
Molefe, B J
Molefe, E W
Molefe, S B
Molise, L D
Moloisane, D
More, E
Morero, S E
Mosehla, K J
Mothopi, O Z
Mphaho, M A
Mphahlele, M
Mphefo, L M P
Mposula, T
Mpotulo, G S
Mthembu, M N
Mulelu, M
Munyayi, V E
Mutavhatsindi, N T
Nair, R K
Ncube, W M
Ndlela, M C
Ndou, N L
Ndou, P
Ndou, P
Ndzondo, C M
Nefdt, P W
Nenemba, T
Nethamba, R
Ngema, S V
Ngobeni, L M
Ngoepe, C S
Nguse, S
Ngwenya, F N
Nhlapo, C P
Niemand, G J
Nkokou, T P
Nkomo, B
Nkomo, E T
Nkomo, P T
Nkonyeni, S P
Nkosi, R A L
Nkubungu, L
Nkwanyana, P B
Nofemela, N
Nonkumbi, I M
Ntoele, N L

Ntombela, M J
Ntshidi, T E
Nyembe, M M
Nyembe, Z P
Nzimande, C
Papo, M M
Pelzer, R
Phometsi, P S
Pietersen, J
Pietersen, N
Radebe, N P
Radebe, T T
Rahn, N J
Raholane, M W
Rakosa, P M
Ramafikeng, D J
Ramaru, G
Rambani, N S
Raphadu, A T
Raseruthe, S H
Reddy, V M
Reinten, I M
Roberts, F C
Rohlssen, C K
Santana, C G
Schay, D
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, S O
Simonse, L C
Sindani, F P
Smit, P 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
Truluck, T F
Tshwaku, M
Tsheddo, 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
Zazini, A
Zitha, S L
Zondo, L T
Zungu, N G

1 OPENING

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

The Speaker welcomed the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Councillor Kabelo Gwamanda; Whip of Council, Councillor NG Zungu; all political party leaders and whips; Members of the Mayoral Committee; Chairpersons of the Section 79 committees; leadership of the Government of Local Unity (GLU); leaders from the various political parties; Minister of Finance, Mr Enoch Godongwana; Minister of COGTA, Ms Thembi Nkadimeng; Minister of Electricity, Mr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa; Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, and the former Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Mr Amos Masondo; Deputy Minister of COGTA and former Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Mr Parks Tau; Deputy Minister Mahlobo; Deputy Minister Kekana; ANC Veterans league President, Mr Snuki Zikalala; MEC of Economic Development in Gauteng, Ms Tasneem Motara; Member of the Provincial Legislature, Ms Matshidiso Mfikoe; the King Ndabezitha ka Khumalo from the Amatungwa Royal Kingdom and his Royal Council, princesses; fellow Councillors; the City Manager, Mr Floyd Brink, Acting Secretary to Council, Mr Andile Gobinca; officials of the City of Johannesburg; residents of the City of Johannesburg; members of the Media; ladies and gentlemen, to the 22nd Ordinary Council meeting of the City of Johannesburg municipality for the presentation of the Budget Speech.

2 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

<i>Councillor Amod, CJ</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Atterbury, E</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Bittkau, R</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Coutriers, MJ</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Coverdale, DLT</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Davids-Green, LC</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Edward, N</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Jainoodeen, Z</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Kunene, K</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Landis, R</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Leshilo, RS</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Liebenberg, E</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Marais, S</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mohlala, C</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mokoka, ML</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Molala, SM</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Molefe, M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business,</i>
<i>Councillor Mpolobosho, MM</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Urgent Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Ngwenya, JA</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>

<i>Councillor Ngwetsheni, MM</i>	:	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Nontenja, CT</i>	:	<i>Urgent Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Ponsoby, DA</i>	:	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Simelane, P</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Xuma, L</i>	:	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Zwane, S</i>	:	<i>Party Business</i>

The DA caucus has requested to leave at 11:30 for urgent Council business in their wards.

The Speaker asked that the DA caucus remain in the Chamber until the speech is completed, as they would not want to see Councillors moving up and down. Additionally, the DA caucus will be debating the speech the next day.

3 BUDGET SPEECH (14 May 2024)

3.1 Debate on the Budget Speech (15 May 2024)

The MMC for Finance, Councillor S. Morero, delegated by the Executive Mayor, presented the 2024/25 Budget Speech. Copies of the speech were distributed to the Councillors and guests.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS & CLOSURE BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker announced that the political parties would have the opportunity to debate the Budget Speech and consider the budget-related reports the following day, 15 May 2024, at 10:00.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:20.

On resumption (15 May 2024), the following Councillors were present:

The Speaker: Councillor M S Arnolds

The Executive Mayor: Councillor K Gwamanda

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

Makamo, S S
Makhafola, E
Makhuba, H N
Maluleka, T
Manganyi, D B
Mangena, T D
Marais, A F
Marema, V A
Marumo, T
Masera, H
Mashala, K
Mashinini, S
Masoga, L M
Masuku, L
Maswazi, R
Matabane, O
Mathe, G
Mathe, Z E
Mavhona, L S
Mazibuko, A L
Mazibuko, N
Mazibukwana, M
Meyers, T
Mchunu, A
Mgaga, B
Mgcina, S E
Mhlari, T M
Mhlongo, T A
Mkasi, G
Mkhize, T
Mkhonto, M S
Mmbengwa, M N
Mmota, L
Mngadi, W B
Mnisi, N D
Mnyameni, M
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
Mokoena, P
Mokome, J M
Mokwena, T M
Molefe, B J
Molefe, E W
Molefe, M
Molefe, S B
Molise, L D
More, E
Morero, S E
Mosehla, K J
Mothopi, O Z
Mphaho, M A
Mphahlele, M
Mphefo, L M P
Mposula, T
Mpotulo, G S
Mthembu, M N
Mulelu, M
Munyayi, V E
Mutavhatsindi, N T
Nair, R K
Ncube, W M
Ndlela, M C
Ndou, N L
Ndou, P
Ndou, P
Ndzondo, C M
Nefdt, P W
Nenemba, T
Nethamba, R
Ngema, S V
Ngobeni, L M
Ngoepe, C S
Nguse, S
Ngwenya, F N
Ngwetsheni, M M
Nhlapo, C P
Niemand, G J
Nkokou, T P
Nkomo, B
Nkomo, E T
Nkomo, P T
Nkonyeni, S P
Nkosi, R A L
Nkubungu, L

Nkwanyana, P B
Nofemela, N
Nonkumbi, I M
Ntoele, N L
Ntombela, M J
Ntshidi, T E
Nyembe, M M
Nyembe, Z P
Nzimande, C
Papo, M M
Pelzer, R
Phometsi, P S
Pietersen, J
Pietersen, N
Ponsonby, D A
Radebe, N P
Radebe, T T
Rahn, N J
Raholane, M W
Rakosa, P M
Ramafikeng, D J
Ramaru, G
Rambani, N S
Raphadu, A T
Raseruthe, S H
Reddy, V M
Roberts, F C
Rohlssen, C K
Santana, C G
Schay, D
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
Simonse, L C
Sindani, F P
Smit, P 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
Truluck, T F
Tshwaku, M
Tshedo, J G
Tshehlo, G J
Tsotetsi, L Y M
Twala, Y A
Van der Merwe, M
Van Dyk, NJ
Van Wyk, W M
Wax, K P
Williams, M C
Wilskut, D
Xuma, L
Zazini, A
Zitha, S L
Zondo, L T
Zungu, N G
Zwane, S

1 OPENING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker welcomed the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Councillor Kabelo Gwamanda, Whip of Council, Councillor NG Zungu; all political party leaders and whips; 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 of Johannesburg; residents of the City of Johannesburg; members of the Media; everyone in the Gallery; ladies and gentlemen, to the continuation of the 22nd Ordinary Council meeting of the City of Johannesburg municipality on the Debate on the Budget Speech and consideration of the reports.

Councillor Christians (DA) stated that the Standing Rules and Orders of Council are very clear: if there is no quorum at the beginning of the meeting, Council will break for 20 minutes. If there is still no quorum after those 20 minutes, then the meeting adjourns.

In response, the Speaker said that she was advised to first check if the Council has a quorum. If not, they can then break for 20 minutes. She asked for a 10-minute break for legal to determine if there was a quorum. She then announced that 188 Councillors were present in the Chamber, confirming that the meeting had a quorum.

Councillor Christians (DA) addressed the Council, stating that he wanted to place on record that there was no quorum in the Chamber at 10:00. He noted that the Speaker resumed the meeting at 10:23, which was 3 minutes after the regulated time in terms of Rule 57(1) of the Standing Rules and Orders of Council.

In her response, the Speaker said that the Council was notified that the meeting had commenced and that Legal would confirm quorum. She further stated that quorum was confirmed, with 188 Councillors in the Chamber.

2 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

<i>Councillor Amod, CJ</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Bittkau, R</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Urgent Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Coogan, LC</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Davids-Green, LC</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Jainoodeen, Z</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Kunene, K</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Landis, R</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Leshilo, RS</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Marais, S</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Mkhonza, NF</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Moatshe, K</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Mokoka, ML</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Molala, SM</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>

<i>Councillor Moloisane, D</i>	:	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Mpolobosho, MM</i>	:	<i>Urgent Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Ngwenya, JA</i>	:	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Nkomo, PT</i>	:	<i>Illness</i>
<i>Councillor Nontenja, CT</i>	:	<i>Urgent Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Ponsonby, DA</i>	:	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Reintein, IM</i>	:	<i>Urgent Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Wissler, STJ</i>	:	<i>Party Business</i>

The following Councillors will arrive late:

Councillor Modukanene, LC
Councillor Rambani, N S

The following Councillors requested to leave early:

<i>Councillor Avant Smith</i>	<i>13:30</i>	<i>Urgent Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Crichton, M</i>	<i>13:30</i>	<i>Urgent Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Da Gama, VM</i>	<i>13:00</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Finn, CE</i>	<i>13:30</i>	<i>Urgent Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Foley, DT</i>	<i>13:30</i>	<i>Urgent Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Hoén, JN</i>	<i>13:30:</i>	<i>Urgent Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Louw, MA</i>	<i>13:30</i>	<i>Urgent Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Meyers, T</i>	<i>13:30</i>	<i>Urgent Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mhlongo, T A</i>	<i>12:00</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Rahn, NJ</i>	<i>12:30</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Schay, D</i>	<i>13:30</i>	<i>Urgent Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Van Dyk, NJ</i>	<i>13:30</i>	<i>Urgent Party Business</i>
<i>DA caucus</i>	<i>14:30</i>	<i>Urgent Party Business</i>

Councillor Harris (ACDP) referred to Chapter 14, Schedule 1, Item 3 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors: Attendance at Meetings, and quoted as follows:

'A councillor must attend each meeting of the municipal council and a committee of which that councillor is a member, except when -
(a) leave of absence is granted in terms of an applicable law or as determined by the rules and orders of council.'

He further stated that the schedule specifies that if a Councillor misses three meetings, they must be removed from Council.

In response, the Speaker said that the Council was dealing with the leave of absence and expressed her understanding that Councillor Harris was tabling it.. She requested that Councillor Harris communicate with her office regarding the issue, to which Councillor Harris agreed.

The Speaker congratulated Councillor Christians (DA) for winning gold in the Mozambique Masters Basketball Championship earlier this year.

3 BUDGET DEBATE

Councillor Machete (APC) requested a 40-minute caucus break, which the Speaker granted, stating that Council would resume at 11:15.

Upon resumption, Councillor Mogapi (EFF) requested a one-hour caucus break. The Speaker granted the request, stating that the Council would resume at 12:20.

Councillor Gantsho (ActionSA) addressed Council as follows:

“Speaker, Executive Mayor, colleagues, I greet you all. Let me also greet the caucus of the 44 strong ActionSA led by Councillor Mthembu.

Speaker, before I dive into the mess that is the budget speech for the City of Johannesburg over the period of 2024/2025, I feel it’s important to briefly remind Council and the residents of Johannesburg how we got you here. If you forget everything else, remember these words, the words are “they fell in love with the struggle”.

Speaker you will be hard-pressed to find an adult in South Africa who doesn’t have at least a basic understanding of the ANC’s contribution to this democratic dispensation. For decades young children and adults alike risked life and limb, career prospects and families all for the sake of defeating the evil Apartheid regime. They fought without guarantee...”

Councillor Gantsho was interrupted by Councillor Mabaso (IFP), who stated that the Executive Mayor and the MMC Finance were not present in the House, and they were the ones to respond to the debate. The Speaker requested that Councillor Gantsho take a seat while waiting for them.

Councillor Dammie (ANC) requested a 15-minute caucus break, which the Speaker granted as 10 minutes. The Speaker said that if lunch was ready, the caucus break would be taken concurrently with lunchtime.

Councillor Echeozonjoku (DA) raised concerns regarding the number of requested caucus breaks. She mentioned that residents of Johannesburg were calling Councillors about water and electricity issues and were watching the proceedings on the live feed. She pleaded with the Speaker to try to curtail the breaks and get on with the business of the day.

Councillor Christians (DA) rose on a point of procedure, stating that a caucus break can only be granted at the end of a speech, not while a speaker who has already started is on the floor.

The Speaker noted Councillor Christians’ comments. She stated that the 10-minute caucus break requested by Councillor Dammie falls within lunchtime, as lunch is ready. She announced that the Council will resume at 13:40.

At this point, time being 13:49, Councillor Gantsho resumed his debate speech.

“Sadly, Speaker, a happy ending is just a story that hasn’t ended yet, or so the saying goes and if history had ended in 1996 with the adoption of the Constitution, what a wonderful story it would have been. It is far easier to fight one’s principles than to live up to them and you can’t find a better example of this than when the ANC and its daughter parties govern. Speaker, if these 30 years have shown us anything, it is that the ANC did better when it was engaged in the struggle than it does at governing in that they were nearly unimpeachable. But now that they are the ones responsible for ensuring everyone is equal in the eyes of government and the law – now that they are responsible for ensuring everyone gets the basics of service delivery, it’s another story. Every year Speaker, they drag the corpse of Apartheid out, clean it up and present it to the people anew as if Apartheid had ended last year, and this is all to distract from their own governance record year on year. Why measure progress from 1994? Why not measure progress from the time the GLU came to power to now? I have a hypothesis, Speaker: at some point, the ANC realized that its future was not in the future well-being of South African. It realized that its future was in South Africa’s past.

The people loved the ANC most during the struggle, so, somebody very clever in the ANC must have decided to place the City of Johannesburg and indeed, the entire country in a perpetual state of struggle. Thus, the second phase of the struggle, the struggle for socioeconomic rights was born, but do not be fooled. This current struggle has no end goal, it has no timeline, and its objective is to keep the ANC in power, that’s what I mean when I say, “they feel in love with the struggle”. They have tried everything to plunge the residents of Johannesburg into crisis so they can appear to be the only solution. The ANC is deliberately mismanaging the city in order to make the residents who are not already self-sufficient so desperately reliant on the ANC that they feel they have no choice but to keep the ANC in power for mere survival. They fell in love with the struggle. They fell in love with struggling, and now they are making us all struggle. You see, Speaker, the ANC has never solved a single problem facing the residents of Johannesburg. We had electricity issues 17 years ago and we have issues with electricity today. And after the election, we all know that the issues with electricity will resume. We suffer the same social ills we did in 1994. The difference now is that the ANC is managing them. They have no intention of solving any of the issues that we are placated with, all they do is manage them enough to keep the residents loyal and placated but not enough to allow them urgency because the ANC actually doesn’t want to solve problems. Because if they solve problems, what will they campaign on, in the next election?

If they end up struggling, what reason will the residents have to continue voting for the ANC? The ANC itself has acknowledged this point. Gwede Mantashe said in an interview on Eyewitness News a while back and I paraphrasing, “The problem with South Africans is that once you give them education and jobs, they turn around and no longer want to vote the ANC. They develop finer tastes and go looking elsewhere”. Meaning, as he understands it actually, doing the job will result in them losing power because the ANC loses its appeal to people once they enter the middle class. People aspire to more and the ANC doesn’t know how to meet those aspirations. So, what do you do? You keep them poor; you keep them worrying about water security;

electricity; food and toilets, they won't be too concerned about commissions of inquiry and Phala Phala that way. What does that mean for us the residents of Johannesburg as we dissect the sticky budget, Speaker, of the GLU, let's consider these points. This is why we're seeing drama unfold in front of the City Manager's home, we are happy that the City Manager was with us this morning, safe and sound and free, but it would not have been necessary if they had given effect to the court orders made against them. Our Finance Department is struggling to collect rates and residents are complaining of improper billing. We go around chasing and harassing paying customers but what about the government departments that are owing a combined R5 billion, where are those termination notices? Why is the war room so selective on whom it targets?

Speaker, they're struggling to create a conducive environment for local informal traders to operate, but they've instead given up our entire Spaza Shop industry to foreign nationals who treat our people like dirt. Like the Minister of Police asked, without a sense of irony, "why are these people allowed to do this? Who gave them permission?". As the Mayor of Johannesburg, our President, Herman Mashaba, heard the pleas of the employees of the City and resolved that insourcing should be the policy of the City. People in Fine town and all over the City are still praising Herman Mashaba for implementing this life-changing policy. How interesting, that members of the GLU, who claim to have pioneered this policy have failed to see it incorporated into the budget. It seems to me Speaker, that none-negotiable refers to price, not principles. As for not leaving anyone behind, are the residents of Eldorado Park not people? Why has nothing of the budget been set out for them? You baizaring big time Patriots, this despite having been made promises and commitments for the past two years. Despite the MMC of Finance appearing there and promising people heaven and earth.

Of the six million residents of Johannesburg, three million are effectively living in poverty. It's so strange that the ANC wants to take credit for people's English but can't take responsibility for the lives that are suffering under their leadership. Meanwhile, somehow, you have forgotten to include just how much is being set for the bodyguards from Benoni. A thoroughly, unnecessary expense for an alleged leader of the people. You should be among the people not seeking protection from the people. I heard nothing in yesterday's speech that speaks to how the city will close the 150 billion backlogs in infrastructure maintenance and building. Worse yet, with the budget allocated to it, the backlog will only grow bigger, meaning that it will never be resolved. The city is slowing decaying, and you have no plan to maintain or replace the aging infrastructure, the truth is, you are struggling to govern this Metro.

South Africa doesn't have to struggle. We don't have to adopt these struggle politics of yours. I've said this before in Council and it's as true then as it is now, South Africa has everything it needs to be a prosperous, safe, and fair society. What we lack is one thing, leadership. Principled, ethical, honest, inspiring, visionary, energetic leadership. And the heartbreaking thing is that the right leadership does exist, the right leadership is already in this Council. ActionSA is ready and willing and capable to set the city on the right path. As an example, Speaker, here are just three things ActionSA would have made sure to prioritize in this budget. 1. Insourcing. 2. The informal trading sector and the local economy. 3. Restoring and repurposing hijacked buildings and releasing them to the private sector. If only the City had the right leaders to end this

struggle because where I'm standing, on this side, there's no leaders. Speaker, one good thing did come out of the MMC's speech yesterday and it was when he was n't speaking. He called attention to the 12th official language of South Africa, Sign language. It is important that we make provision for all languages in Council and in that spirit, I'd also like to share something I learned in sign language. It goes the following – (Councillor Gantsho proceeded to sign) – Speaker, you must forgive my pronunciation, I hope I have just said two weeks in Sign language. In just two weeks Speaker, in 14 days, the residents of Johannesburg will be given an opportunity to pronounce on the government of local unity and whether they want more of this GLU in the province and national spheres.

In closing Speaker, I cannot help but notice the MMC reminded us to vote but could not or would not call on the residents to vote for his party. A crisis of conscience maybe, I do n't know but my vote is no secret, and my conscience is clear. On the 29th of May, I will be voting for ActionSA and I call upon all patriotic lovers of South Africa to do the same. Thank you."

Councillor Manganyi (IFP) addressed Council as follows:

"Thank you, Speaker; the honourable Mayor; esteemed members of Council; IFP constituencies and fellow citizens of Johannesburg.

Today, as we gather in this Chamber to deliberate upon the budget tabled by the City of Johannesburg. It is important that we reflect on the values and principles that underpin our democracy. Speaker, allow me to begin by acknowledging the rich history of our nation where the spirit of negotiation and compromise paved the way forward for our democratic transition. During the CODESA negotiations Speaker, the IFP persistently advocated for the inclusion of a Bill of Rights in the interim Constitution, affirming our commitment to the protection of individual citizens. It is with this same spirit of inclusivity and equity that I stand here today to commend the MMC of Finance, Councillor Dada Morero, for recognizing the importance of sign language as one of the official languages. This decision Speaker is not only administrative, it is a celebration of Ubuntu that believes in the interconnectedness of humanity. Furthermore, Speaker, I wish to express our appreciation for the MMC's effort in engaging with all political parties in the spirit of constructive dialogue and collaboration. We must work together for the betterment of our city and its residents.

Speaker, as we embark on this budgetary journey, let us not forget the age-old idiom which says, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions". A well-crafted budget holds little value unless it is implemented effectively. It is up to us to ensure that every cent allocated is utilized for the benefits of the people of the City of Johannesburg. Speaker, we've been assured that the budget is funded but we must remain vigilant during the adjustment period, unused funds must not be the order of the day. Therefore, Speaker, as the IFP, we call upon the Executive Mayor to oversee the implementation and expenditure of this budget. Ensuring accountability and transparency in every step of the way. The residents of the City of Johannesburg have a simple request Speaker, quality service delivery. They are not interested in big figures like 83 billion, they seek tangible results, for far too long Departments have sat on allocated budget with little to show for it. This must change Speaker. The IFP will

only credit this budget when it is pushed to work for the betterment of our people. There's no merit in good intentions Speaker, unless those intentions are acted on. Moreover, Speaker, we must address the lack of political will in the Departments to implement the IDP initiatives. We cannot afford to let bureaucracy stand in the way of progress; it is time we translate intentions into actions to turn promises into realities.

Lastly, Speaker, the IFP is pleased to see the inclusion of women, people with disabilities and the LGBTQI+ community in this budget. Diversity is our strength and by prioritizing the needs of marginalized groups, we reaffirm our commitment to equality and social justice. In conclusion Speaker, let us seize this opportunity to make meaningful changes in the lives of our citizens. Let us be stewards of public trust. Ensuring that every decision we make serves the common good. Together we can build a brighter future for all those who call Johannesburg home. Thank you, Speaker."

Councillor Santana (DA) addressed Council as follows:

"Thank you, Speaker. Madam Speaker, the MMC of Finance claims that this budget is themed an inclusive budget that leaves no one behind. However, I question whether the ANC and its government of local unity truly live in the City of Johannesburg or some parallel universe or multiverse. The ANC's consistent reiteration of the Amilcar Cabral maximum, that history requires us to not claim easy victories and tell no lies, is telling. It is the to tell no lies part that baffles me. Then again, how can you expect accountability from an organization that takes no ownership or responsibilities for its failures but instead blames others.

Madam Speaker, in light of this, it seems fitting to invoke the Shaggy song, it was not me, this should be the anthem of the ANC and the government of local unity. As reality for many people in the City of Johannesburg is one of neglect, forgetfulness, and despair. Over the past 15 years under the stewardship, by their design, they have driven South Africa and Johannesburg into decline. To add insult to injury, the inclusion of the government of local unity only compounds the issues. Let us highlight and tell no lies' stance; the Sinking Fund merged in the corruption through the Regiment Capital scandal brought to us by none other than the ANC. Yet we still await the appointment of the new Fund Managers to manage this fund. The MMC claims to have stabilized the budget transparently, however, our continuous requests for information remain unanswered like the proverbial checks in the mail.

They boast of approving 13 500 dwelling units and over 263 000 square meters of commercial space yet failed to upgrade or maintain our current infrastructure. The operational and capital funding model relies on generating surpluses through trading services primarily through water and electricity. However, the AG has raised growing concern issues for both entities during the 2022/2023 audits. The MMC asserts that he has ensured sustainable key financial ratios per National Treasury guidelines, but we consistently fail to meet all key indicators. [POPI rate avenues 4:13:32 on YouTube], the City's largest revenue stream that funds basic services but minimal services to show for it. They claim the budget is a product of wide consultation, yet #theforgottenratepayers and workers were excluded due to the inconvenient IDP session times and any request to accommodate these participants fell on deaf ears.

Madam Speaker, it has been 49 days without load shedding and 14 days until the elections. The budget speech presented by the MMC of Finance was nothing more than an electioneering campaign speech. As we reflect on the 30 years of our democracy, we must acknowledge the infrastructure, oppression and segregation built during the Apartheid regime that served only minority communities. However, the current delay and lack of investment in infrastructure for all South Africans fall squarely on the shoulders of the present government and it affects all residents. We, in the Democratic Alliance hold firm to the democratic values and principles including accountability, transparency and good governance. It's through these principles that we strive to bring about meaningful change and ensure that no one in Johannesburg is left behind. The DA stands ready to rescue Gauteng and South Africa. I, thank you."

Councillor Boer (VF+) addressed Council as follows:

"Good afternoon, Madam Speaker; MMC Finance, Mayor; all Councillors, good afternoon.

In Afrikaans we've got a saying, which we really can't translate into English but in Afrikaans we say, "n halwe waarheid is 'n hele leuen", what that means basically if you only speak half the truth, you're actually lying. And I was thinking about this when we listened to the budget speech yesterday. Two examples: the MMC said, and I quote here, "When they came into office, the City had nearly five billion in its coffers, plus a sinking fund of about 3.7 billion". What the MMC, however, did not say was that the Sinking Fund was used last year to redeem R2.5 billion of long-term debt and it will also be used this year to pay another R1.3 billion of long-term debt. The same with the 5 billion in its coffers; I would just love to ask the MMC what is in the coffers at present. The other example is, and I quote the MMC where he says, "the 24/25 IDP review and its budget, acknowledges the decaying infrastructure which during the Apartheid regime was only built to service minority communities. This infrastructure resulted in backlogs that we are experiencing today". It is easy to play the blaming game and blame the Apartheid regime for the infrastructure problems that we have today. And I just want to remind the MMC that the Apartheid regime was not only built to serve the minority communities, what about Baragwanath Hospital? The decay after 30 years, is that attributable to the Apartheid regime? Our Metro buildings were built by the Apartheid regime as well, and the decay there, is that their fault or what is the result we are experiencing today? So, we mustn't play the blaming game and rather look for solutions and that brings me to the budget.

I want to commend the MMC, and I want to thank him on behalf of the residents of Johannesburg, for only increasing the tariff rates this year by 3.8%. I think that was very generous and we acknowledge you for that but there were certain things in the budget that were unsaid. I'm talking about burning issues in our city, and I'm not talking about the burning that the blue party does with the flag, I'm talking about burning issues. We've got three burning issues in our city at the moment. Our city is burning, our inner city is literally burning – we can remember the burning of the building in August 2023 which cost many lives. We can think of the burning underneath the M1 Highway which happened a week ago. We can think of the burning in Bree Street with the explosion. Our inner city is literally burning, and there is no

mentioning in the budget what we're going to do to improve this. The other burning issue is we don't have water, we can't even extinguish the burns because we do not have water. Our non-revenue water stands at 46% at the moment, the MMC had no plans to address the issue of non-revenue water, what are we doing with the water crisis? There as well, there is no plan in the budget for this.

And the last item which wasn't mentioned, the Metro building. It has been standing empty for more than a year now, it could have been revamped by this time, but nothing has happened. We hear stories about the Metro building being sold as a prison. We hear stories about the lease agreement entered for 9 years and 11 months at a massive cost to Council but there's no plan for the Metro building either and it brings me by the budget Madam Speaker. The MMC said this budget of ours, 83.1 billion, I want to remind Council that the 23/24 budget was also in an amount of 83 billion. So, we had despite the 12.7% increase in electricity tariffs, our budget was static compared to the original 23/24 budget, and that means that we are actually going backward. We're not making any improvements, our income stays the same, our expenses are rising, and our residents are falling further and further behind.

Madam Speaker, this budget of ours reminded me yesterday of a parable in the Bible and in that parable, there was a beautiful building, but the building had no foundation. And when the storms came and the rain came, this building cracked and it was demolished, and the same happened to our budget. We got a beautiful budget, but this budget is made up of four pillars and if those pillars are not there anymore, we're not going to achieve our budget – and the first one is our collection rate based on 86%, if we don't achieve that then we not going to reach our budget. The second one is effective administration, our service delivery standards are far below par. The third one we must get the basics right."

Councillor Rohlssen (ACDP) addressed Council as follows:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I greet you all in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, amen. Greetings to you Madam Speaker; Executive Mayor; MMC's; Councillors; distinguished guests and residents of Johannesburg.

Madam Speaker, it is very concerning regarding the manner in which the City of Johannesburg secures its funding. It receives its funds through debts instead of making a concerted effort to collect the outstanding rates owed to it. The knock-on effect of this debt accumulation will adversely affect the quality of life of future generations of the residents of Johannesburg. I urge the city to relook at its funding model for the sake of our future generations to come and for the general well-being of the residents of Johannesburg. A further concern is the Central Park development in Albertville and the building of 5 000 units, no funding has been allocated for this project. The rental units administered by the city are in a deplorable state and yet insufficient funding has been made available to improve the condition of these units. As well as the old age home units which are also in a similar dilapidated state, again, insufficient funds have made available to improve the condition of these units. The ACDP does not support this speech. God bless South Africa. God bless the sovereign State of Israel. I, thank you."

Councillor Abdool (UIM) addressed Council as follows:

*“Good afternoon, Madam Speaker and my fellow Councillors and public servants. So, this afternoon, it is my privilege to give the speech, at long last, after being absolutely disrespected by fellow Councillors who do not see it fit or deem it right to be in Council when it is necessary. I would like to also acknowledge and greet my fellow colleagues from the United Independent Movement, my leaders from Ekurhuleni, Tshwane, and Orange Farm. I’d like to also do a special mentioning my Media Liaison in the UIM, Ms Virginia *Young, who is celebrating her birthday today in this building.*

I would like to acknowledge MMC Morero for the beautiful humble entrance, which is contrary to what happened last year, which was a pompous, unnecessary, huge entrance but saying absolutely nothing. This year, sir, you have done well. The entrance was beautiful, the humility that it was done in was fantastic, and the fact that our flag was acknowledged, may this flag, for always, unite us and may we always remember that we are one nation that is diverse. The music and everything brought a beautiful atmosphere to this building. The fact that sign language was also used was also accommodating for our fellow citizens. I’d like to admonish and really encourage everyone to also acknowledge the language of the first nation people, which is the Khoi Language, may that be the thirteenth language, thank you.

I appreciate the promptness of our Speaker; it is such a pity that the discipline has been not filtered down. I observe the fact that this Council has stopped becoming a feeding scheme in the mornings. However, I would like to ask as Councillor Boer had mentioned, what is happening to our admin building? Why are we not utilizing that building? Why are there extra costs being incurred with tents and catering, and all sorts? Now for the budget, once again, there are certain groups of people that are being left behind even though we are saying we are not leaving anyone behind. There are areas and places like Eldorado Park – Lapland – the stench, the filth that our people are living in. I am surprised that the Councillors that says absolutely nothing about where that is concerned. Kliptown it is the same thing, it is called a heritage site and because of that reason for some reason it is not necessary to clean up the place and make the human beings, the citizens of South Africa, live like human beings. Snake Park, Soweto, same thing. Zombie Town, Riverlea, same thing, those people have been forgotten. Local government cannot do much in terms of unemployment, I understand, but it is time we started taking hands with the private sector. The city has become a place where if you become a victim of smash and grab, your SAPS member asks you what it is that he should do.

I would like to say the following: in an ideal world, I would have loved every Councillor in this building to come with one guest, and that one guest must represent the community where they are servicing. So that, that person can see exactly what is happening in this building and the type of leader that they have chosen because they have put their trust in you to serve them, and sometimes I really wonder who we are serving. Two days ago, I saw four boys wearing four different types of t-shirts, I will tell the story over and over again. A red T-shirt representing the EFF; a yellow T-shirt –

ANC; green T-shirt – ActionSA; a blue T-shirt – DA, and I asked them what was going on here? And they said, ma'am, we don't have clothes. Now, I'm saying this for you to remember, the people we are representing don't have what we have. Can we start serving in the name of Jesus? Can we start serving? Thank you."

Councillor Machete (APC) addressed Council as follows:

"Madam Speaker, allow me to go through the points. The APC fully supports the budget tabled by the City of Johannesburg. We believe that it reflects our commitment to inclusivity and reflect equitable development and ensuring that needs for all our residents are met. Together, let us work towards building a city that truly serves the interest of the people. I, thank you. We support the budget."

Councillor Magwentshu (ATM) addressed Council as follows:

"Greetings, Speaker. Greetings to the Executive Mayor. Greetings to the Whip of Council. Greetings to all the servants of the people in the House."

Madam Speaker, MMC Morero's Budget Speech yesterday summarizes what the ATM believes in: building a better tomorrow for the benefit of all citizens. Appropriately titled, an inclusive budget that leaves no one behind. The ATM believes in the development of the city for the betterment of the lives of everyone. The resources of the city should always be deployed for the purpose of benefiting all residents of Johannesburg. There could be no better budget allocation than the one that speaks about inclusivity, making sure that no one is left behind. The budget speaks to the values that the ATM upholds, such as Ubuntu and peace.

The ATM believes that the city's budget should benefit the people, and every citizen in Johannesburg should see visible expenditure dedicated to improving their lives. Madam Speaker, we noted the following in yesterday's budget, among many other progressive and developmental aspects of the budget. The ATM welcomes the massive budget allocated to City Power and various strategies to reduce reliance on Eskom to end load shedding in the city. The ATM is positive and excited about the budget allocation for the community development under the Social Development Cluster. The 1.4 billion operating budget for the community development will ensure that crucial educational programs are rolled out to all communities, especially those deprived communities from Orange Farm to Diepsloot. We hope that our communities will be uplifted. Madam Speaker, the ATM also welcomes the R25 million which has been allocated for the upgrade of the Johannesburg City Library. This means that we will be now in a position to work towards reopening the library to the residents of the City of Johannesburg. This speaks directly to the ATM's priority of putting focus on education by ensuring that all our communities have access to well-equipped libraries and resources. There can be no peace, MMC Morero, without ensuring that communities in Johannesburg experience safety, and we believe that we could have done more. We, however, welcome the budget allocation to Public Safety so that there is law enforcement, especially in the inner city; reclaiming hijacked building back to the city; guarding city property and making sure we have enough boots on the streets will ensure that we leave no room for criminals, and eventually restore peace in the city. We need to bring peace to the residents of Johannesburg.

Madam Speaker, the ATM is in full support of this budget, and we'll monitor the implementation of programs to ensure the people of Johannesburg benefit and improve their lives. Thank you."

Councillor Mhlongo (AIC) addressed Council as follows:

"Madam Speaker, good afternoon to you.

Madam Speaker, let me start by quoting what the MMC said when he opened his speech yesterday, when he delivered his Budget Speech. He said, "A dove is an international symbol for peace. As we reflect on the 30 years and the transitional process to South Africa's democracy, we must remember that the process of the negotiations to create a democratic society was not easy". Good afternoon to you Speaker; the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Councillor Kabelo Gwamanda; the Members of the Mayoral Committee; Chairpersons of Section 79 committee; fellow Councillors; residents of the city in the Gallery; Provincial Secretary of the AIC in Gauteng, Mr Mabengu.

Madam Speaker, the African Independent Congress welcomes the 2024/2025 budget delivered by MMC of Finance Councillor Dada Morero. The Budget Speech of the City of Johannesburg is a momentous occasion that sets the cost for our city's progress and development in the coming year. The African Independent Congress is particularly delighted to note that the significant allocations made in this budget reflect the city's commitment to ensuring the safety, prosperity, and sustainability of our beloved Johannesburg. With the 83.1 billion allocated, we are poised to address the diverse needs of a dynamic and growing city. This budget is not merely a financial plan; however, and it is a statement of our values and priorities, it is a blueprint for building a more resilient and prosperous Johannesburg.

First and foremost, the allocation of 6.1 billion to the Department of Public Safety is a clear indication of our commitment as GLU to the safety and security of our residents. This investment will boost our efforts to combat crime, ensure law enforcement, and promote a safer environment for all who call Johannesburg home. This funding will enhance emergency response services and invest in initiatives aimed at preventing crime and safeguarding our neighbourhoods. Furthermore, the 1,2 billion allocated to the Transport Department is a crucial step towards enhancing our city's transportation infrastructure. This funding will enable us to improve public transport services, enhance road networks and ultimately contribute to smoother more efficient mobility for our citizens. Improving mobility and accessibility in Johannesburg is not just about building roads and transit systems. It's about building a more prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable city for all its residents. By investing in transportation infrastructure and services, we can unlock the full potential of our city, creating opportunities for growth, prosperity, and wellbeing.

Equally significant is the operational budget allocated to the Department of Environment and Infrastructure, focusing on vital areas such as air quality, climate change and energy. As we face the challenges of climate change, this allocation will enable us to take proactive measures to protect our environment and promote sustainable practices for the benefit of future generations. Additionally, the

allocation of 1.4 billion to the Department of Community Development underscores our commitment to serving the diverse needs of our communities. This funding will support initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life, fostering social cohesion and empowering individuals and families across Johannesburg.

The AIC also commends the allocation of 7.6 billion to the economic growth cluster, representing a 2.9% increase from the previous financial year. Economic growth is the backbone of our city, and this investment will drive innovation, create job opportunities, and stimulate prosperity for all our residents. Madam Speaker, before I close, the MMC Finance delivered his speech yesterday. He reminded all South Africans where we were coming from in the form of a song that he played for all of us. Those who burned the South African flag they buried their heads under the tables that they were sitting in front of when this song was played because they knew that theirs was not for uniting South Africans but to divide them along racial lines. As I conclude, Madam Speaker, I invite all of them, even those that I've mentioned that they buried their heads, to come to our manifesto launch on Saturday, the 18th in the Germiston Stadium.

Councillor Simonse (PA) addressed Council as follows:

"Greetings Madam Speaker; Executive Mayor; Joburg 9 and all Councillors in the House.

When I sat to prepare the speech, I found it very hard to put it in words or even to put pen to paper. I was filled with anger. As the PA, we are the ones who essentially brought back the GLU to life and today, we have been taken for granted. At no point did we even have any input in this budget, and we had to hear about it from MMC Finance and the plans for it as we sat here yesterday and heard the budget for the first time, along with everybody else. In the whole budget, the Wards governed by the PA have not received any allocation. There's little to nothing for areas such as Ennerdale, Eldorado Park, Klipspruit, Westbury, Meriting, and Finetown, which have been marginalized all along, these communities have not received anything. The Kliptown referred to in this budget is situated in Region D, while the other parts of Region G remain neglected. The mention of schools rebuilding in these areas is a provincial mandate but I can only assume that it was included here to make us supposedly feel better. Our Sports and Health facilities continue to degrade due to no maintenance. We joined the government because we believed that it had the potential to bring service delivery, change and transformation, and hopefully, a way forward for our people who had been taken for granted for decades. We thought we would make a place for them at the table. It was very difficult to remain the DA government because they were de-campaigning us while we were supposed to be governing with them, perhaps we should not be surprised that it has now become worse under the ANC and the MMC of Finance. It was bad enough when the MMC started cutting funds to the PA led portfolios; when he cut funding to the roads and transport, we noted it, we soldiered on, we made a plan. When he insisted that the Human Settlement entity JOSHCO should not be allowed to do work it had been doing for years under the ANC government, we noted it, we soldiered on, we made a plan. But now the entire budget is making a mockery of the entire city. We cannot note it, and soldier on. We cannot

make a plan and we cannot vote for it. We call for the people of Johannesburg to vote correctly, PA, on the 29th of May so that we can further defy the arrogance of the ANC. Let us vote out of power those who would not vote to keep us on our knees. We will always fight for our people. We will always choose to die on our feet than to live on our knees. Ons baiza nie."

Councillor Echeozonjoku (DA) addressed Council as follows:

"Madam Speaker; Executive Mayor; fellow Councillors and most importantly, the residents of Johannesburg. Madame Speaker, yesterday we listened to the MMC Finance, Councillor Dada Morero tell us lots of smoke and mirrors to hide behind the fact that he has nothing new to offer to the residents of Johannesburg. It was clear from the MMC's speech, and the budget tabled, and the budget tabled, that this is not a people's budget, but an election budget to ensure that the ANC make more empty promises close to elections, to divert attention from what the ANC has failed to do for the past 30 years.

Madame Speaker, the MMC tells us about ageing infrastructure. MMC, we agree with you, but you failed to mention that the ANC has governed the city for almost 30 years and has failed to maintain and budget adequately for the ageing infrastructure you mentioned yesterday, MMC. Madame Speaker, and fellow Councillors, we are all aware that the city relies on revenue generated from Trading Services as a primary source of revenue. Therefore, the city also has an obligation to ensure that the residents get adequate services for what they pay for. I'm afraid, Madam Speaker, residents are being short changed, especially our forgotten rate payers who fund the bulk of this budget.

Madam Speaker, this administration is not transparent, starting with City Power. The Section 79 committee had asked City Power whether they owed Eskom, and they vehemently denied this, now Eskom is dragging City Power to court, once again, Johannesburg residents are paying for this litigation. Surely, that money could have been used to pay Eskom and make arrangements, like I did. Residents of Johannesburg had been battling with power outages, for some up to 12 days, with Councillors having to go to depots to get the lights switched on and this administration, Madame Speaker, went to IDP sessions telling residents of an 8% increase. Now residents will be paying 12,7% more, Madam Speaker, this budget will be shortchanging our residents.

Madame Speaker, last year the MMC allocated 145 million to City Power Capex projects as part of the energy efficiency rooftop PVC solar network to be spent on about 700 JPC properties. Where did the money go MMC? How much was spent and on which properties they are, the city must account to the residents. Madame Speaker, residents in the South of Johannesburg Westdene, Westbury, Coronation, Crosby, and some parts of Region E, even today, are battling with dry taps and intermitted water outages for months and now they will be paying 7,7% more for water. Madame Speaker, 27 billion for water infrastructure will not solve the problem. The MMC keeps saying we cannot do it alone and all the options only include government interventions. MMC, there are millions worth of developments on hold because of Joburg Water's inability to positively comment. There is no water, why not partner with the private sector to build some of these towers?

Madame Speaker, MMC Morero boast about having the lowest increase in sanitation, but what he's not saying is that the billing is per unit. Residents will likely be paying double charges, which could be remedied if the sewage charge is per usage and not per stand which might even put the city in a better position. It is time to think out of the box MMC. Madame Speaker, once again, the City of Johannesburg is allocating a three-year capital budget of R157 million, which includes 42 million for IOC – highly inefficient, madame Speaker, considering the lack of By-Law enforcement across the city. Buildings are on fire Madam Speaker; fire engines are not a nice thing to have but a necessity. Fire stations have generators based on the oversights done by the Public Safety Section 79 committee.

One can see from the bloated employee-related cost that clearly, the irregular VIP protection policy passed in Council had been accommodated at the expense of Joburg residents, as usual. Madame Speaker, the MMC told us yet again, 5 000 cameras – MMC, the budget is allocated once again for the 5 000 cameras. Same as last year, how many are allocated per region? Where are those cameras, MMC? Madame Speaker, the MMC said nothing about the budget allocated to infrastructure protection despite the Mayor mentioning this, which we really welcome. How many of those cameras have been allocated around City Power and Joburg Water infrastructure? This could have prevented the Braamfontein vandalism two weeks ago. The city clearly has no plan to protect our infrastructure.

Madame Speaker, this administration must really stop using the poor and the vulnerable for election campaigning and make the same promises every year. In Human Settlement, madame Speaker, 3,4 allocated. This administration promised the vulnerable about 5 000 units, but this Department failed to spend each budget, every year resulting in the city having to give the grant back to the Treasury, Madame Speaker. Madame Speaker, in Health and Social Development nothing new, this is a copy and paste from the previous budget. The ANC must stop using the vulnerable for election campaigns. A budget has been allocated for Zandspruit over the years, but instead the clinic has never been built. Illegal invasions are growing and nothing has been done to stop them, madame Speaker. The Joburg Property Company has failed the City of Joburg and once again, the City has allocating an operational budget of R1 billion. Has the audit been done on the income generated by the approximately 28 000 properties owned by the City, what money is generated currently and where does the money go Madame Speaker? Do we even know the current market value of the City's property portfolio?

Madame Speaker, the transport budget is grossly insufficient, with 2,2 billion over three years, roads and bridges are generally built to last up to 30 to 50 years. However, the maintenance and adequate budgeting for infrastructure like roads will cost the city dearly. Madam Speaker, residents of Joburg are tired of driving on pothole ridden roads while funds are being returned to the Treasury. Madame Speaker, MMC, to deal with a crisis, you need at least R1 billion a year for repairs and maintenance of our roads. The lack of inter-departmental consultation seems very clear from this allocation alone. In conclusion madame Speaker, there's nothing new coming out of

the city, it seems like the usual cut and paste and just changing the project codes and numbers. What would be good madame Speaker, is if the city gives those businesses some incentive for the down-time during outages when spending double the money on generators than their monthly electricity bill. Some sort of relief for property owners who have solar panels and possibly easing the pressure of the grid and work with independent power producers to buy back electricity savings. The DA's infrastructure master plan will ensure that infrastructure is protected, and it will make it easier for residents to do boreholes as well, not so much red tape. The ringfence a portion of the development contribution for the area where the development is taking place to assist with the infrastructure backlog and the infrastructure upgrade to accommodate new development.

Madame Speaker, the DA is ready to rescue South Africa and Gauteng on the 29th of May. I encourage all residents we are ready, vote Democratic Alliance on the 29th of May. Thank you so much, madame Speaker."

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

"Thank you, Speaker. I would like to greet the Executive Mayor, the MMC's, the Whip of Council. As ALJAMA-AH, we are supporting the budget, there's nothing more to be said, I think the budget is inclusive. Thank you very much."

At this point, time being 15:03, the DA caucus had left the Chamber. The Speaker confirmed that there were 180 Councillors present. Therefore, there was a quorum for the meeting to continue.

Councillor Nkokou (PAC) addressed Council as follows:

"Thank you, Madame Speaker, Councillor Margaret Arnold. Let me greet the Executive Mayor; Whip of Council, Councillor Zungu; Members of the Mayoral Committee; Chairpersons and all the Indigenous Councillors and residents of the City of Johannesburg and all Africans in our country, Azania; all Africans in the continent; and all Africans in the diaspora and abroad, izwe lethu.

Madame Speaker, we accept the budget speech by Councillor Morero and we welcome it".

Councillor Raseruthe (EFF) addressed Council as follows:

"Thank you very much, madame Speaker. As the Economic Freedom Fighters, we can see that the budget is balanced but there are some areas where we need to push some corners. They are not many in fact. We thank the city for thinking of our people when it comes to tariff increases, I think we are the lowest Metro in Gauteng when it comes to that. Gradually, we are becoming a socialist city, and we thank the MMC for that, we've been preaching that the issues of saying let's not press our people too hard. We are recommending, as the Economic Freedom Fighters, that should the issue of the 64 million shortfalls of the Public Safety Department, if it can be addressed properly, we don't see any problem, we're going to accept everything which is on the budget because it is balanced with those shortfalls.

Speaker, I think as a government of GLU, we're turning the corner gradually but what we need to do as voting partners is to meet each other halfway when it comes to service delivery. Let's service the people of Johannesburg with no reservations. If a service delivery program needs different political parties, let those parties unite and give our people service delivery. As the Economic Freedom Fighter, we are here for the people of the City of Johannesburg and nothing else. For as long as the government doesn't give service to our people, we are not going to form part of that government. If the government can think for our people, especially the marginalized, we're always ready to give our vote with regards to service delivery. Thank you very much, Speaker, we are adopting this budget with those recommendations."

Councillor Masuku (ANC) addressed Council as follows:

"Thank you, Madame Speaker. Good afternoon to the Executive Mayor, Councillor Kabelo Gwamanda; the Whip of Council, Councillor Zungu; Members of the Mayoral Committee; Chairpersons of the Section 79, leaders of political parties, fellow Councillors; the City Manager, Mr Floyd Warren Brink and your administrative team, members of the Media; distinguished guests; residents of the City of Johannesburg, good afternoon.

As the ANC caucus, we welcome and support the budget presented yesterday by the MMC Finance, Councillor, Dada Morero, who presented us with an 83.1 billion budget. As we engage in the budget speech, allow me to bring in the words of wisdom from the prominent founding father of our nation who said, "for to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others. I'm fundamentally an optimist, part of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed towards the sun and one's feet moving forward. There were many dark moments where my faith in humility was solely tested but I would not and could not give myself up to despair".

We are here to improve the lives of our people and that is what drives us, daily, as the government of local unity, like tata Mandela. Negative words will never dissuade us from giving our people better lives, all our people, not just a select few. Our heads are pointed towards the sun and our feet are moving forward. It is up to you whether you want to move forward with us but whether you are with us or not, we shall move forward because we are here to serve the residents of Johannesburg. Similarly, we will not despair when faced with a barrage of negative sentiments, we shall move forward. We welcome the budget speech; we appreciate that the Departments and Entities have been allocated their fair share of the budget and as per norm, not everybody will get what they want. It is the nature of living in a country, a province, or a city where resources are scarce, but everybody flocks in for better opportunities. The ground was laid down over a week ago when the Executive Mayor gave us the State of the City Address, and forward we go with the whooping 83,1 billion, as presented by MMC Morero.

Madame Speaker, we wish of course that many can support this budget but those who may not think it is important to put the residents first will answer on the 29th of May. I doubt anyone who was listening and understands the budget speech can oppose these items, particularly because even the National Treasury concluded that the budget assumptions are credible, the revenue estimates are realistic, that the IDP objectives align with the NDP, the Provincial Strategic Plan and the City's growth and Development Strategy, which is our vision for 2024. I would like to indicate that ordinarily, people should be saying that "we want to work with you, we support you if you include X, Y and Z". But if you fold your arms and choose to speak and walk out of a Council meeting, it is an indication of how less seriously you take the residents of Johannesburg.

Madame Speaker, moreover, as a side note. I must just say that recently under the leadership of the government of local unity's MMC for Finance, who is the deployee of the African National Congress and the Chairperson of the African National Congress. The management of the finance of the city was given the thumbs up when the city received an A+ and receiving an unqualified audit opinion, demonstrating fiscal responsibility, sound financial practices and transparency. We will continue to do so with the 24/25 budget as tabled yesterday. The GLU is committed to the provision of services and rebuilding the city and bringing it back to its glory days. We are committed to this, and we shall move forward with those who want to move forward with us.

Madame Speaker, allow me to pick up where the MMC Finance left off, and I want to speak of the legacy of Apartheid, and through you. Madame Speaker, I do hope Councillor Boer is listening. Those who have closed their ears and eyes to the reality of this country must be reminded that we have had over 350 years of oppression and deprivation by the colonialist and Apartheid architects. A legitimate government has only been running this country for 30 years, and many of us here, we know the truth about how long it takes for you to deal with any injustice in any country. Thirty years ago, as MMC Finance said, only 30% of the population had access to electricity and now, 94,7% of the population is electrified, thank you ANC. In 2024, Stats SA, when they spoke on the City of Joburg in the previous IDP, when our figure was close to 6 million before 1994, 13% of the population had access to electricity. Now, in Johannesburg in particular, 90% of our people have got access. Water, - yes, our water system is stretched. It's compromised, why? Because more people now have access to it and they need it but ordinarily, they wouldn't have had that opportunity to have piped water. When the legitimate government took over 30 years ago, it did not only have to provide services, it had to make sure that services were provided to everybody, and I want to quote in line with what former Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said, who later became the State president. He said he found nothing on his first day at work because there was not a single document. He said, "when the ANC government took over in 1994, I found nothing in the office. The National Party shredded everything when I came in as Deputy President of South Africa in 1994, I found an empty office with small old chairs and desk. Not a single paper, it meant that there was no precedent, we as the ANC built the country from scratch. We set up all the institutions that you see in our country. We've set precedence as we built". This quotation sums up the journey that this country had to take to be where we are today.

It tells you of the defeated oppressors who wanted to ensure that nothing ever worked. It is not farfetched to believe that when the country faces challenges, many of the beneficiaries of Apartheid and their lackeys celebrate. They wish for the collapse of our government, but rest assured, we shall overcome all the doom sayers.

Madam Speaker, if I were to go to the benches on the other side, empty or full and ask them about the legacy of the Apartheid, many of them would be denialists but its okay to deny something that you are also a victim of because. One day, you will have to take responsibility to your children and great grandchildren when the history of this country is told properly. Because the people of Soweto, Alex, Orange Farm, Eldorado Park and Lenasia, still suffer because of spatial planning challenges that were meant to keep other races away from the place of work. But we've got capable MMCs, like MMC Eunice Mgcina who's working hard to steer the ship in the Department of Development Planning. If it was not for the Apartheid, we will not have to start building millions of houses for our people. We would not have had to create jobs and the skewed economy that existed. We would not have had to assist everybody to get an education and make sure we all attend well resourced schools, equally. You know, the legacy of Apartheid is so painful that some of us, who are in denial. I listened to the debate on the State of the City, in the same DA caucus, you have Councillor Mphefo who acceded that the Apartheid was bad. But the DA leader, Councillor Echeozonjoku, denied in the Chamber, the lived legacy of the Apartheid and its lasting damage. It tells you of the different schools of thoughts, and it tells you that the DA cannot rescue South Africa, with the leader of that calibre. The Democratic Alliance cannot rescue South Africa because they don't even support the National Health Insurance bill. They take everything to court, they run municipalities who don't agree with them where they are not in charge, through the courts. Every decision taken by the City of Johannesburg Council; they take to court because they want to legitimize their existence through courts. The same leader of the Democratic Alliance, it's a pity she's not here but I hope she's listening. Thank you, MMC Mgcina for the press statement you issued calling the DA leader out on the things she was saying and threatening our officials. People's meters must be read, people's buildings must be inspected and if you build illegally, you must be brought to book. Thank you, MMC for your leadership and the DA leader must account to the residents of Johannesburg.

The DA cannot rescue anything, because it is the same Democratic Alliance with ActionSA, whom when they had MMCs Echeozonjoku, Mbundu and Fundzile Ngobeni who is a Premier candidate. They were driven by blue lights in the City of Johannesburg, the government of local unity came in to make sure we put a policy in place so that everything is regularized and MMCs are vetted and receive it. But they did everything irregularly, they were fine with illegality. Residents of Johannesburg, you can't be led by people who claim good governance but don't practice it. The DA cannot rescue Tshwane, the municipality is on autopilot, bankrupt. If it was a human being, we would say that it is breathing through the wound and needs to be taken to the emergency room for an operation, to be rescued. In simple terms, the MEC and the Minister need to intervene and rescue residents of Tshwane from the DA. The DA couldn't rescue George and the death toll in George keeps on rising and the national government has had to come in and to pass our condolences to the families and the people of George. But the DA is failing to account and all the people who are actually

still unaccounted for, the DA has not even gone to visit their families. We wish Premier Panyaza was there as the Premier because as a caring Premier, he would have visited those families. The DA cannot rescue Gauteng with a Premier candidate who mumbles his way in debates and conversations. The DA Premier want to be candidate, Solly Msimang, could not even handle a mere debate on television. He needed napkins to be rescued because the Premier mopped the floor with him, like a crybaby.

The man of action dealt with him. There's no opposition politician who has confronted the challenges of unemployment, just today. Our Executive Mayor was invited to the Nasi spani Program to deal with issues of unemployment. Recently, Amapanyapanya were launched, today, panic buttons were increased, drone programs were added by the ANC government in Gauteng and there is no opposition politician who can claim anything. Thank you, MMC Finance for making sure that the money continues to be added so that City Power, Eskom and, of course, MMC Sekwaila's Department can continue with the Siyakhanyisa i-Gauteng in our communities, and Siya-transformer Program of transformers together with Eskom. There is no opposition politician who can say that the ANC is not capable of leading because I told you earlier, that we've been given an A+ credit rating under the stewardship of an ANC MMC in government.

Before, I sit down Madame Speaker, the DA is the worst party to speak to about any rescue. They had the audacity to burn the flag of our country and to rub it in, they provided reasons that were idiotic. It is unheard of, in all countries, that you burn your own flag as a citizen of that country because you believe in that country, you sing the national anthem, and you recognize the national symbols. I think that it is the swaart gevaar and rooi gevaar scarecrow tactics that were employed by the Apartheid regime, and they are rearing their heads in the campaign of the DA. Many of us are not surprised and if you can ask, in the days of the Apartheid, was the Apartheid flag ever burned? And the answer will be no. It is precisely because they don't believe in nation building, they believe in dividing the nation. Madame Speaker, I also want to thank the MMC Finance because through demonstrating that we are a caring employer, we entered into a three-year agreement with organized labour on the PFA, of which 4.8 million was paid this financial year. The MMC Finance announced yesterday that the PFA allocation for the 24/25 financial year is 701 million. We will continue to pay employees during the 25/26 financial year, in line with the allocated budget of 961 million. This will bring the budget of the PFA, which is the Politically Facilitated Agreement, to a whopping 280 billion, thank you, MMC Finance. We are fully aware of the work of the PFA task team and the steering committee, both with representation from organized labour and management regarding the benchmarking processes and the key common salary scales. We firmly believe that once the work has been finally completed, documents approved and costs established, there will be further engagement and negotiation to identify other sources of funding to provide for this commitment. The reason why we are specifically thanking you MMC, is that over these years, we will ultimately be able to work on millions of monies that you've allocated. In total, the 280 billion over the three years be because we take labour very seriously, and we respect our employees. We understand that our employees are our most valuable resources, and we can't provide service delivery without any form of agreement with our employees.

Speaker, as I sit down, I want to ask and remind everybody about the 29th of May – because that is the day of beaconing. President Cyril Ramaphosa will cast his vote as the State President, and all of us, as the citizens will also cast our votes, but we will also cast our votes because we will be defending the gains of democracy. We will cast our votes to make sure that no more, shall a black child be a sub-human. President Cyril Ramaphosa will lead us, and we will make sure that as per MMC Finance stated, he will lead us to the Union Buildings. Again, for another five years, and he will leave no one behind. We would like to call on our people to go out in numbers, and make sure that they put their crosses in the right place. We cannot afford to go back to an era where the few and the minority were in charge. Let the citizens of South Africa - the majority speak and say, first ballot, vote ANC. On the second ballot, vote ANC and on the third ballot, vote ANC. Viva ANC! Viva! Thank you, Madame Speaker.”

3.1 RESPONSES BY MMC FINANCE

“Greetings to the Speaker of Council, the Executive Mayor, Councillor Gwamanda; the Whip of Council, Councillor Zungu; Members of the Mayoral Committee and all Councillors who are here today.

Madame Speaker, the important issues that one needs to note, is that putting together this budget, we were of course mindful of the need to strengthen the finances of the city. We have worked closely with the National Treasury, and in working with the National Treasury was to ensure that the budget that we will be tabling is a funded budget, first and foremost. The National Treasury would have gone through a process of assessing to make sure that indeed, the assumptions that are in the budget are funded assumptions. They would have gone through a process of interrogating not only the budget but including the governance structures of the City of Johannesburg. Assessing its institutions to confirm that indeed, this is a funded budget, and whether we will have the capacity to fund it through our assumptions that we would have made. We can, therefore, say where we are as Finance and as the Executive and City of Johannesburg, the budget assumptions are credible, and the revenue estimates are realistic. You will see that we have projected what it is, that will come from electricity, rates and taxes and the revenue that will come from the sales of water. We also looked into the grants that we are expecting so we are certain the assumptions were correct including, of course, the loans that we will be raising – we have been assessed against our ability to finance and repay those loans.

On the argument that of tariffs, it is important to note that the tariff's to us has been more of what they call a pass through, especially from our bulk suppliers as you know NERSA would have gone through a process with Eskom to increase or decide on the increase of tariffs. All what we did was to pass on as a result of not having enough resources to probably cushion with those increases but history will tell, we've always passed the costs. It is also important to note that the operational and capital budget is multi-year and reflective of long-term planning. So, you'll see that we plan on a three-year cycle long term to ensure that we plan long-term as the City of Johannesburg.

We have also outlined that we are entering a period in which we are creating partnerships over and above the other spheres of government. We are creating partnerships with the private sector, institutions of government and creating partnerships with international organizations with a view to helping us to attend to infrastructure challenges. You would know that we are very far in terms of our agreements with the World Resource Institute, around assisting on 1. Matter of climate change. 2. On matters of infrastructure. These are the institutions that have committed that they will be helping municipalities in South Africa, and we are one of five municipalities that were selected by these institutions. We are also creating partnerships with GTECH to try and address infrastructure in Johannesburg. GTECH is one institution of government that we think will be able to assist us to inject some capital in helping us address long-term, the infrastructure of Johannesburg.

Yes, we have always admitted and accepted that indeed, the infrastructure in Johannesburg requires refurbishment. No one has denied that truth because it's the truth, and therefore, it requires us to start raising capital. It is also the truth that over the period of time, our maintenance budget has been lower than the national now and that is to ensure that we can be at that level in terms of our maintenance budget. Also alive to the need to address the current levels of non-revenue water and the Sinking Fund in response to Councillor Boer. The city continues to make contributions each year towards the future redemptions of our borrowings. I think, Madam Speaker, I also need to try and deal with the fact that the budget process in itself is a product of what the departments would have produced, and Finance only interrogates and allocates finances. It's very critical that we say that.

I hear that Councillor Abdool has been concerned in her speech about the work we are not doing enough much in areas like Eldos and Riverlea, and I think we have noted some of the concerns that you have raised. There are business plans that would have been submitted and some of the projects will be or are contained in the Departmental business plans, they might not have been announced in the budget speech but some projects you will be able to see within the business plans of the Departments. But over and above, in Region G, there's projects that were made, even announced clearly, around Lenasia. In Eldos alone, there's a Power Station project with City Power; in Lenasia, the Loftus substation and Trade Route Switching Station upgrades, these are some of the projects that have been done in Region G, and over and above we have quantified this region as a deprivation area and we've made sure that we focus some of the projects there to try and increase the quality of life of our people.

Speaker, there were issues raised by Councillor Gantsho, in terms of insourcing and the hijacking of buildings. Which I think there are critical issues that require Council to find ways and resources to deal with this thing. The matter of insourcing, where we are, we had insourced just 4 000 if not 3 000 cleaner and security guards, in the year 2017, 2016 and in 2019 we through a budget adjustment to bring in an additional 700 million which was meant, to address the insourcing program. Which at that point, we thought it is almost completed, but we have been told and the Mayor has memorandums that he had received of those that say they have not been into the insourcing. As such, it requires a final report of what investigations has been done but a total of 700 million additional budget which was put in the insourcing project in 2019. It is also important to note, that our employee cost needs to be managed and

looked at properly so that we don't find ourselves no longer having money for projects, just having money for salaries. Hijacked buildings, I think there is work that is continuously being done, currently, we have received about six judgments, through Group Legal. Which also speaks to the hijacked buildings in the inner-city and action had therefore been taken to address that. We have also put aside money as far as demolishing of buildings that bad and hijacked in the inner-city, and we think that budget will help us to deal with this – which is allocated in the Development Planning.

We all agree that this works it's work that all of us must find ways to help us deal with this thing of hijacked buildings. Where there are weaknesses in terms of termination notices, Councillor Gantsho, I think customers and of course, political parties should direct us to say, in this particular area, there's been problems in terms of notices to terminate services. In fact, we have to implement credit control at all times to ensure that the city's debt or the debt book does not increase to the levels that it will get out of control. That is why we must implement credit control measures in all our areas, for all our customers. Councillor Belinda has left, I would have loved to deal with the issue of Eskom in her presence. The issue of Eskom is in two ways, and it is important to explain. Eskom argued that we are owing them R1 billion, and we've admitted in the city that we have not paid the invoice because the invoice is only due this month. So, this invoice they're talking about is for the last week of April and the two weeks in May. You'll understand that we pay Eskom almost in 14 days of the invoice – I'm trying to simplify it. It is not like your municipal bill where you must pay on the 29, we have a cycle of payment with them. Now, they then argue that we have not paid. Yes, we have not paid because the invoice is not due. 2. You owe us Eskom, as the City of Johannesburg, Eskom owes us about 3.3 billion and it is increasing because in the month of May when we receive electricity – and let us explain this thing, how it happens. Councillor Jack explained that when Eskom sends electricity to us, it comes onto our network. They have their meters, and we have meters, our meters have confirmed that the electricity sent is so much but the invoice that comes from Eskom is higher than what our meter has. At least on two occasions last year, they admitted to overbilling, and as a result of that, they reversed and credited the city. Now, why is it a problem now that even requires us to go to court. We've escalated the matter back to Eskom and we've also went to our attorneys to defend the matter in court, but then the political leadership will then have to intervene through the Executive Mayor that there must be a way to find a settlement outside the court. Now, Councillor Belinda has left, I hope she will get it online the response on this matter. She has also raised issues about us tracking revenue from service departments and there's no organization that can function without tracking the departments that are actually revenue generating because you are dependent on those. We are constantly checking on revenue and it is no secret that we've already spoken during the adjustment budget and during the budget steering committee, with both City Power and Joburg Water that they must reduce their losses. In fact, we have given a target to both City Power and Joburg Water on reducing their losses. So, we are becoming more stricter with these two entities, especially on the losses. I've responded to all questions asked. Thank you, madame Speaker."

3.2 COMMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the Speaker of Council; Whip of Council, Councillor Zungu; Members of the Mayoral Committee; Chairpersons of Section 79 Oversight Committees; leaders of political parties, including those on my left and those in absentia; the City Manager, Mr Floyd Brink; members in the Gallery; the Royal families; any other representative and political leader that may be within our midst, protocol observed; residents in the City of Johannesburg and the members of the Media.

Madame Speaker, I'm not going to take long. I think the MMC has responded but I just needed – and unfortunately Councillor Belinda is not here but I needed to recommend that she reads the MFMA, Section 59 in particular, Section (c) and (3). It will be clear on the fact that whether my delegation is with an MMC or not, I still have full authority to execute it whether in or in their absence, so, the delegation remains. And you were correct madame Speaker but equally so, I would like to register once more that in our public consultative processes, our IDP, themed the people's plan madame Speaker. This administration elevated, like the MMC had alluded to deprivation areas and Madam Speaker, the municipal entities under the stewardship of MMCs, have compiled business plans that speak to some of the critical issues that need to be addressed within our areas of deprivation. I just want to take the opportunity to acknowledge the effort that was put in on the part of the Department of Finance under the stewardship of MMC Finance. But also, Madam Speaker, acknowledges the fact that the National Treasury has given the city positive feedback on our budget. It was important for this administration to ensure that our budgets were realistic, and we successfully achieved that, in line with our number one priority, which is good governance.

I'm not going to go into more of the details of the budget madame Speaker, in case I overkill but I just want to acknowledge and indicate that the City of Johannesburg, under the stewardship of the government of local unity will continue in its endeavor to ensure that we cater to all seven regions in the City of Johannesburg, and we do the best that we can to improve the quality of service to our residents.

Thank you very much, madame Speaker. I request that the budget be approved.”

4 RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

The Executive Mayor tabled the reports for consideration by the Council from the Executive.

Councillor Raphadu tabled the reports for consideration by the Council from the Legislature.

Item 1 2024/2025 INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT
 PLAN (IDP) REVIEW AND 2024/2025
 DEPARTMENTAL AND MUNICIPAL
 ENTITIES BUSINESS PLANS

After deliberations, Councillor de Lange requested a division of the House. The Speaker put the item to a vote, and the results were as follows:

Yes: 132

No: 46

Abstain:0

RESOLVED

That the City of Johannesburg's 2024/2025 Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and 2024/2025 Departmental and Municipal Entities Business Plans be tabled at Council for final approval.

(GROUP STRATEGIC POLICY COORDINATION AND RELATION)
(Mokgadi Ngobeni)

Item 2 TABLING OF THE 2024/25 INSTITUTIONAL
 SERVICE DELIVERY BUDGET AND
 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (SDBIP)

NOTED

That the 2024/25 Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) be noted by Council.

(GROUP STRATEGY, POLICY COORDINATION AND RELATIONS)
(Mokgadi Ngobeni)

ACTIONS
A DISSENT
VF+ DISSENT
PA DISSENT

Item 3 THE 2024/25 - 2026/27 MEDIUM TERM
BUDGET AND RELATED DOCUMENTATION
FOR THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

At this point, time being 18:58, the Speaker confirmed that there were 177 Councillors present in the Chamber.

This item was dealt simultaneously with Items 3A, 3B, 3C and 3D.

After deliberations, the Speaker put the item to a vote. The results were as follows:

Yes: 105

No: 52

20 Councillors did not vote.

THE ITEM WAS NOT CARRIED AND WILL BE BROUGHT BACK IN 7 DAYS.

ITEM 3A: 2024/25 – 2026/27 MEDIUM-TERM OPERATING
BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

Please refer to item 3 for comments.

1. That the consolidated operating revenue of R76.4 billion, operating expenditure of R75.7 billion, taxation of R41.2 million and capital grants and contributions of R3.7 billion for the City of Johannesburg for the financial year 2024/25, and the indicatives for the projected medium-term period 2025/26 to 2026/27 be approved as set out in the following attachments:
 - 1.1 The consolidated operating budget for the City, Core Administration and Municipal Entities as reflected in Annexure A, B and C.
 - 1.2 The operating revenue and expenditure budget by vote for the City as reflected in Annexure D.
2. That the subsidies payable by Core Administration to the following Municipal Entities be approved:

Municipal Entity	Original Budget 2023/24	Adjusted Budget 2023/24	Budget 2024/25	Estimate 2025/26	Estimate 2026/27
	R 000	R 000	R 000	R 000	R 000
Pikitup	1 306 074	1 248 866	1 207 377	1 206 349	1 193 898
Johannesburg Roads Agency	1 323 633	1 310 112	1 394 601	1 445 105	1 497 527
Metrobus	599 576	607 299	622 766	645 785	668 877
Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo	1 142 236	1 057 688	1 098 723	1 136 766	1 176 323
Johannesburg Development Agency	43 041	71 574	72 166	74 792	77 351
Johannesburg Property Company	671 270	623 131	656 397	677 263	685 871
Metropolitan Trading Company	259 136	259 136	224 616	214 644	220 275
Johannesburg Social and Housing Company	48 617	110 687	133 501	136 865	140 436
Joburg City Theatres	183 984	201 182	205 358	211 893	218 658
Joburg Tourism	69 121	69 121	91 320	94 516	97 788
City Power	269 980	269 980	304 375	343 153	386 871
Total subsidies to ME's	5 916 668	5 828 776	6 011 201	6 187 131	6 363 875

- 3 That the supporting information contained in the 2024/25 – 2026/27 Medium-Term Revenue and Expenditure Budget document as required in terms of Section 17(3) of the Municipal Finance Management Act (Act 56 of 2003) be approved in conjunction with this report.

ITEM 3B: 2024/25 – 2026/27 MEDIUM-TERM CAPITAL
BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

Please refer to Item 3 for comments.

1. That the capital budget of R7 414 826 000 for the year 2024/25, R7 880 921 000 for the year 2025/26 and R7 425 162 000 for the year 2026/27 of the City of Johannesburg be approved in terms of Section 16 (3) of the MFMA as set out in the following schedules:
 - 1.1 Capital budget by vote for each of the Municipal Entities and Core Administration as reflected in Annexure A.
 - 1.2 Capital budget by project for each of the Municipal Entities and Core Administration as reflected in Annexure B.

ITEM 3C: THE REPORT ON OUTCOMES OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION
ON THE PROPOSED 2024/25 BUDGET AND ITS REVENUE
RAISING MEASURES AND THE TECHNICAL
EVALUATION LED BY NATIONAL TREASURY

Please refer to Item 3 for comments.

1. Note on the body of the report how the legislative requirements as they relate to public participation have been complied with.
2. After careful consideration of the analysis of comments made and the technical recommendations that should be carried into the final budget note that in terms of section 11 (3)(i) and 75a (1) and (2) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 2000, 32 of 2000, as amended, read with Section 24(2)(c)(ii) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 56 of 2003 and the Sections 9 and 14 of the Local Government: Municipal Property Rates Act, 6 of 2004 hereby, approve the proposed rates and tariffs; for the 2024/25 financial year, as set out in Annexures 1 to 24, and the property rates bylaw as set out in Annexure 25.
3. That the approved rates and tariffs, and the property rates bylaw be implemented with effect from 1 July 2024

4. That, in terms of Sections 17(3)(a)(ii) and 22(a)(i) and (ii) of the Local Government Municipal Finance Management Act, 56 of 2003 and Sections 21, 21A(1) and 75A(3) of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act, 32 of 2000, as amended and also Section 14(3) of the Municipal Property Rates Act, 6 of 2004, the following legislative compliance processes were undertaken as reflected in the body of the report:
 - (i) A display a copy of the resolution in the manner prescribed Section 75A (3)(a) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 32 of 2000, as amended.
 - (ii) A publication in newspapers of general circulation of a notice in the manner prescribed in section 75A (3)(b) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 32 of 2000, as amended.
 - (iii) Through the above platforms as contained in the body of the report, the substance of public consultation was shared with the ratepayers.
5. That a copy of the notice referred to in Paragraph 5(ii) above be sent forthwith to the MEC for Local Government and the National and Provincial Treasury in terms of Section 75A(4) of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act, 32 of 2000 as amended.
6. That specific for property rating as required through sections 5, 6 and 14 of the Local Government: Municipal Property Rate Act, 6 of 2004 read with its amendments, the revised Property Rates Policy and its By-law be approved, noting that a resolution on levying of rates should be placed in the *Provincial Gazette*, and the notice be made by the City Manager.
7. That a copy of the finally approved Tariff Charges be sent forthwith to the National and Provincial Treasury in terms of Section 24(3) of the Local Government Municipal Finance Management Act, 56 of 2003.

ITEM 3D: AUTHORISATION TO APPROVE THE 2024/25
DRAFT RATES POLICY AND 2024/25 DRAFT
RATES POLICY BY-LAWS

Please refer to item 3 for comments.

- 1 That Council approves the 2024/25 Draft Rates Policy (Annexure A) and 2024/25 Draft Rates Policy By-laws (Annexure B).
- 2 That Council notes the submissions received from various stakeholders during public engagements (Annexure C).

- 3 That Council notes summary of the submissions and the responses provided by the City in relation to the submissions (Annexure D).

(GROUP FINANCE)
 (Veli Hlophe)
 (Deputy Director: Policy and Revenue Enhancement)

Item 4 YEAR PLANNER/ SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS OF THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES: JULY 2024 TO JUNE 2025

RESOLVED

- 1 That Council approves the proposed year planner/ schedule of Council and Committee meetings for the period July 2024 to June 2025, as indicated in Annexure A attached to the report.
- 2 That the proposed year planner/ schedule of meetings as per Recommendation 1 above, be reviewed as and when such need arise.

(COJ LEGISLATURE)
 (J M Moremi)
 (Tel. (011) 407-7340)

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker thanked all Councillors for their participation and announced that the Council would reconvene in 7 days.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 19:40.



.....
 SPEAKER OF COUNCIL
 CLLR M ARNOLDS

22 AUGUST 2024

.....
 DATE