



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS (SOCA), OF THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG MUNICIPALITY HELD ON THURSDAY, 2 MAY 2024, FOLLOWED BY THE DEBATE ON FRIDAY, 3 MAY 2024 AT 10:00 (BOTH DAYS) AT THE CONSTANCE CONNY BAPELA COUNCIL CHAMBER, METROPOLITAN CENTRE, BRAAMFONTEIN

**SPEAKER OF COUNCIL
COUNCILLOR M ARNOLDS**

- 1 OPENING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**
- 2 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**
- 3 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR (2 MAY 2024)**
- 4 DEBATE ON THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BY POLITICAL PARTIES (3 MAY 2024)**
- 5 RESPONSE BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR (3 MAY 2024)**
- 6 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

1(a) MEMBERS PRESENT

The Speaker: Councillor M S Arnolds

The Executive Mayor: Councillor K Gwamanda

Abdool, F	Goosen, J W
Amad, T	Harman, L J (DA)
Atterbury, E	Hlatshwayo, S M
Avant-Smith, C	Hoén, J N
Baloyi, D L	Hooper, R S
Benjamin, R F	Horwitz, J
Bini, L	Huggett, E A
Bittkau, R	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
Chuma, A T	Knott, L R
Coogan, L C	Koekemoer, M
Coutriers, M J	Komane, S A
Coverdale, D L T	Kunene, K
Crichton, M	Kwapeng, C
Da Gama, V M	Landis, R
Da rocha, C M D	Lebatlang, T Z
Dammie, B H	Lebea, M G
Davids-Green, L C	Lefutso, L
De Lange, F C	Leitch, A N
Deppe, A J	Leshilo, R S
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

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
Mchunu, A
Mgaga, B
Mgcina, S E
Mhlari, T M
Mhlongo, T A
Mkasi, G
Mkhize, T
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
Mohlala, C
Mohlala, P K
Mokoari, Z
Mokoena, G
Mokoena, P
Mokoka, M L
Mokome, J M
Mokwena, T M
Molefe, B J
Molefe, E W
Molefe, M
Molefe, S B
Molise, L D
More, E
Mosehla, K J
Mothopi, O Z
Mphaho, M A
Mphefo, L M P
Mpolobosho, M M
Mposula, T
Mpotulo, G S
Mthembu, M N
Mulelu, M
Munyayi, V E
Mutavhatsindi, N T
Nair, R K
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
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
Reinten, I M
Roberts, F C
Rohlssen, C K
Santana, C G
Schay, D
Seema, S M
Seerane, M K
Sekhu, M V
Sekwaila, B J
Sesedinyane, M I
Shackleford, L M
Shange, P A
Shumba, K A
Sifumba, N
Simelane, P
Simelane, S O
Sindani, F P
Smit, P A
Steenkamp, D
Steer, B
Stewart, A J
Suddaby, J
Sun, Y H
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, N J
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

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

She welcomed the Executive Mayor of The City Of Johannesburg – Councillor Kabelo Gwamanda, Whip Of Council – Councillor N G 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 (in absentia), 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 21st Ordinary Meeting of the City Of Johannesburg Municipality for the Executive Mayor to present the State of the City Address.

A special welcome was extended to the Regional Court President, Modibedi Djadje; the Johannesburg District Commissioner, General Masha; King Ndabezitha Ka Khumalo from the Amatungwa Royal Kingdom and his Council, Princess Mandulo Zulu Ka Zwelithini, member of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature, Ms. Matshidiso Mfikoe, and the ANC Regional Leadership led by the Regional Secretary, Mr. Sasabona Manganye.

She said that this State of the City Address was when South Africa celebrated 30 years of democracy . She further said that on 27 April 1994, millions of South Africans cast their ballot in a democratic election, many for the first time in their lives. That momentous day was the culmination of centuries of struggle to liberate the people from oppression, dispossession, exploitation, poverty, and inequality. That was the dream of a South Africa that, in every sense, belongs to all who live in it, united in their diversity. She indicated that on 29 May 2024, they should all ensure that they exercise their right and democracy by going to vote. She once again welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

<i>Councillor Amod, C J</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Harris, R</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Jainoodeen, Z</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Maila, S M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Marais, S I</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Meyers, T</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Mkhonto, M S</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Political Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Moloisane, D</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Morero, S E</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mphahlele, M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Ngwenya, J A</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Nkomo, P T</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Nontenja, C T</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Urgent Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Sherman, G J</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill-Health</i>

<i>Councillor Simonse, L C</i>	:	<i>Family Bereavement</i>
<i>Councillor Supe, N P</i>	:	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Wissler, S T J</i>	:	<i>Political Party Business</i>
<i>Councilor Kreuzsch, S</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>

Councillor C. K. Rohlssen was granted permission to arrive late for the meeting.

3 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR (2 MAY 2024)

The Speaker asked all the media houses present to take pictures of the Executive Mayor before he commenced his State of the City Address.

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

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker informed the Council that the debate on the State of the City Address speech would take place on Friday, 3 May 2024. The political parties would be allowed to debate on the speech. She thanked everyone responsible for the event preparations and appreciated all efforts made.

The Secretary to the Council indicated the order of proceedings for ushering guests to various venues as follows:

First, the Speaker of Council, the Executive Mayor, and the Whip of Council will be ushered out. They will be followed by the leader of the opposition party, Councillor B. Echeozonjoku, then by the MMCs and the Chairpersons of the Section 79 Committees. Thereafter, the remainder of the Councillors will be ushered to the various venues. Lastly, the guests will be ushered out after all the Councillors have left.

AT THIS STAGE, THE TIME BEING 11:18, COUNCIL ADJOURNED UNTIL FRIDAY, 3 MAY 2024 AT 10:00 FOR THE DEBATE ON THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S SPEECH.

On resumption, Friday, 3 May 2024, the following Councillors were present:

1(a) MEMBERS PRESENT

The Speaker: Councillor M S Arnolds

The Executive Mayor: Councillor K Gwamanda

Amad, T	Gantsho, L
Atterbury, E	Goosen, J W
Avant-Smith, C	Harman, L J (DA)
Bini, L	Hlatshwayo, S M
Bittkau, R	Hoén, J N
Boer, C	Hooper, R S
Bolani, M G	Huggett, E A
Brand, D G	Ismail-Moosa, I
Buthlezi, T C	Jacobs, B
Chame, F	Jonker, N
Chauke, K L	Kaldine, J
Chetsanga, H	Kgeletsane, M O
Christians, A	Khumalo, X I
Coogan, L C	Knott, L R
Coutriers, M J	Koekemoer, M
Coverdale, D L T	Kreusch, S
Crichton, M	Kwapeng, C
Da Gama, V M	Landis, R
Dammie, B H	Lebatlang, T Z
De Lange, F C	Lebea, M G
Deppe, A J	Lefutso, L
Dewes, D S	Leitch, A N
Dlamini, B	Leshilo, R S
Doyle, T	Lobi, M
Durand, G V M	Maake, M J
Echeozonjoku, B C	Mabaso, M P
Finn, C E	Mabelebele, S S
Foley, D T	Mabuke, T A
Fourie-Shawe, C	Mabunda, T E
Francisco, D B	Mabuza, S K L
Fresling, R R	Machaba, L M U
Galeshewe, T M	Machethe, S

Madiba, T J
Magwaza, B L P
Maila, S M
Majola, S
Makamo, S S
Maluleka, T
Manganyi, D B
Mangena, T D
Marais, A F
Marema, V A
Marumo, T
Mashala, K
Mashinini, S
Masoga, L M
Masuku, L
Matabane, O
Mathe, G
Mathe, Z E
Mavhona, L S
Mazibuko, A L
Mazibuko, N
Mazibukwana, M
Mgaga, B
Mgcina, S E
Mhlari, T M
Mhlongo, T A
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
Moeti, O T
Mofokeng, J
Mohlala, C
Mohlala, P K
Mokoari, Z
Mokoena, P
Mokoka, M L
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
Mothopi, O Z
Mphaho, M A
Mphefo, L M P
Mposula, T
Mpotulo, G S
Mthembu, M N
Mulelu, M
Munyayi, V E
Mutavhatsindi, N T
Ncube, W M
Ndlela, M C
Ndou, N L
Ndou, P
Ndzondo, C M
Nefdt, P W
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
Nkubungu, L
Nkwanyana, P B
Nofemela, N
Nonkumbi, I M
Ntombela, M J
Nyembe, M M
Nyembe, Z P
Nzimande, C
Papo, M M
Pelzer, R
Phometsi, P S
Pietersen, J
Pietersen, N
Ponsonby, D A
Radebe, T T
Rahn, N J
Rakosa, P M
Ramaru, G
Raphadu, A T
Roberts, F C
Rohlssen, C K
Santana, C G
Sekhu, M V
Sekwaila, B J
Sesedinyane, M I
Shackleford, L M
Shange, P A
Shumba, K A
Sifumba, N
Simelane, P
Simelane, S O
Sindani, F P
Smit, P A
Steenkamp, D
Steer, B
Suddaby, J
Sun, Y H
Tabane, M C
Tefu, P V
Truluck, T F
Tshehlo, G J
Tsotetsi, L Y M
Twala, Y A
Van Dyk, N J
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

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

The Speaker announced that the acting Secretary to Council, Mr. A. Gobinca, had an urgent family matter to take care of, as a result, he was not present. Therefore, Ms J Moremi would assist in reading out the notice and tabling of the items for the duration of the meeting.

She thereafter welcomed the Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, Councillor Kabelo Gwamanda, Whip of Council, Councillor N.G. 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, officials of Johannesburg, residents, members of the Media ladies, and gentlemen, to the continuation of the 21st Ordinary Meeting of the Johannesburg Municipality for the debate on the State of the City Address presented by the Executive Mayor the previous day.

She noted that she had received a request from the Whip of Council under Rule 65 (1) and (4) of the Standing Rules and Orders of Council. After consulting with Legal, who confirmed the request was in order, she stated that the Whip of Council would be given an opportunity to make a statement after the leave of absence item. She then asked Legal to confirm the quorum.

The Speaker announced there were 157 Councillors in the Chamber, the meeting quorate, and others were still walking in.

2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

<i>Councillor Nontenja CT</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Urgent Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Abdool F</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Magwentshu L C</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Urgent Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mpolobosho MM</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Urgent Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Simonse LC</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Family Bereavement</i>
<i>Councillor Kunene K</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Meyers T</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Marais S</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Amod C J</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Jacobs, K</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Masera, H</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Moloisane D</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Sherman G J</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor da Rocha C M D</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Reinten I M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Benjamin R F</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Hughes C S</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>

<i>Councillor Chabalala M D</i>	:	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Nair R K</i>	:	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Tambani PS</i>	:	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Ramafikeng D J</i>	:	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Maswazi R</i>	:	<i>Family Bereavement</i>
<i>Councillor Supe N</i>	:	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Ndou</i>	:	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Ngwenya J A</i>	:	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Edward N</i>	:	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Johnson N</i>	:	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Mchunu, A</i>	:	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Jainooden, Z</i>	:	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Wissler S T J</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Harris, R</i>	:	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Mkhize T</i>	:	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Khanyile N M</i>	:	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Makhuba H N</i>	:	<i>Ill-Health</i>
<i>Councillor Mphahlele, M</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Baloyi, D L</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Dladla, D</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Komane, S A</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Makhafola, E</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mkasi, G</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Moepi, N J D</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mofokeng, M P</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mogapi, T A</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mokoena, G</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mosehla, K J</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Ndou, P</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Nenemba, T</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Nethamba, R</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Nkosi, R A L</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Ntoele, N L</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Radebe, N P</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Raholane, M W</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Raseruthe, S H</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Seema, S M</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Seerane, M K</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Telekoa, A T</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Tshwaku, M</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Tshedo, J G</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>

Councillor A N Leitch was granted permission to arrive late for the meeting.

The following Councillors were granted permission to leave early:

<i>Councillor Reddy VM</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Van der Merwe M</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Stewart AJ</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Rambani NS</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>

<i>Councillor Louw MA</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Schay D</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Horwitz J</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Masuku L</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Chuma</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Liebenberg E</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Ntshidi TE</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Davids-Green LC</i>	:	<i>Private Business</i>

3 STATEMENT BY THE WHIP OF COUNCIL

The Whip of Council addressed Council as Follows:

“Greetings to you, Madam Speaker, the Executive Mayor, all political parties, Members of the Mayoral Committee, esteemed guests, Chairpersons of Section 79 Committees, residents of Joburg, and all Councillors present.

Speaker, I rise to speak on Rule 65(1). Let me start by extending my gratitude to you for allowing me this opportunity to speak to our Councillors this morning. Speaker, maybe I should start by refreshing the memories of our fellow colleagues that according to the Municipal Structures Act, and the Code of Conduct of Councillors. A Councillor may not be in arrears on their municipal account for rates and services charges for a period longer than three months. Therefore, failure to make necessary arrangements with the city’s Finance Department, nor ensuring that your accounts are up to date, will result in a breach of this Code. Councillors who are in arrears with the city for more than three months do not only contravene the Code of Conduct but also act illegally by contravening this Act. We should not be standing in Council requesting or encouraging Councillors to make a commitment and necessary arrangements because it is mandatory for all of us to be responsible and pay our dues to the City of Johannesburg. These rates and taxes contribute towards accelerating service delivery within all our respective wards.

Speaker, we do understand that the economic times are hard, however, we expect Councillors to contribute towards paying for their rates and services, just as much as they are paying for their DSTVs, Netflix, and so on. We, as Councillors, are expected to encourage our respective communities to pay for their rates. How do we fulfil that task if ourselves are in arrears and do not show any commitment whatsoever?

Speaker, I would be making a mistake if I didn’t thank the Councillors of the City of Johannesburg for making sure that they continue paying for services. I would say that we are sitting at about 93% of Councillors who have made sure that they continue paying for the services. I plead with about the 7% of Councillors who are left behind to ensure that they make arrangements to pay for the services, and should this fail Speaker, because this speaks to the Code of Conduct, I think I have stated before that you cannot go for more than three months, it then means we must go for disciplinary measures. My call to all our fellow Councillors is to urge us to commit, let us make these arrangements so that we are all good and not found wanting.

I, thank you, Speaker”.

The Speaker thanked the Whip of Council, and urged Councillors to heed the call and do the right thing and thereafter read out the regulation on record:

“Councillors in arrears to the municipality for rates and service charges. A councillor must settle his or her municipal account for rates and service charges in accordance with the credit control policy of the municipality.

The municipality manager must, in writing, immediately inform the Councillor when the Councillor is in arrears to the municipality for rates and service charges for a period that is longer than two months. Even if the Councillor has been newly elected to the municipal council concerned and request the Councillor to settle the account and any arrears without further delay.

A Councillor who is in arrears to the municipality for rates and service charges may arrange or agree with the municipality in writing to settle his or her municipal account for such rates and services by means of a monthly stop order payment.

A councillor who is in arrears to the municipality for rates and service charges for a period longer than three months is in bridge of the Code”.

4 DEBATE ON THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BY POLITICAL PARTIES (3 MAY 2024)

Councillor van Dyk (DA) addressed Council as follows:

“Thank you very much, Speaker. Thank you to the residents. I greet you in good faith residents, and Councillors, with all protocol observed.

I want to thank the Mayor for his speech yesterday. He said he tells the truth, and certainly, the lack of optimism and expectation in his speech yesterday was the truth. The city of broken pipes, power lines and dreams. You ask our residents to report leaks, as if it is their responsibility, as your own Ward Councillors will tell you in the GLU, residents are logging the faults, but the teams are taking days to come to only do part of the jobs that are doomed to burst on repeat. Residents across every classification of suburbs go days without water, from Joburg East, to Helderkruijn, to Eldos.

You mentioned the water security strategy, a document that was drafted in 2022 under the DA government but not implemented until the water crisis of 2024, with the fast collapse of our water system, the strategy needs regular review and input from the EIS Committee. The entity itself needs R27 billion but in the previous and upcoming cycle capex budgets, it sits at around a billion, a lofty amount but nowhere near what is needed when one considers the failed and delayed capex projects like that of what we see in Woodmead, a project that is 18 months overdue, or the Randburg water depot that stands empty, still. Thankfully, Mr Mayor, you highlighted that we have the Brixton Crosby project, a project that the DA is very proud of because it comes from our own Councillor Steer and Councillor Sherman, and the DA government, and by 2026 these dry areas will once again have water. Its projects like this that will allow Joburg Water to keep some of its value, it's lost 59% of its value. A factor that may not have happened if the city continued to replace pipes at the pace of the DA, a 150 kms

versus 28 kms. Reinstatements Mr Mayor, if the kickball between Johannesburg Water and JRA, the scourge that swallows' vehicles and takes lives is now getting your attention, we thank you. Each Councillor in this room will now endeavour to now send you a list of the hundreds and hundreds of reinstatements that plague our Wards.

Mr Mayor, you highlight that safety is a priority for you and that solar high masts are being taken across multiple suburbs, I applaud you on this Mr Mayor. Now it's just time to get the hundreds of streetlights between each of those solar masts across all the suburbs to start working as residents wait months for these repairs.

Again, Capex is a hard truth for City Power. I mean, R1.3 billion for the 30 years of no maintenance across as Sebenza substation continues to fail the residents of Joburg East. Brynorth substation which has been on the cards for months, still stands as a tripping monstrosity in the Bryanston economic heartland. We are very happy about the reprieve from loadshedding but the 30th of May approaches, where we will find ourselves sadly in this reprieve. City Power plants out of service, have gone up but not down.

This is the time maintenance should be happening, the plants out of service across our suburbs that constantly trip should be going down not up. The same thing that's going up: calls being closed to manage your stats to make the entity look good. Residents are logging calls for the same outage 6, 7, 8 and 9 times. It's a real problem, Mr Mayor and we see that the provincial government is putting its hands into City Power. Let them rather focus on their own problems and let City Power deal with itself. Mr Mayor, it's not good enough to just give access to services, you need to deliver them too. Yes, refuse collection is up but it's thanks to the quick thinking Pikit up Senior Executives who managed to complete most RCR days despite having no fleet and despite our landfill dumps being completely full. Not one of the entities can present a turnaround strategy, every service delivery entity is losing billions a year and is just pleading for you to grant business rescue status. The city entities are broke and broken, and the GLU stands complicit".

The Democratic Alliance stands ready to rescue South Africa and Gauteng.

Councillor Mthembu (ActionSA) addressed Council as follows:

"Madam Speaker, Cllr. Margaret Arnolds; Chief Whip of Council, Cllr. Zungu; Chairpersons of Section 79 Oversight Committees; Fabulous 44; City Manager, Mr. Floyd Brink; Members of the Media; Distinguished Guests; Residents of the City of Johannesburg; Ladies and Gentlemen.

Madam Speaker, gone are the days when leaders of society applauded and gave standing ovations to mediocracy. Our democracy has grown tenfold since 1994, and we are in a good position to call each other into order. By so doing, we stand a chance of creating a better city that the generations that will come after us can be proud of. Madam Speaker, yesterday, the Executive Mayor delivered yet another State of the City Address. It is a most prestigious moment in our city because it gives us an overview of where we are coming from as the city and where we are going. But most importantly, it gives us a clear sense of how we have navigated some of the trials and tribulations in the past.

Madam Speaker, such an occasion cannot be taken for granted or utilised as a gimmick.

Madam Speaker, when GLU took over last year, as ActionSA, we committed to be a constructive opposition party, a role that we have played to the best of our ability.

Madam Speaker, it is no secret that our city is in deep crisis; unfortunately, the Executive Mayor's speech exacerbated residents' fear. The Mayor spent more than an hour blowing hot air. Residents of Johannesburg do not need Shakespeare, and they need a mayor.

Madam Speaker, I remember vividly the promises he made during his maiden speech last year, 6 June 2023. These are some of the statements he made, and I quote: "Fighting and defeating crime is a top priority for the Government of Local Unity. To bolster our efforts in fighting crime, we plan to recruit approximately 2 000 Crime Wardens."

"Through the multidisciplinary operation led by the Public Safety department, we will restore the rule of law in the Inner City and ensure the safety of all who live or work in the Inner City. We have since introduced a new initiative and partnership with the private sector that will give our JMPD, access to over 5,000 smart CCTV cameras to allow us to monitor, track and trace crime suspects and perpetrators across the city". He further said that the city will implement a geyser installation training programme in all regions of the city, targeting 140 residents as part of the comprehensive skills development strategy.

As we sit here, it is difficult to account for the commitments that he made and even received a standing ovation from the left side. One day colleagues, you will dance at a funeral.

Madam Speaker, I have given this background deliberately simply because some of what he said yesterday seems like it was just a cut and paste from his maiden speech.

Madam Speaker, the Executive went to speak about the Joshco nearing a landmark success of having 10 000 units.

Madam Speaker Joshco is a mess. I am not even going to touch on the 373 million losses in the previous financial year.

Joshco was supposed to be one of the best revenue generators for the City of Johannesburg, however, it cannot do so optimally because it is riddled with maladministration. Residents in Pennyville (New Canada) have been complaining about the appalling standard of their units for as much as we can remember, but what does this City do? It turns a blind eye in their plight. Yet they come here and preach about rigorous revenue collection.

As ActionSA we urge you to do basic things, maintain and listen to the tenants. Stop being arrogant.

Madam Speaker, City of Johannesburg has more than 6 million residents', the majority being youth; a lot of these youth have one or more formal qualifications, yet they are unemployed. And for the Mayor to boast about 594 youth who have Intern

with the city is ludicrous to say the least. 350 bursary that they have given through their youth programmes is an insult to millions of youths who are languishing in the streets of our city.

Madam Speaker, we are facing a water crisis as the city, on many occasion our residents come and picket in a quest to find solutions. Our residents in Mayfair, Crosby, Randburg, Soweto, and other parts of the city are communicating with us, and as the city we cannot continue ignoring them.

These people need an administration that can be able to give them timelines of when this problem will end as opposed to an administration that will state the obvious. Madam Speaker, I can tell you now, the GLU has no plan to address the water crisis in the City of Johannesburg, but as ActionSA, we are here to give them pragmatic solutions and not this so-called Security Water Ntoni Ntoni.

Johannesburg Water needs R27 Billion to address its backlog; yet the mayor comes here to report water leaks. We are not undermining his request, but we are saying upgrade the infrastructure and stop telling us about the high demand every day. Invest in reservoirs, change these asbestos pipes, and replace them with PVCs. Madam Speaker, we have noted some strides that the city has made to mitigate load shedding. We understand that City Power has lost more than R1.8 billion in the previous financially year, had they used this money efficiently we would be singing a different tune today. As ActionSA we are still waiting for the feasibility study on the integration of Soweto residents from Eskom to City power. The motion was passed in Council in the year 2022 submitted by ActionSA.

Madam Speaker, GLU has no plan in fighting Crime and Illegal Mining in the City of Johannesburg, not mentioning the illegal foreign nationals. This administration only reacts to imminent threats just for cameras. Hence, you saw some MMCs going down to the mines risking their lives for a mere selfie.

I am not going to delve deeper into this matter because the Mayor presented nothing in terms of his plans to fight crime except installing CCTV cameras, something that he copied from his boss, Mr Panyaza Lesufi.

However, I will refer the Mayor to the time when we had MMC David Tembe, MMC Funzi Ngobeni and MMC Nkuli Mbundu. The city was in a better state, and the CBD was much better than today.

Now, our city has gone to the dogs, the Rule of Law has escaped, and people are hijacking buildings in broad daylight. The city is literally burning under your watch, yet you have no plan except reacting to fires. The mayor and his team are clueless of running this City.

JRA must do better, I know they have lost more than R429 Million in the previous financial year so what the mayor said about JRA success is just a drop in the ocean. Madam Speaker, allow me to say the Mayor must stop quoting Martin Luther King to fit his narrative, this City is not even moving, it is in standstill.

But let me end by saying, our people must go and vote ActionSA on May 29 for a better Johannesburg and South Africa. For insourcing, close borders, return of rule of law and our spazas in the townships.

We find solace in Psalm 23 verse 4; Noma ngihamba esigodini sethunzi lokufa, angesabi okubi, ngokuba wena unami, intonga yakho nodondolo lwakho ziyangiduduza. I thank you."

Councillor Mokome (COPE) addressed Council as follows:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. All protocol observed.

Madam Speaker, the Congress of the People, COPE as part of the government of local unity in the City of Johannesburg welcomes the State of the City of address by the Executive Mayor, Kabelo Gwamanda. Madam Speaker to the previous two speakers, Councillor van Wyk and lately, Councillor Mthembu, the centre is still held in the GLU, in the City of Johannesburg.

The GDS 2040 vision incorporating the 2024/2025 IDP reviews in terms of service delivery changing dynamics and innovation is an important anchor as we move forward to execute our political mandates. Speaker, the interventions as mentioned by the Executive Mayor amongst others, included the transport master plan as an integrated Transport solution in Region G. JRA servicing more road infrastructure and filling up more potholes. Capital projects prioritized with specific reference to the water supply strategy. Yes, Madam Speaker, the load shedding had to come to an end sooner or later and indeed, the partnership between Eskom and the provincial government to capacitate and empower City Power to add 50 mega watts to City Power would be a milestone.

Yes, Madam Speaker, Joshco must get its act together and indeed in this regard what they have done in terms of the 10 000 housing units will alleviate to an extent the backlog that we have in our database. Madam Speaker, our interventions to keep the raving crime which has engulfed the city lately and must be addressed as matter of urgency. Yes, the 5000 CCTV cameras in strategic areas within the city, will to an extent help us towards that mission.

Madam Speaker, the zama zamas have been a problem in the city and to an extent, I think Executive Mayor, we must now say enough is enough. Can we reach out to the provincial authority to link to the president to call in the army to curb this menace in the city, they are now about to finish us off. The new era of hope will re-energize our collective efforts to steer and consolidate our mission as an African World Class City. I, thank you, Madam Speaker."

Councillor de Lange (VF+) addressed Council as follows:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker, all protocol observed.

I noted down about 25 points of interest from the Mayor's speech and I'm only going to focus on that for today. The Mayor spoke about Johannesburg being the economic heartbeat of South Africa, but it is still one of the Metros with the highest rate of unemployment rate in the country. You also spoke about resilience and a stable city. I agree, Johannesburg is very resilient but let us give it another spin. With all the underground activity, I am not talking about crime, and I am talking about the zama zamas. We are going to sit with serious instability in the years to come. He spoke about 6 million residents within the city but still, a lot of those are unemployed and

living on social grants without any hope for the future and the future of their children. Then he spoke about 30 years after Apartheid, there was still economic exclusion within the city. Now Madam, Speaker, I wonder who has been running South Africa for the last 30 years.

Joshco, 10 000 units, but you must work from the back to the front. There is a lot of these units that are not in good condition anymore and it is basically not up to OHASA standards for people to occupy those units. Then he spoke about investment attraction and oh! My word, we all know that we had to adjust our investment attraction from 37 billion to 19 billion this financial year. Speaker, that means the City of Johannesburg is no longer investment friendly. Then water supply is the elephant in the room. The system is so compromised due to backdated maintenance that we will soon sit with water shedding programs within the city and if the Lesotho Highland Water scheme closes for maintenance, I want to see what is going to happen to the infrastructure within the city with all the leaks, we are not going to be able to deliver those services.

Electricity supply, we are aware of hundreds of billions of backlog services that need to be done or maintained through the City Power network and it is not going to change. Violent crimes, Madam Speaker, through you, I am sorry JMPD is incapable of handling violent, serious crimes and to curb that, the South African Police Service has been failing the citizens for many years. Increasing informal settlements, why is this Madam Speaker? Because the current government cannot do proper border control, and the government is incapable of building proper housing for the poorest of the poor. GDS 2040 strategy, we will wait and see through the rounds of IDPs that took place if all these requests will be funded or not as 68% on service delivery targets, Madam Speaker, that is just not good enough. Skills development through the Economic Development Section 79, it has become clear that the targets for training Artisans are failing miserably, why? We do not have proper trainers; we don't have proper mentorships through these programs. Unqualified audits, this is just mediocre, and the city keeps on stumbling financial year to financial year with the same kind of rating. Municipal rates and taxes, Madam Speaker, the residents of this city are tired of paying high fees for rates and taxes and they do not get a proper flow of electricity and water to their residents.

The budget adjustments took place, why? Because the grant funding was cut because of underspending, again Madam Speaker, we cannot do business like this. Capital projects and spending, to spend the money is one thing but what is bad business is spending this money on substandard contractors that do shoddy work and don't complete these projects properly, especially on road maintenance. Water security Madam Speaker, the Mayor mentioned that we needed 27 billion to service our current system, I think it is much more, and the question stands, how long must the citizens be happy with substandard water supply – it's going to wait another 20 years or so maybe. Madam Speaker, then he spoke about the energy generation capacity, how long will this take Madam Speaker, and the problem is even if we have Eskom flowing currently into the city, the City Power network is so dilapidated the end user will never get the benefit. Madam Speaker, then on JRA, 58 km were paved, new roads during the last financial year but Madam Speaker, what about the 4 500 km of roads that need proper maintenance within the city? Illegal mining Madam Speaker, what must we do about the fact that we are not doing enough, and we are going to have serious geological problems in the next few years if we don't sort that out.

In closing Madam Speaker, I have got a new project for the city. It is called the illegal slum lord's project. Madam Speaker, if the city doesn't take care of this, we are going to have serious problems in the future with disasters, burning buildings, all kinds of things, social economic problems, drug abuse, and prostitution. The GLU must take note. The city is broken, Madam Speaker, and is in dire need of rebuilding and repair. I, thank you".

Councillor Bitkau (DA) addressed Council as follows:

"Madam Speaker, all protocol observed.

There are so many issues, but I will only speak to one. Even though we serve on the same Council and live in the same city, I have the feeling that the Mayor and I are living in parallel universes. I say so because listening to his speech yesterday, I wondered what he was talking about most of the time because what I experience daily as Ward Councillor, and what he describes as the state of the city are as far from each other as Grimm's fairy tales and the reality. However, the reality as to the state of dementia gripping this administration became absolutely clear when the cause of our sewer polluting the rivers was blamed completely on the zama zamas.

Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to point out to the Mayor that Joburg lies on a watershed and the crocodile system that is so very highly polluted with ecoli is not affected by the zama zamas at all. In actual fact, when investigating the causes of the huge amount of sewer blockages and spills that are caused mostly by root ingress caused by a total lack of maintenance over years and years. And the abuse of the system by the residents through lack of knowledge and understanding, the only activity that is found to be willful destruction is the occasional breaking of pipes by vagrants to sift for valuables. However, the cause of these constant polluting, river spills, maybe the fact remains that we are the main cause of polluting our river systems, north, south, east, and west to such an extent that we are extremely close to a point of no return. But according to yesterday's address, it's not our fault, it's the zama zama's because after all, we are such a successful city that the total collapse of the infrastructure must be a figment of our imagination. Thank you."

Councillor Mabaso (IFP) addressed Council as follows:

"Speaker; Executive Mayor; MMCs; Councillors; Guests in the gallery and colleagues.

When the Executive Mayor quoted Martin Luther King Junior in saying "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving. When I heard this quote, I got worried, and I wondered whether this was an admission of failure. Walking nor crawling should never be an option for the City of Johannesburg. We are the heartbeat of the nation as you alluded to, if we walk or crawl the nation will be on its knees.

The State of the City address should give an account on the previous commitments, acknowledge challenges provide solutions which then becomes a program of action, talk to existing projects and those in the pipeline and give projections on the completion time.

State of the City address should bring all stakeholders together, create an environment for everyone to play a meaningful role in the development of the city, give confidence to business, and attract investment.

Let us appreciate the progress made on the establishment of the youth directorate. It is a step towards the right direction, and we support all initiatives that seek to empower young people, needless to say, it's long overdue. In fact, it should not just be a compliance exercise to establish a directorate, but it should form part of our core functionalities as a Municipality. Henceforth, sufficient allocation of resources must be prioritized to this directorate.

Speaker the infrastructure backlog remains a challenge. Our funding model should comprehend the demand for both the development and maintenance of our infrastructure.

Over and above the revenue enhancement program for the city, we need to have a monitoring mechanism for the expenditure performance of our grants from the National Treasury. The rebasing exercise demonstrates our inability to raise enough capital to support our programs.

The R27 Billion backlog on water infrastructure is a testament that we need strategies to close the gap, residents want to see the city actively engaged in practical solutions. They will never understand strategies on paper as they will only understand when they see water running out of their taps. When roads are tarred and resurfaced, when their lights are on, when the traffic lights are functioning, when houses are being constructed, when the drainage system is fully functional, when bridges are well maintained and when the buckets system is eradicated.

There is an existing arrangement between the premier and the City as indicated by the Mayor; we saw the premier during the launch of the Fleurhof substation, and I also witnessed the Premier running a program replacing transformers, which is the function of the City, Human settlements is a concurrent function of both the provincial and national government but the premier refused to attend to the residents of Diepkloof Hostel when they asked to meet with him sighting that the hostel does not belong to the Province but to the City. Do these transformers belong to the provincial government?

Hostels might not be his competence, but any human settlement development is within his line of responsibility. The City has more than 312 informal settlements, and a housing backlog of approximately half a million. Whatever arrangement you have with Premier Panyaza, as you mentioned in your address Executive Mayor should have been with human settlements, which is his area of responsibility in terms of the Housing Act.

Developments in hostels were initiated by the provincial government, they were later handed over to the city after realizing that they had made a blunder, they constructed without building plans approved, no township establishment application was considered, and no bulk infrastructure upgrading plan was presented. After the engagement you had with the residents of Diepkloof, I expected to see the word Hostel multiple times in your speech, unfortunately not even a single mention.

Lomsebenzi uma siwenza akufanele kube esengathi sizingcinela icala kumele ubuyise ithemba kubantu belibone ikusasa elingcono. Siyabonga”.

Councillor Mkhonza (ACDP) addressed Council as follows:

“Allow me to first acknowledge our Almighty God, eternally existent in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, the creator of the heavens and the earth. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Shalom Shalom to the ACDP Regional Leadership and team. Greetings to all Councilors, ACDP constituents and, residents of our beloved City of Johannesburg. I greet all in the name of our Saviour and Lord King Jesus Christ. Madam Speaker, allow me on behalf of the ACDP Caucus, to quote 2 Peter 2: 19 NLT, which says, ‘They promise freedom, but they themselves are slaves of sin and corruption. For you are a slave to whatever controls you’.

Let us earnestly consider the concerns of Johannesburg residents, recognizing that they are not sustained solely by liberal values or philosophies. It's time to move beyond the narrative of perpetual victimhood by continuously attributing our challenges to apartheid, especially as we commemorate 30 years of democracy.

As the ACDP, we acknowledge and appreciate the following:

The overworked Disaster Management Team under the leadership of Mr. Mulaudzi, The extra 50 Mega Watts and the planned 100 megawatts by the financial year end. The planned percentage increase in accessibility to electricity and water is commendable.

We, however, have the following concerns and questions. What is the City’s plan for the residents who still live in informal settlements? Addressing the 10.2% of residents living in informal settlements is crucial for ensuring a thriving city. Neglecting this segment undermines the inclusivity and sustainability necessary for overall urban prosperity. The rise in informal settlements can be attributed to the apparent disregard by the GLU government towards addressing land grabs, a factor directly contributing to the proliferation of informal settlements. Mayor, would you care to comment on this observation? Your speech was silent about this, do you have any plans to eradicate informal settlements to restore the dignity of our residents? It is concerning that the public is being misled about JOSHCO's alleged progress, as you have mentioned that this city’s entity is on track, when the reality may be quite different.

By not addressing the unacceptable low level of revenue or rental collection, residents are left uninformed about critical financial issues that directly impact the functioning and sustainability of housing initiatives. This lack of transparency undermines trust and hinders meaningful progress towards addressing housing challenges.

On the question of legitimacy, shared ownership, and accountability – How many Cllrs and the City's staff are defaulting on their monthly obligations? What plans have been put in place to ensure that Cllrs and the city's staff are not defaulting on rates to set a good example to the residents of the city, we cannot claim to serve where else we are not practicing what we preach. Could you please elaborate on the city's strategy to enhance capital expenditure? Specifically, I'm interested in understanding the initiatives, policies, or investment plans aimed at boosting capital expenditure and how they align with the city's long-term development goals.

Can we please have a report on the return on investment of the R14 million paid to the 350 beneficiaries of the youth directorate? Can we please have the breakdown of the 47,000 potholes that were fixed? What's the City's short-term plan to deal with the gang violence in Westbury, Eldorado Park, and others? Just recently in Westbury, in just one weekend over 13 April, 10 people were shot, four of them fatally. The community has been gripped by fear and has appealed to the government to call in the army. What is the city's response to this emerging crisis we see in our communities? How many people were evicted citing safety reasons?

Vote for the ACDP for Service Order and Safety on 29 May 2024. I thank you. God bless and protect Africa, the people of Sudan, Israel (and the unconditional release of all the hostages) and her people”.

Councillor Santana (DA) addressed Council as follows:

“Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the speech reminded me of my school days, when we did a wonderful play, a delightful comedy play by William Shakespeare, much a do about nothing. His speech was a lot but said nothing. So, let us see what he did not say, he did say that the city gave away half a million rand of unconditional grants unspent. He did not say we harass paying residents who continuously fund the city. He did not say that we're disconnecting people who timeously pay their bills. We disconnect them and treat them like criminals to get reconnections. We issued them bills for reconnections and disconnection fees when it wasn't even their fault. He did not say he is addressing the illegal disconnections within the city and why is he not taking the same attitude that he takes towards legally binding citizens to non-legal binding citizens. He did not say that we went gun ho to protect our City Manager for an issue of court, by the sheriff of the court. We break down the system of law and we are a part of a rule of law. It frustrates us that our residents were ignored, your IDP session was a farce, and you ignored the rate payers of the City of Johannesburg. You did not even take their inclusions; you changed the times and didn't even give them advice when the times were changed. So, for us, the IDP was a complete farce. You did not take our residents seriously, and Mayor, with all due respect, your speech was a much a do about nothing. Thank you”.

Councillor Mazibuko (ANC) addressed Council as follows:

“Speaker of Council, Councillor Arnolds; Whip of Council, Councillor Zungu; all Chairpersons of Section 79 Oversight Committees; fellow Councillors; residence of the City of Johannesburg; ladies and gentlemen.

Despite the city’s turbulent past, it has undergone a remarkable transformation. A hub of mixed economy, emerging markets. Madam Speaker, Social housing is a vital aspect of ensuring that everyone has a place to call home. We welcome the projection of 10 000 units in the next financial year.

It is impressive to see that a significant majority of households have access to necessities like water, electricity, sanitation, and refuse collection. However, it is also important to acknowledge that there is still work to be done to reach the remaining 1.7% without water access, 6% without electricity, 7% without sanitation and 9.5% without refuse collection. Let us continue to work towards achieving universal access to these essential services for all households throughout Johannesburg.

An elevated unemployment rate among marginalized groups is a complex problem that requires a multifaceted approach. It’s crucial to address the systemic barriers that prevent these groups from accessing equal job opportunities. By working together, we can create a more inclusive economy and reduce unemployment.

The city continues to grapple with entrenched issues of illegality, underscoring the need for sustained and multifaceted approaches to address the root cause of crime and ensure public safety. It’s crucial to reassess and adapt our strategies, fostering collaboration between law enforcement and the community to effectively mitigate the persisting challenges of crime. The community of Braamfisher, Slovoville, Snake Park, Tshepisoong, Mathole, Riverlea and many others live in fear because of illegal miners. The solutions outlined by the mayor will assist in salvaging the issue of Zama Zama’s. However, a strategy is needed to ensure accountability. There is a great need for the city to quantify the damage caused by the Zama Zama’s. As GLU, through the MMC of Safety, we have made a number of arrests. Drugs and all elements of crime within the city are a great concern for all the residents. Crime throughout the city needs to be curbed.

Rapid urbanization in Johannesburg requires us to implement sustainable urban planning strategies, invest in infrastructure and social services and improve inclusive and equitable growth. It’s essential to recognize the resilience and resourcefulness of informal settlement residents and involve them in the decision-making process to create a sustainable and equitable solution to curb new settlements.

Madam Speaker, Johannesburg’s vision for a new era of hope, prosperity, and equitable service delivery for all its residents is truly commendable. This commitment to creating a more inclusive and thriving city is a step in the right direction. By prioritizing the needs of all residents, Johannesburg can become a beacon of hope for other cities and a shining example of what can be achieved through dedication and collective effort. Let us support and celebrate this endeavor towards a brighter future for all. The Government of Local Unity is still on track with the goal of remaining a World Class African City as guided by our long-term Growth and Development Strategy Plan-Joburg 2040. The IDP of Joburg is rooted in the spirit of the People’s Plan. Recognizing that our city’s strength lies in the people. We prioritize resilience,

understanding that our city's growth and progress depend on our ability to adapt and thrive in the face of challenges. We embrace shared ownership, acknowledging that our city's success is a collective responsibility that requires active participation from all citizens, stakeholders, and partners. Together let's build a resilient, inclusive, and thriving Joburg that truly feels like home. With a performance rating of 68% across all priorities it's a commendable effort. Let us continue to strive for higher standards which are achievable.

We welcome the establishment of the Youth Directorate within the city, which will provide opportunities and support for young people to reach their full potential and to address the social, economic, and political challenges facing them. The achievement for 2023/2024 should increase in the next financial year. We look forward to greater numbers. The achievement of the city and all its entities in achieving an unqualified audit opinion. This achievement demonstrates the city's commitment to transparency, accountability, and good governance. It reflects the hard work and dedication of the city's officials and staff. This enhances the city's reputation, increases stakeholders' trust, and facilitates access to funding and investment opportunities.

Fellow Councillors, our goals are still intact through prioritizing capital projects and making astute capital planning. This success is a direct result of our team's hard work and dedication to responsible financial stewardship. We welcome the Mayor's acknowledgement of the water crisis in the city. We need a more effective solution to ensure a sustainable and resilient water supply to our community. The water crisis needs to be monitored closely with regular updates sent to residence. Let us see how effectively the Water Security Strategy document will be implemented. The Brixton and Crosby bulk infrastructure project, with a value of R512 million, will alleviate the crisis in the near future.

We welcome the interventions by the National Government as well. The energy crisis is a pandemic we face within the City of Johannesburg. We welcome the measures that were outlined by His Excellence as the Executive Mayor. We request the executive to invest more in innovative energy such as solar high mast lights in informal settlements, tourism precincts and flagship parks and many other areas. We welcome the noticeable partnership and intervention of the Gauteng provincial government. The addition of megawatts to our grid is welcomed and noticeable and with a clear strategy we can increase it.

The transport master plan within the city of Johannesburg is geared in reducing heavy traffic congestion. The work of the Johannesburg Road agency is noticeable throughout the city. Better collaboration with other entities must improve. The standard of roads in Johannesburg needs to improve. A collaborative approach is essential in maintaining clean and safe shared spaces. This will decrease crime and illegal dumping in these open spaces. Let us find meaningful ways of utilizing these open spaces. As a city we acknowledge disaster and disruption, how do we improve our response and effectively implement our disaster management plan? We cannot have a repeat of the Florence Nightingale Building and Usindiso. We welcome the legal strategy adopted by the city. Let us implement the strategy of partnering with the private sector in repurposing and rehabilitating buildings within the inner City and

across all regions. Let us be a caring city that recognizes the African female who is disadvantaged when seeking employment within our city. One explosion is one too many. Let us look to the future with hope and optimism. We have faced challenges and overcome them together. We have made progress and achieved milestones. There is still much work to be done. Executive Mayor, from your address, we have demonstrated that together we can build a city that is just, equitable and prosperous for all. Let us show the residents what it means to be a community that cares, that innovates and that never gives up.

As the African National Congress, we welcome the State of the City Address. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

Councillor Mphemo (DA) addressed Council as follows:

"Thank you, Speaker. Fellow Councillor; members of the Media; distinguished Guests; residents of the City of Johannesburg; ladies and gentlemen, I greet you all.

Honourable Mayor, you started your speech by quoting Martin Luther King Jnr, "If you can't fly then run. If you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward". Then, you seem to have a lot of excuses blaming Apartheid and past governments. You mentioned three things repeatedly: dignity, Apartheid, and basic service delivery. Let me start with the most used word, the most famous, Apartheid 30 years into democracy. Need I remind you of a hostel building in 1972, one of the hostels in Alex township built by the Apartheid government which the city intended to redevelop into family units, but it still has not done so. The city has failed to maintain historical buildings and infrastructure inherited from the Apartheid government - hostel dwellers don't have dignity.

No one is denying the remnants of the Apartheid. Yes, it was bad, but residents of the City of Johannesburg do not want to hear what happened more than 30 years ago. They want to hear what you are doing today, what you are planning for tomorrow, run Mayor run. You mentioned how the city demonstrates the provision of basic services; Section 79 Oversight committees are giving certain powers and responsibilities according to the Municipal Structures Act 1998. One of these committees is the Petitions Committee, which is overlooked and not taken seriously by you. A committee that is exposing departments and city entities and giving evidence that there is a serious lack of service delivery, and the residents of the city are desperate and feeling hopeless. Petitions are in a backlog. We all know this, we mention this all the time, but no one pays attention. Hundreds of petitions are unresolved, going as far back as 2016, every Department has its fair share in it. Are you also blaming today's unemployment rate to Apartheid? There is no dignity when a father cannot find employment to support his family. There is no dignity when our kids can go to school and abusing drugs. Walk Mayor Walk. There is no plan, you have no plan, wishy-washy leadership, crawl Mayor crawl, do something, move forward. The DA stands ready to rescue Gauteng and South Africa. I, thank you".

Councillor Nkokou (PAC) addressed Council as follows:

“Thank you, Speaker Margaret Arnold; the Executive Mayor, Councillor Kabelo Gwamanda; Whip of Council, Councillor Zungu; Member of the Mayoral Committee; Chairperson of Section 79 Oversight committees; City Manager, Mr Floyd Brink in absentia, wherever you are, we will protect you, we will defend you, in government, out of government, you are an African, we will defend you. Izwe lethu. Leaders of African political parties; the indigenous African residents of the City of Johannesburg; all Africans in our country Azania; in the continent; the Diaspora and abroad. Izwe lethu.

Madam Speaker, as an Africanist, let me first answer the question who are the Africanists? A simple answer will be that are the members of Africanist movement but if one wishes to go deeper into the question, one will say, they are those Africans who believe that African nationalism is the only liberatory outlook that can bind together the African masses by providing them with loyalty higher than that of their tribe and this molds them into militant discipline fighting force : Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe.

Mayor, what is disturbing me is the Africans talking as if they do not know the cause of the problem. If you want to address any problem, you must address the cause of the problem. You cannot talk about 30 years, whereas the economy is not in your hands, how are you going to build the houses? How are you going to provide services to your people? You don't have money. The money is with the colonialist, your slave master. Please, I don't know whether people think, or maybe we suffer too much from colonialism, or we are suffering from colonial mentality. However, both the Africans and the colonizers are suffering colonialism mentality because they think they are superior. They think they are the smartest, they know everything, but they are not. I would like to remind them, we are the ones that civilized this world, taught you mathematics, and everything and we are your fathers. You must respect us.

Madam Speaker, allow me to explain; you identify a problem, and you come up with the solution. The solution is Madam Speaker, and I hope each and every African can listen. We didn't fight for our people to go to RDPs when there are people staying in Sandton, in the suburbs. All of us, every African deserve to stay in Sandton, in the suburbs, you deserve to get the best of the best and for free because your country is rich and that wealth must benefit you and we don't ask for permission from anyone, it's given to us by God by the way”.

Councillor Sun (DA) addressed Council as follows:

“Fellow Councillors, good afternoon.

Executive Mayor, when I saw the congratulations and the hugs, and your fellow MMCs passionately calling out your name, “Gwami, Gwami”, I was really puzzled. I thought to myself, what are they celebrating? It was as if someone scored an own goal, and all his teammates ran up to him to congratulate him. The Councillors on the opposition benches exhaled in dismay as we learn a new way to celebrate mediocracy and failure. Despite the narrow successes boasted, the city remains in darkness in the firm grips of the crime lords. The true state of the city is that our streets are not safe, our

businesses open doors in fear of being robbed, and our homes remain heavily locked because we are scared of armed intruders. You tell us about crime and the problems we already know but you provide no tangible action plans, no resources allocated and no turnaround times to fix the problems.

Executive Mayor, yesterday you said the city is leading this course in joining the province and national spheres of government to fight crimes in the city. Well, in your maiden State of the City Address on 6 June 2023, you said, and I quote, driven by our conviction to never surrender our city to criminals, we are determined to collaborate with the provincial and national government to create safer neighbourhoods where residents can live without fear". Yesterday you, said JMPD's capability to enforce the law and target violent crimes has been enhanced with the deployment of CCTV cameras, in partnership with VUMA cam to provide the city with access to over 5 000 cameras in the city. Well, in your maiden State of the City Address on 6 June 2023, you said, and I quote. "We have since introduced a new initiative in partnership with the private sector that will give our JMPD access to over 5 000 smart CCTV cameras to allow us to monitor, track and trace crime suspects and perpetrators across the city". I can assure you Executive Mayor, the JMPD Integrated Intelligent Operation Center, the IIOC, does not have access to 5 000 CCTV camera feeds at any given time, and I challenge you Executive Mayor to invite the media to take a tour to the IIOC to see how many of the city's CCTV cameras are functioning.

Just as your state of the city address has not changed, the city is as unsafe as when you became the Mayor. Something I observed yesterday, your photo on the copy of the State of the City Address speech is the same as the speech of the 2022/2023 State of the City Address, so the city is more unsafe than in 2023. Mayor, you see, this is the reason why you hear any criticisms today but let's change that. Please allow me to give constructive criticism and offer advice. Here are three points of three suggestions: 1. By-Law enforcement, crime prevention; ensure that all JMPD officers do what they are legislatively required to do and not what they select to do. When officers see bylaw infringement, they stop and deal with infringements. When you see a broken-down traffic light, stop and direct traffic. Enforce the By-Laws, manage traffic, and stop these unruly taxi drivers endangering lives, motorists, and passengers. Prevent crime, fight criminals both minor and serious crimes. Set up specialized units, illegal mining units, infrastructure protection units, and gang violence units, look after your K9 they will bring you success. Set up dedicated fire engine procurement teams to deal with nothing but fire engine procurement. Mayor, let those who call out your name in the future embrace you in genuine joy and don't celebrate mediocrity and failure".

Councillor Machete (APC) addressed Council as follows:

"Thank you, Speaker. Good morning, Councillors; honourable Executive Mayor, Kabelo Gwamanda; APC constituency and fellow residents of the City of Johannesburg.

Speaker, allow me to debate on the State of the City Address. APC welcomes the speech Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg; it clearly outlines the plans and programs that will be followed to ensure that the city remains the place where people want to live and work safely in a clean environment. A place with maintained roads, clean water, constant water supply, good governance, stable administration, effective and reliable service delivery.

However, APC would like to point out the following as a point of concern to the Executive Mayor. Eskom, Executive Mayor, you mentioned the electricity challenges which have been going on for a long in our city and South Africa as a whole. He mentioned the partnership with the Gauteng Province government and Eskom to address this challenge collectively but also Executive Mayor, Eskom has failed our people for too long, and we don't see anything new coming out of this partnership. Right now, Eskom has increased electricity tariff which puts pressure on ordinary citizens financially who continue paying for electricity that is not always there.

JRA, Executive Mayor, you forgot to mention that JRA, the corrupt one, has failed our people and this was mentioned before in the Chamber. Cosmo City, urgent attention is needed at Cosmo City, the MMC of Transport, Kenny Kunene, visited the community and assured the residents that improvements will be made to the roads, however, did nothing, no action has been taken. Another concern is the Central Africa Republic Road where school buses drop children off, and they suffer by walking 5 km to school due to poor road conditions. The situation causes problems for our community, especially for young ones trying to access education. Executive Mayor, I thought your speech would mention a plan to fix this problem.

Mr Mayor, you mentioned that Joshco was on the right track, however, that is not true. Even when we celebrate passing the mark of having 10 000 units being rented by the residents of the city in the financial year. The quality of the houses being built is questionable. The houses Joshco built in Fleurhof are not up to standard and the entity has failed our people”.

Councillor Jacobs (DA) addressed Council as follows:

“Executive Mayor; Madam Speaker; fellow Councillors; all protocol observed.

I rise to speak on the State of the City Address delivered by the Executive Mayor. On the 6th of March 2024, the Health and Social Development Section 79 committee had a scheduled sitting, the Chairperson of the committee appointed by the GLU administration thought it appropriate to fall asleep within minutes of the meeting starting. It was clear that the health and social well-being of the residents of Johannesburg was not a priority to the GLU Chairperson. While the Chairperson was snoozing, Councillor Human from the Democratic Alliance received a frantic call from the Randburg Clinic indicating that they would be closing because of the water crisis that was plaguing Johannesburg. Councillor Human immediately after the sitting sprang into action and rushed to the clinic to avert the crisis.

There was not a sign of the Chairperson of the committee, nor the sign of the MMC Health and Social Development, and yesterday; the Executive Mayor made no mention of what plans they have put in place to ensure that our clinics are operational in the event of extended power failures and water outages. In fact, the Executive Mayor made no mention of Health and Social Development at all. Therefore, I must question the commitment of the GLU government, led by the ANC, to resolve and provide workable solutions to the social ills brought on by the very ANC government which has been in charge for the past 29 years.

Our Parks, Madam Speaker, open spaces, highway embankments, bridges, nature reserves, the City of Johannesburg community development facilities, sidewalks, shop fronts and hijacked or abandoned buildings are occupied by either displaced persons, recyclers, criminal elements or drug users; this is a crisis of note. Yet, Madam Speaker, the Executive Mayor makes no mention or table solutions to these crises. Is he hoping that the issue of displaced persons will just disappear automatically as he spins and deflects the legacy of poverty which was created by the ANC government.

Madam Speaker, the Windsor West shelter was born under the Democratic Alliance administration in 2016. It initially housed 35 grown men, and the Democratic Alliance understood that more was needed and therefore fostered the expansion of the facility. In 2019, when the ANC administration took over the running of the city again. The Windsor West shelter fell into disrepair and currently only houses 32 males, while the expansion project sits like an overweight white elephant. And so, Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that we observe a clear distinction between a party that cares about the people, the Democratic Alliance, and a party that does not, the GLU led by the ANC. It is with the greatest sadness that we see the ones oppressed become the oppressors causing utter destruction and devastation to our people and the city. However, Madam Speaker, all is not lost. Even though the state of the city was weak and void of substance, there is hope as the Democratic Alliance stands ready to rescue Gauteng and South Africa. Thank you."

Councillor Mhlongo (AIC) addressed Council as follows:

"Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Let me greet you Madam Speaker, in the name of the African Independent Congress; the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Councillor Kabelo Gwamanda; executives serving under the leadership of comrade Gwamanda; Chairpersons of Section 79 committees; all Councillors in the House; importantly the members in the Gallery and Joburgers at large.

Madam Speaker, I think I must start where Councillor Nkokou left off, but I know the backlash I could get from the other side. I will reserve my comment on that one. The African Independent Congress welcomed the State of the City, addressed by the Executive Mayor, yesterday. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today not just as a representative of our city but as one of its concerned residents. Johannesburg, our beloved city, is facing a multitude of challenges, and it is imperative, therefore, that we come together to address them. The issue of crime, Madam Speaker. We cannot ignore the fact that crime rates in Johannesburg are alarmingly high, every day we hear stories of theft, violence, gender-based violence and intimidation. This only not

threatens our safety but also undermines the fabric of our community. We must work hand in hand with law enforcement agencies to make our streets safer. Community policing initiatives, neighbourhood watch programs and improved lighting in high-risk areas are just some of the strategies we can implement to combat crime. The AIC welcomes the deployment of CCTV cameras in partnership with VUMA cam to provide the city with access to over 5 000 cameras in the city, enhancing the ability of JMPD to detect and respond to crime.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, the issue of unemployment weighs heavily on our city. Mr Mayor, too many of our fellow citizens are struggling to find work, we all know about that, and there are many reasons that this thing stands like that, leading to poverty and despair, especially among young people, Mr Mayor. By supporting small businesses, investing in skills development programs, and promoting entrepreneurship, we can create more opportunities for our people to thrive. Madam Speaker, the AIC hopes that the newly formed Youth Directorate in the office of the City Mayor will be supported to ensure the formalization of the Youth Development and Empowerment Strategy. Thirdly, our infrastructure is in dire need of attention. From pothole roads to unreliable public transport, the state of our infrastructure affects every aspect of our daily lives. We must therefore invest in upgrading our roads, expanding public transportation options, and ensuring that basic services like water and electricity are reliable and accessible to all.

Fourthly, Madam Speaker, the issue of equality looms large in our city. Johannesburg is a city of stark contrast where affluent suburbs exist alongside sprawling informal settlements, and we need to reposess Sandton. Addressing these challenges will not be easy Madam Speaker but I believe together we can overcome them because the government of local unity is anchored on service to people. It will therefore require cooperation, innovation, and shared commitment to building a better future for all who call Johannesburg home. I am the one that is calling Joburg my home and I think all of us here. Madam Speaker, one of the pillars in the AIC manifesto, says, "We are going to increase the age of the youth from 18 to 45 years so that we can accommodate all the society. Madam Speaker, if you look at the person who is 45 years old, that person is still fresh, that person can still be employed, that's what we're going to do.

Madam Speaker, in conclusion, let us roll up our sleeves and get to work. Let us be the change we wish to see in our city. Let us build a Johannesburg that we can all be proud of, and to the Joburgers, please stop voting for these political parties that are always crying. Why would you vote for a party that is always crying? not even offering a solution to the crying. You are just voting for a baby that will be a burden on you. So, please don't vote for ActionSA, don't vote DA, these are the DA light. Vote AIC. Vote GLU partner, thank you".

Councillor Echeozonjoku (DA) addressed Council as follows:

Madam Speaker; Executive Mayor; fellow Councillors and residents of Johannesburg, I greet you all.

The Executive Mayor, in his speech yesterday had once again shown the residents of Johannesburg how totally out of touch he is with what is happening in the city that he leads. Madam Speaker, the Mayor is talking about inclusiveness. Yet, he completely ignores rate payers from all areas across the city who contribute to capex projects for underdeveloped areas, even referring to some ratepayers as white arrogance. These same ratepayers, like other races, pay rates and services and get nothing in return. Let me tell you, Madam Speaker and Mr Mayor, that the collapse of service delivery in the City of Johannesburg is not a legacy of Apartheid. It is the city's failure to implement what residents pay them to do. It is caused by politicizing service delivery and only work being done in certain Wards aligned to the GLU.

Madam Speaker, the Executive Mayor speaks about the Usindiso building disaster as if it has nothing to do with the city, yet this is another prime example of failure by the JPC to do repairs and maintenance on properties owned by the city, and the Executive Mayor is failing to hold the officials to account. It is quite unfortunate, Madam Speaker, that the Executive Mayor failed to tell the residents when the last an audit was done on properties owned by the city, and how much money was collected by JPC on behalf of the city, and where does the money go?

Speaker, it is unfortunate that in this Council, we bring reports that we know violate the constitution. Yet, it contributes to fruitless and wasteful expenditure, and this Council is happy to steamroll through it with numbers. The Executive Mayor's lamenting about the challenges of crime and safety, he wouldn't take it seriously; he would rather politicize this very important issue because it was under his watch that VIP protectors are deployed, and only afterwards, risk assessments are done, and reports brought to Council. Madam Speaker, it is clear from his speech that the Executive Mayor has no plan on how to deal with zama zama's, and it is in fact the city has no capacity to deal with illegal mining. The Executive Mayor must tell the residents when last he spoke to the Minister of Police and the Minister of Mineral Resources to jointly find solutions for illegal mining in Johannesburg.

Madam Speaker, we don't want to know about the Mayor's sleeping patterns. We don't want to know. Listen to Councillor Michael Sun's advice and set up a special task team to deal with gang violence in the city and action it. The DA believes in a whole of society approach and it's for this reason that we believe that not only engaging different spheres of government but the Community structures to find solutions that are sustainable. Community Development, the Executive Mayor said nothing. Yet Madam Speaker, Parks and public open spaces remain danger zones for our children and women because the grounds are occupied by drug users and opportunistic criminals. The multiparty government had started with Park Rangers, now we hardly see any Park Rangers and the Mayor said nothing.

Despite the relaxation on load shedding as part of the ANC election campaigns, the cable theft continues. Madam Speaker, the Executive Mayor said nothing about the infrastructure protection plan. Under the multiparty government, the infrastructure protection unit included all spheres of government, yet the Mayor is talking about engaging them only now, why throw out good plans simply because it was not started by you? The billing crisis, Madam Speaker, the Executive Mayor clearly live in a different city from all of us. He said nothing about the billing crisis in the city; he has not mentioned any plans to get the billing crisis resolved. I agree with you Executive

Mayor in your speech. All as Councillors must pay our bills to the municipality and the municipality also has an obligation to ensure billing is correct, and where there are disputes, these are resolved timeously. And thank you, for the statement by the Whip of Council today, reminding Councillors in arrears, all of us. Because we know unlike me, some Councillors in these Chambers don't have active arrangements that they stick to in this Chamber and none of their details were sent to the media. For the benefit of transparency Madam Speaker, I wonder why the Executive Mayor has not told the residents that government Department and political parties including the African National Congress, owe the city a combined approximately R1.2 billion, and big businesses that are doing business with the ANC are completely untouchable. The city has done nothing to collect money from these government departments and businesses that are doing business with the ANC. Let us be transparent and collect from everybody.

Madam Speaker, the Executive Mayor must explain why different rules apply to the residents of the city, ratepayers who are just trying to make a living, and they are intimidated and bullied when they cannot make it and not even given an ear when they come to the Revenue Department. The billing crisis in the city, Mr Mayor, has made it very difficult for property investors and developers to remain in the city and they would rather invest elsewhere, leaving a low-rate base and adding a burden to the city. Madam Speaker, the Executive Mayor proudly announced that Joshco will soon have 10 000 units but no mention that Joshco is trying to return about 2 000 units back to the city. Joshco's inability to collect rental from tenants, lack of maintenance of the units, as well as the failure to correctly administer these units now put Joshco in a situation where they are too happy to return it back to the city. In that they were previously so happy to have them on the balance sheet. Madam Speaker, the DA believes that housing should give dignity to residents, and unfortunately under Joshco, it is not giving dignity to the residents. There are several projects on hold Mr Mayor, and I don't know why they didn't brief you about this because I was hoping you would mention it in your speech and give comfort that something is being done. Madam Speaker, it is unfortunate, as I said before, that the Executive Mayor is completely out of touch, and fails to tell the residents that there are several projects on hold due to non-payment. The Klipfontein wellness centre stopped due to non-payment. Buccleuch Upper Bridge, JRA is given notice, there has been no payment. For Storm-water project, the former contractor terminated work with the city due to non-payment; now the new contractor has also put work on hold due to non-payment. Debt collectors have not been paid despite numerous commitments to get this resolved; how long will residents wait to have these facilities used, or use the bridge or the road, or use the Wellness Centre, many more projects are at a standstill due to non-payment?

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, the DA will not be silenced. We believe in transparency and good governance, and the DA stands ready to rescue Gauteng and South Africa on the 29th of May. So, I encourage all the residents, vote for Democratic Alliance on the 29 of May".

Councillor Molefe (EFF) addressed Council as follows:

“Greetings to all Councillors; Madam Speaker, our Mayor; the EFF caucus and our guests in the Gallery.

Speaker, as the Economic Freedom Fighters, we extend our appreciation to Mayor Gwamanda’s State of the City Address. We believe that it offered a candid assessment of Johannesburg’s current realities, providing valuable insights into the government’s performance and suggesting solutions to propel our city forward. In his address, Mayor Gwamanda invoked Martin Luther Jnr’s words and I quote, if you can’t fly then run, if you can’t run then walk, if you can’t walk then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward”. While we resonate with the imperative of progress, the challenges confronting us demand more than a mere stroll, stroll or crawl. As a grassroots organization, we have witnessed firsthand the pressing needs of our people, leaving us no recourse to run and, ideally, fly. We cannot afford to crawl when delivering basic services to residents in the Johannesburg informal settlements. These communities still endure the indignity of the bucket system exposing them to numerous health hazards, our response must be swift and decisive. Similarly, our city’s crumbling infrastructure, prone to fires and other hazards demands urgent action, running or flying.

With 1.8 million Johannesburg residents below the poverty line of 800 000 living with HIV, we cannot afford to tread lightly; poverty must be eradicated and access to anti-retroviral treatment expanded with the utmost urgency. The stark differences in living standards illustrated by Gini coefficient of 0.63 in Sub-Region A necessitate rapid strides towards equitable development.

Allow me to cite instances where the EFF deploy individuals in our city who have intensified the spirit of urgency. The MMC Public Safety, Commissar Mgcini Tshwaku, swiftly controlled the miners in Riverlea, and responded to disasters like fires and floods. Meanwhile, MMC Health, Fighter Ramadimetja Makhafola promptly distributed laptops to enhance clinic efficiency and tackle cholera outbreaks head on. In a short space of time, EFF deployed MMC Tshwaku, and executed the following, among other achievements, namely, JMPD and EMS were provided with new PPE in a form of uniforms. New patrol cars and highspeed chase vehicles have been procured. A new crime combating unit and JMPD tactical response units were launched as well. As I continue, partnership with VUMA cam to roll out 7 500 cameras with artificial intelligence. Purchase of bullets and final stages of purchasing firearms. Filling critical vacancies to stabilize operations. Opening of the state-of-art vehicle licensing Department in Diepsloot. The adoption of a Disaster Management plan for the first time. The re-establishment of relationships with universities and professional bodies to improve disaster responses.

Similarly, EFF deployed MMC Makhafola ran and achieved the following in a short space of time: the launch of the advisory committee on gender-based violence. Development and review of policies, including the homeless policy, old people’s policy, food resilience policy, and children’s policy. Completion of eight memorandums with over 500 attendees in Soweto. Training on compliance and

market access of 100 Agro processor NQF level 3. Registration of all substance abuse treatment centres with the Provincial Department of Social Development. These examples underscore the necessity of swift action to address Johannesburg's challenges, and progress is not yet without obstacles.

As the EFF, we believe in constructive criticism as vital for excellence. The relocation of the Youth Directorate to the Mayor's office. For instance, youth issues should be integrated seamlessly within the Social Development Department rather than segregated likewise. Politicized structures in the administration of the city impede progress, hindering our ability to run or fly. Regarding the Mayor's mention of 350 bursaries, transparency remains paramount, as the representatives we lack clarity on the selection process and beneficiaries, such as the opacity of structures of our collective momentum. We call for a transparent, efficient, and accountable government to confront Johannesburg's challenges head on to claim our place as a world class African city. We must sprint towards a clean state, bolster revenue collection, curb crime and enhance infrastructure amongst other things. The indignity of the bucket system toilets must be replaced with dignified sanitation for all residents, especially those in informal settlements. Reflecting on the Johannesburg's state, we recognize the need for both intent and velocity. The city's rapid evolution demands accelerated responses. Thirty years post democracy, residents have waited for opportunities since 1994. We cannot afford to falter. We must run and indeed fly, as exemplified above, the few EFF deployed into position have demonstrated their capacity to run and fly and can clearly be entrusted in the governing of this country. I, thank you".

Councillor Leitch (PA) addressed Council as follows:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. Greetings to the Patriotic Alliance party whip, Councillor Lewis Simmons, our caucus leader, MMC Kunene in absentia; our coalition partners; fellow Councillors; Madam Speaker; Executive Mayor, Councillor Kabelo Gwamanda.

This particular coalition of 12 parties has really been easy to manage or keep together, but the Mayor has achieved it now for nearly a year. This coming Saturday, Councillor Gwamanda will be allowed to celebrate his first anniversary as the Mayor since he was in the Office. In the process, he had all MMCs in the GLU, which would have proven the many naysayers wrong. When many of them were predicting we would face having four different Mayors in a single year, 2023. This year's State of the City Address has shown that it is possible to have stability in a multi-party government that is more diverse than any in South Africa's history. I would like to take this moment to commend not only the Mayor but all parties who are part of this coalition for charting a common path despite our many differences and many disagreements. As the Patriotic Alliance, today, we disagree for example, on whether we should follow through with renaming Sandton Drive to Leila Khalid Drive. However, disagreements like these should not detract from our shared commitment to governance and service delivery for the sake of the people. I will not linger on this but there are many great, unacknowledged South African heroes that we should be considering for such an honour. Where are the streets named after the forgotten liberation icons, Anton Fransch, Ashley Kriel or even Harry Die Strandloper? This is part of a debate for another day, however.

Today, I would like to linger on the role that the Patriotic Alliance has played in this government. We are proud to be in service in the city and we have done everything we can to live up to our commitments in governance. In the portfolios that we lead, the Mayor has touched on some of the achievements in the Departments of Roads and Transport and Human Settlement. To hear that we have provided basic services to 97% of informal settlements was encouraging. Though, we must also caution that new informal settlements continue to mushroom constantly, and this is the battle that we should not take lightly. We should be careful to chastise our citizens for being guilty of high-water usage, where it is true that much of our water is being lost to leaks before it even reaches them. This is something we need to fix as this government, as expensive as it might be.

They appreciate the comments from the Mayor about our challenges in the inner city and we also urge the city to do much more. We are simply not maximizing the potential of the inner city or limiting the dangers to us there. The PA is advocating for a far more aggressive approach of expropriating hijacked buildings that owe the city millions in unpaid rates and services, to refurbish these properties for use in social and affordable housing or demolish the structure and make the land available in a city where the availability of developable land is shrinking every year, often desperately so. As a city, we need to be more demanding of the Joburg Property Company (JPC), to fight the good fight with us, along with city planning and the Finance Department.

We know that many residents of our city are excited about the Southern Farms Mega Project Development that was launched last year, but this project remains closely managed by JPC despite mostly also being a housing development. In the Transport portfolio, we can celebrate more than a year of MMC Kenny Kunene's service delivery campaign, Operation Restore, launched on March 21st, 2023. Operation Restore has made great progress in addressing road degradation. MMC Kunene has also signed the bus operating contract agreement between the city and the Alexandra bus company for Rea Vaya operations. The 68 buses have been procured as part of the preparations towards the operating of the bus route from the Joburg CBD to Sandton via Alexandra. Over the past 12 months the entity has repaired 4 887 damaged guard rails and 5 091 blocked stormwater curb inlets. It has replaced 272 manual covers, and replaced or repaired 4 928 regulatory road traffic signs. Fixed 47 237 potholes, resurfaced 57.69 km of tarmac, and 434,66 km of gravel roads.

The re-commissioning in August 2023 of the city's asphalt plant was a bold step forward as it could provide enough asphalt to resurface 2.5 km every single day. The Metro Bus under MMC Kunene also instructed its new bus fleet management system. The eye on the bus feature enhances the way Metro Bus connects with customers and we have now implemented Wi-Fi in our buses. The introduction of the interim automated fare collection system is also a highlight. In closing, we are confident the year ahead will be one filled with bold steps forward for the city in raising the bar on service delivery, the restoration of our infrastructure, and evidence that coalitions can indeed govern effectively as long as the PA is part of that government.

We call on all voters to back the Patriotic Alliance on 29 May 2024".

Councillor Raphadu (ANC) addressed Council as follows:

“Speaker; ladies and gentlemen, fellow Councillors.

Yesterday, Mayor Gwamanda provided us with a comprehensive overview of the progress and achievements made during his tenure leading this great city. As I listened to his speech, I could not help but recall the words of Amilcar Cabral as when said, “Always bear in mind that people are not fighting for ideas nor for the things in anyone’s head. They are fighting to win material benefits to live better and in peace to see their lives go forward to guarantee the future for their children”. Madam Speaker, these words serve as a clarion call, and for us as Councillors to work together in making sure that indeed, Johannesburg does become a better place for all our residents. Madam Speaker, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to securing a brighter future for all residents. Every day, we are confronted with a multitude of challenges, diverse perspectives, and converging ideas. Yet through it all, our focus remains on building a stable and resilient city that serves the needs of its people.

Fellow Councillors, the recent IDP review sessions spearheaded by the GLU coalition and guided by the GDS 2040 exemplified our dedication to fostering an active and engaged citizenry. It was a re-affirmation of our belief that the people of Johannesburg must be active participants in their own development. Madam Speaker, Nelson Mandela outlined five crucial points for the successful development of Africa, emphasizing democracy, the rule by people, promotion of rights, the rule of law and good governance. I am proud to say that under the leadership of this government of unity administration, we have made significant strides in each of these areas as evidenced by our 68% performance rating and the unqualified audit report across all entities. Fellow Councillors, let us not forget the challenges we have overcome and the progress we have made, the people of Phumula Mqashi, Kaya Sands, AmaRasta informal settlements are no longer forgotten, as essential services are now being delivered to their doorstep.

The UISP Program is gaining momentum, ushering in a new era of hope and prosperity for all the residents of the City of Johannesburg. However, amidst our successes, we must acknowledge the dark clouds that linger, revenue collection and billing challenges pose significant obstacles to our budget for service delivery. It is incumbent upon all of us, including Councillors, to fulfil our obligations to the city by paying our rates and taxes promptly. Madam Speaker, the dark cloud we had to deal with is revenue collection and billing challenges, in light of this, the city has to revise the collection target which impacted all of us. Not only our residents who are not coming to the party and paying rates and taxes, but even Councillors owe the City of Johannesburg millions of rands, and the majority of them are seated on that side. They talk about rescuing South Africa, but they fail to rescue the city by paying for municipal accounts. Madam Speaker, the zama zama’s, these are the scourge and the burden to the city. Illegal mining activities demand urgent and aggressive attention from all stakeholders. We cannot turn a blind eye to these issues that threaten the safety and well-being of our community.

Madam Speaker, fellow Councillors, allow me to address a matter that cannot be ignored. The failures of the past administration, the DA-led multiparty coalition, under the leadership of ActionSA's makoti, Mpho Phalatse, left our city in disarray. Their inability to deliver on their promises only exacerbated the challenges we face today. It is time for us to move forward, leaving behind the mistakes of the past and embracing a future built on unity and progress. Executive Mayor, I am glad that we are headed in the right path with the recommissioning of the asphalt plant. We are assured that the cries and frustrations of our residents are finally being heard. The MMC before MMC Kenny Kunene, failed dismally, and now we hear that he wants to lead Gauteng Province. How can he fix the province if he failed to fix the JRA?

Madam Speaker, fellow Councillors, as we commemorate the legacy of our forebearers, let us celebrate the renaming of William Nicole to Winnie Madikizela Mandela Drive. It's a symbolic gesture not only honours the remarkable leader, but also serves as a testament to our commitment to nation building and unity.

In closing, let us remember that our actions today will shape the future of generations to come. Let us continue to work together tirelessly and selflessly in service of the people of Johannesburg. Together, we can overcome any challenges, Mr Mayor, and build a city we can be proud of. Thank you. May God bless the people of Johannesburg and the great nation of South Africa. Let's not forget, on the 29th of May, the first ballot – vote ANC. On the second ballot, vote ANC, and on the third ballot, vote ANC. Thank you very much”.

5 RESPONSE BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

“Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Let me take the opportunity to acknowledge the Speaker of Council; Whip of Council and extend my gratitude for the reminder to all of us to keep up with the monthly payments of our rates and taxes as responsible Councillors. Can I also take the opportunity to acknowledge Members of the Mayoral Committee – “

Councillor Knott (DA) rose on a point of order. She requested the Speaker to ask Councillor Raphadu to withdraw a comment he made.

The Speaker in her response said she did not hear what Councillor Raphadu said, and further requested all Councillors to refrain from engaging each other and listen to the Mayor's response to their debate.

The Executive Mayor continued with his response:

“Madam Speaker, I think I am also now concerned about this issue of rates, and the defensive nature when it comes to certain aspects. I am citing this, Madam Speaker, on the basis that we understand that we are on the threat of a rates boycott, and I will assume that some of the pioneers may be amongst us. Madam Speaker, as I was saying, I wanted to thank the Whip of Council for reminding us of our fiduciary duties, as legislated.

Madam Speaker, starting with the debate from Councillors and political parties. Madam Speaker, some parties speak as if they are anticipating a reward regardless of whatever it is they are saying, whether factual or not. Madam Speaker, the 2023/2024 IDP review process gave this administration a bit more context on the relationship that exists between certain Ward Councillors and their communities.

Madam Speaker, I needed to stand up and correct the community. The fact is that I'm not responsible for Councillors, and therefore, it is not on me to change your Councillors. I remember having protected Councillor Bitkau and I was expecting that you were speaking on behalf of the community; hence, I was making reference to a reward of some sort. But nonetheless, Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the criticism, whether constructive or not. We draw strength in the direction which criticism points us to improve upon the efforts that we as this administration are putting together to restore the quality of service in the City of Johannesburg.

Madam Speaker, responding to Councillor Mthembu. We appreciate the concern that you portray for the City of Johannesburg, but also concerned about where you are on the ground. I have never seen you in any of the IDPs, any of the accelerated service delivery programs or any of the government initiatives that speak to interventions to the issues in which you question the government about. Madam Speaker, I'm not Shakespeare, but I remember one of the leaders in the one of the political parties criticizing my outfit because I was wearing a work suit, demonstrating the fact that I was responding to the immediate challenges of our communities, which is more important than having to defend the government of the day. Madam Speaker, Councillor Mthembu made reference to former MMCs that held certain departments that we found in a chaotic manner but let me go to the Economic Development and the lack of understanding of their deployee in the department. It was not until I had a one on one with MMC Mnisi that we came to understand that the Department of Economic Development, at that time, did not have an economic development strategy nor plans to introduce an Economist that would assist to steer the financial hub of the country in a direction that would enable investment attraction, and yet they talk about being the ones who would leave the country forward. When at the time of an opportunity, they were preoccupied with getting rid of black professionals.

Madam Speaker, there was a reference to the safety concerns in the City of Johannesburg, and I'm quite disturbed because I feel I need to do the State of the City again. Because it would appear that none of the points that I elevated were actually spoken to by Councillors on my left. Madam Speaker, the fact of the matter is that, in as much as we did acknowledge the challenges that the city is facing, we reassured the residents of the City of Johannesburg of our commitment.

We also acknowledge our shortcomings in terms of specific areas of reinstatement that were raised, but in the areas of Public Safety. I think I was covered by Councillor Molefe from the Economic Freedom Fighter, we mentioned of the crime combatting approach that we have undertaken as JMPD. The tactical response unit that is currently in place, and the tools of trade that are being allocated to capacitate that department. The only casing point that I can remember under the then administration, is the 47 million that was paid for a so-called impound in Denver, under the same Councillor who is talking about us not knowing what the safety concerns of our residents are.

Madam Speaker, Councillor Molefe equally covered me in the issues of Health and Social Development. But let me speak on the issues of City Power and the fact that this Council is the sole shareholder of City Power. City Power has been a contentious subject amongst Councillors on my left, in terms of its losses, efficiencies and effectiveness and not even once was City Power commended or acknowledged by shareholders on the strides that it has made. City Power has in the current, added 50 megawatts to our grid, in the next financial year we are adding an additional 50 megawatts. We are installing high masts in informal settlement to increase visibility and deter crime. We understand that there are deficiencies in our service delivery response but the fact that the company, that you are a shareholder in, for the first time since 2016 is making practical and tangible strides is something you should be proud of.

Madam Speaker, when I made reference of the systematic shock that the City of Johannesburg had experienced, I think it went over their heads that I was talking about 2016. In 2016, Madam Speaker, the City of Johannesburg cancelled partnerships that were critical to our service delivery. 2016 was a difficult time, not only for the employees of the City of Johannesburg but for the goal of a World Class African City. Madam Speaker, this government of local unity is a government that is put together by a common purpose, its commitment to service delivery does not border on political lines as we are being made to believe.

The accelerated service delivery program that I had alluded to earlier on was introduced first in Councillor Bitkau's Ward, and that was with the intention of attending to areas that we were informed was neglected for the past 6 years. Madam Speaker, I would like to take an opportunity to elevate a very important issue, that is our constitution. As enshrined in Chapter 7, sub-section 2 and 3 and it spells out that this government of local unity that was formed in 2023, and the fact that it is a formation that is recognized as a creature of statutes. The unity on its own was and still is driven by a modern-day struggle to, in the main, rescue the economic hub of our country from a systematic collapse by a right-wing agenda and a moonlight agenda. But also, to regain Madam Speaker, as alluded to in my state of the city, the constitutional right to self-determination on the part of the majority.

Madam Speaker, it is in my view and rightfully so, with an emphasis that the government of the day is better positioned to move this beautiful city of ours forward. This is due to in the main, our understanding of the needs and wants, and how our diverse residents interpret service delivery, and in the tailoring of short, medium, and long-term responses that are less antagonistic in an already unequal society. We are, therefore, Madam Speaker, endeavouring to strike a balance, targeting three focus areas. Critical and key, and transformative agenda and aligning the interpretation to our strategic priorities. Madam Speaker, we are steadfast in our endeavour to realize this Worldclass African City vision, through initiative that seek to reinstate service delivery and through the use economies of scale to improve on the quality of service while maintaining the value for money.

Madam Speaker, my own definition of the GLU is diversely constituted unity of purpose that has taken collective responsibility to protect the liberty of its people, and seeks to prevent the country from regressing, Madam Speaker, back into an Apartheid state. Madam Speaker, only this time it will happen through a democratic process, if we are not careful. Madam Speaker, if for any reason, there is a view that I may not be in touch with the ground, consider the fact that as I had stated that South Africa is the only Africa State where a former colonizer conducts oversight over the affairs of the state through a legislative process in a form of an opposition.

Ladies and gentlemen, be wary of a wolf savouring a meal to come under the false pretences that you need rescuing. Madam Speaker, this is a summary statement of my view, but then again, with what is happening and their constant attack and not realizing the strides that the city is doing. I would like to quote Marcus Aurelius, who demonstrates clearly the psychological warfare in use in public perception to mislead the public, and this Madam Speaker, should serve as a warning against what is coming, and I quote, "When a bunch of known corrupt people unite against the men, and spare no effort to ridicule him, blackmail him and attempt to assassinate his character, follow that man". Madam Speaker, in summary that is STRATCOM, but we are not there.

Councillor Machete, Eskom is a state-owned entity and we as City Power are collaborating with them to formulate a strategy limited to the province but targeted the City of Johannesburg, in particular. However, where there are challenges with Eskom related issues, the government of the day is open and willing to engage and find a solution for the affected communities.

Madam Speaker, I want to respond to Councillor Mabaso. Councillor Mabaso, when you enter a broken vehicle, you don't accelerate full speed forward. You assess the car's functionality first; you assess the pace. You can't accelerate when the systematic demise of the City of Johannesburg, trying to promote migration to a two-state solution in South Africa, which will never happen by the way. You need to understand what the objective is. The City of Johannesburg is the economic hub of the country and that is how it will remain. Councillor Mabaso we take note of the concerns you have raised about the Diepkloof hostel and the fact that it was not represented in my State of the City but Councillor Mabaso that is constituency of interest, whose needs are being attended to. The collaboration between the City of Johannesburg and the Gauteng Provincial Human Settlement Department will see their challenges come to an end. It would have been incorrect of me to isolate Diepkloof hostel from all the other hostels that are in the City of Johannesburg because the approach and the plan to be presented, is a plan that is all encompassing but we welcome and appreciate your assessment and the fact that even though City Power is not the competency of the province, human settlement is their key area of focus. We will use the same inter-governmental relations to ensure that we have seamless process in responding to the needs of our people.

Councillor Mkhonza, let me acknowledge and welcome the comments that you have made, and also indicate that the issue of Councillors defaulting on their payments is an issue that the Speaker and the Whip of Council are responsible for and are attending to it, I hope decisively. The gang violence that happens in our communities is a concern for all of us, unlike my predecessors, who prioritized the celebrity status

over the service that is required. I have gone in my personal capacity to interact with the families of those that have been affected, and just because you do not know about it, does not mean that the city is not actively working on addressing that issue head on. Madam Speaker, let me assure not only this House, but the residents in Johannesburg that we will restore law and order, we will protect the inherent authority of the state, whether it's against rate boycotts; the constant undermining of the state; or whether criminality that occur on a daily basis or against domestic issues, perpetuated by Councillors. We will not tolerate it.

Madam Speaker, last but not least, Councillor Belinda. I would like to first start by addressing the VIP issue that you had raised. I think it is disingenuous to say the least, for me to inherit what you have implemented, and in the process of us correcting it and being transparent. It is portrayed as if it is this government that needs a long of protection. Mind you caucus leader, I travel in my private car more than I do with bodyguards, that is the kind of leader that I am. The City of Johannesburg embraces me in the absence of protectors, so, there is no need for us to have 100 bodyguards - and I do not have 10 bodyguards. The eight bodyguards that are there were given to me by Councillor Mpho Phalatse. The car that I am being driven by is a car that I got from Councillor Mpho Phalatse. Madam Speaker, this administration has only sought to take an existing structure and table it before Council for record purposes, for there to be an assessment that is conducted on how we move forward with our inheritance, I hope you are covered.

Move on to other issues, the public open spaces that were alluded to by Councillor Jacobs. It's an active program Councillor, we are partnering with non-profit organizations and civil societies to ensure that we maintain our public spaces, there are innovative ideas, especially in Region F1 where demolition of buildings happened, and that area is repurposed for a park. Not only do we eradicate the congestion, or the threat of dilapidated building being hijacked, we convert those spaces in partnership with the private sector into parks, and where there are parks. We partner with them through Community Development to ensure that its maintenance is of the standards of the community. This has started under the stewardship of MMC Lubabalo Magwentshu, the servant MMC, and if you engage with Community Development, your communities can equally benefit from the opportunity that the government of local unity has made available.

Councillor Echeozonjoku, we do appreciate, like I allude to the VIP protection, the plans that the multiparty had put in place but we have not cancelled any of them. What we do, is that we repurpose certain budgets for our constitutional service delivery obligations. We have not cancelled or delayed payments for any underhanded reason, except for move it into the outer years, so that we can focus on the issue that has made you very famous, of the water cuts in the City of Johannesburg.

Madam Speaker, let me conclude by extending my gratitude for the constructive criticism first and the redirection to the critical areas of focus that affect Ward Councillors because we understand that service delivery affects them first. We will never, as this administration, politicize service delivery, we spread it across all seven regions and if you were honest with yourselves, you would agree with me. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker”.

6 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker thanked Councillors for their participation, and reminded them next meeting was for budget tabling and the debate thereto, scheduled on the 14 and 15 May 2024, respectively.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 13:45



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SPEAKER OF COUNCIL
CLLR M ARNOLDS

22 AUGUST 2024
.....
DATE