



**CITY OF JOHANNESBURG COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG MUNICIPALITY IN HONOUR OF THE LATE COUNCILLOR TC BUTHELEZI HELD AT THE CONSTANCE CONNIE BAPELA COUNCIL CHAMBER, BRAAMFONTEIN, ON WEDNESDAY, 25 JUNE 2025 AT 09:00.**

**SPEAKER OF COUNCIL  
COUNCILLOR N MTHEMBU**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

The Speaker: Councillor M N Mthembu

The Executive Mayor: Councillor S E Morero

Abdool, F	Harman, L J (DA)
Amad, T	Harris, R
Aphane, J D	Hlatshwayo, S
Arnolds, M S	Hlatshwayo, S M
Atterbury, E	Hoén, J N
Avant-Smith, C	Hooper, R S
Baloyi, D L	Horwitz, J
Benjamin, R F	Huggett, E A
Bini, L	Jacobs, B
Bodenstein, H	Jainoodeen, Z
Boer, C	Johnson, N
Bolani, M G	Jonker, N
Brand, D G	Kaldine, J
Campbell-Cloete, B	Karolia, Y
Chabalala, M D	Kgeletsane, M O
Chame, F	Khanyile, N M
Chauke, K L	Khomongoe, N
Cherry, J	Khumalo, X I
Chetsanga, H	Koekemoer, M
Christians, A	Komane, S A
Chuma, A T	Kreusch, S
Coogan, L C	Kunene, K
Cook, M	Kwapeng, C
Coutriers, M J	Landis, R
Coverdale, D L T	Lebatlang, T Z
Crichton, M	Lebea, M G
Da Gama, V M	Lefutso, L
Da rocha, C M D	Leshilo, R S
Dammie, B H	Liebenberg, E
De Lange, F C	Lobi, M
Deppe, A J	Louw, M A
Dladla, D	Maake, M J
Dlamini, B	Mabaso, M P
Durand, G V M	Mabelebele, S S
Echeozonjoku, B C	Mabidilala, M P
Edward, N	Mabuke, T A
Finn, C E	Mabunda, T E
Foley, D T	Mabuza, S K L
Fourie-Shawe, C	Madiba, T J
Francisco, D B	Magwaza, B L P
Galeshewe, T M	Magwentshu, L C
Goosen, J W	Maila, S M
Gwamanda, K	Makamo, S S

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

Nkonyeni, S P  
Nkosi, R A L  
Nkubungu, L  
Nkwanyana, P B  
Nofemela, N  
Ntoele, N L  
Ntombela, M J  
Ntshidi, T E  
Nyaqela, M M  
Nyembe, M M  
Nyembe, Z P  
Nzimande, C  
Papo, M M  
Pelzer, R  
Phometsi, P S  
Pietersen, J  
Pietersen, N  
Pitso, K  
Radebe, N P  
Radebe, T T  
Rahn, N J  
Raholane, M W  
Rakosa, P M  
Ramafikeng, D J  
Rambani, N S  
Raphadu, A T  
Raseruthe, S H  
Reddy, V M  
Roberts, F C  
Santana, C G  
Schay, D  
Seerane, M K  
Sekhu, M V  
Sekwaila, B J  
Shackelford, L M  
Shange, P A  
Shawe, Z  
Sherman, G J  
Shumba, K A  
Sifumba, N  
Simelane, P  
Simelane, S O  
Simonse, L C  
Sindani, F P  
Smit, P A  
Smouse, B M  
Sondag, J M  
Steenkamp, D  
Stewart, A J  
Suddaby, J  
Supe, N P  
Tabane, M C  
Tambani, P S  
Tefu, P V  
Telekoa, A T  
Truluck, T F  
Tshwaku, M  
Tsheddo, J G  
Tshehlo, G J  
Tsoetsi, L Y M  
Twala, Y A  
Van der Merwe, M  
Van Wyk, W M  
Wax, K P  
Williams, M C  
Wilskut, D  
Wissler, S T J  
Xulu, P S  
Xuma, L  
Zazini, A  
Zigebe, Y L  
Zitha, S L  
Zondo, L T  
Zungu, N G  
Zwane, S

## 1 OPENING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

*The Speaker welcomed all present at the meeting and requested everyone to observe a moment of silence for prayer or meditation. She then asked everyone to take their seats and addressed the Council as follows:*

*“When Saturday, 07 June 2025, ended with disturbing news that Councillor Buthelezi had been shot, we could only pray remain in hope.*

*When Thursday, 12 June 2025, started without Councillor Thulani Buthelezi to see the sun rise and see the sun set, may we perceive our sadness not as a sign of weakness and failure.*

*May we continue to ponder on the attacks of our Councillors, may we find sacredness in our tears.*

*When we come to the Council meeting today without one of us having to attend Council Meeting without Councillor Buthelezi; following our sadness of having lost three (3) other Councillor in less than 6 months, tears continue to be the silent language of grief.*

*Lord, have mercy on us as we battle with dealing with a loss of one of us. Lord graciously hears our prayers.*

*Modimo re thuse, o re hauhele as the City of Johannesburg Council.*

*Here, toon aan ons genade.*

*Nkosi ibanomusa kithi makhansela asedolobheni lase-Johannesburg. Nkosi yizwa imithandazo yethu.*

*Good morning, fellow Councillors, the Buthelezi and Moloj families, officials and community members present in this Special Council meeting.*

*Thank you very much to the bereaved families for honouring the invitation to this Special Council meeting. We are aware that the wound is still fresh.*

*As you face each day at a time, coping with grief, learning to live without your loved one. We come into that space not to add salt to your fresh wounds but to walk a journey of reflection with you, as the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Council.”*

## 2 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

<i>Councillor Jacobs, K</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Bittkau, R</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Hughes, Z</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Rohlssen, C K</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>

### 3 MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

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

*“Speaker of Council, Councillor Nobuhle Mthembu; Whip of Council, Councillor Zungu; leaders of political parties; whips of different parties.*

*To the family of Councillor Thulani Buthelezi, I just want you to know that Thulani was no ordinary man. He was a patriot. He served this community with distinction. He was committed to the upliftment of his community. He did all he could for his community except that his life was cut short. Cut shot by criminals and unfortunately, where we are, we are asking ourselves a lot of questions, like what could have happened. Why did they shoot him? Who shot him? And what could be the reason? And we do not have answers. It would have been better, if we were told that Councillor Buthelezi was sick and had passed away. Or maybe if he was rushing to Council and met with an accident, it would have been a better reason. Our problem is that we do not know why he was killed, we are asking ourselves questions. I’m standing here with difficulty because during this current term, Councillor Buthelezi would be the third Councillor in this Chamber who had been killed and gunned down. The first one was Councillor Mphahlele. The second one was Councillor Mathe and now it is Councillor Buthelezi, all in this term. We send condolences to the Buthelezi family.*

*Comrade Thulani is from Emdeni. During the time of the struggle for National Liberation, Emdeni represented what we called a liberation zone or a liberated zone. Emdeni as a community produced cadres and soldiers of Mkhonto weSizwe. In every period and interval of our struggle Emdeni was producing and that is why in 1986, Emdeni was declared a liberated zone by the African National Congress. We knew that every house in Emdeni has now been turned into a guerrilla base and that is the community that he was serving, Comrade Thulani. May he rest in peace. Those who knew him in this Chamber, especially in the ANC caucus. They do know that wherever he is, he is walking in the galaxy of great giants of our movement. Great giants of our struggle for national liberation.*

*To the Buthelezi family, we thank you for your attendance here today, in honour of our Councillor Buthelezi in our Chamber of the City of Johannesburg. We are really thankful for his life. One of the speakers on Saturday told us he used to work with Councillor Buthelezi at Standard Bank and said that he was one of the dependable employees of the organization. One comrade here in this morning says he was a dependable Councillor whom you could depend on him at all times. Another comrade said he will never miss any meeting of Council, and he will be on time. So, there are lessons that we are taking from Thulani that is, peers and colleagues here will have to learn. So, we will pick up the spear and move. We will pick up the spear and continue the struggle to liberate our people. We’ll continue the struggle to create a better life for the people of South Africa. Thank you, Buthelezi family. May the good Lord bless you. Thank you.”*

#### **4 MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE BY THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC)**

*Councillor Mnisi N (ANC) addressed the Council as follows:*

*“Thank you, Speaker of Council; the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg in absentia, Councillor S Morero; Members of the Mayoral Committee; Whip of Council in absentia; Councillor N Zungu; Chair of Chairs, Councillor A Marema; Chairpersons of Section 79 Committees; Councillors; the leadership of the ANC in Greater Johannesburg Region, leadership of various political parties; distinguished guests in the gallery and most importantly the bereaved family of the late Councillor Thulani Buthelezi. On behalf of the African National Congress, its leadership Councillors and the entire caucus, I wish to take this moment to convey our heartfelt and deepest condolences. To our sister Diana, the wife of Comrade Thulani, to his children, his mother, his extended family, close friends and the entire Buthelezi clan, to all of you, we wish you strength, comfort and courage during this incredibly painful time.*

*We understand that it is never easy to accept the sudden and tragic loss of a loved one, especially one who gave so much of himself to others. But it is our hope that the words shared in this memorial will bring some measure of peace and serve as a reminder that Councillor Thulani touched countless lives. He served with humility. He guided with wisdom. He uplifted those around him, even in his own quiet struggles; he gave counsel. He gave hope and he gave his life in the service of his people. Let us hold on to the beauty of his example, carry his legacy forward with the dignity and strength he showed.*

*To his beloved mother, wife and children, we offer the comfort of scripture, Psalms 34, verse 18; “the Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit”. Councillor Buthelezi was more than a Ward Councillor, he was a zonal secretary of the ANC, a cadre who rose through the ranks with discipline, loyalty and unwavering commitment to the NDR. His journey was not accidental. He served in our structures with distinction, always present, always dependable. As a zonal secretary, he was the engine of the movement at the local level. As a Councillor, he became the direct link between government and the people. He was a revolutionary with his feet in the dust of the community, not just in the air-conditioned boardrooms. He understood the pain of the people. He never distanced himself from the struggles of the poor. Even when he became a Councillor, he remained accessible, humble and rooted. Councillor Buthelezi did not wait for permission to serve. He's served because it was his calling. Though death came with bullets, it will never kill the ideas of Councillor Buthelezi. You may have taken his life, but you shall never erase his work, his sacrifices or his name from the hearts of the people he served.*

*Councillor Buthelezi was the epitome of what an exemplary public servant should be, a selfless leader, a beacon of hope in the community and a solution orientated individual. For him, the community was not merely a constituency of votes. For Councillor Buthelezi, the community of Ward 130 was his family, answering their calls*

*and needs at all times of the night. Councillor Buthelezi prioritized the community over personal gains and self-enrichment. At no point did Councillor Buthelezi misuse his influence in government to enrich those in proximity to him. Today, we gather here flying our flag, reflecting on a staunch leader.*

*Councillor Buthelezi was a firm believer in education. He often questioned the dissimilarity of institutions of basic education whereas the main human resource or component being the teachers came from the same institution of higher learning. Being the solution-oriented groundbreaker, he invested his mental and cognitive abilities and way, and he was a key member of Ebuhleni Primary School governing body for approximately a decade. During his tenure at the Ebuhleni Primary School, Councillor Buthelezi ensured he did justice to the responsibility resulting in the school receiving provincial recognition twice. He utilized these achievements to show that, in the context of the issues we face in our education system, not all solutions require monetary interventions, but some require pure compassion and coordination.*

*Councillor Buthelezi went above and beyond to ensure the youth in his Ward and the city at large; we afforded opportunities to better themselves primarily and act as a productive member of society. He was known for knocking on the doors of the Private Sector to negotiate for Youth employment and Internship opportunities in line with Corporate Social Investment policies, taking into cognizance the limited capabilities of the government to absorb all those. In striving for the development of the younger generation, the launch of a Youth Skill Centre was imminent in Ward 130. With the previously mentioned in mind, I humbly request that as we are gathered here, fellow Councillors, we commit ourselves to ensuring that the launch of the Youth Skill Centre in Emdeni is a success. And further lobby Council that in honour of our fallen brother in arms, we named the skill centre after him.*

*To the colleagues in the ANC caucus, we have lost a disciplined force of the movement. Councillor Buthelezi's voice in caucus was not loud but firm in principle, clear in purpose and always guided by the values of the ANC. His death is a reminder that we are under attack not just as individuals, but as representatives of transformation, justice and accountability.*

*In conclusion, Madam Speaker, the passing of Councillor Buthelezi remains a fresh wound in our hearts and minds. As much as we remain with the warmth of the memories we shared with him as our regional whip, we should not let his blood be spilt in vain. A rise in gun-related homicide, political killings remain a cause of concern in our communities and the country at large. Let his death not be reduced to a statistic or a forgotten name in a Police docket. We put our trust in law enforcement that the investigation will yield swift arrests followed by answers. We put our faith in Christ and try to accept the bitter outcomes of his will.*

*We call upon the law enforcement agencies to leave no stone unturned. We will not rest until the truth is revealed and the perpetrators are brought to book, but we will not join the chorus of conspiracy, nor allow speculation to define our laws.*

*To your memory, Councillor Buthelezi, we will pick up the spear. We will not retreat, and we will serve with honour. Farewell to the son of the soil. Thank you, Madam Speaker."*

## **5 MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE BY OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES**

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

*"Shalom. Shalom, Madam Speaker. Thank you very much. Allow me to start first by acknowledging our Almighty God, eternally existent in three persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.*

*To also acknowledge the Buthelezi family; the Executive Mayor in absentia, and his executives; the Whip of Council; the Chair of Chairs and all Councillors. The residents of our beloved City of Johannesburg, I greet you all in the wonderful name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen. Madam Speaker, I stand to convey ACDP's message of support and hope to the Shenge family, ANC caucus; the Section 79 Finance Committee; the residents of Ward 130 and the City of Joburg and all the employees, administrators and the Councillors.*

*Allow me to give a message of hope, Madam Speaker, from my guiding manual, the Holy Bible, from the following scriptures: Firstly, I will read from the Book of Proverbs 18, verse 24; "Friends come, and friends go. But a true friend sticks by you like a family".*

*Underline that and then in the message translation, it reads as follows: "Some friendships don't last for long. But there is one loving friend who is joined to your heart closer than any other". Underline that, then who's that friend? That friend is Jesus Christ. When all of us who are gathered here with nice speeches go. This friend Jesus Christ will remain with you. Please remember this scripture as part of your healing process that when we are not there, Jesus Christ will always be there. He will never leave you nor forsake you.*

*We gather here with sad hearts, but at the same time with hope, knowing that he is now protected from the evil times that we live in. According to Isaiah 57, verses one to two in the New Living Translation, it reads as follows: "Good people pass away. The Godly often die before their time, but no one seems to care or wonder why. No one seems to understand that God is protecting them from the evil to come. For those who follow godly paths will rest in peace when they die."*

*Madam Speaker, we live in times where children are raped, kidnapped and brutally murdered. We have to self-introspect as a society and go back to the basics, Ubuntu. I am what I am because of who we all are. Another scripture that I will give to the family is Psalms 116, verse 15, it reads as follows; "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of the Saints". My last conversation with Councillor Buthelezi was around the brutal killing of people. He said, Councillor Mkhonza, "Tell me what happened to Ubuntu? We knew back then that when a person is defenseless and is down, there's no need to beat them any further. We have to self-introspect as a society, especially in Africa, and go back to the basics, Ubuntu. We cannot afford to kill each other.*

*In closing, Madam Speaker, the ACDP caucus will continue to pray and work towards a safe and violent free society. We further recommend that Council should call a prayer day for all Councillors to cancel and nullify the spirit of death in this Chamber. Lastly, we cancel the attack or the ignoramus statement which says, "We are a country at war with itself". In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. For we know the power of the tongue, according to Proverbs 18 verse 21.*

*Condolences to the Buthelezi family. Rest in rest peace, my friend and colleague, Councillor Thulani Buthelezi. Shalom. Shalom."*

*Councillor Nkonyeni (ActionSA) addressed the Council as follows:*

*"We had many discussions with Councillor Buthelezi; our discussions were always lively. He was a very funny individual. He used to tease me a lot and he used to say, Nkonyeni, come home, referring to the other side, and I said No, you will never see that. I know we were at WITS Business School last year and we had a lot of debates, and he used to say to me, "You know what Nkonyeni, you can talk and talk and talk, but nothing will ever change". Those are the type of discussions that we had and that is how I remember Councillor Buthelezi.*

*I would like to open with the scripture from Psalm 116, verse 15, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants". Madam Speaker, to the beloved Buthelezi family, fellow Councillors and leaders, to the ANC caucus, colleagues and friends, we are gathered today not just in grief but in gratitude. Gratitude for a life lived with purpose, grace and a quiet power that touched every one of us who knew Councillor Buthelezi. In a city where politics can be loud and egos even louder, he moved differently with calm, with composure, with quiet strength. Councillor Buthelezi was the kind of leader who didn't need to dominate the room. He simply anchored it. His arguments were sharp but never sharp toned. His disagreements were pointed, but never personal. He was measured, mature and maddeningly calm when the rest of us were losing our cool. He and I, we were on different sides of the Chamber, often in opposition but even across the divide, he extended care. After every debate, no matter how spirited, he would check in quietly, consistently, like someone who knew the job was political but never forgot to remain human.*

*To his family, thank you. Thank you for the many sacrifices that allowed him to serve. Thank you for the long hours you gave up, the missed meals, the moments he spent with residents instead of resting. Please know that his legacy is not only in the work he did, but in the respect, he earned and the love he inspired in those who worked alongside him.*

*To the ANC caucus, today we mourn with you. In Councillor Buthelezi, we saw the best of what political leadership can look like; principled, disciplined, compassionate. His legacy will continue to shape the Chamber, not through slogans but through example. And if I may speak personally, my last two meetings, this is on behalf of our Chief Whip, Councillor Lebo Modukanene, she says their last two meetings with Councillor Buthelezi were different. They argued, more playfully, passionately, teased, laughed but then also paused for deeper conversation. It is strange. I can't shake the feeling that maybe he was trying to say something, or maybe he was simply showing me*

*more of who he was, as if to leave behind a fuller picture. Whatever the reason, I am grateful for those moments because in them I saw a man who was at once strong and soft, firm and warm, wise and wonderfully human. So today we release him, not just as a Councillor, but as a friend, a mentor, a brother.*

*I would like to close with second Timothy 4, verse 7; "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith". Thank you very much."*

*Councillor Magwentshu L (ATM) addressed the Council as follows:*

*"Greetings to the Speaker of Council; the Executive Mayor; Whip of Council; fellow Councillors; officials and most importantly, the family of Councillor Buthelezi. The African Transformation Movement in Johannesburg wishes to convey a message of condolences to the family of Councillor Buthelezi, friends and his party, the ANC.*

*Madam Speaker, today we are paying tribute to one of our own. A very humble, selfless and passionate leader who dedicated his life to serving the people of Johannesburg. Councillor Buthelezi was indeed a true servant of the people. Willing to lay down his life in pursuit of justice, equality and betterment of people's lives, which he believed would be attained during his lifetime.*

*Madam Speaker, Councillor Buthelezi has now handed the baton to all of us to continue the fight for true and total emancipation of a black child. We pray and hope the Almighty God will continue to give you strength to navigate life without his physical presence amongst you.*

*We thank Councillor Buthelezi for his sacrifices. His family, for his life and the ANC for his deployment to the City of Johannesburg. May you all be comforted. May your soul continue to rest in perfect peace, knowing that in this Council, he has left fellow servants who will prioritize the people of Johannesburg. With that said, I thank you Speaker."*

*Councillor Mokome J (COPE) addressed the Council as follows:*

*Thank you, Madam Speaker, and good morning. The Executive Mayor; the bereaved Buthelezi family; Whip of Council, Chair of Chairs; Section 79 Committee Chairpersons; Secretary to Council; acting City Manager and officials; ANC caucus; all political parties; residents of the City of Johannesburg; Media houses ladies and gentlemen, good morning.*

*Madam Speaker, we gathered here today with heavy, heavy hearts and deep sorrow to bid farewell to a man who gave his life in service to his community. Mr. Buthelezi, a metropolitan Councillor, a leader and above all a servant of the people. Mr. Buthelezi was not just a Councillor, he was a voice of the voiceless, a pillar of strength in times of certainty and a tireless advocate for justice, equity and dignity for all.*

*Madam Speaker, his presence in the Council Chambers was not just about politics, it was about purpose. Purpose, whether you are speaking in defence of the poor people. Purpose for advocating for better housing; or for people for demanding accountability. He did so with passion. He did so with integrity. He did so with courage.*

*Madam Speaker, his leadership was marked not by self-interest but by selflessness. He walked the streets of his Ward not only as a politician, but as a brother, a neighbour and a friend. He knew the names of the elders. He listened to the youth. He believed that progress was not measured in numbers only but in well-being of every citizen. The manner of his death, violent and senseless, is a tragic reminder of the dangers faced by those who dare to stand up for what is right. But let us be clear, Madam Speaker, though his voice has been silent, his vision must not be. Though he's no longer with us in body, his spirit lives on every streetlight turned on. Every new clinic opened. Every voice raised in demand for justice.*

*To his family, we thank you for sharing him with us, his sacrifice will not be forgotten. To his colleagues, may we honour his legacy not just in ways, but in actions and throughout our communities, let us continue the work that is started. Let us build the future, he dreamt; one of peace; one of fairness and one of opportunity for all.*

*Rest in peace to Councillor Thulani Buthelezi. Your life was a light. Your memory will be a guide on. Rise in glory. I thank you."*

*Councillor Avant-Smith C (DA) addressed the Council as follows:*

*Thank you, Madam Speaker.*

*Madam Speaker, today I look at the faces of the Buthelezi and Moloi families. The tragic death of your loved was echoed throughout this Chamber by so many of us. I was lucky on a personal level, to be able to get to know Councillor Buthelezi, and I think the overarching and overriding thing that really touched me about him was twofold. The first was he's a gentle man and the second was he's a gentleman. And I think all of us in this Chamber, share your pain and your sorrow for the loss of a true, true giant of a man.*

*I would like to end very briefly with my condolences to you, to his friends, to his colleagues, and to all of us in this in this Chamber and I am going to read from Psalm 23, verses 4-5; "Ye, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies. Thou anointed my head with oil, my cup runneth over". He's in a better place and our condolences to everybody.*

*Thank you."*

*Councillor Nkomo T (IFP) addressed the Council as follows:*

*"Thank you, Speaker. Greetings to the Speaker of Council, Executive Mayor, Whip of Council, Councillor Zungu; Chair of Chairs and the Buthelezi family.*

*On behalf of the IFP, we want to extend our condolences to the Buthelezi family. The passing of Councillor Buthelezi who was a breadwinner and father to his four children, he was the number one citizen in his Ward, a leader in his Ward and church. With all that, they took away his life, while he was home.*

*We send condolences to his family and friend; God will comfort you. Condolences to all with the scripture from Romans 8, verse 38-39; "Nothing can separate believers from God's love in Christ Jesus. Specifically, neither death nor life, angels nor demons, the present nor the future, height nor depth, nor any other created thing can separate a person from God's love". With those words, condolences to the family, we pray God will help you heal."*

*Councillor Smouse M (PA) addressed the Council as follows:*

*"Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus, saviour in Christ.*

*Greetings, Madam Speaker; Executive Mayor Whip of Council, Chair of Chairs, PA Joburg 10, under the capable leadership of MMC Kunene and most importantly, greetings to the residents of the City of Johannesburg, our heartfelt condolences to the family at large. From the PA, we would just like to extend our warm and sincere condolences to the family and to the ANC at large. Please do accept our condolences and just remember your loved one was a servant of the people. May his soul rest in peace and rise in glory. Thank you."*

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

*Madam Speaker, family and loved ones of the late Councillor Thulani Buthelezi; Executive Mayor and colleagues in Council; Fellow Councillors; Comrades; and community members.*

*It is with heavy heart and profound sorrow that we gather here today to pay tribute to a fellow public servant, Councillor Thulani Buthelezi, of Ward 130, Naledi and Emdeni in Soweto. A servant leader, whose life was cut short in most brutal, senseless and cowardly manner. This is not just a loss of a Councillor; it is a silencing of a community voice. A compassionate hand and a man of peace who believe in possibility of unity across political lines.*

*As the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, PAC, we mourn him not only as a colleague in Council, but as a comrade in service. Councillor Buthelezi worked with all political parties in the spirit of Ubuntu and non-partisanship. He did not see the political jersey before seeing the human need. We recall vividly how, when one of our PAC members passed on under difficult circumstances and the family had absolutely nothing, it was Councillor Buthelezi who stepped forward without seeking limelight or applause. He took upon himself to mobilize resources so that our comrade could be given a*

*dignified sent off. That was the measure of a man. His politics were rooted in compassion in people, not in slogans. Together with him, we forge a critical partnership under the Department of Community Development to bring much needed infrastructure to the Ward. He was a visionary political driver behind a project to bring a swimming pool recreational facility to the people of Naledi and Emdeni, a legacy project that, he believed, will bring dignity, Wellness and opportunity to the young people. This project, forged through a Public Private Partnership, was not about cutting ribbons, it was about cutting the cycle of neglect in our communities. It must now continue, it must be completed in his honour.*

*Madam Speaker, it will be remiss of us not to speak on the circumstances surrounding his untimely death. Councillor Buthelezi was assassinated at gunpoint. A fate no public representative should face in the course of serving their people. This act was not only a personal tragedy, but it is also a political crime against our democracy.*

*We must speak without fear, as Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe once declared, "It needs that we speak the truth before we die". The truth is that this comrade was failed by a system that has now exposed Councillors and MMC to danger. The truth is that the very Democratic Alliance, the DA, that introduced security provision for Councillors while in government, has now through its court action, ensured the withdrawal of that protection. What kind of conscience does that? When they were in power, they said security was necessary and now they argue it as an unjustified expense. Councillor Buthelezi is no longer here to speak for himself, but we are. We will not keep quiet when political point scoring tramples over human life. We call on the city, the Province and the National government to urgently restore security for public representative, there must never again be another Buthelezi, murdered while serving.*

*To the family of the late Councillor, we say you have carried a giant in a humble form. His loss is our loss, his legacy is now our collective responsibility.*

*To the people of Ward 130, we pledge to continue the development programme he started, the swimming pool and recreation facility must rise as a monument for his passion and SA Sanctuary for the community renewal.*

*Rest in peace Councillor Buthelezi, you ran your race with humility, dignity and devotion. May your revolutionary spirit find internal rest. Izwe lethu."*

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

*Good morning, Madam Speaker; Executive Mayor; all my colleagues and the bereaved family.*

*I served with Councillor Buthelezi on the MPAC Committee, and I learned so, so much from him. At one of the meetings, he was acting chairperson, and we were all very impressed with the manner in which he conducted himself. He was a true servant. I am very angry, and I'm deeply aggrieved. The day that I was shown the picture of Councillor Buthelezi, who had been killed, I was at an event, and it just threw me off completely. I didn't understand. Yet another sacrifice. Leviathan, they say, "You live by*

*the sword, and you die by the sword". Now this doesn't make sense to me because he did not live by the sword, so why would he die by the sword? He stood for what is right and loved by love and servanthood the killing and murder of a righteous man is not normal. But it happens only in an evil world.*

*Some of my colleagues from a different political party we all serve on Section 79 Committees, and we make up different political parties and one in one of the reports I read that this committee went to do. An oversight at one of the communities at a facility and they were Encountering A hostile group of community members. So much so that JMPD had to be called in. So, I asked myself, are we now going to be the targets of the very same people whom we are supposed to serve? I asked Myself, was it worth it? It is not right that breadwinners, fathers, husbands, sons, brothers and uncles are killed mercilessly. He who served this community with love and diligence, I always listen to how he spoke passionately about what needs to be done and what is not being done and how he envisaged this community his ward. So, it's shocking that someone would pick up a gun. Go into his territory and kill him. Something is not right in this whole scenario. Why do the righteous perish while evil thrives? I now hand over the one who pulled the trigger and the one who ordered the killing, I pray for the heavenly courts of justice to deal with those people. Sorry guys, I'm not going to speak you know what everybody sees, but justice needs to be served. Justice needs to be served and diligently so, and people need to go to jail, and people need to be sentenced too long. Do we have scenarios where people kill, and they get away with it? This cannot be.*

*To the Buthlezi family, I'm so sorry. Meme put a lazy my deepest heartfelt condolences to you and your children and the rest of the family. Words are feeble. We say these words in an hour. From now on, we are going to carry on with our next Council meeting, but your lives will forever be different for the rest of your lives. You will never hear his voice. You will never hear his footsteps. You will never encounter life with him ever again, because his life was cut short. I evil. Know that God is your comfort, and your strength and rest assured that justice will prevail. Thank you."*

*Councillor Karolia Y (ALJAMA-AH) addressed the Council as follows:*

*"Salaam alaikum. Greetings to the Buthlezi family; Madam Speaker; the Executive Mayor; Whip of Council; Chairs of Chairs; fellow Councillors and the members of public.*

*Life is short. We are here today again, here to grieve another colleague. In the last 6 to 8 months, I think we've buried already four of our colleagues, fellow Councillors and I think that's an eye opener indeed that we as Councillors, we're serving our community. We should be wary of our surroundings, and indeed we should be appreciative that we are in the in the position to help our fellow our community. You're going to get ungrateful, that is going to do evil deeds by obviously doing what they've done to Councillor Buthlezi, and I know justice will be served on that. We all know the fact, the statement; "Unto to him do we belong, and unto him is our return".*

*So, from Al Jama-Ah to the Buthelezi family, to the caucus of the ANC, our heartfelt condolences on your loss. May you find the strength, comfort and peace in the memories of your loved one. Councillor Buthelezi was a legend, he was an honourable Councillor, he's surely going to be missed. It was a great loss, and I think it was a great loss to the ANC as well as his community and I'll end with this. The short time I knew him, he was always inspiring, gentle and full of humour. Thank you. Salaam."*

*Councillor Mosehla K (EFF) addressed the Council as follows:*

*"Morning Speaker; Executive Mayor; acting City Manager in his absentia; Whip of Council; Party leader of the EFF; Chief Whip of the EFF and fellow Councillors; Buthelezi family.*

*Let me start by saying the Executive Mayor; Whip of Council, City Manager, Speaker of Council, Chief of Police, we demand our safety and that of our families and communities back. Executive Mayor, Whip of Council and Chief of Police, court order or no court order, find a way. We are not asking, we demand our safety back. Find a way of making sure that we are safe. We don't want to come back here and talk about this again, make a plan, we are tired.*

*Councillor Buthelezi was one of us, we sat in the sat row, we saw each other every time we can here, we greeted and each other and we were friends. Now he is gone. His life was taken away in a manner that was not appropriate, hence the Executive Mayor and Whip of Council have to fix the issue. Councillors' security depends on the municipality, those who told the courts that they were safe can be left aside, those of us Councillor who are not safe require the municipality to intervene. We don't live in gated streets and area; we live amongst our people. We live with criminals that we serve and fight for their service delivery.*

*With broken hearts and eyes filled with tears, we bow heads in mourning for the life and service of our dearly departed comrade and brother. The young but old Councillor Buthelezi, a humble servant of the people. A disciplined cadre of the African National Congress. A shining light in the City of Johannesburg City Council, particularly in Ward 130 in Soweto.*

*Councillor Buthelezi was more than a public representative. He was a father to the fatherless. He was a voice to the voiceless and vigilant watchman over the vulnerable. His work will echo in eternity. As we grieve, we find comfort in the sacred words of Psalm 34, verse 18; "The Lord disclosed to the broken hearted. And saves those who are crushed in spirit." He was a man who walked humbly and boldly amongst these people. In his passing, we are reminded of Second Timothy, Chapter 4, verse 7, which says; "I for the good fight. I finish the race, and I've kept the faith." Our brother ran his race with integrity. He stood for justice and upheld the values of democracy and people centred governance. His contribution to the local government and his unwavering discipline as a regional leader in Region D of the ANC will remain etched in the hearts of those who he served with. In this moment of sorrow, we cry. We cried loud like David in Psalm 124 verses 1 to 2. May the Almighty God comfort the brute family, his comrades, his friends and the entire ANC movement.*

*May his memory be a blessing in his soul rest among the righteous. Let's hold on to the eternal promise in Revelation 21 Chapter 4, "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain for the old order things have passed away." As we bid farewell to these fallen giants, we say, rest in peace Councillor Thulani Buthelezi. May the heavens welcome you and may your spirit guide us as we continue the struggle you have selflessly waged. I thank you, Speaker."*

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

*"Madam Speaker; The Executive Mayor; Members of the Mayoral Committee; Whip of Council; the Chair of Chairs; Chairperson of Section 79 committees; fellow Councillors; guests in the gallery and most importantly, the family of our beloved Councillor Thulani Buthelezi.*

*It is with profound sorrow and a sense of mourning that regard that to honour the memory of Councillor Thulani Buthelezi. A leader taken from us far too soon, in the most violent and heart wrenching of ways. Shot in his home in front of his family, the son of the soil, a voice of his community that has been silenced.*

*On behalf of the United Democratic Movement and my personal capacity to extend our deepest and most heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones, to his comrades in the African National Congress and his constituents. May you find comfort in knowing that his life was one of service. It was one of courage and unyielding purpose.*

*Councillor Buthelezi was not just a Councillor; he was not just another public servant with a seat in this Chamber. He was a hood leader in every sense of the word, rooted in his community, driven by conviction and completely unafraid to confront the tough issues. He did not debate for sport. He debated for justice. He did not raise his voice for attention. He raised order to echo the cries of his people. He was a kind of leader who reminded us through both word and deed, that politics is not performance. It is a responsibility. He never allowed partisanship to cloud his conscience. He was level-headed, principled and guided by the clarity of thought that we all respected, even those who often disagreed with him. They respected that. He was quiet simply a good man, a rare kind of man. For many of us, our paths crossed not only here in Council, but also in the lecture rooms of the WITS School of Governance, there too, his light shone, his presence commanded the room without effort. His contributions laced with real life experience, policy insight, and street wisdom were lessons in themselves. We drew from him. We learned from him. We grew alongside him. He was our peer. He was our friend, and he was our brother and now he is no more.*

*Madam Speaker, let us not sanitize this tragedy. Let us not reduce this moment to rooted and condolences. Let us name the crisis for what it is. Councillors, especially Ward Councillors are under siege. They are being targeted, they are hunted and killed. This is not isolated. This is systemic is systemic. Today it is Councillor Buthelezi. Tomorrow it could be you, or it could be anyone of us and each time we lose one of our own, we lose the lifeline between government and community. The very custodians of democracy and grassroots level are being assassinated, whether for*

*political reasons or criminal gain, or that of service delivery frustrations. Let us speak honestly. Who will speak for the people when their voices are being assassinated? Who will carry the struggles of the forgotten, the poor and the marginalized when those who represent them are met not with gratitude, but with bullets? How do we claim to value local government when we cannot guarantee the safety of its most visible and vulnerable servants, and then we take policies to court in order to keep those who are serving us to be always vulnerable to communities and to criminals. This is not just a political problem. It is a moral collapse and unless all spheres of government respond urgently and decisively, we will soon have a democracy that is bled dry of integrity and leaders. Councillor Buthelezi gave his life to the people, not metaphorically, but literally. And while we have buried his body, we must raise his name. We must carry his spirit, and we must demand his death is not just remembered but avenged through justice, through reform and through unwavering solidarity across party lines. I call on all parties to look at the policy to safeguard these Councillors going forward because even if you are leaving in high walls areas whereby you've got safety and security, you might be next. We do not know. Safeguard yourself from now on. To the African National Congress, we mourn with you. A cadre has fallen. A soldier has been taken, but his legacy must not be left to die with him. We must all, regardless of party lines, pick up the torch he carried because the struggle he fought for was not just for the ANC. It was for the soul of our communities.*

*To his family, you gave us a giant. We will honour him not only with our words, but with the way we choose to lead going forward with principle, with courage and with heart. May his soul rest in eternal peace. May his name never be forgotten. May his spirit live in us, the ones who still dare to lead.*

*Rest in power Shenge.*

*Rest in power Buthelezi.*

*You were more than a comrades.*

*You were the people's champion.*

*I thank you."*

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

*"Speaker of Council, Councillor Nobuhle Mthembu; Executive Mayor, Councillor Dada Morero; Whip of Council; Councillor Sthembiso Zungu; Chair of Chairs, Councillor Marema, but most importantly, the Buthelezi family greetings.*

*Speaker, I won't speak on the safety of Councillors and the guns that are in our areas. I think councillors have spoken on it. The AIC today wants to give condolences to the Buthelezi family and to the ANC. We gather here today with profound sorrow, but also with deep gratitude as we remember and celebrate the life of Councillor Thulani Buthelezi. A man who embodied the true spirit of servant leadership and who devoted his life to the service of others. Councillor Thulani was more than just a public representative; he was a people's person in the truest sense of words. His door was always open. His ear was always attentive and his heart always willing to listen and respond to the needs of those he served. Whether he was in the Council Chamber or walking the streets of Ward 130, Councillor Thulani was present, accessible and deeply connected to his community. He believed that leadership was not about the position or*

*power, but about being a faithful servant to the people. As a regional whip of Region D, Councillor Buthelezi's leadership was marked by responsiveness, humility and unwavering dedication. He carried out his duties with a servant's heart, always putting the needs of his community first and working tirelessly to address the challenges and uplift their lives. His commitment to serve as extended beyond policy and politics, it was visible in the care, showed to every individual, including us in Council. In the way he advocated for justice, dignity and opportunities for all.*

*To his family, we offer our sincerest and most heartfelt condolences. We know that no words can truly ease the pain of losing someone so dearly loved but please know that you are not alone in this grief. We too share your sorrow and stand united with you in remembering Councillor Thulani's life and legacy. May you find strength in the knowledge that he touched so many lives and that his spirit lives on in the community he loved so deeply.*

*To the people of Ward 130 who had the privilege of knowing Councillor Buthelezi up close, we honour your loss. He was your champion and your friend. A leader who carried your hopes and aspirations with the true care and responsibility. Your grief reflects the bond he built through his genuine, heartfelt service.*

*And to the African National Congress, his political home, we acknowledge the passing of a comrade who embodied the values of your movement, commitment, resilience and unwavering faith in the pursuit of equality and justice. Councillor Thulani's dedication in the course was steadfast, and his contribution will be remembered and cherished as we mourn his passing today, let us also celebrate his rich legacy he leaves behind. A legacy of compassion, servant leadership, and an unshakable commitment to the people. Let us honour him by carrying forward his work and continuing to build the kind of society he dreamed of. A society rooted in dignity, inclusion and opportunities for all.*

*May Counsellor, to Lani Buthelezi, rest in peace, knowing that his life made a profound difference and may we carry memory in our hearts. God will wipe away your tears from your eyes. Take heart in knowing God knows your pain and your suffering. With this, we say, rest in peace, Councillor Buthelezi.  
Thank you."*

*Councillor Marema V (ANC) addressed Council as follows:*

*"Greetings madam Speaker; Executive Mayor, Councillor Dada Morero; Whip of Council, Councillor Sthembiso Zungu; family of Councillor Buthelezi; fellow Councillors; caucus of the ANC; officials and guests.*

*Today we gather with heavy hearts to honour one of our own. We have lost a colleague, a comrade, a servant of the people, Councillor Thulani. Those who served alongside him, Thulani was known for his calm presence and sharp mind. Quiet in nature, but never timid. He was principled, disciplined and deeply analytical. He never raised his voice to compete, but he raised it to stand firm. He asked difficult questions not to disrupt, but to clarify, not to grandstand, but to serve. Whether in MPAC, Finance or as a Regional Whip, he carried out his work with focus and purpose. To me*

*personally, he was always on time. Always prepared. Always ready to lead. His smile disarmed, but his intellect never wavered. To his community, he was dependable. To his Comrades, he was loyal. To his family, he was a light and the legacy, and now that light has been taken not by age, not by illness but by violence. Councillor Thulani Buthelezi he was brutally murdered, taken from us in a manner that is unacceptable in any society. His death was an assassination. A calculated act of intimidation that failed because though he is no longer with us in his body, his voice and memory live in us all. We are reminded today of another painful moment in our history, when comrade Hani was mercilessly gunned down for his convictions. Like Hani, Councillor Thulani Buthelezi stood firm in his principles and like Hani, his life was stolen in an attempt to silence courage, but history has taught us you may kill a revolutionary, but you cannot kill the revolution. Thulani's spirit like Hani's, lives on in the struggle for justice. It was President Nelson Mandela on the passing of OR Tambo who said, "We say he has departed but we can't allow him to depart while we live. Can we say OR is no more while we walk this solid Earth?" Today we find ourselves at a similar crossroads. We ask, "Can we say to Thulani Buthelezi is no more?" While the very issue he stood against; violence, fear and impunity remain with us. We cannot because Thulani did not leave for himself. He surrendered his being to the people; he lived through his service. He lived his life still through our memory, and so we cannot allow him to die. Not in silence, not in forgetfulness and certainly not in vain.*

*Comrades and Councillors, today we must confront not only our grief but also our politics. We are members of a liberation movement, not just a party. Ours is not just a structure of government, it is a vessel of the people's power. Built on the shoulders of giants who taught us that revolutionary conscience is not a slogan; it is a discipline. Revolutionary consciousness in the ANC tradition means understanding that power is borrowed from the people, it does not belong to us. It means knowing that to serve is not to arrive, it is to sacrifice. It means placing principles before personalities, the collective before self. Councillor Buthelezi lived that consciousness. He was not seduced by titles. He was not afraid to challenge wrong decisions. He was not shaken when others folded. His commitment was ideological; his discipline was political. His life was revolutionary, and so we must ask, what does it say about us? About this moment in our movement, when it is those who embody revolutionary discipline, who are the ones being targeted?*

*This year marks 70 years since adoption of Freedom Charter in Kliptown, a document that declared unambiguously, that people shall govern. There shall be peace and friendship. There shall be work and security all who lives in South Africa shall enjoy equal rights. That Charter was a blueprint of just society, but it was also a mirror showing us what we must continuously work towards. Councillor Buthelezi lived as though that Charter was carved into his conscious. He governed for the people. He worked tirelessly. He upheld dignity in very space he occupied.*

*But here is the painful contrast. While the Freedom Charter imagined a South Africa where the best amongst us is elevated, our reality today is where they are executed. While the Charter promised that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of the people. Today we bury a comrade because he exercised that very well without apology. If revolutionary conscious means anything, it must mean that we speak out now, not only in tribute, but in commitment, not only in mourning but in militant introspection.*

*Comrades, let us also take this moment as a mirror, because Councillor Buthelezi is not the first to fall, and heartbreakingly, he may not be the last. We have lost far too many Councillors comrades, who raise their hands in the spirit of service, only to be met with violence, betrayal and death. These are not just statistics, they are fathers, mothers, youth leaders, women activists, community builders, they are cadres of our movement, who believed in a better South Africa. And we if we do not act. If we do not reclaim the integrity of public service and root out the criminal elements that have found shelter in our democratic space, we will wake up one day and find that no one is willing to lead. One day we will go to branches, no hands will be raised. Not because people don't love our movement, but because their families are tired of mourning because their children want them to come home alive. Because our communities are bearing more councillors than they are graduating young leaders. This comrades, is the price of silence and we must ask how do we defend the gains of democracy if those who serve it are haunted like enemies? If Councillor Buthelezi's death is not to mean anything, it must jolt us. It must be the moment where we say no more. No more Councillors killed for doing the right thing. No more public servants punished for honouring their oath. No more fear passing down to the next generation.*

*Madam Speaker, when I think of Councillor Buthelezi, I am reminded of a baobab tree. A symbol often evoked in our movement. Just as a great baobab tree stand through centuries storing lives and shelters with its wide trunk. So too, Thulani Buthelezi stands unyieldingly through adversity, his resolves a reservoir of courage for us all. Under its shade, community gathers to deliberate and seek clarity in the same way Thulani created space for recent leadership, for justice and for truth. The baobab is honoured in our country through the order of baobab for endurance, humility, and service for the nation, today, in spirit, we confer that honour upon him.*

*To the Buthelezi family, Shenge, we say thank you, for giving us a man of such integrity. We pray that God grants you peace that surpasses understanding and strengthen to endure your loss. We share in your pain, and we will not let his name be forgotten in the City.*

*To this Council and this City, the challenge before us is now clear. We must protect our Councillors. We must guard our democracy. We must create a city where service is safe. Where courage is not punished. Where truth does not cost a life.*

*And to you Councillor Buthelezi, my friend, my comrade, I say lala ngoxolo May your soul rest in peace. I thank you."*

*The Speaker expressed gratitude to all political parties for their heartfelt messages of condolence to the bereaved family. She then requested the House to observe a moment of silence in honour of Councillor Buthelezi.*

*She thereafter addressed the Council as follows:*

*On behalf of the City of Johannesburg we continue to extend our heartfelt condolences to the Buthelezi family. We understand how difficult this time must be for you as you grieve the loss of a beloved son, brother, husband, father and uncle. Our prayers are with you during this difficult time.*

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

*"The pain passes, but the beauty remains."*

*On 11th November 2020 Councillor Buthelezi was sworn-in to serve as Ward 130 Councillor. On 05th of November 2021 late Councillor Thulani Buthelezi was inaugurated to serve in this Council, for the Political Term 2021 to 2026. After he was sworn in, he was allocated that seat (pointing at it) and his name was always displayed, every time, he attended Council meetings. On the 12th of June 2025 Councillor Thulani Buthelezi passed, and his funeral was held on 21st of June 2025.*

*Today, the Council flag with the Code of Arms is placed on his seat, and his name is being represented by the pillar candle and flowers, symbolising that he will never attend Council Meetings anymore. We honoured him and tributes were made by all Political Parties represented in Council.*

*This Special Council Meeting is also being held to officially remove his name in this Chamber. A Protocol ritual known as ukusula igama, sad as it is for all of us, this is the reality we have to accept.*

## **6 COMMENTS BY FAMILY REPRESENTATIVES**

*Mr Ntokozo Mokhuto addressed Council as follows:*

*"Thank you.*

*As per protocol, I don't know if I'm doing it correctly to first greet the Madam Speaker; Mayor Dada Morero and Councillor Zungu and all the Councillors sitting in front of me. Thulani Buthelezi, a son, a husband, a brother, a friend and a servant. As a family, we lost a jewel. A man of great mind and determination. He epitomized what a humble servant was. Thousands in the community he served can attest. He was selfless and was willing to find solutions for the problems of the community. He was wise and chose his words with care. He was affectionate, compassionate and passionate. He truly was the man of the people. For me personally, he was the first person in my life that I could confide in and have deep and meaningful conversations about anything in life. It is incomprehensible that a person who chose dialogue and respectful engagement was silenced forever by a barrel of a gun. We are very saddened that his life was taken in a brutal manner, that it was. I'd like to appeal as a member of the family and the community and a South African, can a patriot. I'm not involved in politics, I wasn't really ever involved in politics, but I always follow politics because I'm a patriot and I care for this country. And whoever is chosen to lead, I always wish them well, to do good for the good of the country. So, I appeal to the highest office of the Republic. On behalf of all of you here, as Councillors, your families and the communities at large, I appeal to the President that there must be a very loud condemnation of such barbarism. I've said before in the memorial service of my late brother that an office of a Ward Councillor is the literal foundation of service delivery.*

*And that's a matter of any Councillor is a bad reflection on a democracy that was envisioned by Chief Albert Luthuli, Walter Sisulu, Nelson Mandela, Lillian Ngoyi, Winnie Mandela, Solomon Mahlangu and many other heroes and heroines. These Councillors were chosen by the community and should thus be allowed to serve without certain individuals believing that they have a right to take away a life just because their selfish interests are not advanced. So, his death exposes an anti-intellectualism monster feasting on people's hopes in this beautiful nation. His life was cut short when he still had so much to offer.*

*Lastly, I'd like to say that it is heartwarming to us as a family of Thulani Buthelezi to hear his colleagues say beautiful things about him. I'd like to echo the sentiments expressed by MMC Nkokou, Thulani's wife and children especially, would be best comforted if his project would be completed in his honour and name.*

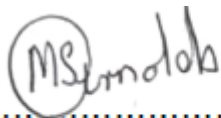
*We thank you for this moment you dedicated to him, but I think I'm seeing again on your behalf as Councillors, your families and all communities as a whole, that this is a moment of reflection. Where we say no other Councillors suffer the same fate as my brother. Something must be done now. Long live the spirit of Thulani Buthelezi*

*Thank you."*

## **7 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CLOSURE**

*The Speaker in her address to Council said that the Special Council meeting in honour of the late Councillor Buthelezi took longer than anticipated. She added that she wanted to allow all Councillors to send their condolences to the bereaved family without cutting them off. She indicated that the time was 11:08 and announced that the Ordinary Council meeting would commence at 11:30.*

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:08.



.....  
**SPEAKER OF COUNCIL**  
**CLLR M ARNOLDS**

**DATE: 17 SEPTEMBER 2025**