



## **CITY OF JOHANNESBURG COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG IN HONOUR OF THE LATE COUNCILLOR M MPHAHLELE HELD AT THE CONSTANCE CONNIE BAPELA COUNCIL CHAMBER, BRAAMFONTEIN, ON WEDNESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 09:00.**

**SPEAKER OF COUNCIL  
COUNCILLOR N MTHEMBU**

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

## MEMBERS PRESENT

The Speaker: Councillor M N Mthembu

The Executive Mayor: Councillor S E Morero

Abdool, F	Gwamanda, K
Amad, T	Harman, L J (DA)
Aphane, J D	Harris, R
Arnolds, M S	Hlatshwayo, S M
Atterbury, E	Hoén, J N
Avant-Smith, C	Horwitz, J
Baloyi, D L	Hughes, Z
Bini, L	Jacobs, B
Bittkau, R	Jacobs, K
Boer, C	Jainooden, Z
Bolani, M G	Johnson, N
Brand, D G	Jonker, N
Buthelezi, T C	Kaldine, J
Chabalala, M D	Karolia, Y
Chame, F	Kgeletsane, M O
Chauke, K L	Khanyile, N M
Chetsanga, H	Khumalo, X I
Chuma, A T	Koekemoer, M
Coogan, L C	Komane, S A
Cook, M	Kreusch, S
Coutriers, M J	Kunene, K
Coverdale, D L T	Kwapeng, C
Da rocha, C M D	Landis, R
Dammie, B H	Lebatlang, T Z
Davids, M	Lebea, M G
Davids-Green, L C	Lefutso, L
De Lange, F C	Leshilo, R S
Deppe, A J	Liebenberg, E
Dewes, D S	Lobi, M
Dladla, D	Louw, M A
Dlamini, B	Maake, M J
Doyle, T	Mabaso, M P
Durand, G V M	Mabelebele, S S
Echeozonjoku, B C	Mabidilala, M P
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

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

Nofemela, N	Sherman, G J
Nonkumbi, I M	Shumba, K A
Ntoele, N L	Sifumba, N
Ntombela, M J	Simelane, P
Ntshidi, T E	Simelane, S O
Nyembe, M M	Simonse, L C
Nyembe, Z P	Sindani, F P
Nzimande, C	Smit, P A
Papo, M M	Steenkamp, D
Pelzer, R	Stewart, A J
Phometsi, P S	Suddaby, J
Pietersen, J	Supe, N P
Pietersen, N	Tabane, M C
Ponsonby, D A	Tambani, P S
Radebe, N P	Tefu, P V
Radebe, T T	Telekoa, A
Rahn, N J	Tshwaku, M
Raholane, M W	Tshedo, J G
Rakosa, P M	Tshehlo, G J
Ramafikeng, D J	Tsotetsi, L Y M
Ramaru, G	Twala, Y A
Rambani, N S	Van der Merwe, M
Raphadu, A T	Van Wyk, W M
Raseruthe, S H	Wax, K P
Reddy, V M	Williams, M C
Roberts, F C	Wilskut, D
Rohlssen, C K	Wissler, S T J
Santana, C G	Xuma, L
Seerane, M K	Zazini, A
Sehoai, R J	Zigebe, Y L
Sekhu, M V	Zitha, S L
Shackleford, L M	Zondo, L T
Shange, P A	Zungu, N G
Shawe, Z	Zwane, S

## 1 OPENING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

*The dSpeaker requested Council to observe a moment of silence or meditation.*

*She thereafter addressed Council as follows:*

*“Dear friends and family, welcome to this memorial service as we gather to celebrate the life and legacy of Councillor Mphahlele. Today we come together to honour his memory, to share our grief and find comfort in the love and support that surrounds us. We acknowledge the pain and the loss that we all feel today and we recognise the profiled impact Councillor Mphahlele had on our lives.*

*We gather to remember his smile, his laughter, and his unwavering spirit. May this service be a testament to the love and memories we shared with the late councillor Mphahlele, and may we find solace in the knowledge that his legacy will live through us. "*

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

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

*Councillor Amod, C J  
Councillor Benjamin, R F  
Councillor Schay, D  
Councillor Crichton, M  
Councillor van Dyk, N J  
Councillor Truluck, T F  
Councillor Huggett, E A  
Councillor Christians, A  
Councillor Hooper, R S  
Councillor da Gama, V M  
Councillor Sekwaila, B J*

*The speaker proceeded to address the Council as follows:*

*"Fellow Councillors, the Mphahlele, Mahlogo, and Ngcobo families, officials, and community members present at this Special Council meeting. Most of us know that loss is a part of life, but that does not make it any easier.*

*The death of a loved one often takes its toll on those left behind, and at times it can feel like grief is never-ending. Death remains a very difficult pain to deal with. All mighty God, we rejoice in your promises of love, joy, and peace; in your mercy, turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life, a sorrow of pain into a joy of heaven through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who died and rose again. This morning, I want to say to all of us here that we should continue to embrace the soul of the late Councillor Moshe Mphahlele, knowing that there is healing in our tears, for the Bible reminds us "Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted."*

*There is only one happiness in this life ... to love and be loved.*

*As is a tale, so is life. Not how long it is, but how good it is, is what matters.*

*As all the families continue to carry this grief in their respective ways, I also urge members of this Council that we also do so collectively.*

*The darker the night, the brighter the stars, the deeper the grief, the closer to God.*

*The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched; they must be felt within the heart.*

*Fellow Councillors, family, and friends, the City of Johannesburg Council continue to wish the Mphahlele, Mahlogo, and Ngcobo families present here today peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead, and loving memories to uphold their hearts. Words will not wipe away your tears and hugs may not ease the pain but hold onto your memories because forever they will remain."*

### **3 MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR**

*The Executive Mayor Councillor S E Morero addressed the Council as follows:*

*"Good morning, Speaker of Council; the family of Mphahlele, fellow councillors, ladies, and gentlemen. We shall miss his charming smile, we shall miss his tall height, the tall one, mgaga. We shall miss his brightness and bravery in matters of national importance affecting the land dispossessed of the people of South Africa and the oppressed people of the world.*

*He committed his life to the freedom of the Palestinian people. Mphahlele served the people fearlessly, even when it cost him his life, by being at the forefront of advancing the grievances of the poor and the hopeless. He was a vigilant leader who never compromised the fundamental objectives of the liberation struggle of his people.*

*The revolutionary giant, Smangaliso Robert Sobukwe, once said this about the land: "When it came to the issue of the land, we stand firmly on the side of African kings, who were the first freedom fighters against colonialism in this country.*

*We support and stand with leaders such as Dr. Don Dube, Sol Plaatje, and Dr. Honta Gabusana, who petitioned King George V on 20 July 1914. They demanded that the African people in this country be granted land proportional to their population and under the same conditions as the white race.*

*Land is a primary source of life, land is life, and without land, there is no life. Land is a primary means of production; therefore, it is a basic asset for the nation. Food does not grow in the sky, houses are built on it, and mineral resources are dug from the land, therefore, the land is surveyed without the land there is only poverty and lack of resources, to feed our people, children, and the generations to come.*

*Madam Speaker, we are paying tribute to this man, who I am certain that this Council and this chamber will miss his smile and his charm. Especially every time we came back from lunch, he became a very different person displaying humility and laughter at all times, you would swear that these were two different people, the one you have seen in the morning and the one you have seen after lunch. Councillors will understand what I am talking about.*

*There is a Mphahlele who sat in this Council, who always challenged the Speaker on procedural matters when in fact at times, he was the one violating procedural matters in Council. There is Mphahlele, who sat and approached any comrade, any councillor, from any party and continued to engage them. At times he would deliberate the yards at the weight of the input by Councillors from the Democratic Alliance. He would yard without being personal or attacking the next Councillor.*

*Madam Speaker, indeed, life has robbed us of a wonderful soul, a wonderful human being. Whom all of us will remember him for his contribution to advancing the struggle for the betterment of the people of Johannesburg and the betterment of the people of South Africa.*

*I would like to refer to John Maxwell's book, The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership. In it, he defines the first law, The Law of the Lid, stating that 'how well you lead determines how well you succeed.' The second law, The Law of Influence, emphasizes that 'the true measure of leadership is influence - nothing more, nothing less.' How, then, can we measure the effectiveness of the lid.*

*One of the most effective leaders of the late 21st century was anything but conventional in her actions. When most people think of Mother Teresa, they envision a petite woman dedicated to serving the poorest of the poor - and she was. However, she was also tremendously influential, possessing an extraordinary ability to inspire and guide others.*

*The third law is The Law of Process. John Maxwell states, and I quote, 'Leadership develops daily, not in a day.' The secret of our success lies in our daily agenda. We should continually invest in leadership development, allowing our efforts to compound like assets, with inevitable growth over time.*

*Madam Speaker, we are grateful that today we know where Mphahlele was buried. However, in the pursuit of our liberation struggle, many sons, and daughters of the soil - and their mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, uncles, and aunts - were lost without their families knowing where their bodies were laid to rest.*

*This has now caused the National Government of this country millions of rands to undertake a process and a project to exhume bodies of those who died in exile in the execution of the struggle. And those who died in unmarked graves in the country, those who were murdered by the apartheid state.*

*We are now reminded, as a result of the ruthless nature of the apartheid regime, of the resources spent on exhuming bodies - resources that could have been directed toward the development of our country. We shall never forget the pain and destruction apartheid inflicted upon us.*

*Today, Mphahlele's family can stand tall, finding solace in knowing where their loved one rests, in the soil of our people. In conclusion, let me once again acknowledge and honour Mphahlele, whose contributions significantly improved the quality of life for all residents of Johannesburg.*

*We can now walk tall, knowing that Mphahlele was not merely born, attended primary school, and obtained a matric certificate without purpose. Instead, we stand proud knowing that he made significant contributions and sacrificed his life for the people of this country.*

*Ra leboga бага Mokgaka! pelo tsa rona di botlhoko. The pain you are experiencing is a pain we, too, share with you. Madam Speaker, I will conclude with a scripture that comes from Timothy 11:3-6, which says things which have a striking resemblance of dysfunctional practices, which characterise the wining of the colossal movement which inspires the following to appear in its life.*

*I quote, "There will be terrible times in the last days, people will love themselves, they will love money, they will brag and be proud, they will tear others up, they won't obey their parents, they won't love others, they won't forgive others, they will tell lies about each other, they will be proud of themselves, they will have what is good, they will turn against themselves, they will think they are better than others, I have nothing to do with this people ". (2 Timothy 3:1-5)*

*I feel this scripture will define the period in which, as the South African society, we find ourselves today. Robala ka kgotso Mokgaka! rest in everlasting peace, thank you, Madam speaker."*

#### **4 MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS (EFF)**

*Councillor Makhafola E (EFF) addressed Council as follows:*

*"Executive Mayor, Fellow Councillors, Family of the Late Cllr Moshe Mphahlele, Distinguished guests, EFF Party Leader Fighter Sepetlele Raseluthe, EFF whip Tabisa*

*One of the greatest revolutionaries of our lifetime Che Guevara once said and I quote "We cannot be sure of having something to live for, unless we are willing to die for it" It is with profound sorrow and immense respect that today I stand before you in this council in memory of Fearless Radical Commissar (FRC) to mourn and lament his untimely and brutal death of Commissar Moshe Mphahlele. We feel a deep and immeasurable pain cutting through our hearts because you were callously murdered by evil, barbaric and inhumane bloodthirsty security forces while fighting for the community's rights to housing.*

*We are reminded that your life was taken in August, a month in 2012 when we witnessed the striking down of 33 mineworkers in Marikana by bloody thirsty security forces.*

*As we witness your death, we remember the tragic loss of fighter Doctor Mlangeni, Andries Tatane, Nkululeko Gwala, Mlungisi Madonsela, and many other activists who have paid the ultimate price like yourself, in the fight for service delivery.*

*We remember the martyrs of abahlali basemjondolo who were victims to the barren of a gun because like you, they took up the just fight for housing which, is an extension of the fight for land expropriation without compensation.*

*FRC, your life and sacrifice serve as a powerful reminder of the dangerous path we tread in our struggle for economic freedom in our lifetime.*

*Your untimely death left us with many questions to which we have no answer. Your callous murder by evil and barbaric blood thirst security forces has left the people of Alexander and the City of Johannesburg and EFF members poorer.*

*As days pass, since the day of your passing, I still ponder as to why you were killed, and who will benefit from your killing. I hope as investigation, inquiries and inquest are made on your murder, we will get answers as to why you were killed on whose instruction and to what benefit; anything less would be a miscarriage of justice. Justice must be served for your death.*

*In due time, the City of Johannesburg, and the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements, will have to answer why residential homes are occupied and manned by evil and barbaric murderous security companies. In your name, PSIRA, SAPS and JMPD will have to explain and account for why a service delivery protest for housing had to end in you being killed.*

*As EFF, we commit to ensure that we leave no stone unturned until we know the true motive for your murder and those that conspired to murder you are brought to justice. Speaker, allow me to quote in the bible 1 Kings 21:19 'In the place where the dogs licked the up the blood of Naboth, there also dogs will lick up your blood.'*

***"FRC MOSHE MPHAHLELE, IN THE PLACE WHERE THE DOGS LICKED UP YOUR BLOOD, ALSO DOGS WILL LICK UP THE BLOOD OF THE EVIL AND BARBARIC SECURITY FORCES WHO TOOK YOUR LIFE"***

*As you lay cold in the belly of the earth, I am warmed by the title bestowed on you by the Commander in Chief President Julius Malema, of honorary Commissar. There is no one who deserves such honor like you, Commissar Moshe Mphahlele.*

*You were a brave, fearless, radical, and selfless fighter who always put community first in everything you do. Without fear of contradiction, and without any doubt in our hearts and minds, we can say you joined the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) when it was not fashionable to do so.*

*You wore the EFF red beret and overalls with immense pride, and you stood tall as a beacon of hope and resistance for the oppressed, landless, and homeless people of Alexander, City of Johannesburg, and Gauteng.*

*We are left asking ourselves, where we will find, develop, nurture, or recruit a leader with your leadership style, which is deeply rooted in the revolutionary principles to serve, suffer, and sacrifice. A leader who was is always surrounded by the masses of our people, guided by their will and their demands.*

*You always demonstrated that revolution is an act of love, and you lived by EFF Constitution because of your love for your fellow fighters. As a true activist, you were always at the forefront of questioning issues that did not sit well with revolutionary consciousness, whether inside or outside the EFF. You were always eager to engage and discuss issues without fear or favour.*

*Your decisions and actions were a testament to your commitment to the people's struggle. A disciplined, loyal cadre who, by any means necessary, dedicated your life to serving the people.*

*In 2017, the organization recognized your immense contribution to the life of the EFF in Johannesburg and deployed you as one of the PR Councillors in the City of Johannesburg until you met your untimely death.*

*Every time you spoke in this Council, you echoed the demands of the people of Alexander, and presented concrete solutions to improve service delivery for the people of Alexander and Johannesburg at large.*

*Your sharp voice shouting "Point of Order" Speaker will be remembered in this house. Rest In Revolutionary peace, FRC,*

*To the family, we thank you for sharing Commissar Moshe Mphahlele with us. May you please find comfort in the Lord.*

*Those of us who remain, we draw inspiration from your revolutionary contributions to the EFF and community activism. We learn from your unwavering commitment and relentless activism. We will pick your spear and shield and continue the fight for economic freedom in our lifetime, "ECONOMIC FREEDOM IN OUR LIFETIME" We owe Commissar Moshe Mphahlele's memory to ensure that his sacrifice was not in vain.*

*We call on the City of Johannesburg Housing to allocate those houses in Marlboro to the rightful owners as a way of honoring the life of Commissar Moshe Mphahlele. In memory of the late Commissar Moshe Mphahlele, we call for a ceasefire in the eviction of the occupants of Marlboro Containers.*

*The EFF will table a motion to the Council for Marlboro Containers to be named after the late Commissar Moshe Mphahlele.*

*We will also table a motion in the Council to demand the immediate allocation of the containers to the occupants.*

*Let us stand together, united in our cause, and move forward with even greater determination. As we move forward, we will strive to embody the lessons you imparted and the values you stood for. Your fighting spirit and love for justice will continue to inspire us, and we will carry your legacy with us in every battle we face. Rest in Power, dear fighter. You fought a good fight; you ran a good race. We will forever miss you.*

*Commissar Moshe Mphahlele, Farewell but not goodbye, Fearless Radical Commissar. KWAATAA FIGHTER KWAATAA"*

## 5 MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE BY OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES

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

*Khutso e be wena, Ke a go leboga Modula Situlo, Madam Speaker,*

*Ke rata go thoma ka go leboga Modimo yo Matla kamoka, Modimo Tate, Modimo Morwa, Modimo Moya o Mokgethwa, Mohlodi wa legodimo le lefase. Ke dumedishe lelapa la Ka Bokgoshing, Bakgaga ba ga-Mphahlele le meloko kamoka. Ke leboge Ratoporo e mogolo, Mokanselara, Sello Dada Morero, Badiri mmogo le Makanselara kamoka. Ke leboge Badudi ka moka ba Motse Toporo wa Johannesburg (Maboneng). Ke le dumedisha kamoka ka leina le lematla la Mopholoshi le Morena wa rena Jesu Kriste, Kgoshi ya kgoshi, Morena wa Khutso ka moka (The Prince of Peace), Amen.*

*The African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) Joburg Caucus conveys its heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, colleagues, and constituents of the Red Berets (EFF) for the passing on of their own and the member of the City of Johannesburg Council, Cllr Kgoshi Moshe Mphahlele, whom we learned with sorrow that he has departed this world to be with the Lord Almighty over a month in an unfortunate shooting. It is very disturbing that we are a City and Country at war with itself. The murder rates in RSA are scary and not worth mentioning today. Botho bo kae MaAfrika? A re rataneng MaAfrika.*

*From what we know about Cllr Mphahlele, he was kind yet robust, hard-working, dedicated and a very reliable public servant to the work of the community in the City of Johannesburg.*

*We sympathize with you as the ACDP, our thoughts and prayers will continue to be with you as a family. As part of our healing process, let us all find comfort in Paul's First letter to the church in Corinth, 1 Corinthians 15: 51 - 57, which asserts that: "We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed "Transition", in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed "Transformed."*

*For this corruptible shall put on the incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So, when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory" lehu le fentshwe." O death, where is your sting? O hades, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ". In his honour, let us prioritize and accelerate service delivery. As Councillors and public servants, we shall continue to fight the following common enemies; Gender-Based Violence & Femicide (GBVF), poor service delivery, high levels of corruption, housing backlog, and the unacceptable high levels of unemployment, especially youth unemployment, the list is endless.*

*Let us all (Borrowed from Growing Gauteng Together (GGT2030).*

- *Build a sustainable future for all,*
- *Grow the economy that includes all,*

- *Deliver a society that protects and cares for the poor and most vulnerable,*
- *Deliver quality Education, skills, and quality health care for all,*
- *End crime including Gender Based Violence & Femicide (GBVF), to create a safe and secure environment for all,*
- *Create a society where nobody is left out.*
- *We call for Service, Order and Safety as the ACDP Joburg Caucus.*

*May his soul rest in eternal peace (A MOYA WA GAGWE O ITHOBALELE KA KHUTSO HLE).*

*I thank you, Shalom Shalom,*

*Councillor van Wyk (ActionSA) addressed Council as follows:*

*“The God of All Comfort*

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort. For who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.*

*ActionSA expresses its deepest condolences to you during this difficult time. I have had the privilege of knowing Cllr Mphahlele since 2016, and I can attest to his remarkable character and dedication to public service.*

*We gather today to celebrate the life and legacy of a remarkable individual who left an indelible mark on our community. Cllr Mphahlele was a dedicated public servant, a passionate advocate for justice, and a loving family member. His passing leaves a void in our lives that can never be filled, but we take comfort in the memories we shared with him. We remember his infectious smile, his generous spirit, and his unwavering commitment to making our world a better place.*

*Cllr Mphahlele was also a loyal and dedicated member of the EFF, the party he so loved. His passion and dedication to the party's values and principles were evident in everything he did. He will be deeply missed by his comrades and the entire EFF family.*

*Our condolences also go out to the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) for the loss of one of their own. May the party find strength and comfort in the memories of Cllr Mphahlele's contributions and dedication.*

*As we say goodbye to this extraordinary individual, we take strength from the knowledge that his legacy will live on. We will continue to draw inspiration from his example, and we will strive to make a positive impact on our community, just as he did.*

*"A true leader leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and a community that is better off because of their presence." - Unknown*

*Cllr Mphahlele's service to his community will never be forgotten. he has left an indelible mark in the hearts and his community."*

*"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." - Mahatma Gandhi*

*"Public service is a noble calling, and those who answer it deserve our respect and gratitude." – Unknown*

*May Councillor Mphahlele's memory be a blessing to us all and may his soul rest in peace."*

*Councillor Arnolds AIC) addressed the Council as follows:*

*"Let me first start by saying condolences to the Mphahlele family.*

*Speaker of Council, Councillor Nobuhle Mthembu; Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Councillor Sello Dada Morero; Councillors of the City of Johannesburg; leadership of the EFF in the City, led by Councillor Sepetlele Raseruthe; to the Mphahlele family; the leadership of the EFF that is present, Province and National.*

*Madam Speaker, today we gather to honour and celebrate the life of a remarkable man whose dedication to public service has left an indelible mark on our city. Councillor Mphahlele was more than a colleague. He was a beacon of hope, a tireless advocate for justice and a steadfast servant to the people of Johannesburg.*

*Councillor Mphahlele's journey in public service was characterized by an unwavering commitment to the principle of democracy. Equality and community empowerment. His tenure in the Council was marred by his relentless pursuit of policies that uplifted the marginalized. His innovative approach to local governance and his passionate speeches inspired us all to strive for a better future, even the fact that he called others out in Council.*

*In every meeting and every interaction, Councillor Mphahlele exemplified the values that we all as public servants hold dear. His work on numerous initiatives ranging from educational reforms to community health programs has touched the lives of countless residents. His legacy is one of transformative changes, fueled by a deep love for his community, that we cannot take away, and an unshakable belief in the potential of every individual. As we come together today to mourn but also to celebrate the life of Councillor Mphahlele, let us remember him as a man whose tireless spirit was rooted in activism and his unwavering dedication to justice.*

*He was more than a leader; he was a force of change. A voice for the voiceless, and a champion of the marginalized. His journey was one of a relentless pursuit for equality, a light in a struggle for a better Johannesburg and a better South Africa. As we reflect on his legacy, let us be inspired to continue the work that he so passionately lived for, never forgetting that his fight was for all of us, not just a few. His courage was life in every heart he touched and in every life he, changed. Today, we salute a hero whose impact will echo through generations. May his soul rest in peace and may his legacy continue to shine brightly in the heart of the City of Johannesburg.*

*I thank and once again, condolences to the Mphahlele family."*

Councillor Karolia (AL JAMA-AH) addressed the Council as follows:

*"My name is Jake Karolia, representing Al Jama-ah. My colleague, Councillor Amad, requested that I pass the condolences for the late Councillor Moshe Mphahlele. He said to me that this would have been the guy that you would have worked very well with because you guys are fighting the same course and the same things.*

*Nevertheless, let me just read a little bit of prayer and we can take it from there, unto the almighty do we belong and unto the almighty do we return. Death is not in our hands, death is actually in the hands of the almighty, immaterial in the course of death. So, today, I stand before you with a heavy heart as we continue to mourn the untimely loss of Councillor Moshe Mphahlele, a dedicated public servant whose life was tragically cut short.*

*I had not personally known Councillor Mphahlele, having recently joined the Council. The stories I have heard about him paint a picture of a man dedicated to serving the people of Johannesburg with integrity and passion. His passing has left us all shocked and deeply saddened, and I hoped that I would have this opportunity to work alongside him, serving our communities together, unfortunately, he is now late.*

*On behalf of Al Jama-ah caucus, I would like to extend to the Mphahlele family, friends and colleagues, our thoughts and prayers will continue to be with them. We also wish to express heartfelt sympathy to the EFF caucus in the City of Johannesburg City Council, losing a colleague, a friend, and a leader in such a tragic manner is undoubtedly a profound and painful experience. May Councillor Moshe Mphahlele's soul continue to rest in eternal peace and may his legacy of service inspire us all to continue striving for a just equitable society. We will honour his memory by continuing the important work that he cared so deeply about.*

*I, thank you, and I just wanted to introduce myself, I am the original Jake Karolia, from Al Jama-ah."*

Councillor Mokome (COPE) addressed the Council as follows:

*"Greetings to the Speaker; the Executive Mayor; residents of the City of Johannesburg; all political parties; the City Manager, Mr Brink and the Mphahlele family.*

*Madam Speaker, the Congress of the People pays tribute to a consummate politician, a modern-day activist, and unfortunately, his political career was cut short. But also, in essence, we say thank you to the EFF for unearthing this amazing talent in Councillor Mphahlele. Thank you, amen."*

*Councillor Rambani (DA) addressed the Council as follows:*

*“Greetings to all Councillors and the Mphahlele family.*

*I am here to speak about Moshe Mphahlele. I have known Moshe Mphahlele. I have encountered Moshe Mphahlele, I have met. The first time I met Moshe Mphahlele was in 2016, during the election campaign as he was flying his picture in the pole to become a Ward Councillor for Ward 117. We worked together the whole campaign in 2016, and to tell you the results that he had given us in the greater Alexander, the Democratic Alliance and I had thought that we were going to beat the Economic Freedom Fighters.*

*But Moshe Mphahlele outshined us ward 117 received a lot of votes at that time in Alexander. He was fearless and popularly known as a Fearless Radical Commissar and some would address him as FRC. He was fearless in confronting what he regarded as unfair and injustice. He was the people’s person on the service delivery front. He helped people who experienced service delivery issues. Housing-related, he would hold the public representative to account, and he would also go to government offices to help residents have their problems solved. When the fire was burning the people’s homes, he was the lead fire brigade. He encouraged people to build their homes with bricks and mortars to avoid accidents like those.*

*The DA would continue to ensure that the city identified land for landless people. The DA will continue to push for unoccupied, complete structures to be allocated to deserving beneficiaries. To the families of Moshe Mphahlele, may you find comfort from the Bible scripture, Psalm 34 verse 18: the Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. I, thank you.”*

*Councillor Nyembe (IFP) addressed the Council as follows:*

*“Greetings to the Speaker; the Executive Mayor; political party leaders and the Mphahlele family.*

*Our gathering here today may suggest to someone else that we are opening the wounds that are attempting to heal. But the truth is that he was a soldier we worked with, it was important that we do what we are doing here today, to comfort the family, the people he was close to and the EFF.*

*We are offering our condolences to the family and the EFF so that everyone finds peace and healing; as the Council we experienced Councillor Mphahlele. He indeed played his role and did shake up Council. We all knew when he raised his hand, something was going to happen.*

*A leader and his deeds are felt after his passing, by observing the mourning of everyone who encountered him, not only his close associates but everyone including the residents and members of different political parties. I witnessed my colleagues in the IFP, who work and resided in Alex how they cried and mourned the passing of Councillor Mphahlele, saying they had lost a progressive soldier.*

*As the IFP, we pray his soul rest in peace.*

*Councillor Simonse (PA) addressed the Council as follows:*

*“Good morning, Madam Speaker; honoured guests; colleagues and fellow mourners.*

*We are gathered here today with heavy hearts to remember a remarkable leader, Councillor Moshe Mphahlele whose untimely death has left an undeniable void in the city. As the Whip of the Patriotic Alliance in the City of Johannesburg, I stand before you not just to mourn but to celebrate the life of this man who embodied the spirit of service delivery and dedication to the people of Alexander and Johannesburg as a whole. Councillor Mphahlele was more than just a public servant, he was a champion for justice, a voice for the voiceless, and a beacon of hope for many. His work in Alex addressing the pressing issues of service delivery and housing demonstrated his unwavering commitment to improving the lives of those who were most vulnerable.*

*Even in the face of challenges, Moshe never wavered, he stood tall, and yes Mayor, he was tall indeed, fearless, and always ready to put the needs of his people first. In his pursuit of justice and inequality, Moshe faced many hurdles but met them with grace, strength, and determination. He was a Councillor who understood the plight of the people he served, and he did all this with so much humility and love. His legacy as a humble man of action will never be forgotten as he worked tirelessly to address the injustice, hardship and struggles the residents of Alex faced.*

*We mourn his loss today but let us reflect on the example that he set for all of us, Moshe showed us what it truly is to be a servant, to fight for what is right and to do so with all kindness and resilience. He died with his boots on, in service to the people he fought for every day. Today, let us remember the giant we have lost and let us commit to continue the work that he has started, we owe this to his memory to carry the vision forward, and for a more equal society. Councillor Moshe Mphahlele, your light might have been distinguished but your spirit will continue to guide us as we press on with this mission you held so dear. May his soul rest in eternal peace, and may we honour his legacy by continuing to serve with the same passion and dedication that he embodied every day.”*

*Councillor Nkokou (PAC) addressed the Council as follows:*

*“Thank you, Madam Speaker; the Executive Mayor; whip of Council, Councillor Zungu; the City Manager, Mr Floyd Brink; all Councillors; indigenous political parties in the House and the residents of the City of Johannesburg, Africans in our country, Africans in our continent; Africans abroad and Africans in the diaspora. Izwe lethu.*

*Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that we as the Pan African Congress of Azania, stand here today to mourn a tragic loss of a son of the soil, Councillor Moshe Mphahlele from the Economic Freedom Fighters, EFF.*

*Councillor Mphahlele was not just a colleague, he was a true servant of the people, dedicated to uplifting humanity and tirelessly working for the betterment of our communities. This African son of the soil lost his life while in the service of his people, a reminder to all of us of the ultimate commitment he made to improving the lives of those in Johannesburg and beyond. His education, passion and unwavering sense of duty will forever be remembered as part of his legacy.*

*On behalf of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, I would like to extend our most heartfelt condolences to Councillor Mphahlele's family, his friends, colleagues, and the EFF caucus in Johannesburg. We know the pain of losing someone who is dedicated and full of promise is immeasurable and our thoughts and prayers are with you during this incredibly difficult time. The passing of this stalwart serves as a sobering reminder that our time on this earth is finite. As we reflect on his life and his contributions, we must also recognize the legacy within which we must live our lives. Committing our lives to saving and improving humanity just as he did in honouring his memory. Councillor Moshe Mphahlele's legacy will live on in the hearts of those he has served and those who had the privilege of knowing him. May his soul rest in peace, and may his memory continue to inspire us. Thank you. Izwe lethu."*

*Councillor Zigebe (UDM) addressed the Council as follows:*

*"Madam Speaker, good morning. His worship the Executive Mayor; the Mphahlele family and friends; the Economic Freedom Fighters; and guests in the gallery.*

*Madam Speaker, it is with profound sadness and heavy heart that I rise before you today to reflect on the life and tragic death of Councillor Moshe Mphahlele. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of August, the City of Johannesburg and the community of Alexander lost a courageous leader, a fierce advocate for the marginalized and a passionate public servant. Councillor Mphahlele was violently taken away from us, a casualty in a struggle to ensure the rights and dignity of those who have been overlooked for far too long.*

*This is a loss that not only shakes the foundation of our Council but scares the conscious of our society. Councillor Mphahlele's name will forever be etched in our memories as a man who engaged in his duties with unmatched dedication. His voice resonated in this Chamber unafraid to challenge authority, unflinching in his pursuit of justice for the people of Alexander. He spoke truth to power, a man of principles who dared to stand firm in defense of the poor and the forgotten, even if it meant standing alone.*

*He was just not a representative of the Economic Freedom Fighters but a servant of the people, especially the vulnerable whose struggles he intimately understood and whose burdens he carried. His journey was one of remarkable courage, a path paved not with the ease of victories but with countless battles fought in service of a better future for his community. In every engagement, Councillor Mphahlele embodied the qualities of a true fighter passionate, determined, and unwilling to compromise on matters of justice. His intelligence and sharp wit were always evident in his contribution, but it was his heart, his unwavering commitment to the people of Alexandra that set him apart.*

*The tragedy of death lies not only with the violence that claimed his life but in the context of his final moments. Councillor Mphahlele was shot down while attempting to mediate in a protest, striving to ensure that those who had been unjustly evicted from their homes would find justice. He died as he lived, fighting for the dignity and rights of the most vulnerable amongst us, in that moment, he was not just a Councillor, he was the beacon of hope for a community that has long felt neglected. A voice for the voiceless, that his life should be so violently cut short, while he sought peace is a bitter and painful irony.*

*His passing is a stark reminder of the precariousness of our democracy where violence too often silences those who dare to stand for justice. This tragedy is not just the loss of a leader, it is a failure of our society to protect those who fight for what is right. We cannot allow Councillor Mphahlele's death to become a statistic in the growing epidemic of political violence in our country, his life was worth more than that, his sacrifice demands that we as leaders, reflect deeply on the state of our democracy and the safety of those who champion the cause of the oppressed.*

*The violent act has also expressed deeper failures and fractures within our society, fractures that continue to fuel unrest and insecurity. The burning of security vehicles, the protests, and the desperation of those living in makeshift shacks are the symptoms of a society in crisis, the anger and frustrations that boiled over in Alexander are not isolated incidents but widespread delusion with the system. The people Councillor Mphahlele fought for are not faceless numbers, they are our fellow South Africans, families and individuals who are simply asking for their basic human rights, to be respected. They are people forced into unbearable living conditions, people who feel abandoned by the institution meant to protect and serve them.*

*Condolences to the family, may the good lord be with you and heal you from all your wounds. Thank you."*

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

*"Good morning beloved of the lord. Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Greetings to all my colleagues, and all the guests in the gallery. Madam Speaker, our Executive Mayor, and all our MMCs and Chairpersons, all protocol observed, but a special hearty greeting to the family*

*My deepest condolences from the United Independent Movement and myself personally. I did not have the privilege to engage with Councillor Moshe Mphahlele often, the first and last time that I engaged with him was the last Council that he attended and my words to him – because he was roaring like a lion there, and during the break, I asked him, "must you always be like a lion?" and he was laughing and at that moment, I didn't see a lion anymore, I just saw a man. I saw a servant of the people, someone who is passionate about what he does.*

*You will miss him. You will no longer hear his voice. You will no longer see his smile; you will miss him he has left a big void in the family and here in Council because this service is for you. It is not a political platform to advance our political ideologies. It is to encourage you as a family, to continue to remember him, and continue to remember that he was a stalwart, he died in the line of duty, prematurely, and his life was taken away from him.*

*We will always remember him, he made his presence known, there are a few Councillors in this building that I've never heard speaking, but I always heard him speak at every Council meeting and when he's not speaking, I would always ask him, "what is happening, what's going on?". He was bold in his beliefs, like it or not. He was not here to be liked, he was not a hypocrite, what you see is what you get whether you accept it or not.*

*There are two dates in our lives which we do not determine and that is our birth date and our passing date, it is what is in between that matters. I ask everyone that is left behind, what is it that we will be remembered by? What is that people will say about us when we are no longer here?*

*May God continue to bless you and encourage you; may he be the balm of Gilead that will heal the wound that was given to the family. I respect every member in the building, especially the Economic Freedom Fighters who have lost a soldier in the line of duty. It is now your responsibility to carry out his legacy to continue to fight for what you stand for, God bless. Amen."*

*Councillor Boer (FF+) addressed the Council as follows:*

*"Thank you, madam, Speaker, Executive Mayor, fellow Councillors.*

*Allow me to send out our condolences as the Freedom Front Plus, especially the wife of the late Councillor Mphahlele, to the rest of the family and especially the 29 Battalions, it is tragic to lose a friend and a colleague and we pray the Lord comfort you on this loss.*

*We have known Councillor Mphahlele for quite a while, although we hailed from different political parties, we had a good relationship, and I was shocked to learn on the news that Councillor Mphahlele passed away in such a tragic way. I said to myself I cannot be, just the previous week we still spoke to each other in the Council meeting, and he died for what he was living for, he died while he strived for freedom for his people.*

*Fellow Councillors, I want us to find comfort in the word of the Lord, where the Lord tells us about the bigger freedom than economic freedom or political freedom where the Lord himself says in John 8 verse 36: "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" and this freedom is not political freedom, it is not economic freedom, it is freedom from the ties of Satan. It is freedom from the ties of sin. It is freedom from our self-love, our love for money, it is freedom to serve the lord. The lord's promises do not promise us richness in the world no, he says to us in John 16:33, "In the world you will have tribulation, take heart because I have overcome the world."*

*So, let us work to love the lord, above all to love our neighbours as ourselves and let that be the legacy that we receive from Councillor Mphahlele, to work for the people, for the neighbour, not for ourselves, not for money. But to serve the people and bring them to full freedom, not only economic freedom, not only political freedom but the freedom that is in the Lord Jesus himself. Only when we are freed by him are we really free. Thank you very much."*

*Councillor Mgcina (ANC) addressed the Council as follows:*

*“The Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg; Cllr Sello Dada Morero; the Speaker of the Council of the City of Johannesburg; Cllr Nobuhle Mthembu; the Chair of Chairs, Cllr Vhonani Adolfus Marema; the Council Chief Whip, Cllr Sthembiso Zungu; the Leader of The Executive Business, Cllr Loyiso Masuku; fellow MMCs; the City Manager; Mr Floyd Brink; the leaders of the various political parties; fellow colleagues and Ward Councillors; members of the Media; residents of this great and resilient City Of Johannesburg and a special greeting and acknowledgement to the family of the late Cllr Moshe Mphahlele.*

*Ladies and gentlemen, good morning!*

*We gather here today to honor and remember our dear colleague, the late Cllr Moshe Mphahlele whose untimely death 6 weeks ago sent shockwaves throughout the city and left us all the poorer at his senseless loss.*

*And it was with heavy hearts that we said goodbye and laid him to rest last month as he was not only a friend but a true comrade and an inspirational leader whose gallant fighting spirit, we all have to emulate!*

*We knew Cllr Mphahlele as a person of remarkable courage, dedication, and integrity. From the moment we got to work together here in Council, even though we were on opposite sides of the political spectrum; he demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the economic emancipation of our people and understood the assignment that without economic power, political power is hollow and meaningless.*

*His passion for justice and equality was evident in every action he took, and he never hesitated to stand up for what was right, even in the face of adversity; until his untimely death that fateful Sunday, August 04, 2024.*

*Cllr Mphahlele played a crucial role in fighting for the rights of men and women in his community of Alexandra and his gallant efforts have left a lasting positive impact in that community which he served diligently until his life was cut short while he was on duty!*

*He was not only a colleague but also a mentor, a guide, and a source of strength for many people.*

*Beyond his dedication to the fight for economic and political freedom in our lifetime, Cllr Mphahlele was a person of great warmth and kindness.*

*He had a way of making everyone feel valued and heard and his spirit brought light to even the darkest of days. We will always remember his wisdom and the countless moments we shared with him in and outside of these council chambers!*

*As we reflect on Cllr Mphahlele’s life, let us also remember the lessons he taught us. He showed us the importance of perseverance, the power of unity, and the necessity for compassion.*

*In his memory, let us continue to strive for the ideals he held dear and work together to build a better future for our city – which he lived for and for which he died!*

*To the Mphahlele family, his party the economic freedom fighters and the community of Alexandra which he died serving; we extend our deepest condolences.*

*As the African National Congress In the entire greater Johannesburg Region – sithi akuhlanga lungehliyo! Nilale ngenxeba. Le kgomotshehe*

*As i conclude, I leave you with the words of king David in the book of psalms chapter 34 verse 18 “The lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. He protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.”*

*Your loss is our loss, and we share in your grief. Please know that your son’s legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew him, and he will never be forgotten.*

*Robala ka khutsô mokone wantshî dikgolo, moila nonyane epududu, matlala sekgoba dinaga tsä bo makgolwage.*

*Mokgaga wa makubela, barego marega gaba bereke batshaba gotswa magotsane. Mokone!”*

*Madam Speaker thanked all political parties for their messages of condolence to the bereaved families and requested a moment of silence in honor of the late Councillor Mphahlele.*

*She thereafter addressed the Council as follows:*

*“On the 29<sup>th</sup> of February 2020 to the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 and again on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2022 to the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2024, the late Councillor Mphahlele was inaugurated to serve in this Council. He took the oath and was allocated that seat (pointing at it), and his name and photo were displayed at all times that he attended Council meetings.*

*On the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2024, Councillor Moshe Kgosi Mphahlele passed on, and his Civic Funeral was on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2024. The Special Council Meeting is being held today because of the mourning period held in Limpopo by the family.*

*Today, the Council flag with the Code of Arms is placed on the Podium he is being represented by the Pillar Candle and flowers placed on his seat, symbolizing that he will never sit on it again. We honored him and tributes were made by all Political Parties represented in Council Chambers.”*

*She requested protocol to blow out the candle, symbolizing that Councillor Mphahlele is no longer part of them in the Chamber.*

*She proceeded to say that the Special Council Meeting was being held to officially remove the name of Councillor Mphahlele from the Chamber. A protocol ritual, sad as it is for all of them, this is the reality they must accept*

*The Speaker then handed over to the delegated official who led the ritual to honor the late Councillor Mphahlele.*

## 6 COMMENTS BY FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE

*The family representative addressed the Council as follows:*

*“Dumelang kamoka, gobane rona gabotse gase rena Bakone, re Baroka, e bile re Bakgaka. Ngwano waka obe a kena sekolo ko Difikeng Primary esale o monnyane. Ke gopola ke ile go patella madi a sekolo. Legono kemo ke eme, ke tlile go leboga se leredietseng sona rele baga Mphahlele, le diretse le ena ngwana wa rona eleng Moshe Mphahlele, ke leleboga gagolo, gobane nke ese lena are tsebe gore gobe gotlaba byang, kale loboga kamoka.*

*Kea leboga baroka!*

## 7 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CLOSURE

*The Speaker extended special appreciation to the family of the late Councillor Mphahlele for honouring the Council with their presence. She stated that the Lord should continue to strengthen them during their period of mourning and assured them that they share in their pain.*

*She further announced that there was a protest outside the Chambers that required attention and apologized for the inconvenience caused by the delayed schedule.*

*The Speaker also announced that the Ordinary Council meeting would take place after the special meeting, starting at 11:30 am.*

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:04.

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**SPEAKER OF COUNCIL**  
**CLLR N MTHEMBU**

10/06/2025

.....  
**DATE**